



ONE EIGHTY

A new perspective for your enterprise performance

April 2013

Palm Desert Classic

Upcoming Events

- CAM-I Second Quarter Meeting
June 10-12
Boston
- Beyond Budgeting Round Table 12th annual conference
Jun 9-11
Denver

People in the News

- Dennis McNutly and Jim Wojkowski, again selected with the honor of writing the annual tournament announcement. Five more years!
- Luis Krueger, pre-tournament favorite to win this year's event. At the par 4 18th hole, Luis was in a position to tie Mike and Ron or even win outright. Luis cracked and scored an 11
- Dan Wojkowski, tournament director and wine steward. Another great tournament!

Once a year for the last 31 years I spend a weekend in Palm Desert California competing in a golf tournament with friends.

Palm Desert golf courses, cut out of the desert in the middle of nowhere, are beautiful places with perfectly manicured grass contrasting with the desert cactus and palm trees. Capped in snow and rising to 10,834 feet is San Jacinto Peak, a breathtaking site from the desert floor.

Unlike professional golf tournaments, amateur players that compete in tournaments like the Palm Desert Classic are given what's referred to as a handicap. Handicaps are subtracted from the actual golf score (net score) to determine the tournament winner.

Needless to say, handicaps are the subject of much discussion and disagreement. I haven't played golf in a long time, my game is bad, my back hurts, are just a few examples of efforts to get a higher handicap, none of which result in a change.

Handicaps fuel the betting on who will win the tournament. The odds for winning are a function of the number of \$5 bets placed on an individual player. So if only one bet to win was made on me, for example, and I won whoever placed that bet would collect all of the bets that were placed to win. No one, including myself, bet on me to win.

What made this Classic so memorable is that it ended in a tie and for the fourth time in tournament history, triggered a playoff. Mike McPherson and Ron Mayberry, tied at the end of regulation play, faced off and replayed the first three holes of the course to determine would be crowned this year's champion.

Amateur golfers aren't accustomed to so much attention and the pressure was enormous. Neither cracked and Mike went on to win the playoff by one stroke.

The weekend highlight is the Awards Banquet where we honor the new champion with gifts and prizes. Except for the cash winnings of the betting pool, nobody but the champion gets much.

The trophy is Mike's to display in his home until next year. As the champion, Mike is entitled to the winner's purse, a trip to Sherwood County Club to play on one of the best courses in the country, gift certificates, and multiple surprises.

Wine connoisseurs are treated to some of the best wine in the world, provided by the previous year champion who is expected to spend all of his winning from the previous year on the wine.

The laughter never stops as we tell old stories of previous tournaments and replay the events of the weekend.

Everyone should have friends like these...
John A. Miller

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