

## 2018 Winterwood Shootout

October 14

Saturday dawned clear and sunny with a bit of a breeze but calmed down considerably by the time play began. All players, caddies, friends, and spectators gathered on the number 1 tee box for the start of play. But as the field was one player short (Steve Reiter didn't make it) play began on hole 2.

**Hole #2** – It seemed there were very few jitters for this the first hole of the tournament. Most everyone found the fairway. A couple found the trees left or left their drives a bit short. A few struggled to get to the green (not so for Kevin Keegan who made the only birdie of the group!). Tony Becker, Wayne Seaman, and Ed Dube all carded a net six and forced a chip off on the first hole. Mark Holmstrand selected a spot behind the green. Becker hit a great shot to within about 15 feet. Seaman and Dube both came up short of the green. Seaman and last year's champ Becker survived and Ed Dube was the first casualty of the day.

**Hole #3** – Lee Rhodes found immediate trouble by driving into the right rough and then landing his second shot directly behind a tree leaving no choice but to chip sideways out to the fairway. Four on and a three-putt left Lee with a net 6. Mark Scheib struggled as well. Making his way slowly up the fairway, he found the green in 5 and two putted for a 7 net 6. The two-way chip off took place right of the green practically behind the #2 tee box. With a tree only partially in their way, both players went high and clipped a branch. Mark made it to the green, but Lee came up short. That was it for the 2016 champ. Lee Rhodes out on #3.

**Hole #4** – There was very little trouble getting to the green on this par 3. The trouble came with all the three-putts that forced a five-way chip off between Rob Schlipp, Mark Scheib, Anthony Spingler, Brad Slusher, and Al Shirley. Try saying those last names five times fast. The chip off took place behind the left greenside bunker. Schlipp was first and nearly cleared the bunker but caught the lip and rolled back in. Shirley almost suffered the same fate. His shot bounced in the bunker but came to rest in the rough just short of the green. Scheib cleared it all including the green and landed in the second cut. Spingler chunked his into the bunker and only Slusher found the green (a beautiful shot to six feet I might add). With Spingler back of Schlipp in the bunker, Rob advanced and Anthony Spingler was the third casualty of the day.

**Hole #5** – While most of the field cruised through this par 5 (several birdies were carded), Tony Becker and Wayne Seaman struggled to get to the green. Each carded a net 7 and met up behind the green for the fourth straight chip off. Chipping from under a tree, the only play was to go low, land on the back of the green, and roll out to the front pin position. Becker was first. His chip was too low and held up in the rough just short of the green. Seaman needed only to place his shot anywhere on the green, but alas, he succumbed to the dreaded chunk shot. Becker moved on and Wayne Seaman called it quits on Hole 5.

**Hole #6** – The hardest hole on the course usually manages to pull at least one drive into the water. This year's victim was Tony Becker. Others who struggled tee to green were Tom Eurell, Ray Allsop, and Brad Slusher who all carded 6 for a 5 and seemed to be headed to a three way chip off at the very least. Becker managed to get on in 4 and unfortunately three putted for a 7 net 6. The 2017 champ was done in by the number one handicap hole. Tony Becker out on Hole 6.

**Hole #7** – With thirteen players left in the field, two were unable to navigate this par 3. Brad Slusher and Ray Allsop came up short off the tee and then stumbled to net 5 to force a two way chip off. Tom Eurell provided a highlight by sinking a 20-foot putt for birdie. Sweet revenge for Tom as this hole sent him packing the year before. The chip off for this hole was a long one. Holmstrand placed them behind the water near the fairway on Hole 8. Both hit great shots to the green (tough to get near the hole as it was a back pin). Allsop to within 10 feet and Slusher to within 20. Brad Slusher out on Hole 7.

**Hole #8** – This hole turned out to be a competition of unlikely putts. No one found trouble tee to green. But Harold Critcher and John Keane uncharacteristically 3 putted and 4 putted, respectively, for net fives. The chip off took place behind the front right pond (a chip I know all too well as it knocked me out of the race many years ago). Harold went first and, knowing that more is better than less, put his ball 20 feet past the pin. John, who's better at the low running chip shot, wasn't too confident having to hit a high soft one. Unfortunately, it was not enough and landed in the water. John Keane, playing in his very first Shootout, went out on number 8.

**Hole #9** – Just as three holes previously, the water grabbed only one ball off the tee. This time it was Ben Lovelle's. Kevin Keegan, by the way, hit a great drive to 135 and put his second shot on the green with what Claus Nielson laughingly called the "ol' Keegan chunk and run!" Lovelle, after dropping his second and putting his third across the fairway, hit a chunk with no run. After six shots he found the green, two putted 8 for 7, and graciously conceded. Gentleman Ben out on Hole 9.

**Hole #10** – As we all know, sometimes the easiest hole plays the hardest. Only Ray Allsop struggled to get to the green on this short par 4. Short in two, his third sailed the green. Four on, two putts, and no bump left Ray with a 6 for 6. And with no one contending for a chip off, Ray Allsop said goodbye on Hole 10.

**Hole #11** – This short dogleg left provided some excitement with the first three way chip off since the first hole of the day. After good drives by all, a few missed the green on their approach. Mark Scheib was over the green in three, on in four, and three putted 7 for a 6. Rob Schlipp was on in three and with an unlikely three putt netted a 6 as well. H Harvey found the grass bunker in 3 and after an unfortunate chunk took 5 to get on. One putt netted a 6 also. The chip off was behind the green under the tree near the sidewalk. Rob was first and with the right idea landed a high one on the fringe but it failed to release and stayed short of the green. H found the grass bunker again and only Mark Scheib found the green. H Harvey was done in by the Battle of the Bunker and called it quits on Hole 11.

**Hole #12** – Six of the eight remaining players reached the green in regulation on this straight-away par 5. Claus Nielson took four to get on but put it close and tapped in for par. Rob Schlipp hit a bad second shot and put his third in the greenside bunker. His fourth was over the green. Five on and a two putt left Rob with a 7 for 7. After narrowly surviving the chip offs on 4 and 11, Rob Schlipp was the odd man out on 12 and took his leave.

*As the sun neared the horizon it looked as though we might complete another two, maybe three holes. Not likely that we would finish in one day as happened last year.*

**Hole #13** – Harold Critcher and Tom Eurell contended with the hazard on the right. Harold found the creek, took his drop and executed a great third shot to the green. Tom was not so fortunate. His ball had come to rest behind a pebble. His second shot dribbled forward and his third found the water. After

dropping his fourth, his fifth failed to clear the hazard. Reluctantly and with more than a little frustration, Tom conceded the hole and took his exit on Hole 13.

**Hole #14** – Most years would find this the last hole of the day and it seemed it might be so as it took longer to play than the previous hole. No one found the green off the tee, and as often happens when it comes down to the final holes, all six remaining players netted par and found themselves in a six way chip off. From right of the green near the pond, Critcher, Nielson and Shirley chipped to the green. Keegan came up short in the rough, and Craig and Scheib went a little long off the left side of the green. After taking measurements, Scheib was found to be out by a matter of inches. Mark Scheib had survived chip offs on Holes 3, 4, and 11 but just came up short (or rather long) on chip off number four. Mark Scheib out on Hole 14.

*The sun seemed to be taking its time reaching the horizon, so play continued.*

**Hole #15** – As with the previous hole, net par was not enough to move on. Only Keegan parred for a net 3 just as he did on this hole last year. And also, like last year, Critcher and Nielson found themselves in a chip off, this time with Craig and Shirley. From the heavy rough behind the green to a back pin, Nielson and Shirley found the first cut short of the green. Craig hit a great flop to the fringe and rolled it to within 8 feet of the pin. Critcher, who was actually the first to chip off, chunked his ball forward only a few feet. Unable to execute the same chip he had pulled off on Hole 8, Harold Critcher took his leave on Hole 15.

*With the sun dipping below the horizon and only three holes to play, it was decided to keep going as long the players could see their ball.*

**Hole #16** – All four drives found the fairway, but Keegan and Shirley struggled to get to the green. Keegan hit his second shot fat and came up short of the green on his third. Although his fourth hit the pin, it still left him with a lengthy par putt and he ended up tapping in for bogey which stood as he got no bump on this hole. Shirley also took four to get on, and with a lengthy par putt from the back of the green to a front pin, it looked like a chip off was in the air. But Al two putted for a 6 net 5. Kevin had played great all day. With birdies on 2, 12, and 15, a great par save from off the green on 3, and surviving the chip off on 14, it was the uphill par 5 that ended Kevin's round. Keegan out on Hole 16.

*We were in for an interesting finish as the sun was now out of sight. The twilight glow was enough and play continued.*

**Hole #17** – This hole played quickly with only three players remaining. Claus's drive found the back of the green and two putts gave him 3 for 3. Steve just barely missed the water and chipped up to within ten feet of the pin. He sank the putt for a net 2! Al found the water, but wasn't out of it yet. His third shot left him 8 feet for bogey, which with a bump would have given him a net three and a chip off opportunity against Claus. But alas, the bogey putt went awry, and with a net 4 Al Shirley was out on Hole 17.

*By the time we got to 18 tee it was dark. It didn't really seem worthwhile to come all the way back in the morning to play one hole, so Steve Craig and Claus Nielson decided to finish it off.*

**Hole #18** – Neither Steve nor Claus found the fairway with their drives. Despite the fact that none of us could see where they ended up, Steve was sure he was in the left rough and Claus was equally sure he

was in the right rough. Both were correct as each one found their ball immediately. Steve was back and hit his second shot first. On the other side of the fairway, Claus did not know where Steve's ball landed. As he was behind a tree and didn't have much of a shot to the green, he decided to lay up short of the bunker and try to get up and down for par to force Steve to make par to beat him or bogey to tie. But little did he know that Steve's second shot had found the middle of the green. Claus put his third to within 6 feet but two putted for a net bogey. With 12 feet to go for birdie, Steve lined up his putt. Claus said, "Come on. Make it and beat me the right way." Steve gave it his best, but a three putt would have still won it for him. He tapped in for par for a net 3.

### **Congratulations Steve Craig, the 2018 Shootout Champion!**

For the second year in a row, the Shootout was completed in one day, albeit in the dark. Special thanks to Don Kracht and Mark Holmstrand for another great tournament. And a big thanks to all who volunteered to keep score: Jim Ropp, Bob Barbour, Dave Tagge, Wayne Seaman, and Bruce Mackenzie. Hopefully I didn't forget anyone.

As you may already know, Don Kracht is stepping down as the Shootout Director. Bruce Mackenzie with the help of Wayne Seaman will be taking over for 2019. Good luck to all the members in the 2019 Shootout qualifiers!