



# FORE-CASTER

SUMMER 2003

SOUTHERN NEVADA GOLF ASSOCIATION FOR BUSINESS WOMEN

## Cullen Captures Honors in Inaugural Event

Little did Geneva Cullen realize when she was picking out the traveling trophy for the Maary Smith Founder's Memorial Tournament that it would be sitting in her own family room for the next year. But that's exactly where it will be by virtue of her victory in the inaugural event.

Twenty three ladies teed off at Painted Desert on an early April morning, each hoping to be the last one standing at the end of the five round event. Although the field is normally set for 32 players, poor participation forced 9 first round byes.

That didn't stop the competition from being closely matched with many of the rounds going down to the final two holes.

Geneva drew a bye at Painted Desert but then produced four strong rounds over the next four weeks to capture the title. The second round found her facing Connie Patterson in a duel that wasn't decided until hole 17 at Desert Rose.

Geneva celebrated Easter at National with a close win over Christina Caruso that was extended to a playoff hole.

"I knew Christina had shot a 78 at De-

sert Rose during her second round match," Geneva commented, "and there was no way I thought I could beat her. She was sore from some physical work she had done the day before and did get into a little trouble. I was lucky enough to be hitting down the middle that day."

Things didn't get a whole lot easier two weeks later when she faced off against Jan Hansen on the tournament's return to Painted Desert. The nip and tuck match wasn't decided until the 17th hole.

In the finals, 17 again proved to be Geneva's lucky number when she eliminated second place finisher Theresa Prospero with one hole to go.

"I really hadn't been playing that well and never thought I would win," Geneva said with a smile. "In fact, before we even started, I pointed out the age gap to Theresa and told her she should let me win because it could be my last chance."

But Theresa didn't give in and the front nine went back and forth.

"We were playing with Karen (Power) and Jackie (Pierson) and all three of them are very long hitters," she added. "I just had to concentrate on hitting it short and down the middle to stay out of trouble. On hole 17, I found myself chipping up on my fourth shot and unfortunately, Theresa had some trouble with the bunker. I was lucky to win it with a bogie."

Theresa herself faced four strong competitors on her way to the championship match. They included victories over Billie DeNezza, Jackie Pierson, Sunny



Geneva was presented with the winner's trophy by Karen Power, President, at the May general meeting.

Sundgren and Lynn King before facing Geneva in the final round.

This victory marks the fourth time Geneva has been taken home club honors in a President's Cup. The other three came at her home course in Wisconsin. Her first club victory came when she sported a 28 handicap and then a few years later she had back-to-back victories after cutting her handicap in half.

"When I won my first President's Cup trophy, a friend said it was the greatest trophy to win because you're virtually beating everyone in the club," she said. "I consider it such a privilege to have won each trophy but I especially take great pride in this one."

The President's Cup was renamed the Maary Smith Founder's Memorial Tournament this year in honor of the woman who actually gave birth to SNGABW.

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## TEE OFF

By Karen Power  
SNGABW President

There are other sports that can provide us with lessons of life, but golf is my favorite sport and the one I probably understand best. It is an addiction for me, a mystical experience, a test of my character, an escape, a source of joy and sometimes pain. I believe there is no psychological test that will tell you as much about your character as a round of golf.

Of all the things that make golf a popular sport, the most enticing to me might be the perpetual challenge it provides. Whether we realize it or not, many of us are drawn to, and are hooked on golf because of the complete impossibility of sustaining great play. In fact, no one can perfect it for long. At every level, golfers remain in a perpetual cycle of ups and downs. Even the greatest are in this cycle, however, their lows are shallower and shorter than ours, yet champions, too, are forever working to maintain and achieve those skills that will challenge their valleys and are then exhilarated by their peaks.

In golf, as with life, we are in a constant process of learning, growing, improving and problem solving. How we handle the challenges, frustrations, excitement, disappointment, success, failure and obstacles in golf often reflects the way we will handle these same things in life.

The game of golf and the game of life seem to share many principles and lessons. Let's think about these Front Nine Principles of Golf.\*

1) In golf, it is important to have a good grip on the club. In life, it is important to have a good grip on oneself and on the game of life. In either game, if we do not have a good grip, then we will have to make many awkward corrections and adjustments to compensate for not starting with the basics. Just as a good grip is a foundation for all that we do in golf, understanding oneself gives us a foundation for all that we do in life.

2) In golf, it is important to have a proper stance and proper balance. In life, it is also important to have a proper stance and balance. We are in balance when we plant our feet equally on the ground. If we put all our weight on one foot (our job, our relationship, our self-interest, our fun, or our hobbies) we will be out of balance. When out of balance, we are more likely to fall down, miss our target or lose our valuables in the rough.

3) In golf, it is important to develop a good swing. In life, it is important to be able to swing with it, to go with the flow. Timing is crucial and a good swing comes from practice. Change that feels unpleasant or awkward at first, becomes easier and more natural with practice. In life, as in golf, watching someone who is swing-

ing effortlessly and who is having fun, is a joy to behold.

4) In golf, it is important to follow through. In life it is also important to follow through. The swing does not stop when we reach the ball. It continues on through so we can look up and see our results. In life, our role does not stop when we hang up a phone, send off a letter, or wave goodbye. It is important to keep watching to see the results of our actions so that we know what to keep and what to change. We should take a moment to revel in the work we have done.

5) In golf, we play with old friends or make new ones. In life, it is important to have old friends and make new ones. In golf, as in life, it is important to have friends with whom we can share our successes and laugh about our misses. Although we play different holes, at different times, and on different courses, we are all in the game together.

6) In golf, instant success (such as a hole-in-one) is very rare. In life, instant success is also very rare. We improve mainly through practice. In golf and in life, it is important to first identify the target, our goal. We rarely get there in one stroke. We approach the holes and goals in several steps. We make corrections along the way. Unless we give up, no

mistakes are permanent. We can always shoot again from a new angle.

7) In golf, we sometimes lose our ball in the rough. In life, we sometimes lose our way in the rough—rough times. There are times when we have to start over with a new ball. Yet, we do not have to go back to the beginning. We may lose a few points, but we can keep going, perhaps a little wiser for the experience. Sometimes we find hidden treasures in the rough; hidden strengths or hidden opportunities. Eventually, we can rejoin our group and get back on course.

8) In golf, it is better to focus on what we are doing well, rather than losing our cool over our errors. In life, it is better to focus on what we are doing well and what is going well, rather than losing our cool. Focusing on the negative is like playing the game while wearing very dark sunglasses. You cannot see

the ball, and you cannot see the goal. It is too easy to lose sight of the goal and view everything as darkness. Dark attitudes color every experience with negativity, impairing our vision and our passion. Removing those dark attitudes brings clarity of vision.

9) Finally, in golf, as good players, we repair our divots and ball marks. In life, as good citizens, we make amends for our mistakes. In both, we try to leave the world a little better than we found it. We can do this by repairing not only our errors, but also those errors that others have made. By repairing more than our share, we can set in motion positive waves that ripple outward, touching many others with our kindness.

In golf, as in life, we get to start over with each swing. Both games are more pleasant when we stop keeping score, and work on helping each other become better players.

\*From Scott Sindelar, Ph.D.

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