

Woodward's Classic Golf Tournament—2016

Friday, May 6th, turned out to be another wonderful day on the golf course! The weather could not have been better with brilliant sunshine and not a cloud in the sky. The golf got off to a shotgun start at 8:00 AM.

This year marked the 35th year for this classic tournament. It was the 3rd consecutive year that the tournament has been held at the Delta Golf Club, just off the Ladner Trunk Road and Highway 10, in Delta, BC. Sixty-three golfers participated...most chose to play the “best-ball” format which made for a total team effort!

The tournament continues to be a fun day of golf for former Woodward’s employees, suppliers, family and friends. It did not matter that some golfers were more experienced than others. There were some magnificent shots made by everyone at some point in their game, the kind of shots that make you want to keep playing the game. It was rumoured that a little money might have changed hands! Before, during and after the game, there was the usual camaraderie and catching up on old friendships and the making of new ones.



Camaraderie at the 19th Hole

THE SPECIAL GUEST AT THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT WAS BOB TAKEDA, who travelled from Japan the day prior, just to play golf in the Woodward's Tournament with many of his Woodward's Buyer friends, and again on Saturday, the very next day, with John Bishop, Derek Erb, and Don Roberts, at Furry Creek. On Saturday evening, Derek and Susan Erb hosted a small dinner party for Bob. He returned to Japan on Monday.



Bob Takeda and John Bishop at Furry Creek Golf Course

Prior to lunch and the prize presentations, Ian Murdoch introduced Bob Takeda as the person who had travelled the farthest to compete in this year's event. (Up until now, Dave Kerr, from Edmonton, had earned this distinction for several decades.)

Bob worked for Sanyei Corporation of Japan and was an important agent with the buying offices in Asia for Woodward's Hardgoods divisions. (Hardware, Automotive, Housewares, Giftware, Chinaware, Sporting Goods, Luggage, Cameras and Toys) Over the years, Bob worked in the Tokyo head office, Hong Kong, and New York. In his 2014 Christmas card and letter to John Bishop, Bob suggested that he and his wife, Satoko, were planning a quick 4-day visit to Vancouver, March 5th to 8th, 2015. He especially wanted to spend some time getting reacquainted with as many of the Woodward's buyers as possible, that he had worked with over the years, ending 24 years ago when Woodward's closed its doors. A special dinner party was arranged in Bob's and Satoko's honour. It was a wonderful evening indeed! Bob and Satoko flew back to Tokyo on Sunday, March 8th, however, before leaving Bob suggested to Ian Murdoch that he would come back to Vancouver on May 5th, 2016 to play in the "Annual Woodward's Golf Tournament".

Bob not only kept his word, he flew back to Vancouver on Thursday, May 5th, 2016 and brought greetings from the Sanyei Corporation along with a cheque in the amount of \$1000 as a donation to the Woodward's Annual Golf Tournament. Ian thanked Bob for coming and the Sanyei Corporation for their wonderful donation. Ian suggested that the donation money would ensure the continuation of the Tournament for a few more years, with some money used for prizes, and some going to the Union Gospel Mission, the chosen charity supported by the Annual Woodward's Golf Tournament.



Bob Takeda and John Bishop at Delta Golf Course

The cost of the tournament included green fees, two drink tickets and a very tasty buffet lunch which included BBQ steak and chicken, baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, Caesar salad and green salad, coffee and assorted cakes. (Some of the golfers still miss the Kentucky fried chicken and potato salad that was the tradition when the Woodward's Tournament was held at the Grandview Golf and Country Club, below Blaine Washington!)

Prior to the prize presentations, Ian Murdoch thanked the golfers for coming to the tournament! It was great to have John Woodward participating again this year....he is an avid golfer and everyone appreciated that he was there!

Ian gave a special thank you to those people who made donations toward the “hole” prizes. The list of donors included John and Kip Woodward. He also thanked all those who brought prizes with them. The prizes were great again this year! The donation of \$1000.00 from the Sanyei Corporation, Japan, was both unexpected and most appreciated! The golfers had the choice of having their foursome play regular golf or a play a scramble where each member of the foursome must use three of their drives during the game and playing best ball up to and into the hole.

Achievements of note:

Men’s Low Score: Mike Valois with a 83.....choice of prize from prize table.

Ladies Low Score: Joanne Pitcher with a 88.....choice of prize from prize table.



Men's Scramble*: Bob Chace, Rob Beach, Glen Anderson, and Greg Cameron with a score of 58.....each won a choice of prize from prize table.

***(The men's best ball winner's score was 9 under par and 7 shots better than the runner's up....there must have been a ringer in that foursome!)**

Men's Longest Drive: Mike Valois..... on hole #12..... \$50

Ladies Longest Drive: Joanne Pitcher....on hole #15.....\$50

Men's Closest to the Pin: Bob Beach....on hole # 14.....\$50



Ladies Scramble: Lorie Hyland, Brenda Derbyshire, Bonnie Baker, Louise Donald, & Shelley Nouwens, with a score of 73....each won choice of an item from the prize table.

Men's Longest Drive: Mike Valois..... on hole #12..... \$50

Ladies Closest to the Pin: Bonnie Baker....on hole # 4.....\$50

For the scramble play event, Bob Takeda was teamed up with Derek Erb, Fred Box, and John Bishop. They shot a very respectable 68, 1 over par, and were tied for third place in the men's scramble.

As happens each year, everyone who participated in this year's tournament was a winner!



Again the tournament would not be possible without the usual 50/50 draw, with this year's winner, Doug Kells of the Store 1, Appliance Dept., winning \$280.00. A good portion of the draw money raised will be donated to the Union Gospel Mission. The tournament would also not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the Woodward's Golf Committee made up of Ian Murdoch, Joe Vanderkooy, Harry Madden, Bill Lawrie, and Bob Beach who have organized the Woodward's Annual Classic Golf Tournament for many years.....THANK YOU ALL!

Thanks again to the Golf Committee and all the participants for a wonderful day of golf, fun and friendship! We look forward to next year's tournament!