

Hello Golfers,

1-20-2013

This time we have some very good news and some not so good news to share. First the good news: One of our blind golfers, David Meador has been selected to receive the 2013 Ben Hogan award.

The entire United States Blind Golf Association would like to congratulate David Meador after it was announced on January 4 that he will receive the prestigious 2013 Ben Hogan Award, given by the Golf Writers Association of America to an individual who has remained active in golf despite a physical handicap or serious illness. Meador, who lost his sight in a car accident at age 18 in 1966, won the USBGA National Championship in 1977, 2011 and 2012. A long-time member of the USBGA, he has also successfully battled Hodgkin's Disease and colon cancer, and will now receive an award that has previously gone to four other USBGA members: Clint Russell, Joe Lazaro, Charlie Boswell and Pat Browne. David will receive his award at the annual GWAA awards dinner on Wednesday, April 10th before the start of The Masters in Augusta, Georgia.

Now for the bad news: Ted Fass has reported that The Middle Bay Country Club has been forced to close down due to the damage done to the facility by the "Super Storm, Sandy". All you golfers and coaches who attended will remember the 67th USBGA National Championship tournament that was held at Middle Bay last August and will certainly regret to hear about the closing of such a fine facility.

Partnerships Needed

ARTICLE BY Fund Raising Chair, David Meador

All of us can take great pride in the way that our Association has managed the \$400,000 given by Lions International in the middle years of the preceding decade, and the more than \$100,000 raised since.

However, we simply cannot count on one charitable foundation or one philanthropist. All of these individuals and foundations are spread thin with other commitments and other causes. The good news is we have a great story, how Blind Golf has positively changed lives. This very message is at the heart of our publicity, our new brochure, our new website, and our new outreach to interested outside partners.

Our first Email Newsletter is now scheduled to go out in April, and will debut our new website, to be introduced by its creative website manager and fellow member, Ty Thompson. In the meantime, we are sending out to our current best partners a special package. It will go out by snail mail in early February, and will contain our new brochure, along with our Golf World feature article re-prints. Package Purpose: to acknowledge our very best friends, and to extend to them our desire to keep them informed. Yes for fund raising. Yes for ideas. And yes for connections to others.

If you have people you want to receive our February brochure and Golf World mailing - or if you want to send them yourselves, please let me know.

With much appreciation,

David

615-385-0784

Email davidmeador7@Gmail.com

The following is the 2013 Partial Tournament Schedule for USBGA Members.

Arizona Regional: Green Valley on April 20-22 and Nessinger Leader Dog Classic: Scottsdale on April 27-29

Guiding Eyes Classic (Invitational): Mt. Kisco, NY on June 8-11

British Blind Golf Open: Lincolnshire, England on August 11-15

Canadian Open: Port Alberni, BC on August 11-15

U.S. Blind Open-USBGA National Championship: Portland, OR on August 17-22

Kentucky Regional: Lexington, to be announced

If you plan to participate in any of these tournaments, you must be a member and that means sending in your dues of \$25 by March 31, 2013. Send checks made out to the USBGA to:

Mary Jane Popp
3911 Dodson Chapel Rd. #34
Hermitage, TN 37076

Once again, if you have any news of interest to share with the USBGA membership, please e-mail me and I will be glad to include your information in an upcoming newsletter.

That's it for this time.

Joan Dietz
Communication Chairperson

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