

Summer suddenly arrived on Saturday May 20th, just in time for Bowen Island's annual Community Challenge golf tournament. Sixteen teams of golfers representing ten Bowen neighbourhoods celebrated a glorious sunny day with a hard-fought scramble for the ultimate bragging rights, and the beautiful Gwynneth Rogers Community Challenge Trophy. The winning team once again came from Bowen Bay / Bluewater. But the day also saw the establishment of a true Bowen golfing dynasty.

With the deep freeze of our wacky winter and the biblical deluge of the spring, our acclaimed public golf course has taken a pounding. Bowen golfers, normally spoiled by year-round play, have spent far too many days on the couch watching Golf Channel. But thanks to the great grounds-keeping team led by new dad Frank Griffiths (congratulations Frank!), the course has recovered beautifully.

So there were no excuses on Saturday, and two teams shot a brilliant 6-under par 29. To break the tie, an arcane and mystical formula called "retrogression" was used. (Unless you are Scottish and were born in the nineteenth century, you are not allowed to understand it.) The winners, for the second year in a row, and now officially a local golf dynasty, were Kathy Thom and her sons Derek, Evan, and Lucas Puri. In post-match interviews, it was unclear which generation of the family carried the team to victory this time, but with all four members capable of brilliance the big money will be on the Thom / Puri dynasty to 3-peat next year.

In second place by retrogression was the Tunstall Bay / Sealeigh Park team of Rob Purdy, Ian Watson, Steve Clippingdale and Aaron Cawker, also shooting 29. There was some controversy among the tournament officials, since this foursome had not observed the long-standing tradition of having at least one member of the opposite sex on every team. But it was determined that this had not been clearly established as a rule, and their transgression was inadvertent, so they were allowed to remain in official competition.

In solo third place was the Hood Point / Hood Point West team of Barb Rendell, Bob Miller, Ross Waters, and Braeden Waters shooting a very respectable 4-under 31.

The men's and women's "closest to the pin" prizes went to Ian Watson, and Mary Farris. Both received Helly Hansen jackets generously donated by tournament participant and Helly Hansen rep Adam Grieder.

The prestigious Community Spirit Award, for the most participants from one community, went to Miller's Landing, which fielded three teams. There were rumblings (okay, one rumble, by me) that unofficial team captain Bruce Russell may have been a little generous with the boundaries of the Miller's Landing neighbourhood while recruiting team members. But isn't that what community spirit is all about?

For information on upcoming events at our public golf course, go to www.bowengolf.com.

Submitted by Terence McKeown, Bowen Island Golf Club