

Northern Virginia Seniors Team wins the 28th Annual Potomac Challenge matches

November 3rd, 2021 at Fountain Head Country Club, Hagerstown, MD ---- The Northern Virginia Seniors Team achieved a convincing 19 to 11 win over the Free State Seniors Team of Maryland in the 28th annual Potomac Challenge Team match which concluded today on the classic 1924 Donald Ross layout at Fountain Head Country Club in Hagerstown, Maryland.

The Potomac Challenge Team Match is a Ryder-Cup style competition conducted over two days with teams of 12 players each from the Northern Virginia area and the Free State Seniors Golf Association of Maryland. The competition includes four formats in 9-hole matches: Four-ball, foursomes (modified alternate-shot), select-shot (scramble), and individual match play.

After the first day's competition the Northern Virginia team held a narrow 2-point lead of 7 to 5 by winning the 4-ball format 4 to 2 and getting a tie of 3 to 3 in the foursomes (modified select-shot) format. On day 2, despite the chilly weather with freezing temperatures the previous night, the Northern Virginia team came out firing and dominated the select-shot format 4 ½ to 1 ½ and won the individual matches 7 ½ to 4 ½ to reach the 19 to 11 total score.

This year's Northern Virginia Senior Team included: Seniors (age 55+) Bill Apple (The Golf Club at Lansdowne), Mark Boedicker (Team Captain – RTJ Golf Club), Ron Clatterbuck (Evergreen CC), Steve Galing (Army Navy CC), Dean Griffith (Blue Ridge Shadows GC), Scott McNabb (The Golf Club at Lansdowne), Mike Nicewarner (Blue Ridge Shadows GC), David Price (Stoneleigh GC), Joe Wallenfelsz (Blue Ridge Shadows GC), Jon Zampedro (Fort Belvoir GC), and Super-Seniors (age 70+) Dwight Holman (The Piedmont Club) and Lynn Wessman (Co-Captain ---- Army Navy CC).

The team of Ron Clatterbuck and David Price were undefeated in all four formats earning 3 points in the two-man formats and one point each in the singles format. The team of Mike Nicewarner and Joe Wallenfelsz earned 3 points by winning all three of their 2-man formats. The teams of Mark Boedicker / Jon Zampedro and Lynn Wessman / Dwight Holman won the majority of their 4 possible points by winning 1 ½ points in the 2-man formats and then each winning a full point by winning their singles matches.

Thanks to all the players for participating in these matches and congratulations to the Northern Virginia Seniors team for their fine play this year. They are highly competitive and a lot of fun with great camaraderie. The Maryland team had won this event the last three years in a row and it's great to have the title back on the Virginia side!

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Jim Horn (Team Captain for the Free State Seniors team) who made the arrangements for this year's matches, and to the staff at Fountain Head CC for their hospitality and support of this event.

Mark Boedicker (Captain) and Lynn Wessman (Co-Captain)

Details of the matches continue below.

Day 1 --- Four-ball and Foursomes (modified alternate-shot) – Tuesday 2 Nov

Match 1: Lynn Wessman / Dwight Holman (VA) vs. Barry Flaer / Tom Lynn (MD) --- The MD Team wins the four-ball format 4&3; the VA team rebounds winning the foursome format 1-up. Score 1-1.

Match 2: Dean Griffith / Bill Apple (VA) vs. Lee Flemsiter / Rod Frank (MD) --- The MD team wins both formats. Score 0-2.

Match 3: Mark Boedicker / Jon Zampedro (VA) vs. Walter Jew / Craig Walker (MD) --- The VA team wins the four-ball the but MD team wins the foursome. Score 1-1

Match 4: Ron Clatterbuck / David Price (VA) vs. Mike Garner / Kevin Allis (MD) – The VA team won both formats. Score 2-0.

Match 5: Steve Galing / Scott McNabb (VA) vs. Craig Ostrom / Steve Block (MD) – The VA team won the four-ball but the MD team rallied and won the foursome. Score 1-1.

Match 6: Mike Nicewarner / Joe Wallenfelsz (VA) vs. Andy Carroll / Gary Houston (MD) --- The VA team won both formats. Score 2-0.

Day one totals: VA 7 MD 5.

Day 2 --- Select shot (scramble) and Individual matches --- Wednesday 3 Nov

Overnight temperatures were below freezing and the temperatures when the matches began was in the low 40s F. The players had to dress warmly due to the cold weather.

Match 1: Lynn Wessman / Dwight Holman (VA) vs. Barry Flaer / Tom Lynn (MD) (Super-Seniors)



L-R: Dwight Holman (VA), Lynn Wessman (VA), Barry Flaer (MD) and Tom Lynn (MD)

The select shot match was tied --- both teams were 3-under par after 9 holes. Lynn Wessman def. Barry Flaer 2-up and Dwight Holman def. Tom Lynn 2&1 in singles. Score: ½ - ½, 2-0.

Match 2: Mark Boedicker / Jon Zampedro (VA) vs. Craig Ostrom / Kevin Allis (MD)



L-R: Jon Zampedro (VA), Mark Boedicker (VA), Craig Ostrom (MD), Kevin Allis (MD)

The select match was tied --- both teams about 6 under par. In singles Mark Boedicker def. Craig Ostrom 2-up; Kevin Allis conceded his match to Jon Zampedro. Score: ½- ½ ; 2-0.

Match 3: Bill Apple / Dean Griffith (VA) vs. Craig Walker / Mike Garner (MD)



L-R: Mike Garner (MD), Bill Apple (VA), Dean Griffith (VA), Craig Walker (MD)

The VA team won the select-shot format 1-up (they were 7 under par for 9 holes, the MD team was 6-under par). In singles Dean Griffith def. Craig Walker; Bill Apple tied Mike Garner. Score: 1-0; 1 ½ - ½.

Match 4: David Price / Ron Clatterbuck (VA) vs. Andy Carroll / Gary Houston (MD)



L-R: David Price (VA), Ron Clatterbuck (VA), Gary Houston (MD), Andy Carroll (MD),

The VA team won the select-shot format. In singles David Price def. Andy Carroll 3&2 and Ron Clatterbuck def. Gary Houston (4&2). Score: 1-0; 2-0.

Match 5: Mike Nicewarner / Joe Wallenfelsz (VA) vs. Rod Frank / Lee Flemister (MD)



L-R: Joe Wallenfelsz (VA), Mike Nicewarner (VA), Lee Flemister (MD), Rod Frank (MD)

The VA team won the select-shot format. In singles Lee Flemister def. Joe Wallenfelsz and Rod Frank def. Mike Nicewarner. Score: 1-0; 0-2.

Match 6: Steve Galing / Scott McNabb (VA) vs. Walter Jew / Steve Block (MD)



L-R: Steve Block (MD), Walter Jew (MD), Steve Galing (VA), Scott McNabb (VA)

The select-shot format was tied. In singles, Walter Jew def. Steve Galing and Steve Block def. Scott McNabb. Score: $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$; 0-2

Day 2 format totals: Select shot VA $4\frac{1}{2}$ MD $1\frac{1}{2}$. Singles: VA $7\frac{1}{2}$ MD $4\frac{1}{2}$.

Overall score on day 2: VA 12 MD 6.

Total score for 2 days: VA 19 MD 11.