

Fifth Annual Ryder Cup Tournament Requires Two Playoffs to Determine a Winner!

In the most hotly contested tournament in TRMGA Ryder Cup history, the Snowbirds eked out a double-overtime victory over the Sunbirds 27.5 to 26.5. Incredibly, after two days of intense competition, 26 pairs matches and 25 singles matches, the tournament was all tied up 25.5 points to 25.5 points. An extra day of two playoff matches was required to determine the winner. After those two playoff matches, the tournament was still tied 26.5 to 26.5. An extra sudden-death playoff hole was required for the Snowbirds to retain the cup.

Sunbird Captain John Kardosz selected Doug Fields and Dick Lee for the two singles playoff matches. Snowbird Captain Paul Addison countered with Ron McGee and Ralph Milykovic. The matches were determined by draw. In the first playoff match, Sunbird Dick Lee defeated Snowbird Ralph Milykovic by a score of 3 & 2. In the second playoff match, Snowbird Ron McGee downed Sunbird Doug Fields 3 & 2. In the sudden death playoff, Snowbird Ralph Milykovic parred the first hole and Sunbird Doug Fields bogeyed the hole to give Ralph a 1-up victory. After five years of competition, the Snowbirds lead the series 3 to 2. This is the third consecutive victory for the Snowbirds.

This tournament had a hard time getting off the ground. Unusually cold weather forced a postponement of one week from January 17/19 to January 24/26.

The number of participants reached an all-time high for the five-year history of the tournament. All together, 53 TRMGA members participated in the tournament compared with 48 in 2017.

Congratulations to Snowbirds Ralph Milykovic, Mario Pereira and Bill Prinkey, and Sunbirds Don Daly and Steve DeWitt who were the only golfers to be on winning teams for both nines on Day 1 and to also win their singles matches on Day 2.

One notable accomplishment for Snowbird Bob Reese: Bob's two-man team with partner George Overturf trailed in their Day 1 match against Sunbirds Norm Palovcsik and Dave Swanson by three holes with three left to play. Bob and George won the last three holes to earn a tie and half a point for the Snowbirds. In the individual match on Day 2 against Sunbird Larry Myers, Bob trailed by three holes with three left to play. Again, Bob won his last three holes to force a tie and win another half point for the Snowbirds.

It defies logic, probability and common sense to believe that there will ever be another TRMGA Ryder Cup tournament as close as this one! This was a tournament for the ages.