



The 2005 Club Championships: A Battle for the Ages

It's not an exaggeration to say that the 2005 Club Championships will go down as one of the most dramatic sporting events of all time.

It was, as Ninnis pointed out, a "Chamber of Commerce" type of day in Pasadena. Absolutely perfect golfing weather--no clouds in the sky, temperatures in the low 70s, the kind of day God created so that Man could play golf.

The Brookside Course was in great shape--fairways were lush, the greens rolled true, and there was enough rough to make accuracy key. The Course was also playing long, with some serious 450 plus par fours and one 195 yard par 3 dead over water.

In short, it was a perfect day to crown a new Club Champion.

Several players put themselves in strong position with their front nine. Billy 'O, Jimbo, Hank, and Pops were just some of those who made the turn in contention for the Jacket.

But it was Swatty, playing in the first group, who rose to the occasion shooting a 43 on the front and, despite the pressure (and heckling from his cart-mate Ish) kept his focus and shot another 43 on the back for a very strong net 69.

As the players filtered into to the clubhouse, it began to look more and more likely that Swatty's 69 would hold up and he would win the Championship.

But then came the word from the course (via a cell phone call from Kid) that G-Man, who was playing in the last group, was on fire and looked to be in contention. The members made their way from the Clubhouse back out to the 18th hole to watch the action.

The 18th at Brookside is a bear of a hole: 441 yards with water on the right and a green that slopes front to back. The gallery soon learned that G-Man needed a bogey to beat Swatty by a stroke. G-Man's tee shot found the water and after taking the penalty stroke he hit to around 120 yards out and lay three. His fourth shot landed short and off the green. The pin was in the back, and G needed an up and down from around 25-30 yards out to force the playoff. G's chip was not quite strong enough and he left himself a tricky 12 foot putt. The crowd fell silent as G went through his traditional pre-putt routine. Once set, he pulled back and buried it center cut. The crowd went nuts.

Playoff time--the first in Club Championships history.

Both players were allowed to choose a Caddy. Swatty surprisingly passed on Ish and selected Billy O. G-Man chose his golf teacher and swing guru Shark.

Both players proceeded to the first tee. After a coin toss, Swatty had the tee box first. The first hole at Brookside is a straightforward short par 4, one of the easier holes on the course.

Swatty, hitting his trusty 3-iron off the tee, crushed his drive a bit to the right. He got a favorable bounce off a cart path and landed in the left rough leaving a 60 yard shot to the green.

G stepped up and hit a solid drive down the middle, leaving himself with about a 100 yard shot in. On the second shot, G hit on the green, but short, and with the back pin placement, left himself a 30 footer straight uphill.

Swatty made a solid shot from the rough right at the pin, but a bit long, landing off the green on the far side of the pin. He now faced a tricky down hill chip.

G's lag putt was a bit too strong and ran 8 feet past the hole. Swatty's chip landed softly but kept rolling down hill, leaving him a 10 foot comebacker. Swatty two-putt from there and recorded a 5 for the hole. G-Man now needed to make the 8-footer to tie. Again, G went through his putting routine, bore down and sunk the clutch putt.

On to playoff hole #2.

The players went back to the first tee, so that the gallery wouldn't have to move.

Swatty led off with a short down-the-middle drive, leaving himself 170 yards to the hole. G-Man ripped his drive and landed dead in the middle with 100 yards to the pin. On his second shot, Swatty made a nice swing, landing on the front of the green with a long 30 footer up hill. G-Man could take control with a solid approach shot, but also left his short landing right next to Swatty.

Swatty's putt was not nearly struck hard enough and he left himself a good 15 feet. G-Man's lag putt was a beauty, rolling to within 2-3 foot of the hole. Swatty looked to be in trouble since G would most likely make his putt. But he struck the putt confidently and rammed home a miraculous putt to par the hole. Now the pressure switched to G who had to make the short putt to tie the hole. Again G was a rock under pressure and confidently sank the putt.

On to playoff hole #3.

Again, back to the first tee.

Swatty hit a monster drive with his #3 iron, dead center leaving a 100 yards to the pin. G-Man, however, pushed his drive to the right landing under some trees, leaving himself in real trouble. G had to punch out and his punch shot advanced only 20 or so yards and was still stuck in the thick rough.

Now the momentum switched to Swatty. But perhaps the pressure of the day got to him and he hit one of his few poor shots of the day, chunking the ball about 40 yards, leaving himself a tricky 60 foot shot.

G was now back in the hole. But the pressure was getting to him too and he hit an absolutely horrid shot that was heading way right of the green and straight for the giant concrete drainage ditch. But G caught a luck break as the shot hit a tree and instead of dropping into the ditch kicked toward the green and ended up near some bushes.

Swatty then hit his third shot over the green and into the far side rough. G used a putter to punch out from the bushes and ran the ball by the hole leaving himself 25 feet coming back uphill. Swatty chipped on an ran his ball past the hole 10 feet. G-Man's first putt left himself short by 7 feet. Swatty then had a putt to win the Championship but missed and tapped in for a double bogey.

For the third time, G-Man needed to make a long putt to keep his hopes alive. And for the third time, G-Man was clutch and drained the putt.

On to playoff hole #4.

By this time, another group had tied off on #1, so the fourth playoff hole was played on hole #2, a 400 yard par 4.

Swatty hit a monster tee shot, but landed in the right-side rough about 125 from the green. G-Man hit a nice a 175 yard second shot. G's second shot was perhaps his worst of the day, a shank that flew to the left, leaving G in the rough about 130 from the hole with Trees causing some trouble. G's third shot was a solid effort, and landed on the front edge of the green.

Swatty's second shot was one his best. Out a bad lie in the rough he hit the ball to within 12 feet pin high.

So now G lies 3 and Swatty lies 2. G's putt rolls up to about 3 feet of the hole. Swatty's putt slides by and also ends up about 3 feet away. After some arguing over who was away, G ended up stroking his ball in for the bogey.

Swatty can now win the tournament if he makes the 3-footer. Under enormous pressure (and after some additional controversy) Swatty buried the putt with authority.

David Swatik is the 2005 Club Champion.

2005 Club Championships--Final Results

Member	Gross	Net
T1. David Swatik*	86	69
T1. Greg Fontana	86	69
3. Jim Leonard	80	72
4. Mike Bakos	85	73
T5. Matt Dodd	98	74
T5. Doug Frohoff	81	74
T7. Marty McSorley	96	75
T7. Bill Ortgiesen	82	75
T9. Kurt Allen	82	76
T9. Hank Bryan	95	76
T9. Terry Nolan	87	76
T12. Joe Anderson	87	77
T12. Brett Coordt	103	77
T12. Jeff Dalis	87	77
T12. Gregg Hemphill	79	77
T12. Chris Warshaw	97	77
T17. Brent Frohoff	83	78
T17. David Gentry	106	78
T17. Marc Walmer	83	78
T17. Tim Walmer	87	78
T21. Joe Kennedy	100	79
T21. Jeff West	84	79
23. Greg Snider	84	80
24. Mike Perryman	85	81
25. Mike Ninnis	97	82
26. Jake Courtney	106	83
27. Darin Miller	97	87
28. Sean Icaza	118	90
29. Kevin Cleary	121	95
30. Chris Carico	121	96
31. Chris Walmer	128	100
Robb Stroyke	DNS	DNS
*Won on 4th playoff hole		



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