



Above: Match Play Championship Winner, Cheryl Brayman



Above: Sanford Cup Winner, Sara Tasnady



Above: B Match Play Championship Winner, Theresa Pisacreta

## Hail to the Chief!

*The 115th Match Play Championship and the 2nd "B" Match Play Championship were held June 25th- 28th at Essex Fells Country Club in New Jersey.*

**Day One:** The Monday qualifying round is all about determining the brackets and the seeds. There were 32 players for this "A" division so no cuts would be necessary. The top 16 would play in the Championship bracket and the bottom 16 players would constitute the Sanford Cup division. As the previous champion, Liliana Ruiz, was traveling and unable to defend her title, the number one seed was up for grabs. Five players tied for first with an 81 as the low gross. Helen Bernstein turned in her card first so she was entitled to the one seed. The cut between the Championship and Sanford Cup flights was set at

90. While there were three people on the boarder of the flights, Kile Keever earned the final Championship spot and Rebecca Carretta was the first seed in the Sanford Cup flight.



**Day Two:** Two rounds of 18 holes are played; fields in each flight would go from 16 to 4. In the Championship bracket, the semi-finalists were: Helen Bernstein [#1], Susan Sardi [#5], Marissa Broderick [#2], and Cheryl Brayman [#6]. In the Sanford Cup flight: Rebecca Carretta [#1], Kate Platt [#13], Sara Tasnady [#10] and Sunhee Wi [#14] remained.

**Day Three:** Our President Cheryl Brayman was continuing her hot streak and secured her place in the finals by taking her opponent Marissa Broderick 6 & 5; Susan Sardi also raised the bar and was victorious against the #1 seed Helen Bernstein with a 2 & 1 finish. In the Sanford Cup, both Carretta and Tasnady captured the wins to advance to the final day.

The Championship flight final is a best of 36 holes. As attested by many a witness, this final match was a tightly contested battle between two wonderful golfers.

As best described by Stephenie Harris, the real fireworks of this match came out on the second 18. Sue was down by one after the morning 18 holes and lost the first three holes in the afternoon round after Cheryl made back to back birdies.

But Sue fought back with two great drives on the 4th and 5th holes, and squeaked another win on the 6th to win back three consecutive holes and narrow the gap to 1. She lost the 8th hole, a challenging par 5 with a slippery green and was now down by 2 at the turn.



Cheryl was just super consistent. Her ball was always a few feet from its intended target and she is a superb putter. She can drain anything and it's challenging to keep yourself in the match when it happens multiple times. Yet Sue found a birdie and par to win the 29th and 30th holes to be one back. They traded pars on 31 and 32, hitting their drives and approach shots almost the same distances and lines. It looked like fatigue was setting in when things got a little squirrely



for Sue on the 33rd hole with a mishit of her second shot, however, she hit a brilliant low stinger to about 8 feet and again, they traded pars.

Sue found some energy with that par save and it looked like she was going to get a break on the 34th hole when Cheryl left her 4th shot a good 10 to 12 feet from the pin. Sue, who had a good look at birdie with a 12 footer above the hole, unfortunately, missed the putt and Cheryl drained hers to match pars. Cheryl is 1 up with 2 to play.

On the 35th hole, a par 4, they both drive to similar distances. Cheryl's approach left her a 30 footer, up and across the green which she narrowly missed by burning the edge. Sue had an uphill 15 footer hole which she drained to bring the match to all square.

The 18th is a short par 4 with a very elevated green. Both drove the ball safely and hit to almost identical spots on the green - a good 36 feet away. Sue, up first, left the ball 3 rotations short! Cheryl had a rare misread and left herself an 8 footer left but the chief drained it. On to the 37th hole, a par 5, which they halved.

On to the 38th hole, a short par 4 with the green elevated and tucked into the hill. Again, they match drives leaving both with 78 yards. Cheryl is up first and sticks it to 8 feet. Sue missed the green and put her next shot to 16 feet away. She narrowly missed the par putt and consistent Cheryl made the birdie putt and won the match.

A thrilling and close match. Truly exhausting for the players. Bravo to both ladies and hail to the Chief!

The **Sanford Cup division final** is an 18 hole match. The take away from this victory story is to never let a tough first round qualifier get you down. Sara Tasnady may not have played her best on Monday [she tied for 25th] but she sure played beautifully on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Sara was victorious over Sunhee Wi with a 5 & 4 finish. Way to come back and play your game! Congrats.



And now, to our winner of the **2nd "B" Match Play Championship:** Theresa Pisacreta. Theresa is no new comer to WMGA golf. She is a consistent wonderful player and worthy of this title. Like the "A" division, a qualifying round was played on Monday amongst 16 players to determine the brackets. Theresa was seeded seventh. Wendy Dominick, as last year's champion, automatically received the number one seed. Theresa's first match on Tuesday against Kathy Villaggio went to 19 holes and she then had to play Barbara Close which she won 3 & 1. A long day! On day three, Theresa put pedal to the medal and beat Wanda French-Brown 6 & 5. And finally, on Thursday, Theresa challenged Kum Ahn, who had defeated Wendy Dominick to reach the finals. Theresa being Theresa played her game, was up most of the match and won the title with a par on the 17th hole. Salutations to our newest Queen B.

