

Joyner wants amateur golf tour to expand more

BY ED RICHARDS
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Lyle Joyner sees no reason that the Tidewater Division of the Amateur Golf Tour can't come close to doubling its membership again this season.

"It's a matter of getting the word out, because not that many people know about the tour. It's also a matter of our

Community NOTES

members going out and bringing a buddy or buddies with them the next time they play," Joyner said.

Running the tour for the first time last year, Joyner saw membership more than double. It went from 45 members in 2004 to 103 last year in its third season of operation.

What he'd like to see is the Tidewater Tour, open to all amateurs, make strides toward becoming like the Charlotte (N.C.) Division.

"They have 400 members overall and 140 members at each event," he said.

Charlotte's success could be attributed to its having been around for 13 years.

This year's Tidewater membership drive is off to a good start.

"We have around 70 to 75 memberships already and still have two months to go before the start of the season," Joyner

said. "Players may join at any time during the season."

The tour gives players, no matter what his or her handicap, a chance to win a gift certificate, which can range from \$100 to \$300. That amount will depend on the number of players in a flight.

The tour is open to amateurs with handicaps from 0-25. They will be placed in five flights: Championship (0-5 handicap), A Flight (6-10), B Flight (11-15), C Flight (16-20) and D Flight (21-and-over). Winners will be determined by their gross scores.

The 17-event tour begins with the Players Championship on March 11 at the TPC of Virginia Beach. Two of the three "majors" will be played in the Williamsburg area — at the Golden Horseshoe on May 5-6 and at Royal New Kent on Aug. 5-6.

Area events are also scheduled for Williamsburg National on April 1 and Sept. 30, at Cypress Creek on June 24, Kiskiack on July 8, and at the Newport News Golf Club at Deer Run on July 22.

The cost to join the tour is \$70. Entry fees for the individual tournaments will depend on the course being played.

C Flight player **Cy Edlow** of Yorktown was one of the tour's best competitors last year, winning three events and finishing third overall.



BRUCE

Darrell Bruce, also a C Flight player, won twice and finished seventh on the tour.

Applications are available online at

www.tidewatertour.com. For more information, contact Joyner at 761-4786.

ROAD RACING

To assure themselves a spot in the Anheuser-Busch Colonial Half Marathon on Feb. 26, runners should get their entries in soon.

The deadline is Feb. 1, but the limit of 1,300 runners could be reached earlier.

"The closing varies from mid to the end of January," said race official **Rick Platt**.

Last year the limit was reached in the last week of January.

The 13.1-mile race will begin and end on the campus of William and Mary. The starting time is 1 p.m. A 5K race will follow at 1:10.

Cost to enter the half marathon is \$45. For the 5K, it's \$25 by Feb. 1 and \$30 afterward.

Entries are being accepted online at www.tribeclub.com.

YOUTH SOCCER

The Williamsburg Soccer Club U10 '95 Wizards went 3-0

before losing in the title game the Newport News FC Hotspurs Black, 4-1, on Jan. 8 at the Hampton Roads Indoor Soccer Championships.

In group play, the Wizards beat the Newport News FC Celtic 6-0 and Newport News Hotspurs-Red 4-2.

In the semifinals, the Wizards pulled out a 6-5 victory against the Newport News Gunners.

BASEBALL

Mathews High junior **R Collins** went to Hawaii and .579 for the second-place team in the United States National Winter Series Baseball Championship tournament from Jan. 28-Jan. 5.

Collins competed with against a junior player from around the country. His team reached title game hitting 12-6.

In the run der Collins

second by hitting five home runs, and he made the all-tournament team.

He thanked Mathews ball coach **Al DeWitt** and Middle Peninsula community for helping to give him sponsorship to attend the event. ■



COLLINS