

Carvel Golf Tournament challenges the best

By Andrew Ciccone

Special to the Taconic Press

On Aug. 28, the first Thomas Carvel Country Club Golf tournament courted the area's best golfers on one of the more challenging golf courses in the Northeast as the level of play complimented the course.

Competition was fierce. The winner was decided in a playoff match as Eric Easton of Poughkeepsie and Vinnie Vicca of White Plains, each tied with a 76, five over par. In the playoff Easton birdied the second hole for the win. Easton, outplayed some of the area's best on this hot sticky Saturday afternoon. Easton recently finished third at the Dutchess County tourney. Third place winner Scott Ciferri of Millbrook shot a 77.

The club is named after the courses benefactor, entrepreneur Tom Carvel, who after borrowing \$15 from his future wife started selling ice cream from the back of his truck that is now a nation wide franchise. The Carvel Golf Course is a treat for those who love this game, providing players with a premiere golf course with fees that are quite reasonable. Tom Carvel was fond of saying that his course "is the great equalizer".

The Carvel Challenge attracted some of the area's best amateurs. A handicap of ten or less was required to participate.

Club golf pro Brad Davis about the course and the tournament. 11 of the eighteen holes are 400 feet plus from the blue tees, but if that isn't daunting enough there is the wind that makes some of the fairways even longer. The wind is usually a factor most days on some of the fairways at Carvel.

Davis noted why Carvel is "not very forgiving". As you line up your approach to the green, a third of the holes at Carvel have "false fronts" that can fool a golfer into thinking that the green is closer that it actually is, testing a player's "mental toughness".

Davis also noted that the greens are "fast and difficult" and can cost golfers a stroke or two, not to mention the elevation changes on some of the shorter holes, adding to the course's respectable reputation for being a "bear of a course".

First Prize included a rather impressive cut glass crystal ball trophy along with a \$300 gift certificate to the Carvel Pro Shop. Second and third prizes were crystal trophies with \$200 and \$100 gift certificates to the pro shop.