September 11th, a day we will never forget.  And what a fitting day to focus on the fellowship of fellow Rotarians and our friends while stepping OUTSIDE the Petaluma Golf Club to frolick in the pastures with our golf clubs!  With the course occupied near capacity with avid golfer, we enjoyed beautiful weather on the verdant, finely manicured golf course we typically only enjoy from the OTHER SIDE of the windows during our Club meetings.

First off, a big tip of the hat to Chad Fillinger and co-chair Charlie Stuart who ran the tournament and dinner to perfection!  Of course great leaders surround themselves with great teams with many of our Rotarians working behind the scenes to choreograph all the moving pieces (we have a whopping 16 of us on the golf committee).  Among the many were Tawny Tesconi and Maggie Radany, PGA pro and manager Chris Gay, Lace House Linen for providing linens for event, Lombardi's Catering, many of our Rotarians for their generous wine raffle donations.

As you know, in recent years thanks to everyone's hard work and generous support by our sponsors, our tournament now is able to help fund important community projects.  For instance, last year we were able to fund 91 grants for our schools!  Many thanks to our major sponsors including:  Keith Guisto Bakery Supply - Baker Supply/Ron Hunsaker, Clover Sonoma/Marcus Benedetti, Van Bebber Bros/Royce Van Bebber, Pure Luxury Transportation/Gary Buffo, Marilyn Can Travel/Marilyn Herzog.

But wait, there's more!  Our flag, hole and cart sponsors numbered 16 including: Jerry & Don Yager's Service Pump, Exchange Bank/ Rick Mossi & Rick Gorman, Westgate Realty/Tom Baker, V Dolan Trucking/Erik & Kim Fowler, Ranney Coaching/ Chris Ranney, Marr B Olsen Construction, Tomrose Construction/Bill Tomrose, Brodie's Tire & Auto/Gary Brodie, Fillinger Insurance/Chad Fillinger, Charlie Stuart, Nelson Construction, Bluestone Main/Sarah Godsey, Next Step Advocates/Joanne Ferris, Henris Roofing/Steve Henris, First Community Bank, Vine Hill Builders/Tony Western, Sonoma Marin Landscape, Peg King.

Before the tournament, as always our meat-loving golfers were treated to generous and delicious BBQ Tri-tip sandwiches along with plenty of fixings in preparation to really smack the ball... hopefully not out of the park!  Many thanks to Jay Palm & Ralph Sartori for cooking an outstanding meal for our golfers!  And then it happened - it's game time as the players hit the course with their "A-game!"  Well, okay it's true most ***everyone*** did buy the "extras" including one "free throw," an extra putt, a Mulligan, and a fairway tee shot to help their good luck and good fortune.

After the tournament dust settled, the (sandbagging) winners were: Dan Libarle, Bob Giacomini, Roger Offenbach, Bill Grant. Closest to the flag was Megan Anastasio (women's) and Bobby Evehart (men's).  Long drive goes to lanky but muscular Kyle Egbert. Steve Henris was closest to the center-fairway line, and Bill "the blade" putting champ goes to Bill Johns.  We should also give a big shout out to the Van Bebber brothers for ensuring all of our golfers were "well hydrated" and fortified with delicious snacks.

Then came the wine raffle and the anxious winner was... Kyle Egbert takes home the fruit of the vine!  Yet with all the generous support of our members, we had more than enough wine to have a double-header auction with high bidders Anne Gealta and other lucky bidder enjoying the spoils for $250 each.   And with Chad Fillinger keeping the venue moving along like clockwork, after everyone devoured Lombardi's prime rib dinner, mercifully our weary golfers were able to hit the road a tad after 7PM.  From there, a handful of our golf committee stalwarts headed for the golf club's "establishment" for libations and a fitting debriefing session.

Again, many thanks to everyone for their support!  For sure, ensuring the event earned a healthy positive cash flow early in our Rotary Club's fiscal year really helps President Chris Ranney sleep better prior to our Crab Feed!