

Don't think. Just aim and shoot!

“You have to be positive and have no negative thoughts”. That is what Roy Stewart said when asked to share his advice for golfers and his own personal success with the game. “You shouldn't be thinking. Thinking equals a bad score-you just put your ball on the tee, aim and shoot.”

Stewart, a volunteer with Kitchener Golf, and member of the club, has been playing the game since the early 70's. His first game was an early one at Rockway course after being persuaded by a friend to try the game. By the mid-seventies, Stewart became a member at Doon Valley and remembers practicing every day. “It was great, I used to line up balls and play different clubs so I could practice everything from driving, to pitching and putting. It was great to practice, and I was a much better player then.”



Well, some may dispute the suggestion that Stewart *used* to be a better player since he scored the best score of his life this August at our very own Rockway golf course! With a score of 65 and handicap of 8, Stewart said it was the easiest game he ever played in his life. “I imagined the play, and then it would happen. The whole game was like that.” Stewart continued to talk about how his positive mind set and league-practice contribute to making him a sharp player. “Getting out there and playing, and keeping a good pace on the course keeps you sharp, and this time all the stars aligned to make for my best score.”

Currently, Stewart volunteers at Rockway and plays in a league called Doon Valley Men's Group. He has been a part of this group since its inception in '85, and even remembers the day they named the league. "I remember a couple of our previous members wanted to name our group the Doon Valley Boys, but I didn't like be referred to as a boy, I was a MAN!" He laughed about how the group came to be and said that he really enjoys playing with this group. "We have a great time and we have a competitive game that is really fair." When asked to expand on how their game, Stewart explained how they play their league...with a bit of a twist.

There are 20-24 players in Doon Valley Men's group, and they play three times a week-every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On average, 12-16 players come out for each game, so the players are always a bit different. Instead of pairing up in groups of four and pre-determining game partners/teams, they choose to play the game with a little uncertainty to raise the stakes. "We still get out there and play as a foursome, but we don't know who our partners or teams are until the end of the game," said Stewart.

Once the round is over, scores are submitted and each player picks a number out of a hat. The best part about this type of play it is that it takes the possibility of cheating out of the game. "I can't think of one guy who cheats," said Stewart. "When you don't know who you're playing against, everyone plays and has a good time, and cheers for every player. It makes for a great combo of competition and comradery."

Stewart was humble about his great score, but was sure to sing praises about his team mates. "I expected to get razzed by the guys because that's what we do, but they were really positive about my score," he said. Stewart is passionate about the game, his role as a volunteer and his place in his league. Although he scored his best score, he won't stop there. "That's the best part of this game. The only one you're really competing against is yourself. It's you out there playing against your own best score, and that's what makes this game so great."