

## **Challenge Cup Promotes Friendly Competition**

Looking to enhance the experience for members of their respective Junior Tour's Section Executive Director, Geoffrey Surette, along with New Jersey Section Executive Director Scott Kmiec came together in the spring of 2007 to develop a new event to be added to each of their junior schedules. The event, titled *Challenge Cup*, brings together twelve juniors from each section (10 boys and 2 girls) in a one day Ryder Cup style match play event. The event rotates between each Section year to year with the Philadelphia Section hosting the event in odd numbered years and the New Jersey Section hosting in even numbered years. The event has quickly grown into a "must play" for juniors from both sections. Juniors now follow more closely their status on the Player of the Year Points list because they want to be one of the twelve selected each season.

Wanting to make this a premiere event for each section both Kmiec and Surette make sure the juniors playing every year are treated as close to professionals as possible. This includes scheduling first class facilities such as Spring Mill Country Club (2007), Trump National Golf Club (2008), and Galloway National Golf Club slated to host the event in August 2009. In addition, juniors playing in the event receive gifts including team uniforms (shirts and hats), golf bags, and golf balls. After the event juniors and parents are treated to lunch as awards are distributed to the participating players and winning team.

In 2008 the Challenge Cup received a generous gift from Mr. Don Pritsch. Mr. Pritsch, wanting to participate in local junior golf donated a perpetual trophy, named in honor of his son Jon Pritsch, which stays with the winning section year to year. Additionally, the Jon Pritsch Memorial Foundation provides the individual awards and lunches that each player receives.

Having come up short each of the previous two years members of the 2009 Philadelphia Section team hope to change the trend and bring home the Jon Pritsch Cup for the first time.

-- Joe Monforto