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Fairmount Captures Inaugural Northern New Jersey "A" Team Matches

Wins Title With Impressive Lineup

West Orange, NJ, May 15, 2005 – Fairmount Country Club won the 2005 Northern New Jersey "A" Team Matches with a decisive win over Montclair Golf Club. Trailing Montclair by ½ point going into their match, Fairmount relied on the likes of leading amateurs Allan Small and Craig Smith to win 8-4 in the last match of the event.

Fairmount's total of 25 points after round robin matches with Montclair (21.5 points), The Rock Spring Club (14 points) and Spring Brook Country Club (11.5 points) was enough to secure the crystal trophy for one year.

"Having an opportunity to compete against the best players from these other fine clubs is a great way to kick off the tournament season," said Small, the reigning NJ State Golf Association's Amateur Champion. "Even though the matches were in their first year, there is no doubt that the competitive juices were flowing. Our guys wanted to win this event"

The day before the Montclair match, Small and teammate Craig Smith returned from Ireland, where they competed in the Carey Cup, which pits the Metropolitan Golf Association's top amateur players against the Golfing Union of Ireland. "You could say Craig and I were warmed up," added Small.

The "A" Team matches are a series of better ball, three-point, scratch competitions among the four charter clubs. Each team puts together its best eight players, including one representative from the pro shop, into four two-man teams. Two teams play "home" and two play "away" at the opponent's club, at the same time.

"Our first year, we wanted to start small and establish a record of success," said Kevin Casey, a member from Rock Spring and the primary coordinator for the matches. "We borrowed the best scratch interclub match ideas from the Washington, DC, and Philadelphia regions, where the matches are entrenched, and applied them to Northern New Jersey. The response from the competitors has been very positive."

"We were fortunate to start with four great clubs. We are looking forward to doing this again next spring with four more clubs, and maybe even more the year after that. The "A" Team concept is off to a good start."

For more information on the Northern New Jersey "A" Team Matches, contact Kevin Casey at kcasey@lds.com or 973-971-0100x1282.

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