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THE 1ST EVER BRITTON MEMORIAL TEXAS HOLD 'EM CHALLENGE & LOW KEY EXTRAVAGANZA!

By Walt Warriner

It started out as just an idea. A poker tournament in a place where people could get together, play cards, eat and drink and have fun, and then leave at the end of the night with some cash going to the Britton Fund. Since I didn't really know if it would work or not, I kept it under the radar and invited local supporters of the Britton Fund. And true to form, the support for our industry was there!

The American Legion Post 184 in Redondo Beach was the perfect venue because it was a private club with a large community room; cheap drinks and we could bring in our own food. Organizing the tournament itself was relatively easy. We had food set up so when people first arrived they could have a snack and something to drink before play started. We also had hot food set up later in the evening between the first round and the championship round.

Each player was invited to buy in to the tournament for \$125. Once the tournament began, no additional players were allowed to buy in. Players could buy more chips during Round I if they lost all their chips and wanted to continue to play. The strictest rule was no cash allowed on the game tables and all chips had to remain on the table, visible to all players and available to be played at anytime. Seats were assigned randomly as the players registered.



Photo 1: Let the games begin!

The concept for first prize was simple, the player with the most chips at the end of the Championship Round was the winner. The tournament winner received a cash prize, plus



Photo 2: clockwise from center, Cy Carlberg, Genevieve Gladson, Doug Nishimoto, Kim Gill. Steve Smith, Dave Tueshler, Scott Soper.

the recognition and credit for donating the all the funds that were raised that night to the Britton Fund. The players with the 2nd and 3rd highest chip count won prizes.

Play began slowly, but as soon as everyone became familiar with one another's style, it was game on!

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Photo 3: Western Chapter President Greg Monfette command as the chip leader at his table was fleeting, as he eventually most of his chips to Art Murphy on his left. Meanwhile, to Art's left, Chris Oliver waits for a piece of the pie.



Photo 4: Lisa Smith came ready to play and ultimately made the final cut for the Championship Table.



Photo 5: Without a doubt, it was proper hydration levels that got Rob Thompson a seat at the Championship Table.



Photo 6: The Championship Round began at 9:30 and ended at 11:30. Kim Gill, getting ready to deal, eyes the competition.

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Photo 7: Champion, Kim Gill, rakes the pot!

Eventually, Kim Gill from Southern California Landscape Construction took the lead and had the highest chip count at the end of play. Andy Nishimoto at left took second and Art Murphy on the right took third place.

Thank you to all the sponsors:

**Dan Jensen, R. Dan Jensen & Associates, Inc.
Kim Gill, Southern California Landscape Construction, Inc.
Kevin Watts, TruGreen Landcare, Inc.
Tadd Russikoff; Valley Crest Companies, Inc.
Sergio Hernandez, Valley Crest Companies, Inc.
Pat Mahoney, West Coast Arborists, Inc.**

Thank you to all the players & congratulations to the winners!

**Kim Gill - Winner
Andy Nishimoto - 2nd Place
Art Murphy - 3rd Place
Doug Nishimoto
Chris Oliver
Wayne Smith
Dan Jensen
Cy Carlberg
Jordin Gill
Greg Monfette
Tadd Russikoff**

**Scott Soper
Lisa Smith
Steven Smith
Dave Teuschler
Rob Thompson
Hope Warriner
Genevieve Gladson
Paul Hsu
Emiliano Chacon
Tom Hernandez**

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And a very special thank you to my Hostesses for the evening who kept the evening flowing smoothly, taking pictures and setting up all the food.

**Audrey Warriner
Erin Gahn
Miriam Rainville**

The total take for the event after expenses was \$3,475. Not too shabby for a night of poker, cheap drinks, good food and good friends. I encourage those of you that want to do something for the Britton Fund and not cut into your poker night, to hold a Tournament in your own part of the Chapter. In fact, I challenge anyone to beat the \$3,475 that I raised...😊

Walt Warriner
Redondo Beach, CA
WCISA past President '01-'02

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