

## **2017 CNY Senior PGA Professional Championship**

With a birdie putt on the first playoff hole, Rick Bronson prevailed over Rob Phelps to win the Central New York PGA Senior Section Championship sponsored by Mid-State Club Car on July 31. The two-day event for players ages 50 and over was held at Onondaga Golf and Country Club.

Bronson (Bronson Turf Renovation) and Phelps (Bellevue Country Club) finished regulation deadlocked at 6-under-par 136 overall when both players made par on the par-4 18<sup>th</sup> hole. The pair headed back to the 18<sup>th</sup> tee to start the sudden-death playoff.

Bronson and Phelps, both former champions, were on the green in two. Bronson sank his 15-foot birdie putt from straight on, forcing Phelps to convert his birdie attempt from 12 feet away to extend the playoff. But Phelps' putt from the right side of the cup didn't break and rolled away to the right giving Bronson his second career Senior Section Championship crown. He also won in 2009.

Phelps, who won the event in 2010 and 2014, carded the low score of the day with a bogey-free round of 4-under-par 67. Phelps held a one stroke lead after birdies on holes 10 and 11. But Bronson pulled even thanks to back-to-back birdies on No. 12 and 13. Bronson, who started the round as the co-leader with Kevin Savage, recorded rounds of 67 and 69 en route to the title.

"Rob seemed to be pulling away and was 4-under after the first 11 holes," said Bronson, who also birdied No. 17. "But I had those birdies on 12 and 13 to draw even. Those two holes were key for me."

Bronson cashed \$1,000 for first and Phelps earned \$820 for second. The top three finishers advance to the 2017 Senior PGA Professional Championship at Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Ariz. Sept. 28-Oct. 1.

"I'm excited about it," said Bronson, who will turn 59 in October. "I've been to a bunch of them (national senior championships) and you don't want to pass those opportunities up. I'm looking forward to it."

Joining Bronson and Phelps at Desert Mountain will be Eric Manning (Cortland Country Club). Manning clinched the third berth by winning a playoff against two-time defending champ Mark Tucker (Cazenovia Country Club) and Kevin Savage (Timber Banks).

With Savage failing to birdie on the first playoff hole, Manning went on to defeat Tucker on the third extra hole (No. 1). Tucker will be the first alternate at the Senior PGA Professional Championship.

Three-time champion Dan Wood (Lansing Driving Range) won the Super Senior Division with a 2-over 144 total.