

# South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

## 2025 Annual Report

### Tour Members, Demographics & Courses

#### Comings and Goings

Apart from the effects of health issues, there was little action this year in terms of the new or newly departed.

**Lee Rautenberg**, a former Tour member who rejoined the Tour in June last year, played 28 rounds over the course of 2025 at 5/5/10. Lee is a member of Mizner, and hosted 10 of the Tour's 17 rounds there this year.

**Joe Machotka**, who missed the second half of 2024 with hip issues, did not return to the Tour in April as had been hoped for, in part because of other health issues. Hopefully, he will be willing and able to rejoin at a future date.

**Todd Wachsman**, who joined the Tour in late September last year as a member at Mizner and with playing rights at Gleneagles, hosted 7 rounds at Mizner and 8 at Gleneagles. His 25 rounds qualified him to vote in the 2025 MIGA election.

#### Health and Wellness – And Bridge

In 2025, there were a number of bumps and bruises to report.

**Jeff W**, who returned from open heart surgery in December 2024, suffered a severe finger injury in mid-July while on a river cruise in Hungary with his wife Linda and the Beckers. Jeff's deck chair collapsed, trapping his finger between the lounge sections. With cruise staff and doctors back in Budapest unable to stanch the bleeding, Jeff took an emergency flight back to Chicago for surgery. He missed the rest of the season, but not just because of his finger issues, which had almost fully healed by the time he returned to FL in November. Jeff also underwent spinal surgery to replace discs in his neck, which made golf impossible until healed. Jeff returned to the Tour on January 20, 2026.

None of that interfered with Jeff's achieving a HUGE year at bridge (partnered by Steve Garner):

- In March, his team finished second in the Vanderbilt (with David B on the team);
- In May, he won the Senior Trials to become USA1 at the world championships in Denmark;
- In August, he won the Spingold; and
- Later that month, he won the Senior World Championship (with David and Larry on team).

Congratulations to Jeff for his great year, and also to David and Larry for their world championship !

**Mike B**, three days later while still on the cruise, fell out of bed. OUCH ! This resulted in a shiner for the record books and two sore knees. A picture from Mike was worth 1,000 words:.



**Bob S** hurt his rotator cuff in November 2024. He returned in mid-January after missing a month, but it was very slow in healing and affected his swing all year. It is finally improving after a year of laser therapy and rehab. But in March, Bob reinjured his Achilles tendon, which also plagued him while he limped around the course for the next 7 months. Bob took several 1-2 week hiatuses (including one for Covid), before packing it in in late October. After 3+ months of rest and rehab, he returns to the Tour in February 2026.

**Joe M** missed the whole year with hip and health issues.

**Gary** also suffered from ongoing rotator cuff issues, which contributed to a reduction in Tour rounds, but he “pressed” on, as is his wont. Gary played most of his rounds with his high-stakes Chicago-based buddies.

## Time and Distance

### *Moving on up! (and back)*

Nobody’s moving back except Mama Cass.  
Almost everybody is inching up. Philosophically, that can be viewed as progress.  
Even Todd has been moving up from the tips to more manageable tee boxes.

### Milestones

**Joe M** “broke 80” in October.

**Alan O** “broke 70” in January.

**Gary and Jeff Fried** became eligible for **Medicare** in March and October, respectively.

## War and Peace

All quiet on the Eastern Front.  
The David / Gary cigar dilemma is still at a stalemate.

## Courses

Other than Woodfield, guest use restrictions have not resulted in scheduling issues.

**Eastpointe's** East Course opened in January after renovations, but remained CPO until the summer. Only a half dozen rounds played. Practice facility has improved, too. Should play well (and host more play in 2026), assuming Bob S stays golf-healthy.

**The Falls** closed forever on April 30. They paved paradise, developed 500 lots. With a pink clubhouse, a café and some whirlpool hot spas.

**So, we are down one from 2024 to 11 SFBPGT host courses.**

Current South Florida Tour host courses include Broken Sound (2), Eastpointe (2), Gleneagles (2), High Ridge, Mizner, Seagate, Stonebridge, and Woodfield.

Reciprocal and public course play in 2025 was rare, comprising only BallenIsles (North), Boca Golf & Racquet, and Osprey.

**There are still 3 Utah Tour host courses.**

Utah Tour host courses include Glenwild & Tuhaye (Eric R.), and Red Ledges (Larry).

Utah public courses played included Soldier Hollow (Gold and Silver) and Wasatch (Lakes).

## Financial Report – Tour Money

### The Race for the Top in 2025: A 1973 Belmont Stakes Re-run **RJS - Shorten**

- After the usual January jockeying, **Mike Becker** took the lead away from Gary Cohler on February 7 and held it for almost two months, after peaking at \$812 on February 10.
- Becker eased back to the pack, and was passed by **David Berkowitz** on April 3 at \$510.
- Becker and Berkowitz went nose to nose, for six weeks, until Becker regained the lead on May 14, and held it for four more months.
- After peaking at \$893 on August 7, Becker slid a bit before heading off to Utah where he would face – among others – Berkowitz and Cohen (fresh off their D'Orsi Trophy Senior World Championship win in Denmark on the Jeff Wolfson team).
- Becker continued to slide in Utah and – on September 12 - was briefly passed by "**Others**" at \$513 (powered by Joe Grue, who was plus \$430 on his own ball !).
- But on the final day in Utah, at the mile pole, Becker regained the lead for good at \$539.
- Over the final half-mile (er, 3-1/2 months), Secretariat (er, Becker) left the field in the dust, winning \$1,258 over his final 34 rounds – an average of \$37 per round.
- Mike finished the year with winnings of \$1,797 – more than \$1,000 ahead of the distant second place "Others" (who held onto the runner-up spot via winning performances from the Rimstedt brothers - Ola and Mikael).

This was Mike's 6th Tour Leader title (one ahead of Larry and David for most all-time).

Congrats to .... **Michael Becker**, the 2025 Tour Leader !

## The Race to the Bottom in 2025: Another Runaway

The battle for the bottom was also a runaway affair this year.

- **Victor Markowicz** took the early bottom on January 2 and, over the next couple of months ceded the low water mark for a total of only 8 days to three other slow starters.
- On March 11, Vic undercut the competition for the last time, at -\$491. He then grabbed the anchor and rode it all the way down to the seabed.
- Vic finished the year at -\$1,428 (more than \$800 below his closest fellow diver), securing his 11<sup>th</sup> Tour Bottom title – six more than his nearest fellow competitor.

Condolences to Victor, beloved by all for his good humor and many contributions.

## 2025 Most Improved Golfer Award (M.I.G.A.)

**The charge to the Electors (25 or more Tour rounds):**

**“The Most Improved Golfer Award should be awarded to the golfer who has improved the most. Who played better in 2025 than in 2024? If more than one person has improved, who has improved the most? If No One has improved, no Award should be given. “No One” has won the Award six times.”**

There were 10 Electors: Mike B, David, Neil, Larry, Gary, Bob J, Victor, Lee, Bob S, Todd

The key stats provided to the Electors are shown in the following table below.

		2025	INDEX	INDEX	INDEX				
		Index	2025	2025	2025		\$ Money	Money/Rd	
		Change	31-Dec	1-Jan	Low	Rounds	2025	2025	Rank
Mike	Becker	0.2	21.8	21.6	19.2	118	1797	15.23	1
David	Berkowitz	-2.6	17.9	20.5	16.8	69	-596	-8.64	21
Neil	Chambers	0.2	11.6	11.4	8.0	39	355	9.10	4
Larry	Cohen	2.3	16.9	14.6	12.8	59	-417	-7.07	20
Gary	Cohler	0.4	15.4	15.0	10.5	30	-194	-6.47	17
Bob	Jones	-0.2	22.8	23.0	20.9	62	-354	-5.71	18
Victor	Markowicz	0.1	26.6	26.5	24.9	78	-1428	-18.31	22
Lee	Rautenberg	-1.6	17.2	18.8	18.3	28	18	0.64	10
Bob	Sartorius	1.6	12.6	11.0	8.5	62	-145	-2.34	15
Todd	Wachsman	0.8	6.3	5.5	3.2	25	35	1.40	9

## The Contenders and the Voting:

Often years, several contenders emerge for consideration, with votes split accordingly. Other years, “no one” gets the most votes.

For 2025, there were no standout candidates:

- David lowered his index by more than 4 strokes early in 2025, but then he came down with elbow problems. His index was still down by 2.6 at year-end, but he finished second from bottom in Tour money.
- Mike romped in Tour money, but his index nudged up a tad.
- Lee also lowered his index, but his money was “flat” and his round total was low.

The voting results (and representative comments) were as follows:

Mike - 1 vote (“I got to watch a lot of his rounds, and I think his “golf” improved noticeably”)  
 David - 3 votes (Bullet point above was culled from a comment)  
 No One - 6 votes (“Sadly, I must vote for no one. I fear it may be unanimous”)

Congrats to **No One**, the **2025 Most Improved Golfer Award winner (for the 7<sup>th</sup> time)**

## **Tales From the Course in 2025**

### **Player Highlights and Anecdotes:**

- 1/5 **Putt for Dough !** Mizner. **Bob Jones** sinks a pair of 25-foot two-hole putts, to win two matches by a stroke instead of losing both of them. That was (at least) an \$80 swing.
- 1/6 **Ageless Neil !** The Falls. Neil shoots 77 (one under age). Repeats feat on 2/8 (Gleneagles), and on 2/11 (Broken Sound). Shoots 78 (his age) on 3/2 (Mizner). After that, he had a birthday. Returning in autumn, he breaks his age three more times on **three consecutive days !** (78 at Stonebridge – one under age – on 12/14 and 12/15, then 77 at Osprey on 12/16.)
- 1/17 **Skill shot of the year !** Mizner, 14<sup>th</sup> hole, par 4, 428 yards. **Todd Wachsmen** hits drive into pine straw under a tree, right of the right cart path. Completely blocked out by fronting trees, from a side-hill, downhill lie, more than 200 yards from the back-middle flag, Todd hits driver, slicing his shot 50 yards around the trees, over a left side fronting bunker and onto the back right of the green, two-putting to make par.
- 2/8 Stonebridge – **David** birdies #14 and #15 back-to-back.
- 2/13 Stonebridge – David pars holes #7 through 11. No place like home.
- 2/15 High Ridge – David shoots 82. He’s on a hot streak. But all things must pass.
- 3/9 Mizner – **Lee** drives green on par 4 hole #8 (215 yards).
- 3/14 The Falls – **Richard** hits 5 consecutive shots into water (holes # 5 and 6). Wins money on day !
- 3/28 The Falls – **Another Todd skill shot** – on #18, one yard dead behind the “usual tree” in two, Todd hooks his third shot onto the green from 138 yards.
- 4/5 Osprey - **Ageless Mike** - Becker shoots 80 (one less than his age). Repeats this feat on 7/1 at High Ridge.
- 4/17 Mizner – Todd hits green from 250 with driver from deck.
- 4/22 The Falls **final round – Steve** shoots 80.
- 5/10 Stonebridge – David shoots 39 on front, takes tour money lead.
- 5/13 Broken Sound – Mike shoots 39 on front, edges closer to David, who now has tennis elbow.
- 5/15 High Ridge – Mike shoots 84 – regains tour money lead from David.
- 6/14 Woodfield – **Bob S** makes up and down birdie from 195 yards – to tie hole !
- 9/8 Red Ledges – **Joe Grue** 51-39 in Jekyll/Hyde round.
- 9/10 Red Ledges – Joe Grue shoots 37 on back nine. Seems to have a slight preference.

- 11/21 Broken Sound Old Course – **Yossi** chips in for eagle three on par 5 16<sup>th</sup> – only eagle of year by a Tour member.
- 12/7 Woodfield – **Mike Becker** holes out from 105 yards on shortish par 4 4<sup>th</sup> hole for.....birdie !
- 12/11 Boca Golf and Racquet – **Ola Rimstedt** makes hole in one (his first ever) on 128 yard #11.
- 12/13 Woodfield – **Mikael Rimstedt** shoots one-over 73 from gold (6,683) after starting with 3 bogeys. Both he and Ola hit green in two on par 5 sixth hole.
- 12/20 Stonebridge – **David** sinks 105-foot birdie putt on par 5 10<sup>th</sup> hole.
- 12/21 Woodfield – **Mikael Rimstedt** shoots 77 from tips (7,237). Mikael hit greens in regulation on #13 (250-yard par 3), #16 (462-yard par 4) and #17 (231-yard par 3).
- 12/25 Gleneagles Legends – **Todd and David** both birdie par 5 #12 (toughest hole on tour) with birdie putts of 15 feet and 90 feet, respectively. David wins hole getting stroke. Merry Christmas !
- 12/26 Gleneagles Legends – Todd birdies #12 again, on back-to-back days.

## Sixes and Private Match Highlights:

- 1/17 **Bullet Missing from Chamber.** Mizner. BJ-BS-NC-TW. In addition to Todd's "shot of the year" (see above), group makes seven birdies. Neil shoots 7 over par with Bob Jones as partner in Match #1, then shoots even par over last 12 holes as BJ's opponent.
- 1/23 Woodfield and Stonebridge – wet, cold, rainy. Stonebridge group finishes round. David pars last 5 holes at Stonebridge (21 strokes) to salvage a 94 ! But Woodfield group quits after 9 holes. First freeze out of year. Next day's round also cancelled, for second freeze out of year.
- 1/25 Gleneagles -. Mike plays 2,288 yards (1.3 miles) shorter than Todd ! That's 127 yards per hole.
- 1.27 Stonebridge -. Mike looks for Neil's ball in lake. Finds his own ball from a prior round 😊
- 1/30 Broken Sound – Todd spots BJ and VM 2,385 yards (1.36 miles) !! That's 132.5 yards per hole.
- 2/23 Stonebridge – Mike wins two holes with 8's in private against DB and one vs LC.
- 2/25 Boca Golf & Racquet – 7:20 starting time for LC, GC, BJ and Doc. **Group plays in 3:25.** Gary and Doc play another 18 at 11:45.
- 3/2 Broken Sound - Mike "backs out" with bad back. Others (DB,BJ,VM) shoot combined 302 strokes.
- 3/6 Stonebridge - Mike "backs in" and wins \$110 by shooting 83.
- 3/6 Broken Sound – Vic sweeps sixes. Neil's last round until autumn.
- 4/7 Seagate – **Group (SS, LC, AO and Joe Grue) plays in 3:20**
- 5/1 Broken Sound Club Course – Match #1 – Mike Becker is only player to make a par (5 of them). Schneids Bob S in their private match.
- 6/5 Stonebridge – all three matches tied (DB, MB, BS, Lee)
- 6/26 Eastpointe East – first Tour round since restoration, as CPO is lifted.
- 7/14 Glenwild – David ends 10-round losing streak, beating Eric head-to-head.
- 7/27 Eastpointe East – Mike B covid-out. Lee R "heat out" after 11 holes. First heat out of year.
- 8/3 Woodfield – Bob S cancels due to heat (2<sup>nd</sup> heat out of year). Others play complete round.
- 8/7 Woodfield – MB, DB, BJ, BS – heat out after 16 holes. 3<sup>rd</sup> heat out of year.
- 9/6 Glenwild – LC, Jeff Fried, Eric, DB – Jeff shoots 80, foursome shoots 69 gross best ball.

- 10/16 High Ridge – **Schneider #30 ?** - Middle six. Bob S and Richard v Mike and David.  
 #7 - Bob S wins with regulation par 4  
 #8 - Richard wins with nice up/down par 3  
 #9 - Bob S wins with regulation par 5  
 #10 - Richard wins w up/down par 4  
 #11 - David misses 3' par putt to extend the Schneid as both Bob S and Richard make par.  
 #12 - Short par 4. Rich/David out of hole after water trouble.  
 Bob S hits wedge to 20 feet just off green - front flag  
 Mike B hits wedge short, into ruff short right of green, 23 yards from flag.  
 Mike putts through a few feet of rough, then fairway toward green.  
 Putt is well struck, but a bit firm. Ball hits sprinkler head hole, which slows it down by 6-8 feet, and it comes to rest 6 inches from hole, for clutch par 4.  
 Bob S misses 20-foot birdie putt. **No Schneider !.**
- 11/21 Broken Sound Old Course - **Schneider #30 ?** – Final Six – Vic and Yossi vs Bob J and Gary.  
 #13 - par 4. Signature hole over water - Yossi 4, Vic 3 for 2 !!, Bob J and Gary in water  
 #14 - par 3 over water. Yossi and Vic both par. Bob J and Gary in water.  
 #15 - long par 4. Vic makes 5 for 4. Gary and BJ are toast.  
 #16 - par 5. Bob and Gary both par, as does Vic. Yossi makes eagle 3 to win hole !  
 #17 - par 4, dogleg left. Bob and Gary both choke but make bogey to tie hole. **No Schneider !**  
 #18 – par 4. Vic makes 5 for 4 to win the hole.  
 Gary could not press alone on #15 (auto), but pressed the back and #18 to lose \$90 in sixes
- 12/7 Woodfield - Neil, partnering Mike Becker, shoots one under par on holes 7-12.  
 Playing against Mike, Neil loses \$35 in private !
- 12/30 Broken Sound – Vic shoots 104, but is only player to win money on day (\$110)

## Rounds Report

Tour in-season guest fees are capped at \$150 for hosts for 2025-26, with non-hosts paying full fare. This is a significant bump up from 2024-25, when a \$135 cap applied to all Tour members.

Total rounds and groups slid considerably from 2024 to 2025, to their lowest levels since 2010:

- A total of 181 Tour groups were assembled in 2025, a decrease of 23 from 2024.
- Similarly, 698 Tour rounds were played in 2025, down 106 from 804 in 2024.
- Injuries no doubt played a part in the decrease.
- Mike (118) played the most Tour Rounds; then came Vic (78), David (69) and “both” Bobs” (62).
- This was the 23<sup>rd</sup> time in 30 years that Mike played the most rounds – many to “make a group”.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy 2026!

Bob S, Mike and Larry (your drafter and reviewers)

**PS - The tables that follow show:**

- 2025's final Tour money and rounds stats
- Historical Tour Money Leaders and
- Historical MIGA Award Winners.

Name	Rounds	2025 \$\$	Money/Rd	Rank
Becker	118	1797	15.23	1
Z-Others	31	793	25.58	2
Rogoff	4	390	97.50	3
Chambers	39	355	9.10	4
Cohen R	21	166	7.90	5
Osofsky	6	150	25.00	6
Sanborn	7	70	10.00	7
Weinstein	5	70	14.00	8
Wachsman	25	35	1.40	9
Rautenberg	28	18	0.64	10
Loring	1	10	10.00	11
Machotka	0	0	0.00	12
Fried	20	-68	-3.40	13
Ende	16	-112	-7.00	14
Sartorius	62	-145	-2.34	15
Robinson	4	-150	-37.50	16
Cohler	30	-194	-6.47	17
Jones	62	-354	-5.71	18
Wolfson	13	-390	-30.00	19
Cohen L	59	-417	-7.07	20
Berkowitz	69	-596	-8.64	21
Markowicz	78	-1428	-18.31	22
<b>Total Player Rounds</b>				<b>698</b>
<b>Total Tour Rounds</b>				<b>181</b>

See next page.

		<b>Year</b>	<b>Tour Leader</b>	<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	
		1996	Others	123	
		1997	John Lewis	247	*
		1998	Lee Rautenberg	448	*
		1999	Barnet Shenkin	403	
<b>Year</b>	<b>M.I.G.A. Winner:</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>John Lewis</b>	<b>440</b>	
2001	Drew Casen	2001	John Lewis	459	*
2002	John Griscom	2002	John Lewis	712	*
2003	Mike Becker	2003	John Griscom	597	
2004	Marc Culberson	2004	Marc Culberson	834	*
2005	No One	2005	Stan Tulin	427	
2006	Joe Machotka	2006	Joe Machotka	702	
2007	Larry Cohen	2007	Larry Cohen	581	
2008	No One	2008	David Berkowitz	1041	*
2009	Gary Cohler	2009	Mike Becker	736	
2010	Victor Markowicz	2010	David Berkowitz	739	
2011	Gary Cohler	2011	David Berkowitz	1455	*
2012	Gary Cohler	2012	Gary Cohler	831	
2013	Mike Becker	2013	Mike Becker	1175	
2014	Gary Cohler	2014	Bob Sartorius	1526	*
2015	No One	2015	David Berkowitz	1353	
2016	No One	2016	Mike Becker	1008	
2017	Larry Cohen	2017	Larry Cohen	2129	*
2018	Victor Markowicz	2018	David Berkowitz	1707	
2019	No One	2019	Mike Becker	1921	
2020	Larry Cohen	2020	Larry Cohen	1581	
2021	Mike Mancini	2021	Mike Becker	1379	
2022	No One	2022	Larry Cohen	1951	
2023	David Berkowitz	2023	Bob Sartorius	1473	
2024	Victor Markowicz	2024	Larry Cohen	1692	
2025	No One	2025	Mike Becker	1797	

\* Tour Record