

South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

2008 Annual Report

Membership

2008 saw the addition of Gary Cohler to the tour. While he may not be the best golfer to come down our pike, he certainly is the most affable. Nobody can play worse while complaining less. No matter what the golf day brings, Gary adds fun and a smile (and usually \$\$) to his group. A recent late-year improvement saw Gary avoid being down quadruple digits in \$\$, and also saw his # of strokes received dropping to a more manageable number. Maybe some time in 2009, he won't get strokes on par 3's.

Of Courses

We were very short on courses this year. Stonebridge was off tour for six months out of season due to a makeover. Mizner was unavailable for six months in season when Joe and Joy rented their home and membership out. Marshall did not renew his membership in the Boca Hotel, and the Boca CC was in disrepair for three of the eight months that we play there. We underplayed the Boca CC. Broken Sound can only be played for the three months a year that Victor is in town, [even though he plays nearly every day he is here]. Marc's course, (Weston), is rarely played because of high fees. And long ago we lost other courses due to retirees Lee Rautenberg (St. Andrews), Neil Silverman (Coral Ridge) and Russ Ekeblad (Boca Grove).

We need new blood with new courses. Richie Coren (Addison) is a possibility, especially for those like Stan who would like to play the pink tees. Mel Lechner (Boca West) is available out of season. Rumor has it that Jeff Wolfson is a few years away from moving to the area.

A major trend on tour is the creeping up in age and coinciding creeping forward of tees. It seems that a majority of members have come to prefer a course in the range of 6,000 to 6,300 yards. Accordingly, the "standard" tee at Boca Rio, Stonebridge and Woodfield has moved "up one." The commissioner has created a formula for betting in the case where different tees are used: Each "change-of-tee" is worth 1/2 stroke per 6-hole match, and 2 strokes for 18-hole private match. We've gone from Blue to White. Senior-tees can't be far behind.

Financial Report – Tour Leader

Larry started 2008 like a different person. Gone were the late 2007 rounds in the 70's. By the end of April he was down \$559, much of which went to David and Marshall, who were plus nearly \$600 each. Gary joined the tour in late March, and after 12 rounds was contributing an unprecedented \$56 per round. David and Marshall piled onto their 1-2 status over the summer, enjoying playing with Gary a lot. Meanwhile, in Utah, Larry won \$525, 2/3 from Mike and 1/3 from Bernie. David steadily pulled ahead of Marshall in the early fall. The gap grew wider after the nationals. David coasted to win the Tour Leadership of 2008 with record a profit of +\$1,041 to Marshall's +\$735, closely followed by Joe +\$599. Marshall's \$\$ result would have won the

Tour leadership in 11 of the previous 12 years. With those big winners there had to be some big losers. On December 1st, Gary sat at the bottom of the tour leader board at -\$841 to Victor's -\$583. But during December, Gary surged while Victor swooned. They exchanged places. Victor finished in the basement, for the fourth consecutive year. Perhaps Gary and Victor should take a lesson in press management. Analysis reveals that proper pressing management would cut their losses almost in half, but would probably decrease their overall enjoyment of golf by more.

2008 Most Improved Golfer Award (M.I.G.A)

Was there anyone whose handicap actually went down in 2008? While David and Marshall had a marvelous \$\$ year on tour, both claimed no improvement. Nine electors who played more than 25 rounds were asked to select the Most Improved Golfer. Gary and Victor received one vote, David garnered three votes, but No One narrowly won, with 4 votes. This is the second time No One has won. So congratulations to No One. On our agenda is a discussion of whether a majority or a plurality is necessary to win the M.I.G.A.

This year, instead of a M.I.G.A., "Most Likely" awards go to:

Most likely to complain while consistently winning: David

Most likely to win while consistently whining: Joe

Most likely to know strangers on the golf course: Marshall

Most likely to get distracted by a tractor, caddy, bird, saw, or other golfer within 2 miles: Stan

Most likely to get distracted by another golfer while putting: Mike

Most likely to stand in the wrong place while Mike is putting: Everyone else

Most likely to take 3 minutes on a 3-footer on the 6th hole of a match: Barnett

Most likely to ask for advice prior to any shot: Stan

Most likely to complain about pace of play: Larry, followed by Stan

Most likely to "press": Victor & Gary

Most likely to be on the cell phone: a tie, Victor and Marshall

Most likely to complain about the strokes allotted: Joe, [but then he gives the most]

Most likely to take the more practice swings than the other three golfers put together: Victor

Most likely to balk after John G takes a practice swing putting: Any other member of John G's foursome

Most likely to cancel a golf date and/or be late in responding to scheduling requests: well, you know who you are...

Home & Away Rounds Report for Hosts

The attached spreadsheet details the number of guests playing at a "member's" home club -vs- the number of times that member played at other clubs. There is a summary for 2008 and a summary for all 13 years combined. David and Stan continue to be out of whack, but the rest of us are closer to "even" than last year.

The home and away summary assumes "others" (non-members) paid the member for their greens fees. We played `l recorded 175 groups, including 62 that I did not play in. A tour round

is any round where two tour members in the same foursome wager some money, whether in Florida or elsewhere. 603 tour rounds were played, up from 514 rounds in 2007.

Greens fees differ significantly from club to club and by season and I took neither into account. What this means is, by comping each other, hosts wind up paying their home guest fee rates when they play at other courses.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Mike

The Great Organizer

(assisted by Larry and David)

Encl: Spreadsheet re: Financial Report and Home and Away Rounds Report (302 lines on 4 pages in .xls format)