

South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

2010 Annual Report

Membership

There was no change in tour membership. For 2011 we hope to add the ever-in-transit Bruce Rogoff to the tour after he recovers from knee surgery, and look forward to the return of Richie Coren.

Only the annual and lifetime Tour results of the fourteen active Tour members are shown on the "2010 Annual Golf Stats" spreadsheet, attached. I removed the columns of Lee Rautenberg, Russ Ekeblad, Neil Silverman and Richie Coren. Steve Levinson, Mark Molson, and Drew Casen were previously removed. This makes for a shorter and more readable spreadsheet.

Of Courses

Mizner was renovated over the summer, but Joe started working about the same time. We hope Joe gets his priorities straight so he and Mizner can return to the tour. Boca Greens rejoined the rotation after starting the year as a cow pasture.

Although the tour continues to "gray," we held our ground playing the forward tees. No senior tees for us, yet.

Financial Report – Tour Leader

Mike shot into an early lead +\$258 in mid-January, but David (in a first for him) raced to the front of the pack in early February and never looked back. His high point was +\$916 on July 7th. Joe held a solid grip on second place for most of the year, but played only two rounds in the last four months. As long as David stayed ahead of Joe's +\$397 total, the Tour Leader Award was his. With 10 days left to year end, David was still +\$601, and added to that to cruise to one of the easiest tour leader wins ever.

Bob improved as the season went on, and had his best tour money year ever, as the strokes he was given (rightfully) lagged his improved ability.

Stan and Gary each made bold attempts to capture last place for the first 11 months of the year. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, Mike slumped into last place. On November 12th, Mike was -\$501 to Gary's -\$395 and Stan's -\$330. But while Stan stayed relatively in place thru year end, Mike rallied, eking into the plus column and Gary went for a BIG number. Gary needs more strokes. Again.

In his six years on tour, David has never had a losing year, and played more rounds in 2010 than Larry for the first time. David is threatening to catch John Lewis as the all time tour money winner. Who will be better at negotiating strokes next year? We'll see.

2010 Most Improved Golfer Award (M.I.G.A)

2010 was a remarkable year because...we improved! Tour players recorded some stunning scores. In no particular order: Barnet shot a 78, his personal best; Bob shot an 82, his best tour round ever; Bernie beat Mike scratch by 12 shots, twice (one of them with an 84, his best round of the year); David shot a 79, his personal best; Stan shot his best tour round in recent memory, an 85 (sorry, Stan, that's the best I could come up with); Joe shot an incredible 74 at Quail Ridge ("It seemed like it was from the ladies tees."); Our 2009 M.I.G.A. winner, Gary shot a personal best 92 on tour, (winning a bet from David, of course), and then shot an 89 off tour, another personal best. But he only marginally improved overall. Victor shot his tour best, an 85. Mike had a pair of 77's a week apart (one was with 4 birdies), tying his best rounds; Larry had two 77's and a 79 while in Utah (two of those were with 4 birdies). There were no holes in one, but Larry had eagles in consecutive Utah rounds.

Just like last year, Larry started the year as an 11 HCP and lowered it to an 8 over the summer, when he plays regularly. But unlike last year, Larry's "B" game improved. He had fewer bad rounds. On average he took a stroke or two off his game.

Bob took three shots off his game, "because I got a new driver." But the rest of his game was solid as well.

Victor continued his improvement from the end of last year. He takes fewer penalties, and drives the ball further and straighter. He reduced his stroke average by three or four shots. His money management "skills" improved as well.

Bernie's golf game did not get worse (which for a guy who "reached" 70, is pretty good). Marshall and Marc held their own – the "handicaps" they had, they still have. Mike, the 2009 Tour Leader, improved by 0.7 strokes, but finished \$700 poorer than last year. Apparently, in 2010, getting a little better did not translate into financial rewards.

On to the voting for the M.I.G.A. Eleven electors who played 24 or more rounds were asked to select the Most Improved Golfer. With all eleven voting, six votes would be required to win the M.I.G.A. This year is similar to what the 2011 ACBL Hall of Fame ballot looks like. With so many good candidates, it is hard for anyone to get a majority of the vote. There were votes for David, Victor, Larry, Joe and No One, a record assortment, and, Ta Da! (drum roll)... Victor received exactly six votes! Congratulations to Victor on this award and to the electors for recognizing his improvement. Bob deserves more than honorable mention, but did not play enough with other tour members to be recognized for his improved proficiency.

Miscellany

Shot of the year

Bernie hit his second shot on a par 5, about 150 yards slightly up hill, and the ball rolled on to the cart path. The ball then rolled another 160 yards, but...back down the path to rest 10 yards behind where he started.

Bet of the Year

Gary lost the pressed back to Larry 5-7-5-3-1, a record (and, no kidding, also the zip code of Draper, South Dakota). That result is now termed, "a Draper." Gary also lost a record \$72 Schneider (I leave it to you to figure out how that happened).

"The Bet"

When Gary joined the Tour, 125 was a normal score for him, probably because he picked up and we capped him at triple bogey. The first time he played with David, he ran out of balls (golf balls), after going through at least a dozen, and borrowed some from David. Months after that, after much mutual trash talk, they began betting on how many balls Gary would lose in a round. This evolved into betting on penalty strokes rather than lost balls. Gary topped out at about 8 "shots," but for the past year or so the line is about 3.5, depending on the weather and some chronic conditions Gary professes to have. The Bet is well known. If David is not playing, another member of the group manages his action. Once, Gary chipped around a lake six times to avoid the risk of hitting the ball into the water. Gary has often waded into a lake to hack away at a ball well under water in an effort to get it out without penalty. He was on his way to one such lake when he found a smiling, 10 foot alligator in blocking his path. He claimed the gator ate his ball, and he should not be assessed a penalty.

Favorite Tour Story

Gary: "Mike, how many yards to the pin?"

Mike: "179, Gary." Gary then takes a big swing and actually hits the ball *backwards* one yard. (I've never seen this before, without hitting some object.)

David immediately says: "180 to the pin, Gary."

So, most of our fun golf stories revolve around Gary, whether we are laughing with him or at him. "...We all have a better time when he is in the group. He is competitive but friendly and is what it should be about..." says Stan.

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 2010 and a summary for all 14 years combined. David became the only tour member in the red at -57 rounds, and will pay cash for (about) two years until he is even.

The home and away summary assumes "others" (non-members) paid the member for their greens fees. I recorded 208 groups, (up from 177) including 58 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. Not counting non-tour members, 617 tour rounds were played in 2010, down from 667 in 2009.

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 David and Mikie)