

South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

2011 Annual Report

Membership

Neil Silverman returned to the tour in the fall to play occasional Sunday rounds after an eight year hiatus.

Steve Sanborn joined the tour in January, played 25 rounds, and went back north in May.

Bruce Rogoff will join the tour early next year, but that was also reported last year about this year.

Neil, Steve and Bruce are all "blue" tee players, so the grayer members of our group may be challenged or we may start playing split tees.

Of Courses

The number of courses available to play has finally increased.

Osprey Point, a new 27-hole public course, has proved to be a hidden treasure. It has a links design, natural landscaping, some great views, and an original, interesting track.

Kerri and Steve bought a home in the Hamlet in Delray Beach and for 2012 will spend much more time here. The Hamlet will become a tour course in 2012.

Boca Greens is still "semi-private," but has been quite playable (good condition, not too crowded) and will remain in the tour rotation.

Mizner was played only on Sunday and only sporadically due to Joe's busy cabinetry schedule.

Financial Report – Tour Leader

David took an early lead, jumping out to plus \$274 in January. Steve challenged David in the spring, and narrowly led David when he left town in May. Over the summer, all of David's 20 rounds included Gary, playing double stakes in their private matches. David did very well, and was quoted as saying, "I can't afford to leave town." So when Gary went to Utah, David followed. From the beginning of summer to September 13th, David won \$829 and Gary lost \$509.

From that point to year end, David was ahead of 2nd place by at least \$531. David took a (planned) month off late in the year and coasted to victory in the most one-sided tour leader win ever, winning a record \$1,455 (crushing the previous record of +\$1,041, also

held by him). This is David's third Tour Leader Award in the past four years. Also in 2011, David passed John Lewis as the all time tour money leader. (See the 2011 Annual Golf Stats.xls.)

There are mumblings about naming the Tour Leader Award after him, but John Lewis has won the award four times, including three in a row. There are grumblings that when a tour member has never lost money in seven years, maybe he should be giving more strokes. That was suggested in last year's Annual Report.

On October 24th, Larry was at exactly \$0. He then won \$649 over his next 18 rounds (averaging 84), to streak into second place, and then, as usual, went on a Christmas cruise. On October 9th, Mike was -\$406 and rallied to finish up +\$119 for the year.

On the south side of the tour, Gary, in last place for much of the year, began playing well in the fall. Gary shot 90 three times (his tour best). To accomplish that feat on one of these occasions, he triple bogeyed his final two holes. But Gary was undertaken by Victor, who played too many rounds with Gary and Larry during their "surge." Victor tumbled into last place on October 1st, losing \$200 while Gary won \$170, and was still last when he played final tour round on December 18th. Although he finally had a plus year in 2010, (winning the M.I.G.A), Victor has sat at the bottom of the leaderboard 5 times in his 11 years on the tour. This underwhelming performance confirms that, "Nice guys finish last." Victor often offers to take fewer strokes at the start of a round. While this may be a Polish characteristic, (or one of a good sport), we must resist his generosity and give him more strokes. Anyway, on December 18th, Victor was -\$760 and Gary was minus \$464. Could Gary undertake Victor? Gary played four rounds and was still \$92 ahead of Victor going into the last round of the year at Osprey. True to his nature and principles, he played David for double stakes, risking finishing at the bottom of the leaderboard if he had a bad day. On the 18th hole, David sank a 15 footer which cost Gary \$70, putting (double meaning) Gary down \$98 for the day. Gary finished in last, at -\$766, \$6 behind Victor.

Victor, Gary, David and Larry began to sometimes play their private matches for double stakes, reducing the importance of the 6's matches. Matches and 6's are capped at 10-10-20 for tour purposes.

2011 Most Improved Golfer Award (M.I.G.A)

2011 was not a great year for improvement. Other than Gary (the unanimous winner), no one reduced their handicap. The only thing that was reduced was distance. The tee boxes kept creeping up for the 60-and-older set, which threatens to soon necessitate split-tees.

Gary started 2011 getting 18 to 20 shots in his private matches against David and Larry. By year-end that number was 10 to 14. In the 6's, Gary used to get a shot per hole against them, and that was halved by year end. Pre-2011, Gary used to be counted on to have numerous "ball-in-pocket" episodes per round, which also means "hand in wallet" to dish out losses. By mid-2011, he played some rounds that were penalty-stroke

free and completed rounds without any "x's." His eye-displeasing swing hasn't changed, but he keeps the ball in play. In Utah, he fell in love – with a driver. Mike demoed it and Gary tried it. He hit it straight and far, and decided he couldn't live without it. Since that purchase, Gary's driving has been amongst the best on tour. Around the greens, he nearly averages a chip and two putts, and his sand shots have also improved. He is now almost as likely to break 100 as not (whereas in 2010, it would be newsworthy if he wasn't in triple digits). He started entering scores and says he has a handicap of "less than 20" – like a real golfer. If he managed his betting better, his tour money results would catch up with his on-course improvement. Then if he could only look the part...maybe we would see him promoting an imported cigar in a magazine ad.

Gary becomes the first person to have ever won the M.I.G.A twice. But it's not surprising because someone who starts out as bad as he was has a lot of upside. And, he still has a lot of upside. In 2009, Gary became the only person to win the M.I.G.A. who was minus tour money (\$146) for the year. Now in 2011, Gary has become the only person to finish at the bottom of the leaderboard and win the M.I.G.A. in the same year, a record that will [probably] never be equaled. There has been Twittering about election fraud.

It's surprising that David has not won this award – yet. Since arriving in Florida seven years ago, he has brought down his stroke average by five shots, has no weaknesses, makes more clutch shots than anyone, and is a big winner in the 6's. So David gets a mention.

Miscellany

Since the South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour began 1996, more than 8,500 rounds have been recorded – nearly 800,000 strokes taken. How many putts were missed? How many penalty strokes? How many birdies? I wonder. Whatever, it's been a lot of fun.

Stan lost a front nine to Victor 9-7-5-3-1, (losing each hole by one shot). This is now known as a Kerby, the zip code of Kerby, Oregon, and is the first recorded nine-hole sweep on tour. Stan's Kerby bettered last year's first-ever Draper, where Gary lost the front nine 5-7-5-3-1 to Larry.

Gary had two more (now-termed) "relhoCs" with his #4 hybrid, the only club he has been successful using to execute this shot. In a stupendous (stupidiotous?) effort, one of his RelhocS tied his distance record of one yard -- backwards.

David had his only eagles ever, 5-days apart. Larry shot a personal best 74. Gary shot a tour personal best 90, three times. David shot a 79, tying his personal best. Mike had a personal best 5-birdie round, shooting 80, (and lost money doing it).

Home & Away Rounds Report for Hosts

The attached spreadsheet, "2011 Annual Golf Stats.xls" 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 2011 and a summary for all 16 years combined.

David, paying cash for all or 2011, while hosting others, made up 26 of his 57 round deficit. He will continue to pay cash in 2012. Victor has a 22 round credit, and the other hosts have the balance of David's 31 remaining short rounds.

Larry, with no private course anymore, will become a cash player in 2012.

The home and away summary assumes "others" (non-members) paid the member for their greens fees. I recorded 208 groups, including 81 that I did not play in. A tour round is any round where two tour or more members in the same foursome wager some money, whether in Florida or elsewhere. Not counting non-tour members, 727 tour rounds were played in 2011, a huge increase from the 617 rounds played in 2010. This increase is attributable to Steve and Neil joining the tour and Victor, David, Bob and Gary playing their personal most number of tour rounds in 2011.

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)

M.I.G.A. Winners:

Tour Leaders:

	1996 Others	123
	1997 John Lewis	*247
	1998 Lee Rautenberg	*448
	1999 Barnet Shenkin	403
	2000 John Lewis	440
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	2111 David Berkowitz	*1455

* = record

