

South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

2014 Annual Report

Membership

Joe "Yossi" Ende played a couple of rounds in 2011 as a guest of Victor. Then, in 2013, Yossi played eight rounds, winning \$524. In 2014, Yossi became a Tour member, undergoing the double-secret ceremony in January. Yossi played 31 rounds in 2014 and all found him fun to play with.

John Bortins played several rounds in 2012 and 2013 as a guest of Bob J. John played nine rounds this year, coming in especially handy during the summer when the Tour ranks were thinned out. John also has no baggage and is fun to play with. John's results reside in the "others" column of the Tour stats.

Of Courses

In season, the Tour still has Woodfield, Stonebridge, Broken Sound and Boca Rio as Tour courses. Gone are the days when there were hosts at Addison Reserve, Boca Country Club, Boca Hotel, Boca Greens, Boca Grove, Coral Ridge, Gleneagles, Mizner, St. Andrews, Weston, Westview and even...Jacaranda! (although we still play many of these courses). A real prize to the first person who can, "Name all the hosts without looking at the Annual Golf Stats spreadsheet."

Boca CC and Boca Hotel Marshall did not renew his summer membership.

Broken Sound CC Yossi became a Tour host in January. The Old Course was refurbished over the summer. The track remains the same. The fairways roll like carpet, the greens feel a little softer, and the bunkers have nice sand. A trap was added to #4 and a cart path was sensibly rerouted on #12.

Ibis CC was played only 13 times because Bob S's membership offered fewer cheap guest days.

Quail Ridge CC was played seven times thru Bob J's summer membership, perhaps for the last time. Bob J may not renew his membership next year.

The Seagate CC (formerly The Hamlet), was played only six times due to Steve's infrequent Tour play.

Stonebridge CC will undergo a major course renovation, nine holes at a time, starting in mid-February, 2015. All 18 holes will be ready for play in November, 2015. Shorter hitters will be more likely to carry the water on several holes. It is expected that during

the renovation Stonebridge will arrange recips, providing some much needed variety in courses the Tour plays in-season.

Weston CC was played five times thru Marc's membership. Marc welcomes all Tour members who would journey there.

Woodfield CC Stan became a golf member in May, when he moved to Woodfield. Stan retained his membership in Boca Rio CC, but it will be played less often. Bruce, who has owned a house in Woodfield going on five years, upgraded to golf member and host status in November.

The summer season brings with it an opportunity to play many superb and some not so great country club courses. Reciprocal Tour play included Bocaire, Boca Grove, Boca Lago, Deer Creek (5x), Delaire (2x), The Fountains, The Falls (6x), Gleneagles (3x), Hunter's Run (2x), Indians Springs, Mizner (5x), Osprey Point (3x), Palm Beach CC (2x), Polo Club (4x), and 13 Utah courses (24x). This is the first year in Tour history when nary a round was played at Boca Greens, a great track that turned into a cow pasture.

Financial Report – Tour Leader

In December, Gary and Bob S battled for the top of the leader board. It went down to the last nine holes of the last round of the year. Gary parred seven of them and took over the Tour lead when the music stopped. But that was two years ago...

On to 2014:

King of the Mountain

Victor briefly held the Tour lead in early January. Gary took over the lead and held it thru the end of February. Bob S held the lead ALL other days going into December (except September 4th!). Stan was in second place from May thru August, although he played no rounds during that time. Gary took over second place at the end of August. Going forward, it was a 2-horse race between Gary and Bob S.

After the Providence nationals, Gary would play 13 rounds and Bob S six (five with Gary). After their first head-to-head meet on December 14th, Bob S stood at +\$1416 with Gary at +\$972. Gary, who underwent prostate surgery in October, would have to get it (his numbers) up to climb to the top. He did! Gary won his next five rounds and Bob S lost his only round. Gary took the lead by \$43 on December 22nd, but lost it on their next meeting. They met on the next to last round of the year, and again Gary took the lead, by \$18. The last round was at Mizner from the 6420 yard tees. Bob S shot the Tour's best round of the year, a 75, to coast to victory. A storybook ending! Bob S's +\$1,526 broke David's record of +1,455 set in 2011 (although the stakes were lower then). It is the only day Bob S was above David's record total all year.

Some significant ticks of the tape:

Date	BobS	Gary	
15-Feb	250	933	
27-Feb	548	440	BS takes lead
5-May	720	58	
15-Aug	1090	233	
4-Sep	950	1017	GC 1 round lead
1-Dec	1211	1019	
14-Dec	1416	974	
22-Dec	1321	1364	GC 1 round lead
29-Dec	1336	1354	GC 1 round lead
30-Dec	1526	1249	Music stops

Bob S played steadily all year, up \$630 at the quarter, \$835 at the half and \$990 after three quarters. In September, the Tour handicap index was amended, (at his urging), and in the sixes, Bob S began giving up to a shot more to almost half the members of the Tour. Despite this, he kept on winning. Most would think it fitting that Bob S overtook Gary on the last round of the year, since that is what Gary did to Bob S in 2012. Congratulations to Bob S!

The last three years have seen the Tour Leader award go down to the wire.

Down Under

To start the year, after a combined total of 20 rounds, David, Yossi, Larry and Bruce averaged a whopping -\$67.45/rd. By May, Bruce was plus for the year. Victor suffering from Shingles, slumped during his trip to Utah, and firmly grabbed the bottom, while Larry surged into the plus column. From August thru early December, Victor laid last, followed by Yossi, David, and briefly, Marshall and Mike. Could anyone catch Victor or vice-versa as the year wound down? Both David and Yossi slumped in December, falling within \$100 of Victor. But, alas, Victor's last two weeks were also not good. Someone had to finish last. We appreciate Victor taking one for the Tour, and all will be rooting for him next year.

Even with David finishing 2nd from bottom, he is still the all time money winner. Even with Gary finishing 2nd from top, it will be several more years until he's in the plus column. (See 2014 Annual Golf Stats.xlsx.)



Alan earned an amazing \$66 per round over a paltry four rounds of play, bettering his performance last year when he earned \$52 a round. Alan is looking forward to playing a few tour rounds in 2015.

About half the Tour members began playing 12-hole private matches and do not compete on the six holes when they are partnered together.

In September, the Tour agreed to amend the handicap structure to increase the probability that players getting a lot of shots would have more of a chance to factor in the sixes. These players now get one half to one shot more per six holes. So far, the new rules seem to be working -- but only a little. Time will tell how much a difference the amended index will make.

2014 Most Improved Golfer Award (M.I.G.A.)

The charge to the Electors: "The Most Improved Golfer Award should be awarded to the golfer who has improved the most. Who played better in 2014 than in 2013? 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 twice."

13 Members who played at least 25 rounds were the "Electors."

It is remarkable that so many players actually improved in 2014.

Some honorable mentions:

Bob J gave up daily management of Jourdan's to write the Goren bridge column. He played in-season golf regularly. The increase in rounds played improved his game by a shot. And attendance increased at Jourdan's.

Marshall's abysmal putting reached new lows over the summer. In mid-October, he changed his putting grip, trimmed about 5! shots off his game from his low point, and added \$549 to his wallet. He was a better golfer at year end than when the year started.

Larry lowered his handicap by at least three shots during the year, but a year end slump left him closer to where he started. Overall, his game improved by a shot or two.

Stan lowered his handicap by two shots in 2014. He has fine tuned his bogey game to factor on many more holes. Not being able to reach most greens in regulation, his 70 yard pitch to the green has had much practice and is as good as those with half his handicap.

Bob S played to about a six handicap for most of the year. That's a shot better than in 2013. His steady play made him a force in sixes matches. Improving from a seven to a six is huge.

Huge-r, Alan now claims to be a seven handicap, two shots better than last year. His improvement came off Tour. With his handicap so low, he will not risk Tour dollars until he (can claim that he) is playing worse.

Bruce, now retired, played more golf this year than his previous three years combined. Being a jock, he was able to trim about two shots off his 2013 game, finishing the year

with an 8 handicap. Much of his improvement came while he was up north for the summer. Bruce led the Tour in money won over the last two months of the year, +\$892.

Gary had an extraordinary year. His previous personal best round was 84 in 2012. This year he shot a personal best 83 in February, and then notched 80, 80, 81, 81, 81 over the summer. He started the year with a 17.1 handicap. It very briefly touched 9.3 in the late summer, and towards year end it settled in at about 12.6. Compared to the beginning of the year, he improved four to six shots in his private matches.

These players have all improved. But there was no doubt about who should receive the Most Improved Golfer Award. There was some internet discussion. When the votes were counted, Gary received 9 votes, Bruce received 1 vote and No One received one vote. Congratulations to Gary!

This is Gary's 4th M.I.G.A. Perhaps the Tour should create another Award befitting this remarkable feat. Suggested titles for this award are welcome.

A review of Gary's three previous M.I.G.A. wins in old Annual Reports show that he improved by 12 strokes in 2009, by 7 strokes in 2011, and by 4 strokes in 2012. Including 2014, the sum of all this improvement is about 27 shots. He must have been a dreadful golfer when he started playing on the Tour in 2008.

The News of the Year in Review

- Marc recorded the year's only eagle, at WCC, holing out on #16 from 167 yards.
- Bob S's 75 was the best round of the year. Bob J's 79 was his best Tour round. Mike's 77 (last round of the year) was a personal best for shooting 6 over his age.
- Marshall and Yossi recorded the **seventh** Schneider in Tour history against Stan and Bruce at Polo in May, the first one at \$10-\$10-\$20. David and Mike notched the **eighth** Schneider in Tour history against Larry and Victor in Utah. Mike and Bob S scored the Tour's **ninth** Schneider against Marshall and Bob J at Woodfield in August.
- Larry set a Tour record by winning money in eleven consecutive rounds.
- Bruce set a Tour record by winning \$781 in (10) consecutive rounds.
- The Tour played 32 rounds in one week.
- Larry played eight rounds in eight days in Utah, breaking Gary's record of playing 7 consecutive days last year. He played very well.

- There were no "zip-code" results. There were no Relhocs. It is possible we will never see anyone hit a Relhoc again. Gary did hit a ball 70 yards backwards, but it was tree-aided.
- The most Tour rounds were played by Mike, 137, whose increased production can be attributed to...giving up tennis. Gary, with 106 rounds, was next. Gary played 37 fewer rounds than in 2013 due to this surgery.
- The Tour agreed to allow members of a foursome to choose between two tee boxes, adjusting the sixes by 0.5-per-six holes and adjusting private matches by 2-per-18.
- Two Tour groups played back to back at Stonebridge on a splendid December day. The first group, Larry, Steve, Bruce and Gary finished in 3:26. The trailing group, Victor, Stan, Mike and David finished in 4:30. Yes, that's more than an hour's difference in pace of play. On another day, Mike, Alan, Larry and Gary played 18 holes at Woodfield in 3:12, a Tour record.

Side Bets

Gary collected \$50 from Mike, Larry and David when he went over +\$1,000 before he fell minus. The bet was made when Gary was +\$500. He went down to +\$58 in May before breaking the \$1,000 barrier in September.

Gary also collected \$50 from Larry and David on put bets that were never close to being in the money.

Gary also had a \$500 to \$35 bet with David, Larry and Mike on breaking 80. After Gary missed a 79 on a lip-out on the 18th hole, David cancelled his bet. After Gary missed a 79 by an inch on the 18th hole, Mike canceled his bet. Larry, to his credit, kept his bet until year end, and wound up winning \$35 from Gary. What's the line on Gary breaking 80 in 2015?

Home & Away Rounds Report for Hosts

Alan, Bernie, David, Mike, Victor and Stan were the Tour Hosts at the beginning of 2014. Yossi became a host in mid-January and Bruce became a host in November. Golf Central tracks host home and away rounds.

Bob J, Bob S, Gary, Joe, Larry, Marc, Marshall and Steve are cash players. Bruce was a cash player until he became a host.

In season guest fees remain capped at \$80.

The attached spreadsheet, "2014 Annual Golf Stats.xls" details the number of guests playing at a host's home club -Vs- the number of times that member played at other

host's clubs. There is a summary for 2014 and a summary for all 19 years combined. Mike has a large credit.

The home and away summary assumes cash players paid the member for their greens fees. 227 Tour groups were assembled in 2014, down from 242 in 2013. A Tour round is any assemblage where two or more Tour members in the same group wager some money against one another, whether in Florida or elsewhere. Not counting non-Tour members, 808 Tour rounds were played in 2014, a modest decrease from the 888 rounds played in 2013.

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

[See below](#)

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	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

*Record