

South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

2021 Annual Report

Membership & Demographics

Tour membership was stable. Mark K only played rounds in Utah. Ranald disappeared after playing 15 rounds through April. Rumor has it that Ranald is a C.I.A. agent.

The Health and Wellness

Health problems increased, as expected. Rounds missed (noted by purple shading on 2021 stats spreadsheet) reached "epoch" proportions.

In months missed: 3 - Alan; 2 - Gary, Bob S; 1 - David, Mike M, Mike B, Yossi

Frequent players with no months missed: Larry, Bob J, Victor

Covid has coincided with fewer rounds by Neil, Marc, Mike M, Howard, and Stan. However, it has driven Larry, Bob S and Alan to play even more Tour rounds.

Time and Distance

In a new low, breaking the 5,000-yard barrier, Mike B, Bob J and Victor played 4956 yards at Tuhaye. They shot 97, 97, 99. David joined the short guys on another course or two. Bob S moved up half a tee on a few courses. More movin' on up to come.

Of War and Peace

Bob S and Gary resumed playing together. But time does not heal all wounds - David stopped playing with Gary, again (the lingering cigar smoking issue). Bob Jones, after having words with Bob S, quit a round at Gleneagles after one hole, spoiling the round for all. As a result, Gary won't play with Bob J until Bob J apologizes. (This is the 3-line summary version). The Great Organizer had problems scheduling rounds around these issues, and about six fewer rounds were played during the year as a result. So, other Tour members were inconvenienced as well. Mike B has pre-announced he won't play with anyone who gets caught picking their nose. Please be discreet.

Of Courses

- Covid continued to restrict guest play on country club courses. Eastpointe, Stonebridge and the Falls were the only Tour courses played until Woodfield and High Ridge came on-line in late March. Seagate, Wycliffe and Boca Rio were added in May and Gleneagles in June. Finally, Broken Sound, (which opened in June), was played for the first time in 2021, in August. Gleneagles then disallowed guests in September and October. Overall, there were enough country club courses open so public course play was held to only 5 rounds for the year, which is far less than an average non-covid year! Tour members played country club recips at Parkland, Delaire, Mayacoo Lakes, Wellington National, Quail Ridge, Ironhorse and Banyan Golf Club. Some of the recips were "in-season" due to covid. Just as we thought the one-rider policy was history, many clubs brought back the one-rider policy in late December, when the Omicron strain arrived.

- The Falls hosted one third of all country club rounds! Larry was “in-town” for 8+ months, and the club, with a bridge playing golf director, had an open-door policy for Larry’s guests.
- Tour players trekked to Utah to golf for a week in late June and 15 days in early September. Joining Larry were Victor Mike B, Gary, David, Bob J, Mark K, Yossi, Jeff F, Howard and Howie (who built a home in Midway). Eric won both outings. Utah house rental rates about doubled over the past two years. Larry has rented a house in 2022 – the same house as he rented in 2019.
- At Woodfield, guests were restricted to 4 times per guest in-season and 4 times out of season. In the Fall, when Stonebridge went in-season, David was limited to a mere 30 guests in season (that’s 10 rounds). While David expects to be granted waivers, this is the most restrictive guest policy on Tour, ever.

Financial Report – Tour Money

The Top for 2021 - Two Horse Race

Remarkably, only Gary and Mike B held the Tour lead in 2021. Mike B was on top for five days in January, but Gary took it from him on January 10th and crushed him (and all others) like a cockroach into the Fall. Gary peaked at +\$1,815 on August 12th. In early October Gary was still +\$1,790 and Mike lay in second at +\$619. Then Gary slumped, some of which was caused by physical problems (or mental problems exhibited by playing golf almost every day while injured). Gary recorded rounds of -\$210 (when Mike B won \$130), and -\$255 in late November. Gary lost the Tour lead on November 27th and then again on December 4th.

On December 13th Mike B made a 25 yard up and down from the sand that swung \$120 between them, and by day’s end, led Gary by \$374. Time was running out, especially since Gary was going out...of town for the last week of the year. Gary’s last chance to make up ground was when they met at Stonebridge on December 23rd. Now down \$389, he would need a great day and then help from others the following week. But he picked up only \$40. That was that.

Mike B and Gary played 32 rounds together in 2021. In the 24 rounds of FTF play through mid-October, Gary bested Mike by \$1,645 (with Mike B averaging 89.1 in those rounds). Then, Mike B put the cooler on Cohler. In the eight rounds they played FTF after that, Mike B bested Gary by \$955 (with Mike averaging 86.7 in those rounds). Congrats to Mike on his 5th Tour Leader win, tying David’s total.

The Bottom for 2021

After a poor start by Larry, the Tour bottom was mostly held by Victor or Bob J thru June. In July, David fell in with them and for three months they were within a few hundred of each other. Bob J stabilized, while David and Victor plunged deeper into the abyss. Entering December, David was -\$1,549 and Victor was -\$1,407, both at their yearly worsts. By December 17th Victor was on the bottom, -\$1,332 with David at -\$1,330. They met FTF twice after that, with Victor picking up \$100 in those rounds. David now was on the bottom by \$103. Vic is a veteran at finishing last, while David is a newbie. Could David hold on to the bottom? Each had one round to play, but they were not in the same groups. Vic played his round first and broke even, eliminating David unless he had a top 2% day....David did not.

Congrats to Victor for avoiding yet another Tour bottom, and welcome to David on garnering his first Tour bottom distinction.

The All-Time Stats

David's disastrous year was made worse when Larry passed him as the all-time Tour money winner. David had eclipsed the \$10,000 mark in 2020; can Larry get there in 2022?

The Tour's actuaries purchased some extra decimal places from Excel in order to estimate Vic's chances of relinquishing his title of Tour's Leading Benefactor. Note to Victor - Larry and David are NOT your most worthy causes.

2021 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 2021 than in 2020? 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 four times."

The top candidates:

Becker – Tour Leader, steady all year

Cohler – Tour Leader for 48 weeks, played through pain, (to quote him "wsgoipd,"), lowered his index and to top it off, shot an off Tour 76 his last round of the year, to better his previous best of 79.

Ende – Lowered his index to 8.4, a personal best.

Mancini – Got down to a ridiculous 1.1 index (with an on-Tour index higher but still impressive). Shot 68 and 69 at age 69.

Robinson - had his first under 80-round, lowered his index to a personal best 10.7, won the Utah Tour, and led the Tour in money won per round, but played only 11 rounds – too few for consideration.

The vote was Mike oriented, with Mancini winning the M.I.G.A. with a 6-4 vote. No One received one vote. Congrats to Mike M on being recognized by the Tour for his improvement!

The News of the Year in Review

- 1/4 - David and Jeff, as opponents, both birdie net eagle to tie the hole.
- 1/5 - Parkland Hole 2. Mike gets a hole in one. 7 wood from 139 yards to a front pin guarded by a bunker. 10 years ago, a 7 wood was his 160-yard club. His 5th hole-in-one (four on Tour).
- 1/8 - Tales of Victor Episode 55
The foursome gets to the green and Victor is missing his putter. He borrows Larry's putter from Larry's bag (on Bob's cart as Larry is still walking up to the green). Victor is about to putt with Larry's putter, but someone suggests he should drive back to the tee and ask the group behind us if they have his putter. So, he drives back to the tee and takes Larry's putter with him. Larry goes to putt but now he has no putter. Eventually Victor comes back with both putters.
- 1/29 - Stonebridge - Bob J missed 3-footer on 18 which would have been his second birdie -- 43 on the back, 91 total. David had 3 birdies and missed a 3-footer on 16

that would have been his 4th birdie -- and shot 81. LC had 3 birdies and shot 76 -- with 2 balls in the water. He was even par on the non-par 5's. Oh. Jeff shot 100+ (see 6/6 for more about birdies)

- 2/6 – Bruce, the Tour jock, won the World Pickleball Championships over 60 bracket, in Punta Verde FL. Not golf, but we just had to type it.
- 3/2 - Osprey Point Raven - hole 5, par 5, (the hardest hole at Osprey). It's a slow round and Ranald has an online bridge date at 4:00 (having teed off at 12:38). He hits his second shot into a hazard. Meanwhile, he's playing 6♠ on his phone missing J10xxx in trump and must decide whether to take a second-round finesse after the ten drops. He finesses and makes the slam. Back to golf, he takes a drop, and holes out from 115 yards for a birdie net eagle. Recap: he's made a net eagle having taken a penalty stroke while playing bridge. Gotta be the shot of the year.
- 3/8 - The Falls On #10 green, Mike M can't find his putter. He drives back to #9 and it isn't there. It turns out he chipped in on 9, so never needed his putter there. He drives back to #8 and finds it there. About 12 minutes later, he is finally back to the 10th green to putt. Later, on the 17th green, he is missing his putter again. This time, luckily, it rested back only one hole, on the 16th green.
- 3/18 - Park Ridge. Playing the blue tees, 5745, 67.8/112, Yossi shot a 73, his age. His tee shot reached the far collar of the green on a 269-yard sharp dogleg left. He three putted the 18th hole.
- 3/22 - The first Tour round played at Woodfield in a year – course redone. Bruce shoots a 77. Bruce shot an off Tour 73 on March 12th.
- 4/8 -Stonebridge - David shot 36 on the front and finished with a personal best 77. Due to the randomness of the sixes matches, David lost \$10 while Jeff's 96 won \$50!
- Tales of Victor Episode 28
5/8: Vic writes, "My friend Carl invited me to dinner. He bought for me a gadget - wheels that can be attached to a golf bag. We tried to put them on my bag. To do this, I had to pull my clubs out and stand my bag upside down. We did not manage to fasten it securely, but Carl told me that I dropped a silver rangefinder on the floor. I told him that it was not possible since my pouch was closed. Indeed, the rangefinder on the floor was the one I was sure I lost at Stonebridge. I drove home. Being a stubborn person, I tried to affix the wheels once more in my garage. I turn my bag upside down again. This time a lighter fell on the floor and a blue rangefinder - one that I lost few months ago. I am happy to report that I DID NOT LOSE A SINGLE RANGEFINDER IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS."
- 5/11 - Boca Rio. Mike B holes out twice for birdie from (a measured) 29 yards -- a flop from the rough and a flop from the bunker.
- 5/22 - Falls Hole 1, par 5. After Bruce's tee shot landed in the bunker, he holed out third shot from 88 yards for a sandy-eagle. Same round: Worst press of the year? Gary, playing with Larry, solo presses #6 Vs Bruce-Bob J with BJ getting a shot and 65 yards. Gary wins hole with a birdie. OOPs. A great press. Second match all holes tied with net pars. Third match Gary, playing with Bob J solo-presses the back, Larry-Bruce birdie 16-17-18. OOPs. Not a great press.
- 5/30 - Larry finished up before heading out to Utah having played 86 Tour rounds in 150 days, an On-Tour record that will never be broken. Gary, who plays many off-Tour rounds, always plays more rounds than anyone else.
- 6/6 – Off-Tour playing with other club members, Mike M shot a 68 on the West Course at Wycliffe (par 71). He had 4 birdies, 13 pars, and... bogeyed the last hole. Three under par is a Tour first, besting, John Griscom's 2-under par 70 at age 70. MM's 68 is one under his MM's age. Mike's index dropped from 7.8 to 5.2 (would have been 6.2, but GHIN subtracts a shot when you record an extraordinary round).

- 7/25 - Eastpointe 9:15 tee time. Partly sunny, hot and humid. . Bob S Bob J David Mike B. After 9 holes, the first three looked into taking a 15–30-minute indoor break to cool off. A break did not fit because the course was full, so they carried on. After 12 holes, they discussed quitting. And again after 13 holes. But they persevered. On the 14th hole, David fell down trying to get out of a bunker and Bob S almost fainted while over his putt. They quit. The first heat-out. The “first” means more are expected.
- 7/22-8/5 Mike B shoots scores of 84-83-81-86-80-85-86, winning \$642 in the 7 rounds, but lowering his index by only 1.2 (instead of 2.4, because he was in the soft cap).
- 9/30 – (see 6/6) Mike M, after a number of excellent rounds, including a 69, lowered his index to 1.1! This meant that for the next year his index would be hard capped at 6.1. In December, the Tour amended index rules so that any player could opt to use only their Tour rounds to calculate their index (forever). Mike M’s index, a 3.3 at the time, rose to 6.7. For the M.I.G.A., (including all his rounds) his index was 5.0.
- 10/3 - Woodfield Two of Bob J’s fairway wood shots **squarely** hit Mike B’s ball, (different holes). On both occasions, MB’s ball moved at least 30 yards after being struck..
- 10/29 - High Ridge #11- par 3. Three birdies: Mike B 35 feet, Alan 20 feet, Gary 5 feet. Bob S’s 25-footer just missed. 2-2-2-3 ties the Tour record for lowest gross score.
- Tales of Victor Episode 63
12/17 Broken Sound. On the Par 3 12th, Victor parks green right and takes 3 clubs across to the bushes/trap short left of the green. After practice swings, he decides he needs a different club. 90 yards of walking later, he is back at his ball. After more practice swings, he advances the ball a little, then chips it into the sand trap, where he can't get out and picks up. On the next hole (#13), he lays up, then dumps 2 balls in the water. To save time, he takes his cart to the 14th hole (a Par 3) to tee off while the others finish up on 13. The now 3-some on 13 go to their (single rider) carts and find that Victor's cart is there but Bob S’s cart is missing -- because Victor has driven Bob’s cart to the 14th tee.
- Our beloved Victor has a well-earned reputation for being a bit absent minded/forgetful. He is not alone. Bob S has left a golf course forgetting to pick his clubs up from the bag drop “...17 times in the last 9 years.” Larry invited us to play golf at a club that was closed – his course! Mike M cancelled golf because he did not have a car to get to the course, only to be informed the round was at HIS course (and he has a golf cart). Scheduling rounds is hindered by golfers forgetting they have an appointment conflict, (a “foreseeable” problem), on a weekly basis. So, thank you Victor, for the good-natured way you take our ribbing, and for letting us hide our senior moments behind yours.
- At this rate, the editor is considering giving Victor his own page in the annual report. Of pages: Vic has created a WEB page devoted to his life experiences. Originally intended to share his experiences with his offspring, you can read about them at: <https://sway.office.com/aCeY06x4BJwCGbKx?play>
- Last but not least, on 12/24, the day after Gary clinched not winning the Tour Leader award, Gary shot a 76 on Gleneagles Victory course, beating his previous personal best 79. He had one birdie and one double bogey. His index dropped from 15.0 to 12.9 (would have been 13.9, but GHIN subtracts a shot when you record an extraordinary round)

Sixes and Private Match Highlights:

1/1 - The Falls – Between the sixes match and their private, and a side bet on who would be the Tour Leader at the end of day 1, Gary Vs Mike B have \$95 riding on the 18th hole. Gary just made "...my best flop shot ever," and is five feet from the pin, lying 4. Mike is six feet from the pin, lying 5, Mike makes his putt; Now, if Gary makes his, he wins \$60. He misses his putt, long. Now, if Gary makes the four-foot return, he can save \$35. He misses that one, also. The first 18th hole swing of 2021.

3/12 - The Falls Hole 6, par 4 - Vic's team is up 1 and needs a tie to win \$40, Victor putts in from 30 feet for 4, net 3. Bob Jones then makes a 5-footer (getting ½ a shot) for a net beagle (2½) to win the hole and zero-out the money.

3/26 - The Falls 18th hole. Vic (25.4) and Jeff (18.0) are each getting a shot from Larry (11.8) and Steve (10.8). Vic and Jeff do not press. What would Gary think? (They lost the hole.)

5/5 - Eastpointe East. Hole 15, par 5. Mike B Bob S Larry Yossi. Mike sinks a 111 foot putt (from 75 feet off the green) for birdie. Bob S and Larry also make birdie and Yossi makes par. Three under gross for the foursome. This ties the three under gross record of 2-2-2-3 on a par 3 (see 10/29) and 3-3-3-4 on BSOC #7 par 4 in 2019.

In the same round, LC-BS Vs Y-MB; holes 7-12. Bob S sinks a 25-footer to win #7 when Mike and Yossi miss shorter putts. Yossi three putts a par 3 from 40 feet to lose #8. Yossi misses a 4-footer to lose 9 (where Larry, 5 feet away, had offered a tie). Mike cannot get a bogey on 10 and Yossi misses a 4-footer...again). Yossi three putts 11 on a tough green after Bob S makes a great up and down. Y-MB are now down 5 holes on putting. Hole 12 is a par 5, 388 yards for Mike B. Mike B screws up his second shot from 210 in, and winds up with a 7. Yossi screws up his tee shot, pitches out, and misses the green by two yards on his third shot. In a bunker, Yossi needs to get up and down and hope BS misses a 20-foot birdie putt. Yossi pitches to 4 feet, again. Bob S misses his putt. Deep breath...Yossi makes his putt. No Schneider.

6/7 - Delaire MB-BJ 5330; BS-AO 6290. Match one: Alan sinks 40 foot 2-hole swing putt. Each team has two birdies. Match two: Bob S and Alan, as teammates, shoot 4-under par gross! – a Tour record. One more birdie, (missed by inches), and they would have won a Schneider. Match three: five tied holes going into #18. Bob J gets a half shot and sinks an 8-foot putt to swing \$80. Three great matches. Over the 18 holes -- actually the first 12 -- there were 8 birdies! (Alan 4, Bob S 3, Mike B 1)

6/15 High Ridge Gary-Bruce 18-hole private match. GC wins front 5-3-1. Bruce wins back 7-5-3-1. What a turnaround!

Schneider #24 6/25 Utah. Soldier Hollow Gold. Jeff Fried-Larry play blue 6629; Howie- Mike B play the new Red-White 5736. Howie gets 0.5 per 6 and the others play even. Third match: Jeff-Mike Vs Howie (slumping)-Larry (playing poorly). Jeff-Mike par every hole. Larry Howie compile three bogeys and three doubles – net 10 over par. The easiest Schneider ever? And the only Schneider in 2021.

Victor led the league in...zeros for the day. He broke even eight times. He based some presses and non-presses on trying to obtain a zero result for the day. All the other Tour members had 25 zeros.

The Soft and Hard Caps

Several Tour Players indexes were affected by the World Handicap System's "soft cap" calculation sometime in 2021, whether they knew it or not:

Becker, Berkowitz, Cohen, Cohler, Jones, Mancini, Markowicz, Osofsky, Robinson, Rogoff, Sartorius.

Markowicz was affected by both the soft cap and the hard cap.

Not capped in 2021: Davidson, Ende, Loring, Sanborn, Tulin, Wolfson, Weinstein, Fried

A complete explanation of the Caps is provided in a link on Larry's webpage. Worth a look.

Rounds Report

Tour in-season guest fees were increased to a max of \$115 in November from \$110. The cap started in the last century at \$60.

The "2021 Tour Standings" spreadsheets, which were designed by Bob S and populated by him with historical data through 2020 extracted from Mike B's files, were updated after each round throughout 2021 and available for all Tour members' inspection for the first time in 2021. There are some nifty pages showing lifetime results, rounds played, club by club money, etc

The "Final 2021 Tour Standings" spreadsheet is available on Larry's Website, as is the "2022 Tour Standings" spreadsheet, which will be updated daily in 2022..

Larry's Website, <https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/actual/-sfbpqt> also contains the current and past annual reports.. The stories archived in the annual reports are precious in the opinion of the author.

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. 231 Tour groups were assembled in 2021, a decrease of 9 from 2020. Similarly, not counting non-Tour members ("Others"), 866 Tour rounds were played in 2021, down from 880 in 2020.

Larry, homebound more than usual by the pandemic, played the most rounds, 129, (also a personal most), but only 13 more rounds than in 2020. Bob S had the biggest increase in rounds played Vs 2020: +43. Bob S is our current "Great Commuter," logging, by his actuarial estimate, 750 driving hours since he moved to FL in 2012. Marc has logged even more hours driving, lifetime – he started in 2000. One should not resist playing at our distant members' golf courses.

Mike continued to organize the rounds, aided by an auto-email request generated by "Constant Contact." Players were expected to regularly look at Larry's website for changes to course, personnel, tee times, etc. This worked only 95% of the time – some still do not regularly access Larry's website, creating extra work for the Great Organizer.

Wishing you all a Happy and healthy New Year!

Mike

Below are some stats.

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
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

* Record

Here's a recap of Tour indexes for the year, up (+) and down (-):

	Index Change	2021 1-Jan	2021 31-Dec	2021 Low
Becker	-1.1	16.4	15.3	14.5
Berkowitz	1.7	16.0	17.7	13.5
Chambers	-0.8	9.9	9.1	7.0
Cohen	3.2	10.1	13.3	9.8
Cohler	-2.0	14.9	12.9	11.7
Culberson	0.4	22.4	22.8	21.9
Davidson	-1.0	16.4	15.4	15.4
Ende	-1.2	10.4	9.2	8.4
Jones	0.8	22.8	23.6	19.4

Kohn	-1.0	12.4	11.4	9.3
Loring	0.4	15.9	16.3	14.1
Mancini	-2.4	7.4	5.0	1.1
Markowicz	0.1	26.8	26.9	24.3
Osofsky	3.2	6.8	10.0	6.8
Perlman	3.1	19.6	22.7	19.6
Robinson	-1.2	15.9	14.7	10.6
Rogoff	1.8	8.7	10.5	6.6
Sanborn	0.9	12.0	12.9	10.1
Sartorius	0.1	8.8	8.9	7.8
Tulin	0.3	22.5	22.8	20.1
Wolfson	1.9	16.1	18.0	16.1

2021 Tour Standings:

Name	Rounds	CY Money	Money/Rd
Becker	109	1379	12.65
Cohler	76	995	13.09
Sartorius	93	791	8.51
Cohen	129	743	5.76
Osofsky	25	709	28.36
Robinson	11	586	53.27
Sanborn	12	269	22.42
Rogoff	22	221	10.05
Davidson	15	55	3.67
Chambers	1	40	40.00
Culberson	1	-15	-15.00
Ende	25	-75	-3.00
Weinstein	3	-140	-46.67
Wolfson	33	-150	-4.55
Z-Others	34	-269	-7.91
Perlman	10	-285	-28.50
Loring	16	-390	-24.37
Mancini	33	-721	-21.85
Jones	73	-1066	-14.60
Markowicz	95	-1287	-13.55
Berkowitz	84	-1390	-16.55