

South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

2023 Annual Report

Membership & Demographics

Comings and Goings

Joe Machotka, a Tour regular from 2003-2016, returned to the Tour in April, after selling his house in Mizner and moving to Boca.

Jeff Fried, an "other" for many years, got his own column on the Tour spreadsheet.

Mike Mancini gave up playing on the Tour by not responding to several months of "golf next week" emails, texts and phone calls.

Health and Wellness

Tour members were amazingly healthy in 2023. Only people named Cohen missed a month or more.

Golf-induced Injury: 12/8 Woodfield. Neil-Joe G vs Ola-Bruce. Match tied going into the last (12th) hole. After Neil misses his 2.5-foot putt to lose match, he produces a Phil Mickelson-type jump in frustration, loses his balance and falls backwards to ground, hitting butt, head and shoulder while using left arm to break his fall. All above-mentioned body parts are injured.

Summary: Neil injured himself after missing a 2.5 foot putt.

Page Six: While injured, Neil is sighted playing the Green (geezer) tees at Stonebridge.

~~Note: four years ago, Mike completely tore his bicep tendon putting out of a bunker.~~

Time and Distance

Moving on up!

Mike, Bob J and Victor moved up to the red (a.k.a. women's) tees at the Falls. The same group moved up a tee box at both Broken Sound courses.

Yossi now prefers to play 6,000 yards or less.

Joe M, who left the Tour in 2016 playing 6,500 yard tees, now prefers playing from about 6,000.

Alan Osofsky, who played 6385 (White) at High Ridge before heart surgery, is now more comfortable playing about 6,200 yards. (White/Orange)

Steve Sanborn, who used to play up to 6,600 at Seagate, had two successful knee replacements in 2022 and 2023, but age moved him up to about 6,000 yards as well.

Bob S has moved up an average of 186.3 yards. His range is now 5,822 (BSOC) to 6,250 (SBCC).

Milestones surpassed include Mike Becker and Howard Perlman (80), Bob Sartorius (75)

Of War and Peace

Sadly, nothing new with David and Gary. Currently, everyone else is getting along well.

Of Courses

Gary sold his townhouse at Gleneagles and gave up his membership. A lost course.

Mike Mancini stopped playing with the Tour. Wycliffe is another lost course.

Seagate was closed for renovation most of the year. At the end of 2023, 9 holes were open, with the other nine opening in early 2024.

The renovated Broken Sound Old Course went off CPO in October. The course is just as difficult. De-elevated greens made the course appear easier, but those greens are more undulated. The Falls is rumored to be closing in a couple of years, to be replaced by Toll Brothers houses.

Other than Woodfield, guest use restrictions are generally ignored.

For the record, current Tour courses are Broken Sound (2), Eastpointe (2), the Falls, Seagate, Stonebridge, and Woodfield.

Financial Report – Tour Money

The Top for 2023

After the usual early month jockeying, Mike held the Tour lead for all but a few days thru May. Bob S briefly held the bottom in March, at -\$260, but took the Tour lead from Mike with +\$552 in June. Bob S widened his lead over the next couple of months, but Gary had a BIG Utah, and took over the lead in late August at +\$1,261. Five days later, Bob S regained the lead, and widened it to \$700 by the end of October. Gary whittled down the lead to under \$300 in early December before crashing, while Bob S glided to victory by \$737. Bob's high money mark was \$1,535 at the end of October; he wound up at +\$1,473.

You may not have noticed, but in all but one of the last 17 years, the Tour Leader was a player who lived in North Jersey some 35 years ago. What? To clarify: the Tour leader was either Larry, David, Mike, or Bob S. They played golf together in New Jersey (along with Bruce), from at least 1986 to 1996. This year was Bob S's turn. Congrats to Bob S, the leader of the pack.

The Bottom for 2023

The battle for the bottom was a two-headed affair this year. Victor was on the bottom for five of the first six months, then swapped places twice with Bob J in July. Bob J took over the bottom on August 1st and held it while descending with Vic in a Sperm Whale vs Giant Squid death spiral until November 26th when Victor lost his grip in head-to-head play at Eastpointe and sank to the bottom of the sea for good.

2023 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 2023 than in 2022? 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 five times.

There were 10 Electors: Mike B, David, Neil, Larry, Gary, Bob J, Joe M, Victor, Bob S, Jeff

The candidates:

Bob S: Shot one under his age – a 73 at age 74; 2023 Tour leader, most Tour rounds played; Index up, but very steady and reliable. Like a starting pitcher who eats up lots of quality innings. Late in year, improved all aspects of his game. If not this year, a M.I.G.A. contender in 2024.

David: 1/1/23 20.2 Index. Played terribly in the hot summer. Index rose to 21.1. Took lessons in Sep and Oct. Lowered his index to 17.5 by year end. His drives are longer and straighter, iron and chipping play improved.

Neil: shot 2 under his age, a 75 at age 77, (ties the Tour best), All-around game, his favorite distance is 5600 yards. As he gets older, he seems to get better. If he was a full time Tour player, he would be on everyone's short list.

Richard: Led the Tour in money won per round (for those who played 20 or more rounds). Solid, steady game. Hard to have a base line when he's only played only 28 rounds in two years.

The votes were: David 6, Bob S 1, No One 2, Abstain 1

Although he's been the Tour Leader five times, this is David's first M.I.G.A. Well done and much deserved!

The News of The Year in Review

- 1/2 Stonebridge. Neil shoots another 77, 1 over his age, back-to-back with his last round in 2022.
- 1/3 Gleneagles Victory hole 9, blue tees, 369 yards.
Gary's 354-yard drive settles 10 yards short and 15 yards left of the green after a very merry trip down the cart path.
- 1/17 **Three Tour foursomes play on the same day.** Ties the record.
- 1/27 Woodfield. **Bob S shoots a 73, 1 under his age**, from the blue tees, 6167 yards. Bruce has a 79, Neil a 78, and Bob J...well,...-\$130.
- 2/7 Broken Sound Old Course, CPO. **Bob S Victor Marc and Howard record 404 total strokes.** The round takes 5:10 with no one in front of them. A combination of too many strokes taken by some of the slowest golfers on the Tour.
- 2/16 The Falls. Bob S-Richard vs Jeff F-Joe Grue. Jeff F makes a 30-foot putt to avoid a Schneider. Bob S birdies 5-6-7, plus another.
- 2/24 The Falls. **Neil shoots a 75, one under his age**, from the silver tees, 5,683 yards. On #4, Richard drives his tee shot into wooded area in right rough, unplayable. He takes a penalty drop, remarkably hits the green from 165 yards, and sinks a 45-foot putt for par / net birdie.
- 2/25 Eastpointe West. Par 70. **Mike shoots 78, one under his age** - Red tees. 4,758 yards (Shh!).
- 3/21 Westchester CC. In the first sixes match, Vic scores 6-7-8-3-4-5, winning the last three holes.
- 4/21 Vic has 2 birdies-net eagle, and two pars net birdie.
- 5/16 Old Course #6, Par 5. Larry lays up into the water, takes a penalty drop, and holes out with a nine iron from 122 yards for a birdie. **Longest hole-out of the year.**
- 6/11 **Eastpointe parking lot.** Bob J Jeff and Mike have one cart and need to go to range. The plan is for Bob J to drive to the range with Mike holding the third bag in the passenger's seat. Jeff will walk to the range. What could go wrong? Bob J places the bag on the passenger's seat floor. Mike says it is not firmly placed. Bob J rearranges it. The bag hits the pedal, and the cart takes off at full speed, crashing into the side of Jeff's rental car. No damage – the cart ran into the tire! Senior excitement!
- 6/29 Stonebridge. Hole 5, par 4, tied with four 7's - no penalty shots. Summer golf.
- 7/18 High Ridge. Bob S uses 6 hats and 6 golf gloves during the round. Mike, gloved on both hands, uses 10 gloves. Six hats and 10 gloves are the Tour max. On #2, Bob J chips to the green and knocks his partner Mike's ball into the hole. Mike's ball was probably inside the leather anyway.
- 7/23 **Round is cancelled** due to a hot (but dry) weather forecast. **A first "forecast" Hot Out.**
- 7/28 Stonebridge #13 Par 5. David's second shot in the lake. As David readies to make his 4th stroke, Victor sees that David's cart is slowly sliding toward the lake. He sprints from the middle of the fairway, jumps into the cart, and deploys the brakes a foot or two from the water. Never has

- Victor done anything that quickly. Victor gets a +1 for saving David's cart. David was also the driver of the cart that wound up in a swamp at Osprey. David does not like using his cart's brake.
- 8/1 Broken Sound New Course. **BS-MB-BJ-VM shoot a combined 411.** Lowlights:
Hole #9 par 5: MB wins with a gross 8. On this hole there were 5 (!) penalty shots (Bob J had none), resulting in one player scoring a 9x after lying 3 with 104 yards to the pin, and another scoring a 9 after lying 2 from 130 yards. On hole #18, three of them tie the par 4 with a 7. Blame the heat. **BJ's index is lower than MB's – a first.**
- 8/8 High Ridge. AO-VM-BS-BJ. Heat out after 10 holes. First of the year.
- 8/13 **Utah Summary** - Larry, Howie, Eric and Mark (Utah regulars) joined Gary, Howard, Mike, -to- David Victor, Jeff F, Joe M and Byron for the longest Utah golf outing ever. 68 rounds were played over the 32 days. Gary played 7 rounds in 7 days (again), winning \$628 over the first six days. (Maybe he should have rested on the 7th day, when he lost \$47.)
- 9/14 Wasatch. Jeff Fried fires a 72 at Wasatch Mountain, Blue Tees, 6459 Yards. **Lowest Tour round of the year.** Byron Pitts (Nightline) tags along with a 75.
- 9/10 St. Andrews CC, in Westchester. Unluckily, **Vic's golf cart gets stuck in a sand trap.**
- 11/7 Broken Sound Old Course - Bob S shoots 93. His next round, 11/9 at the Falls, he shoots 78.
- 11/18 The Falls - Larry makes a rare skippee birdie on #5, the short par 4. Gary, 42 on the front, starts well on the back 9. On the Par-5 13th, his 3rd shot from 160 is hit through a forest, clips a branch, and rolls through the front trap to 10 feet. He makes the putt for birdie. He birdies 16 and needs par on 18 to break 80. His second shot goes in the water. But it skips. And skips. And skips again, and somehow jumps the 12" railroad tie, coming to rest 100 yards from the pin. He wedges to 25 feet and two putts for his 79. **Gary nets an extra \$200 from his under-80 bet with Larry.** Mike foolishly presses the back 6 of his private match with Gary and loses all six holes.
- 12/10 Stonebridge. Ola Rimstedt plays from the tips, 7006 yards. Mike plays from 5250 yards. A 1756 yard difference. Ola walks the course; **From Ola's tee to Mike's tee is roughly one mile!**
- 12/25 Xmas @ Stonebridge. **Neil shoots a 75, two under his age,** from the Green-White tees, 5644 yards. Two-under-age **ties Tour record** set by John Griscom's 70 when he was 72.
- 12/29 Woodfield. **Neil's next round, he only shoots his age,** from the White Tees, 5591. **Loses \$30.**

Sixes and Private Match Highlights:

- 3/23 The Falls. Vic gets 1/2 stroke on all par 3's. Before the round he says, "Half stroke not worth much to me." Bob S replies "If you make 3, you win the hole, and sometimes if you make 4 you win the hole." Vic makes two 3's (loses both holes to birdies) and two 4's (loses both holes to par). Vic does not factor on the par 3's, despite a net score for the day on them of even par. Vic's comment wins "prediction of the day award."
- 5/3 High Ridge. #18 with sixes match tied. Alan makes a 50-foot putt, but Vic, his opponent, sinks a 40-foot putt to win the match.
- 7/6 High Ridge. On the 7th tee(s) the pairings for the second match are discussed. At the rear tee box, Bob S tells Gary that the lineup is BJ-MB vs GC-BS, as Bob S wrote down on his card.
At the forward tee box, Bob J thinks the lineup is BJ-BS vs GC-MB, as Bob J wrote down on his card, but cart-mate Mike thinks the lineup is BJ-MB vs GC-BS. Hmm. Unresolved, all four hit from the tee and, driving in separate carts, proceed to their balls. In the fairway, BJ, GC, MB three again discuss the pairings for the match. "They" agree that Mike and Gary will be partners. Someone calls to Bob S, 30 yards ahead, to announce the decision, but Bob S, has his fan on and does not hear anything.
Gary wins the first two holes with birdie (net eagle) and a par. Leaving the 8th green, Bob S congratulates/thanks Gary but is told that he is not Gary's partner. What to do now?
Mike proposes to play 2 matches with different partners for half stakes. But by the time they reach the ninth green, everyone realizes that will not work, so Bob S and Gary agree to settle

the matter with a coin toss. Mike loses the toss, and is now 2-down (partnering Bob J) instead of 2-up. Bob S wins #9 with a par, Gary wins #10 with a par. Bob S and Gary win #11 with pars. Bob S and Gary are now up 5 holes. On #12, the short par 4, Gary and Bob J miss long par putts. Mike and Bob S are on the green in two; Mike is 35 feet from the pin, Bob S is 14 feet from the pin. Mike putts to 2.5 feet. Bob S just misses a birdie, and has a gimme par. Mike B now *misses* his 2.5 foot par putt. Bob S and Gary have **Schneider #28!** Mike, (temporarily), feels like giving up the game.

- 7/16 High Ridge. See 5/3 but this time AO-MB vs BJ-BS. First match is tied after five. On #6, an \$80 hole, BobJ holes out from 52 yards for birdie net eagle to beat Alan's birdie.
- 10/21 The Falls. Bob J, 19.8 index, playing the Red (Women's) tees, gave the other players, Gary, Larry and Steve, a total of five strokes. Second time Bob J has been on the top line (Low Man). And,...
- 10/26 Stonebridge. Arthur, 17.1 index, playing the White-Green tees, gave the other players, David, Mike and Victor strokes. First time Arthur was on the top line (Low Man).
- 11/6 Stonebridge. Yossi-Mike vs David-Vic. David makes 4-foot putt on the 6th hole to avoid a Schneider.
- 11/9 BS Old Course. Vic plays first six holes 19 over par! Triple +. His next three holes are all bogey-net par.
- 12/10 Eastpointe. Bob J gets a 4 for 3 on hole 10 followed by a 3 for 2.5 on hole 11 (a "Beagle") = an impressive 2.5 under net for 2 holes.
- 12/22 Boca Golf and Racquet. Gary wins \$40 (taking both sides of two presses) without factoring in the match. (His partner, Bob J sinks 10-foot putt on last hole to halve the back and the match, after having also won the third hole to halve the front).
- 12/24 Stonebridge. Holes 7-12. Mike-Bob J vs Neil-David. 4 tied holes. Then, on #11, a par 3, only Neil not in water, 25 feet from pin, but in rough. What could go wrong for Neil? Mike holes out from the 88-yard drop area for par! Neil bogeys. Hole 12. Bob J makes 30-foot putt from off the green to seal the match. Of note, David played Green-White, 5644 while Neil, Bob and Mike played Green, 5250.
- 12/30 Eastpointe. Gary 97, Mike 87, Bob S 82, Neil 82. Gary (somehow) breaks even in the sixes and loses \$110 in his three privates at \$5-\$5-\$10. In one 12 hole private he loses \$45. Hard to do: Gary loses 1-3-1 on front 6, loses 5-3-1 on pressed back. This more than gets Mike even from (see 11/18 News of the Year in Review)

Rounds Report

See <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OJn33tMyNSI2kLICZTh3GJFLDsExiMW5/edit#gid=1084344444>

Tour in-season guest fees are capped at \$120 for 2023-24, up from \$115 for 2022-23.

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.

After 4 years of decreases, rounds and groups increased in 2023. Perhaps it was because players were healthier. A total of 214 Tour groups were assembled in 2023, an increase of 23 from 2022. Similarly, not counting non-Tour members ("Others"), 827 Tour rounds were played in 2023, up 76 from 751 in 2022. Bob S again played the most Tour Rounds, 115, (his most), followed by Mike 102, Bob J 93, and Victor, technically a snowbird, 79. Of note, Larry played 34 fewer rounds, mostly due to injury.

The summer was hotter than ever. The hot weather did not stop the intrepid geezer golfers from playing in the heat, but early a.m. golf became mandatory.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Mike

Below are some stats.

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

2023 Tour Standings FINAL:

Name\	Rounds	2023 \$\$	Money/ Rd	Rank	
Sartorius	115	1473	12.81	1	
Cohler	55	736	13.38	2	
Cohen R	20	653	32.65	3	
Becker	102	336	3.29	4	
Berkowitz	62	241	3.89	5	
Robinson	5	224	44.8	6	
Chambers	32	172	5.37	7	
Cohen L	63	133	2.11	8	
Fried	16	120	7.5	9	
Machotka	34	16	0.47	10	
Osofsky	21	12	0.57	11	
Culberson	3	5	1.67	12	
Davidson	0	0	0	13	
Ende	13	-70	-5.38	14	
Sanborn	15	-77	-5.13	15	
Weinstein	7	-92	-13.14	16	
Loring	7	-150	-21.43	17	
Rogoff	7	-205	-29.29	18	
Perlman	8	-292	-36.5	19	
Wolfson	28	-305	-10.89	20	
Z-Others	42	-663	-15.79	21	
Jones	93	-962	-10.34	22	
Markowicz	79	-1305	-16.52	23	
	Total Player Rounds				827
	Total Tour Rounds				214

See NEXT PAGE

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
2022	No One	2022 Larry Cohen	1951
2023	David Berkowitz	2023 Bob Sartorius	1473

* Record

See Next Page

		12/31/23-	INDEX	INDEX	INDEX	INDEX
		Index	2023	2023	2023	2023
		Change	1-Jan	31-Dec	Low	High
Mike	Becker	2.6	17.7	20.3	16.9	21.0
David	Berkowitz	-2.7	20.2	17.5	17.2	21.1
Neil	Chambers	0.2	9.8	10.0	8.9	12.2
Larry	Cohen	1.5	13.2	14.7	13.0	16.2
Richard	Cohen	1.0	10.5	11.5	10.3	12.9
Gary	Cohler	2.5	12.2	14.7	11.1	14.7
Yossi	Ende	0.4	11.7	12.1	10.6	12.0
Jeff	Fried	1.3	9.4	10.7	7.5	10.8
Bob	Jones	1.7	20.3	22.0	19.1	22.8
Arthur	Loring	0.7	16.6	17.3	13.8	17.3
Victor	Markowicz	1.2	29.4	30.6	27.3	31.0
Joe	Machotka	2.8	9.3	12.1	9.3	12.9
Alan	Osofsky	-0.4	10.5	10.1	7.2	10.5
Howard	Perlman	-0.1	22.7	22.6	22.7	23.0
Eric	Robinson	0.5	14	14.5	12.4	15.5
Bruce	Rogoff	-1.7	10.3	8.6	7.8	10.3
Steve	Sanborn	0.5	13.0	13.5	12.5	13.5
Bob	Sartorius	1.3	8.3	9.6	6.7	10.0
Howie	Weinstein	0.4	14.5	14.9	14.4	14.9
Jeff	Wolfson	-1.1	18.2	17.1	17.1	19.5