

South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

2019 Annual Report

Membership & Demographics

Tour membership remained stable. Jeff Wolfson moved to Woodfield and is wait-listed for golf membership. (Yes, Woodfield is one of the only area clubs with a wait list.) In 2020, Jeff will have his own column in the Tour standings.

“Father Time” and Distance:

- All members who started the year finished the year. However,
- Mike B continued to move up tee boxes on a few more courses, taking Bob J and Victor with him.
- On some rounds where Mike M is playing with the “short” people, there’s a 1,000-yard disparity between them.

The Health and Wellness Section:

- Bob J had prostate surgery in May, then suffered from (unrelated) back problems into December. His prostate numbers are still elevated.
- Stan missed a month or two due to his chronic back problems and later in the year had a “small” stroke with effects lasting a month or so, (there was no apparent change to his golf or bridge game).
- David’s diabetes worsened.
- Steve has a permanent limp (without pain) from a hiking fall about three years ago.
- Mike M began experiencing dizziness in second half of the year, affecting his play.
- Larry suffered from bronchitis and acid reflux and missed about seven rounds.
- Mike B’s thumb arthritis slightly affected his game.

Of War and Peace:

- David’s allergy to Gary’s cigar smoking puffed up to the point where David gave up playing with Gary.
- Bob S and Gary had some on course issues last year and this, and some words were also exchanged at the Boca bridge game.
- As a result, the Tour was unable to form foursomes for a handful of rounds and others (as well as Gary, Bob S and David) also missed some of them.

Of Courses

- Larry joined The Falls CC in March.
- Mike M rented a home in Wycliffe CC in August and obtained full golf privileges there. Wycliffe has two courses.
- That brings the number of South Florida country clubs with a Tour Member to 11, and the number of SF Tour courses up to a record 17! -- Boca Rio, BS New Course, BS Old Course, The Falls, Gleneagles Legend, Gleneagles Victory, High Ridge, Ibis Heritage, Ibis Legend, Ibis Tradition, Seagate, Stonebridge, Weston Players, Weston Tour, Woodfield, Wycliffe East, Wycliffe West.
- With the additions of The Falls and Wycliffe, the number of South Florida public and reciprocal club rounds dropped significantly: Addison Reserve, Deer Creek (5x),

Mizner (5x), Osprey Point, St. Andrews (2x), Westchester (2x – two more than desirable).

- Gleneagles and Stonebridge continued to track guest play closely, but there were no restriction problems at other clubs.
- High Ridge (9x) and Seagate (6x) received more play than usual.

Each year, some Tour rounds are conducted in and around Park City, Utah. The 2019 S.F.B.P.T. Utah Golf Championship was held from July 29 to August 11th. Over those 14 days, 64 Tour rounds (16 foursomes) were played by six Tour members along with “Others” Eric Robinson, Howie Weinstein, Jeff Fried and Bob Freer. Gary played 9 days in a row; not to be outdone, Larry played 10 days in a row (both played one more in a row than in 2018).

The 2020 SFBPGT Utah Golf Championship is being planned for August-September, 2020, when Mike, Larry, Howie and Eric will be there full time. Anyone can come anytime and have a golf game, although official dates are likely to be **September 8-22**.

Woodfield will close from March to November, 2020, and get a \$9,000,000!! face lift. One wonders what that amount of money can buy.

Rules and Regulations

Coinciding with the new 2019 USGA Rules of Golf, the SFBPGT Rules of Golf were amended and restated into an 8-page document, which was compiled by Mike Becker, Larry Cohen and Bob Sartorius and includes a table of contents. It was broken into three main sections:

Section A SFBPGTour “Local Rules” – i.e., variances from the 2019 USGA Rules of Golf.

Section B 2019 USGA Rules of Golf that are strictly followed on our Tour.

Section C SFBPGTour “Procedural Rules” relating to ethics and etiquette, as well as to our unique conditions of contest (“Four-Ball Sixes” matches, with “Individual” side matches at the same time).

Financial Report – Tour Money

The Top

Vic had a great first round and led the Tour for 4 days -- a personal best. After the usual early year jostling, Mike B was led the pack for a few months, only to be overtaken by Larry in May. Then they both slumped and Marc and Mike M alternated leading in June and July. Mike B overtook Mike M on August 3rd in Utah. But by the end of the Utah gathering, Larry was atop the leader board at +\$1,318, having won \$670 there. Mike M surpassed that, peaking at +\$1,525 in late August, but slumped after suffering from dizziness. Larry returned to Boca for a week in October, passed Mike M, and left town for six weeks, leading with +\$1,528. When Larry returned just before Thanksgiving, Mike B greeted him at +\$1,666. They had exchanged leads several times when they met on December 16th. Larry lost \$203, shooting his worst round of the year, while Mike won \$77 of it. Larry lost his next two rounds as well and went cruising, while Mike B cruised to his 4th Tour Leader win, finishing at +\$1,921. Mike B, at 76, became the oldest golfer to win the Tour Leader Award. The second oldest was a younger Mike B in 2016.

The Bottom

Gary opened the year minus and went minus-er for the first two months. Victor underpassed him on February 28th at -\$760. After 4 more exchanges, Gary took over the bottom for bad on April 7th, at -\$1,300. On September 13th Gary was -\$2,244. However, over the next three months, Gary rallied, and on December 9th stood at -\$1163, a mere \$143 worse than Vic [who was getting very worried.] But on that day, Gary had one of his big losing rounds, and Vic collected some of it, a \$360 swing. With the gap back up to \$500, there was no falling below Gary after that, although his great last round of 2019 made the race to the bottom look closer than it really was.

During the year Gary had all of the Tour's results of \$250 or more (plus or minus): +\$320 (tied his Tour record), +\$285, -\$250, -\$270, -\$270, -\$275, and -\$310 (just missing his Tour record loss of \$320 set in 2013).

2019 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 2019 than in 2018? 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."

Fourteen Tour Members played more than 25 rounds. Two had not observed end of year play; another, who did, felt he did not have enough exposure to the contenders cast a vote. That left 11 Electors who voted. It would take six votes to win the M.I.G.A.

The current ages of Tour members range from age 59 (Gary) to 76 (Howard and Mike B). Despite everyone being a year older, 2019 saw significant improvement by several players. But the M.I.G.A., as the title suggests, may be given to only one person.

In order of percentage reduction in USGA index:

- Larry, 14.2 to 11.7 (low of 10.8), took lessons over the summer, straightened out his drives and improved his putting technique.
- Bob S, 7.6 to 6.3 (low of 5.3), still a student of the game, took several months off (playing 23 fewer Tour rounds this year than last), to take lessons and practice. His straightness has improved, with some loss of distance. A work in progress, he plans to continue his reconstruction into next year.
- Mike M, 9.4 to 7.6 (low of 6.2), stopped giving himself short putts and still lowered his index. He is arguably the best putter on the tour.
- Howard, 17.9 to 15.3 (low of 14.9), who was last year's runner up for the M.I.G.A., has gotten better. His putting has improved, and his drives and woods remain long and straight. Howard's index was 20.6 two years ago! Howard is the oldest Tour member, which makes his improvement remarkable.
- Bruce, 9.8 to 8.8 (low of 8.4), did not play enough rounds to be considered, but noticeably improved in all facets of his game. The flair used when he throws his clubs or balls after a poor shot has improved while the number of tosses has declined.
- Gary, 15.7-14.2 (low of 14.2). The amount of money Gary lost this year is hard to reconcile with his lowered index. I predict next year he will be in the plus column.
- Mike B, 16.0-16.0, (low of 13.8), added 10 yards to his short drives by exchanging his 2008 driver for a 2019 version. But his other clubs lost about 10% distance. While his short game improved, his putting got worse.

The Votes: Howard 4, Mike M 3, Mike B 2, Larry 1, No One 1. While Howard got a plurality of the votes, he did not get a majority of the votes, so No One won. Congratulations to No One. No One has won 5 times, surpassing Gary, with four wins. Consider changing the rules?

Sixes and Private Match Highlights:

The Year of the Schneider

2019 recorded a record **FIVE** Schneiders (there were three in two other years), and one very near miss.

5/5 Gleneagles Legends, holes 7-12. Gary-Bruce Vs Larry-Mike B. Gary and Bruce win the first 5 holes with 3 net birdies and two pars, with Mike having missed a 3-footer on #8. On the signature #12 par 5, Gary lies 4 for 3 on the green, 45 feet from the pin. Larry lies 5 for 5, 20 feet away. Gary 3 putts and Larry holes out to tie the hole. No Schneider.

Schneider #16

5/21 Mizner, holes 13-18. Bob S-Larry Vs Marc-Vic

Key moments: #13 and #17 Bob S three putts from 20 feet. #16 Marc birdies a 170 yard par 3 and gets up and down on #18, sinking a six foot putt for a net birdie. Never have such good golfers been Schneidered by such ...other ones!

Schneider #17

6/3 Gleneagles Victory, holes 1-6. Mike B-Gary Vs Marc-Mike M

Highlights: #1 - Gary four putts from 25 feet after seeing Mike M's putt on his line; #4 Mike B misses 10 foot putt to tie hole. #5 Marc chips in to win hole with a birdie net eagle to Gary's par net birdie.

Gary had pressed the back alone, so he lost \$160 (a first).

Note: Marc was on the plus side of two Schneiders over a 13-day period, besting Mike B's Schneiders 16 days apart in 2014.

Schneider #18

10/10 Woodfield, holes 1-6. Mike M-Mike B Vs Gary-Marc

Key moments: #3 Gary misses a putt touching the leather. #5 Marc lies 30 yards from the green, 2 for 1, but gets a 6 for 5 to lose to MM's up and down par. #6 Gary, 107 yards from the pin in 2, has a nasty downhill lie in the right rough and can only muster a 6 for 5. Mike B reaches the green in 3 and two putts from 45 feet to get a 5 for 4.

Schneider #19 (Only three days after Schneider #18)

10/13 Broken Sound Old Course, holes 1-6. Mike M-Bob J Vs Mike B-Victor

Vic's "back-in-Boca" round.

Key holes: #2 Mike M can muster only a bogey 5, but Mike B and Vic miss the green from 95 yards, then miss gain, and wind up with 7 for 6.

#3 and #5 Mike B misses a 20 foot putt for par.

#4 Vic gets 0.5. Vic three putts from 40 feet to lose to Mike M's greenie par.

#6 (all stroking, Par 5). Mike M off the green in three. Bob J on the green 8 feet away in 4.

Mike B 55 yards away in three, falters with a fat flop and after getting to the green, misses a 12-foot putt for a 7 for 6. Bob J three putts from 8 feet for a 7 for 6. But Mike M

(Plan A) gets up and down, sinking a three foot putt for par.
 Bob J and Mike M won the Schneider with a paltry 5 pars and a bogie.
 This was Mike M's second winning Schneider in three rounds, and third of the year.
 This was Bob J's first Schneider on the plus side.
 P.S. On the next hole, #7, Mike B got a birdie and Vic a net birdie.

Schneider #20

11/4 Woodfield -- Mike M-Bruce Vs Gary-Jeff. Holes 13-18. Strokes: Gary gets 2 and Jeff 4 for the match. Bruce, playing member tees, gets nothing. The "new" scorecard is in use, where the two most difficult holes are 15 and 16.

#13- (easy Par 3) Gary wins with a par. #14 – Jeff's net par wins the hole. #15 –Mike M misses his 11 foot birdie putt. Gary, stroking because new scorecard in use, wins with a net birdie. #16 – Gary and Jeff win with net pars although, Jeff, close to the hole, was conceded a net birdie. #17 - Front pin. Mike M gets an easy par, Gary hits his 9 iron to 8 feet, short of the pin, and sinks his putt for birdie. #18 - Gary arrives at the green in two, 11 feet from the pin. Bruce and Mike miss long par putts. The winning twosome was 3 under net (one over gross). Mike M and Bruce, with indexes of 7.1 and 8.9, could muster only two pars. Gary won \$320 for the day, tying the Tour record (his record), and remarkably, Jeff still lost \$20, having lost his three private matches and the other two sixes.

Zip Codes

5/3 Larry and Gary opposed each other to achieve a new zip code. Larry won 2, lost 2, won 2, lost 2, and won 1 = +1-1+1-1+1 = the Zip Code of Renacimiento, Dominican Republic. (Nothing in U.S., but Long Island City is close)

For the archives, Zip Codes have been achieved by very few golfers, because continuous presses are required, and some players stop pressing at some point. Here is a list of zip codes so far. We have to wonder whether there are any others available.

+9+7+5+3+1 Kerby OR	97531	Stan beats Victor
+8+6+4+2-0 El Coyoito Mexico	86420	Mike beat Gary
+7+5+3+1-1 Puebla, Mexico	75311	Larry beat Victor
+5+7+5+3+1 Draper, SD	57531	Larry beat Gary
+5+3+1+3+1 Franklin, WI	53131	Larry beat Victor
+3+1+3+1-1 Guyton, GA	31311	Larry beat Gary
+3+1+1+3+1 Atlanta, GA	31131	David beat Gary
+1-1+1-3-1 Stockholm Sweden	11131	Larry beat Marc
+1-1+1-1+1 Renacimiento, Dominican Rep	11111	Larry pips Gary

Note: Larry, at 6-0 (his record and his height), has a perfect record in Zip Code performance. Gary, 0-5, and Victor, 0-4, have imperfect perfect records also. With fewer 18 hole matches these days, the chance of achieving a Zip Code is shrinking.

The News of the Year in Review

- 1/5 - Gary slept thru his tee time. (He did it last year, too)
- 1/10 I send an email out, which included "...About 4 times a year someone forgets to bring their golf clubs (usually Vic..)." Then, the next day, Gary finished his WCC round and drove away into the sunset...without his clubs! On the bright side, his round at Woodfield was remarkable -- he shot 85, which included four consecutive up and downs and consecutive birdies on other holes. He won \$45 and broke a record

12 round losing streak where he had lost a record \$1,140 in row. However, after breaking his losing streak, he notched a \$250 loss in his next round.

- Last year Mike B won #12 at GCC Legends (the signature par 5), with a triple bogey. This year Mike B won the same hole with a par, after hitting his second shot in the water!

- 2/3-2/4: Neil shot 75-76 and netted a loss of \$10.

- Tales of Victor, episode 37:

2/9 Deer Creek

On the 1st hole, Victor forgot a club. Ho hum.

On the 2nd hole, Victor forgot his cart (he left it at the 150 marker and took his putter to walk towards the green, while his cart-mate/passenger, Mancini always walks).

On the 3rd hole, the foursome waited 5 minutes for Victor to arrive with his cart.

On the 5th hole, Victor's golf cart grazed Mike M. Victor was driving. Mike M's ankle swelled up and he played the rest of the round limping.

On the sixth hole, Victor lost his driving privileges. Again.

The next round:

After 4 holes of using them, Victor "lost" his bins. He looked everywhere (including in his golf bag, even though it was out of his golf bag for holes 1-4) and reported it to 2 rangers and the pro shop. No luck. David, reluctantly lent Victor his bins (since David's cart-mate also had one) for the rest of the round. After 18 holes, luckily, Victor managed not to lose David's bins. Then, as Victor packed up, he found his own bins in his golf bag.

- After making a 138 foot putt (from well off the green), Victor proclaimed himself the BOGPOT. A week later he putted to a gimmie from 153 feet and 112 feet.
What's a BOGPOT? = Best Off Green Putter On Tour.
- Of similar note, Gary four putted from 35 feet in (an estimated) 47 seconds, and has been titled the "FOGPOT." = Fastest On Green Putter On Tour!
- 2/18 SBCC. Marc, index 23, shot a 37 on the front 9! He won 8 of the 9 holes (7 solo). Larry tied the 4th hole with a par to avoid a Schneider. He then shot 55 on the back, an 18 shot difference in the nines, perhaps a record. Never has someone with that high an index shot so little in 9 holes.
- The same week, Mike B shot a 37 on the WCC back nine. Yossi needed to make a 4 foot putt on #18 to avoid a Schneider.
- 3/9 WCC Mike M notched birdies on 12, 15, 17 and 18. 4 birds in a 9-hole segment is a record. In the same round, Neil had 3 birdies and Mike B had 2 birdies. (9 birds for a foursome in 18 holes are the best in memory). Neil (7.0 index) - Mike M (9.5 index) combined to shoot a 66 gross! That's remarkable. Neil needed a par on #9, (the last hole), to shoot his age (72). He scored a 6. Still, 74, was tied for the low round of the year.
- 3/11 High Ridge 469 yard Par 5, 6th hole, (the one with the tree in the fairway). Larry hit a great tee shot and his 3-wood from 195 ran up to green. He sank his 13 foot putt for an eagle.
- 3/15 The foursome was Neil, Larry, Gary and Marc. Can you tell why this is a Tour first in 3 ways?Answer....The four C's on the Tour; 4 players listed in alphabetical order in the Tour Strokes Calculator; and 4 players in order of indexes.
- 3/16 SBCC Starting on hole 10 (par 5): David records a 9 (he needed an 8 to tie the hole) followed by a 2 and a 3, both birdies. The seven stroke difference between his results on 10 and 11 is a Tour record.
- 4/14 Seagate CC. Steve and Mike M play Gold tees, 6,660. Mike B and Vic play White tees, 5,636. 1024 yards is the greatest difference played by a Tour foursome, (so far).

- 5/9 Mizner. Bruce shot a 74 from the white tees (5835) and Mike M a 76 from the blue tees (6301), in different groups. 74 ties the low Tour round of the year with Neil.
- 7/30 Utah – Tuhaye CC. Mike B wins all three sixes, +\$120, splits his privates, while shooting 100, the high net score.
- 9/26. Mike B's first use of his new driver helped him shoot a 79 at Wycliffe (west). His driver swing speed is still slightly below his age. Only Stan, (age 69), is thought to have a swing speed lower than Mike B's.
- 12/10 BSOC, Hole 7. (short par 4) Larry two putted for par, while Gary, Victor and Marc all one putted for birdies! Gross three under par ties the Tour record held by Mike Larry Marc and Bernie on Mizner, hole 5, par 3, where the scores were 2-2-2-3. As far as NET goes, Vic and Marc (partners), were getting strokes, so the net was 11 on a 16 par. In 2015, playing Woodfield's par 5 Hole 1, Bob S was giving a shot to David, Marshall and Mike B, and the gross scores were 4, 4, 4, 6, a net 15 on a 20 par. Also net 5 under par, but Bob S was giving three shots, not two.
- 12/27 Mike B's string of 51 holes without a double bogey ended. (Weston Tour, GCC Legends, WCC)

Holy November, off Tour:

- 11/2 Bob S notched a hole-in-one on # 17 on Ibis Tradition – 140 yards – 7 iron.
- 11/10 Mike Mancini scored a hole in one on # 7, Wycliffe East – 175 yards – 6 iron. [FYI - Mike M had had an amazing two albatrosses!]
- For the archives: the Tour has recorded 8, on-Tour, holes-in-one: Mike 3, Larry 2, Marshall 1, Victor 1 and Steve 1. The last on-Tour hole in one was in 2015.
- Off Tour: Mike M 5, Steve 3, Howard 2, Neil 2, Bob S 2, Howard 2, Joe 2, Marc 1, Mike B 1, David 1, Bob J 1, Yossi 1, Victor 1

Rounds Report

Tour in-season guest fees were increased to a \$100 cap in November.

The “2019 Annual Golf Stats.xls” spreadsheet, like the 2018 spreadsheet, will be delayed until the Golf Central back office has upgraded its spreadsheet program.

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. 254 Tour groups were assembled in 2019, an increase of 6 from 248 in 2018. Similarly, not counting non-Tour members ("Others"), 953 Tour rounds were played in 2019, down from 972 in 2018. The largest changes in rounds played Vs 2018: Bob J -36, Bob S -23, David -21, Gary -14, Larry +36, Marc +29, Mike B +24. Mike B played the most rounds, 148.

See the next two pages for some stats. The annual Golf Stats.xls will eventually follow.

Wishing you all a Happy and healthy New Year!

Mike

Below are some stats.

**M.I.G.A.
Winners:**

1996	
1997	
1998	
1999	
2000	
2001	Drew Casen
2002	John Griscom
2003	Mike Becker
2004	Marc Culberson
2005	No One
2006	Joe Machotka
2007	Larry Cohen
2008	No One
2009	Gary Cohler
2010	Victor Markowicz
2011	Gary Cohler
2012	Gary Cohler
2013	Mike Becker
2014	Gary Cohler
2015	No One
2016	No One
2017	Larry Cohen
2018	Victor Markowicz
2019	No One

Tour Leaders:

1996	Others	\$\$\$
1997	John Lewis	*247
1998	Lee Rautenberg	*448
1999	Barnet Shenkin	403
2000	John Lewis	440
2001	John Lewis	*459
2002	John Lewis	*712
2003	John Griscom	597
2004	Marc Culberson	*834
2005	Stan Tulin	427
2006	Joe Machotka	702
2007	Larry Cohen	581
2008	David Berkowitz	*1041
2009	Mike Becker	736
2010	David Berkowitz	739
2011	David Berkowitz	*1455
2012	Gary Cohler	831
2013	Mike Becker	1175
2014	Bob Sartorius	*1526
2015	David Berkowitz	1353
2016	Mike Becker	1008
2017	Larry Cohen	*2129
2018	David Berkowitz	1707
2019	Mike Becker	1921

* Record

Index Changes in the Past Year:

			1/1/2019	1/1/2020
Becker	Michael	0.0	16.0	16.0
Berkowitz	David	-0.5	17.3	16.8
Chambers	Neil	-0.6	8.9	8.3
Cohen	Larry	-2.5	14.2	11.7
Cohler	Gary	-1.4	15.7	14.3
Culberson	Marc	-0.4	22.5	22.1
Ende	Yossi	0.9	10.8	11.7
Jones	Bob	0.1	20.1	20.2
Machotka	Joe	2.0	6.8	8.8
Mancini	Michael	-1.8	9.4	7.6
Markowicz	Victor	2.3	22.1	24.4
Osofsky	Alan	2.1	7.1	9.2
Perlman	Howard	-2.6	17.9	15.3
Rogoff	Bruce	-1.1	9.9	8.8
Sanborn	Steve	0.6	10.6	11.2
Sartorius	Bob	-2.0	7.6	5.6
Tulin	Stan	0.0	22.0	22.0

	Money	AVE/Rd	Rounds
Mike B	1921	12.98	148
Larry	1134	10.60	107
Mike M	772	7.42	104
Marc	397	5.29	75
Alan	120	24.00	5
Neil	50	1.52	33
Joe	0	0.00	0
Bruce	-45	-2.65	17
Dave	-48	-0.63	76
Steve	-88	-9.78	9
Howard	-145	-2.04	71
Yossi	-165	-6.60	25
Bob S	-378	-10.22	37
Bob J	-440	-7.72	57
Others	-848	-18.43	46
Victor	-1059	-12.03	88
Gary	-1178	-11.66	101
	0		999