

South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

2018 Annual Report

Membership

Marshall was found to have throat cancer in June, and underwent 7 chemo and 35 radiation treatments over four months, but still suffered from the after effects of his treatment -- dehydration, with meds and electrolytes out of balance. He had lost 40 pounds and was close to his cookie diet low when he died of a heart attack at home while watching TV on November 5th. There will be no more rounds where Larry David play against Gary Marshall. Marshall played 925 rounds since he joined the Tour in 2000. Back then, he had about a 10 index and a superb short game. Relative to his index and rounds played, he easily led the tour in hole-outs. He had at least 7 holes in one (one on Tour). Marshall knew more members and staff at all the area clubs than all the other Tour members combined. From a hosting point of view he was flexible and available, notwithstanding health issues from time to time. He was 74. R.I.P.

Tour membership remained stable, but a year older. As a sign of Tour members aging out, various medical problems sidelined about half the Tour members. David (hit by Marshall's golf cart and sugar level control more difficult), Mike B (thumb), Larry (bronchitis), Howard (rotator cuff surgery during his "off-season," also, airport escalator fall), Bruce (knee scoped), Bob J (Atrial fibrillation), Bob S (Achilles, again), Steve (old hiking injury), Stan (back and hip), Joe (rotator cuff -- still has the problem), and of course, Marshall (death). Mike M (knee) and Gary, (foot and knee) played throughout their injuries with some pain.

Also as a sign of aging out, Mike B, Stan, Victor, Bob J, Marshall, Marc and Howard moved up a half tee box or a full tee box on most Tour courses. On the flip side, Gary, David and Larry occasionally moved back. Some changes depended on who was in the foursome. One of the Tour's best players, Bob S, is taking 3 months off to work on his game. How good will he be when he returns? I, for one, rarely take lessons for fear I would become too good and no one would want to play with me.

Of Courses

Indeed, Gleneagles and Stonebridge tracked guest play closely. Scheduling Tour rounds became MUCH more difficult as a result. Woodfield did not track guests closely enough to create any scheduling problems, so as the season wore on, it was played more often. Broken Sound may have started tracking guests this year as well (unknown).

Play was resumed in the fall at Boca Rio, nearly a year after the course was renovated. Also, play was resumed at the Broken Sound Club Course (now called the New Course) after being renovated. Added tee boxes made the course more playable for the short hitters. Woodfield is going to be redone in the summer of 2020.

Park City, Utah was the site of Tour outings in June (14 days) and September (12 days). 116 rounds were played by 9 tour members and 5 "others." Gary played 8 days in a row in June and 9 in a row in September. Larry played 9 in a row in June. A good time was had by all (golfers and non-golfers).

Partly because of the multiple Utah gatherings, there was less play than usual at other courses. Play abroad included Boca Hotel (4x), Deer Creek (4x), Delaire, Okeeheelee (2x) Osprey Point (6x), Parkland (2x), Polo and St. Andrews.

When Marshall joined the Tour in 2000, he was a member of Boca Teeca, a poor 27 hole track on the other side of the tracks. It was later renamed Ocean Breeze (sounded better, but the same shitty course, reduced to 18 holes because 9 holes transformed into apartments). This year, the land was

sold to the City of Boca Raton and will be redone to become the sole Boca Municipal course in a couple of years. In 2002, Marshall became a member of The Boca Resort and Country Club and the Tour. The Tour played 347 rounds at the resort and country club until he gave up his membership in 2011. Mike M is the only local Tour player who has never been a country club member -- for good reason -- too many wives and not enough left over cash.

Financial Report – Tour Leader

Tour Leader

January saw the usual small change jockeying for the lead. Then Gary won an awesome \$945 in 11 calendar days, to surge ahead of Neil in early February. But, (as usual), Neil left town as the Tour leader at +\$516 on March 3rd. As in 2017, it became the mark to beat, but it was a beatable mark. Howard overtook Neil on April 30th. Gary overtook Neil on May 8th. Gary passed Neil again in early June, at one point reaching +\$1,056 after one round in June in Utah. But by the end of the first Utah outing, Larry was atop the leader board, winning \$709 while Gary was losing \$520. Larry increased his lead to +\$1,440 by the end of the second Utah outing in September and retired until December.

David was a mere +\$162 in early June, but played steadily the rest of the year while slowly raising his index from 13.9 to 17.3! He won the second Utah outing and was nearly even with Larry when they played on December 7th. Larry had played only one round since September and was rusty. Larry choked. But that's because he was suffering from acute bronchitis. David passed him. Then, on December 8th, LC went to the bench leading at +\$1,220, cruising for the rest of the year. [He had won 79% of his stash in 21 rounds in Utah.] It became the mark David needed to beat. David immediately took the lead, winning \$485 over his remaining 8 rounds to finish at +\$1,707. This is David's 5th Tour Leader win in his 12 full years of Tour play. He is the Tour's all time money winner and extended his lead significantly this year.

It is noteworthy that in 2018, Larry raised his index from 11.2 to 14.2 and David raised his from 14.9 to 17.3.

The Pits

The battle for the bottom was again, a contest amongst the unluckiest golfers on the Tour. Gary, Bob J, Mike M, Mike B and Howard kissed the bottom in January. Stan had a miserable February and held the bottom for the next three months (with cameo appearances by Howard and Mike M). Stan finished his Spring play on May 1st, and stood short -\$730. He was under-passed by Mike M on May 8th and Mike B on June 1st. Mike B bottomed out at -\$1,534 in late June, rallied, but held on to the bottom into December. Finally, on December 13th, Mike M took over. Mike M stood tall at -\$1,047, with Stan next at -\$940. After a few bottom changes between them, Stan went to the bench at -\$1,020 with Mike M due for two more rounds to play, standing at -\$1,047. Mike M won both his rounds and sent Stan to the bottom of the pit.

Mike B's clever way holding the bottom for 6 months was to play well early in the year, lowering his index from 14.5 to 11.6 in April while not winning any money, and then playing poorly after that, raising his index into the mid 16 range for the last 7 months of the year.

Similarly, Mike M played well (maintaining a 6.5 index for nearly 2 months), and then slumped, finishing the year as a 9.4. Such a large index increase (44%) by a such a low index player is remarkable. I predict Mike M will have a good 2019.

Stan's method of diving deep was simpler: he did not factor (enough) on his stroke holes and his non-stroke holes.

Success stories from below: Howard hit the bottom at -\$551 on February 10th and left town in early May at +\$534. Victor had a first: he was never in last place for the entire year! (although he did slide into next to last on the next to last day of the year).

2018 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 2018 than in 2017? 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 three times."

Twelve Tour Members who played at least 24 rounds were the Electors. All 12 cast a vote, so it would take seven votes to win the much coveted M.I.G.A.

Mike wrote a Tour email 1/1/18: "Victor started 2018 with a record breaking 26.1 index. Playing his first round of the year at WCC, with Bob S giving him a stroke a hole: Vic started the year with gross par-par-birdie, which, meant he was 4 under net after three holes! After 18 holes, he had shot a 91 (a net of 62 if he were competing in a tournament). As of this writing,... Vic looks like a M.I.G.A. candidate. But a lot can happen in the next 364 days."

By year end, Victor lowered his index to 22.1. But Vic lost a little more money in 2018 than 2017.

Howard started the year as a 20.6 and lowered his index to 17.9. He was -\$1,078 in 2017 and +\$724 in 2018.

This year, the Electors pretty much disregarded money as an ingredient in deciding the award. Larry and David had won a lot while raising their indexes. No mention was made of them as possible M.I.G.A recipients.

The Electors felt that Howard and Victor were both deserving of the award. Victor won the vote of his compatriots by the narrow margin of 7 to 5. Congratulations, Victor! This is Victor's second M.I.G.A. He won it in 2010.

Commenters noted, (separately), that Victor AND Howard are driving the ball further and straighter, their long putting is stronger, and their chipping has gotten better. Improved short putting would trim a shot or two off their index (always room for improvement). They are graceful losers and beaming winners. Both are models of good sportsmanship and deportment. They're on everyone's short list of favorite people to play with.

Sixes and Private Match Highlights:

Schneider #15 3/20 Woodfield Holes 7-12. Marshall-Larry against Mike & Mike. "Eminem" can muster only one par, while Marshall/Larry were 2.5 under par. Two key holes. #8 -- 200 yards into big wind. No one on green. Marshall sank a 15-footer for par, while M&M missed 10 footers; #10 -- Marshall drives it in the sand, blasts out, and gets up and down from 117 yards for a 4 for 3.

This was Marshall's second Schneider in a row. Mike B had 5 in a row (#'s 6 thru 10) before this round. Mike M is the lowest index player to have been Schneidered.

There were at least two, near Schneiders. On 4/24 BSOC. Holes 1-6. Stan/Marshall Vs Howard/Victor. Howard and Victor won the first 5 holes On #6, Marshall missed a 6 foot putt needed to get off the Schneider and then Howard missed a 5 foot putt for the Schneider. A tied hole. On 12/6 WCC. Mike/Victor Vs Bob J/Michel (Vic's friend). Mike and Vic won the first 5 holes, then both missed 10 foot putts by less than an inch for the Schneider.

Gleneagles Legends #12 signature par 5: Mike (short tee), Gary, David, Larry. No strokes. Mike won the hole with a triple bogey 8. This is the first time a sixes hole was won with a [net] triple bogey.

To get a zip code, there have to be 4 presses in 9 holes and no tied holes. That means the 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th holes have to be pressed. This year there was a new zip code: Larry Vs Marc: Larry won 2, lost 4 and won 3 = +1 -1 +1 +3 +1 = 11131 = Stockholm, Sweden (Nothing in U.S., but Long Island City, NY is close). Close to a zip code: 12/7 Larry's first round in 3 months (playing with bronchitis) – lost all 9 holes on the front to Gary, but Gary used his second ball on first hole. So LC lost 8-6 (since Larry wasn't dumb enough to keep pressing).

3/26 WCC - Gary played the first six holes one under, a personal best. He was 18 over on the other 12 holes.

4/7 WCC - Mike B played holes 13-18 two under, tying his personal best and the Tour best.

The News of the Year in Review

- 2/11 WCC, 10-15 MPH winds gusting to more. A remarkable day because of the scores:
Neil Medal-Member (6336) 8.5 index score 83 tournament score 74
Gary Member (6120) 18.8 index score 85 tournament score 66
Mike B Member-Club (5863) 14.5 index score 79 tournament score 62
Howard Member-Club 20.8 index score 81 tournament score 59
Using the Tour Strokes Calculator and course handicap, Neil's 83 lost to the other 3 players by net 32.5 strokes!
One of our resident actuaries, Bob S, reports the probability of these combined scores is about 30,000 to 1. In any case, these scores comprise the best net total in the history of "Tour-kind."
In last match Mike and Neil shot 2.5 net under par and lost by a hole. Mike B lost both his stroke holes with gross pars (that means that an opponent getting a shot had a birdie net eagle!) See above, where a there was a Schneider won with net 2.5 under par.
- Eagle sightings:
4/17 BSOC. Yossi eagled the par 5, #16 at BSOC. (Larry had done the same two years ago). His second shot, a 3 hybrid, landed on the green and came to rest on the hill on the back. His 8 iron chip from 30 feet rolled in.
5/6 SBCC. Gary eagled the par 5, #13, his first on Tour. (Joe had done the same two years ago.) He reached the green in two and sank the 8 footer. In this round, Gary had started on #10 with birdie-bogey-birdie, so he was now three under after the first 4 holes. Incredible! Sadly,...the round was rained out after 5 holes. Gary said he was going to shoot a 70. Who can argue with him?
- There were no holes-in-one and no s'relhoC (or is it relhoCs?) The term Relhoc was coined by Howie Weinstein. Howie also coined the term Kohler, defined as when a shot made from the water goes backwards. Ever seen one of those? Gary has had some Kohlers.
- The lowest Tour rounds of the year were 75's. Mike M shot a 75 at Osprey Point. Mike B shot a 75 at The Boca Resort. (5918 yards, Par 71) A personal best for MB -- lowest score and one over his age. He three putted from 30 feet on #17 and lost a ball hit down the middle of a blind fairway.
- The \$325 shoe cleaning: Mike Victor and Bob S played Trump National with a member-friend of Vic's. After the guest fee, cart fee and caddie fee, and Mike's golf losses, it cost Mike \$325 to play the round. The shoe cleaning was free.
- 4/9 - On the first tee, Victor claimed his rangefinder was stolen. Larry told him it probably fell out in his car. He insisted it was stolen. After the round, he found it in his car. On #18, Victor

couldn't find his 9-iron to hit to the green. He used something else and hit in the water. As they left the green, he found the 9-iron in his bag.

- Mike B lost a new (\$1) ball putting on the BSOC practice green near the range. He putted into the flowers near the fence.
- 4/15. "New territory." WCC, #4 Member tees, 338 yards, Gary's drive rested 28 yards from a front pin, maybe 38 yards from the middle of the green.
- 11/24 WCC Mike B made a difficult 20 footer for birdie on #8. On preparing to leave the green Yossi said he would give him \$20 if he could sink it again. The players reversed direction and Mike made his way back to the spot of his putt. Yossi, (a little late), then asked for a \$1 if Mike missed the putt, but Mike declined. Mike then made the putt, and Yossi eventually made good on his offer.
- Gary is clearly the most volatile player on the Tour. Days he went over +/- \$200 +\$200 twice and -\$285, -\$240, -\$220 and -\$205. (Howard was the only other player to hit \$200, once, plus), Moneywise, after playing 113 rounds, with two rounds to play for the year, Gary was at \$0! To achieve his neutrality, Gary had won and lost (approx) \$4,500. On any day, his average round expectancy was +/- \$79. By the way, in Gary's last two rounds of the year he lost \$385.

Tales of Victor (An ongoing saga) Episode 21

10/11/18 - Vic writes, "Yesterday I played golf at Old Oaks with my regular partner John and his friend Ezra. John spot's me 4 strokes but I beat him straight up. My driver was working well ... straight and long. The approaches were also not too shabby. We were driving back in John's very powerful Bentley SUV. On the Westchester Road John demonstrated the car acceleration. The clubs rattled in the trunk and we were pushed into our seats with the G-force. Few miles later as we stopped at the red light the driver behind let us know that our trunk door was not closed. Ezra stepped out, closed the trunk and calmly announced: The bags are gone. I guess it was a punishment for not coming to Florida as promised. Will never do it again."

Rounds Report

Tour in-season guest fees remained capped at \$95.

The attached spreadsheet, "2018 Annual Golf Stats.xls" details rounds played and money results at various Tour clubs. There is a summary for 2018 and a summary for all 22 years combined. Notice that club members generally do better at home than away.

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. 248 Tour groups were assembled in 2018, an increase of 1! from 247 in 2017. Similarly, not counting non-Tour members ("Others"), 972 Tour rounds were played in 2018, up from 948 in 2017. The largest changes in rounds played Vs 2017: Larry -39, Marc +38, Mike M +35, Gary -23, Bob J +21, Victor +20. Mike B played the most rounds, 124. Last year Gary played the most rounds, 138.

See the next two pages for some stats. A Tour Stats Spreadsheet will follow, eventually.

Wishing you all a Happy and healthy new year!

Mike

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

*Record

Index Changes in the Past Year

		Change		
		1-Jan-18	1-Jan-19	Net
Victor	Markowicz	26.1	22.1	-4.0
Howard	Perlman	20.6	17.9	-2.7
Steve	Sanborn	12.1	10.6	-1.5
Stan	Tulin	23.3	22.0	-1.3
Joe	Machotka	7.9	6.8	-1.1
Gary	Cohler	16.3	15.7	-0.6
Neil	Chambers	9.1	8.9	-0.2
Bob	Sartorius	7.6	7.6	0.0
Marc	Culberson	22.3	22.5	0.2
Yossi	Ende	10.1	10.8	0.7
Alan	Osofsky	6.3	7.1	0.8
Michael	Mancini	8.5	9.4	0.9
Bob	Jones	18.7	20.1	1.4
Michael	Becker	14.5	16.0	1.5
Bruce	Rogoff	8.2	9.9	1.7
David	Berkowitz	14.9	17.3	2.4
Larry	Cohen	11.2	14.2	3.0

TOUR MONEY 2018

	Money	AVE/Rd	Rounds
Dave	1707	17.6	97
Larry	1260	17.75	71
Howard	724	11.87	61
Neil	516	23.45	22
Marc	377	8.2	46
Marsh	263	10.52	25
Others	257	9.52	27
Bob S	9	0.15	60
Joe	0	0	0
Alan	0	0	0
Steve	-71	-17.75	4
Bruce	-170	-17	10
Gary	-385	-3.35	115
Yossi	-460	-19.17	24
Bob J	-618	-6.65	93
Mike B	-678	-5.47	124
Mike M	-852	-7.68	111
Victor	-859	-10.48	82
Stan	-1020	-37.78	27
	0		999
			rounds