

# South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

## 2017 Annual Report

### **Membership**

The original Tour members back in 1996 were Mike B, Larry, Bernie and Lee. Lee retired in 2003. Bernie retired in 2016 -- the yips and older age. Neil Chambers joined the Tour, playing 26 rounds over the first 10 weeks of the year. Everyone enjoyed losing money to him. He will return again in 2018 for a longer period.

### **Of Courses**

Gleneagles, Woodfield and Stonebridge started tracking guest play closely. Stonebridge told David to stop bringing Gary, after Gary had played there 13 times "in season" (exceeding SBCC's limit of 8 rounds per guest a year by 5 rounds). Gleneagles told Gary to stop bringing David, after David had played there 13 times during the year (having exceeded GCC's limit of once per month per guest on several occasions). No one was found to be over the limit at Woodfield (now 8x in season, 8x out-of-season), because the WCC pro shop did not start close tracking of guest rounds until February, when the season was half over.

Efforts by Gary, Howard and David get GCC and SBCC to relax their guest policies did not improve the situation. It seems that all the clubs will allow some wiggle room in their guest rules, but will not tolerate abusive violations. Complying with Gleneagles' limit of one round per month per guest has made the Great Organizer's task much more difficult. Guest limitations are either not enforced at other clubs, or we don't play there often enough to violate their guest limit rules. See annual golf stats.xls for a record of rounds played at specific country clubs.

In Utah, during a 10-day period in July, Mike B, Larry, Victor, Gary, David and Bob J played 37 Tour rounds on 8 courses. Gary played 9 days in a row. Along with Maria, Lisa and Ora, a good time was had by all. All Tour Members are invited to Park City next summer.

The summer season again afforded Tour members an opportunity to play many nearby country club and public courses. Reciprocal Tour play included Addison Reserve (3x), Atlantis, BallenIsles, Banyan, Bocaire, Boca Woods, Deer Creek (7x), Eagle Trace, Hunters Run, Osprey Point, Polo Club and The Falls (5x).

### **Financial Report – Tour Leader**

#### **Tour Leader**

All the players started at \$0 on January 1st, and then the games began.

Over Jan-Feb, the early Tour lead was held from time to time by Mike B, David, Mike M and Neil. Neil peaked at +\$945 on February 21st and left town leading on March 3rd +\$845.

The next day, Larry passed Neil, and went on to win \$1,100 in March alone. Larry must have had good partners, because he lowered his index in March by a paltry 0.2, from 14.1 to 13.9! But in April, he played extremely well, lowering his index to 11.0 and on May 1, stood at +\$2,120, with a lead of \$1,265 over second place Neil. Larry traveled from May thru September, playing only 9 Tour rounds in Utah. All of us anticipated that Larry, with his index now at 11.9 and out of golf-shape, would begin leaking \$10 bills, and we were clamoring to play in his foursomes. But, by the end of October he stood at +\$2,421. Again, he must have had good partners, because his index edged up from 11.9 to 12.1 in October.

By Nov 6th, David had quietly crept up to +\$1,316, a total good enough to win in 19 of the previous 21 years. But he was still \$948 behind Larry, who was remotely catchable but had time on his side. Indeed, six weeks later, on December 18th, David had narrowed Larry's lead to \$641. The two leaders met at Stonebridge in a "must win" round for David. Instead, Larry shot his best round of the year, a 79, and won \$185 while David lost \$200. It was all over. Larry won an astounding \$2,129 in 2017, crushing the highest previous winning total of +\$1,526 by Bob S in 2014.

### The Basement

The battle for the basement was a contest amongst the unluckiest golfers on the Tour. The caboose position had exchanged places 18 times, having been held more than once by Gary, Howard, Bob J, Stan, Mike B, Marshall and Victor. On December 18th, Victor was -\$985 and Marshall was -\$943. Marshall left for the year, placing his fate in Victor's hands. Vic's next round dropped him to -\$1,050. But then Vic played well and won money over his "final 4" rounds, picking up \$320, passing Marshall, then Bob J, and then Stan to finish 4th from last. Congratulations to Victor! Condolences (and much appreciation) to Marshall. Mike B, in the basement on 9/21 at -\$1,023 finished plus \$595 on the year.

### **2017 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 2017 than in 2016? 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."**

**Fourteen** Tour Members who played at least 25 rounds were the Electors. 13 electors voted and one chose not to vote. A majority of 7 votes would be required to win the coveted M.I.G.A.

No One won the award in 2015 and 2016. But in 2017, Larry received 8 votes and was recognized for being the Most Improved Golfer. No One received two votes, and Bruce, Mike B and Neil received one vote apiece. Larry, who began the year as a 13.3, ended the year as an 11.2.

Virtually all the Electors agreed that Larry had improved, even those who did not vote for him. His drives have become more consistent, his woods are a weapon, and his chipping is the best part of his game relative to his index. That he broke the \$2K barrier on the plus side did not hurt either (although it did not appear to be much of a consideration based on ballot

comments). He recovered from his bridge teaching duties more quickly this year than in the past. The key to Larry's improvement might be that he increased his rounds played by 75%! And, since he plans on working less and playing golf more, there is a good chance he will continue to improve. Congratulations to Larry! This is his second M.I.G.A.

### **Sixes and Private Match Highlights:**

#### Schneiders

2/11 # 12: Neil and Larry won all six holes playing against Victor and Bob J at High Ridge. The key hole was a par 3 with Vic getting a shot and scoring a 4 for 3, but Neil sank a 12-footer for birdie.

2/26 # 13: Neil and David Schneidered Howard and Bob J at Stonebridge. The key hole was the next to last, #17, a stroke hole for all (but Neil), where David made a double sandy par by sinking a 20-footer to win by a shot. The other 5 holes were no contest. (This was Neil's second Schneider and Bob J's 2nd time being Schneidered in two weeks.) Neil played 26 rounds in 2017. Two of them included Schneiders.

3/28 # 14: Marshall and Marc Vs Stan and Howard at Boca Rio. Marshall and Marc won two of the first five holes with a bogie, and the others with par, 0.5 under par and a birdie. On the last hole of the match (actually #15), Marc's 5 for 4 pipped Stan's 5 for 4.5! (Marc's index had risen so high that he was getting a half more than Stan in the sixes!). Howard had pressed the back, alone, so he lost a record \$160 (Stan lost \$120, and Marshall and Marc won the first and only "pressed back" \$10-\$10-\$20 Schneider, for a record \$140).

4/13 #15 - Almost: Stan and Marshall Vs Mike B and Yossi at WCC. Stan records a birdie, net birdie and two net pars (an out-of-body-experience), followed by Marshall out-putting Mike B for par on #17. With Stan and Marshall stroking on #18, Marshall missed his 5.5 footer for par. Mike B then made his 5 footer for par to tie Marshall and avoid the Schnide.

#### Zip Codes

After a dearth of new Zip codes, we had three this year.

1/24 Larry Vs Vic: W-W-W-W-L- L-W-W-W = +5+3+1+3+1 = 53131 = Franklin, WI

10/23 Larry Vs Vic again. Vic lost the first 8 holes, but won the 9th = +7+5+3+1-1 = 75311 = can't find a zip code for that one.

10/26 David Vs Gary W-W-L-L-W-W-L-L-W = 3+1+1+3+1 = 31131 = Parish, NY  
(Two in the same week!)

Anal Tour members are invited to investigate all possible zip code results and the Great Organizer will review the archives to see whether we have achieved all them.

Worst Press Won? Gary and Marshall pressed Mike B and Bob S on the easy, par 5, 15th hole at WCC. No shots. Gary and Marshall won the hole with a bogey six.

## Parking Lot Bob Job

Mike M had Bob J both shot 94. Bob's was a net 83.5. Mike M won \$70 and Bob J lost \$70.

David was 13 over par playing in a match with Bob J and then two over par over the next 12 holes playing against Bob J. So Bob J lost all three sixes, -\$120, shooting a 93, while Larry won \$35 shooting a 96.

## The Boca Tour Strokes Calculator

In January, 2016, Bob S developed an Excel file that calculated adjusted course handicaps for each player based on his USGA index, and on USGA course and slope ratings according to tee box. Differences in handicaps were then converted to strokes for sixes play by dividing by three and rounding to the nearest half stroke. After early resistance, Tour members gradually improved their score posting habits, and the use of the Excel file became "standard," replacing historical "stroking" schemes.

In early 2017, the Boca Tour Strokes Calculator was greatly improved by customizing strokes for each specific sixes match. In doing so, stroke differences between the two teams are "perfected" for each match, while each player receives (as closely as possible) his "correct" number of strokes over the entire 18 holes relative to each other player. The Calculator enables players to choose their preferred tee box, is easy to use and provides accurate results. The Commish thinks Bob's work is EXCELlent.

By year-end 2017, compliance with score posting has improved greatly, and is being observed (as it should be) in almost all cases. Everyone is now on GHIN except for Larry and Marshall – who are using My Scorecard (which uses course/slope ratings that are erroneous in some cases). They are encouraged to convert to GHIN in 2018.

## The News of the Year in Review

- David allowed his golf cart to slide into a swamp.
- Hole-outs or chip-ins or Becker putting? Whatever they are called it's sinking a shot from off the green. Mike B and Bruce holed out on the same hole. Gary holed out on consecutive holes. Gary "chipped-in," in 3 consecutive rounds. All Tour firsts.
- Neil shot a 75, the lowest Tour round of the year, pipping Mike M's 76.
- Bruce shot back to back 79's on Tour and sandwiched in an off Tour 79 between them -- make that a triple decker!
- Mike M played the Tour's first "Double Header" -- he played with one group at 8:50 am and another at 2:00 pm. Played well, too, until about hole 33. Gary, the Tour Iron Man must have been envious, until...
- Starting 10/30, Gary played 16 rounds in 13 days, including 2 rounds a day, 3 days in a row. Six of the 16 were Tour rounds; ten were with his Chicago golf buddies. On

one of the 36-hole days, his 9-hole scores were, in order, 48-60-39-59. So he played 9 holes shooting in the 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's. That's incredible!

- In March, Mike B, a 10.8, played a couple of rounds where he gave Dave and Larry 1.5 shots per 6, and Gary 2 per six. In October, Mike B, a 16.7, and got 2 shots per 6 holes from Larry. That's a 10.5 stroke per 18 difference. In October, Mike *received* 1 shot from Gary in their private match (*a first*).
- Vic scored the Tour's first 1.5, on a par three where he was getting a half-stroke.
- Gary overslept for a 1:32 tee time at Woodfield -- missed the first hole. (Well, he actually got up around 9:00am, had breakfast and then took a long nap.)
- At BSOC, Larry and Yossi, as opponents, combined for 5 consecutive birdies on holes 7 thru 11: L-L-Y-Y-L. Larry parred #12 to win the match. (Yossi had 3 consecutive birdies last year).
- Mike B and David had 4 birdies in one round (different rounds). "Back in the day," Larry had 5 birdies in a round.
- Larry shot his best round of the year, a 79, playing in a group with Gary, and collected an extra \$35 on their under-80 side bet of \$35 to \$320.
- Gary shot an 83 followed by a reported 113. The 30 stroke difference shattered David's Tour record set last year of a 19 stroke back-to-back difference. The scorecard resides in the S.F.B.P.G.T. Museum for perusal. This is a record that will not be broken. [The actual likely score, if all his strokes counted and he finished the holes where he picked up was estimated to be 122.]
- There were no holes-in-one, no eagles and no s'relhoC (or is it relhoCs?)

### **Tales of Victor** (An ongoing saga) Episode 17 - Sort of like the Star Wars episodes

With his course unavailable, Victor booked a public course called Atlantis. Although Victor chose it, as a safety play, Larry gave everyone in the group the exact address from Google Maps. The 3 non-Victor players showed up on time, easily finding the course. Near tee time, Victor called to say he was lost. Then, he called again, still lost, but closer. Upon arrival he "found" out he had left his golf clubs in his other car. This is similar to Episode 16 recorded in last year's Annual Report.

### **Rounds Report**

Effective 1/1/18, Tour in-season guest fees are raised from a cap of \$90 to a cap of \$95.

### **Special Thanks**

Apropos of the cap, it is past time that we acknowledge and extend a special thank you to our country club hosts who have subsidized their guests over the years -- especially Stan and Alan, whose guest fees far exceed the Tour cap and whose outstanding courses enhance our Tour experience.

The attached spreadsheet, "2017 Annual Golf Stats.xls" details rounds played and money results at various Tour clubs. There is a summary for 2017 and a summary for all 21 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. 247 Tour groups were assembled in 2017, a decrease from 266 in 2016. Similarly, not counting non-Tour members ("Others"), 948 Tour rounds were played in 2017, down from 1004 in 2016. Largest changes from 2016: Larry +51, Mike M +45, Neil +26; Mike B -39, Marc -30, Bernie -25. Gary played the most rounds, 138.

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
					*Record

\*Record

	<b>Money</b>	<b>AVE/Rd</b>	<b>Rounds</b>
<b>Larry</b>	<b>2129</b>	<b>17.89</b>	<b>119</b>

Dave	963	9.00	107
Neil	865	33.27	26
Mike B	510	4.43	115
Alan	215	26.88	8
Others	205	29.29	7
Marc	140	17.50	8
Steve	100	16.67	6
Gary	-25	-0.18	139
Joe	-130	-26.00	5
Bob S	-150	-3.26	46
Yossi	-255	-8.50	30
Bruce	-190	-7.60	25
Mike M	-400	-5.19	77
Howard	-600	-11.76	51
Victor	-730	-11.59	63
Stan	-845	-24.85	34
Bob J	-859	-11.93	72
Marsh	-943	-18.86	50
	0		988