

South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

2016 Annual Report

Membership

Mike Mancini, (Mike M), a friend of both Bobs, joined the Tour.

Last year, Bob S had a partially torn Achilles tendon and missed 3-1/2 months. This year Bob S had complications from surgery for an aneurysm in his legand missed 3-1/2 months. The silver lining – both years, he missed out on summer golf in Florida.

Of Courses

Gleneagles CC - Gary Cohler moved to Gleneagles and became a golf member in August. Along with Howard Perlman's in-season membership, Gleneagles became a frequently played course.

Mizner CC -- underwent a makeover will be ready for play in January, 2017.

In Utah, during an 11-day period, Mike Larry Bernie Victor Yossi Gary David played 43 Tour rounds. And, a good time was had by all.

The summer season again afforded Tour members an opportunity to play many nearby country club courses. Reciprocal Tour play included Bear Lakes (1x), Boca CC (1x), Boca Woods (4x), Deer Creek (2x), The Falls (1x), Hunter's Run (1), Ibis (8x), Quail Ridge (6x), Polo Club (5x), Seagate (2x) and Weston.

Financial Report – Tour Leader

Tour Leader

Picture a year where the last putt on the last hole of the last round of the year determines the Tour Leader. That actually happened in 2016!

In other respects as well, 2016 was another year with a remarkable Tour Leader race. There were 38 Tour lead changes in 2016, more than in the previous seven years combined! (See data at end.) Leading at one time or other were: Gary, Marshall, Mike B, Yossi, Alan, Bernie, Larry, Bob S and David.

David took the Tour lead on November 4th, and on December 9th had bloomed to a high of +\$1,250, with Mike in 2nd at +\$683 and Gary 3rd at +\$420. It seemed that David would cruise to another Tour Leader win. But he started leaking \$10 bills. With 12 days left, his lead had shrunk to +\$1,088 to Mike's +\$878 and Gary's +\$639. The next round Mike took the lead going +\$180 when David lost \$65. Then Gary had a +205 day and another day where he Schneidered David. With Gary now in second place, the three of

them met on 12/26 for a showdown. Mike shot an 82, and swept the sixes and privates to win \$225 (big Tour win of the year). The swing put Mike ahead of them both by over \$400. With two rounds left for Mike, and three left for Gary and David, it now looked like Mike could not be caught.

Mike, Gary, David and Victor met for the last round of the year at BSOC, with Mike \$294 ahead of Gary, and David a worn out distant third. When they arrived on the 18th tee, Gary, had pulled about even with Mike (no one did the official calculations involving the sixes and private matches but Mike was actually still ahead by \$4).

After Gary made a par on #18 (shooting an 86), the Tour leadership would depend on the result of Mike's private match with David. If David could take the same number of putts as Mike, Gary would be king of the mountain. Mike putted his 60 footer to a gimmie for par. David needed to two putt from 40 feet. David putted past the hole and... missed the four foot comebacker. Gary had made up \$285 of the \$294 difference between them. Mike won the year by \$9! Had David made the putt, Gary would have won by \$1! Every putt makes someone happy. Congrats to Mike on winning by the closest of margins ever. It would have been a far better story had Gary climbed to the top.

The Bottom of the Barrel

Victor seized last place in his very first round and gradually bottomed out at -\$1,090 on April 8th. He rallied and Howard caught "down" to him a week later. [Victor continued to rally and actually was into the plus column for three months.] Howard headed north in May [but remained south on the leader board at -\$803 over the next six months.] Could anyone go lower? No one challenged him while he was away, although Bob J was - \$690 at the end of November. Howard returned in late November and quickly went further south. He was uncatchable. This year was one of the most mundane "battles" for the bottom in Tour history.

In 2015, Howard played in the "Others" column. In 2016, Howard got his own column in the Tour stats. Welcome to the Tour, Howard!

The Tour results appear at the end.

2016 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 2016 than in 2015? 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 (a record number) who played at least 25 rounds were the Electors. 12 electors voted and two chose not to vote. A majority of SEVEN votes would be required to win the coveted M.I.G.A.

TWO players received votes recognizing improvement:

Gary - [3 votes] (-\$838 in 2015 [25 rounds] +\$999. In 2016 [140 rounds]. Toward year end, his drives went longer and straighter than ever. He drove the lakeside bunkers on WCC #11 and #16 a few times. His already-better-than-his-index short game improved as well. He finished the year strong, lowering his index an incredible 1.7 in the last two weeks. However, his index at year-end was actually higher than at year-beginning.

Mike - [2 votes] (-\$616 in 2015 [152 rounds], +\$1,008 in 2015 [154 rounds]. Mike also finished the year strong, taking off 1 stroke from his index in the final two weeks. His yearly average declined from 88.57 to 88.33. Mike finished the year with a 12.6 index, two strokes lower than when he started the year.

No One - [7 votes] - Almost every player had some hot streaks. Briefly, just looking at indexes, Bob S was a 4.0, Alan was a 6.7 and Mike B a 10.4. But, overall, No One was hot all year. And the Electors agreed. This is the fourth year No One has won. Congratulations to No One. (See list at end.)

The News of the Year in Review

- Gary scored a personal best 79 at Quail Ridge (finally breaking 80), Bob S shot an annual Tour best of 74. Maybe best of the decade, too.
- Mike notched his 4th hole-in-one, off Tour in Utah. His first was in 2009.
- Larry scored an eagle on the par 5, BSOC #16. His second shot, a three wood, came to rest 5-feet from a front right pin and he sank the putt. Joe had an eagle on the par 5, SBCC #13. Inches on the green, he sank a 20 footer. .
- Mike had two personal bests (same round): 2-under gross in a sixes match; and a 2-under 34 for 9-holes. Mike remembers a 33 was scored on Tour at least once, but not who scored it.
- This year, at WCC, playing the 6550 yard medal tees, Bob S reached three par 5s in two [#6, #11 and #15), not in the same round.
- A number of golfers groan or curse when they hit a bad shot. Bob S did one of his groans on a tee shot to a par three. The ball wound up an inch from the cup!
- Mike had a rare "double skippee." WCC #16 par 4: skipped out of lake on tee shot; skipped out of (same) lake on second shot; up and down for par. Mike also had consecutive double hits using his L-wedge. That's not easy to do!
- Bob S played golf 10 days in a row! While not all Tour rounds, it crushes Larry's record of 8 days set in Utah in 2014.
- Bob S's index fell to 4.0 on July 1 (pre summer surgery). Incredible! His year-end handicap was 7.2. Just another player whose handicap when down, only to go up.

- Mike B Marshall Mike M and Marc played a round together. This was a Tour first. Do you see why?
- Larry won his 18-hole match with Marc on hole #10, (the earliest it can be done). But he won "9 and 8, having tied #9."

Sixes and Private Match Highlights:

On December 23rd, Marshall and Gary recorded the eleventh Schneider in Tour history against David and Howard. The day's money swing between Gary and David (\$245), enabled Gary to pass David in the standings in a contested Tour Leader race.

Mike, Larry, Victor and Bob J recorded a round where all three sixes matches were \$0. Ties the record.

On 3/31, Larry and Bob S played Mike and Yossi at BSOC. Mike and Yossi scored a par, 0.5 under par, par on the first three holes and lost them all (to birdie, net birdie, birdie). Larry and Bob S went on to par the next three holes to finish 3-under. An up and down from the sand by Mike saved a Schneider.

Vic beat Marc 9/7/5 on the back 9 at BSOC (Marc "stopped the presses," otherwise it would have been a Kerby.)

Larry and Gary teamed up to record a new zip code in their private match. From Larry's vantage point: W-W-L-L-W-W-W-W-L = +3, +1, +3, +1, -1. 31311 is the Zip code of...Warren, Michigan.

Yossi had three birdies in a row! -- #13, 14 and 15 at WCC. But his team only tied the sixes match with 1-under par gross.

David, (with Mike cheering him on), played the first six holes at WCC in 1 under gross, 3.5 under net, and lost \$10. His opponents, Bob S and Marc played in 4 under net. David's 3.5 under net individually may be a record. We know Gary and Victor recorded 5 under net on the same six holes, but don't have the breakdown between them. (Of course, being under par net requires a very good golfer to be a member of the group.)

The relhoC Returns!

The relhoC originated many years ago when Gary asked his distance to the pin. Mike measured it and replied, "159 yards to the pin Gar'." Gary took a mighty swing and the ball went backwards. David then said, "160 to the pin Gar'."

So a relhoC became hitting the ball backwards [while trying to advance it] without hitting another object or backward movement caused by gravity. Tour relhoCs are rarer than Tour holes in one! Coming into 2016, there were three Tour relhoCs, with the last one occurring in 2012. Gary had them all using his cherished #4 hybrid.

This year, Bob J broke through with an unusual one: his ball lay near boards overlooking a water hazard, having barely cleared such hazard on the previous stroke. He had no real stance, and was forced to play the ball from behind where his feet stood. He topped the ball, causing it to pop up slightly before landing behind him and rolling into the water.

During the NEXT Tour round, I mentioned Jones' achievement to Bruce on the tee. On that hole, Bruce found his tee shot in a scruffy lie in the rough. His wood topped the ball and it spun backwards TWO yards. This is the all-time record distance for a relhoC. Congrats to Bruce.

Tales of Victor (An ongoing saga) Episode 16

Larry writes: "...I called Victor at 9 A.M. to make sure he knew it was Gleneagles 9:54 (thinking he was likely confused by all of the emails with Stonebridge times). He said he knew.

At 9:35 on the range, I got a call from Victor at the gate. He didn't have his license and they needed Gary to drive to the gate to pick him up. Two minutes later, he called again to say not to bother, because he didn't have his clubs either. So, he went home to get both. Gary got the tee time moved back to 10:10. Gary blamed me for not mentioning on my 9 A.M. call to also tell Victor he needed clubs and his license.

At 10:00, Victor called again from the gate. He couldn't find his license (still). Also, he couldn't find his clubs (apparently he left them at Woodfield). But, he had a backup set of clubs now. The gate said Gary needs to come and get him. Two minutes later, Victor found his license and they let him in."

Biggest Parking Lot Job Ever

Larry played a round where he shot 83 and Mike 89. They played their private match even and played even in the sixes. All of Larry's partners played poorly with him and well against him. Larry lost \$200 on the day. Mike won \$80. And Mike beat Larry in his 12-hole private match with him by one hole.

Rounds Report

In November, Tour in-season guest fees in 2016 were raised from a cap of \$85 to a cap of \$90.

There being no more hosting, Mike attempted to get hosts with a debit or credit back to zero. This was partially achieved. Hosts with debits and credits will be informed.

The attached spreadsheet, "2016 Annual Golf Stats.xls" details rounds played and money results at various Tour clubs. There is a summary for 2016 and a summary for all 20 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. 266 Tour groups were assembled in 2016, an increase from 215 in 2015. Similarly, not counting non-Tour members ("Others"), 1004 Tour rounds were played in 2016, up from 804 Tour Rounds in 2015. The HUGE increases in groups and rounds is due to the addition of Howard and Mike M to the Tour and Gary's return from the D.L.

Now that hosting is finished, for the record, here is the history of current and former Hosts:

(in chronological order, from 1996) -- Tour player hosts were:

Mike Becker

Larry Cohen

Lee Rautenberg

Bernie Miller

Neil Silverman

Barnet Shenkin

Steve Levinson

Russ Ekeblad

Drew Casen

Marshall Hall

Marc Culberson

Victor Markowicz

Joe Machotka

~~ all the above began hosting in 2003 or earlier ~~ Then,...

Stan Tulin

David Berkowitz

Steve Sanborn

Bruce Rogoff

Alan Osofsky

Joe "Yossi" Ende

The ONLY current Tour Member who has never been a Tour host or a CC member at one time or another is Mike Mancini! Howard came a year too late to host.

Using Golf Indexes

This was the first year the sixes were handicapped (mostly) by players' indexes rather than private match results. While it was a slight improvement, it would have worked better if everyone actually recorded their scores and maintained an index. Thanks to those who kept up with inputting their scores. No thanks to the others, but please resolve to do it in 2017! There may be sanctions for laggards!

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Mike

The Great Organizer

[See below](#)

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

	Money	AVE/Rd	Rounds
Mike B	1008	6.55	154
Gary	999	7.14	140
Dave	673	5.56	121
Alan	575	63.89	9
Larry	257	3.78	68
Bob S	242	4.17	58
Joe	220	24.44	9
Steve	195	17.73	11
Others	135	4.22	32
Marshall	59	0.92	64
Mike M	-139	-4.63	30
Bernie	-266	-10.64	25
Bruce	-277	-27.70	10
Yossi	-389	-12.16	32
Victor	-442	-6.14	72
Marc C	-539	-14.18	38
Bob J	-605	-8.18	74
Stan	-628	-20.26	31
Howard	-1078	-18.91	57

Tour Leader Stats

GC	45	1-Jan	Yellow = New High
MH	110	2-Jan	
MB	166	11-Jan	
Y	120	14-Jan	
AO	140	18-Jan	
BM	170	25-Jan	
Y	240	29-Jan	
AO	290	4-Feb	
MB	326	8-Feb	
Y	345	9-Feb	
MH	405	11-Feb	
LC	434	21-Feb	
AO	390	23-Feb	
MB	414	25-Feb	
LC	434	26-Feb	
AO	400	1-Mar	
LC	549	3-Mar	
MB	449	4-Mar	
LC	409	5-Mar	
AO	400	8-Mar	
LC	419	11-Mar	
AO	400	12-Mar	
LC	444	31-Mar	649 4/4-
AO	440	15-Apr	
BS	509	12-May	
MB	489	25-Jun	
BS	472	27-Jun	
GC	643	5-Aug	
BS	467	19-Aug	
GC	494	20-Aug	
BS	467	27-Aug	
DB	484	13-Sep	839 9/23-
GC	744	10-Oct	
DB	764	11-Oct	850 10/15-
GC	882	10-Oct	987 10/29-
DB	764	4-Nov	1250 12/9-
MB	1058	19-Dec	
DB	1068	20-Dec	
MB	1033	22-Dec	1258 12/26