

South Florida Bridge Player's Golf Tour

2015 Annual Report

Membership

Howard Perlman will become a Gleneagles member from January thru April, 2016.

Gary Cohler played ten rounds thru February 6th, then suffered a torn rotator cuff by slipping in his flooded apartment. He returned to play in late December.

Bob S had an Achilles problem in February, played through it, and then had an MRI in July, which showed a partially torn Achilles. He then missed three and a half months.

With the loss of Gary and Bob S, the number of Tour rounds, especially summer rounds, dropped sharply.

Of Courses

Quail Ridge CC remained on Tour when Bob J renewed his summer membership.

Stonebridge CC began reconstruction in mid-February. The \$6 million! makeover was finished in mid-December. The course is much improved and more playable. Some in-season reciprocal rounds were played as a result of Stonebridge's closing.

Woodfield CC underwent a re-do of its practice facility over the out-of-season months.

The summer season again afforded Tour members an opportunity to play many nearby country club courses. Reciprocal Tour play included Bocaire, Boca West, Boca Woods (2x), Deer Creek (4x), Delaire (2x), The Falls (2x), Gleneagles (4x), Hunter's Run (5x), Indians Springs (2x), Mizner (3x), Polo Club (9x), Polo Trace (3x), Royal Palm (2x), St. Andrews, and 10 Utah courses (15x).

Financial Report – Tour Leader

~~ The last three years saw the Tour Leader Award go down to the wire. ~~

Tour Leader

Marshall, then David, Others, Bob S and Bruce were Tour Leaders thru the first four months of the year. On 5/26, Bruce, the Tour Leader, led David by \$169. Two rounds later, David led Bruce by \$331. Yes, that's a \$500 swing in two rounds! Bruce never returned to the top of the heap. David never relinquished it. By the end of October, David had cruised to the top of the Tour Leader board at +1,542 (a record plus). The nearest contender was Yossi at +\$681. But,...by mid-December, David had dropped to +\$953 and Yossi stood at +\$906. Yossi left for "Chile and Antarctica" until the new year.

On December 25th the standings were tighter: Dave +\$936, Yossi +\$906, Bob S +\$769 Bruce +\$679. David had 4 rounds to play, Bob S 2, and Bruce 1, and they would play their rounds against one another. This had the makings of a great finish. But,...it never got closer than that. David won \$425 over his next four rounds to easily capture his FOURTH Tour Leader Award. Congratulations to David!

The Undercard

Gary started the year in record form. After seven rounds he was -\$718. Some might pray for rain, [be careful what you wish for], but not Gary. He won his next three rounds to go down to -\$558 before going on the DL. So -\$558 became the number to beat. It would take months to challenge this number. The first to undertake Gary was Victor, in April. Then Mike fell below Victor in July. Stan went lower than Gary in late October. But the bottom was too full to hold them all. Mike won \$710 in six rounds! to go from -\$1,344 to -\$634 as Stan slumped to -\$809 to take over last place before the Fall Nationals. Victor rescued Stan by losing \$825 while Stan played in the FLL Regional in mid-December. Vic had secured a permanent grip on last. [Gary returned to Tour play on December 27th, but there were not enough rounds left for Gary to catch Victor, although he tried valiantly. Gary lost an average of \$69.83 per round in his injury-shortened year.]

2015 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 2015 than in 2014? 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."

Twelve Tour Members who played at least 25 rounds were the Electors.

Ten electors voted, one chose not to vote and one could not be reached. A majority of SIX votes would be required to win the coveted M.I.G.A.

FOUR players received votes recognizing improvement:

David - [3 votes] (-\$1,305 in 2014, +\$1,353 in 2015) brought his handicap down about two shots. Always a good clutch putter, all the other aspects of his game improved. "He hits it farther than he used to and his play is more consistent throughout the bag."

Yossi - [3 votes] (-\$1,135 in 2014, +\$906 in 2015) played only 25 rounds in 2015 and won at an astonishing rate of \$36.24 a round). He started the year as a 12 HCP and finished as a 9.3. Always a great putter, the rest of his game fell into place. He returned to the form he last displayed about three years ago.

Bruce - [2 votes] significantly improved his putting and chipping. The rest of his game is solid. He still has upside (on this Tour, a rarity). His handicap at the beginning and the end of the year was unchanged (about an 8). One member (guess who) writes,

"Bruce has made a real effort to improve in certain areas of the game (mostly his short game and course management), and has succeeded. I expect his improvements will stick with him, and enable him to continue improving as his ball striking gets better. He needs some lessons on the fundamentals of ball striking and the swing. He is a good enough athlete that once he "get this",

he will be quite a good player. An inspection of Bruce's divots reveals what his swing flaws are. He needs a smart pro. They are hard to find."

Bob J [1-vote] I am wordless as to why anyone would think he improved.

No One - [1 vote]

The upshot of having too many worthy candidates was that No One won. This is the third time No One has won. The way the rules are written, If you're gonna improve, do it in a year where no one else improves. Congratulations to No One.

The News of the Year in Review

- Mike scored a hole-in-one at WCC, holing out on #17 from 130 yards. This is the 8th on-Tour hole-in-one. Mike has three of them!
- Bob S had four eagles this year. (A lifetime's worth for most of us). Three were off tour at Ibis. His on-Tour eagle occurred on #5 at Woodfield, holing out from 92 yards.
- Bruce eagled #7 at the Old Course. His drive rested an inch from the green. He sank his putt to a middle pin.
- Mike eagled #15 at Woodfield, holing out from 78 yards. In this round he scored a personal best 5 over his age -- a 76. David's 77 was merely the second lowest score of the round!
- David shot a 76 at Woodfield, tying his personal best low score.
- David scored 3 consecutive 39's.
- Dave and Mike recorded the **tenth** Schneider in Tour History against Bob J and his guest, Mike Mancini, at, alas, \$5-\$5-\$10.
- Stan beat Bob S scratch with an 87 at Boca Rio. (Maybe this should have been the headline.)
- David shot a 79 and 98 back to back -- a Tour volatility record. Mike shot a 76 and 98 (not back to back but in the same week).
- Mike, Bob S, Marshall and David played the par 5 first hole at Woodfield. The latter three had birdies and Mike a bogey. With Bob S giving shots to the others, the net scores were 4, 3, 3, 5 = 15: 5 below par; 2 under par gross. FYI - The gross record for a foursome is 3 below par, on the par 3, 5th hole at Mizner: 2-2-2-3

- Marshall notched 5 pars in a row. Sadly, he couldn't remember when or if he ever did that before.
- At Seagate, Larry, Gary, Bob J and Steve, perhaps the 4 fastest players on Tour, played 18 holes in 3:06, a record. (Besting Mike-Larry-Alan-Gary in 3:12 at WCC last year)
- Without Gary, there were no side bets, no Relhocs and no Zipcodes.
- The most Tour rounds were played by Mike, 147. David, with 107 rounds was next.

[The Last] Home & Away Rounds Report for Hosts

Hosting has become too complicated for the aging Great Organizer. Here is the "final" hosting report. Imbalances will be balanced out in 2016.

In season guest fees in 2016 will be capped at \$85, but some may choose to privately pay more.

As for 2015, Alan, Bernie, David, Mike, Bruce, Stan, Victor and Yossi were the Tour Hosts in 2015. Golf Central tracked host home and away rounds.

The attached spreadsheet, "2015 Annual Golf Stats.xls" details the number of guests playing at a host's home club -Vs- the number of times that member played at other host's clubs. There is a summary for 2015 and a summary for all 20 years combined.

The home and away summary assumes cash players paid the member for their greens fees. 215 Tour groups were assembled in 2015, down from 227 in 2014. 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. Not counting non-Tour members, 804 Tour rounds were played in 2015, only four less than the 808 rounds played in 2014. Decreases in productivity by Gary and Bob S were nearly offset by increases Bob J, Larry, Marshall, Marc and Mike. Bob J, writing about bridge instead of directing bridge, played a personal most of 69 Tour rounds. Joe Machotka (1) and Alan Osofsky (3) and Steve (6) played fewer Tour rounds than the few they played in 2014.

Much of this section will disappear from the Annual Report next year. Happily.

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

*
Record

2015	Money	AVE/Rd	Rounds
Dave	1353	12.64	107
Yossi	906	36.24	25
Bob S	784	18.23	43
Bruce	579	15.65	37
Others	420	12.73	33
MarcC	289	4.90	59
Alan	185	61.67	3
Steve	179	29.83	6
Joe	50	50.00	1
Larry	-30	-0.33	91
Bernie	-67	-2.39	28
Marsh	-269	-4.48	60
Bob J	-448	-6.49	69
Mike	-616	-4.08	151
Gary	-838	-69.83	12
Stan	-849	-21.23	40
Victor	-1628	-22.00	74
	0		839