

2003 Annual Golf Report

January 1, 2004

Home & Away Rounds Report

The enclosed details the number of guests playing at a "member's" home club -vs- the number of times that member played at other clubs, and where everyone played. There is a summary for 2003 and a summary for all seven years combined.

In 2003, there were 554xxx recorded rounds, up from 580 the year before. (Counting only rounds by hosts and members). Some members count twice: i.e. - when Mike and his friend Bruce played abroad, Mike was counted twice. The home and away summary assumes "others" (non-members) paid the member for their greens fees. I included 53 groups that I did not play in. If you reported your round, I recorded your round.

Marc Culberson made up a deficit of 26.5 rounds by paying cash all year and hosting 27 rounds and most of us went minus rounds as a result. Mark Molson became a host but was able to get only one group to his club all year. In 2004, he is a guest. Joe Machotka joined the group and put Mizner back on our tour.

Greens fees differ significantly from club to club and by season and I took neither into account. What this means is by comping each other we wind up paying our home guest fee rates when we play at other courses. For example, in season, when Neil hosts Larry at Coral Ridge, Neil pays \$125 for Larry. When Larry hosts Neil at Boca Greens, Larry pays \$53 for Neil. But who would want to play Coral Ridge and pay \$125?

Financial Report

John Griscom won a breathtaking tight race for first place in the money. This is the first time someone other than John Lewis has won the overall money title. Griscom's win gives hope to the rest of us.

As far as the 2003 betting went, I kept track of money gained or lost, which speaks for itself. It was a year of average volatility. Our thanks go to Victor Markowicz for not taking as many strokes as he deserves. Enclosed are the betting results since I moved to FL in 1996.

Also find a page showing your money performance at particular clubs over the last three years. Some of these numbers are surprising, (some hosts lose at home) but overall, it appears random where golfers win and lose.

If anyone is interested, it would be my pleasure to provide (by fax or downloadable email) the round by round records used to generate the home and away results and the money results.

2003 M.I.G.A.

T'was a close question who should receive the Most Improved Golfer Award,

Of 12,000 strokes taken this year, I took 570 strokes less than last year over 138 rounds, averaging 86.94 vs. 91.10 in 2002. I peaked in April with an 8.7 HCP created by 14 rounds in a row between 80 and 87. I had my best round(s) - two 77's.

John Griscom became the first person other than John Lewis to hold the top money winner spot at the end of the year. John also shot a 72, one under his age, and averaged (IMO) just under 80 all summer. Mark Molson also topped John Lewis in the money list and had a higher per round rate of return than John Lewis.

After careful consideration, your self-appointed selection panel, (me) thinks that beating John Lewis in the money stats is like beating Nick Nickell in a major. And, John also gave me a wonderful Christmas present ... So I was about to award the 2003 M.I.G.A. to John Griscom, again, when my authority was usurped. Behind my back, Larry conducted an Internet vote (he polled the golfers who often played with the relevant candidates), and I was awarded the M.I.G.A. by a majority of those responding. I am almost wordless. Thanks one and all bestowing this treasured award on humble me.

Minor Reports (Retorts?) or a P.S. (for Poor Sportsmanship)

Like Larry did last year, I was thinking of giving out some awards in other categories: grouchiest golfer, tardiest golfer, golfer most often last to respond to emails, golfer who whines most about strokes, golfer who is most likely to bend the rules of golf, golfer most likely in motion or making noise while others are hitting, ...but what's the point? I think you all know who you are and it's up to you to try to improve ...please.

If I may preach a little more: when we go out to play a round of golf we want to play well and have a good time. Some of you (occasionally and inadvertently) hinder others in their efforts to have a good time. Please try to improve. Also, arriving at the last minute is not fair to the others. Allow for traffic, lines at the gate, travel to the range, getting water, arranging bets, etc. -- these all take time.

Rules of Golf

Enclosed find the South Florida Golf Tour Rules of Golf. Our rules. This contains some exceptions to the actual, inferior rules of golf played worldwide. These rules were drawn up by Larry and I, and represent a consensus of the group's thinking on these technicalities. Put a copy in your golf bag.

Happy New Year!

Mike

The Great Organizer (Should I change my email address to MigaMike?)

South Florida Golf Tour Rules of Golf

A) Rules of golf **not followed** to the letter of the Laws:

- 1) Ball in your own fairway in a divot can be lifted and dropped.
- 2) Ball in an "obvious" poor spot in a mown area (fairway or rough) that clearly should be circled as ground under repair can be removed. Must be agreed by all playing partners. Default is "no drop" -- must get agreement/acknowledgment from playing partner to get a drop. Does not apply if out in the "boondocks" -- see B5
- 3) If practice swing moves a leaf, tree, etc. no penalty -- but try not to abuse
- 4) If ball moves when being addressed or taking a practice swing, no penalty -- just replace.
- 5) If *accidentally* ground club in hazard, no penalty -- try not to abuse
- 6) Accidental Provisional: If you presume your ball is lost, out of bounds, in the hazard, etc., hit another, and then find your original ball, you play your original ball, even if you "forgot" to announce "Provisional," whether your replacement ball is a good shot or not. You **MUST** play the original if anyone finds it.
- 7) Ball hits golf cart -- no penalty -- no rehit -- play where the ball ends up.
- 8) Gimme's and Mulligans: Up to the host -- announced on first tee. Default rule if no announcement is: Optional mulligan only on first tee, and gimme's inside the leather.
- 9) Tee off from wrong tee. If 1 person does it, can rehit with no penalty. If 2 people do it, then that tee is established as the tee for everyone.
- 10) **Lost ball** -- If the ball goes into an area that has plain grass "around it," and everyone sees where it went, then it is "lost" with penalty, but doesn't need 5 minutes to be found. As long as there is a place to drop within 2 club lengths or on a direct line (behind) with pin then it can be deemed "found." Take the drop and 1 shot penalty. This would not apply if a ball went into Outer Mongolia -- like deep woods -- then #B1 below applies. Example of this rule applying would be left of #18 at BG, or into deep thick grass on #15 at Mizner. (See C3)

B) Rules of golf **followed** to the letter of the Laws:

- 1) **Lost ball but not as in #10 above** -- total rules of golf apply -- if not marked as a lateral hazard, then it is a 1-stroke penalty and must rehit. (same as out of bounds) (See C3)

2) **Root/tree** -- total rules of golf. If you don't want to break your wrist (or club), take a penalty stroke and a proper drop.

3) **Out of Bounds** -- total rules of golf. But, "marginal" cases resolved in golfer's favor. Marginal means if it is "right on the line" and can't really tell, then it is IN. If the stake appears to be slightly misplaced, too bad. The stake determines the outcome. Draw a line between the 2 white stakes -- if it is out, it is out. Out of bounds stakes cannot be removed. If swing is impeded, too bad. If the grass is cut so that the out of bounds appears by the cut of the grass to be inbounds -- too bad. If the host cites a local rule (such as on #6 at Boca CC the hedges on the left are O.B. regardless of where the stake actually is placed), then that always takes precedence. A ball is O.B. if it resides on any property that is not part of the golf course (a street, someone's back yard).

4) **Lateral hazards** -- Totally as per rules of golf. You must drop using where the ball crossed as the guideline. No liberal misuse of this rule by dropping too far up..

5) **In the "boondocks"** -- Bad lies in areas that don't get mowed (beyond the rough) are tough luck. Tire tracks, ruts, loose branches, etc. -- take an unplayable lie and a penalty stroke.

6) **Noise disruption.** If someone was talking in our group or if a horn or siren or other extraneous noise sounds ...tough luck. Try not to talk or make noise while others are hitting.

7) **Sandtraps.** They are hazards. No moping required. If unraked, footprint, etc. -- tough luck. If in puddle (and agreed in advance), can take *drop in trap*.

C) Other

1) **Hitting wrong ball.** We do not follow rules of golf here. If it is discovered before the next shot, the shot is replayed (whether good or bad). The player who should have hit just drops his own ball in the spot it should have been. If it isn't discovered until later (after both players have hit and moved on,), then both players are disqualified from the hole.

2) **Picking up.** If one player picks up on a hole [a 7x, let's say], and his opponent picks up later, the second player still wins the hole. Even if they both get 7x, the guy who "dropped out" first loses. A player who has picked up cannot go back and rehit after another player has hit a shot in the normal order of play.

3) **Exception to 5-minute rule/lost ball.** If all agree, and a ball is "obviously" in a bush, it is OK to presume it lost, but "found" and can be dropped under normal rules, but with a 1-stroke penalty (unplayable lie). No reason to waste 5 minutes looking. However, if the ball is apparently *more than 2 club lengths in*, the drop can't be off to the side -- must go back and keep the probable point between you and the pin.

4) **Private match vs. team match and conceded putts.** If all 3 people concede a putt, it is good and can't be putted. If one of your match opponents wants to make you putt, it can't be conceded. If the 2 team opponents both want to concede it, but you need the putt for the private match with your own partner, then mark and putt it AFTER your partner putts.

5) **Rain out settlements:** All completed bets (threes, sixes, nines) are payable. All sure wins are payable (up 2 in the match with one to play). Ahead three holes in the sixes with three to go is worth \$5 more. In private matches: use fairness and common sense. (Depends on strokes coming, number of holes remaining) Some examples: Up more than 1/2 the number of remaining holes is worth something towards the match (up 4 with 7 to play or 3 with 5 to play) Up 2 holes or more on a side is worth something on the side with 4 or less to play.

6) **Honor System.** Nobody is ever presumed to lie or intentionally break a rule. If the host says "this is treated as Ground Under Repair," or "this is considered O.B." then it is. If somebody says "We pressed," then they did (even if nobody heard). If they forget to press -- then they forgot -- even if it was "obvious" -- there is no press unless somebody states it.

7) **Disputes.** If any conflict or dispute on above, "common sense" prevails. If still no agreement, then the host makes the ruling.

Disclaimer: These rules have been accepted/admitted over the years as a compilation of the "average" consensus of our group. Not everyone is expected to agree with all rules/interpretations as laid out here, but it is better to have something than nothing. These rules are intended to prevent (not cause) and to settle (not create) disputes. A host can announce on the first tee if any of these rules are to be amended for the day at his course.