

SMI NewsBrief

Monday, January 14, 2019 — Game-day facts compiled by Jack Garrity

Today's Venue

111 senior golfers from the greater Jacksonville area teed it up today at the Jacksonville Golf & Country Club for the 256th match in the Senior Men's Interclub series.

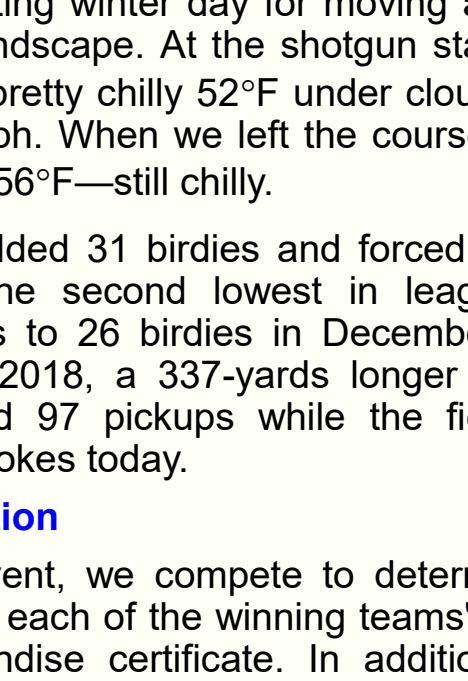
Kudos to the course superintendent, Nate Maurer, CGCS, and his grounds crew for keeping the fairways, rough, hazards, and greens in pristine condition. The entire course glistened and sparkled.

Three huzzahs for Jacksonville's representative, Skip Lunsford, and his head golf professional, Ray Barr PGA, both of whom coordinated today's event. Skip and Ray (*l-r*) delivered pre-round announcements in front of the staging area outside Jacksonville's golf shop before launching 56 carts to their starting tees between 8:52 am and 8:54 am, as planned. Given the length of the cart queues and the measured cart-path distances, we estimate the shotguns for Group 01A starting on the nearest tee to the clubhouse and Group 05B starting on the furthest tee from the clubhouse would differ by 25 minutes.



Thanks to Jacksonville's clubhouse staff for giving us top-notch service under the direction of their General Manager, Paul Craven; Catering Director, Diandra Huffman; and Executive Chef, Mike Ramsey. Gerald Meads help in setting up our scoring operation is especially appreciated.

Our very special thanks and a tip of 111 caps go to Maria (*below*) for hustling around the course with a well stocked supply of snacks and beverages for hungry, thirsty senior golfers.



Special Recognition

Four gentlemen are among a growing list of avid senior golfers who enjoy competition at SMI's level of play.

Two gentlemen played their initial Interclub round:

- Peter Hatch from Marsh Creek
- Imad Hamameh from Palencia.

And two gentlemen earned a hearty round of applause for their milestone rounds:

- Jim White from Palencia played his 25th SMI round
- Larry Warren from Orange Park played his 50th SMI round.

Game Day Setting

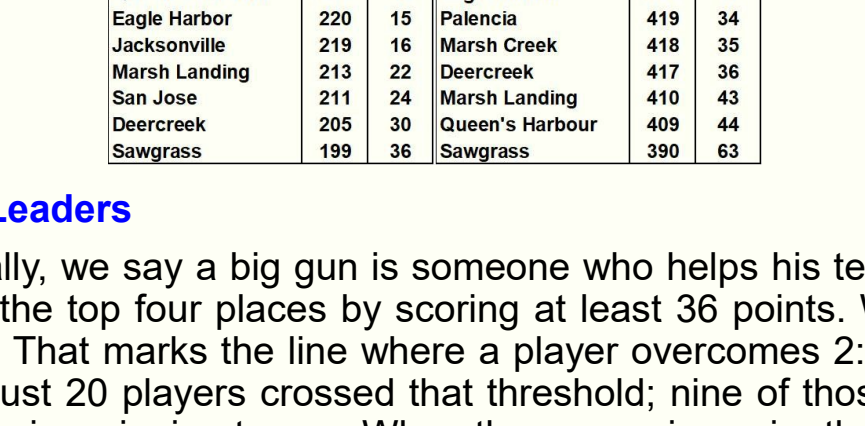
It was an invigorating winter day for moving a golf ball across a well manicured landscape. At the shotgun start the temperature was pegged at a pretty chilly 52°F under cloudy skies with gust-free winds at 9 mph. When we left the course, the thermometer had nudged up to 56°F—still chilly.

Today's layout yielded 31 birdies and forced 62 pickups. Birdie production was the second lowest in league history—Ponte Vedra Inn held us to 26 birdies in December 2010. Last time here, in January 2018, a 337-yards longer course yielded 46 birdies and forced 97 pickups while the field averaged 95.0 strokes vs 93.1 strokes today.

Today's Competition

In the monthly event, we compete to determine the top three teams on the day; each of the winning teams' players receives a golf-shop merchandise certificate. In addition, for each par-3 hole, the player who lands closest to the flagstick receives a sleeve of golf balls.

Charting today's scores against those made in December at Palencia (*below*) suggests today's course, just 34 yards shorter, was a significantly tougher test. While 32.1 percent of the players at Palencia beat their handicaps, only 18.0 percent of the players at Jacksonville measured up. Said another way, the average player at Palencia scored 34.6 points and 2.1 strokes over bogey while the average player at Jacksonville scored 32.5 points and 3.6 strokes more than a bogey player. 11 players reduced their indexes by shooting good scores while 48 players padded their indexes for upcoming events by shooting relatively poor scores.



Today's Leaderboard

The following table compares the order of finish in our previous event to the order of finish today. In first place, Jacksonville edged Osprey Cove and San Jose by a one-point margin while World Golf Village was not up to defending last month's win at Palencia and finished in fifth place.

Compared to last month, seven teams rose and six teams fell with Marsh Creek and Queen's Harbour tumbling six places from last month's ranking.

Team	12/3/2018		Team	1/14/2019	
	Best 6	Rank		Best 6	Rank
World Golf Village	235	1	Jacksonville	221	1
Hidden Hills	232	2	Osprey Cove	221	2
Osprey Cove	232	3	San Jose	221	3
Long Point	227	4	Deercreek	212	4
Orange Park	226	5	World Golf Village	210	5
Marsh Creek	224	6	Orange Park	208	6
Palencia	224	7	Hidden Hills	207	7
Queen's Harbour	222	8	Eagle Harbor	206	8
Eagle Harbor	220	9	Long Point	206	9
Jacksonville	219	10	Marsh Landing	197	10
Marsh Landing	213	11	Palencia	195	11
San Jose	211	12	Marsh Creek	194	12
Deercreek	205	13	Sawgrass	191	13
Sawgrass	199	14	Queen's Harbour	187	14

At Palencia, ten teams exceeded the odds of scoring their team points. This month, no team exceeded the odds of scoring its team points—this was the toughest outing in SMI history! Ideally, we'd like to see seven teams beat the odds and seven teams lose to the odds.

[The full scoreboard is here.](#)

As Tournament Director, Skip Lunsford presented 24 individual merchandise certificates redeemable in Jacksonville's golf shop to the top three teams in the monthly event.

1st place	Jacksonville	\$49 per man
2nd place	Osprey Cove	\$37
3rd place	San Jose	\$25

Osprey Cove and San Jose ended the day in a tie for 2nd place with 221 points apiece. The tie was broken in favor of Osprey Cove by dint of a one-point advantage on the back nine.

Season's Leaderboard

The following table shows how team standings on the season changed over the month. In summary, five teams rose and seven teams fell this month with Queen's Harbour dropping five places.

December 3, 2018				January 14, 2019			
Rank	Team	PTS	PB	Rank	Team	PTS	PB
1	World Golf Village	235	--	1	Osprey Cove	453	--
2	Hidden Hills	232	3	2	World Golf Village	445	8
3	Osprey Cove	232	3	3	Jacksonville	441	12
4	Long Point	227	8	4	Hidden Hills	434	14
5	Orange Park	226	9	5	Orange Park	439	19
6	Marsh Creek	224	11	6	Long Point	433	20
7	Palencia	224	11	7	San Jose	432	21
8	Queen's Harbour	222	13	8	Eagle Harbor	426	27
9	Eagle Harbor	220	15	9	Palencia	419	34
10	Jacksonville	219	16	10	Marsh Creek	418	35
11	Marsh Landing	213	22	11	Deercreek	417	36
12	San Jose	211	24	12	Marsh Landing	410	43
13	Deercreek	205	30	13	Queen's Harbour	409	44
14	Sawgrass	199	36	14	Sawgrass	399	63

Team Leaders

Generally, we say a big gun is someone who helps his team into one of the top four places by scoring at least 36 points. Why 36 points? That marks the line where a player overcomes 2:1 odds. Today just 20 players crossed that threshold; nine of those were on the prize-winning teams. When the course is easier than most on the SMI rotation, you can expect a bevy of players will lie above the 36-point outline. For example, on average each team's seventh player scores 29 points which corresponds to 1:4 odds. Today, 29 players (gasp) scored 29 points or less.

1st Place				2nd Place				3rd Place			
Player	AGS	PTS	ODDS	Player	AGS	PTS	ODDS	Player	AGS	PTS	ODDS
Jacksonville	85	39	2:1	Ward, Tom OC	82	44	2:1	Gillette, Tom SN	84	43	10:1
Si Clair, Wayne JG	92	39	3:1	Wiechert, Ken OC	79	37	2:1	Schroeder, Bill SN	93	41	4:1
Stamper, Brian JG	82	38	3:1	McAllister, Wayne OC	83	36	1:1	Palmer, Roger JG	98	37	2:1
Sheridan, Bill JG	81	37	2:1								
Lunsford, Skip JG											

Individual Leaderboard

Eleven odds-breakers filled the top slots shown on today's individual leaderboard (*below*). In all, 20 players beat the odds associated with their handicap indexes while 68 players failed to match even odds.

POINTS		
44 -- Tom Ward OC		Odds=21:1
43 -- Tom Gillette SN		10:1
41 -- Robert Fairley SG		3:1
41 -- Bill Schroeder SN		4:1
41 -- Mike Manna WG		6:1
39 -- Bob Dewey LP		3:1
32.5 -- Today's average [2018 average=34.5]		
STROKES		
79 -- Ken Wiechert OC		Odds=2:1
80 -- Jay Mueller DC		1:1
80 -- Leigh Livesay JG		1:2
81 -- Skip Lunsford JG		2:1
82 -- Bob Dewey LP		3:1
82 -- Bill Sheridan JG		3:1
93.1 -- Today's average [2018 average=91.5]		

Outstanding Shooters

- Birdies 2 Ryan Andrews OC, Jay Cochran HH
Phil Grosnick DC, Leigh Livesay JG
Ken Wiechert OC
- 31 Today's total (2018 average=62 birdies)

Closest to the Flagstick

Hole 03	Phil Grosnick DC	3' 1"
Hole 06	Rick Jacobs EH	6' 7"
Hole 12	Jay Cochran HH	1' 2.5"
Hole 17	Tom Hern PA	3' 11"

Toughest Holes

On average we record 92 pickups at each event. Today's course drew 62 pickups, the 40th easiest day of 144 recorded events. In comparison, we recorded 26 pickups at Eagle Harbor in 2006 and 31 pickups at Osprey Cove in 2016; the all-time high, 225 pickups, was set at Ponte Vedra Inn on December 10, 2010. Today, holes 2 and 12, the 7th and 6th easiest holes, drew the least number of pickups, 0, while hole 4, the 3rd toughest hole, tallied the most pickups, 8.

Hole	Par	Avg	Birdies	Picks	Bogeys	Others	Pickups
9	4	5.62	0	15	39	51	3
18	4	5.59	2	13	42	51	5
4	4	5.50	1	22	37	43	8
16	5	6.42	3	20	35	50	3
1	5	6.34	0	24	42	38	7
13	4	5.31	0	27	40	38	6

Scorer's Table

The first card was returned to the scorer's table at 1:59 pm which is 24 minutes later than standard. The last card was scanned 51 minutes later at which time the scoring operation was closed and the winners' prizes distributed. Our goal is for the scoring operation to end as soon as the last player returns his card. That did not happen today.

The following table experiences a backlog when it falls behind the inflow of cards to be scanned. If the scanner detects three ID digits, 18 scores, and 39 timing marks per scorecard, the scoring operation can process 112 cards in eight minutes. The process is interrupted when a scorecard fails to meet those criteria; the card is ejected toward the operator who is charged with settling any flaws:

- **Blank response.** If a hole is unscored (no bubble marked), the operator will enter a zero.
- **Multiple responses.** If a hole has two or more bubbles marked, the operator will evaluate which bubble is darkest and enter the corresponding score.
- **Timing mark error.** If the scanner detects more or less than 39 timing marks, the operator will verify that the ID and hole-by-hole scores are marked correctly. Commonly, when more than 39 timing marks are detected, the operator observes stray marks along the bottom row. When less than 39 timing marks are detected, it is usually due to the card being trimmed wider than the feed path.

Today 22 cards were ejected for exception handling and the operator evaluated 26 scores: 22 were due to marker's errors (no response or multiple responses) and 4 were due to the scanner failing to detect visible marks which seemed to come from a hard pencil, not the yellow #2HB-soft pencil placed in each cart. Only 34 of 56 yellow pencils were returned to the scorer's table.

In league history, an average of 31 cards were ejected for exception handling; the least number of cards ejected was 8, the largest number was 87. Generally, higher numbers are due to hard pencils supplied by the course or overly wide cards issued by the league.

Performance Forecast

Since November 2016, we have predicted the order of finish for each SMI match. Make of it what you will but our record is at least as accurate as the annual Punxsutawney Phil forecast. It certainly beats odds makers in Las Vegas and handicappers at the Orange Park Kennel Club.

This month, as shown in the following table, we correctly picked two of four in the upper bracket, two of five in the middle bracket, and three of five in the lower bracket. While the correlation coefficient (p) between forecast and actual rankings for last year's Jacksonville match was very strong (p=+0.94), today's correlation was moderate (p=+0.46). Our model behaved poorly for last year's Sawgrass match when it resulted in a negative correlation (p=-0.22) on the borderline between moderate and weak. We're still looking to refine our forecasting model.

Forecast						Outcome					
Rank	Team	Pts	Rank	Team	Pts						
1	SN	243	1	JG	222						
2	JG	243	2	OC	221						
3	SG	240	3	SN	221						
4	WG	239	4	DC	212						
5	WG	237	5	WG	210						
6	HH	236	6	OP	208						
7	ML	236	7	HH	207						
8	EH	231	8	EH	206						
9	OC	230	9	LP	206						
10	MC	227	10	ML	197						
11	LP	222	11	PA	195						
12	DC	222	12	NC	194						
13	PA	220	13	SG	191						
14	QH	217	14	QH	187						

Last 12 months - Rank correlation (Rho) between Forecast and Outcome												
Venue	JG	DC	SN	ML	MC	OC	SG	EH	HH	DW	PA	JG
Date	01/03/18	02/05/18	03/12/18	04/09/18	05/07/18	06/04/18	08/27/18	09/17/18	10/15/18	11/12/18	12/03/18	01/14/19
Rho	+0.94	+0.10	+0.41	+0.43	+0.02	+0.33	-0.22	+0.82	+0.36	+0.36	+0.72	+0.46

Next Match

What: Third match in the 2019 season
 When: 9:00 am, Monday, February 4, 2019
 Where: Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club
 A Mark McCumber Royal Course (1991)
 5,836 yds, 67.9/114/89.0 (course/slope/bogey)
 Who: Ray Mantle QH, Tournament Co-Director
 Bruce MacDonald QH, Tournament Co-Director
 Mark Ellison, PGA, Head Professional

Defending: Last time here, in June 2017, Queen's Harbour, for the second time in eleven tries, capitalized on their home advantage to finish in first place on the day over Hidden Hills by eleven points.

Financial News

Bruce MacDonald QH, our league treasurer, filed his latest end-of-month report as shown in the table below. The current balance increases each month in order to fund the team prizes and door prizes that will be distributed at our season-ending Barney Poston Cup event.

Date	Description	Income	Expense	Balance
12/03/18	BALANCE FORWARD			\$ 505.94
12/03/18	SMI Prize Fund: 112 PA rounds @ \$3	\$ 336.00		\$ 841.94
12/04/18	SMI Annual Meeting: Scott Johnson, Golf Genius		\$ 20.00	\$ 821.94
01/14/19	SMI Prize Fund: 112 JG rounds @ \$3	\$ 336.00		1,157.94

Website News

Our rules were changed at the recent Team Reps' meeting as follows—these changes took effect on January 1:

- Local Rule 4-2 regarding out-of-bounds and lost balls was added. See <http://jaxsi.org/rules/>
- Rule 7-2 regarding tie-breakers at our monthly matches was changed. See <http://jaxsi.org/rules>
- Rule 7-3 regarding monthly prizes has been changed to reduce the number of places paid from 4 to 3. The amounts paid to the top three teams has been increased. See <http://jaxsi.org/rules> and Appendix II.

Support fellow-competitor Tex Blinn who has sponsored us for many years with an advertisement on our web pages. His latest ad is tagged as *Lewis Blinn, Contractor* on our [Home Page](#). Tex plays out of Hidden Hills Golf Club. He's a very good contractor and is ready to serve your remodeling needs. Give him a try.

Clicking on Google ads pays off. Doing so from our webpages puts cash in our bank account. Each click generates income that helps to offset the annual cost of our web site. Google last sent us a check for \$101.78. Our current earnings are at \$77.36 which is up \$0.29 since the last report. Google will pay us when the amount due is \$100 or more.