

SMI NewsBrief

Monday, February 4, 2019 — Game-day facts compiled by Jack Garrity

Today's Venue

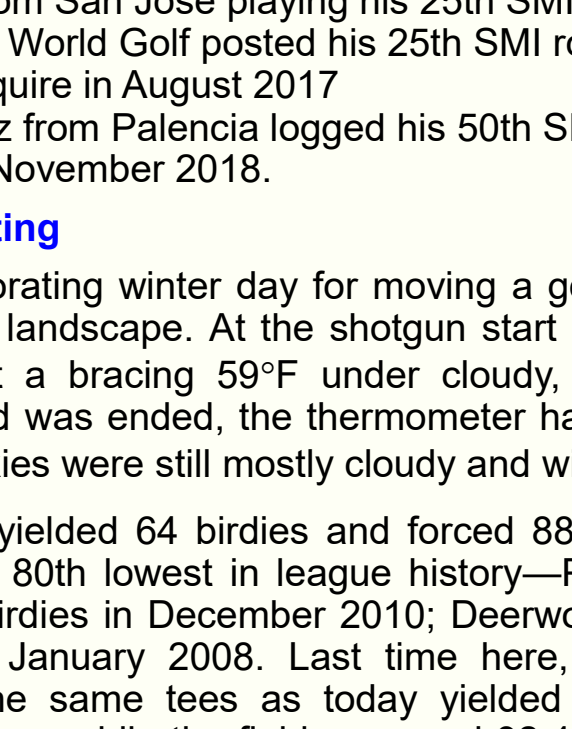
111 senior golfers from the greater Jacksonville area teed it up today at the Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club for the 257th match in the Senior Men's Interclub series.

Kudos to the course superintendent, Chris Stringer, CGCS, and his grounds crew for keeping the fairways, rough, hazards, and greens in pristine condition. Today's Tournament Co-Directors, Bruce MacDonald QH and Ray Mantle QH, are particularly grateful for the work of Tyler daSilva who ensures the course is set up as specified and Cart Superintendent Tim Schneden who directs cart and range operations.

Three huzzahs for the Queen's Harbour representative, Bruce MacDonald, and his head golf professional, Mark Ellison PGA, both of whom coordinated today's event. Bruce and Mark delivered pre-round announcements in front of the staging area outside Queen's Harbour's golf shop before launching 56 carts to their starting tees between 8:58 am and 9:00 am. 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 15B starting on the second furthest tee from the clubhouse would differ by 27 minutes.

Thanks to Queen's Harbour's clubhouse staff for giving us top-notch service under the direction of their General Manager, Bob Ewing; Private Event Director, Beth Vanderberg; Service Director, Bryan Argue; and Executive Chef, Jerry Snider.

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



Special Recognition

Today's field included five gentlemen playing their initial Interclub round:

- Greg Maugeri from Deercreek
- Jerry Mallot from Jacksonville
- Peter Flynn, Brian Gale, Dave Heyrend from Marsh Creek.

And three gentlemen earned a hearty round of applause for their milestone rounds, two of whose rounds with an earlier club had been overlooked:

- Fred Tygart from San Jose playing his 25th SMI round today
- Bill Ross from World Golf posted his 25th SMI round at the Slammer & Squire in August 2017
- Judd Schwartz from Palencia logged his 50th SMI round at Deerwood in November 2018.

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 bracing 59°F under cloudy, windfree skies. When the round was ended, the thermometer had nudged up to 63°F and the skies were still mostly cloudy and windfree.

Today's layout yielded 64 birdies and forced 88 pickups. Birdie production was 80th lowest in league history—Ponte Vedra Inn held us to 26 birdies in December 2010; Deerwood surrendered 122 birdies in January 2008. Last time here, in June 2017, playing from the same tees as today yielded 57 birdies and forced 117 pickups while the field averaged 92.4 strokes vs 93.7 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 January at Jacksonville (*below*) suggests today's course, 205 yards longer, was equally tough. While 18 percent of the players at Jacksonville beat their handicaps, 22 percent of the players at Queen's Harbour measured up. Said another way, the average player at Jacksonville scored 32.5 points and 3.6 strokes over bogey while the average player at Queen's Harbour scored 31.3 points and 3.6 strokes more than a bogey player. 17 players reduced their indexes by shooting good scores while 47 players padded their indexes for upcoming events by shooting relatively poor scores. View SMI handicap indexes [here](#).



Today's Leaderboard

The following table compares the order of finish in our previous event to the order of finish today. In first place, Long Point edged Queen's Harbour and Osprey Cove by three-point margins while Jacksonville slid from first place last month to finish in fifth place.

Compared to last month, five teams rose and nine teams fell with Deercreek and San Jose tumbling eight places from last month's ranking.

Team	1/14/2019		2/4/2019		
	Best 6	Rank	Best 6	Rank	
Jacksonville	221	1	Long Point	217	1
Osprey Cove	221	2	Queen's Harbour	214	2
San Jose	212	3	Osprey Cove	214	3
Deercreek	212	4	Sawgrass	207	4
World Golf Village	210	5	Jacksonville	204	5
Orange Park	208	6	Marsh Landing	203	6
Hidden Hills	207	7	Eagle Harbor	202	7
Eagle Harbor	206	8	World Golf Village	199	8
Long Point	206	9	Hidden Hills	199	9
Marsh Landing	197	10	Orange Park	198	10
Palencia	195	11	San Jose	195	11
Marsh Creek	194	12	Deercreek	189	12
Sawgrass	191	13	Palencia	184	13
Queen's Harbour	187	14	Marsh Creek	167	14

Last month at Jacksonville, no team exceeded the odds of scoring its team points. This month, three teams exceeded the odds of scoring its team points. Ideally, we'd like to see seven teams beat the odds and seven teams lose to the odds.

[The full scoreboard is here.](#)

As today's Tournament Director, Bruce MacDonald presented 24 individual merchandise certificates redeemable in the Queen's Harbour golf shop to the top three teams in the monthly event.

1st place	Long Point	\$49 per man
2nd place	Queen's Harbour	\$37
3rd place	Osprey Cove	\$25

Queen's Harbour and Osprey Cove ended the day in a tie for 2nd place with 214 points apiece. The tie was broken in favor of Queen's Harbour 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 six teams fell this month with Marsh Creek dropping four places.

Team	January 14, 2019	PTS	PB	February 4, 2019	PTS	PB
Osprey Cove	453	--	8	Osprey Cove	667	--
World Golf Village	441	8	12	Long Point	650	17
Jacksonville	445	12	12	Jacksonville	645	22
Hidden Hills	439	14	19	World Golf Village	644	23
Orange Park	434	19	19	Hidden Hills	638	29
Long Point	433	20	20	Long Point	632	35
Eagle Harbor	426	27	27	San Jose	627	40
Palencia	419	34	34	Queen's Harbour	623	44
Marsh Creek	418	35	35	Marsh Landing	613	54
Deercreek	417	36	36	Deercreek	606	61
Marsh Landing	410	43	43	Palencia	603	64
Queen's Harbour	409	44	44	Sawgrass	597	70
Sawgrass	399	63	63	Marsh Creek	585	82

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 24 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, 46 players (gasp) scored 29 points or less, indicating this course is among our toughest.

1st Place				2nd Place				3rd Place			
Team	AGS	PTS	ODDS	Team	AGS	PTS	ODDS	Team	AGS	PTS	ODDS
Long Point	74	42	21:1	Thorpe, Paul QH	81	43	15:1	Wiechert, Ken OC	75	41	12:1
Kepple, Gene LP	94	40	4:1	Bremner, Bill QH	98	41	5:1	Lemoy, Joe OC	80	39	6:1
Sakens, AJP LP	98	37	3:1	O'Brien, Gary QH	86	40	6:1	Andrews, Ryan OC	81	38	4:1

Individual Leaderboard

Nine odds-breakers filled the twelve slots shown on today's individual leaderboard (*below*). In all, 24 players beat the odds associated with their handicap indexes while 71 players failed to match even odds.

POINTS		
46 -- Leedom Kettell SG		Odds=70:1
43 -- Paul Thorpe QH		=15:1
42 -- Dave Daly EH		=19:1
42 -- Gene Halvorsen ML		=19:1
41 -- Gene Kepple LP		=21:1
41 -- Bill Bremner QH		=5:1
31.3 -- Today's average [2018 average=34.5]		
STROKES		
74 -- Gene Kepple LP		Odds=:1
75 -- Ken Wiechert OC		=12:1
76 -- George Halvorsen ML		=19:1
77 -- Robin Luck HH		=1:1
77 -- Leedom Kettell SG		=70:1
78 -- Lee Fields DC		=1:2
93.7 -- Today's average [2018 average=91.5]		

Outstanding Shooters

Birdies	6	Leedom Kettell SG
	3	George Halvorsen ML, Ken Wiechert OC
	64	Today's total (2018 average=62 birdies)

Closest to the Flagstick

Hole 03	Greg Howard EH
Hole 07	John Asmuth QH
Hole 13	Joe McCaw ML
Hole 15	George Halvorsen ML

Toughest Holes

On average we record 92 pickups at each event. Today's course drew 88 pickups, the 72nd easiest day of 145 recorded events. In comparison, we recorded 62 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, hole 18, the 6th easiest hole, drew the least number of pickups, 0, while hole 4, the 2nd toughest hole, tallied the most pickups, 15.

Hole	Par	Avg	Birdies	Pars	Bogeys	Others	Pickups
10	4	5.81	3	6	41	56	5
4	4	5.75	0	22	31	43	15
9	4	5.70	1	15	44	43	8
17	5	6.58	4	15	30	52	10
14	4	5.39	2	14	54	39	2
5	5	6.32	2	27	33	43	6

Scorer's Table

The first card was returned to the scorer's table at 2:06 pm which is 31 minutes later than standard. The last card was scanned 45 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 scoring operation 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 handwritten 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.

Today 24 cards were ejected for exception handling and the operator evaluated 31 scores: 28 were due to marker's errors (no response or multiple responses) and 3 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 most carts. Only 13 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.

Pace of Play

Coming into this match, our scorecard proxy model predicted the fastest group would finish in 4h 34m from starting tee to ending green. In fact, Group 01B was the fastest, finishing in 4h 48m. Congratulations to our pace-of-play rabbits: Bill Bremner QH, Ed Earle PA, Wib Finch JG, and Barney Poston HH.

At the other extreme, today's turtles took 35 minutes longer to play the same course—we're still working to understand how that can happen.

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, three 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 the previous match at Queen's Harbour match was quite weak (p=+0.16), today's correlation was moderate (p=+0.43). This was the sixth match at Queen's Harbour from today's tees; we expect better forecasts as more rounds at Queen's Harbour are recorded in our database.

QH 2/4/2019												
Forecast						Outcome						
Rank	Team	Pts	Rank	Team	Pts	Rank	Team	Pts	Rank	Team	Pts	
1	SG	246	1	LP	217	1	SG	246	1	LP	217	
2	QH	245	2	QH	214	2	QH	245	2	QH	214	
3	HH	244	3	OC	214	3	HH	244	3	OC	214	
4	SN	243	4	SG	207	4	SN	243	4	SG	207	
5	WG	242	5	JG	204	5	WG	242	5	JG	204	
6	OP	241	6	HL	203	6	OP	241	6	HL	203	
7	ML	241	7	EH	202	7	ML	241	7	EH	202	
8	OC	238	8	WG	199	8	OC	238	8	WG	199	
9	JG	234	9	HH	199	9	JG	234	9	HH	199	
10	LP	231	10	OP	198	10	LP	231	10	OP	198	
11	EH	230	11	SN	195	11	EH	230	11	SN	195	
12	DC	229	12	OC	184	12	DC	229	12	OC	184	
13	MC	226	13	PA	184	13	MC	226	13	PA	184	
14	PA	218	14	MC	167	14	PA	218	14	MC	167	

Last 12 months - Rank correlation (Rho) between Forecast and Outcome												
Venue	OC	SN	HL	MC	OC	SG	EH	HW	DW	PA	JG	QH
Date	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	02/04/19
Rho	+0.10	+0.41	+0.43	+0.02	+0.33	-0.22	+0.62	+0.36	+0.36	+0.72	+0.46	+0.43

Next Match

What: Fourth match in the 2019 season
 When: 9:00 am, Monday, March 11, 2019
 Where: San Jose Country Club
 A Donald Ross design (1925)
 5,621 yards, 68.2/116/89.6 (course/slope/bogey))
 Who: Mike Smith SN, Tournament Director
 Todd Bork, PGA, Head Professional
 Defending: Last time here, in March 2018, Eagle Harbor took 1st place by six points over Deercreek. San Jose surrendered the home advantage by finishing 17 points behind in 5th place.

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
02/04/19	SMI Prize Fund: 112 QH rounds @ \$3	\$ 336.00		\$ 1,493.94

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.

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