

SMI NewsBrief

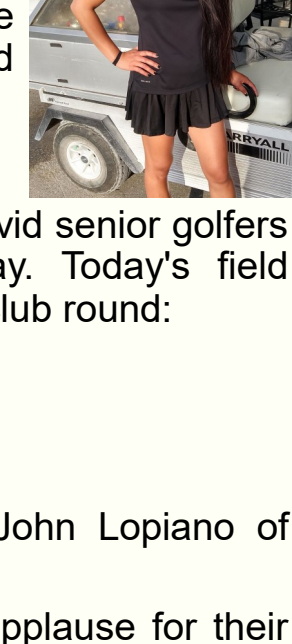
Monday, March 11, 2019 — Game-day facts compiled by Jack Garrity

Today's Venue

111 senior golfers from the greater Jacksonville area teed it up today at San Jose Country Club for the 258th match in the Senior Men's Interclub series.

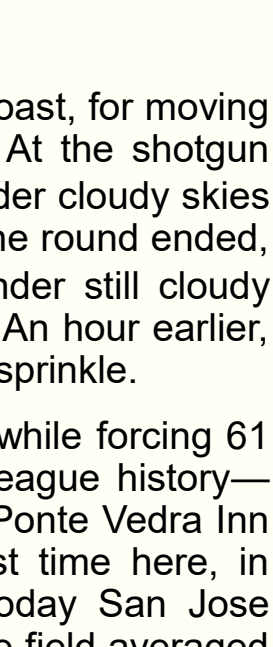
Kudos to the course superintendent, Clayton Estes CGCS, and his grounds crew for keeping the fairways, rough, hazards, and greens in pristine condition; and to San Jose's Cart Barn director, Wes Oliver, and his crew for distributing scorecards and pencils to each cart and queuing us efficiently for the shotgun launch.

Three huzzahs to San Jose's co-representatives, Mike Smith and Bill Basney, and their head golf professional, Todd Bork PGA, for coordinating today's event. Mike and Todd (*l-r*) delivered pre-round announcements in front of the staging area outside San Jose's golf shop before launching 56 carts to their starting tees between 8:58 am and 8:59 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 05B starting on the furthest tee from the clubhouse would differ by 27 minutes.



Thanks to San Jose's clubhouse staff for giving us top-notch service under the direction of their General Manager, Rocky Staples, Clubhouse Manager, Willie Manigault; Audio/Video Specialist, Sammy Hall; Food & Beverage Manager, Brittany Williams; and Executive Chef, John Kirby.

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



Special Recognition

Eleven gentlemen are among a growing list of avid senior golfers who enjoy competition at SMI's level of play. Today's field included five gentlemen playing their initial Interclub round:

- Rick McFarlin from Hidden Hills
- Tom Sutton from Long Point
- Alan Rose from Palencia
- Duane Goertz from World Golf
- And returning after an 11½-year absence, John Lopiano of Palencia.

Plus six gentlemen earned a hearty round of applause for their milestone rounds:

- Playing their 25th rounds—Dave Daly from Eagle Harbor, Chuck Hansen from Marsh Creek, and Michael Jay from Sawgrass
- Playing his 75th round—Allen Witham from Hidden Hills
- And playing their 100th rounds—Larry Dismore from Hidden Hills and Bill Swerbenski from Sawgrass.

Game Day Setting

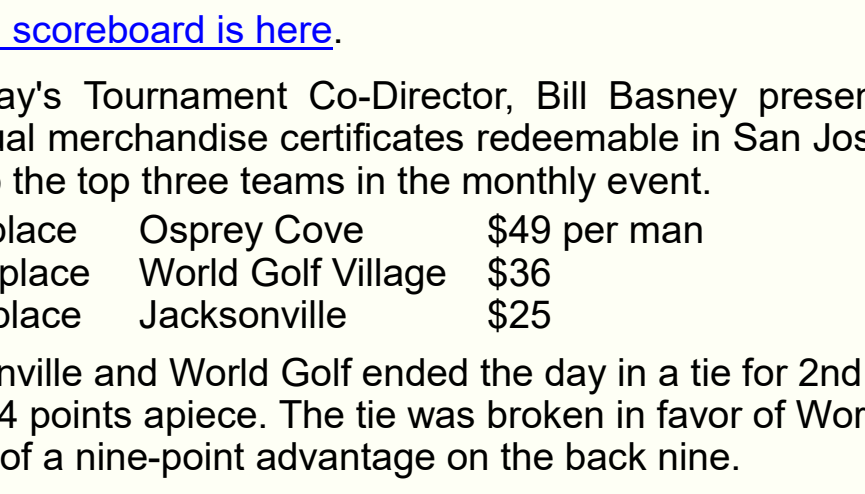
It was a mild midwinter day, typical on the First Coast, for moving a golf ball across a well manicured landscape. At the shotgun start the temperature was a comfortable 68°F under cloudy skies with a light 7 mph breeze from the north. When the round ended the thermometer had dipped slightly to 65°F under still cloudy skies with a gentle 9 mph breeze from the NNE. An hour earlier, some parts of the course were touched by a light sprinkle.

Today's layout yielded one eagle and 71 birdies while forcing 61 pickups. Birdie production was 39th highest in league history—Deerwood allowed 122 birdies in January 2008; Ponte Vedra Inn kept us to 26 birdies in December 2010; . Last time here, in March 2018, playing from the same tees as today San Jose yielded 73 birdies and forced 51 pickups while the field averaged 89.7 strokes vs 88.8 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 February at Queen's Harbour (*below*) suggests today's course, only 216 yards shorter, was a good deal easier. While 22 percent of the players at Queen's Harbour beat their handicaps, 54 percent of the players at San Jose measured up. Said another way, the average player at Queen's Harbour scored 31.3 points and 3.6 strokes over bogey while the average player at San Jose scored 37.8 points and 1.7 strokes less than a bogey player. 39 players reduced their indexes by shooting good scores while 37 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, Osprey Cove edged Jacksonville and World Golf—tied for second place—by one point. World Golf took the tiebreaker by a nine-point margin over the back nine.

Compared to last month, nine teams rose and four teams fell with Long Point sliding from first place last month to finish in 13th place.

Team	2/4/2019		Team	3/11/2019	
	Best 6	Rank		Best 6	Rank
Long Point	217	1	Osprey Cove	255	1
Queen's Harbour	214	2	World Golf Village	254	2
Osprey Cove	214	3	Jacksonville	254	3
Sawgrass	207	4	Eagle Harbor	245	4
Jacksonville	204	5	Hidden Hills	244	5
Marsh Landing	203	6	Palencia	243	6
Eagle Harbor	202	7	Marsh Creek	243	7
World Golf Village	199	8	Orange Park	235	8
Hidden Hills	199	9	Deercreek	234	9
Orange Park	198	10	Sawgrass	234	10
San Jose	195	11	San Jose	229	11
Deercreek	189	12	Queen's Harbour	221	12
Palencia	184	13	Long Point	214	13
Marsh Creek	167	14	Marsh Landing	212	14

Last month at Queen's Harbour, three teams exceeded the odds of scoring its team points. This month, thirteen 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 Co-Director, Bill Basney presented 24 individual merchandise certificates redeemable in San Jose's golf shop to the top three teams in the monthly event.

- 1st place Osprey Cove \$49 per man
- 2nd place World Golf Village \$36
- 3rd place Jacksonville \$25

Jacksonville and World Golf ended the day in a tie for 2nd place with 254 points apiece. The tie was broken in favor of World Golf by dint of a nine-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, seven teams rose and three teams fell this month with Long Point dropping five places.

February 4, 2019				March 11, 2019			
Team	PTS	PB	Rank	Team	PTS	PB	Rank
Osprey Cove	637	17	1	Osprey Cove	822	23	1
Long Point	650	17	2	Jacksonville	859	23	2
Jacksonville	645	22	3	World Golf Village	858	24	3
World Golf Village	644	23	4	Hidden Hills	852	40	4
Hidden Hills	638	29	5	Eagle Harbor	867	49	5
Orange Park	632	35	6	Orange Park	873	55	6
Eagle Harbor	628	39	7	Long Point	864	58	7
San Jose	627	40	8	San Jose	856	66	8
Queen's Harbour	623	44	9	Palencia	846	76	9
Marsh Landing	613	54	10	Queen's Harbour	844	78	10
Deercreek	606	61	11	Deercreek	840	82	11
Palencia	603	64	12	Sawgrass	831	91	12
Sawgrass	597	70	13	Marsh Creek	828	94	13
Marsh Creek	585	82	14	Marsh Landing	825	97	14

Team Leaders

Generally, we say a big gun is someone who helps his team into one of the top three places by scoring at least 36 points. Why 36 points? That marks the line where a player overcomes 2:1 odds. Today a record-setting 72 players crossed that threshold; 17 of those were the top three-winning teams. When that many players cross the 36-point cutline, you can scratch your head or look for an underlying cause.

On the flip side, we observe that the seventh player on each team averages 29 points, which corresponds to 1:4 odds. Today, only four players scored 29 points or less while 11 players on average have crossed the lower threshold at San Jose. The same yardage, same USGA Ratings, similar weather, similar distribution of handicap indexes,... What's left but to credit extremely favorable pin placements.

1st Place				2nd Place				3rd Place			
Team	AGS	PTS	ODDS	Team	AGS	PTS	ODDS	Team	AGS	PTS	ODDS
Osprey Cove	80	51	8:1	McBride, Bob WG	74	46	1:1	Egan, Dennis JG	88	46	2:1
Cunliffe, Ralph OC	92	44	1:1	Shah, Jay WG	88	46	1:1	Sheridan, Bill JG	75	46	1:1
Peterson, Jon OC	78	43	5:1	Hill, Greg WG	77	44	1:2	Lundford, Skip JG	74	45	4:1
Andrews, Ryan OC	78	42	4:1	Ross, Bill WG	83	41	1:1	Finch, Wab JG	79	43	8:1
Mortensen, Carl OC	80	40	1:2	Adair, Carmine WG	84	40	4:1	Livesay, Leigh JG	75	40	1:1
Lamoy, Joe OC	80	40	1:2	Schultz, Doug WG	86	37	3:1				
				Kedzurskas, Tony WG	98	36	1:1				

Individual Leaderboard

Ten odds-breakers filled the twelve slots shown on today's individual leaderboard (*below*). In all, 73 players beat the odds associated with their handicap indexes while 12 players failed to match even odds.

POINTS		
51 -- Ralph Cunliffe OC		Odds=8:1
50 -- Tom Herrick PA		=2:1
50 -- Ron Hickler MC		=7:1
49 -- Jim White PA		=1:1
46 -- Bill Sheridan JG		=1:1
46 -- Bob McBride WG		=1:1
37.8 -- Today's average [2018 average=34.5]		
STROKES		
67 -- Lee Fields DC		Odds=2:1
74 -- Skip Lunsford JG		=4:1
74 -- Bob McBride WG		=1:1
74 -- Jerry Deans OP		=1:1
75 -- Jim White PA		=1:1
75 -- Leigh Livesay JG		=1:1
88.8 -- Today's average [2018 average=91.5]		

Outstanding Shooters

- Eagle 1 Hole 3: Jerry Deans OP
- Birdies 8 Lee Fields DC
- 4 Bob McBride WG, Jim White PA
- 71 Today's total (2018 average=62 birdies)

Closest to the Flagstick

- Hole 05 Wib Finch JG 1' 2"
- Hole 08 Bill Smith EH 5' 0"
- Hole 12 Ray Wensell EH 1' 2"
- Hole 15 Frank Cardile LP 5' 5"

Toughest Holes

On average we record 92 pickups at each event. Today's course drew 61 pickups, the 30th easiest day of 146 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 9 and 18, the 3rd and 8th easiest hole, drew the least number of pickups, 0, while hole 10, the 2nd toughest hole, tallied the most pickups, 12.

Hole	Par	Avg	Birdies	Pars	Bogeys	Others	Pickups
4	4	5.49	1	29	28	43	9
10	4	5.34	3	33	31	31	12
16	4	5.25	5	27	39	31	8
5	3	4.05	2	31	48	28	1
1	4	5.05	2	29	49	29	1
7	4	5.04	1	28	54	25	2

Scorer's Table

The first card was returned to the scorer's table at 1:42 pm which is 7 minutes later than standard. The last card was scanned 35 minutes later at which time the scoring operation was closed and the winners' prizes distributed.

Today 16 cards were ejected for exception handling and the operator evaluated 24 cards: 21 were due to marker's errors (no response or multiple responses) and 3 were false blanks, that is, 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 all but one cart. 50 of 55 yellow pencils were returned to the scorer's table.

Why are we deploying the yellow pencil in favor of club-issued pencils? San Jose's pro, Todd Bork, put it succinctly, "A different type of scorecard requires a different type of pencil." We've selected the yellow pencil as our standard—and validated its performance at the last three matches. Here's our rationale.

The "lead" core in golf pencils consists of a combination of carbon (graphite), clay, and wax. Unlike the other elements, graphite is an electrical conductor. The following table illustrates how the shade of a pencil depends on the amount of carbon in its lead core. More graphite in a standard-length pencil means less resistance to current flow.

Using an electrical circuit comprising an 8.5 cm (3.35") specimen, a power supply, and two ammeters, we measured the resistance of 13 pencils issued at SMI venues; we needed specimens from Deerwood and Marsh Creek to complete the project.

In addition, we measured the resistance of two nonSMI pencils (MK, thick red line; SC, thick blue line). Characteristic curves for softer pencils are located to the right; softer pencils are indicated by lower resistance values in the tables at the top of each chart.

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 20m from starting tee to ending green. In fact, Group 04B was the fastest, finishing in 4h 20m. Congratulations to our pace-of-play rabbits: Ralph Karlow LP, Ryan Andrews OC, Robert Fairley SG, and Ned Hamil ML.

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 Punsutawney 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, was not a happy occasion: we didn't pick any of the four teams in the upper bracket and only one each of five in the middle and five in the lower brackets. While the correlation (rho) between forecast and actual rankings for last month's match at Queen's Harbour match was moderately strong (+0.43), today it was very weak (-0.03). There's something in the water at San Jose—this was the sixth match at San Jose from today's tees; the record of forecast-to-outcome correlation is highly irregular. Equally confounding, the table of handicap stroke allocations from their Blue/White tees are generally uncorrelated with the hole-by-hole degree of difficulty our players experience.

SN 3/11/2019														
Rank	Team	PTS	Rank	Team	PTS	Rank	Team	PTS	Rank	Team	PTS	Rank	Team	PTS
0	1	OC	283	1	OC	254	1	OC	254	1	OC	254	1	OC
0	2	SN	255	2	JG	254	2	JG	254	2	JG	254	2	JG
0	3	HH	247	3	WG	254	3	WG	254	3	WG	254	3	WG
0	4	MC	249	4	EH	245	4	EH	245	4	EH	245	4	EH
1	5	OP	242	5	HH	244	5	HH	244	5	HH	244	5	HH
1	6	ML	240	6	MC	243	6	MC	243	6	MC	243	6	MC
1	7	DC	240	7	PA	243	7	PA	243	7	PA	243	7	PA
1	8	JG	236	8	OP	235	8	OP	235	8	OP	235	8	OP
1	9	QH	227	9	DC	234	9	DC	234	9	DC	234	9	DC
1	10	WG	223	10	SN	234	10	SN	234	10	SN	234	10	SN
1	11	PA	252	11	SN	229	11	SN	229	11	SN	229	11	SN
1	12	EH	230	12	HH	221	12	HH	221	12	HH	221	12	HH
1	13	DC	229	13	LP	214	13	LP	214	13	LP	214	13	LP
1	14	LP	221	14	EH	212	14	EH	212	14	EH	212	14	EH

Last 12 months — Rank correlation (rho) between Forecast and Outcome														
Venue	SN	ML	MC	OC	SG	EH	HH	DW	PA	JG	QH	SN	EH	SN
Date	03/12/18	04/09/18	05/07/18	06/04/18	06/27/18	09/17/18	10/15/18	11/12/18	12/03/18	01/14/19	02/04/19	02/04/19		
Rho	+0.41	+0.43	+0.02	+0.33	-0.22	+0.62	+0.36	+0.36	+0.72	+0.46	+0.43	-0.03		

Next Match

- What: Fifth match in the 2019 season
- When: 9:00 am, Monday, April 8, 2019
- Where: Eagle Landing Golf Club
- Who: A Clyde Johnston design (2005) 5,894 yards, 67.9/121/90.3 (course/slope/bogey))
- Who: Mac McKernan OP, Tournament Director
- Who: Josh Heinzman PGA, Head Professional
- Dejà vu: Course architect Clyde Johnston designed two other venues on the SMI rotation: Eagle Harbor Golf Club and Jacksonville Golf & Country Club. His design for Eagle Landing intersperses classic holes such as the Redan Hole, the Eden and the Cardinal.

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			