

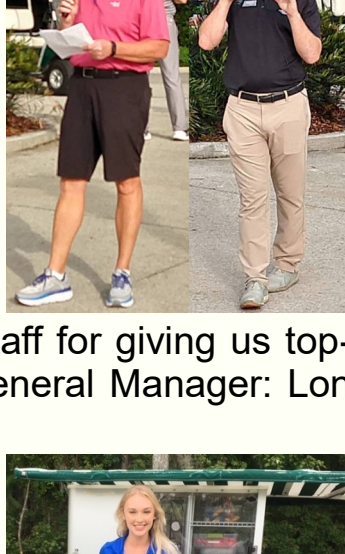
SMI NewsBrief

Monday, May 13, 2019 — Game-day facts compiled by Jack Garrity

Today's Venue

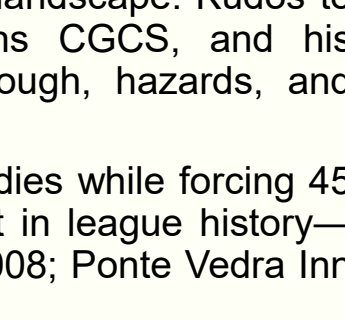
110 senior golfers from the greater Jacksonville area teed it up today on the Slammer & Squire Course at the World Golf Village for the 260th match in the Senior Men's Interclub series.

Three huzzahs to our World Golf club representative, Bob McBride, and the Slammer & Squire's head golf professional, Aric Zuberbier PGA, for coordinating today's event and delivering pre-round announcements (*l-r*) in front of the starter's hut outside the Slammer & Squire's golf shop before launching 56 carts to their starting tees between 8:21 am and 8:23 am.



Thanks to Slammer & Squire's clubhouse staff for giving us top-notch service under the direction of their General Manager: Lon Grundy; Director of Golf, Seth Henrich; Food & Beverage Manager: Tony Porcellini; and Executive Chef: Chris Pickren.

And our very special thanks and a tip of 110 caps go to Danielle (*right*) for hustling around the course with a well stocked supply of snacks and beverages for hungry, thirsty senior golfers.



Game Day Setting

It was a typically mild, late-springtime day on the First Coast, for moving a golf ball across a well manicured landscape. Kudos to the course superintendent, Brad Stephens CGCS, and his grounds crew for keeping the fairways, rough, hazards, and greens in pristine, vibrant condition.

Today's layout yielded one eagle and 85 birdies while forcing 45 pickups. Birdie production was 17th highest in league history—Deercreek allowed 122 birdies in January 2008; Ponte Vedra Inn kept us to 26 birdies in December 2010.

Special Recognition

Seven 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:

- Marty Gunning from Jacksonville
- Jerry Mathe from Long Point
- Mike Henry from Palencia
- Ben Walstatter from World Golf
- And returning after an eight-year absence, Bob Burke from Jacksonville.

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

- His 75th round. Bill Miller from Marsh Landing
- His 125th round. George Halvorsen from Marsh Landing

Today's Competition

In our 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 April at Eagle Landing (*below*) suggests today's course, although 183 yards shorter, was somewhat harder. While 68 percent of the players at Eagle Landing exceeded their handicaps, only 49 percent of the players at the Slammer & Squire measured up. Said another way, the average player at Eagle Landing scored 39.1 points and 3.2 strokes less than a bogey player while the average player at Slammer & Squire scored 37.3 points and 0.1 strokes less than a bogey player. 23 players reduced their indexes by shooting good scores while 27 players padded their indexes for upcoming events by shooting relatively poor scores.



Today's Leaderboards

The following tables compare the gameday and season standings at the completion of our previous event to their respective orders of finish today. In first place for the day's match, Deercreek catapulted from 8th place in April to edge San Jose and Queen's Harbour by three points. San Jose won the 2nd place tiebreaker by six points over the back nine. World Golf Village failed to capitalize on the home advantage, finishing four points back in 4th place. Compared to last month, seven teams rose and six teams fell with Orange Park sliding from third place last month to finish in 11th place.

In first place for the season, the top three teams maintained their positions while San Jose displaced Hidden Hills for 4th place. In summary, four teams rose and three teams fell this month with Hidden Hills dropping four places.

| Game Day Leaderboard | | | | | 2019 Season Leaderboard | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|--------|------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------|------|--------------------|----------|-----|-----|--------------------|----------|--------|-----|
| Team | 04/08/19 | Best 6 | Rank | Team | 05/13/19 | Best 6 | Rank | Team | 04/08/19 | PTS | PB | Team | 05/13/19 | Points | PB |
| Marsh Landing | 259 | 1 | 2 | Deercreek | 247 | 1 | 1 | Osprey Cove | 1169 | -- | 23 | Osprey Cove | 1401 | 12 | 12 |
| Palencia | 247 | 2 | 3 | San Jose | 244 | 2 | 2 | World Golf Village | 1146 | 23 | 12 | World Golf Village | 1389 | 12 | 12 |
| Orange Park | 249 | 3 | 4 | Queen's Harbour | 244 | 3 | 3 | Jacksonville | 1131 | 38 | 38 | Jacksonville | 1370 | 31 | 31 |
| Queen's Harbour | 248 | 4 | 5 | World Golf Village | 243 | 4 | 4 | Hidden Hills | 1120 | 43 | 43 | San Jose | 1342 | 53 | 53 |
| World Golf Village | 248 | 5 | 6 | Sawgrass | 242 | 5 | 5 | Orange Park | 1116 | 53 | 53 | Eagle Harbor | 1338 | 63 | 63 |
| Osprey Cove | 247 | 6 | 7 | Jacksonville | 239 | 6 | 6 | Eagle Harbor | 1107 | 62 | 62 | Orange Park | 1338 | 63 | 63 |
| San Jose | 242 | 7 | 8 | Marsh Landing | 233 | 7 | 7 | Palencia | 1103 | 66 | 66 | Queen's Harbour | 1336 | 65 | 65 |
| Deercreek | 239 | 8 | 9 | Osprey Cove | 232 | 8 | 8 | San Jose | 1098 | 71 | 71 | Hidden Hills | 1335 | 66 | 66 |
| Hidden Hills | 238 | 9 | 10 | Palencia | 231 | 9 | 9 | Long Point | 1096 | 73 | 73 | Palencia | 1334 | 67 | 67 |
| Eagle Harbor | 234 | 10 | 11 | Eagle Harbor | 231 | 10 | 10 | Queen's Harbour | 1092 | 77 | 77 | Deercreek | 1328 | 75 | 75 |
| Long Point | 232 | 11 | 12 | Orange Park | 222 | 11 | 11 | Marsh Landing | 1084 | 85 | 85 | Marsh Landing | 1317 | 84 | 84 |
| Jacksonville | 232 | 12 | 13 | Marsh Creek | 222 | 12 | 12 | Deercreek | 1079 | 90 | 90 | Long Point | 1300 | 101 | 101 |
| Sawgrass | 226 | 13 | 14 | Hidden Hills | 215 | 13 | 13 | Sawgrass | 1057 | 112 | 112 | Sawgrass | 1299 | 102 | 102 |
| Marsh Creek | 162 | 14 | 14 | Long Point | 204 | 14 | 14 | Marsh Creek | 990 | 179 | 179 | Marsh Creek | 1212 | 189 | 189 |

Last month at Eagle Landing, thirteen teams exceeded the odds of scoring its team points. This month, eight teams exceeded the odds. Ideally, we'd expect to see seven teams beat the odds and seven teams lose to the odds.

[The full scoreboard is here.](#)

As today's Tournament Director, Bob McBride was charged with presenting 24 individual merchandise certificates redeemable in the Slammer & Squire's golf shop to the top three teams in today's event.

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1st place | Deercreek | \$49 per man |
| 2nd place | San Jose | \$36 |
| 3rd place | Queen's Harbour | \$25 |

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 generally marks the line where a player overcomes 2:1 odds. 55 players crossed that threshold today; 19 of those over the prize-winning teams. When that many players cross the 36-point outline, 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.

| 1st Place | | | | 2nd Place | | | | 3rd Place | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|------------------|-----|--------------|------|---------------------|----------|------|------|
| Team | AGS | PTS | ODDS | Team | AGS | PTS | ODDS | Team | AGS | PTS | ODDS |
| Queen's Harbour | 248 | 4 | World Golf Village | 243 | 4 | Hidden Hills | 1120 | 43 | San Jose | 1342 | 53 |
| Orant, Tom DC | 83 | 43 | 10:1 | Smith, Mike SN | 75 | 50 | 7:1 | Bremner, Bill QH | 95 | 45 | 1:1 |
| Rothstein, Paul DC | 96 | 43 | 25:1 | Gillette, Tom SN | 82 | 44 | 2:1 | Thorpe, Paul QH | 80 | 42 | 2:1 |
| Lebednick, Mike DC | 82 | 42 | 7:1 | Harmon, Alan SN | 82 | 42 | 2:1 | MacDonald, Bruce QH | 96 | 40 | 1:1 |
| Mueller, Jay DC | 75 | 42 | 6:1 | Palmer, Roger SN | 98 | 37 | 1:1 | O'Brien, Gary QH | 84 | 40 | 1:5 |
| Scott, Rich DC | 76 | 39 | 1:1 | Moon, Sonny SN | 89 | 36 | 1:2 | Felice, John QH | 84 | 39 | 7:1 |
| Horn, Ken DC | 85 | 38 | 1:2 | | | | | Richter, Bob QH | 87 | 38 | 4:1 |
| Fields, Lee DC | 72 | 37 | 1:3 | | | | | | | | |
| Mendheim, Dudley DC | 87 | 36 | 1:4 | | | | | | | | |

Individual Leaderboard

Ten odds-breakers filled the twelve slots shown on today's individual leaderboard (*below*). In all, 72 players beat the odds associated with their handicap indexes while 13 players failed to match even odds.

| POINTS | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 50 -- Mike Smith SN | |
| 46 -- Bill Swerbenski SG | |
| 46 -- Tony Kazlauskas WG | |
| 45 -- Bill Bremner QH | |
| 44 -- Carl Mortensen OC | |
| 44 -- Jerry Pribanic JG | |
| 25 -- Least points pulled | |
| STROKES | |
| 72 -- Lee Fields DC | |
| 74 -- Skip Lunsford JG | |
| 74 -- Carl Mortensen OC | |
| 75 -- Jay Mueller DC | |
| 75 -- George Halvorsen ML | |
| 75 -- Mike Smith SN | |
| 109 -- Most strokes taken | |

Outstanding Shooters

| | | |
|---------|----|---|
| Eagles | 1 | Hole 11: Jay Mueller, DC |
| Birdies | 5 | Lee Fields DC and Rich Scott DC |
| | 4 | Carl Mortensen OC |
| | 3 | James Crosfield PA; Dave Daly EH, Shelby Gunter PA, Mark Kontny SG, Skip Lunsford JG, Jay Michael SG, and Bill Smith EH |
| | 85 | Today's total (2018 average=62 birdies) |

Closest to the Flagstick

| | | |
|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Hole 02 | Mike Jay SG | 2' 6" |
| Hole 07 | Bill Smith EH | 2' 8" |
| Hole 13 | Frank Casatelli PA | 4' 1/2" |
| Hole 15 | Tom Gillette SN | 4' 5" |

Toughest Holes

On average we record 92 pickups at each event. Today's course drew 45 pickups, the 11th easiest day of 148 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, hole 9, the third easiest hole, drew no pickups, while hole 11, the 5th easiest hole, tallied the most pickups, 7.

| Hole | Par | Avg | Birdies | Pars | Bogeys | Others | Pickups |
|------|-----|------|---------|------|--------|--------|---------|
| 17 | 4 | 5.35 | 0 | 22 | 42 | 44 | 2 |
| 5 | 4 | 5.22 | 3 | 26 | 42 | 35 | 4 |
| 6 | 4 | 5.19 | 4 | 25 | 43 | 35 | 3 |
| 18 | 4 | 5.16 | 0 | 29 | 47 | 31 | 3 |
| 12 | 4 | 5.11 | 3 | 29 | 49 | 27 | 2 |
| 15 | 3 | 4.03 | 6 | 39 | 30 | 29 | 6 |

Scorer's Table

The first card was returned to the scorer's table at 12:58 pm which is two minutes later than standard. The last card was scanned 57 minutes later at which time the scoring operation was closed and the winners' prizes distributed.

We distributed 56 yellow pencils; 18 were returned to the scorecard box. In the following table, 15 of the blank responses were determined to be false; clearly visible marks were presumably made with unauthorized (hard) pencils.

| Game Day | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Manually entered cards | 10 |
| Scanned 39-mark cards | 97 |
| Reviewed 39-mark cards | 21 |
| Scanned >39-mark cards | 3 |
| Reviewed >39-mark cards | 1 |
| Operator-amended cards | 22 |
| Multiple responses | 14 |
| Blank responses | 20 |

In league history, an average of 29 cards were ejected for exception handling; the least number of cards ejected was 3, the largest number was 88. 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 26m from starting tee to ending green. In fact, Group 11B was the fastest, finishing in 4h 11m. Congratulations to our pace-of-play rabbits: Lee Ashburn PA, Mark Dalziel SG, Bruce MacDonald QH, and Rick McFarlin HH.

At the other extreme, today's turtles took 73 minutes longer to play the same course—we're trying 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, the forecast model performed a good deal better than last month. While the rank correlation (ρ) between the forecast and actual rankings at Eagle Landing was weak (+0.22), the rank correlation today was moderate (+0.53). In fact, both values were stronger than the correlation between the rankings at post time and finish this year's Kentucky Derby (+0.17). That result may have been thrown out of whack when the stewards disqualified Maximum Security for swerving into the paths of War of Will and Long Range Toddy.

| Forecast | | | Outcome | | |
|----------|------|-----|---------|------|-----|
| Rank | Team | Pts | Rank | Team | Pts |
| 1 | ML | 238 | 1 | DC | 247 |
| 2 | SG | 233 | 2 | SN | 244 |
| 3 | WG | 231 | 3 | QH | 244 |
| 4 | UC | 230 | 4 | WG | 243 |
| 5 | SN | 230 | 5 | SG | 242 |
| 6 | EH | 227 | 6 | JG | 239 |
| 7 | QH | 227 | 7 | ML | 233 |
| 8 | JG | 225 | 8 | OC | 232 |
| 9 | DC | 223 | 9 | EH | 231 |
| 10 | OP | 223 | 10 | PA | 231 |
| 11 | HH | 223 | 11 | OP | 222 |
| 12 | MC | 219 | 12 | MC | 222 |
| 13 | LP | 214 | 13 | HH | 215 |
| 14 | PA | 200 | 14 | LP | 204 |

2019 Kentucky Derby $\rho=+0.17$

Next Match

What: Seventh match in the 2019 season
 When: 9:00 am, Monday, June 10, 2019
 Where: Deercreek Country Club
 A Robert Miller Design (1989)
 5,504 yds; 67.2/123/90.1 (course/slope/bogey)
 Who: Mark Rutland DC, Tournament Director
 Bud Delores, PGA, Head Professional
 Defending: Last time here, in February 2018, Eagle Harbor claimed first place while Deercreek dismissed its home team advantage by finishing 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 |
| 03/11/19 | SMI Prize Fund: 111 SN rounds @ \$3 | \$ 333.00 | | 1,826.94 |
| 04/08/19 | SMI Prize Fund: 98 OP rounds @ \$3 | \$ 294.00 | | 2,120.94 |
| 05/13/19 | SMI Prize Fund: 110 SS rounds @ \$3 | \$ 330.00 | | 2,450.94 |

Website News

We're trying to make the website more user friendly on smart phones. You can now submit your rosters from your phone. It seems to be best in landscape mode (phone sideways). Give it a try and let the webmaster know how it works.

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 earnings as of Oct 2019 are at \$86.36 which is up \$6.19 since the last report. Google will pay us when the amount due is \$100 or more.