

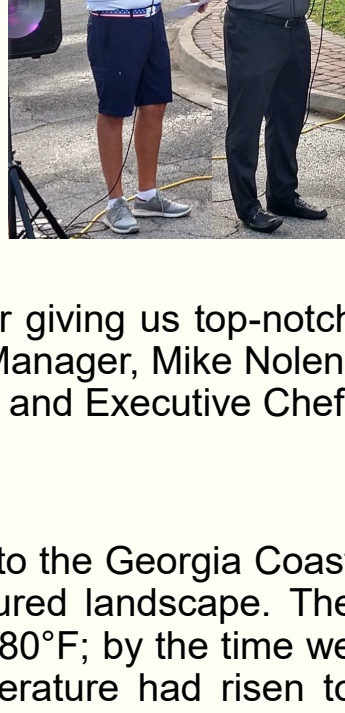
SMI News Brief

Monday, August 19, 2019 — Game-day facts compiled by Jack Garrity
— A rainy week dictates cart path only, a rainy hour caps the finish —

Today's Venue

108 senior golfers from the greater Jacksonville area teed it up today at the Club at Osprey Cove for the 262nd match in the Senior Men's Interclub series. This marks the 14th time that Osprey Cove has hosted an SMI event, twice finishing in 1st place.

Three huzzahs to our durable Osprey Cove club representative, Jon Peterson, and Osprey Cove's head golf professional, Rob Ellis PGA, (*l-r*) for coordinating today's event and giving pre-round announcements in the bag-drop area before launching 56 carts to their starting tees on the front nine from 8:52-8:54 am and the back nine from 8:54-8:55 am. With his back to the wall, Rob bravely announced today would be "Cart Path Only" — for the first time in league history. Read on to find out whether our day was that much longer.



Thanks to Osprey Cove's clubhouse staff for giving us top-notch service under the direction of their General Manager, Mike Nolen; Food & Beverage Manager, Rachel Galarza; and Executive Chef, Daniel Iammarino.

Game Day Setting

It was a typical summer day at the gateway to the Georgia Coast for moving a golf ball across a well manicured landscape. The temperature on the starting tees was nearly 80°F; by the time we approached the finishing greens, the temperature had risen to 84°F. Six mph breezes were the order of the day but sudden rain activity moved onto parts of the course around 2:15 pm. At least two groups were forced to retreat to the clubhouse then return to play their last two holes.

Kudos to the Course Superintendent, Paul Meredith, CGCS and his grounds crew for keeping the fairways, rough, hazards, and greens in pristine, verdant condition despite persistent rain.

Today's layout yielded one eagle and 70 birdies while forcing 49 pickups. Birdie production was 47th highest in league history—Deerwood allowed 122 birdies in January 2008; Ponte Vedra Inn kept us to 26 birdies in December 2010.

Special Recognition

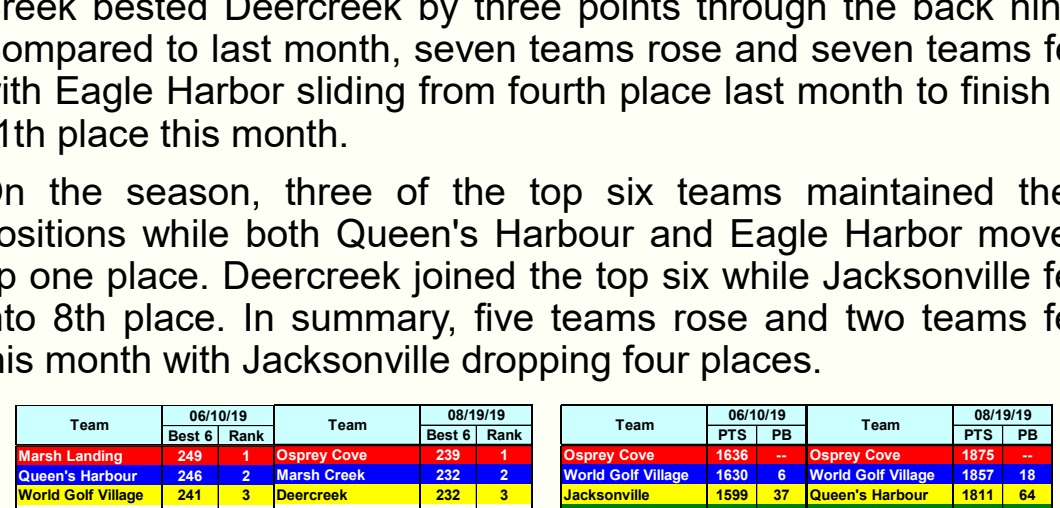
Today's field included six gentlemen playing their first SMI round:

- Hugh Haston and Jim Hocker from Long Point
- Bob Parcher from Marsh Creek
- Ray Dymond from Queen's Harbour, returning to active status after playing 17 rounds with Osprey Cove through July 2013
- Steve Hicks from San Jose
- Jim Vanhorn from Sawgrass.

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 June at Deercreek (*below*) suggests today's course, although 288 yards longer, was of fairly equal difficulty. While 48 percent of the players at Deercreek exceeded their handicaps, 53 percent of the players at Osprey Cove measured up. Said another way, the average player at Deercreek scored 37.5 points and 1.6 strokes less than a bogey player while the average player at Osprey Cove scored 35.7 points and 1.3 strokes less than a bogey player. 37 players reduced their indexes by shooting good scores while 23 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. For the second time in league history, Osprey Cove capitalized on its home advantage by taking first place in the day's match to edge Marsh Creek and Deercreek by seven points. In the 2nd Place tiebreaker, Marsh Creek bested Deercreek by three points through the back nine. Compared to last month, seven teams rose and seven teams fell with Eagle Harbor sliding from fourth place last month to finish in 11th place this month.

On the season, three of the top six teams maintained their positions while both Queen's Harbour and Eagle Harbor moved up one place. Deercreek joined the top six while Jacksonville fell into 8th place. In summary, five teams rose and two teams fell this month with Jacksonville dropping four places.

Team	06/10/19	08/19/19	Team	06/10/19	08/19/19	Team	06/10/19	08/19/19
Marsh Landing	239	239	Osprey Cove	1636	1636	Osprey Cove	1636	1636
Queen's Harbour	246	2	Marsh Creek	232	2	World Golf Village	1630	6
World Golf Village	241	3	Deercreek	232	3	Jacksonville	1599	37
Eagle Harbor	238	4	Long Point	230	4	Queen's Harbour	1562	54
Deercreek	237	5	Marsh Landing	229	5	Eagle Harbor	1576	60
Osprey Cove	235	6	Hidden Hills	229	6	Marsh Landing	1568	70
Hidden Hills	230	7	Queen's Harbour	229	7	Hidden Hills	1565	71
Jacksonville	229	8	Palencia	228	8	Deercreek	1563	73
Long Point	228	9	World Golf Village	227	9	Orange Park	1563	73
Sawgrass	227	10	San Jose	226	10	Palencia	1556	80
Orange Park	225	11	Eagle Harbor	225	11	San Jose	1547	89
Palencia	222	12	Orange Park	219	12	Long Point	1528	108
Marsh Creek	219	13	Sawgrass	203	13	Sawgrass	1526	110
San Jose	205	14	Jacksonville	195	14	Marsh Creek	1431	205

Last month at Deercreek, thirteen teams exceeded the odds of scoring their team points. This month, twelve 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, Jon Peterson was charged with presenting 24 individual merchandise certificates redeemable in Osprey Cove's golf shop to the top three teams in today's event.

- 1st place: Osprey Cove \$48 per man
- 2nd place: Marsh Creek \$36
- 3rd place: Deercreek \$24

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. 60 players crossed that threshold today; 16 of those were on 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 ten players scored 29 points or less.

1st Place				2nd Place				3rd Place			
Team	AGS	PTS	ODDS	Team	AGS	PTS	ODDS	Team	AGS	PTS	ODDS
LaFave, Steve OC	77	44	41:1	Marcocco, Don MC	88	46	23:1	Ryan, Bob DC	79	45	66:1
Wichert, Ken OC	76	41	15:1	O'Connor, Doug MC	89	40	5:1	Mueller, Jay DC	75	41	15:1
Bailey, Gray OC	84	40	6:1	Celestino, Vinny MC	91	38	3:1	Scott, Mark DC	77	40	10:1
McAllister, Wayne OC	84	39	5:1	Ecker, Bob MC	87	37	3:1	Hubbard, Tony DC	89	38	3:1
Ward, Tom OC	87	39	5:1	Horne, Steve MC	95	36	2:1	Rutland, Mark DC	76	37	3:1
Peterson, Jon OC	93	36	2:1								

Individual Leaderboard

Eleven odds-breakers filled the twelve slots shown on today's individual leaderboard (*below*). In all, 29 players beat the odds associated with their handicap indexes while 26 players failed to match even odds.

POINTS	
48 -- Mike Smith SN	
46 -- Don Marcocco MC	
45 -- Bernie Lynch WG	
45 -- Bob Ryan DC	
44 -- Paul Orrico PA	
44 -- Steve LaFave OC	
11 -- Least points pulled	
STROKES	
74 -- Jerry Deans OP	
75 -- Jay Mueller DC	
75 -- Steve Zamparelli PA	
76 -- Mike Smith SN	
76 -- Ken Wierland OC	
76 -- Mark Rutland DC	
116 -- Most strokes taken	

Outstanding Shooters

- Eagles: 1 Hole 11 (hole-in-one): Mike Smith SN
- Birdies: 5 Steve Zamparelli PA
- 3 Jerry Deans OP, Mike Lebednick DC, Jay Mueller DC, Jerry Pinkham WG, John Ruoss EH, and Jim Vanhorn SG
- 70 Today's total (2018 average=62 birdies)

Closest to the Flagstick

- Hole 04: Dave Daly EH
- Hole 07: Bob Larson MC
- Hole 11: Mike Smith SN (Ace)
- Hole 17: Jerry Deans OP

Toughest Holes

On average we record 92 pickups at each event. Today's course drew 49 pickups, the 13th easiest day of 150 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 1 and 15, the second easiest and seventh hardest, respectively, drew no pickups. Hole 18, the sixth easiest hole, tallied the most pickups, 6.

Hole	Par	Avg	Birdies	Pts	Bogeys	Others	Pickups
16	4	5.30	2	21	44	37	4
2	4	5.26	1	19	51	36	1
10	4	5.24	3	18	51	33	3
13	4	5.24	1	18	58	28	3
8	4	5.21	3	28	37	37	3
14	5	6.19	3	20	45	36	4

Scorer's Table

SMI's yellow pencils were issued today; they're softer (5 ohms) than Osprey Cove's pencils (13 ohms). 56 yellow pencils were issued; 35 were returned to the scorer's table.

Thanks to Alan Finger OC for joining Dick Fruechtenicht and Jack Garrity as the three-member scoring crew. They experienced a fairly smooth operation despite the downpour near the end of the round that soaked several cards and caused a few guys to suspend play before returning to the course to complete their rounds.

The first card was returned at 2:05 pm, which is 16 minutes later than at last year's OC event. Shocking! Cart-path-only seems to have had little impact on our pace of play.

Five soggy cards were keyed in manually, 15 cards were ejected for operator review of selected holes, and another 40 cards were ejected for hole-by-hole review on account of having extra timing marks. Each of these cases adds as much as 30 seconds to the duration of the scoring operation.

The scoring operation was extended by 12 minutes in order to handle five appeals after which the competition was closed and the prizes distributed.

108 scorecards were processed in 51 minutes, 22 of which were wasted handling errored cards. In league history, an average of 29 cards were ejected for exception handling; the least number of cards ejected were 3, the largest number were 88. High numbers are generally 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 5h 11m from starting tee to ending green. In fact, Group 14A was the fastest, finishing in 5h 03m. Congratulations to our pace-of-play rabbits which for the second time consisted of a threesome: Bill Swerbenski SG, Esbon White OP, and Bob Ryan DC. At the other extreme, today's turtles took 49 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, the forecast model performed nearly the same as last month. While the rank correlation (ρ) between the forecast and actual rankings at Deercreek was weak (+0.24), the rank correlation today was slightly weaker (+0.21). Yet both values were stronger than the correlation between the rankings at post time and finish for this year's Kentucky Derby (+0.17). The Derby 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	OC	247	1	MC	239
2	HH	244	2	OC	232
3	SG	241	3	DC	232
4	ML	241	4	LP	230
5	SN	236	5	ML	229
6	JG	233	6	HH	229
7	LP	229	7	QH	228
8	DC	228	8	PA	228
9	QH	227	9	WG	227
10	MC	227	10	SN	226
11	OP	225	11	EH	225
12	WG	224	12	OP	219
13	EH	218	13	SG	203
14	PA	209	14	JG	195

2019 Kentucky Derby

Next Match

What: Ninth match in the 2019 season
 When: 9:00 am, Monday, September 23, 2019
 Where: Marsh Creek Country Club
 A Mark McCumber design (1988)
 5,778 yards, 69.7/125/92.9 (course/slope/bogey)

Who: Vinny Celestino MC, Tournament Director
 Cary Splane, PGA, Head Professional

Defending: Last time here, in May 2018, Hidden Hills claimed first place by a hefty six-point margin over Long Point while Marsh Creek failed to take advantage of its home team advantage by finishing 25 points back in last 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
12/04/18	SMI Prize Fund: 112 PA rounds @ \$3	\$ 336.00		\$ 841.94
01/14/19	SMI Annual Meeting: Scott Johnson, Golf Genius		\$ 20.00	\$ 821.94
02/04/19	SMI Prize Fund: 112 JG rounds @ \$3	\$ 336.00		\$ 1,157.94
03/11/19	SMI Prize Fund: 111 QH rounds @ \$3	\$ 333.00		\$ 1,490.94
04/08/19	SMI Prize Fund: 98 OP rounds @ \$3	\$ 294.00		\$ 1,784.94
05/13/19	SMI Prize Fund: 110 SS rounds @ \$3	\$ 330.00		\$ 2,114.94
06/10/19	SMI Prize Fund: 110 DC rounds @ \$3	\$ 330.00		\$ 2,444.94
06/20/19	Jack Garrity: 1,300 Minute Man Press Scorcards		\$ 303.53	\$ 2,141.41
07/27/19	LGB Industries: Website ad	\$ 152.00		\$ 2,293.41
08/19/19	SMI Prize Fund: 108 OC rounds @ \$3	\$ 324.00		\$ 2,617.41

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 October 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.