

Today's Venue

106 senior golfers from the greater Jacksonville area teed it up today at Marsh Creek Country Club for the 263rd match in the Senior Men's Interclub series. This marks the 14th time that Marsh Creek hosted an SMI event, finishing no higher than 2nd place (twice)...until today.

Three huzzahs to the Marsh Creek club representative, Vinny Celestino, and his assistant golf professional, Ben Miller PGA, (*l-r*) for coordinating today's event and giving pre-round announcements in front of the practice green before launching 56 carts to their starting tees from 8:53-8:54 am. Zounds! That was the fastest launch in memory.

Thanks to Marsh Creek's clubhouse staff for giving us top-notch service under the direction of their General Manager, Mary Claire Gaze; Director of Golf, Cary Splane; Food & Beverage Manager, Laura Kelly; and Executive Chef, Brian Young.

And our very special thanks and a tip of 106 caps go to Pam (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 rain-free, gust-free summer day at the southern end of Anastasia Island for moving a golf ball across a well manicured landscape. The temperature on the starting tees was 79°F; by the time we approached the finishing greens, the temperature had barely risen to 81° F. There's no way the weather could be blamed for a passel of higher than normal scores.

Kudos to the Course Superintendent, Chad Hansen CGCS and his grounds crew for keeping the fairways, rough, hazards, and greens in pristine, verdant condition.

Today's layout yielded one eagle and 50 birdies while forcing 128 pickups. Birdie production was 37th lowest in league history—Deerwood allowed 122 birdies in January 2008; Ponte Vedra Inn kept us to 26 birdies in December 2010. Pickup rate was the 21st highest in league history—Ponte Vedra Inn forced 225 pickups in December 2010 2008; Eagle Harbor drew 22 in October 2006.

Special Recognition

Today's field included nine rookies playing their first SMI round:

- David Anderson and Tim Mylod from Jacksonville
- Bill Hansen and Jack Murray from Marsh Creek; Jack was returning to active status after playing 33 rounds with Marsh Creek through November 2014
- Kerry Mihalek from Marsh Landing
- Terry Shaw from Palencia
- Dennis Corrigan and Lyle Wendell from Queen's Harbor
- Quang Pham from Sawgrass.

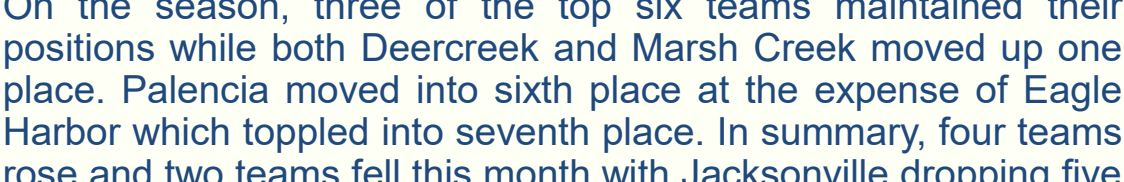
Plus three gentlemen earned a hearty round of applause for their milestone rounds:

- Tony DePinto from Marsh Landing and Jay Mueller from Deercreek for their 25th SMI rounds
- Glenn Dobrick from Sawgrass for his 100th SMI round.

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 August at Osprey Cove (*below*) suggests today's course, barely 14 yards shorter, was of far greater difficulty. While 53 percent of the players at Osprey Cove exceeded their handicaps, only 25 percent of the players at Marsh Creek measured up. Said another way, the average player at Osprey Cove scored 35.7 points and 1.3 strokes less than a bogey player while the average player at Marsh Creek scored 31.5 points and 2.2 strokes more 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 gameday event to their respective orders of finish today. For the first time in league history, Marsh Creek capitalized on its home advantage by taking first place in the day's match with 15 points to spare over second-place Palencia. Compared to last month, four teams rose and five teams fell with Osprey Cove and Hidden Hills sliding six places apiece from first and sixth places, respectively.

On the season, three of the top six teams maintained their positions while both Deercreek and Marsh Creek moved up one place. Palencia moved into sixth place at the expense of Eagle Harbor which topped into seventh place. In summary, four teams rose and two teams fell this month with Jacksonville dropping five places.

Team	08/19/19	09/23/19	Team	08/19/19	09/23/19
Best 6	Rank	Best 6	Rank	PTS	PB
Osprey Cove	239	1	Marsh Creek	229	1
Marsh Creek	232	2	Palencia	212	2
Deercreek	222	4	Deercreek	212	3
Long Point	230	4	Marsh Landing	211	4
Marsh Landing	229	5	Sawgrass	208	5
Hidden Hills	229	6	Long Point	201	6
Queen's Harbour	229	7	Osprey Cove	200	7
Palencia	228	8	Queen's Harbour	198	8
World Golf Village	227	9	World Golf Village	198	9
San Jose	226	10	San Jose	193	10
Eagle Harbor	225	11	Eagle Harbor	191	11
Orange Park	219	12	Hidden Hills	181	12
Sawgrass	203	13	Orange Park	179	13
Jacksonville	195	14	Jacksonville	154	14

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

- 1st place: Marsh Creek \$48 per man
- 2nd place: Palencia \$35
- 3rd place: Deercreek \$23

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. 24 players crossed that threshold today; 9 of those were on the prize-winning teams. You know it was a tough day when so few players break through the handicap ceiling.

On the flip side, we observe that the seventh player on each team averages 29 points, which corresponds to 1:4 odds. Today, 39 players scored 29 points or less.

1st Place					2nd Place					3rd Place					
Team	AGS	PTS	ODDS	Player	AGS	PTS	ODDS	Team	AGS	PTS	ODDS	Player	AGS	PTS	ODDS
Marsh Creek	84	44	28:1	Casatelli, Frank PA	91	40	5:1	Deercreek	85	41	15:1	Muller, Jay DC	74	41	15:1
O'Connor, Doug MC	84	42	13:1	White, Jim PA	80	39	7:1	Palencia	85	36	2:1	Groenick, Phil DC	85	36	2:1
Larson, Bob MC	89	38	3:1	Henry, Mike PA	93	36	2:1								
Hansen, Bill MC	92	38	3:1												
Horne, Steve MC															

Individual Leaderboard

Eleven odds-breakers filled the twelve slots shown on today's individual leaderboard (*below*). In all, 25 players beat the odds associated with their handicap indexes while 62 players failed to match even odds.

POINTS		Odds
44 -- Doug O'Connor MC	229	28:1
43 -- Joe Boone WG	225	9:1
42 -- Joseph Aoki ML	222	15:1
42 -- Bob Larson MC	222	13:1
41 -- Ben Parmer EH	217	11:1
41 -- Jon Peterson OC	217	7:1
31.5 -- Today's average (34.5=2018 average)		
STROKES		Odds
74 -- Jay Mueller DC	229	15:1
75 -- Lee Fields DC	212	2:1
78 -- Jim Hocker LP	201	2:1
78 -- Ben Parmer EH	198	11:1
80 -- Michael Jay SG	198	10:1
80 -- Jim White PA	191	7:1
91.1 -- Today's average (91.5=2018 average)		

Outstanding Shooters

- Eagles: 1 Jay Mueller, Ned Hamil ML
- Birdies: 5 Jay Muellr DC
- 4 Bob Larson MC
- 3 Lee Fields DC, Ben Parmer EH, Jim White PA
- 50 Today's total (2018 average=62 birdies)

Closest to the Flagstick

- Hole 04 Jay Mueller DC 3'11"
- Hole 07 Jim Begley EH 0'8"
- Hole 15 Bob McBride WG 4'1/4"
- Hole 17 John White OP 4'3 1/2"

Toughest Holes

On average we record 92 pickups at each event. Today's course drew 128 pickups, the 21st toughest day of 151 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 in December 2010.

Hole 15, today's easiest hole, exacted no pickups. Hole 2, the second toughest hole, forced the most pickups, 20.

Hole	Par	Avg	Birdies	Pars	Bogeys	Others	Pickups
18	4	5.96	0	12	31	56	7
2	4	5.93	2	19	21	44	20
10	4	5.79	0	13	39	45	9
13	4	5.77	1	16	26	49	14
5	4	5.54	0	22	29	51	4
8	4	5.53	1	16	43	41	5

Scorer's Table

SMI's yellow pencils were issued today; they're softer (5 ohms) than Marsh Creek's pencils (12 ohms). 56 yellow pencils were issued: 34 were returned to the scorer's table and the cart crew recovered 18 others. Only 4 pencils went missing

Thanks to Fred Kegelmeyer MC for joining Dick Fruechtenicht and Jack Garrity to round out the three-member scoring crew. The crew experienced a fairly smooth operation that began when the first scorecard was returned at 1:44 pm, two minutes later than at last year's MC event. The operation lasted 57 minutes after which the competition was closed and the prizes distributed.

In all, 19 minutes of the operation were lost in handling errored scorecards (eight minutes) and manual entries for five players who were forced to submit golf-shop scorecards (11 minutes).

In league history, 29 cards are ejected on average for exception handling; the least number being 3, the largest number being 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 4h27m from starting tee to ending green. In fact, Group 14B was the fastest, finishing in 4h33m. Congratulations to our pace-of-play rabbits: Denny Roderick SN, Jay Shah WG, Fred Track EH, and Jim White PA

At the other extreme, today's turtles took 32 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 very well: while the rank correlation (ρ) between the forecast and actual rankings at Osprey Cove was weak (+0.21), the rank correlation today was spectacular (+0.67). We credit the better forecast to changes in the algorithm representing player characteristics.

Next Match

What: Tenth match in the 2019 season
 When: 9:00 am, Monday, October 21, 2019
 Where: Marsh Landing Country Club
 An Ed Seay design (1986)
 5,878 yards, 69.6/126/93.0 (course/slope/bogey)

Who: Ray Cabano, ML, Tournament Director
 Ryan Mikesell, PGA, Head Professional

Defending: Last time here, in April 2018, Marsh Landing used its home advantage to squeak past Deercreek by a one-point margin to claim first place. Queen's Harbour was back another point in third 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 OC 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
06/10/19	SMI Prize Fund: 110 DC rounds @ \$3	\$ 330.00		2,780.94
06/20/19	Jack Garrity: 1,300 Minute Man Press Scorecards		\$ 303.53	2,477.41
07/27/19	LGB Industries: Website ad	\$ 152.00		2,629.41
08/19/19	SMI Prize Fund: 108 OC rounds @ \$3	\$ 324.00		2,953.41
09/23/19	SMI Prize Fund: 107 MC rounds @ \$3	\$ 321.00		3,274.41

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 \$86.36. Google will pay us when the amount due is \$100 or more.