

# FSGA GOLF NEWS

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## Happy New Year! to each and all...

### THE GOLF CONSUMER

By Bill Carey

**SANDPIPER BAY** — After years of bumbling around in Pro-Ams, partnered with play-for-pay types who shot 87, the luck of the draw smiled twice here January 6-8 at General Development's Pro-Celebrity-Amateur best ball and produced a pair of professional super shooters for this well traveled golf consumer.

Samuel Jackson Snead and comedian Joey Bishop led Sarasota County Administrator Ed Maroney and the writer's team the first day. The venerable Snead hung a two under 70 on the board and the team helped nine shots for 61.

Second day out in the 36 hole event the pace quickened with Fred Haas and Bobby Riggs in the Pro-Celeb roles. Maroney and Carey drove carts, raked traps and occasionally scraped in a helper for a smooth 15 under par 57.

Senior Professional Golf, Inc., joint sponsors with GDC, decreed the amateurs add together their two day team totals for prize purposes. Our numbers came to 118 for the two rounds, good for a tie for second place with Paul Amann of Port St. Lucie and Bob Prine, St. Petersburg.

Veteran FSGAer Rodney Karlson, Ft. Pierce and Sarasota County Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Venice, hot-sticked it around the Sinners course at Sandpiper in 115 to win the amateur section. They were partnered with Ted Kroll and Peter Lind Hayes opening day for an incredible 54. Second round found Max Bayha and Ken Tobey, a California Pro-Celeb pair, helping Karlson and Rhodes to a 61.

In addition to having professionals as partners who really could perform, there

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**FINAL VICTORS OF 1977** were Brian Swain, left, and Ted Huff of Winter Haven. FSGA President Austin Jones presented the pair with merchandise certificates and holiday cheer crystal steins, after their playoff win over Ron Garl and Dan Morgan in the King's Inn Holiday Four-Ball.

### USGA Changes Rules of Amateur Status

The United States Golf Association recently announced a number of changes in the Rules of Amateur Status, which is the accepted code of amateurism in the United States, and in the USGA Policy on Gambling. The changes, which will take effect January 1, 1978, include:

- The distinction between playing for prize money (a violation) and gambling (not a violation) has been clarified in the Policy on Gambling. Although the USGA still urges that merchandise, rather than money, be awarded to amateurs, there will be no violation of the amateur code when money is awarded in an event provided:

- a. The source of all money awarded is the golfers who participate.
- b. No participant may win more than \$350.

As in the past, USGA does not object to informal wagering among individual golfers, provided the primary purpose is the playing of the game for enjoyment.

- The maximum retail value of a prize an amateur may accept has been raised to \$350 from \$250.

- Teachers and other school employees and camp counselors may now

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### FSGA's 65th Year Features Fine List of State Competitions

**SARASOTA** — Comes now the 65th year of Florida State Golf Association.

FSGA isn't exactly a household piece of the alphabet, so, for the uninitiated, we'll recount that the venerable state golf association was formed in 1913 and the first State Amateur Golf Championship held at Rocky Point Golf Course in Tampa in 1914.

The Ulmers, Harnetts, Camps, Palmers, Knights and Gibbons were around in those days of early Florida golf. And so was John Hamilton Gillespie, the Scot settler who built the first golf holes in Florida, and possibly in the country, in Sarasota in 1886.

What's ahead in '78 for FSGA's 65th year?

From a purely prejudiced view, plenty!

The basic rallying point for 5,000 FSGA members is the schedule of 15 tournaments and special events. The itinerary will go international for the second time in three years with the Scottish Golf-British Open trip to St. Andrews, Scotland, July 1-15.

From the top — our chronology of events:

Opener. Harder Hall, Sebring. Mixed Pairs, Jan. 21-22, with practice round and Friday welcoming party Jan. 20. It was a fun bust last year despite 28 degree weather. Host Vic Jacobson has promised better this winter.

The popular King Neptune Pageant Tournament will be moved from Rolling Green Golf Club for the first time since its inception, 10 years ago, to Gator Creek Golf Club. The Sarasota dates are early this year, April 1-2, and RG host Dave Matuszak still has beaucoup winter visitor play to contend with at that time.

Gator Creek is a men's club. A Joe Lee designed layout, it ranks in the top five golf

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FSGA'S 65th YEAR



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## Editorial

In its cloistered wisdom the USGA has inflicted a new sense of outrage upon amateurs and district golf associations.

Item: "Although the USGA still urges that merchandise, rather than money, be awarded to amateurs, there will be no violation of the amateur code when money is awarded in an event provided:

a. The source of all money awarded is the golfers who participate.

b. No participant may win more than \$350."

Item: "The maximum retail value of a prize an amateur may accept has been raised to \$350 from \$250."

Those two little gems are the latest from Golf House along with other changes which are reported elsewhere in this newsletter in the release from the USGA.

From comments, calls and letters received in the FSGA office, it seems the propounders of these out-of-the-mainstream edicts haven't exactly grunted and brought forth a mouse. Ingesting this pair of poisons, say proponents of the "pure" code, into the bloodlines of amateur golf — already suffering from high cholesterol and hardening of arteries — could head the amateur game into a massive coronary.

From the golf association view, there certainly appears to be too much fatty thought in the changes which became effective January 1, 1978.

Space doesn't permit a number of observations in opposition to the changes which sprint to mind. We think the economics of the decision irresponsible in light of the dollar crunch in which we're all caught and will comment to that viewpoint.

## Prayer

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

The late Father Dougherty originally wrote and delivered this blessing for an FSGA event. We have used it many times and have requests to reprint it. The first issue of our newsletter in the New Year seems an appropriate time to do so.

*Our Heavenly Father,  
Eternal greenskeeper and course pro,  
In comparison to you we are all amateurs  
Dubbing our way along the fairways  
of life.  
Help us to tee up each day correctly,  
To use the backswing of experience,*

Questioned about the economic impact of raising the allowable retail value of an amateur prize to \$350, USGA Executive Director P.J. Boatwright said, "We did that simply because of inflation."

That's a classic of reverse reasoning when you consider that to be able to award the higher valued prize, tournament administrators must in turn raise entry fees. In an annual 15 to 20 event statewide tournament program for association members, increased entry fees would be a punitive disservice, in our opinion.

Raising costs flies in the face of efforts being made to hold the line on expenditures by honest tournament administrators. Every facet of the golf industry is lamenting the soaring costs of the game. Professionals cry that club manufacturers have priced them out of the traditional pro shop equipment sales market. Labor and material costs in the maintenance of courses have climbed to incredible heights. National Golf Foundation research tells us the game is losing players because of ever higher costs.

And in the face of all these wildly flying red flags the USGA urges increasing prize values and raising costs? We're not playing the same game!

This corner humbly suggests the USGA run, not walk, this one back to the drawing board. If changes are to be made let's not have them just to be making changes but to improve the game and help the players combat inflationary pressures of today's golf market place.

Bill Carey

*To follow thru with good resolutions,  
To avoid the hook of false humility,  
The slicing of character,  
The penalty for the sand trap of self  
reliance,  
The water hazard of knowing it all,  
The bogey of blowing off steam,  
The divots which hurt and scar our  
friends.  
May the gallery cheer when, despite  
our handicap,  
We sink our last shot and have You  
sign our official  
score card of victory!*

Father Cornelius Dougherty  
Church of the Incarnation  
Sarasota, Florida

## USGA CHANGES —

spend up to 50 percent of their working time giving golf instruction. (The percentage has been increased from 10 percent.)

- Salesmen of golf merchandise will no longer be in violation of the code, regardless of their records as golfers. Previously, golf merchandise salesmen who were employed because of golf skill or golf reputation forfeited their amateur status.

- Under the new code an amateur may accept golf equipment or clothing, without paying the current market price, so long as it is not provided, directly or indirectly, by a manufacturer whose intention is to promote his line by associating it with the player's golf skill or reputation.

This varies from the current code in that a violation presently occurs when an amateur accepts golf equipment or clothing, without paying the market price, from anyone at all who deals in such merchandise.

- Players participating in international team matches sponsored by golf associations will be entitled to accept expenses paid by one or more of the golf associations involved. Subject to prior approval by the USGA, expenses may also be paid to players in international team matches sponsored by other athletic organizations. Currently, such payment of expenses is limited to USGA teams, e.g., the Walker Cup, Curtis Cup, and World Amateur teams. The basic expense rule remains unchanged: in general, amateurs must pay their own expenses. There are six specific exceptions:

1. Junior golfers (under 18), in junior events.
2. International team members, as outlined above.
3. Qualifiers for the USGA's Public Links Championships.
4. Members of school, college and military teams.
5. Members of industrial or business teams.
6. Golfers invited to participate for reasons unrelated to golf skill.

- The probationary periods for some golfers applying for reinstatement to amateur status will be shorter. Applicants who were in violation of the code for more than five years may be reinstated after two years probation. Previously, probationary periods of such applicants have been based on the length of the period in violation, with probationary periods extending up to five years. In general, probationary periods of more than two years will be required only of applicants who played extensively for prize money.

- Applicants for reinstatement will be eligible to play in pro-amateur events (but may accept no prizes). Previously, applicants could play only in events limited to members of their own clubs and in "open" competitions.

Other minor changes reflect established USGA policies and interpretations of the code.

Copies of the Rules of Amateur Status are available without charge from the USGA at Golf House, Far Hills, NJ 07931. They also appear in the Rules of Golf booklet, the 1978 edition of which will soon be available from the USGA for 50 cents.

An analysis and rationale for the changes will be presented in the January-February issue of the GOLF JOURNAL, the USGA magazine. ■

## FSGA'S 65th YEAR —

courses in the state and was the site of the 1976 Central Florida U.S. Open qualifying. The Neptune will be the second outside tournament held at the classic course.

Back to Port St. Lucie April 21-23! For many years the State Amateur was held at Port St. Lucie C.C., now called Sandpiper Bay. Growth and development turned FSGA away from the popular spot. Now a relationship has been rekindled with management and we'll be back in with a new format as an FSGA Member-Guest Invitational is tried for the first time. The annual Four Man Club Team Championship also will be played during the first two rounds of the 54 hole stroke play event which will have almost as many combinations of competition this year as the Life at Forty.

Bardmoor, home of the 1977 Pro Mixed Pairs, will be the venue for the Seniors Championship May 5-7. Our elder statesmen of the links will use a traditional 54 hole format to decide the title.

U.S. Open Qualifying, 36 holes in one day, will be played over the Sun City C.C. and King's Inn courses, Sun City Center, Monday, May 22.

The Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-29, will see the playing of the Gillespie National Pro-Am with Senior Section at Longboat Key C.C. FSGA began the observance of "Gillespie Golf Week" last year and the '78 event is an outgrowth of the initial outing which honored Gillespie's first golf holes in Florida.

The 61st State Amateur Golf Championship will be played in West Palm Beach at The President Country Club, June 8-11. Florida's oldest continuous sports competition returns to the area for the first time since 1967 when John Darr, Jr., won the title with a record 10 under par 278, at the then PGA National Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens.

July 1-15 will be covered by FSGA Internationalists participating in the Scottish Golf-British Open Tour at St. Andrews. Many of the 1975 Brigade who made the Walker Cup junket to the same site, to follow then State Amateur Champions Jerry Pate and Gary Koch, will be members of the entourage.

The State Junior Championship will be played at Sunrise National G.C., Sarasota, Aug. 3-4, and followed by a pair of one day scholarship events at Lone Palm G.C., Lakeland, Aug. 20 and Sugar Mill G.C., New Smyrna, Sept. 10.

Another new tournament site will host the State Amateur Four Ball, Sept. 23-24. The FSGA tournament committee judged Mayacoo C.C. too tough for individual competition but decided it would be ideal for the two man team effort. If you are of stout heart don't miss this one at West Palm Beach.

The Fall months finish the schedule with the Senior Four Ball at Vero Beach C.C., Oct. 14-15; Life at Forty, Lehigh C.C., Nov. 3-4 and the Holiday Four Ball, Dec. 2-3 at a site to be announced. ■

**Membership Renewal Notice**  
Clubs and individual members of FSGA are advised to renew memberships for 1978 promptly to insure that they are not dropped from the mail list. Computer handicaps, newsletters, tournament entry forms, etc. will cease if dues are not current by March 1, 1978.

## 1978 EVENTS SCHEDULE

Jan. 21-22, Mixed Pairs, Harder Hall, Sebring.  
April 1-2, King Neptune Tournament, Gator Creek, Sarasota.  
April 21-23, Member-Guest Invitational & Four Man Club Team Championship, Sandpiper Bay, Port St. Lucie.  
May 5-7, Senior Championship 54 Holes, Bardmoor, Largo.  
May 27-29, [Memorial Day Weekend, Sat. thru Mon.] Gillespie National Pro-Am with Senior Section, Longboat Key, Sarasota.  
May 22, U.S. Open Qualifying, 36 Holes, Sun City G.C. and King's Inn G.C., Sun City Center.  
June 8-11, 61st State Amateur Championship, The President C.C., West Palm Beach.  
July 1-15, FSGA Scottish Golf/British Open Trip, St. Andrews, Scotland.  
Aug. 3-4, State Junior Championship, Sunrise National, Sarasota.  
Aug. 20, Annual Scholarship Tournament, Lone Palm, Lakeland.  
Sept. 10, Scholarship Event, Sugar Mill C.C., New Smyrna.  
Sept. 23-24, State Four-Ball Championship, Mayacoo C.C., West Palm Beach.  
Oct. 14-15, State Seniors Four-Ball Championship, Vero Beach C.C.  
Nov. 3-4, Life at Forty, Lehigh C.C., Lehigh.  
Dec. 2-3, Holiday Four-Ball [Site To Be Announced].

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following article appeared in the October 10, 1977 issue of *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED*. In our opinion it is one of the best pieces ever written to guide beginning golfers. We have received permission from the publisher and the author's representative to reprint it.

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# HAVE A WHALE OF A TIME

Let your kids take a mighty cut — and even cut up a bit by themselves — and the chances are they will soon be eager to be golfers

By Jack Nicklaus

Hitting things with sticks comes naturally to most children. Put a youngster in a field with nothing better to do and, like as not, he'll pick up a switch and start decapitating dandelions. Give him a bat or a racquet and he'll begin swinging it even before you toss him a ball. Often he'll make a pretty good pass at whatever he's trying to hit just by instinct. If he enjoys what he's doing — and most children I know like spontaneous physical activity — he'll get better at it simply by watching and copying how other people do it.

That's how my children started the games they play, and with golf in particular I can't think of a better way. The big danger with too much early adult direction is an overprogrammed, overcomplex approach to what is essentially a pretty straightforward act — hitting a ball with a stick. Many parents who tee it up on weekends suffer from paralysis by analysis. The best way to avoid that in children is to encourage them at first simply to whale away at a golf ball with no objective other than giving it a sturdy wallop. The rest can come later if and

when a youngster decides that it would be more fun to really try to play golf, rather than just beating balls around.

The chances of that happening are proportionate to how much enjoyment the child has gotten out of belting balls. It is a bad idea, in my view, to try to force a youngster into a game just because you play. And it is even worse to move him along too fast because you want him to excel at a game — one of the problems with Little League baseball and other junior-level team sports. You have to love a sport to play it well, and love grows out of enjoyment, not coercion.

The greatest thing my father did for me was to invite me to try golf, and then, when I liked it, to give me the opportunity to play. There was no "must" or even "should" about it. If he suggested I join him for a round and I didn't want to, that was fine. If I wanted to go to the movies instead of practicing, that was fine, too. The only pressure he put on me in regard to golf was to abide by the game's ethics and traditions. The big decisions were mine.

One of these was to join the weekly junior group golf program run by Jack

Grout at Scioto Country Club in Columbus. I was 10 at the time and a lot crazier about baseball and football than golf. But a couple of hours a week beating balls with 40 or 50 children under Jack Grout's enthusiastic but uncomplicated direction quickly showed me three things about the game that caught and held my interest.

First, it was a sport you could play by yourself, and at any time, which appealed to what I suppose were the beginnings of a desire for independence. The second thing was that, although it looked easy, golf was in fact extremely challenging, more so than playing baseball or football. This appealed to my youthful competitiveness. Finally, hitting a ball well was a heck of a lot more fun than hitting it badly, which made me want to get better at it as quickly as possible.

It was the group coaching that really gave me the bug. Looking back, I think I see the reasons why such programs are excellent for moving a child on from hitting balls to playing.

Most children like to do things with other children rather than with adults. The reason, of course, is that by so doing they are participating and competing on their own level, not the remote and seemingly unattainable levels of grown-ups. This is particularly important in terms of distance — the proper beginning goal of all youngsters. No matter how close an adult-child relationship is, it has to be frustrating and perhaps intimidating for a youngster to be continually out-hit. Junior group experience minimizes the differential.

Also there is the pleasure of peer approval, which comes with developing skills. I got a kick out of being hauled from the line by Jack Grout to show the rest of the kids "how to hit down on it" and "how to get out of a bunker" or whatever. I'm sure that wanting to remain a demonstrator and model was as great a spur to improvement as playing better for its own sake. I know I certainly worked harder after Jack Grout had used someone else to show off a particular shot or technique.

Another plus in teaching youngsters in groups is that they naturally move from learning and practicing to playing together. Adults can get satis-

faction from competing against the course, or from trying to strike the ball well. Such challenges are too esoteric for children. They relate much better to competition with those of their own age than to things like par or a particular flighting of the ball. Youngsters who play with adults or alone eventually get bored because they rarely get to compete against a fair and realistic adversary. Also children playing together soon learn how to handle both winning and losing — a very important educational experience.

The cost of golf is bound to be a consideration for many parents who would like their children to try the game. Hand-me-down or loaned clubs, sharing of the professional's time, and special playing or membership fees of a well-conceived junior program can offer considerable savings. Sometimes this is the only way a child can enter the game. And in some areas of the country it is the only way youngsters can get onto decent golf courses, which, in my opinion, is a sad commentary on adult selfishness.

Once a youngster gets past the knock-about stage, what should he be taught? Beyond the fact that golf is meant to be fun and that it calls for good manners and sportsmanlike behavior, I'd suggest only enough at the outset to prevent him from having to break bad swing habits at some later point in life.

One trap that Jack Grout tried hard to avoid — and one I constantly have to try even harder to avoid with my children — is giving too much information at a time. Even tour pros find it difficult to work on more than one thing in the golf swing, so it's pretty unrealistic to expect more than that of a child.

What a youngster first needs to be shown — and showing is better than just telling — is how to hold the club and set up squarely to the ball with good posture. The most effective way of starting a good grip is simply to tell the youngster to "shake hands with the club" exactly as he would with a person. To get a beginner in a more or less square address position show him how to stand parallel to wherever he wants the ball to go. To build the basics of good posture — a much-neglected factor, I find, among late-

beginning adults — ask the child to extend the club horizontally and at arms' length, then bend over from the waist with the back straight and head comfortably erect.

Once he has these elements down fairly well, any reasonably coordinated youngster of eight or nine will quickly become able to make decent enough contact to move the ball forward a good part of the time. As the youngster progresses, work on keeping his head steady, and on turning his body to and fro to enable the hands and arms to swing the club as freely as possible. Avoid too many specifics, especially making a child position-conscious. Rather, emphasize freedom and fluidity of movement.

One point that I try hard to get across to my older boys, against the day when they start analyzing their swings, is the role of the clubhead. Most adult mis-hits are not caused by lack of talent so much as by ignorance of the basic objective of the swing, or by preoccupation with swing particularities.

The objective of golf isn't a certain type of grip, set-up or swing, but a certain kind of **club-ball impact**. Expressed simply, what every golfer is trying to do — or should be — is to meet the ball with the clubhead swinging momentarily in the direction he wants it to fly with the face also looking in that direction. If that's true, then how a player grips, sets up and swings are of consequence only in relation to achieving this goal, not as art forms in themselves, which is how many adults seem to see them.

Over the years certain broad principles of gripping, setting up and swinging have been found to make the primary goal of correct club-ball impact easier to attain. The more you can keep a young golfer's mind on this primary goal and on the fundamentals that will most easily enable him to achieve it, the better his prospects as a player. Technical frills are unimportant.

When Jack Grout was questioned about some inconsequential technicality by a pupil — and I in particular asked a million such questions — his answers inevitably would be framed around a fundamental:

"Mr. Grout, how far should my hips turn on the backswing?"

"Just turn those shoulders, Jack, and keep that right knee nice and flexed. Go on, now, let's see you hit a couple hundred more doing that."

Evasive as he always was about effects as opposed to causes, Jack Grout was explicit when it came to explaining the "why" as well as the "how" of anything he regarded as fundamental to good swinging. Given a talented student who showed real interest in the game, he would strive to make the young golfer understand the reason for a particular move rather than teach its physical execution.

My earliest golfing hero, Bobby Jones, once told my father, who relayed the conversation, "I think I was a fairly good young golfer, but I never became a really good one until I had been competing for a number of seasons. When I first started to play in big tournaments, whenever anything went wrong I'd run home to Stewart Maiden, our pro at East Lake. Finally, I matured to the point where I understood my game well enough to make corrections myself during the course of a tournament, and that's when I believe I became a good golfer."

Up to that point I'd often become impatient with Jack Grout's insistence on explaining causes when we were standing there with 500 balls to hit. I had also gotten into the habit of running back to him whenever the slightest thing seemed to be going wrong with my swing. I stopped doing both after hearing of the Jones conversation, and I have been very thankful to Jack Grout since for giving me the basic knowledge that has allowed me to be my own swing doctor. In selecting pros for children, I recommend parents look hard for that quality.

How much formal training youngsters need depends on how fast they progress and how interested they become. If there is a real commitment to golf, plus obvious talent for it, then on-the-course playing lessons are an excellent way to illustrate that the game consists of two elements — striking the ball and scoring. Self- and course-management, etiquette and awareness of rules generally can be best taught on the course — initially, by adult example.

As my youngsters progress, my chief concerns on the practice tee are

their tempo and balance. But good judgment is needed here not to put too early or too heavy a curb on a youngster's natural desire to rip every shot. Jack Grout did me another favor by always encouraging me to hit the ball hard. He put a high priority on distance, first, because it's the most obvious and enjoyable goal of a youngster, and second and most important, because it's an asset if and when the game is taken seriously later on. Another reason for this "Hit it hard and long and worry about direction later" philosophy was the muscular and mental inhibitions that can permanently afflict golfers who become accuracy-conscious too soon. Such people can very rarely make themselves give the ball a really good belt in later years, whereas uninhibited swingers learn to control their shots as they mature.

If a youngster has problems taming his "rip it" tendencies when the time seems appropriate for him to do so, one way of helping him might be to get him heavier clubs. Short, light clubs are essential for very young or not particularly strong children, but it's my belief that most children should move to adult weights as soon as possible, both to force a slowing down of tempo and to promote a true swinging motion. The theory certainly seems to have worked with my eldest son, Jack, who has been playing with the same weight clubs that I use since he was 13.

Another thing that can help a young golfer is warming up before a round and doing swing-building exercises afterward. The reasons, of course, are that practice is most physically productive when faults are fresh in your mind, and most mentally productive when you don't have to sleep with them.

Whichever way you choose to guide a child, be sure to impart a sense of fun. At first, that will almost certainly lie simply in hitting — or hitting at — a golf ball. Once it begins to fly upward and forward, the child who doesn't want to compete with his new skill is rare indeed.

Encourage that desire to the utmost, because, although competition may not be all of what life's about, it surely does add spice to it. ■



**KINCAPLE HOUSE**, two miles from the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, site of the 1978 British Open, has been leased by FSGAers. Forty Association members will make the Scottish Golf British Open junket July 1-15.

## FSGA British Open Trip on Schedule

Friday, June 30, 1978, is getaway day for the 40 members making FSGA's 16 day foray to Scotland.

Departure is from Miami via National Airlines to London and Edinburgh. Special transportation from Edinburgh will move the group to Kincaple House, two miles from the Old Course at St. Andrews, which will be FSGA headquarters for the outing.

After arrival at Kincaple the group will be housed in double rooms and members will be on their own to golf, sightsee, shop, etc., on individual schedules. The idea is to play famous courses in a radius of 50 miles of St. Andrews in the week prior to the Open Championship. During the week of the Open, golf will be available at nearby courses in the morning, leaving afternoons for tournament watching.

The \$950 per person charge paid to FSGA includes round trip air fare from National airports in Florida, transportation to St. Andrews from Edinburgh Airport and return, 14 days bed and breakfast accommodations at Kincaple and two FSGA "rallies." Members will be on their own for rental cars, golf, luncheons, dinners, sightseeing, extra attractions, shopping, the tournament, etc.

Edna and Bill Carey will coordinate the trip and at this writing there are a few places still available in the St. Andrews area, other than at Kincaple House, for interested FSGA members. ■

### GOLF CONSUMER —

was exposure to the nicest pro type guy I ever played with in Fred Haas of New Orleans. A super striker of the ball, as his 67-70-137 readily attests, Haas won the individual pro title by three shots with the seven under par performance.

Chick Harbert, a fixture at Port St. Lucie for many years and now at Ocean Reef in the Keys, was second in the senior pro lineup with 140. Tommy Bolt scored 141, Snead and Charlie Sifford 142s. Seventeen senior professionals including

the aforementioned and Doug Ford, Walter Flahive, Ed Furgol, Julius Boros, Don Cherry, Mike Austin, Al Besselink, George Bayer, Willie Barber and Henry Ranson were on hand.

There was a heap of nostalgia in reviewing the past performances of that lineup which was done frequently and irreverently by the California TV and film celebrities led by Joey Bishop, Forrest Tucker, Norm Alden, Guy Madison, John Gray, Bobby Winkles, Ron Soble, Bobby Riggs, Mickey Manners, Bob Smith, Ken Tobey, Peter Lind Hayes, Claude Akins, Charles Lane, John Agar, Leslie Nielsen and John Larch.

A pilot film for TV was shot during the weekend which should be something to behold if only a few out takes are included.

Word was the pilot will cost \$50,000 with the producer in for half interest, SPGI and GDC sharing the other half. Objective — to make some bucks for SPGI and give it additional exposure. GDC paid the expenses of flying the professionals and celebrities from California and way points, housing, wining and dining them. No entry fees were charged the pros and celebs and only \$5,000 prize money given the pros. No prizes to celebrities.

The amateurs went for \$300 per copy, paid their food and lodging in most cases, received about \$90 worth of benefits in golf fees, carts, parties, dinners and mementos. That left approximately \$210 per amateur — \$7,140 — to go into the general promotion fund. Only \$700 in amateur merchandise prizes had been planned but due to a mix-up in the very inefficient score board operation GDC's beneficence was increased to \$950.

A rip-off for the amateurs? Not really. That ratio of cash paid to benefits received is about normal when one gets involved with a pro-am. Not very equitable but chances of it changing are slim and none.

SPGI could have improved relationships with amateur contestants by doing a more efficient job in explaining the format of the tournament, listing on scoreboard amateur team standings and noting the number of prize places. Guys who came up with the \$300 never knew how the event was being contested or how they stood at the finish.

With GDC's golf resort reputation at stake, amateurs who play in many of these events were puzzled that Sandpiper Bay's host professional, Chuck Johnson, wasn't entrusted with the job of supervising the administration of the tournament. Chuck is a class operator who had efficiently run the recent Florida Open with more than 300 contestants and certainly would have smoothed the rough spots and sent the amateurs away with a better feeling. ■



BOB MICHAEL

# Florida's Premier Lefty

By Bill Fritts

Bob Michael of Sarasota, a slender, tallish, mustacioed young man, does only one thing—lefthanded, but he does that exceedingly well. He plays golf—and he's currently the National Left-Handed Amateur Champion, a title he won at Innisbrook last June.

It was not the first time Michael had won the left-hander championship. He captured the title in 1974 at the Brookhaven Golf and Country Club in Dallas, while staying at the home of golf pro Don January's family.

Since he was 11, Michael's life has been one of golf, golf and more golf. He has played in more tournaments than he can remember, winning his first, the Miller High Life Tournament at Bobby Jones Golf Club, at age 16. The following year he won the Florida Junior PGA Section title at Crystal River.

In 1971 he entered the University of Florida and played on the golf team for five years, competing in numerous tournaments and gaining valuable experience. But the competition was stiff—teammates included such standouts as Gary Koch, Andy Bean and Woody Blackburn—and, though gaining the top ten in several tournaments, he failed to scale the heights.

In 1976 he graduated with a degree in business management.

Though Michael prevails at the top in left-hander circles, he still has not captured a major title in the ambidextrous ranks. He's twice been an alternate in the National Amateur but has failed to qualify in five tries; his best in the Southern Amateur in five tries was tenth; his best in the State Amateur in five tries was fifth—and so it has gone. But in two attempts at the Florida Open amateur title he has emerged the runnerup, and in the American Amateur Classic he came in third.

With Michael, one feels he plays a kind of brinkmanship golf where one good push, by Lady Luck or perseverance, could put him over.

As to why he swings a golf club left-handed but nothing else (he writes, shaves, throws a ball right-handed), he attributes this anomaly to his father, Dan Michael, who owns Michael the Cleaner of Sarasota.

"Dad taught me to play baseball, and he taught me how to bat left-handed and throw right-handed. If you bat left-handed, you're closer to first base. When I started playing golf, I just picked up left-handed clubs."

Does he see any disadvantage to being a left-hander?

"About the only disadvantage I could see," he says, "is in getting equipment. Instruction is a little bit harder to come by, but really there should be no difference. It's just like watching somebody swing in a mirror. You should be able to see the faults."

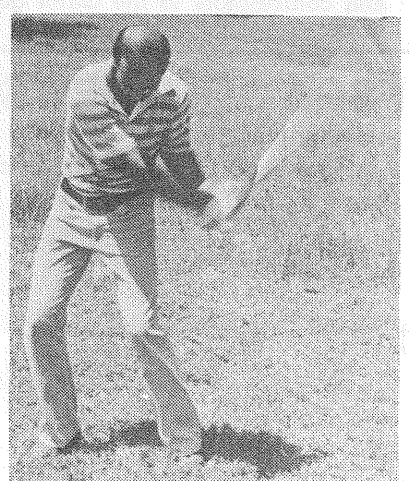
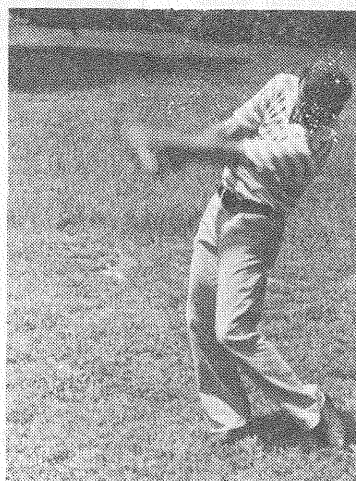
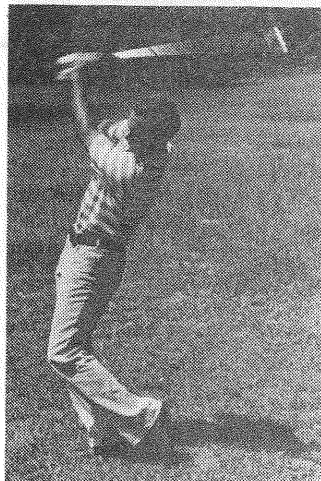
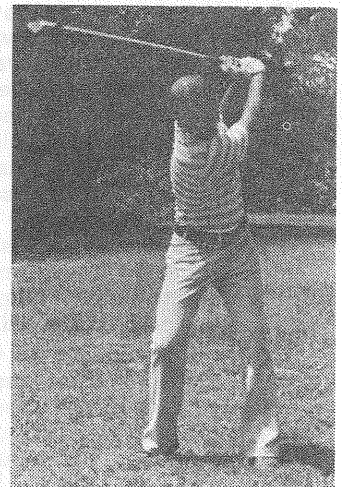
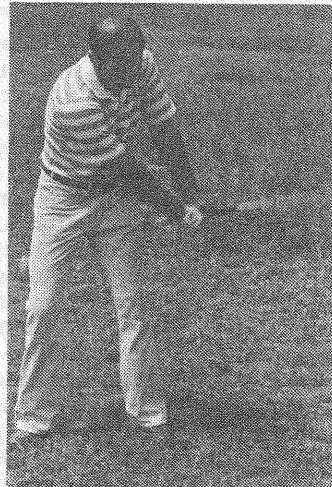
In the final analysis, he says, it's the same challenge for both right and left handers—"you still got to get the ball in the hole."

There is however, a possible difference depending on how a golf course is designed. Some courses, he notes, have more doglegs to the right or left than other courses. If the right predominates, "and I'm drawing the ball there, I might have a little bit of an advantage on that course—but depending on what course you play and who designed it, you might be at a certain advantage or disadvantage—same as a right-handed player."

Does he think he might turn pro?

Michael shakes his head. "I'm not sure yet. Things are up in the air right now. I've considered working as an assistant pro, but right now I'm working with my dad. I really can't say what I'm going to do."

**THE STYLE**, grace and effectiveness of Bob Michael's lefty swing is captured in this camera sequence. His take-away, position behind the ball at impact, and full extension to a high finish, reflects the sound qualities of a low handicapper's golf swing.





**GAINESVILLE** — Coming home can be a trauma. Returning to the playgrounds of your youth, something less than the way you remembered it.

Not so with Gator Golf Day at the University of Florida. The 1977 version in mid-November was a delight. Past Gator players, old fans, friends and families turned out in the clear, brisk air for a reveler's go at the friendly University golf course.

Rampant nostalgia was abroad the greens and fairways of the old course as memories and deeds of yesteryear became greater with each re-telling. And out of it all, after expenses, the Gator Golf Fund netted more than \$12,000, enough to pay for four full aid grants for the 1978 team. A good show.

Standing on the first tee, well immersed in the beauty of green, rolling bermuda and the camaraderie of the occasion, it was hard to believe that it was 41 years ago when I first teed-up here in the state high school golf championship. After four years of college, repeated post-war visitations, a stint as a statewide alumni association vice president, and many football weekends in search of "the Year of the Gator," my enthusiasm for the institution and its people, past and present, has not diminished.

The Gator golf guys who went on to do their thing as professionals add measurably to the annual outing. They loyally return for banter and jest with old teammates and coaches, play with friends, hackers and contributors to the Gator golf fund.

Doug Sanders, Frank Beard, Laurie Hammer, Marlen Vogt, Bob Murphy, Andy North, Steve Melnyk, Gary Koch, Andy Bean and Phil Hancock have successfully made it to the pay window regularly on the pro tour. Come mid-November, though, they head for Gainesville, unless professionally committed elsewhere, and help Gator Booster head Gene Ellenson and golf coach Buster Bishop, run up the orange and blue links banner. This year Sanders and Hammer were elsewhere — Laurie at Callaway Gardens winning the PGA Club professional championship.

The opportunity to visit with Ellenson was a bonus. We first met in 1935 and played football for Jess Yarbrough at Miami Senior High School and were on the golf team which used the old West Flagler course as home base.

I went on to Florida on a football grant and Gene went to Georgia to become a distinguished lineman, win All America recognition and play in the Rose Bowl. He coached at the University of Miami and then went to Florida as Ray Graves chief assistant. When Doug Dickey, a former Gator quarterback and successful practitioner of the coaching art at the University of Tennessee, was being considered to succeed Graves at Florida, Ellenson, also, was a strong contender for the head coach's rack.

As a Gator the mystique held for Doug and he got the job. Graves went to athletic director and selected Ellenson to head Gator Boosters, Inc. the important scholarship fund-raising side of major

college athletics.

Gene has responded nobly. His efforts have rung the register for almost one million dollars during his tenure. Gator Golf Day is an Ellenson production which he and his assistants handle with style and grace.

"I would say today was a big success. We had one player who didn't show, 120 amateurs registered and 119 turned out. I think that must be some kind of an outdoor national record," Ellenson said during the press interview following the awarding of hundreds of prizes.

Comradeship takes precedent over scores in this unusual event. The 30 pros and 119 amateurs went off in a shotgun start with the pros playing the first nine holes with their starting foursome then dropping back and playing nine with the foursome following. The pro's individual score was not posted but counted with the foursome of amateurs in the double low ball team competition. Full handicaps were used.

John Darr, FSGA's 1967 State Amateur Champion, now a professional and assistant to Coach Buster Bishop, blistered the acreage for a nine under par 62. His round included nine birdies and an eagle which was the day's best individual effort.

Brad Baldwin, an FSGAer from St. Petersburg, and past winner of Sarasota's Neptune Pageant Tournament, played on the winning team which scored a cool 114, 28 under par. Sarasotan Bob Michaels, the National Lefty Champion, played as the "Gator Pro" for the first nine with Baldwin's group and contributed helpful numbers to the low ball. ■

**Membership Renewal Notice**  
Clubs and individual members of FSGA are advised to renew memberships for 1978 promptly to insure that they are not dropped from the mail list. Computer handicaps, newsletters, tournament entry forms, etc. will cease if dues are not current by March 1, 1978.

## FSGA GOLF NEWS

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