

FSGA GOLF NEWS

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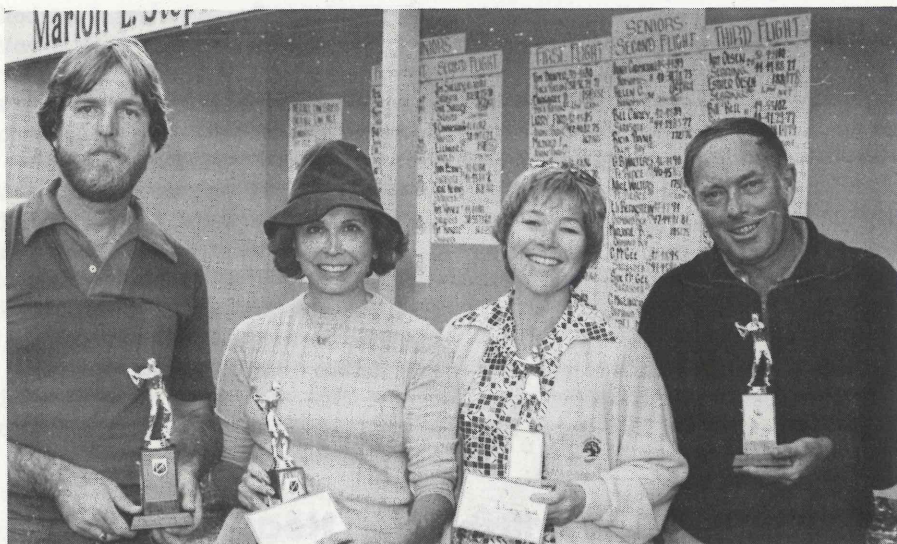
FSGA GOLF NEWS

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SCHWANZ-HOOD WIN SEBRING MIXED PAIRS



HARDER HALL MIXED PAIRS victors . . . a tough foursome. Betty Jean Hood and Pete Schwanz, right, are the 1978 Champions with a one under par performance. Bill Dotson and Eva Jacobson, captured net honors in FSGA's 36 hole opening event of the year.

Gator Creek will host King Neptune Tournament

FSGA members will be treated to one of Florida's finest golf courses when they tee-up for this year's King Neptune event at Gator Creek Golf Club, Sarasota, April 1-2.

The field will be limited to the first 128 entries received for the popular 36 hole tournament at the exclusive men's layout southeast of Sarasota.

Entry forms were included with this newsletter mailing to members in good standing and the field is expected to fill quickly. There will be a special section for senior players 55 and over in the Neptune again this year.

Rick Pearson, Manatee Junior College star, won the Neptune in '77, a victory which launched him on a great year. He later won the State Junior College crown, was low qualifier for the U.S. Open from Central Florida and partnered with Skip Lujack to win FSGA's State Amateur Four-Ball at Longboat Key Golf Club in a thrilling five team sudden death playoff.



FORMER USGA National Senior Champion Tom Draper, Boca Raton, partnered with wife Margaret to handily win the senior team section at Harder Hall.

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 31, 1978.

Bent Tree team top Harder Hall field

SEBRING — The Sarasota team of Pete Schwanz and Betty Jean Hood found Harder Hall golf course to their liking as they shaded par by a shot to win FSGA's Mixed Pairs '78 opener.

The Bent Tree Golf Club pair recorded a two over 74 in opening day alternate shot competition and came back with a three under 69 the second day in better ball play. Their 143 total for 36 holes was three better than the Bill Dotson-Eva Jacobson team.

Schwanz-Hood's net total 141 also was the class of the field, but since teams were allowed only one prize, the overall net award went to Dotson-Jacobson's 142.

Betty Jean remarked at the finish that her partner was hard to help, but she rendered stout aid when called upon. A class lady player, Hood coaches the boys golf team at Southeast High School and late this month was one of three amateurs qualifying for a spot in the LPGA Bent Tree Classic.

All five teams in the championship flight came away winners. In addition to the overall gross and net victors — Schwanz-Hood, Dotson-Jacobson — Chip Neptuen and Virginia Fisher, the 1977 winners; Jim Achenbach-Cyndi Cook and Lou and Julie Essex, received an assortment of gross and net merchandise.

There were three flights of senior teams with former USGA National Senior Champion Tom Draper, partnered with wife Margaret, scoring a gross 154 to win by seven shots.

HARDER HALL PRIZE WINNERS:

Over all low gross Schwanz-Hood 143; over all low net Dotson-Jacobson 142; Juniors First Flight: low gross Essex-Essex 153 & Neptune-Fisher 153 tied. low net Achenbach-Cook 149; Second Flight: low gross Shelley-Shelley 156. low net Cunningham-Cunningham 155. Seniors First Flight: low gross Draper-Draper 154; low net Hedden-Hedden 156, LaRoche-LaRoche 158. Second Flight: low gross Carmichael-Carmichael 167; low net Walters-Walters 165, Carey-Payne 166, Migliaccio-Migliaccio 169. Third Flight: low gross Bell-Bell 181, low net Olsen-Olsen 177.

FSGA'S 65th YEAR



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Editorial

Vilify the establishment?

Not on your life. The observations made in this space last issue about USGA Rules changes were intended as honest, constructive comment. Letters and calls received from the membership since publication indicated they were accepted in that spirit.

FSGA's voice was one of thousands heard by USGA officials on the subject of amateurs playing for prize money, gambling and the increase of prize value to \$350 which may be accepted in cash. The outpouring of opinion from across the land prompted the USGA to withdraw part of the change for reconsideration.

The item being mulled — the revised policy on gambling — states that it is golf wagering and not playing for prize money if you participate for money contributed by fellow golfers. You may call it a hat pool at your diggings. By whatever name, no participant may win more than \$350. And the note in parenthesis says, "It is recommended and urged that merchandise be awarded instead of money."

The announcement to reconsider came out of the USGA Annual Meeting in San Francisco January 28.

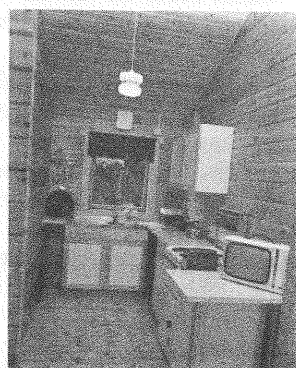
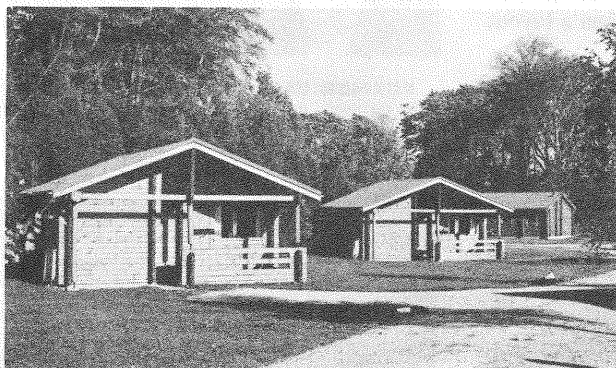
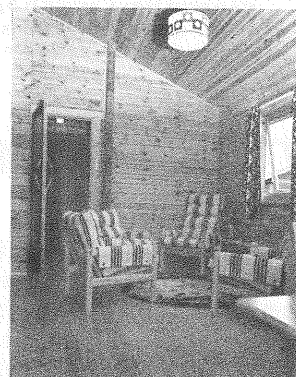
P.J. Boatwright, Executive Director of USGA, told the nation's amateur association golf administrators in Tucson, February 13, that while reconsideration of the gambling policy was underway that appropriate prizes for amateur competitions are those established by Rule 1-4 of the Rules of Amateur Status. If you haven't a rule book handy, that means you may now accept the increased \$350 value, which is one point where we came apart with the ruling body.

To that end FSGA will continue to award merchandise and prizes of symbolic value (trophies and silver) in its events. We've always considered the expenditure of entry fees for merchandise awards at the host club golf shop a fair exchange for the use of member club premises.

However, some of our mail came on pretty strong in favor of giving cash. Seems good sections of the prize-winning population are tired of getting ripped-off for a poor selection of over-priced, shoddy merchandise that has to be selected in a rush before hitting the road for home.

The issue, while many-sided, certainly is not many-splendored. Stay tuned for future developments.

FSGA Scottish Golf-British Open Headquarters



KINCAPLE HOUSE and cottages will house FSGA members making the July 1-15 trip to play Scotland's finest courses and to see the 107th renewal of the British Open at The Old Course, St. Andrews. Buck Fennelly, John Behl, Ron and Richard Garl, Walter Smith, Audrey and Al Tidrow, Virginia and M.T. McInnis, Barbara and Jack Smith, Edna and Bill Carey are early paid in members. Still 20 openings available.

THE GOLF CONSUMER

By Bill Carey

TUCSON, ARIZONA — "The best brains in golf are gathered here this week."

"If President Carter's tax reform bill passes, the game, as your members know it, will die."

"An inept professional teacher is a detriment to the promotion and development of golf."

"Opportunities for women professionals are greater by 100 per cent."

These truths were self-evident to IAGA members listening to carefully selected experts, gathered in mid-February at Tucson National Golf Club, for their annual confessional on the state of the game.

Actions resulting from the session will have an impact on golf consumers at every level.

You see, the International Association of Golf Administrators represents the largest number of amateur association members in the world.

State, district and national association budgets in the United States last year topped \$12 million. Six million dollars of that total came from handling more than 900,000 computerized handicaps for high, low and medium grade association players which kept sophisticated hardware humming to produce more than a billion computations.

When IAGA members convene speakers and panel members draw a high level of attention because they've been there with an experience worth learning about.

Gerry Hurley, National Club Association; Gary Wiren, PGA; Carol Mann, LPGA; Don Rossi, National Golf Foundation; Bengt Lorichs, Swedish Golf Union; P.J. Boatwright, USGA and Les Whammond, Canadian Ladies' Golf Association were highlighters from national and international organizations.

They were joined by veteran executive heads of 28 state and district groups with millions of constituents representing the blood, guts and dollars of amateur golf. Over the years interchange at these meetings has filtered through to state and district to prompt program changes and innovations at local levels which improved association activity for the average member golfer.

As expected, the advance returned questionnaires on program subjects and issues, to Dick Haskell, Executive Director, Massachusetts Golf Association, from participating members provided three days of lively fare. Haskell, IAGA Secretary, Martin Iuler (Kentucky Golf Association), President and Marshall Dann, (Western Golf Association) did an exemplary job as the program management team.

To emphasize the international flavor of the organization, for the first time, a Canadian, Chris Gribbon, Executive Director of the Quebec Golf Association, was elected President to succeed Iuler.

Gribbon contributed a "glad-that-doesn't-apply-to-me" thought in his acceptance remarks when he said: "It will be a pleasure to work for an organization where everything doesn't have to be done in two languages."

The meeting produced some other memorable one-liners about the game. Here are a few of them:

"Title 9 Federal law has boosted number of schools offering golf scholarships to girls 800 per cent."

"Shortening golf courses demeans players."

"Golf needs more 'family-ism' and mixed events. Wives who play favor husbands playing more which leads to kids' participation in the game."

On tax reform: "Day of the Bureaucratic Jackal."

"We must pay more attention to the 'not-so-skilled' player."

"Need more great teachers. In words of immortal Harry Vardon, "if you think golf is easy to learn, it is not a compliment to a very great game."

"A teacher who is a poor motivator drives people from the game. A good professional is a profit-center."

"Golf contributes more to charities in one month than most other sports do in a life time."

"Most golf charities are legal and clean but don't touch one until you have examined its last audit."

"PGA Tour prize money in 1977 was \$9 million. Charities received \$3.5 million extra for their participation."

"When did you last read something good about golf? We have to be more positive in communicating the many benefits of the game."

"A cardio pulmonary resuscitation training program is a fine association service."

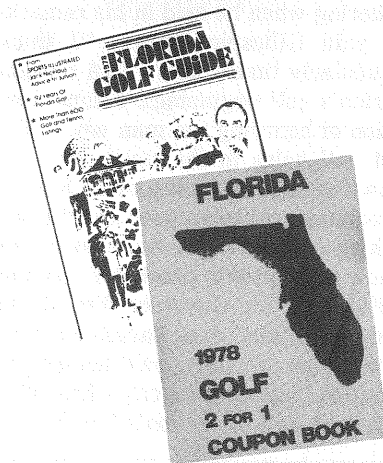
"Amateur-amateur events, with handicap limit of 30, good way to get new people involved."

"If we ever permit golf to go on metric system we're in a helluva mess."

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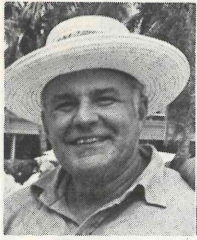
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BILL CAREY

inside florida golf



Yes, it is true, there will be another Gillespie Golf Week in 1978.

Yes, it's true, it will be held over the Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-29 at Longboat Key Golf and Tennis Club.

You may recall that in May 1977, an effort was made by FSGA to make something special and lasting of the J. Hamilton Gillespie saga. A week long observance of social and competitive golf events, for men and women, was created during "Gillespie Golf Week," to honor the 91st anniversary of the building of Florida's first golf holes.

An authentic, faithful golf clan convened and celebrated in Sarasota.

FSGA's Board of Directors made the observance official by holding its spring meeting during the week at the Hyatt House and issuing a formal resolution in recognition of the event.

Association President Austin Jones highlighted the significance of the gathering when he said in his remarks at the gala Gillespie Dinner, "I think it particularly timely that FSGA recognizes Florida's golf beginnings. I hope this occasion of honoring the man who built the first golf holes in the state becomes an annual affair, and that Florida State Golf Association will continue to lead the way in making our residents and visitors more aware of Florida's great golf heritage."

Florida's Lt. Governor Jim Williams made an official visit. Sarasota's current Mayor, Ron Norman, paid homage to J. Hamilton Gillespie, the city's first Mayor. National Golf Foundation's Don Rossi had

appropriate words for the occasion and Sarasota County Historical Commission members provided additional official status to the event.

Former Congressman Jim Haley, who played a Gillespie course, and Johnny McPhail, who caddied for him, were present. John Henry Macdonell, Scottish International Services and premier protector of American golf travel to Scotland, attended.

Dexter Daniels was hailed as Florida's premier amateur of the past 50 years and became the first entry in FSGA's Hall of Fame.

Arvida Corporation joined FSGA to make Gillespie a name and a week to remember.

Now the 1978 remembrance vehicle will travel through the dates of the Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-29, humming on all dedicated cylinders to a golfer of yore, so imbued with the spirit and wonder of the game, that he was often heard to remark to non-players, "Mon, yer missing half y'er life."

This year's format will be expanded as Arvida Corporation again joins Florida State Golf Association, and the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce is added to the sponsor's role.

The Gillespie National Pro-Am, with \$25,000 prize money, will debut in a 54 hole three day competition. There will be senior sections for both professional and amateurs in a quality field, limited to 128 players, 64 professionals and 64 amateurs.

TV personality — golfers Joey Bishop and Don Cherry will headline a celebrity phase of the tournament as contestants and roastmasters at the kickoff party and dinner, Friday evening, May 26.

There also will be a tennis tournament, run at the same time as the golf event at Longboat Key, and several other "in-work" activities which we'll report next issue.

Gillespie doings look great in '78!

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 22, U.S. Open Qualifying, 36 Holes, Sun City G.C. and King's Inn G.C., Sun City Center.
- May 26-29, [Memorial Day Weekend, Sat. thru Mon.] Gillespie National Pro-Am with Senior Section, Longboat Key, Sarasota.
- 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.G., 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].

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