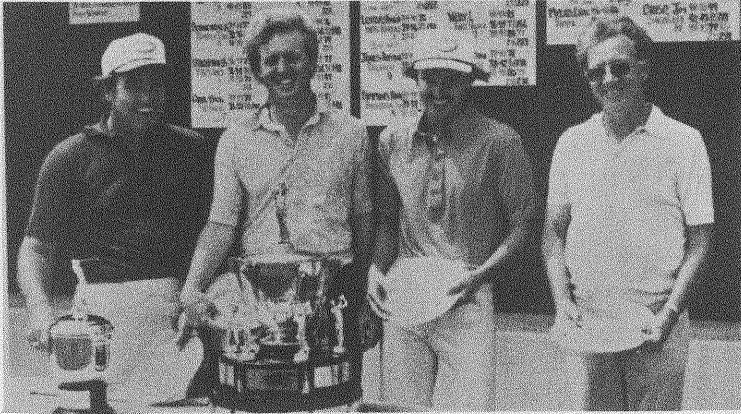




NEWSLETTER

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 W.P. Carey, Editor • Volume 22 Number 1 • April, 1979

CLUB AND INDIVIDUAL DUES NOW DUE. With Member and State Amateur Tournaments upon us, we remind you that individual and member club dues for 1979 must be paid before tournament entries will be accepted. Bills to all categories of members were first mailed last December. If your club is current on FSGA's computer handicap system you are a paid member.



JACK SHUBERT, CHIP HARKINS, BOB STOCKMAN AND LOU ESSEX, pictured at left, are the defending club team champions, from Rolling Hills Golf Club in Maitland. They won last year at Sandpiper Bay with a record second round eight under par 280, to get into a playoff with Palatka Golf Club. This year any number of players from the same club may enter the team event. Best two, gross, 18 hole rounds each day count in the 72 hole team total.

Two, three or four team members can contribute to the winning score. The individual competition, in flights, also will be over 36 holes.

TOM GRADY OF ORLANDO is the reigning FSGA Senior Champion. He's scheduled for action at Port Malabar, May 4-6, 1979, when a fast field of 55s and over go to the post for the '79 Senior Championship. Grady is pictured at the right with the English antique silver cup, crafted in the late 1800s, a revolving symbolic award which went into circulation last year at Bardmoor. Bob and Teri Dolci, the popular husband and wife host professional team at Port Malabar, report all is in readiness for the 54 hole stroke play competition which will be played in age divisions of 55-59; 60-64; 65-69; 70 & over.



IMPERIAL LAKES HOSTS WINTER BOARD MEETING. Director Ron Garl, who designed and built Imperial Lakes Golf Club, just off State Road 37 between Lakeland and Mulberry, arranged a delightful meeting site, luncheon, golf and dinner for board members and wives, Friday, March 2, 1979. Officers and Directors Austin Jones, Garl, M.T. McInnis, Richard Hope, M.T. Payne, Ed Greene, Gene Byrne, W.P. Carey--a bare quorum--were present to conduct business. Minutes of previous January 20 meeting and Treasurer's Report for 1978 were approved as submitted. Arrangements for annual meeting at Grenelefe; State Amateur at Sawgrass; change of Junior Championship dates; Junior Challenge Cup with

Georgia and South Carolina; search for a new tournament director and FSGA's Junior Foundation were discussed. Director McInnis named to head nominating committee and to study plan to reduce Board of Directors to nine members with at least one member coming from each of the NW, NE, SE and SW sections of state. He'll report at the Annual Meeting, 6 p.m., April 20, 1979, at Grenelefe.

MASSACRE AT GATOR CREEK

By George Crosson

With heads held high, drivers at hand
we headed to the first tee's promised land.
Our smiles were bright, our spirits gay
for we play Gator Creek this day.

Sullivan hooked left into the gully
LeRoy Hall hit it past friend Sully.
McConahie pushed his deep to right
then I hit mine true in its flight.

We made a seven, two sixes and a five
I lucked out par and was still alive.
Now we faced number two, hearts aglow
fear was a word we didn't know.

We hit it in the lake and in the sand
every blessed place but on dry land.
Ol' Gator Creek jumped to bite mine
and when it was over, I had nine.

We found creeks, canals, and lakes,
we wore the handles off the rakes.
We chopped from jungle, bush and vine;
we made sixes, sevens, eights and nines.

It's "hackers sawgrass", someone said,
another blurted, "wish I were dead."
Still we braced to play nine more holes
full of courage, four kindred souls.

What we had in courage, we lacked in skill
Ol' Gator Creek settled in for the kill.
Not a single birdie was made that day
yet we forged along to continue our play.

Until bloody and bruised and body all achin'
we groaned about the shots we had taken.
The putts we missed, the irons that flew
about the pars we made; so darn few.

So few in fact as our scores had soared
we knew we'd be low on the board.
Yet we had a lot of wholesome fun
though the score was Gator Creek
— four to none.

Some must win and some must lose
and if it was my lot to choose.
I select a course of all par sevens
and spend my days in golfers heaven.

A POETIC EXPERIENCE. That's what George Crosson, FSGA member from Seffner, relates to us in verse at left. Gator Creek Neptune results on back page. The popular annual pageant event ended in a sudden death play-off between two of the Associations biggest boomers. Vurry, vurry exciting!

Hughes' Birdie On Extra Hole Settles Neptune Golf Tourney

By JIM ACHENBACH
Herald-Tribune Sports Reporter

Quite possibly there has never been a more exciting King Neptune Golf Championship than the one which ended Sunday at Gator Creek Golf Club.

"This is a great tournament and a great course and some great people," said 41-year-old winner Bob Hughes, suddenly babbling like an excited child.

Hughes, who drills oil wells for a living, drilled Punta Gorda's Al Johns and Sarasota's Phil Young and a field full of excellent players to win the prestigious title. He did it by finishing with a spectacular 4-under-par 68, then beating Johns with a birdie on the first hole of sudden death.

Hughes, who opened the tournament with a 77, posted his 68 and then headed for the showers. He changed clothes, ate lunch and was prepared to leave the course. Some two hours later, he was back in action in the playoff after tying Johns at 145.

Hughes, a 240-pounder who lives in Fort Myers, hammered Johns with two mighty blasts. He drove the ball perfectly down the right side of the fairway, then reached the green with a 3-wood second shot on the 520-yard par five hole. His 22-foot eagle putt barely missed and he settled for an easy birdie.

Johns, meanwhile, hit two fine shots to the slope in the front of the green. He chipped 12 feet past the cup and missed the birdie putt that would have extended the playoff.

"I was very fortunate to start the playoff on a par five hole," Hughes said. "I've played golf with Al, and he never misses a shot. I would have hated to start on a tight par four against him."

Johns, the developer of Punta Gorda Isles in Punta Gorda and one Florida's most successful businessmen, joked about his defeat.

"How do you play against a gorilla like that," he laughed. "I was just out there to

watch him play. When he set up to that second shot, I knew he would hit on the green."

Third place in the tournament was claimed at 146 by Don Sizemore of Avon Park. Sizemore missed the playoff because he bogied the final hole, hitting his second shot over the green and failing to get up-and-down for his par. He also bogied the 17th hole, as the pressure appeared to be too much for him to handle.

Sizemore wasn't the only choking victim down the stretch. Dennis Tolles of Fort Myers, tied with Sarasota's Young for the first round lead, finished bogie-double bogie-bogie on the final three holes to lose the Neptune title by two strokes.

"The collar became awfully tight," Tolles joked. "I choked on the last three holes. I hacked it."

Young tied Tolles for fourth at 147, but he couldn't gain any momentum during the round. He was close all the way, but was unable to put together any kind of sustained charge.

Heading into the last hole Young was just one stroke behind. He needed a birdie to get into the playoff, but instead took a bogie.

The closing 68 by Hughes was the best round of the tournament by four shots. Nobody else was able to break par, although several players matched the even-par 72 figure.

Receiving a large dose of help on the practice tee from Gator Creek teaching professional Ralph Hutchingson, Hughes was off and flying. He shot his 68 despite two 3-putt greens.

He recorded six birdies during the round, but only one came on a putt of longer than 10 feet. He streaked into contention with three birds in five holes — at 10, 13 and 14.

"I hit the ball very well," he said. "Ralph really helped me. He pointed out a couple of things I was doing wrong, and it turned my game around."

Hughes, part of the Hughes Enterprises oil firm, has lived in Fort Myers 14 years. He decided to get up at 5 a.m. and drive to Sarasota for Saturday's first round rather than stay here Friday night.

"I learned a big lesson there," he commented. "I drove up here in the morning, and I just didn't feel right.

I started bogie-bogie-par-double bogie and was 4-over after four holes. But I brought it back pretty good."

So next time you want to give up after a bad start, remember the case of Bob Hughes. He was 4-over for the first four holes and 3-under for the final 32 holes. And, most importantly, he won the tournament.



The Johns & Hughes Show



Hank Phillips won Senior Division

KING NEPTUNE GOLF

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

Bob Hughes, 77-68 — 145; Al Johns, 73-72 — 145; Don Sizemore, 73-73 — 146; Phil Young, 72-75 — 147; Dennis Tolles, 72-75 — 147; Ray Brunette, 74-74 — 148; Sherek Johnson, 75-74 — 149; Barry Franzese, 75-75 — 150; Jeff Johnston, 74-78 — 152; Bill Watts, 75-78 — 153; Richard Hope, 75-79 — 154; Dan Taylor, 77-80 — 157; Jack Miller, 77-80 — 157; Burwell Jones, 77-80 — 157; Scott Stewart, 77-80 — 157; Jim Ramsbottom, 75-83 — 158

FIRST FLIGHT

Bob Michael, 78-73 — 151; Bill Belk, 80-73 — 153; James Higdon, 79-75 — 154; Jerry Stone, 80-76 — 156; Earl Gibson, 78-79 — 157; Tim Morrissey, 79-79 — 158; Trey Watts, 82-76 — 158; Bonny Graham, 81-78 — 159; B.J. Jones, 78-82 — 160; Phil Galvano, 79-81 — 160; Tom Cook, 80-82 — 162; Steve Snyder, 80-83 — 163; Bill Harris, 81-82 — 163; Phil Wagoner, 82-81 — 163; John North, 82-85 — 167; Charlie Walker, 81-82 — 167

SECOND FLIGHT

Joe DeLaurentis, 83-77 — 160; Harold Miller, 84-79 — 163; Rich Knowles, 83-82 — 165; Gary Tanner, 83-82 — 165; Mike Healy, 86-79 — 165; Gordon Burnham, 86-88 — 167; Richard Riesz, 85-88 — 170; Paul Babechi, 83-88 — 171; Bruce Mohr, 86-86 — 172; Les Jim Seagraves, 87-85 — 172; Les Hixson, 87-86 — 173; Don Chew, 84-89 — 173; Ed Maroney, 86-88 — 174; Glen Prince, 86-94 — 180; David Claude, 84-WD

THIRD FLIGHT

Wendell Spragins, 89-84 — 173; Ken Kiehl, 90-85 — 176; Stan Paver, 91-87 — 178; Art Corace, 95-86 — 181; Bud Wester, 96-86 — 182; Bob Wilson, 90-95 — 185; Tony Lingrosso, 95-94 — 189; Dan Buckley, 99-92 — 191; Bill Doerr, 104-87 — 191; Steve Raz, 103-101 — 204

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

Hank Phillips, 78-80 — 58; Gus Dunn, 78-82 — 160; Carl Cash, 84-77 — 161; Carl Rupp, 79-83

— 162; John Graw, 80-82 — 162; Orvell Tate, 83-80 — 163; Walt Schmidt, 80-84 — 164; Ralph Raymond, 81-83 — 164; M.T. McInnis, 79-86 — 165; Julian Series, 85-81 — 166; Ace Johnson, 81-87 — 168; Pat Patalivo, 82-86 — 168; Bill Ross, 84-84 — 168; M.T. Payne, 84-89-173; Jim Young, 84-89 — 173; Bill Parker, 83-WD

SENIOR FIRST FLIGHT

Ray Demby 86-79 — 165; Dick Gasteiner, 87-83 — 170; Arch Masino, 88-84 — 172; Dick Brady, 88-85 — 173; Joe Wegman, 86-87 — 173; George McConnell, 86-88 — 174; Robert Blake, 89-85 — 174; Earle Paxson, 87-88 — 175; Bill Harmon, 86-90 — 176; Ross Backus, 86-90 — 176; Tom Armstrong, 88-94 — 182; Bill Bell, 86-103 — 189

SENIOR SECOND FLIGHT

Bill Zody, 91-82 — 173; Ralph Carter, 91-83 — 174; Ed Touchton, 90-85 — 175; Bill Toohy, 90-86 — 176; Henry Whitham, 90-86 — 176; Billy Sullivan, 93-84 — 177; Rond Carroll, 93-95 — 178; Barry Thompson, 90-88 — 178; George Lehman, 90-88 — 178; Joe Horvath, 91-87 — 1178; R.K. Robinson, 91-88 — 179; Joney Adkins, 91-90 — 181; Ray Hendley, 92-91 — 183; Harry Lindhorst, 90-95 — 185; Harold Ross, 92-95 — 187; John Ficichy, 93-94 — 187;

Harry Grissom, 93-96 — 189; John Francis, 93-96 — 189; Bob Anson, 93-101 — 194; D.V. McConnohie, 91-WD

SENIOR THIRD FLIGHT

Leroy Hall, 95-84 — 179; John Pinkerton, 94-88 — 182; George Zoumaris, 94-91 — 185; Ray Beechler, 96-8 0 — 185; Glen Bunnell, 96-92 — 188; Bill Folbert, 94-95 — 189; George Crosson, 97-92 — 189; Bill Cooper, 99-90 — 189; Art St. Clair, 94-9 8 — 192; Jim West, 96-96 — 192; Bill Fairhurst, 101-91 — 193; Art Gatz, 96-98 — 194; Tom Case, 101-94 — 195; Art Olsen, 94-04 — 98; George Kavel, 97-102 — 199; Jim Glasser, 98-101 — 199; Andrew Thailing, 103-101 — 204; W.D. Uhlich, 03-102 — 205; Sam Haney, 100-107 — 207; Mac McGee, 105-103 — 208

ARVIDA'S GILLESPIE MEMORIAL PRO-AM, honoring the auld Scot who built the first golf holes in Florida in 1886, is set for the Memorial Day weekend, May 26-28 at Longboat Key Golf and Tennis Club, Sarasota. The format has changed slightly this year. Only 32 professionals and 96 amateurs and celebrities will be invited this time for 36 holes of pro-am team competition and individual play for professionals & amateurs with senior competition in both categories. Saturday will be a practice round with tournament play on Sunday and Monday for \$20,000 in prize money and awards. Invitations are in the mail to all who played in the tournament last year. Individual professional winner Laurie Hammer of Delray Dunes has already checked in to defend his title. All proceeds over expenses will go to FSQA's Junior Golf Foundation Fund.