

FSGA GOLF NEWS

FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION • P. O. DRAWER 1298 • (813) 958-6673 • SARASOTA, FLORIDA 33578

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August 1977



ARVIDA'S SIEGEL

FORECAST: WHAT PLANS FOR SAWGRASS?

EDITOR'S NOTE: John P. Siegel, Arvida Corporation Vice President and long-time supporter of FSGA, has been named General Manager of Sawgrass, in addition to his other duties as head of Arvida's west coast division, which includes the operation of Longboat Key Golf and Tennis Club. Here are some of his views of the future at South Ponte Vedra Beach and Sawgrass, home of the PGA's Tournament Players' Championship.

FSGA: Although your negotiations to purchase Sawgrass were long and tedious, the golf press didn't break word of it until the closing this week. Was that according to plan?

SIEGEL: I would say so. We wished to go slowly and thoroughly in the negotiations. Acquisition of Sawgrass was a large and complex undertaking and our plan was to not discuss it publicly until it had been closed.

FSGA: What will change in your Golf operations?

SIEGEL: I recognize the first interest

of the Florida golf community is the status of the Tournament Players' Championship. We have reached agreement with Deane Beman that the TPC will continue to be played at Sawgrass for the next two years.

FSGA: How much voice will Beman's group have in the operation of the golf course?

SIEGEL: They will have cooperative input. Arvida will spend more this year than \$200,000 in course maintenance and another \$60,000 in continued improvements for the TPC competition and Gardener Dickinson, Jr., still will call some of the shots in getting the course ready for the tournament.

FSGA: That should please the Beman group.

SIEGEL: It does. Although we had some sticky moments during the almost two years of negotiations as Beman had made an offer to the Atlantic National Bank, trustee for Sawgrass, to buy the property. When we got to the push and shove he looked upon Arvida as an interloper and it took some extra effort to smooth things out.

FSGA: The Florida State Golf Association sponsored a tournament at

Sawgrass shortly after it opened and many of our members have returned since to play informal rounds. Will the course continue to be open to outside play?

SIEGEL: As a visitor you must now play at the invitation of a member or be a guest in one of the accommodation properties. We offer attractive golf and tennis vacation packages.

FSGA: Do you think all the press about the difficulty of the golf course during the Tournament Players Championship helped or hurt?

SIEGEL: It made people want to play the course. Some of the "monster image" stories were unfair but millions of golfers know where Sawgrass is now and they'll be coming to see us. It's a great course.

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Arvida's Siegel

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FSGA: Will you develop a resort complex to take care of the curious?

SIEGEL: The plan of the original owners did not contemplate a large resort operation. However, as they experienced financial problems they moved slightly in that direction. They needed visitor revenue to support the recreational facilities. There are presently 28 accommodation units. Seven buildings each housing four units. They call them Explorer Units. They're tastefully done and on the Atlantic. In addition there are 40 or 50 condominiums individually owned which are made available as vacation rentals. It's a good program.

FSGA: How do present residents and club members look upon an expansion of the resort concept?

SIEGEL: When Arvida's interest was revealed they naturally were concerned. They feared we would come in and build a hotel or motel on the beach. But that simply is not in the cards. We will not do that. The residents do not mind the limited resort operation as it is today providing they have full use of the golf course and other recreational facilities.

FSGA: Will you think in terms of expanding the social and business meeting areas?

SIEGEL: Yes. I was amazed to learn of the wide appeal and popularity enjoyed by Jacksonville beaches throughout the southeast and northeast. We plan to expand facilities for small business groups to have private sessions in a great en-

vironment. We won't go overboard. It will be done in good taste and just large enough to be financially viable and gain proper exposure.

FSGA: Was there enough land for another golf course?

SIEGEL: We're not sure. The existing master plan shows two courses playing out of the same clubhouse. We're studying it now to see how realistic it is. A new golf course would be constructed to the south of the present facility. If we can't build another 18 holes, hopefully we'll be able to build another nine.

FSGA: Will you then expand your accommodation capability?

SIEGEL: Perhaps. But before we do that we'll build a nice meeting facility with full social and food service capability which will take pressure off the present beach club and golf clubhouse. I visualize the meeting facility to be a free-standing structure near the golf clubhouse and the ocean.

FSGA: If you construct additional holes at Sawgrass and build the Bay Isles 27 holes here on Longboat Key on schedule next year, Arvida will be the state's top developer of golf courses, correct?

SIEGEL: I would think so.

FSGA: We're primarily interested in golf futures at Sawgrass but also curious about the price of acquisition. How much did Arvida pay?

SIEGEL: There are land and housing inventories we did not acquire which would be lengthy to itemize and explain. But let me say the acquisition will add considerably to Arvida's current net assets of \$149 million.



... a great property



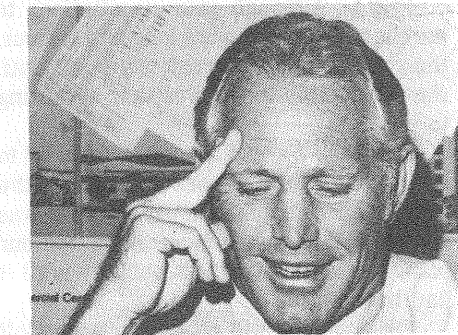
... excellent potential



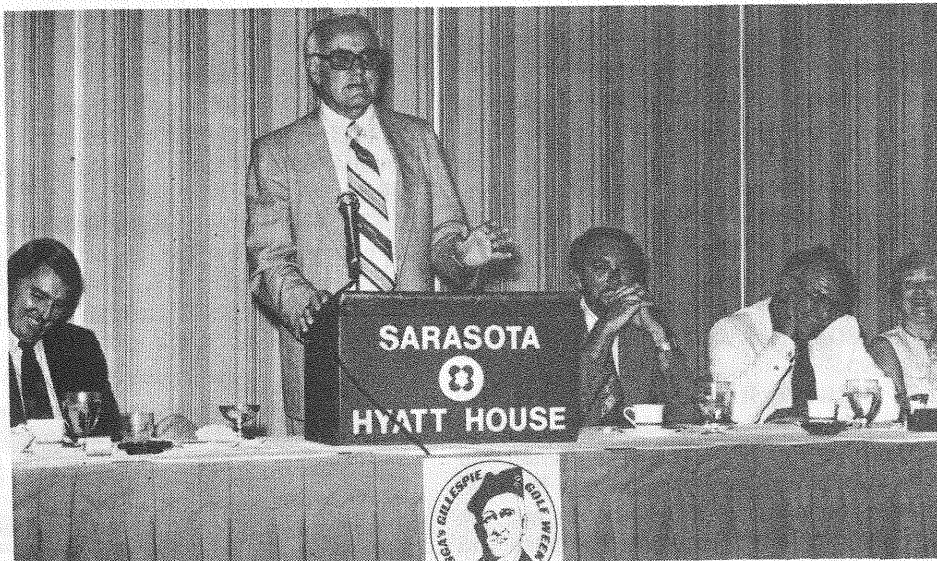
... complex negotiation



... the TPC stays



... Arvida will improve it



ARVIDA CORPORATION JOINED FSGA in sponsoring Sarasota's recent Gillespie Golf Week. National Golf Foundation's Executive Director, Don Rossi, was one of the dinner speakers. His humor drew chuckles from FSGA President Austin, Jones, Sarasota Mayor Ron Norman and Bill and Edna Carey at the head table.

Jeff Morley State Junior Champion

Central Florida golfers dominated FSGA's State Junior Championship at Country Club of Miami July 21-22.

Jeff Morley, Winter Springs, was the victor in the 15-17 age division and overall winner with a 36-hole total of 151. Curt Danley, Winter Park, captured the 12-14 section.

Morley was held up for 40 minutes waiting for a torrential downpour to stop before he parred the 18th hole for 76 the final day. Gary Keymont, Orlando, was second in the older age division with 153.

Bill Byrne, Orlando, was the first day leader in the younger group but was overtaken by Danley the second day. Danley scored 165 for the 36 holes, Byrne 167.

Winners: 15-17 Championship, Jeff Morley, 151; Gary Keymont, 153; Barry Remington, 155; Kirk Jones, 155; Donnie Burwell, 155; Mark Calcavecchia, 155; John Colean, 156.

First Flight: Mike Miller, 157; Greg Morley, 157; Tom Janis, 158.

Second Flight: Bob Edwards, 161; Trey Watts, 162; Mike Keymont, 163.

Third Flight: David Aucamp, 172; Paul Pecaro, 176; Stuart Mottern, 176.

Championship Flight: 12-14, Curt Danley, 165; Bill Byrne, 167.

First Flight: Bob Bishop, 174; Jon Walker, 178.



MORLEY

DANLEY



GARY KEYMONT, Orlando, receives his second place Junior Championship award from Tournament Director Jim Tobin who conducted the event with an able assist from FSGA Director Gene Byrne.



THE LATE DENNY CHAMPAGNE, left, was the recipient of FSGA's 1964 Fairway Award, the founder and first President of the Florida Section-PGA. Former FSGA President Bill Rolleston made the presentation above at Naples Beach Club during the State PGA Championship that year. The PGA and The Beach Club will sponsor a Memorial Senior Championship honoring the memory of Champagne September 14 and 15. There will be a Pro-Am September 13 and all FSGA Seniors are invited to play in the event.

Tarnow Golf Classic Set For Innisbrook

The 7th Annual Labor Day Weekend Tarnow Golf Classic Moves back to Innisbrook, September 3-5.

The 54 hole stroke play event will be played on both the Copperhead and Sandpiper Golf Courses. Contestants will be flighted after the first 36 holes of play.

Last year's event at Disney World drew 260 players and approximately the same size field is anticipated this year. Florida's leading amateurs have scored victories in the Tarnow Classic.

Jack Veghte, Clearwater, three-time FSGA State Amateur Champion, won the Tarnow the first two years it was played in 1971 and 1972. Bob Rankin, Clearwater, State Amateur Champion in 1969, was the Tarnow victor in 1973. Jack Rountree, Lake City, won in 1974; Al Johns, Punta Gorda, took the title in 1975 and Doug LaCrosse, Tampa, now a professional, was the winner last year.

There will be a dinner party and name entertainment on Sunday night for contestants, wives and guests. An entry form for the Tarnow Classic appears on page 7 of this newsletter.

Stephens-Valdes Win Miami Four-Ball

Asey Stephens, Temple Terrace and Richard Valdes, Tampa, are consistently strong contenders in FSGA team events. They scored a routine victory, seven shots ahead, with a three under 141 at Country Club of Miami July 23-24. The four-ball followed the state junior competition which had been played two days earlier at the same site.

Prize winners: Asey Stephens—Richard Valdes, 141; Dean Spanos—Bill

Golson, 148; Jim LePera—Bob Bradburn, 148; Barry Franzese—Denny Tolles, 148; Bili McAnly—Bill Cunningham, 148. Second Flight: Charlie McCormick—Howie Gross, 149; Jim Ramsbottom, Jr.—Walter Rountree, 149. Net: Earl Morris—Mike Yahl, 147; M.T. Payne—Joe Ingarra, 148; Bill Watts—Trey Watts, 148. Third Flight: Gene Byrne—Bill Byrne, 158; Art Corace—Fred Lang, 161; Virgil Howell—Scott Smith, Jr., 161.

USGA Reports Policy On Junior Golf

The United States Golf Association is vitally concerned with the promotion and development of junior golf. It has long conducted national championships for boys and girls under 18 years of age.

The USGA recognizes that financial assistance is often critical in the promotion of junior golf and has therefore incorporated into its Rules of Amateur Status a provision whereby those competing in junior events may accept expenses from sources other than those on whom they are normally or legally dependent.

While commercial sponsorship and other forms of aid provided by commercial sources have been essential to the inception and success of many junior events and, therefore, of benefit to the game, the USGA is concerned about commercial intrusion into junior golf and the potential for exploitation of junior golfers.

The USGA emphasizes that the Rules of Amateur Status apply to junior golf. Violations of the Rules will occur, for example, if:

- the expenses of a junior's parent or guardian are paid to an event; or

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STATE OFFICE

1734 Main Street
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Sarasota, FL 33578
(813) 958-6673

WE GET LETTERS

HANDICAP ALLOWANCES

You have received notice from USGA, June 29, 1977, that changes in the handicap allowances have been distributed to Sectional Golf Associations.

I believe that the USGA has taken a progressive step by their new schedule of allowances. The present schedule was strongly opposed in Sectional Golf Associations, and resulted in the declaration by some that the application was optional. This stand as you know was opposed by Mr. Boatwright. Consequently, many clubs decided they would pay no attention to the then current schedule.

If the FSGA now feels that the revised schedule, January 1, 1978, is fair, would it not be a good policy for the FSGA to notify its member clubs that the USGA Handicap Allowance be followed, and that it is not an elective option of their Golf Committees to disregard it. I would like to see such a notice.

Locally, we are modifying several tee grounds. It is anticipated some changes in yardage over all might occur. If we state the net change, may we get a revised course rating based on the yardage only change?

My offer still stands, that if you are in this vicinity, and would like to play our course, you are welcome to do so as my guest.

L.A. (Luke) Selleg,
Rules Committee
Dunedin Country Club

GOLF GUIDE TO JERSEY

First, let me introduce myself and my company. We publish all of the Exxon Travel Club travel literature—Vacation Guides, Travel Atlas, Touring Tips, maps, etc. My supervisor has advised me that it would be very helpful for us to have one copy of your "Florida Golf & Tennis Guide" for our reference files. Could you please send us a copy along with a bill for \$2.38 at your earliest convenience? Thank you.

Ronald P. Sepic
General Drafting Co.
Covent Station, N.J.

JACKSONVILLE RULES SEMINAR

Thank you so very much for being in attendance at my Rules of Golf presentation last Monday in Jacksonville. Hopefully, you and the rest of those

present enjoyed and benefited from some of my comments regarding the Rules.

I was sorry that we had to make such a rapid exit. However, I certainly understood that you had made arrangements for us to be in Winter Haven for dinner that evening.

I enjoyed the chance to visit with some of your officers along with Roger Ganem and some of the members of the Florida PGA at the Grenelefe Golf and Racquet Club Monday evening and Tuesday morning.

Please keep me posted as to your situation with the Florida PGA and the statewide handicap system.

Tom Meeks
Regional Director, USGA

MISSION VALLEY RATING

We wish to thank you, Jim Tobin and the FSGA for officially rating our golf course. This service by your organization is greatly appreciated.

If you are ever in this vicinity and would like to sharpen up your sticks, please drop in. We would enjoy seeing you again.

Kenneth L. Hollister
Mission Valley C.C.
Laurel

GOLF WEEK

Thank you for bringing the Florida State Golf Association to the Sarasota Hyatt House last week.

We hope you were pleased with all of the arrangements, as we would very much like the opportunity to work with you for other meetings and functions this year and in 1978.

Please let me know whenever we can be of assistance to you in any way. We do look forward to working with you in the future.

Best regards,
William A. Hall
General Manager

FSGA 1977 TOURNAMENTS

August 21 Lone Palm Country Club, Scholarship Day, Lakeland.

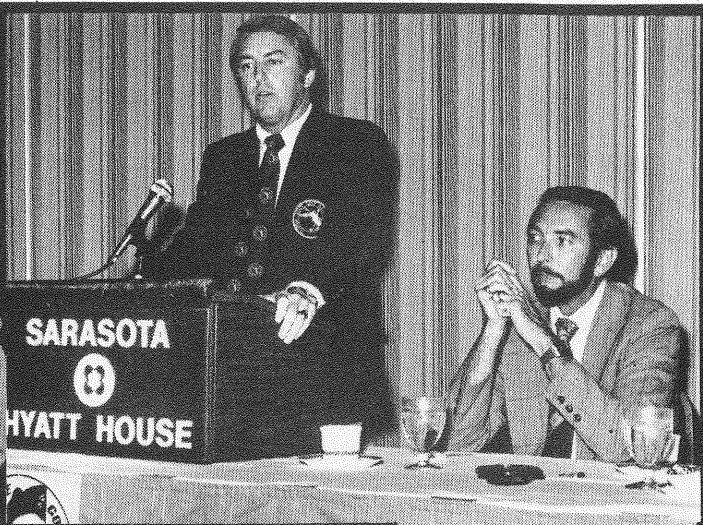
August 27-28 Mixed Pairs State Championship, Port Malabar Country Club, Palm Bay.

Sept. 24-25 State Four-Ball with Senior Section, 36 holes, Longboat Key Golf Club, Sarasota.

Oct. 15-16 State Seniors Championship, 36 holes, Vero Beach Country Club.

Nov. 4-6 Lehigh "Life at Forty," 54 holes, Lehigh Country Club.

Dec. 3-4 Holiday Four-Ball, 36 holes, King's Inn, Sun City Center.



AN AUTHENTIC GOLF CLAN gathered in Sarasota in May to observe the 91st anniversary of the building of Florida's first golf holes. The faithful convened and celebrated in a round of parties, dinners and tournaments.

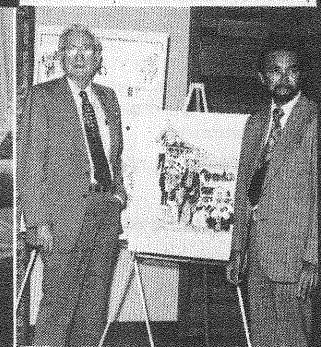
Florida's Lt. Governor Jim Williams made an official visit. Sarasota's current Mayor, Ron Norman, paid homage to J. Hamilton Gillespie, the city's first Mayor. The National Golf Foundation's Don Rossi had appropriate words for the occasion and Sarasota County Historical Commission members present provided 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.

FSGA held its spring board of directors meeting. Association President E. Austin Jones highlighted the state's golf heritage. 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 and plans are to do it again next year.

Photographic highlights herewith from the lens of talented Joe Steinmetz.



**FSGA MIXED PAIRS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AUGUST 27 — 28, 1977
PORT MALABAR C.C. PALM BAY FLORIDA — TEAM ENTRY FORM**

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 I am a current member of _____ My current handicap is _____ Home phone _____
 Office ph. _____
 Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 I am a current member of _____ My current handicap is _____ Home phone _____
 Office ph. _____

TEAM ENTRY FEE of \$70 INCLUDES, 2 days golf, carts, Saturday Cocktail Party and must accompany this form. Regular members must include \$20 ANNUAL DUES if not already paid or on FSGA Handicap System. This tournament is 36 holes better ball of pair, using 50 per cent combined team handicap to apply against better ball total. Handicap limits 22 for men, 36 for women. FIELD LIMITED TO FIRST 60 TEAMS GROSS and NET PRIZES will be awarded. Entries are subject to approval or rejection at any time by FSGA tournament committee.

Send entry to: FSGA, P.O. Drawer 1298, Sarasota, Fla. 33578. PAIRINGS WILL BE MAILED AUGUST 19. NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.

**FSGA STATE AMATEUR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP SEPT. 24 — 25, 1977
LONGBOAT KEY GOLF & TENNIS CLUB SARASOTA FLA. — TEAM ENTRY FORM**

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ () Senior Team _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 I am a current member of _____ My current handicap is _____
 Name _____ Date of Birth _____ () Senior Team _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 I am a current member of _____ My current handicap is _____
 Home phone _____ Office ph. _____ () New Member () Renewal () Dues Paid

TEAM ENTRY FEE of \$70 INCLUDES, 2 days golf, carts, Saturday Cocktail Party and must accompany this form. Regular members must include \$20 ANNUAL DUES if not already paid or on FSGA Handicap System. 36-hole stroke play best ball of two man team. FIELD LIMITED TO FIRST 90 TEAMS. PRIZES ALL FLIGHTS. Entries are subject to approval or rejection at any time by FSGA tournament committee.

Send entry to: FSGA, P.O. Drawer 1298, Sarasota, Fla. 33578. PAIRINGS WILL BE MAILED SEPT. 16. NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.

**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER TO NON-MEMBERS ONLY
TO JOIN FSGA**

Beginning July 1, all new member introductory dues of \$9 thru December 31, 1977, entitle you to monthly membership and handicap card update, FSGA publications, entry forms to all Summer/Fall local and state events, golf consumer and travel news.

THIS OFFER DOES NOT APPLY TO REGULAR \$20 MEMBERS NOT YET RENEWED FOR 1977 AS THEY HAVE HAD SIX MONTHS MAIL SERVICE OF FSGA. MATERIAL.

\$9⁰⁰
 JULY 1 TO
 JANUARY 1, 1978

Sign up 25 members or more from your club or local association, and pay only \$6 per year, for FSGA computer handicap membership.

PLEASE PRINT PLAINLY

YOUR NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ ZIP _____ NEW MEMBER
 DATE OF BIRTH _____ PHONE: HOME _____ OFFICE _____
 NAME OF YOUR CLUB _____ YOUR CURRENT HANDICAP _____
 MAKE CHECK TO FSGA AND MAIL TO P.O. DRAWER 1298, SARASOTA, FL 33578

The Golf Consumer[®]

Names of communicants will be used if requested. Address letters to The Golf Consumer, Drawer 1298, Sarasota, FL 33578. TGC reserves right to shorten letters.

Q. I've played golf for 40 years and feel my game needs a complete overhaul. Suggest something.

A. Time slips away, friend. For openers your clubs could now outweigh you. Too heavy. Custom Action Golf Co. has a "computer swing analyzer" in its shop at Grant Plaza in your city of Clearwater. Let them check the way you swing your sticks. After 40 years you've lost clubhead speed and may need a better fit with lighter clubheads and shafts.

*

Q. I've been assigned to Korea for a 13-month tour. Should I take my clubs? I'll be near Seoul.

R.E.G.

Ft. Rucker, Ala.

A. Yes. That is a prejudiced answer based on an ancient and unswerving policy of faking golf clubs anywhere I take a clean shirt. The have-clubs-will-travel philosophy is broadening and a pleasurable builder of happy memories. Our South Korean correspondent, Carol Godwin, reports the 8th Army Golf Club at Seoul an interesting test. Par 71, 6,336 yards from Championship markers; 5,696 from white tees, 5,108 yards for women. Men's course rating 69, women's 71. Frank Hickey host professional. Local rules are silent about relief from old war debris and NK unfriendlies. Tough in winter. Last frigid spell temperatures down to 35 below with minus 60 degree chill factor. Have a good tour.

*

Q. How can a manufacturer advertise... "it's the first golf ball that can cut strokes"?

A. By paying his ad bill regularly. Unless you can prove fraud and the ball didn't cut strokes for you and others who succumbed to the lure, ballmakers cannot be prevented from making unrealistic claims. My immediate ball claim

deflation project is to cut, chip or crack a SIRRUS-1 golf ball in normal play and collect three new ones FREE! Their ad claims it... "The most daring guarantee in golf today!" For what it's worth, if cutting strokes is your thing, nogimmick yet devised is better than time spent on the practice tee with competent instruction and supervision.

*

Q. Where is the best golf deal in Florida for a couple of modest means? It is our intention to buy a small home somewhere close to a good course we can join and play about four days a week for the winter months. We'd like to use our own riding cart or pay a modest monthly or annual cart rental fee.

Ralph M. Hippard
608 Rolling Green Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102

A. We have passed your request along to several of the best residential golf properties represented in our GOLF GUIDE. You've probably heard from them by now.

USGA Junior Policy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

- a successful junior player, having accepted expenses as permitted, then allows his or her name or likeness as a golfer to be used in any way for the advertisement, sale or promotion of a product.

The USGA believes that, in the interest of junior golfers, commercial sponsors of junior events should minimize their commercial identification. Accordingly, the USGA recommends, as guidelines for commercially-sponsored or aided junior events, that:

1. Players not be permitted to engage in any activity which might be construed as advertising or promoting the sale of the sponsor's product.
2. Players not wear or display any commercially-identified items.

3. Applicants and players not be required to participate in activities unrelated to playing in the competition.

4. There be no entry application procedures or special contests which might benefit the sponsor.

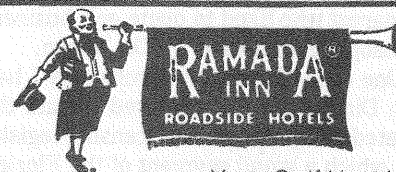
5. Recognition of outstanding performances be confined to regular and customary media coverage of the event.

6. The title of the event not include the name of any sponsor; it would be appropriate, however, for the title to be, for example: "The _____ Junior Tournament, sponsored by the _____ Corporation."

Crutchfield Junior Sebring G.C., Aug. 19-20

The 6th annual Crutchfield Junior Citrus Championship will be played August 19-20 at Sebring Golf club.

Entry fee is \$15 and entry forms may be obtained by writing Tom Crutchfield at P.O. Box 1864, Sebring 33870. Field is limited to the first 176 entries.



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TARNOW GOLF CLASSIC, SEPTEMBER 3-5, 1977

INNISBROOK RESORT, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____
PHONE _____
My current handicap _____

Send Entry & Fee to:
TARNOW GOLF CLASSIC
P.O. BOX 15457
TAMPA, FLA. 33684

I have made plans to play with _____

Mail the above information and entry fee of \$115.00 to TARNOW GOLF CLASSIC, BOX 15457, TAMPA, FLORIDA 33684.

Ladies Golf Tournament (36 holes) NAME _____ Handicap 35.00

Ladies Tennis— Name _____ Good _____ Fair _____ Beginner _____ 20.00

Entry fee includes — Golf cart 3 days, green fee and club storage, prizes. Dinner and entertainment.



The quality of Florida's golf community was diluted by the passing of Dick Demarest last month.

The Sara Bay Country Club golf professional was a gentleman in all respects. His thoughtful observations and comments about his profession will be missed as will his quiet and friendly presence on the broad scene of the great game.

"Dick Demarest was a fine person. I must write to his wife for the PGA and express our true sorrow," Gary Wiren said to me during a visit to his Lake Park office the day after Dick's heart failure.

We talked about Demarest and how deserving he was of the 1975 "Professional of the Year" award made by the Florida Section of the PGA.

Wiren, Director of Education, Club and Professional Relations for the PGA of America, was highly thought of by Demarest who liked to quote golf business philosophies espoused by Dr. Wiren.

One of the liveliest interchanges I had with Dick Demarest centered around the ill-fated golf professional licensing legislation which a small segment of the Florida Section leadership tried to shove into law.

Dick had written to me about a column I wrote on the subject. His letter was typically forthright. The opinion of a stand-up guy who wanted you to know exactly where he stood on the subject at issue.

The letter will keep Dick Demarest's file alive with me and I'd like to share it with you:

"For the past several months, I have enjoyed reading your columns, especially those referring to the licensing of PGA

professionals. Based on the information which I have had, I am inclined to agree with your stand in the matter.

"What 'sticks in my craw,' however, is the apparent necessity of many writers in publications which are distributed about the state, to publicly criticize golf professionals in a rude, snide and oftentimes downright untruthful manner. Every professional in the state is being painted with the same brush as being greedy, incompetent, self-serving and unable to qualify for his job. It has been my good fortune to get to know many Florida PGA professionals. They are, in the huge majority, honest, genuine, capable and serious men . . . serious about doing the best job possible, wherever they are located, and serious about helping their members and-or patrons get more enjoyment out of this great game of ours. They are capable in their teaching abilities and in advising golfers on the desirability and quality of the merchandise they have to offer for sale. They are honest with themselves and their golfers in what they earn because, with very few exceptions, no Florida PGA member is going to be able to live in the 'high rent district' from the proceeds of his employment as a golf professional.

"I'll grant you there probably are some incompetent PGA members. I'll bet you a dozen Titleists, though, the percentage in incompetency is no higher in our field of endeavor than it is in the plumbing, carpentry, TV repair, medical, legal or even the media's field. The fine programs introduced by Dr. Gary Wiren, PGA Director of Education, and his most able

staff, are rapidly improving the caliber of PGA members. In depth workshops, schools, Section and local seminars, study courses and a multitude of other informative publications are rapidly changing the golf professional from a 'seller of tees and balls' to a smart, conscientious man upon whom his members or patrons can depend.

"I know many of the men who are pushing for PGA licensing. I respect their thinking because they are honorable, sincere and capable PGA members who believe licensing is a step in the right direction for our profession. The fact that I don't happen to agree with them, at this time, does not mean that I think any the less of them.

"And so, Bill, I really feel the time of 'ridicule the PGA' is over. I think this discussion merits some calm and quietly serious analysis between the two sides of the question. If we can't discuss it in that manner then we should not discuss it at all. What do you think?"

I replied:

"I think, Richard, you've nicely said it all. At the risk of being repetitive on the subject ad nauseam, this corner continues on record of not being against licensing if that is the desire of the PGA's rank and file. What I oppose totally, completely, vehemently, is the creation of another state government bureau to administer the examination and licensing function.

"If the pros want it, so be it. Let them run it. Not turn it over to a wasteful, bloated, bumbling, political agency.

"And, Dick, there never has been 'ridicule of the PGA' from this end. We may have taken a light-hearted shot at some individual members but there is great respect for the organization. The PGA has performed too many great moves for golf to be ridiculed from this corner."

Now, the fairway ahead lies lush and green for you, Dick Demarest.

Rest in peace.

FSGA GOLF NEWS

Published by FSGA

1734 Main Street, Sarasota, Florida 33578
Phone (813) 958-6673

"This Association has been formed and exists for the purpose of promoting and conserving throughout the State of Florida the best interests and the true spirit of the game of Golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable traditions."

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BULK RATE
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NEWSLETTER