



# NEWSLETTER

"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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NEPTUNE TOURNAMENT OPENS 1980 SEASON MARCH 29-30 ★ FSGA PAST PRESIDENTS WILL BE HONORED IN SARASOTA MARCH 28 ★ DAN SMITH NEW FSGA FIELD SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE LEON SIKES SR. TAPPED FOR PALM BEACH SPORTS HALL OF FAME ★ MEMBER CLUBS' SUPPORT CALLED FOR IN NCA FEDERAL DUES PAYMENT ISSUE ★ USGA SHINES AT CYPRESS GARDENS



BOB HUGHES, right, needed extra hole to beat Al Johns in '79 thriller.



HANK PHILLIPS, steady senior swinger from Tampa, won 55 and over division.



CLUB INDUSTRY opposes proposed federal restraints on reimbursement of club-oriented dues and expenses for business.



SARASOTAN DAN SMITH is new FSGA field service representative.



LEON SIKES SR., 10 years after FSGA Fairway Award, in Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame.

## NEPTUNE SEASON OPENER AT GATOR CREEK

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

That's the way Jim Achenbach's Sarasota Herald-Tribune report of the 1979 final day competition began. He went on to write that Bob Hughes, of Fort Myers, 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, with a closing four under 68.

Hughes scored 145 for the two days as did Johns, who finished about two hours after Bob's blistering attack on a mighty stout golf course. The pair went out in a sudden victory playoff which Hughes nabbed on the first hole with birdie after reaching the 520 yard long hole with two prodigious pokes. His 22 foot putt for an eagle barely missed leaving him a short stroke for birdie. Johns missed from 12 feet for his birdie and Hughes was the victor. Hank Phillips won the Senior Section with a 158 total.

Very heady stuff, and it all starts again March 29-30 at Gator Creek. Your entry card is enclosed with this newsletter.

## FSGA PAST PRESIDENTS' DINNER HIGHLIGHTS NEPTUNE WEEKEND

Advance reservations are required to the King Neptune Tournament Dinner Friday, March 28, 6:30 p.m., at Crown House, DeSoto Road and U.S. 301, Sarasota. The dinner will honor Past Presidents of FSGA, give members and guests a progress report on the North Carolina event in May and the trip to Scotland and the British Open in July. The dinner party for Neptune tournament contestants is included in their entry fee. Wives and guests are invited at \$15 per person. Members not playing in the tournament are welcome to attend. Reservations and payment must be received at FSGA office, Drawer 1298, Sarasota 33578, by Friday, March 21. Tickets will be held for you at the door the evening of the dinner.

## DAN SMITH NEW ADDITION TO FSGA STAFF

Dan Smith, a 22 year old Sarasotan, fresh out of the University of Florida into the real world with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, is the newest member of our state office.

Dan will take on member and club relations duties, handle computer handicap services, aid the tournament staff and wear such other hats as necessary in getting the job done for the Association and its members.

He's a player, starting when he was 10 and growing up through the Sarasota Junior Golf Association and FSGA Juniors. Smith has played competitively for ten years, was a three year letterman in golf at Sarasota High, a member of the 1975 District Championship and All Area Golf Teams. A big Delta Tau Delta at Gainesville, he'll seek to introduce fellow Greeks and other young businessmen to the wonderful world of FSGA.

Dan's handicap, which has varied between 3 and 5, is now expected to increase. An unfortunate occupational hazard brought on by Association business and fraternization with other office hackers.

## LADIES TO PLAY AT LONGBOAT KEY

While husbands get in practice licks at Gator Creek, Friday, March 28, wives of Neptune contestants may play Longboat Key Golf Club. FSGA has arranged a special rate for the ladies Friday afternoon and will pair them for the round prior to the evening dinner party at Crown House.

Simply indicate your handicap and desire to play on the dinner reservation form when it is returned to FSGA office.

## YOUR CLUB DUES MUST BE CURRENT

Association by-laws require annual club dues of \$50 be paid before individual player members can participate in FSGA events. Reason — Association tournaments are played only at member clubs and the clubs are joint sponsors of all events.

## FORMAT REVISED FOR ANNUAL MEMBER TOURNAMENT

Because of negative response to proposal that President, Professional, Superintendent and Manager of FSGA member clubs participate in annual Association member tournament and industry seminar at Dodgertown, the idea has been shelved. Proposal was made in annual questionnaire sent to clubs and individual members in December.

The individual member event, coupled with club four man team championship, will be over 36 holes, stroke play, April 26–27, practice round Friday, April 25 at Dodgertown, Vero Beach. Entry forms will be mailed in mid-March.

## PALM BEACH SPORTS HALL OF FAME FOR LEON SIKES, SR.

Ten years ago, almost to the day, FSGAers gathered at Avon Park Golf Club to honor Leon Sikes, Sr. for the many contributions he had made to Florida golf. They staged a 36-hole, two-day tournament in his honor and even dedicated the first round to a "Beat Pappy Sikes" competition.

At a special dinner following the first round, Sikes was presented with FSGA's Fairway Hall of Fame Award, which put the State Association a decade ahead of Palm Beach County. We hope they have room on their agenda to really enumerate the multitude of fine things Sikes Senior has done for golf.

In travelling through memory to Avon Park it is also recalled that Leon, Jr., who was President of the Association in 1970, was unmannerly enough to come on and win the tournament and shade his Dad's day in the sun. Those Sikes guys were tough competitors even in a father-son relationship.

Pappy has been winning amateur golf tournaments for more than 50 years. He's represented the U.S. in international senior competition for two decades and has been chairman of the National Father-Son Championship since 1959.

We're pleased that FSGA's good friend Larry Bush, Sports Editor of the Palm Beach Times, called our attention to the newest accolade for Pappy Sikes. We send our congratulations and the promise, whether he needs it or not, to get to work on another ten year honor for Sikes Senior for presentation in 1990.

## CLUB INDUSTRY OPPOSES DUES RESTRICTIONS BY FEDS

More voices of opposition are needed to protest proposed regulations prohibiting federal contractors (banks, S & Ls, some utilities, etc.) from reimbursing employee dues and expenses for participation in selective admissions clubs or organizations. The villain is the Labor Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance. If you're chartered by or do contractual business with the federal government, you will not be able to reimburse employees for golf club expenses which are business oriented.

The National Club Association is leading the fight against the proposed legislation which states federal contractors cannot pay membership fees or expenses ". . . in a private club or organization which bars, restricts, or limits its membership on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, or national origin . . ."

Pick up the phone and call your congressman at (202) 224-3121 in Washington and tell him to oppose this discriminatory legislation.

## USGA REGIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATIVE

Jim Moncrief, director of the USGA's Southeastern Region Green Section, honchoed an outstanding industry meeting at Cypress Gardens in February. He trotted out a full force of staff people in the day-long session for superintendents, club managers, tournament and handicap chairmen. The classy gathering, unfortunately, was only moderately attended. That's the trouble with nowadays. The guys who really need the information and could have been helped didn't bother to show.

### 1980 FSGA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

MAR. 29–30, KING NEPTUNE GOLF TOURNAMENT, 36 holes, Gator Creek Golf Club, Sarasota

APRIL 26–27, FSGA MEMBER AND CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP, 36 holes, Dodgertown, Vero Beach

MAY 16, 17, 18, STATE SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP, 54 holes, Eastwood Golf Course, Fort Myers

MAY 19, U. S. OPEN QUALIFYING, 36 holes, Gator Creek Golf Club and Bent Tree Golf Club, Sarasota

MAY 22–25, NORTH CAROLINA SPRING BLOOM MIXED PAIRS, High Hampton, Sapphire Valley, Lake Toxaway, Fairway Falls

JUNE 5–8, 63RD ANNUAL STATE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP, 72 holes, Feather Sound Country Club, Clearwater

JUNE 16–17, STATE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP, 36 holes, Sara Bay Country Club, Sarasota

JUNE 25–27, THREE STATE JUNIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, 36 holes, (Georgia, South Carolina, Florida), Aiken, South Carolina

JULY 14–28, FSGA-ST. ANDREWS MATCH, Scotland - British Open trip

OCT. 11–12, SENIOR FOUR-BALL, 36 holes, Vero Beach Country Club, Vero Beach

OCT. 25–26, STATE FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP, 36 holes, Burnt Store Country Club, Punta Gorda

NOV. 14–16, LIFE AT FORTY, 54 holes, Lehigh Country Club, Lehigh

DEC. 10–14, GILLESPIE MEMORIAL PRO-AM, Florida Seniors Open Championship, 72 holes, Longboat Key Golf & Tennis Club, Sarasota