

IN A REFLECTIVE MOMENT New Champion Van Gerbig recounts highlights of his Bay Hill experience.



MICKEY VAN GERBIG earned center stage at the scoreboard presentation site after his 292 won the 60th annual State Amateur Championship at Bay Hill. Al Johns, left, was second with 294. FSGA President Austin Jones, right, who closed with a fine four under 68 the final day, made the presentations.

VAN GERBIG WINS 60th STATE AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

ORLANDO — "Best run big tournament I've ever seen," the man said. And he has seen some.

The man was Gene Smith, executive assistant professional to head man Dick Tiddy at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club where FSGA's 60th annual State Amateur Championship had just completed a week's run.

Mr. Smith, I'm sure, recognized the fact, although modestly, that he and his competent associates had been part of the big team which successfully closed another chapter on Florida's oldest continuous sports event. The Florida Amateur has been played since 1914 with interruption only during the two World War periods. It is sponsored annually by Florida State Golf Association.

The elements and resources, natural and man-made, were first class. The golf course, the knowledgeable Bay Hill staff and magnificent weather gave the FSGA tournament crew and its 194 player field the ultimate in cooperation.

There were the usual minor disruptions, including a late night intruder,

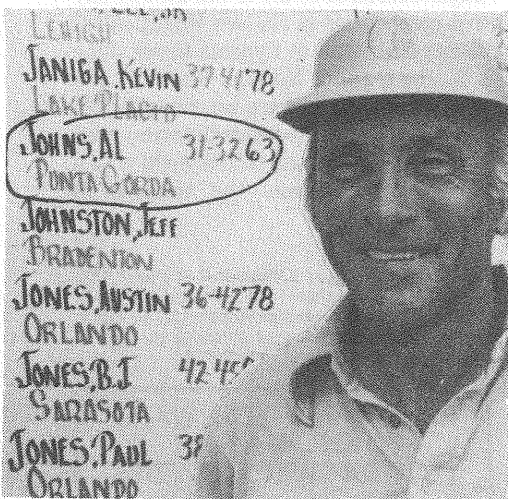
driving an errant vehicle over the tenth fairway and green spinning and skidding wheels that gouged tire tracks in the playing surface. However, all emergencies were met and solved with minimum confusion. That included the selection of a stout and high tree branch from which the intruder will be hung by the heels when caught.

The champion who emerged from the 72 hole, four-day fray is a popular, dedicated amateur well-known and respected on the national and international golf scene. Mickey Van Gerbig, a 36-year-old Palm Beach attorney, who, as a student at nearby Rollins College, had walked the monster Bay Hill course before it was seeded in the early 1960s, hung tough throughout the fray for his victory.

Van Gerbig returned rounds of 70-70-77-75 for his 292 winning score. That was four over par for the 7,000-yard daily trek over "The Hill" which has been robust in its defense of par in FSGA Championships.

Bob Murphy, Jr., won the first State Amateur played here in 1965 with a 290.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



A HAPPY Al Johns checked his new course record numbers at the scoreboard. The 63 was fashioned from nine pars and nine birdies by the first round leader.

**TOURNAMENT
ENTRY FORMS
PAGES 4 & 5**

60th ANNUAL STATE AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
 CONDUCTED BY FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION
 The Bay Hill Club, Orlando, Fla. June 9-12, 1977

Contestant **AL JOHNS** 18 36 54 72
63

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOTAL
PAR	5	3	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	36	4	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	5	36	72
YARDAGE	511	230	407	441	359	521	198	386	452	3505	397	420	568	373	218	426	427	223	535	3587	7092
SCORE	4	2	3	4	3	5	3	4	3	31	4	4	5	3	3	4	3	2	4	32	63

Date: 6/9/77

Sign: _____ Attest: ape
 A TRUE COPY:

VAN GERBIG WINS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gary Koch followed with a winning 291 in 1972. Van Gerbig's 292 this year, incidentally, a total he had forecast to the press would win, was in character with the unyielding tradition of the golf course.

In a pre-tournament run over the track, designating daily pin placements, tee markers, hazard stakes and lines, with Superintendent Jim Ellison, the feeling was that even par would win if the weather held fair. Jim and his crew had the course in prime shape and an almost windless four days provided ideal conditions.

Our thoughts about par and perhaps even a stroke or two under, took a position of substance opening day when Al Johns fired an incredible 63, nine under par. Johns, Chairman of the Board of Punta Gorda Isles and Southwest Florida Banks, stored up a four stroke edge in the first round with a barrage of nine birdies and nine pars, a better than perfect round. He left 192 other competitors shaking heads and wondering if Johns had played all the holes. The 193rd competitor, David Abell, the Wake Forest-bound prep star from Fort Pierce, was astounded to learn when he checked into the scoreboard with a not-so-shabby 67 that he was four strokes back.

"Well it beats shooting 72 and being nine back," Abell joked when he regained his composure.

The next day it was a different story when "The Hill" rose indignantly, stuffed Johns and Abell in a pressurized outdoor oven and popped them out with well-cooked, over par rounds of 80 for Al and 83 for David.

The opening day 63 broke Arnold Palmer's course record by a shot. Amateur Tracy Allen and professional Gordon Jones also shared the 64 record with Palmer. The Al Johns 32-31-63 provided plenty of first day drama, however, the course retaliated and got things back to reality from the second day on when Johns

finished with 80-72-79 for 294 and second place.

Press coverage of the 60th annual featured Jerry Green's fine stories and pictures for the Orlando Sentinel. Tom Edrington and Pat Eggeling covered for the Tampa Tribune and Central Florida was aware of the happening. Unfortunately, the day is long past for wire services to move information to the hinterlands about amateur golf in Florida.

There were 59 prize places in the field which went into a Championship, eight flights and a senior section competition, held for the first time and won by Jack Coulter of Orlando. In addition to silver and merchandise prizes all qualifying for the Championship and the flight winners, were given FSGA travel golf bag covers in which to haul their business implements to future encounters.

The 60th renewal was an epic one.

— BILL CAREY

THE WINNERS:

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

M. Van Gerbig — 292, Al Johns — 294, Ron Tumlin — 295, Kevin Walsh — 296, Kevin Butler — 297, Tom Losinger — 297, Austin Jones — 298, Terry May — 298, Jack Veghte — 299, Bob Rankin — 299, Art Duncan — 299.

FIRST FLIGHT

Kenneth Walsh — 300, Rick Pearson — 303, Carmen Rosamenda — 304, Bob Stockman — 313, Jim Prim — 314.

SECOND FLIGHT

Jeff Tanner — 305, Scott Behl — 311, Billy Myers — 311, Craig Scott — 313, Ron Ferguson — 315, David Ashmore — 315, John Ward — 315, Dale McDonald — 315.

THIRD FLIGHT

Lee Rinker — 312, Joel Loggins — 313, John Pacuk — 314, Brian McNamara — 320, Allen Sterchi — 320.

FOURTH FLIGHT

Kip Minter — 313, Tom Lane — 319, Ned Hogan — 320, Donald Chornack — 325, Van Silver — 325.

FIFTH FLIGHT

Earl Morris — 320, Wm. Brownrigg — 324, Don Whittemore — 324, Steve Guttman — 326, James Champion — 328.

SIXTH FLIGHT

William Lloyd — 319, Rich Howard — 328, Billy Loggins — 322, Ken Nielsen — 332, Scott Clanton — 333.

SEVENTH FLIGHT

Kenneth Rogers — 336, Bob Cloughen — 337, Gary Tomsich — 338, Kenneth Brooke — 339, Frank Lombardy — 339.

EIGHTH FLIGHT

Jim Williams III — 348, Bill Woodbury — 353, Jim Whittemore — 356, B.J. Jones — 356.

SENIOR SECTION

Jack Coulter — 310, Key Scales — 318, Tom Grady — 323, George Bumgarner — 324, Keith Cornell — 328, A. Henricksen — 328.

NAPIER-VAUGHN WIN CYPRESS CREEK 4-BALL

ORLANDO — Billy Napier and Tom Vaughn scored 63-69-132 to win the two day gross competition in FSGA's West Central District Four-Ball at Cypress Creek June 18-19. The team of Norman Field Jr. and George Bumgarner were second with 139.

The low net competition Saturday was won by R. Huybers and G. Innocenti with a 55. Gene Byrne was the tournament director.

PRIZE WINNERS: B. Napier-T. Vaughn-132, N. Field-G. Bumgarner-139, R. Lawrence-B. Geppert-148, R. Howard-J. Hogan-152, S. Gera-M. Payne-152, F. Burgess-J. McBride-155, E. Mitchell-G. Pfann-158.

EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT FLORIDA GOLF FACILITIES

1977 GOLF GUIDE

P.O. Drawer 1298 Sarasota, Fl. 33578

Please send _____ copies of Guide @ \$1.95 plus 43 cents for tax and postage.

Check for \$ _____ enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

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State _____ Zip _____



Van Gerbig and Johns



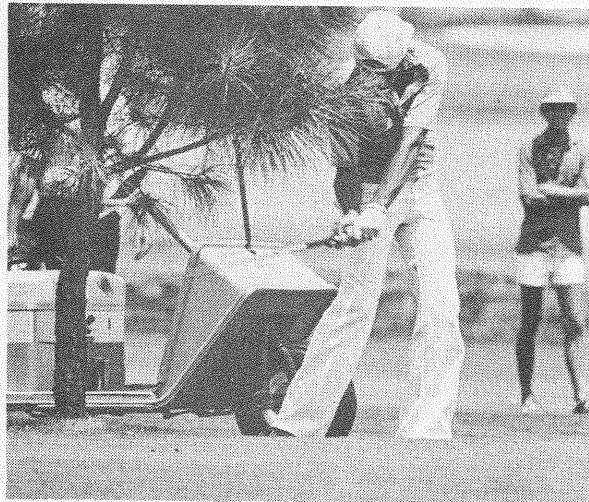
Terry May from trap



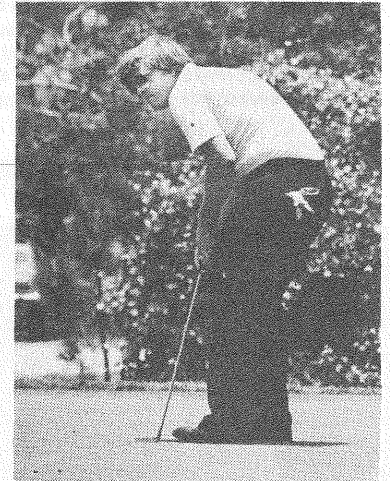
Rankin from trap

MEN AT WORK

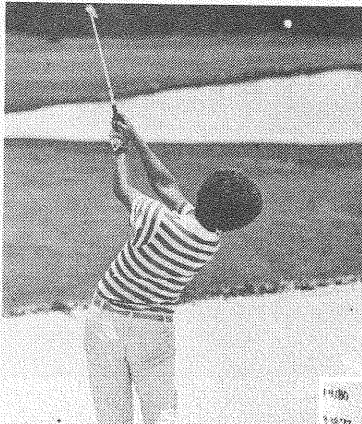
Mickey Van Gerbig, the new Champion; Al Johns, Terry May, Bob Rankin, Ron Tumlin, host professional Dick Tiddy and scoreboard impresario Lynn Jones all did their thing under the hot State Amateur sun at Bay Hill. Many others helped to make the tournament a success. Photographs courtesy of Jerry Greene's Orlando Sentinel and FSGA.



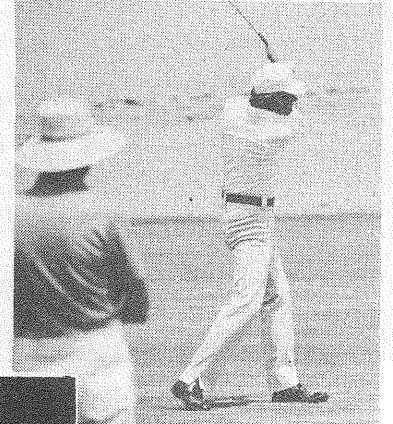
Van Gerbig swings



Tumlin putts



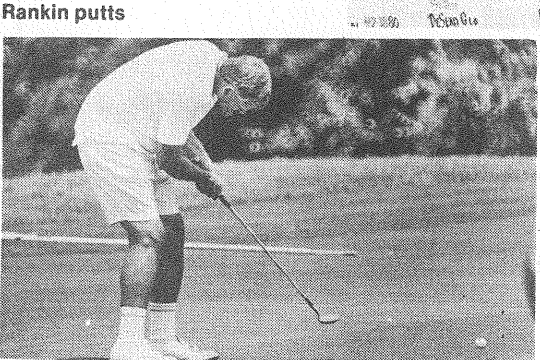
May from trap again



Johns swings

Scoreboard listing names and scores for the State Amateur tournament.

191-84	Philip ...	191-84	Thomas G ...	191-84	Tommy ...	191-84	Tommy ...	191-84	Tommy ...	191-84	Tommy ...	191-84	Tommy ...	191-84	Tommy ...
191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84	191-84



Rankin putts

Jones at scoreboard



Tiddy supervises

**FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT 4 BALL TOURNAMENT
PORT MALABAR COUNTRY CLUB, JULY 30-31, 1977**

TEAM ENTRY

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 I am a current member of _____ My current handicap is _____
 Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 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 \$60 includes carts for Saturday and Sunday. One over-all low gross prize. Net prizes all flights. Regular members must include \$20 ANNUAL DUES or be on FSGA Handicap System. Members must belong to FSGA member club. Tournament is 36 holes, best ball of twosome, full handicap. Teams will be flighted for Saturday and remain in same flight thru Sunday. Teams will not be allowed a differential of more than 6 strokes. Starting times begin at 8 a.m. and will be posted at Port Malabar C.C. Friday 29th — no refunds after this date. Call Pro Shop (305) 723-5570 or 777-0873. Free practice round Fri; cart chg. \$4.16.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FSGA ECD

MAIL TO: L.C. DAUBENSPECK, 421 SKYLARK BLVD., SATELLITE BEACH, FLORIDA 32937

**FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION and BAY POINT
LIFE AT FORTY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

(Contestants Must Be 40 Years Old Or Older)

BAY POINT YACHT & C.C., PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA, AUGUST 6-7, 1977

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

ENTRY FEE of \$50 includes carts for 2 days and must accompany this form. Regular members must include \$20 ANNUAL DUES if not already paid or on FSGA Handicap System. Tournament 36 holes stroke play by handicap divisions of 0-4, 5-8, 9-12 and 13 & over. First and second over-all **LOW GROSS** prizes only. **NET PRIZES** in each division. Age Divisions 40-54, 55-64 and 65 and over. 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
FIELD LIMITED TO 120 ENTRIES. NO REFUNDS AFTER PAIRINGS MAILED JULY 29.

**FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION
SARASOTA COUNTY AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP WITH SENIOR SECTION — 36 HOLES
CAPRI ISLES GOLF CLUB, VENICE, FLORIDA
AUGUST 13-14, 1977**

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

The tournament is 36 holes stroke play. Field will go into flights of 16 contestants after 18 holes for the final round on Sunday. **GROSS** and **NET** prizes each flight. Entry fee of \$30 must accompany entry and includes golf cart for two days and merchandise prizes in all flights. Dues of \$20 must be included if entrant is not a current FSGA member or on FSGA Handicap System. Entries are subject to approval or rejection at any time by FSGA tournament committee.

Mail entries to: FSGA, P.O. DRAWER 1298, SARASOTA, FLA. 33578. PAIRINGS WILL BE MAILED
 AUGUST 5. NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.

**FSGA ONE DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT — LONE PALM GOLF CLUB
LAKELAND, FLORIDA — SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1977
!! FIELD LIMITED TO FIRST 120 ENTRIES ONLY!!**

Name Date of Birth.....
 Address City Zip

I am a current member of club. My current handicap is

Home phone Office phone Cart included in Entry Fee.
 () New Member () Renewal () Dues Paid

ENTRY FEE of \$15 includes cart and must accompany this form. Regular members must include \$20 ANNUAL DUES if not already paid or on FSGA Handicap System. Entry fee will be refunded only if withdrawal notice is received in FSGA office by 5 p.m. Aug. 15. Tournament is stroke play by handicap division of 0-4, 5-8, 9-12, and 13 & over. First and second over-all LOW GROSS only. NET PRIZES in each division. Entries are subject to approval or rejection at any time by FSGA tournament committee.

Mail Entries to: **FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION P.O. Drawer 1298 Sarasota, Fla. 33578**
CALL LONE PALM FOR STARTING TIMES. (813) 683-3005. Pairings will be posted there Friday, August 19. If your entry is received after field is closed, you will be notified by return mail. **NO ACCEPTANCE NOTICES WILL BE MAILED.**

**FSGA MIXED PAIRS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
PORT MALABAR C.C., PALM BAY, FLA., AUGUST 27-28, 1977**

TEAM ENTRY

Name Date of Birth.....
 Address City Zip

I am a current member of club. My current handicap is Home phone
 Office ph.

Name Date of Birth.....
 Address City Zip

I am a current member of club. 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.**

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER TO NON-MEMBERS ONLY

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

WE GET LETTERS

PGA'S NATIONAL ACADEMY OF GOLF

As the Junior Golf Chairman in your respective area, we felt you would be interested in a significant development in junior golf in this country — PGA's National Academy of Golf.

Enclosed for your information and review are three brochures and general fact sheet outlining the details of the Academy.

An important feature to note is that the National Academy of Golf will be more than an experience in swing instruction. We hope to foster in these young people a deeper, personal appreciation for the history, the aesthetic value and impact of the great game of golf in the U.S.

We hope you'll circulate this information to interested youngsters in your area and we're available to answer any questions you might have.

Gary Wiren, Director
National Academy of Golf

NICKLAUS JR. IN STATE AM?

While I was in Tulsa, JWN was telling me Jackie Jr. would have played in the state amateur at Bay Hill if they'd known about it.

Don't know why they didn't learn about it through Joe Cannon at Lost Tree Club. Also, don't know if Jackie has a handicap of 6 or less. But I'm sure it will be that low by 1978. Also I don't know what the age limit is for entering the FSGA. Jackie is 15.

Anyway, I thought you might want to drop Jack a note at his office: Golden Bear Enterprises, Inc., 1208 U.S. Highway 1, North Palm Beach, FL 33408.

Jim Wartens
Palm Beach Post

FROM HOLLYWOOD MEN'S G.A.

On behalf of the H.M.G.A., I would like to thank you for the invitation to play in "FSGA District Association Team Championship." We definitely believe it is a super idea, but, because of the late notice we will be unable to field a team in either division this year. If invited, we will be interested in entering your tournament next year.

Surely hope this year's tournament will be a great success.

Bernie Hamrick
H.M.G.A. Tournament Director

HICKORY SHAFT COMPETITION

The Gillespie material looks very attractive. I think you will probably find it worthwhile to pursue the hickory shaft portion even if it is only for a nine hole fun event, as it may help you gain further publicity on a National basis.

Thanks for the invitation to the dinner on the 19th but I will be out of town on that date. Give me a raincheck. However, I would love to participate next year. As a matter of fact if you need some assistance at the banquet that is part of my regular routine.

I may get over to Sarasota sometime this summer as we try to go to the theatre once during the year. If so I will certainly give you a call in advance.

Gary Wiren
PGA of America

SANTA ROSA YOUTH CLASSIC

A reminder for your golf calendar that the Sixth Annual Santa Rosa Youth Classic is set for September 24. The 18 hole event will be held again at Santa Rosa Country Club, Bradenton.

Phil Galvano
Bradenton

BERMUDA JUNIOR GOLF

We would appreciate any information regarding the development and operation of Junior Golf Programmes.

Thanking you in advance.

W.A. Cowen, Manager
Port Royal Golf Course
Southhampton, Bermuda

CLUB VISITATION

Your visit with us and your presentation was appreciated by all of us here at Cape Coral Golf & Racquet Club.

We are definitely interested in your considering us for a tournament here in 1978 or 1979. Of course we need your suggestions and assistance to proceed in this direction.

Whenever you are available, we would like you to be our guest here at Cape Coral and play our course. At that time anything you would suggest to improve our setup or to put us in a position to qualify for consideration could be discussed and proper steps would be taken to comply in every way.

Both Mr. Reilly and myself are available at any time. You can contact us at 542-7879 or 542-3191. Be assured that you will have our fullest cooperation.

F.J. VanArnam
Sun Country Resorts

WILLOW BROOK REQUESTS

I have been in touch with Mrs. Dexter Daniels, Sr., and she informs me that the FSGA has a current picture of Dexter, Sr., that we could use for our tournament logo.

I would appreciate it if you could send the picture to me as soon as possible. Thank you.

Bill Perry, Jr.
Willow Brook G.C.
Winter Haven

NCA BLACKED OUT

I'm sorry your plans wouldn't permit you to join us, but we did have delightful seminar at the Lauderdale Yacht Club on Monday. Of course, we were in the middle of that power blackout, but we merely moved the meeting out to a beautiful screened-in room which gave us natural light and plenty of breeze. It actually was a better setting than our inside room.

Hope all is well with you. Let's stay in touch.

Gerard F. Hurley, CAE
Executive Director NCA

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CANADIAN LADIES' G.A.

Many thanks for sending me the April issue of your Newsletter which I found very interesting. However, I would like to comment on the items referring to British Golf Clubs contained in "Inside Florida Golf."

As one who for many years was actively engaged in administration in British golf I really must challenge the statement that if as a member, you introduce and recommend a friend for membership and he is denied, you are expected to resign your membership. If that were the case, who would ever propose anyone for membership? Most of the fables such as that begin as jokes in the Bar and eventually someone hearing it for the first time repeats it as a fact. The same thing applies to the story about the applicant who was given permission to play nine holes only. That is indeed a joke and has been making the rounds for decades.

The main difference between golf on this continent and that of Britain is that by and large golf Clubs in Britain are just that. Country Clubs as they exist in North America are rare in Britain and, as a result, the cost of being a member of a Club there is considerably lower than it is the U.S. and Canada.

It is very true that in the past there were very many social barriers in force at many Clubs but, over there, as here, things have changed. Golf over there is cheap. To

give you a couple of instances, a round of golf at Royal Blackheath costs Two Pounds, less than \$4.00 and the same fee applies at the Old Course at St. Andrews. The New Course is even cheaper and the Jubilee Course costs less than \$2.00.

Will look forward to seeing you at the I.A.G.A. Conference in Phoenix next February.

Les Whamond
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

EDITOR'S NOTE: Whamond's response and views are welcome. Particularly the observations about the cost of golf in the land where it all began. We found green fees very reasonable during the last visit to England and Scotland are hopeful of returning soon on another junket.

Of special current interest is The Queen's Hotel, a lovely-sounding, historic, former manor house at Gullane, Scotland.

There are three courses nearby and we found Gullane One to be a truly remarkable seaside adventure. Luffness New, St. Andrews and Muirfield also are within a few miles. The quality and fun of these courses never will dissappoint you.

WANTS BEST GOLF DEAL

We have your Florida Golf and Tennis guide and have found it very helpful in locating and playing various courses.

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 are looking for a spot where the golf is good, the rates reasonable and if possible somewhere that permits owning your own riding cart, or paying a modest monthly or annual cart rental fee.

For example, although we want to be further south, you can join one of the courses at Hilton Head, South Carolina, and are entitled to privileges at four courses including the Harbour Town course. In addition, for \$746.00 a year you and your wife are entitled to a seat on a golf cart at any course anytime you make a starting time.

Any suggestions you may offer will be greatly appreciated.

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

**FSGA INTRODUCTORY
MEMBERSHIP \$9** JULY 1, TO
DEC. 31, 1977



PALATKA'S BILLY TUTEN, 1976 Boys Division winner in FSGA's State Junior will be back to defend his title at Country Club of Miami, July 21-22. The heavy-hitting 15 year old won the State Junior PGA crown at Disney World the end of June and is at the top of his game.

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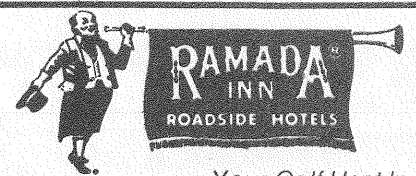
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FSGA 1977 TOURNAMENTS

July 21-22 State Junior Championship, 36 holes, Country Club of Miami.

July 23-24, Four-ball Country Club of Miami.

July 30-31 Two-Man Best Ball, Full Handicap, Port Malabar Country Club, Palm Bay.

August 6-7 N.W. "Life at Forty," 54 holes, BayPoint Golf Club, Panama City.

August 13-14 Sarasota County Amateur, Senior Section, Capri Isles G.C., Venice.

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. 14-15 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.



BAY HILL — The third round of this year's State Amateur here had not been completed when FSGA's tournament committee gathered in an impromptu session to consider next year's event.

"This one will be hard to top."

"The field should be smaller, 194 players are too many. Lower the handicap requirement to 0-4."

"Cut out the senior section."

"Keep the senior section but reduce the handicap requirement from six to four."

"A smaller, quality field will make it a more prestigious event and give us a chance at the better golf courses."

"We must go to southeast Florida next year."

That was the general theme of the discussion. So, with the 60th annual championship put away as a successful piece of FSGA history, work goes forward to:

1. Schedule the 61st annual Amateur Championship in the Palm Beach area.

2. Reduce the size of the field to 128 players. Make the handicap requirement four and under.

3. Have 20 players in the senior section required to have handicap six or under.

We suggest those interested in playing in the 1978 State Amateur Championship go to work to lower handicaps pronto and when your entry form arrives send it in by return mail.

ARNOLD PALMER'S first question after hearing his Bay Hill Course record had been broken in the first round of the State Amateur was:

"Where were the tee markers?"

Palmer had called his head professional, Dick Tiddy, on routine business Friday afternoon, the second day of the tournament.

"They played 'em from the posts,

Arnold. The guy just had a super round," Dick said.

The tee markers were set at, or a few yards back of, the yardage monuments. Rear green hole locations compensated for any short-placed tee positions. The course played about 6,875 yards. "The Hill's" all-the-golf-course yardage is 7,092.

That "guy," Al Johns of Punta Gorda, a 49 year old veteran amateur campaigner, knocked the pins down all day in scoring his nine under par 63.

Starting on the 10th hole, for his opening nine, Johns charted his first birdie on the par four 13th, a 373 yarder requiring a finessed approach into a well-bunkered, elongated green which sported a delicate pin placement opening day.

The Johns' assault on par began in earnest on 16 when he started a six hole birdie barrage . . . 16, 17, 18, 1, 2 and 3 fell consecutively to his magic wands. He parred the 4th, a robust 441 yard par 4. Then a birdie at 5 put him eight under par, tying Palmer's course record 64 at that point.

Pars followed at 6, 7 and 8. On 9, his finishing hole, two clothesline rifle shots put Johns 42 feet from the hole. He smoothly rolled in the snake for the record 63. Nine pars, nine birdies in his record round.

Al had a mighty compatible group cheering him as the round progressed. His playing partners were Bob Rankin, FSGA's 1969 State Champion, Julian Arnold of Miami and John McKey, Jr., Delray Beach. Rankin was one under with 71, Arnold shot 72 and McKey 76. As a four-some they were 14 under par, the three-some scoring five birdies to go with Al's nine to give them an imposing best ball of 58 for the 18 holes. Tough.

Johns was delighted with his all time

best competitive round and happily took away the attested scorecard and special scoreboard notices for his trophy shelf. Haven't learned if he's heard from Palmer.

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