



# NEWSLETTER

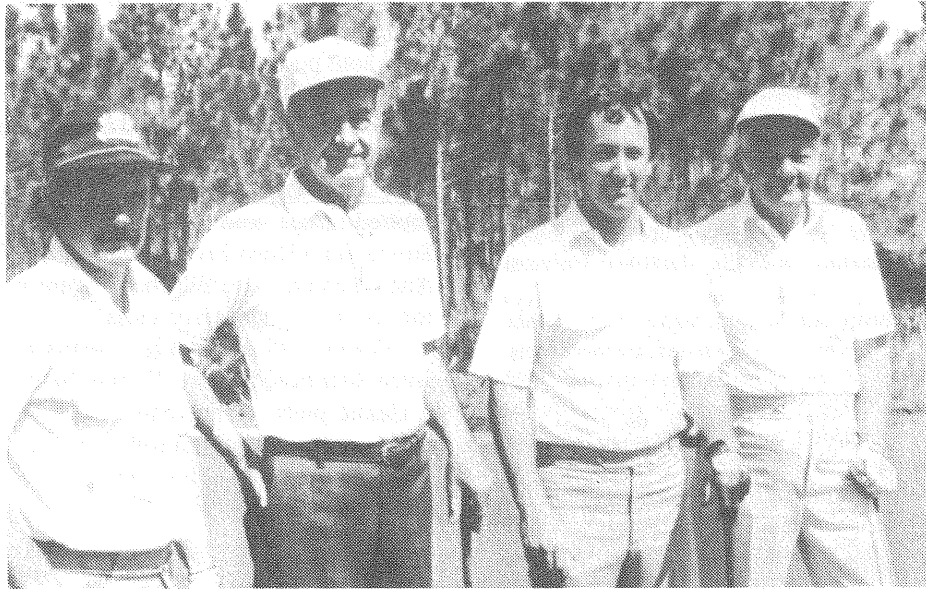
"This Association has been formed and exists for the purpose of promoting and conserving, throughout the State of Florida, the best interests and the true spirit of the game of Golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable traditions."

777 South Palm Avenue  
P.O. Drawer 1298  
Sarasota, FL 33578  
Phone (813) 366-4898

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 1

MARCH 1981

## Gillespie next in 22 Tournament Schedule



THE NEW PLANTATION GOLF RESORT, just south of Venice, opened its spectacular 18 holes this month. David Waugh, Gary Tate, Puggy Blackmon, Director of Resort Operations, and Wyman Brannan enjoyed an early round on the Ron Garl designed layout.

## Paul Tarnow, Jr. is Honorary Chairman of Sarasota Event

The initial Gillespie Memorial Golf Tournament to honor the Scot who built Florida's first golf holes in 1886, was played in June 1958 at Wyn Treadway's old Sarasota Golf Club Colony.

The winner: Paul Tarnow, Jr., a talented young swinger from Tampa who through the years became a leading businessman—amateur in national, regional and state competitions.

Tarnow has been named Honorary Chairman of the 1981 Gillespie, scheduled for Gator Creek Golf Club March 28 and 29. The inaugural victor will compete in the 36-hole FSGA sponsored event as will his two boys, Scott and Paul III.

## Florida Golf's 95th Year Planned By FSGA Members

Answers to questionnaires sent FSGA members last Fall are largely responsible for the Association's 1981 program. Planning committee members who crafted the questionnaire thank everyone who took time to check the survey and offer comment and opinion.

The return was not staggering from a numerical view — less than 6% (182 members) of our hard-core, 3,000 plus first class mail recipients — gave the state office benefit of advice and counsel. In 95% of the returns comment was highly constructive and provided a direct guideline for the program in this, the 95th year of Florida Golf. The Committee is grateful for your cooperation.

Now, by the numbers, some chapter and verse of what you said:

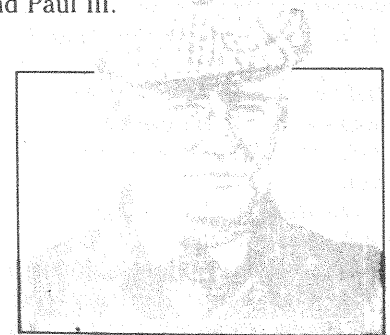
To the question, "What do you like least about FSGA tournaments?" the

almost unanimous word was, "not enough of them." However, only 30% specifically said there should be more events.

It was a clear signal. Result: 22 events already have been scheduled, and for the first time in years, member clubs are calling to get on the tournament schedule. Let's see how the members support the tournament program.

The increase in the number of events also satisfied another request — more events for the 19 through 39 year old age group. The complaint was too many senior tournaments. In 1981 the "before 40" age group can enter 16 of the 22 events so far scheduled.

"What do you like most about FSGA tournaments?" brought a flurry of bouquets and positive comment like: "The chance to play good and different golf courses." "Well run and organized." "Best run tournaments I've every played in." "Meeting old and new friends, competing, getting away." "All pretty much the same kind of hackers." "Fellowship, playing courses all over



J. Hamilton Gillespie

Another standout young player, Mark Mullins of St. Andrews, Scotland, now studying at Emory University in Atlanta, on a Bobby Jones Scholarship, has been invited to play by Bill Carey, FSGA Executive Director, who conceived the idea of a Gillespie observance back in the late 1950s.

The 1981 tournament will be a highlight of Sarasota's Neptune Pageant Week. Contestants, wives and guests will get the weekend underway Friday, March 27, with a country music evening and chicken barbecue beginning at 6:30 p.m., Potter Building, County Fair Grounds. FSGAers are urged to wear their clogging and hoedown duds



# BILL CAREY'S JOURNAL

The New Year bringeth the "Experimental Reorganised Rules of Golf" as proposed by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, and The United States Golf Association.

These worthies convene every so often to discuss such heady stuff and at first glance it appears the chaps have done a sterling job. Obviously, the Yanks and Colonials represented at the deliberation, yielded to the British approach to certain words and phrases but on the whole their "behaviour during play" seems commendable.

The foreword to the slightly oversized and enlarged type rules book states that the R&A and USGA are considering the possible reorganisation and simplification of the Rules of Golf. This fact has been known to certain insiders in the colonies for several years and we've awaited the coming of the new document with keen anticipation.

It is here now. The foreword continues to explain: "This Draft Experimental Reorganised Rules of Golf endeavours to list together all provisions (including Definitions) relating to a single subject. The Draft alters only the organisation of the Rules and not the substance of the Rules themselves. The numbers in brackets refer to the source of the Rules in the existing Rule Book."

And so they do. And copies of the Draft have been sent to "affiliated golf unions and golf associations around the world for their consideration and comment."

Co-chairmen D. L. Hayes for the R&A and William J. Williams, Jr., USGA, signed-off on the work and let it fly early in January to the guys in the trenches to advise and comment on the reorganisation.

The 10 point body copy typography will get you on the side of the experimental do rather promptly. For those whose 20/20 has flown, the Rules are pleasantly readable. Some take several readings to be understandable but that's no different from the old book.

We detected no major change in substance during an initial scan and think the new groupings which have replaced the present contents page an improvement for openers.

The Experimental, Reorganised, etc., will not replace the 1981 Rules of Golf—the little blue and white pocket-sized book you're receiving from your golf association. Not yet, anyway.

However, P. J. Boatwright, Jr., Executive Director of the USGA, has asked golf association officials around the country to evaluate and compare the experimental booklet with the existing Rules book and let their views be known to the ruling body of the game.

"In the early part of the 1981 golf season," urges P. J., "use the experimental book in actual practice."

Veddy well, chaps. We'll give it a go!



We had a delightful encounter with a pair of United Kingdom types during the holidays, through the good planning of John Henry Macdonell's widow, Helen. That gracious lady gave us the opportunity to entertain, on and off the golf course, a pair of charmers currently studying at Emory University in Atlanta on a Bobby Jones exchange scholarship with St. Andrews University.

Both lads are 22 years old, in their fourth year of college and current recipients of the academic interchange which John Henry helped to establish during his active and interesting lifetime.

Michael Graham, a reflective, low-key Londoner, and Mark Mullin, an ebullient Scot, thought Sarasota a proper and wizard place to spend a holiday and Helen Macdonell opened her home to the young men and kept them well booked during their stay.

Graham is pursuing a medical degree. Mullin already has a degree in botany from St. Andrews and was a member of the St. Andrews Town and Gown Golf Team which played our Florida State Golf Association contingent in St. Andrews in 1978 during our British Open trip. He had been partnered with young David McDowall against our junior entry of Scott Behl and Jack Nicklaus II and it was fun to reminisce about that match which finished dead even and notched the only points the host team scored in the epic team encounter.

On the subject of the late John Henry's interest in education, we're pleased to see that The English Speaking Union has created an Educational Grant in Aid to be known as the John Henry Macdonell Award. He founded an ESU branch in Southwest Florida and educators in Sarasota and Manatee Counties have been asked to nominate applicants for the 1981 grant which will amount to more than \$2,000.

If you wish to participate in this memorial to a man who brightened many lives along his way, send your check to ESU-J. H. Macdonell Award, P. O. Box 15524, Sarasota, FL 33579.

—Continued from page 1  
for hoisting a wee dram or two with old friends.

Gator Creek is an all male golf club and women will not be allowed in the clubhouse or on the golf course during Friday's practice round. However, the ladies will be welcome during the actual tournament days, Saturday and Sunday.

## Skip Smith repeats as 1-day winner

After tying for the top gross spot at Port Malabar, Skip Smith, of Orlando, came back at Rosemont C.C., March 8, with sole possession of first place. Ray Robison, M.T. McInnis and Chip Anderson took net places in the 0-5 handicap division.

Chuck Ludwig and Charles Hurt topped gross and net in 6-9; Ralph Stowell and Herb Brooks ditto in 10-15; Andy Thailing and Bill Burns were victors in the 16 and over class.

Fifteen merchandise certificates were distributed to the 43 man field. In a classic piece of mismanagement the Rosemont pro shop closed its doors to prize recipients forcing certificates to be re-written in favor of the winner's home club.

## Format change for '81 State Amateur

The tournament committee has recommended a 36 hole qualifying round for FSGA's 64th Annual State Amateur Championship. The tournament will be 72 holes, stroke play, June 4-7 at The President Country Club, West Palm Beach.

### 1981 FSGA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL \$25.00

( ) New ( ) Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Office ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Handicap is \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ club

which is a member of FSGA.

Mail with check to FSGA, P. O. Drawer 1298,  
Sarasota, FL 33578



## GOLF IN TROUBLE ?

# IAGA Meeting Takes Pulse of Game

BAY HILL—Guest experts in the golf industry kept telling IAGA members at their annual meeting here at Arnold Palmer's Florida retreat, that they were the most sophisticated audience in golf. We began to believe it. We also believed the industry must grow closer together to maintain and improve its economic position and popularity in world sports.

The International Association of Golf Administrators, an organization of executive directors of national, state, regional and district amateur golf associations in the United States and eight foreign countries, gathers every year for four days to review the state of the industry. The forecast for the 1980s was bright and dismal, provided measures of hope and despair, served up many mind-stretching problems and only a few solutions.

Before the final day of facing each other for an exchange of information, prompted by individual association activities and ideas, the IAGAers were subjected to a barrage of blue ribbon research and opinions from the game's leadership.

The USGA, PGA Tour, PGA, National Golf Foundation, LPGA, Golf Course Superintendents Association, American Society of Golf Course Architects, National Association of Public Golf Courses, PGA Golf Co., Club Managers Association and National Club Association, had their headmen in attendance to participate in a Golf Industry panel organized by the game's sentimental Italian, Don Rossi, Executive Director of the National Golf Foundation.

I share these highlights with you gathered by tape and notebook:

**DON ROSSI, NGF**—Affluent adults best prospects for conversion to golf. Make effort for elderly joggers and skiers, keep selling Juniors. Increase public courses to meet demands of growing, mobile population. Build courses for high handicappers, not the experts. Improve golf's image, make it wholesome family recreation.

**MARK COX, PGA**—More cooperative interchanges with golf organizations. With 12,500 facilities na-

tionwide and 15 million plus players, great opportunity for expansion of golf market. PGA Merchandise Show at Disney this year produced unusually high volume of orders and sales. PGA National's new complex at Palm Beach Gardens will become great focal point for education and communications materials.

**CHIP CAMPBELL, PGA TOUR**—Tour in good shape with \$14 million in purses, \$5 million to charity by sponsors last year. Good crowds. Healthier than tennis. Golf has not tolerated the obscene gestures and comments to officials made by the McEnroes and Nastases of tennis. Program to let 18 year olds and under into PGA events free, and Wilson Co. ball program, a boost for junior golf. Great response to the Wee Links at Disney for youngsters. New Tour Marketing function to bring more corporate sponsorship to program. Stadium golf concept at Tournament Players Course near Arvida's Sawgrass complex, South Ponte Vedra Beach, will be crowd pleaser. Electronic scoreboards around course to replace manual leader boards make it better spectator sport. Golf most expensive sport to cover for TV, must make it a better property economically for the networks.

**JIM McLOUGHLIN, GCSAA**—Superintendent guardian of golf resources. Must manage with restraint and discipline the use of water, energy, and seek new and imaginative techniques, grasses and maintenance procedures. Diminishing access to public resources requires improved education and communications effort. Public courses must be better with higher caliber professional managers and promoters of the product.

**HARRY EASTERLY, USGA**—Must combat declining interest in young people who find game too expensive, can't carry their own bag for exercise because of club rules and find many courses barred to them. USGA to spend millions of dollars on turf research to find grass which requires little water and reduced maintenance. Must improve management, communication, fund raising.

**RAY VOLPE, LPGA**—Not as confident about golf in the 80s as fellow panel members. Women responsible for 7 out of 10 purchases. Must get more of them playing golf. If they don't play kids don't play. Too many negative pressures put golf in trouble as too many tournaments water-down the quality of events. Reposition game as family sport. Reach out with new management teams from industry to pull together at grass roots level to increase demand for product. ■

## REVISED 1981

### TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- FEB. 22, One day event, Pt. Malabar C.C., Palm Bay
- MAR. 8, One day event, Rosemont G. C., Orlando
- MAR. 28-29, Gillespie Memorial Amateur, Gator Creek C. C., Sarasota
- APRIL 12, One day event, Sunset G. C., St. Petersburg
- APRIL 26, One day event, Plantation G. & C. C., Venice
- MAY 9-10, State Seniors Championship, Tomoka Oaks C. C., Ormond Beach
- MAY 18, U. S. Open Local Qualifying, Bent Tree G. & R. C. and Gator Creek G. C., Sarasota
- JUNE 4-7, State Amateur Championship, The President C. C., West Palm Beach
- JUNE 18-19, State Junior Championship, USF G. C., Tampa
- JULY 12, One day event, Mission Inn G. C., Howey-in-the-Hills
- JULY 20-21, Three State Junior Challenge Match, Ponce De Leon, St. Augustine
- JULY 26, One day event, Naples Beach Club, Naples
- AUGUST 8-9, Innisbrook/FSGA Club Team Championship, Innisbrook G. & C. C., Tarpon Springs
- AUGUST 15-16, Member Invitational & Club Team Championship, Lely C. C., Naples
- SEPT. 12-13, State Four-Ball Championship, PGA National G. C., Palm Beach Gardens
- SEPT. 14, USGA Mid-Amateur Championship Qualifying, Port Malabar C. C., Palm Bay
- SEPT. 20, One day event, Lake City C. C., Lake City
- OCT. 3-4, State Senior Four-Ball, Meadows C. C., Sarasota
- OCT. 23, One day event, Cypress Creek, Orlando
- NOV. 13-15, Life Begins at Forty Championship, Lehigh C. C., Lehigh
- NOV. 29, One day event, Ravines G. C., Jacksonville

-Continued from page 1

the state." "The sterling prizes, prestige associated with state tournaments, how well organized they were." "Competition from the state's best amateurs." "Well handled. Minimum of sandbagging."

One lament which was repeated rather frequently, "tournaments are not played near my home," is tough to correct with Florida being such a big state. We seek central locations which have a high level of Association membership, try to eliminate conflicts with other organizations and schedule on dates convenient to the host member club. All areas of the state, southeast, southwest, central, northeast and northwest are represented in this year's schedule.

Replies about serving on the Board of Directors were hopeful. 48% yes, 36% no, 16% no answer. We'll be calling on that affirmative 48%.

The reported handicap spread was interesting: 38% were 0-5, 30% 6-10, 19% 11-15, 4% 16 and over, 9% no answer. We tried those handicap divisions at our first one day of the year at Port Malabar and it went very smoothly.

"How long have you been a member?" found 51% scoring in the 0-5 year category, 22% 6-10 years, 12% 11-15 years, 13% 16 years and over, 2% no answer; 86% boasted a membership which was continuous, 14% were in and outers, joining and participating spasmodically.

Most had recent tournament activity, 58% participating in an event within the last six months, 5% have belonged but never played in a tournament. Merchandise prizes are preferred by 49%, trophies by 13%, both 34%, no answer 4% and 78% believe prizes should be given for both gross and net in all but state championship competitions.

The FSGA Newsletter is received by 77% of the membership. That's good feedback as we are putting the letter on an aggressive monthly schedule and desire to reach all the members regularly.

As expected, FSGA's computer handicap service came off poorly in this numbers game with only 9% of the sample acknowledging that they used the service and that individual membership cost them only \$6 per year instead of \$25. Non-users checked in at 81% and 10% didn't know anything about the service which is a sad commentary and really points the finger at the bad job being done by the state office, directors and area representatives of FSGA.

The absence of strong support of a computer handicap system is the principal reason for the Association's high dues and tournament entry fee structure. Most other active state golf associations support programs for juniors, amateur reinstatements, course ratings, turf research contributions, club consultations, communications and cooperative interchanges with national and regional golf organizations from computer system revenue. FSGA is involved in all of the above and supports it mainly from dues and tournaments. The results of the questionnaire, hopefully, will start a turnaround in the computer program.

Members responding to the question about membership renewal checked in at 86% yes, 1% no, 3% maybe, 10% no answer. So it appears we'll have some folks playing in our tournaments in this 68th year of Florida State Golf Association involvement in the greatest of games.

The comments which members were urged to write on the back of the questionnaire were varied and interesting. They covered suggestions for revenue producing projects (laser distance surveys of golf courses), promotion of special interest golf events (Heart Fund, etc.), more applause for the one day schedule where players can get out and play and not have to have costly overnights.

Several comments had to do with the cost of entering FSGA tournaments. The observations did not thoroughly consider the costs the Association is faced with in preparatory scheduling, printing, postage, administration, travel, course fees, carts, social events, before even 30% of the entry fee can be allocated to merchandise prizes — just marginally fair compensation to the host member club.

By far the majority of the answers recognized that merchandise prizes provided equitable reward for amateur competition.

The most erroneous, off-the-wall criticism came from a misinformed member who castigated FSGAers who took the British Open trip to Scotland in 1978. He opined that Association funds shouldn't be squandered in that manner.

For his information the trip was booked and supervised by FSGA, all members making it paid their own way which included round trip airfare, accommodations, tournament tickets, golf fees, food, rental cars, etc. In addition they contributed to a surcharge made by FSGA to cover entertainment

of Scottish officials during the St. Andrews-FSGA team match preceding the Open. The travel agency which ticketed the trip and other individual members sponsored several social events enabling the Association to show a small profit. ■

## Dolci Group new owners at Malabar

Bob Dolci, Director of Golf and host professional at Port Malabar Country Club for the past 10 years, headed a group which purchased the club from General Development Corporation in February.

Sam Dettore, George Hugert, Howard Ahl, Bill Carey, and their wives, joined Bob and Terrie Dolci in the acquisition. The golf course, four tennis courts and swimming pool complex, will revert to a "members only" operation. The dining room and cocktail lounge will remain open to the public.

"It's a good opportunity for us to replace absentee ownership and operation with on site ownership. Port Malabar is a great plant and certainly we can make it more of a fun place to be with operational decisions made at home" Dolci said. ■

## Three-way tie at Port Malabar 1-day

Ray Robison, Dan Blaze and Skip Smith were knotted at 76 after FSGA's first 18 hole, one-day competition of the year. Play was in four different handicap divisions with gross and net prizes in all sections.

Jim Hamilton was the net winner in the 0-5 class, after the gross three-way tie. Hank Borman and Paul Long were gross and net victors in 6-9; Daryle Larimer and Ralph Stowell took 10-15 honors; Dick Spear and Sam Van Hook won in the 16 and over handicap section.

Twenty-one merchandise certificates were awarded to the 62 player field which opened the Association's tournament season at Bob Dolci's Port Malabar Country Club at Palm Bay. ■

**JOIN FSGA  
TODAY!**