

OCTOBER, 1976



Kevin Butler and Mickey Van Gerbig hung up a pair of 67s for a 10 under par 134 to win the State Four-Ball at Palm Aire. FSGA President Dexter Daniels, Jr., center, made the presentation. (See story on page 3.)

Directors Meet at Palm-Aire. First FSGA State Open Planned To Precede Local U.S. Qualifying

POMPANO BEACH — Highlight of the Fall FSGA Directors meeting held during the State Four-Ball Championship at Palm-Aire, was the approval of a plan to sponsor an FSGA State Open Championship in 1977.

A three day, 54 hole stroke play open event for professionals and amateurs will be played at Country Club of Sarasota May 20, 21, 22, 1977. Prize money will be \$25,000.

The tournament will be preceded by an 18 hole Pro-Am on Thursday, May 19. On the Monday following, May 23, Central Florida 36 hole qualifying rounds for the 77th U.S. Open Championship will be played at the same site. Entries for the U.S. qualifying, conducted by FSGA, come from the United States Golf Association.

The 1976 qualifying at Gator Creek Golf Club, Sarasota, produced the 8th largest field of the USGA's 58 qualifying sites throughout the nation for the one day, 36 hole test.

The field for the State Open will be limited to 160 players. There will be approximately 10 exemptions and as many 18 hole qualifying sites throughout the state as necessary to narrow the field for the actual 54 hole championship. The actual number of sites will be determined by the number of players seeking to enter the championship. Entry forms will appear in FSGA's Golf Guide published in November.

In other business Directors ratified the plan for a computer handicap program for member clubs which has actually started after being tested at several clubs during the summer months.

The termination date for Golfweek subscriptions for members was moved up to September 30, 1976 after a letter from the publisher was read to the board which expressed dissatisfaction with FSGA's handling of the Golfweek relation-

ship. A termination date of December 31, 1976 had been set by the board members at their August meeting.

President Dexter Daniels, Jr. chaired the Pompano meeting. Directors attending were: Jack Ledoux, Rodney Howard, Jim Ramsbottom, Gene Martin, Nate Schine, M.T. Payne, Bill Robinson and executive director Bill Carey.

Statewide Computer Handicap Program Now In Member Clubs

The following letter went out to all handicap chairmen at FSGA member clubs September 20:

"FSGA's computer handicap program, first announced in our August 10 newsletter, now is in operation. The Association has made arrangements with Computer Golf Handicaps, Inc., Warner Robins, Georgia, and U.E. Services, Inc., Melbourne, to handle computations and reports.

"There will be a charge of \$4 per player, per year for 12 computations for your men and women golf members. For the fee each golfer will become a member of FSGA, receive an updated monthly handicap card, regular Association publications, local district and statewide tournament invitations. A minimum of 25 players is required for the service which can be started immediately by assigning handicaps of current record to your members.

"The data center will bill the \$4 per player charge to your club or golf association monthly at the rate of .34 per computation. Some clubs are passing along the charge to their members at the rate of .50 per month. Of course you may pay in advance for the service and be billed monthly for golfers added through the year. If you wish FSGA will stage a one day tournament at your club with the proceeds used to pay for the annual handicap program.

"We have a special program which explains the system in detail, previews the FSGA Florida Golf program for 1977 and features the new USGA film of former Florida Amateur Champion Jerry Pate winning the 1976 U.S. Open. If you are interested in the handicap service and would like to schedule the program at your club during a future stag day or membership meeting please contact the state office.

"We hope you will be a user of the new service and assist FSGA in its effort to standardize and improve handicap reporting statewide. Uniform system reporting will be a giant step in equalizing the use of handicaps in our competitions. We look for your early response and participation."

1. Yes, we are interested in learning more about the FSGA computer handicap program. We have _____ men and _____ women members to put on the system. Please have an FSGA representative call.

2. We would like to schedule FSGA's handicap and film program for a meeting on _____ or _____ (PLEASE GIVE 2 DATES)

NAME

TITLE

CLUB

PHONE

FLAG: Golf's Better Idea

Ft. Lauderdale area golf courses have come up with a plan to stimulate summer play—and it just might be the most popular thing to hit the Southeast coast golf-wise in many a year.

The program is called FLAG, which stands for Ft. Lauderdale Area Golf, and there are 11 top-flight courses that are sponsoring it. Between Delray Beach and Hollywood, a distance of some 30 miles, you can play any of these 11 layouts with no green fees, provided you first plunk down \$25, the cost of membership.

And this is not for just one month or two months or even three—it's for 6½ months, from May 1 through Nov. 15. The only restrictions are that on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays you cannot begin play until after 12 noon, and you must use rental carts.

Otherwise, you can play to your heart's content, as often as you want and as long as you want, on any of the 11 courses.

The FLAG group of courses are not mediocre layouts; they're all championship tracks, assuring summertime playing members that they truly are getting a bargain for their money. They are:

Arrowhead G&TC, Ft. Lauderdale; Colony West CC, Ft. Lauderdale; Cypress Creek CC, Boynton Beach; Deer Creek CC, Deerfield Beach; Jacaranda CC, Ft. Lauderdale; Pembroke Lakes CC, Hollywood; Rolling Hills CC, Ft. Lauderdale; Sandalfoot Cove CC, Deerfield/Boca area; Sunrise CC, Ft. Lauderdale; Villa Delray CC, Delray Beach, and Foxcroft CC, Miramar.

You don't have to live in the area to enjoy the FLAG golfing privileges. You can be from anywhere, and anytime you happen to be in the Ft. Lauderdale area and want to get in all the golf you can stand, all you have to do is flash your card, and you're teeing off.

Simple as that.

Fall/Winter 1976/77 GOLF GUIDE Ready Nov. 1

SARASOTA — The second edition of the Florida Golf & Tennis Guide is due off the presses Nov. 1, a revised and expanded publication which will have over 500 golf club listings and 60 tennis resort listings.

In short, it will carry twice the number of pages — 100 — as the first edition. Circulation will triple with the print run a minimum of 30,000 copies — 25,000 going to the Division of Tourism of the Florida Department of Commerce for use in its tourist promotional work.

The balance of 5,000 will go to FSGA club and individual members, to selected chambers of commerce in major population centers around the state, to advertisers and to anyone else who wishes to purchase one from the State FSGA Office at \$1.95 per copy.

The Guide is published by Carey, Inc., of Sarasota for the Florida State Golf Association. Its chief purpose is to provide information on all golf clubs and major tennis resorts in the state to anyone who seeks such information.

Several new features mark this second edition. One is that all clubs are listed in an Alphabetical Index in the front



of the book, providing quick, easy access to any golf or tennis listing.

Another is that tennis listings have been given more prominence. They have been indented and boxed, facilitating visual reference on the page.

Another major change has been the addition of two more geographical sections, making a total of eight instead of the original six.

The cover of the digest-size book is in full color and features a montage of FSGA standout golfers during 1976. There are Jerry Pate and Gary Koch, both former Florida State Amateur champions who enjoyed great successes in their first full year as touring pros; Billy Tuten, FSGA's 12-14 year old division winner; Mark Henrickson, the 15-17 year old class State Junior champ, and current State Amateur champ Glen Kirk taking possession of the traditional Camp Bowl and other prizes from Association President Dexter Daniels, Jr.

September was for Seniors

Sectional qualifying for the U.S. Senior Amateur Championship at Lone Palm Golf Club, Lakeland, is a pleasant habit. Most contestants come back annually and enjoy the fine layout more each year. Vernon Ray's even par 72 led the pack at the September 8 Central Florida qualifying.

However, none of our eight Floridians were able to fathom the bent at Cherry Hills in Denver for a big win. Qualifying from Florida for the USGA Championship were: Truman F. Connell, Pompano Beach; Norton Harris, Key West; Gordon T. Huddleston, Orlando; Robert B. Kiersky, Delray Beach; Bill Michaels, Miami Beach; G.L. Murphy, Jr., Ponte Vedra Beach; Vernon Ray, Jacksonville.

The weekend following Lone Palm a full field and then some, participated in the FSGA State Seniors Championship at Vero Beach. The victor was Ralph Raymond of Sarasota. He and Tom Grady of Orlando were knotted at two over 146s at the finish of the regulation 36 holes.

Raymond chipped in for birdie four from the edge of the second green in sudden death playoff while Grady made par. As is their custom host professional Bill Girard and Vero Beach Country Club members and staff made it a memorably happy outing.

More Senior Competition

FSGA's ever popular Life at Forty and Seniors event at Lehigh, November 5-7, has been filled for three weeks. Outstanding group of elders will participate. The next day, Monday, November 8, George Edmondson's Florida Senior Golf Association begins a four day stand at Naples Beach Club. Seniors evacuating Lehigh for Naples will complete an eight day tournament binge at two of the nicest spots in Florida golf.

One-Day FSGA District Tournament Scheduled at Saddlebrook Nov. 12

Saddlebrook Golf & Country Club north of Tampa will be the scene of a one-day FSGA district tournament Friday, Nov. 12, with tee-off time tentatively scheduled for 11 a.m.

The entry fee is \$15, which includes greens fee and cart, and prizes will be in the form of merchandise certificates.

Mike Cleveland, tournament director, said that Dean Refram, pro/owner of Saddlebrook, is making a special point to be on hand for the event, to personally greet contestants. Refram is well known in PGA circles.

The tournament will be an 18-hole, stroke-play event, with a field limited to 120 players. Cleveland said anyone who would like to enter the event may contact him directly by calling 813/839-1429.

Saddlebrook is in the Wesley Chapel area some 14 miles north of Tampa. It is reached via I-75 and SR 54.



Tournament Times

Butler-Van Gerbig Win State Four-Ball, Score 134 for 36 Holes

POMPANO BEACH — Shooting consistent golf all the way, Kevin Butler of West Palm Beach and Mickey Van Gerbig of Palm Beach put together a pair of 67's to win the two-day FSGA Four-Ball Championship, played Sept. 25-26 at Palm-Aire Country Club in Pompano Beach.

Butler and Van Gerbig edged second-place winners Gary Schroeder of Winter Park and State Amateur champ Glen Kirk of Orlando by one stroke, and wound up four strokes ahead of first-day leaders Bill Golson and Asey Stephens, both of Temple Terrace. In the lead round, Golson and Stephens carded a low of 66, but on the final day blew to 72.

The field played to a slightly soggy course on opening day, following rains the previous night, but at no time during the two-day event did rain disrupt play.

In fashioning their victory, Kevin and Van Gerbig posted 13 pars and five birdies on the last day, while Schroeder-Kirk notched 12 pars, six birdies and one bogey. The bogey occurred on the 384-yard, par 4 dogleg 11th hole.

Two teams tied for third and fourth places: Jack Kersten of Ft. Lauderdale and Paul Desjardins of Miami Shores, the 1975 champions, shooting 138 to tie Golson and Stephens. Kersten-Desjardins posted rounds of 71-67 while Golson-Stephens recorded rounds of 66-72.

Flight winners were: 1st—Mike Schroeder/Brant Martin 138; 2nd—Ken Sharp/Jim Pettus and T.L. Price/Michael Arbogast 146 (tied); 3rd—Joe DeLaurentis/James Saunier 144; 4th—Thomas Lane/Jack Schwartz and Tom Dailey/Merle Merchant 151 (tied); 5th—E.L. Yeilding/Carl Johnson 156; 6th—Frank Pride/Earnest Lang 160. There were 28 Team prizes awarded to the 58 Team field which competed in seven flights.

Holiday Four-Ball, King's Inn, Dec. 4-5

Your entry card for the Holiday Four-Ball at King's Inn, Sun City Center, is enclosed in this newsletter. The date is December 4-5 and it is FSGA's last tournament of the year.

Two youthful Bradenton stylists, internationalist George DeSear and Toby Chapin, won the event in 1975 and are expected to defend. Dan Morgan, now Director of Golf at Sun City in charge of three courses there, has promised to have the KI track in fine shape for the holiday outing. Dan also is the golf course superintendent and in position to deliver a polished playing area if he puts his mind to it.

King's Inn Motel has 100 rooms near the course. Mrs. Wilma Overman is the manager and contestants will have a special rate on accommodations. Suggest you call in your reservations pronto. Phone (813) 634-1178. The Association's holiday press party and annual awards dinner is planned at the motel Friday evening prior to the tournament.



JOIN FSGA TODAY!

1977 DUES FOR INDIVIDUAL FSGA MEMBERS HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO \$20 WHICH INCLUDES MONTHLY HANDICAP CARD UPDATE, FSGA PUBLICATIONS, ENTRY FORMS TO ALL DISTRICT AND STATE EVENTS.



For an even better deal sign up 25 members or more, from your club, for FSGA computer handicap program, and receive full benefit membership for only \$4 per member, per year. Individual memberships valid through Dec. 31, 1977. Group memberships entered on 12 months basis. Clip and send membership form today!

NAME OF YOUR CLUB _____ YOUR CURRENT CLUB HANDICAP _____

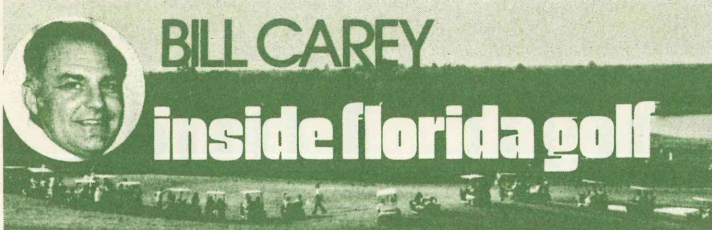
CLUB HANDICAP CHAIRMAN (IF COMPUTER, NAME OF COMPANY) _____

YOUR NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PHONE: HOME _____ OFFICE _____

MAKE CHECK TO FSGA AND MAIL TO P.O. DRAWER 1298, SARASOTA, FL 33578



The job of this office is to administer the affairs of FSGA in the best interest of its members. Golfweek's management is devoted to doing the same for its private enterprise. Our aims and objectives no longer are compatible. Dissolution of all agreements and relationships is the only sensible course.

Florida Golf Business

People who get paid for forecasting business trends tell us Florida will have the biggest tourist business ever this year. And it's programmed to move right into 1977. The Bicentennial year is running 11 per cent ahead of 1975 and at year's end Florida will have been visited by more than 30 million itinerants.

How does this translate into golf business? Conservatively, about 10 per cent of the visitors play golf during summer visits, 16 per cent during the winter. That's more than 4 million warm, swinging bodies for Florida's linksland.

National Golf Foundation counts a player a golfer if he or she has had 15 rounds a year. That translates to more than 15 million golfers in the nation this year. Florida with its good year around weather, retired people who play three or four times a week and regular residents will run more than a million 15 rounders a year. Add them to 4 million visiting golfers and you'll bring a smile to any course operator's face.

That's a lot of golf and we have a lot of places to play. After a slim summer managers will be pleased to hear the forecast of winter business. Let's hope it is an accurate one. Nothing like 200 rounds a day to heal up the wounds of summer on a semi-private or resort golf course.

Association Champions, Officers To Attend Bicentennial Event In Virginia October 20-24

Glen Kirk, Tom Grady, Austin Jones and FSGA President Dexter Daniels, Jr. will represent Florida at the National Bicentennial Tournament of Champions at Kingsmill Golf Club, Williamsburg, Virginia, October 20-24.

Kirk is the Florida State Amateur Champion, Jones the winner of FSGA's Member Invitational and Grady the Senior representative. Ralph Raymond who won the state seniors title in a playoff against Grady at Vero Beach, received the original invitation but was unable to make the trip. Tom was available and will be a strong contender at Kingsmill.

The special event for the nation's state champions is sponsored by the Virginia State Golf Association and the Virginia Bicentennial Commission. In addition to the 72 hole stroke play competition for the cream of the country's amateurs, the traditional setting at Williamsburg, during the Bicentennial observance, will offer contestants and their families a memorable program rich in the history of our nation's original colonies.

FLORIDA GOLF WEEK is a privately owned publication. As such it has a right to its opinions, policies and promotions.

FSGA is a non-profit Association of amateur golfers and member clubs now in its 63rd year of operation. Last year FSGA entered an agreement with Golfweek to send the newspaper to all Association members. It replaced the newsletter communication to members which had been used for many years.

The Association paid Golfweek monthly at the rate of 10 cents per copy sent to members. In a reciprocal agreement Golfweek paid FSGA monthly at the rate of \$100 per week to furnish news stories, columns, photographs, tournament schedules and general information of interest to members. FSGA also represented Golfweek in the sale and production of advertising for a commission. FSGA employed writers and sales people to do this work.

AT THE BEGINNING of 1976 Golfweek needed operational funds and requested the Association pay for member subscriptions in advance. This was done for approximately 900 subscriptions until FSGA needed to use its general revenue funds and returned to paying the subscriptions on a monthly basis.

In April Golfweek charged FSGA management with putting other Association objectives ahead of its Golfweek obligations and abruptly cancelled the FSGA information service agreement.

The relationship with the newspaper deteriorated and it was no longer a productive communication medium for the Association's membership. FSGA Directors at the Vero Beach summer meeting in August unanimously voted to terminate the Association's subscription agreement with the paper as of December 31, 1976, and return to Association member news only publications beginning with this October newsletter.

SINCE THE AUGUST meeting further unharmonious declarations from Golfweek moved FSGA Directors, at the Palm-Aire September 24 meeting, to signal the settlement of all accounts with the newspaper and immediately cancel the subscription agreement as of September 30, 1976. FSGA members will receive a credit or refund of that part of their dues which would have paid for the 13 issues of Golfweek remaining to be published this year. FSGA dues for 1977 will be \$20 which is less the \$5 paid to Golfweek during the current year.

FSGA GOLF NEWS

Published by FSGA

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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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NEWSLETTER