

# Ratings & Rulings

FSGA'S VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2001

## GIMMES

### Tired Mailman

We recently mailed over 4,500 *Member's Guides* to individuals who were a member in 2000 or 2001. Members will also receive a newly-designed *Inside the FSGA* newsletter that will get them caught up on the happenings of the association. If that is not enough, clubs recently received a packet that included their 2001 Membership Certificate and a schedule poster.

### Renew Membership

FSGA membership runs from January 1 to December 31, so the time has come to renew your membership. Membership forms are available at [www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org) or by calling the FSGA Office.

### Special Guests

During recent presentations of the Rules Seminars, the staff has been joined by several Tournament Chairman and Tour Rules Officials in speaking at the presentations. They include: Tournament Chairmen **Mallory Privett, Mike Liga, Tom Dudley** and **Bruce Flower**. Also **Gene Smith** of the Senior PGA Tour and **Steve Rintoul** and **Boots Widener** of the PGA Tour have assisted.



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## Rules Seminars and Committee Workshops have been very successful

■ There are still three Rules of Golf Seminars and three Tournament Committee Workshops on the spring schedule.

The Rules of Golf Seminars are highly interactive with situations simulated on the course. Tournament Directors from the FSGA will review rulings and decisions and offer examples for discussion.

A new video presentation developed by the staff has received rave reviews. Instead of just reading the Rules off a screen, the presentation incorporates the video of actual rulings along with humorous clips to explain the Rules of Golf more effectively.

The Rules of Golf Seminars run from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The cost is \$30 to attend. This includes a Rules of Golf book, material handouts and a lunch. **A special price of \$15 is being offered to FSGA Committee Members, High School Golf Coaches and Junior Coordinators.**

The Tournament Committee Workshops are designed to educate and familiarize Committee Members with their on-course responsibilities during the administration of an event. The workshops will incorporate some indoor discussion, but the emphasis will be hands-on training and observation of situations on the golf course. Individuals will participate in sessions involving starting, registration, scoring and on-course techniques including pace-of-play management and player interaction while making rulings.

**The workshops are free of charge to FSGA Committee Members.** Each workshop is scheduled for 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

If you would like to attend the Rules of Golf Seminars or Tournament Committee Workshops, please contact the FSGA Office at (813) 632-3742.

## Senior Individual event starts season

■ The first event of the season has already come and gone. Surfside's **Gunnar Bennett** shot consecutive rounds of 1-under par 71 to claim the inaugural Senior Individual Tournament. With a 12.7 handicap, Tampa's **Jim Parks** shot net rounds of 63-61--124 to easily win the net title at the championship.

Wait a minute... Net title? That's right. The first three events of this year, called the "Winter Series," include net winners. The "Winter Series" is an experiment to try and fulfill the needs of our members by expanding our schedule and also offering more net events. Players have suggested more events for high handicapped golfers as well as events in the "off" season, so the "Winter Series" was born.

If it wasn't for some late scrambling, Gunnar may not have had a chance to even compete. Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club was booked as the original site for the Senior Individual, but we were later informed that an error had been made and the course was double-booked. We were fortunate to have nearby Hunter's Green Country Club and Heritage Isles Golf & Country Club make their courses available. Every player who entered received a phone call and a letter informing them of the change.

Due to the change of venues and the addition of a net division, many new items had to be covered. With two courses being played, two courses had to be set-up. The players were pre-flighted into three flights according to handicap index and re-paired after day one. A shotgun start was used on both days, which meant the players would come to the scoring area like a shotgun! The gift certificates would be redeemed at one golf shop and not two. There were definitely a lot of new problems to iron out!

The Tournament Staff and the Tournament Committee were up to the challenge. **Peter Dachisen** was appointed Tournament Chairman and did an outstanding job of keeping everything together. **Charlie Bedford** acted a Rules Chairman and was joined on the Committee by fellow volunteers **Bill Clark, Bob McClure, Jim Marshall** and **Don Roberts**. **Jim Demick** and **Jack Pultorak** were also available to lend a hand.

The problems were solved, the golf was played and the event was a success. There were a lot of new lessons learned that we can apply to future events, and we hope to further expand our "Winter Series" schedule.

# GIMMES

## Test Scores

Anyone who has attended or will attend an upcoming PGA/USGA Rules Seminar, please forward your test results to the FSGA Office so that we can update our records.

## Winter Series

Entries have closed for the first two Winter Series events, but there is still time for the final one. The Mid-Senior Four-Ball closes on March 14. Held at El Diablo Golf & Country Club on April 2-3, the event will have both net and gross divisions.

## Logoed Apparel

If you are interested in FSGA merchandise or would like to purchase additional shirts or hats, you can contact **Marcia Morris** at the FSGA Office.

## Hard Work = Fun

It has been a busy winter for the Section 4 Rating Team. That's why **Ed Boyer** is celebrating. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, he is gathering his team together along with their wives for a day of golf followed by dinner. We hope the group enjoys their day of fun; they deserve it!

## Sponsors

Mercedes-Benz, World Woods Golf Club and Franklin Templeton Investments are recent sponsors of either the Member's Guide or the Competitive Calendar. We thank them for their support.

## Appreciation

We will again have Volunteer Appreciation Days this year. Six sites were held last year with over 150 volunteers attending. Everyone had a wonderful time, so we hope more volunteers will be able to attend this year. We are currently in the planning stages and will publish dates and sites as soon as possible.

## Do You Know the Rules of Golf?

■The following is a quick Rules of Golf quiz to keep you on your toes. The answers will be found at the end of the quiz. Good luck, and if you have any questions regarding any of these, please let us know.

1. Which is correct regarding a player taking relief under the unplayable ball Rule?

- a) He may not drop a ball nearer the hole than where the original ball lies.
- b) He must drop a ball in the bunker, if his ball lies on grass covered ground in a bunker.
- c) He may drop a ball within two club-lengths of the spot directly under the place where it lies, if it lies in a tree.
- d) None of the above.

2. Aaron's ball comes to rest beyond a public road defined as out of bounds on another part of the course. What is the ruling?

- a) In equity, the ball must be considered to be out of bounds.
- b) The ball lies out of bounds since it crossed a public road that is out of bounds.
- c) The ball remains in play unless a Local Rule specifies otherwise.

3. If a boundary stake that would have interfered with Jim's stance has fallen down, Jim is required to replace the stake before playing.

- a) True
- b) False

4. Jack's ball lies through the green underneath a large branch of a tree that was felled by a storm the previous day. What is the ruling?

- a) The ball lies in ground under repair even if the branch was not marked as ground under repair or in the process of being removed.

b) The entire branch is ground under repair even if the branch was not marked as ground under repair but the greenskeeper was in the process of sawing up the branch.

c) The entire branch is ground under repair even if the branch was not marked as ground under repair but the greenskeeper intends to remove it.

d) There is no ground under repair. Play the ball as it lies.

5. Keri strikes her ball into high grass and properly plays a provisional ball. She prefers to continue play with the provisional ball but Marcia announces that the original ball is found in less than five minutes of search. Keri refuses to identify the ball that is found. What is the ruling?

- a) She may continue with the provisional ball since she has not yet identified her original ball; she is not required to identify the ball that was found.
- b) She must abandon the provisional ball since Marcia has identified the original ball.
- c) She must inspect the ball that was found; if a player has dishonestly not identified a ball that is his, the Committee should disqualify the player.
- d) She must inspect the ball that was found; if a player has dishonestly not identified a ball that is his, the Committee should give a two-stroke penalty.

## Answers

- 5. C (Decision 27/13)
- 4. B (Decision 25/7)
- 3. B (Decision 33-2a/20)
- 2. C (Decision 27/20)
- 1. C (Decision 28/11)

## State Senior is first championship this

■In its 34th year, the Florida State Senior Championship will be held April 17-19 at Riverwood Golf Club in Port Charlotte. Entries close on March 21.

Amateurs age 55 and over can compete in the event. We will have two divisions: ages 55-69 and 70 and over. Entry fee is set at \$180 and includes cart fees, tee gifts and prizes. Entries can be found at the FSGA web site: [www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org).

Florida is home to many of the country's top senior golfers, so the competition is stiff. **Bill King, Gunnar Bennett, Billy Graham, Don Lucas, Rennie Law, Jack Veghte** and many others have made national news, but many other players are capable of winning the title. Last year, **Joe Cristillo, Jr.** of Crystal River won the event and called it the biggest event he had ever won.

Not only are we excited about the players, we are excited about returning to Riverwood Golf Club. The Senior Four-Ball was held at the club last year, and was a huge success. We heard positive remarks, so we decided to return. The course is Four-Star Rated by *Golf Digest* and is always in great shape. The front nine feels like a typical North Carolina pines course, while the back nine is a traditional links style situated on a river.

## GIMMES

### New Magazine

We have recently had some problems with our magazine, but the problem has been corrected. We have partnered with Marketplace Publishing and they will publish *Florida Golf Monthly*, the Official Publication of the FSGA. This publication will take the place of *Florida Golfer*, and you will receive a new magazine every month.

### Thank You, Joe!

For over a year, **Joe Durante** has been hinting that his time as Section 8 Course Rating Captain may be up. He recently decided the time was right and retired. While he may still work some tournament events, we will miss him in the Course Rating Department. For all your years of leadership, we thank you, Joe! **Don Eckerson** and **George Fenwick** will now act as co-captains for the Section 8 team.

### New GHIN Clubs

The GHIN Handicap System is continuing to grow throughout the state. The following clubs have started using GHIN in the past 4 months: Miami Springs Golf & Country Club; Jacksonville's Windsor Parke Golf Club, West Palm Beach's Ibis Golf & Country Club; Chiefland Golf & Country Club; Vero Beach's The Windsor Club; Wellington's Greenview Cove Golf Club; Cape Coral's Royal Tee Country Club; North Port's Heron Creek Golf & Country Club; Placida's Coral Creek Club; Naples' Olde Collier Golf Club; Orange Park's Golf Club at Fleming Island Plantation; Jacksonville's St. John's Golf & Country Club; Tampa's Northdale Golf & Tennis Club; and Palm Coast's Ocean Hammock Golf Club.

## 60<sup>th</sup> State Club Team quickly approaching

■ In its 60th year, the Florida State Club Team Championship will be held at the Bonita Bay Club in Bonita Springs on May 5-6. Besides the State Amateur, this is our oldest state championship. It has also been one of our toughest events to conduct.

Forty teams compete in the event with five players per team. In order to get 200 players finished with their rounds, we have to find two courses to play. We have been lucky in years past to play at top clubs such as Bonita Bay, PGA Golf Club and PGA National which have multiple championship-level courses. Sometimes we have to find two top clubs located close to each other in order to hold the event (An example is 1997 when we played The Windsor Club and Orchid Island in Vero Beach.) In essence, two courses is like running two championships on the same day. Paperwork, volunteers and set-up is basically doubled.

The championship is open to teams from traditional golf clubs. All five players have to be from the same club, and they also have to be members of the FSGA. Some clubs have many interested players, so they hold a qualifier to determine who will be on the team. We also get 5 buddies who play at the same club that enter on their own. The club may not even know they are being represented.

In case you are interested in playing, the cost of the event is \$750 per team (or \$150 per person) with entries closing on April 11. We are playing Bonita Bay this year, so players will play both the Bay Island and Creekside courses over the two days.

## Statewide junior conference on April 28

■ Celebration Golf Club in Orlando will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Florida Junior Golf Conference on Saturday, April 28.

The conference will focus on problems faced across the state, such as funding, access to courses and accommodating more interested juniors. Coordinators will also be able to discuss and solve problems their programs are encountering.

The conference will start at 8:30 a.m. and run until 3:30 p.m. A \$10 per person fee will cover lunch and all handout materials.

We believe the conference is very beneficial. You should support and encourage your local junior program coordinators to attend. Their input is key to generating new possibilities for junior golfers throughout Florida.

## GHIN Seminars added to the schedule

■ Beginning in April, the FSGA will offer GHIN/TPP training seminars. They will be informational tutorials as well as a Question-and-Answer session.

The seminars will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and are free of charge. They are open to PGA Professionals, shop staff and Handicap Chairmen. Professionals will also receive 4 hours of continuing education credit for attending.

Three sites have been confirmed: April 2 at Sandestin Beach Resort Conference Center in Destin; May 7 at Indian Spring Country Club in Boynton Beach; and June 4 at The Club at Pelican Bay in Naples.

More seminars will be scheduled for the first Monday of each remaining month.

For more information or to register, please contact **Aaron Skoviera** in the FSGA Office at (813) 632-3742.

## COURSE RATING ROUND-UP

### Waste Areas

■ We all know that golf courses are to be rated in accordance with the Rules of Golf. With that said, how should "waste areas" be rated?

For course rating purposes, the areas commonly referred to as "waste areas" are to be rated under Recoverability and Rough as well as Bunkers. When rating the area under R&R, consider the condition of rough or extreme rough throughout the portion of the waste area near the landing zones or green target and apply it to the R&R tables and adjustments. When rating the area under bunkers, consider depth adjustments and any extreme conditions that might exist in the portion of the waste area that is considered near the fairway and/or the green.

### Doglegs on Form 1

■ To record a dogleg or forced lay-up rating on Form 1, enter the actual yardage by which the dogleg or forced lay-up situation makes the hole play longer than a straight-away or unobstructed hole of the same length. Normally, if the scratch lay-up is 50 yards or less, the bogey golfer will not lay up. Be sure to adjust the bogey Dogleg/Lay-up rating accordingly. Plus values increase effective playing length; minus values decrease it. ***The largest dogleg/forced lay-up value allowed on any given hole is 50 yards.***

If a double dogleg (a combination of a dogleg and forced lay-up) or a pair of forced lay-ups exist, determine the two yardages and add them. The maximum sum of adjustments is still 50 yards on any given hole.

## GIMMES

### Captain's Orders

♦ Original copies of all paperwork, reports and measurements must be sent to the FSGA Office. **Do not give any paperwork to the club, not even a copy!** We will make sure the club receives all the information they need. When a payment is involved, it is hard to get a club to pay after they have received the information from a team. It also is a good idea to have the paperwork in the office for future reference. Clubs lose paperwork all the time. With everything in the office, we can do a better job servicing the club.

♦ Don't forget to hang the competition posters at clubs. If you would like extras, let Chris know. Let's get those posters up everywhere!

♦ Within a week of receiving a request, you should contact the club and let them know you have received their request. Many of the clubs are very anxious to hear from you! You should also give them an approximate time frame as to when the service will be performed. If you are busy, at least call them, say you have received their request, but it will be a couple of weeks until you can rate their course. You can set the date of the rating at a later time.

♦ When you send in your Form 1's, all information must be completed and totaled. The new Course Rating Program has not been released yet, so everything still has to be calculated on the forms.

♦ The first short course rating in Florida was recently performed. If you have any questions regarding the short course rating, please give Chris a call.

## Crabtree joins staff

■ **Andrew Crabtree** has joined the staff as Manager of Junior Programs.

Crabtree, 24, graduated from the University of South Florida in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. He was also a 4-year letterwinner on the golf team and was named Academic All-America.

"I am excited about meeting and working with the junior coordinators," Crabtree said. "My goal is to help the junior programs so we can further develop junior golfers in our state."

Crabtree will travel across the state visiting with existing junior golf programs to assist in recruitment of both participants and volunteers and also aid in obtaining financial self-sufficiency. Efforts will also be made to gather information and make the FSGA a statewide clearinghouse for junior golf information.

## Brisley finished

■ **Patrick Brisley** has completed his term as the FSGA's P.J. Boatwright intern.

Brisley worked 3 months during the summer of 1999. He finished his 12-month appointment in Tampa while going to graduate school at the University of South Florida.

He is still working on his Masters of Accounting degree at USF and will start working with PricewaterhouseCoopers this fall.

## Course Rating Seminar a success

■ Fifty course raters met at Celebration Golf Club on January 8 for the USGA/FSGA Course Rating Seminar.

**Jim Dodd** and **Scott Hovde** of the USGA presented the Course Rating System and covered every step of the rating process during the morning session. The evening session moved onto the course where raters put their knowledge to use.

We had many new raters in attendance. They were able to slowly go through the rating process. Experienced raters received a refresher course and then rated a couple of holes for calibration purposes.

One item that caused some confusion during rating was how to rate greenside bunkers. One of the holes we rated had a fairway bunker, but did not have greenside bunkers. During calculation, the logic used was that zero (no greenside bunker) was less than 1/4, so use that column in the bunker table.

Due to the confusion, we contacted the Pope of Slope himself, **Dean Knuth**. His response was that since there are no greenside bunkers, you would not enter the table. When he created the system, less than a quarter meant that there was at least one greenside bunker.

Based on this, the situation above would receive a "1" because a fairway bunker exists on the hole.

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