

Robson, Clayton Tie For Lead in 40s Golf

By BARBARA SMITHER
Correspondent

Bob Robson, who surprised the field in the Bill Carey Life Begins at Forty tournament with a first round 68, was in for a shock himself during Saturday's second round.

As he stood on the tee at No. 18 on the Highlands course at the Meadows Country Club in Sarasota, the newly established Englewood resident was 2 over par for the day. When he finished the hole, he was 7 over par and in a tie for first place with Sarasota's Ron Clayton.

"I hit my tee shot into the trees on the right and had to take a drop from the hazard. Then I got behind a tree on the left and half-whiffed it two times. On the third hit I got it out in the heavy rough, but missed the green on my next shot. I hit it over the green, chipped up and putt-ed (from 12 feet) for 10."

Robson will not have to concern himself about playing the same hole

for today's final round. The players in the 40 and 50 age groups will finish on the Meadows course, while golfers age 50 and up will test their skills on the Highlands course.

What Robson will have to battle is the finesse of Clayton, the tournament's defending champion. Clayton, 47, scored a 3-under-par 69 Saturday, following a 78 Friday, to tie Robson at 147.

Clayton has won the Florida State Golf Association event three of the last four years. Last year, he nipped Jack Veghte, a three-time former state champion, with a birdie on the final hole.

In a tie for second with a 151 total are Shep Richards of Parkland and Larry Miller of Sunrise. Sarasota's Dave Meadows is in sole possession of third place at 152, while Veghte, from Clearwater, is at 153.

A field of 140 golfers will finish the three-day tournament today, with tee times beginning on both courses at 8 a.m.

Robson Leads 40s Golf By 6 Shots

Bob Robson of Englewood, one of the late finishers, sneaked home with a surprising 4-under-par 68 Friday for a fat six-shot lead after the first round of the Florida State Golf Association's Life Begins at 40 Golf Tournament being held at The Meadows Country Club.

Just when tournament officials, and the early leaders themselves, felt that any score even close to par would be impressive, Robson blazed home ahead of darkness with his super-impressive 33-35-68.

Until then, Glenn Jones of Ok-keechobee was not only alone in first place with a 74, but had a two-shot edge over Shep Richards of Parkland.

The best efforts by local players were 77s by Kent Pershing and Dave Meadows. Ron Clayton of Sarasota shot 78.

The tournament continues through Sunday on both the Meadows and Highlands courses at The Meadows.

In addition to the overall scoring, the field is also bracketed into five age groups.

OVERALL LEADERS

Bob Robson, Englewood, 68; Glenn Jones, Okeechobee, 74; Shep Richards, Parkland, 76; Kent Pershing, Sarasota, 77; Dave Meadows, Sarasota, 77; Larry Miller, Sunrise, 77; Jack Deutsch, Clearwater, 77; Ron Clayton, Sarasota, 78; Dexter Daniels, Winter Haven, 78; Joe Vergara, Fort Myers, 78; Jack Veghte, Clearwater, 79; M.T. McInnis, Bradenton, 79; Bruce Bryant, Longboat Key, 79; Ike Hansen, Melbourne, 79; Ed Anlage, Daytona Beach, 79; Bob Winchester, Melbourne, 79.

AGE GROUPS

40-49
Bob Robson 68; Shep Richards 76; Kent Pershing 77; Dave Meadows 77.

50-59
Glenn Jones 74; Dexter Daniels 78; Jack Veghte 79.

60-69
Larry Miller 77; Jack Deutsch 77; 4 tied at 79.

65-69
Joe Vergara 78; Harold Robison, Pinellas Park, 80; Carl Dixon, St. Petersburg, 80.

70-Over
M.T. McInnis 79; Rudy Leskowski, Bradenton, 81; Bill Baker, Tequesta, 83.

Friday's Team Scores Meadows Course

Winner: Bob Robson, Harvey Pos, Melbourne, Terry Nutter, Sarasota, Maury West, St. Petersburg, 146.

Runner-up: Ray Robison, Winter Park, Ray Graham, Sarasota, Harold Robison, Pete Wagner, Bradenton, 148.

Highlands Course

Winner: Dexter Daniels, Ron Kaminski, Boca Raton, Al Koski, Sarasota, Orvel Tate, Sarasota, 144. Runner-up: Paul Tarnow, Tampa, Bart MacDonald, Venice, George Rysar, Sarasota, Ted Littlejohn, Clearwater, 146.

Robson Edges Clayton In Over-40 Tourney

By **BARBARA SMITHER**
Correspondent

Although he claims to be "just a weekend golfer," Bob Robson on Sunday showed the determination and raw talent that it takes to win golf tournaments.

The Englewood resident edged out defending champion Ron Clayton for a dramatic conclusion to the FSGA Bill Carey Life Begins at Forty tournament at the Meadows Country Club in Sarasota.

Robson and Clayton began the final round of the 54-hole Florida State Golf Association event tied for the lead, which they continued to exchange for the first 15 holes. But the 44-year-old Robson dropped a 6-foot birdie putt on No. 16 to go ahead for good. Clayton had missed his birdie opportunity from 25 feet and then failed in another bid for birdie on No. 17, when he three-putted from 35 feet for bogey. Meanwhile, Robson, who had missed the green with his tee shot on the 200-yard par-3 hole, got it up and down from off the green for par.

As Robson walked to the final hole with a two-stroke lead, it appeared to be a clear victory. But the 430-yard par-4 hole has been known to humble even the toughest of competitors. Robson was not to be spared. After driving to the right side of the fairway, he hooked his second shot into the water.

Clayton, who had driven the ball into the middle of the fairway, needed to make par for a possible win or tie and force a sudden death playoff. As he addressed the ball, he backed away, pulled out another club from his bag, and proceeded to hit a low cut shot into the right-hand bunker.

"I knew out there in the fairway that I had a chance," said Clayton. "I knew he was in the water and figured if I made par and he made double-bogey, we'd go ahead and playoff. I wanted to hit 5-wood, but

when I stood up to the ball I realized I had a 3-wood in my hand. I hit the 5-wood off a downhill lie, and it's too tough of a shot. If I had to do it again, I'd hit 3-iron."

Robson was looking at trouble of his own. After taking a drop from the hazard for a one-stroke penalty, he was left with a 40-yard shot on a sidehill lie, in the rough. Working with only 10 feet of green, Robson hit a high lofted shot with the finesse of a pro. It landed at the edge of the green where he proceeded to one-putt for bogey and the win. Clayton two-putted for bogey and runner-up honors.

"I didn't hit the ball nearly as good today as I did the other two days," said Robson. "Today I was a little shaky. He (Clayton) should've won it. He hit so many good shots and hit a lot of good putts that didn't go in the hole."

"He's an excellent putter," Dave Meadows said about the champion. "He played very consistent today, and I'm sure we'll be seeing more of him."

Meadows, of Sarasota, who had played in the final foursome with Robson, finished fourth for the tournament. Fort Lauderdale's Vance Moxom took third place.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

40-49 Division, First Flight

Bob Robson 221, Ron Clayton 223, Vance Moxom 229, Dave Meadows 235.

40-49, Second Flight

Terry Nutter 254, Bob Soupiset 257, Raymond Roach 257.

50-59, First Flight

Jack Veghte 234, Ken Young 235, Dexter Daniels 237, Glen Jones 237, Paul Tarnow 239.

50-59, Second Flight

Jim Ramsbottom 247, Dan Buckley 254, Richard Flynn 256.

50-59, Third Flight

Bob Robson 264, Ross Obley 270, Bill Fulton 273.

60-64, First Flight

Larry Miller 229, Ted Ritter 238, Ed Anlage 238, Ike Hansen 238, Fred Favreau 241.

60-64, Second Flight

Tom Scott 258, Lawrence Sapp 259, Pete Wagner 261.

65-69, First Flight

Red Henriksen 235, Jack Bailey 238, Carl Dixon 238, Joe Vergara 240.

65-69, Second Flight

Bill Parker 258, Jim Callender 264, Charles Sheehe 267, Bill Zody.

70-over, First Flight

Rudy Laskowski 243, Stan Kabot 243, Bill Baker 245.

70-over, Second Flight

Rodney Howard 275, Ralph Lowe 275, Tom Armstrong 277.