

# INTRODUCING AMERICA'S 2016 PRIVATE CLUB "CHAMPIONS OF CHAMPIONS"

*Executive Cup Challenge is a combination of camaraderie and competition on the Big Island of Hawaii.*



(Far left) Richard Pech on Mauna Kea's famous 3rd hole. (Above) Sylvia and Titus Harris. Titus is the men's national club champion. (Left) Kimberly Pech, women's national club champion, addresses guests at the Awards Dinner.

By Mark Pazdur, Tournament Director

KOHALA COAST, HAWAII: Google defines the word *champion* as a person who has defeated or surpassed all rivals in a competition, especially in sports.

One of the proudest accomplishments a private golf club member can earn is a club championship title. Years of dedication and an innate ability are required to fend off hundreds of fellow members for the title.

It is a rare feat to receive an invitation to Executive Cup, America's annual tournament exclusively for private golf club champions. Only 2 percent of private club members will ever receive an invitation in their lifetime to compete for a champion of champions trophy.

This year, club champions from 26 different private clubs in 14 states traveled to Mauna Kea Resort on the Big Island of Hawaii for the annual Executive Cup Challenge.

"It is competitive and social," said Marshall Gleason, club champion at The Olympic Club in California.

The tournament itinerary included three days of competition and several lavish evening functions. "It is nice to be paired up with fellow golfers who have so much in

common," said Julie Frank, club champion at Westwood Country Club in Missouri. "I decided to test a Golf Boards. Their tag line is 'surf the earth.' It rings true. It has a similar feel to surfing, but you are in the middle of the fairway! A couple of times I caught myself humming *Surfing Safari* by The Beach Boys."

## *PINEAPPLE POINTS GALORE*

Tournament week started with an optional \$5,000 Skins Game with no buy-in required. The competition actually was four different tournaments, with gross and net divisions, for both men and women.

"What a fun day!" exclaimed Titus Harris, club champion at River Oaks Country Club in Texas. "It was a great way to start my round with a birdie on the first hole."

A total of 21 skins were won, with each skin worth between \$146 to \$406 in "Pineapple Points." The big winner was Connie Landgraf, club champion at Bentwater Golf & Country Club in Texas, with three skins won in the net division earning \$438 in Pineapple Points.



(Top) Mike Gustafson, Ben Whipple, Donna Gustafson, and Bennie Whipple; Julie Frank testing Golf Boards; (Bottom) Tony and Mila Reboton win the prize of 100,000 American Airlines frequent flier miles; Couples Club Champion winners (net) Lou and Jeanne Mace, and (gross) Heidi and Bob Sankey; and Connie Landgraf, with three skins in the net division, holds her hard-earned prize.

### THE COMPETITION HEATS UP AT MAUNA KEA

Charles King, the mayor of Hawesville and club champion at Windward Heights Golf Club in Kentucky, had a tough day. "I had no trouble getting the ball out of the sand traps! I had trouble getting *myself* out of the sand traps."

The first day of official play included the annual Executive Cup Couples Club Championship.

Finishing a couple of shots off the pace, Jamie Kerestes, club champion at Shannopin Country Club in Pennsylvania, lamented at missed opportunities. "My golf ball saw more lips today than a dentist," teased Jamie.

The Couples Club Champion winners in the net division, with a score of 64, were Jeanne and Lou Mace from The Valley Club in Idaho, and the winners in the gross division, with a score of 77, were Heidi and Bob Sankey from Stoneridge Country Club in California.

### THE 100,000 PRIZE

Last year marked Mauna Kea Resort's 50th anniversary.

The annual Executive Cup Contest was to guess the

number of holes-in-one on Mauna Kea Golf Course's famous, par-3 over the ocean in the last 50 years. The prize: 100,000 American Airlines frequent flier miles.

"The only clue we were given was that in the past five decades over 1.25 million rounds of golf have been played," said Donna Gustafson, club champion at Eugene Country Club in Oregon.

Guesses ranged the gamut from zero to 571.

Tony Reboton's (club champion at Mountain Vista Golf Club in California) guess of nine holes-in-one, hit the exact number, and earned him the coveted 100,000 frequent flier mile prize.

### DAY ONE OF EXECUTIVE CUP 2015 CHALLENGE

With calm winds and dry fairways, the Ed Seay/Arnold Palmer designed Hapuna Golf Course at Mauna Kea Resort allowed club champions to be aggressive.

At the conclusion of day one, Kimberly Pech, club champion at Riviera Country Club in California (defending Executive Cup Champion since 2010) and Jennifer



(Top) Jamie and Kyle Kerestes; Bill and Diana Potts; Andy Mintz; Pat and Steve Gelardi; (Middle) Sherman Haggerty and Ted Embry; Jim Hughes and Paula Beaudoin-Hughes with Kim and Bob Majczan; Melanie and Brian Trimmer; (Bottom) Jennifer and Scott Rech; Nancy Zupancic; Bob Hope, Frank Splann, Charles King, and Marshall Gleason; John Richart; Phil and Jennifer Turner.

Turner, club champion at Deerwood Country Club in Texas, distanced themselves from the field. "Watching Kimberly and Jennifer's swings was a joy," said Paula Beaudoin, champion at Mizner Country Club in Florida.

The men's division set up for a horse race of a finish. Ted Embry, club champion at Newport Beach Country Club in California; Titus Harris, club champion at River Oaks Country Club in Texas; and Ben Whipple, club champion at The Cliffs at Mountain Park in South Carolina, where separated by three shots.

#### INTRODUCING THE 2016 OVERALL CHAMPIONS

As the sun rose over the Pacific, the colors of the Mauna Kea Golf Course lit up in brilliant high definition.

"Three of us battled all day," said Kimberly Pech. "The greens at Mauna Kea are taxing. I compliment Jennifer Turner and Julie Frank on their playing ability. They are steady, consistent, and fun to play with."

"With all the sevens on my scorecard, I wanted to go to

the casino," said Jennifer. "I congratulate Kimberly on winning five Executive Cup Overall Championships in a row."

Titus Harris's rock solid performance allowed him to maintain a lead throughout the final round. "Ben Whipple and I tried to mount a charge at Titus, but he never gave us an opening," exclaimed Ted Embry.

During the elegant Awards Dinner and Cocktail Reception, Executive Cup's national champions, Titus and Kimberly, addressed the group.

"With such a talented field, earning the crystal comes down to putting," said Kimberly. "I would like to dedicate my trophy to my loving husband, Richard, who taught me to play this great *and* lifelong game of golf."

"We have been coming to Mauna Kea for nearly 30 years," said Titus. "Tradition is important to me. I am thankful to God for the opportunities he has provided me and Sylvia. Today happens to be All Saints' Day. It feels fitting to be at the resort I love, among people I respect, to say thank you and express my gratefulness."



Vidanta destinations include seven properties along the Mexican coast with two resorts in the greater Puerto Vallarta area. Executive Cup 2016 Challenge will be hosted by Vidanta Nuevo Vallarta Resort. Club champions will test their skills on a Nicklaus Design and the just opened Greg Norman Signature Course. After a day of competition, players will luxuriate at the Grand Luxxe Hotel, the premier hotel in the Vidanta portfolio.

### *THE BIG MOVE*

After almost two decades of hosting Executive Cup on the Big Island of Hawaii, I am pleased to announce that Executive Cup 2016 Challenge will be moving to the beachfront Vidanta Resort, 10 minutes from the Puerto Vallarta Airport in Mexico.

Our number one request is to rotate our tournament to new destinations. Although Vidanta may be a name you are unfamiliar with, you will be impressed.

Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Sierra Madre Mountains, Vidanta is a tropical beach paradise. Nine miles of wooden pathways connect an array of amenities, including Nicklaus Design and Greg Norman Signature courses; multiple luxury spas, salons, and fitness centers; high-end boutique shopping; nightly entertainment; 38 world-class restaurants and bars; 27 pools; and an Aqua Park with a Lazy River.

We will be staying at the Grand Luxxe, the most exclusive of Vidanta's five onsite hotels. The Grand Luxxe

has earned AAA's distinguished Five Diamond Award—one of only 150 hotels in the world to do so.

Grupo Vidanta, owners of the Grand Luxxe, is one of the largest private employers in Mexico, and is consistently ranked in the Top 10 Great Places to Work in Mexico.

During your stay, you will enjoy ocean view accommodations with amenities that include a private terrace and a Jacuzzi tub in the bathroom.

We will continue the tradition of service at our new location. Our new White Glove Concierge Service will provide round-trip transportation for the short ride from the airport and a support staff to plan your trip to Mexico. ■

*Executive Cup 2016 Challenge will be held at Vidanta Nuevo Vallarta, October 20-24, 2016. Tournament week pricing and special incentives will be announced in December. The airport to fly into is Puerto Vallarta (airport code: PVR). Passports are required to travel to Mexico. For more information on the Grand Luxxe, visit Vidanta.com.*

BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!



BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!





**TITUS HARRIS**  
River Oaks CC, Texas  
Men's National Club Champion  
73-74 — 147



**KIMBERLY PECH**  
Riviera CC, California  
Women's National Club Champion  
76-88 — 164



**LOU & JEANNE MACE**  
The Valley Club, Idaho  
Net Couples Club Champions - 64



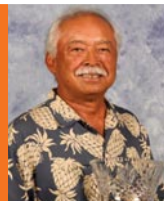
**HEIDI & BOB SANKEY**  
Stoneridge CC, California  
Gross Couples Club Champions - 77



Men's Gross Division  
(54 and Under)  
**TED EMBRY**  
Newport Beach CC  
(California)  
74-78 — 152



Men's Gross Division  
(55-64)  
**BEN WHIPPLE**  
Cliffs at Mountain Park  
(South Carolina)  
75-80 — 155



Men's Gross Division  
(65-74)  
**TONY REBOTON**  
Mountain Vista  
(California)  
79-81 — 160



Men's Gross Division  
(75 and Over)  
**BOB HOPE**  
Del Paso CC  
(California)  
82-88 — 170



Women's Gross Division  
(54 and Under)  
**JAMIE KERESTES**  
Shannopin CC  
(Pennsylvania)  
92-92 — 184



Women's Gross Division  
(55-64)  
**JULIE FRANK**  
Westwood CC  
(Pennsylvania)  
82-88 — 170



Women's Gross Division  
(65-74)  
**PAT HUGHES-GELARDI**  
Manufacturers' G&CC  
(Pennsylvania)  
78-86 — 164



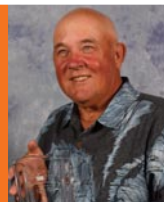
Women's Gross Division  
(75 and Over)  
**JEANNE MACE**  
The Valley Club  
(Idaho)  
94-111 — 205



Men's Net Division  
(54 and Under)  
**SCOTT RECH**  
Kemper Lakes CC  
(Illinois)  
80-74 — 154



Men's Net Division  
(55-64)  
**MIKE GUSTAFSON**  
Eugene CC  
(Oregon)  
76-74 — 150



Men's Net Division  
(65-74)  
**JIM LANDGRAF**  
Bentwater G&CC  
(Texas)  
65-85 — 150



Men's Net Division  
(75 and Over)  
**CHARLES KING**  
Windward Heights  
(Kentucky)  
52-66 — 118



Women's Net Division  
(54 and Under)  
**KIMBERLY PECH**  
Riviera CC  
(California)  
69-81 — 150



Women's Net Division  
(55-64)  
**PAULA BEAUDOIN**  
Mizner CC  
(Florida)  
74-84 — 158



Women's Net Division  
(65-74)  
**NANCY ZUPANCIC**  
Westwood CC  
(Pennsylvania)  
77-80 — 157



Women's Net Division  
(75 and Over)  
**JEANNE MACE**  
The Valley Club  
(Idaho)  
73-90 — 163

## EXECUTIVE CUP 2015 CHALLENGE WINNERS!

