

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. ►

Executive Cup 2015 Challenge • America's Only Tournament of Private Club Champions



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



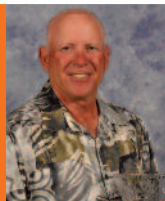
LOU & JEANNE MACE
The Valley Club, Idaho
Net Couples Club Champions - 64



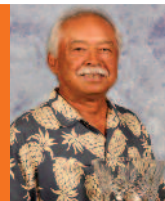
HEIDI & BOB SANKEY
Stoneridge CC, California
Gross Couples Club Champions - 77



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
(Missouri)
82-88 — 170



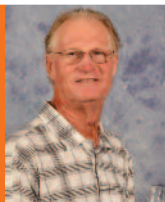
Women's Gross Division
(65-74)
PAT HUGHES-GELARDI
Manufacturers' G&CC
(Pennsylvania)
78-86 — 164



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



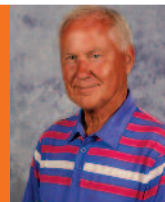
Men's Net Division
(54 and Under)
SCOTT RECH
Kemper Lakes CC
(Illinois)
80-74 — 154



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



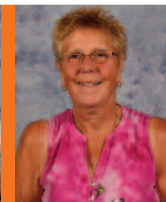
Men's Net Division
(75 and Over)
CHARLES KING
Windward Heights
(Kentucky)
52-66 — 118



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!





(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.

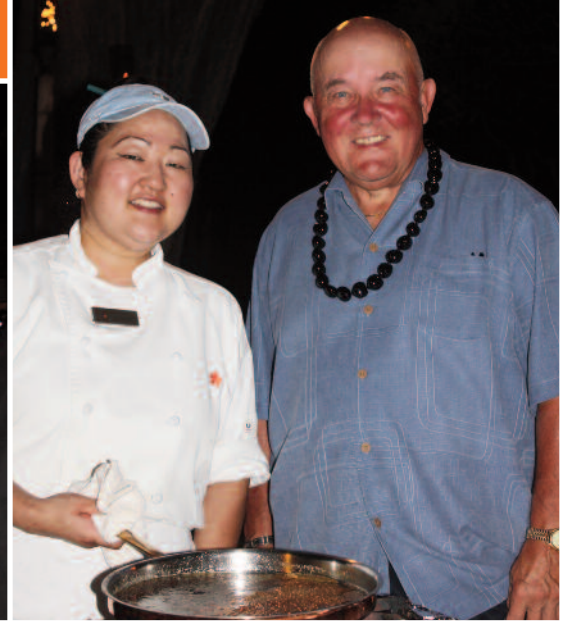
Tony Reboton's (club champion at Mountain Vista Golf Club in California) guess of nine holes-in-one, hit the exact number, and earned him the coveted 100,000 frequent flier mile prize.

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 ►

BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!





(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." >

BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!





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

During Executive Cup's inaugural year, the Dow Jones Industrial Average hovered around 7,500 and Apple traded at a split adjusted \$1.75 per share.

After almost two decades of hosting Executive Cup on the Big Island of Hawaii, the Executive Cup 2016 Challenge will be moving to the lively Vidanta Resort in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

This was not a move that we made lightly. Although Vidanta may be a name you are unfamiliar with, you will be as impressed as I was. The \$2 billion resort is a tropical beach paradise less than a 10-minute drive from the Puerto Vallarta Airport. I know our returning competitors will appreciate the shorter flight times, non-stop options, and quick ground transfer.

THE GRAND LUXXE—AAA FIVE DIAMOND HOTEL

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 the Aqua Park with a lazy river.

"Competitors will be staying at the Grand Luxxe, the most exclusive of our five on-site hotels," said Kelsy Christensen, president of Vidanta.

"The Grand Luxxe has earned AAA's distinguished Five Diamond Award—one of only 150 hotels in the world to do so," said Christensen. ►

Executive Cup 2016 Challenge, America's tournament exclusively for club champions, will be held at the \$2 billion Vidanta Resort in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.



Suite at Grand Luxxe

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 with an outdoor dip pool, a Jacuzzi tub and separate rain shower in the bathroom, full kitchen, dining room, and living room, and one of the softest pillow-top beds you will ever sleep on,” described Christensen. “As a club champion, we want you to be familiar with our luxurious resort, so as an enticement to join us this year, we have discounted your room rate by an eye-popping 70 percent.”

A SHARK SIGHTING ALONG THE COAST

Vidanta Resort has Greg Norman Signature and

Nicklaus Design courses on property.

“One golf course makes us a golf *resort*, two courses make us a *destination*,” explained Tom Stickney, director of golf operations.

“Club champions will be one of the first to play our new Norman Course, just on the other side of the river, peppered by century old guanacaste trees. No matter your game, at the turn you will enjoy a *cocos frios* [a fresh cut coconut with a splash of alcohol inside].

“Our Nicklaus Design course is a straightforward, what you see is what you get design. It is a true gamblers course. Several of the par-4s are reachable when the wind is at your back,” described Stickney. “It is not an overly long course, but the greens are tricky. Champions with a hot putter will have the advantage.” ➤



Welcome to the Land of Make Believe

“Our Cirque du Soleil Theme Park, the first of its kind, is scheduled for completion in 2018. Vidanta is offering us an amazing sandbox in which we can unleash our creativity. We strive for perfection.”

— GUY LALIBERTÉ, FOUNDER, CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



The Norman Course



“**VIDANTA** is a shotmakers course. We designed generous landing areas, but your approach shot will be challenging—with certain pin locations making it particularly interesting. The surrounds and green complexes allow for a variety of shots. You can use anything from a sand wedge to seven iron, based on your lie. Pay close attention to wind direction. Depending on the time of year, it switches from the ocean to the mountains.” — GREG NORMAN

Vidanta Resort, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico



Important Travel Points:

- Passports are required.
- The airport to fly into is Puerto Vallarta (PVR). Nonstop flights are available from: Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Memphis, Minneapolis, Newark, Orange County, Phoenix, Portland, Saint Louis, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle. It is a two to three hour non-stop flight from most airports in the southern tier of the U.S.
- Puerto Vallarta is in the Central Time Zone.
- The city of Puerto Vallarta has approximately the same population as Anaheim, California, where Disneyland is located. In 2014, there were 419 robberies in Anaheim and 186 in Puerto Vallarta. In 2016, approximately four million tourists will visit Puerto Vallarta. You will find locals approachable, friendly, and kind. The staff at Vidanta appreciates you are there. They understand your visit supports their livelihood and family.
- All four major cell networks (AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, and T-Mobile) have excellent service at the resort. Check your plan. Several now offer free calls and data from Mexico.
- The exchange rate is extremely favorable—currently at 16 Mexican pesos to the U.S. dollar. This compares to nine pesos to the dollar five years ago. You will be surprised and impressed with the savings. At the Vidanta, lunch of a chicken crepe, side salad, and diet Coke will set you back \$9.81.
- Other than small local stores, credit cards are welcomed everywhere. Inside tip: consider using a credit card that doesn't charge a 2-3% international transaction fee.
- Vidanta is located seven miles from the airport. Meet-and-greet transportation from the airport is included.
- The La Plaza at Vidanta offers all your shopping needs, including a cheese store, bakery, butcher, chocolatier, pastry shop, liquor store, and grocery.
- A full-service spa is on property. Be sure to sample the hibiscus infused water.
- Rental car facilities are on property.
- Your accommodations include a washer and dryer, and suites include a full kitchen. 24-hour room service is available.



The Nicklaus Course



The Spa

Vidanta Resort, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico



Executive Cup White Glove Service

- Meet and greet at airport with ground transfer
- Stocked refrigerator in your kitchen with your favorite groceries
- Pre-arrival package highlighting non-golf excursions
- Concierge on every floor at Grand Luxxe
- Forecaddie in every foursome
- Complimentary resort-wide Internet access
- Most meals and all taxes/gratuities included





EXECUTIVE CUP 2016 CHALLENGE

Dates

Check in: Thursday, October 20 • Check out: Monday, October 24

Format

A FOUR-NIGHT, THREE-DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Trophies will be awarded to male and female overall low gross champions...net and gross couples club champions
...and age divisional net and gross titles for men and women under 55, 55-64, 65-74, and 75 and over.

Pricing

Single: \$3,385 • Double/one competitor: \$3,900 • Double/two competitors: \$4,665

Early arrival/late stay nights in a 1,100 square-foot Grand Luxxe Master Room: \$439/night

Upgrade to a 1,700 square foot, one-bedroom suite at Grand Luxxe: \$50/night

All taxes are included, airfare is not

Itinerary

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20: Arrival Day • Ground Transportation from Airport
Optional \$5,000 Skins Game on Nicklaus Course (no buy-in with men and women's divisions offering equal payout)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21: Full breakfast • Couples Club Championship or practice round on Norman Course
Hot lunch on course • Welcome Reception and Dinner

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22: Full breakfast • Executive Cup Round #1 on Nicklaus Course
Hot lunch on course • Evening at your leisure

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23: Full breakfast • Executive Cup Final Round on Norman Course
Hot lunch on course • Awards Reception and Dinner in Grand Ballroom

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24: Full breakfast • Departure Day from Grand Luxxe

Special Incentive

For only \$50 more per night, you can upgrade to an ocean-view, one-bedroom suite with a gourmet kitchen, living room, dining room, two LCD TVs, Jacuzzi tub, and a wide terrace with plunge pool. If you wish to share a suite, consider the two-bedroom/multi-floor suite for only \$125 more per night.

The registration process is done over the phone. For more information on the tournament, or to book a reservation, please contact Tournament Director Mark Pazdur at (949) 933-6478, or you may e-mail him at Mark@ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com.