

Welcome

America's 2021 National Private Club Champions



Ben Whipple
The Cliffs in South Carolina
Overall Men's Club Champion



Paula Beaudoin
Harbour Ridge in Florida
Overall Women's Club Champion



By Mark Pazdur, Tournament Director

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO: During the early 1800s, a British company established fur trading posts in the Inland Northwest. The dominant indigenous tribe was nicknamed Coeur (meaning heart) and Alene (meaning awl, a sharp pointed tool used to pierce leather). In a nutshell, locals were tough business negotiators.

Fast forward a century later and there were more steamboats on Lake Coeur d'Alene than any other body of water west of the Mississippi River. As the railroads and steam-

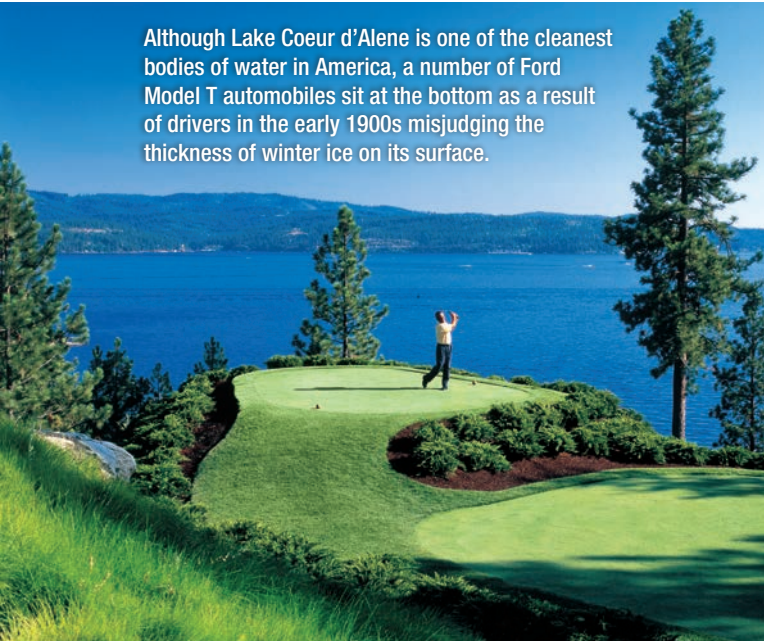
boats provided transportation points, soon tourism became an evermore important part of the local economy.

Today, *The Wall Street Journal* ranks Coeur d'Alene the hottest emerging housing market in the country. It's easy to understand why.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Executive Cup was founded 20 years ago as a tournament allowing private club champions from around the country

Although Lake Coeur d'Alene is one of the cleanest bodies of water in America, a number of Ford Model T automobiles sit at the bottom as a result of drivers in the early 1900s misjudging the thickness of winter ice on its surface.



LAKE TOWER rooms offer a luxury retreat with your own private balcony overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene.



“Coeur d’Alene is what every resort should be. It’s not just upscale, it’s posh. You aren’t just pampered here, you’re spoiled. It’s not just an escape, it’s an experience.” — *Golf Digest*

When the Cordilleran Ice Sheet flowed south from Canada approximately 15,000 years ago, it helped create the topography necessary for Lake Coeur d’Alene. Today, the pristine body of water has over 100 miles of shoreline. The Coeur d’Alene Resort started as a small lakefront motel. When the impressive 18-story tower opened, 25,000 locals showed up for a tour, backing up the off-ramp on Interstate 90.



Horse Race Shootout participants

the opportunity to compete for national titles. Over the past two decades, the tournament has traveled across 7,000 miles from the shores of Maui to the beaches of Puerto Vallarta to the lush tropics of Central Florida. Our goal has not wavered since day one to blend competition and camaraderie at some of the finest golf resorts around the world.

Eligibility for entry includes current champions, past club champions, senior champions, and couples champions. Trophies are 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 60, 60-69, 70-79, and 80 and over.

Executive Cup 2021 Challenge was hosted at the highly regarded Coeur d’Alene Resort, located downtown, sitting hard against the lake.

The resort holds a distinction of being a past recipient of *Condé Nast Traveler’s* “Top U.S. Golf Resort” and being rated “America’s Most Beautiful Resort Golf Course” by *Golf Magazine*.

A FINE START TO A WEEK OF COMPETITION

It was clear champions arrived to compete for bragging rights and \$500 of golf shop script up for grabs during the Horse Race Shootout. Routing includes playing four holes—1, 2, 3, and concluding on the famous island hole.

Horse Race Shootout



Vicky and Leigh MacKay
Couples
Champions –
Gross
The Fox Club in
Florida



Cyndi and David Crabtree
Couples
Champions – Net
Bakersfield CC in
California



After ups and downs and chip-offs during the shootout, teams Whipple and Beaudoin/Hughes approached the par-3 island green. Rules were modified from a traditional shootout format on the final hole to allow both team members to hit a tee shot with the closest ball winning the day. With nerves showing, each team member had various emotions—some of which included choice words unfit for print!

Ben Whipple's (champion at The Cliffs in South Carolina) tee shot ended up 35.5 feet from the hole. Paula Beaudoin's (champion at Harbour Ridge in Florida) tee shot was an equally impressive 37.6 feet away. With only 25 inches separating the two, team Whipple took home the spoils.

DAY ONE: COUPLES CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AND WELCOME RECEPTION

Crisp morning conditions gave way to calm afternoon sunny skies for the Executive Cup Couples Club Championship. "It's so much fun to compete in the best ball format with my wife Jamie, and it's an added bonus to meet other private club members from across the country. Coeur d'Alene Resort is the ultimate of destinations," expressed Kyle Kerestes (champion at Shannopin Country Club in Pennsylvania).

Cyndi and David Crabtree (champions from Bakersfield Country Club in California) carded -6 to earn the net divisional title and Vicky and Leigh MacKay (champions



Jamie Kerestes
60-69 Age
Division – Gross
Shannopin CC in
Pennsylvania



Keith Howell
60-69 Age
Division – Gross
Oakwoods CC in
North Carolina



Christal Talcott
60-69 Age
Division – Net
The Waters Edge
in Virginia



Kyle Kerestes
60-69 Age
Division – Net
Shannopin CC
in Pennsylvania

Island Green Par-3



The resort's par-3 with a floating green garners attention. An old log boom, used to harbor timber near the shoreline, was the impetus behind its design. Stepping on its tee box can prove intimidating. Case in point, the golf staff annually pulls 25,000 golf balls from the lake. Its distance from the tee, which changes every day, is controlled via an intricate, computer-controlled, underwater cable system. At approximately 15,000 square feet, the island may look intimidating, but it's a deceptively large target. To finish the hole, players board the "putter" boat, an electric-powered shuttle, ferrying golfers to and from the island green. As you depart the island, the boat captain will leave you with a personalized certificate of achievement, commemorating the completion of one of the most memorable holes in golf.



The famous floating green par-3 reinforced the lesson: women love fresh picked flowers, just not red geranium flowers when their caddie Brody is looking for their golf balls.



at The Fox Club in Florida), shot an impressive -1 to become gross couples champions.

The Welcome Reception and Dinner included a lavish cocktail reception and dinner on the main patio overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene. Players were greeted by an artist creating a lakeview painting, top-shelf liquor, and a menu that would feed the hungriest of appetites. "I think most would agree that the past two years have been stressful and challenging," expressed Craig Howell (champion at Abacoa Golf Club in Florida). "Executive Cup allowed me to travel with my brother Keith Howell (champion at Oakwoods Country Club in North Carolina) for a chance to enjoy the great outdoors and spend time together."

A CONTINUING TRADITION

One of the highlights of tournament week is the annual guessing contest for 100,000 American Airlines frequent flier miles. Each year, the question focuses on a local attribute of the resort.

This year's question: How many cumulative miles do all Coeur d'Alene forecaddies run on course in a typical year? The question was apropos considering forecaddies at the course hustle to your ball from tee to green.

Clues provided: (1) one mile is 1,760 yards, (2) the fastest recorded human sprint was 28 mph by Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt, and (3) a cheetah can reach top speeds up to 80 mph!



Tournament



Leigh MacKay
70-79 Age
Division – Gross
The Fox Club in
Florida



Jim Krusen
70-79 Age
Division – Net
Lomas Santa Fe
CC in California

If your spouse isn't a club champion nor plays golf, not to worry. Over 100 shops and cafes are outside the lobby and MSNBC.com named the resort's spa one of the "World's Most Romantic."

John Daly took a chance in the 1992 Merrill Lynch Shootout Championship with a 313-yard drive on No. 13—finishing within 15 feet of the pin—and dropping the putt for eagle on national television.

Guesses ranged from 1,500 miles to 402,000 miles. "Whoever guessed 1,500 miles probably has a Fitbit in their future," teased Mary Ann Langrall (champion at Hershey's Mill Golf Club in Pennsylvania). "On the flip side, I imagine E-Z-GO and Club Car would love to have the participant who guess 402,000 miles as a spokesman," grinned Christal Talcott (champion at The Water's Edge in Virginia).

The estimated distance traveled by all caddies during a season at Coeur d'Alene Resort is 63,851 miles—equivalent to a quarter of a trip to the moon.

A hearty round of applause greeted Cyndi Crabtree (champion at Bakersfield Country Club in California) with a guess of 58,240 miles and American Airlines 100,000 frequent flier miles banked into her account.

DAY TWO: ROUND ONE OF INDIVIDUAL PLAY

The morning of golf started with a seven-minute boat ride on one of two custom-designed, handcrafted, Honduran mahogany boats ferrying players from the hotel to the course. The Scott Miller design features tee-to-green bent grass and is accented by a vivid color palette of 1,500 wild flowers, 25,000 junipers, and 30,000 geraniums.

Forecaddies greeted golfers dockside and provided an escort to the driving range. The club's custom-designed carts include plush seats and a tilt steering wheel. Those who arrived early enough warmed up on one of the more unusual driving ranges in the West where you hit your pyramid of floating golf balls into Lake Coeur d'Alene.

"I found it ironic that every practice shot you hit ends up in water, then you immediately switch gears on the



first tee to avoid all water hazards on the course!” said Jim Krusen (champion at Lomas Santa Fe in California).

“Coeur d’Alene is a target golf course,” detailed Brian Cornell (champion at Royal Melbourne Country Club in Illinois). “Accuracy is the key to success here, not length. If you manage the course accordingly you can score well.”

After conclusion of the first day of individual play, the stage was set for an exciting finish with six shots separating the final group of women and four shots separating the final group of men.

DAY THREE: FINAL ROUND AND AWARDS DINNER
Players faced a stiff north wind that caused consternation over club selection.

One of our more interesting storylines involved brothers Keith and Craig Howell who tied for first place gross in their age bracket.

“I’m older and wiser by 18 months,” quipped Craig.

“My brother may be older than I, but I still have a full head of hair,” fired back Keith.

A turning point in their sibling rivalry was on the famous island hole when Keith sunk a 50 foot snaking putt

for birdie. At the conclusion of play, that birdie tilted the card off in Keith’s favor.

Congratulations to Paula Beaudoin (champion at Harbour Ridge in Florida) and Ben Whipple (champion at The Cliffs in South Carolina) for their stellar play and earning the titles as national Executive Cup champions. Bravo!

Tournament week concluded with a special presentation from Birds of Prey Northwest, an organization committed to protecting Idaho wildlife.

A stunning portion of their talk included displaying Sky Bird, a Swainson’s Hawk that was pestering golfers more than a decade ago at Coeur d’Alene Resort. After the Fish and Game department captured the hawk, it was turned over to Birds of Prey Northwest for rehabilitation. Unfortunately since the bird had been “imprinted” at birth by humans, it couldn’t be released into the wild. Today, Sky Bird is an integral part of educating the public the importance of protecting our delicate ecosystem and explaining while injured birds may need our help, they don’t know they need us, however over years of mutual respect, they can learn to trust us. ►



Executive Cup Challenge

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho • September 11-15, 2022

Arrive Sunday, Depart Thursday • 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 60, 60-69, 70-79, and 80 and over.

Sunday, September 11: Arrival • Optional afternoon Horse Race Shootout

Monday, September 12: Full breakfast • Couples Club Championship • Hot lunch • Welcome Reception and Dinner

Tuesday, September 13: Full breakfast • Executive Cup Round #1 Individual Play • Hot lunch • Evening at your leisure

Wednesday, September 14: Full breakfast • Executive Cup Final Round Individual Play • Hot lunch • Awards Reception and Dinner

Thursday, September 15: Full breakfast • Departure Day

PRICING: Single: \$3,409 • Double/one competitor: \$4,334 • Double/two competitors: \$4,913 • **EXTRA NIGHT:** \$426 + tax
For more information, or to sign up, please contact Mark Pazdur at Mark@ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com or (949) 933-6478

