

INTRODUCING AMERICA'S 2017 PRIVATE CLUB "CHAMPIONS OF CHAMPIONS"

Competitors belonging to 80 private golf clubs enjoyed the "Happy Life" at Vidanta.

By Mark Pazdur, Tournament Director



PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO: Winning a private club championship is a feat that deserves to be recognized and celebrated. Only a small percentage of private club members will ever be able to tout a club championship win.

For the past two decades, Executive Cup, an invitation only tournament, allows club champions to compete for a "champions of champions" title.

Last October, 80 club champions from 32 different states traveled to the expansive beachfront Vidanta Resort, located five miles from Puerto Vallarta.

"I have been to places all around the world," exclaimed Pat Gelardi, champion at Manufacturers' Golf & Country Club in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, and reigning Super Senior Champion in Florida. "Vidanta is far beyond anything that you can put into words or photos. Its scale is simply extraordinary."

Vidanta means "Happy Life."

"I can't think of a more appropriate resort to host our prestigious tournament," said Mark Pazdur, tournament director. "Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the

Sierra Madre Mountains, Vidanta is a \$2 billion 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 restaurants and bars; 27 pools; and an Aqua Park with a Lazy River."

"We stayed in Tower One of the Grand Luxxe, the most exclusive of Vidanta's five on-site hotels," said Debbie Mook Sang, champion at Black Diamond Ranch in Lecanto, Florida. "Our 1,700 square-foot, ocean-view suite was amazing with a private terrace and outdoor dip pool. We competed in Executive Cup more than 10 years ago. With our children grown, we decided to join the camaraderie in Mexico. The week did not disappoint."

According to a *Golf Digest* study that tracked amateur hole-in-one statistics, the odds of making a hole in one are 1:12,500. Executive Cup yielded two holes in one during four days of competition. Sherman Haggerty, champion at Serrano Country Club in Serrano, California, and Bruce

"We felt pampered at Vidanta. We were greeted at the airport, our refrigerator was stocked with goodies, and we had a forecaddie each day." – Phil and Jennifer Turner, Members at Deerwood Country Club in Kingwood, Texas, and Winners of the Arizona Women's Golf Association sponsored Couples Tournament



EARLY ARRIVAL SKINS GAME



Cadwell, champion at Hillcrest Golf Club in Boise, Idaho, were on the hook for evening drinks.

"If you like a horse race of a competition, Executive Cup is the tournament for you," recommended Marshall Gleason, champion at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, California. "It is a can't miss event that I mark on my calendar each year."

DAY ONE: EARLY ARRIVAL SKINS GAME

The annual \$5,000 Skins Game always proves popular. With gross and net divisions for both men and women, everyone has a chance at the purse.

The competition yielded 26 skins.

Jamie Kerestes, champion at Shannopin Country Club in Pennsylvania, learned of good news and bad news. The good news, her two skins earned her \$9,500 Vida Dollars. After a gasp and hug with her husband, she exclaimed, "I just paid for our trip!" After 10 seconds of utter jubilation, she learned the bad news: the \$9,500 was in pesos. Her take for the day was a cool \$500.

DAY TWO: COUPLES CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AND WELCOME RECEPTION

After a bountiful buffet breakfast at Ameca Restaurant, 22 teams competed in the best ball Couples Club Championship. "I enjoy meeting couples from other parts of the country," said Karin Billings, champion at Laurel Oak Country Club in Sarasota, Florida. "We were paired with Jim and Connie Landgraf from Texas and hit it off."

The net Couples Club Champion winners, with a score of 58, are Cyndi and David Crabtree from Bakersfield Country Club in California. The gross Couples Club Champion winners, with a score of 71, are Linda and Bruce Cadwell from Hillcrest Country Club in Idaho.

The Welcome Reception and Dinner is best described as an extravaganza. As champions arrived, the ladies were handed a long-stem rose. The evening started with a live band rocking The Santuario as waiters served gourmet hors d'oeuvres and premium liquor flowed freely. The ambience suddenly shifted as a mariachi quartet and colorful dancers entertained. After an hour of mingling, the group traversed

"Sherman, champion at Serrano Country Club in California, and I met 25 years ago. I had just joined the club and he was the first person I was paired with. I have since moved to the East Coast and Executive Cup allows us to rekindle our friendship each year." – Ben Whipple, Champion at The Cliffs in South Carolina

WELCOME RECEPTION



the boardwalk to a private patio for dinner and a bird's-eye view of the water and light show choreographed to music.

"This is a winner!" exclaimed Parker Barnes, champion at Diamond Creek in Banner Elk, North Carolina.

"A home run!" reported Lou Mace, champion at Toscana Country Club in Palm Desert, California.

The evening concluded with an announcement of the winner of our annual contest. This year's question: Guess the number of golf balls in the piñata.

The size of a golf ball is 1.68 inches. Some players must have thought the size of a golf ball was a marble, while others compared it to a grapefruit. The guesses ran the gamut.

Kitty Kingma, champion at La Jolla Country Club in La Jolla, California, hit the number on the head with a guess of 252 golf balls. Her prize: 100,000 American Airlines frequent flier miles.

DAY THREE: 2016 CHALLENGE, ROUND ONE

The two-day, 36-hole, individual play competition started on the Nicklaus Design Course. "A high overcast shielded us from the direct sun," reported Bill Payne,

champion at Colonial Country Club in Memphis, Tennessee. "The key to scoring is keeping your ball in the fairway. Balls tended to settle down in the rough, requiring a tricky recovery shot."

Play was fierce and scoring suggested the field was the deepest pool of players in the tournament's 18-year history. It was likely overall titles would be determined on the final hole—a premonition that held true.

After conclusion of the first day of play, four ladies were within three shots of one another.

The men were also at loggerheads. Four champions were tightly bunched. Allan Johnson, champion at Prescott Country Club in Prescott, Arizona, with a 71, held a precarious two-shot lead. "Allan is an incredible athlete," said Bob Sankey, champion at Morgan Run in Rancho Santa Fe, California. "On the 13th hole, a par-5, his tee shot goes out of bounds, he then dubs his provisional. To recover, he hits driver off the deck into a tree. An excellent flop shot sticks one foot from the hole for a tap in. It was the best eight I have ever seen. To shoot one over with a snowman on the scorecard was remarkable."

"Each day we received a different tee prize, including a LINKSOUL shirt by John Ashworth, Srixon golf balls, and a plush Vidanta beach towel." – Don Mooty, Champion at Roanoke Country Club in Roanoke, Virginia



AWARDS DINNER



DAY FOUR: FINAL ROUND AND AWARDS DINNER

The final round of Executive Cup individual play started under brilliant sunshine. Champions had their game face on as they crossed the suspension bridge to the Norman Course. "I feel like I was entering the set of Jurassic Park. The bridge is a dramatic entranceway to the course," said Susan Fishler, champion at Lambton Golf & Country Club in Toronto, Canada.

The day pitted Kimberly Pech, Kathy Kolar, and Debbie Mook Sang in the final pairing. After a triple on No. 2, Kimberly fires back with a birdie on No. 3, followed by three subsequent birdies. After nine holes, the three were still closely packed together. Kimberly held on to win by one stroke, allowing her to successfully defended her Executive Cup title for the sixth consecutive year in a row.

The men had an equally down to the wire finish. Jason Little, Sherman Haggerty, Ben Whipple, and Allan Johnson were in the final pairing.

Allan bogies the first four holes, erasing his two-shot lead from the previous day. After nine, Jason holds a two-shot lead over the field. As the final holes come into view,

all four are in the hunt. Allen birdies No.18 with a 15-footer to force a sudden death playoff with Sherman. The exciting sudden death playoff resulted in Sherman claiming victory.

"Although I am not a club champion, my wife and I decided to join Allan and his wife for the tournament," explained Terry Hartzog. "It gave us the opportunity to celebrate our anniversary at a very special place. The trip cost us \$4,300. Watching the final foursome today made it worth every penny!"

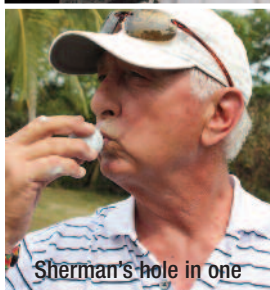
The elegant Awards Dinner and Reception ended the week of competition on a high note. A total of seven entertainment acts mesmerized the audience.

Upon receiving her championship trophy, Kimberly Pech announced to the group, "Vidanta is a first-class venue for a first-class field of competitors."

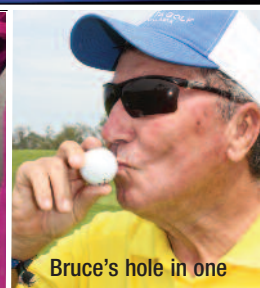
Executive Cup 2017 Challenge will be held at Vidanta from Thursday, October 19 – Monday, October 23. New to this year's itinerary is an evening horse race shootout on the nine hole, lighted short course.

"It was the first time I played with Srixon golf balls. Although I am still having trouble correctly pronouncing the name, the product performs." – Julie Frank, Champion at Westwood Country Club, St. Louis, Missouri

BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!

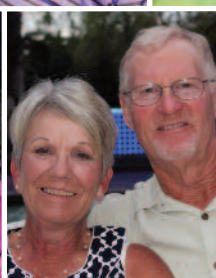


Sherman's hole in one



Bruce's hole in one





Executive Cup 2016 Challenge • America's Only Tournament of Private Club Champions



SHERMAN HAGGERTY
Serrano CC, California
Overall 2017
Men's Club Champion
73-75 — 148



KIMBERLY PECH
Riviera CC, California
Overall 2017
Women's Club Champion
75-79 — 154

Net Couples Club Champions - 58
CYNDI & DAVID CRABTREE • Bakersfield CC, California

Gross Couples Club Champions - 71
LINDA & BRUCE CADWELL • Hillcrest GC, Idaho

Men's Gross Division (54 and Under) ALLAN JOHNSON Prescott CC (Arizona) 71-77 — 148	Men's Gross Division (55-64) MIKE GUSTAFSON Eugene CC (Oregon) 68-71 — 139	Men's Gross Division (65-74) PARKER BARNES Diamond Creek (North Carolina) 71-73 — 144	Men's Gross Division (75 and Over) BRUCE CADWELL Hillcrest GC (Idaho) 77-75 — 152	Women's Gross Division (54 and Under) KATHY KOLAR Club at Morningside (California) 76-79 — 155	Women's Gross Division (55-64) DEBBIE MOOK SANG Black Diamond Ranch (Florida) 74-83 — 157	Women's Gross Division (65-74) PAT HUGHES-GELARDI Manufacturers' G&CC (Pennsylvania) 75-88 — 163	Women's Gross Division (75 and Over) TREVA CARDIEL CC at Rio Bravo (California) 87-90 — 177
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Men's Net Division (54 and Under) JASON LITTLE Fiddlers Creek (Florida) 65-69 — 134	Men's Net Division (55-64) BOB SANKEY Morgan Run (California) 65-74 — 139	Men's Net Division (65-74) CHRIS TUCKER Champion Hills (North Carolina) 72-74 — 146	Men's Net Division (75 and Over) PETER REIFSNYDER CC at TwinEagles (Florida) 61-65 — 126	Women's Net Division (54 and Under) EUGENIA KELLOGG Elgin CC (Illinois) 93-79 — 172	Women's Net Division (55-64) JENNIFER TURNER Deerwood CC (Texas) 68-73 — 141	Women's Net Division (65-74) CONNIE LANDGRAF Bentwater CC (Texas) 72-67 — 139	Women's Net Division (75 and Over) LINDA POSTLER CC at Indian River (Florida) 65-71 — 136
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EXECUTIVE CUP 2016 PARTICIPANTS

CANADA	Marshall Gleason The Olympic Club	Bobbi and Greg Plahn Rio Bravo CC	Pat and Steve Gelardi Manufacturers' G&CC	Joseph and Joe Underwood Old Palm GC	Christopher and Rene Hanson Plantation CC	Chris and Holly Tucker Champion Hills	TEXAS
Susan Fishler and Peter Farmer Lambton G&CC	Sherman and Rita Haggerty Serrano CC	Bob and Heidi Sankey The Stoneridge CC	John and Tippie Hall TPC Prestancia	Gloria Viano The Legacy GC	ILLINOIS	OREGON	Jack and Jennifer Cline Pearland GC
ARIZONA	Bob and Dana Hope Valley Hi CC	Vivian Sparks Rio Bravo CC	Rita Miller Vero Beach CC	Barbara and John Wellard Innisbrook	Jerry and Eugenia Kellogg Elgin CC	Mike and Donna Gustafson Eugene CC	Larry and Pam Holloway Sugartree GC
Allan and Mary Jane Johnson Prescott CC	Kitty and Dirk Kingma La Jolla CC	Judy Turco Vista Valley CC	Harold and Anne Levy The Legacy GC	Gene and Eileen Whitfield Manatee Cove GC	MISSOURI	PENNSYLVANIA	Jim and Connie Landgraf Bentwater G&CC
CALIFORNIA	Kathy and Ron Kolar The Club at Morningside	FLORIDA	Jason, Beth, Wes, and Lynn Little Fiddlers Creek	IDAHO	Julie Frank Westwood CC	Jamie and Kyle Kerestes Shannopin CC	Norwood and Barbara Lange Brenham CC
Pat Candelaria Vista Valley CC	Lou and Jeanne Mace Toscana CC	Paula Beaudoin and Jim Hughes Mizner CC	Debbie and Brent Mook Sang Black Diamond Ranch	Bruce and Linda Cadwell Hillcrest GC	Vicki Long Cape CC	SOUTH CAROLINA	Jennifer and Phil Turner Deerwood CC
Treva Cardiel Rio Bravo CC	Karin and Jim Billings Laurel Oak CC	Linda Postler Indian River Club	Harvey and Linda Knoll Hillcrest CC	Sandra Leary North Fork CC	NEW YORK	BEN and Bennie Whipple The Cliffs at Mountain Park	VIRGINIA
Jim Clark and Lauri Mason Pauma Valley CC	James and Kam Morris MountainGate CC	Peter and Gail Reifsnyder TwinEagles GC	Dick and Rita Toomey The Valley Club	Parker and Lesley Barnes Diamond Creek and Hound Ears	MISSOURI	TENNESSEE	Don Mooty and Theresa Meyer Roanoke CC
Cyndi and David Crabtree Bakersfield CC	Kimberly and Richard Pech Riviera CC	Christine Fletcher Vero Beach CC			NORTH CAROLINA	Linda and Bill Payne Colonial CC	
Pat Gallagher Pala Mesa Resort							



Two-floor loft suite at Grand Luxxe

VIDANTA'S SPECIAL TOUCHES

- Staff members greet you with a tap of their hand to their chest symbolizing "from my heart to yours."
 - Each floor at the Grand Luxxe has a dedicated concierge.
- Cars are prohibited on property. A raised wooden boardwalk, with music permeating the air, provides access resort wide.
 - The exchange rate is very favorable to Americans.
- The resort is spotless, modern, and filled with artwork and sculptures by famous Mexican artists.
- Many resorts are reducing their capital budgets for golf. Vidanta's is expanding. Next year, its nine-hole, lighted short course and Jack Nicklaus Teaching Academy opens.
- The lush landscape, with tens of thousands of shrubs and trees, will make any green thumb envious.



The Santuario

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 nonstop 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 2016, approximately four million tourists will have visited Puerto Vallarta. You will find locals approachable, friendly, and kind. The staff at Vidanta appreciates you are there. They understand that 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 19 Mexican pesos to the U.S. dollar. This compares to 9 pesos to the dollar five years ago. You will be surprised and impressed with the savings. At 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



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 2017 CHALLENGE

Dates

Check in: Thursday, October 19 • Check out: Monday, October 23

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: \$3,520.40 • Double/one competitor: \$4,056.00 • Double/two competitors: \$4861.60
Two couples sharing a two floor/two bedroom, luxurious 3,100 square-foot suite: \$4,055.00 per couple
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 19: Arrival Day • Ground Transportation from Airport
Optional Evening Horse Race Shootout on Par-3 Short Course (no buy-in with men and women's divisions offering equal payout)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20: Full breakfast • Couples Club Championship and \$5,000 Skins Game on Norman Course
Hot lunch on course • Welcome Reception and Dinner

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21: Full breakfast • Executive Cup Round #1 on Nicklaus Course
Hot lunch on course • Evening at your leisure

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22: Full breakfast • Executive Cup Final Round on Norman Course
Hot lunch on course • Awards Reception and Dinner in Grand Ballroom

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23: 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 suite for only \$130 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 Mark@ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com.