

A Hard Earned Accomplishment

Executive Cup is America's only tournament exclusively for private golf club champions.



The New Course, 10th hole, at Grand Cypress

By Mark Pazdur, Tournament Director

ORLANDO, FLORIDA: Even a century ago, golf media highlighted the benefits of private club membership. According to a 1915 issue of *The American Magazine*, the cost of initiation fees at exclusive private golf clubs averaged \$5,000 (at the time, America's median annual salary was \$687).

One of the numerous benefits of membership is an opportunity to play in a club championship. Many clubs have strict requirements to *qualify* for the competition.

Executive Cup was founded 19 years ago as an invitation only tournament inviting club champions from the United States and Canada to compete for "champion of champion" titles. As the field grew, age divisional brackets were added.

The Executive Cup 2019 Challenge was hosted at The Villas of Grand Cypress, which had been ranked the No. 1 resort in greater Orlando for five consecutive years.

Golf amenities included the Jack Nicklaus designed North, South, and East nines; The New Course (the Golden Bear's tribute to the Old Course at St. Andrews); and the Academy of Golf, with a 21-acre practice facility and three Nicklaus designed regulation length practice holes. ➤



The New Course at Grand Cypress

HORSE RACE SKINS GAME SHOOTOUT



Club champions who arrived early participated in the Horse Race Shootout.

EARLY ARRIVAL HORSE RACE SHOOTOUT

Tournament week started on a high note with 17 teams participating in an early arrival, four hole, two-person, best ball Horse Race Shootout with bragging rights and \$500 of golf shop scrip on the line. Under warm sunny skies, it was clear that club champions came to compete.

“Right postage, wrong address,” exclaimed Parker Barnes, champion from Hound Ears in North Carolina, after his tee shot ended short of the green.

Teams with pars safely advanced on the first two holes, with ties facing a sudden death chip-off. “I follow the famous saying, ‘putt when you can, chip if you can’t, and pitch when you have to,’” smiled Cheryl Bailey, champion at Fort Bend Country Club in Texas.

The six remaining teams all hit the green on the third hole. “What a fun way to start tournament week,” said Kathy Hasler, champion at Pelican’s Nest in Florida. “There

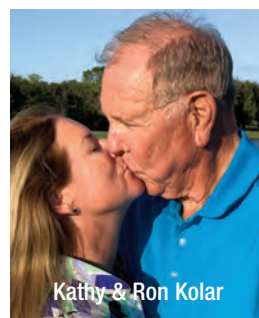


Parker & Lesley Barnes

were smiling faces, at least until you were eliminated!”

Three teams advanced to the final hole with the famous island green at Grand Cypress. “I understand the green is 1,000 feet smaller than the infamous 17th at TPC Sawgrass,” reported Pat Hughes-Gelardi, champion at Manufacturers’ Golf & Country Club in Pennsylvania.

You could feel the tension tighten as the couples approached the tee box. After the final putt, Ron and Kathy Kolar, from Rancho Mirage, California, won the



Kathy & Ron Kolar



Linda & Larry Boval

spoils with Larry and Linda Boval, champions from the Club at Cordillera in Colorado, runners-up. “I guess they receive the checks and I receive a spot at the bar to discuss how it got away,” grimaced John Hall, champion at TPC Prestancia in Florida. ➤

BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!



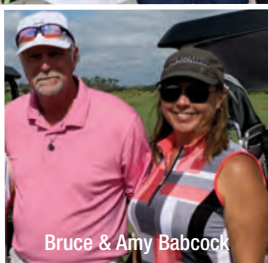
BEN WHIPPLE
The Cliffs, SC
Overall 2019 Men's Club Champion



SHARON HOFFMAN
The Club at Seawane, NY
Overall 2019 Women's Club Champion



Kyle & Jamie Kerestes



Bruce & Amy Babcock



Ben & Bennie Whipple and
Marianne Bedard & Bob Hope



Steve Watts

DAY ONE: MARRIAGE THERAPY NOT INCLUDED

The New Course at Grand Cypress is Jack Nicklaus's tribute to the Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland. His design includes double greens, stone bridges and walls, gorse mounds, burns and 150 pot bunkers— some as deep as 12 feet. "I know," grumbled Marianne Bedard, champion at Two Rivers Country Club in Virginia.

The New Course challenged players during our 18-hole Couple Club Championship. "The weather cooperated," said Bruce Babcock, club champion at Hidden Valley Country Club in Utah. "I learned Florida has its own local '90-degree rule' wherein you only play if it's at least 90 degrees outdoors."

The net couples club champions, with a score of 69, were Jamie and Kyle Kerestes from Shannopin Country Club in Pennsylvania. "Even though we weren't wearing colors supporting our hometown NHL or NFL teams, luck was on our side," said Jamie. "Well, at least clothing not to the visible eye," winked Kyle.

The gross couples club champions, with a score of 75, were Bennie and Ben Whipple from The Cliffs in South Carolina. "We had the good fortune to be paired with Bob Hope, champion at Del Paso Country Club in California,— no not that Bob Hope—although he left us in stitches all day," said Bennie.

After a day of steady concentration, Executive Cup guests and competitors enjoyed a poolside, under the stars Welcome Reception with an open bar, lavish buffet, and

music by a calypso steel drummer.

A tradition since the inception of Executive Cup is an annual guessing contest awarding 100,000 American Airlines frequent flier miles. As expected, this year's query was a head scratcher.

With the New Course at Grand Cypress recently completing its green renewal, the question posed: How many bushels of sprigs were required to renovate the greens on the New Course? The only clue given: About 30 bushels are required to sprig 1,000 square feet of green. Several champions took a tactic to email their home superintendent for advice. It didn't help. One guess equaled an amount equivalent to renovating every green in the state of Florida!

The number of bushels required: 5,220. With a guess of 4,790 bushels, Steve Watts, club champion at TalonsCove in Utah, earned enough miles equivalent to circumnavigating the earth four times.

The night concluded with Barb Mucha as our guest speaker. Originally from Ohio, Barb competed on the LPGA Tour for 20 years with five tournament wins to her credit. Her talk, emotional at times, recalled memorable stories on the Tour. "One time, Big Mama [Joanne Carner] was running so late for her tee time, she didn't realize she had put her shorts on inside-out until the middle of the first fairway," recalled Mucha. ►



Barb Mucha



BENNIE & BEN WHIPPLE
The Cliffs, SC
Couples Club Champions - Gross



KYLE & JAMIE KERESTES
Shannopin CC, PA
Couples Club Champions - Net



Larry Boval
and John Hall

Ben Whipple
and Bob Hope



Kathy Kolar & Sharon Hoffman



Sandy Leary



LAURA WALLACE
Denton CC, TX
Under 55 Age Division – Gross



AMY BABCOCK
Hidden Valley CC, UT
Under 55 Age Division – Net

DAY TWO/THREE—INDIVIDUAL PLAY

As they say in the public relations business, players experienced a “light rain shower” during the first day of individual competition. The golf course received 2.7 inches of rain. Total amount of water that fell at the resort: 89 million gallons! The inclement weather forced the 36 hole championship to be shortened to 27 holes of play.

“I was drenched and my equipment was soaking wet,” recalled Sandy Leary, champion at Vero Beach Country Club in Florida. “To dry out my shoes, I placed them in my villa’s oven.”

Executive Cup’s overall women’s title did not go uncontested. Kathy Kolar and Sharon Hoffman were tied at 129 after regulation play.

On the first playoff hole, Kathy hit a gusty hybrid over the canal to within 10 feet. Sharon played more conservative, laying-up short of the water, and chipped her ball. After Kathy lipped-out a snaking 10-footer for the win, Sharon sunk a four-footer to continue to the second hole.

Both hit solid drives, placing them in prime position to attack the green. Sharon made par to seal the victory. “Kathy, you are a fierce competitor and a force to be reckoned with,” praised Hoffman.

The overall men’s title had an equally exciting finish. Ben Whipple, champion at The Cliffs in South Carolina, was one up, with three to play, over John Hall, champion at TPC Prestancia in Florida. Both birdied No. 16 with putts that were “transcontinental bombs” in excess of 40 feet. Since John made his putt first, for a brief moment the two were tied with two to play.

With a rock solid finish, Ben bested John for the overall title. With his win, Ben adds to his resume with Executive Cup titles won in Hawaii and Mexico—and now Florida.

A CLOSER THAT KEPT YOUR ATTENTION

The week of activities closed on a high note with a gourmet dinner that featured crispy crab cakes, filet mignon, followed by a slice of sea salt caramel cheesecake.

After the crystal trophies were awarded, champions were surprised by Joshua Seth, an internationally touring mentalist that has performed in 30+ countries. “The human brain is a complicated enigma with 100 billion cells,” revealed Seth. “I plan on taking you on a trip to another state of mind.”

“Simply amazing. I’m awestruck at his ability,” said Lesley Barnes, champion at Hound Ears in North Carolina. ►

BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!



BRUCE BABCOCK
Hidden Valley CC, UT
55-64 Age Division – Gross

KYLE KERESTES
Shannopin CC, PA
55-64 Age Division – Net



KATHY KOLAR
Club at Morningside, CA
55-64 Age Division – Gross

HILDA DARWIN
Rock Creek GC, TX
55-64 Age Division – Net

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



BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!



JOHN HALL
TPC Prestancia, FL
65-74 Age Division – Gross

STEVE WATTS
TalonsCove, UT
65-74 Age Division – Net



JULIE SHORE
Lonnie Poole GC, NC
65-74 Age Division – Gross



KATSO MORROW
John's Island Club, FL
65-74 Age Division – Net



BOY, DID WE HAVE FUN!



Carolyn and Stokely Doster
with Mentalist Joshua Seth



SANDY LEARY
Vero Beach CC, FL
75+ Age Division – Gross



WREN PETERSON
Green Meadows CC, GA
75+ Age Division – Net



BOB HOPE
Del Paso CC, CA
75+ Age Division – Gross



DOUG HORNE
Riverside CC, UT
75+ Age Division – Net



Executive Cup Heads West in 2020



Coeur d'Alene Resort's iconic par-3, with a floating green, garners most of the 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.



CAMARADERIE IN COEUR D'ALENE—HEADING WEST IN 2020

"I am pleased to announce that our 20th annual Executive Cup will be hosted at Coeur d'Alene Resort next year on September 13-17," reported Mark Pazdur, tournament director. "We expect stunning conditions with leaves changing colors and high temperatures in the low 70s. If you are unfamiliar with the resort, you will be impressed. It is one of the only high-rise hotels on a fresh water lake in the world and is home to a famous floating green par-3 that requires a boat ride to the green." ■

Traveling to Coeur d'Alene Resort: Fly into Spokane Airport in Washington (airport code: GEG). Drive time is 45 minutes on I-90.

YOUR DAY OF GOLF at Coeur d'Alene Resort begins with a seven-minute water taxi from the main hotel to the golf course. A forecaddie greets you dockside for an escort to your prepped cart [the carts already loaded with your golf clubs. The course is accented by a vivid color palette of 1,500 wild flowers, 25,000 junipers and 30,000 geraniums.

Executive Cup Heads West in 2020



COEUR D'ALENE RESORT is one of the few mountain hotels in America located alongside a large, freshwater lake. The 18-story, high-rise tower offers 338 rooms, many with lake views and balconies; seven restaurants; and a full-service spa. Steps from the lobby are dozens of family-owned cafes, quaint shops, and art galleries.



The resort has one of the most extensive wine collections in the Northwest with more than 16,000 bottles and 2,100 different selections.

Executive Cup Heads West in 2020

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.



Executive Cup Heads West in 2020

The resort holds a distinction of being a past recipient of Condé Nast Traveler's "Top U.S. Golf Resort."



Executive Cup Challenge • Coeur d'Alene, Idaho September 13-16, 2020

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 55, 55-64, 65-74, and 75 and over.**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: Arrival • Optional afternoon Horse Race Shootout

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: Full breakfast • Couples Club Championship • Hot lunch • Welcome Reception and Dinner

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: Full breakfast • Executive Cup Round #1 Individual Play • Hot lunch • Evening at your leisure

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: Full breakfast • Executive Cup Final Round Individual Play • Hot lunch • Awards Reception and Dinner

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: Full breakfast • Departure Day

PRICING: Single: \$3,190 • Double/one competitor: \$3,905 • Double/two competitors: \$4,525

For more information, or to sign up, please contact Mark Pazdur at Mark@ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com or (949) 933-6478

