

# Introducing Our 2025 “Champion of Champions”



**Keith Way**  
2025 Overall Men's Champion



**Merry McCleary**  
2025 Overall Women's Champion

*The Sea Pines Resort—  
experiencing Lowcountry  
hospitality at its finest.*



“Sea Pines is one of the most wonderful spots. It’s one of my ‘top three’ favorite places to visit.”

— ERNIE ELS

**By Mark Pazdur, Tournament Director**

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: This year, the PGA TOUR schedule consists of 39 competitions (including FedEx playoff events). Top players are obligated to commit to at least 20 tournaments. So, venues “fight” vigorously to attract the top names in the game. Amid the intense competition, Harbour Town Golf Links at The Sea Pines Resort, is highly regarded by players and ranks their second favorite design—behind Augusta National.

The same year Netflix was founded, we launched Executive Cup. Our original mission was to allow private club champions from around the country the opportunity to compete for national titles. Over the past two decades, our tournament has traveled across 7,000 miles from the shores of Maui to the beaches of Puerto Vallarta and from the lush tropics of Central Florida to the famous floating green in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. The goal has not wavered since day one—to blend competition and camaraderie





The Sea Pines Resort features three world-class courses: **Harbour Town Golf Links** and **Heron Point**, designed by Pete Dye; and **Atlantic Dunes**, designed by David Love III. Each golf course has a different feel. At **Harbour Town Golf Links**, it's all about ball placement and strategy. If you get "lazy," and aren't proactive in your planning, you will pay the price. **Heron Point Golf Course**, with its well-positioned directional bunkers, requires your best short game. There is a reason the course is called Heron Point. You can't help but notice the abundance of sea birds. Rounding out the trifecta of golf choices is **Atlantic Dunes**. It is the "friendliest" of the trio of courses.

"Our three courses fit together to complete the perfect puzzle for your next golf excursion. Harbour Town is our Mona Lisa. It's a thought-provoking design with smaller greens than are typically found on Tour. Bring your patience. You can't overpower the course and it's easy to turn a bogie into a triple in short order. My playing advice: 'Listen to your caddie.'"

— JOHN FARRELL, DIRECTOR OF GOLF OPERATIONS



at some of the finest golf resorts around the world.

This year, club champions had the good fortune to play *both* Harbour Town (designed by Pete Dye) and Atlantic Dunes (designed by David Love III). "There was an extra level of excitement watching the grandstands under construction for the upcoming Heritage Classic," expressed Jamie Kerestes, club champion now living at Reynolds Lake Oconee in Georgia.

### **HORSERACE SHOOTOUT**

Our annual Horserace Shootout is a popular draw. Teams were eliminated until three teams remained to approach the final hole (Team Tigers, Team M&Ms, and Team Dynamic Duo).

Lindy and Keith Way (both club champions from Bentwater on Lake Conroe in Texas) are our 2025 Horserace Shootout winners. Their work earned them 25,000 American Airlines frequent flier miles for their accomplishment. "Since each hole is no longer than 105 yards, the true alter-

nate shot format welcomes all to play, no matter their handicap," smiled Lindy Way.

### **COUPLES CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

Cool (with a high temperature of 68 degrees) under breezy, but crystal-clear skies, our Couples Club Championship was held on the Atlantic Dunes Course at The Sea Pines Resort.

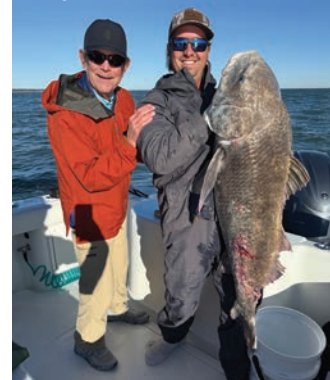
Our net team winners were Mark and Mary Greene (club champions at Walnut Grove Country Club in Dayton, Ohio) and our gross team winners were Leigh and Vicky MacKay (club champions at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Florida). "I grew up on Hilton Head Island and my parents lived at Sea Pines," recalled Vicky MacKay. "As a teenager, I worked in the food/beverage department at the resort. My husband, Leigh, somewhat facetiously jokes that the reason he started dating me was for playing privileges at Sea Pines! I distinctly remember working as a volunteer at The







Stokely Doster, while his wife played golf, took a fishing expedition. He caught three 60-pound Black Drums. Since all were over the slot limit, they were released.



Heritage and Sam Snead walked in. A fellow volunteer asked Mr. Snead, 'Are you a pro or am?' You should have seen the look on Mr. Snead's face. It was priceless."

## *A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS*

Our Executive Cup Contest is always festive. This year's question: How many golf carts does the PGA TOUR rent to transport volunteers, traffic mitigation, hospitality, and security use during The Heritage? The prize was 50,000

American Airline miles. Three guesses were within 13 of the correct answer. Each stood up to explain how they derived at their guess. The correct answer was 252 golf carts. With a guess of 250, Stokely Doster from Look-out Mountain, Tennessee, was our winner. While some guests called their head golf professionals for advice, Stokely took all of five seconds in determining his number. Sometime blind luck is your friend!

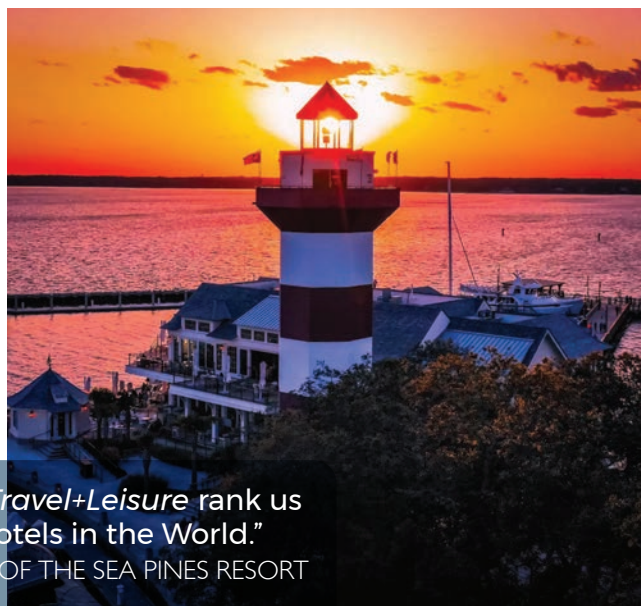
## *EXECUTIVE CUP—INDIVIDUAL PLAY*

Only one stroke separated the top four women and four shots separated the top four men after the first round of individual play at Atlantic Dunes, setting the stage for the exciting final day at Harbour Town Golf Links. "It's been several years since I last competed," praised Ben Whipple, club champion at Cliffs Valley in Travelers Rest, South Carolina. "It's a first-class event where promises made are promises kept."

Competitors were greeted with Chamber of Commerce weather for the second and final round at Harbour Town Golf Links. All were in for a special treat when John Carlin, a longtime golf shop staff member, announced







"It was an honor to have *Travel+Leisure* rank us among the 'Top-100 Hotels in the World.'  
—STEVE BIRDWELL, PRESIDENT OF THE SEA PINES RESORT

Sea Pines is located on the southernmost tip of Hilton Head Island. Its 5,400 acres of mature oceanfront acres features three golf courses, seven miles of beaches, 17 miles of bike trails, tennis facilities, two full-service marinas, and horse stables. The trophy case at The Inn & Club at Harbour Town is stuffed with awards as a *Forbes* four-star destination, AAA four-diamond winner, and ranked "No. 4 Best Resort in the U.S." by *U.S. News & World Report*. Rooms are decorated in an inviting coastal palette that complements Hilton Head Island's charm, Frette Italian linens, butler service, access to seven restaurants, and 24-hour room service (rarities in today's world). Best of all, you are only steps away from the first tee of the famed Harbour Town Golf Links.

each player on the first tee. "Early during my tenure here, I met Mickey Mantle," recalled Carlin. "Going against the 'rules,' I asked Mickey for two autographs for the head pro and director of golf in the golf shop. Mickey happily obliged. I decided to 'press my luck' and asked for an autograph for my family. Mickey said, 'No,' and walked away!"

The overall women's club champion is Merry McCleary from Bay Club of Mattapoisett in Massachusetts.

Our overall men's club champion is Keith Way from Bentwater Golf & Country Club in Texas.

### A MAGICAL ENDING

After a first-class cocktail reception, dinner, and awards ceremony, all were treated to a magic show by Harold Jordan (who made the three-hour drive from Charleston). "I can't speak highly enough of the young man. Talk about a crowd pleaser," extolled Lisa Peck, club champion from Feather Sound Country Club in Clearwater, Florida. "His performance was flawless and still has me wondering how several of his tricks [that were a blend of magic and mentalism] were possible." ►







# Executive Cup Challenge

## at The Inn & Club at Harbour Town

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina • September 20-24, 2026

*Arrive Sunday, Depart Thursday • A Four-Night, Four-Day Event*

**Sunday, September 20:** Arrival • Optional Afternoon Horserace Shootout • Evening at Your Leisure

**Monday, September 21:** Full breakfast • Couples Club Championship • Hot lunch • Welcome Reception and Dinner

**Tuesday, September 22:** Full breakfast • Executive Cup Round One • Hot lunch • Evening At Your Leisure

**Wednesday, September 23:** Full breakfast • Executive Cup Final Round • Hot lunch • Awards Reception and Dinner

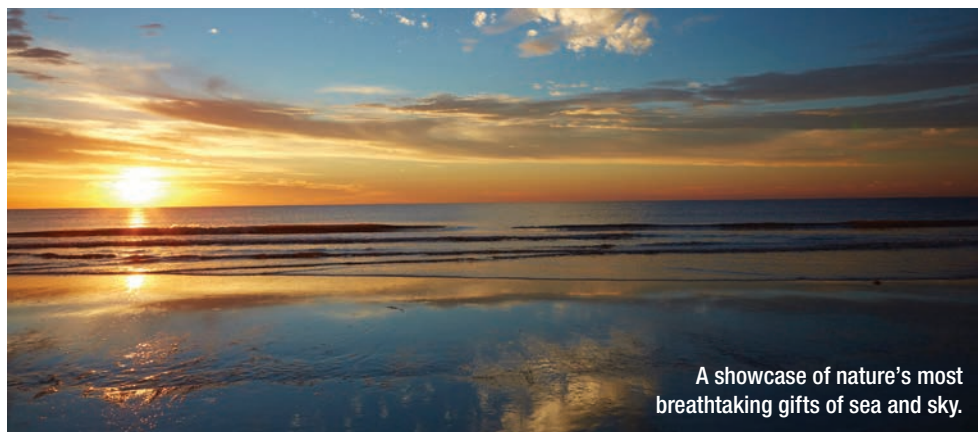
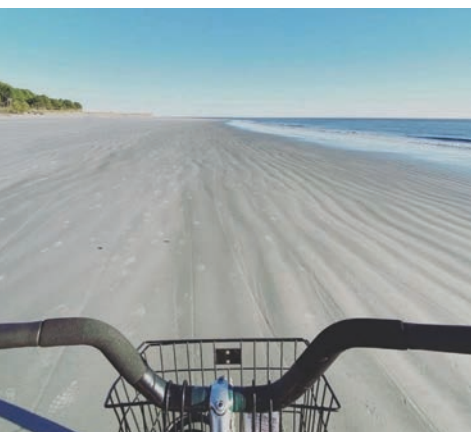
**Thursday, September 24:** Full breakfast • Departure Day

**PRICING:** Single: \$5,056\* • Double/one competitor: \$6,132\* • Double/two competitors: \$7,322\*

Local rate (no room or breakfast included): \$2,015\* • Early/late arrival: \$515+tax/night

\*Tournament package pricing includes all taxes, resort fees, tips, and parking. Airfare and ground transportation is not included.

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



A showcase of nature's most  
breathtaking gifts of sea and sky.