

Men's Golf League News, March – 2023

The Winter golf season continues as the dedicated Lake Fairways residents juggle quotes, contractors and home repairs with golf and tee times. No, it's not easy and we should all be proud of ourselves for staying the course and remaining dedicated to the goal of getting Lake Fairways back to where we were this time last year.

Men's League President, Mike Craven has requested a 20% increase in salary for his efforts and commitment to a smooth administration of League activities. Treasurer, Ray Burrows, after reviewing Mike's numerous accomplishments and discussing with the Lake Fairways Illuminati, has



granted the 20% increase from its current rate of \$0.00. When asked for comment on the increase, League Secretary, Steve Andrews said "Mike has certainly earned everything he gets, but let's hope this keeps him happy for a while because we can't keep shelling out this kind of coin."

Mike seen here blatantly accepting one of many bribes from a poor slob who just wants to play golf on Thursday morning while Ray Burrows and Steve Andrews turn a blind eye. Conspiracy theorists can only assume that they too are getting a piece of the action.

Hole-In-One Report – Nick Martinello claimed his 19th lifetime Hole-In-One and 5th at Lake Fairways on the difficult 5th hole. Witnesses and fellow Canadians, Rick Young and Larry Warner reported that it was an 8-Iron to a front pin which sailed high with a touch of draw, landed with spin just to the right of the hole, backed up slightly to the left and fell over the edge into the cup. We here at the Informer prefer to report the hole-in-ones that hit a sprinkler head, kick off a rake and rattle the stick before going in but I guess you could do it this way too Nick albeit a little BORING.

Ron Graham claimed his 6th lifetime Hole-In-One and the 4th at Lake Fairways CC on the tricky Par 4, 14th hole. That's and Albatross ! It came during the Couples Game on Sunday morning Feb 19th while playing in a 6-some, couples drop out scramble with playing partners Sandy Graham, Rick and Mary Jane Gagnier and Neil and Rose Ann Chadwick. Witnesses say it was a solid 5-wood up the middle of the fairway that rolled onto the green and Ron assumed that it rolled off the back but when Rick couldn't find it behind the green, he took a glance in the hole, as we all do when you can't find a ball you thought was on the green and sure enough there it was. Well played Ron !

Welcome Back to competitive golf Lefty ! Lake Fairways Mafia Boss, **Don Paulo Falcone** has been spotted around Lake Fairways CC trying to



groove a swing and build some strength following a 6-month absence fighting cancer with chemo therapy. The battle is not over yet but the prognosis looks good, and we hope to see Paul with his sunny disposition and that silky smooth swing back to his normal schedule of 54 holes per day.

Paul, who was the 5th alternate in the February Shootout, seen here on the 10th tee hitting the inaugural shot for the A Flight. Things didn't go so well on this particular shot, but we expect better swings to come for Paul.

Spotters around the Lake Fairways course have been keeping an eye open for the return of our other cancer survivor, **Ron McManus** to competitive golf who has been seen walking the Lake Fairways circuit trying to build up his strength and says he remains on track for an April tee time. We'll be ready when you are, Ron.

February Shootout

The February Shootout started just after high noon on Wednesday, Feb 8th at the Lake Fairways 10th tee with the B Flight qualifiers huddled around Tournament Marshal Dave Fagan and Scorer Rich Neuner laying down the ground rules.

Fagan & Neuner seen here making it clear that there's a new sheriff and deputy in town. The corrupt regime of Larry O'Brien is in the rearview mirror so you can put your wallets away and we'll be playing by the rules of golf this time.



Crowds of fans gather behind the 10th tee in anticipation of the pending drama while the participants can feel the pressure building. If you don't like playing in front of a crowd,

you're in the wrong place today boys. The Lake Fairways galleries are some of the toughest in SW Florida. They know good golf from bad golf and it's likely, before the day's over, they'll be treated to some of both.

The list of B Flight competitors who had the cajones to put their golf skills (or lack thereof) on display for an unruly gallery were; Pierre Marquis, Dick Cummings, Dave Malmberg, Will Aubut, Dan Wagner, Pat Emanuelle, Ron Hutz, Tom Craig, Ron Graham and Steve Andrews.

The drama started on the 1st tee when Dave Malmberg who admitted that the pressure of the crowd was nerve wracking, hit his first shot right out of bounds but reloaded and put a good ball into play hoping that someone behind him might suffer a similar fate.

Ron Graham, who is normally quite steady and no stranger to pressure, was there to oblige Dave's foibles by topping his opening shot about 20 yards off the tee box. 5 shots later and still not on the green Ron being a gentleman and realizing that his fate was sealed, conceded the hole and was our first casualty of the day.

Ron, knowing that there will be more shootouts, seen here with his wife and couples playing partner, Sandy still smiling, enjoying the rest of the day's action and supporting the remaining warriors. You're a good sport Ron.



Skipping ahead, Dick Cummings was eliminated on 17 with a wet tee ball and poor chip from the drop area and took 3rd place honors leaving Tom Craig and Dave Malmberg to battle it out on the 18th hole with not one but two water hazards to clear.

Tom Craig found the first water hazard off the tee and followed up by hitting the second water hazard from the drop area while Dave, seeing Tom's struggles, played it safe, found dry land off the tee and chipped up the fairway short of the second hazard and reached the green from there. Tom, being the steely competitor that he is, hung in there, played from the drop zone and eventually reached the green only to realize that he had just too many strokes on the hole at this point and conceded Dave's putt for 5. Good job Tom ! 2nd Place ain't so bad and gets you into the Grand Shootout.

FINALLY !! Dave Malmberg, who has had more than a couple 2nd and 3rd place finishes finally won his first shootout and will be competing in the Grand Shootout in March. Congratulations Dave.



**Flight B Winners: 1st Place Dave Malmberg
2nd Place: Tom Craig
3rd Place Dick Cummings**

The A-Flight of our February Shootout started on the 10th tee as well with a cast of Lake Fairways characters that included Al Webster, Brian Gordon, Dan Beamer, Rick Young, Warren Wentzel, Ron Pessa, Fred Kline, Nick Martinello, Dave Burns and 5th alternate, Paul Falcone.

One of the negative sides to a Shootout is that someone has to be the first one out. When you're standing on that 1st tee you're thinking, I won't be upset if I don't win but please, please, please, don't let me be the first one out. Well, this month, the golf gods had a nice welcome back gift for our 5th alternate Paul Falcone and dealt him a high hook to the right where his ball found the bushes at the bottom of the of the hill in Ron and Diane Faria's

back yard which is, oh by the way, out of bounds. You know, you can talk to a slice but a hook just won't listen. Paul reloaded and didn't fare much better with the next tee ball. Cutting to the chase, Paul eventually reached the green, conceded the hole and was tagged as the dreaded "First One Out". What a cruel game !

Hearing some commotion in his back yard, Ron Faria came out to find Paul routing through his private ball-collection bush still trying to find the ball he hooked over there in the shootout.



Our next victim was Fred Kline who was eliminated on the 11th hole in a chip off with Brian Gordon from the back of the green. Brian totally focused while Fred stands here with his back to the action.

On the 12th hole, Al Webster thought he hit a perfect shot that landed softly on the front of the green by a front pin but rolled all the way to the back from where he 3 putted and fell into a chip-off and became the 3rd man out. Al, seen here surveying a putt that eventually sent him back to his golf cart where Loretta was waiting.





Hole #13 was the 4th hole in our shootout which was settled in a chip-off between Dan Beamer and shootout newcomer Warren Wentzel who had confided in this reporter that he was really nervous. Warren, who is a pretty good player, succumbed to his nerves and was eliminated by chipping wizard Dan Beamer.

Dan seen here with perfect set up following a unique pre-shot routine that seems to get the job done (most of the time).

On the 14th hole, a short but narrow par 4, shootout legend, Ron Pessa hit a perfect tee shot to 6 feet from the hole where he left the eagle put on the lip but tapped in for a nice birdie to avoid the chip-off between Brian Gordon and Dan Beamer. Unfortunately for Dan, it was Brian who won the chip-off and will carry on to the hole #15. Thank you Dan.



Sandie Gordon seen here watching the chip-off on the 14th, candidly admitted how nervous she gets whenever Brian plays in these shootouts. Brian looked pretty cool and composed to me. Hang in there Sandie.

The 15th hole was loaded with calamity and unfortunately, we didn't get any photos. Dave Burns put his tee shot on the beach just short of the lone tree on the right of the cart path. While Ron Pessa pulled his tee shot left and trickled further left past the red stakes requiring a drop and stroke penalty.



Unfortunately, I was watching Ron and missed poor Dave's episode from the right hazard. Apparently, Dave tried to hit off the beach back into play but hit the bank twice and on the 3rd attempt got enough elevation only to hit the lone tree and ricochet backwards into the water. That would have been a fantastic video and probably gone viral! You'd have been famous Dave.

Ron Pessa seen here after he dropped his ball back into play and looked over to see what all the flailing was about on the other side of the fairway.

Being the good sport that he is, Dave had had enough so he told the remaining competitors to pick up their balls and carry on without him. I'm sure Ron was relieved because he had a very difficult shot in front of him that was fraught with danger.

We arrive at the 16th hole with our remaining 4; Nick Martinello, Brian Gordon, Rick Young and Ron Pessa. All 4 cleared the water hazard and Brian was off the left on the slope just past pin high. He putted it on but left himself a snaky downhill putt which he ran past the hole by about 4 feet and missed the comeback putt carding a 5, ending his shootout dream and leaving wife Sandie shaking her head. Thank you, Brian..... Sorry Sandie.





The 17th Hole which has ruined many shootout dreams in the past claimed yet another victim in Ron Pessa who shanked his tee shot to the right and into a watery grave. Ron's last hope was to at least get up and down from the drop area and force Nick and Rick to make their pars. But unfortunately for Ron that did not come to pass, and he was eliminated.

Ron seen here still mumbling to himself. "Why did I try that shot?" Why didn't I just make a full swing? It's such an easy hole. I'm never in the water on 17."

And now there were 2 left on the 18th tee. Rick Young hit first and faded the ball just over the water hazard right but his path to the green blocked by the trees. Nick had his driver out knowing he was giving a stroke to Rick on this hole so he was prepared to go for the green. However, seeing Rick's predicament on the far right side of the fairway, Nick put his driver back in the bag and hit a smooth 7-iron to the middle of the fairway.

Rick Young seen here surveying his options from behind the trees on 18 with Marshal Tom Finora looking on and Nick's ball in the fairway. Rick tried to carve something around the trees to dry land somewhere near the green but found the water hazard leaving Nick a green light which he deposited on the green and sending Rick to the drop area on the other side.





Rick's last hope was from the drop area where he had to get up and down to force Nick to make his par but alas for Rick it was not to be on this day.

Nick made his par and finally won a Shootout. Congrats Nick!

The drop area can be a lonely place when there's a crowd watching. Good job Rick, Well Played. See you in the Grand Shootout.

Flight A Winners:

1st Place: Nick Martinello

2nd Place: Rick Young

3rd Place Ron Pessa



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