

Men's Golf League News, October – 2022

The Summer of 2022 is quickly coming to an end. We're at the peak of rain season and hurricane season. So far, no hurricanes have threatened (as of this writing) but we've been getting daily doses of heavy rain which has kept the course soggy.

This, however, has not deterred the Lake Fairways dedicated platoon of hopeless golfers. We're easy to spot when you pull into the Lake Fairways entrance past holes 3,4,5 & 6. We're usually looking up trying to determine if those dark clouds are going to pass without dumping buckets of rain. Or trying to find balls that are hiding under the puddles in a sand trap. Or trying to unplug a ball that's sunk 2 inches into a soggy fairway. Or trying to find a dry spot to swing your club without splashing mud in your face.

Yes, we do a lot of trying in the rainy season, but you can be sure that we'll be back out there again the next day taking on the same challenges, trying again to beat whatever conditions the course throws at us.

And you can also be sure that we'll be complaining about every downpour, every puddle, every plugged ball, every soggy lie and every blemish on the green that knocks a perfect putt offline. None of these things are our fault but do provide good excuses for a bad score.

The Men's League continues every Thursday morning at 8:00 with a shotgun start and the 20 or so dedicated summer golfers that show up every week to test their patience and see if they can better their score from the previous test of patience.

Travel Day is every Tuesday and offers an organized opportunity to play some of the local courses with fellow Lake Fairways golfers. The travel schedule and sign-up sheet are posted on the announcement bulletin boards at the ProShop.

Hole-In-1 Report a very recent entry in the Hole-In-1 archives was carded Sept 22 on Pine Lakes Hole #17 during a late afternoon round. Pete Greco was the culprit this time hitting a pitching wedge to a back/right pin placement on the 114 yard par 3. The ball landed about 3 ft from the pin with a lot of spin, took 2 hops and rattled into the hole. An exuberant Pete yelled "That's number 5" The event was witnessed by Bill Hilt, Kevin Lawton and yours' truly. Pete was gracious when buying the obligatory beer at the Pub for his playing companions but was a bit hushed as we walked past the crowded bar on our way in. The group huddled around the bar looked like they didn't need more booze anyway. Well played Pete, hope I'm there to witness number 6.

Kevin, Pete and Bill celebrating the moment >>>>
on 17 green



This past Wednesday Paul and Carol walked into the dentist's office. Paul said to the dentist, "Doc, I'm in one heck of a hurry. I have two buddies sitting out in my car waiting for us to go play golf at one of the finest courses in SW Florida. So, forget about the novocaine I don't have time for the gums to get numb. I just want you to pull the tooth and be done with it!

The dentist asks Paul, "Which tooth is it ?"

Paul turned to Carol and said, "Open your mouth Honey, and show him....."

Men's Summer Shootout took place on Monday September 12 on the front 9 at Lake Fairways CC. The cast of characters this time included qualifying notables **Fred Dissmeyer**, fan favorite **John Murray**, fashion icon **Pat Emanuel**, the sultan of slice **Dave Fagan**, LF socialite **Dave Malmberg**, club champion **Greg Mullens**, crazy legs **Mike Williams**, speed demon **John VonDerVellen**, let's put the pin behind a bunker **Jim Mantini**, meet me in the Sand Trap **Fred Kline**, 2 olives extra dry **Chuck Rhodes** and finally nervous shootout first timer **Bill Hilt**.

The 1st tee in a shootout is always quite a chaotic scene and this edition was a virtual Who's Who of Lake Fairways royalty. Tournament Marshal, **Ray Gromacki**, with years of solid officiating experience, was flown in from a northern adventure just to officiate the event. The ever-corruptible assistant marshal, **Larry O'Brien**, checking his wallet and surveying the collection of golfers, wondering if there would be any forth coming bribes to help his judgement in keeping things fair.



<<<< The nervous competitors looking straight into the sunrise on the 1st hole

At 7:30 AM, anyone who has teed-off just after sunrise, knows that you're staring straight into the sun. So, the summer shootout began with 12 golfers and 2 officials with hands raised to block the direct sun and follow tee shots into the first green. An alternate strategy to avoid the sun's glare was employed by Pat Emanuel who shanked his tee shot right bouncing off the side of a house

and back into play just off the right side of the green. Fred Kline went the other way and pulled his tee shot left, bouncing off the side hill and rolling into the trench which was full of water as typical this time of year. Unable to find his ball, Fred had to return to the tee and re-hit, eventually making the green and leaving himself a 10 footer for 5. Fred, well aware of shootout protocol, conceded the hole and took a seat in the cart with Francine. Once the remaining putts were sunk, we had a chip-off between Mike Williams and John VonDerVellen which was won by Mike, eliminating John and sending the remaining 10 golfers to the 2nd tee. Thank you John.

The 2nd tee was similar to the 1st for Pat who again, employing his shank strategy right but this time was unable to catch a bounce off a local resident's home back into play. Hitting 3 from the tee and eventually conceding the hole, Pat was thanked for his participation and had to take a seat ending his shootout championship vision. Once all the putts had found the bottom of the cup, we had to find another castoff by way of chip-off. Dave Fagan, normally an excellent chipper, was no match for Mike Williams this time and took his place with the gallery to watch the rest of the competition heading to the 3rd tee. Thanks Dave.



Assistant Marshal, Larry O'Brien explaining to chip-off participants Dave Fagan and Mike Williams the benefits of a well-timed bribe.

The 3rd hole was similar to the 1st and 2nd in that it ended with yet another chip-off again involving a developing chip-off-wizard, Mike Williams but this time his victim was John Murray who, normally another excellent chipper, was unable to negotiate his chip inside of Mike's. Thank you, John. Marilyn's waiting in the cart.

The 4th hole offers a different set of challenges with its length making it a par 4 for some while the forward tees provide a significant edge for our 80+ participants. Chuck Rhodes, normally not one to waste an advantage, clunks one off the heel into the hazard left, chips out across the fairway right, pitches out to the fairway and after not making the green in 4, decides he's had enough and concedes the hole. Thanks you Chuck.

The remaining 6 head to the 5th tee to roll the dice again. After a good shot, a bad shot, a bad break and a two more good shots, shootout virgin Bill Hilt finds himself headed for a chip-off with none other than chip-off gladiator Mike Williams who is in his 4th chip-off of the day. Poor Bill didn't stand a chance. Mike chipped it up close and sends Bill back to his pink cart to decompress and watch the rest of the competition. Thank you Bill.

Hole #6 is the difficult par 4 and the first order of duty is to get a ball out there anywhere in play so that you'll have a shot at the green. You don't want to hit it in the trees right or yank it left OB into Emanuel Acres. Mike Williams steps up to the tee and hits it dead right into the trees but this day, the golf gods spit it out into the fairway leaving Mike a long shot into the green. Fred Dissmeyer steps up, determined not to hit it right and pulls it high and left with a little draw over the trees OB forcing Fred to tee up another one hitting 3 which ultimately leads to a 7 / 6 with no challengers for high score this time. Thank you, Fred, well played. Dora's in the cart waiting an explanation.

Hole #7 is a straight forward Par 3. Easy enough, 100 yards to a back pin. The remaining contestants are Dave Malmberg, Jim Mantini, Mike Williams and Greg Mullens. Unfortunately for Greg, unable to get up and down from off the green, takes a 4 and without the luxury of a stroke, has to take a seat. Thank you Greg, well played.



<<<< The Lake Fairways Mafia always visible at organized events. **Don Paolo Falcone** himself showed up with a few of his henchmen to watch the golf from behind the 7th green.

Hole # 8 was settled by a chip-off between Jim Mantini and Dave Malmberg after Mike Williams made a 4/3, Jim carded a 4 and Dave posted a 5/4. As good as Dave is with the chipper, Jim was a little better this time and joined Mike on the short walk to the 9th tee.

On the 9th and final hole, Mike and Jim both drove it left and just short of the green. Jim had a nice chip to within 6 feet while Mike barely made the green. Mike then puttied to within 4 feet leaving Jim in control of his own destiny which he grabbed by sinking his 6 footer for birdie and taking the 2022 Summer Shootout Champion.



Well played boys. Thanks for an entertaining, drama filled morning.

<<<< 2nd place Mike (Chip) Williams, Champion Jim Mantini & 3rd place Dave Malmberg