

# Men's Golf League News, October – 2023

Fake News Reporter - Tad Lague

**The Lake Fairways Summer Shootout** is always an exciting way to wind down the Men's League summer golf calendar. 12 warriors put their egos aside for a few hours to test their nerves and try to hold it together for 9 stressful holes of golf against their buddies and a critical gallery of wives, neighbors and friends where their nerves will certainly be tested today.



Shootouts typically start at high noon. But on this particular Tuesday, it was decided to start at sunrise which added to the drama on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee as the sun was about to come up behind the green.

12 competitors seen here about to tee off before a blinding sun would break the horizon, increasing the difficulty of the opening shot knowing that two golfers would not make it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee.

Today's challengers include the usual cast of characters and Lake Fairways golf legends such as Dick Cummings, Pat Emanuel, John Murray, Larry O'Brien, Ron Pessa, Fred Dissmeyer, Paul Falcone, Mike Williams, Jack Borges, Dave Malmberg, Will Aubut, and Greg Mullens.

Nobody wants to go out on the 1<sup>st</sup> hole making that first swing so critical. Danger lurks to the left of the green which sucks balls down

towards the hazard. And to the right are houses which make a terribly loud clank when the first swing is a shank.

Fortunately, no one chose the option to shank as their first shot. In fact, we had 11 fairly straight shots with a few finding the green and the rest somewhere around the green within reasonable chipping distance. Unfortunately for Fred Dissmeyer, he yanked his ball to just left of the green and rolled down the side, across the path and stopped just short of the ditch where our eagle-eyed spotter, Dave Fagan marked it allowing Fred an opportunity to redeem himself.



Redemption was not in the cards for Fred today. His 2<sup>nd</sup> shot sailed across the green leaving him a chip and 2 more putts for a 5, making him the first casualty of the day.

Fred seen here with a coffee reflecting on his first hole fizzle while being the good sport that he is, ready to jump in his cart and follow the entourage around the front 9 to enjoy the action and console the next victim.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> first hole casualty would be decided in a chip off between Dick Cummings, Larry O'Brien and Paul Falcone who holds the record for being 1<sup>st</sup> out in LF shootouts.

Determined not to go out on the 1<sup>st</sup> hole, Lefty chipped it to about 18 inches and stepped aside daring Larry or Dick to beat it. Or should we say, praying that they wouldn't.

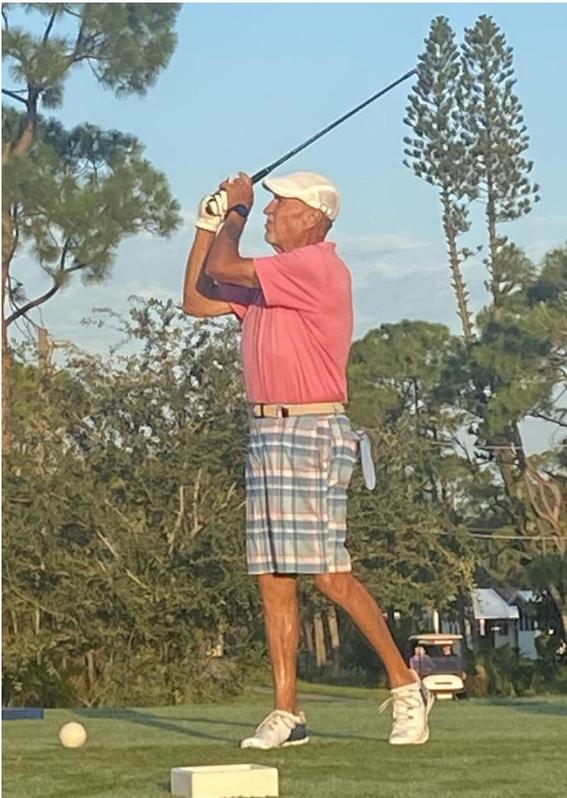
Larry had a nice chip to about 3 feet and Dick chipped it to about 4 feet which was normally a good shot but not good enough today to carry on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole.

Dick, not expecting to be finished so quickly, rushed home, got a little yard work done to keep Suzanne happy and was ready to watch the action again as the convoy of golfers and gallery passed his house heading to the 8<sup>th</sup> tee.



10 golfers arrived at the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee facing a relatively easy 100-yard hole demanding a net par or better for the 8 golfers wishing to see the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee. Shot of the day came from Pat Emanuel who topped his tee shot halfway up the fairway where he putted from 50 yards out rolling his ball up the fairway, onto the green and coming to rest about 2 feet from the hole where he tapped in and waved to his lone fan, Lynn.

The rest of the field managed the hole fairly well scoring a par or better taking advantage of the strokes granted to the higher handicappers. Net bogey would not be good enough to advance and we're sorry to report that Paul Falcone, who did not benefit from a stroke on #2 and Will Aubut were the lone golfers to score net bogey. Disappointed fans who arrived early to see their heroes hung their heads on their way over the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee.



Will Aubut was later seen in the crowd still smiling and signing autographs while play continued promising his many fans that he'd be back for the next shootout.

Paul Falcone posing for the camera on the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee was also voted the 2<sup>nd</sup> best dressed golfer for the day after Jack Borges took best dressed, sporting yellow shorts, a white shirt and a snappy yellow cap.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> hole is a short par 4 dog leg right tempting golfers who can reach it to go for the green. Dave Malmberg, who had been playing smart to this point, decided not to go for the green and to lay up in the fairway but pulled his tee shot into the fence left which hopped right, remaining in play but with a tricky lie in the rough. The thick rough grabbed the club on his 2<sup>nd</sup> shot and went even further left but stayed in play. Following 3 more shots by way of the bunker, Dave made the green in 6 and conceded the hole to the field while showing good sportsmanship and facing the inevitable elimination.

Dave seen here trying to navigate the tricky protecting fences on the left of the 3<sup>rd</sup> fairway.



The 4<sup>th</sup> hole is a long par 3, unreachable by most seniors and everybody remaining in the field gets a stroke on this hole. Greg Mullens, a legend in these parts, hit a towering 3-wood which looked beautiful against the azure blue sky and was the only one to land on the green.

Pat Emanuel took an alternate route by way of the trees left of the cart path where he waited for Ron Pessa to reach his ball in the fairway. Once Ron had his back turned, Pat, needing to hit a low shot under the trees, shanked it right and bounced it off Ron's back side and landed in the fairway creating more than a few giggles among the witnesses. Still away, the remaining golfers ducked when Pat stepped up to hit his 3<sup>rd</sup> shot where he skulled it off the back of the green, chipped on and conceded the hole, becoming the 5<sup>th</sup> golfer to exit the contest.



Pat seen here trying to look sorry that he almost took out his buddy.

While Ron Pessa, realizing that standing behind Pat from now on would be a lot safer, has since consulted his attorney who will be in contact with Mr. Emanuel. Details to follow.

The gallery who has just been entertained by Pat's foibles on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole and the caravan of golf carts take the turn towards the 5<sup>th</sup> tee along with the remaining 6



golfers; John Murray, Greg Mullens, Mike Williams, Jack Borges, Larry O'Brien and a limping Ron Pessa will carry on to the treacherous 5<sup>th</sup> hole. A downhill par 3 with water left and an inviting bunker right that runs the length of the green. A bunker that has spoiled many a good round adds a high degree of drama to a shootout formatted event. Certainly no one will find this bunker !

Not one, not two but three of our contestants found their way into the sand. Mike hit a high fade that landed in the front end of the trap followed by Ron who landed right next to him. John Murry hit a perfect shot with a little of his left-handed fade that should have bounced left towards the back pin but somehow hopped straight, rolled toward the back and fell right, just over the lip into the bunker.

As the rules of this contest allow, golfers have the option to drop out of the bunker away from the hole, negate the penalty of a hazard and attempt an easier shot. Ron accepted the option and lobbed a nice wedge onto the green where he 2 putted for bogey. John did



the same and dropped a soft wedge onto the green which nestled up to the hole for a tap in par. Mike, being the steely competitor that he is, opted to play the course as presented and hit a decent bunker shot to the middle of the green. As punishment for his attitude towards fair play, Mike 3 putted for a double bogey and became the 6th casualty of the tournament.

With regular shootout competitor, Tom Craig looking on, Mike who is no stranger to difficult shots, sets up for a textbook bunker shot out of a well-manicured trap.

On to the 6<sup>th</sup> hole where the golf gods would look down unfavorably to a well-known, easily corrupted former tournament marshal, Larry O'Brien who has been having a pretty good day ..... until now. Larry hit an OK drive left of the fairway where it managed to stay in bounds. The second shot was a little bit chunky and stayed in the left rough where Larry was able to then find the fairway about 20 yards short of the green. An ugly chip rolled past the front pin, across the green onto the back fringe. Larry hit a very nice putt from there to about 16 inches just outside Jack's mark leaving a remote chance of a shootout with a 6 if Jack would miss his 1-footer. Well, the golf gods had a good laugh. Larry missed the short putt, told Jack to pick up his mark and carry on without him. Larry went back and made that putt 6 times before jumping in his cart to watch the rest of the show.



And then there were 4 headed to the 7<sup>th</sup> hole. A normally easy, 100 yard par 3 surrounded by bunkers that are rarely hit. No strokes for anyone this time. John found the green with a nice shot. Ron and Jack came up just short of the green leaving easy chips to a middle pin.

Greg who, had been very steady until now, quietly hitting the greens or getting up and down for pars with the benefit of only 1 handicap stroke, trying to stay

unnoticed early in the contest, uncharacteristically pulled his tee shot left, near the bunker on the hill with a tricky stance however, a

manageable chip and putt for par. John, Ron and Jack all made their pars. Greg chipped to about 3 feet where he would rely again on his new 2-ball Odyssey putter. He didn't play any break and the ball drifted right of the hole for an unexpected bogey sending Greg to his cart to watch the final 2 holes.

A typically lethal putter, Greg Mullens watches as a mis-read putt drifts to the right ending his bid for shootout glory.



Our remaining 3 gladiators head to the 8<sup>th</sup> tee where the convoy passes Dick Cummings pulling weeds as his penance for being eliminated on the 1<sup>st</sup> hole. Sorry Dick, you know I didn't make this up. (I should have gotten a photo)

Number 8 is a difficult par 3 where John and Ron are getting strokes while Jack has to take them on without a 1 stroke cushion. The 8<sup>th</sup> is a difficult tee shot that usually finds golfers OB right, or halfway up the fairway or bouncing off the cart path into the trees left. But today all 3 golfers hit solid shorts close to the green.

John and Jack are in the bunker left and Ron has rolled through the green onto the up slope not far from the flag. John and Jack take advantage of today's bunker concession and drop out of the sand away from the hole. John hits a reasonable chip to about 8 feet. Jack hits a fantastic chip that somehow stops on the lip of the cup for an easy tap in par. Ron putts down the slope and misjudges the rough rolling past the cup to about 12 feet. John and Ron both 2-putt for 4, net 3 resulting in a 3-way chip off.



Ron Pessa surveys a birdie chip on the 8<sup>th</sup> green as the tension builds.



Jack Borges, after plumb bobbing, taps in his 1-inch par putt on the 8<sup>th</sup> green sparking a 3-way chip off.

The chip-off to determine who would battle it out on the 9<sup>th</sup> for the winner's check was a little awkward. Rookie marshal, John Hunter was back on his heels the entire front 9. Assistant marshal Vondy was nowhere to be seen. The two rookies had been instructed by veteran marshals, Larry O'Brien and Dave Fagan where the bribes come from and how the FIX worked. Jack was supposed to advance to the next hole with John Murray but the coins used to mark the balls got mixed up on the chip-off and somehow Jack was eliminated sending Ron to face John on the final hole.



Clueless marshals John Vonder Vellen and John Hunter reviewing notes from veterans Larry O'Brien and Dave Fagan on how the marshalling experience can be fun and profitable.

Actually, this is a thankless job and we all appreciate that someone steps up every time to help manage this entertaining and fun event.

I hope that everyone appreciates the humor intended and takes offense accordingly.

The 9<sup>th</sup> and final hole was not without drama and controversy. John and Ron teed off and both found themselves in front of the green where they both chipped on and 2-putted for pars, tying the hole. It'd been decided previously that a chip off was not the best way to end this tournament so both competitors returned to the tee to play the hole again.

Both golfers hit similar tee shots and chipped on in 2 leaving short birdie putts where an untimely but correct rules violation was called by John who stated that Ron had not properly marked his ball. The rules of golf state that a mismarked ball must be re-spotted as close as possible to the correct position and re-putted with a 1 stroke penalty.

Your fake news reporter was back on the slope in the fairway watching and not able to testify to the ensuing discussion on the green. Apparently the two competitors agreed that John was in the right and consequently awarded the winner's check.



Holding their winner's checks 3<sup>rd</sup> place Jack Borges, 1<sup>st</sup> place John Murray and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Ron Pessa.

If you have stories, holes-in-one or any news that concerns the Men's League or the golf community, please get photos, make note of details and contact your Fake News Reporter – Tad Lague (216) 255-2173 [TadLague@gmail.com](mailto:TadLague@gmail.com) If you cannot provide accurate details, don't worry, we'll make something up.