



2019 PONCE DE LEON INVITATIONAL

Players Guide
January 17th-21st

Sea Island

2019 Ponce De Leon Invitational

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Letter from Chairman Emeritus

January 17, 2019

Gentlemen:

Chairman McManamy and I welcome you back to Sea Island for the 17th Annual Ponce de Leon Invitational!

What I like most about the Ponce is its dichotomy: on the one hand, now, more than ever, it is evolving and organic in what it is and what it means. But at the same time, we may maintain traditions and rituals in venue, format, and pomp.

As to the former: the Ponce is more than a tournament – it has become a lifestyle. With our second trip to the UK last summer, we strengthened our friendships and rivalries with the Brits. Flowing from that, we now have at least 3 American Pongers undergoing the application process to join Royal St. George's as members. We have the British guys "buying in" and staging their own attempt at a "European Ponce". We have Francesco Grana opening up his Italian event to the Ponce players on an annual basis. Earlier in 2018, we had longtime F.O.P. Davis Sezna tap me to put together a foursome of "Ponce guys" to go compete in a special international "Revolutionary" 3 team match at Seminole Golf Club in Palm Beach vs a foursome of Seminole members, and a foursome of R&A members from Scotland. We have stalwart Jeremy Bird – playing in his 16th consecutive Ponce- scheduling his hip surgery around the Ponce calendar. The Ponce is a priority; it is constant; it is perpetual.

It is safe to say we now have the privilege of carrying the Ponce banner year-round on and off the course. I love that, and I encourage it to continue in its many forms. What is next? I can't wait.

Now, back to the juxtaposition. The Ponce also proudly maintains its traditions. This year, returning to our de facto home of Sea Island. In 2007, Chairman Johnny Mac led us here – with Team Lacoste taking the title behind MVP John Klim. In 2008, Chairman Michael Palmore returned; raising the event to a "new standard" with the *Golf Digest* ambush of Matt Ginella – and the Virginia Gentlemen taking the glory in the G8 Summit Room. In 2010, late-Chairman Richard Massie staged a wonderful event, entitled "Bagpipes and Cocktails" – leading the "Red Numbers" to one of the most dramatic titles of all-time. And of course, 2014 included Chairman Michael Palmore taking the reins again to lead the Americans thrashing over the Brits. (New Diesel garnering a shocking run at 4-0 and MVP status). One of the most satisfying memories is seeing that incredible set-up for the Champions Dinner at the Beach Club 5 years ago. At Sea Island alone, we have been blessed with remarkable speakers and F.O.P.s: Reg Murphy (the former President of the USGA); Matt Ginella; Jim Stahl (founder of the Jones Cup); Brand Morgan; and Gale Peterson.

We have our charities; we have our speakers; we have our Opening Ceremonies; we have our Saturday Captain's selections; we have our blazers; we have our mobile scoring; we have Sunday Singles; we have our Champions Dinner. And this year, we take it back to our January roots – returning once again to where it all began back in 2003 out in Scottsdale. We have seen Eli Manning win at Lambeau from the G8 Summit room at the Cloister; we have seen the Steelers battle from Ernie's bar at PGA West in Palm Springs; this year, we return to that cagey NFL backdrop – along with #4 UVA at #1 Duke on Saturday night.

So, the Ponce is both evolving, and it is traditional. I can't wait to see what the 17th chapter of this odyssey will bring to us.

Finally, what exactly is it that brings us all together each year? Of course, it is the friendships. It is the competition. And to be candid, it is just the pure love of the game of golf. Stealing a post offered up recently by F.O.P., Matt Ginella, here is a quote from a notable British Judge, Lord Cockburn back in 1884, describing this essence from St. Andrews:

"There is a pretty large set who does nothing else, who begin in the morning and stop only for dinner; and after practicing it all day, they discuss it all night. Their talk is of holes. The intermixture of these men, or rather the intermixture of this occupation, with its interests, hazards and matches, considerably whets the social appetite. And the result is the meetings are very numerous, and that, on the whole, are rather a guttling population."

(Definition of guttling: to eat or drink greedily or noisily).

-Judge Lord Cockburn, 1884, St. Andrews, Scotland.

Friendships renewed and friendships strengthened ~

The Tee is Yours,

Neil D. Thomson, Esq.
Founder and Chairman Emeritus
17th Annual Ponce de Leon Invitational
Sea Island

2019 Chairman's Letter

Gentlemen:

I first want to thank Emeritus Neil Thomson for allowing me the opportunity to represent our group as Chairman of the 2019 Ponce de Leon Invitational. As many of you know from acting as Chairman in prior years, this job isn't to be taken lightly. Emeritus has done a remarkable job of keeping this group together and growing this annual trip into much more than a golf tournament. I also want to thank Michael Palmore and Bill Wainscott for going out of their way to keep me in the Ponce loop over the years. Life and poor prioritizing kept me out of some of the early tournaments, but Michael and Bill kept me on the alternate list until I finally wised up and hopped on for the ride in 2014 for the second International Ponce held at Sea Island. Of course I was sold immediately.

The Ponce continues to evolve into something more than a "guy's golf trip." It's also a vessel to foster old friendships and to build new ones. Periodic emails, jabs and updates from fellow Poncers both domestic and international are always a welcome distraction in the midst of our busy lives. The International Ponce comes up every few years and adds a whole new dimension to this annual gathering. In addition to the joy of cashing in our "pink tickets" on an annual basis, we have the opportunity to strengthen our competitive edge in preparation for the International competition. All the great coaches from Belichick to Kirby Smart to Tony Bennett all emphasize this internal process of strong competition to make their teams better against outside opponents. The Ponce blends good times and fellowship with a serious slant toward competition that make all of these goals possible.

Hopefully you will enjoy everything that we've put together for this 2019 Ponce at Sea Island. I emphasize "We" because none of these trips can maintain the order and precision necessary to pull them off without the steady oversight of Emeritus. Enjoy some of this year's wrinkles and all that Sea Island and its staff have to offer. Most importantly, good luck in playing your best golf.

Yours in Ponce,
Patrick J. McManamy, Chairman

Schedule of Events

Thursday, January 17 th	
12:30 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.	Practice Round Tee Times - <i>Retreat Course</i>
6:30 P.M.	Opening Cocktail Reception - <i>The Lodge Pool</i> <i>(Jacket. Tie is optional)</i>
	Guest Speaker - Randy Myers <i>U.S. Ryder Cup Team Director of Fitness</i>
8:00 P.M.	Dinner - <i>The Oak Room</i>

Friday, January 18 th	
9:00 A.M.	Shuttle Pick-up at Lodge lobby
10:30 A.M.	1 st Round - <i>Frederica Golf Club</i> Four Ball Competition - 1 walking caddy per 2 players
3:30 P.M.	Post Round Drinks - <i>Frederica Golf Club</i>
6:00 P.M.	Dinner - <i>Oyster Roast at Rainbow Island</i> <i>* Note - Players shall pack bags for casual evening wear. Sea Island Shuttle will transport clubs and bags back to the Lodge allowing for post round shower at Frederica. Shuttle directly to Rainbow Island.</i>

Saturday, January 19th	
9:20 A.M.	2 nd Round Four Ball Competition - <i>Seaside Course</i>
2:00 P.M.	Unstructured Grab and Go Lunch at the Halfway House
2:30 P.M.	3 rd Round - 9 Hole Blitz - <i>Seaside Course</i> Captains Choice - Four Man Scramble
5:00 P.M.	Cocktails - <i>The Lodge Men's Lounge</i>
	Captains' Choice Draft
6:00 P.M.	UVA vs. Duke Basketball (<i>No planned dinner event</i>)
10:30 P.M.	Ziggy's - Ian Thompson Night - <i>Free shot of Fireball with every whiskey drink.</i>

Sunday, January 20th	
10:50 A.M.	4 th Round Singles Competition - <i>Seaside Course</i> 1 walking caddy per 2 players
4:00 P.M.	Cocktails - <i>The Lodge Men's Lounge</i>
	NFL Conference Championships
8:00 P.M.	Champions Dinner - <i>The Lodge Men's Lounge</i> (<i>Private Event</i>)

Monday, January 21st	
	Depart Sea Island

The Courses



- **Seaside Course** Sea Island Golf Club, Sea Island, Georgia Par 70; Six tee areas; 5,048 to 7,005 yards; 120 to 141 slope Situated at the southern tip of St. Simons Island, Seaside was originally designed by famous golf course architects Colt and Alison in 1929 and renovated in 1999 by Tom Fazio. This ocean-side links course places a premium on careful shot selection, recovery and putting. A true links-style course - linking the sea to the land - Seaside features 15 holes flanked by mesmerizing marsh, water and ocean views. Bordering the TifEagle Bermuda fairways and hybrid Bermuda greens are sweeping dunes mixed with native grasses, wildflowers and Tom Fazio's bunkers, faithful to Colt and Alison's distinctive style. The occasional towering oak trees offer little refuge from Seaside's coastal winds, which loom with smallish greens and chipping swales to challenge golfers from tee to approach. The course is routinely ranked among the top 100 in the United States, and is adjacent to the Sea Island Golf Performance Center.
- **Retreat Course** Par 72; six tee areas; 5,082 to 7,106 yards; 117 to 135 slope. Originally designed by Joe Lee in the 1970s, today's Retreat Course was extensively redesigned by Sea Island Touring Professional Davis Love III and his brother, Mark, of Love Enterprises. Reshaping areas of the course to fully fit under the Sea Island was a challenging task. Carefully blending players' preferences from the earlier design and making noticeable changes in fairway widths and greens complexes yielded a masterpiece product. The result is an original design which is dramatic, not only with green complexes but the combination of slope, sand bunkers, and undulations create a masterful test challenging the golfer to hit a variety of shots. Retreat boasts five sets of

tees, in addition to a set of family tees, and caters to all skill levels. Outlined by massive Georgia pines, native oaks, and natural waste areas, Retreat is not only a memorable golf experience, but a great trek through nature. Davis, Mark, and their mother, Penta, cut the ribbon to open the course in 2001.



Frederica Golf Club



Frederica is a coastal golf course that captivates the interest of the golf purist and casual aficionado alike. Frederica’s beginnings are of a pure golf club with a “casually elegant” approach to service. The Tom Fazio/Michael Bonallack design opened in 2004 and the tabby-walled Clubhouse was completed in 2009.

The Frederica Membership is punctuated by successful business people, political figures, sports figures, professional golfers, celebrated amateurs and every day golfers. A Membership with a keen sense of “golf intelligence” is an integral part of the vision of the Club.

Guest Speaker



Randy Myers

Education

In May 1992, Myers graduated from Pennsylvania State University, with a Master's degree in Leisure Studies. There, he wrote a thesis entitled "A Strength Training and Flexibility Program for Recreational Golfers".

Professional

- Sea Island Director of Fitness
- U.S. Ryder Cup Team Director of Fitness
- Founding member of Titleist Performance Institute
- Fitness instructor to PGA Tour pros such as Davis Love III, Zach Johnson, Billy Horschel, Kevin Kisner, Harris English, Brant Snedeker, etc.



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YACKAL'S JACKALS

Jeremy Bird (2.5)
John Klim (6.7)
Michael Aide (9.8) (Capt.)
Henry Oakey (12.3)

THE SPIDERS

Isaac Morton (5.9)
Neil Thomson (9.2)
Clay Thomson (10.4)
Wes Battle (12.2) (Capt.)

BLACK SUNDAY RISING

Patrick McManamy (6.5)
Clark Coulbourn (9.2)
Michael Palmore (10.3)
Chris Harrick (10.9) (Capt.)

SPF 70

Scott Winn (5.2)
Muscie Garnett (5.7) (Capt.)
James Rankin (7.6)
Bill Wainscott (18.0)

Practice Round

Retreat Course

Thursday January 17, 2019
Tee Times: 12:30 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

No real format. Play with your teammates where feasible. It is the only round where mulligans and practice shots are permitted. Closest to pin contest where indicated.

***** ALL HANDICAPPING / MARKING OF SCORECARDS IS TO ADJUST THE 3 HIGHER INDEXES / GOLFER FROM LOWEST ADJUSTED INDEX/GOLFER IN THAT PARTICULAR MATCH**

First Round

Frederica Golf Club

Friday January 18, 2019
Tee Times: First Group Off at 10:30 A.M.

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Four Ball: Match Play. Play your own ball (HOLE BY HOLE). Concessions are allowed by the opponents. It will be 2 vs. 2. Handicaps will of course be used. Use your course handicap as indicated on the card. **The lowest net score per hole = that 2-some's team score.**

Order of Play:

1ST GROUP (10:30 a.m.) **WINN & GARNETT** vs. **MORTON & N. THOMSON**

2ND GROUP (10:40 a.m.) **McMANAMY & COULBOURN** vs. **BIRD & KLIM**

3RD GROUP (10:50 a.m.) **C. THOMSON & BATTLE** vs. **PALMORE & HARRICK**

4TH GROUP (11:00 a.m.) **AIDE & OAKY** vs. **RANKIN & WAINSCOTT**

Point Value:

The winning 2-some of each match gets **2 POINTS** for his overall 4-man team.

The losing 2-some gets **ZERO POINTS** for his overall 4-man team.

A tie after 18 holes halves the match, so each 2-man team would receive **ONE POINT** for his overall 4-man team. There is no such thing as extra holes in this round.

Second Round

Sea Island - Seaside Course

Saturday January 19, 2019

Tee Times: 9:20 A.M. - 9:50 A.M.

******MODIFIED STABLEFORD FORMAT. PLAY YOUR OWN BALL. ADD 2-MAN CUMULATIVE STABLEFORD SCORE ON EACH HOLE. IT IS NETTED - USE YOUR HANDICAPS ON RELEVANT HOLES (DOTTED). MOST TOTAL POINTS WINS MATCH. (IT IS NOT MATCH PLAY - TOTAL POINTS).**

- +5 for NET EAGLE**
- +2 for NET BIRDIE**
- 0 for NET PAR**
- 1 for NET BOGEY**
- 3 for NET DOUBLE BOGEY or worse**

Order of Play:

1ST GROUP (9:25 a.m.) MORTON & C. THOMSON vs. BIRD & AIDE

2ND GROUP (9:35 a.m.) McMANAMY & PALMORE vs. WINN & RANKIN

3RD GROUP (9:45 a.m.) N. THOMSON & BATTLE vs. KLIM & OAKY

4TH GROUP (9:55 a.m.) GARNETT & WAINSCOTT vs. COULBOURN & HARRICK

Point Value:

2 different point values for this round:

- (1) **2 POINTS** to each winning 2-man team; and **ZERO POINTS** to each losing 2-man team
(if Stableford points tie, each 2-man team gets **1 POINT**).
- (2) Also, four-man grand cumulative Stableford score (adding Stableford totals for both 2-man matches for each team):

1ST Place: 3 POINTS

2nd Place: 2 POINTS

3rd Place: 1 POINT

4th Place: ZERO POINTS

Third Round

Sea Island - Seaside Course - 9 Holes

Saturday January 19, 2019

Tee Times: 2:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

4 MAN CAPTAINS CHOICE/SCRAMBLE - 9 HOLE BLITZ. Play with your entire team...Camaraderie is critical here! There is a minimum of 1 DRIVE from each player that has to be used. **You are not permitted to borrow a teammate's club. No Handicaps!**

Order of Play:

- 1ST GROUP: **YACKAL'S JACKALS**
- 2ND GROUP **SPF 70**
- 3RD GROUP: BLACK SUNDAY RISING
- 4TH GROUP: **THE SPIDERS**

Point Value:

- 1ST Place: 5 POINTS
- 2nd Place: 3 POINTS
- 3rd Place: 1 POINT
- 4th Place: ZERO POINTS

**split the points where there are ties*

Fourth Round

Sea Island – Seaside Course

Sunday January 20, 2019

Tee Times: 10:50 A.M. – 11:20 A.M.

FINAL ROUND SINGLES. MATCH PLAY – WITH HANDICAPS. This is the tradition. This is what it is all about. The match-ups will not be determined until Saturday night at the Session.

Points are more heavily awarded. This is the most important round of the tournament.

Order of Play:

The easiest way to picture this is 4 tee-times of four 4-somes, similar to the other rounds, except visualize blanks for the names....An "A" player need not be matched up with another "A" player...that is the beauty of handicaps.

1st Place team's Captain after Friday Round submits his Order of Play to the 3 other Captains immediately following the round. Each of the 4 players of this leading team will be playing in a different 4-some. The only strategy for this Captain is who he wants starting off, and who he wants anchoring. This leading team is most disadvantaged by this order. Not only are each of his players "on an island" (i.e. guaranteed to have no teammates in his 4-some), but this leading team has ZERO SAY over who they will be placed up against.

Next, the 2nd Place team's Captain submits his 4 players, with the stipulation that he has to put each player at a different tee time (different 4-somes--each of his guys are also "on an island.") RULE: This 2nd Place Captain has some control though, as he can opt to pit none, one or two of his players against the 1st place opponents. (He cannot place more than 2 of his players against the leaders, so as not to inhibit 3rd and 4th from having a mathematical chance of winning). Obviously, if he does not want to have one of his players face a 1st Place player, he will have the mystery of not knowing who exactly his guy will be playing (one of the 8 remaining players from the 3rd and 4th Place teams).

Next, the 4th Place team's Captain fills in his 4 players. It is OK (and maybe necessary) for more than one of his players to be in the same 4-some (obviously different cart). He gets the advantage over the 3rd Place guy b/c he doesn't get the feel that he is stuck with certain opponents. At the same time, he could put a guy in a blank 2-some and this will give the 3rd Place Captain a chance to have some control over a match-up.

Finally, the 3rd Place team's Captain fills in the final 4 spots with his 4 players.

1ST GROUP (10:50 a.m.):	MATCH I	_____	VS.	_____
	MATCH II	_____	VS.	_____
2ND GROUP (11:00 a.m.):	MATCH III	_____	VS.	_____
	MATCH IV	_____	VS.	_____
3RD GROUP (11:10 a.m.):	MATCH V	_____	VS.	_____
	MATCH VI	_____	VS.	_____
4TH GROUP (11:20 a.m.):	MATCH VII	_____	VS.	_____
	MATCH VIII	_____	VS.	_____

Point Value:

The winning singles player gets **2 POINTS** for his overall team. The losing singles player gets **ZERO POINTS** for his overall team.

A halved match results in **1 POINT** each for their respective overall teams.

****Note:** A team sweep of all 4 of their individual matches gives that team **8 POINTS** which could obviously be a huge swing. This value should keep a lot of teams, if not all, still in it going into Saturday Singles.

2019 TEAMS AND PLAYER PROFILES

TEAM ONE - SPF 70 Defending Champions (Pinehurst 2017)



Winn, Scott 42,

Software Sales in San Francisco, CA, The Olympic Club, 12 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (2x) 2017 & 2007 and Spirit Award Winner in 2009.



Garrnett, Muscoe 43, (Captain)

Commercial Real Estate in Richmond, VA, Country Club of Virginia, 16 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (4x), MVP 2011 & Chairman of PDL IV in Scottsdale.



Rankin, Jamie 44,

Commercial Real Estate in Atlanta, GA, Country Club of Virginia, Piedmont Driving Club, 16 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (5x), MVP (2x) in 2017 & 2013, Spirit Award Winner in 2010 & 2015 and the Chairman of PDL III in Palm Beach.



Wainscott, Bill 45,

AKA "The Toaster", Technology Consulting & Sales in Charlotte, NC, 13 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (5x), MVP at PDL VII at PGA West in 2009 and Chairman at PDL XV in Pinehurst.

TEAM TWO - YACKAL'S JACKALS



Bird, Jeremy 42,

Insurance Broker in Atlanta, GA, Atlanta Country Club, 15 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (8x), 2 X MVP 2004 & 2015 & Chairman of PDL VII in Palm Springs.



Klim, John 45,

Investment Banker in Richmond, VA, Country Club of Virginia, 12 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (3x), MVP 2007 & Chairman of PDL II in Orlando.



Aide, Michael 45, (Captain)

Real Estate Investor in Atlanta, GA, Redstone GC, 12 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (2X), Chairman of PDL XI: 2013 at the Greenbrier, MVP 2014 and Spirit Award Winner 2015.



Oakey, Henry 44,

Lumber & Farming in Charlottesville, VA, Farmington CC, 6 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (2X) & Spirit Award Winner in 2011

TEAM THREE - THE SPIDERS



Morton, Isaac 43,

Ironware in Charleston, SC. Yeamans Hall Club & Wequetonsing Golf Club, 3 Appearances. Best Finish: 2nd (2014).



Thomson, Neil 43,

Attorney in Charleston, SC, Leland Country Club and Yeamans Hall Club, 16 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (5x), Founder & Chairman Emeritus, MVP 2010, Chairman of PDL I in Scottsdale & Wooden Spoon 2014.



Battle, Wes 44, (Captain)

Political and Strategic Communications in Washington DC, 14 Appearances, Chevy Chase Club / Army Navy CC/Timuquana CC/Farmington CC/Rolling Rock Club, Best Finish: Champion (5x), Chairman (2x) 2018 and 2012, MVP at PDL XIV in Bandon Dunes & Spirit Award Winner (2x) at PDL X in St. Andrews, Scotland in 2012 & PDL XI at the Greenbrier in 2013 and Wooden Spoon 2017.



Thomson, Clay 45,

Investment Management in Charlottesville, VA, Farmington CC, 10 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (2x) and Spirit Award Winner in 2007.

TEAM FOUR - BLACK SUNDAY RISING



McManamy, Patrick 45,

Real Estate Attorney in Atlanta, GA. Dunwoody CC, 3 Appearances. Best Finish: Champion 2x (2014/2017). Ted Oakey Spirit Award Winner in 2017.



Palmore, Michael 44,

Investment Advisor in Richmond, VA, Country Club of Virginia, 15 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (4x), MVP 2006 & 2012, Chairman of PDL VI in Sea Island and PDL XII in Sea Island, 2014 Ted Oakey Spirit Award Winner.



Coulbourn, Clark 44,

Software Sales in Richmond, VA, The Country Club of Virginia, The Preserve Golf Club, 12 Appearances, Best Finish: Champion (3x) & Chairman of PDL IX at the Greenbrier. Eagle Scout and appeared in Fortune Magazine in 2001.



Harrick, Chris 43, (Captain)

Software in San Francisco, CA. Moraga CC. 3 Appearances. Best Finish: 2nd.

2019 Ponce De Leon Charity



Davis Love Foundation

Established in 2005 by professional golfer Davis Love, III, the Davis Love Foundation contributes to the well-being and progress of society by supporting both national and community-based programs that focus on children and their families. Headquartered in St. Simons Island, GA, the private Foundation provides a positive and far-reaching vehicle for creative solutions to social ills that affect children and their families. The ambitious mission of the Davis Love Foundation is to help build a better future for children and their families who are at risk of poor educational, economic, social and health outcomes. The Foundation provides grants and donations to community-based programs that focus on children and families in need.

#TYLERSTRONG



PAST PHILANTHROPY

The PDL is proud of its commitment and tradition of philanthropy. Past charities have included:

2018: ABF The Soldiers' Charity – The National Charity of the British Army

2017: The Education Trust for the Children of Richard M. Massie

2016: The Dominic Fouts Memorial Cancer Fund

2015: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

2014: The Davis Love III Foundation

2013: The Greenbrier Hotel United Fund

2012: The Keepers of the Green

2010: The Davis Love III Foundation

2009: The September 11th Foundation in honor of "Deeg" Sezna

2008: Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Foundation

2007: The Wounded Warrior Project

Tournament Records

The Ponce De Leon Invitational

Best Individual Overall Final Round Singles Records

1. Muscoe Garnett 11-3-1 (.767)
2. Jeremy Bird 9-3-2 (.714)

Best Overall Records

1. Jamie Rankin 29-15-4 (.646)
2. Muscoe Garnett 30-17-2 (.633)

Most Championships

1. Jeremy Bird (7)
- T2. Neil Thomson (5), Wes Battle (5), Jamie Rankin (5) & Bill Wainscott (5)

Hole-In-One

Lawrence Thomson 2006

Most Tournaments Played

Neil Thomson, Jamie Rankin & Muscoe Garnett (All 16)

Best Team in Tournament History

Black Sunday 2006 (Bird, Coulbourn, Palmore, Wainscott)

Most Team Points, 18 out of a possible 20 Points

Notes (through 2018):

- Neil Thomson is the Chairman Emeritus with a new rotating Chairman each year. 69 players have competed in at least one PDL.
- N. Thomson, Jamie Rankin, & Muscoe Garnett are the only three to participate in all 16 tournaments.

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- J. Bird (8 for 15), B. Wainscott (5 for 13), W. Battle (5 for 14), J. Rankin & N. Thomson (5 for 16) have won the most Titles.
- J. McAllister is the only member of the original 8 whose name is not on the Fountain of Youth Cup – 0 for 13.
- N. Thomson & J. Rankin have played on the same team 9 out of 16 years (a PDL record for 2 players)
- J. Bird has finished worse than second only once in 14 tournaments. (2017)
- N. Thomson (2008-10) and J. Bird (2014-16) won a record 3 Ponce titles in a row.
- J. Rankin (2013/2017), J. Bird (2004/2015) and Michael Palmore (2006/2012) are the only 2x MVPs.
- M. Palmore (2008/2014) and W. Battle (2012/2018) are the only 2x Chairmen.
- Wes Battle, Scott Winn and Jamie Rankin are the only 2x Spirit Winners.

Wooden Spoon Hall of Shame

Worst Individual Singles Records

1. N. Thomson 3-10-2 (.267)
2. H. Oakey 2-3 (.400)

Worst Overall Records

1. Bill Wainscott 15-21-2 (.421)
2. J. Klim 14-18-3 (.443)

Least Championships (At Least 7 Played)

1. J. McAllister 0 for 13 (.000)
2. M. Aide 2 for 13 (.150)
3. S. Winn 2 for 12 (.170)

Worst Teams in Tournament History - Traditional 4 Team Format

1. Flying Wasps (2006) 4.5 points: Winn, McAllister, Vinson, LT Thompson
 - T2. Team 30305 (2007) 5 Points: R. Massie, H. Massie, Garnett, Vinson
 - T2. Seaside Sandbaggers (2010) 5 points: Winn, H. Massie, M. Aide, Vinson
 - T2. Red Numbers (2011) 5 points: N. Thomson, R. Massie, W. Battle, Vinson
- (Out of a possible 20 Points)

Ponce De Leon International Matches

Most Team Points in a Single Tournament

- T1. Dom Clive (2018), Wes Battle & Michael Aide (2014) - 4.0 (4-0-0)
- T4. Brooke Short (2018), Ian Thompson & Michael Palmore (2012) - 3.5 (3-0-1)

Least Team Points in a Single Tournament

1. D. Gilbane (2018), B. Wainscott (2018), J. Gibbs (2018), K. Bedell (2014): 0 pts. in 4 matches
- T5. R. Finch (2012) and M. Aide (2012): 0.5 pts. in 4 matches (2012)

Most Team Points in all International Matches

- T1. I. Thompson & W. Battle: 6 (3 matches)
3. Palmore 5.25 (3)
4. M. Garnett 5 (3)
5. J. Bates 4.75 (2)

Best Overall Match Record (Played in at least 2)

1. M. Garnett 8-1-3 (.8125)
2. W. Battle 9-3 (.750)

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3. J. Bates 6-4-1 (.591)

4. I. Thompson 8-6-1 (.567)

Most Ponce International Matches Played

T1. **8 U.S. Players:** N. Thomason, W. Battle, J. Bird, J. Rankin, C. Thomson, M. Garnett
M. Palmore & The Toaster (All 3)

T1. **4 U.K. Players:** D. Clive, J. Biddle, B. Short & I. Thompson (All 3)

Least Team Points in One Tournament

1. B. Wainscott (2018), D. Gilbane (2018) & K. Bedell (2014): 0 pts. in 4 matches

T2. R. Finch (2012) & M. Aide (2012): 0.5 pts. in 4 matches

Customs & Etiquette

The Ponce is strictly an invitation Tournament. The qualification regulations are the principal means of determining the player invitation list. The eligibility under these regulations does not oblige the Tournament Committee to issue an invitation, nor does failure to invite imply unfitness of any kind. As always, the primary objective of the Ponce is good, fair golf and old-school competition.

Ponce Website

Information on the Ponce is available on the Internet at www.poncedeleongolf.com. The website includes real-time scoring, statistics, player profiles and tournament history.

Ponce De Leon Invitational - History of The Ponce

Looking to hold a golf challenge with his friends, Neil Thomson decided to introduce a golf event similar to the Ryder Cup in January 2003. In the early days, there was no assurance that there would be enough interest for the tournament to become an annual event. Thomson proposed the event be called The Ponce De Leon Invitational.

Many decisions in the early days of the Tournament remain today. Among these traditions are allowing the last place team going into the final day the advantage of selecting whom they would like to play, and, of course, the Singles matches.

The first tournament was held the first week of January, 2003 with just 8 players. Today the field is 16 strong with a waiting list of at least that many. To assist the local community, each year a generous contribution is made by the players of the Tournament benefiting a charity that is voted upon during the Opening Ceremonies.

“To me, The Ponce is a Golf Odyssey. The Ponce is Friendships Renewed, and Friendships Strengthened. All Ponce players enjoy ownership over the event, and it has been wonderful to see our tradition grow. Only in this great game can camaraderie, sportsmanship, and old-school competition be evoked so strongly. I cannot imagine a fulfilled life without it.”

- Neil Thomson
Founder & Chairman Emeritus