

# 2008 PONCE DE LEON INVITATIONAL

Sea Island, Georgia (January 17 – 21, 2008)

The Lodge at Sea Island

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## VIRGINIA GENTLEMEN HOLD ON FOR VICTORY!

At approximately 5:02pm with the sun setting on a wintery Sunday afternoon Michael Palmore calmly rolled his 20 foot putt inches from the hole to secure a half point that took the Virginia Gentlemen to 10 points and ultimately give them victory by a mere half point! The outcome of the tournament had seemed to be heading their way for most of the afternoon but a late change in some key matches meant a final scoreboard separated by only one and a half points. According to the official historians this meant it was the closest Ponce De Leon in history.

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## THE TEAMS

### ANOTHER BLACK SUNDAY

JEREMY BIRD (2.9) (CAPT.)

RICHARD MASSIE (9.0)

CLARK COULBOURN (16.7)

BILL WAINSCOTT (21.0)

### TEAM LACOSTE

SCOTT WINN (7.0)

ANDREW HOLLOWELL (8.2)

JOHN KLIM (14.6)

WES BATTLE (17.0) (CAPT.)

### VIRGINIA GENTLEMEN

COLE CLARKSON (6.6)

MICHAEL PALMORE (11.0)

JAMES RANKIN (12.1) (CAPT.)

NEIL THOMSON (12.3)

### 6 & 5

JOHN MCALLISTER (6.9)

MIKE AIDE (10.5)

MUSCOE GARNETT (11.7)

CLAY THOMSON (21.0)(CAPT)

# **FIRST ROUND**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 18 (am)**

PLANTATION COURSE

TEE TIMES: 08:00 – 08:30AM

**MATCH PLAY (2 MAN).**

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## **VIRGINIA GENTLEMEN MAKE DREAM START**

The first day started bright and early at the not unreasonable hour of 8:00am. For 15 members of the group this was not a problem. Unfortunately for Team Lacoste 8:00 am was precisely 5 hours too early for one member (who shall not be named as he has probably taken enough abuse!) This left Andrew Hollowell to battle it out against the odds which he did gallantly until the odds eventually swung the match Another Black Sunday's way. In matches 2 and 4 the Virginia Gentlemen were taking command of day one, closing out both matches to end the morning with maximum points. 6 & 5 got themselves on the board with victory in match 3 leaving Team Lacoste the only team yet to score.

### **Order of Play:**

1 <sup>ST</sup> GROUP:	WINN/HOLLOWELL VS. BIRD/ MASSIE	<b>BIRD/MASSIE    WON 2PTS</b>
2 <sup>ND</sup> GROUP:	CLARKSON/PALMORE VS. MCALLISTER/AIDE	<b>CLARKSON/PALMORE    WON 2 PTS</b>
3 <sup>RD</sup> GROUP:	COULBOURN/WAINSCOTT VS. GARNETT/C. THOMSON	<b>GARNETT/C. THOMSON    WON 2 PTS</b>
4 <sup>TH</sup> GROUP:	RANKIN/N. THOMSON VS. KLIM/BATTLE	<b>RANKIN/N. THOMSON    WON 2 PTS</b>

## **SECOND ROUND**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 19 (pm)**

SEASIDE COURSE

TEE TIMES: 1:00 – 1:30PM

### **4 MAN CAPTAINS CHOICE/SCRAMBLE.**

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### **REDEMPTION FOR TEAM LACOSTE**

The afternoon round offered a chance for Team Lacoste to redeem themselves, which they did in fine style shooting an impressive 62 on the revered Seaside Links. This was good enough to secure a 2 shot victory over 6 & 5 and Another Black Sunday who tied 2<sup>nd</sup> with 64. The Virginia Gentlemen were obviously disappointed not to register a point from the afternoons play but could console themselves with the fact that they still led the way after day one.

#### **Order of Play:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	Team Lacoste	<b>62 net 56</b>	<b>3 points</b>
=2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	Another Black Sunday	<b>64 net 58</b>	<b>1 ½ points</b>
=2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	6 & 5	<b>64 net 58</b>	<b>1 ½ points</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Place:	Virginia Gentlemen	<b>67 net 61</b>	<b>0 points</b>

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### **DAY 1 LEADER BOARD**

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Virginia Gentlemen</b>	<b>4 points</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>6 &amp; 5</b>	<b>3 ½ points</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Another Black Sunday</b>	<b>3 ½ points</b>
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lacoste</b>	<b>3 points</b>

## THIRD ROUND

**SATURDAY JANUARY 19**

RETREAT COURSE

TEE TIMES: 11:30 – 11:40AM

### PINEHURST ALTERNATE SHOT

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## **BLEAK SATURDAY FOR ANOTHER BLACK SUNDAY**

On what can only be described as a grey Saturday afternoon the heavens opened up on the Retreat course to separate the men from the slightly wetter men! 6 & 5 took full advantage of the new Pinehurst alternate shot format with two wins out of two and the combined team win to give them a maximum 4 points from the day. The Virginia Gentlemen kept in the hunt with two wins and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the combined team. For Team Lacoste and especially Another Black Sunday it must have felt like the locker room bar and a sauna would have been a better bet!

### Order of Play:

1 <sup>ST</sup> GROUP:	PALMORE/N. THOMSON VS. R. MASSIE/WAINSCOTT	84 NET 71 99 NET 84	<b>1 POINT</b>
2 <sup>ND</sup> GROUP:	AIDE/C. THOMSON VS. HOLLOWELL/BATTLE	86 NET 70 87 NET 74	<b>1 POINT</b>
3 <sup>RD</sup> GROUP:	WINN/KLIM VS. CLARKSON/RANKIN	83 NET 72 81 NET 71	<b>1 POINT</b>
4 <sup>TH</sup> GROUP:	BIRD/COULBOURN VS. MCALLISTER/GARNETT	91 NET 82 79 NET 69	<b>1 POINT</b>

### TEAM TOTAL

1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	6 & 5	<b>139</b>	<b>2 points</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	Virginia Gentlemen	<b>142</b>	<b>1 point</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	Team Lacoste	<b>146</b>	<b>½ point</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Place:	Another Black Sunday	<b>166</b>	<b>0 points</b>

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## DAY 2 LEADER BOARD

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>6 &amp; 5</b>	<b>7 ½ points</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Virginia Gentlemen</b>	<b>7 points</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Another Black Sunday</b>	<b>3 ½ points</b>
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lacoste</b>	<b>3 ½ points</b>

## **FINAL ROUND**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 20**

Seaside Course

Tee Times: 12:00 – 12:30am

### **SUNDAY SINGLES. MATCH PLAY**

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## **VIRGINIA GENTLEMEN TAKEN TO THE WIRE**

The much anticipated Sunday Singles had only been finalized after a team selection meeting that rivaled only the Presidents Cup for its nail biting tension and drawn out drama.

The final round was upon us and both 6 & 5 and Virginia Gentlemen knew that 2 wins from their 4 matches would probably be good enough. For the other two teams a clean sweep of 4 seemed their only hope.

After 3 holes the scoreboard was looking as red as the competitors wind burned faces with Team Lacoste also starting strong. By the 6<sup>th</sup> hole the potential shock of the round was in place as Wes Battle found himself 3 up to the, as yet undefeated, Ponce De Leon stalwart, Jeremy Bird.

At the halfway stage 6 & 5 had managed to give themselves a lifeline thanks to John McAllister turning his match around from 2 down to 2 up. Team Lacoste had virtually sewn up the middle matches with both Scott Winn and Andrew Hollowell in total command.

The turning point for the afternoon came when John Klim, leading the way for Team Lacoste began to fight back from 3 down to reach all square with Michael Palmore through 15. This left Virginia Gentlemen's seemingly impregnable lead down to just 1 ½ points with everyone still in the hunt and a three way tie at 9 ½ points still possible!

In the days other tight match Bill Wainscott, fresh from some wonder instruction at the learning centre, was hanging in with James Rankin in what also proved to be a vital game. With Cole Clarkson securing victory, (taking himself to the top of the individual points scorers) Virginia Gentlemen needed only a half point for victory. When Bird turned around his match to maintain his unbeaten record and McAllister closed out Thomson it meant that a half down the final hole for Palmore would be enough. After some intense math! and rechecking of the scoreboard, two putts had secured the half and taken Virginia Gentlemen to victory!

Still the drama hadn't quite finished (even though those in the locker room probably wished it had!) as Wainscott completed his own Cinderella story winning for his team and tying up 6 & 5 and Another Black Sunday at 9 ½ points. With their Scramble score also level, this meant sudden death playoff. After a slight delay while the aforementioned players were politely coerced out of the locker room, Bird stepped up with a towering iron shot and a snaking putt to claim an unlikely 2<sup>nd</sup> for Another Black Sunday and allow those who had lost feeling in their hands and toes to finally make it inside!

**Order of Play:**

<b>MATCH 1</b>	C. THOMSON VS. COULBOURN	<b>COULBOURN 3 &amp; 2</b>
<b>MATCH 2</b>	PALMORE VS. KLIM	<b>MATCH HALVED</b>
<b>MATCH 3</b>	AIDE VS. CLARKSON	<b>CLARKSON 6 &amp; 5</b>
<b>MATCH 4</b>	WINN VS. MASSIE	<b>WINN 4 &amp; 3</b>
<b>MATCH 5</b>	GARNETT VS. HOLLOWELL	<b>HOLLOWELL 3 &amp; 2</b>
<b>MATCH 6</b>	RANKIN VS. WAINSCOTT	<b>WAINSCOTT 1 UP</b>
<b>MATCH 7</b>	MCALLISTER VS. N.THOMSON	<b>MCALLISTER 4 &amp; 3</b>
<b>MATCH 8</b>	BATTLE VS. BIRD	<b>BIRD 4 &amp; 3</b>

**HOW IT UNFOLDED**

	<b><u>POINTS</u></b>	<b><u>AFTER</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>6</u></b>	<b><u>9</u></b>	<b><u>12</u></b>	<b><u>15</u></b>	<b><u>18</u></b>
<b>VIRGINIA GENTLEMEN</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>TEAM LACOSTE</b>		<b>9½</b>	<b>9½</b>	<b>7½</b>	<b>7½</b>	<b>8½</b>	<b>8½</b>	
<b>6 &amp; 5</b>		<b>7½</b>	<b>9½</b>	<b>10½</b>	<b>9½</b>	<b>9½</b>	<b>9½</b>	
<b>ANTHER BLACK SUNDAY</b>		<b>6½</b>	<b>5½</b>	<b>7½</b>	<b>7½</b>	<b>8½</b>	<b>9½</b>	

**FINAL STANDINGS**

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Virginia Gentlemen</b>	<b>10 points</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Another Black Sunday</b>	<b>9 ½ points (after play off)</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6 &amp; 5</b>	<b>9 ½ points</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Team Lacoste</b>	<b>8 ½ points</b>