

**2008 Players Guide
Ponce de Leon Invitational
January 17-21st, 2008
www.poncedeleongolf.com**

“Bagpipes and Cocktails”



Voted best golf resort in North America by *Golf Digest* 2006, The Lodge, a Mobil 5-Star property, is home to 54 holes of world class golf.

Parts of this guide were taken from U.S. Open, Masters, PGA Championship, and Ryder Cup guides.

Customs and 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.

Safety

For your safety, please exercise caution at all times. Please be reminded that under wet conditions the grounds could become slippery.

Autograph Policy

For player safety, there will be a no autograph policy while on the golf course for the Tournament. Autographs are allowed only outside of the ropes when the play is complete.

Schedule of Events

All times Eastern Daylight Savings Time

Thursday, January 17th- Practice Round 1:00PM at the Plantation Course

Thursday, January 17th- Opening Ceremonies at The Lodge 6:30PM

Friday, January 18th- 1st Round, 10:00AM at Seaside

Saturday, January 19th- 2nd Round 8:00AM at Retreat
3rd Round 1:00PM at The Plantation Course

Sunday, January 20th- 4th Round 10:00 AM at Seaside

Sunday, January 20th- Champions Dinner 7:30PM

Television Schedule

Thursday, January 17 th 1:00 – 5:30	Live Coverage, Golf Channel
Friday, January 18 th 9:30 – 3:00	Live Coverage, Golf Channel
Saturday, January 19 th 7:30- 6:00	Live Coverage, CBS-TV
Sunday, January 20 th 9:30 – 3:00	Live Coverage, CBS-TV

Ponce Web Site

www.poncedeleongolf.com is the tournament website. The website includes real-time leader board, leading player/team interviews, 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. The event would be called The Ponce De Leon Invitational.

Many decisions in the early days of the Tournament remain today. Among these are the 4 rounds of competitive play, allowing the last place team going into Sunday the advantage of selecting whom they would like to play, and, of course, the Sunday Singles matches.

The first tournament was held January 2003 with just 8 players. Today the field is 16 strong with a waiting list of at least that many. The Ponce is scheduled each year during the Holiday weekend in January. Each year a generous contribution is made by the players of the Tournament benefiting a charity that is voted upon during the Opening Ceremonies.

We hope that the Ponce stages a golf tournament that is enjoyable to our players, host resort and the golf community.

The Ponce is strictly an invitation Tournament.

Tournament Results

2003 Scottsdale, AZ	Chairman: Neil Thomson	Winning Team:	
2004 Orlando, FL	Chairman: John Klim	Winning Team: Dawgs	MVP: Jeremy Bird
2005 Palm Beach Gardens, FL	Chairman: Jamie Rankin	Winning Team: Black Sunday	MVP: Richard Massie
2006 Scottsdale, AZ	Chairman: Muscie Garnett	Winning Team: Black Sunday	MVP: Michael Palmore
2007 Sea Island, GA	Chairman: John McAllister	Winning Team: Lacoste	MVP: John Klim

Tournament Records

Best Team in Tournament History

Black Sunday 2006 (Bird, Coulbourn, Palmore, Wainscott), Most Team Points,
18 out of a possible 20 Points

Best Individual Sunday Singles Record

Jeremy Bird 4-0

Most Championships

Clark Coulbourn (3)

Ponce Field Qualifications for Invitation

1. Collegiate School Graduate
2. Hampden-Sydney College Graduate
3. St. Christopher's Graduate
4. University of Virginia Graduate
5. Woodberry Forest Graduate
6. Friend of the Players

Player Biographies and Statistics

(Stats Since 16 player format in 2004)

Aide, Michael	Houston, TX, 4 th Appearance, Best Finish: 3rd
Battle, Wes	Jacksonville, FL, 4 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion Member of United States Armed Forces
Bird, Jeremy	Atlanta, GA, 5 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2004
Clarkson, Cole	Richmond, VA, 1 st Appearance
Coulbourn, Clark	Richmond, VA, 4 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion
Garnett, Muscoe	Richmond, VA, 6 th Appearance, Best Finish: 2nd
Hollowell, Andrew	Charleston, SC, 4 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion
Klim, John	Atlanta, GA, 5 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2007
Massie, Richard	Atlanta, GA, 4 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2005
McAllister, John	Charlottesville, VA, 6 th Appearance, Best Finish: 3rd
Palmore, Michael	Richmond, VA, 5 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2006
Rankin, Jamie	Atlanta, GA, 6 th Appearance, Best Finish: Tied for 1 st
Thomson, Neil	Charleston, SC, 6 th Appearance, Best Finish: 2nd Chairman Emeritus
Thomson, Clay	Charlotte, NC, 3 rd Appearance, Best Finish: 3 rd
Wainscott, Bill	Charlotte, NC, 3 rd Appearance, Best Finish: Champion
Winn, Scott	San Francisco, CA, 3 rd Appearance, Best Finish: Champion

2003 SCOTTSDALE
2004 ORLANDO
2007 SEA ISLAND

2005 PALM BEACH
2006 SCOTTSDALE
2008 SEA ISLAND

FORMAT FOR THE 2008 PONCE DE LEON INVITATIONAL
Sea Island, Georgia (January 17 – 21, 2008)
The Lodge at Sea Island

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)

PRACTICE ROUND

THURSDAY JANUARY 17

PLANTATION COURSE
TEE TIMES: 1:00 – 1:30PM

No real format. Play with your teammates. It is the only round where mulligans and practice shots are permitted.

FIRST ROUND

FRIDAY JANUARY 18

SEASIDE COURSE
TEE TIMES: 10:00 – 10:30AM

MATCH PLAY (2 MAN). 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: WINN/HOLLOWELL VS. BIRD/R. MASSIE
- 2ND GROUP: CLARKSON/PALMORE VS. MCALLISTER/AIDE
- 3RD GROUP: COULBOURN/WAINSCOTT VS. GARNETT/C. THOMSON
- 4TH GROUP: RANKIN/N. THOMSON VS. KLIM/BATTLE

(NOTE: A REPRESENTATIVE FROM LAST YEAR'S DEFENDING CHAMPS HAS HONOR TO HIT FIRST TEE BALL OF THE TOURNAMENT)

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

SATURDAY JANUARY 19 (am)

RETREAT COURSE

TEE TIMES: 8:00 – 8:20AM (TEEING OFF 1 & 10)

NEW GAME – PINEHURST ALTERNATE SHOT. THIS IS A CLASSIC GAME – AND AN OLD GAME PLAYED AS A DERIVATIVE OF THE RYDER CUP ALTERNATE SHOT FORMAT. IT IS A USGA SANCTIONED FORMAT.

BOTH TEAMMATES DRIVE. YOU MUST SWAP AND HIT YOUR TEAMMATE'S BALL AS YOUR SECOND SHOT. FROM THERE, YOU AND YOUR TEAMMATE SELECT THE BEST SHOT AND PLAY THAT ONE BALL IN FROM THERE BY ALTERNATING TURNS. IF PLAYER A'S 2ND SHOT IS USED, THEN PLAYER B HITS 3RD AND YOU ALTERNATE UNTIL IT IS HOLED.

THIS IS A STROKE PLAY FORMAT. YOUR 2 MAN HANDICAP WILL BE BASED ON A FORMULA OF 60% OF COURSE HANDICAP FOR BETTER PLAYER AND 40% OF COURSE HANDICAP FOR OTHER PLAYER ON YOUR TEAM – AND THESE NUMBERS ARE ADDED TOGETHER TO GET ONE HANDICAP FOR THE 2-SOME. JUST SUBTRACT YOUR GROSS SCORE MINUS YOUR ADJUSTED 2-MAN HANDICAP TO GET NET SCORE AT END OF ROUND. THE LOWER NET SCORE OF THE 2 TEAMS IN THE 4 SOME WINS THE MATCH. HOPEFULLY, YOUR 2 MAN ADJUSTED HANDICAP WILL BE INDICATED ON YOUR SCORECARD PRIOR TO COMPETITION.

Order of Play:

- 1ST GROUP: PALMORE/N. THOMSON VS. R. MASSIE/WAINSCOTT
- 2ND GROUP: AIDE/C. THOMSON VS. HOLLOWELL/BATTLE
- 3RD GROUP: WINN/KLIM VS. CLARKSON/RANKIN (TEE OFF OF 10)
- 4TH GROUP: BIRD/COULBOURN VS. MCALLISTER/GARNETT (TEE OFF OF 10)

Point Value:

In this round, there will also be 2 separate point values at stake:

Value #1: Total Strokes of Winning 2-some = 1 POINT for overall team
Total Strokes of Losing 2-some = ZERO POINTS for overall team
Tie here would be HALF a POINT each for overall team

Value #2: Total Strokes of all 4 players of Team:

- 1st Place gets 2 POINTS
 - 2nd Place gets 1 POINTS
 - 3rd Place gets 0.5 POINT
 - 4th Place gets ZERO POINTS
- Tying issues: split the point value.

THIRD ROUND

SATURDAY JANUARY 19 (pm)

PLANTATION COURSE

TEE TIMES: 1:00 – 1:30PM (BASICALLY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MORNING ROUND)

4 MAN CAPTAINS CHOICE/SCRAMBLE. Play with your entire team...Camaraderie is critical here! There is a minimum of 2 DRIVES from each player that has to be used. **Please note:** if all 4 rounds can't be completed due to darkness, the match will officially conclude when the last group is able to finish a hole—that group then has to declare to the group ahead that they are finished (i.e. cannot start a hole and then decide to quit in the middle of a hole). For handicap purposes, each team consists of an A, B, C & D player. **The following percentages of Course Handicaps are used: A- 20%; B- 15%; C - 10%; D - 5%. So, your team will have one set course handicap and you can deduct your gross score to get your net score.**

Order of Play:

- 1st Group: Virginia Gentlemen
- 2nd Group: Lacoste
- 3rd Group: Another Black Sunday
- 4th Group: 6 & 5

Point Value:

1st Place: 3 POINTS

2nd Place: 2 POINTS

3rd Place: 1 POINT

4th Place: ZERO POINTS

FOURTH ROUND

SUNDAY JANUARY 20

Seaside Course

Tee Times: 10:00 – 10:30am (Caddies Recommended)

SUNDAY 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. You must ride with your opponent in the cart, even if you have a teammate in your 4-some (UNLESS WE GET CADDIES – If we get 1 caddie for 2 golfers, please have that caddie carry you and your opponent's bag).

Order of Play:

The easiest way to picture this is 4 tee-times of four 4-somes, similar to the other rounds, except, visualize a 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 Saturday Round submits his Order of Play to the 3 other Captains by 8:00pm Saturday night. 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.

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 Sunday Singles.

The Wager:

1st Place = Names Engraved on Trophy and Possession of Trophy until the Next Year's Invitational
= Free Sunday Night Dinner at Cellar at The Wine Cellar at the Lodge
= Right to Return as Defending Champs

2nd Place = only pay for their own tab at Sunday Night Awards Dinner

3rd and 4th Place = pay for Champs and themselves at Sunday Night Awards Dinner

NEW TIEBREAKER RULE: If teams are tied, we go first to the Net Score of the Captain's Choice/Scramble Round ONLY. The lowest net score between the tied teams in the scramble, breaks the tie. This tie-break is used if there are 2 or more tied teams. Also, this tie-break is used if there is tie between 2nd and 3rd as well (since difference in dinner tab). If there is still a tie after deferring to Capt's Choice scores, then we will proceed to a 4-man scramble sudden death play-off on Plantation Course late Sunday afternoon to break the tie. (Play-off hole is TBD and under discretion of the Chairmen along with Sea Island staff). Only if we are unable to play a play-off hole due to darkness or for other good cause, then we go back to scorecard of Capt's Choice round and the team with best score on most difficult hole breaks the tie.

PLEASE TURN ALL SCORECARDS INTO ME AFTER EVERY ROUND. I KEEP THEM FOR STATISTICAL/HISTORICAL PURPOSES.

Postscript:

This should be a helluva competition. Michael Palmore has worked hard and I commend him on putting this together. There is something to be said about having our PDL at the #1 Golf Resort in North America – we are really building steam and tradition – and we should all be proud.

Please play with sportsmanship, as we are in the shadows of Bobby Jones, the Walker Cup, and the G-8 Summit. I could not be more excited for this old-school competition. It will be tough to top last year in terms of coming down to the wire – but you never know...a hole-out, a long putt on Sunday – a lip out...w just have to wait and see who wants it the most!



The immortal Bobby Jones strode the same fairways that welcome today's Ponce golfers.

Finally, please wear a sportcoat or blazer to the Sunday awards dinner, pursuant to tradition. We are dining on Sunday at the Cloister, in the Oglethorpe Room . It promises to be top notch and private, per tradition. At the dinner, the Fountain of Youth Cup will be awarded to the winning team. Of course, there will be a 16 man vote for individual MVP, and Palmore and I will recognize the 2008 Spirit Award winner.

Game on.

Respectfully,

Neil D. Thomson
Chairman Emeritus

Michael G. Palmore
Chairman, 2008 Ponce de Leon Invitational

January 17, 2008