



**2009 Players Guide
Ponce de Leon Invitational
January 15th-19th, 2009
www.poncedeleongolf.com**

“The Western Home of Golf in America”



Voted Top 5 Golf Resort by Travel Editor, Matt Ginella, from Golf Digest. Anyone who follows golf will also recognize the courses from past events such as the Bob Hope Classic, Diners Club Matches, PGA Grand Slam, and the PGA Skins Game.

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 Pacific Daylight Savings Time

Thursday, January 15th- Practice Round 1:00PM at PGA West Greg Norman Course

Thursday, January 15th- Opening Ceremonies at La Quinta 7:30PM

Friday, January 16th- 1st Round, 10:37AM at Resort Mountain Course

Saturday, January 17th- 2nd Round 7:00AM at PGA West Stadium Course
3rd Round 12:15PM at PGA West Nicklaus Tournament Course

Sunday, January 18th- 4th Round 10:00 AM at PGA West Nicklaus Tournament Course

Sunday, January 18th- Champions Dinner 7:30PM at Arnold Palmer's Restaurant

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 disclosed 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 invitational Tournament.

This year marks the first time there are only 2 teams in a 16 player field. This format is honoring the 50th Anniversary of the 1959 Ryder Cup matches that also pitted two 8-man teams. There is a possibility that this two team format will be used on the year of (or immediately following) all Ryder Cups which take place on American soil (i.e. once every 4 years). Chairman Emeritus seeks input from the group on this, but will ultimately make the decision on his own.

Tournament Results

2003 Scottsdale, AZ	Chairman: Neil Thomson	Winning Team: Team #1	
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
2008 Sea Island, GA	Chairman: Michael Palmore	Winning Team: Virginia Gentlemen	MVP: Cole Clarkson

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 5-0

Best Overall Record in Ponce

Muscoe Garnett 12-3-1

Most Ponce Championships

Clark Coulbourn (3), **Jeremy Bird (2)**, **Andrew Hollowell (2)**, **Richard Massie (2)**, **Michael Palmore (2)**

Tournament Tribute

This year we are paying homage to the 50th Anniversary of the 1959 Ryder Cup, held at nearby Eldorado Country Club in Indian Wells, California. The United States beat Great Britain that year 8½ to 3½. The American Captain was Sam Snead and the British Captain was Dai Rees.

United States

Sam Snead – Captain

Bob Rosburg

Julius Boros

Art Wall

Mike Souchak

Dow Finsterwald

Doug Ford

Cary Middlecoff

Jay Hebert

Great Britain

Dai Rees – Captain

Bernard Hunt

Christy O'Connor

Harry Weetman

Eric Brown

Ken Bousfield

Peter Alliss

Dave Thomas

Norman Drew

The British team's ride to the 13th Ryder Cup Matches became an omen of the competition that would follow a week later in the desert. On Oct. 29, 1959, some 29 passengers boarded a plane from Los Angeles to Palm Springs, Calif. The plane encountered severe turbulence from a nearby storm and plunged from 13,000 to 9,000 feet before the pilot gained control. The pilot returned to Los Angeles, announced that a later flight would be arranged later that evening. British Captain Dai Rees canceled the flight and the team arrived in Palm Springs by bus. Once on the course, there was little the British could do to stop an American steamroller performance. Dow Finsterwald, PGA Champion Bob Rosburg and Mike Souchak each contributed two points in a runaway U.S. victory. The Americans were handed a halve in the final foursomes match of the opening day. Sam Snead and Cary Middlecoff faced Britain's Harry Weetman and Dave Thomas. Snead dumped his approach shot on the 470-yard 18th hole into the water. The best the U.S. could salvage was a 5. But Weetman made the matter elementary when instead of laying up safely hit a 5-iron that found the water. Snead finished by holing a 10-footer for a bogey and the halve. Weetman said later that he never

intended to play safe. "I never do," he said. "It's not my game. I just didn't hit the right shot." This edition of the Matches resulted in several key changes. It was the last time a visiting British Ryder Cup Team (despite the near disastrous flight a week earlier) made a journey by sea. And, it marked the last time the matches were contested over 36 holes of foursomes and singles.

Player Biographies and Statistics

(Stats Since 16 player format in 2004)

Aide, Michael	Houston, TX, 5 th Appearance, Best Finish: Tied 2nd
Battle, Wes	Washington D.C., 5 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion Member of United States Armed Forces
Bird, Jeremy	Atlanta, GA, 6 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2004
Weisleder, Courtland	San Diego, CA, 1 st Appearance
Roberts, John Allen	Birmingham, AL, 1st Appearance
Garnett, Muscoe	Richmond, VA, 7 th Appearance, Best Finish: 2nd
Hollowell, Andrew	Charleston, SC, 5 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion
Klim, John	Atlanta, GA, 6 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2007
Massie, Henry	Atlanta, GA, 5 th Appearance, Best Finish: 2nd
Massie, Richard	Atlanta, GA, 5 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2005
McAllister, John	Charlottesville, VA, 7 th Appearance, Best Finish: Tied 2nd
Palmore, Michael	Richmond, VA, 6 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion MVP 2006
Rankin, Jamie	Atlanta, GA, 7 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion
Thomson, Neil	Charleston, SC, 7 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion Chairman Emeritus
Wainscott, Bill	Charlotte, NC, 4 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion
Winn, Scott	San Francisco, CA, 4 th Appearance, Best Finish: Champion

2003 SCOTTSDALE
2004 ORLANDO
2007 SEA ISLAND
2009 PALM SPRINGS

2005 PALM BEACH
2006 SCOTTSDALE
2008 SEA ISLAND

FORMAT FOR THE 2009 PONCE DE LEON INVITATIONAL
La Quinta, California (January 15th – 19th, 2009)
La Quinta Resort and Club

SAM SNEAD TEAM

JEREMY BIRD (1.9)
JOHN ALLEN ROBERTS (6.0)
ANDREW HOLLOWELL (10.0)
MICHAEL AIDE (10.9)
NEIL THOMSON (11.0)
MICHAEL PALMORE (12.0)
WESTRAY BATTLE (13.8)
BILL WAINSCOTT (25.0)

DAI REES TEAM

SCOTT WINN (4.4)
JOHN MCALLISTER (5.8)
JAMES RANKIN (10.1)
MUSCOE GARNETT (10.6)
HENRY MASSIE (11.2)
RICHARD MASSIE (13.5)
JOHN KLIM (14.0)
COURTLAND WEISLEDER (18.0)

PRACTICE ROUND

THURSDAY JANUARY 15

PGA WEST GREG NORMAN COURSE
TEE TIMES: 1:00 – 1:22PM

No real format. Play with your teammates if possible but not a must. It is the only round where mulligans and practice shots are permitted.

Each team will elect a Captain prior to competitive play. The Snead Captain and the Rees Captain will be in charge of selecting teams for “draft-style” match-ups for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Rounds. This drafting will be explained in greater detail on Thursday night – but there will be selections made on both Friday and Saturday nights.

FIRST ROUND

FRIDAY JANUARY 16

LA QUINTA RESORT MOUNTAIN COURSE
TEE TIMES: 10:37 – 11:07AM

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: BATTLE/WAINSCOTT VS. KLIM/WEISLEDER
2ND GROUP: HOLLOWELL/AIDE VS. RANKIN/GARNETT
3RD GROUP: THOMSON/PALMORE VS. MASSIE/MASSIE
4TH GROUP: BIRD/ROBERTS VS. WINN/MCALLISTER

(NOTE: A COIN TOSS WILL DECIDE WHETHER THE SAM SNEAD TEAM OR THE DAI REES TEAM TEES OFF FIRST.)

Point Value:

The winning 2-some of each match gets 2 POINTS for his overall 8-man team.

The losing 2-some gets ZERO POINTS for his overall 8-man team.

A tie after 18 holes halves the match, so each 2-man team would receive ONE POINT for his overall 8-man team. There is no such thing as extra holes in this round.

SECOND ROUND

SATURDAY JANUARY 17 (AM)

PGA WEST STADIUM COURSE
TEE TIMES: 7:00 – 7:22AM

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 AN AVERAGE OF EACH OF THE TWO PLAYER'S HANDICAPS. THIS AVERAGE WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE GROSS SCORE AT THE END OF THE 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. GENTLEMAN, THIS MEANS THAT EACH TEAM WILL RECORD THE GROSS SCORE ON THE SCORECARD, NOT A NET SCORE!!!

Order of Play:

TO BE DETERMINED FRIDAY NIGHT BY BOTH TEAMS PICKING PARTNERS AND TIME SLOTS. THIS WILL BE EXPLAINED IN GREATER DETAIL AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES, BUT GENERALLY SPEAKING THE 2 CAPTAINS WILL ALTERNATE OF PLACING A 2 MAN TEAM UP “BLINDLY” WITH THE OTHER CAPTAIN MATCHING UP HIS 2 MAN TEAM AGAINST THAT SLOT. THE LEADING TEAM WILL BE THE FIRST TEAM TO “BLINDLY” PUT UP A TEAM IN A SLOT, BUT THEN IT WILL ALTERNATE AFTER THAT. SIMILAR ALTERNATING STYLE WILL BE DONE ON SATURDAY NIGHT TO SELECT THE SUNDAY SINGLES.

1ST GROUP: _____ / _____ VS. _____ / _____
2ND GROUP: _____ / _____ VS. _____ / _____
3RD GROUP: _____ / _____ VS. _____ / _____
4TH GROUP: _____ / _____ VS. _____ / _____

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 8 players of Team:
1st Place gets 1 POINTS
2nd Place gets 0 POINTS
Tying issues: split the point value.

THIRD ROUND

SATURDAY JANUARY 17 (PM)

PGA WEST NICKLAUS TOURNAMENT COURSE

TEE TIMES: 12:15 – 12:37PM (BASICALLY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MORNING ROUND)

4 MAN CAPTAINS CHOICE/SCRAMBLE. Play with your team (Sam Snead and Dai Rees will have 2 teams each)...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). No handicaps – just raw score.

Order of Play:

TO BE DETERMINED FRIDAY NIGHT BY BOTH TEAMS PICKING PARTNERS AND TIME SLOTS.

- 1st Group: SAM SNEAD TEAM #1, consisting of these 4 players: _____
- 2nd Group: DAI REES TEAM #1, consisting of these 4 players: _____
- 3rd Group: SAM SNEAD TEAM #2, consisting of these 4 players: _____
- 4th Group: DAI REES TEAM #2, consisting of these 4 players: _____

Point Value:

- 1st Place = 3 POINTS
- 2nd Place = 2 POINTS
- 3rd Place = 1 POINT
- 4th Place = 0 POINTS

(in the event of a tie, you split the points accordingly between or among the tied teams)

FOURTH ROUND

SUNDAY JANUARY 18

PGA WEST NICKLAUS TOURNAMENT COURSE

Tee Times: 10:00 – 10:22am (on Saturday night, the 2 Captains will confer on whether caddies will be required or optional. Any ongoing dispute will be settled by Chairman Bird’s discretion)

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 though you will 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:

There are a total of 8 singles matches. The match-ups will be selected on Saturday night, in alternating style. There will be 2 separate matches going on in each foursome, as usual.

- 1st Group: _____(SS) vs. _____(DR); _____(SS) vs. _____(DR)
- 2nd Group: _____(SS) vs. _____(DR); _____(SS) vs. _____(DR)
- 3rd Group: _____(SS) vs. _____(DR); _____(SS) vs. _____(DR)
- 4th Group: _____(SS) vs. _____(DR); _____(SS) vs. _____(DR)

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 8 of their individual matches gives that team 16 POINTS which could obviously be a huge swing.

The Wager:

1st Place = Names Engraved on Trophy and Possession of Trophy until the Next Year's Invitational
= Free Sunday Night Dinner at Arnold Palmer's Restaurant
= Automatic Invitation to Return for the 2010 Invitational

2nd Place = pays for themselves and the winning team.

NEW TIEBREAKER RULE: If teams are tied, we will settle the tie on the golf course on Sunday afternoon. The singles player who won his respective match by the largest margin will represent his team against the other singles player who won his respective match by the largest margin – this pairing will face off in a one-hole sudden death, match-play (with handicaps) at hole TBD at the Nicklaus course. If more than one player from a certain team won his prior singles match by the same margin, that team's captain will select which of those tied players will represent his team.

If the two players tie their one-hole sudden death match, the pairings will change and pit the next two players who won their earlier singles matches by the 2nd largest margin against one another. (hole is TBD). This will also be a one-hole sudden death match. If they tie, the pairings will change again with 3rd largest margin winners playing each other – in the event one team does not have a prior “winner” from earlier match, that team's representative will be the guy who played closest losing match.

The idea is to get the “hottest” players to face each other, with handicaps still applying. Also to have 2 players squaring off with 14 on-lookers would be incredible drama. The one-hole nature of it also encourages team depth and we will have a series of one-hole sudden death matches until there is a victor.

If there is any confusion, I can explain this more at the Opening Ceremonies.

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

Postscript:

This should be a helluva competition. Jeremy Bird has worked hard and I commend him on putting this together. There is something to be said about having our PDL at the “Western Home of Golf in 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 the Rat Pack, Bob Hope, Arnold Palmer, and the golfing elite of Hollywood. 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...we will just have to wait and see who wants it the most!



With grace and charm, the legendary La Quinta Resort & Club has reigned over the Coachella Valley as sought after refuge from the hustle and bustle of the world in the quiet of the Santa Rose Mountains. Since its opening, La Quinta Resort & Club has been the favorite retreat of Hollywood legends like Garbo, Gable and Capra, and financial powerhouses such as Vanderbilt and Crocker. Following in their footsteps, the Ponce golfers arrive for their annual invitational.

Finally, please wear a sportcoat or blazer to the Sunday awards dinner (necktie optional), pursuant to tradition. We are dining on Sunday at Arnold Palmer's Restaurant, in the private British Open 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 Bird and I will recognize the 2009 Spirit Award winner. Lastly, I will announce the 2010 Chairman before we adjourn.

Game on.

Respectfully,

Neil D. Thomson
Chairman Emeritus

Jeremy Bird
Chairman, 2009 Ponce de Leon Invitational

January 15, 2009