

**EXECUTIVE CUP XV  
MOVES TO PELICAN HILL RESORT  
OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 2, 2012**

SAY ALOHA TO AMERICA'S

## 2011 *National Private Club Champions*

*Executive Cup XIV, played on both the Mauna Kea Golf Course and the Hapuna Prince Golf Course, provided a challenging test of golf to some of the best amateur players in the country.*



Don Conyers,  
The Citrus Club  
Champion, won  
top honor for the  
Men's National  
Private Club  
Championship

Don Conyers  
The Citrus Club (California)  
80-79—159



Kimberly Pech,  
Riviera  
Country Club  
Champion, won  
the Women's  
National Private Club  
Championship

Kimberly Pech  
Riviera Country Club (California)  
87-81—168



Men's Division  
(49 and Under)  
Christopher Hanson  
Plantation CC  
(Idaho)  
89-80—169



Men's Division  
(50-59)  
Ben Whipple  
Serrano CC  
(California)  
86-80—166



Men's Division  
(60-69)  
Sherman Haggerty  
Serrano CC  
(California)  
84-76—160



Men's Division  
(70 and Over)  
Warren Simmons  
CC at Forest  
Highlands (Arizona)  
88-85—173



Women's Division  
(49 and Under)  
Janet Moore  
Cherry Hills CC  
(Colorado)  
92-81—173



Women's Division  
(50-59)  
Darlene Tranquilli  
Orange Hills GC  
(Connecticut)  
95-84—179



Women's Division  
(60-69)  
Donna Apple  
Salem CC  
(New York)  
103-94—197



Women's Division  
(70 and Over)  
Barb Simmons  
CC at Forest  
Highlands (Arizona)  
87-91—178

By Mark Pazdur, Publisher & Tournament Director

KOHALA COAST, HAWAII: Executive Cup XIV, America's only national tournament for club champions, was held at Mauna Kea Resort on the Big Island of Hawaii, November 7-12, 2011. The competition was fierce as 63 club champions from 21 different states battled in forceful trade winds for the prestigious title of "champion of champions."

"It was nice to return to the competitive, well run tournament," beamed Ralph Giansanti, club champion at the Country Club of Farmington in Connecticut. "This is my third trip to Executive Cup and it is pleasant to play with other club champions from around the country. It is so easy to strike up conversations because everyone has similar interests."

Mauna Kea Resort has two sister hotels—the four

star Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel and the five star Mauna Kea Beach Hotel. Champions had the opportunity to choose their preference of lodging.

"My wife Kimberly and I were eager to see the 'new' Mauna Kea since its \$180 million upgrade a couple of years ago," said Richard Pech, club champion at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles, California.

Tournament week was full of activities. Between golf, participants had the opportunity to enjoy the beach, indulge at the spa, explore volcanoes and rain forests, or simply lounge in a swaying hammock under a palm tree. "The wind made it tough," grimaced Connie Landgraf, club champion at Bentwater Yacht and Country Club in Montgomery, Texas. "A strong Mai Tai was a refreshing way to relax after competition."



Mauna Kea Beach Hotel



Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel



Skins Game



Welcome Reception



TOURNAMENT PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSEPH MEISENBACH, MD

POLYNESIAN SHOW PHOTOS BY SUZIE SPLANN

**THE HUNT FOR SKINS**

This year was our inaugural early arrival skins game with over \$2,100 in prizes and gift certificates on the line. The unusual twist was players didn't know what they were competing for on each hole until they arrived on the tee box. Sally King, from Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, was one of the victorious competitors. Her birdie (net 1), on the famous 3rd hole over the ocean par 3 on the Mauna Kea course, captured six skins. "I think I need another suitcase for all the prizes," smiled King. "It was a thrill to win all the golf equipment and gift certificates."

**KICKOFF WELCOME RECEPTION AND LUAU SHOW**

Executive Cup is a celebration of the dedication of club champions to the game of golf.

On Monday night of tournament week, everyone toasted a different type of dedication. Peter and Gail Reifsnnyder, both club champions from Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, Connecticut, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the tournament. Peter explained to the audience how compromise and honesty are important for a lasting relationship. But, he confided he never concedes a putt to Gail on the course.

Participants were treated to a fabulous luau show and lavish buffet. Two of the more popular entrees were Hawaiian salt rubbed, slow-roasted prime rib and Keahole Maine lobster. Following the decadent dinner, everyone enjoyed the ten-person polynesian show complete with hula girls, live band, and a skilled fire dancer.

"I'm completely speechless. The fire dancer's heart-



stopping performance was incredible. Truly one of a kind," said an amazed Janet Moore, club champion at Cherry Hills Country Club in Englewood, Colorado.

#### *GOLF, DIAMONDS, AND HAWAIIAN HOSPITALITY*

Tuesday marked the first practice round on the Mauna Kea golf course. Players had the opportunity to compete in an optional \$20 per person skins game and demo Cleveland Golf's latest product.

"Our Executive Cup goodie bag included a dozen yellow Srixon golf balls. I am a traditionalist, but I have to admit, a yellow golf ball is easier to see," commented Michael Lach, club champion at Monterey Peninsula Country Club in Pebble Beach, California. "I was impressed with Srixon's product. I am now a convert."

Mauna Kea is known for its collection of 1,600 Pan Pacific pieces of art. The two Buddha disciples adorning the lobby were the focal point of this year's challenge to win a \$5,000 diamond ring by Royal Jewelers of Newport Beach, California.

The contest was to guess the cost of gold to gild the two stunning sculptures. Answers ranged from a low of \$9.70 to a high of \$300,000.

Charles King, club champion at Windward Heights in Hawesville, Kentucky, with his guess of \$3,760 (off by only \$198), was the stunned winner. "I was the former mayor of Hawesville," explained King. "I had our city highway sign welcoming you into town gilded in gold leaf several years ago. I imagine my experience with the process gave me a bit of an advantage."



While King explained his guessing procedure, everyone dined on a sushi bar; beef-carving station; and dessert station, complete with freshly prepared banana foster.

#### WEDNESDAY'S TWO-PERSON TOURNAMENT

The second practice round, held on the Hapuna Golf Course, was also the site of the Cleveland Golf two-person best ball tournament. Champions and their guests challenged one another for the crystal trophies on the line.

Hawaii and Alaska are the only two states in the country where the temperature has never exceeded 100 degrees. Although the climate is always balmy, Hawaii is known for its frequent trade winds. Around midday, the fan was turned on high as winds whipped up to 30 mph.

"It was a tough day for golf. My ball kept blowing off

the tee and the wind was unrelenting," said an exhausted Kathy Mohn from Gulph Mills, Pennsylvania. "I was just about to throw in the towel when I hit it in the greenside bunker on number 12 at Hapuna. Then, I skull it—my ball smashes into the flagstick and drops in the hole! You just never know about this crazy game."

The first place gross winners of the Cleveland Golf tournament, with a score of 71, were Greg DeHaven and John Washburn, both club champions at Barton Creek Lakeside in Austin, Texas.

#### EXECUTIVE CUP ROUND ONE—AN ENDURANCE TEST

Typically, it is a morning wake-up call from the hotel to stir club champions from bed. This year, it was the wind. Gusts as high as 45 mph confronted the players.

## Executive Cup Tournament



"It was almost unplayable," exclaimed Norwood Lange, club champion at Brenham Country Club in Brenham, Texas.

"Normally, you describe a wind as a 3 or 4 club wind. This was a 12-15 shot wind," dismayed Walt Klenz, club champion at The Boulders in Scottsdale, Arizona.

"The winds were so bad. It was worse than getting a root canal during an IRS audit," sighed Jamie Kerestes, club champion at Shannopin Country Club in Ben Avon Heights, Pennsylvania.

All champions will remember the first day of competition as a grueling test, with one exception. In the midst of tropical force gales, Gene Whitfield, club champion at Manatee Cove Golf Course at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida, had a hole-in-one on the 5th hole at Hapuna.

During the practice round two days earlier, in calm conditions, Whitfield hit an 8-iron. Today, with a stiff 30 mph sustained wind in the face, Whitfield "roped" a 4-iron in the cup. When asked what the group said as the ball disappeared, Whitfield replied, "It is not fit for print."

As the sun set over the blue Pacific Ocean, Don Conyers held a four shot lead over Sherman Haggerty. Renee Kiela and Kimberly Pech carded an 87 for a three shot lead over Amy Babcock and Kathy Kolar.

### FINAL DAY OF COMPETITION

"Hallelujah," rejoiced Carol Strobel, club champion at Salem Golf Club in Salem, New York, as she approached the first tee under sunny skies and light breezes.

Although champions were beaten up the day before,



everyone showed up with their game face on.

In the women's hotly contested 50-59 age bracket, Kathy Kolar, club champion at the Club at Morningside in Rancho Mirage, California, and Darlene Tranquilli, club champion at Orange Hills Country Club in Orange, Connecticut, went to a two-hole sudden death playoff for the divisional title. Tranquilli sank a downhill, winding five-footer to claim first place.

The men's 49 and under age bracket went down to the 36th hole. Ralph Giansanti, club champion at the Country Club of Farmington and Christopher Hanson, club champion at Plantation Country Club in Boise, Idaho, were tied on the final tee box. Hanson's par bested Giansanti's bogey to win by one.

Kimberly Pech, club champion at Riviera in Los

Angeles, California, held off the hard charging group of ladies for a five shot victory for the overall women's national championship.

Sherman Haggerty, club champion at Serrano Country Club in El Dorado Hills was gaining ground on Don Conyers, club champion at The Citrus Club, both in California. On the final hole, Haggerty three putted, preventing a sudden death playoff and crowning Conyers as Executive Cup XIV's overall men's club champion.

At the cocktail reception and awards dinner, new friends recalled the week of fun and lively competition.

For the first time in Executive Cup's 15-year history, the tournament is moving to the mainland. This October, I am proud to announce the sophisticated and elegant Pelican Hill Resort in Newport Beach, California, will

ANNOUNCING THE BIG MOVE:

## *Executive Cup XV Heads to Pelican Hill Resort in Southern California*

PHOTOS OF PELICAN HILL USED WITH PERMISSION OF THE IRVINE COMPANY. © THE IRVINE COMPANY, LLC



“I can’t think of two better courses to test the skills of America’s club champions.”

— STEPHEN FRIEDLANDER, VICE PRESIDENT OF GOLF, PELICAN HILL & OAK CREEK GOLF CLUBS

host the tournament. Executive Cup XV promises to be our most exciting, competitive, and fun-filled tournament ever.

With the combination of less expensive airfare and travel time; a new location; and the world-famous, sunny Southern California weather, I predict we will sell out in short order.

Pelican Hill Resort, a 15-minute drive from the Orange County (SNA) airport, 30 minutes from Disneyland, and only one hour from Los Angeles (LAX), recently received the honor of being ranked the No. 1 resort in America by *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine and again has earned the prestigious AAA Five Diamond Award.

“A perfect fit. No doubt about it. Pelican Hill is the ideal venue for Executive Cup. Its two oceanfront, Tom Fazio designs are worth putting on your bucket list to play. It doesn’t surprise me that *Golf Digest* included both courses on their ‘America’s 100 Best Public Golf Courses’ list,” said Stephen Friedlander, vice president of golf for Pelican Hill and Oak Creek golf courses.

“Over these past three years since our opening, Pelican Hill has been delighted to welcome some of the world’s most discerning travelers to our ‘Italian Seaside

Village,’” expressed Frank Ashmore, director of sales and marketing at the resort. “We are excited to now invite club champions to our extraordinary destination offering expansive views of the Pacific Ocean. With Palladian-inspired architecture from Northern Italy, our resort offers 204 Bungalow guest rooms and 128 Villas that give guests the feeling of a home away from home.”

Each Bungalow features hand-hewn vaulted wood-beam ceilings; limestone fireplace; granite wet bar; 42-inch, flat-screen televisions with Bose audio; Italian linens; complimentary Internet, and spacious bathrooms with a marble walk-in shower and deep soaking tub.

“After a competitive round of golf, we encourage guests to unwind at The Spa at Pelican Hill, one of the world’s only *Forbes* 5-star rated spas in the world! We know the 23,000 square-foot Spa, its 22 private treatment rooms, luxurious Roman-soaking pools, and both sauna and steam rooms will be a soothing place for each participant to relax,” said Ashmore.

“The weather in Southern California in late October [high temperatures are in the mid-seventies] is conducive for adventure activities at Crystal Cove beach or a more private cabana setting around the Coliseum Pool,



## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT PELICAN HILL RESORT

**Condé Nast Traveler:** No. 1 Resort in America  
**Travel + Leisure:** "Top 100" in World's Best Hotels  
**Forbes:** Five Star Rating, The Spa at Pelican Hill  
**Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report:** Top 9 Golf Resorts, Top 10 Family Resorts, Top 10 Golf Resort and Top 20 Spa Resorts  
**Wine Spectator:** Wine List Award of Excellence  
**Los Angeles Times:** Best Southern California Golf Course  
**Golf Digest:** America's 100 Greatest Public Golf Courses (both Ocean North & Ocean South)



one of the largest circular pools in the world constructed out of more than one million glass tiles that were cut and laid by hand," said Ashmore.

Should you choose to venture off property, there is a myriad of activities to enjoy. The Resort offers complimentary coach service (a five-minute drive) from your Bungalow to Crystal Cove State Park with 3.5 miles of dramatic coastline and sandy beach. World-class boutique shopping is only five minutes away at Fashion Island and the art galleries of popular Laguna Beach are a short 15 minutes south on Pacific Coast Highway.

### THE COMPETITION AWAITS

"I can't think of two better courses to test the skills of America's club champions," stated Friedlander.

"Deep ocean views to the horizon guide all 18 tee shots on our North Course. Open canyons and elevated plateaus with a palette of a hundred colors contrast the distinct green edges of the fairways and greens. One can feel complete isolation. With several golf holes on the cliff's edge, the Pacific Ocean draws focus from the green, beckoning players to experience one of the finer points of the course," relayed Friedlander.

"Our Ocean South is a flow of contrasts: from brush gardens framed by sage and eucalyptus trees to the greens dropped at every side by deep chasms. The sheer variety of vegetation makes playing it quite the experience. Several holes permit 270-degree views of the vast Pacific, with the sight of seabirds and sailboats guiding the fresh ocean breeze," concluded Friedlander.

"The ambience of Pelican Hill is second to none," touted Parker Barnes, club champion at Hound Ears in Boone, North Carolina, and eight-time competitor at Executive Cup. "The opportunity to compete against club champions from around the country at one of the best resorts in the world, is why we keep coming back. Simply put, it doesn't get any better than this." ■

*For more information on Pelican Hill Resort, visit [PelicanHill.com](http://PelicanHill.com) and [ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com](http://ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com).*

*For more information on Executive Cup XV, scheduled for October 28-November 2, 2012, phone Tournament Director Mark Pazdur at (949) 933-6478, or e-mail him at [Mark@ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com](mailto:Mark@ExecutiveGolferMagazine.com).*

*Please see page 48 for the results of Executive Cup XIV.*

## Executive Cup XIV Participants

Mauna Kea Resort, Hawaii – November 7-12, 2011

### ARIZONA:

Tom Hofmann (102-103—205)  
Briarwood CC, Sun City West

Walt Klenz (85-81—166)  
The Boulders GC, Scottsdale

Barb Simmons (87-91—178)  
Arizona CC, Phoenix

Warren Simmons (88-85—173)  
Forest Highlands GC, Flagstaff

### CALIFORNIA:

Barb Atnikov (93-102—195)  
The Springs, Rancho Mirage

Jim Clark (87-88—175)  
Pauma Valley CC, Pauma Valley

Don Conyers (80-79—159)  
The Citrus Club, La Quinta

Sherman Haggerty (84-76—160)  
Serrano CC, El Dorado Hills

Bob Hope (82-92—174)  
Sunset Whitney GC, Sacramento

Stan Jackson (85-101—186)  
San Gabriel CC, San Gabriel

Kathy Kolar (90-89—179)  
The Club at Morningside,  
Rancho Mirage

Jim Krusen (93-85—178)  
Lomas Santa Fe CC, Solana Beach

Kate Lach (103-103—206)  
Monterey Peninsula CC,  
Pebble Beach

Michael Lach (91-83—174)  
Monterey Peninsula CC,  
Pebble Beach

Kimberly Pech (87-81—168)  
Riviera CC, Los Angeles

Richard Pech (95-87—182)  
Riviera CC, Los Angeles

Tony Reboton (86-77—163)  
Mountain Vista Club, Palm Desert

Ben Whipple (86-80—166)  
Serrano CC, El Dorado Hills

### COLORADO:

Janet Moore (92-81—173)  
Cherry Hills CC, Englewood

Kent Moore (85-83—168)  
Cherry Hills CC, Englewood

Vivian Parle (105-113—218)  
Colorado Springs CC,  
Colorado Springs

Alan Rothberg (90-94—184)  
Cherry Creek CC, Denver

Katty Rothberg (94-100—194)  
Cherry Creek CC, Denver

### CONNECTICUT:

Ralph Giansanti (90-80—170)  
The CC of Farmington,  
Farmington

Gail Reifsnnyder (106-103—209)  
Silver Spring CC, Ridgefield

Peter Reifsnnyder (88-89—177)  
Silver Spring CC, Ridgefield

Darlene Tranquilli (95-84—179)  
Orange Hills GC, Orange

### FLORIDA:

Jack Scherer (93-93—186)  
Bellair CC, Bellair

Georgia Overdorf (98-110—208)  
Estero CC, Estero

Connie Wehle (95-101—196)  
Breakers Rees Jones Course,  
West Palm Beach

Gene Whitfield (99-103—202)  
Manatee Cove GC,  
Patrick Air Force Base

### GEORGIA:

Renee Kiela (87-94—181)  
The Orchard G & CC, Clarkesville

### IDAHO:

Christopher Hanson (89-80-169)  
Plantation CC, Boise

### KENTUCKY:

Charles King (107-113—220)  
Windward Heights GC, Hawesville

Mike Yeager (87-95—182)  
Triple Crown CC, Union

### MICHIGAN:

Kirke Harris (WD)  
Spring Lake CC, Spring Lake

### MINNESOTA:

Melanie Dunleavy (102-96—198)  
Golden Valley G & CC,  
Golden Valley

### NEW YORK:

Donna Apple (103-94—197)  
Salem GC, North Salem

Carol Strobel (95-89—184)  
Salem GC, North Salem

Werner Strobel (96-100—196)  
Salem GC, North Salem

Beth Yanity (114-111—225)  
Salem GC, North Salem

### NORTH CAROLINA:

Bill Poole (88-99—187)  
North Ridge CC, Raleigh

Peggy Poole (99-102—201)  
North Ridge CC, Raleigh

### PENNSYLVANIA:

Jamie Kerestes (95-94—189)  
Shannopin CC, Pittsburg

Kyle Kerestes (93-87—180)  
Shannopin CC, Pittsburg

Bob Majczan (83-84—167)  
Lookaway GC, Buckingham

Tom Mohn (84-82—166)  
Moselem Springs CC,  
Fleetwood

### TEXAS:

Greg DeHaven (90-79—169)  
Barton Creek Lakeside, Austin

Connie Landgraf (105-100—205)  
Bentwater Y & CC,  
Montgomery

Jim Landgraf (85-84—169)  
Bentwater Y & CC, Montgomery

Norwood Lange (91-85—176)  
Brenham CC, Brenham

David Rohde (93-90—183)  
Cedar Creek CC, Kemp

Steve Seavall (85-84—169)  
Barton Creek Lakeside, Austin

Frank Splann Jr. (92-90—182)  
Dallas Athletic Club, Dallas

John Washburn (85-84—169)  
Barton Creek Lakeside, Austin

### SOUTH CAROLINA:

Janet Swahn (96-95—191)  
Belfair, Bluffton

Rick Swahn (92-92—184)  
Belfair, Bluffton

### UTAH:

Amy Babcock (90-96—186)  
Hidden Valley CC, Sandy

Bruce Babcock (WD)  
Hidden Valley CC, Sandy

### VIRGINIA:

Albert Sabol (86-81—167)  
River Creek Club,  
Leesburg

### CANADA:

Judy Kedwell (101-98—199)  
Cordova Bay CC  
Victoria BC, Canada

## Executive Cup XIV Winners!

