

Focus Destination: Tidewater Golf Club and Plantation— Little River, SC

# THE SUMMIT

7TH ANNUAL MILLENNIUM INVITATIONAL GOLF SUMMIT

MARCH 11-14, 2006



## Inside This Issue

*Find Out What Really Happened on those Four Fateful Final Holes at Oyster Bay from Those That Lived It!*

## Plus

*New Contests!  
More Giveaways!  
Even Bigger Prizes!*

*Meet the Greenhorns and the Long-Awaited Return of Capt. Chris "Hazelwood" Colton*

## **Twice As Nice!!**

*Steve Hale accepts the SMC Trophy at the '05 Summit as he becomes only the second ever (behind Bart Edmunds) to win two Summit Titles*

## A Word from the Director

"If you're not growin'... you're dyin'"

—J. Edmunds, Contemporary American Philosopher

You better believe, in 2006, the Summit is alive and kicking! Bigger, better, and badder than ever, this year's Summit promises not only the largest field and largest purse in Summit history, but new twists at every turn.

With the expansion to a twelve-man field, we will all, once again, bear witness to the unbridled carnage suffered upon the wide-eyed Freshmen as they bumble their way through their long-awaited opening round match. This year's entertainment will be provided by not one, but three rookies (*Bless their hearts!*), all of whom are undoubtedly convinced that they have a chance to be the next SMC Champion ("Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight..."), and the return of a crafty veteran fresh off his Quixote-esque sea (mis) adventure. Either way, we should be overflowing with free comedy.

With an expanded field, so too has our prize-money grown by fifty percent! The "trickle-down" theory dictates that all contests, both tournament and daily, will see an equivalent increase in their respective payouts. As always, we will recognize and pay prize-money to our SMC Champion (Reigning Champ: Steve Hale); the competitor with the cumulative Low Net score for the tournament (Reigning Champ: Kevin Dill), the competitor capturing the Individual Team Championship by collecting the most team points over the course of the tournament (Reigning Champ: Greg Stephens), and the non-competitor with the High Net score for the tournament (Reigning Champ: Bart Edmunds). The Short-Game Championship (Reigning Two-time, Back-to-back, undefeated Champ: Bo Blankenship) will also return this year, but with, it seems, less and less significance as more participants lose interest in this obviously poorly designed test of any meaningful ability.

Daily prizes enable our "One Hit Wonders" to collect money by virtue of a lucky hole, round, and/or the good fortune of being paired with capable teammate(s). Nobody has ever been shut out of tournament prize money... though several have given it a good try (B. Edmunds).

Our optional two-day Calcutta affords our non-golfers the opportunity to capitalize on other latent competencies they may have such as an ability to recognize golfing talent in others. Total prize money in this event swelled to an all-time high of over \$700 last year!

Three years ago, Bo Blankenship introduced the "Caesar's Palace Sports

Book & Casino" to The Summit. Mr. Blankenship's operation affords participants the opportunity to place wagers on virtually any and all aspects of this heralded golfing event. If odds are not offered or a wager not proffered, one simply needs to approach Mr. Blankenship and your desire, however misdirected it may be, will eagerly be satisfied.

For those still on the sidelines, we will continue to offer a rich variety of alternative activities in which to participate such as Texas Hold-em (Reigning Champ: Greg Stephens), Blackjack, Gin Rummy, Go Fish, and Rock-Paper-Scissors— not to mention the once-hotly contested wing-eating championship now held firmly in the jaws of Steve Hale\*.

In addition to the aforementioned diversions, there is always a steady supply of sub-plots from which to derive entertainment... Can Blankenship win a third Short Game Title and still not harness his nerves long enough to win "the Big One"? Can anyone stand to be in the same room with Assaid if he wins another match? Can any of this year's crop of wide-eyed Freshmen break the Rookie Curse? After years at sea, has Colton finally learned to get along with others? What is the "secret of success" to the Deans/Dill relationship and how do they keep it fresh and new? Can Stephens still swing a club with all the scar tissue resulting from the carnage of "The Collapse", or will he request a disability waiver to stay safe inside and practice different ways to say "All in!?" Can Hale stop talking long enough to defend his title, or will he go down in first-round, oxygen-deprived flames as he did in his '03 Title defense? Will Rogich continue his tactic of hypnotizing opponents with methodically slow play, and can his joints withstand the stress of all those practice swings? And most importantly, will crowd-favorite Edmunds resume his winning ways after taking a year off to implement swing changes? The answer to these and many other mysteries will be answered in March at... The Summit!

See you at The Summit!!

—J. Barton Edmunds  
Tournament Director  
2001, 2004 Champion

\*veterans may recall that Hale won the mega-hyped rematch of the '04 debacle by default after Assaid conceded out of apparent fear saying only, "I feel a little bloated." and repeatedly asking, "Do these jeans make me look fat?". Many onlookers observed that it would have been difficult for Assaid (sometimes referred to as the 'Paper Tiger') to force any chicken wings into his mouth given the steady flow of 'smack' coming out. In the end, he opted for crow instead.

# Dedication

In Honor of our Tournament Sweetheart

**Suzie Deans**



Many a player (and raccoon) over the years, in moments of darkest despair and plummeting blood-sugar levels, has been sustained by Suzie's sack of succulent sweets. It is in recognition of Suzie's ongoing commitment to the expansion of our grins and girths that we lovingly dedicate this edition of *The Summit*. So, on behalf of Summit participants past and present, thank you, Suzie. We only hope that Woody appreciates what a truly lucky and/or discriminating man he is.

# Lodging and Arrangements

Deluxe accommodations will be provided by Heather Glen Golf Links. Participants will share two, two-bedroom luxury condominiums conveniently situated on the Heather Glen Golf Links just north of Myrtle Beach in beautiful Little River, SC.

Participants should plan to arrive in the Grand Strand area the evening of Friday, March 10, 2006 with checkout prior to the final round on the morning of Tuesday, March 14, 2006.

In addition to the aforementioned accommodations, tournament entry fee includes daily maid service, four rounds of golf with cart on four luxurious Myrtle Beach area courses, range balls, tournament banquet, tournament gifts/souvenirs, taxes/tips, and over \$900 in daily and tournament cash prizes.

**Balance of entry fee is due one month prior to the event—February 10, 2006. Final payment of \$474.00 should be made payable to me—Bart Edmunds.**

Over \$130.00 in prize-money will be awarded each day with another \$350.00 awarded to the individual winners on the final day of the Summit.

Afternoon rounds will be the responsibility of individual participants. Tournament Assistant-coordinator, Joe Assaid, has made arrangements with resort officials to secure preferred rates for those interested in prolonging the experience.

The only additional expenses relate to out-of-pocket expenditures for food, drinks, souvenirs, the Calcutta, wagers and side-action, and/or entertainment (if you like that sort of thing).



# Handicapping

Initial handicaps have been determined by calculating 90% of last year's tournament ending handicap. Individual handicaps will be adjusted daily by one-third (33%) of the difference between a participant's actual score and his most recent handicap.

EXAMPLE: 2005 Ending Handicap = 11. 2006 Initial Handicap:  $11 \times 90\% = 10$ . 10 handicapper shoots 14 over par. Adjustment would be 1.33 ( $(14 - 10 = 4) / 3 = 1.33$ ), rounded down to 11.

## General Information

1. USGA rules prevail
2. No mulligans
3. Ball may be moved one club-length in *own* fairway
4. When in doubt about lost or out-of-bounds ball, play provisional
5. Double-par stroke limit per hole (No limit for match play purposes)
6. In case of rules disagreement, play second ball. Committee will decide after the round
7. Tie breaking procedure:
  - A. Last three holes
  - B. Last six holes;
  - C. Back nine;
  - D. Low, net for round
  - E. Low net on number one handicap hole
  - F. Two out of three "Rock, Paper, Scissors" (no dynamite... that's silly).

# The Battlefields

Each venue was painstakingly reviewed by the committee and selected only after having been subjected to and determined to meet stringent qualifications

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006**



**8:35AM**

**MEADOWLANDS GOLF CLUB**

**Heron Tees: 6,591 yds**  
(Par: 72; Slope: 127; Rating: 72.6)

Named one of the “Top Ten Best New Courses” by *North Carolina Magazine* when it opened, Meadowlands Golf Club also earned a spot on *Golf for Women’s* Top 100 Women-friendly Courses, making this course particularly popular with and well-suited to a large segment of our Summit field.

Meadowlands features a number of unforgettable holes, bordered by serene meadows, mature hardwoods, and vast wetlands. For our more sensitive participants, the course’s 7,054 yards from the AAA tees are artfully sculpted around pristine fresh water lakes and natural vegetation.

One of the most memorable holes is Meadowland’s 432 yd, par 4, 6th hole. From the elevated fairway and the pond that meanders down the left side of the hole, to the hidden water hazard that protects a raised green complex, the 6th hole demands precision golf while distracting the golfer with its stunning beauty.

**MBGA RATING - \*\*\*** Sporting five sets of tees, large greens, pristine, freshwater lakes, coastal North Carolina native hardwoods and vegetation, egrets, herons, and other marsh birds as well as cardinals and bluebirds and well-defined hazards, this course is more than another round of golf. *Golf for Women* magazine named it one of its Top 100 Women Friendly Courses. It was also recognized as one of the Top 10 Best New Courses in North Carolina in 1999. The real problem here is finding it, as it’s really off the beaten track. So be sure and allow an extra 20 to 30-minutes to find it. The rumor about this track closing for development is NOT true, but development is definitely encroaching there.

#### Directions

Turn right onto 17S. Go 8/10 mile to stop light (Kangaroo/Subway store on corner). Turn right onto Mineola towards Brooksville and proceed for approximately 3 miles. Turn right at Construction store. Course is on the left.

# The Battlefields (cont.)

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2006  
8:57AM

## TIDEWATER GOLF CLUB & PLANTATION

**Gold Tees: 6,630 yds**  
(Par: 72; Slope: 139; Rating: 72.5)



With its magnificent views of the Intracoastal Waterway, saltwater marshes and Atlantic Ocean... and undulating Bermuda grass greens... Tidewater has been called as pure as the ocean breezes that blow across it.

Ranked by *Golf Digest* as the “Best New Public Golf Course in America” when it opened in 1990, Tidewater continues to maintain a top ranking in North Myrtle Beach. *Golf Magazine* has ranked Tidewater as one of the premier golf courses in the country every year since recognizing it as one of the top ten new golf courses built in 1990. Recently rated #39 in *Golf Magazine’s* “Top 100 You Can Play” listing, Tidewater is committed to giving each guest a total golf experience only found at the highest echelon of golf courses.

Designed and built by native South Carolinian, Ken Tomlinson, Tidewater reflects his respect for classic turn-of-the-century golf courses created in harmony with the natural landscape. Tomlinson was involved in the entire course development and building process... from the selection of land to the development, design, routing, and construction of the course. In ad-

dition to being a golf designer, contractor, and real estate developer, Tomlinson is also a tax and business attorney, a member of the South Carolina and Florida Bars and an active member of the USGA and Carolina Golf Association.

**MBGA RATING - \*\*\*\*** This is a traditional-style tract, located on a beautiful, rolling, salt-marsh peninsula, with nine very scenic holes overlooking the expansive salt marshes and Intracoastal Waterway. The inland holes wander through a forest, and water hazards come into play on six holes. In 1990 *Golf Digest* named it the “Best New Public Golf Course in America,” but sadly development is rapidly changing the picture there. In 2003 they renovated their greens.

### Directions

Turn right onto 17 S. Go 2.8 miles and bear left at stop light onto Rte 90. Proceed to second stop light and turn left onto Rte 9. Cross swing bridge and take first left on Tidewater (Hampton Inn is on corner). Course is straight ahead.



# The Battlefields (cont.)

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006

8:12AM

## ANGELS TRACE GOLF LINKS SOUTH COURSE

**White Tees: 6,412 yds**  
(Par: 72; Slope: 132; Rating: 71.4)

Located on a 807 acre tract, Angels Trace South Course is another of Clyde Johnston's masterpiece designs. Offering generous, rolling fairways, shallow bunkers, moderate mounding and large greens, Johnston has designed a course with playability in mind. Sparkling lakes fringed with oyster shells and tall cattails create many of the water hazards located throughout the course. Bordered by a mix of hardwoods, tall oaks, poplars, and a sprinkling of dogwoods, the South Course will put golfers in a scoring mood.



**MBGA RATING - \*\*** This is set among tall Carolina pines, large oaks and dogwoods in a beautiful natural setting. This course with it's tri-mixture of bent grasses, elevated tee boxes, generous rolling fairways, large greens and pristine lakes offers golfers moderate difficulty from the white and gold tees, with a lot tougher test originating from the tips. There are also a few forced carries for women on this one. Over the last two years the conditions and attitudes at Angels Trace have gone from great to lousy, back to good and now about average. There is a rumor circulating that they may be closing one of the Angels Trace courses for development.

### Directions

Take Hwy 17N for 4/10 mi. Bear right onto SC-179. Continue for 6.2 mi and turn right onto Angels Club Drive at the second Angels Trace entrance. Clubhouse is 6/10 mi on left at end of road

# The Battlefields (cont.)

TUESDAY MARCH 14, 2006

8:46AM



## GLEN DORNOCH WATERWAY GOLF LINKS

**Blue Tees: 6,446 yds**  
(Par: 72; Slope: 133; Rating: 71.5)

Glen Dornoch Waterway Golf Links, where the abundant gifts of nature, and the abundant talents of course architect **Clyde Johnston**, blend in seamless perfection. The site is unequalled - **270 pristine acres** of dense stands of oaks, pines and magnolias, and **35-foot elevations**, all set along South Carolina's loveliest stretch of the Intracoastals Waterway. Each hole - built one at a time - flows with the natural terrain of lakes, live oaks, and spectacular marsh and river views.

To help us maintain a reasonable pace of play, and to ensure that your round is as enjoyable as possible on our challenging golf course, the staff of Glen Dornoch would strongly recommend you play the following tees according to your handicap:

0-5	Black
6-9	Blue
10-25	White
25+	Gold

**MBGA RATING - \*\*\*** There is no "middle ground" with this course. Golfers either hate it (high handicappers), while others love it (low handicappers). Located on rolling land, with elevations of up to 35-feet, along the Intracoastal Waterway this occasionally "tricked-up" course features a natural terrain of lakes, live oaks, pines, magnolias, wetlands, salt marshes and river views. If you're not a low handicapper, and are a glutton for punishment, take lots of balls, and enjoy getting your ass kicked.

### Directions

Turn right onto 17 S for 3/10 mi. Glen Dornoch will be on your left. Estimated driving time: 1 minute.

## Hall of Fame/Shame

Back by popular demand... Below is a partial listing of notable accomplishments over the years. So much has happened, that it is difficult to distill it down to the few pages allotted here.

### Money and Earnings

These are competitors earnings from Tournament sanctioned and sponsored events only and do not include Calcutta, Short Game Championship, or “side-action”.

#### Leading Money Winner (Career)

Ken Rogich	\$405.75
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#### Most Money Won (Tournament)

Ken Rogich	\$143.75	2003
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#### Least Money Won (Tournament)

Bart Edmunds	\$4.25	2003
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#### Highest Earnings per Start (min 2 starts)

Ken Rogich	\$81.15	5 starts
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#### Lowest Earnings per Start (min 2 starts)

Bart Edmunds	\$33.21	6 starts
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# Hall of Fame/Shame (cont.)

## Scoring

### Low Gross (Tournament)

Steve Hale      324      2001

### High Gross (Tournament)

Joe Assaid      460      2001

### Low Gross (Round)

Steve Hale      72      Shaftesbury Glen      2005

### High Gross (Round)

Joe Assaid      121      River Club      2002

### Low Net (Tournament)

Bart Edmunds      +27      2001

### High Net (Tournament)

Joe Assaid      +80      2001

### Low Net (Round)

Woody Deans      70      Oyster Bay      2005  
Joe Assaid      70      Wildwing-Hummingbird      2004  
Joe Assaid      70      Wizard      2000

### High Net (Round)

Joe Assaid      99      River Club      2002

# Hall of Fame/Shame (cont.)

## Scoring (cont.)

### Career Scoring Averages

	<b><u>Gross Round</u></b>	<b><u>Net Round</u></b>	<b><u>Net Tourn</u></b>
Kevin Dill*	81.25	79.00	+30
Steve Hale	81.79	81.33	+38.2
Tim Cone*	82.75	82.5	+42
Bart Edmunds	86.04	82.96	+44.7
Bo Blankenship	86.58	82.83	+44.2
Woody Deans	88.21	83.04	+45
Greg Stephens	90.00	82.75	+44
Rick Crotts	90.0	83.38	+46
Mike Sisler	92.13	82.13	+41.5
Pat King*	95.75	85.75	+55
Ken Rogich	102.45	83.15	+45.6
Chris Colton	105.45	84.91	+46
Joe Assaid	107.13	85.5	+54.8

\*Only participated in one event

# **Hall of Fame/Shame (cont.)**

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Biggest Comeback (1st Rnd/Last Rnd Gross)**

Greg Stephens      -15 shots (97/82)      2003

### **Biggest Collapse (1st Rnd/Last Rnd Gross)**

Joe Assaid      +16 shots (94/110)      2004

### **Highest Calcutta Bid**

\$150 by W. Deans for K. Dill      2005

### **Lowest Calcutta Bid**

\$20 by B. Edmunds for J. Assaid      2003

### **Unofficial Texas Hold 'em Champion**

Greg Stephens

### **Reigning Wing Eating Champion**

Steve Hale\*

\*See footnote to "A Word from the Director" on p.3

# 2005 Photo Gallery

Photos courtesy of Greg Stephens



# Anatomy of a Collapse

## Tragedy at the Summit

Another insightful article by

**Bart Edmunds**

For the first time in the eleven months since the most nauseating ‘train wreck’ in Summit history, we discuss, with those directly involved, the events leading up to, their thoughts and feelings as the drama began to unfold, and the challenge of coping with the indelible marks left on anyone close enough to witness what has come to be known simply as “*The Collapse*”.

### Prologue:

The ‘05 Summit started like any other— with excitement and high-hopes all around. By Day 3, the general mood had changed. In unprecedented fashion, Joe Assaid was making headlines and enemies by actually winning matches and then proceeding to search out competitors’ wounds into which he could grind salt. To make matters worse in the Assaid camp, Joe seemed to be taking some diabolical pleasure in concocting “flim-flam” schemes to fleece the likes of Bo Blankenship out of what little money he had left.



Meanwhile, a storm was brewing as Steve Hale and Greg Stephens prepared to face-off in what was widely held, though only the semi-finals, to be the Championship Match. The handicaps seemed disproportionate and the sheep were flooding into Stephens’ stable. Elsewhere, Steve Hale (affectionately known by family as “Fat Boy”) prepared for battle— blissfully unaware of the task that lay before him.

With the perspective that only time can provide, I spent some time with Steve and Greg discussing the day and the match. What follows are excerpts from those conversations with editor’s notes/comments in red.

**[Bart Edmunds, Tournament Director and First Two-Time SMC Champion] How did you feel about all the ‘behind the back’ trash-talking that went on leading up to the match?**

[Gregory A. Stephens, P.C.] Well, Bart, I have to admit that I was unaware of any behind the back trash talking. Now if you are asking me if I’m sur-



prised that there was some, that’s different. One would, I suppose, have to consider the source. We can immediately dismiss half the field as sore losers since this was to be a semi-final match. Any talk from them can be immediately dismissed as irrelevant. That leaves myself, Mr. Hale, Mr. Assaid, and (if I’m not mistaken) Mr. Rogich. With regards to Mssrs. Assaid and Rogich, does anyone take them seriously anyway? Which brings

us to my esteemed opponent, Mr. Hale. He too can be dismissed as a trash talker due to sheer volume of talk. One who talks that much is bound to spew a certain percentage of trash without ever realizing as much. Let’s just say that self-censorship and Steve Hale are not often associated with one another. So to answer your question, pre-match trash talk played no role in the outcome of the match.

(Many say that Hale has no idea what he’s thinking until he hears it come out of his mouth. It has also been said that he would rather “climb a tree and tell a lie than stay on the ground and tell the truth”.)

[Steve Hale] This is a difficult question to answer because my match with Greg was the one match where there was very little hype. I remember feeling a little dejected the night before when I realized that I was giving him 10 shots on a course that I had never seen. But, being the competitor I am, I

(Continued on page 38)



# Haiku Match Game

As you know, a Haiku is a three line Japanese poem. The lines must follow the specific 5-7-5 pentameter of five syllables, seven syllables, five syllables. Each was designed to capture the essence of our game/personality.

Test your knowledge of your favorite MIGS heroes. Match the following eight Haikus with the corresponding MIGS participant. Courtesy of Greg Stephens.

A.

Drive of two twenty  
Chatters with the best of them  
It's good inside ten

\*\*\*\*\*

B.

Always arrow straight  
Quick with encouraging words  
Kills you with kindness

\*\*\*\*\*

C.

Keeps a low profile  
Look for a sophomore slump  
Can score with anyone

\*\*\*\*\*

D.

Keeper of the book  
Will take anyone's action  
The up and down king

E.

Grip it and rip it  
When is the next hold 'em game  
Lots of chips and putts

\*\*\*\*\*

F.

Straight down the middle  
Watch for rain in the forecast  
He is a mudder

\*\*\*\*\*

G.

Practice swing, repeat  
I live for this yearly trip  
Somehow wins money

\*\*\*\*\*

H.

It's my day today  
I like to eat alot of wings  
Maybe tomorrow

Answers on page 33.

# The Warriors

## **Steven Edward Hale**

**Born:** June 9, 1966: Roanoke, VA

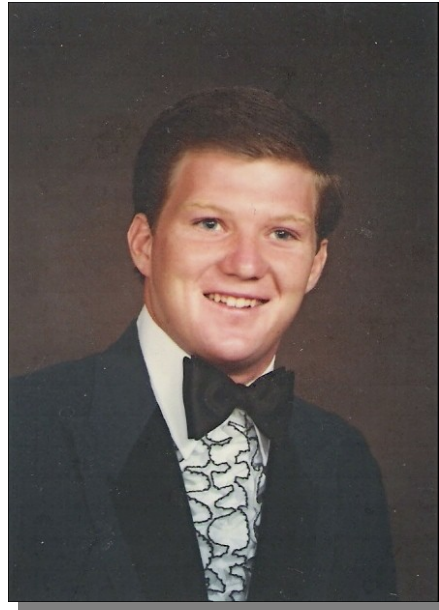
Defending Summit Matchplay Champion  
2003 Low Net  
2002 Summit Match-play Champion  
2001 Low Net

**Career Earnings:** \$267.25

**Assignment:** Tournament Gift & Entertainment Coordinator

**Roommate:** Stephens

Handicap: 0



**Strength:** “The strongest part of my game is, was, and always will be the mental ferocity I am able to display, seemingly at will, in the midst of competition. Whether it be golf, billiards, or hand-to-hand combat, there comes a time when I can look into the eyes of my opponent and tell that I have broken him.”

**Weakness:** “The weakest part of my game is my swing itself. A former golf professional at Hidden Valley Country Club once stated that when developing the proper swing, one should try not to duplicate any part of my swing. The only thing he liked about my swing was the results. I think it should be noted here that in head-to-head competition against him, I can count on one hand the number of times the match has gone to 18. He has been broken many times.”

**Average Driving Distance:** “My average driving distance is hard to calculate. On average, I am fifty yards short of Greg Stephens, ten yards behind Bo Blankenship, and twenty yards ahead of Bart. If that measures out to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 260 yards, then so be it.”

**Least Threatening:** “The opponent posing the least threat to a Title run once again this year will be Joe Assaid. After he started our championship match last year with an X on the first two holes, I looked into his eyes to see if I had broken him, and, much to my surprise, I saw the look of a tender, young child. A look much too innocent and pure for me to continue with my normal bloodthirsty pursuit of domination. I quickly changed hats and bent down to give him that hug he so desperately needed. As I stared in his eyes that day, much like Forrest Gump staring into the eyes of his friend, Bubba, who lay fatally wounded in the battlefield, Joe and I bonded. In that instant, we became friends, but at the same time we realized that a matchplay scenario between us should never happen again. For his sake, I hope it doesn't.”

**Greatest Threat:** “The opponent posing the biggest threat to my **third** Title run would have to be Bo [Blankenship]. I know most of you will laugh at that, but hear me out. Contrary to what his matchplay record would indicate, Bo is a contender for this year's event. Here's why: Have you ever lost a \$5 bet and immediately said, 'Let's play again, double-or-nothing.'? Theoretically, if you keep betting double-or-nothing, the law of averages states that you will eventually break even. In Bo's case, he has performed so poorly in matchplay over the past 6 years that his handicap has consistently been ratcheted up in order to make him competitive. If I'm not mistaken, he and Ken Rogich are even money on handicaps following last year's final round. Therefore, the law of averages has to make him a frontrunner in this year's event.”

## The Warriors (cont.)

Hale (from previous page)

**Steve's Thoughts on the '05 Summit:** "As you can probably guess, I am thrilled with the way this year's event unfolded. I'm not sure what you meant by "hurtful tactics" but I assure you that if it had been done by Bo Blankenship, Woody would have called it "gamesmanship"! The funniest moment for me, from my vague recollection, would have to be waking up to the shrill voice of Kevin Dill a.k.a. Goldilocks after he climbed into papa bear's bed only to find papa bear was still in it. Again, had it been done by Bo it would simply be called gamesmanship. I have given the trip considerable thought since my return to Roanoke and there are two thoughts that keep popping into my head, as far as improvements go.

1. I think we should give some thought to expanding our field to 12, assuming the new 4 are agreed upon by all.
2. I think that it would be a great idea to have some sort of "Champion's Jacket" or the like to be presented and worn by all past champions to the Champion's Dinner. My thought is, since the dinner is the night before the championship is decided, we would make the presentation to the previous year's winner. That way we wouldn't have to guess at the size beforehand. It would also be a neat way to recognize all past champions with everyone seated around the dinner table wearing a burgundy jacket except Bo. Can you imagine! "Bo, where's your jacket? Oh, you've never won!" or "Greg, didn't you have your arm in the jacket when Steve ripped it off of you?" It's not so much the owning of the jacket as it is the envy of the "non-owners".

(In response to Ken Rogich's observations)

Ken,

Thanks for your summation of this year's event. I have often wondered if I was the only one who saw that satanic stare from Joe after my fall. Your validation releases me to comment on the "Transformation". As you know, I am not one to speak out unless provoked. Joe's behavior during the middle rounds was very enlightening to me on two levels. I feel like, in all fairness to Joe, that you and Bart should understand the complexity of the occurrence. Firstly, I agree with you that his behavior was abhorrent. If the shoes were reversed and it was you taking pot shots at Joe, he would have run back to the condo, curled up in the fetal position in the back of his closet and not come out until the bus for Roanoke pulled up. That being said, you must take into consideration the second piece to this puzzle. Do you remember how you reacted when you won your first ever little league baseball or football game? You were probably like most of us and ran around screaming and high-fiving everyone around. Well, Joe has never tasted that sweet nectar. He has never experienced the thrill of victory at any athletic level, much less golf. After years of frustration and being on the wrong side of the victory celebration- HE JUST SNAPPED! Look at it from his perspective. Can you imagine being so close to that pinnacle which you've spent your life trying to reach... the Holy Grail of golf... and knowing that every single odds maker in the world is betting against you. It is truly amazing to me that he held up as well as he did. I can't imagine that amount of pressure. When you look at from his angle, hopefully it becomes more clear.

If I were you, I wouldn't take it personal at all. I'll bet that if you asked Joe if he had any regrets, that would be at the top of his list. Joe is a dear friend of mine and I am writing this in his defense. Otherwise, I would just do as I usually do and keep my thoughts to myself. Take care and I'll see you next year!

Steve

## The Warriors (cont.)



### **Kevin O'Donnell Dill**

**Born:** October 30, 1958;  
County Cork, Ireland

**2005 Low Net**

**Career Earnings:** \$67.25

**Assignment:** Dining Coordinator

**Roommate:** Deans

**Handicap:** 0

**Strength:** 1977 McGregor wedge from 100 yards

**Weakness:** “3 1/2 foot putts would be what is currently keeping me off the Hooter’s Tour.”

**Average Driving Distance:** 239 yards

**Greatest Threat:** Joe Assaid — “Joe is one of the most talented athletes God has ever blown breath into. I have witnessed mammoth drives delivered by this icon with pinpoint accuracy. I don’t like to fear any man, but to not take this 5th Flight Ashley Plantation Club Champion seriously would be a grave mistake.”

**Least Threatening:** Bo Blankenship — “I do not like to belittle anybody, and Bo is just a peach of a guy, and a wonderful husband and father. It’s just that I beat him like a drum every time I face him. Sometime I see the poor little guy shivering on the first tee when he is paired against me. I mean no disrespect, but if Bo and I were in prison together, he would be my girlfriend. Enough said.”

# The Warriors (cont.)

## Gregory Stephens

**Born:** September 25, 1966;  
Philadelphia, PA

2005 Individual Team Champion  
2004 High Net  
2003 Co-Individual Team Champion

**Career Earnings:** \$170.50

**Assignment:** Tournament Photographer  
& Poker Coordinator

**Roommate:** Hale

**Handicap:** 6



**Strength:** Inspiring fear and uneasiness in opponents with prodigious, but often errant, tee shots

**Weakness:** Relieving opponents of any fear and uneasiness once inside 100 yards of the hole

**Average Driving Distance:** “About 180 miles from Cary to Myrtle Beach.”

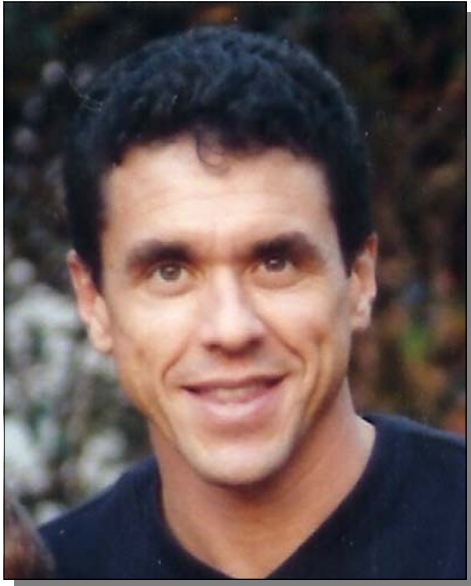
**Greatest Threat:** Steve Hale — “He’s a Bulldog, and I must overcome The Collapse.”

**Least Threatening:** “My first round opponent. [I] haven’t lost a first round match ever!” (Note: Famous last words — B. Edmunds; Editor-in-Chief)

**Greg’s Thoughts on the ‘05 Summit:** “As I pondered my fate on my desolate, lonely journey home upon completion of round 4 at Glen Dornoch, I found myself thinking outside the box. I can’t seem to get that Mastercard commercial out of my head. New putter \$95, another new putter \$125, yet another new putter \$245, never having to putt, priceless. Which brings me to some suggestions for improving the competition. I have a few ideas (some of narrow mind might find them radical) to enhance our competition.

- 1) All strokes occurring within 20 yards of the green count as 1/2 a shot while actual putts are 1/4 shot.
- 2) If suggestion (1) above is too radical, then Joe needs a new elongated putter with less leather.
- 3) All tournament courses should be treeless and measure no less than 7500 yards with mandatory 230 yd. carries over water on at least half the par 4 tee shots.”

## The Warriors (cont.)



### **John Barton Edmunds**

**Born:** Roanoke, VA 1962

2005 High Net

2004 Summit Match-play Champion

2001 Summit Match-play Champion

2000 High Net

**Career Earnings:** \$199.25

**Assignment:** Tournament Director & Handicapping

**Roommate:** Assaid

**Handicap:** 6

**Strength:** Well-roundedness (In a different sort of way than someone like, say... Steve Hale or Eric Esch)

**Weakness:** Compassion. “Having been the first in Summit history to breathe the rarified air of winning **two** SMC Titles, the thrill of victory probably doesn’t have the same intoxicating effect that it would on others, if they ever had the opportunity to experience it. Sometimes I find myself thinking, ‘You know, they need this more than I do.’, but then I realize that the gap between most participant’s wants/“needs” and their ability to attain them is un-bridgeable. It’s a little like attempting to summit Mt. Everest— the closer you get to the top, the harder it is to provide your body with the oxygen it needs to perform.”

**Average Driving Distance:** 220 yards from the tee-box, 70 yards from Greg Stephens in no particular direction, 40 yards left of Ben Fry, one fairway over from Bo Blankenship and Joe Assaid, 4 feet from Woody Deans, and 12 inches directly above the water-line

**Greatest Threat:** Bart Edmunds — “In Daly-esque fashion, Edmunds tends to be his own worst enemy. While it sometimes seems his mind is elsewhere, it is widely acknowledged that when he’s on his game, there are very few that offer him a true challenge. Many say that it is his deeply cerebral nature that is both his curse and his blessing. While many competitors live for and focus on little beyond their hope of finding glory in these four fleeting days each year, one senses that Edmunds’ waters run much deeper. As monumental an accomplishment as an SMC Title is, one can only admire, find comfort in, and offer gratitude knowing that his attention is often directed elsewhere toward larger issues that have the potential to effect us all.”  
— C. Powell, former Secretary of State and avid golfer (excerpt from June '05 interview; Time magazine)

**Least Threatening:** Ben Fry — “Bless his heart! He’s the poster-child for wide-eyed wonderment. While many dream of winning the Summit, Ben has dreamed of merely being invited. Having had that dream fulfilled, Ben has very little to play for. Couple that with the altitude sickness experienced by all rookies, and you realize that poor Ben will be lucky to finish the front nine without doing harm to himself and/or his playing partners. My advice— ‘Ben, just try to have fun and enjoy the weather and the companionship.’”

## The Warriors (cont.)

### Joseph Richard Assaid

**Born:** June 3, 1963: Roanoke, VA

2005 SMC Runner-up  
2004 Individual Team Champion  
2002 High Net  
2001 High Net

**Career Earnings:** \$264.75

**Assignment:** Travel Arrangements & Prizemoney

**Roommate:** Edmunds

**Handicap:** 22



**Strength:** Short game and around the greens. “I feel like I can really work the ball.”

**Weakness:** Off the tee; usually fighting the driver. “One day I’ve got it, the next day it’s gone. [I’m] not sure if I’m working it to the right hole.”

**Average Driving Distance:** Between 260-270

**Greatest Threat:** Steve Hale — “Of course, now I know what he’s all about, and it won’t be a replay of last year. He’s out of shape, overweight, and not in good health, so dispersing of him will not be a problem this year. He’ll go quietly.”

**Least Threatening:** “Any past Champion\*. Usually, they’re ripe for the picking. One and done. Last year I had Edmunds wondering what hit him after 9 holes in the first round. In the second round, Rogich was beaten down so hard we had to come scrape him up off the cart path. And, as I mentioned earlier, I will have Hale crying out for his momma this year — poor rollie-pollie!”

**Joe’s Thoughts on the ‘05 Summit:** “I pretty much tuned everyone and everything else out other than my quest for the SMC trophy; however, I noticed that there were some participants that had an earlier exit in the tournament that started hitting the bottle pretty hard and disturbing some of the other contestants with late nights out and trying to get up on a boy when he was sleeping peacefully in the buff- that action should be looked into by the committee.”

**Additional Comments:** “Every year I’ve inched closer and closer to the trophy, and last year was within a twisted knee (sure wish I had Marcus Vick in the cart) of bringing the cup back with me. After a summer of beating lots of balls, many competitive rounds, playing several difficult courses, and winning the club championship at Ashley Plantation (Okay... there were 6 flights.), I’m primed to be walking up the 18th fairway, with fists pumping, crowds cheering, and the new guys watching in awe, hoping that they will be me one day. Keep dreaming guys. Woody’s senior tour starts up in June!” — Joe Assaid, SMC Champion 2006(?)

\*Note: Apparently Mr.Assaid is unaware that Steve Hale has participated in this tournament in the past

## The Warriors (cont.)

### Bobby “Short Game” Blankenship

(“I am in the process of changing my name to just ‘Short Game’, you know, like Prince or Madonna.”)

Born: April 17, 1965;  
Swamps and Bayous of  
southeast Roanoke, VA

2004 Low Net  
2003 High Net  
2000 Low Net

Career Earnings: \$307.25

Assignment: Gaming  
Consultant & Oddsmaker

Roommate: Linden

Handicap: 5



Bo gets in a quick off-season workout consisting mainly of heavy meditation

**Strength:** Short game... two-time winner. “Every time I get within 100 yards, Steve Hale just looks on with awe trying to pick up any little nuances that can improve his mindless, no-touch short game.”

**Weakness:** Overconfidence against weaker players

**Average Driving Distance:** 280 yards, or 40 yards further than wherever Kevin Dill hits it.

**Greatest Threat:** Woody Deans — “Every hole he will be complaining that he should be playing the gold tees because of his age. After a while, you just feel sorry for the old guy.”

**Least Threatening:** Kevin Dill — “I’ve informed Suzie Deans that Kevin is allergic to sugar and chocolate. When he gets on the first tee and realizes everybody got a goody bag except him, he’ll drop like a bag of dirt and won’t recover.”



## The Warriors (cont.)

### Linwood Hinton Deans

Born: September 6, 1948;

Williamsburg, VA

(Note: Oldest player on tour!! “Elderly Gentleman”)

2001 Summit Match-play Champion

**Career Earnings:** \$274.50

**Assignment:** Official Scorekeeper

**Roommate:** Dill

**Handicap:** 5

**Strength:** Hitting fairways

**Weakness:** Long irons

**Average Driving Distance:** 220  
yards

**Greatest Threat:** Bart Edmunds — “Because his game is so similar to mine, and youth is on his side.”

**Least Threatening:** Joe Assaid — “Because we are playing in Myrtle Beach and Joe will have his beach game with him.”



# The Warriors (cont.)



## **Kenneth Blair Rogich**

Born: November 18, 1964; Alexandria, VA

**All-Time Leading Money Winner**

2003 Summit Match-play Champion

2002 Low Net

2000 Individual Team Champion

**Career Earnings: \$405.75**

**Assignment: Calcutta Treasurer**

**Roommate: Colton**

**Handicap: 15**

**Strength:** Gamesmanship and mental toughness

**Weakness:** Everything else

**Average Driving Distance:** 240 yards; Slice 180 yards

**Greatest Threat:** Joe Assaid — “He’s the biggest threat to everyone’s chances due to his ‘Tonya Harding-like’ qualities. When he gets in the zone, he will try anything in order to win.”

**Least Threatening:** Steve Hale — “There is no such thing as back-to-back at The Summit.”

**Ken’s Thoughts on the ‘05 Summit:** “I felt some disappointment during this year’s tournament as I witnessed Joe Assaid show himself to be a true Jekyll and Hyde. While in previous years, the group has enjoyed Joe’s self deprecating sense of humor and apparent willingness to put his hair needs above those of his golf game, Joe has been merely laying in wait. He has been waiting for that one in a million year, when the moon reverses its course around the earth, when water runs uphill and consequently when Joe is able to advance to the final round of the Summit Match Play Championship. It just so happened that 2005 was the year when these seemingly once in a lifetime occurrences have lined up and Joe’s alter ego has appeared. We saw Joe metamorphose into a belligerent and blood thirsty pot shot artist who was focused on winning at any cost. Not only did he choose to verbally ridicule two prestigious past champions (not to mention gentleman) but he had the gall to “miscount” money that was owed to the hardworking journeyman in the group who depends on that money to keep his interest going throughout the tournament. Even near the end, when Joe was several holes down on the final day and nearing full implosion, his alter ego made one final appearance. The gleam re-entered his eye as Steve Hale lay writhing on the ground after wrenching his surgically repaired knee in a pot hole. I got the sense that Joe felt that by some odd twist of fate the Cup might be his after all. One got the feeling that if Bart and I were not there, Joe might have taken matters into his own hands and finished off poor helpless ole’ Steve with his driver right at that moment, just in order to secure the Cup on a technicality. (As an aside, I will tell you that it would have been the most productive use of that driver all day.) Alas, it was not to be.

Well, we can take solace in the fact that the one in a million year has passed and the “old Joe” will return once again next year. Once again we can share in the docile, fun loving, carefree and supportive demeanor that makes him most lovable. Once again, Joe will take his gentle and rightful place in the gallery on the final day. It is unfortunate that this return to kindness only results from early tournament exits, but such is his cross to bear.”

## The Veteran

### Christian James Eric Colton

**Born:** April 28, 1962: Smithtown, NY

**Career Earnings:** \$191.00

**Assignment:** Wake-up Calls

**Roommate:** Rogich

**Handicap:** 19

**Strength:** The 19th Hole. "I am weak there too!"

**Weakness:** Getting the ball in the hole

**Average Driving Distance:** 200 yards — not necessarily towards the hole

**Greatest Threat:** Me — "Because I'm the one who has to hit the ball."

**Least Threatening:** No idea



## The Pawns

Aw, just look at them! Every year we have at least one adorable little newcomer that truly believes in their heart that they too have a "snowball's chance" at the Title. But like the first wave of foot-soldiers into battle, their glory is short-lived and the harsh reality of war sets in. This year's "heroes" are as follows:



### John Bradberry

**Born:** October 23, 1976; Columbus, GA

**Assignment:** Course Logistics Coordinator

**Roommate:** Fry

**Handicap:** 1

**Strength:** "Whenever I need the ball to go dead right or 90 degrees, I can hit it off the hosel."

**Weakness:** "Sometimes when I need to hit it about 170 and straight, it goes 90 degrees to the right."

**Ave. Driving Distance:** "Take Steve Hale's and multiply by 4."

**Greatest Threat:** Woody Deans — "Anybody who wears two golf gloves in 100 degree heat intimidates me."

**Least Threatening:** Bart Edmunds — "The only chance he has is to shoot his waist size on the front nine."

**Additional Comments:** "As for Steve Hale... I will put something on him Ajax won't take off. When I'm finished, he'll quit and never come back... and you can quote me on that!"

## The Pawns (cont.)

### **Robert Benjamin Fry**

**Born:** August 8, 1980; Roanoke, VA

**Assignment:** Asst. Scorekeeper

**Roommate:** Bradberry

**Handicap:** 7

**Strength:** "I'm the best player in Roanoke on sharp dog-legs to the right!"

**Weakness:** Smother-hooked lob wedges

**Average Driving Distance:** 250 out, 70 to the right

**Greatest Threat:** Woody Deans — "I already have trouble putting... the dinner plate makes it impossible."

**Least Threatening:** Steve Hale — "I'll just hit 5 iron past his drives and give him a skirt."



### **David Mario Linden**

**Born:** October 19, 1964; Berea, OH

**Assignment:** Asst. Dining Coordinator

**Roommate:** Blankenship

**Handicap:** 10

**Strength:** Short game around the green

(Note: As opposed to his short game around the tee — B. Edmunds, Editor-in-Chief)

**Weakness:** Inconsistency off the tee

**Average Driving Distance:** 220 yards... direction unknown

**Greatest Threat:** Steve Hale — "He's the best player in the Roanoke Valley according to Steve Hale."



**Least Threatening:** Joe Assaid — "It's way too early

in the season for Joe to be hitting the ball as pure as he usually does. And besides, I don't want to be the only player in the group to not pick Joe for this honorable distinction."

# THE MAJORS

Multi-day events designed to distinguish individuals with extraordinary talent and tenacity. Major events are printed in periwinkle.

## SUMMIT MATCH-PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP (SMC)

**DEFENDING CHAMPION: Steve Hale**  
**PURSE: \$100.00**

- Series of three (or four) individual matches beginning Day 1 (or 2)
- All individual matches will be match-play format
- Seedings determined by combination of prior year finish and Round 1 results/scoring
- Full handicaps will be used in this event

## LOW NET

**DEFENDING CHAMPION: Kevin Dill**  
**PURSE: \$100.00**

- Awarded to individual with lowest four-day net score using full handicap

## INDIVIDUAL TEAM CHAMPION

**DEFENDING CHAMPION: Greg Stephens**  
**PURSE: \$75.00**

- This oxymoronic title is awarded to the individual collecting the most team points over the four-day event

## HIGH NET

**DEFENDING CHAMPION: Bart Edmunds ('05 Runner-up: J. Assaid)**  
**PURSE: \$75.00** (Always in the hunt!)

- Awarded to hapless sap with the *highest* four-day net score using full handicap

NOTE: Player can win only one major. Prizes awarded as follows: SMC Champ, Low Net Champ, Individual Team Points Champ, High Net Champ.

# Daily Contests

## **YELLOW BALL (New this year!)**      **TOTAL PURSE:**      **\$40.00**

- Each four-man team receives one yellow ball with which to play
- Use of yellow ball rotates in predetermined order from one player to the next on each hole
- Teams continue rotation until yellow ball is deemed “lost” by actually losing it and/or hitting it out-of-bounds
- Last team to “lose” yellow ball wins

## **SKINS (New format!)**      **TOTAL PURSE:**      **\$144.00**

- Replacing “Cuts” competition at prior Summits, this year’s contest is a classic \$2.00/hole skins game with carryovers
- Skins will be awarded to individuals for winning a hole outright versus the field.
- Orphaned skins at the end of a rounds 1-3 will be carried to the next day
- Orphaned skins at the end of the round 4 will be awarded to the individual winning the most skins for the tournament
- All skins will be paid at the end of the tournament
- Full handicaps will be used in this event.

## **SHORT GAME CHAMPIONSHIP**      **TOTAL PURSE:**      **\$60.00**

This competition is an opportunity for competitors to display their talents (or lack thereof) on and around the greens.

- Championship will consist of a series of individual nine-hole matches
- Seedings are based on current Summit handicaps. Higher handicap players will receive 1 up for every 9 stroke differential in handicaps (ie: 0 handicap plays an 18 handicap, 18 handicap starts match 2 up)
- Higher handicap gets choice to go first or defer, alternating thereafter
- First player chooses starting point (off the putting surface), place or drop, and destination hole
- Players then proceed in traditional match play format until ball is holed/conceded
- Player trailing upon reaching final hole chooses starting point on that hole
- Sudden-death tie-breaker will be used with alternating choice resuming
- Winning player advances to next round
- Winner of final match collects \$50 purse Runner-up receives \$10

*(Continued on page 31)*

# Daily Contests (cont.)

## STABLEFORD

**TOTAL PURSE: \$200.00**

- Points are awarded to team based on individuals' scores as follows:

<b>DOUBLE EAGLE:</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>EAGLE:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>BIRDIE:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PAR:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>BOGIE:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BOGIE+:</b>	<b>0</b>

- Team accumulates points throughout round
- Highest cumulative point total wins
- Full handicaps will be used in this event.

## BEST BALL

**TOTAL PURSE: \$200.00**

- Best individual score each hole is used to determine team score.
- Variation: 2 BEST BALLS uses best two individual scores per hole on four-man team to determine team score.
- Full handicaps will be used in this event.

# Calcutta

**(Participation Optional... but encouraged)**

This event is the only one that requires an additional monetary commitment. Not for the faint of heart, this auction style event allows you to profit from the success of others—regardless of your own abilities.

**ENTRY FEE:            \$10.00**

**TOTAL PURSE:            ?**

## How It Works

- Contest is based on individual scores over two-day period consisting of Sunday and Monday morning rounds only
- Adjusted Summit handicaps will be used for this event.
- Calcutta participants bid on Summit contestants based on their anticipated performance.
- Calcutta participants must open bidding on themselves at \$20.00. Bidding then proceeds in \$5.00 increments.
- Calcutta participants are required to own at least 25% of themselves.
- Purchaser is obligated to sell up to 50% back to contestant at his request.
- Purchaser will receive a 20% discount on total amount invested in participants other than himself.
- Purchaser is responsible for all money related to their transactions.
- All purchases must be settled in cash at conclusion of auction.
- Prize-money will be paid as follows:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place:</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b><u>2005 Prizes</u></b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place:</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>\$394</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place:</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>\$215</b>
		<b>\$107</b>



# Calcutta

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>HCP</u>	<u>OWNER</u>	<u>BID</u>	<u>POT</u>	<u>DAY</u> <u>1</u>	<u>DAY</u> <u>2</u>	<u>TOT</u>
ASSAID							
COLTON							
ROGICH							
LINDEN							
FRY							
STEPHENS							
EDMUNDS							
DEANS							
BLANKENSHIP							
BRADBERRY							
DILL							
HALE							
		<b>ENTRY FEES</b>					
			<b>TOTAL</b>				

# Day One

## SMC Play-in Matches/Qualifying

Stableford/Yellow-ball Teams and Round 1 MatchPlay Pairings (Blind Draw)  
(Play-in matches in boxes)

8:35

Hale (1)  
Stephens (4)

Fry
Deans

8:43

Dill (2)  
Assaid (3)

Rogich
Edmunds

8:51

Blankenship
Colton

Bradberry
Linden

---

## Skins

Daily Purse:       \$36.00

---

## Yellow-Ball

Purse:       \$40.00/Team

## Four-man Stableford

Purse:       \$100.00/Team

Team Points: 1

# Day Two

## Round I of SMC

	<u>8:57</u>		<u>9:06</u>		<u>9:15</u>						
<u>A</u>	<table border="1"><tr><td>1 Hale</td></tr><tr><td>8 _____</td></tr></table>	1 Hale	8 _____	<u>B</u>	<table border="1"><tr><td>2 Dill</td></tr><tr><td>7 _____</td></tr></table>	2 Dill	7 _____	<u>C</u>	<table border="1"><tr><td>3 Stephens</td></tr><tr><td>6 _____</td></tr></table>	3 Stephens	6 _____
1 Hale											
8 _____											
2 Dill											
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	9 _____		10 _____		<u>D</u>						
	12 _____		11 _____		<table border="1"><tr><td>4 Assaid</td></tr><tr><td>5 _____</td></tr></table>	4 Assaid	5 _____				
4 Assaid											
5 _____											

## Skins

Daily Purse: \$36.00

## 2 Best Balls (Four-man Teams)

Purse: \$100.00/Team

Team Points: 2

## Short Game Championship

Competition will follow morning round

Purse: 1st: \$50.00  
2nd: \$10.00

# Day Three

## Round 2 of SMC

8:12

L(C) \_\_\_\_\_  
(10) \_\_\_\_\_

L(A) \_\_\_\_\_  
L(B) \_\_\_\_\_

8:20

a

W(A) _____
W(D) _____

(11) \_\_\_\_\_  
(12) \_\_\_\_\_

8:28

b

W(B) _____
W(C) _____

L(D) \_\_\_\_\_  
(9) \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Skins

Daily Purse: \$36.00

### Two-man Stableford

Purse: \$100.00/Team

Team Points: 3

#### TEAMS

L(C)/(10)  
L(B)/L(A)

W(A)/(12)  
W(D)/(11)

W(B)/(9)  
W(C)/L(D)

## P.M. Round

Discretionary

### Summit Dinner

8:00

Mad Boar Restaurant & Brewery  
Barefoot Landing  
North Myrtle Beach, SC  
(Alcohol and gratuity included)

# Day Four

## Final Round of SMC

Payout to Winner of Championship Match: \$100.00

**8:46**

L(C) \_\_\_\_\_  
L(D) \_\_\_\_\_

L(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(11) \_\_\_\_\_

**8:55**

L(9) \_\_\_\_\_  
L(B) \_\_\_\_\_

L(b) \_\_\_\_\_  
(12) \_\_\_\_\_

**9:04**

W(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
W(b) \_\_\_\_\_

L(A) \_\_\_\_\_  
(10) \_\_\_\_\_

## Skins

Daily Purse: \$36.00

### Best Ball (Two-man Teams)

Purse: \$100.00/Team

Team Points: 4

L(a)/(11)  
L(D)/L(C)

**TEAMS**  
L(b)/(12)  
L(B)/(9)

W(a)/(10)  
W(b)/L(A)

(Continued from page 16)

knew there was a reason he was getting all those shots and I just hoped that his handicap was a true indicator of how he would play the next day. As far as trash-talking, Greg and I are very different. He waits until he has won the battle to talk it; I talk it up front so that I, as well as those around me, know what my expectations are.

(To quote a line stolen from Steve Hale by Kid Rock, "It ain't braggin' if you can back it up!")

**[BE] What did you perceive as your opponent's strengths and weaknesses?**

[SH] Greg's strength is twofold. First, you have to be amazed at his length. Normally, at the Myrtle Beach venue, a player with great length is somewhat neutralized by the shot making discipline required by most of the courses. Amazingly, Greg's accuracy held up, for the most part, during his matches leading up to ours. This worried me, not because I would be affected by his drives being 50 yards (Tournament officials measured the average difference between their tee shots to be 83 yards—apparently Steve was too far from Greg's ball to really see where it ended up) past me, but because I was afraid that it would boost his confidence should he boom one 50 yards past me in the fairway. Secondly, his quiet demeanor is a major strength. Most golfers who run up against someone like Greg, who has that laid back 1970's strung out heroin addict look in his eyes, may underestimate his true golfing abilities. It takes a true champion to wade through the façade and place a spiked shoe firmly on the throat of their opponent and dare them to get up, much the way I did my opponent in the first round. (Kevin Dill) (Many say that Dill was still suffering from PTS syndrome and did not fully recover for months following "The Incident"). However, that laid back persona could also be perceived as a weakness. I'm not sure he wants it bad enough. I think Greg's biggest weakness is his lack of experience. It's one thing to stand up on the driving range and wow all your friends with huge drives, but it's a whole new animal when you step on the first tee knowing that your very soul is about to be placed under a microscope, and for the next four hours, every shot counts. It's like I always say in this situation, "I like to play with backbone when most of my opponents are playing with a wishbone".

[GS] Steve is a confident lad. It has served him well these many years. I'd have to say his confidence in his own game (or perhaps his confidence in my game) was his greatest asset. Confidence is what allowed him to tee it up on 15 rather than going through the motions. Oh yeah, his ability to get up and down in two from 120 in doesn't hurt either. As far as weaknesses go, there is the obvious LPGA-like distance off the tee. But a wise man once said "You drive for show and you putt for dough". Steve

has obviously put away some dough.

**[BE] What did you perceive as your own keys to victory?**

[GS] I really only had one thought going into the match. Just find the ball off the tee. If I could do that for 18 holes, I figured I'd be in it at the end.

[SH] My philosophy is simple. Play the course, not the individual. I have lived by this motto since the 2002 Summit Championship between me and Tim Cone, a former participant. I was one down going into the last hole of the match and I got caught up in watching Tim hit shot after shot into the "Environmentally Protected Marsh" at the end of the tee box on 18. Knowing he was in trouble, I tried to guide my tee shot just to get it in play. I ended up hitting it in the left rough and subsequently made a bogey. This tied the match and I won in a playoff, of course. It was right then that I decided from now on I will play the course, not my opponent. Against Greg, I simply focused on playing each hole as though I needed birdie but would settle for par. I paid no attention to where our match stood. As a matter of fact, I didn't know where the match stood until the 15<sup>th</sup> tee, when Bart said, "Steve, if you're gonna make a run, I wouldn't wait much longer!" I asked him where I stood, and he said, "You're 4 down with 4 to play." At that point I decided it was time to go to work, and that's exactly what I did. I played the course and took what it gave me, making par on all four holes. I think a less experienced player would have panicked in that situation and tried to shoot for those sucker pins.

**[BE] What were your thoughts on the match as you approached the first tee that morning?**

[SH] As I said in answering the previous question, my thoughts were of playing the course and taking what it had to offer me. I thrive on that Championship setting, but I don't get overwhelmed by it. Do you know what I mean? I knew that if I stayed even keeled and played within myself early, this would frustrate Greg. It had to.

[GS] Well, Bart, Steve had just come off that ass whoopin' of Mr. Dill the day before so his confidence was pretty high. But Dill, for all his golf prowess, was still a Summit rookie. I told myself that I'm a seasoned vet. That was the toughest weather day we had if I recall. It was a cold drizzle that greeted us that morning. I even took a pass at the range that morning. Once settled, however, I was thinking I needed to get out early. Maybe get two up after 4 or 5 holes.

**[BE] As the match progressed, how did you feel about your opponent and his ability to win?**

[GS] Great. Just great. I was keeping it in play. I avoided the 3-putt, and Steve seemed quite distracted early on. Even took a phone call on the 4th hole. I think that phone call settled him down. He

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said it was business, closing a big deal or something. My guess is he called home for some words of encouragement from the wife (Steve Anderson). He really is a sensitive guy you know. Anyhow, I dropped a hammer on him right after that. A downhill sidewinder from the fringe for birdie and a 3 up after 5 advantage. The next 9 holes are relatively uneventful. Mostly halves.

[SH] Bart, you were in the group with us and if you remember, there were two or three swing holes early in that match. Greg would hit a ridiculous tee shot that would go forty yards out of bounds, bounce off of some Mexican guy's hard hat that was lying on the ground eating breakfast, and bound back into the fairway. Then he would chunk a 5 iron to the 100 yard marker and get up and down for par. I don't remember the hole number, but it was the signature hole. A dogleg left par four with an elevated green with huge railroad ties running vertically all the way around it. It sat on the edge of a cliff with a back pin placement. Greg hits his second shot just off the back of the green that left him with a chip that you could not keep near the hole. I have ten feet for birdie and he skulls a 60 degree wedge that hits a foot up the flagstick and goes in. I now have to make a ten footer for the halve when moments earlier he was dead in the water. At that point in the match I think I looked at you and said, "Maybe it's not my day to win this match." And you certainly agreed!

**[BE] Standing on the 15th tee, the match stands at 4 and 4... What are you thinking?**

[SH] Again, I stayed true to my game-plan throughout the match. Many of you know that I suffered a seemingly career-ending injury at the end of 2004, when I had major back surgery and reconstructive knee surgery within 8 weeks of one another. These surgeries took golf away from me for the three months preceding the Summit Matchplay Championship. I knew that my physical game would become rusty with such a layoff so I spent that time leading up to the tournament perfecting the cerebral part of my game. Until that afternoon with Greg, I never knew how instrumental psychodynamics were or could be in golf. I truly believe, had I tried to overpower any of the last four holes, I would have risked losing that tournament. After all, Greg only needed par on any one of the last four holes and he would have won. I'm a believer and I think I made believers out of many that day, Adaptational Psychodynamics, written by Sandor Rado, made the difference that day. I know it sounds kooky, but standing on 15 tee I thought back to my daily routine during rehab and different chapter headings from this book kept flashing across my mind. "Reducing Distractions" and "The Application of Operationalism" are two chapters I draw heavily

from. I would love to recommend this book to Bo Blankenship because he obviously has a multitude of constricted thought processes coursing through his mind during the full swing. I feel this book would give him an entirely new lease on life and positively affect him more than any other person I know. But, you know how Bo reacts to new ideas.

[GS] [I'm thinking] In the bag. Maybe I should check on the other semi-final to see who I'll be up against. Last four holes are par 3,4,3,5 and I'm getting a shot on the par 5 18th. Feeling good, Bart. Feeling good. I proceeded to go bogey-bogey-bogey the next three while Steve re-discovers his game to go par-par-par. Just like that it's 1 up with 1 to go.

**[BE] By the 18th, it's obvious that the match is still not over. In your own words, describe how the final hole unfolded and your thoughts along the way.**

[GS] Just like I said earlier, Bart, keep it in play and I did. Pretty sweet, too. Right center of fairway with nothing more than a 6-iron home. Steve obviously (He did not just throw in an 'obviously'!) played his second shot first. I think he spanked some kind of fairway wood to the right front fringe ('spanked some kind of fairway wood'? Do I detect derision?). I've got this piddling little fairway trap about 85 yards in front of me. Not really a factor at all, so I thought. Picked a bad time to get a little chunky. Even with that brain fart, I'm still in great shape. It's a relatively easy 90 to 100 yard pitch from a decent lie without any obstructions. I figure no matter what I'm even with Steve after this shot with the stroke I was getting. I forget what instrument I chose for the task, but whatever it was airmailed my ProV1x about 30 yards over the green. Now, I'm not so happy. I've got a tough pitch to the short side of the pin onto a green sloping away. My next shot actually turned out to be the best. Dropped it soft and it trickled 5 feet past the stick for an uphill comebacker for a freakin' par. Meanwhile, Steve watches the events unfold, but after my chip he's probably thinking he needs to make eagle to guarantee the great comeback. He smokes his eagle putt right on line but 18 feet beyond the cup. Now I'm feeling pretty good. 2 putts from five feet is all it takes. Steve comes tantalizingly close to dropping the bird before settling for a tap in par. I must have gotten extremely careless with my par putt because I tried to ram it in for par. As if 87 was any better than 88... forgot to focus on the match. Now I'm staring at 2 1/2 feet for victory or defeat. I can't honestly tell you where that next putt went except that it didn't go in the hole.

[SH] I remember it like it was yesterday. Standing on the 18<sup>th</sup> tee, a par 5 with heavy marsh on the left and out of bounds on the right, I had just made par on a long par three where Greg had hit his

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tee shot in a greenside bunker. After three horrid attempts to blast his ball from the bunker Greg conceded the hole to me. As I approached him I realized that the reason he conceded was because he had taken so much sand from the bunker that saltwater was beginning to seep up through the sand. His ball was submerged. It reminded me of the intro to The Beverly Hillbillies when “black gold” was coming up out of the ground. As Bart and I walked to the 18<sup>th</sup> tee we agreed that all I had to do was put my tee shot in the fairway and Greg was done. He had hooked his past 2 or 3 drives off the planet and a hook at 18 would be unplayable. I striped my tee shot down the middle and stood back with a look of contrition (*Contrition: n, State of being contrite. Contrite: adj., Penitent; repentant— Merriam-Webster Dictionary. We’re not sure what he’s trying to say here.*) etched upon my face. The match was over I thought. There was no way he could keep the ball on the course. Much to my surprise Greg ripped one down mainstreet, easily outriving me by fifty or so (83) yards. The second shot was a blind shot over a hill and down around the corner. I needed to hit 3 wood to get home but I felt like my 7 wood was the right play. Left of the green was death. Short of the green left me with a simple chip. I executed a perfect 7 wood shot that rolled to within 10 feet of the green. Greg had 210 yards to the green, a smooth 5 iron would get him there. For some reason, he decided to lay up with a 7 iron, which would leave him a sand wedge in. He proceeded to chunk his second shot into a fairway bunker that was 140 yards out. He then stepped up and blasted a 9 iron 30 yards over the green into a swale. At this point I felt exhilaration. I was almost at a point of disbelief because he had played 14 holes of great golf that day. I remember thinking, “ man, it’s a shame he has to finish like this with the whole group watching on.” (*Whatever, Mr. Sensitive.*) While still in a state of euphoria, I proceeded to hit my third shot a little firm (*‘a little firm’? I’m not sure which was worse... the rigor mortis from his nerves curling up before the putt or the second-degree powder burns on his hands and wrists afterward.*). It ran past the cup and down a large ridge in the green. Still a two putt par would win because the way he was going, he would reach the maximum double par any second now. My heart sank when he hit his best shot of the day. I flop shot that landed and stuck 6 feet from the pin. I was crestfallen. Out of nowhere, he once again hits a clutch shot that gives him a great chance at par. Even a two putt wins if I don’t hole out from 40 feet (*Aha! A 40 foot comebacker after he hits his first putt ‘a little firm’. Maybe he was in a tree when he was telling that part.*). I steadied my emotions and gave my ball a good rap. It was center-cut the entire way and

stopped just two inches from the cup. Greg conceded par and lined up his putt. The putt was 6 feet straight uphill. Once you got past the hole the green sloped away from the cup. I was at peace with myself in defeat. I had followed my game-plan successfully and had lost to a 10 stroke handicap. I could live with it because it was Greg. I told him a couple holes earlier that if I had to lose I would rather it be to him than anyone else on the trip (*They have a beautiful relationship.*). I wanted to concede the match to him right there, but I kept hearing this voice in my ear, “Jean Van De Velde, Jean Van De Velde.” I watched in horror as he not only missed it, but ran it 4 feet past the cup. And then he stepped up to the next putt without even looking at it. “What is he doing?” I thought. At that instant, as his second putt ran by the hole, I saw a man, for the first time in my life, endure an out of body experience. Greg was holding the putter and he was standing upright, but he didn’t know it. I would have traded my jubilation in a second if I thought I could go back to his first putt and tell him to pick it up, it’s good. The celebration of that match has yet to be displayed because of the unfortunate circumstances surrounding it. I remember the group leaving the course that day and driving maybe 5 minutes down the road to have lunch at a small seafood restaurant right on the water. After finishing off a generous portion of fried codfish, I looked up to see if Greg had managed to swallow any of his lunch. To my dismay, he had excused himself from the table, I guess unable to keep anything down.

**[BE] Finally, describe the aftermath of that match and the effect something like that has on a player going forward.**

[GS] I got some strange looks after finishing out. There was shock, horror, amazement, disbelief, and sadness. I guess I was put on suicide watch for the next 24 hours. Fortunately, the sun rose the next day. Played another round of golf. Better than workin'. As for lessons going forward, I have to revert back to my competitive days on the diamond when it was kill or be killed. Remember the feeling of sliding in high spikes first. Never let the other guy get comfortable. If he's down, stomp some more. For those 4 1/2 hours between the 1st and the 18th, I ain't got no friends. Either that or make a putt every now and then.

[SH] Of course, there was a suicide watch at the condo for the next eight hours. I wanted so badly to talk to Greg to apologize for the way things unfolded. To hold him and let him know that everything will be ok and his time will come. It was simply a fortuitous chain of events that led us to each other that day and will forever link us to the greatest comeback ever witnessed at this prestigious event, The Millennium Invitational Golf Summit. My

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dream for this year is for Greg and I to meet in the finals. I want him to have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with the demons that have inhabited his soul for the last 10 months. The outcome will be the same, I just hope he finds a more peaceful method of self-destruction.

***Epilogue:** Like all tragedies, the event has woven itself into the fabric that makes up those present that day. From that point forward, all of us were, in some way, forever changed. But, as with all wounds, time has a way of fading scars. Life goes on.*

*I'm sure Jean Claude Van de Velde and Greg Norman still shake their heads and laugh at their rendezvous with destiny. Norman has redirected his attention toward fashion saying he 'never really liked golf all that much anyway' and that Augusta National is nothing but 'tricked-up wacky-golf'. Meanwhile, JCVdV is cleaning clubs at the Olde Course and telling anyone that will listen that, if he had it to do over, he would play it the same way..*

*For Steve, the challenge will forever be to convince the world that he actually deserves the title that was thrust upon him, and to somehow clear away the clouds that hang over his "victory".*

*I guess we all have our crosses to bear and various mechanisms to help us cope with the fate to which we are assigned. Only time will tell how the events of that fateful day will manifest themselves in the lives of those it touched.*

— JBE

# SUMMIT SCORECARD

PLAYER	ROUND 1			ROUND 2			ROUND 3			ROUND 4						
	HCP	GROSS	NET	HCP	GROSS	NET	HCP	GROSS	NET	HCP	GROSS	NET	HCP	GROSS	NET	STATUS
ASSAID	22															
BLANKENSHIP	5															
BRADBERRY	1															
COLTON	19															
DEANS	5															
DILL	0															
EDMUNDS	6															
FRY	7															
HALE	0															
LINDEN	10															
ROGICH	15															
STEPHENS	6															

# SUMMIT MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

## SEEDINGS

1. HALE \_\_\_\_\_
2. DILL \_\_\_\_\_
3. STEPHENS \_\_\_\_\_
4. ASSAID \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>ROUND 2</u>	<u>ROUND 3</u>	<u>ROUND 4</u>	<u>ROUND 3</u>	<u>ROUND 2</u>
1	HALE A	W(A)	10	W(B)	DILL B
8			W(a)		7
		a		b	
4	ASSAID D	W(D)	W(b)	W(C)	STEPHENS 3 C
5			L(A)		6
			L(b)	L(D)	
9			12		10
			L(B)		11
12			9	L(C)	
			L(a)		
			11	10	
			L(A)		
			L(C)		
			L(D)		

NOTE: Green tees-off first; Yellow second; Blue last  
Two-man teams in rounds 3&4 grouped by shading

Focus Destination: Tidewater Golf Club and Plantation— Little River, SC

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## Inside This Issue

*Find Out What Really Happened on  
those Four Fateful Final Holes at  
Oyster Bay from Those That Lived It!*

# ***Twice As Nice!!***

*Steve Hale accepts his prizes at the '05 Summit as he  
becomes only the second ever (behind Bart Edmunds) to win  
two Summit Titles*