



NEWS RELEASE

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LONGEST DRIVE CHALLENGE ADDED TO 2ND ANNUAL BOBBY JONES OPEN

Sarasota, FL: A Longest Drive Challenge will be held as part of the 2nd annual Bobby Jones Open, tomorrow at the Bobby Jones Golf Club, 1000 Circus Boulevard. The competition will take place Saturday, February 14 during tournament play on the 14th hole on the British Course. The player with the longest drive will be awarded \$500 cash. The Longest Drive Challenge is sponsored by Red Hook Long Hammer IPA.

A professional 2-day golf tournament, the Bobby Jones Open is a featured event on the West Florida Golf Tour. Over 100 professional golfers are registered to compete for a \$20,000 cash purse at the City's historic municipal golf course which is celebrating its 89th anniversary.

"The golfers who will compete in the Bobby Jones Open are PGA Tour caliber," said Daniel Bailey, Bobby Jones Golf Club Assistant Golf Professional. "Our historic municipal golf course is reminiscent of the environment where many of these players learned to golf – and it's a challenging course. Over the years, Bobby Jones has been a proving grounds for some outstanding golf professionals, including PGA champion Paul Azinger. I can't think of a more fitting way to celebrate the course's 89th anniversary than with a professional golf tournament," said Bailey.

Both the number of players and the cash prize have grown from the inaugural event, last year, highlighting increased community interest in the Bobby Jones Open. This year, 84 professional golfers are expected to compete for a \$20,000 cash purse with a guaranteed \$4,000 cash prize to the first place winner. In 2014, 56 golfers played for \$16,320. John Duthie claimed the first Bobby Jones Open title by just one stroke with a 136 overall score, taking the top prize and earning \$3,300.

The 2nd annual Bobby Jones Open, sponsored by Gold Coast Eagle Distributing, will be played on the British Course and will be open to the public with \$10 admission per spectator. Mattison's on the Green will offer menu specials during the tournament.

Sarasota Police Department Interim Deputy Chief Pat Robinson will be an honorary starter for the event and will present the awards and trophy.

The West Florida Golf Tour is comprised of professional golfers who compete in the Gulf Coast region from Tampa to Naples.

Bobby Jones Golf Club, 1000 Circus Boulevard, is a 45 hole facility named after legendary golfer Robert Tyre Jones, Jr. The original 18 holes were designed by renowned golf course architect Donald Ross in 1925 and opened on June 5, 1926. Nine holes were added in 1952 and an additional nine were constructed in 1967. The Gillespie Executive Course opened in 1977.

The Bobby Jones British Course record is 62, set in 1980 by a young local golfer, Paul Azinger, who went on to enjoy a very successful professional career with 12 wins on the PGA Tour including the 1993 PGA Championship. The American Course record of 63, set in 2009, is held by Jim Cleaves, a long-time BJGC Men's Association member.

For more information contact [Daniel Bailey](#), Assistant Golf Professional: 941-365-2200 ext. 5802 or visit www.BobbyJonesGolfClub.com