

First annual
John Rowan Memorial Golf Tournament
 Queens Harbor Yacht and Country Club



Photo by Catherine Demsky

The Millennium Electric team won first-place honors. (l. to r.) Keith Nagy, Mike Lind, Bill Calivas and Jack Day.



Photo by Catherine Demsky

Nader's Pest Raiders came in second: (l. to r.) Randy Nader, Glenn Parsons, Tom Smith and David Eason.

Everywhere you looked you saw green – Irish decorations, clothing, the gorgeous spring day flaunting new leaves on trees and beautiful golf greens winding among lovely homes in this prestigious gated

community near the Intracoastal Waterway.

It was the first Irish American golf tournament organized by Peg Rowan to honor her son, John, missing since February 2001, and to raise money for the Justice Coalition. More than 100 golfers played the 18 holes, and the winning foursome was Millennium Electric; runner-up Nader Pest Raiders.

Prior to tee-off, Swedish golf pro Anders Forsbrand, who generously donated his time and expertise, was auctioned off for \$1,050 to the Nader team. Larry Freeman, administrator of Wolfson's Children's Hospital, facilitated Forsbrand's participation.

Following a typical Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage, delicious and efficiently served by the Club's special events staff, FirstCoast News Sports Director Dan Hicken emceed the

recognition program. Charlene Shirk (PGA Community Relations Director), assisted by Dan, auctioned off such items as a hunting trip to North Carolina, a signed photograph of Larry Bird and Magic Johnson and a Jaguars helmet autographed by Jaguars LB Mike Peterson. Mike and his wife came early that day to lend their support and pose for pictures with all who desired.

The Waterford Crystal Company from Ireland donated first, second and third prizes, and many other lovely items were sold in the silent auction: more Waterford crystal, Irish linen, Tiffany lamps, choice sports memorabilia prints, pictures, jewelry, knives, and so on. Numerous gift certificates and small items went to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. Irish golf pro Pdraig Harrington and his wife donated

all the golf shirts and caps worn by the players.

JSO Undersheriff Frank Mackesy told how close he and his family have become with the Rowans since John's disappearance six years ago and how frustrating it is not to know what happened to him. He pledged JSO's continued efforts to solve the case and bring justice. Charlene Shirk also spoke of knowing from the first time she interviewed the Rowans (for FirstCoast News) that John would not have willingly walked away from his beloved family.

Peg Rowan, her family, the tournament committee and other volunteers worked tirelessly to coordinate this event, described by many as the best tournament in which they have participated. Peg gives credit and her endless appreciation to Jack

Aschenbach, head golf pro at Queens Harbor, for his time and expertise in pulling it all together.

Special thanks to all the media coverage by FirstCoast News, Fox News and WJXT Channel 4. Dan Hicken said when he was asked to emcee the event, he immediately cleared his schedule to ensure he would be available because he believes so much in what the Justice Coalition contributes to the community. When offered appreciation for his role, he said, "It was my pleasure, a very small thing for me to do in comparison to what your organization does every day."

We are so grateful to all who helped make this a memorable, fun-filled and beneficial event, and we look forward to an even greater tournament next year.

-Shirley Shaw

SPONSORS:

- J. B. Abercrombie, Inc.
- Ameripro Inspection Corp.
- Adventure Landing
- Arlington Toyota
- Best Fence Company
- Jack Boyd
- Brumos Motor Cars, Inc.
- C & C Powerline, Inc.
- J. B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc.
- Custom Framing by Sweet Magnolias
- Daniel Davis
- Duval Asphalt
- Florida Roads
- Fraternal Order of Police
- Gate Petroleum, Inc./ McGinley Paving
- Padraig Harrington
- J & C Signs at The Rose Press
- Jacksonville Utilities
- KBT Contracting, Inc.
- Last Minute Golfers.com
- Masterfit Golf
- Millennium Electric
- Miller Electric
- Mulliniks Recycling
- Naders Pest Raiders, Inc.
- Northwestern Mutual
- Peoples First Community Bank
- Refractory Repair Services, Inc.
- San Jose Investment
- Smith Trucking
- Sonny's Real Pit BBQ, Lane Ave.
- Edmund Sullivan
- Wal-Mart
- Waterford Crystal, Inc.
- John Webb
- West Pine, LLC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Teri Allen
- Jack Boyd
- Ann Dugger
- Laura Hinson
- Jo Kersten
- Peg Rowan
- Steve Sterrett
- Pam Sullivan
- John Turknett
- Jessica Ward
- Wayne Williford
- Jo Wilson

LENDING ASSISTANCE:

- Larry Cohen, Websessions
- Fred Johnson, event planner
- David Whitlock, graphic artist

VOLUNTEERS:

- Angela Corey
- Dishi Darus
- Catherine Demsky
- Aaron Meriwether
- Robert Marquez
- Joan Moses
- Caroline Rowan
- Carol Turknett

Special thanks to Brandon Fortuna for donating photographs of the tournament.



Bill and Billy Mulliniks, foreground, listen to one of the speakers.



(l. to r.) Fintan Rowan, Ann Dugger, Jaguars LB Mike Peterson, Peg Rowan, Caroline Rowan and John Rowan, Sr.



Swedish golf pro Anders Forsbrand with JC Adm. Asst. Jo Kersten



One of the teams enjoying the beautiful day



JSO Undersheriff Frank Mackesy



Charlene Shirk



Dan Hicken



Bagpiper Jack Webb



Peg and John Rowan with Queens Harbour head golf pro, Jack Aschenbach



A golfer watches his shot