Bag Room Open Beginnings
Stories Behind a Cherished Tradition

In a week’s time, the 45th annual Bag Room Open will begin. As with any longstanding tradition, the oral history has been passed down through the years and the stories behind the Open’s humble beginnings are those of legend.

With the help of ORC Golf Chair Jodi Betz, the Ocean Reef Press has compiled the stories of several longtime golf-playing Members and Ocean Reef golf professionals. While a few details differed from person to person, the meaning behind the tournament never wavered in support of the golf professionals of Ocean Reef Club and Card Sound Golf Club.

Looking back to the mid-to-late 70s, the Bag Room Open’s beginnings stemmed from golf professionals who were hungry to answer the question, “Who is the best golf professional on The Reef?” Members who overheard this lively argument, encouraged the young professionals to settle it in a competition, but it wasn’t until Ocean Reef homeowners Ed Aborn and Chick Harbert became involved that structure was added to the tournament.

Aborn and Harbert were instrumental in driving Member interest and involvement. “Harbert, the 1954 PGA Champion and PGA Hall of Famer, was the impetus behind the tournament,” says Dan Fabian, the first official Bag Room Champion. “I remember he would follow each match in his golf cart, rule book in hand, acting as a referee. He actually had to make

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What an Amazing Weekend!

By Michael Berman, Chairman of All Charities

Given the circumstances, this will go down as one of the most creatively successful All Charities weekends in the history of Ocean Reef.

Every component had to be scrutinized through a very new kind of lens. Then orchestrated, with near perfection, in a way that the whole community could feel safe…. and now deserves to be proud of.

Over the past 13 years, All Charities has evolved into a well-oiled machine. The event has gone through recessions, hurricanes, and even without electricity… but never anything like this.

Here are some things that people have been saying, describing the efforts of our chairs and vice chairs, Linda Johnston, Dom DiNapoli, Adele Acheson and Diane Hill…. cleverness, imagination, resourceful, talented, original ….and inspirational. And, with the new faces that they introduced, and the addition of Richard Weinstein, it will ensure the success of the event for years to come.

Through their ingenuity, they had more than 700 individuals actively placing over 6200 astoundingly generous bids, from an infinite number of locations. Their hard work will continue to support this amazing place and our unique lifestyle…and create miracles outside the gates.

In addition to the unprecedented bid on the Raw Bar, the items with the most bids were NAME A COCKTAIL AT THE REEF LOUNGE, which had 146 bids before its winning bid of $10,250. Followed by SUSHI LESSON AND DINNER FOR 10 with 142 bids.

And the video portion on Chef Philippe certainly paid dividends with his Cooking Demonstration and Brasserie Dinner for 10 having 91 bids before the final bid of $30,797. And then, selling his At Home Dinner for 10 at $25,000 …. TWICE!

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Club, and the valiant efforts of its food and beverage staff!

Whatever challenge we proposed, or requests we made, Alex, Erwin, Philippe, Christian, Sean, all the amazing Chefs and the whole culinary team reacted with enthusiasm and unlimited energy.

I am privileged to observe the amazing generosity of this wonderful community.

As we continue to work on the numbers two things are certain... It will exceed our expectations... and yes, it has broken another record! The most money All Charities ever raised during a pandemic!