



# Technical Innovations and the Resurgent Play of Greg Logue and Carl Trantham Marked the 2003 Southern Pines Invitational

Sunday, April 27, 2003. 1:35 PM EDT.

By Chuck Dumbass, Dimpled Orb Digest, © 2003.

Day 3 Pine Needles

Day 4 Mid Pines



Points:	GREG LOGUE	
Score:	Points: <b>13</b>	Bid: <b>\$150.00</b>
±:	Score: <b>23</b>	Paid: <b>X</b>
Place:	±: <b>+10</b>	Pot: <b>\$1,155.00</b>
	Place: <b>1ST</b>	Payout: <b>\$700.00</b>

SOUTHERN PINES, North Carolina (DOD) - This year's Southern

Pines Invitational was marked by unprecedented technical innovations and the resurgence of Greg Logue and Carl Trantham. Logue and Trantham are the longest running duo in the annual tournament, dating their pairing to 1992. They have played together every year but one, when Trantham attended a condom convention. Their play in recent years had deteriorated noticeably, however. After last year's event, Logue remarked that he would quit the game if his points fell to single digits. At that time, with a point total of 10, he was close to making good on that vow. Trantham's decline was due in part to advancing age and the accompanying physical infirmities, and in part to the ravages of aiming fluid. Both players found their games for this year's event.



The first Calcutta on the Tuesday before the tournament introduced several innovations. Calcutta Cards picturing the players were distributed to the successful bidders. The bidding process itself was enhanced by a power point presentation of each player's past performance. Computer technology also made possible a cumulative tally of the bidding, as well as a real time leader board after each round. The players seemed pleased by these advances. Of significance was Michael Wood's purchase of Trantham. Wood remarked, "Papaw, I feel like you'll have 22 points on Thursday."

Richard Matlock, also known as *Murdock*. Beginning Points: 12

Year	Day 1 Pts	Day 2 Pts	Day 3 Pts	Day 4 Pts	Total Pts	Total ±	OIA Rank
1995	8.33	0.00	3		11.33	0.00	
1996	6.33	-1.67	3		7.66	0.00	
1997	6.00	0.33	3		10.00	0.00	
1998	6.75	1.00	4		13.75	0.00	
1999	8.25	1.00	4		13.25	0.00	
2000	14.00	3.00	4		21.00	0.00	
2001	8.75	-2.75	4		10.00	-1.25	
2002	11.00	2.00	4		15.00	0.00	
2003	9.11	0.36	09	1.33	23.33	24.3	6.99



Year	Day 1 Pts	Day 1 ±	Day 2 Pts	Day 2 ±	Day 3 Pts	Day 3 ±	Day 4 Pts	Day 4 ±	Total Pts	Total ±	OIA Rank
1995			6	-3	9	1	10	2	25	0	13
1996			6	-3	9	-2	7	0	19	-5	19
1997			16	9	9	-4	3	-4	24	1	17
1998	4	-1	7	2	9	3	7	0	27	4	5
1999	11	4	9	0	7	-2	10	2	37	4	3
2000	11	2	16	6	14	2	15	2	56	12	5
2001	9	-6	10	-2	9	6	10	1	35	-11	10
2002	11	2	9	-2	12	3	15	5	46	8	1
2003	9.25	0.45	9.75	0.88	8.70	-0.00	9.03	1.00	35.83	1.83	4.80



Also added was the Terrapin Traveling Trophy, to be awarded annually to the winning player. Rescued from an estate sale and refurbished by Trantham, the Terrapin is fast becoming one of the most desired trophies in sport. It gets its significance from a practical joke played on Trantham by Steve Williams, a regular on the tour known for his offbeat and ribald sense of humor. From these humble beginnings, the Terrapin has achieved nearly mythical status, as the players earnestly vie for its favor. Everyone in the event strives to have the Terrapin on his wall.

The Passing of the Buck[et] was conducted with its usual fanfare on the Wednesday before departure. The players are always grateful for the thoughtfulness of Angie Rossini and Marti Rose. No cups were given out this year after the tragic "typo" incident last year. Also mercifully absent was *Stolichnaya*, which was responsible for the near death of Dan Moore some years back. It has since been banned from the tour. In its place this year was a more benign selection of Mexican beer oft referred to as "Corrollas."



The field this year included most of the usual suspects as well as some new faces. Danny Pressley and Norman Templeton made first-time appearances. Harvey Abernethy made a return visit after a two-year hiatus. Abernethy is a known player despite his last place finish in his only other start. Pressley may have been slightly overvalued coming in at 24,



but according to Wood, he can "get as hot as a depot stove." Templeton was known to some as the best player in his firm, but was unproven to the others. After seeing him play, however, Wood remarked, "Boys, he's the total package. One Hundred and Forty pounds of pure dynamite." David Mirts was absent but not missed after repeated assurances he would appear. The players speculated that he was engaged in certain activities that bear no further mention. Moore came perilously close to joining Mirts AWOL, both by buying him in the first Calcutta, and by oversleeping on Thursday morning. Mercifully, Trantham roused Moore from his slumber and Wood refunded the errant bid. Williams did not enter this year due to commitments to other animals.



The play on day one was conducted under sunny skies at Pine Needles. Playing in the first group, Moore was the leader in the clubhouse at +5. Abernethy holed a clutch putt on 18 to post a single-round record of 31 points. But playing on a quota of 26, he could manage only a tie with Moore. Logue also came in at +5, remaining above the dreaded single-digit Mendoza Line. To everyone's surprise, Trantham finished with a majestic 20 points and +10 to deliver the winning pot to Wood, thus confirming Wood's premonition. Abernethy, Moore and Logue had to settle for a three-way split of the second and third place pots. After day one, Trantham, who apparently found his game after recently retiring from a career in novelty ribbon sales, had a commanding 5-point lead in the overall.



Day two dawned to overcast skies and a steady rain. The play at Mid Pines was spotty at times. Richard Matlock played true to form despite the rain, posting 14 points and a +4, after a -5 the previous day. Templeton played well enough to win at +5. Unfortunately for him, David Lewis usually plays well in the rain and this was no exception. Lewis carded a +7 to take the top money, and his

first win on tour. Toby Hyke played steady golf for the second day in a row to tie Matlock for third. Lewis owned Templeton and Matlock owned Lewis, so most of the pot went to them. Hyke also benefited from a blind draw to account for the absence of his playing partner, Mirts. He drew Trantham for day one, depriving Templeton and Moore of second. He then drew Templeton for day two, depriving Moore of second again. Moore responded with a loud nap that caused Logue to remark, "Your snoring sounds life-threatening."



After two days, Trantham still had the lead in the overall at +10, followed closely by Lewis at +9 and Hyke at +7.



Day three at Pine Needles started as if it would be devoid of rain. Play progressed nicely until the middle of the back nine, when the skies literally opened. Lewis tried to make a move, but was too far back of Logue. Prior to the rain, Logue strung together four pars starting with number 10. That staked him to a commanding lead he would never relinquish. The stalwart crew stayed on the course even after the lightening siren had blown. The all clear sounded just as they finished. With superior driving and uncanny putting with an odd looking cross between a belly putter and a vacuum cleaner wand, Logue had 21 points at +10, followed by Lewis at +6. Abernethy again had 31 points, but that was good only for +5 and a tie with Hyke for third.



After the rain cleared, Wood and Abernethy enticed Pressley and Kimmet into an emergency round at Pinehurst Number 5. After three days of profligate and largely unsuccessful bidding, Wood and Abernethy were below break-even levels. They got well at Pinehurst, though, relieving the Depot Stove and Cueball of substantial cash, enough to finance that evening's Calcutta. Templeton, Matlock, Lewis and Logue also played extra holes at Pine Needles. They were



unable to finish as the rain resumed. Templeton and Matlock returned to the Long Leaf via cross county hike from the 11<sup>th</sup> hole, much to Logue's chagrin.



After three days of steady play, Lewis found himself poised on the verge of his first overall championship, atop the leader board at +15. His point total had swelled to 20, however, so the conventional wisdom was that Lewis had shot his wad (an unpleasant thought). Logue and Hyke were tied for second at +12. Logue had shown flashes of brilliance despite his 9-point showing on day two in the rain.

### Leaderboard Day 3

Player	Pine Needles		Pine Needles		Mid Pines		Mid Pines		Total Pts	Total ±	O/A Rank
	Day 1 Pts	Day 1 ±	Day 2 Pts	Day 2 ±	Day 3 Pts	Day 3 ±	Day 4 Pts	Day 4 ±			
Lewis	17	2	23	7	24	6			64	15	1
Logue	15	5	9	-3	21	10			45	12	T2
Hyke	14	3	16	4	19	5			49	12	T2
Trantram	20	10	12	0	12	0			44	10	4
Abernethy	31	5	24	-4	31	5			86	6	5
Moore	12	5	9	0	8	-1			29	4	6
Kimmet	19	0	18	-1	20	1			57	0	7
Templeton	22	-2	28	6	21	-4			71	-1	8
Matlock	8	-4	14	4	7	-5			29	-5	9
Wood	16	-4	12	-6	20	4			48	-6	10
Pressley	14	-10	20	-2	20	-1			54	-13	11
Mirts	0	-10	0	-10	0	-10			0	-30	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>4</b>	

Hyke had played steady all week, but had only a tie for third to show for it. The smart money was on one of them to overtake Lewis on Sunday. And with a point total of still only 13, Logue looked like a good bet going into the final round.



Day four had the best weather of the week, with perfect scoring conditions. Playing in the first group with his co-owners Wood and Abernethy, Logue came through with his best career round, 23 points. At +10 for the second day in a row, Logue ran away and hid from the rest of the field with the final day and overall victories. Wood finished second with a strong +8, after

sandbagging for three days. Matlock played true to form, scoring well at Mid Pines and poorly at Pine Needles. His +5 on day four got him a third place finish.



Logue's total of +22 for the week, as well as +20 for the weekend, are both tour records. Not bad for a man who considered giving up the game less than 12 months earlier. Between them, Logue and Trantham accounted for three individual wins outright, three team wins, and first and third in the overall. Its was a remarkable trip for them, reminiscent of their past glory years at Myrtle Beach.



With steady play every day, Hyke managed second in the overall, although registering a relative value factor of only 2.5 for the week. Lewis, so promising in the morning, faded to fourth with a lackluster -5 on Sunday. Pressley befell the same fate as most first-time starters, failing to register an rvf above zero. He finally achieved his starting quota on day four, too late to affect the outcome. Kimmet played well and never wavered far from his quota.



But against an average winning margin of over +9 (another record), he too failed to register on the rvf scale. Templeton and Abernethy both played well. Abernethy established and then later tied his own record for one-day points at 31. He also set a new high of 110 points for the week. But his high daily quotas never allowed him to break free of the leaders. He finished tied with Wood for fifth. Templeton suffered much the same fate, unable to exceed his high point quotas by enough to challenge the ones who played so well. Moore would have been better off staying in bed. His game has declined precipitously. He was consoled by Trantham, flush from his fine performance, who remarked, "Even if you can't play golf, you can still come along and do the stats."



Having gone from dismal to sublime in 12 short months, Logue and Trantham are once again invigorated by the game. While Trantham readies the Terrapin for Logue's investiture ceremony, Logue has already booked the Long Leaf for next year's tournament, scheduled to begin on April 22, 2004. Said Logue "We've started a trend. We have to book the arrangements a year in advance now, the place has gotten so popular because of The Golf Trip." That says a lot about the little tournament that traces its humble beginnings to the Bay Tree Resort at Myrtle Beach. So much can happen, with many twists along the way, in the diligent pursuant of The Dimpled Orb. ■

