

History of the Doherty

2024 marks the 91st Lone Jones/Doherty Amateur Championship and 38th Senior Women's Championship. The Amateur has been held at CRCC for the past 69 years! The event originated as part of the Orange Blossom Tour that back in the day consisted of 7 events. Alice Dye, renowned female golf course architect and champion golfer relates that they were held at "swanky" resorts, some long gone. It was before the LPGA started and publicity was great for the hotels and resorts that hosted them. Only four have survived with the Florida State Golf Association taking over the International Four Ball Championship. The Doherty has always followed the two stroke play events. The Harder Hall tournament is held in Sebring (64 years) and then the Sally (South Atlantic) in Ormond Beach celebrating 98 years! The fact that this series has survived serves as a testament to amateur golf, and the chance to compete for the love of the game, not prize money. In a world that now sees young women head to the professional ranks earlier and earlier it is "the old guard" and the senior divisions that continue to strengthen. A Sports Illustrated article from 2013 even lamented the demise of tournament dinners "because younger players prefer to talk by text to faraway friends than sit at a banquet table and try to find common ground with some random person." The Jones Doherty continues to host a sumptuous tournament dinner where our players can meet and greet and catch up with their friends from many years.

The name, format and site of the event has changed over the years, originating as the Helen Lee Doherty, Doherty Challenge Cup and eventually the Lone Jones Doherty Championship when Robert Trent Jones dedicated the event to his wife Lone, and brought it to Coral Ridge. The Amateur champions list reads like a who's who of Women's Golf. Patty Berg, Louise Suggs, Babe Zaharias, Polly Riley, Mary Lena Falk, Ann Quast, Marlene Streit, Tish Preus, Joanne Carner, Barbara McIntire, Carol Semple Thompson, Michele McGann, Vicki Goetze, Natalie Gulbis, Meghan Stasi, Lexi Thompson, Charley Hull, Kelsey McDonald are all Doherty Champions. Alexa Pano, who at age 9 is the youngest entrant ever and at 11 the youngest champion, turned pro in 2022. She replaces Lexi Thompson who was 13 when she won her first title in 2009. Ft. Lauderdale's Meghan Stasi is back. Her win of the 2012 USGA Women's Mid Am Championship, her fourth USGA championship made her only the 16th golfer in history to win the same USGA event 4 times. Others to achieve this include Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus, Mickey Wright, Betsy Rawls, Carol Semple Thompson, Joanne Carner and Glenna Collet Vare. A very special group! Incredible!

Then, there is the "new" kid on the block, the Senior Championship originating at Coral Ridge in 1986. The senior Champions list also reads like a who's who...with World Golf Hall of Fame member Marlene Streit holding 7 titles. USGA Senior Women's Winners Marlene Streit, Carolyn Creekmore and Carol Thompson along with USGA Seniors Runners-Up Andrea Kraus and MJ Heistand hold Doherty titles. The field continues to get stronger with this year's field including USGA Champions, Runners Up, Quarter finalists, State Team Members, State Champions, and Regional event winners. To adequately describe the Doherty you need to use words such as "prestigious", "tradition", "unique", "history" and "exceptional".

Coral Ridge is certainly to be commended for recognizing the amazing heritage of the event and their continuing support of the vision of the Jones Family who made the Doherty their own. The event brings recognition and honor to our club. It is special. Today it still remains one of the premier Amateur events. The membership is encouraged to come watch history in the making!