

carolinasgolf

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the Carolinas Golf Association

Spring 2011

GOING GLOBAL

CHINA PROJECTS KEEP NORTH
CAROLINA'S **RICK ROBBINS** BUSY



› **SPRING TUNE-UP?**
KICKING THE TIRES ON
YOUR GOLF GAME

› **MORE CHOICES**
CGA EXPANDS ONE-DAY
TOURNAMENT SERIES

> FEATURES

ORVILLE WHITE: SHORT GAME WIZARD / 12

Long before Dave Pelz got famous teaching the short game, there was Orville White — the head professional at four Carolinas clubs. Starting in the 1940s, players such as Sam Snead and Clayton Heafner sought his advice.

TOP GUNS / 18

Familiar faces — and some newcomers — are the CGA's 2010 Players of the Year.

> DEPARTMENTS

PRESIDENT'S NOTE / 4

Good swing thoughts for the 2011 season.

MILESTONES / 6

News and noteworthy events around the Carolinas.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE / 9

Bald Head Island Club shows off its renovations, CGA members get World Golf Hall of Fame discounts, and more.

GOLF GEAR / 22

What's new in fairway woods.

LEADERBOARD / 24

2011 CGA Championship schedule. **Plus:** The CGA expands its one-day tournament offerings.

SWING DOCTORS / 26

A body tune-up could fix your golf game.

FINAL WORD / 28

Why should a lucky ace cost the golfer?

ON THE COVER

Potential site of a Rick Robbins-designed golf course site in China. Photo courtesy of Rick Robbins.

Homegrown

14

It's no secret that the past few years haven't exactly been boom times for the golf economy. But North Carolina-based golf architect **Rick Robbins** has a full plate. The designer of courses such as Crow Creek and **The Club at Mill Creek** is keeping busy — with eight new projects in China, plus a handful of renovations and new projects closer to home.



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Looking Forward to the New Year

/ by WALTER TODD, President, Carolinas Golf Association

› **With the new year under way, and good weather right around the corner, I hope everyone is looking forward to a great year, both on and off the golf course.**

As with every year, another beginning gives me a new opportunity to improve — both as a person and as a golfer. I always look forward to a fresh start and new challenges. I am personally looking forward to more than I could cover in this letter, but here are a few that come quickly to mind.

Butch Harmon once said that every tour player is just a good swing thought away from a 64. I look forward to finding that good swing thought, that may not turn my round into a 64, but at least make me a better player.

There are other ways to improve your game, including: flexibility (see page 26), strength, patience, and mental toughness. Each day gives us a new chance to improve on these qualities. We should look forward to this opportunity.

I also look forward to this year's Masters Tournament as the official start of golf season. It's a time when everything starts to bloom ... and the weather warms for those late-afternoon nines.

I look forward to following the many native Carolinians who are going to compete on the major professional tours — such as newcomers Ben Martin and William McGirt. I am predicting some breakthrough wins and successes, not only from these new players, but also from other Carolinians already participating on the tour, such as Jonathan Byrd, who won the tour season opener.

I also look forward to this year's amateur golf season and following our college programs, which represent the Carolinas so well.

I would also like to make a heartfelt plea for faster play. I would encourage everyone, myself included, to be ready when it is our turn to play. I look forward to the day when four-hour rounds are again the norm — and not the five to five and a half hours that have become commonplace. I think this would improve the enjoyment of the game for all golfers.

As I have grown older, I realize that this year will soon be gone and I will be looking forward to some of the same things again next year. Therefore, I am reminded of the old Chinese proverb: "Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think." So have a great year, enjoy yourself, and enjoy your game.

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NEWS & NOTEWORTHY EVENTS AROUND THE CAROLINAS

› **Billy Joe Patton**, who gained fame for nearly winning the 1954 Masters as an amateur, died on New Year's Day at the age of 88 in his hometown of Morganton, N.C. In 1954, after being named an alternate on the Walker Cup team (which qualified him to play in the Masters), the relatively unknown amateur nearly won the Masters —

narrowly missing a playoff for the green jacket by one shot. Sam Snead went on to beat Ben Hogan 70 to 71 in a playoff. The longtime Mimosa Hills Golf and Country Club member had a stellar amateur career — winning three North and South Amateurs at Pinehurst, two Southern Amateurs, and serving on five Walker Cup teams. He won three Carolinas Amateur titles (1947, 1958, and 1961), the 1964 North Carolina Amateur, and two Carolinas Senior Amateurs (1979 and 1981). Twice, he led the U.S. Open after 36 holes. In 1982, the United States Golf Association gave him the Bobby Jones Award in recognition of distinguished sportsmanship. The NC Amateur trophy is also named after him.



› **Professor Bruce Martin**, a Clemson University turfgrass pathologist, received the Distinguished Service Award — the highest honor bestowed by the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association. Martin's more than a quarter-century of research and education has benefited the golf industry. He was named among the 10 most influential people in South Carolina golf by *South Carolina* magazine in 2005. That same year he received the outstanding plant pathologist award from the American Phytopathological Society, Southern Division. Martin was a driving force behind the establishment of the turfgrass research department at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence, S.C. "Bruce worked as a graduate student with me at North Carolina State," notes CGA staff agronomist Dr. Leon Lucas. "He travels the world to deal with turfgrass research and issues."

› **James Dodson**, writer-in-residence for *The Pilot* in Southern Pines, N.C., and editor of *PineStraw* magazine, has been selected as the 2011 Donald Ross Award recipient by the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). The award will be presented in May during the 65th ASGCA Annual Meeting in Denver. The award is named for the ASGCA's first honorary president, and is presented to an individual who has made a positive contribution to golf and golf course architecture. Dodson's work has won more than a dozen awards from the Golf Writers Association of America.



› Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Ocean Course

› Play The Ocean Course Under PGA Championship Conditions

Want to test your skills against the same course conditions a PGA Tour player has to face? From Aug. 1-7, 2011, Kiawah Island Golf Resort will set up The Ocean Course in PGA Championship conditions, including green speeds, rough lengths, and rough lines — with tees set at 7,606 yards (what Tour players will face during the 2012 PGA Championship).

For the week, there will be a low-net competition. The winner will receive a two-night stay for a foursome in the resort's Forbes Five Star/AAA Five Diamond oceanfront hotel, The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort. The package includes two rounds of golf — including one on The Ocean Course. To enter the challenge, players must present proof of a certified USGA Handicap and must play the course with one of the resort's caddies to verify their score.

For further information on the PGA Challenge and golf packages, call (800) 576-1570 or visit kiawahresort.com.

› Bald Head Island Club Boasts \$3.9 Million In Renovations

The Bald Head Island Club — located on a barrier island two miles off the North Carolina coast — is ready to show off, now that its \$3.9 million course renovation is completed.

Award-winning architect Tim Cate (Thistle, Leopard's Chase, and Tiger's Eye) rebuilt the George Cobb design that originally opened in 1974. Cate used Cobb's drawings as a blueprint to preserve the routing of the course, as well as Cobb's style of "low grounds and high surrounds." Cate widened 10 fairways for players to better see water hazards from the tees, and eliminated most blind tee shots over water. More undulations were added to some greens, and Cate added double-tier greens on two holes that had been planned by Cobb, but never built.

"After more than 35 years of strong ocean winds, intense summer sun, and thousands of rounds of play, the course was

getting a bit tired ... some elements of the course had begun to present unfair challenges," says Robert Norton, general manager of the Bald Head Island Club. "Tim not only addressed those issues, he brought an aesthetic sense to the reconstruction, elevating tees to create stunning views



› Bald Head Island Club

of the Atlantic and placing new grasses and palm trees inside massive waste bunkers that line the fairways."

The layout includes new, laser-leveled tees that have been re-grassed with Celebration bermudagrass, and large and undulating greens re-grassed with MiniVerde Ultradwarf bermudagrass. The addition of natural and native sand areas reduced the number of areas that need to be mowed and have simplified routine maintenance. A state-of-the-art irrigation system requires substantially less irrigation water and fertilizers.

For more information about The Bald Head Island Club, call (910) 457-7300 or visit bhiclub.net.

Correction:

› In an article about the R.J. Reynolds family's impact on golf (*Carolinas Golf* — Winter 2010/11), we stated that the PGA Championship was played at Tanglewood in 1973. The actual year was 1974.



› Fort Mill Golf Club

› Fort Mill Golf Club Gains Audubon Certification

The Fort Mill Golf Club in Fort Mill, S.C., has achieved designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Fort Mill is the 25th course in South Carolina and the 804th in the world to receive the honor.

“Fort Mill Golf Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property,” says Jim Sluiter, staff ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs.

Certified courses must demonstrate a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas, including: environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction, and safety, water conservation, and water quality management.

Fort Mill is an 18-hole championship golf course founded in 1948, with the front nine designed by the legendary Donald Ross. George Cobb designed the back nine, which opened in 1959. In 2008, the entire facility was renovated by rebuilding the greens and making the conversion from bentgrass to the heat-tolerant Mini-Verde bermudagrass.

For more information, visit leroysprings.com or call (803) 547-2044.

› CGA Members ‘Two-Fers’ and Other Discounts at World Golf Hall of Fame

Members of CGA member clubs now are eligible for significant discounts at the World Golf Hall of Fame (WGHOFF) in St. Augustine, Fla. A member who buys one ticket to the WGHOFF can get a second ticket free of charge (two for the price of one) by printing the coupon provided at the CGA website, carolinasgolf.org.

CGA members also are eligible for 25 percent discounts for online purchases from the WGHOFF, as well as 10 percent discounts off “Stay and Play” golf vacation packages to the World Golf Village.

The 30,000 square feet of exhibit space for golf’s hall of fame is right off Exit 323 on I-95. The regular adult fee is \$19.50. Seniors, age 55 and older, get a \$1 discount.

The CGA provides you with a special payment code for online purchases, listed at carolinasgolf.org. Then call (888) 614-8614.

› Mystical Golf Announces Seaside Stay-and-Play Packages

Mystical Golf — owner and operator of the award-winning The Witch, Man-O-War, and The Wizard golf courses in Myrtle Beach — announces its “Anderson Ocean Club Mystical Special” stay-and-play package available through Sept. 7, 2011, for as low as \$184 per person in a shared suite.

All rated from four to four-and-a-half stars from *Golf Digest* and named “The Best Value in America” by *GOLF Magazine*, the Mystical Golf trio are designed by celebrated architect Dan Maples. The package includes three rounds of golf (one per course), three nights’ accommodations at the Anderson Ocean Club in two-bedroom suites, lunch at each course every day, daily breakfast, and an “instant replay” round for cart fee only (\$23).

For stay-and-play package information, call (843) 282-2977 or visit mysticalgolf.com. Cart fees are not included and will be added during the booking process (\$23 cart fee per course).

› Farmstead Nets ‘Most Fun’ Kudo from *Golf Digest*

Farmstead Golf Links, on the northern end of Myrtle Beach’s Grand Strand, has one of the “most fun holes you can play in America,” according to an article in *Golf Digest*’s January 2011 issue. Architecture Editor Ron Whitten selected Farmstead’s closing hole as one of his “home run” holes, and his final pick in a stellar lineup of courses that feature floating targets, overstuffed greens, and rocky challenges.

The par-6 hole, at 767 yards from the tips, is “so impossibly long,” wrote Whitten, that “you tee off in South Carolina and putt out in North Carolina.”

Farmstead’s mammoth 18th hole is the only par 6 on Myrtle Beach’s Grand Strand. It begins with a drive into a wide, sweeping fairway in South Carolina and concludes on a large, undulating green in North Carolina. The other 17 holes bring golfers back, too. A Willard Byrd and David Johnson design, the par-72 layout is framed by waist-high native grasses along several fairways.

Farmstead is one of three courses set to host the inaugural CGA Net Amateur later this year.

More information about Farmstead is available by calling (910) 575-7999 or visiting farmsteadgolfinks.com.



What to Expect for Turfgrasses in 2011

written by / LEON T. LUCAS, CGA AGRONOMIST

Carolinas turfgrasses took a beating from weather throughout 2010. A combination of turf problems and weather conditions reduced rounds, resulting in depressed revenue. This, combined with national economic issues, adversely affected the “business of golf” nearly everywhere.

Some of our best bermudagrass was killed by cold in January 2010. The result: Courses had to close greens and replant in early summer. Subsequently, the grass grew well during the long, hot summer, except for a few courses that lacked irrigation water. Many of these courses had just converted from bentgrass greens, which tend to suffer severe stress during the summer, to new ultradwarf bermudagrass varieties.

At the other end of the year, I have never seen the weather as cold for such a long period as it was this past December. Record cold that could have damaged bermudagrass is a concern for the 2011 spring season. Bermudagrass planted late last summer could be susceptible to cold damage. Covers on bermudagrass greens in January 2010 (when temperatures were below 25 degrees) were effective in preventing damage. Greens, especially new ultradwarfs, should have been covered when temperatures were in the teens in December.

Dry fall weather may have contributed even more damage. When visiting CGA clubs in this time frame, I observed large localized dry spots of soil on some bermudagrass greens in November — which can make it more susceptible to cold. I encouraged superintendents to apply wetting agents and to irrigate, to wet the dormant bermudagrass. I think less damage than expected occurred last winter because the soils remained moist from rain during the fall and winter.

Greens should be irrigated as needed during the early spring to keep soil moist — and they will hold more heat than dry, sandy soil. Drier soils and cold weather early in the winter could result in more damage this spring.

The continuous hot weather from June into September 2010 caused serious damage to many greens. Bentgrass, which cannot store energy efficiently in hot weather, used all of the stored energy

and could not recover from any type of stress in late summer.

Bentgrass died on many greens and had to be replanted in August and September. Many seedlings planted in August, when the weather remained hot, died and had to be replanted yet again. Bentgrass did not germinate well on some greens during the dry September. These factors resulted in bentgrass greens having to be replanted later than desired. Young seedlings grew well in October and November, but did not grow well in December. Good growth of the young bentgrass will not be expected until later this spring. These conditions will result in greens with immature bentgrass early in the summer.

I expect these greens will be more susceptible to diseases and wear early this summer. If this summer is hot, too, expect more thinning on new greens. It takes about two years for bentgrass to mature and become more tolerant to wear and summer stresses.

Your superintendent can take some actions to improve growth and survival of the young bentgrass. Maintaining the greens at higher mowing heights, such as 140 to 150 thousandths of an inch, allows bentgrass to grow deeper roots and have more leaf area. This will result in slower putting speeds, but it will create plants with more stress tolerance and keep your greens greener.

Excessive nitrogen fertilization should be avoided in the spring. Too much growth can make plants more susceptible to diseases and heat stress going into the summer. Aerification in the spring and early summer, and topdressing as needed, will help keep the soil drier, improve root growth, and provide a firmer putting surface. Preventive programs might require purchasing more fungicides than in previous years. Light and frequent fertilization throughout the summer will help maintain adequate growth.

Greens should be irrigated and hand-watered as needed, to help prevent soils from becoming too dry. The final factor that often kills bentgrass during the summer is drought stress on shallow roots. Applying wetting agents has been useful. But more than any other thing, large fans help improve growth and survival of bentgrass on greens with restricted airflow during the summer.

➤ CGA staff agronomist **Leon Lucas** is available to help CGA member clubs with their turfgrass dilemmas. Contact him at (919) 779-3241 or leon.lucas@carolinagolf.org.

Orville White: Short-Game Wizard

written by / Lee Pace

Long before Tom Kite began carrying three wedges in the 1980s and Dave Pelz became a corporation founded on teaching golf's short game, there was Orville White.

White, the head golf professional at four Carolinas clubs in the 20th century, was known far and wide for his ability to teach putting, chipping, and the use of a club Gene Sarazen pioneered in the early 1930s: the sand wedge.

"Orville is considered by leading pros as one of the world's outstanding authorities on the short-iron and putter game," the *Winston-Salem Journal* reported in April 1948, then listed Sam Snead, Pete Cooper, Johnny Bulla, and Clayton Heafner as recent visitors to Forsyth Country Club for lessons with White, the head professional there from 1943-'52. The story mentioned a recent visit by Snead, who had returned from South Africa the previous year "disgusted" with his putting.

"White took Sammy to the putting green, made a study of his putting game and gave the brilliant West Virginia pro needed advice," the *Journal* noted.

White was a Chicago native, grew up in Memphis, Tenn., and began playing the PGA Tour in the late 1930s. Frail health prevented him from traveling year-around, so he latched on as the club pro at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro. He soon moved to Winston-Salem, where he spent nine years.

When the circuit came through North Carolina for stops in Greensboro, Charlotte, and Asheville, White occasionally took a few days off work to join the touring pros. He qualified for the U.S. Open in 1948 by shooting 70-72 to lead sectional qualifying at Salisbury CC. But he said afterward he would not be able to attend the



championship, which was set for Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles. Two years later, he finished third in the St. Louis Open, shooting four rounds in the 60s and winning \$1,400.

White moved to Aiken, S.C., in 1952 to become the pro at Aiken Golf Club. Eight years later, he and longtime friend Purvis Ferree, the head pro at Old Town Club, went into partnership with New Bern pro Henry Bland to form Midland Valley Country Club in Aiken.

"They liked the idea of being their own boss instead of having 350 bosses like you do at a club," says Jim Ferree, Purvis's son.

They hired Ellis Maples to design the course, which opened in 1961. White remained as a partner and head golf pro until retiring in the 1980s.

White, nicknamed "Whitey," won the South

Carolina Open three years running from 1953-'55, and the Midland Valley Senior Invitational became the Orville White Cup in 2005. White was inducted into the South Carolina Golf Hall of Fame in 1984, the Carolinas PGA Section Hall of Fame in 1985, and the Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame in 1991. He died in 1991 at age 83.

Ben Vernon was born in 1929 and started caddying for his dad at Forsyth CC at the age of 10. Several years after, he went to work for White in the golf shop.

"Orville could make a ball dance," Vernon says. "He'd tear up those balata balls. Sam Snead came, Clayton Heafner came for lessons. They were trying to learn to hit a lofted shot, which was unusual in those days. Everyone hit 7- and 8-irons and rolled the ball. This was a new innovation, hitting the ball in the air."

White was a good sounding board for young players thinking of turning pro.

"They'd ask him if they were good enough for the pro circuit," Forsyth member Mack Haggaman says. "He would tell them if you can shoot 65 or 66 on your home course every time you go out, you might think about it."

Bailey Glenn, a club pro at Roaring Gap Golf Club who learned the game at Forsyth, took that a step further.

"Orville would tell them to get out a map," Glenn says. "Pick a highway. Pick out a town that looked like it would have at least a thousand people and make a circle around it. Drive up that road. Walk into the pro shop at the golf course there and ask for the best player in the town, that you want to have a game."

Glenn smiled ruefully telling the story in the fall of 2009.

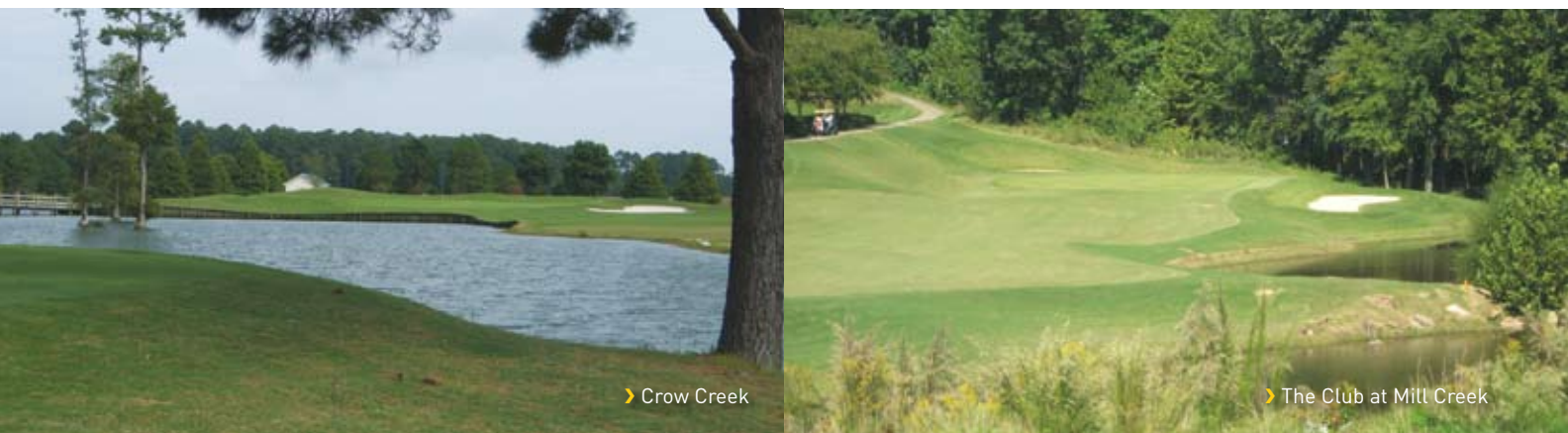
"Most of them would lose three days in a row and come home and forget about it."

➤ Lee Pace is a frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf*.

Homegrown

NORTH CAROLINA-BASED ARCHITECT RICK ROBBINS GOES GLOBAL

written by / Bill F. Hensley



› Crow Creek

› The Club at Mill Creek

The past two years haven't exactly been boom times for golf course construction. But despite myriad challenges — including an adverse economy, stringent environmental restrictions, high costs, and difficult financing — there are those who have fought the good fight and prospered.

Add innovative architect Rick Robbins of Cary, N.C., to the list of survivors. A rising star in the golf industry, his design work continues to be in demand, with projects stretching from the Carolinas to China. To date, the 60-year-old has designed some 30 courses around the world under his own name, and dozens more while working with other firms.

"Though new courses have been curtailed in the States, the sport is thriving in China and courses are sprouting up everywhere," Robbins says. "The game has grown tremendously during the past decade and is keeping U.S. architects busy."

It's certainly keeping Robbins busy. He flies to Asia about as often as some men get a haircut, and has made the 7,500-mile jaunt to the Far East 16 times in the past two years. To better serve his Asian clients, Robbins recently opened a branch office in Beijing.

An avid player, Robbins carries a USGA

index of 9.5 at the CGA member club, Prestonwood CC, and relishes competing with his father and brother, Rob, in friendly outings.

Getting Started

That family connection got Robbins interested in golf, beginning when he was a teenager in Southern Pines, N.C., where his father, Spencer Robbins, managed Pine Needles Lodge for Warren and Peggy Kirk Bell. In addition, he was around when his father and his uncles, Grover and Harry, built such courses as Hound Ears, Beech Mountain, and Elk River. He was more than an interested observer.

"I was hooked from the start," he says. The Boone, N.C., native graduated from N.C. State University's School of Design in 1973, and quickly began his career as a design associate with the firm of Robert von Hagge and Bruce Devlin (Quail Hollow Resort and Carolina GC, among others). During

13 years with the firm, he became the key man on many projects, gaining valuable experience in many facets of the business.

In 1986, Jack Nicklaus lured him away to Nicklaus/Sierra Development Corp., where he helped develop numerous golf course communities. Later, he became a senior design associate with Nicklaus' Golden Bear Design, and served in the firm's Hong Kong office. During his stay in the Orient, he made many contacts with developers in the Far East — ones that have turned into design assignments.

Going Solo

"I owe much of my success to Jack Nicklaus," Robbins says. "He was as good as a teacher as he was as a player."

But the urge to return home and begin his own company was strong. In 1991, he started Robbins and Associates International, and business has been steady ever since.



➤ On site at Bartram Trail near Augusta, Ga.



› Guizhou Province



› The Club at Mill Creek



› With Ernie Wang at Pinehurst



› Hole No. 18 at Prestonwood Meadow



› Guizhou Province

His services include resort and community master planning, construction management, renovations and remodeling, concept routings, and landscape architecture.

Robbins' North Carolina courses include Crow Creek in Calabash, Deer Brook in Shelby, The Club at Mill Creek in Mebane, Club Ocean Isle in Ocean Isle Beach, and Oaklawn Plantation in Oxford. He has also done redesign work at Camden CC in Camden, S.C.; Cardinal G&CC in Greensboro; Carolina CC in Charlotte; Prestonwood CC's Meadows and Fairway courses in Cary, N.C.; Boone GC in Boone, N.C.; Roxboro CC in Roxboro, N.C.; and Pine Lakes in Myrtle Beach.

Known and admired as a "free thinker," Robbins designs courses that are unique, challenging, and enjoyable to play. "Going up against the likes of Nicklaus, Tom Fazio, Pete Dye, and the other great architects keeps you on your toes," he admits. "We are all friends, but fierce competitors for the few projects that are out there."

The number of projects out for bid has shrunk quite a bit as of late. But Robbins has more than a dozen projects under way, including eight in China and three in his home state.

Currently, he is working on three North Carolina courses: Meadowbrook, near Rutherfordton; Compass Point in Leland; and the renovation of Prestonwood's Highlands in Cary.

Respect from Peers — and Golfers

Robbins is an active member of the Urban Land Institute, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the China Top Ten Golf Committee. He's also a member of the North Carolina golf panel that ranks courses throughout the state.

In addition, Robbins was recently elected to the executive committee of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. He is slated to serve as president in 2013, joining a select list of architects who have led the organization, including Donald Ross, Robert Trent Jones, and Pete Dye.

"Working with my associates in our professional organization has proved interesting and enjoyable," Robbins says. "We face many mutual problems and are working diligently to overcome handicaps that plague the industry."

On top of the sour economy, Robbins cites slow play, cost of play, construction costs, lack of financing, and a declining number of players as major industry concerns.

Robbins is in full agreement with the need for strong environmental restrictions, but thinks that many governing bodies have gone overboard with needless regulations that stifle construction. "Much of what they require doesn't make sense because they are in conflict with each other and add thousands of dollars to building costs," he says.

"I can live with intelligent restrictions to

preserve the environment, but many problems we face today are less than intelligent."

The intelligent changes he advocates are making sure the routing of a golf course and the master plan leave areas in their natural state as much as possible — including fitting the course to the terrain and keeping earthwork volumes to a minimum. He also selects turfgrasses that are best suited to the climate of each specific site, and that require the least amount of chemical application.

But there are other ways to make golf more affordable. "I also think there is too much demand for courses that are too long, too difficult, and require high maintenance," Robbins says. "Marketing guys convince developers that a course has to be at least 7,400 yards with hundreds of bunkers and a slope of 150 or more to be popular. I think that's nonsense. I think we need more courses like oldies such as Mid Pines and the Elks Club in Southern Pines. They are excellent examples of well-designed, simplified courses that are a joy to play and easy to maintain."

Despite a multitude of industry problems, Robbins loves his job. "It challenges my creativity. From the initial design concept to the finished project is a rewarding experience — and to hear players say they liked one of my courses is even more rewarding."

› **Bill F. Hensley** is a former North Carolina director of tourism and a member of the Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame.

2010 CGA Players of the Year

Four previous winners and two first-timers — including the U.S. Senior Amateur champion, the U.S. Amateur runner-up, and a U.S. Senior Women's Amateur semifinalist — have been named 2010 Players of the Year by the Carolinas Golf Association (CGA).

Award-winners were honored during Carolinas Golf Night and the CGA Annual Meeting at The Dunes Golf and Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, S.C., on Feb. 11.

Players of the Year receive the Richard S. Tufts Awards, established in 1997 to honor Carolinas amateur golfers who had exceptional individual tournament performances. Tufts served on the CGA Executive Committee from 1926 to 1964.

The awards are based on the CGA amateur rankings at the end of the calendar year in each of four categories: men, women, senior men, and senior women. The junior boys and junior girls awards are based on a series of junior tournaments run by nine associations that are the grassroots of junior golf in the Carolinas. Participating associations and tournaments are the Carolinas Golf Association (CGA), Carolinas PGA (CPGA), Trusted Choice Big I Junior Classics, South Carolina Golf Association (SCGA), Women's Carolinas Golf Association (WCGA), Women's South Carolina Golf Association (WSCGA), South Carolina Junior Golf Association (SCJGA), Tarheel Youth Golf Association (TYGA), and the Joe Cheves Junior Invitational.

Seven out of the last 12 Carolinas Men's Players of the Year are current PGA Tour members, while three former Carolinas Women's Players of the Year have competed on the LPGA Tour. Notable past Tufts award-winners include: Jonathan Byrd (1999, PGA Tour), Beth Bauer (1999, LPGA), D.J. Trahan (2000-2002, PGA Tour), Marcy Newton Hart (2000, LPGA), Brandi Jackson (2002, LPGA), Bill Haas (2003, PGA Tour), Webb Simpson (2006, PGA Tour), and Dustin Johnson (2007, PGA Tour).

› Complete and up-to-date player rankings are available at carolinasmgolf.org.

David Chung of Fayetteville, N.C., claims his first Carolinas Men's Player of the Year award following a stellar 2010 tournament campaign. The 20-year-old Stanford University junior won two championships, including the Western Amateur and Porter Cup. He also advanced to the final match at the U.S. Amateur at Chambers Bay in University Place, Wash. Facing the No. 1-ranked amateur, Peter Uihlein of Orlando, Fla., in the 36-hole final, Chung faced a 4-down deficit through 27 holes. Chung tried to mount a back-nine comeback, but lost by a 4 and 2 score. Chung's other top finishes include making the semifinals at the North and South Amateur in Pinehurst, capturing seventh place at The Players Amateur,



› David Chung



› Cydney Clanton



› Paul Simson

and advancing to U.S. Open Championship sectional qualifying. Chung also represented the United States at the World Amateur Team Championship, played in Argentina.

Cydney Clanton of Rockwell, N.C., garners the Carolinas Women's Player of the Year honor for the second straight year. The 21-year-old Auburn University senior had another impressive tournament season, including three quality appearances at USGA national and international competitions. Clanton, known for long distance off the tee, represented the United States at the Women's World Amateur Team Championship in Argentina, where she placed T8. She had a quarterfinal showing at the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links at Notre Dame in Indiana, and advanced to the round of 32 at the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship played at Charlotte Country Club in August. Her lone victory for 2010 was at the Women's North and South Amateur on Pinehurst Resort and Country Club's famed No. 2 course. Other top finishes include a T3 at the NCAA Women's Golf Championship and T11 at the Harder Hall Invitational.

Paul Simson of Raleigh, N.C., takes his fifth consecutive Carolinas Senior Men's Player of the Year award. Simson has also previously won the 1998, 2005, and 2008 Carolinas Men's Player of the Year awards. The 59-year-old insurance executive had a dream season, with wins in three national championships in three different countries in three months. He now holds the American, British, and Canadian senior amateur championships — the first time that any one player has held those

titles simultaneously. Simson's "senior triple crown" began with a five-shot victory at the British Seniors Open Amateur Championship. In September, Simson cruised to a 15-stroke win at the Canadian Senior Amateur. Then, in October, Simson won an elusive USGA championship crown by defeating Pat Tallent of Vienna, Va., 2 and 1 in the U.S. Senior Amateur final in Orlando, Fla. Other victories for 2010 came at the North Carolina Senior Amateur Championship played at Forsyth CC in Winston-Salem, N.C., and the National Senior Hall of Fame held at High Point CC in High Point, N.C. He also partnered with Don Dettweiler to win the Carolinas Senior Four-Ball Championship. A 22-time CGA champion, Simson was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame in May.

Patty Moore of Charlotte, N.C., won her seventh consecutive Carolinas Senior Women's Player of the Year honor, the longest streak in the short history of the Tufts Awards. She won the tight rankings race by a narrow margin over Pat Brogden of Garner, N.C. This award marks Moore's record-setting 10th Tufts Award. She previously was named the Carolinas Women's Player of the Year in 2004, 2007, and 2008. Although the 60-year-old had a winless 2010 season, her worst finish was T6 at any of the rankings events. Moore's run to the semifinals at the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Championship in Fort Myers, Fla., highlighted her year. Other top finishes were a second-place showing at the Carolinas Women's Senior Championship at Sapona CC in Lexington, N.C., T5 at the North and South Women's Senior Championship in Pinehurst,

and T6 at the North Carolina Women's Senior Championship at Cedarwood CC in Moore's hometown of Charlotte, N.C.

Cody Proveaux of Leesville, S.C., earned his Carolinas Junior Boys' Player of the Year award by winning the CGA's South Carolina Junior Match Play Championship, finishing second in both the SCJGA's Bobby Chapman Invitational and the CPGA's Charles Tilghman Junior, placing fifth in the SCGA's South Carolina Junior Championship, tying for second in the CGA's Carolinas Junior Boys' Championship, and tying for fourth in the Joe Cheves Invitational. He also qualified for the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship in Ada, Mich., where he reached the round of 16. A 16-year-old high school junior, Proveaux has verbally committed to play golf at Clemson University.

McKenzie Talbert of North Augusta, S.C., secured a second consecutive Carolinas Junior Girls Player of the Year award by winning the CGA's Carolinas Junior Girls' Championship and the CPGA's Charles Tilghman Junior Championship. Talbert finished second at the SCJGA's Players Championship and had third-place showings at the WSCGA's South Carolina Junior Girls' Championship, the CGA's Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls' Championship, and the SCJGA's The Blade Championship. She reached the semifinals at the CGA's South Carolina Junior Match Play Championship and finished ninth at the Joe Cheves Junior Invitational. A 15-year-old high school sophomore, Talbert is the second junior to repeat as the Carolinas Junior Girls Player of the Year (Haley Stephens of Greer, S.C., in 2007-'08).



› Patty Moore



› Cody Proveaux



› McKenzie Talbert

INTO THE (FAIRWAY) WOODS

New clubs add forgiveness and distance

*To fairway or to hybrid — that is the question.
Whether 'tis nobler in the minds of golfers to choose
The longer club for distance or the shorter stick for forgiveness
They should be selecting the proper arms against a sea of troubles.*

Now we're not saying that Will "The Quill" Shakespeare would have inked this ponderance if he were around today (picture Hamlet standing in the middle of a meadow thinking about his approach shot). But it certainly is a question today's golfer should ask.

For a while, fairway woods tended to be among the least-replaced clubs. Troll any used golf club store, and you'd find a ton of exchanged (discarded) drivers and putters (perhaps it's human nature to replace that which might cause the most pain).

For some, the recent rise of the hybrid squeezed the noble fairway wood even further from consideration. But recently, fairway woods have re-emerged in popularity.

"Fairway woods continue to be an extremely popular and essential part of a golfer's bag as they cover the distance gap between the driver and the hybrid," says Jay Hubbard, vice president of marketing and public relations for Tour Edge Golf. "For Tour Edge, the fairway wood category is an area of strong growth — with market share up over 50 percent from last year."

Even Adams Golf, a very strong player in the hybrid category, senses an upswing in fairway woods sales. "Until recently, the

fairway wood category had maintained a pretty constant level of interest among certain golfers, although there hadn't been much technological progress in the category over the past few years," says Tim Reed, vice president of research and development for Adams Golf. Now, the company claims its new Speedline F11 series of fairway woods sets a new standard for performance and forgiveness in the category, and will grow demand for fairway woods among all golfers.

But with these new options comes the potential choice of whether to replace your entire arsenal of hybrids with fairways. The answer may lie in the middle.

"You really need both," Hubbard says. "A hybrid's shorter shaft and smaller head size produces less distance than its fairway wood counterpart. For many golfers, a 3- or 4-wood combined with a 2- or 3-hybrid eliminates the distance gaps between clubs, allowing them to go for the green more often."

Yet no matter whether a 3-, 5-, or even a 7-wood is your club of choice, the key, as Hubbard says, is to choose a club you're comfortable hitting.

Here, then, are some of the comfortable and comforting fairway woods that might

help eliminate the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" that golf often presents.

➤ **ADAMS GOLF** puts the pedal to the metal with its Speedline Fairway Woods — available in both steel and titanium versions — that boast extra distance and forgiveness.

The newest models — Speedline F11 fairway woods — feature a deep, visible channel called Velocity Slot Technology on both the crown and sole that acts as a leaf spring to increase deflection and reduce stress on the face, thereby expanding the springlike effect for on-center and off-center shots. Men's and women's. MSRP: \$300 steel, \$400 titanium. adamsgolf.com

➤ **CLEVELAND GOLF** uses the light touch in fairway woods with its new Launcher FL models.

The company says the FL series (Fairway Lite) is 30 grams lighter than previous models and "will likely be the lightest fairway woods in golf." The Fairway Lites are steel with classic heads. Not only is the shaft light, but it's also a half-inch longer than standard to promote extra clubhead speed, ball speed, and distance. MSRP: \$200. clevelandgolf.com

➤ **NIKE GOLF's** VR Pro Fairway woods are loaded with technology. First, a Variable Full Compression Channel increases speed at impact in more spots on the clubface for greater distance on draws, stingers, high cuts, fades, or straight shots.

STR8-FIT face angle technology promotes workability by providing 32 options to customize the club face angle. "The power to adjust the club to the perfect position makes for more shots in your golf

› Sure, hybrids continue to make a huge impact on the golf club market. But that doesn't mean you should ignore advances in the realm of the trusty fairway wood. Here are a few of the latest high-tech offerings.



Adams Golf
Speedline F11
\$300



Cleveland Golf
FL3W Launcher
\$200



Nike Golf VR
Pro FW SLDR
\$300



Ping K15
\$222.50



TaylorMade R11
\$250



Titleist 910F
\$279



Tour Edge
Exotics XCG-4
\$300

bag," the company says. MSRP: \$300. nike.com

› **PING's** K15 stainless steel fairway woods have Straight Flight Technology and a larger head that increases the moment of inertia. Combine that with an external weight pad and you have a club that improves accuracy and distance. MSRP: \$222.50 per club, graphite only. ping.com

› **TAYLORMADE's** R11 fairway clubs let golfers adjust both the face angle, with Adjustable Sole Plate Technology, and the loft, with Flight Control Technology. The combination helps create up to 72 yards of side-to-side trajectory change. The aerodynamic shape promotes faster speed for more distance, while a deeper face and having the center of gravity in front also helps gain added distance, plus a more

penetrating flight. It also has a distinctive white non-glare crown. MSRP: \$250. taylormadegolf.com

› **TITLEIST** has a "Sure" thing with its 910F and 910F-d fairway metals, thanks to the innovative SureFit Tour dual-angle hosel, which allows golfers to adjust the loft and lie for fitting precision that the company says was previously available only on the major professional tours. Another plus is the fastest, most stable head designs Titleist has ever created. The 910F is a versatile club that puts the "F" in forgiveness, either from the fairway or turf. Its pear-shaped head design with a deep center of gravity helps create straighter, more consistent ball flight. The 910F-d is a larger-volume fairway club with a higher moment of inertia specifically designed to optimize distance

and performance off the tee. It has a deeper face that produces a medium trajectory with low spin. MSRP: \$279. titleist.com

› **TOUR EDGE** says its line of Exotics XCG-4 clubs, including the fairway woods, are its most sophisticated production models ever. A prime reason is the use of a powerful SP700 beta titanium face insert for more spring upon impact. Variable face thickness adds rebound and enhanced feel. A tungsten sole that accounts for more than 65 percent of the clubhead's total weight creates a low center of gravity to help minimize the effects of mis-hit shots. MSRP: \$300 each. touredge.com

› **Bob Seligman** is an award-winning golf writer and a frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf*.

2011 CGA Championship Schedule*

/ CHAMPIONSHIP	/ SITE	/ DATES	/ WINNERS
3rd Carolinas Young Amateur	Pinewild CC (Magnolia), Pinehurst, N.C.	1/4-5	Jackson Taylor/ Courtney Boe
17th Tar Heel Cup Matches	Dormie Club, West End, N.C.	3/28-29	
North Carolina High School Invitational	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	4/4	
34th Carolinas Pro-Am Club Championship	The Reserve GC, Pawleys Island, S.C.	4/11	
31st Carolinas Mid-Amateur	Carolina GC, Charlotte, N.C.	4/15-17	
43rd Carolinas Senior Four-Ball	CC of Spartanburg, Spartanburg, S.C.	4/19-21	
8th NC Women's Senior	Pinewood CC, Asheboro, N.C.	4/20-21	
60th Carolinas Four-Ball	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	5/4-8	
6th Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls'	Pine Island CC, Charlotte, N.C.	5/7-8	
26th NC Senior Amateur	North Ridge CC (Lake), Raleigh, N.C.	5/17-19	
39th SC Amateur Match Play	Carolina CC, Spartanburg, S.C.	6/15-19	
51st NC Amateur	Greensboro CC (Farm), Greensboro, N.C.	6/16-19	
NC Junior (44th Boys/15th Girls)	Pine Island CC, Charlotte, N.C.	6/21-24	
2nd Carolinas Senior-Junior Championship	Devils Ridge GC, Holly Springs, N.C.	6/27	
55th Carolinas Junior Girls' Championship	Members Club at Woodcreek Farms, Elgin, S.C.	6/28-30	
14th Carolinas Women's Match Play	Cowans Ford CC, Stanley, N.C.	7/12-14	
34th SC Junior Match Play (34th Boys/12th Girls)	Sunset CC, Sumter, S.C.	7/12-15	
97th Carolinas Amateur	The Dunes Golf & Beach Club, Myrtle Beach, S.C.	7/14-17	
3rd Carolinas Super Senior	The Reserve GC, Pawley's Island, S.C.	7/18-19	
5th NC Boys 13 & Under Championship	Asheboro Municipal GC, Asheboro, N.C.	7/18-19	
45th Twin States Junior Girls' Championship	Governors Club, Chapel Hill, N.C.	7/26-27	
62nd Carolinas Junior Boys' Championship	Gaston CC, Gastonia, N.C.	7/26-28	
45th Carolinas Father-Son	Pinehurst area courses	7/29	
14th Carolinas Parent-Child	Longleaf CC, Southern Pines, N.C.	7/29	
10th Mid-Atlantic Challenge/Junior Girls' Team	Mid Pines Inn and Golf Club, Southern Pines, N.C.	7/30-31	
6th Carolinas Pro-Junior	Rock Barn Golf & Spa (Jones), Conover, N.C.	8/1	
34th Carolinas Women's Four-Ball	Porters Neck CC, Wilmington, N.C.	8/2-3	
11th NC Senior Four-Ball	High Point CC (Willow Creek), High Point, N.C.	8/2-4	
2nd NC Amateur Match Play Championship	Bermuda Run CC, Bermuda Run, N.C.	8/3-7	
7th Dogwood State Junior (Boys/Girls)	Cutter Creek GC, Snow Hill, N.C.	8/9-11	
29th Carolinas-Virginias Junior Matches	Boonsboro CC, Lynchburg, Va.	8/13-14	
6th Carolinas Mixed Team	Ocean Ridge Plantation (Panther's Run), Sunset Beach, N.C.	9/3-4	
50th Carolinas Senior Amateur	Columbia CC, Blythewood, S.C.	9/6-8	
18th NC Mid-Amateur Championship	River Run CC, Davidson, N.C.	9/9-11	
4th NC Super Senior Championship	Cross Creek CC, Mt. Airy, N.C.	9/27-28	
16th NC Four-Ball	River Landing (River), Wallace, N.C.	10/7-9	
13th Carolinas Women's Senior	Callawassie Island Club, Callawassie Island, S.C.	10/11-12	
66th Captain's Putter (Carolinas-Virginias)	Forest Creek GC, Southern Pines, N.C.	10/14-15	
1st Carolinas Net Amateur	Myrtle Beach area courses	11/19-20	

NOTE

* Visit www.carolinasgolf.org for updates and more, including a listing of qualifying sites, plus schedules for CGA one-day and senior four-ball events, CGA Interclub, Tarheel Youth Golf Association tournaments, USGA Championship qualifying sites, and updated player and team rankings. **Reminder:** MyCGA users can register for tournaments online at carolinasgolf.org.

CGA One-Day Tournament Series Grows

› Cape Fear CC hosts One-Day and Senior Four-Ball events.

For nearly eight decades, the Carolinas Golf Association has run handicap events at top clubs for CGA golfers. This year, the CGA will conduct 101 such tournaments at top clubs in the Carolinas.

“These tournaments have had something of a revival in the last 10 years,” says CGA Director of Tournament Operations Andy Priest. “With all the technical and strategic advances of the last decade, we can give these events more of a tournament feel. Also, prizes are given as gift certificates at the host clubs. The players seem to appreciate these touches.”

The original concept from the 1930s was a series of single- and double-round events, largely for golfers who did not compete in championships.

The series, open to men and women of any age, features 49 tournaments this year — eight more than last year. Most are played on weekends at high-end public and semiprivate courses. Two are for women only.

The tournaments are organized as individual events or for two-player teams. In events open to both genders, players generally are flighted by gender and handicap.

“We had more than 2,100 entries last year,” Priest says. “Many (people) work during the week and play a lot of golf on weekends.”

Golfers are encouraged to make their own groups.

The senior four-ball tournament series started in 1991 and has outgrown the original handicap series after only two decades. In 2011, the CGA will conduct 52 senior four-ball (two-player teams) events. These are open to men only, all 55 years or older.

The senior events are played chiefly on weekdays, when private clubs are available to outside play. Last year, 4,466 entries came for 44 events.

The one-day and senior four-ball series are played nearly year-round, from late January through early December.

“Why are these events doing well?” Priest asks. “We have a large base of golfers looking for quality venues and tournaments at an affordable rate.”

Tarheel Youth Events Double for 2011

The Tarheel Youth Golf Association (TYGA) will host 38 one-day tournaments this year for boys and girls ages 18 or younger. These are open only to North Carolina youth; high school seniors can play until they start college, as long as they meet the age requirement.

CGA Director of Junior Golf Jason Cox counted four one-day tournaments when he started in 2004. He oversaw 19 events in 2010 and there are plans to double that total this year.

“TYGA was created for two reasons,” Cox notes. “First, we wanted to give juniors in North Carolina whose parents do not belong to a CGA member club the opportunity to play in our championships. Second, we wanted to introduce the concept of competition to TYGA members.”

More than 2,000 junior golfers participated in TYGA in 2010. “That’s an interesting facet of TYGA,” Cox says. “We have grown every year — last year about 6 percent — despite the economy.”

You can find entry information and forms for any CGA-sponsored event at carolinasmgolf.org. Once you’re on the home page, go to Tournaments.

Root Cause:



A BODY 'TUNE-UP' COULD FIX YOUR GAME

/ written by BOB FORMAN / illustration by KEVIN FALES

That new driver or set of irons isn't working. Or maybe you've taken lessons or tried a golf magazine swing tip. But it's frustrating — game improvements just aren't materializing.

It's like adding new tires to a used car — it may help a bit, but not if the problem is an old engine. Golf is no different. Equipment has gotten better, but unless you fix the mechanism that's swinging that technology, the performance will fall short.

If your body can't swing efficiently, how will new clubs or lessons help? They won't. Lighter clubs may increase club speed, but all it means is that your \$4, multilayered ball will simply go farther into the woods!

Unless you identify and correct anatomical deficiencies that cause poor swing mechanics, you can't fix your game.

These are some of the findings coming out of the Titleist Performance Institute (TPI) in Oceanside, Calif. Years of research into the efficiency of the golf swing has led to an epiphany that has literally changed the game.

+ Get With a Program

Practically all Tour players engage in some type of golf fitness program. And golfers of all ages and levels can benefit from one, as well.

When you improve your body, you improve your swing — which translates to better ball-striking, more distance, improved satisfaction, and a reduction or elimination of injuries.

The core of any credible golf fitness program is identifying a golfer's personal

deficiencies. These might include muscle tightness, weakness, or imbalance. Each impacts how we feel — and how we swing a golf club.

+ Knowing Squats

For example, there's a strong correlation between the inability to do a deep squat and blocking (hitting shots to the right for a right-hander) or hooking. This is usually due to tight calves and/or hamstrings. It can cause early extension — the hips move toward the ball during the downswing. That traps the arms and hands behind the body and causes a "push" or blocked shot. Some golfers compensate by adding wrist action at impact, causing the dreaded hook.

If you correct the muscle deficiency, there's no longer a physical reason to extend early. With a little coaching, you can correct the swing fault.

This is just one example of how the science of physiology and the sport of golf have merged.

+ Corrective Action

Assessing the golfer, isolating weak areas, and developing a targeted exercise program can provide timely benefits. Once a deficiency is discovered, it typically doesn't take long to correct — depending upon its severity



and the golfer's compliance with a recommended exercise program. If the golfer sticks with it, significant improvement can be realized in as few as two or three months.

Without an anatomical blueprint, a golfer is flying blind and may even enhance existing deficiencies. But with guidance and supervision from a knowledgeable golf fitness professional, a golfer can transition from a corrective phase into one that promotes strength and balance. Additional golf-specific exercises and techniques can enhance speed and power, which can equate to an increase in distance.

Golf fitness programming, though relatively new to the sport, is making a positive impact. Bettering the mechanism that's driving the golf club will improve swing efficiency, mechanics, and performance.

Add "new tires" and a "driving lesson," and your old golf game will run better than it has in quite a while.

➤ **Bob Forman** is a certified golf fitness instructor and director of the Golf Fitness Academy at High Point Regional in High Point, N.C. You can reach him at (336) 509-4610 or e-mail bob@golffitcarolina.com.

Cause for Celebration?

LUCKY ACE SHOULDN'T COST THE GOLFER

/ written by JACK NANCE / illustration by KEVIN FALES

I'm leading an effort to change the future of golf! One that will make a significant impact on economic infrastructures around the world! Here's my soapbox creed: Why should *the golfer* have to buy drinks when he makes a hole-in-one?

The age-old inferred law is that one who makes a hole-in-one must fork out large sums to pay for drinks. And should the drinks be bought for just the golfers in the group, or for everyone in the entire clubhouse? I say neither. The one who should benefit from a hole-in-one is the golfer who made it!

Why should I dole out sums of money to make my friends happy for something that takes about 1 in 12,000 shots to accomplish? Shouldn't it be all about "me"?

I confess: I made a hole-in-one last year. When I made my first ace at Old Town Club in Winston-Salem, N.C., some 31 years ago, I had very little money. Paying for *anything* was never even discussed. My friends knew better.

This time it was different. Last August, I aced the 17th hole at the Myrtlewood PineHills course in Myrtle Beach. Many of my high school buddies witnessed the feat, so it could not have come at a worse (or better) time. I was glad they were there to see the lucky stab, but within minutes, the drink issue surfaced. I did not escape purchases that night, but it started me on a crusade to change this obviously undocumented rule.

Consider this: If a hockey player scores a goal, he is tackled by his elated teammates. If a kicker converts a 40-yard field goal to win the game, he is carried off the field. And if a baseball player knocks a walk-off home run, he becomes the bottom of an ecstatic flesh pile. I've never heard of



these heroes buying drinks for their teammates or friends. Heck, it might work the other way around. Most athletes probably even get bonuses for such feats.

I've searched the Internet on the history of aces. I have yet to corroborate one story about the origin of the "drinks rule" that makes sense.

Even "Dear Abby" addressed the hole-in-one issue on March 4, 1990, in the *Deseret News*. One of her readers put it nicely:

DEAR ABBY: *I've made five holes-in-one. The first one was such a thrill, I bought drinks for everyone. After that, a hole-in-one got*

to be "ho-hum," so I bought a badly needed sprinkler system for the golf club, telling those who asked, that's where their drink is!

A sprinkler system? On second thought, maybe drinks are just fine!

Now, if I can just overturn the idea behind why parents of daughters have to pay for most of the wedding! Who made *that* rule, anyway?

➤ **Jack Nance** is the executive director of the CGA. If you're lucky enough to get a hole-in-one, join the "CGAcers" program at carolinascgolf.org.