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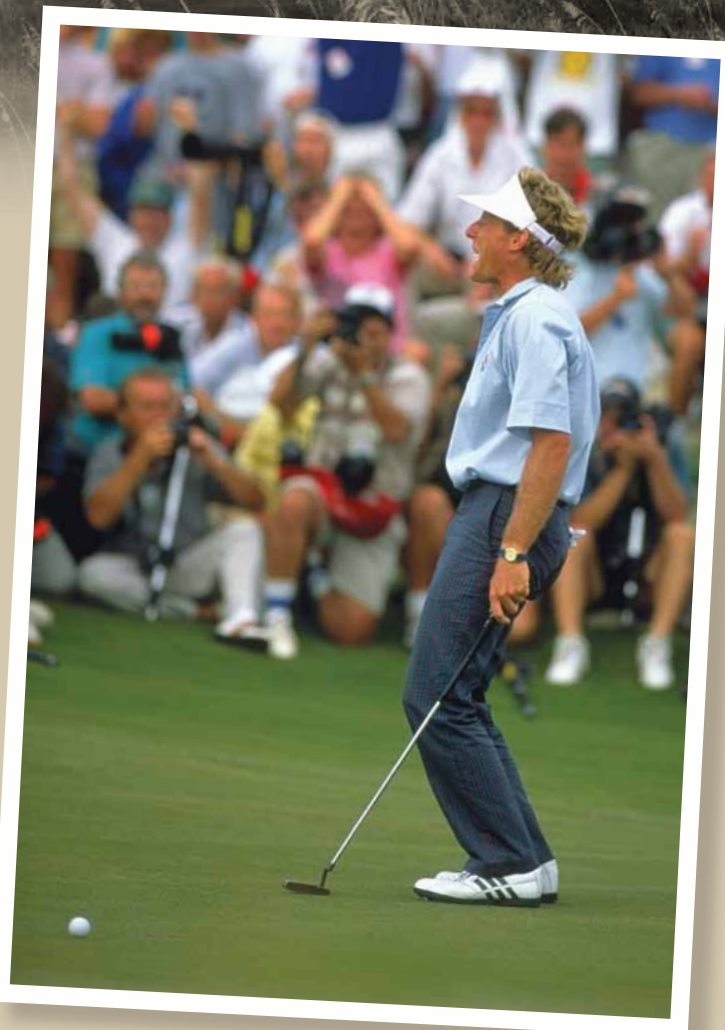
OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the Carolinas Golf Association

Spring 2012

LIFE AS AN 'IDOL'

NORTH CAROLINA
TEEN **SCOTTY McCREERY'S**
BIG BREAK

- **GROWING THE GAME**
HAAS FAMILY SUPPORT
BOOSTS GOLF'S FUTURE
- **HARD-LUCK HISTORY**
OCEAN COURSE IS NO
PLACE FOR THE NERVOUS



A History of Hard Luck

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

2012: A Year of Change

/ by J. RICHARD DOSEK, President, Carolinas Golf Association

► We are acutely aware that 2012 holds the potential for change in many areas. On the political front, the presidential election is running at full speed. Not only could there be a change on Pennsylvania Avenue, but every U.S. House and a third of the U.S. Senate seats will be up for election. North Carolinians also will elect a governor.

In golf, the USGA and R&A issued their quadrennial amendments to the *Rules of Golf* and *Decisions* (see page 28).

At the CGA, President Walter Todd of Laurens, S.C., finished his term and has been succeeded by yours truly. There were major changes during Mr. Todd's time at the helm — most significantly the launch of the Setting the Course campaign (see page 24).

Changes atop the CGA Executive Committee have been a regular occurrence during our 102-year history. There have been many wonderful leaders, and I'd like to tell you about a few of these 52 men.

The first CGA president was Fred Capers of Sans Souci CC — host site of the first Carolinas Amateur in 1910. His name is on the trophy given to the CGA club whose members post the best 3 of 4 scores over the championship's first 36 holes.

Two of the longest-tenured CGA presidents served during wartime: Junius Adams (1914-1919), and M.K. Jeffords (1941-1946). Jeffords' name is on the Carolinas Junior Boys trophy.

We were fortunate to have Richard C. Tufts as CGA President from 1931-1933. The grandson of Pinehurst Resort's founder was a firm believer in amateur golf. He was the glue for the CGA many years before and after his presidency. We have him to thank for keeping meticulous records. And let's not forget that he was one of the most effective presidents in USGA history. The CGA's Player of the Year Award and the CGA Amateur trophy are named in his honor.

Billy Joe Patton — one of golf's most flamboyant players ever — served as CGA president from 1963-1964. He won three North and South Amateurs, two Southern Amateurs, and three Carolinas Amateurs. He played on five U.S. Walker Cup teams and finished one shot out of a playoff with Ben Hogan and Sam Snead at the 1954 Masters. A trophy in his name goes to the North Carolina Amateur winner (which he also won in 1964).

Anyone who has spent time in Myrtle Beach probably has enjoyed facilities built by Archie Dargan Jr., who founded Dargan Construction. Mr. Dargan was the CGA president from 1978-1979, and aside from his vital role at the Dunes Golf and Beach Club, he built numerous hotels, condominiums, and entertainment theaters.

There were many great CGA presidents, 52 who preceded me. Despite changes at the top, and our growth from five clubs in 1909 to more than 700 today, the Executive Committee and the CGA staff's focus remains unchanged. We will promote and protect the game of golf, and we will continue to provide competitions, educational opportunities, turfgrass services, and other benefits to Carolinas golfers. We will continue to be good stewards of the game as we head into our second century of service to Carolinas golfers.

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NEWS & NOTEWORTHY EVENTS AROUND THE CAROLINAS

› **Glenn Lassiter Sr.** died in early January at age 76. The retired owner/partner of Piggly Wiggly grocery stores and Western Auto of Robbins was also a founder of Riverside GC in Robbins, N.C. After retirement, he worked at Pinehurst Resort. An avid golfer, he scored eight holes-in-one, and was a five-time CGA champion — winning four CGA Senior Four-Ball Championships with partner Bill Cox of Gastonia, N.C., and a Carolinas Father-Son title with his son Steve.

› **Scott Harvey** from Greensboro won the Eagle Point Amateur Invitational in October. **Bill Boles** took the senior division. Harvey also won the Carolinas Amateur, Carolinas Four-Ball, and N.C. Open in 2011, and is the CGA's 2011 Player of the Year.

› Several former CGA champions have qualified for the 2012 PGA Tour: Medalist **Brendon Todd** of Raleigh, N.C.; **Tommy Biershenk** of Boiling Springs, S.C.; **William McGirt** of Fairmont, N.C., and Boiling Springs, S.C.; and **Mark Anderson** of Beaufort, S.C. (the 2009 CGA Player of the Year).

› **Jack Nance**, the CGA's executive director, was named a consulting member of USGA's Amateur Status Committee. The Rules of Amateur Status are guidelines about how to compete as an amateur and reinforce that an amateur is one who plays solely to enjoy the game, without financial benefit.

› **Lea Anne Brown** of Charleston, S.C., has been inducted into the South Carolina Golf Hall of Fame. She was the 1991, 2003, and 2005 SC Stroke Play Champion; the 1991, 1992, and 1994 SC Match Play Champion; a 13-time Charleston City Amateur winner; the 2004, 2005, and 2006 Mixed Team Champion; the 2009 SC Four Ball Champion; and the 2010 SC Senior Amateur Champion. She also played in the 2005 and 2006 U.S. Mid-Amateurs and represented South Carolina in USGA Team Matches four times (1995, 1997, 2005, and 2007).

› The USGA named **Austin Ernst** of Seneca, S.C., to represent the U.S. in the 2012 Curtis Cup Match, to be conducted in June at The Nairn Golf Club in Scotland. The Curtis Cup is a biennial competition between teams from the U.S. and Great Britain and Ireland. Ernst, a sophomore at Louisiana State University, is the CGA's 2011 Women's Player of the Year.

› **Damon J. DiOrio**, CEO of Charlotte CC in Charlotte, N.C., and **Patricia A. Calder**, general manager of the Thornblade Club in Greer, S.C., received Excellence in Club Management (ECM) Awards for 2011. The award recognizes private club general managers, managers, and CEOs who have exhibited outstanding skills in managing their club.



› National GC is converting to bentgrass greens.

› National Golf Club Set to Reopen with Restored Greens

National Golf Club in Pinehurst, N.C., is set to reopen in mid-March with completely new greens. The club undertook a major project to restore its greens to their original Jack Nicklaus design, while softening the more prevalent slopes on the heavily contoured putting surfaces.

The new greens are covered in A1/A4 bentgrass, a heat-tolerant strand of bentgrass that marks a significant upgrade from the Penncross bent used when the course debuted in 1989.

The project reclaims the larger footprints the greens had lost over time from encroaching bermudagrass. It also opens up areas for hole locations that haven't been available for years.

Club owner Kenneth Robinette is amazed at how much bigger the greens will be once they are restored to their original parameters. "It really surprised me when I went out and saw where the original greens were and how much the bermudagrass had encroached and affected the playability," he says. "This has always been a great course and it was time we redid the greens to get it

back to its original state."

For more information, visit nationalgolfclub.com, or call (800) 471-4339.

› CGA Events Count in World Rankings

Ever look at the R&A World Amateur Golf Rankings (WAGR) and wonder just how they are calculated? Amateur golfers around the world are rated on the basis of their average performance in what are called "Counting Events" over a cycle of the previous 52 weeks. WAGR coverage includes more than 9,000 players from 70-plus countries, and more than 3,500 ranking tournaments played in more than 80 countries.

Not all "counting events" are created equal. Each has a position on an "Event Rating Table" based on the strength of its starting field, using the number of WAGR ranked players and their positions in the WAGR Top 500.

In the Carolinas, there are 13 "counting events" for men — from the Carolinas Amateur to the South Carolina Junior Match Play. There are eight women's "counting events," including the Carolinas Junior Girls, North Carolina Amateur, and South Carolina Stroke Play.

FAST FACTS

\$442,440

Amount the CGA spent on merchandise, food, and beverages at CGA member clubs during 2011. Merchandise accounted for more than \$330,000 of the total, and was awarded as prizes at CGA-run competitions throughout the Carolinas. At the Carolinas Amateur, for example, the top 30 finishers (and ties) received merchandise from the host club's golf shop.

216

The number of CGA-administered tournaments for 2012 — from qualifiers, championships, and TYGA events to USGA qualifiers, CGA One-Day, and Senior Four-Ball events. That adds up to 297 days of on-course activity, not including course setup days.

› Symposium Promotes Affordable Golf

Guest speakers from as far away as California and Scotland descended on Southern Pines last November for a Symposium On Affordable Golf — the second annual event organized by Pinehurst-area golf course architect Richard Mandell.

More than 70 attendees heard about specific ways to improve golf's business climate. Among the potential solutions:

- Paul Chojnacky, superintendent at Pasatiempo GC in Santa Cruz, Calif., showed how the club cut its budget by reducing the amount of maintained turf, without impacting course strategy and playability.
- Gordon Irvine, a golf course management consultant from Scotland, contrasted maintenance practices in America to those in the U.K. He discussed how, in many cases, reductions in chemical use can have very little negative impact on playing surfaces.



SYMPOSIUM ON AFFORDABLE GOLF

October 29th and 30th, 2012
Southern Pines, North Carolina

- Consultant Tom Mead demonstrated more than 16 ways a club can reduce costs, waste, and energy — from the parking lot to the maintenance facility.

For more details, go to symposiumonaffordablegolf.com. An expanded 2012 event is planned for Oct. 29-30.

› Four South Carolina Golf Communities Nab 'Best of the Best' Rankings

Four South Carolina golf communities landed in the top 10 when The Golf Course Home Network announced its 2011 "Best of the Best" golf community rankings — the GCH Network's fourth annual compendium of rankings that takes into account all major media rankings of golf communities and their amenities for the year.

Golf Course Home editors study and compile all of the year's prominent magazine ranking and rating lists — Best in State, Best Residential, Best Public, Best Private, Best Classic, and Best Modern, plus Top 100 and Top 50 rankings, as well as ratings from *Forbes.com*, *Where to Retire* magazine, and other major media outlets.

The GCH Best of the Best list has a new No. 1 this year — Kiawah Island, S.C. (18 major awards), whose Ocean Course will host the 2012 PGA Championship. Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head Island, S.C., came in third; Palmetto Bluff, Bluffton, S.C., came in fourth; and Colleton River Plantation, Bluffton, S.C., came in sixth. Two other South Carolina locations were noted as "Communities of Distinction" — Daniel Island, Charleston; and Woodside Plantation, Aiken.

For complete rankings, along with details of all major magazine awards, go to GolfCourseHome.com.



› Kiawah Island's Premier Homes.

WELCOME NEW CGA MEMBER CLUBS

Lake Russell Area Golf Club,
Calhoun Falls, S.C. (affiliate)

Catawba Creek Golf Club
(formerly Gastonia Municipal),
Gastonia, N.C.



Do Course Conditions Impact Ratings?

written by / **MICHAEL DANN, CGA DIRECTOR OF COURSE RATING AND HANDICAPPING**

CGA staff agronomist Dr. Leon Lucas was talking about the changes he sees in putting surfaces that are converted from bentgrass to bermudagrass. He asked how much effect speedier greens have on a USGA course rating or a USGA slope rating.

While ratings are math-oriented — more than 450 numbers are recorded for each set of tees for each gender — there is a way to quantify a “more” or “less” change in ratings for various actions taken by a club committee and course maintenance staff.

This must be prefaced by the fact that permanent and significant changes to a course probably require a re-rating, meaning a phone call to your favorite golf association.

Maybe more important, the USGA notes that day-to-day changes to a course cannot change ratings, which are based on average conditions over the course of a golf season or a year.

Dry versus wet fairways cannot create short-term ratings changes. They balance out. Similarly, a tough course setup — for the annual member/guest or for “crazy day” events — also is a temporary situation.

On the other hand, clubs often make permanent course changes that will change ratings; the most important of these is yardage.

Build a new tee 22 yards behind the current tee on one hole, and you probably add 0.1 to the men’s course rating. It only takes 18 yards for women.

The USGA course rating system is extremely yardage-sensitive. A course with “over-stated yardages” will have ratings that are too high. In turn, a course rating that is too high will convert to a USGA

Handicap Index that is too low. This will lead to course handicaps that likely are too low, as well.

The USGA handicap manual puts this succinctly:

“Permanent marker placement is more likely to have a greater impact on ratings than green speed, height of rough and other course maintenance practices ... Permanent markers are to reflect an average placement of the movable tee markers over time.”

USGA ratings must be based on average yardage per hole, not a maximum length. Otherwise, handicaps calculated from rounds at the club will be too low.

If you move all the tee markers back an average of 10 yards, the course rating could jump by almost a whole stroke, while the slope rating also will rise.

If your maintenance staff shrank all fairways by 10 yards to save money on mower gas, each course rating would increase by about 0.3 of a stroke, and a slope rating might go up two points.

The same rating hikes are about right for another gas-saving step employed at many clubs: increasing the summer rough height by a half-inch or more. Bermudagrass rough, in particular, can get to the point that it’s like playing out of a Brillo pad.

If you reduce water sprayed or poured on a green and make them all firmer, your ratings will go up as much as 0.2 of a stroke and maybe a slope point.

And as for that original question posted by Dr. Lucas: increasing the Stimpmeter reading of all greens of a course by 1.5 feet will change a course rating by about 0.2 of a stroke and a slope rating by about one point.

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

› Check ALL Your Batteries This Spring

When it's time to "spring forward" for daylight saving time, you often hear public service announcements encouraging consumers to check and change the batteries in their smoke detectors. Spring is also a good time for golf courses that have automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to make sure these are fully operational.



› CGCSA Launches New Website

The Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association (CGCSA) recently launched a "new and improved" website — carolinascgsa.org. The site features member profiles, education and conference information, employment opportunities, and more. With around 1,800 members, the CGCSA is the largest affiliated chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The site also lets clubs access affordable used equipment and provides links to Rounds4Research, where golf lovers can bid for tee times at hundreds of courses to raise money to support turfgrass research.



FAST FACTS

334 Number of CGA members submitting applications to the CGAcers club for holes-in-one in 2011. The longest ace was a 227-yarder by Terrance Fisher. The shortest was a 67-yarder by June Martello. St. James Plantation in Southport, N.C., reported the most holes-in-one with 37. Sixteen golfers recorded two aces. In a random drawing from among the eligible CGAcers, three CGA members (Dick Christensen, Dwight Annesley, and Carolyn Sepich) received prizes, including the *Golf in the Carolinas* centennial book.

\$26,000 Amount presented by The Reserve at Lake Keowee Charitable Foundation to four local organizations serving Pickens County, S.C.: Helping Hands, Pickens County Meals on Wheels, The Parenting Place (to prevent child abuse in Pickens County), and the A.R. Lewis Elementary School's Weekend Backpack program.

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Scotty McCreery's Big Break

EVEN AN 'IDOL' NEEDS TIME TO HIT THE LINKS

/ written by THAD OGBURN

With the busy schedule that comes from being a high school senior and reigning *American Idol* of the music world, Scotty McCreery certainly needs moments of down time.

But the 18-year-old Garner, N.C., native admits he doesn't always find much peace on the golf course. Although he's from a family of golfers and grew up swinging a club, Scotty has a hard time turning off his strong desire to win.

"When I get out there, I get competitive," he says, flashing the grin that won over millions of fans last spring as he performed each week on the top-ranked TV reality singing contest.

That competitive nature certainly helped on the show, where Scotty, then 17 and one of the youngest contestants, faced plenty of challenges. From his oft-aired audition, where Scotty's deep voice prompted *Idol* judge and Aerosmith front man Steven Tyler to utter an obscenity, through his mentoring session with a very unconventional Lady Gaga, Scotty persevered thanks to strong ambition mixed with generous "aw-shucks" charm.

Scotty is similarly focused on the baseball diamond, where he has played for most of his life. He was a pitcher for Garner High School until *Idol* called him away during his junior year. He hopes to play on the school's team this spring, but Scotty jokes that

Garner High Coach Derik Goffena has told him he'll have to work hard.

"Coach told me he's not going to play me unless I'm in shape," Scotty says.

There's little doubt that this competitor will give it his all.

A family of golfers

While Scotty's childhood interests gravitated toward music and baseball, golf was always in the mix, too. His parents, Mike and Judy, show off a picture of a toddler Scotty dressed up for a day on the links. He got his first set of clubs when he was about 6.

Mike's father, Bill McCreery, loves golf — and watching his children and grandchildren play the game. A New Hampshire resident for years, Bill remembers that the "very first time I played golf, it snowed in April!" Though he spent several years in the military in Puerto Rico (where he met his future wife, Paquita), Bill didn't take up the sport until the couple moved to the Northeast to raise their children.

But when he started to play golf, Bill did it in a big way. The McCreerys belonged to the

Cochecho Country Club in Dover, N.H. Mike remembers playing four or five times a week. And when he wasn't on the green, he was often hanging out in the back of the golf shop, cleaning clubs and such for money.

"It was a nice advantage belonging to a club," he says. "Scotty didn't have that."

Even when the McCreerys weren't at the club, they had two par-3 holes in their backyard. Mike says he and his brother, Billy McCreery III, became "pretty good golfers." Billy, in fact, went on to be an assistant pro at a course in Florida.

Mike's journeys, meanwhile, brought him to North Carolina — and to baseball. He was a pitcher at Louisburg College, a two-year school. That's where he first met Judy. Later, Mike transferred to N.C. State University, while Judy went to UNC-Chapel Hill. (Born into a mixed household, Scotty swore allegiance to the Wolfpack over the Tar Heels.)

The McCreerys settled in Garner and had two children — daughter Ashley and Scotty. Mike instilled a love of baseball in Scotty and was often his Little League coach.



▶ Scotty and Mike McCreery got a chance to play at Augusta National last November.

“I just grew up around baseball more than golf,” Scotty remembers.

But golf had an influence, especially after Bill and Paquita had moved south to Aberdeen, in the heart of North Carolina’s golf country. (Bill is still active at the nearby Foxfire course, and his son and grandson sometimes make the hour or so trip from Garner to play there.)

Closer to home, either Scotty and his dad or Scotty and his buddies like to play at Raleigh’s Eagle Ridge and River Ridge courses.

The McCreerys didn’t have much time for golf while Scotty was on *Idol*. He auditioned in Milwaukee, Wis., in the summer of 2010, but didn’t tell many folks back in Garner that he had received one of the coveted “golden tickets” to the show’s Hollywood rounds. After surviving in Hollywood, Scotty and his mom, Judy, temporarily relocated to the West Coast for the live shows. Mike, Ashley, Bill, and

Paquita made trips to see his performances.

Between rehearsing and recording new songs, plus taking part in two live shows each week, Scotty also had to have three hours of tutoring each day. From February until the May finale, he had exactly one day off — Easter Sunday.

A victory — and golf opportunities

When Scotty was declared the show’s 10th season winner on May 25, his life forever changed. Suddenly, he was everywhere — from *The Tonight Show* to *Today*, *Ellen*, and *Live with Kelly*. He spent last summer headlining the “*American Idols Live!*” tour across the United States and in the Philippines. And he put out his first album, *Clear as Day*, which topped both country and pop charts and went platinum.

Back home in Garner, he has tried to stay “normal,” he says. Although that isn’t always

easy. Scotty remembers playing golf with his pals during a quick trip home in June. By the 18th hole, he recalls, a gallery of about 40 people was watching him. It was more pressure than he’s used to on the golf course.

Of course, his newfound celebrity does have its privileges, such as the moment last fall when Scotty’s manager called to ask if he would like to participate in the 13th Annual Guitar Pull charity concert in November.

The event, which raises money for the Million Pennies for Kids campaign, also was going to feature Martina McBride, Gary Allan, Little Big Town, and Jerrod Niemann.

But the location caught Scotty’s ear — Augusta, Ga. And, yes, there was the likelihood he would get to play Augusta National.

“He called them up and said, ‘Look, ain’t no way I am missing this,’ ” Mike remembers.

Scotty says it was a special moment looking



► Scotty and his sister Ashley, circa 1997, look on as Mike putts.

out the plane's window and seeing the famed course as he flew into town. "It was so green — it looked like *The Wizard of Oz*."

When he and Mike started playing the front nine, Scotty wasn't having a particularly good day, Mike says. But things began to pick up for his son on the notoriously difficult 12th hole. Scotty used a 9-iron to chip in for par on the "Golden Bell."

It was a moment that Mike won't forget.

"He was struggling a little bit, and then to see the smile on his face when he chipped it in on 12 — it was pretty priceless," Mike recalls.

"It was an amazing experience," Scotty says.

Not every golf outing is quite as exciting, but there are other opportunities for Scotty and Mike to play these days. Country music has quite the fraternity of golfers, such as Darius Rucker, Vince Gill, and George Strait. Scotty says it's not unusual for his record label executives in Nashville to suggest a round of golf whenever there is a free day.

An Idol's life now

For now, there aren't too many free days. In January, Scotty started a tour opening for Brad Paisley across the Midwest and West. There are plenty of other concerts and appearances on Scotty's calendar to support the album. And no doubt he'll be making return appearances to *American Idol* as the show prepares to crown a new winner this spring.

Scotty has most of the credits he needs to graduate from Garner High, but he attends classes at school when he can, and is trying to have a fairly typical senior year experience. No other *Idol* winner had ever returned to school before, and producers were doubtful that Scotty would be able to, either.

"They said it's impossible — there's no way you can go back to school," Scotty recalls. "I said, 'Look, y'all don't know my hometown.'"

Scotty still attends youth group at First Baptist Church in Garner. Still likes to take in Wolfpack basketball games and Carolina Hurricanes hockey games. Still hits area fast-food joints for chicken biscuits and sweet tea.

Judy and Mike want him to remember his strong faith and upbringing, and to make good decisions. Judy notes that the newspaper front page celebrating his "Idol" victory also has a warning about how celebrity can bring poor decision-making: a story on the investigation of former presidential candidate John Edwards.

Scotty's looking into colleges, including N.C. State and possibly Belmont University in Nashville, where Paisley is among the famous country music alumni.

And, if he finds time, there are some other classes Scotty is considering — golf lessons from a professional.

"I'm starting to hit it a little better," Scotty says as he sits around talking golf with his father and grandfather. He isn't sure of his current handicap, what with the sporadic way he's played the game in the past year.

Bill, 83, who says he "still goes out to hit the ball," warns Mike to look out for Scotty once he gets some lessons and his competitive nature kicks in.

"He'll take you eventually," Bill says.

Mike nods in agreement and smiles.

"I'm going out kicking and screaming, though."

► **Thad Ogburn** covered Scotty McCreery's journey on *American Idol* for *The News & Observer* in Raleigh.



Scotty McCreery's magical year

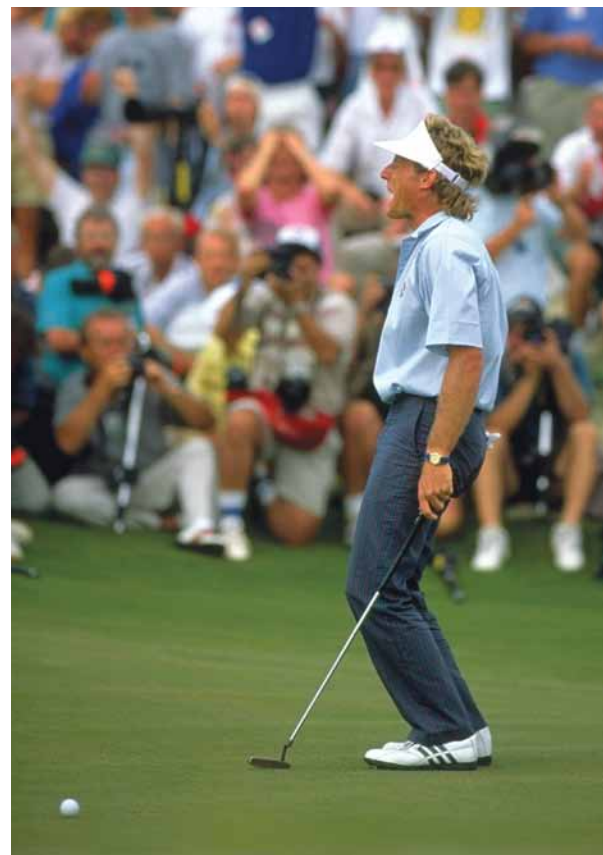
- ★ **February 2011** Starts weekly performances on *American Idol*'s 10th season.
- ★ **May 2011** Is declared the *Idol* winner.
- ★ **Summer 2011** Headlines the "American Idols Live!" concert tour.
- ★ **October 2011** Celebrates his 18th birthday and the release of his first CD, *Clear As Day*, with a homecoming concert in Raleigh.
- ★ **October 2011** Gets gold record for his first single, "I Love You This Big."
- ★ **October 2011** *Clear As Day* debuts at No. 1 on Billboard 200 chart and sets numerous superlatives, including youngest male artist in history to hit No. 1 with a debut album.
- ★ **October 2011** Sings the National Anthem before the first game of the World Series.
- ★ **November 2011** Plays Augusta National Golf Course with his father, Mike, while in Augusta for a charity concert.
- ★ **November 2011** Performs in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.
- ★ **November 2011** *Clear As Day* certified as gold album.
- ★ **December 2011** Named "Top New Artist" at the American Country Awards.
- ★ **January 2011** *Clear As Day* certified as platinum album.
- ★ **January 2011** Begins tour with Brad Paisley.

Prepping for the PGA

OCEAN COURSE IS HISTORIC BEYOND ITS YEARS

/ written by REID NELSON

From a game that dates back centuries, **The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island is still an infant.** Put in human terms, the aptly named layout that affords views of the Atlantic from all 18 holes will barely have reached legal drinking age when it hosts the 2012 PGA Championship this summer.



But the course literally built to host the 1991 Ryder Cup Matches already has cemented a place in golf's history, with another page to be written Aug. 9-12, when it hosts the last of this year's four "majors" — the PGA Championship. While the PGA will be the first major staged in the Palmetto State, it will be The Ocean Course's seventh national or international tournament. And with each event, Pete Dye's labyrinth of turfgrass, sand dunes, bunkers, and water hazards adds to its own legend and legacy.

Not that The Ocean Course needs the constant exposure that comes with hosting two World Cups (1997 and 2003), the 2001 UBS Warburg Cup, the 2005 PGA Professional National Championship (formerly the Club Professionals Championship), and the 2007 Senior PGA. It has been a fixture on "top 100" lists since it was first eligible for voting. And *Golf Digest* has long hailed it as the hardest layout in the country, a ranking that was reconfirmed when the magazine published its 2012 list in January.

When you're at the center of golf's spotlight and the game's best players are succeeding

and failing in equally spectacular fashion, your legacy is sure to grow.

Starting with the '91 Ryder Cup, The Ocean Course has displayed a flair for the dramatic. Remember "The War by the Shore?"

Until 1985, the Americans had lost the Ryder Cup just three times from its first playing in 1927, and only once since 1933. Heading to Kiawah 21 years ago for an event that would christen an Ocean Course opened only two months earlier, the U.S. pros had not held Samuel Ryder's gold trophy in their hands for six years, thanks to two losses, including the

first ever on American soil, and a tie.

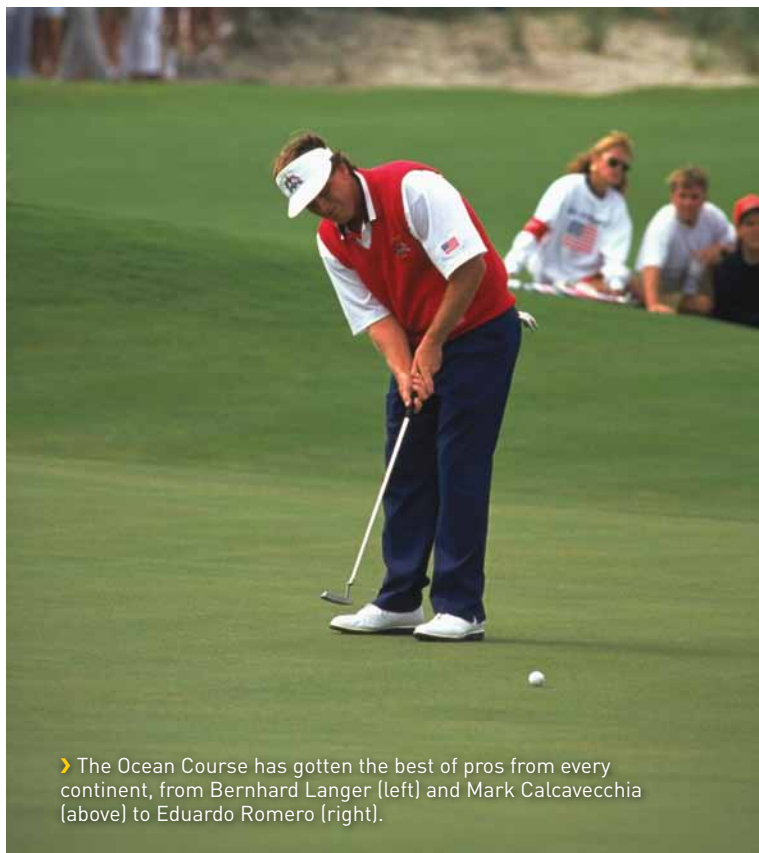
The most dramatic matches in Ryder Cup history — and arguably one of the most dramatic finishes in all of golf — came down to the last putt of the last match on the last day: Bernhard Langer's agonizing missed six-foot putt, which would have given him a halve with Hale Irwin and the European team a 14-14 tie to keep the Ryder Cup out of American hands.

But there had been an equally anguishing finish by America's Mark Calcavecchia hours earlier. In the third match of Sunday's singles, "Calc" looked in control of his match with Colin Montgomerie when the wheels came off. By the 15th hole, Calcavecchia was dormie — four up with four to play. A mere halve on any of the remaining holes, and a full point was his.

It didn't happen.

Without making a single birdie, Montgomerie won each of the last four holes. He won the par-3 17th with a shameful double bogey when his visibly unnerved opponent put a sleeve of Titleists in the pond that separates tee and green. Calcavecchia was so distraught, he wept as he sat alone later in the surf, even as the matches behind him were still being contested. His still-reddened eyes were testament

While the 2012 PGA Championship will be South Carolina's first "major," it will be the seventh national or international event on The Ocean Course since it was built in 1990.



➤ The Ocean Course has gotten the best of pros from every continent, from Bernhard Langer (left) and Mark Calcavecchia (above) to Eduardo Romero (right).



to his pain, even as he and his teammates met the media well after they secured the Cup.

Thus began the legacy of The Ocean Course. Dye's beauty, it turns out, is actually a black widow where, more often than not, a player doesn't win; other players lose.

That may not have been exactly what happened in 2005 when Mike Small won the first of his three PGA Professional National Championships here. But even the University of Illinois golf coach couldn't match par over four days. His 1-over-par 289 remains the highest winning score in the history of an event that dates to 1968.

It was certainly the case two years later, when the PGA of America brought the Senior PGA Championship to Kiawah as a sort of dress rehearsal for this year's "big" PGA. For three days and 12 holes, Eduardo Romero got the better of gusty winds, as well as his opponents, to hold a two-shot lead with only six holes remaining.

Romero followed a bogey at the par-4 13th with a marginal tee shot at the long par-3 14th. The ball drew only slightly left of a back left pin, but it was enough to doom the big Argentinean with the equally big smile. "El

Gato," a nickname that means "the cat" in Spanish, wasn't smiling when he reached his ball and found it plugged — make that buried — in the severely steep face of a deep bunker only a few feet from the flagstick.

"I knew from the tee that it would (be plugged)," Romero would tell the media following the round. "I thought four would be good. But I make double."

When his playing partner, Denis Watson, holed a 12-foot birdie on the same hole, the three-shot swing propelled Watson to his first Champions Tour victory and left Romero in second, two shots (or one double bogey) back.

But again, this is The Ocean Course, a place where the punishment doesn't always fit the crime. As Romero found out, even a marginal infraction can receive the death penalty.

It's an accepted fact that Dye's courses — from TPC Sawgrass to Oak Tree, PGA West, Crooked Stick, and Whistling Straits, all of which have confounded pros and amateurs on occasion — are penal designs, demanding sound strategy and precise execution. But nowhere is Dye more demanding than here: The Ocean Course has little tolerance for anything less than perfection.

Every rule has its exceptions, however. Remember that final match of the 1991 Ryder Cup, the singles contest between Langer and Irwin? That match-up, and the overall Ryder Cup that year, might have had a completely different outcome, had it not been for a coincidental twist of fate. Dye, himself, may be the best storyteller for this anecdote:

"Hale hit a bad drive on the 18th hole and hit the young lady who was general manager of the tournament," Dye recalled, referring to Tournament Director Kathy Boles. "... She had worked and put all of this together, and hadn't come out to see any of the tournament. And so she finally came out on the last hole, the last day, and Hale hit that drive and it would have gone into that alligator pond if it hadn't hit her." (You can hear Dye tell the story in a video on Kiawah's website, kiawahresort.com.)

Who knows what will happen at this year's PGA Championship? Whatever it is, you can bet it will likely add to the legacy of The Ocean Course, a course whose expanding place in golf's history book belies its youth.

➤ **Reid Nelson** is a writer and public relations professional based in Charleston, S.C.

Haas Family Ties

PUTTING ENERGY INTO THE FUTURE OF GOLF / written by MARK MATLOCK

Before programs like The First Tee existed, many aspiring golfers had to count on someone else to teach them honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, courtesy, perseverance, judgment, respect, confidence, and responsibility.

For Jay and Jerry Haas, it was simple. The lesson came with their family values — something Jay passed on to his boys, current PGA FedEx Cup champion Bill, and Jay Jr., who also is pursuing a career in golf.

Now the Haas golfers want to share these guidelines with the youngsters who participate in First Tee programs around the Carolinas.

“I think my dad instilled it in me,” says Jay, the winner of 24 Champions and PGA Tour events over the past 36 years. “I can still hear him saying: ‘It doesn’t cost a nickel to be nice to people.’ I’m sure his dad said it to him. And he lived it.”

Jay and Jerry had another role model while growing up — their uncle, 1968 Masters champion Bob Goalby. Jerry remembers playing with Uncle Bob as a teenager. “My uncle barked at me many times on where to stand and ‘Hold still,’ ‘It’s my turn,’ or ‘Get out of the way,’” says Jerry, now the men’s golf coach at perennial power Wake Forest University. “The game of golf, if it teaches anything, teaches a young person how to respect their elders. It is such a game of etiquette.”

Jerry also credits his older brother, Jay. “He’s been a great mentor and somebody I call for advice, or somebody I share a laugh with, or somebody I play golf with. Some people don’t have anybody ... I had three to help me and guide me.”

Giving back to the community is an integral part of the Haas family. For 10 years starting in the early '90s, Jay hosted a charity event at the club he helped found, Thornblade in Greenville, S.C.

This year, there will be the second First Tee Pro-Am hosted by Jay Haas at Greenville Country Club’s Chanticleer course. In 2010, the event raised \$40,000 for The First Tee in Greenville.

Darin MacDonald, a First Tee board member, hopes to have 18 pros participate in the April 16 event. MacDonald also is director of the



► Jerry Haas (above left, with Sean Moore at the 2006 NCAA Regionals) and Jay Haas (below left) work to support First Tee programs.

BMW Charity Pro-Am, an annual stop on the Nationwide Tour.

MacDonald notes that Jay’s friendly and approachable demeanor has had tangible effects on his fellow pros, especially when he recruits for the First Tee event. “It amazes me that when I say ‘hosted by Jay Haas,’ the response is ‘Oh, if Jay’s doing it, then yeah, we want to support it.’ That, to me, is very cool.”

Jerry incorporates the “pay it forward” approach with his golf team: The Demon Deacons worked on a Habitat for Humanity build in December, and wrapped Christmas presents for underprivileged children.

The health of the game is important to the Haas brothers. Aside from their interest in the First Tee and collegiate golf, both cite the good work done by the Carolinas Golf Association. “There are people behind the scenes that do so much,” Jay says. “(They) put on quality events at quality golf courses. I think that lends itself to the best players beginning to blossom.

“The college coaches have figured out that (the Carolinas are) a pretty darn good place to recruit.”

Jerry echoes his big brother’s sentiments. The CGA has “events all the time, one-days and two-days. It’s a wonderful program,” he says.

There’s also a lot to be said for the future of the game, exempli-

fied by The First Tee. “Now we’re exposing young people to the game of golf,” Jerry says. “It takes resources ... but it’s doable. If you give young children a chance to play, they’ll eventually become your members and your club champions, and they’ll pass it on.”

With the Haas family doing some of the passing, golf in the Carolinas is in good hands.

➤ **Mark Matlock** is a Greenville, S.C.-based writer.

A BRUSH WITH NICENESS

It’s easy to be polite and courteous in front of a crowd, but it’s another matter when very few people are around. Such was the case on a Saturday morning in July 2010 at Greenville (S.C.) Country Club.

A father and son were playing at the Chanticleer course. Head Pro Eric Pedersen told them to start on the 10th hole, a short par-4.

As they prepared to putt, the father noticed a foursome walking to their shots in the fairway. But it was no ordinary foursome: it was Champions Tour player Jay Haas with his sons, Bill and Jay Jr., and Billy Harmon, Bill’s instructor. The dad remembered that Bill, who earlier in the year had won his first PGA Tour event, was soon heading to Europe for the British Open.

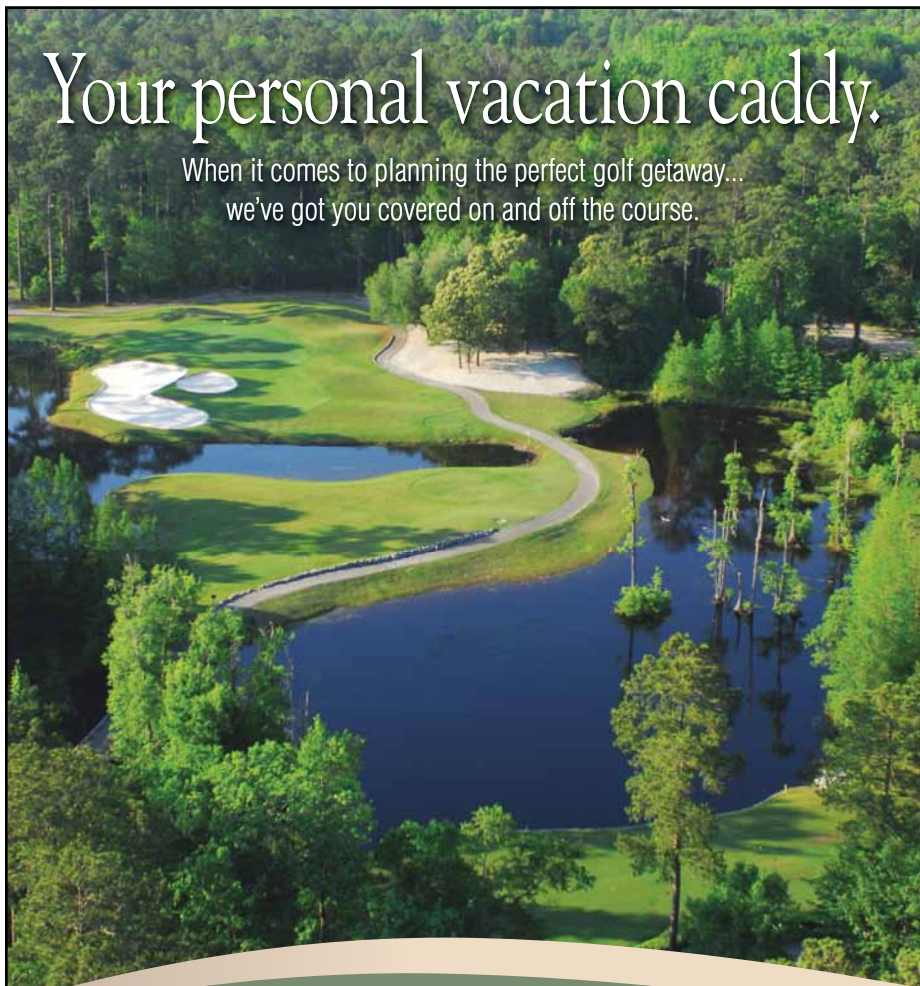
After putting out, the father and son waved them through. The dad pulled the cart off to the side and waited. He expected to perhaps hear a “Thanks” as they drove past, what with Bill having to catch a flight later that day for St. Andrews. No one would complain if they blew by the twosome; they had “bigger fish to fry.”

Wrong. Each of the group walked over to the father and son, thanked them, shook their hands and asked the star-struck 10-year-old how he was playing. The cost of that stop for the Haas group was nothing, but the grins on the father and son were priceless.

— Mark Matlock

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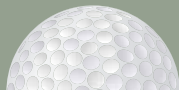


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2011 Players of the Year



Two previous winners and four first-timers — including the winner of the 97th Carolinas Amateur and a player chosen to represent the U.S. in the 2012 Curtis Cup Match — have been named 2011 Players of the Year by the Carolinas Golf Association (CGA).

/ illustrations by MATT LEBARRE

Award-winners were honored during Carolinas Golf Night and the CGA Annual Meeting at Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club on Feb. 25.

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

(2000-2002, PGA Tour), Marcy Newton Hart (2000, LPGA), Brandi Jackson (2002, LPGA), Bill Haas (2003, PGA Tour), Webb Simpson (2006, PGA Tour), Cydney Clanton (2009-2010, LPGA), Dustin Johnson (2007, PGA Tour), and most recently, Mark Anderson (2009, who qualified for the 2012 PGA Tour).

McKenzie Talbert of North Augusta, S.C., secured her third consecutive Junior Girls Player of the Year award. Talbert, a 16-year-old junior at Strom Thurmond High School, won the CPGA Charles Tilghman Junior, the SCJGA Fall Championship, and the SC Junior Match Play Championship, along with finishing as the runner-up in the Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls Championship and the

and was sixth in the SC Trusted Choice Big I Junior Classic. Young helped the Carolinas defeat the Virginias in the Virginias-Carolinas Junior Team matches. He has committed to play college golf at Clemson University.

Austin Ernst of Seneca, S.C., earned the Women's Player of the Year award. Ernst, a sophomore at Louisiana State University, took the individual title at the 2011 NCAA Division I Championship, becoming the first freshman to win in 13 years. She also advanced to the semifinals at the 2011 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship. The four-time CGA champion has been selected to represent the U.S. in the 2012 Curtis Cup Match to be conducted June 8-10 at The Naim Golf Club in Scotland.

Pat Brogden, of Garner, N.C., earned her first Senior Women's Player of the Year award. She took first place in the Women's Eastern Senior Amateur, and second place in both the North Carolina Women's Senior and Carolinas Senior Women's Amateur. She tied for ninth at the North & South Senior, took third in the Southern Women's Senior Amateur, and qualified for the USGA Senior Women's Amateur, making it to the round of 16.

Scott Harvey of Greensboro, N.C., is the Men's Player of the Year. He won the Carolinas Amateur, the Carolinas Four-Ball (with Patrick Brady), the North Carolina Open, and the Eagle Point Amateur Invitational. He also was a semifinalist in the NC Match Play, second in the CGA Mid-Amateur, tied for second in the NC Mid-Amateur, tied for 10th in the Cardinal Amateur, tied for 13th in the N.C. Amateur, and advanced to the round of 16 in the U.S. Mid-Amateur.

Paul Simson of Raleigh, N.C., takes his sixth straight Senior Men's Players of the Year award. He has also previously won three Men's Player of the Year awards (1995, 2005, and 2008). In 2011, he won the 26th NC Senior Amateur, the North & South Senior, and the Society of Seniors Championship. He made the U.S. Senior Amateur quarterfinals, was second in the Canadian Senior Amateur, tied for 24th in the British Seniors Open Amateur, played in the U.S. Senior Open, and made the cut at the British Senior Open. Simson, a member of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, has 23 CGA titles.

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 13 Carolinas Men's Players of the Year are current PGA Tour members, while four 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

Joe Cheves Junior, and tying for third place in the Carolinas Junior Girls Championship. Talbert was also a member of the winning Junior Solheim Cup team. She has verbally committed to play collegiate golf for the Clemson University Tigers.

Carson Young of Pendleton, S.C., earned the 2011 Junior Boys Player of the Year honor. The 17-year-old high school junior at Pendleton High School won the CGA SC Junior Match Play Championship and the CPGA Junior Championship. Young also finished third in the SCJGA Players Championship, fifth in the SCJGA Fall Championship, tied for fifth in the CGA Carolinas Junior Championship,



2012 CGA Championship Schedule*

/ CHAMPIONSHIP	/ SITE	/ DATES	/ WINNERS
4th Carolinas Young Amateur	Pinewild CC (Magnolia), Pinehurst, N.C.	1/2-3	Katherine Perry / Jordan Walor
North Carolina High School Invitational	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	4/2	
35th Carolinas Club Championship	Carolina GC, Charlotte, N.C.	4/9	
32nd Carolinas Mid-Amateur	Orangeburg CC, Orangeburg, S.C.	4/13-15	
9th NC Women's Senior	Greensboro CC (Irving Park), Greensboro, N.C.	4/17-18	
44th Carolinas Senior Four-Ball	Governors Club, Chapel Hill, N.C.	4/17-19	
61st Carolinas Four-Ball	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	5/2-6	
7th Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls'	Pine Island CC, Charlotte, N.C.	5/5-6	
27th NC Senior Amateur	Oak Valley GC, Advance, N.C.	5/15-17	
40th SC Amateur Match Play	Cobblestone GC, Blythewood, S.C.	6/13-17	
52nd NC Amateur	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	6/14-17	
NC Junior (45th Boys, 16th Girls)	Carmel CC, Charlotte, N.C.	6/19-22	
56th Carolinas Junior Girls Championship	Longleaf CC, Southern Pines, N.C.	6/26-28	
6th NC Boys 13 & Under Championship	Asheboro GC, Asheboro, N.C.	7/9-10	
15th Carolinas Women's Amateur Match Play	Cowans Ford CC, Stanley, N.C.	7/10-12	
98th Carolinas Amateur	Charlotte CC, Charlotte, N.C.	7/12-15	
SC Junior Match Play (35th Boys, 12th Girls)	Lake Marion GC, Santee, S.C.	7/17-20	
4th Carolinas Super Senior	Mimosa Hills G&CC, Morganton, N.C.	7/18-19	
46th Twin States Junior Girls Championship	CC of Lexington, Lexington, S.C.	7/24-25	
63rd Carolinas Junior Championship (Boys)	CC of SC, Florence, S.C.	7/24-26	
46th Carolinas Father-Son	Pinehurst area courses	7/27	
15th Carolinas Parent-Child	Longleaf CC, Southern Pines, N.C.	7/27	
7th Carolinas Pro-Junior	Prestonwood CC, Cary, N.C.	7/30	
3rd NC Amateur Match Play Championship	Forest Oaks CC, Greensboro, N.C.	8/1-5	
35th Carolinas Women's Four-Ball	Green Valley CC, Greenville, S.C.	8/7-8	
8th Dogwood State Junior Championships	Starmount Forest CC, Greensboro, N.C.	8/7-9	
12th NC Senior Four-Ball	Rolling Hills CC, Monroe, N.C.	8/7-9	
1st Carolinas Super Senior Four-Ball	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	8/21-22	
7th Carolinas Mixed Team Championship	Myrtlewood GC (Pine Hills), Myrtle Beach, S.C.	9/1-2	
19th NC Mid-Amateur Championship	Benvenue CC, Rocky Mount, N.C.	9/14-16	
51st Carolinas Senior Amateur	Forest Creek GC, Pinehurst, N.C.	9/19-21	
14th Carolinas Women's Senior Amateur	Rumbling Bald Resort, Lake Lure, N.C.	9/25-26	
5th NC Super Senior Championship	Pine Island CC, Charlotte, N.C.	9/26-27	
17th NC Four-Ball	River Landing (River), Wallace, N.C.	10/12-14	
2nd Carolinas Net Amateur Championship	Myrtlewood GC (PineHills), Myrtle Beach, S.C.	11/17-18	



Charlotte Country Club in Charlotte, N.C., will host the 98th Carolinas Amateur.

Founded in 1910, the club's Donald Ross golf course was restored by architect Ron Prichard and was awarded the 2009 Best Remodel of the Year by *Golf Digest*. It is also ranked No. 86 in *Golfweek's* Classic Courses. It has hosted three USGA championships, including the 2010 U.S. Women's Amateur.

* Visit carolinascgolf.org to find schedules for qualifying sites, CGA one-day and senior four-ball tournaments, CGA Interclub events, Tarheel Youth Golf Association tournaments, USGA Championship qualifying sites, and player and team rankings. **Reminder: MyCGA users can register for tournaments online.**

CGA's Capital Campaign Picks Up Steam Last year, the CGA launched a fundraising campaign to build a Carolinas Golf House (including a Carolinas Golf Legacy Museum) and to endow the Carolinas Golf Foundation. The campaign will be supported largely by tax-deductible donations from people touched over the years by this service-oriented, nonprofit association. The following letter is from one of those donors.

A LIFE OF GOLF

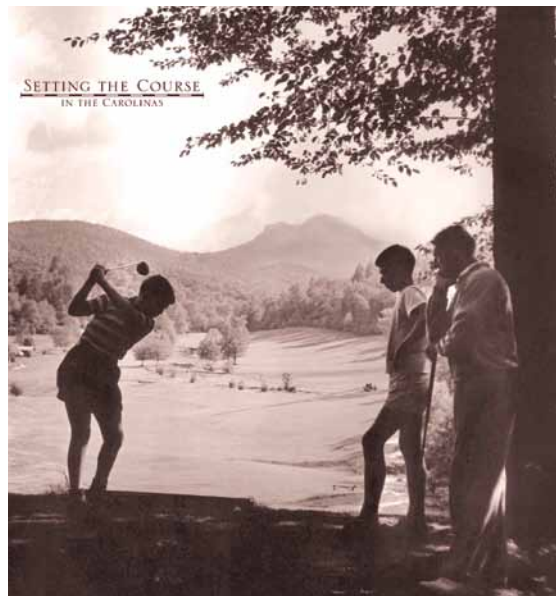
/ written by BILL WILLIAMSON

Golf has been a prominent part of my life for more than 75 years. In 1936, when I was 5 years old, Daddy (then CGA President Bill Williamson Jr.) said it was time for me to have my own clubs and canvas bag. Daddy was a good golfer; In 1934, he was Club Champion of Charlotte Country Club and qualified to play in the USGA Amateur in Long Island. He took me to the golf shop at Charlotte CC where we met with our professional, Bill Livie. They said I only needed four clubs: a Spoon (3-wood), a 6-iron, a 9-iron, and a putter. Daddy said I should play with these clubs until I broke 100 "or grew enough to play with ladies clubs." I could play today with four clubs and still break 100!

Daddy often talked about the importance of the CGA in advancing golf participation in North and South Carolina, and how Richard S. Tufts recruited him to the CGA Board. In 1948, the Carolinas Amateur was played at Charlotte CC, and I drew Mr. Tufts as my opponent. I was worried that if I defeated him, he would never send me an invitation to play in the North & South Amateur at Pinehurst. I did defeat him, but played in the North & South many times. Mr. Tufts was a fine gentleman and did much to advance the CGA.

The CGA was prominent in my golf career — I played in the championship many times, and lots of one-day events throughout the Carolinas. I've played with Ray Taylor Jr. and P.J. Boatright Jr. — both became CGA secretaries. CGA competitions where juniors could play permitted me to improve my game, and in 1949, I made the golf team at the University of North Carolina. I was named All American my senior year, as individual runner-up in the NCAA college championship at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs.

In the 1950s, I qualified five times for the National Amateur — the last time in 1959, when I carried Jack Nicklaus to the 17th hole. During that decade, I had the privilege of winning the Charlotte City Amateur, and was



Club Champion of both Charlotte CC and Quail Hollow CC.

Golf has been good to me in so many ways, and this led me to "giving back of my time, talent, and treasure" to help others — and to become a successful businessman. I played in many Southern Amateurs, and was recruited to serve on the board and later as president of the Southern Golf Association. But with bringing up a family and donating time to many Charlotte charities, plus my growing career at Reynolds Securities (now Morgan Stanley), I reduced playing tournament golf, leading to a higher handicap.

Golf continues to be important in my life, even though I am in my 80s. I have always thought golf was a game one could play forever. And I plan to continue playing past 100! It is impossible to count the number of people I have met through golf, and the number of trips taken with friends. The game is all about having fun with friends before, during, and after golf.

When I was approached to help with the CGA's plans for a new facility in Southern Pines, I immediately agreed to contribute my time and money to advance this worthwhile project.

Thank you, CGA, for helping advance my golf — and my life.

➤ **Bill Williamson** is a senior advisor for Afton Capital. He belongs to several CGA member clubs, including Charlotte CC, where he first learned to play golf.



Donate Now!

All donations to the CGA's capital campaign are fully tax-deductible. For details, visit settingthecourse.org or call (910) 673-1000. You can also mail in your donation today! Just use the handy form between pages 14 and 15 in this issue of *Carolinas Golf*.

Staying Connected



IMPROVING YOUR PUTTING GAME

/ written by MATT FIELDS / illustrations by KEVIN FALES

According to Hank Haney, **the difference between being “good” and “great” at every level of golf is the short game and putting.**

To improve our students’ putting, one of the main things we focus on at the Hank Haney International Junior Golf Academy is having them use the big muscles in their shoulders and upper back to eliminate the smaller muscles of their hands and arms.

Here’s a drill to help you learn to stay connected during the stroke.

Use a small bungee cord and put it around the front of your elbows and around your back (figure 1). This will help keep your arms connected to your body. The ultimate goal of this exercise is to swing the triangle created by your arms and chest in a pendulum motion (figure 2), using only the shoulder and upper back muscles.

With repetition, you will get the feel of controlling your putting stroke using your big muscles, and not allowing any separation or disconnection. The smaller muscles in the hands and wrists are much more inconsistent than the bigger muscles of the upper back, chest, and shoulders. By engaging the body’s larger, more stable muscles, the results will be a more consistent pendulum stroke.

A growing number of professional golfers are now using a belly putter. A second drill uses a training aid to replicate this type of putting stroke. The idea is to create a fulcrum point at your belly to maintain the necessary connection and produce a proper arcing path to the ball.

To build a training aid (shown in figure 3), purchase a metal rod that’s 30” long and 3/16” round. Drill a hole 3/4” of the way into the center of the golf ball with a 3/16” drill bit (please make sure to wear protective ear- and eyewear when doing this). Then put crazy glue into the hole and push the metal rod into the golf ball. Once the rod sets in the golf ball for about 30 minutes, it will be ready to go.

To get the feeling for a belly putter without actually using one, practice with the rod using your putter grip for five to 10 minutes, and then practice without it. Go back and forth, and it should start giving you a better feeling for controlling the stroke with your big muscles.

➤ **Matt Fields** is a PGA Professional and is the director of golf at the Hank Haney International Junior Golf Academy on Hilton Head Island, S.C. He formerly worked at Pinehurst Resort. Several of his students play on the PGA and LPGA tours.

➤ **Hank Haney IJGA** is the only academy in the world to provide training academics and competition for serious junior golfers. Each day, students receive daily instruction in full swing, short game, course management, fitness training, mental preparation, and college placement. For more information, visit IJGA.com.

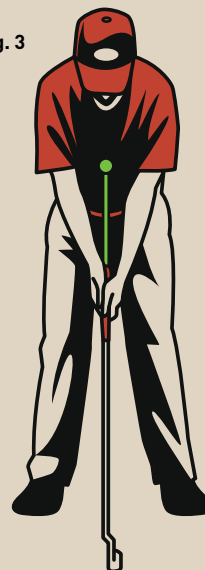
➤ Fig. 1



➤ Fig. 2



➤ Fig. 3



Current Events:

THE WHITE HOUSE, LONDON, AND THE RULES OF GOLF?

/ written by ANDY PRIEST / illustrations by KEVIN FALES

What could the White House, London, and the *Rules of Golf* possibly have in common? **No, this is not a “Carnac the Magnificent” riddle from the old Johnny Carson *Tonight Show*.** The simple answer is this: The year 2012.

For political junkies, there’s a presidential race. Foot races and more will be run in London as eyes from around the planet tune in to the Olympic Summer Games. But for golfers, 2012 represents changes and updates to the *Rules of Golf*.

Every four years, the USGA and the R&A Rules Limited update the *Rules of Golf* to keep them relevant to today’s game, while staying consistent with golf’s traditions. Fundamentally, the rules did not change this year. But there are a few key updates and changes that all golfers should be aware of.

- **Rules of Golf** books are FREE! Well ... almost. You must pay for postage, but they’re available free of charge to individuals and groups, thanks to a sponsorship by Rolex. Visit rulesofgolf.com for more information.

- **A new section called “A Quick Guide to the Rules of Golf”** has been added to the front of the *Rules of Golf* booklet. It covers the most common rules and provides relief procedure diagrams to assist with learning a player’s options.

- **For the first time**, *Rules of Golf* booklets are basically the same throughout the world, and valid for an entire four-year cycle. In the past, rules books had different covers, fonts, and color schemes based upon the governing body, and were reprinted every two years due to possible Amateur Status changes. Except for the USGA or R&A logo on the cover, the new books are the same,

with a few linguistic exceptions. “Decisions on the Rules of Golf” will continue to be updated every two years, since decisions can be added or changed in between rules cycles. The rules themselves will remain on the four-year revision cycle.

Now for some changes to actual rules:

- **The definition of “Addressing the Ball”** has been changed to provide that the player has addressed the ball when the club is grounded in front of or behind the ball. The stance requirement has been removed, thus generally providing that a player no longer addresses his ball in a hazard.



- **Exception 2 to Rule 13-4** (Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions) is amended to permit a player or his caddie to smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time, including before playing from that hazard, provided it is for the sole purpose of caring for the course and the player does not improve the lie of his ball, area of intended stance, swing, or line of play (Rule 13-2).

- **A new exception is added to Rule 18-2b** (Ball Moving After Address) that exonerates the player from penalty if his ball moves after being addressed when it is known — or virtually certain — that he did not cause the ball to move (i.e., a gust of wind did it). Some believe this change is due to situations involving Padraig Harrington and Webb Simpson but, in fact, it has been on the table for many years. Note that the player is still penalized one stroke if he causes the ball to move after the ball has been addressed.

- **Music lovers may not like Decision 14-3/17.** That’s because it is now a breach of Rule 14-3a (artificial devices that might assist a player while making a stroke or in his play) to listen to music or a broadcast while making a stroke, or for an extended period of time, whether or not using headphones. The penalty is disqualification in a competition. However, you may still listen to anything you like during practice or prior to a round.

Want to learn more? The CGA conducts annual *Rules of Golf* education seminars in February and March. These two-hour seminars are free and attendees receive a complimentary 2012-15 *Rules of Golf* booklet. PGA/LPGA members receive education credits. If you miss this year’s seminars, there’s a video summary of the rules changes on the CGA’s website.

The CGA also needs additional rules officials to assist with our ever-growing championship and tournament schedule. For more information, visit carolinascgolf.org, e-mail admin@carolinascgolf.org, or call (910) 673-1000.

➤ **Andy Priest** is the CGA’s director of Tournament and Internet Operations.