

carolinagolf

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the Carolinas Golf Association

Spring 2013

MEET THE BIERSHENKS

(QUITE POSSIBLY, THE MOST GOLF-OBSSESSED
FAMILY IN SOUTH CAROLINA)

- › A CENTURY OF HOSPITALITY
A PINE CREST INN MILESTONE
- › TOP GUNS
THE 2012 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



FEATURES

GHIN IS THE TONIC / 12

Everything you need to know about the CGA's new handicap service provider.

MEET THE BIERSHENKS / 13

Perhaps the most golf-obsessed family in South Carolina recently gathered at the Country Club of Spartanburg for a photo shoot. No surprise: A golf match broke out.

TOP GUNS / 22

Three previous winners — including the new all-time CGA championship record holder — are among the 2012 Players of the Year.

DEPARTMENTS

PRESIDENT'S NOTE / 4

Some "resolutions" to make your new golf year enjoyable.

MILESTONES / 6

News and noteworthy events around the Carolinas.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE / 8

Carolinas to host three USGA events in 2013, a "mediator" for your club's turf concerns, and more.

LEADERBOARD / 24

2013 CGA Championship schedule.

SWING DOCTORS / 26

Golf meets 3D to help plot your swing sequence.

FINAL WORD / 28

How course handicaps and index adjustments help level the playing field.

ON THE COVER

Members of the Biershenks family gather at the Country Club of Spartanburg. Photo by Jeff Amberg.

Century of Charm

18

You never know who will walk through the door at the Pine Crest Inn in the village of Pinehurst. The venerable landmark celebrates its 100th year of operation in 2013. See why *Golf* magazine once called it one of the "50 Coolest Places in Golf."



Executive Director / Jack Nance

Director of Course Rating and Handicapping / Michael Dann

Director of Championships and

Association Operations / Andy Priest

Tournament Director / Rusty Harder

Director of Women's Golf and Member Services / Tiffany Priest

Director of Junior Golf / Jason Cox

Director of Media and Marketing / Doug Hardisty

Agronomist / Dr. Leon T. Lucas

GHIN Service Managers / Scott Gerbereux, Thomas Johnson

Tournament Coordinator / Chris Nielsen

Tournament Coordinator / Rita Longest

Office Manager / Johnnie Gebhardt

Administrative Assistant / Judy Wimmer

CGA Office:

Phone: (910) 673-1000 / Fax: (910) 673-1001

carolinasgolf.org or admin@carolinasgolf.org

Mailing Address:

CGA, P.O. Box 319
West End, NC 27376

Physical Address:

CGA, 135 N. Trade St.
West End, NC 27376

Executive Committee Members

J. Richard Dosek
President
Oak Valley Golf Club

Randy Allen
Surf Golf and
Beach Club

Todd Satterfield
Furman University
Golf Club

G. Jackson Hughes Jr.
Vice President
Greenville (S.C.)
Country Club

Vicki DiSantis
Country Club of
North Carolina

Mike Smith
Greenville (S.C.)
Country Club

Lawrence C. Hicks
Secretary
Greensboro
Country Club

Frank Golden
Quail Hollow
Country Club

Gene Spencer
The Windermere
Club

Daniel R. O'Connell
Treasurer
The Creek Golf Club

Kelly Miller
Pine Needles Lodge
and Golf Club

Teddy Stockwell
Yeamans Hall Club

Walter Todd
Past President
Musgrove Mill
Golf Club

D. Gregory Norris
Pine Valley
Country Club

Thomas J. Thorpe
Tanglewood Golf
Association

Charles E. Lynch Jr.
General Counsel
High Point
Country Club

Rick Riddle
Cedarwood
Country Club



Find us on Facebook:

Keyword Search — Carolinas Golf Association

Carolinas Golf is the official publication of the Carolinas Golf Association. Members receive *Carolinas Golf* as part of their membership. The text, opinions, and views expressed within this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions or the official policies of the Carolinas Golf Association, editor, and publisher. No part of this magazine is intended as an endorsement of any equipment, publication, videotape, website, golf course, or other entity. No part of this magazine may be reproduced for any reason without prior written approval from the CGA. We welcome all editorial submissions but assume no responsibility for the loss or damage of any unsolicited material. They will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Carolinas Golf, P.O. Box 319, West End, NC 27376-0319.

Copyright © 2013, Carolinas Golf Association. Products and services mentioned in this publication may be trademarks of their respective companies.

A Checklist for 2013

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

› **We're a couple of months into 2013. How are your New Year's resolutions doing? It's been estimated that 50 percent of Americans make at least one resolution, but that 88 percent never come to fruition. I seldom participate in resolution-making. Maybe the high failure rate scares me off. At any rate, here is a checklist of things that, while too late to be called New Year's resolutions, may hold some appeal.**

Play the Ball Down. I might be preaching to the choir in suggesting this, but many of us routinely play "winter rules," even in the heat of summer. One of the maddening vagaries of this game is that we don't always get what we deserve when we hit a good shot. A well-struck drive down the middle of the fairway sometimes comes to rest in a small area of poor turf. It's pretty easy to roll the ball to a nice, cushy lie. After all, that's what we *should* have had.

But, the *Rules* say, "Play the ball as it lies." It may be difficult to do so, but with practice it becomes easier. Playing the ball down forces us to hit a variety of shots, with different clubs, to get the results we want. There is a feeling of satisfaction from hitting a good shot from a bad lie — and from knowing we're playing by the rules.

Take in a Championship. Want to spend a summer week at the coast, or a fall week in the mountains? In 2013, you can do that and see some first class golf, too. In July, the Carolinas Amateur visits the Ocean Course on Kiawah Island, which hosted last year's PGA Championship. Three USGA events will be contested here, as well. In August, the world's best women amateurs will play in the USGA Women's Amateur at one of the CGA's five founding clubs — the Country Club of Charleston (2013uswomensam.com). In September, Raleigh's Paul Simson will defend his title at the USGA Senior Amateur at Wade Hampton GC in Cashiers (e-mail pro@wadehampton.com). In October, the USGA Women's Mid-Amateur will be contested at Asheville's Biltmore Forest CC (biltmoreforestcc.com), adding to the impressive list of tournaments played at that beautiful facility. All of these events are *free*, and volunteer opportunities are available. For details, use the contact information listed above.

Shop Your Pro's Shop. Your pro and his staff are among the first — and last — people you see when you go to the course. They are there from early in the morning until late in the evening to complete your golf experience. They have seen you on your best days as well as on your worst. They know what equipment works for you — and what doesn't. They can pick out your swing flaws and have seen your fashion *faux pas*. Remember them when you are searching for an upgrade for your equipment, a quick fix for your swing, or a repair for your wardrobe malfunctions.

There it is. It isn't a long list, but I hope you'll find some items to make your new year more enjoyable.

carolinasgolf

Executive Publisher / Michael Dann
michael.dann@carolinasgolf.org

Associate Publisher / Edward J. Peabody
epeabody@hour-media.com

Managing Editor / Steve Wilke
swilke@hour-media.com

Copy Editor / John S. Schultz

Design Director / Ken Cendrowski
kcendrowski@hour-media.com

Graphic Design Interns / Carrie Doliber, Danielle Long,
Veronica Soderlund

Production Director / Jon Reynolds

Senior Production Artist / Robert Gorczyca

Production Artist / Stephanie Brossy

Contributors / Jeff Amberg, Michael Dann,
J. Richard Dosek, Kevin Fales, John Gessner,
Bob Gillespie, Matt LeBarre, Tom Lowrie, Leon Lucas,
Lee Pace, Kyle Raetz

Advertising Account Executives

Andy Walters
(248) 691-1800, ext. 104 • awalters@hour-media.com

David Norman
(804) 747-4971 • DNorman007@aol.com

Ad Coordinator / Jamie Gnebba
(248) 691-1800, ext. 128 • jgnebba@hour-media.com

CEO / Stefan Wanczyk **President /** John Balardo

HOURLY
CUSTOM PUBLISHING

117 West Third St.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Phone / (248) 691-1800 Fax / (248) 691-4531

Address changes and subscription information
should go to Carolinas Golf,
P.O. Box 319, West End, NC 27376-0319
or admin@carolinasgolf.org.

NEWS & NOTEWORTHY EVENTS AROUND THE CAROLINAS

➤ At the Carolinas Golf Night and the CGA's Annual Meeting in February, **Frank Golden** of Charlotte, N.C., was elected to fill the unexpired term of Frank Edwards on the Executive Committee through 2013. Edwards joined the board in 2008. Golden is a member of Quail Hollow CC. **Teddy Stockwell** of Charleston, S.C., replaced Frank Ford III, after 30 years of service. She is a member at Yeamans Hall Club.



➤ Also at the meeting, the Carolinas Golf Association Executive Committee gave the go-ahead to begin construction on Carolinas Golf House in mid year 2013.

The new facility will be built in Southern Pines, N.C., adjacent to the Pine Needles Resort Conference Center. The 13,000-square-foot facility will house a Carolinas golf museum and the CGA offices. The CGA, founded in 1909, has outgrown its office building in Seven Lakes, N.C., where it has been located since 1991.

The "Setting the Course" campaign will continue to raise monies for this cause. To date, more than \$500,000 has been raised.

"We have been working on this project for several years," says CGA President Dick Dosek. "Golf House will be an ideal facility to support the CGA in our efforts to serve and grow the game of golf in the Carolinas. In addition, it will be a fitting place to exhibit our displays, photos, and books."

The CGA is a 501(c) (3) non profit service organization which provides a variety of services for 680 member clubs and more than 150,000 golfers in the Carolinas. Some of these services include more than 230 golf events, junior golf programs, women's golf initiatives, an agronomy program, and a foundation, which raises money for many worthwhile Carolinas-based golf initiatives.

Included in this Golf House project is a museum that will celebrate the history of golf and its players in the Carolinas. The completion date is set for approximately mid-year 2014.

For more information or to make a donation to this project, visit www.settingthecourse.org.

Carolinas to Host Three USGA Events in 2013

➤ CC of Charleston, Hole No. 2

The eyes of amateur golfers and their fans will be focused on the Carolinas, as three USGA events will be contested here in 2013. First up, the U.S. Women's Amateur visits the Country Club of Charleston in Charleston, S.C., on Aug. 5-11. The USGA Senior Amateur heads to Wade Hampton GC in Cashiers,

N.C., on Sept. 21-26 and will be defended by Paul Simson of North Ridge CC. Simson won the 2012 title at Mountain Ridge CC in West Caldwell, N.J., beating Curtis Skinner of Lake Bluff, Ill, 4 and 3, in the final. Then, the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur makes a stop at Biltmore Forest CC in Asheville, N.C., on Oct. 5-10.



➤ Wade Hampton GC, Hole No. 17

➤ Caledonia Cracks *Golf Digest's* Top 100 Public List



Caledonia Golf and Fish Club has been included on *Golf Digest's* "America's 100 Greatest Public Courses 2013-14" list, featured in the magazine's February 2013 issue. Additionally, on the magazine's list of the top 30 courses in South Carolina, which includes both private and public courses, Caledonia occupied the 22nd and True

Blue garnered the 30th spot.

Both courses were designed by the late golf course architect Mike Strantz, who passed away in 2005. Opened in 1994, Caledonia is a 6,526-yard, par-70 course laid out on the site of a historic 18th century rice plantation in Pawleys Island, S.C. True Blue, which debuted in 1998, is a bigger, brawnier, "thrill-ride" — the 7,126 yard, par 72 course has expansive fairways and greens, sandy waste areas, and dramatic water hazards.

For more information, call 800-483-6800 or visit FishClub.com.





➤ Major Renovation Under Way at Pinehurst Member Clubhouse

Late in 2012, Pinehurst Resort & Country Club began a \$3.7 million renovation of the Member Clubhouse. The renovation will include an interior redesign and dramatic architectural improvements to the rear veranda overlooking Pinehurst No. 2. The projected reopening is June 2013.

"It's my goal to make the membership experience at Pinehurst as distinctive as the brand itself," says Robert Dedman, CEO

and owner of Pinehurst. "This renovation is the beginning of a broader plan to provide a more dynamic experience for our members, including regular member dining, a more active social calendar, and ultimately, a state-of-the-art swim and fitness complex."

Improvements will result more dramatic views of Pinehurst No. 2 and expanded dining hours. The member dining room and bar will be relocated to overlook the 18th green of No. 2 and will feature outdoor seating on the 16,000 square foot veranda.



➤ Pinehurst No.2, Hole No. 16

Pinehurst will serve as the site of both the U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open Championships in 2014 in back-to-back weeks. Visit pinehurst.com or call 800-487-4653 for a complete list of events and activities.

➤ CAMDEN CC TO HOST INAUGURAL CREED JUNIOR BOYS' INVITATIONAL

The Camden Country Club Board of Directors has announced the inaugural Creed Junior Boys' Invitational to honor Jimmy Creed for his support of junior golf at Camden CC. The event will be a 36-hole stroke play tournament for junior boy golfers between the ages of 13-18 who have not yet finished high school. It will be contested on May 25-26, 2013, at Camden CC in Camden, S.C.

Creed passed away in October 2012 as one of the most popular and well thought of members at Camden CC. "He loved kids and was very supportive of the junior golfers at the club," said Camden CC Head Professional Matt McCarley. "He was a former junior champion here at the club and made it to the semi finals of the CGA four-ball championship." Proceeds from the tournament will go to a scholarship foundation to help local kids.

Located in historic Camden, South Carolina's oldest inland city, Camden CC was chartered in 1899 as a place "for golf, polo and other athletic sports" and established in 1903. Camden CC is considered one of South Carolina's distinguished private clubs. The course was re-designed in the late 1920s by renowned designer/architect, Donald Ross. The course was revamped to a



➤ Camden CC, Hole No. 7.

more traditional Ross design in 2012 by Kris Spence. The par 70 golf is a challenging 6,455 yards from the tips, and is always rated in the top 25 of South Carolina golf courses.

An anticipated field of 72 golfers will compete on a course that has hosted numerous tournaments, including the Carolinas Four Ball, SC Amateur Championship, SC Amateur Match Play Championship, Carolinas Senior Championship, SC Junior Match Play Championship, and many other prestigious amateur and professional events.

The tournament will be conducted by the CGA.



› Oceanfront, Hole No. 10

› Palmetto Dunes' Jones Course Recognized for Environmental Excellence

The Robert Trent Jones course at Palmetto Dunes Oceanfront Resort has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Grant Backus, superintendent, led the effort to obtain sanctuary status, and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International.

The Jones Course is the fifth course on

Hilton Head Island, S.C., to receive the honor.

To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that it maintains a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas, including environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and safety, and water conservation and quality.

"We have a unique coastal environment here at Palmetto Dunes and we want to showcase our diversity of wildlife, provide habitat, and show our commitment to preserving the environment," Backus says.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

FAST FACTS

35,000

Nearly 35,000 CGA members out of 151,000 (around 23 percent) signed up for an e-newsletter in the first month of the CGA's conversion to GHIN as its handicap service provider. For more on GHIN, see page 12.

WELCOME NEW CGA MEMBER CLUBS

Paradise Point GC,
Jacksonville, N.C. (military club)

Sequoyah National CC,
Cherokee, N.C.

Whiteville CC,
Whiteville, N.C.



› 2nd Annual Carolinas Golf Foundation 'Reunion' Set for October

The Carolinas Golf Foundation (CGF), a sister organization of the Carolinas Golf Association (CGA), has scheduled a second annual "Reunion." This pro-am event was established last year to help support a variety of CGF golf-based initiatives, many which have been ongoing since 1977.

The Reunion will be conducted Oct. 13-14 at Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club and Mid Pines Inn and Golf Club Resorts. These two 18-hole Donald Ross designed golf courses have earned a place among the country's best golf resorts — and one to which guests and USGA Championships return to time and again.

For more information on the Carolinas Golf Foundation and how to register for The Reunion, visit reuniongolftournament.org.

› THE CGA's POSITION ON THE NEW GROOVES SPECIFICATION FOR 2014

The CGA has received many inquiries about its stance and plans to implement the recommended USGA's "Grooves Rule" at CGA championships and tournaments in 2014. After lengthy discussions, the CGA Executive Committee has decided NOT to implement the "Grooves Rule" at any of our 2014 championships or tournaments.

Below are a few reasons for the committee's decision:

1. The 2014 timeline is a recommendation from the USGA and not a mandate.
2. The rule (to reduce golf ball spin rates) is geared toward "expert" golfers and amateur players at the highest level. Most CGA members are not "expert" golfers (i.e., professionals or scratch/plus handicap) or play at the "highest levels of amateur golf" (i.e., U.S. Amateur).
3. Most CGA members will not attempt to qualify for 2014 USGA championships

(which will require the new grooves); enforcing the rule at the CGA level would force many golfers to purchase new equipment.

4. This will avoid any confusion as to which CGA tournaments are played and which are not using the new grooves specification (i.e. championships versus one-day net tournaments).

The grooves specifications will be incorporated into the *Rules of Golf* in 2024, at which time the CGA will support and enforce this specification.



The condition of competition is currently in effect for U.S. Open, U.S. Senior Open, and U.S. Women's Open qualifying. In 2014, the USGA will adopt the condition of competition for all of its amateur championships and team events.

Need a 'Mediator' for Your Club's Turf Concerns? The CGA Can Help.

written by / LEON T. LUCAS, CGA AGRONOMIST

The CGA established agronomy service to provide turfgrass information for member clubs in 1985. Dr. Carl Blake, a retired Professor and Turfgrass Specialist from N.C. State University, was the first CGA agronomist. I replaced him in 1998 after retiring from N.C. State as a Professor and a Turfgrass Disease Specialist. **Both of us visited many courses to study problems and provide suggestions for improving turf quality.**

Thirty years ago, many putting surfaces in central and eastern N.C. and S.C. had Tifton 328 bermudagrass. Many were converted to bentgrass or a combination of bentgrass and bermudagrass after severe winterkill during the awful winter of 1984-85.

Many courses renovated greens — and new courses were built — with sand-based bentgrass greens made to USGA specifications (this provided better growing conditions). Bentgrass was preferred until the new ultradwarf bermudagrass varieties appeared — Tifeagle appeared in the mid-'90s.

The pace of conversion to the new bermudagrass varieties — and even zoysiagrass — has accelerated. A circle has been completed in 30 years.

The cause of stress to the older bentgrass greens in large part was the demand for firmer and faster putting surfaces.

The "Stimpmeter" was developed to measure the uniformity of putting speeds on greens — it's now aptly referred to as a "speed meter." Golfers asked for faster green speeds — accomplished by reducing the mowing height from about 3/16 inch (187 thousandths) in the 1980s to about 1/8 inch (125 thousandths). But this made for drier greens, which caused more stress on cool-season bentgrass.

New bermudagrasses can provide firm and fast speeds with high levels of maintenance, but not without problems. Bermudagrass can develop disease and grain problems without proper management. Shade from tall trees and cold winters can cause problems.

There is still not a perfect grass to meet the standards of golfers throughout a year.

I visit courses to discuss solutions. When I first started as CGA agronomist, I provided information about turfgrass problems/solutions. Today, so much data is available to well-trained superintendents (from the Internet and from experienced sales representatives) that I cannot provide much new information.

Much of my work now is as "mediator." When I tour a course, I insist the club superintendent be present, along with anyone who wants to join us. Why? Because I had visited clubs where members did not want the superintendent to be present because their agendas conflicted with the superintendent's plans.

I cannot make useful suggestions unless I know what the superintendent has done and what resources he uses or plans to use.

I take many notes and write a report with realistic *suggestions*. Club managers or other decision-makers have to consider my ideas within the framework of their club's budget. I make different suggestions for clubs with turf maintenance budgets of \$1 million vs. clubs with budgets under \$300,000.

This is at the core of the "business of golf."

Some courses built in the 1990s and early 2000s were intended to enhance surrounding real estate values. When the housing market declined, there were not enough golfers to pay the bills. Courses closed.

The number of golfers continued to decline through 2011, and clubs made tough adjustments to stay in business. Turf maintenance budgets were reduced. But superintendents (armed with more information and better education) continue to maintain top quality turf.

Course obstacles were removed while others simply get lower levels of maintenance. Witness what has happened to rough areas, water hazards, and bunkers. A course may still enjoy great tee, fairway and green conditions and the club can pay the bills. Golfers get a "good value."

Things have changed in my time as CGA agronomist. The only thing I am sure about in the future is that things will continue to change, and we will adapt. We need to keep the golf business in good shape.

NOTE: The CGA only charges expenses (mileage, food, and lodging) for course visits. There is a minimum charge of \$50 (within 50 miles of Lucas' home in Apex, N.C.). Costs are shared when he visits several courses in one trip. For example, on a trip last year, he visited three courses in western North Carolina, with a total cost of about \$400 (cost to each club: about \$133).

➤ 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@carolinasgolf.org.



GHIN is the Tonic!

The CGA's New Handicap Service Provider

GHIN® (pronounced jin)
— Golf Handicap and
Information Network — is
the largest handicap service
provider. It is used:

- in 44 states, four U.S. territories, and four foreign countries
- by 77 golf associations
- at more than 14,500 clubs
- by more than 2.5 million golfers ...

GHIN®
a **USGA** service

... And now, also by the Carolinas Golf Association, which moved its services to GHIN at the beginning of 2013.

The benefits of GHIN are numerous, starting with its web-based services. Scores are posted to a golfer's scoring record instantaneously, and USGA handicap revisions are computed automatically on the first and 15th of each month.

A golfer can post scores at his/her club, at other GHIN

clubs, via the Internet, or by mobile apps. Similarly, a golfer can have his/her latest handicap revision information sent directly to him/her by e-mail 24 times a year.

There are even more benefits for golfers and also for clubs.

Here are the most frequently asked questions.

What is a GHIN number, and why is it important?

All CGA members have been assigned GHIN numbers. Your number is personally unique and allows you to post scores at

your home club, online, and at any other course using GHIN.

Your GHIN number is required to enter CGA championships and one-day tournaments, as well as other events. Keep the number handy.

What should I do if I have a membership at more than one club?

If all your clubs use GHIN, you should consolidate them under one GHIN number. That way each of your memberships will

be identified in a single record. You will post a score only once, and it will be routed to all of your other clubs.

At our GHIN information webpage at carolinasgolf.org/GHIN, fill out an online form. You will be asked to supply all of your GHIN numbers. We will register you in the Carolinas with the older number. If more than one family member has more than one GHIN number, each person should fill out a form.



How are scores processed and handicaps updated?

A key advantage of GHIN is that it processes information automatically. That means scores posted online will be available at the club immediately. Clubs using a dial-up connection run automatic transmissions at least once a day.

Tell me more about the smartphone apps for score posting.

A mobile phone app for reviewing player handicaps and for score posting is available for iPhone and Android smart phone users. Apps are available at the respective app stores at www.carolinasgolf.org/mobile-app. Once you download the app, you will need your GHIN number to sign on, providing you with mobile control of your score posting. The app is available free of charge, an added benefit to CGA membership.



Tell me about e-golfer.

It is an online account or "dashboard" that allows you to post scores, track round statistics, share rounds on social media and other things. Go to carolinasgolf.org and look for MyCGA Member Login to sign up. Competitors must complete a second profile under "Tournament Sign-up" to enter CGA events.

Can our club committee generate the handicaps we had before?

Yes, GHIN has many more reporting options. If a club-specific report is not among the standard options, an ad hoc report generator can design custom reports.

STAY IN LUXURY

PLAY THE LEGEND



Nestled in the western-facing slopes of Sunset Mountain, The Grove Park Inn Golf Club features undulating fairways and greens on the front nine and gentle slopes and steep inclines and descent on the back - all with spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Tee off from elevated tee boxes that let you enjoy drives that seem to hang in the blue Carolina skies forever.



866.629.5405 | GROVEPARKINN.COM

Tobacco Road GOLF & TRAVEL

Village of Pinehurst • Southern Pines • Aberdeen • Surrounding Area



Book your next golf vacation in the historic Sandhills of NC!

For more than 100 years, the Sandhills of North Carolina has played host to major championships and weekend buddy trips. Tobacco Road Golf & Travel continues this great tradition by offering access to more than 40 of the area's finest courses. Call or visit us online today for a golf trip to the most storied destination in the country!



Toll Free: (877) 284-3762
www.TobaccoRoadTravel.com

Please call or email for free 32-Page Golf Vacation Planner!

40+ Golf Courses

25 Courses Ranked
4 Stars or Higher
by *Golf Digest*

Shorter Driving Time
Than Most Golf Destinations

PGA Pros on Staff

Access to 4 of America's
Top 100 Golf Courses
Including Pine Needles,
Dormie, Tobacco Road
and Pinehurst No. 8



Family Ties

THE BIERSHENKS ARE QUITE POSSIBLY THE MOST GOLF-OBSSESSED FAMILY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

/ written by BOB GILLESPIE / Photography by JEFF AMBERG



It's rare nowadays when the Biershenks — all five of them, including mother Debbie — **are in the same place at the same time**. So when a recent chilly morning at the Country Club of Spartanburg produced such an occasion, perhaps the most golf-obsessed family in South Carolina took full advantage.

The gathering was, in fact, for a photo shoot to accompany this article, but the Biershenk men already had chosen sides for a match afterward — father Tommy Sr. and son Tommy Jr. vs. Robbie and Nick — and the trash-talking had already begun.

"If memory serves," Tommy Jr., the oldest son at age 39, begins, "I think me and Dad

beat them nine of the last 10 times."

"Yeah, well, today's a different story," Robbie, 35, says, laughing.

"Talent-wise, we're not supposed to beat them," Tommy says, to which Tommy Sr., 60, adds, "Tommy's the best, I'm the worst."

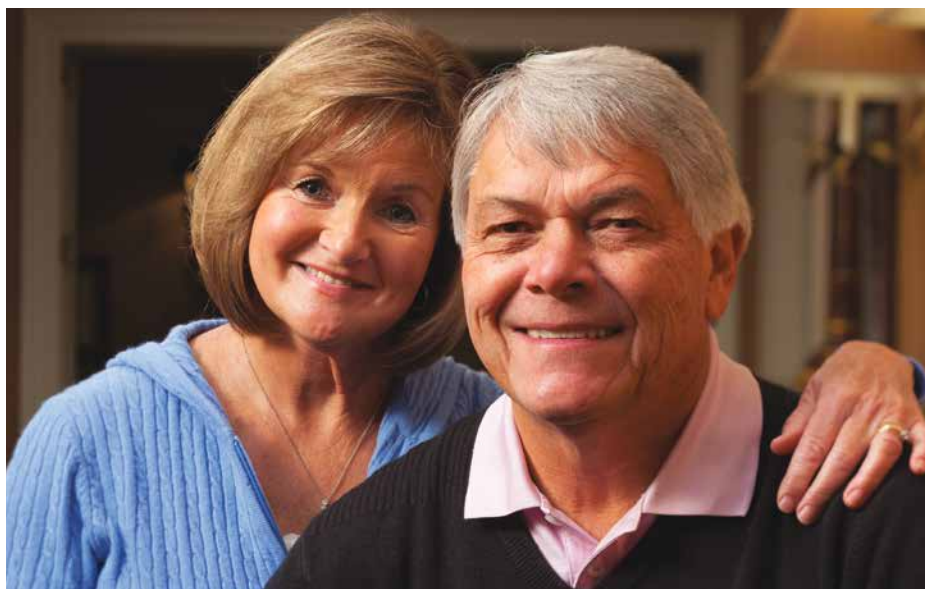
Robbie shakes his head. "Any given Sunday, Dad can 'career' it and shoot 68," he says.

"Yeah," his father says, "and the rest of you have to break a leg."

The competitions are an ongoing family affair, equal parts cutthroat and caring, testosterone and tenacity. No one wants to beat a Biershenk quite like another Biershenk — but too, no one not named Biershenk fully understands and appreciates what golf means to each of them.

"Golf is what the Biershenks know," says Justin Converse, a lifelong friend of Tommy Jr. and the family. "They represent what is really good about multi-generational golf."

For all their alpha-male chatter, each is unfailingly supportive of the rest, through



> Meet the Biershenks (opposite page, from left to right): Tommy Jr., Robbie, Nick, and Tommy Sr. Above: Debbie and Tommy Sr.

good moments and bad — and over the years, there have been plenty of both.

Take Tommy Jr., who after 16 years chasing mini-tours and the Nationwide Tour (now Web.com) survived the 2011 PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament's three stages, becoming a Tour rookie at age 38. He struggled like a first-timer, though, cashing checks in only a third of his 27 appearances, and this year, he's back in the minors.

"I kind of got beat up in 2012, lost my (PGA Tour) status," Tommy says, without bitterness. "I've just got to work hard this year and get back out there."

Also in 2012, Robbie became a Golf Channel celebrity, turning an earlier appearance on *Big Break* into the co-lead in the *Chasing the Dream* series, which focused on his attempt to play professionally while running his Mauldin driving range, "Shanks."

And last year Nick, following three futile mini-tour years and a sales job outside of golf, was named men's and women's golf coach at Limestone College. "I got to where I was telling myself, 'Man, you're 25 (now 28), you need to grow up,'" he says. Working at Shanks, he discovered a love of teaching; when he saw the Limestone job advertised online, he applied and, despite no coaching experience, beat out a half-dozen others.

"His family name means a lot in South Carolina, plus he has a passion for helping people," says Mike Cerino, Limestone's vice president for intercollegiate athletics. "The best thing is, he knows who the best players

in the state are, and they know him." The Saints, an NAIA golf power in the 1970s, finished last in Conference Carolinas in 2012, but Nick's first recruiting classes — ranked fourth for men in NCAA Division II, eighth for women — promise to change that.

Player, cable-TV celebrity, coach: Each brother has carved out a place in the game, after failures and misfires. Of course, being a Biershenk has had a lot to do with that.

Tommy Sr. set an example by winning three Spartanburg County Championships — the family collectively has won 10 — among numerous amateur titles. He also played briefly on the Florida Space Coast Tour before giving it up to raise a family.

The origin of the family's athletic gene pool was Tommy Sr.'s father, George, now deceased. A late bloomer in golf — he began playing at 40, got to scratch and shot his age when he was 63 — "Pop" also played 15 years of minor-league baseball as a knuckleball pitcher for the Yankees and Red Sox and once roomed with Hall of Famer Yogi Berra.

"We played golf for 40 years, and he was a hell of a player," CC of Spartanburg Head Professional Tom McAllister says of George. "He had the best hand-eye coordination of any in the family," which helped win grill room bets pitching dimes into the coin slot of a pay phone. It also got him banned from



the Spartanburg County Fair for winning too many oversized teddy bears for his grandsons.

It was Pop who first taught golf to the brothers, in awe of a grandfather who, at 60, could do a back-flip — on roller skates. Later, Debbie took over driving the budding stars to junior tournaments while Tommy Sr. worked.

"(Tommy Sr.) was on the golf team when we dated in high school," Debbie says, "but I still didn't realize how all-consuming golf was. We spent all our vacations going to junior events." By ages 11 and 8, Tommy and Robbie were winning age-group titles and experiencing some hair-raising adventures — such as the time Debbie took them to Pinehurst for a tournament but couldn't find their golf course.

"We rode around trying to find the right one," she says. "I finally dropped them off



➤ The Biershenks are unfailingly supportive of each other.

on the side of the road, and they ran through the woods with their clubs to the clubhouse so they wouldn't miss their tee times."

The Biershenks won, too. Tommy captured the CGA Junior twice, the S.C. Junior, won 11 straight titles between ages 16-17 and, at 18, became the youngest S.C. Amateur champ. He qualified twice each for the U.S. Junior and U.S. Amateur, and in 1992 at Orlando's Bay Hill Club he led his U.S. Junior quarterfinals match, 2-up, before losing to three closing birdies by the eventual champion — Tiger Woods.

Robbie dominated junior age-bracket ranks, and was runner-up in the S.C. Junior at age 14. Nick followed suit, winning the 2002 S.C. Amateur Match Play and finishing runner-up in 2004, and capturing an AJGA national tournament that included future PGA Tour players Anthony Kim and Kevin Na.

When time for college arrived, the brothers took different paths. Tommy played for Clemson, and Nick later followed his brother as a member of the Tigers' 2003 NCAA championship squad. But Robbie, by his own admission, failed to take advantage of his golfing gifts.

"I had a lot of opportunities, but I made bad decisions," he says. "I wasn't focused on schoolwork; I was lost in trying to have

a good time." When he was 22, Robbie quit Spartanburg Methodist College after two years to take over management of a Spartanburg par-3/driving range. In 2006, after a string of non-golf jobs — including steam-cleaning carpets — he bought the range that became Shanks, and competed in long-drive competitions, six times reaching the ReMax World Championships.

Ironically, that muddled resume made him fascinating to the Golf Channel. Keith Allo, the network's vice president of original productions and talk shows, saw Robbie as a real-life *Tin Cup* — living at his driving range, teaching high handicappers, trying to play mini-tours. "With TV, the richer the character, the better story you can tell," Allo says. "Robbie had that aw-shucks country naivety but also a sharpness and wit. People root for him."

Chasing the Dream, which ended in 2012, featured episodes with Robbie playing with his dogs, holding concerts at Shanks to raise money for entry fees, and talking about "making it." The Golf Channel helped him start a social media site, where Robbie sells Shanks-branded T-shirts, caps and other items.

But this year, Robbie will leave the range in his father's care and join Tommy on the eGolf and NGA tours while attempting to

Monday-qualify for Web.com events. The two will travel together — "sometimes," Robbie says with a wry laugh.

"They're definitely still brothers," Allo says. "Tommy sees something in Robbie and is trying to bring it out by pushing him. Robbie has tons of talent but hasn't put in the work, and (Tommy) says, 'Your desire (to play professional golf) is greater than your willingness to work at it.' Robbie's answer is, 'Why are you so hard on me?'"

Answer: Because Tommy also is hard on Tommy. "The only thing keeping me back is, I've got to get out of my own way," he says. "Last year I started losing confidence. ... Sometimes I felt I didn't belong out there. Now, it's back to the drawing board."

Converse, who is supporting Tommy's quest, understands how tough it is for his friend to keep trying while closing in on 40, and with a wife and two young children.

"There's a stage fright that goes with stepping onto the Tour," Converse says. "The lights are brighter, hotter. He made good money (\$107,266, topped by a \$15,148 payday at the Valero Texas Open), but he was still playing for a pay-the-bills living, doing it on a shoestring. And the road's no fun for anyone."

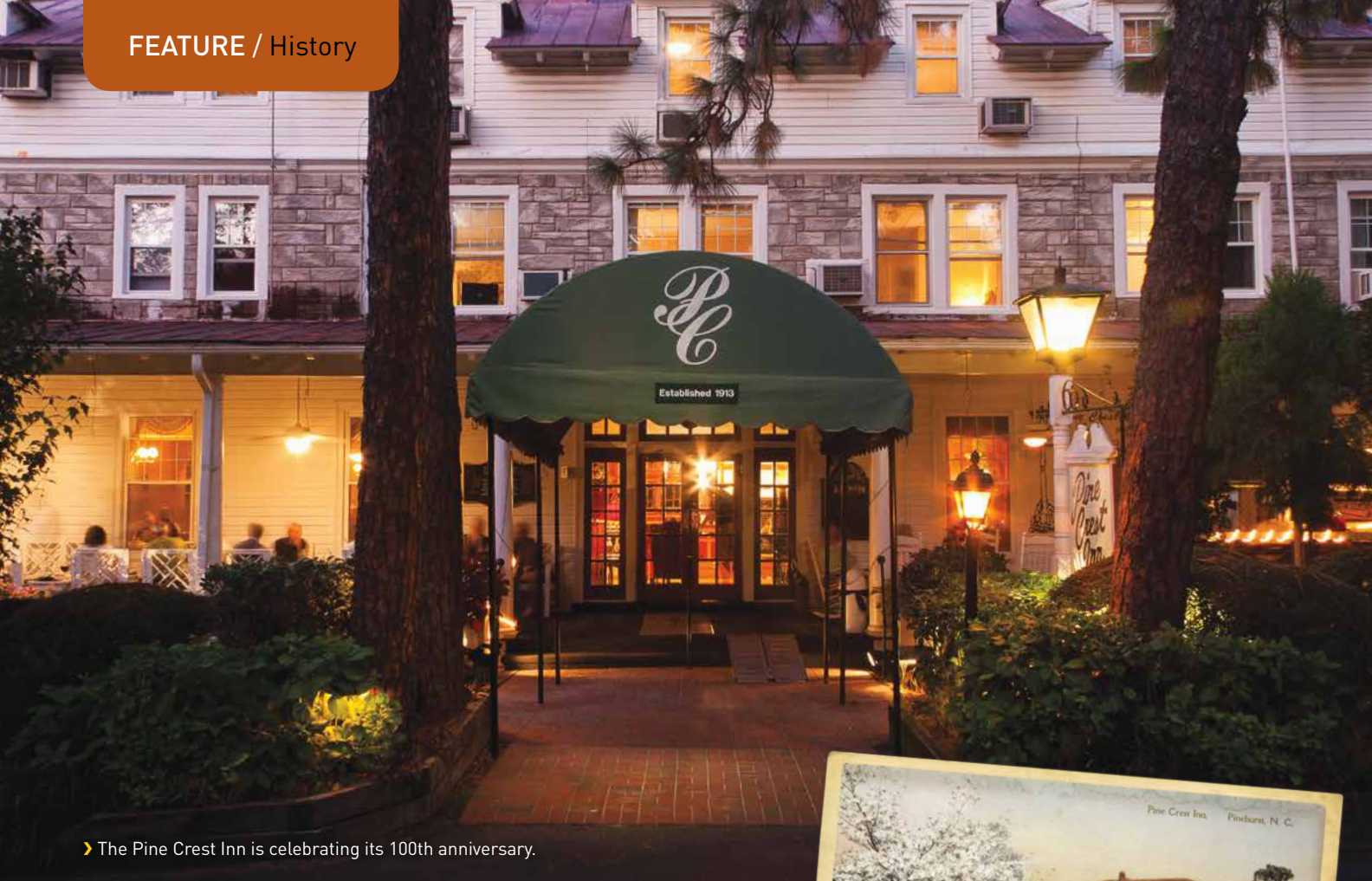
"He wasn't ready for that. If we had it to do over again, I'd get him some help on the mental side to prepare for playing for \$1 million every week; (problems were) in his head, not his golf. (But) I think he can get his card back."

Tommy's 2013 plan is to play well enough to earn Web.com status, which could get him back to the PGA Tour as soon as 2014. If it doesn't happen, he'll always have 2012. He took his family to Hawaii and San Diego for tournaments, and he calls qualifying for the U.S. Open at San Francisco's Olympic Club "the highlight of my life."

"Tommy wanted to smell the roses, and just being there was something," Converse says. "He's been to the top of the mountain, and also the bottom — but he never changes. He takes none of it for granted."

He's a Biershenk, after all.

➤ **Bob Gillespie** is a Columbia, S.C.-based freelance writer.



› The Pine Crest Inn is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

A Century of Hospitality

YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'LL WALK THROUGH THE DOOR AT THE PINE CREST INN

/ written by LEE PACE

Donald J. Ross is renowned for his abilities as a golf architect, which he developed in the early 20th century after first learning the trades of greenskeeping, agronomy, club-making, carpentry, and the playing and teaching of the game of golf.



Less celebrated was his foray into the hotel business.

Ross owned and ran the Pine Crest Inn in the Village of Pinehurst for a quarter of a century, beginning with his purchase of the inn in 1921 and lasting until he leased it to the Arthur Roberts Hotel Co. of Minneapolis in 1946, two years before his death in 1948.

Today his portrait looms prominently over the fireplace in the entrance foyer in the venerable inn that is celebrating its 100th year of operation. The Pine Crest opened in November 1913 and is taking the year to celebrate its rich heritage as a comfortable inn and popular dining and drinking establishment.

As much as Ross and his legacy mean to this town and this era, “anything with a direct connection to Ross has a certain appeal to it,” says Drew Gross, a longtime Pine Crest aficionado and today its general manager. “It’s part of the draw and part of the charm of the Pine Crest.”

The opulent Carolina Hotel has been the bell cow



of the Pinehurst lodging establishment since opening in 1900, but an important part of the mix has been a handful of smaller inns dotted around the village landscape. The Holly Inn was the first, opening in 1895, and the Magnolia Inn followed a year later — both conceived and built by Pinehurst founder James W. Tufts, and both remain in operation.

Within a decade, Pinehurst had three golf courses, and the village and resort were drawing visitors *en masse* from October through April. With that popularity came opportunity for sharp entrepreneurs.

John and Emma Bliss had managed the Ocean Forest Hotel at Myrtle Beach and moved to Pinehurst in 1903 to operate the Lexington Hotel, which was essentially a boarding house for Carolina Hotel employees. Ten years later, Emma Bliss believed there was demand for more

hotel rooms and purchased a lot on Dogwood Road, just north of the Village green. Ground was broken on Feb. 13, 1913, for the Pine Crest Inn, and the facility opened nine months later.

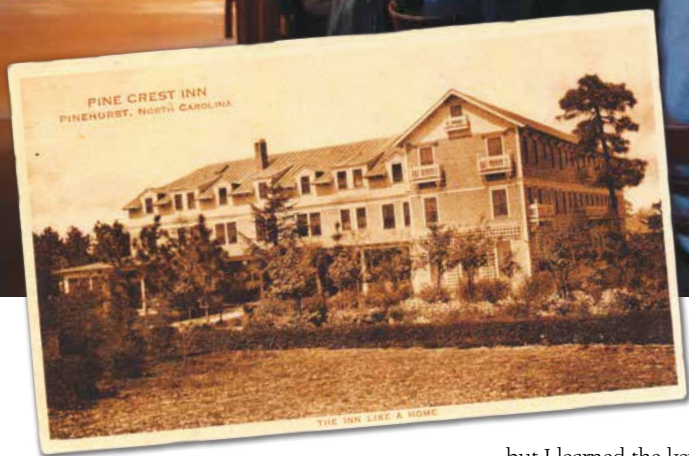
“It comes as a delightful addition to the list of hotels; its comfort is suggested by the charm of the exterior — radiant with fresh air, sunshine, good charm and hominess,” *The Pinehurst Outlook* reported at the time.

Ross and close friend Jim MacNab bought the inn from Emma Bliss in 1921, and so for a quarter of a century, Ross was actually in

competition with Pinehurst Inc. in the hotel business while working for the Tufts family in managing its golf operations.

In a 1939 letter to a prospective buyer of the inn, Ross noted the “attractive and cheerful lobby” and the outdoor porch that is “much enjoyed on pleasant days.” He said he had put all of his profits back into the inn and was proud that each room had a telephone. Ross listed more than \$100,000 cash he had invested in the property — from the original purchase price of \$52,500 and improvements





that included a sprinkler system that cost more than \$10,000. He was willing to sell it for \$65,000 — with half cash up front.

"I have had an opportunity to sell the inn but refused to do so because I wasn't favorably impressed with the party who wanted it," Ross wrote. "The only reason I have for wishing to sell it is that my connection with Pinehurst Inc. makes it impossible for me to give it my personal attention."

The inn was run by the Roberts group in the post World War II years. Then in 1950, Carl Moser, retired as manager of the Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill, leased it and purchased it two years later. He operated it until 1961, when he sold to Bob and Betty Barrett of Erie, Pa.

Barrett was a newspaperman who had visited Pinehurst regularly over the years — "At the beginning for two days, then for a week, then for two weeks," he said.

He learned the Pine Crest was for sale, and he and Betty used money she inherited from her father to buy the inn for \$125,000. It's been in the Barrett family since, with sons Bobby and Peter running it since their father's death in 2005. Barrett also bought the cottage across Dogwood for his family to live, saying he didn't want to raise his sons in a hotel.

"I didn't know a thing about running a hotel,

but I learned the key is to treat visitors warmly," Barrett said. He also joked often of running a "third-class hotel with first-class guests."

Following his wife's death in early 1975, Barrett wrestled with the idea of selling the inn. He found a buyer and initiated the transaction, but the buyer defaulted. Within a couple of months the inn was back in Barrett's hands.

"The luckiest day in my life," says Peter, who prepared for a career running the inn with a degree from Chapel Hill and one in hotel-restaurant administration from Florida International.

From its comfortable but understated rooms to its convivial bar with piano music on week-ends to its signature pork chop dinner, the Pine Crest has developed a loyal and broad following. "Mr. B's Old South Bar" has become an institution in Sandhills night life as traveling golfers and locals converge to imbibe the 45,000 cocktails poured annually and practice their chipping into the wooden frame target conceived years ago by Barrett and Lionel Callaway, a pro on the staff at Pinehurst Country Club. In 2003 *Golf* magazine listed the Pine Crest as one of the "50 Coolest Places in Golf."

The Pine Crest is defined by the personality of its employees. Carl Jackson was executive chef for more than five decades, and Marie Hartsell a waitress and kitchen supervisor for 30-plus years. Thousands of guests enjoyed trading insults with acerbic bartender Bill Jones

➤ Guests annually imbibe around 45,000 cocktails.

and having their morning juice poured by Dick Broder, who was never short of corny jokes and stories of his beloved Boston Red Sox.

"The Pine Crest is certainly a throwback," says Gross. "People say all the time, 'It's like going to your grandmother's house.' One thing I love about it is, the locals and the guests blend easily. There are no strangers at the Pine Crest."

Patrick Barrett, Bobby's son, plays golf at the University of North Carolina. He grew up around the inn, and one of his favorite memories is meeting Payne Stewart during the 1999 U.S. Open when Stewart visited for dinner.

"To me, the Pine Crest has always been like home," says Patrick. "But I never really thought about what place it held in golf. It's amazing how many will say, 'I knew your grandfather, and I loved visiting the Pine Crest Inn.'"

Lew Ferguson moved to Pinehurst in 1981 to begin a career as a club professional, first at the Country Club of North Carolina and later at Pinehurst Resort. It didn't take long to find the Pine Crest and feel right at home.

"You never knew who would walk through the door — Jack Nicklaus or Dean Smith or someone from the entertainment industry staying at Pinehurst," says Ferguson, today the head pro at Sapphire National GC in western North Carolina. "It has its own energy, character, its own soul. There's nothing like it anywhere in golf."

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

2012 Players of the Year



Three previous winners — including the new all-time CGA championship record holder — and three first-timers have been named 2012 Players of the Year by the Carolinas Golf Association.

/ illustrations by MATT LEBARRE

Award winners were honored during Carolinas Golf Night and the CGA Annual Meeting at The Country Club of North Carolina in Pinehurst, N.C., on Feb. 9.

The Richard S. Tufts Awards were established in 1997 to honor Carolinas amateur golfers who had exceptional individual tournament performances the preceding year. Tufts served on the CGA Executive Committee from 1926-1964 and as president from 1931-1933.

Awards are based on CGA amateur rankings at the end of the calendar year in four categories: men, women, senior men, and senior women. The junior boys and junior girls awards are based on tournaments run by nine associations that are the grassroots of junior golf in the Carolinas: the Carolinas Golf Association

(LPGA), Bill Haas (2003, PGA Tour), Webb Simpson (2006, PGA Tour), Dustin Johnson (2007, PGA Tour), Cydney Clanton (2009-10, LPGA), and Mark Anderson (2009, PGA Tour).

Scott Harvey of Greensboro, N.C., claimed his second consecutive Carolinas Men's Player of the Year award. The 34-year-old property manager won two championships and had four second-place finishes. He won the "Mid-Am Slam" — victories at the Carolinas Mid-Amateur, as well as the North Carolina Mid-Amateur. Harvey was the model of consistency, finishing second in four other events — including finishing second as defending champion at the Carolinas Amateur. Harvey also advanced to the round of 32 at the U.S. Mid-Amateur.

utive Carolinas Senior Men's Player of the Year award and 10th overall Tufts Award. Simson previously garnered the 1998, 2005, and 2008 Carolinas Men's Player of the Year awards. Simson won his record 25th CGA title at the North Carolina Senior Amateur, surpassing Dale Morey's mark of 24 titles. The 61-year-old insurance executive won the National Senior Amateur Hall of Fame and the Crane Cup Senior. He won the USGA Senior Amateur for the second time in three years. He will defend in 2013 at Wade Hampton in Cashiers, N.C. Simson also finished in the top 10 at the Carolinas Mid-Amateur and the North Carolina Mid-Amateur, made the semifinals of the North and South Senior, and finished in a tie for second at the British Seniors Open Amateur.



Pat Brogden of Garner, N.C., takes home her second consecutive Carolinas Senior Women's Player of the Year honor. Her 2012 season included two victories and four top-10 finishes. The 58-year-old retiree won two CGA titles in 2012 — the North Carolina Women's Senior, and the Carolinas Women's Senior. She also earned a fourth-place finish at the North & South Women's Championship, advanced to match play at the USGA Women's Senior Amateur, and finished second at the Eastern Women's Senior Amateur Championship.

Keenan Huskey of Greenville, S.C., earned the 2012 Carolinas Junior Boys Player of the Year honor by winning two junior championships — the Carolinas Junior Championship, and the Carolinas PGA Junior Championship. The high school junior also finished fifth at the SCGA Junior Championship, tied for fifth at the Big I National Championship, and tied for ninth at the CPGA Charles Tilghman Junior Championship. He has committed to play college golf at the University of South Carolina.

Kelli Murphy of Elgin, S.C., wins her first Carolinas Junior Girls Player of the Year award. The high school junior had a great 2012 summer with several top finishes, including third at WSCGA Junior Girls, a tie for sixth at the Joe Cheves Junior Invitational, a second-place finish at the CPGA Charles Tilghman Junior, and a tie for third at the Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls. She also got to the finals of the Carolinas Junior Girls and the quarterfinals of the U.S. Girls' Junior Amateur Championship. She has committed to play golf at Auburn University in 2014.

(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.

Eight out of last 14 Men's Players of the Year are current PGA Tour members while four former Women's Players of the Year have competed on the LPGA tour. Notable past 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,

Dawn Woodard of Greer, S.C., garnered the Carolinas Women's Player of the Year honor for the first time. Woodard is a mother of four and played golf at Furman University. Woodard successfully defended her Carolinas Women's Match Play title. She won the Women's South Carolina Golf Association (WSCGA) Match Play for a remarkable third time in a row. She also captured the WSCGA Stroke Play crown. Woodard was also the medalist at the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship and advanced to the round of 32 in match play.

Paul Simson of Raleigh, N.C., became the all-time CGA championship record holder in 2012 — as well as earning his seventh consec-

2013 CGA Championship Schedule*

/ CHAMPIONSHIP	/ SITE	/ DATES	/ WINNERS
5th Carolinas Young Amateur	Pinewild CC (Magnolia), Pinehurst, N.C.	1/3-4	Megan Moore/Eric Brady
CGA Island Four-Ball Getaway	Casa de Campo Resort	2/20-22	
19th Tar Heel Cup Match	CC of North Carolina (Cardinal)	3/11-12	
36th Carolinas Club Championship	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	4/8	
33rd Carolinas Mid-Amateur	Raleigh CC, Raleigh, N.C.	4/12-14	
45th Carolinas Senior Four-Ball	Dataw Island Club (Cotton Dyke), Dataw Island, S.C.	4/16-18	
10th NC Women's Senior	Raintree CC (South), Charlotte, N.C.	4/23-24	
62nd Carolinas Four-Ball	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	5/1-5	
8th Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls'	Pine Island CC, Charlotte, N.C.	5/4-5	
28th NC Senior Amateur	Myers Park CC, Charlotte, N.C.	5/14-16	
87th Women's Carolinas Amateur	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	5/21-23	
41st SC Amateur Match Play	Musgrove Mill GC, Clinton, S.C.	6/12-16	
53rd NC Amateur	Forsyth CC, Winston-Salem, N.C.	6/13-16	
46th NC Junior Boys	Prestonwood CC, Cary, N.C.	6/18-21	
17th NC Junior Girls	Bentwinds G&CC, Fuquay-Varina, N.C.	6/18-21	
57th Carolinas Junior Girls Match Play	Wyboo GC, Manning, S.C.	6/25-27	
8th Carolinas Pro-Junior	Greensboro CC (Farm), Greensboro, N.C.	7/1	
7th Carolinas Girls 15 and Under	CC of Whispering Pines (West), Whispering Pines, N.C.	7/8-9	
16th Carolinas Women's Match Play	Cowans Ford CC, Stanley, N.C.	7/9-11	
SC Junior Match Play (36th Boys, 13th Girls)	Lancaster GC, Lancaster, S.C.	7/9-12	
99th Carolinas Amateur	The Ocean Course, Kiawah Island, S.C.	7/11-14	
57th Carolinas-Virginias Women's Team Match	Stonewall Resort, Roanoke, WV	7/15-17	
5th Carolinas Super Senior	Hilton Head National GC, Bluffton, S.C.	7/16-17	
9th Dogwood State Junior Championship (Boys, Girls)	River Landing (River), Wallace, N.C.	7/16-18	
17th NC Boys 13 & Under Championship	Asheboro Municipal GC, Asheboro, N.C.	7/22-23	
16th Carolinas Parent-Child	CC of Whispering Pines (East), Whispering Pines, N.C.	7/26	
47th Carolinas Father-Son	Pinehurst area courses	7/26	
12th Mid-Atlantic Challenge Junior Girls Team	CC of NC (Cardinal), Pinehurst, N.C.	7/27-28	
47th Twin States Junior Girls	Mimosa Hills G&CC, Morganton, N.C.	7/30-31	
64th Carolinas Junior (Boys)	High Point CC (Willow Creek), High Point, N.C.	7/30-8/1	
4th NC Amateur Match Play	Carolina CC, Raleigh, N.C.	7/31-8/4	
36th Carolinas Women's Four-Ball	MacGregor Downs CC, Cary, N.C.	8/13-14	
13th NC Senior Four-Ball	Bermuda Run CC, Bermuda Run, N.C.	8/13-15	
31st Carolinas-Virginias Junior Matches (Boys)	Boonsboro CC, Lynchburg, Va.	8/17-18	
8th Carolinas Mixed Team	Myrtlewood GC (PineHills), Myrtle Beach, S.C.	8/31-9/1	
20th NC Mid-Amateur	Porters Neck CC, Wilmington, N.C.	9/6-8	
52nd Carolinas Senior Amateur	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	9/10-12	
6th NC Super Senior	Carolina Trace (Lake), Sanford, N.C.	9/24-25	
15th Carolinas Women's Senior Amateur	Columbia CC, Columbia, S.C.	10/1-2	
19th NC Four-Ball	River Run CC, Davidson, N.C.	10/4-6	
68th Captain's Putter Matches (Carolinas-Virginias)	Grandfather G&CC, Linville, N.C.	10/11-12	
2nd Carolinas Super Senior Four-Ball	Greensboro CC (Irving Park), Greensboro, N.C.	10/15-16	
3rd Carolinas Net Amateur	Pinehurst Resort & CC (No. 5), Pinehurst, N.C.	11/23-24	
17th Carolinas Interclub Championship Match	Mid Pines Inn & GC, Southern Pines, N.C.	11/23-24	

* Updates on 2013 CGA qualifying sites, schedules for CGA one-day and senior four-ball events, and more are on carolinasgolf.org



› Figure 1



› Figure 2



› Figure 3



› Figure 4

Golf Meets 3D



UNDERSTANDING THE KINEMATIC SEQUENCE

/ written by TOM LOWRIE / illustration by KEVIN FALES

The world of golf and technology have recently collided with the improvement of 3D sports motion measurement, thanks to Titleist Performance Institute and Advanced Motion Measurement.

The Kinematic Sequence sounds complicated, but to keep it simple, it's really just the body in motion and the sequencing of that motion. For instance, how fast are the hips moving in relation to the upper body? And which is accelerating and decelerating first/last? How fast are the arms moving in relation to the upper body, or the wrists moving in relationship to the arms?

The key to maximizing power production and efficiency during these sports motions is to properly sequence the body in timing and order of acceleration and deceleration.

The correct order is as follows:

- 1) Hip rotation
- 2) Torso rotation
- 3) Arm rotation
- 4) Wrist (final lever) rotation.

In golf, for instance, if you rotate your hips

in the downswing just before your torso unwinds, you will increase speed at the club-head as energy passes through the hips, torso, arms, and wrists. This is known as a 1, 2, 3, 4 order (see above), and it maximizes power production as well as biomechanical efficiency. Several golf instructors have intuitively known this to be true, but now we can measure it in milliseconds and degrees per second.

The Proper Sequence

A key to being able to properly sequence your swing is motor control of the hips and pelvis. In order to fire the hips, it takes not only muscle strength but good motor control. Try this simple drill to see how good your motor control is.

- 1) Stand in front of a mirror and get into golf posture with your arms across your chest.

- 2) Keeping your upper body perfectly still, try to rotate your hips and pelvis to the left and right, back and forth without moving your upper body a bit.
- 3) Keep in mind that pure rotation is not a lateral side-to-side move but rather a circular motion around the center of your spine.

Next time you watch a tournament on TV, use slow motion to see how a Tour player unwinds his body. Most will start unwinding the lower half (hips and pelvis) before the club is even at the top of the backswing. That is a great kinematic sequence transition that leads to increased power, speed, and distance with very limited effort!

Practice the same move at the range and in front of a mirror. You will be amazed at the performance gains when you have a great kinematic sequence.

› **Tom Lowrie** owns Advanced Golf Performance and is Titleist Performance Certified in biomechanics, swing instruction, fitness, and junior coaching, and is a certified personal trainer. Contact him at 704-607-6975 or tlowrie@advancedgolfperformance.com.

Playing Fairly

COURSE HANDICAPS AND ADJUSTMENTS LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD

/ written by MICHAEL DANN / illustration by KEVIN FALES

When someone calls the CGA handicap department nowadays, the most recent favorite comment is: **“Hey, I have the same course handicap at the blue tees and at the white tees. Something has to be wrong!!”** Nothing is wrong.

Think in terms of you versus a scratch golfer. That’s the basis of the USGA handicap system. How many shots do you need to play fairly against a scratch golfer at the blue tees? At the white tees? At the red tees?

A scratch golfer is defined as someone who shoots, in general, a gross score equal to the course rating at any set of tees. The handicap system is set up to get you to shoot a net score equal to the course rating at each set of tees.

Par has very little to do with the handicap or course rating systems.

This discussion gets complicated by the fact that course ratings differ from tee to tee. There is no set anchor, like par.

Let’s say, for men, the blue tees are rated

71.0/128 (course and slope ratings). Let’s suppose the white tees are rated 68.0/122.

If you’re a scratch golfer, your course handicap is zero at all tees. When your USGA Handicap Index is not zero, you use the slope to get a course handicap. If your index is 10.0, you have a course handicap of 11 at the blue tees and at the white tees. How?

The course rating plus your course handicap gives a gross score called your target score. Your blue-tee target score is $(71 + 11)$ 82. Your white-tee target score is $(68 + 11)$ 79. Your target score is three strokes higher at the blue tees than at the white tees ... even though your course handicaps are identical.

Let’s say your handicap index is 20.0. Your

course handicaps are 23 (blue) and 22 (white). If your index is 30.0, you get 34 and 32. The “less talented” you are, the more strokes you need to move from the white to blue tees.

As every course handicap compares you with a scratch golfer, you might have the same course handicap at more than one set of tees.

What “R” Means

Another question golfers pose is “Why is there an ‘R’ next to my handicap index?”

“R” stands for a handicap index that is reduced automatically because of exceptional tournament scores shot within the last year. The catchier name is “Section 10-3,” the place where this is described.

The USGA explains this with a philosophical point. Your handicap index tells you how good a golfer you can be. It’s not an average of all your scores. It’s an average of your *good* scores.

Why? Because the handicap system works better when really bad scores are eliminated from the calculation.

Is this an attempt to catch sandbaggers? Not necessarily. There are better ways in the handicap system to deal with cheating scum. Section 10-3 also deals with golfers who play better in tournaments than in social golf. I’d really like to be one of them.

How did you get caught in this? You probably shot some good tournament scores last summer. Your late winter and early spring scores aren’t nearly as good. When there’s a spread of three or more shots between a handicap determined by the first method (Section 10-2) and one determined by the formula in Section 10-3, then Section 10-3 automatically takes over. This is used to calculate handicap indexes at every revision.

How can you score as well in the winter as you do in the summer? Your club should set up your course during the winter months to allow you to score as well as you do in July and August: easier hole locations and, perhaps, shorter tees. Section 15-1 of the same handicap manual describes this.

Michael Dann is the CGA’s Director of Course Rating and Handicapping.

