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Vol 10 Issue 2

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Birkdale Golf Club project's best shot at survival

A major question is being asked in Huntersville concerning the 18-hole Arnold Palmer designed championship golf course - Birkdale Golf Club. Will the \$45 million plan proposed by the new owners and approved by the Huntersville Board of Commissioners be the right medicine to save the course from total rezoning for residential and business construction?

Romspen Investments of Toronto, the club's owners since 2015, are envisioning the new Birkdale Golf Club as a completely overhauled golf course property that would become a pedestrian-friendly destination with shops and restaurants. And according to Peter Oelbaum, vice president of special projects for Romspen Investments, "This is our mission to give the golf course the best shot at survival."

After several closed-door decisions and an active public hearing, the Huntersville Board of Commissioners approved the plans that call for a 155-room hotel, 225 apartments, 60,000 square feet of shops and restaurants, and a completely renovated golf clubhouse.

Major construction would be built on land that's now the golf club's driving range, while the biggest changes to the golf course in addition to the clubhouse,

would be replacing the greens with Bermuda grass, and a possible course layout re-alignment.

The main artery for the property would

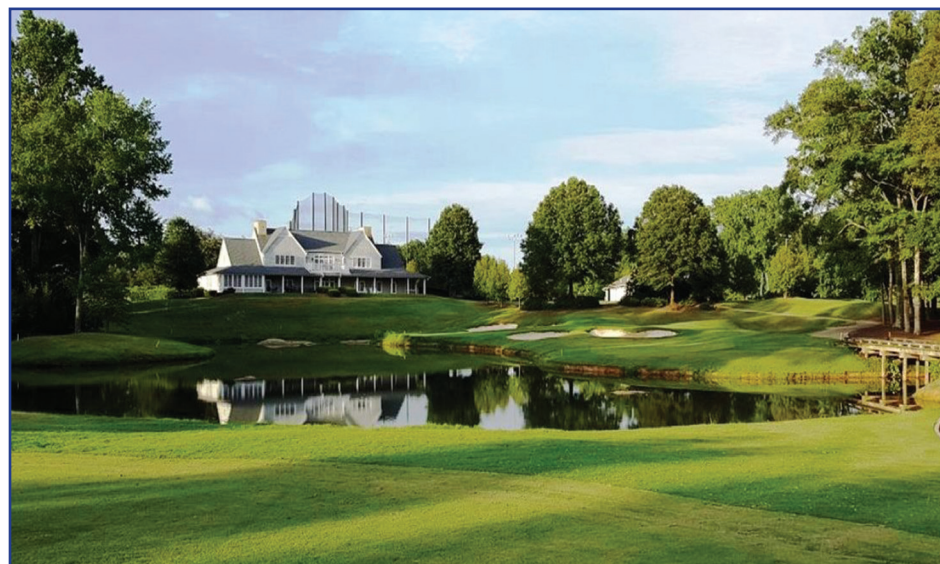


be a new diagonal road from N.C. 73 to Birkdale Commons Parkway and would align with the Lindholm Road intersection at NC 73 on the north side of the highway. This alone would necessitate a rerouting of several holes.

The Birkdale Golf Club, with a hotel on property and golf course, would fall in line with the Ballantyne Resort at the Golf Club at Ballantyne and the Embassy Suite Hotel next to the Rocky River Golf Club as a potential added value "stay and play" venue. The hotel could host conferences and the new clubhouse could perhaps land larger golf tournaments or corporate events.

In their decision to approve the project, the Huntersville Board of Commissioners also weighed the possibility of the hotel and apartment complex adding to the already successful Birkdale Village which is right across the street.

"All of these things we hope will be part of changing the relationship of the Huntersville community to the golf course," Oelbaum said.



The current Birkdale Golf Club is a challenging 7,013 yard, par 72 course made up of Bermuda fairways and Crenshaw Bent grass greens. The course layout features a number of elevation changes, which are appealing to the eye and adds to the challenge. Well-positioned water hazards require players to use every shot in their bag.

Arnold Palmer used four sets of tees at Birkdale to mix length with game strategy. Several holes feature watery approach shots into well-guarded greens and a couple of short par-4's are almost drivable. The 569-yard 5th hole brings this all together where your third shot must carry water over a rock-faced wall to a long, narrow green.

Almost immediately upon its opening in 1997 and well into the 2000's, Birkdale Golf Club was voted the "Best New Golf Course in North Carolina", one of the "Top Five Public Courses in the State" and Charlotte's "Best Public Course".



Now the answer to the question of returning to its glory days with the new rezoning plan is well down the road of construction, but with ownership support and revenue, the dedication of the Birkdale staff and management leadership of Pinnacle Golf, the right steps have been taken to save a Northside premier golf facility.

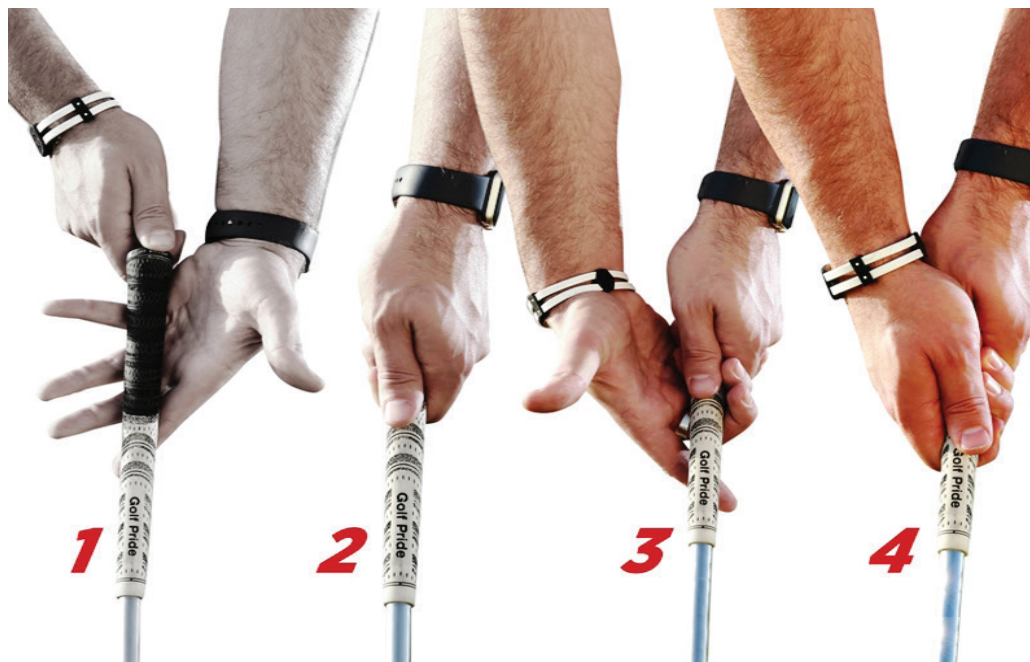
HOW TO BE MORE CONSISTENT

Bruce Parker
Owner/Director of Golf
The Effortless Golf Center

There is a lot of talk about what moves what in the golf swing. There are many different methods to this madness.

I have been teaching for close to 30 years and the most common thing all golfers want is to be more consistent. I mean golf is about knowing what's going to happen when you swing. Having a repeatable swing is the ultimate. Let me give some simple advice, and remember this, "A manipulated movement is an inconsistent way to move, a reactionary movement will happen the same way every time."

So the more reactionary your swing is the better and more consistent you can become. If you manipulate a shoulder turn, a hand hinge, weight transfer, and all the other 417 moving parts that are over analyzed in the golf swing you just don't have a chance. Let's figure this out.



Your grip or hands control the club face.

As Hogan said "To try and control the swing with the hands is folly, way too fast and devilish of a move."

If you talk to any tour player and ask them the biggest flaw with all the armatures they play with, it's that they don't stay centered during their swing."

I take that as they are trying to use their body too much and in the wrong manipulated manner, hard to make consistent contact. I'm here to tell you, if you use your arms to swing, your

body and hands will react properly and do it the same way every time. This is the basic golf swing. Anything else you may add to this movement is an enhancement that may take away from your consistency.

To put it even more simply, learn to throw a strike before you try a 100 mph fast ball. Remember, the pitcher gets pulled in the 6th inning because his arm got tired.

To find out why my clients keep improving, come see me, I will change your game.



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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS - COUNTRY CLUB OF SALISBURY



Aerial view of Par-3 #14

When the golfing bug bit the city of Salisbury back 100 years ago, it had an unusual beginning along the old racetrack and fairgrounds off Brenner Avenue. Using an area that the old Sparks Circus used for their winter quarters, six holes with tin cans placed in the ground as cups beckoned the dedicated golfers hooked on the ancient game.

After several property moves, the Country Club of Salisbury finally settled on what is now its permanent home just off of Confederate Avenue. Even though clubhouses, swimming pools and tennis courts were added at each change of location, the main ingredient wasn't added to the current site until the mid-1920's with the arrival of legendary architect Donald Ross.

Documented as one of the oldest country clubs in the South, CC of Salisbury was one of more than 400 courses designed by Ross. Head golf professional at CC of Salisbury Chad Campbell, who spent more than 20-years in a variety of positions at Pinehurst Resort, is quite certain his members appreciate the hallmark traits presented by the

Scottish golf design master.

"What makes CC of Salisbury so enjoyable is its playability, but also its Ross' challenge and demand for your attention," said Campbell.

"They understand evaluating several elements of each hole is a must. Such as what club is best for this hole, where is this tee box aiming me and what's the best place for an approach into the green? You have to pay attention on a Donald Ross course. You have to pay attention at the Country Club of Salisbury."

Salisbury has added 250 or so yards to the par-71 layout, and measures just over 6,800 yards from the tips and down to 5303 from the forward tees. No matter the choice of tees, there is plenty of challenge weaving your way around Grants Creek, up-and-down significant topography and around some magnificent towering trees.

Celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year, CC of Salisbury can relish in the tradition of family generations that have been a part of this momentous achievement. Many current members have heard the fun stories of their dads and granddads playing the course and in many cases were part of the establishment of the country club.

The full golf membership drive that is currently underway, allow Rowan County residents to join for only a \$270 initiation fee and club dues of \$270 with no food spending minimum required. Non-Rowan legal residents can take advantage of an even better club membership deal, paying just \$250 initiation fee and monthly dues of only \$139 - also with no food spending requirement.

"We also offer social, senior and two levels of junior memberships entitling families to dining, tennis and use of the junior Olympic swimming pool," said Angie Phifer, in charge of Membership Services. "The social membership also includes 4-rounds of golf per year."

The Country Club of Salisbury membership drive ends on June 15th, and for Rowan and non-Rowan county residents considering a friendly country club home, the management team gives you this sage advice - "All you need is one place."

For more information to see if this is your "right place" or get your membership going, contact CCS at 704-637-3200 or logon at ccofsalisbury.com



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The sound of power with XXIO golf clubs

There is a new driver on the market that will get everyone's attention with its powerful sound off the tee. The XXIO X Driver sounds more like a large metal hammer striking an anvil than your normal driver impact sound. But, does it just sound good, or does it also produce a better golf shot?

In extensive testing, the answer was - YES! With the XXIO X, [pronounced Zek-Si-Oh] even slightly off-center impact produces mid-high trajectory with good roll out and across the board remarkable consistency. The data even showed that their True-Focus Impact Technology reduces off center strikes by 28%, noteworthy number with the X Driver.

The XXIO X Driver is a club that is also appealing to the eye. The metallic blue crown has a deep finish that changes with the light. The silver matte face wraps around the body, creating a strong visual reference point for alignment at address.

The face is tall with a few simple white lines and dots. The blue MP1000 shaft pairs seamlessly with the head. The XXIO X Driver has a distinctive, premium look.



The X iron (the company's 10th-generation iron) generates swing and ball speed through two primary sources - a light-weight, high-balance-point graphite shaft and a face made out of titanium. The weight savings from the titanium face allowed the club's designers to use 21 grams in the form of tungsten-nickel weights to get more mass down low and back to help you get the ball airborne.

Take a look at the XXIO at Greater Golf Express, and you will find that these clubs are focusing on golfers with moderate swing speeds, and directing all their energies towards producing a few exceptional clubs rather than umpteen different models.

The X Driver and irons are the 10th generation but as XXIO states, "The core concepts of the XXIO series haven't changed since the first generation — distance, forgiveness, and an exhilarating impact sound." Give them a try and find out for yourself.



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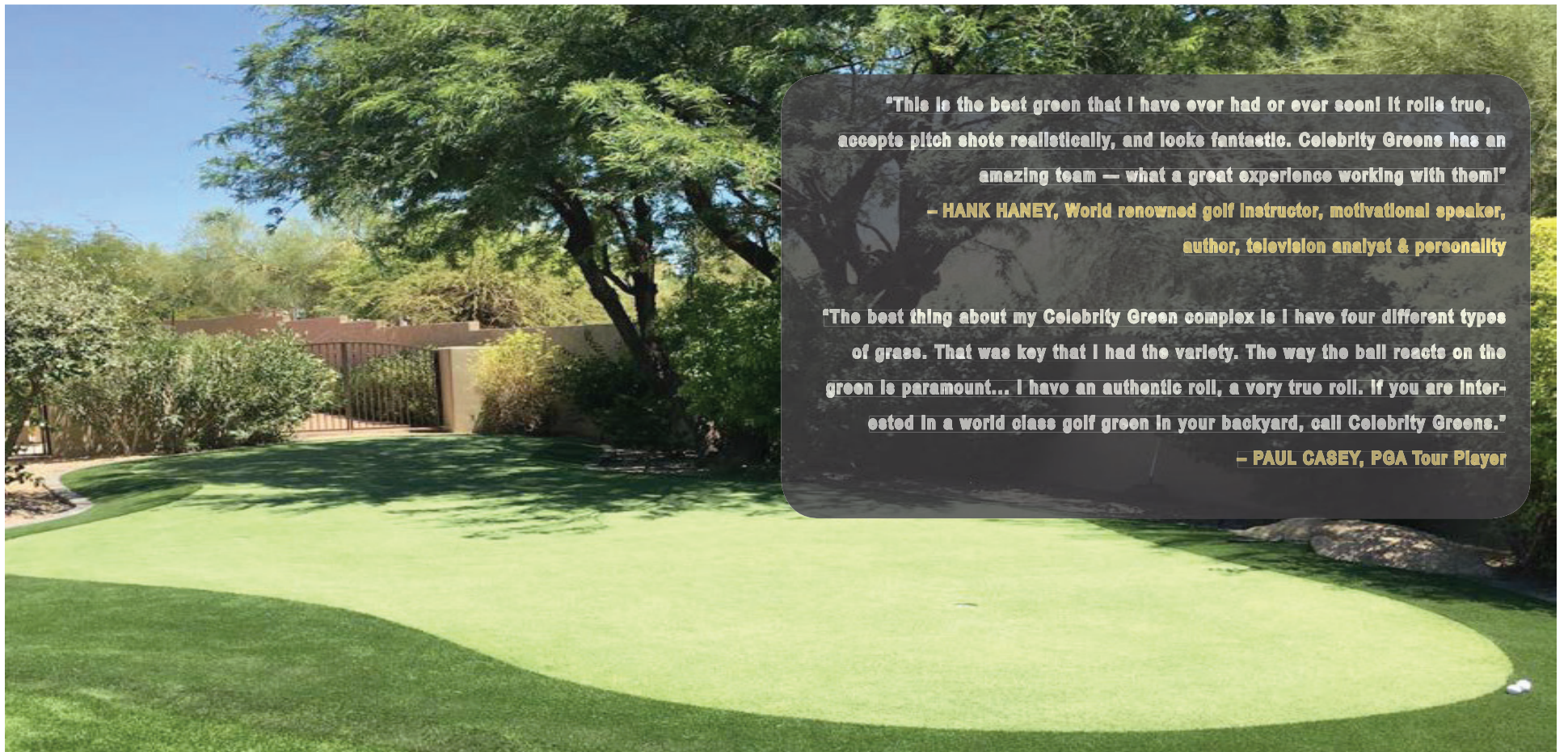
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— HANK HANEY, World renowned golf instructor, motivational speaker, author, television analyst & personality

"The best thing about my Celebrity Green complex is I have four different types of grass. That was key that I had the variety. The way the ball reacts on the green is paramount... I have an authentic roll, a very true roll. If you are interested in a world class golf green in your backyard, call Celebrity Greens."

— PAUL CASEY, PGA Tour Player

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**WELLS FARGO
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Another first-time winner at Wells Fargo

For young golf professionals looking for their first PGA Tour victory, playing in the Wells Fargo Championship should be a must on

their tournament schedule. Max Homa became the fifth player to capture their first career PGA Tour victory with his win at Quail Hollow. He joined Anthony Kim (2008), Rory McIlroy (2010), Rickie Fowler (2012) and Derek Ernst (2013).

Homa, the NCAA Champion in 2013 at Cal-Berkeley, played in a rare Sunday round on the PGA Tour where he posted a 4-under 67 (-15 269 total) to finish 3 shots better than Joel Dahmen and 4 better than Justin Rose.

After regaining his PGA playing card following a top-15 finish on the Web.com Tour, Homa's game was primed to win making six of the seven tournament cuts coming to the Wells Fargo. He effectively sealed the victory on the par-5 15th with a long shot up the hill and onto

the green where he scored a two-putt birdie, then saved par on the "Green Mile", finishing with a 10-foot par putt at the dangerous par-4 18th.

Making his third start at Quail Hollow (T76/2015, MC/2017, 1st/2019), Homa became the 13th player in 26 individual stroke play events this season to convert a 54-hole lead/co-lead into victory. The win also vaulted Homa from 138th to 35th on the FedExCup points list and a spot in the PGA Championship at Bethpage Black and the Masters next April.

The victory was worth \$1,422,000 – about \$454,000 more than he had made in his previous 67 PGA Tour starts, and rewarded him with a two-year exemption in non-invitational PGA tournaments.

The Wells Fargo also had a role in shaping the order of the world's best golfers. Back-to-back 3-under 68s on the weekend moved Justin Rose ahead of Brooks Koepka to #2 in the world rankings just behind Dustin Johnson. Koepka, Rory McIlroy and Justin Thomas round out the top-5 players on the worldwide list.



Max Homa celebrates first PGA Tour victory at the Wells Fargo

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4th Annual Charity Classic Benefitting The Heart Bright Foundation

Saturday, May 18
Carolina Lakes Golf Club
Captain's Choice - Shotgun start 12:00 noon
Cost: \$200 per player / \$800 per foursome
Contact: Nicole Bonesteel 704-373-3002
nicole@heartbright.org

4th Annual Thomas Davis Charity Golf Tournament

Sunday, May 19
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation
Captain's Choice - Shotgun start 12-noon
Cost: \$200 per golfer / \$800 per team
Contact: Defending Dreams Foundation 704-975-8010
tdddoundation@gmail.com

Indiana University Alumni Association "Hoosier Open"

Sunday, May 19
Tega Cay Golf Club
Captain's Choice - Shotgun start 1:00 pm
Cost: \$75 per player / \$300 per foursome
Contact: Todd Gordon 704564-8584
tgordon@carolina.rr.com

YMCA "Golfing for Good" Tournament

Monday, May 20
Carolina Golf Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun starts - 8:00am & 1:30pm
Cost: \$300 per golfer / \$1200 per foursome
Contact: Jordan Fletcher 704-716-6498
jordan.fletcher@ymcacharlotte.org

Best Buddies Golf Classic

Saturday, June 1
Carolina Lakes Golf Club
Captain's Choice Shotgun start 8:00am
Cost: \$125 per player
Contact: Jason 704-602-2446
jason@loansimply.com

Scramble in Support of MS Society of the Carolinas Golf Tournament

Friday, June 7
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation
Captain's Choice - Shotgun start 9:00am
Cost: \$100 per player
Contact: Robert Peterkin 704-525-2955
robert_peterkin@hotmail.com

28th Annual Ray Booton Golf Classic

Saturday, June 8
Highland Creek Golf Club
Captain's Choice - Shotgun start 8:30am
Cost: \$100 per player / \$400 per foursome
Contact: Derrick Reaven 980-722-7308
info@kappafoundationofcharlotte.org

Hawthorne Academy 2019 Summer Golf Classic

Wednesday, June 12
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation
Captain's Choice - Shotgun start 9:00 am
Cost \$100
Contact: Vincent Armstrong 980-243-6011
vincent.armstrong@cms.K12.nc.us

WSSU National Alumni Association Rams 28th Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 27
The Tradition Golf Course
Individual Scratch Golf (Flighted)
Cost: \$100 per player
Contact: WSSU NAA Charlotte
charlotteqcrams@wssunaa.org

10th Annual Heart Bright Celebrity Invitational

Tuesday, August 27
Golf Club @ Ballantyne
Captain's Choice
Shotgun start 10:30 am
\$100 / foursome
Contact: 704-373-3002

East Lincoln Christian Ministry, INC. 6th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, September, 30
Cowan's Ford Golf Club
Captain's Choice - Shotgun start 11:00am
Cost: \$75 per player / \$280 per foursome
Contact: East Lincoln Christian Ministry
704-483-4415 / elcm2@att.net

Annual Business Leaders of Charlotte (BLOC) Charity Golf Classic

Tuesday, October 1
Raintree Country Club
Captain's Choice
Shotgun start 11:30
Cost: \$150 per player / \$600 / foursome
Contact: Jamie Lein 704-324-3442 x 402
Jamie.lein@frontrowopt.com

3rd Annual Jane Burt Williams Memorial Golf Classic benefits Center for Health and Wellness Thomasville Memorial Center

Friday, October 4
Colonial Country Club - Thomasville
Captain's Choice
Shotgun starts: 8:00 am & 1:30 pm
Cost: \$100
Contact: Kristin Trexler 704-799-5408
krtrexler@novanthealth.org

4th Annual Charlotte Post Foundation Tournament

Friday, October 4
Birkdale Golf Club
Captain's Choice - Shotgun start 9:00am
Cost: \$125 Per player / \$400 per foursome
Contact: Linda Johnson 704-376-0498
linda@thecharlottepost.com

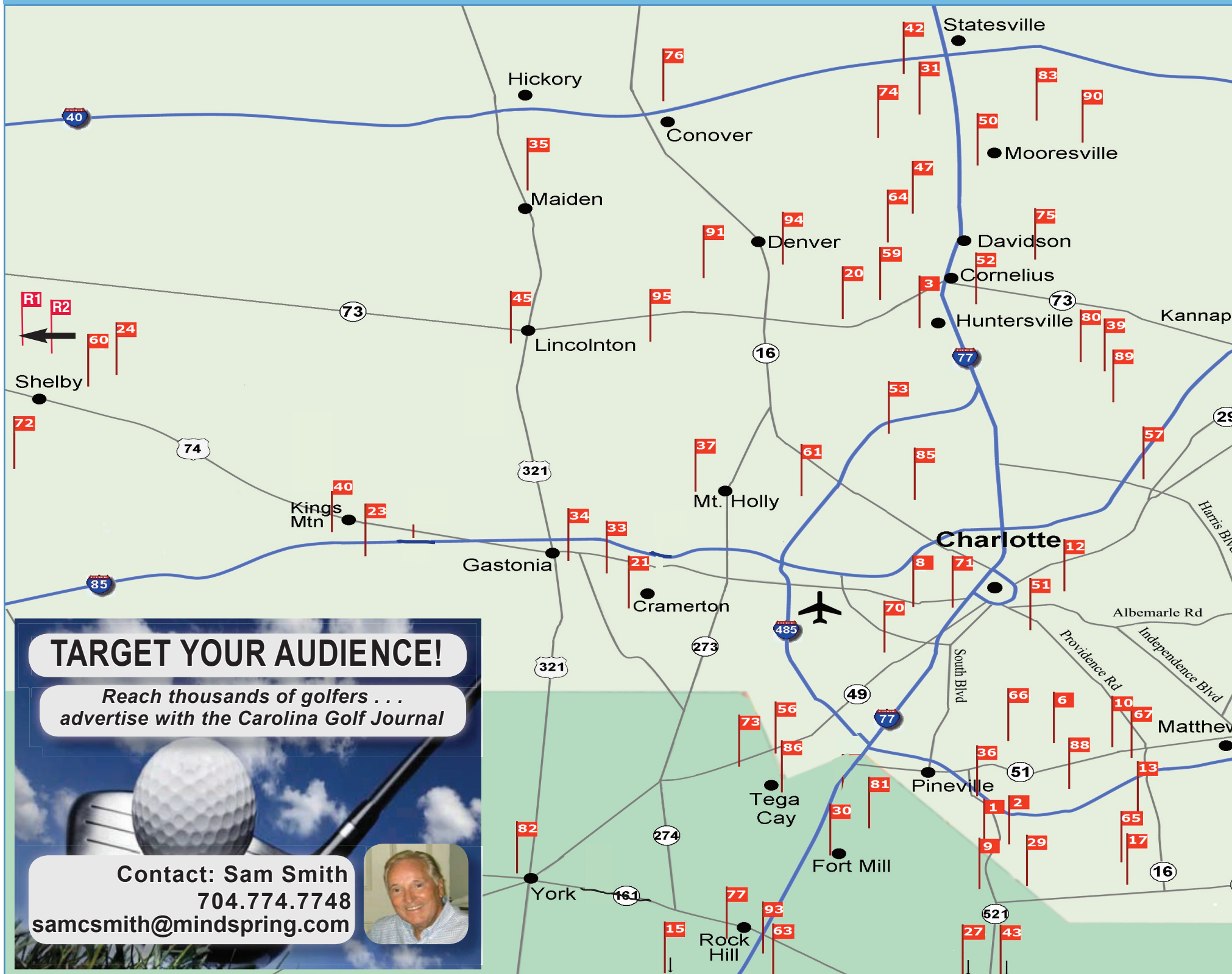
Marine Corp League 2nd Annual James T. Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament

Tuesday, October 22
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation
Captain's Choice - Shotgun start 12-noon
Cost: \$90 per player / \$360 per foursome
Contact: Hal DesChamps 704-534-0593
hedeschamps@windstream.net

Charlotte Open Golf Classic

Friday, November 15
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation
5-man pro-am scramble
Shotgun start 12-noon
Cost: \$1500 per 5-man team
Contact: Scott Schaeffer 704-999-7020
scott.seupromotions@gmail.com
**Pro Tournament - November 16
Double tees - 12-noon

GOLF COURSE GUIDE FOR TH



**R1. Apple Valley Golf Course - Lake Lure
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**R2. Bald Mountain Golf Course - Lake Lure
Resort 18 ~ 828-694-3042**

1. Ballantyne Country Club - Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-544-9755

2. Ballantyne Golf Club - Charlotte

Public 18 ~ 704-248-4383

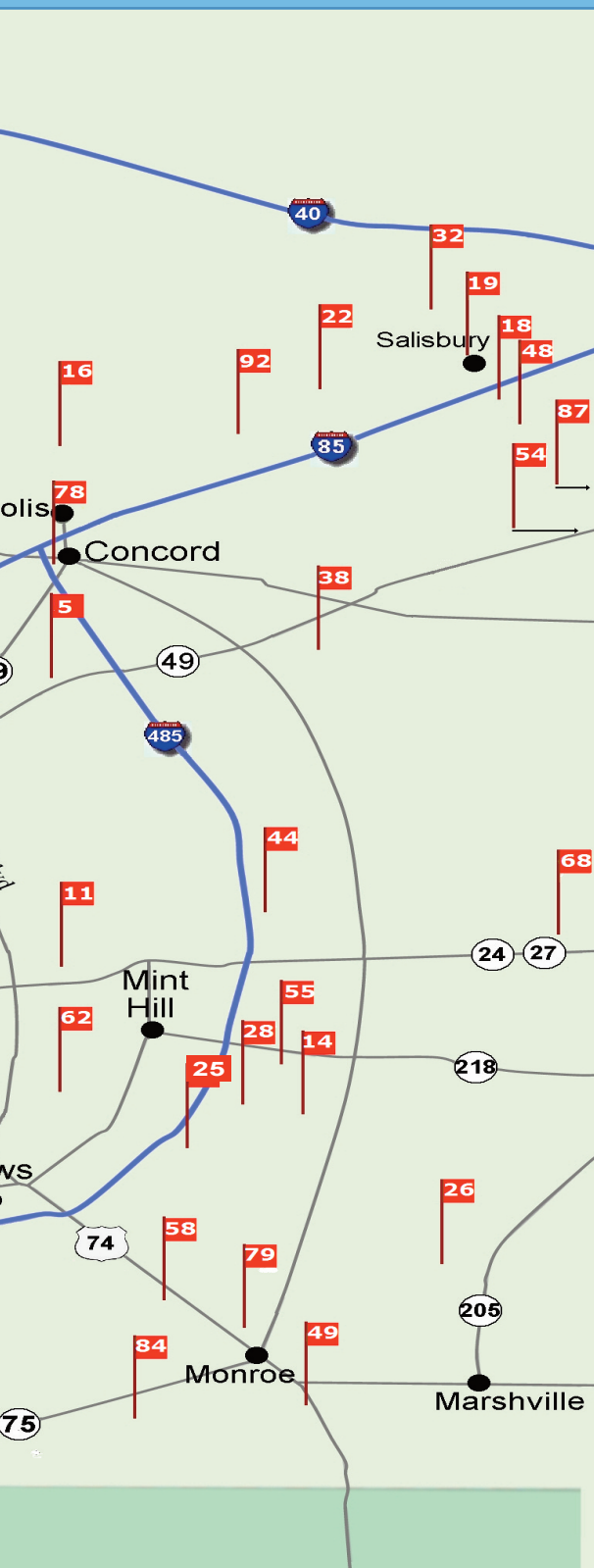
3. Birkdale Golf Club - Huntersville
Public 18 ~ 704-895-8038

5. Cabarrus Country Club - Concord
Private 18 ~ 704-786-8154

6. Carmel Country Club - Charlotte
Private 36 ~ 704-542-2457

- 8. Carolina Golf & Country Club - Charlotte**
Private 18 ~ 704-392-6366
- 9. Carolina Lakes Golf Club - Indian Land**
Public 18 ~ 803-547-9688
- 10. Cedarwood Country Club ~ Charlotte**
Private 18 ~ 704-542-0206
- 11. Charles T. Myers Golf Course ~ Charlotte**

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- Public 18 ~ 704-536-1692
2. Charlotte Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-333-9809
4. Charlotte National Golf Club ~ Indian Trail
Public 18 ~ 704-882-8282
5. Chester Golf Club - Richburg, SC
Public 18 ~ 803-581-5733

16. The Club at Irish Creek - Kannapolis
Private 18 ~ 704-933-4336
17. The Club at Longview - Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-443-2500
18. Corbin Hills Golf Course - Salisbury
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-636-0672
19. Country Club of Salisbury
Private ~ 704-636-7070
20. Cowans Ford CC
Private 18 ~ 704-827-3088
21. Cramer Mountain Club ~ Cramerton
Private ~ 704-879-4888
22. Crescent Golf Club - Salisbury
Public 18 ~ 704-647-0025
24. Deer Brook Golf Club ~ Shelby
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-482-4653
25. The Divide ~ Mint Hill
Public 18 ~ 704-628-6438
26. Eagle Chase Golf Club ~ Marshville
Public 18 ~ 704-385-9000
27. Edgewater Golf Club ~ Lancaster
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-283-9800
28. Emerald Lake Golf Club ~ Mint Hill
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-882-7888
29. Firethorne Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-843-3111
30. Fort Mill Golf Club
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-547-2044
31. Larkin Golf Club - Statesville
Public 18 ~ 704-872-9990
32. Foxwood Golf Course ~ Salisbury
Public 18 ~ 704-637-2528
33. Gaston Country Club ~ Gastonia
Private 18 ~ 704-865-7949
34. Gastonia Catawba Creek GC ~ Gastonia
Public 18 ~ 704-866-6945
35. Glen Oaks Golf Club ~ Maiden
Semi-private 18 ~ 828-428-2451
36. Golf Village ~ Pineville
Public Par-3 ~ 704-889-5086
37. Green Meadows Golf Course ~ Mt. Holly
Public 18 ~ 704-827-9264
38. Green Oaks Golf Course ~ Concord
Public 18 ~ 704-786-4412
39. Highland Creek Golf Club - Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-875-9000

40. King's Mountain Country Club
Public 18 ~ 704-739-5871
42. Lakewood Golf Course ~ Statesville
Public 18 ~ 704-873-6441
43. Lancaster Golf Club
Public 18 ~ 803-416-4500
45. Lincoln Country Club ~ Lincolnton
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-735-1382
47. Mallard Head Country Club ~ Mooresville
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-664-7031
48. McCanless Golf Club ~ Salisbury
Public 18 ~ 704-637-1235
49. Monroe Country Club
Public 18 ~ 704-282-4661
50. Mooresville Country Club
Public 18 ~ 704-663-2539
51. Myers Park Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-376-0745
52. Northstone Country Club ~ Huntersville
Private 18 ~ 704-948-4286
53. Oak Hill Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-394-2834
54. Old North State Club ~ New London, NC
Private 18 ~ 336-461-4447
55. Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation ~ Mint Hill
Public 18 ~ 704-573-1000
56. The Palisades Country Club - Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-548-0099
57. Paradise Valley Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public Par-3 ~ 704-548-1808
58. Pebble Creek ~ Indian Trail
Public Par-3 18 ~ 704-821-7276
59. The Peninsula Club ~ Cornelius
Private 18 ~ 704-896-7060
61. Pine Island Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-394-1011
62. Pine Lake CC - Mint Hill
Private 18 ~ 704-394-1011
63. Pinetuck Golf Club ~ Rock Hill
Public 18 ~ 803-327-1141
64. Trump National ~ Mooresville
Private 18 ~ 704-660-1192
65. Providence Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-846-6325
66. Quail Hollow Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-552-1726

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 67. Raintree Country Club ~ Charlotte
Private 36 ~ 704-542-8150 | 78. Rocky River Golf Club ~ Concord
Public 18 ~ 704-455-1200 | 88. TPC at Piper Glen ~ Charlotte
Private 18 ~ 704-846-1515 |
| 68. Red Bridge Golf Club ~ Locust
Public 18 ~ 704-781-5231 | 79. Rolling Hills Country Club ~ Monroe
Private 18 ~ 704-283-8201 | 89. The Tradition ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-503-7529 |
| 70. Harry L. Jones Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-357-3373 | 80. Skybrook Golf Club ~ Huntersville
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-948-6611 | 90. Twin Oaks Golf Course ~ Statesville
Public 18 ~ 704-872-3979 |
| 71. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 9 ~ 704-333-3949 | 81. Springfield Golf Club ~ Ft. Mill
Public 18 ~ 803-548-3318 | 91. Verdict Ridge Golf & CC ~ Denver
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-489-1206 |
| 72. Riverbend Golf Club ~ Shelby
Public 18 ~ 704-482-4286 | 82. Spring Lake Golf Club ~ York
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-684-4898 | 92. Warrior Golf Club ~ China Grove
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-856-0871 |
| 73. River Hills Country Club ~ Lake Wylie
Private 18 ~ 803-831-2249 | 83. Statesville Country Club ~ Statesville
Private 18 ~ 704-873-8376 | 93. Waterford Golf Club ~ Rock Hill
Semi-Private 18 ~ 803-324-0300 |
| 74. River Oaks Golf Club ~ Statesville
Semi-Private 18 ~ 704-883-8724 | 84. Stonebridge Golf Club ~ Monroe
Public 18 ~ 704-283-8998 | 94. Westport Golf ~ Denver
Public 18 ~ 704-489-8088 - Denver |
| 75. River Run Golf & CC ~ Davidson
Private 18 ~ 704-896-7355 | 85. Sunset Hills Golf Course ~ Charlotte
Public 18 ~ 704-399-0980 | 95. White Oak ~ Alexis
Public Par-3 18 ~ 704-263-9990 |
| 76. Rock Barn CC & Spa ~ Conover
Semi-Private 36 ~ 828-459-9279 | 86. Tega Cay Golf Club ~ Tega Cay
Public 18 ~ 803-548-2918 | 97. Royster Memorial Golf Course ~ Shelby
Public 9 ~ 704-484-6823 |
| 77. Rock Hill Country Club ~ Rock Hill
Private 18 ~ 803-327-7790 | 87. Tot Hill Farm Golf Club ~ Asheboro
Semi-Private 18 ~ 336-857-4455 | |



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Proper Wedge Swing Technique

By Mark Davis

General Manager/ Head Golf Professional
Red Bridge Golf & Country Club

I have found that one of the best ways to have a good wedge game is to find a few swings you are comfortable with and learn to hit multiple yardages with the same swings. You can do this by changing clubs and by altering your set up to hit the ball higher or lower to go different yardages.

To set up a base line for each club, set up square and notice how high or low you hit the ball with different clubs while using a half swing back and through. Pay attention to how consistent you are with the distance the ball goes with each club.

Once you become consistent with your motion you can really dial in your yardages. This is much simpler than taking one club and trying to swing it 50 different ways to hit all the



shots you will face on the golf course. Then try going to $\frac{3}{4}$ back and through and pay attention to how the ball flies with that swing while using your different wedges.

Using this technique and learning how to alter your set up to hit the ball a little higher or lower can get you to where you have all the shots in the book with just a couple grooved swings and takes the guesswork out of how hard you have to swing.

Below is a basic chart of the distances I hit my wedges with different clubs and swings. I can hit most of the in-between yardages by simply opening the face and stance a little bit to hit the ball higher and softer or by closing it down a little and playing the ball a little further back

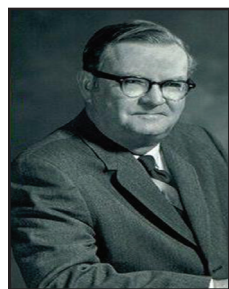
in my stance to go a little farther. Take some time to practice this and see how much your wedge game improves.

Club	$\frac{1}{2}$ back & $\frac{1}{2}$ through	Shoulder to Shoulder	Full Swing
Lob Wedge	44 yards	70 yards	80 yards
Sand Wedge	55 yards	85 yards	100 yards
Gap Wedge	65 yards	95 yards	110 yards
Pitching Wedge	75 yards	105 yards	120 yards

Carolina Golf Hall of Fame Class of 2019

Three new members of the Carolina Golf Hall of Fame, located in Pinehurst, have all contributed in their own unique way to improving the game of golf - through design, maintenance and USGA leadership.

The late **George Cobb** has his name on 100's of golf courses beginning with his first at Camp Lejeune at the request of U.S. Marine brass following World War II. Designed to give returning wounded soldiers an added rehabilitation venue, Cobb eventually completed 10 additional military courses.



George Cobb

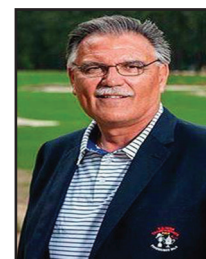
Away from the military, Cobb's work continued to take shape including 29 North Carolina courses. A partial list is highlighted by the following local courses: Carmel CC North, Quail Hollow Club, Rolling Hills in Monroe, Cabarrus CC in Concord, Mallard Head CC in Mooresville, Hound Ears in Boone along with

Oak Island and Bald Head Island. He isn't singled out for a perfect complement to Augusta National, but he should be, the Augusta National Par-3 Course is highlighted every Wednesday of Masters week.

The second member of the Class of 2019 is **Bob Farren**. He started as a member of the Pinehurst Resort golf course maintenance crew in 1982 and oversees nine golf courses plus a practice facility, all the landscaping across all the properties, plus all the vehicle maintenance.



Jim Hyler



Bob Farren

The third Carolina Hall of Fame member of 2019 is **Jim Hyler**, the most influential businessman capable of getting monumental support for USGA tournaments including the 1999 and 2005 US Opens held in Pinehurst. Both events helped Hyler being named president of the USGA in 2010.



THE GOLF VILLAGE: par-3 short game course + expansive grass tees driving range

Finding the right place to practice all elements of your golf game is normally limited to a driving range that will inform you of the distance of each shot, but adding a par-3 golf course allows one to practice better accuracy. The Golf Village in Pineville does just that.

The par-3 course was renovated in 2017 and the maturity of the greens makes it very good for testing those mid irons and short wedges. Holes range from 60-yards up to the finishing hole of 150 yards.

For families with young golfers just getting started, the shorter course helps build their confidence, to challenge the driving range and eventually the nearby regulation golf courses. Adult beginners have also improved their game with the 9-hole par-3 layout, and have relied on PGA professional Ted Lawson for golf instruction right there at The Golf Village.

The driving range has continued to have the best grass tees in the city. With 50 hitting tees, there is never a wait for a spot to practice, and with the addition of all new Titleist NXT Tour golf balls, golfers are finding a more accurate feel and carry with every club.

A chipping green, along with a sand trap practice area, complement the full-out driving range experience.

50+ grass ONLY hitting tees at Golf Village



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LINVILLE GOLF CLUB voted top course in NC High Country

The results (150 points was max):

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Linville Golf Club 137 | 6. Linville Ridge 70 |
| 2. Grandfather 132 | 7. Blowing Rock 69 |
| 3. Elk River 117 | 8. Boone 65 |
| 4. Diamond Creek 91 | 9. Mountain Glen 51 |
| 5. Hound Ears 75 | 10. Beech Mountain 15 |

By Bill Hensley

In an informal poll conducted to settle an age-old argument, the Linville Golf Club has been named the best course in the North Carolina High Country, narrowly beating Grandfather Golf and Country Club by a mere five points.

For years, golfers have argued about the best course in the area of Blowing Rock, Boone, Linville, Banner Elk and Newland. With that in mind, I contacted 15 golfers who play the courses on a regular basis and asked them to rate area courses on a one to ten basis. The panel consisted of seven local golf professionals and eight amateurs.

In a neck-to-neck race, Linville edged Grandfather with 137 points to 132. Ironically, it was a contest between old and new. Linville, a Donald Ross classic, is the state's oldest course, dating to 1895, while Grandfather, designed by Ellis Maples, opened in 1968. Each course received six first-place votes. Elk River and Diamond Creek also received first place votes.

Rounding out the top ten, in order, were Elk River, Diamond Creek, Hound Ears, Linville Ridge, Blowing Rock, Boone, Mountain Glen and Beech Mountain. Two of the courses—Boone and Mountain Glen—are open to the public.

“Our area is blessed with some great courses,” said veteran pro Sam Foster of Mountain Glen. “Picking the best course is difficult and requires a lot of serious thinking. I like them all.”



Linville Golf Club's #3 hole was selected as one of the Top 100 toughest par-4's in the U.S. A tribute to the mastery of the legendary Donald Ross.

Bill Hensley of Charlotte is a High Country summer resident. A golf writer and publicist, he founded and serves as chairman of the North Carolina Golf Panel.

FRICITION and SPIN

Bruce Wilkins,
Director of Instruction / Master Teaching Professional
Ballantyne Golf Academy

Spin on a ball is created by five main factors: friction, dynamic loft of the club at impact, contact point (on the club face), speed of the swing and a premium golf ball. One of the keys to generating a spinning wedge shot is high friction between club and ball.

High friction between club and ball will produce more spin. Friction is the force between two surfaces when rubbing together. Two smooth surfaces create little friction, while two rough surfaces create a lot of friction.

That is one of the reasons why golf clubs have grooves and golf balls



have dimples - the grooves provide the necessary friction that is created as the golf ball slides up the club face. Any matter (dirt, water, grass) that comes between the golf ball and club face, reduces friction and therefore spin.

Backspin comes first and foremost from clean, crisp, well-struck shots, hit under optimum conditions. A dirty old golf ball hit from old worn out grooves that have not been

cleaned for a week, has no chance of spinning.

With education and practice, you can improve dynamic loft, contact point, and speed - but by simply upgrading your wedges, keeping your club face clean, and using a premium golf ball, you can produce more spin.





The Golf Club at Ballantyne features extensive facilities and superior service year-round. Enjoy daily play on the 18-hole championship course, a practice area, driving range, a golf pavilion, overnight golf packages and professionally executed golf outings and tournaments. The Golf Club also features Ballantyne Golf Academy, North Carolina's only Golf Channel Academy for golf instruction, premier golf schools and extensive junior offerings.




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RUMBLING BALD RESORT – More than excellent golf

It's hard to imagine going to the Rumbling Bald Resort on Lake Lure and just playing their two championship golf courses. The golf alone is certainly a big highlight of the visit, but the resort has so much more to offer both golfers and their families.

Lake Lure, a 736-acre, semi-private body of water that features 27 miles of shoreline, offers a sandy beach, boat rentals and cruises along with all other standard lake fare.



Par-3 #16 "Dirty Dancing Hole"

A full-service spa and salon will pamper and relax guests with massages, facials, nail and skin care and other salon treatments. The renovated Legends on the Lake restaurant (replacing the Lake View restaurant) offers water views, and lodging includes more than 200 choices, ranging from studio efficiencies, motor coach sites, golf course condos and luxurious private homes.

Rumbling Bald has worked hard to entertain the entire family, but the main attraction remains the golf courses. Apple Valley and Bald Mountain championship courses offer different layouts but similar feels of challenge, playability and visual pleasures produced by the surrounding water, foliage and mountains.

Apple Valley is a Dan Maples design that sets its 18-hole tone from the start at the short par-4 first hole. From an elevated tee, there's a wide fairway that allows some spraying with the driver, featuring huge, deep fairway bunkers left and right to frame the hole and more sand on both sides of the green.

The downhill par-3 8th hole may be the most scenic, a carry over a pond with a fountain and a dramatic, gorgeous view of the mountains in the background.

The back nine has the hint of a links layout on several holes and begins with the unique par-4 10th, which features a lone, large pine tree in the middle of a wide fairway, the only option is to go left or right of the obstruction to avoid being stymied off the tee.

Apple Valley closes strongly with an all-carry par-3 17th hole over water and sand, and the par-5 18th doglegs left and has water all the way down the right side.

"We consider Apple Valley more of our championship golf course," said Adam Bowles, Rumbling Bald's golf operations manager. "It is the bigger, broader, more dynamic course."

Bald Mountain is a W.B. Lewis design that opened in 1968, and is a shot-maker course that sits down in a valley and provides a constant view of the surrounding mountains. Recurring themes include tee shots that require accuracy over length and smallish greens that demand precision from approach shots.

The severe downhill par-3 4th hole is protected by a pond in front and begins a stretch of elevation changes in which holes play both downhill and up.

The front and back nine close with similar flat par-5s that run parallel and can be had with two long shots off the tee and from the fairway. Number 9 is an absolutely straight shot from tee-to-green, while No. 18 slightly doglegs left to the home hole.

The back nine features the par-3 16th hole over water made famous from a scene from the popular movie "Dirty Dancing." And you will be dancing as well with a birdie on this signature hole.

Stay-and-play packages are very popular, and both courses are also open to the public. For information on Rumbling Bald Resort go to RumblingBald.com.



NC Captain Trent Bouts holds Battle of the Smokies trophy won by his team at the annual Ryder Cup style event held at Rumbling Bald Resort. A 34 ½ -25 ½ victory gives North Carolina a 5-4 all-time lead in the series over Tennessee.



Practice pays off again for UNCC golfers

Hard work and dedicated practice at the UNCC practice facility at Rocky River Golf Club has paid some dividends again this year for the 49ers golf team. Two players earned post season awards from Conference USA as John Gough and Ben Woodruff were named first and all-freshman team members by Ready Nutrition.

"I'm super excited for John and Ben," said Head Coach Ryan Cabbage. "Both of these guys deserve this wonderful recognition."

Gough, from Slough, England, selected to the NCAA Athens Regional, led the team with a 72.34 stroke average as the only member to play in all 11 events and 32 rounds on the year. The junior put together a whopping 17 rounds under par with a pair of runner-up finishes and five overall finishes in the top-10.

Gough ended the fall with a tie for fourth at the River Run Collegiate and ended it with an eighth place ending at the Royal Oaks Intercollegiate. A tie for second began his spring at the All-American Intercollegiate



before ending the semester with the same finish at the Conference USA Championship.

Woodruff, from Huntersville (Hough H.S.), put together a solid freshman campaign with a 73.90 average in his 10 events that covered 29 rounds. The rookie recorded 10 rounds under par this season including a career-best 68 in the final round of the Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate.

A 69 opened the Irish Creek Intercollegiate while his top-10 finish came in a tie for eighth at the River Run Collegiate back in September.

"John's season speaks for itself with him advancing to the NCAA Championships and I felt like Ben had a really solid freshman season," finished Cabbage. "He was fantastic in many areas and continues to get better throughout the season. I'm really excited about the fact that both of these guys return for next season as well."

Charlotte has had at least one member of an all-conference team since 2004. Gough's trip to the NCAA Regional in Athens marked the 15th consecutive year the 49ers have been represented in postseason play.



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Summer Junior Golf Competition with the National Junior Golf Association

The National Junior Golf Association (NJGA), based in Gastonia, has been a family affair and a labor of love for the Allen Wiggins clan since 1999. With family members manning every administration position in the organization, they host over 70 affordable and competitive junior events every year.

Allen Wiggins is the owner and serves as the Tour Director of the NJGA. His love for the sport of golf started in junior high where he played for Hunter Huss in Gastonia, NC. After high school, Allen went on to develop a painting company called A&J Painting, but also quickly developed a love of helping kids develop a great career in golf. Hosting the tournaments and seeing kids of all ages come out and have fun influenced Allen to take the tour to another level.

Victor Wiggins is one of the tour managers in the National Junior Golf Association. He is one of Allen Wiggins three children and found the love for the game by starting to play golf at the age of 4 and by the age of 6 he was playing on the NJGC (now called the National Junior Golf Association.)



Victor Wiggins

Victor had an outstanding junior golf career which lead to many college choices to choose from. He committed to Auburn University and after one year of playing golf there, he decided to come back home and play for UNC-Charlotte.

In the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years, Wiggins made second team All-Conference USA and had a stroke average of 73.14 in 73 rounds of golf.

Charlotte's 2015 team MVP, Wiggins helped the 49ers win the NCAA regional in Chapel Hill and earned a spot at the NCAA National Championship. He was a medalist of the 2014 Gopher Invitational and also was honored by Conference USA for academics (2015 commissioner's honor roll) and golfer of the week (Sept. 10, 2015).

After his college golf career, he decided to turn pro. Victor is now a PGA Tour Latin America Card Holder. He will be helping with the NJGA while continuing to pursue his professional golf career.

"I'm trying to set up my schedule so I can get my tour card on the web.com tour and, hopefully, on to the PGA tour," said Wiggins, who is set to finish with a degree in sociology degree at UNCC. "I've just had an opportunity come up that I couldn't say no to."

Patrick Wiggins, Allen's younger son, is also one of the NJGA tour managers. Patrick has played a lot of sports growing up but coming from a golf family, golf became the priority.

Like Victor, Patrick started playing golf at a young age and at 9-years old Patrick became the 2009 Drive Chip and Putt National Champion. For high school, he attended Highland School of Technology where he competed in all four regionals, two state appearances, and was a 3-time MVP. Currently, Patrick attends Gardner-Webb University and is on the men's golf team for the Running Bulldogs.



Patrick Wiggins

Terry Wiggins NJGT Tournament Director and his wife Silva have been operating the National Junior Golf Tour since 2002. Terry served in the United States Air Force for 26 years and retired in 2001 at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. Terry and Silva both have worked with youth organizations for many years including the Cub Scouts, Boys Scouts and youth directors at their church in Oklahoma before retiring from the Air Force.

Jim and Tracy Williams joined the NJGA Staff in 2007 running junior tournaments in the Charleston, South Carolina area. Jim is a PGA Golf Professional and is currently the Head Golf Professional and Instructor at The Caddy Shak Driving Range in Lexington, SC. Tracy is currently an elementary school teacher but is usually present on tournament days.

The most recent addition to the NJGA staff is Sam Hughes, serving as tour college adviser. Sam coached Victor at UNCC during the 2015/16 season where he first saw the work that Allen and the rest of the Wiggins family put in to develop and grow junior golf nationwide. Sam says "The NJGA schedule allows the young student-athlete the perfect opportunity to be observed and recruited by the top colleges in the USA".

The National Junior Golf Association is very fortunate to play at some of the best courses the South East has to offer year round. Summer is by far the best season to play golf with tournaments being played almost every weekday.

The highlight of the NJGA National Championship is a two-day family event which is played on the sunny beaches of Myrtle Beach. The day before the two-day tournament begins the annual father /son tournament is held on the same course that the National Championship is being played.

Growing the game of golf through junior golf is truly a family affair for the Wiggins clan, if you have any questions; please contact them at 704-824-6548 or by email at info@nationaljrgolf.org

LOCAL PRO and AMATEUR GOLF SCHEDULES 2019

NATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF TOUR

June 8-9	Hickory Junior Classic Rock Barn Golf & Spa (Jackson Course) ~ Conover, NC
June 17	Hugh Cranford Optimist Int'l Championship Qualifier Catawba Country Club ~ Newton, NC
June 22-23	Myrtle Beach Junior Classic ~ True Blue Golf Club Pawleys Island, SC
July 14-15	Low Country Junior Championship RiverTowne CC ~ Mt. Pleasant, SC
July 21-22	Lake Lure Junior Championship Rumbling Bald Resort ~ Lake Lure, NC
August 3-4	Savannah Junior Open The Club at Savannah Harbor ~ Savannah, Georgia
August 15-16	Glen Dornoch Junior Open Glen Dornoch Waterway Golf Links ~ Little River, SC
August 31	NJGA 19th Annual Adult/Junior National Championship The Hackler Course Coastal Carolina Univ. Conway, SC
Sept 1-2	NJGA 19th Annual National Championship Hackler Course at Coastal Carolina University Conway, SC
Nov 9-10	Charlotte Junior Open ~ Rocky River Golf Club Concord, NC
Dec 7-8	Atlantic Dunes Junior Open ~ Atlantic Dunes Hilton Head

SENIOR AMATEUR TOUR – CHARLOTTE AREA

June 5	CC of Salisbury	Salisbury, NC
June 17	The Peninsula CC	Cornelius, NC
July 8	Firethorne CC	Marvin, NC
July 17	Lancaster CC	Lancaster, SC
Aug 5	Senior Open –Peninsula CC	Cornelius, NC
Aug 28	Ballantyne CC	Charlotte, NC
Sept 10-11	The Players – Monroe CC	Monroe, NC
Sept 18	River Hills CC	Lake Wylie, SC
Oct 1	Pine Island CC	Charlotte, NC

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN PRO GOLF TOUR

Monday, June 3rd	River Falls Plantation ~ Duncan, SC
Monday, June 10th	Cherokee Valley Club ~ Travelers Rest, SC
Tuesday, June 18th	Carolina C.C. ~ Spartanburg, SC
Tuesday, June 25th	Columbia C.C., Columbia, SC
Monday, July 8th	Olde Sycamore ~ Mint Hill, NC
Tuesday, July 30th	C.C. of Spartanburg ~ Spartanburg, SC
Monday, Aug. 12th	Furman University G.C. ~ Greenville, SC
Tuesday, Aug. 20th	Green Valley C.C. ~ Greenville, SC
Monday, Aug. 26th	Wooden Ridge ~ Inman, SC
Tuesday, Sept. 3rd	Greenwood C.C. ~ Greenwood, SC
Monday, Sept. 16th	Village Greens ~ Gramling, SC
Monday, October 7th	Monroe C.C. ~ Monroe, NC
Monday, October 21st	Kenmure C.C. ~ Flat Rock, NC

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LOCAL TOURS:

Charlotte Senior Amateur Tour: 704-844-8264
senioramateurgolftour.net/charlotte

Charlotte Golfweek Amateur Tour: 704-844-8264
amateurgolftour.net/charlotte

Swing Thought Tour: 800-992-8748
swingthought.com

National Junior Golf Tour: 704-824-6548
nationaljuniorgolfassociation.com

Carolina Mountnain Pro Golf Tour : 864-270-6857
mountaingolftour.com

SWING THOUGHT TOUR – Carolina's Events

May 15-16	Tega Cay GC	Charlotte, NC
June 18-20	Belmont Lake GC	Rocky Mount, NC
June 26-27	Bermuda Run GC	Bermuda Run, NC
July 26	Tanglewood GC	Clemmons, NC
July 29-30	Stoney Creek GC	Whitsett, NC
Aug 20-21	Pine Island Country Club	Charlotte, NC
Aug 26	Cutter Creek GC	Snow Hill, NC
Aug 29	Greensboro Ntl Golf Club	Greensboro, NC



The 74th U.S. Women's Open - Low country challenge in Charleston

The 2019 U.S. Women's Open Championship will be conducted May 30 - June 2 at the Country Club of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. Known for its low country terrain and challenging green complexes, the historic course is celebrated as one of the premier golf clubs in the Southeast.

The original architect, Seth Raynor, built and designed the course in 1924. John LaFoy made revisions in 1990-1991 following Hurricane Hugo, and it was ultimately restored by Brian Silvia in 2006.

It's an old golf course, established in 1786, a mere 32 years after the R&A, although the Country Club and its golf course have been in its present location, along the banks of the Ashley, River, only since the 1920s.

The fairways are generally broad and open, but there's plenty of trouble



to be found just beyond the short grass. Most notably, huge stands of ancient live oaks stand sentinel at strategic points.

Their

extensive root systems and low-hanging branches will bedevil players who stray from the safety of the fairways.

There are plenty of bunkers, some added in advance of the Open. But the sand is fluffy and manageable and the lips are relatively mild so the pros shouldn't experience much in the way of sand trouble. They'll get in, but should recover just fine.

Despite some unusually wet conditions over the past month, the greens are rolling fast and true. They'll be even faster in late May, with dryer conditions and judicious grooming in advance of the Open.

However, the field is going to be faced with more than speed as they take on the CC of Charleston putting surfaces. The breaks are subtle and there are a number of multi-tiered greens that are going to cause more than a few headaches.



Further, the false fronts (and occasionally dramatically sloping sides and backs) are going to demand accurate approaches with a lot of spin. In other words, the 74th U.S. Women's Open is going to be won (and lost) on the putting surface, but getting there and staying there will be half the battle!

Thirteen past champions and 47 of the top 50 players in the world are among those entered in the 74th U.S. Women's Open Championship.

This marks the sixth consecutive year the U.S. Women's Open has received more than 1,500 entries, with the USGA accepting 1,552 entries for this year's championship. The USGA accepted entries from golfers in 47 states, 32 entrants from South Carolina among them, and a total of 62 countries.

"We are excited to see such a strong group of entrants from around the world for the 74th U.S. Women's Open Championship," said Shannon Rouillard, senior director, Championships for the USGA. "We can't wait to see the game's best take on this fantastic Seth Raynor-designed golf course, which we know will provide the ultimate test of golf and thrill fans from around the world."

The Country Club of Charleston is a very walkable venue with plenty of shade along the fairways, not a small consideration for following a South Carolina golf tournament from behind the ropes in early summer. So don't hesitate – get your tickets, make your reservations, and go enjoy the splendid golf that's going to be played this year in the Palmetto State.

Written by USGA/Beth Bethel

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