

Carolina **GOLF JOURNAL**

FREE

Vol. 5 No. 5 Late Summer 2014

PGA's Champions Tour returns to Rock Barn



Joe Jaspers wins record 5th City Amateur

Larkhaven shows off new mini-verde greens

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From the Publisher:

Sam Smith

Another year of the Carolina Golf Journal concludes with this Late Summer/Fall issue. It has been our pleasure to serve the Greater Charlotte community and the golfing business in our fifth year of publication. We thank you for your readership.



This year the CGJ has made an effort to present what golf is all about in the Carolinas, with course reviews from the coast to the mountains, and everything in between. Our area golfers have been able to plan excellent golf outings throughout the Carolinas, and to take advantage of very playable courses in nearby surrounding communities as well.

Being the only golf magazine in Charlotte, CGJ has hopefully helped the local courses and golf businesses produce a successful 2014. We have helped launch new businesses and enhance the established ones and have appreciated the many thank you notes from each and every one of you.

To all of our professionals that have shared their expertise in our "Tips from the Pros", we extend our deepest gratitude for helping golfers at all levels of play improve their game and enjoy playing more.

If we have shown you the new equipment available and helped you play better golf, we have achieved another one of our goals and pledges to you.

And finally, I hope we all can send a big thank you to the advertisers of CGJ in 2014. With their wonderful support, CGJ has been able to provide this free magazine to hundreds of golf courses and golf businesses.

The Carolina Golf Journal wishes all of you a very happy winter season. We will join you again with our Spring 2015 issue next March. Take care and keep swinging!

NEXT ISSUE: Early Spring 2015

Joe Jaspers wins record 5th Charlotte City Am Championship

*Special for the Carolina Golf Journal
(Photos by Davie Hinshaw – Charlotte Observer)*

If a photo could tell a thousand words, then the reaction of Joe Jaspers after sinking a 25-foot par putt on the 18th hole at Quail Hollow Golf Club to win his 5th Charlotte City Amateur Championship is a perfect example.

Jaspers finished his final round with a 2-under par 70, which included the winning putt at the same hole placement from the 2014 Wells Fargo Championship final round. Jaspers' final 54-hole total was 7-under par 208, just two shots better than runner-up Chase Sargent who started the final round just one shot off the lead. He finished with an even par 72.

Another former champion, 2012 winner John Eades challenged Jaspers and Sargent during the final round, but had to settle with a third place finish after shooting 2-under par 70 for a 211 total. Eades was 6-under par after 15 holes but bogeyed 16 and never recovered. Eades and Jaspers were the only golfers to shoot under par in the final round.

The youngest player in the final 24 golfers to play on Sunday was 18-year old Peyton White, the leader after both the first and second rounds. After a bogey at No. 1 White, a Huntersville's Hough High School grad and now a Ohio University sophomore, struggled to regroup and finished with a 4-over par 76 for a three round total of 213 and a share of fourth place with Andy Simmons, Vince Sumner, Jake McGlone and Mayson Petty.

The 48-year old Jaspers won the tournament for the first

time since 2004. He also won the city event in 1997, 1998 and 2000, and including the 2014 victory marked a victory trail spanning over a three decade period. He also became the only player to win the prestigious title for a fifth time.

Despite a winning drought of 10 years, Jaspers had been close, finishing in second place three times the past several years in quest of the Ron Green, Sr. trophy, named after the long-time Charlotte Observer golf writer. So this win meant a lot to the champion.

"This is a special win," said Jaspers. "I was getting the bounces today and that's what it takes sometimes. I haven't played that well for three days in a row ever."

Hey Joe, why didn't you try the professional tour? With his great success in amateur golf in college golf and amateur tournaments in the Carolinas, Jaspers has been asked that question many times. After his playing days were over a Central Iowa and the University of Iowa in the late '80's. Jaspers realized then that a career in professional golf was likely not in the offing even for a player of his skill.

So instead of languishing on professional mini-tours as so many aspiring players do, Jaspers embarked on a business life and is currently a vice-president with Wealth Management, Carolinas Telco Capital Advisors. He didn't give up on the idea of playing golf regularly however, and the amateur circuit drew him back to playing competitively again in the late 1990's.

Even with four championships in the Charlotte City Am, Jaspers had a strong desire to improve his game that had been somewhat



inconsistent at times. He knew his game, but needed to find some outside help to meet his goals.

"In '06 or '07 for the first time I went and took some lessons and broke my swing down. I didn't like what I saw on video and started to re-tool it and that's when I started to see my scores come down."

With his continued improvement, Jaspers made two trips to the U.S. Mid-Amateur. In 2010, he made the cut and advanced in the

field of 32, and then in 2013 he made the cut but lost in his first-round match. His dominance in the Carolinas after his desire to improve is confirmed by four Golfweek Amateur Tour Championships and numerous local and regular titles.

There will be plenty of young guns shooting for the Charlotte City Amateur Championship, but they will still have to contend with a true competitor and winner, Joe Jaspers.

Even at 48-year old, being one of the best amateurs in the Carolinas will always drive him to producing more picture perfect finishes.



Joe Jaspers (R) after winning his fourth amateur golf tour championship. Other flight winners (L-R) Elvis Sheahan, Dave Parish, Jason Liu and Albert Sanguiliano



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Rocky River Golf Club... stands behind their golf pledge

By Sam Smith

When Rocky River Golf Club made the decision to convert to ultra-dwarf Bermuda greens several years ago, they were doing so by necessity since bent grass greens were not only difficult to maintain but were “unsightly” most of the summer. The conversion project not only improved the Dan Maples golf course, but also drew the attention of the North Carolina Golf Panel.



Owned by the City of Concord and managed by Embassy Suites, and operated under the watchful eye of the Director of Golf Ryan Brickley, Rocky River has climbed into the Top 100 golf course ratings at #88 in the state, and continues to be acclaimed by the 135 panelists as the “Best Bang for Your Buck” public course in Charlotte. Golfers not only get a good deal at Rocky River, but they get a guarantee that they will be satisfied with the greens and overall course conditions or get their money back.

“With our guarantee, our staff also provides the best customer services possible if you’re a member, an Embassy Suites guest or a daily rate player,” said Brickley. “Along with services, we want to make your golf game at Rocky River a great experience. To make that happen we offer a golf course in excellent condition, and a well-designed layout that is enjoyable to play.”

The credit for the course condition goes to first year Head Superintendent Joel White, a former assistant at Myers Park before joining Rocky River five-years ago as an assistant. White has also spearheaded a program that has selected Rocky River as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. The certification places the course on a list with more than 150,000 habitats across the country.



“It allows us to maintain a habitat for animals in our natural areas and keeps us moving in the right direction for sustainability,” White explains. “There will always be 120 acres on the course where there won’t be any development, so it serves as a sanctuary for wildlife.”

Located in the shadow of Lowes Motor Speedway, the par-72 Rocky River layout measures 6,970 yards from the tips, down to a comfortable 4,754 yards from the front tees. Opened in 1997, Rocky River utilizes many of the existing features of the area, including beautiful rock outcroppings and various species of native wetland grasses.

Its a challenging golf course that has not been tricked-up for show, but plays well with no sharp doglegs or hidden problems. With the resurfacing of the greens, some severe slopes were reduced providing true rolls on what could be considered large greens.

With the size of the greens, golfers still need to concentrate on accurate iron play to avoid being on the wrong side of the green and having long challenging putts. Well-placed bunkers will also test your mental-approach of attacking a short-sided pin, or playing it safe in the middle of the green.

The Rocky River practice facilities was a joint effort between UNCC and Rocky River and features a state-



of-the-art teaching studio, and private instruction area that includes a grass practice tee with 30 stations and target greens. Open during normal golf shop operating hours,

the practice facilities offers right hand, left hand and ladies rental clubs. Private and group golf lessons are available from the PGA professional staff with rates listed online. Rocky River will be offering golf schools and clinics that utilize the private teaching facility and are developing video instruction packages.

The PGA teaching staff includes: Ryan Brickley, Floyd Gragg, Dave Miller and Brian Andora.

For more information on memberships, tee times, lessons, clinics or tournaments contact the Rocky River Pro Shop at 704-455-1200 or log-on at www.rockyrivergolf.com

For an extended stay, contact the Embassy Suites, just minutes from the first tee at Rocky River. With this hotel association, Rocky River is one of the few courses in North Carolina to offer a stay and play package with major hotel accommodations, their number is 704-455-8200 or visit www.embassysuitesconcord.com.



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Mack Daddy 2 Wedges by Callaway drawing raves

Callaway Golf promoted the Mack Daddy 2 Wedges as the new “best wedges in golf” for months and now the wedges are on the market and are living up to their hype.

The 56 degrees or higher Mack Daddy 2 Wedges feature the new 5V groove pattern, wider more aggressive grooves that increase the spin and promote more control around the green. After testing, the new grooves also produced more spin on full shots hit out of the rough compared to their 2011 models.

“Golfers ask their lob wedges to perform a lot of different shots, so it’s important that we designed these wedges to be extremely forgiving and versatile,” said Chief Club Designer Roger Cleveland, who created the wedges.

There are three custom sole grinds available for the 58 and 60 degree clubs. The U-Grind, being used by Phil Mickelson uses a wide, concave sole and a rounded leading edge to make it easier to stay low and under the

ball when opening the face. The C-Grind is designed to keep golfers from creating too much bounce when they open the face. The depth of the sole is narrow to help facilitate proper contact in all situations. And finally, the S-Grind is designed for firmer playing conditions and is fitted to the players who don’t want to add loft for a shot and instead play it with a square face.

As for the looks: classic and high-tech at the same time; testers definitely feel like a “player” when they line these up; aggressive face milling gives the impression that you’ll spin the heck out of the ball with control; testers like both the chrome finish and the darker slate finish. The Mack Daddy 2 Wedges are available now with 52-, 56-, 58- and 60 degree options.

The suggested price is \$119 per club but for a chance to produce shorter putts, it may well be worth the cost.



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Billy Horschel wins FedEx title

Hottest golfer didn't get spot on the Ryder Cup

By Sam Smith

Former SEC "Player of the Year" Billy Horschel has been on every golf fan's radar in the last month, but not on Tom Watson's Ryder Cup team. The 4-time Florida All-American finished off an unbelievable three week swing on the PGA Tour, with a runner-up effort and two victories in the FedEx Playoffs.



Horschel outplayed world No. 1 Rory McIlroy in the final pairing and held off the rest of the field on an unseasonably cool day at Atlanta's East Lake Golf Club to win The Tour Championship by Coca-Cola, the finale of the FedExCup Playoffs.

Closing with a final round 2-under par 68 at East Lake Golf Club, which marked a record-setting 12th consecutive round in the 60's in the playoffs; Horschel finished at 11 under and defeated McIlroy and Jim Furyk by three shots.

Starting the playoffs in 69th place, Horschel surged into contention in the FedEx Cup with a runner-up finish at the Deutsche Bank Championship and a victory at the BMW Championship, he recalled the dream from months earlier and a thought stuck in his mind, "Maybe this is actually something that is supposed to happen," Horschel said.

"There are certain things throughout my life that have

come true," said Horschel. "When I sleep at night, I have a premonition or whatever you want to call it of thing to come. I just remember something like that in December or January, I remember holding up the FedEx Cup trophy and as the season went along, I never thought about it, but I just said, 'Well, maybe, it was just a dream that wasn't real.'"

Oh, but it was real! Horschel's pay check amounted to \$11.44 million, \$1.44 for winning his first Tour Championship and a \$10-million bonus for winning the FedEx-Cup.

Horschel, however, despite his T2-1-1 in his three last starts, was not selected to play for the USA in the Ryder Cup. Captain Tom Watson made his three captain's picks the day after the Deutsche Bank Championship, where Horschel finished tied for second and before he won the BMW Championship. Horschel has no qualms with being left off the team.

"I'll be supportive of the U.S. team, and even with this extra win, I still don't feel like I deserve to be on the team," Horschel said. "I haven't played good enough this year. I haven't played good enough over a two-year period to be on the team, and I understand that. I'm not upset with that, and Tom texted me earlier in the week and I said, 'Hey, I'm fully behind you. So hopefully the team can go over there and bring back the Ryder Cup trophy, because it's been too long since we've had it in our hands.'"

There is still an old adage that says, "It's not how you start its how you finish" and in the play of Billy Horschel you can make a case that he is the hottest PGA player prior to the Ryder Cup. Conclusion: Maybe a change in the selection process?

What can hurt by not waiting a couple additional weeks in naming the full team? Answer: Losing a bright young gun like Billy Horschel to challenge Europe in the most coveted international event in pro golf when America needs a big victory.

KIA Greater Hickory Classic

October 13-19 Rock Barn Golf & Spa

By Sam Smith

When the PGA Champions Tour arrives in Hickory for the 12th Annual KIA Greater Hickory Classic, the over-50 bunch will be facing an 18-hole golf course that proved to an excellent challenge in 2013.



2013 Hickory Classic winner Michael Allen enjoys his new rocking chair and tournament trophy.

Michael Allen finished at 13-under par (197 total), and completed his victory run with a first hole playoff win over Olin Browne to capture the Championship. Most of the players believed that the score would be much lower on the “Champions Course” set-up created after severe weather reeked havoc on the Robert Trent Jones, Jr. course.

“The work of Rock Barn and the KIA Greater Hickory Classic staff to get the course ready to play last year was just short of a miracle,” said Allen. “The Champions Tour players are very fortunate to have a man like Rock Barn’s owner Don Beaver willing to take the lead to guarantee the 2013 event would be played, and the luxury of having two excellent golf courses to create a “Champions Course” for the tournament.”

The new layout again will use the back side holes of the Tom Jackson Course (#10-18), and holes #1-6 and #16-18 on the Jones Course, measuring 6,846 yards. The only change that will be made this year to the Rock Barn layout will be adding length to the 10th hole on the Jackson course, making the starting hole of the tournament a par-5. This change will make the score a par 71, compared to the par 70 of last year.

The reconfigured “Champions Course” didn’t provide the length that the Jones Course previously had but it still proved to be a riddle many had trouble solving. Allen’s 13-under par 197 score (65 on Sunday) was the lowest under-par score to win the Classic in the 12-year history of the tournament.

Bill Glasson scored a career-best 9-under 61 on the par-70 layout which was easily the lowest round of the three-day tournament and flirted with posting the first 59 in Tour history. Needing birdies on his final two holes, Glasson exited with pars on each to finish two shots away from the history-making score.

Allen’s victory was just the third playoff in the Classic’s 11-year history. The event’s first playoff came in 2006 when Andy Bean outlasted R.W. Eaks; while Mark



Kia Hickory Classic Preview

Wiebe was the tournament's other playoff win with his victory over James Mason in 2011.

Allen teed off late Sunday morning with second-round leader Bernhard Langer in the final group of Champion's Tour players.

"It's was an exciting day, a lot of fun," Allen said in a



post-tournament interview with the PGA. "I thought I was going to be battling with Bernhard but it wasn't until I got to 16 or 17 that I knew he was leading, so I had to be more aggressive on my putts. Any time you get to play with Bernhard Langer on Sunday and have a chance to beat him, it's always great. He's a legend."

Langer finished 3rd with a three-round total of 199. Browne played into the tie with Allen in regular play with a 6-under par 64, including seven birdies over nine holes.

The 2014 Hickory Classic field will be one of the strongest in the 12 year history with last year's champion Michael Allen heading a group of seven former champions returning: Craig Stadler ('03), two-time winner Jay Haas ('05 & '09), Andy Bean ('06), Gary Halberg ('10), Mark Wiebe ('11) and 2012 winner Fred Funk; 2004 winner Doug Tewell and two-time winner R.W. Eaks ('07 & '08) could also sign up before tournament week.

This year's Senior U.S. Open and Senior PGA champion

Colin Montgomerie will be joined by two other World Golf Hall of Famers making a return to Hickory, including 19-time Champions Tour winner Larry Nelson and 10-time over-50 tour event champion Tom Kite.

Eight of the top-ten Charles Schwab Cup leaders are listed in the staring field, including 2013 Champions "Player of the Year" Kenny Perry, at press time listed #4 in the standings. Only points leader Bernhard Langer and sixth-place Fred Couples have yet to register to play, however both have had good runs at Hickory, and with the Schwab Cup points still very important, Hickory Classic fans could still see these popular players in the field.

A new name will be added to the Champions roster, as 1993 and 1998 U.S Open Champion Lee Janzen who turned 50 in August will make his Hickory Classic debut adding to the field that executive tournament director Jim Correll calls "fantastic".

For more KIA Hickory Classic information or for tickets for the October 13-19 event call 828-459-4000 or logon at www.greaterhickoryclassic.com.



Ribbon-cutting makes it official

Larkin Golf Club open under new ownership

By Sam Smith

When new owners took control of Statesville's Fox Den Golf Club in April following a \$1.94 million foreclosure auction in November 2013, it was just a matter of time before golfers in the area realized that changes were on the way. And in early September, management made it official with the ribbon-cutting of the new Larkin Golf Club.

Larkin Golf Club signs around the neighborhood and on the golf course were the first signals of the "take action" ownership group that has vowed to make their course one of the best in the I-40 / I-77 corridor.

"The name may have changed, but we will stick with what we know works: Service, Product & Price," said head PGA professional Michael Hamrick.

"The addition of a more extensive line of golf products in our pro shop has also made Larkin an excellent one-stop shopping location for the player looking to improve their game with better equipment."

New owner Stephan Rosenburgh, founder, president and CEO of US Developments LLC of Charlotte, also owns the very popular Stonebridge Golf Club in Mineral Springs south of the Queen City. And like Stonebridge, golfers playing at Larkin will be their #1 concern.

"The level of service when golfers arrive will be one of

the most noticeable changes," said Rosenburgh. "When they pull into the course, someone automatically comes out to help you with your clubs, and when they're finished, they'll clean your clubs off and put them back in your car. We like to call it "trunk-to-trunk service."

The added staff to accommodate the friendly welcome along with the new name aren't the only changes golfers will enjoy at Larkin Golf Club. A few holes on the golf course have been rearranged to allow for the use of golf carts on all fairways, except of course on par-3's for the benefit of older players. The club will add a new fleet of

72 EZGO golf carts in October.

The condition of the course will also be recognized after a more aggressive maintenance program spearheaded by course superintendent Shane Staples, making the Bermuda fairways and Crenshaw bent-grass greens some of the best in the area.



Doing the cutting are: Tom Logano, father of NASCAR driver Joey logano, Stephan Rosenburgh, new Larkin Golf Club owner, and David Bradley, President CEO Greater Statesville Chamber

Events Coordinator Sy West has also forecast additional activities with the improvements in the overall course environment. "Our customers are already talking about bringing more golf tournaments and outings to Larkin. And with the new clubhouse we also expect more company parties and weddings in the months ahead."

The golfers of the area will be well pleased with the affordability of Larkin Golf Club. Monday-Friday; greens-fee with cart are only \$32 before noon and \$27 after noon. The weekend rates (Saturday-Sunday) before

noon are a low \$37 and just \$29 after noon. Seniors (60+) and juniors (17 and under) can play Monday-Friday for \$25.



With its eye-catching elevation changes, accommodating fairways – some tree-lined, meandering streams and scenic ponds that come into play on 10 holes - Larkin Golf Club has more than started it's return to the excellent playability of the Clyde Johnston designed course that has made it a favorite of the upper Greater Charlotte

golf market in Statesville since it opened in 1996. It is great to have the new progress-orientated ownership at Larkin Golf Club," said David Bradley, President and Chief Executive Officer Greater Statesville Chamber. "Their work since this past April has certainly improved a beautiful golf course and created an excellent event facility for the entire Greater Statesville area."

Larkin Golf Club is conveniently located at Exit 45 on I-77 just 5-miles south of Statesville and only 30 miles from Charlotte. To enjoy a fun round of golf at affordable rates, call the new Larkin Golf Club at 704-872-9990 or logon at www.larkingolfclub.com.

For outings and tournament information contact **Sy West** and for wedding and party arrangements contact **Kamie Lynch**
704-872-9990
www.larkingolfclub.com.

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The Club at Longview
Shotgun Start at 12:00pm
\$350 per player, \$1200 per foursome
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Ben Mynatt Childrens' Foundation

Monday, September 29

Trump National Golf Club Charlotte
Captain's Choice
Shotgun Start – 10:00am
\$435 per player
Chris Shoemaker – 704-721-7452
cshoemaker@benmynatt.com

Cancer Care Fund

3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, September 29, 2014

Site: Pinehurst #7 – Pinehurst, NC
Shotgun Start: 12 Noon
Cost – \$125 per player/ \$400 per team

Contact – Vickie Stone – 910-692-1000
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Golf Club at Ballantyne
Shotgun: 12:30 pm Captains choice
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stuart@marchforthwithhope.com
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**National Kidney Foundation Charity
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Ballantyne Country Club
Contact Samantha Wood 803-799-3870
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Monday, October 27, 2014

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704-786-8154 ~ Concord

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23. Crowders Mountain Golf & CC

Public - 18

704-739-7681 ~ Kings Mountain

24. Deer Brook Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

704-482-4653 ~ Shelby

25. The Divide

Public - 18

704-882-8088 ~ Mint Hill

26. Eagle Chase Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

704-385-9000 ~ Marshville

27. Edgewater Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

803-283-9800 ~ Lancaster

28. Emerald Lake Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

704-882-7888 ~ Mint Hill

29. Firethorne Country Club

Private - 18

704-843-3111 ~ Charlotte

30. Fort Mill Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

803-547-2044 ~ Fort Mill

31. Fox Den CC (now Larkin Golf Club)

Semi-Private - 18

704-872-9990 ~ Statesville

32. Foxwood Golf Course

Public - 18

704-637-2528 ~ Salisbury

33. Gaston Country Club

Private - 18

704-865-7949 ~ Gastonia

34. Gastonia Catawba Creek GC

Public - 18

704-866-6945 ~ Gastonia

35. Glen Oaks Golf Club

Semi-private - 18

828-428-2451 ~ Maiden

36. Golf Village

Public Par-3

704-889-5086 ~ Pineville

37. Green Meadows Golf Course

Public - 18

704-827-9264 ~ Mt. Holly

38. Green Oaks Golf Course

Public - 18

704-786-4412 ~ Concord

39. Highland Creek Golf Club

Public - 18

704-875-9000 ~ Charlotte

40. King's Mountain Country Club

Public - 18

704-739-5871 ~ Kings Mountain

41. Lakewood Golf Course

Public - 18

704-825-2852 ~ Cramerton

42. Lakewood Golf Course

Public - 18

704-873-6441 ~ Statesville

43. Lancaster Golf Club

Public - 18

803-416-4500 ~ Lancaster

44. Larkhaven Golf Course

Public - 18

704-545-4653 ~ Charlotte

45. Lincoln Country Club

Semi-Private - 18

704-735-1382 ~ Lincolnton

46. Linwood Springs

Public - 18

704-867-1642 ~ Gastonia

47. Mallard Head Country Club

Semi-Private - 18

704-664-7031 ~ Mooresville

48. McCannless Golf Club

Public - 18

704-637-1235 ~ Salisbury

49. Monroe Country Club

Public - 18

704-282-4661 ~ Monroe

50. Mooresville Country Club

Public - 18

704-663-2539 ~ Mooresville

51. Myers Park Country Club

Private - 18

704-376-0745 ~ Charlotte

52. Northstone Country Club

Private - 18

704-948-4286 ~ Huntersville

53. Oak Hill Golf Course

Public - 18

704-394-2834 ~ Charlotte

54. Old North State Club

Private - 18

336- 461-4447 ~ New London, NC

55. Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation

Public - 18

704-573-1000 ~ Mint Hill

56. The Palisades Country Club

Private - 18

704-548-0099 - Charlotte

57. Paradise Valley Golf Course

Public Par-3

704-548-1808 ~ Charlotte

58. Pebble Creek

Public Par-3 18

704-821-7276 ~ Indian Trail

59. The Peninsula Club

Private - 18

704-896-7060 ~ Cornelius

60. Pine Grove Golf Course

Public - 18

704-487-0455 ~ Shelby

61. Pine Island Country Club

Private - 18

704-394-1011 ~ Charlotte

62. Pine Lake Country Club

Private - 18

63. Pinetuck Golf Club

Public - 18

803-327-1141 ~ Rock Hill

64. Trump National

Private - 18

704-660-1192 ~ Mooresville

65. Providence Country Club

Private - 18

704-846-6325 ~ Charlotte

66. Quail Hollow Country Club

Private - 18

704-552-1726 ~ Charlotte

67. Raintree Country Club

Private - 36

704-542-8150 ~ Charlotte



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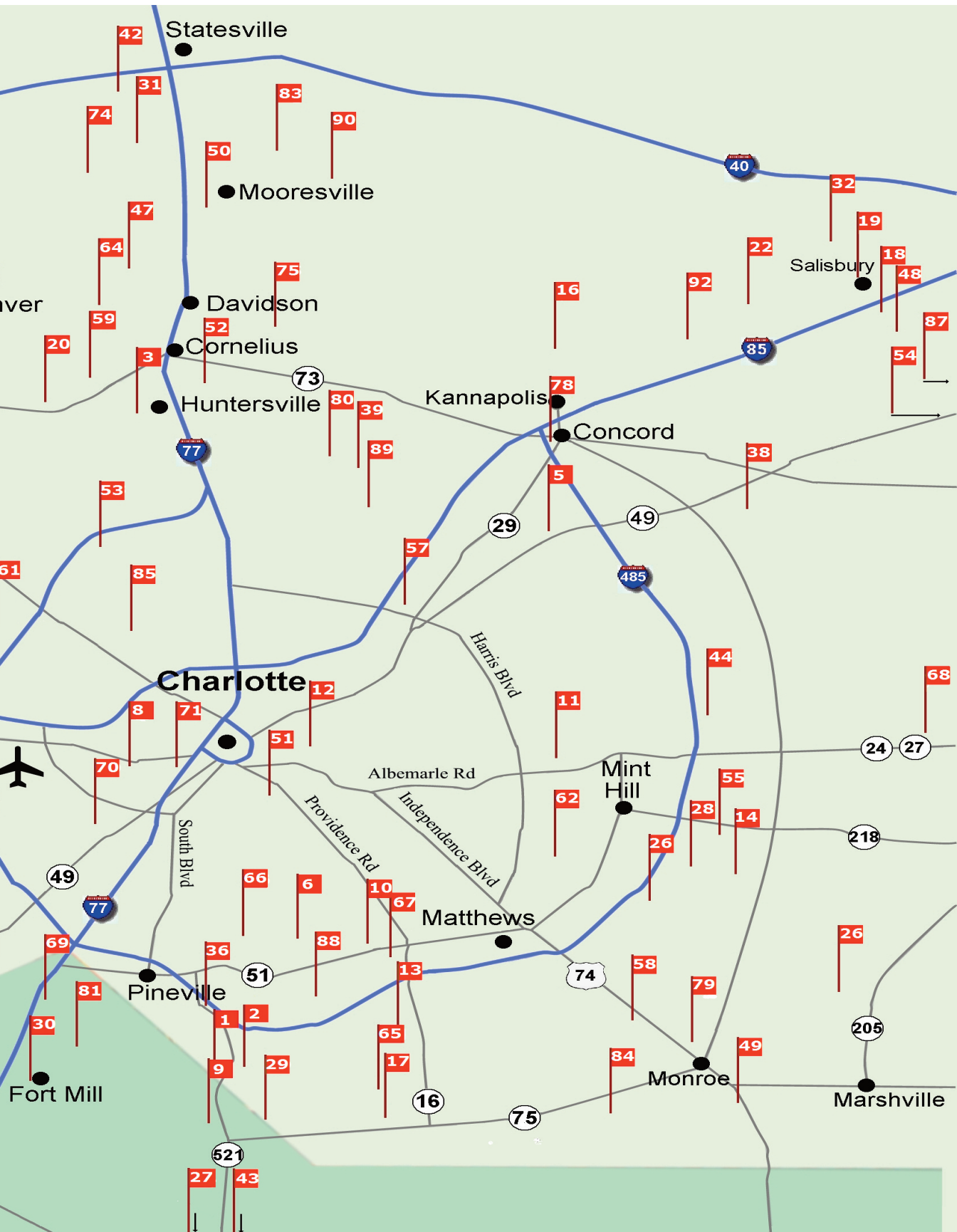
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 Monday - Friday ~ \$26



Charlotte Area Golf Course Map



68. Red Bridge Golf Club

Public - 18

704-781-5231 ~ Locust

69. Regent Park Golf Club

Public 18

803-547-1300 ~ Ft. Mill

70. Renaissance Park Golf Course

Public - 18

704-357-3373 ~ Charlotte

71. Revolution Park Golf Course

Public - 9

704-342-1946 ~ Charlotte

72. Riverbend Golf Club

Public - 18

704-482-4286 ~ Shelby

73. River Hills Country Club

Private - 18

803-831-2249 ~ Lake Wylie

74. River Oaks Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

704-883-8724 ~ Statesville

75. River Run Golf & CC

Private - 18

704-896-7355 ~ Davidson

76. Rock Barn Golf & Spa

Semi-Private - 36

828-459-9279 ~ Conover

77. Rock Hill Country Club

Private - 18

803-327-7790 ~ Rock Hill

78. Rocky River Golf Club

Public - 18

704-455-1200 ~ Concord

79. Rolling Hills Country Club

Private - 18

704-283-8201 ~ Monroe

80. Skybrook Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

704-948-6611 ~ Huntersville

81. Springfield Golf Club

Public - 18

803-548-3318 ~ Fort Mill

82. Spring Lake Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

803-684-4898 York

83. Statesville Country Club

Private - 18

704-873-8376 Statesville

84. Stonebridge Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

704-283-8998 Mineral Springs

85. Sunset Hills Golf Course

Public - 18

704-399-0980 Charlotte

86. Tega Cay Golf Club

Public - 18

803-548-2918 Tega Cay

87. Tot Hill Farm Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

336-857-4455 Asheboro

88. TPC at Piper Glen

Private - 18

704-846-1515 Charlotte

89. The Tradition

Public - 18

704-503-7529 Charlotte

90. Twin Oaks Golf Course

Public - 18

704-872-3979 Statesville

91. Verdict Ridge Golf & CC

Semi-Private - 18

704-489-1206 Denver

92. Warrior Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

704-856-0871 ~ China Grove

93. Waterford Golf Club

Semi-Private - 18

803-324-0300 - Rock Hill

94. Westport Golf

Public - 18

704-489-8088 - Denver

95. White Oak

Public Par-3 18

704-263-9990 - Alexis

96. Woodbridge Golf Links

Semi-Private - 18

704-482-0353 - Kings Mountain



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ATTACK YOUR GAME™

Larkhaven Golf Club reaping the benefits of new MiniVerde greens

By Sam Smith

"The new MiniVerde greens at Larkhaven Golf Club are great." A golfer's comment that must be music to the ears of General Manager Ken Jamison when the course reopened in August after the conversion from bent-grass greens.



Beautiful new mini-verde green at Larkhaven's 18th hole.

"We knew we had to make the change, our greens were just tired," said Jamison. "Despite the hard work of Course Superintendent Jimmy Smith, the summer heat and the age of the greens complexes were just too much to continue with and we were happy to make the change."

Larkhaven regulars and players trying the course for the first time were very surprised at how well the approach shots were holding and lack of grain. Also they are not grainy like many of the other courses with Mini Verde Greens in Charlotte.

The quality of the greens this early is due to an installation called "no-till Mini Verde." The planting is a process of mowing, verticutting, coring, and topdressing. All of equipment needed for this process can be found in a typical golf course maintenance

facility. Larkhaven also delayed their scheduled early August opening to allow for additional rolling and sanding of the new putting surfaces.

"We wanted to make sure the greens could be the best they could be before reopening," said Jamison. "We will not know how good the greens can be until we have gone through a full growing cycle, but for the moment we are delighted with the results."

Larkhaven Golf Club is the oldest 18-hole public golf course in the Charlotte area, and with the promotional motto "The green course all year round," they have been among the most popular to play since opening in 1958. Larkhaven was voted one of Charlotte's Best Golf Values in 2004, combining a challenge, good value and a friendly atmosphere.

The course features rolling terrain with challenging, sloped greens, and narrow, tree-lined fairways that are over-seeded with rye in the winter to keep them green all year long. Water hazards come into play on nine holes. From

beginner to expert golfers and those in between, the layout of the course provides a challenge and enjoyment to suit everyone's round.



players will find that they can use almost every shot possible at Larkhaven, from “bump and runs” to judging elevation changes such as the 60-foot elevation drop on the par-3 ninth hole. At only 6,700 yards from the back tees, the course plays much longer due to the changes in terrain.

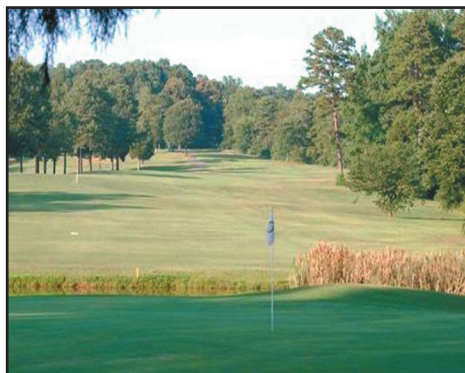
Your round will open with a tempting, driveable par-4 opening hole and you will also encounter risk and reward par-5s and four very challenging par-3s. The round ends with a picturesque 429 yard par-4 protected on the left by a lake that runs along the left side of the fairway and green.

Larkhaven Golf Club has been well known among area tournament golfers. They host the Annual Larkhaven Four-Ball event, a three day event held every year the last weekend of April since 1972 making it the oldest running Four-Ball Tournament in the area, and conclude the year with the two-man best ball Founders Tourna-

ment in the fall. It started as a memorial to the Barron Connell family, founders of Larkhaven, but now

includes an honor roll on the wall where family members, employees and other Larkhaven fixtures that have passed are recognized.

To enjoy the history of Larkhaven and the renovations, call for tee-times at 704-545-4653 or visit www.larkhavengolf.com.



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Turn left on Camp Stewart Road and the course is down
on the right about 1 mile - 4801 Camp Stewart Road.
Turn onto Hamilton Jones to get to parking lot.

For tee times call

704-545-4653
Larkhavengolf.com

Canadian Adam Hadwin tames River Run to win 2014 Chiquita Classic

By Sam Smith

Canadian Adam Hadwin has enjoyed playing away from his Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan home and has earned a PGA playing card in the process with a victory in the 2014 Chiquita Classic, and earlier in the Chile Classic.

Playing in the final group of the day with his closest rivals John Peterson, former NCAA Individual Champion, and third-round leader Greg Chalmers, Hadwin charged out of the box with back-to-back birdies on the first two holes at Run River Country Club to take the lead.

Following three pars, Hadwin birdied the 6th hole to go 17-under par, but lost a stroke at #8 with a bogey to make the turn one shot up on Peterson, who also had 3 birdies and a bogey on the front side. Hadwin's birdie at the #11 turned out to be the clinching score, before he and Peterson both birdied the par-4 16th. Hadwin parred



the final two holes to finish with a 4-under 68 and an 18-under par total of 270.

"I was nervous the whole day. I just trusted my golf swing, trusted the shots that I saw and stayed aggressive," Hadwin stated.

The 26-year old had a total of 8 top-10 finishes to go with his two wins and finished second behind Carlos Ortiz on the Web.com top-25 money list with just under

\$500K, which included the \$180K check from Chiquita. The top-25 players automatically received their PGA playing card for the 2015 season.

John Peterson claimed his third career runner-up finish



on the Web.com Tour, with a closing round of 3-under 69 and a minus-16 score. Tom Hoge shot 4-under 68 and ended in third at 15-under 273.

Following in his dad's footsteps, who played on the PGA Canadian Tour in the late 70's and early 80's, young Hadwin turned pro after playing four years at Louisville. Turning pro in 2009, he almost made Canadian history in the 2011 RBC Canadian Open.

No Canadian had won their country's tournament since Pat Fletcher did it in 1954. Hadwin had a legitimate shot at becoming the first Canadian to win the country's national open since Mike Weir lost in a playoff to Vijay Singh in 2004.

Costly miscues in the final round resulted in a fourth place finish for Hadwin, but a load of confidence that he would soon be ready to play regularly on the PGA Tour.

He narrowly missed getting his playing card in 2012, and a mixed year in 2013 led him to change his preparation for the 2014 season. His hard work paid off with his two victories and eight top-10 finishes on the Web.com Tour and more importantly, fulfilled his life-long dream of playing as a regular on the PGA Tour.

OCTOBER 13 - 19

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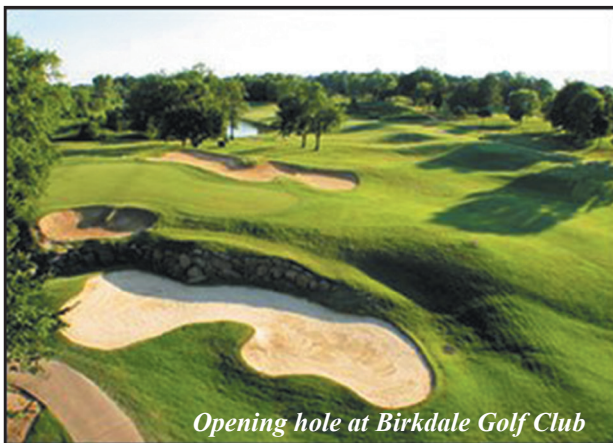
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Traditional Golf bringing luster back to Birkdale Golf Club

Arnold Palmer's only daily-fee golf course in Charlotte

By Sam Smith

Arnold Palmer is a legend in the golf business, from his historic PGA days that played a major role in the growth of golf, to his golf course design skills. Arnie has designed more than 300 courses worldwide, but the only daily-fee course in the Charlotte area is Birkdale Golf Club in Huntersville.



Opening hole at Birkdale Golf Club

With a new management company - Traditional Golf - directing the day-to-day operations, Birkdale certainly has made a striking turn-around after a year and a half of financial difficulties. The company's business strategy is centered on creating customer loyalty including superior service, enhanced course conditions, and tracking the usage and spending habits of their customers.

Improving staff and restocking the Birkdale pro shop gives golfers a very positive first impression. However, it's the on-course changes that are drawing most of the attention as players return to enjoy the challenging 7,000 yard, par-72 layout that opened to rave reviews in 1997.

Located on 200 acres of rolling terrain, carved between tall pines and natural streams, Birkdale is made up of Bermuda fairways and Crenshaw bent grass greens.

New turf equipment & maintenance vehicles have helped make noticeable improvements with more consistent mowing and grooming of greens and fairways.

"We have been able to restart the pre-emergence program on the golf course which will provide for a cleaner, weed-free golf course throughout the golf season," said Mike Riddle, Regional Vice President for Traditional Golf Management. "Our complete renovation of all 64 bunkers on the golf course is about 50% completed, and a regular aerification schedule of our greens has already shown excellent results."

Even with its length, Palmer used the four sets of tee at Birkdale to mix the big "grip-it-and-rip-it" holes with shorter shot-maker holes to test your course management and game strategy. The course features a number of elevation changes, which are appealing to the eye and adds to the challenge. Well-placed water hazards require players to use every shot in their bag.

Many holes have doglegs and a couple of short par-4's are almost drive-able. The par 3 holes are all solid challenges, while two tough holes feature watery approach



First hole at Birkdale Golf Club is a 309 yard par-4 that leads you to an elevated green protect by large stone was and sand trap on left.

shots into well guarded greens. One is the 569yd par-5 5th hole where your 3rd shot must carry water over a rock-faced wall to a long, narrow green.

Still another good water approach shot comes on the 436 yard, par-4 18th into another long right-to-left sloping green that is well guarded in both front and back by



Birkdale's par-4 18th hole is very picturesque and is one of the better finishing holes in the Greater Charlotte area.

large well-conditioned bunkers. This hole looks great from the clubhouse patio, but it will certainly keep your attention to the final shot of the day.

"This golf course is blessed with "good bones" providing a solid foundation for our improvement efforts," said Jeff Thomas, Birkdale Golf Club General Manager. "Many of the players are complimenting our staff on the upgrading of the condition of the course and we are all

very happy to see Birkdale getting back in form."

Improving your game can also be fun at Birkdale. Their practice area includes a 10-acre lighted driving range with Bermuda grass tees, short-game area and putting green. New golf balls and new mats for wet weather have been added, while a new top-of-the-line ball picker helps provide a very ample supply of practice balls well into the evening hours.

Birkdale has several meeting and reception spaces including two conference rooms that are ideal for small meetings and lunches. The 5,000 square foot Palmer Pavilion is a perfect choice for wedding receptions and large events, seating up to 200 guests. The entire perimeter is lined with French doors allowing for an open, outdoor feel without ever going outside.

Arnie's Tavern, located in the main clubhouse has also seen improvements with a new daily menu and the addition of seven new television sets that will keep you updated with the latest sports news and games while enjoying an excellent full meal or just a snack.



Birkdale Golf Club provides an outstanding daily fee golf experience that should be a part of your fall golf plans. Contact the pro shop at 704-895-838 for tee times, membership information or to set up an outing. Or log-on at www.birkdale.com

Birkdale Golf Club Fall Rates

Monday - Friday: \$49
after 2 pm \$39
after 5 pm \$29

Saturday, Sunday & Holidays: \$59
after 2 pm \$49
after 5 pm \$35

Seniors (over 60) M-F: \$29
Juniors (15 and under) M-F: \$25

Replay M-F: \$29
Saturday - Sunday: \$35



Golf tip for mastering the short putt

Mike LaPierre

Associate Golf Professional - Skybrook Golf Club

We have all experienced the feeling of hitting a great approach shot or a beautifully blasted bunker shot to a few feet only to miss the three footer!

First we need to understand that most short putts are missed due to deceleration, when we slow the putter down through impact it causes the putter face to open or close sending the ball off line. Here is a great tip to solve this problem.

First take a tee place it one putter head length directly behind the golf ball. Start making putting strokes without letting your putter hit the tee; concentrate on accelerating your putter through the stroke. You should feel as if your putter is following the ball towards the hole. Spend the last 5 minutes of your warm-up session before a round doing this and I promise you will no longer fear the dreaded knee knocker!

Another way to save shots on the green is to become an excellent lag putter.

The traditional way of thinking about putting is to create a "triangle" from your shoulders to your arms and rocking this triangle throughout the stroke. The issue with this idea is there is a tendency (during long putts) to make a very long stroke creating head and/or body movement. There becomes an inconsistency in contact and speed control.

On long lag putts I prefer to see a shorter back stroke with a slight hinge in the right wrist. Then on your forward stroke the right wrist should flatten causing a little "Hit" at impact. This allows for feel and rhythm in your long lag putts, key components to getting your ball close to the hole!

Remember the most important component to playing great golf is having a great attitude!! Enjoy the game!

Contact Mike LaPierre at Skybrook Golf Club at 704-948-6611 or logon at www.skybrookgolf.com



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TROON GOLF

Greensboro's Wyndham Championship celebrates 75 years of golf history

Camilo Villegas wins 2014 title

By Sam Smith

In 1938 the Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro joined a fledgling group of area businessmen in launching what was first called the Greater Greensboro Open. With the commitment of drawing the top three players of the day: Sam Snead, Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson, the longest running non-major PGA golf tournament became a reality.

Sedgefield Country Club, a Donald Ross masterpiece, hosted the GGO from 1938 until 1977 when the event moved to Forest Oaks Country Club for a 21-year run. Wyndham Worldwide took over as title sponsor in 2007, and moved back to Sedgefield a year later.

Sam Snead and the Greater Greensboro Open became linked in history, from the beginning, all the way up to 1965 when he won his 8th GGO title at the age of 52, the oldest person ever to win on the PGA Tour. Snead's eight victories came over a span of four decades. The current Wyndham Championship trophy is now known as the – Sam Snead Cup.



Hogan used his North Carolina experience to launch his brilliant career, winning his first title at Pinehurst



the week before his 1940 GGO victory. He followed that by winning the Sky Open at Asheville a week later, making it three wins in a row.

Nelson collected back-to-back birdies on the final two holes to capture the 1941 GGO, and returned in 1945 to win again.

That victory was the third of his historic eleven straight PGA Tour titles, a record that still stands today.

In adding his name to the list of winners at Greensboro, 2014 Wyndham Championship winner Camilo Villegas of Colombia, captured his first win since the 2010 Honda

Classic by posting record numbers over the 7,100 yards par-71 layout. With an eagle and four birdies, Villegas posted a career low front nine score and tied the tournament record for low front nine score at Sedgefield C.C. with 29 in route to a final round 63 to finish at 17-under par for the tournament. Villegas finished with rounds of 63-69-68-63=263.

The 2014 part of history produced by Villegas and the young PGA pros this year will be a vital addition to the golf stories of the Greater Greensboro Open, now the Wyndham Championship. However, three names will always be associated with its beginning when they talk golf in the Carolinas: Snead, Hogan and Nelson...and who knows, their ghosts might still be lurking behind the pines watching the young fellows play.



Villegas takes a selfie with the Sam Snead Cup after his win at Wyndham

Sand Escape Artist

By Julie Cole

Managing Partner, Dana Rader Golf Schools

Photos courtesy of The Bissell Companies

On golf courses everywhere the words ring out, “Don’t hit it in the bunker”! Here’s the scenario: You approach the greenside bunker and you find the ball resting on hard packed sand. With a sigh of relief, you say to yourself, “at least I am not buried in the lip.” Many golf courses have hard packed sand leaving the difficult decision of how to get the ball out. You may try two different shots on these lies.

With the proper set-up and mechanics these shots are safe and simple. Here is how to execute them.

“Putt it out!” First, play it safe and “putt it out” if the lip is not more than 4 inches high and the sand is firm all the way on your line to the hole. Take your normal putting stance and place the ball centered, hover the club above the sand slightly and lean the handle about one inch in front of the ball. Place a small amount of weight on the left foot. Here



is the “secret”.... You must hit “through” the ball, without using your wrists. By leading the handle ahead of the ball on a descending blow, the putter will finish low to the ground on the follow-through. (Think of leaning a broom handle forward to sweep dust into a dust pan.)



“Pitch it out!” It seems counter-intuitive, but use a pitching wedge instead of a sand wedge to “pitch it cleanly” out of the sand.

Why? This eliminates the bounce on the bottom of the club that can cause it to dig too much into the sand. The lip can be 3 feet high and you can still get this shot out.



Starting with set-up position, grip slightly down on the club about an inch. Place the ball position middle and your weight slightly forward so there is no weight shift in the back swing. Position the butt (the handle) of the club well ahead of the ball.



The key to this shot is leading the hands, arms and shaft ahead of the ball through impact to “pick it clean” taking no sand behind the ball. This requires a swing only about waist high to waist high to extricate the ball from the sand.

Do not use a wrist hinge and be sure to swing low through the ball. The ball will fly out low, it’ll run and it will clear the bunker.



“Buried in the lip!” If you do find yourself buried in the lip of soft sand, don’t fear, you can get it out. You may or may not be able to go for the pin, but you can get the ball out.

My advice for the average

player is to “close” the clubface for this shot. Stand with one leg in the bunker and one leg on the bank, with the ball centered. There is no follow-through on this shot. The club will be excessively closed at set up and you will drive the club into the bank of the bunker about one inch behind the ball.



Keep the club “closed” throughout the stroke. The sand wedge will act like a shovel and pop the ball straight up the lip and onto the green.

Do a little experimenting with these shots. Your playing partners will think you are Houdini escaping out of the sand! Contact Julie Cole to improve your sand shots, call 704-542-7635 or visit www.danarader.com.



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BMW Charity Pro-Am raises \$836,883 for local Upstate charities

The upstate of South Carolina is home to the BMW Charity Pro-Am and through the efforts of the Web.com tour, more than \$10.8 million has been raised for local charities. These funds are part of the PGA TOUR's more than \$2 billion in all-time charitable contributions.

The 2014 event raised \$836,883 for Upstate charities and officials from South Carolina Charities, Inc. - the non-profit organization that manages the BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation - presented checks to charity representatives at the Charity Check Presentation held in downtown Greenville.

"To have a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event right here in the Upstate that also produces real results for local charities is a win-win for our community," said Bob Nitto, president of South Carolina Charities, Inc. "

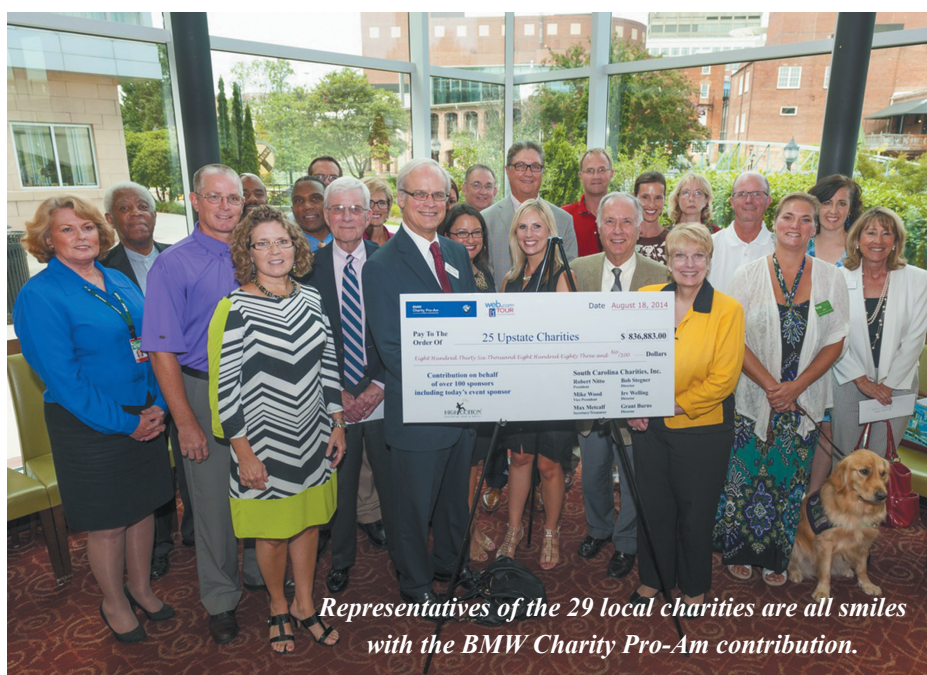
"Reaching \$10.8 million for charity in just 14 years is a

huge milestone for the tournament - that is gratifying in many ways. I look forward to what 2015 will bring."

The pro champion of the 2014 tournament was Max Homa who fired a bogey-free, 8-under 63 in the final round to win the tournament and earn his first career title on the Web.com Tour. Homa started the final round at Thornblade Club two shots off the pace but charged into contention with an eagle and two birdies in his first four holes and went on to finish at a 20-under 266, one better than Jonathan Randolph (63), who posted his 19-under total and was hoping for a possible playoff.

The 2015 tournament, featuring Web.com players teamed with celebrity guests, will take place May 14 -17 and will once again be played at Thornblade Club, The Reserve at Lake Keowee and Green Valley Country Club.

For more information about the BMW Charity Pro-Am call 864-297-1660 or visit bmwcharitygolf.com.



Representatives of the 29 local charities are all smiles with the BMW Charity Pro-Am contribution.

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RedTail Mountain Resort

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