

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



REPORTER

January 19, 2016

Ron Green, Jr.
A Journalist's look at the PGA Tour



Ron Green, Jr. gave an entertaining and informative talk about his favorite subject of golf. Bill Gill made the introduction of the Charlotte native, who was one of a select few to see Jimi Hendrix opening for the Monkees' 1967 Summer Tour at what is now the Bojangles Coliseum. He survived the experience, and went on to work at papers in Chapel Hill, Greenville, and of course the Charlotte Observer. He

now writes for the Global Golf Post, "*The first designed-for-digital weekly golf news publication in the world.*"

As we all expected, he opened his talk about golf with politics, and recounted a story about playing with Donald Trump and Greg Norman at the Trump National here in Charlotte. He then went on to talk about his current job, which largely involves traveling from tournament to tournament and writing about them, and the golfers.

Ron finds that the game of golf is in a good place and that while it continues to take too much time and cost too much money to be a game for everyone, it is in a sustainable niche and is growing in popularity. The pro game, which is different golf than the game amateurs play, is being reinvigorated by the arrival of the next generation of great golfers, personified by the likes of Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth.

He talked about the importance of golf to Charlotte, where the Wachovia/Wells Fargo Classic at Quail Hollow set a new standard for PGA tournaments. The pros love to come here because the tournament is so well done; and the crowds and the media follow the pro golfers. As much positive attention as the tournament has brought to Charlotte, what has gone before will be nothing to the exposure the City will get from hosting the PGA Championship next August. The attention is likely to continue going forward, with the President's Cup tournament being here in 2021, and the PGA Championship likely to return.

Ron then related a number of stories about golf and golfers, including riding in a cart with Tiger Woods at the Quicken Loans National, which Tiger hosts. Tiger was not able to play, and he and Ron ended up following Jordan Spieth! He then related a story about the annual nighttime visit to the graves of Old and Young Tom Morris in the graveyard of St. Andrews Cathedral during the Open Championship.

Ron noted that the game of golf shows you a lot about people.

He was asked about whether the professionals looked at the game as a job or as fun. He observed that while some of the pros regard the tour as being a job, most of the greats always find the fun of the game in what they do. They are always eager to get to Sunday afternoon in a position to win, while some seem to

be afraid of Sunday afternoon.

He related a story about David Clark, who lost his 19 year-old daughter in a wreck, caused by a drunken driver, and found his solace playing links courses, especially those near the ocean. He played all 289 links courses in the United Kingdom, and has written a book about his experiences, "My Long Walk with Sally," that Ron strongly recommends.

He was asked which golfers on the tour were the most fun, and listed Phil Mickelson, Ricky Fowler, Keegan Bradley, and Rorie McIlroy. No one needed to ask which golf reporter was the most fun. Warm Rotary thanks to Ron!

Speaker Write Up: Rick Handford; Head Table: Jerry Coughter, Cindy Wolfe, Tom Bartholomy, Bill Gill, Joan Wright, Claire Fallon; Invocation: Nancy McNelis; Visitors & Guests: Ed Wadsworth; Song: Luke Maybry; Health, Happiness & History: Matt Joyner; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

Club News

ONE MORE TIME....A host family is needed for Radim (Myers Park High School student) covering March 1 to May 31. Ed Wadsworth (ed@wadsworthgroup.net) is anxious to hear from you!

Nan and **Bill Loftin** have announced the engagement of daughter Martha to Adam Snell. A June wedding is planned in Blowing Rock; **Lynn Johnson** is recovering from hip replacement surgery; **Lisa Mask** has returned to Rotary and is looking great; **Amy Burkett** and **Dale Halton** attended WTVI's Downton Abbey Preview Party held December 17; **Herb Harriss** presented a vintage Salvation Army bonnet to Major **Larry Broome** with a challenge to determine the timeframe.

All are invited to the Super Bowl party at SMS Catering – February 7. \$15 per person; Rotarians are free (if you pay the \$15 it will be donated to The Rotary Foundation). RSVP to 704-536-1500.

The February issue of The Rotarian Magazine is worth a read to learn about Rotary Peace Fellows. Did you know club member **Patricia Shafer** was our District's first Peace Fellow!

100 CLUB PROJECTS

Everyone's help is needed to (1) volunteer and (2) recommend a project. REMEMBER to report your volunteer hours to the Rotary office.

- John zumBrunnen reported 18 **platelet donations** have been made by 9 Rotarians. If you have made a platelet donation, be sure you let John know (jzumbrunnen@numbrunnen.com).

- **Scouting For Food** is the Boy Scouts of America's annual food drive to benefit Loaves & Fishes. The dates are February 6 & 7 and volunteers are needed to sort food Saturday from 10-1 and 1-4; Sunday 12:30 – 2:30. Volunteers will help receive donations, sort items, get donations onto trucks, recycle bags & boxes, etc. Volunteers are also needed to collect & sort food at the Arboretum Town Center Shopping Center or Sharon United Methodist Church. Contact Greg Sizemore: greg.sizemore@trade.gov.

- Jamie Kimble **Women for Courage** annual luncheon will be held April 13. Table hosts count toward our 100 projects effort. Contact Claire Samuels, claire@jkffc.org for hosting information; **Terri DeBoo** for sponsorship information, terri@jkffc.org.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (01/20/16 – 01/26/16)

01/20 Wangzhong Lu, Fred Brown, Tony Zeiss

01/24 Chase Saunders, Benton Bragg, Dan Rajkowski, Michael Orzech

01/25 Davan Cloninger

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (01/20/16 – 01/26/16)

Visitors & Guests	12
Club Members	173
Total	185
Percentage	63.8%

MEMBERSHIP

06/30/2015 319

01/19/2016 311

Net Increase: -8

New Members:

Resignations: Tom Hutchins, Jeff Jackson, Bob Denson, Frank Horan, Harry Jones

Visitors: Bryan Taylor, Paul Betzold, Rob Wright, Valerie Crockett, Logan Mauldin, Laura Belcher, Ivy Gill, Kevin Caldwell, Jessica Otto, Ryan Taylor

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS (www.charlotterotary.org and click on the events tab)

01/26 – Brent Cagle, Director, Charlotte Mecklenburg Airport (**MYERS PARK C. CLUB**)

02/02 – Ann Clark, Superintendent, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

02/09 – Nancy Fey-Yensan, Dean of the College of Health & Human Services, UNCC

02/16 – Representative Dean Arp, NC Bond Package

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on Flickr [Click here](#)



