

# 2017 GCS gathering sets stage for an exciting New Year

There was something in the air at the 2017 annual general meeting and trade show in Southern Pines. I know because I'm still shaking off one of the worst colds I've had in a couple years. Caught it there. (Don't worry, I don't think I was infectious until after I left.) But it wasn't the annoying virus that was in the air, it was the buzz of the collectors, guests, and the many Society of Hickory Golfers members who were on hand that made it a high-energy, value-packed show in the middle of America's great golf resort of Pinehurst.

Hosts Mike Daniels and Bob Hansen did an outstanding job of organizing, and many thanks to all the 2017 committee members. They prepared exhibitor space for more than 100 tables and arranged special hours for visits to the Tufts Archives where its director, Audrey Moriarty, led GCS visitors on a tour of Pinehurst and Donald Ross artifacts and documents. They also visited The Old Golf Shop Gallery (managed by Hansen and Daniels) as well as Tom Stewart's Old Sport and Gallery.

There was so much more. Region 6 Director Pete League penned the following summary for members in his area, and I think we'll share them as his enthusiasm for the event speaks for itself. (My remarks follow Pete's in parenthesis.)

## New GCS President

"Jim Jeselnick of Indiana was installed as president by Director-At-Large John Capers III. John filled in for our immediate-Past President John Fisher who was unable to participate. Fischer was tending to his son who developed a serious health issue. I look forward to witnessing some progressive changes to the GCS during the coming months/years, especially with regard to marketing our "brand" and recruiting new members." (John Fischer reports that his son, Leonard, is much better now and thanks all of you for your thoughts.)

## New GCS Executive Director

"This was the first annual meeting to be managed by our new Executive Director Pete Georgiady. I am excited about the prospects for the future of the GCS after having witnessed Pete in action. He needs no introduction, of course, to anyone with more than a year or two involvement in golf collecting. He has the savvy, the collecting experience, and the administrative know-how to get things done; plus the necessary responsiveness, the energy (ten-fold!!), and outstanding enthusiasm for the job – a perfect fit!"

## Formal presentations

Dr. Frank Stableford

"Graeme Ryan of Australia traveled to Mid Pines and made an outstanding presentation on the life and contributions of Dr. Frank Stableford, the man who formulated his system of scoring points in 1931. There is a recently published book on this man: Stableford – A Life in Golf, Medicine and War, by Robert 'Bob' Edwards. Well done."

(Ryan also made a pitch for Stableford's inclusion in the World Golf Hall of Fame, a pitch that did not fall on deaf ears, for Dr. Tony Parker, curator at the WGHoF, was in the audience. Parker promised that Stableford would get a complete hearing on the matter of inclusion into the hall. Long overdue honor? Perhaps, but then Dr. Parker has only been on the job for a couple of years.)

## Top Golf Illustrators

"Region 3 Director Dick McDonough, co-author with Pete Georgiady of the fine work, Great Golf Collections of The World, shared his research on the top 10 golf illustrators in history. This was one of the best researched presentations I have witnessed in some time. Outstanding job by Dick."

(We promised to work with Dick to get his presentation posted to the website, or in a future Bulletin. Dick, who has a world-class collection of illustrations, described each illustrator in the context of his era and his contributions. Many had a few hundreds of magazine covers to their credit and their original works, if you can find them, fetch breathtaking auction prices.)

## The GCS Championship

"Jeremy Wright of Louisville kicked butt. He shot an outstanding 73 on a very tough Mid Pines course. This game is too tough for my pitiful ability."

(Pete is too hard on himself. The course played tough this year, as the Pinehurst area was in the midst of an unusual cold snap. Bright sunshine helped but scores were a bit high. Wright's score, with hickories, was a testament to solid approach shots and accurate putting, remarkable on those quick Donald Ross greens. Wright, as many of you know, is the new owner of Louisville Golf.)

## The Banquet

Pete forgot to mention the banquet, but he was probably busy enjoying the company at his table, the honoring of the GCS's own centenarian Frank Hardison, the installation of Jim Jeselnick as the new president, the exuberance of the auction of several items by PBA's Greg Jung with the able help of his lovely? assistant Jim Jeselnick, and the inspiring and enjoyable talk by Sidney Matthew on his hero, Robert Tyre Jones Jr. The food was excellent. The on-stage auction was part of the silent auction that raised nearly \$3,500 toward the Bulletin archive project. As well, medals and honors were presented to the top golfers from the day's contest.

## Trade Show

Pete says, "It looked like about 80 or so tables (didn't count them) in the two large rooms available to us. Plenty of eye candy! Lots of action! I came home with a nice green plaid golf bag and a 1930 Life Magazine with a wonderful golf illustration (this was published shortly after Bob Jones completed his Grand Slam so the golf theme was timely and significant. Original price was 10 cents. I paid a little more than 10 cents."

(I talked with several people before I had to leave the show – too early! – at noon. Some thought it relatively light in action, others, like Pete, thought it an active show. So, it all depended on your perspective. I came away with two books for my research library, Herbert Warren Wind's The Story of American Golf and The Architects of Golf by Cornish and Whitten. Both were good buys courtesy of Ron Lyons, who, by the way, has finished his long promised book on his golf car collection. I was honored to receive a review copy and will prepare one for the March Bulletin. It is a beauty, though, and exudes Ron's enthusiasm for his hobby from every page.)

From the trade show to the golf outing, to the presentations, this was one of the more engaging of GCS meetings. Everywhere you looked, long-time friends were hailing one another, there was laughter and excitement and beautiful items to ogle on the trade tables.

Messers. Hansen and Daniels set a high bar, but I expect that the 2018 meeting Oct. 11-13 at St. Augustine and the World Golf Hall of Fame will have its own special flavor and excitement. I definitely plan to be there.



Graeme Ryan, left, and Dick McDonough were presenters at the annual general meeting in the Pine Needles conference center.



Incoming GCS President Jim Jeselnick, left, is shown with new vice president, Bern Bernacki. At right, Jim is pictured with new executive director, Pete Georgiady.



Dr. Bern Bernacki, left, and Gillian Alexander hold a First Tee sign following their presentation to the membership on youth activities for golf collecting and hickory golf.



Patti Pittinger and John Hutton check out the lots before the PBA auction on Sunday evening of the weekend.



Golfers in the Monday outing at Mid Pines included this handsome foursome. From left: Carol and Pat Mikovich of Ft. Myers, Fla., Shawn Blenik of Elma, N.Y., and Steve Carney, also from Elma, N.Y.



Elder GCS statesman Frank Hardison, left, was honored at the banquet. Keynote speaker Sidney Matthew, right, spoke eloquently about the legacy of Robert "Bobby" Jones Jr.



One of two rooms that held more than 100 tables. Exhibitors were just getting set up when this photo was taken. The two rooms were busy all day with active buying and selling. Any trading going on?



John and Holly Butler were happy collectors at the trade show, having found a lovely set of golf-themed china made by the Syracuse China Co. in the early '50s. They paid Jim Dreyer \$175 for a set of eight, all in excellent condition.



The Golf Channel paid a visit to the Tuesday trade show, talking with exhibitors and guests, filming bits that may be included in a documentary to be shown at some undetermined future date.



East, West, and Down Under. The 2017 annual trade show was a happy confluence of influential collectors and golf historians from around the globe. From left, Philip Truett, former president of the British Golf Collectors Society; Graeme Ryan, publisher and president of the Australian Golf Heritage Society; Jim Jeselnick, president of the GCS; and Wayne King, president of the China GCS. Now there is a foursome!

## 2017 GCS Golf Championship Results

Mike Daniels reports there were 18 groups for the annual tournament, which was not so many that most got around the Mid Pines course in about four hours. Jeremy Wright, pictured at right, proved he had what it takes to score well on this challenging Donald Ross layout. His 73 took the day and overall honors. Congratulations to all the award winners.



**Women's and Steel Division.** From left: Gayle Crosby, second in the Women's Division; Gillian Alexander, first in the Women's Division; Holly Butler, second in the Steel Division; and Graeme Ryan, first in the Steel Division.



**Open Division.** From left: Joe Bodnar, third net; Andy Moye, second net; John Crow Miller, first net; Pat Mikovich, third gross; Kirk Watson, second gross; and Jeremy Wright, first gross.



**Seniors Division.** From left: Bern Bernacki, third net; Randy Condit, second net; Ron Periman, first net; Bill Geisler, third gross; and John Hutton, first gross. Not pictured is Richard Phinney, second gross.



**Statesmen Division.** From left: Buck Barrie, first net; Charles Mitchell, second net; Mike Leatherman, third net; Michael Shift, first gross; William Fry, second gross; and Jim Williams, third gross.



**Scramble Groups.** From left: Russ Fisher and Glen Moore in third place; Ron Lyons, Patty Pittinger, Brad Baird, and Dave Blocksidge in second place; and Chris Howe, Elaine and Stan Lapidus in first place. Missing from the photo is Jim Dreyer who was part of the third place team with Fisher and Moore.