

# Who Are The 50 Best Golf Teachers?

The August edition of *Golf Magazine* has a cover story on "The Best Golf Teachers in America." I was left off their list, but I know why. As you might guess, I read everything I can get my hands on about teaching the game of golf. I tend to classify certain periodicals, such as *Golf Magazine* as instruction by cliché. As a result I examine them carefully to include the photographs that accompany their instruction.

When I find what I believe is an error or a misleading bit of information in one of these periodicals, it is my habit to write them and tell them why I think it is wrong. Most of the offensive errors occur in the photographs. I have become convinced that most golf periodicals either pose the "swing" photos or they shoot a whole lot of pictures and then pick ones to illustrate their point.

By carefully examining photos of a swing sequence you will often notice a change in the background of the pictures. A tree or a bush has suddenly moved a couple of feet to the right or left in the middle of the model's swing. I have seen swing sequences in which the width of the model's stance has changed. I makes you wonder if he may not have a different club in his hand.

In one magazine several years ago the swing model actually changed his shirt somewhere between the top of his swing and his follow-through.

In the follow-through or finish photo he was still wearing a white shirt, but it had a different logo than did the other photos. Strange, but true.

Back to *Golf Magazine's* "Top 50." In their story they indicate that their selection was made after interviewing players, instructors and other leading lights. Here again let me emphasize that they certainly did not interview me, despite the fact that I have subscribed to their periodical for more than 20 years. But that is OK. I can't truthfully say that I do not know 50 golf teachers, so my stuff would have run thin after a very few recommendations.

## New Teaching Staff

Their story focused on and introduced the seven members of their new teaching staff: Phil Ritson, Dick Farley, John Gerring, Dick Harmon, Jim McLean, Shelby Futch and Johnny Myers. Don't feel bad, I didn't recognize all the names either. Phil Ritson, who was the LPGA Teacher of the Year in 1983 has a nice little lesson on how to put spin on a pitch shot.

Dick Farley correlates the swing to tossing a baseball. That's OK, I guess, but I know a lot of guys who don't know how to throw a baseball either.

Also on the list are some well known teachers: Jimmy Ballard, Peggy Kirk Bell, Jim Flick, Hank Haney, Peter Kostis, David Leadbetter, Bob Toski and Gary Wren. There is one guy named Craig Shankland who coaches Beth Daniels. If he is that good, you would think he would change his name.

He just might get another student.

They also included one guy from Foxfire in Pinehurst, Paul Bertholy.

I have read a lot of his instruction and he seems to be hung up on training aids. To me, you have got to be a Yo Yo to try to teach the golf swing with brooms, mops, flagpoles and pipes. Those things are all heavier and longer than any golf club I have ever seen. He must have some kind of clue, however; he has given a lot of lessons and still gets published.

## The Peter Kostis Straight Jacket

Peter Kostis is another teacher who gets off on some strange apparatus and gizmos. He has developed a swing trainer which is a couple of circular plastic tubes with a slot between them which you try swing through without touching the tubes. I have seen him demonstrate it on TV.

Let me tell you, with your arms in one plane, the club in another and the shoulders in a third, that gizmo must be a real brain paralyzer. Plus, how do you adjust that thing to compensate for differences in height, length of arms, length of legs, length of clubs, etc? They have got to be kidding.

I just happen to believe that golf should be learned standing on the ground, swinging a real club, hitting a real ball and relying on motor skills learned under real circumstances.

I have also seen Kostis on TV trying to analyze a slow motion swing of one the pros who has just launched a shot into the weeds. He falls into the same trap as other "slo-mo" analysts who invariably fall back on some teaching cliché. "Oh, oh, see where he came off the ball". "Look closely and you will see him spin out with his hips." "Watch his hands and you will see they are clearly ahead of club." Heck, I thought that the hands were always ahead of the club right up to and in some cases beyond impact.

I should not be so critical, however. It is apparent to most of us that golfing clichés are in the toolbox of all good teachers of the game. After all, if they did not have some way to generalize a description of what ails our games, they would not be able to fix it. I just wish that they would admit that they are guessing and experimenting like the rest of us.



## Cypress Bay Golf Club

Wednesday  
Captain's Choice

Call by 2 pm on Wednesday & be paired by Club.

5 pm Tee Off - 9 holes \$20<sup>00</sup>

Includes Green Fee-Golf Cart, Cook Out & Prizes

(803)249-1025 For Details

Hwy. 17, Little River, SC

BB1



## Re-Introducing Cypress Bay Golf Club

Remodeled Clubhouse - 19th Hole Restaurant  
Deck - Cart Paths - Many More Improvements

Before 11 AM

\$27 Green Fee & Golf Cart

After 11 AM

\$20 Green Fee & Golf Cart

Free Sleeve Of 3 Golf Balls With This  
Coupon To Play The Remodeled  
Cypress Bay Golf Club For Each Customer

Hwy. 17, Little River, SC, (803)249-1025 Expires 7/31/91

10% Discount Off Merchandise In Golf Shop  
With This Coupon

Memberships Available \$50 Off With This Coupon  
Quail Creek Cypress Bay Indigo Creek

# Ruth's Renegades Count Even Holes Only

Members of Ruth's Renegades golf group used half of their handicaps and counted scores on even-numbered holes only when they competed last Thursday at Carolina Shores and Brierwood.

Top finishers at Carolina Shores were Peg Steiner with a 33, Betty O'Rourke with a 35 and Evelyn Wuthrich with a 36.

Elaine Haddock had the overall low gross with a 116 and low net with 78. Lois Hargreaves had a chip-in at the third hole.

At Brierwood, Dot Frey chipped in at the 16th hole and had the low net with a 33.5.

Alice Struck birdied the third hole and placed second with a net 37. Ruth Jacobs finished third with a 38.5.

Marion Corbin had the overall low gross with a 95 and low net with 63.

## Brierwood Men

The foursome of Paul Dunfee, Al Hierman, Jerry Smith and Paul Keeley fired a 15-under-par score of 129 to win the Brierwood Men's Golf Association best ball tournament last Thursday.

On July 8, Paul Keeley won the men's point system tournament with six points. Al Hierman was second with five points.

Al Butler, Hank Culp and Dave Harper tied for third place with three points each.

## Sea Trail Men

Doug Mehne fired a gross 86 and Dick Zinzer shot net 66 to win the Sea Trail Men's Golf Association tournament last week.

Thirty members and three guests competed in the red, white and blue event on the Jones course.

Runners-up were John Walker with gross 87 and Bill Burkart with net 66.

## Brierwood Homeowners

Two teams tied for first place in

## GOLFING ACTION

the Brierwood Homeowners two best ball tournament July 7.

The team of John and Joan Cowie and Bob and Pierrette Tompkins shot 113 to tie the foursome of Odie and Marian Johnson and Neal and Julie McCall.

Finishing three strokes back in second place was the foursome of Roy and Dede Havenga and Bill and Ann Polson.

## Sea Trail Ladies

Louisa Nicol fired the low gross of 93 and Marge Gallop had the low net of 76 in the Sea Trail Ladies Golf Association tournament last week.

Runners-up in the low gross category were Rita Bilz with 101 and Betty Street with 103.

Top scorers in the low net division were Nin Consalvi with 78 and Shirley Helmke with an 81.

## Brierwood Ladies

Ginger Sugrue shot a net 27 to claim top honors in the first flight in the Brierwood Ladies Golf Association tournament last week.

Golfers used half of their handicaps and counted scores on even-numbered holes on the front nine and odd-numbered holes on the back nine.

Runners-up in the top flight were Rose Reiter and Mary Schack with scores of net 28. Nearle Einstein and Vera McCabe tied for low putts with 30.

Esther Smith chipped in at the fourth hole and won the second flight with a net 28. Maureen Farley was second with 28.5, and Jane Flieg had low putts with 30.

In the third flight, Dot Frey led the way with a 28.5, followed by Pierrette Tompkins with net 29. Lucille Martin had low putts with 30.

During the round, Emily Laughlin chipped in at the 16th hole. Birdies were carded by Marje Roach at the second hole and Mrs. McCabe at the 11th.

## Brierwood Ninettes

Loretta Zderad shot 24 to win the Brierwood Ninettes golf tournament last Friday by one stroke.

Golfers dropped scores on their

two worst holes and used one-fourth of their handicaps in the nine-hole event.

Runners-up were Liz Bruce, Judy Durham, Helene Baker and Pat Narazinski, all with scores of 25.

Shirley Eifert parred the fourth hole, and Mrs. Zderad parred the ninth. Low putts winners were Mrs. Baker with 14 and Mrs. Durham with 16.

'One of the  
10 best golf courses  
in the world.'  
*Golf Magazine*

**OCEAN HARBOUR**  
GOLF LINKS

**Super Summer Special**  
GOOD THRU AUGUST, 1991

GREEN FEE ..\$25	FREE CART WITH 3-DAY PASS \$75 with coupon
------------------	---

©1991 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Calabash  
NC (919)579-3588 • SC (803)448-8398

## MORE GOLF FOR LESS GREEN

Presented By:  
**Carolina Shores & River Oaks**

### 18 HOLE GOLF SPECIALS TO SUIT YOUR TIME AND POCKET

Both courses ranked in Myrtle Beaches top five

2 Players For \$50.  
Tee Time Reservations before 12:00 noon

2 Players For \$40.  
Tee Time Reservations 12 noon-5 pm

2 Players For \$30.  
Tee Time Reservations after 5 pm

**BACK NINE ONLY**  
Early Bird Special • 2 Players for \$20  
Tee Time Reservations Before 7:30  
All rates include power cart

CALL NOW FOR RESERVATIONS

CAROLINA SHORES  
(803) 448-2657 • (919) 579-2181  
RIVER OAKS (803) 236-2222

Tee times can be made up to 72 hours (maximum) in advance • Offer valid only with coupon. Offer Expires August 31, 1991.

## Attention Golfers:

- **SUMMER SPECIAL**  
Play All Day—  
leave and return ... **\$28.00**
- **AFTER 12 NOON SPECIAL**  
Green fee & cart... **\$22.00**
- **TWILIGHT SPECIAL**  
3 'til dark  
Green fee & cart... **\$17.00**
- **3-DAY PASSES**  
Includes green fees and cart. Play  
anytime over a 4-day period... **\$60**
- **5-DAY PASSES**  
Includes green fees and cart. Play  
anytime over a 7-day period... **\$80**

Call for tee times 754-4660  
—OR—

MUST PRESENT AD FOR DISCOUNTS

**BRIERWOOD GOLF CLUB**  
Hwy. 179 • at Shallotte City Limits

Join us at Ocean Isle and Sunset Beach Saturday, July 27, for a

# Lacy Thornburg Down-Eastner Fund Raiser

This fabulous event will feature a **Captain's Choice Golf Tournament** with great prizes, a shrimp-a-roo dinner and an evening of dancing!

The fun begins at noon when golfers meet at the new Jones-Byrd Clubhouse at Sea Trail. Teams will be paired up and you may choose the course on which you wish to play—either Sea Trail or Ocean Isle Beach. The tournament begins at 1 p.m.

**Prizes** include a 1991 Chevy S-10 Pickup at Ocean Isle Beach Golf Course for a hole in one on #15, \$10,000 cash for a hole in one on #12 at Sea Trail Golf Links, a 25-inch TV as a door prize at the dance, and a graphite driver will be given away to the lucky person closest to the hole on each par 3 at Ocean Isle Beach Golf Course and Sea Trail Golf Links.

Tickets are \$200 per player, for all activities, and includes one guest to the shrimp-a-roo and dance. Tickets to the shrimp-a-roo and dance without golf tournament are \$100 each. Sign up by clipping this coupon and mailing, with fee, to:

**MACK HEWETT, TREASURER**  
**THORNBURG DOWN-EASTNER FUND RAISER**  
P.O. BOX 3828, SHALLOTTE, N.C. 28459

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. Box or Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK APPLICABLE ACTIVITIES:

- Will attend all activities—golf, shrimp-a-roo and dance
- Will play golf only
- Will attend dinner and dance only
- Will bring a guest to dinner and dance

©1991 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON