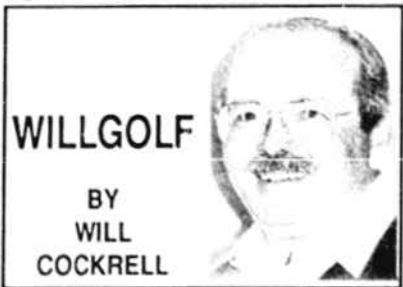


Swing For Singles In Long Iron Play

My first set of golf clubs was a bag of hand-me-downs from my Dad. My Dad's old set of clubs had a remarkable difference in the amount of wear on them. The five through nine irons were pretty well beat up and all the woods needed to be re-finished. The four iron had seen some play, but it was not badly scarred at all. The two and three irons were scratched like the other irons from being carried in the bag, but the club faces of these two long irons showed almost no evidence of ever having been hit. The shafts also appeared to be new. In short, Dad didn't use his long irons.



WILLGOLF
BY
WILL COCKRELL

Battle Scars And Fear Of Failure

If you peeked in many golf bags, you may find the same set of conditions of wear. Golfers suffer from fear of failure just like other folks. There are two remarkable differences, however. When you fail in golf, there are usually three other people to witness the event and all four of the competitors can watch and describe the failure in their own terms: "Hey, Jake, you killed enough worms with that one to go fishing several times," or, "You really made a friend of that ball. It will be smiling from ear to ear if you ever find it." The offending golfer usually says, "I should know better than to try to hit that club."

I can remember clearly my own fear of failure when trying to scare up my fathers long irons. There was something in the pit of my stomach that just told me to be sure to look up quick, lest I not be able to see where the ball had gone. These clubs had long shafts and I should have been able to hit them a long way. So I naturally needed to swing harder with the long irons. Grunt, sneek, growl; splot, curse; clack. Those darn clubs just did not want to cooperate.

Double Trouble

If I was able to get a long iron in the air, it had enough carry and roll to get it in all sorts of difficulty in the woods, the creeks, the sand, and any other treacherous lie that might be lurking about. The long irons were trouble back then and we all know that trouble breeds trouble on the golf course.

Another deterrent to learning how to hit a long iron was that they were no fun to hit on the practice range. I felt like I would never learn how to hit them, so there was no reason for me to waste my time or my practice balls trying to learn. After all, someone may be watching my painful efforts. To heck with that. I'll just smoke a few drivers and carve out a few neat 8-irons just to make myself feel good.

An Old Pro To The Rescue

As I was later to learn, I should have followed the 8-iron shots with a few long irons. That was the way I learned to hit the 2-iron. I had approached Howard Holbrook, the old pro at Fort Benning, to help me hit the 2-iron. Howard made me hit my favorite short iron until ten straight shots landed in a specified area. Then he handed me the 2-iron and told me to swing it just like I had been swinging the seven iron. Howard wanted me to swing like I was trying to, "...hit a single over second base."

After a couple of smooth swings and seeing the ball rocket off long and true, I just had to see how much farther I could hit it. That shot was a very predictable worm burner. Howard snarled at me and threatened to leave the range if I didn't keep the swing smooth, like a seven iron. That time the lesson took. I hit the 2-iron and the 3-iron and the 4-iron like they had never been hit before. Remember, Dad only used them for recovery shots.

Don't Hit Long Irons Straight

I learned to swing the long sticks smoothly, working to make solid contact with the ball instead trying to generate clubhead speed. I learned that the extra length of the shaft would provide the extra distance only to the degree that I was able to move the clubhead squarely through the hitting zone. In working to become more consistent at this skill, I also learned that it is easier to maneuver the ball with a long iron than with the shorter clubs.

The more upright blades of long irons put much more sidespin on the ball than shorter clubs. Consequently, with only a small deviation from square, the ball draws and fades consistently. If I want to really be accurate with a long iron, I will invariably draw or fade it to the target. Those shots are much easier to maneuver to the target. They are easier to hit than a straight shot with long irons.

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Acton Cards Ace On Sea Trail Jones Course

Ted Acton carded an ace and eagle to help his team to a first-place tie in the Sea Trail Men's Golf Association tournament last week.

Acton made his first career hole in one at the 180-yard second hole in at Sea Trail's Jones course. He used a three iron, and the tee shot went into the cup on the fly.

He concluded a fine round by making an eagle on the par five 18th hole, hitting his third shot into the hole from 144 yards out.

Teaming up with Acton on the day were George Lefelar and Walter O'Neill. They tied the threesome of Dick Zinser, Al Consalvi and Bob Brossia for first place in the total net event with a score of 228.

Third place went to the team of Doug Mehne, Ray Dillon and Bob Kakos with net 229.

Brierwood Ladies

Mary Schaack birdied the ninth hole and shot net 58 to win the first flight of the Brierwood Ladies Golf Association tournament last week.

Golfers gave themselves pars on two water holes during the round and used full handicaps.

Runners-up in the top flight were Jan Loflin with 61 and Ann Causer with 62. Mrs. Causer birdied the 15th hole, and Mrs. Loflin birdied the ninth and had low putts in the first flight with 29.

Top finishers in the second flight were Ruth Linder with 59, Dot Crean with 61 and Marian Johnson with 63. Mrs. Crean had low putts with 30.

Esther Smith led the third flight with a 64. Runners-up were Bobbye Cordisco with 65 and Ginny Anzelone with 67. Marian Corbin had low putts with 32.

Fourth flight winners were Pier-

GOLFING ACTION

rette Tompkins with 60. Mary Nicol with 61 and Bettilou Bayne with 65. Mae Robertson and Mrs. Nicol tied for low putts with 34 each.

Nancy Bouldin had birdies at the ninth and 16th holes. Jennie Ward chipped in at the 12th.

Brick Landing

Rose Gorney shot 66 to win the first flight in the Brick Landing Ladies Golf Association's Autumn Leaf Tournament last Thursday.

Golfers played nine holes from the red tees and nine holes from the gold tees. Alice Grossman and June Beck both shot 77 to tie for second in the top flight.

Second flight winners were Ruth Gardner and Martha Cullen with scores of 73. Debbie Rupp was second with a 78.

Sue Nelson led the way in the third flight with a 74, followed by Rosemary Dobson with 78.

Brierwood Ninettes

Rita Dugan fired a net 39 to win the Brierwood Ninettes nine-hole golf tournament last Friday.

Her round featured a chip-in for par at the second hole and chip-in for birdie at the third hole. She also had low putts for the day with 11.

Helene Baker finished second with 39.2. Pat Narazinski placed third with 42 and was second in putts with 14.

Ruth's Renegades

Members of Ruth's Renegades played at Land O' Lakes in Whiteville and Brierwood last Thursday.

Winners at Land O' Lakes were

Laura Paliwoda with net 38, Jennie Briggs with 38.5 and Ruth Brown with 39.

Mrs. Briggs had the overall low gross of 102 and low net of 67. Carolyn D'Avanzo chipped in at the 10th hole.

At Brierwood, Dot Frey led the way with net 37, followed by Alice Struck and Phyllis Harding with scores of 38.

Mrs. Frey chipped in at the 11th hole, had overall low gross of 110 and low net of 70. Ruth Jacobs chipped in at the 11th hole and Betty Sehr chipped in at the 18th.

Brierwood Homeowners

Dave and Marge Harper fired a 12-under-par 60 to win the Brierwood Homeowners best ball tournament Saturday.

Three teams tied for second place with net 61. They were Neal and Julie McCall, Rick and Elsie Rieckel and Odie and Marian Johnson.

Howard and Ellie Scutt finished third with net 62.

Foxy Ladies

The team of Joan Cowie, Joanna Lang, Marilyn Athan and Tru Schmalzer shot 106 to win the Foxy Ladies tournament last Thursday at Land O' Lakes Golf Club in Whiteville.

Teams counted one ball on the par fives, two balls on the par fours and three balls on the par threes, with golfers using their full handicaps.

Second place went to the team of Nancy Bouldin, Janice Owens, Bobbye Cordisco and Pierrette Tompkins with a score of 111.

Placing third with a 120 was the foursome of Marion Rockstroh,

Marian Johnson, Lou Akers and Margaret Wood.

The group's next tournament is scheduled Nov. 14 at Bay Tree Plantation.

Brierwood Men

Two teams finished at five under par and tied for first place in the Brierwood Men's Golf Association tournament last Thursday.

Roy Havenga, Bill Goldsberry, Bill Allen and Al Butler shot 139 in the two best ball event to tie the foursome of Neal McCall, Hal Schuler, Tim Parker and Paul Keeley.

The team of Howard Scutt, Nancy Bouldin and Carol Soucie shot 31 to win the nine-hole mixed scramble last Wednesday.

Finishing two shots back in second place was the team of Ed Rockstroh, Bob Sterner, Tim Parker and Dede Havenga.

On Oct. 14, the foursome of Emile Vrydaghs, Jack Akers, Odie Johnson and Bob Sterner shot 139 to win a team tournament.

Each team counted the best gross and net ball on each hole. Finishing one shot back in second place was the team of Dick Anzelone, Al Butler and Tim Parker.

In other recent action at Brierwood, the foursome of Odie Johnson, Bill Allen, Tony Maglione and Bob Meek shot 119 to win a best ball event Oct. 12.

Teams counted one best ball on the first six holes, two balls on the next six and three balls on the last six holes.

Second place went to the team of Tim Parker, Nick Lacerenza, Bill Goldsberry and Al Hierman with a score of 124.

RECREATION BRIEFS

Pumpkin Carving, Ghost Tales Planned

Halloween pumpkin carving workshops will be held for students ages 7 through 14 at all three branches of the Brunswick County Library next week in a cooperative venture with the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department.

Students are asked to bring their own pumpkins; carving tools will be provided. Emma McGraw will lead the sessions as follows: 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28, West Brunswick Branch, Shallotte; 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, Leland Branch; and 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, Southport.

Also, campfires will provide an appropriate setting for ghost stories at both the Leland and Shallotte library branches next week.

Listeners will gather around a fire on the back lawn at the Shallotte branch Monday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m., and at the Leland branch, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Participants are encouraged to dress warmly and to bring something to sit on and marshmallows for roasting, said Susan Phillips, children's services coordinator.

The Long Beach Recreation Department will hold a pumpkin carving/decorating contest for area youngsters age 12 and younger at the Recreation Center, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30. Contestants will need to bring their own pumpkin, carving tools and markers.

Also, a Halloween Horror Hour will be held Monday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Recreation Center. Stories will be told to all those brave enough to attend, but will be suitable for children. Participants should come dressed for outdoors and bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

The Long Beach Halloween Carnival will be 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31, at the Recreation Center and will provide games, prizes, contests, candy and a Spook Room. Admission is free.

For more information call Kellie Beeson, recreation director, at 919-278-5518.

Adult Activities Set

A costume social and dance will be held at the Long Beach Recreation Center Saturday, Oct. 26,

from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Area adults are invited to dress in Halloween attire and enjoy the live musical performance of Cathy Bass.

An adult movie night will be sponsored by the Long Beach Recreation Center at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29. The movie this month is *Waiting for the Light*. Popcorn and soda will be provided.

For information, call Kellie Beeson at 919-278-5518.

Seniors Tour Biltmore

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Dept. will sponsor a senior citizen's trip to the Biltmore Mansion in Asheville, Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 20-21. Registration fee for the overnight outing is \$66.50 per person and is due by Friday, Nov. 1.

The cost includes transportation, admission to the Biltmore House and Winery and the Discovery Place Museum in Charlotte as well as hotel accommodations at the Quality Inn, Asheville. For more information, contact Kathleen Poston at 253-4357, or 1-800-222-4790.

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