



Meadows Monthly

Meadows Farms Golf Course

Home of the Longest Hole in the USA (841 yard Par 6)

Club Championship

Meadows Farms Golf Course was proud to host the 24th Annual Club Championship Saturday September 23rd and Sunday September 24th. This member only event was filled with great competitors who were looking to show off all their hard work and preparation.

It was a perfect weekend for golf. The Championship Flight boasted some of the best players in the area, all with dreams of being called Club Champion.



October 2017

Volume 1, Issue 8

Inside this issue:

Club Championship	Cover
Club Championship Cont.	Pg. 2
Club Championship Results	Pg. 5
Golf Course Ratings	Pg. 6
Year Long Skins Champ	Pg. 7
Can-Am Competition	Pg. 8
Members Of The Month	Pg. 9
Superintendent's Notes	Pg. 10
Free Tip Of The Month	Pg. 11
Hole in One Insurance	Pg. 12
Letter From GM	Pg. 15
Calendar of Events	Pg. 19

Upcoming Events:

October
6-Corps Solutions
13-VDOT supports Rappahan-
nock Big Brothers Big Sisters
20-Services for Abused
Families
21-Spotsylvania Slam
28-Superintendent's Revenge
29-Riverbend Wrestling

November
11-Rhoadesville Baptist
Church

Robbie Phillips, former tour pro, and reigning club champion came up against stiff competition on Day 1. He made the turn tied with Ryan Seay, a former high school standout golfer from Louisa County. As they came back in, both players carded 71 on their first day's score card. Trailing a couple strokes back, Doug Scott shot an impressive 78, with Adam Thurston and Darrin Ritter coming in close behind with 79's respectively.

David Carli, defending champion from the white tees, was up against a group of golfers looking for vengeance. Great golfers like Tim Arbisi, Shawn Baker, Kenny Wallace, and Lloyd Knappenberger, decided that dethroning David Carli was going to be easier than taking the title away from Robbie Phillips. With these long ball hitters now playing from the white tees, David Carli had to shoot two impressive rounds to defend his title. After Day 1, two senior competitors, playing white tees, were the ones giving David Carli a run for his money. Craig Moranville, shot an incredible 75 to tie David Carli in the club house. Jeff Smith, a Henrico resident and Advantage Card holder, came up from Richmond with a title on his mind. He was right on Craig and David's heels after day 1 with an awesome score of 77.

Our Senior Group was filled with impressive golfers. All of them struggled on the front nine, and maintained the best they could on the back. Defending Champion, Stan Sherman, was tied with new member Damon Butler at 81. Close behind, Chuck Rose was searching for his first club championship title with an 82. All of the seniors at the conclusion of day one were all in contention to win the senior club championship. (Continued on Page 3)



Robbie Phillips during Canadian Open Qualifying



CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Our group of ladies knew that stripping Melissa Early of her title was going to be hard, but they came out and competed as hard as they could. Chrissy Baker, had an impressive birdie on the almost impossible Island 4 pin location. Paula Stone was a par machine on the course and never let Melissa out of her sites. Melissa built a solid lead after day 1, but she could not rest easy with the competition she had to play against.

On Day 2, Melissa set the tempo early in her round when she hit in for eagle on Island 8 from 120 yards out. She stripped the wind from her competitors sails, and went on to break 80. Her impressive round of 79 locked her in as the 2017 Club Champion.

Stan Sherman did the best he could to fend off all the competition in the Senior Group. He played island almost flawlessly with only one bogey on the front nine. After 27 holes, Stan stood in the lead with 117 total strokes. Damon Butler trailed 4 strokes behind with a 121. Chuck Rose, was still one shot behind Damon after 27 holes with a total of 122. Holes 10, 11, and 12 played as the toughest combo of the entire weekend. If a golfer could get through here even, or maybe one over, they would fair incredibly better than their counterparts.

Stan Sherman gave up three strokes through the first three holes while Chuck only bogied the longest hole in the USA. Damon didn't fair as well, and fell out of contention. Chuck was now only three strokes back from the lead with six holes left to play. Playing in the same final group, Chuck birdied Longest 13 while Stan carded a bogey. The pressure was malleable. In just four holes, Chuck closed a 5 stroke gap all the way down to one stroke. On 14, Stan let another shot slip to Chuck, and they were all even with four holes left to play.

Determined not to lose his title, Stan made an impressive par on Longest 15, as Chuck gave up a stroke on one of the toughest par 3's at Meadows Farms Golf Course. Chuck knew what he had to do, and safely secured a par on Longest 16, while Stan gave up his lead. (Continued on Page 4)



With 34 holes played, these two golfers were dead even. Stan was not able to hold off Chuck's impressive comeback as Chuck went par, birdie to finish on 17 and 18, and win with a 159. Stan finished close behind with a 161.

The group following the final senior group was led by defending amateur champion David Carli. From the time he teed off on Island on Sunday, he never gave any of his competitors any hope. He made the turn completely even and only gave up a couple strokes on the back. David Carli was able to defend his amateur championship with ease, winning by 10 strokes over 2nd place. Tim Arbisi, and Shawn Baker finished strong with a 162, and 163 respectively, but they were no match for David's 151.



David Carli Defending his Club Championship Trophy

Robbie Phillips jumped on the opportunity to gain strokes over Ryan and he quickly distanced himself over 13, 14, and 15 playing the trio of holes one under par. Ryan did the best he could over 16, 17, and 18, but Robbie's chip in birdie on Longest 18 capped off a dominant back nine performance. Robbie Phillips was able to defend his club championship in 2017.

(Statistics Posted On Page 5)



Chuck Rose winning the Senior Championship

Close on their heels was Robbie Phillips and Ryan Seay locked in to each other. Ryan missed a short putt on Island 9 to go into the last nine completely tied with Robbie Phillips. Longest 10, 11, and 12 wrecked both players. Robbie went bogey, bogey, double bogey and opened the door for Ryan, but Ryan was unable to capitalize. After a great par on Longest 10, Ryan triple bogied 11, and then double bogied 12.



Gross	Name	ISLAND											LONGEST											
		\$200	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	3	3	3	###	4	###	3	###	###	###	###	###	###	###	
	Day 1 Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	FRONT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	BACK	DAY 2	FINAL	
1	Robbie Phillips	71	5	3	4	4	3	5	5	5	38	5	5	8	3	4	2	4	4	4	39	77	148	
2	David Carli	75	4	3	5	4	2	3	4	6	4	35	5	5	7	3	4	4	4	3	6	41	76	151
3	Ryan Seay	71	4	3	5	3	3	5	4	6	5	38	4	7	7	4	6	4	5	3	6	46	84	155
4	Brandon O'Brian	84	4	2	4	4	3	5	4	5	4	35	4	5	6	3	5	4	3	4	6	40	75	159
5	Chuck Rose	82	4	5	6	5	2	4	4	5	5	40	4	4	7	2	4	4	4	4	4	37	77	159
6	Melissa Early	81	5	2	6	5	3	3	5	3	6	38	4	6	5	5	4	3	4	5	5	41	79	160
7	Stan Sherman	81	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	5	4	36	5	4	8	4	5	3	5	5	5	44	80	161
8	Darrin Ritter	79	5	4	5	5	2	4	4	5	5	39	4	4	6	5	4	4	4	7	5	43	82	161
9	Tim Arbisi	85	4	3	5	4	3	3	5	4	5	36	4	4	7	4	4	4	4	4	6	41	77	162
10	Shawn Baker	80	5	3	3	4	3	5	5	5	6	39	5	6	7	3	5	3	4	6	5	44	83	163
11	Adam Thurston	79	3	6	5	3	3	3	4	5	5	37	4	5	8	5	6	5	4	6	5	48	85	164
12	Craig Moranville	75	6	3	6	4	3	5	5	4	5	41	5	6	9	5	5	4	5	4	5	48	89	164
13	Tom Locher	82	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	5	5	39	5	5	7	3	6	4	4	4	6	44	83	165
14	Ken Wallace	80	4	4	4	4	3	6	5	5	7	42	5	7	7	2	4	4	4	4	6	43	85	165
15	Damon Butler	81	4	3	5	4	5	4	4	6	5	40	5	5	7	3	5	5	4	4	6	44	84	165
16	Lloyd Knappenberger	81	7	5	6	4	3	5	4	5	5	44	4	5	6	4	4	4	4	5	5	41	85	166
17	Marlin Pike	84	6	3	5	5	3	4	5	5	5	41	3	7	8	3	4	4	6	4	5	44	85	169
18	David Names	86	4	3	3	5	7	4	4	5	3	38	5	5	8	3	5	3	5	5	6	45	83	169
19	Bill Ramsey	89	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	7	43	4	5	6	3	3	3	4	6	7	41	84	173
20	Teddy Jarrell	84	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	7	5	47	5	7	4	4	5	2	8	5	6	46	93	177
21	Jeff Smith	77	5	9	4	4	3	6	6	6	5	48	5	10	6	5	6	4	3	8	5	52	100	177
22	Zack Capozza	82	4	3	5	5	5	5	4	8	7	46	4	7	6	4	6	4	9	4	7	51	97	179
23	Doug Scott	78	5	5	6	4	3	6	6	6	5	46	6	7	7	5	8	4	3	8	8	56	102	180
24	Nate Longfellow	88	4	5	4	5	3	4	5	6	7	43	5	5	10	3	5	4	7	5	6	50	93	181
25	Louis Canino	87	5	3	6	5	6	5	6	5	5	47	6	5	8	3	4	4	4	7	6	47	94	181
26	Bob Stevens	87	4	5	5	5	3	4	6	7	7	46	6	6	8	3	6	5	7	4	4	49	95	182
27	Ramon Faison	85	5	3	5	5	2	6	6	6	5	43	6	6	9	4	5	4	9	5	6	54	97	182
28	John Utley	81	4	5	4	6	5	7	6	6	8	51	5	7	8	6	8	4	5	5	6	54	105	186
29	Ian Dario	93	5	3	4	5	6	5	5	7	7	47	5	6	8	4	4	4	6	6	6	49	96	189
30	Anthony Sutton	90	4	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	52	4	4	8	4	8	6	5	4	5	48	100	190
31	Mike Smith	89	6	4	6	5	6	6	5	6	7	51	6	5	9	4	4	3	7	5	7	50	101	190
32	Paula Stone	94	7	6	5	4	3	7	5	5	7	49	4	6	8	3	6	3	6	6	6	48	97	191
33	Michael Pipoly	87	5	4	6	5	2	5	7	7	8	49	8	6	8	4	5	5	4	5	13	58	107	194
34	Rusty Gilliam	95	6	4	4	5	7	6	5	6	7	50	6	6	9	4	4	5	6	6	4	50	100	195
35	Nick Kasun	91	4	3	6	4	5	6	6	8	8	50	5	7	10	5	7	5	5	5	7	56	106	197
36	Todd Nash	92	7	5	7	4	3	5	7	5	7	50	6	6	8	3	6	5	7	8	7	56	106	198
37	Chrissy Baker	91	4	4	3	4	8	4	5	5	6	43	5	11	14	5	4	4	10	5	9	67	110	201
38	Darwin Guyton	99	3	5	6	5	3	7	6	7	5	47	8	8	8	4	9	2	8	5	5	57	104	203
39	Joe Kennedy	99	7	3	5	6	6	6	6	7	5	52	5	9	9	4	6	5	7	7	8	60	112	211
40	Cindy Thornhill	105	8	9	5	7	4	7	6	6	7	59	5	7	10	6	6	5	8	7	6	60	119	224

SKINS WINNERS DAY 1		
Adam Thurston	\$50	
Shawn Baker	\$50	
Lloyd Knappenberger	\$50	
Joe Kennedy	\$50	

SKINS WINNERS DAY 2		
Melissa Early	\$40	
David Names	\$40	
Marlin Pike	\$40	
Bill Ramsey	\$40	
Teddy Jarrell	\$40	

Champions		
Robbie Phillips	148	
David Carli	151	
Chuck Rose	159	
Melissa Early	160	

Club Champion		
Robbie Phillips	1st	\$ 210
Ryan Seay	2nd	\$ 140
Brandon O'Biran	3rd	\$ 70
Total Payout	\$ 420	

Senior Champion		
Chuck Rose	1st	\$ 140
Stan Sherman	2nd	\$ 90
Damon Butler	3rd	\$ 40
Total Payout	\$ 270	

Amateur Champion		
David Carli	1st	\$ 190
Tim Arbisi	2nd	\$ 130
Shawn Baker	3rd	\$ 70
Total Payout	\$ 390	

Women's Champion		
Melissa Early	1st	\$ 60
Paula Stone	2nd	\$ 40
Chrissy Baker	3rd	\$ 20
Total Payout	\$ 120	



facebook

5 Star Rating



Our online profile is one of the most important aspects of our business. Two years ago, our golfers rated us as one of the top 10 courses in the state of Virginia, and we would like to remain there. So many golfers go online and read ratings before choosing to spend their hard earned money on a round of golf. We are fortunate our golfers are spreading the word about how great the course is. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to play the course this spring and give us your thoughts.

If you haven't rated us recently, please help us by going to Golf Advisor, Facebook, Yelp, or Google and letting us know what you think. If you had a great experience, let everyone know online. If you didn't, let the staff at Meadows know so we can make it right.

Here's what our current customers said about the course in September:

Golf Reviews:

"I've Been Wanting To Play Meadow Farms For Over Ten Years and Finally Made it out to Play it on Friday & Saturday 9/15-16/2017. Well What Took You So Long ? It's not like its right around the corner. If you Love Golf, Just like me you're Gonna Be KICKING Yourself for waiting so Long. The Property Is Fabulous , the layout is Fun and Fair. The Creativity of the design is Genius. They Have Three Nines, " The Island Nine, which has multiple Island Greens hence the name, The Longest - which entails the Longest Hole in America According to the Guinness Book of Records at 841 yard Par 6 , Yep you heard it right. Finally the Waterfall Nine which has a par Three on top of a Waterfall which is Beautiful." The Greens where extremely Fast you have to stay below the hole unless you're a Glutton for Punishment. Finally the Last thing that I would like you to know is about the Ownership and staff. NEVER

Have I been to a Course where the people Loved Golf and Cared more about there Customers. They did everything except " Make My Birdie Putts For Me on Those Really Fast Greens" . Kenny and his Loyal Group of people where OUTSTANDING. A Not So Funny Thing Is Happening In Our Country Concerning Golf. These Jewels of Golf courses are going out of Business. Just heard This week that the Famed " Bulle Rock " In Havre de Grace Is Up for sell again and possibly Going out of Business. So PLEASE GO OUT AND SUPPORT KENNY and his Group at Meadow Farms, I PROMISE YOU WON'T BE DISSAPPOINTED. I Highly Recommend This Golf Course. Also They have a Cabin on Property that Sleeps

8 for Unlimited Golf for \$89.00 Bucks, per/person. Golf and Accommodations WHAT A BARGAIN.....!!!

Troy From Bethesda, MD Golf Advisor ★★★★

2017 Skins Shootout

The field was set with 10 great competitors. After a year of hard work and epic shots, the top 10 skins winners were vying for their piece of the \$1,000 pot. Roy Clatterbuck was first place overall for the year, but the field was re-set to even at the start of play on Saturday.

Lloyd Knappenberger, Donnie Allen, Darrin Ritter, and Stan Sherman were quickly eliminated from the competition. David Carli, Adam Thurston, and Nate Longfellow fell right behind them. Roy Clatterbuck was only left facing Craig Moranville, and Kenny Wallace for his chance at the grand prize. He made easy work of the competition, just like the regular season, and was able to walk off with the huge pay out. Congrats Roy on winning the Skins Shootout at the Farm.



Pictured left to right: Stan Sherman, Nate Longfellow, Adam Thurston, Donnie Allen, Lloyd Knappenberger, Roy Clatterbuck, Craig Moranville, Kenny Wallace, Darrin

2017 Can-Am Open

For years and years, a group of eight “straight laced” Canadians came down to The Farm, looking to dominate unsuspecting Americans in a Ryder Cup 18 hole tournament. Before the Dotson’s bought then course, the Canadians maintained an unblemished winning streak. Year after year, they were able to hold the Can-Am trophy high. In the past three years, the Americans have won two out of the three outings.



This year, the Americans were able to steal OUR trophy back from the Canadians after they won the title back in 2016. We are happy to display the trophy in the club-house for all our American counterparts to see.

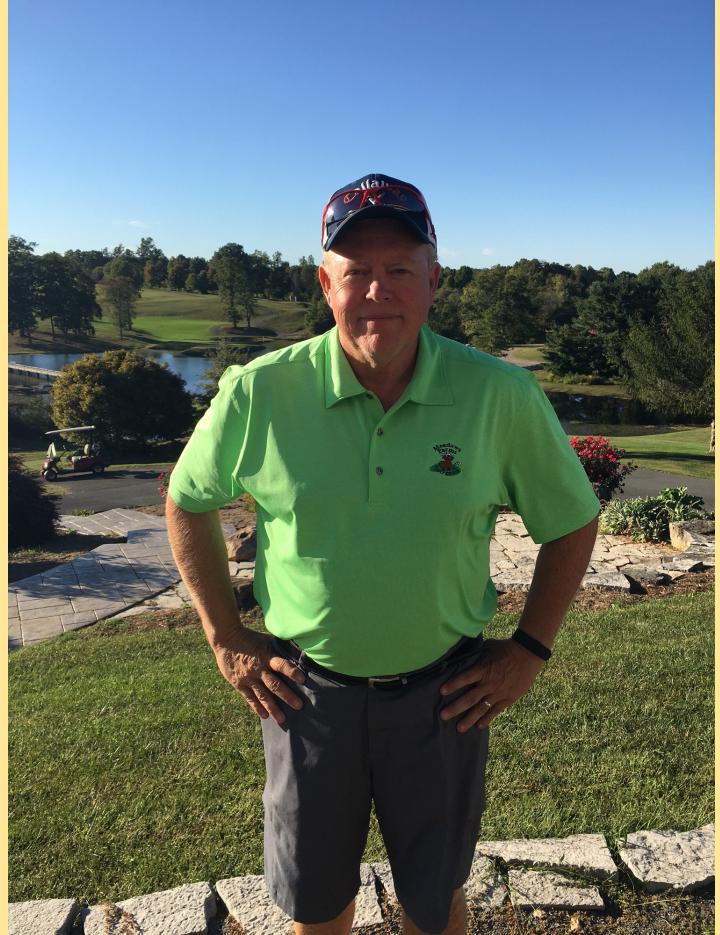
This group of Canadians has been coming to the cottage for over 15 years. We look forward to seeing them again next year.

Meadows Farms Member Spotlight

Meadows Farm Golf Course should be considered one of the 8th wonders of the world. Next to King Kong...Longest par 6. Who wouldn't want to come here to just play that hole. I have been a member here for 3 years and never have I walked through the doors that I was not greeted with a smile and a hand shake. Not by just the Dotson family but by the staff and members. You feel welcomed and part of a family when you come play here. Josh and his parents have transformed this course into a location people are talking about and are steadily coming back to play.

To the Dotson family and staff I thank you !

Regards,
Rusty Gilliam



Scott's Corner

In Gary Brookings Pluggers a couple of days ago the cartoon said that: "Pluggers cannot get better at golf because the ground keeps getting in the way". I see it every day! Here is a simple fact, professional golfers take divots that do not compromise the root zone. Their divot starts where the ball sits and is even throughout the strike zone – not a half mile deep and 14 inches long – the longest recorded at Meadows Farms! If your divot is deep enough to cause ankle injuries to the following players; one, fill and level the crater with sand and secondly, take a lesson! It will extend the useful life of shoulders, back and wrists and will ensure many more years of quality golf!

On a side note, the State Fair is here and not a drop of rain in the foreseeable future! Maybe this means a mild winter or will it be snowmagedon! As a member of CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative of Rain Hail and Snow Network) a volunteer group that monitors and reports weather. Our Virginia network will finish 20 years of data collection this year specific to this topic and finally will have a somewhat of an answer as to the see if autumn dry patterns lead to other events. What is your prediction?



FREE TIP OF THE MONTH

TRY TIGER'S OLD DRILL FOR CONSISTENT ROLLS

Sometimes your stroke can get out of whack, and you start miss-hitting the ball. Here's a drill Tiger used when we worked together. Create a gate with two tees just wider than your putterhead and hit putts without the club touching either tee (*below*). If you loop the putterhead to the outside during the stroke, you'll bump the outside tee. If you swing it to the inside, you'll bump the inside tee. Go through clean, and you're hitting the ball in the center of the face. Just like any other shot in golf, if you catch it in the center, with the face square, you're going to get a good result.

That's what I see the best putters do.

-Butch Harmon



Why Golfers Buy Hole-In-One Insurance

The goal of insurance is usually to protect us from life's least happy circumstances: the loss of a family's primary breadwinner, the theft of one's car, the onset of an illness requiring expensive treatment.

We buy insurance to protect us from misfortune and the times when lady luck lets us down.

But there is one type of insurance that people buy to protect them from the consequences of unusually good luck: In Japan, the U.K., and, to a lesser extent, around the world, golfers buy insurance to protect themselves from the potentially bankrupting consequences of sinking a hole in one. (Continued on the next page)

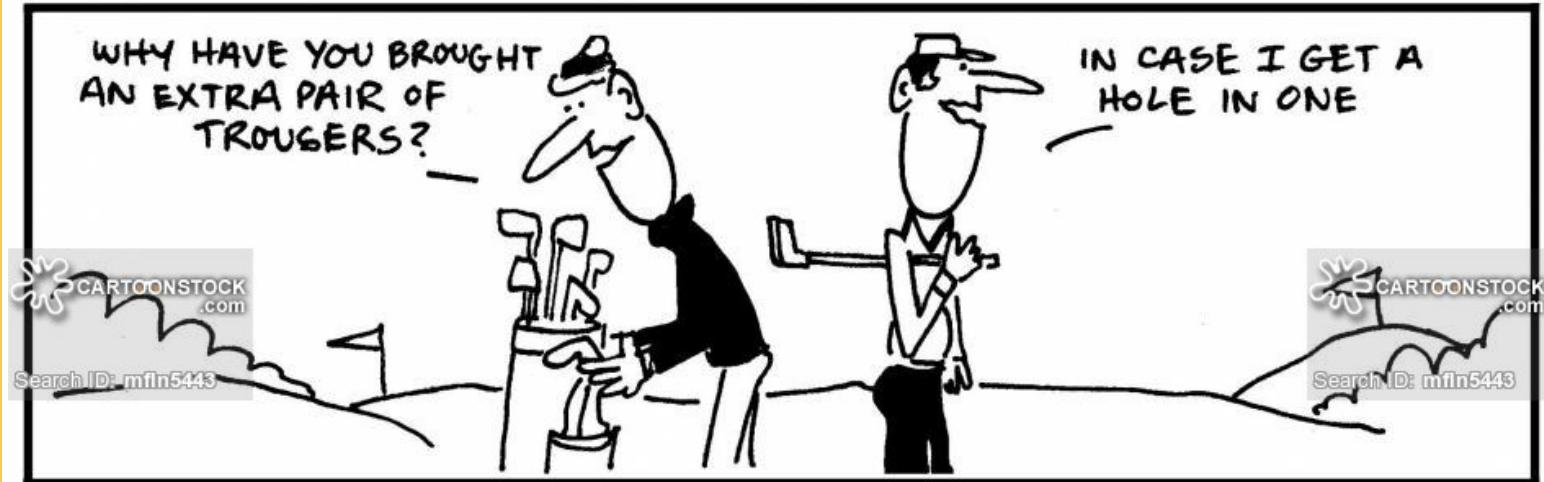


Above: Mark Zabel, center, buys everyone in the clubhouse a round of drinks after his epic hole-in-one on the Waterfall Hole on September 23, 2017.

The concept of hole in one insurance may baffle the uninitiated, but to many it is a wise precaution as golf tradition holds that anyone who scores a hole in one should buy drinks back at the clubhouse for his playing group — if not everyone present.

In Japan, many give extravagant gifts to friends and family after scoring a lucky ace.

In our research, we failed to dig up a definitive account of how the tradition became so entrenched.



It likely came out of exuberant golfers buying rounds of drinks for friends and even strangers. Perhaps it was influenced by the idea behind many traditions of someone who experiences a great success humbling him or herself. (In judo, for example, anyone promoted to a higher belt is celebrated by being thrown onto his or her back by everyone else in the room).

Clubhouses also likely promoted the tradition as a way to drive up bar tabs, while some speculate that golf courses, which often put up a plaque for holes in one, may have formalized the tradition to discourage golfers from making false claims.

However it happened, the tradition has turned a hole in one into something that is equally celebrated and insured against like a calamity — or at least a micro-calamity.

After spending \$650 buying the entire clubhouse champagne at England's South Winchester Golf Club following a hole in one, Paul Neilson told *Bloomberg*, "I couldn't afford to go through all that again. I used to have a policy but never got around to renewing it." (Continued on page 14)



Among the stories from Japan, the same article quotes Eiji Yoneda, who was one of 200 people invited on a dinner cruise by someone celebrating a hole in one.

A number of firms offer hole in one insurance, frequently bundled with other services that golfers commonly buy like insurance for golfing equipment or personal liability. (Apparently yelling “Fore!” can’t ward off lawsuits if you hit a ball right at someone.)

Golfplan, a U.K. insurer, covers \$340 to \$510 worth of drinks for hole in one celebrations. (Clubs’ set of rules for validating a hole in one makes it easier to process claims.) When it is sold unbundled, hole in one insurance can be cheap; Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co. Ltd offers Japanese golfers hole in one insurance for as little as a \$3 premium.

Outside of individual policies, golf tournaments also get hole in one insurance so that they can offer huge cash prizes for a hole in one as a marketing promotion — it's the same type of "prize indemnity" insurance that covers teams when a fan sinks a half court shot or makes a field goal.

In the United States, where the custom is less firmly established, golf forums are filled with debate about what tradition demands. Some clubs have written the tradition into their rules.

The *New York Times* notes that the membership dues at one San Francisco club include covering \$250 worth of drinks to celebrate any hole in one, while a similar system at a club in Bremerton, Washington, gives pro shop and food and beverage credit to the lucky golfer — it's up to him or her to share.

Where clubs don't have set rules, many people suggest only buying drinks for friends and playing partners rather than the entire clubhouse.

Other golfers admit to fearing the wrath of a spouse if they treat the clubhouse, and therefore having agreed with golfing buddies to slip away quietly without telling the clubhouse if anyone scores a hole in one.

It's a rather sad result of the tradition — instead of celebrating a hole in one like the once in a lifetime accomplishment that it is (the odds of getting a hole in one, very roughly, are 12,500 to 1 for an amateur and 7,500 to 1 for a professional), it pushes golfers to slink away like they crashed a golf cart in a sand trap.

In the great American tradition of ignoring tradition, a number of other golfers have decided to ignore the debate entirely (several golfers say they'll ignore this tradition as it originated when only “the upper classes” played golf) or to put the focus back on the lucky golfer.

“If I ever hit an ace I'm going to flip the script on everyone else,” says one golfer. “They should all be buying ME drinks... not the other way around!” (Written by Alex Mayyasi)

Note from Josh...

What organization means the most to you? Is it a church, a food bank, a children's hospital, wounded war veterans, or maybe your child's sports team? This is a tough question to answer. It is even tougher to fund the organizations you believe in out of your own pocket. There are so many incredible organizations out there, and they all need money to operate.

I have two organizations that I deeply believe in; The Orange County Free Clinic and The JHW Foundation for Young Adult Addictions. I would do anything in my power to make sure these two organizations succeed. Over 3,500 individuals in Orange County use the Free Clinic's services each year. These are your neighbors and friends, who may not be able to afford the cost of health care, and the Orange Free Clinic does everything in their power to help sick individuals from Orange County.

The charity closest my heart is the JHW Foundation. I lost a close friend to addiction at a young age, and I vowed that I would try to help everyone I could battle a disgusting disease, and hopefully save someone's child. My fraternity brothers and I gathered at Meadows Farms Golf Course with the goal of raising \$5,000 to go towards rehab expenses for a young adult, as well as educating students about the dangers of addiction. We were able to profit over \$7,000 in our inaugural golf tournament in September. Those funds will be used to support college students who are in recovery, as well as providing scholarships to those students.

The Orange Free Clinic's tournament that we hosted this month profited over \$10,000. That money will be spent on staffing for a new nurse practitioner for the clinic. I am fortunate that my position here at the golf course allows me to help these great organizations succeed.

Another charity, that I am very proud of, is the Sgt. Mac Foundation. They support the National Wreath Project and place wreaths on fallen soldiers graves at Christmas time. They were able to profit almost \$10,000 which will go to buying wreaths to place on the soldier's graves.

If you have an organization that you are a member of, or deeply compassionate about, let us know, and we can organize an outing to help you reach your financials goals.

We look forward to seeing you soon at The Farm.

Sincerely,

Josh Dotson, GM



Flashback: Golf Digest December 2008

A Different Kind Of Golf Course

Meadows Farms in Virginia is as distinctive and quirky as its creator

Eleven years ago, when I met Bill Meadows at the golf course of his unusual dreams, I called him Bill.

He said, "Farmer."

"Sorry?"

"It's Farmer."

"Not Bill? You're Farmer?"

"Mother and Dad named me William. But I'm Farmer."

The conversion happened in the early 1960s when he wore a straw hat and bib overalls to sell tomatoes along a country road. He was a college graduate, a high school teacher, a football coach. But city slickers out for a ride saw the get-up and said, "Oh, you're the farmer?"

They bought his tomatoes by the baskets, perhaps unaware that before dawn he had driven to a real farmers market where he bought the tomatoes they bought from him. He says that in the summer he made five times his annual teaching money.

"Ever since," he says, "I've been proud to be Farmer."

On his Rolls-Royce convertible, spotted one night at the local 7-Eleven, the license plate reads: FARMER 1.

He's 73, robust and voluble with a snowy tangle of curly hair so eye-catching it suggests a man who wants you to remember his sales pitch. To celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary, the man who claims a net worth of \$129 million invited 200 friends to The Greenbrier resort in West Virginia at a cost of \$350,000, not to mention the \$378,000 Betty spent on the Rolls delivered by a Marilyn Monroe look-alike.



(Continued on page 17)

Who knew tomatoes could do all that? Meadows, in fact, describes a life's arc from a West Virginia coal-camp shack with no plumbing to a seven-bathroom mansion bought from Joe Gibbs, the Hall of Fame football coach. After tomatoes came nurseries, landscaping and cattle. The man could sell stoves at a shipwreck. In 1993, on his farmland near Civil War battlefields in central Virginia, he built Meadows Farms Golf Course, a place as distinctive and eccentric as its creator.

He'd played golf as a young man and then put away the devil's sticks for almost 30 years. Once he fell into the habit again, Meadows decided golf was too expensive for the common man and too boring for the uncommon man. By building his own place, he reckoned to change that. "I'm a wealthy man," he says, "and I can get things done the way I want them done."

He wanted unique. He got it. In times of \$150 public-course tickets, his green fees range from \$37 to \$49 with 20 percent off for members. (Membership: \$10.) Meadows believes golf architects work until they come up with a hole they really like and then repeat it 18 times. So he gave a contrarian's directions to his designer, Bill Ward, of Beckley, W.Va.

"I wanted the course to be so unusual that every hole would be like starting on a new course. We had to get away from 'traditional.' "

To that end, he put a tee in the shadow of the Widow Willis' 150-year-old clapboard house that served as a Civil War hospital. Push your drive, you get a free lift from a 22-tombstone graveyard, the earliest burial 1831.

All chances of being ordinary disappeared when Ward suggested a par 6, and Meadows improved on the idea. "Bill, that's good!" he said. "Let's make it the longest hole in the United States!"

Damned if they didn't.

(Continued on page 18)

It's 841 yards from the back, and it's not an airport-runway freak. It's hilltops, hillsides, valleys, ponds and a three-leaf-clover bunker. It calls for real thinking and real shots: a drive short of a pond, a second kept left on a fairway falling right, a third short of a second pond and an approach over the pond and that bunker to an elevated green sloping sharply back to front.

The place is a cornucopia of the unconventional. Oakmont's famous Church Pews bunker has 12 pews; on one par 5, Meadows Farms has 18 of the evildoers. There's an island par 3, a major contributor to the 100,000 balls collected from Meadows waters each year. And a micro-green is squeezed onto a narrow peninsula at the end of a short par 4's razor's-edge fairway.

You'd swear a giant had dropped his pickup sticks at one green. It's surrounded by a ragged, jumbled wall of a hundred railroad ties tilted and leaning on end in a trench. The club's vice president of golf operations, Bobby Lewis, calls it "our Pete Dye-at-a-train-wreck hole."

Meadows has 28 holes: three nines and a warm-up. My favorites: Waterfall and Baseball. Waterfall plays 149 yards from the middle tee. You're not so much hitting to a green as to a clifftop. It's 80 feet wide with water falling 45 feet. Meadows called in from Acapulco with the idea. He had swum to a bar behind a waterfall and now wanted his own waterfall, with a cartpath and concession stand behind the water. (Stand now closed. Snake swam in.)

Baseball is a little par 3 disguised as a baseball field.

"Hardest hole I ever did," Ward says.

Tried it first with small, square bunkers as the bases and a circle bunker as the pitcher's mound in the center of the green.

Finally moved the green into the outfield. The tee shot flies over home plate and the mound, and past second base. Behind the green, a board fence carries vintage signs such as "Red Rose Farm Feeds." The warning track is a bunker curving from foul line to foul line. There's a scoreboard in right, a flagpole at the center-field fence.

"As a kid, I was a pitcher who couldn't hit," Meadows says. "But one day on that hole, instead of a wedge, I took a 6-iron. Hit it over the fence! My first home run!"

Hmmm.

Hadn't thought of that.

Next time, right at the flagpole.

OCTOBER 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6 Corps Solu- tions	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 VDOT Hosts United Way Fundraiser	14
15	16	17 GOOFERS FINAL TOURNAMENT	18	19	20 Services for Abused Families	21 Spotsy Slam Softball
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Superinten- dент's Re- venge
29	30	31				
Riverbend Wres- tling						

NOVEMBER 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Montpelier Horse Races
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Rhoadesville Baptist Church
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24 Black Friday Membership Sale!!!!	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Two-Man Captain's Choice



4300 Flat Run Rd. Locust Grove, VA
MeadowsFarmsGolfCourse.Com
(540) 854-9890

Save The Date

Employees of VDOT's
4th Annual CVC Charity Golf Tournament
Proceeds to Benefit the Rappahannock Area Big Brothers Big Sisters

Friday, October 13rd, 2017

Meadows Farms Golf Course - Locust Grove, VA

Prizes - Games - Food - Hole In One Challenge

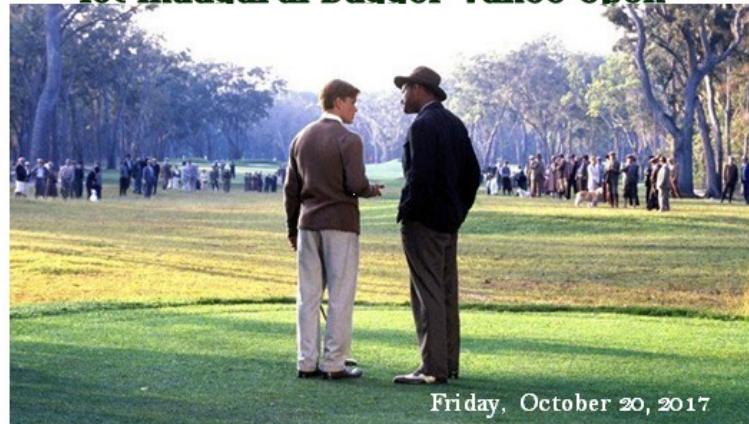
Sponsorship Opportunities are Available

Please contact: Gina Pelchat
Gina.Pelchat@VDOT.virginia.gov
(540) 899-4548

Rick Spurlock
Richard.Spurlock@VDOT.virginia.gov
(540) 899-4538

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC)

1st Inaugural Bagger Vance Open



Domestic Violence Awareness "Men Are Victims Too"

Meadows Farm Golf Course

4300 Flat Run Road, Locust Grove, VA 22508

Registration Time: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tee Time: 12:30 p.m.

Lunch and prizes will be immediately following

Benefiting

Services To Abused Families, Inc. (SAFE)

Sponsored by:

Registration Deadline: October 13, 2017

For questions, please email: sva@safejourneys.org

See additional page for details and registration form.



Corps Solutions Charity Golf Tournament

