

# Carolinas Golf



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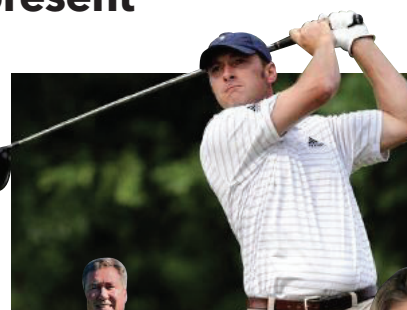
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# FACES OF THE CGA

A closer look at memorable players from  
the past and present







# Charlotte Country Club

## to Host 108th Carolinas Am

For the ninth time, the storied Donald Ross design will challenge the CGA's top players **BY MICHAEL J. SOLENDER**

Photographs courtesy of the USGA

**S**cott Harvey's next tournament round at Charlotte Country Club shares similarity with one of the last times he teed it up at the venerable club—he just hopes the ultimate outcome is different this time. At the 2012 Carolinas Golf Association Carolinas Amateur Championship, Harvey was defending his title after winning the prestigious bi-state tourney at Dunes Golf & Beach Club in Myrtle Beach one year earlier. Though he led by three going into the final round at CCC, he surrendered his lead and ended up finishing second to a young phenom, 17-year-old Carson Young.

Once again, as Harvey returns to Charlotte for the 108th playing of the Carolinas Am this July 14–17, he'll be defending the title, earned with his stellar play last year at Biltmore Forest Country Club. As an eight-time CGA Richard S. Tufts Player of the Year and 10-time CGA champion, Harvey can feel philosophical about his past showing here and excited to

come back to one of his favorite tracks

"I struggled a bit finding the fairway in that final round last time," says Harvey, a Greensboro, N.C., resident. "And just couldn't get my putter going. What I do recall, however, was just how impressed I was with the course and what a fantastic challenge it is. I can't wait to get back."

The stately clubhouse that overlooks Charlotte Country Club's 18th hole (above) has seen its share of Carolinas Am contenders, who have to beware challenges like the tricky fourth hole (right).

## 108th Carolinas Amateur

**Dates:** July 14 – 17, 2022

**Location:** Charlotte, N.C.

**Host:** Charlotte Country Club

**Format:** 72 hole stroke play; field reduced to top 60 and ties after 36 holes

**Defending Champion:** Scott Harvey, Greensboro, N.C., who qualified and played in the 2015 Masters Tournament after capturing the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship in 2014. His competitors for the first two rounds were Trevor Immelman and Kevin Stadler.

**Fast Fact:** A 1938 aerial photograph of Charlotte Country Club taken by the U.S. Army has been an indispensable guide in preserving, restoring, and maintaining the integrity of the original Donald Ross design, according to Charlotte Country Club Superintendent John Szklinski. “While we’ve added length, the shots golfers hit into the greens are very similar to how it played back in the day.”

Harvey, now 44, found early inspiration in the game of golf through his father Bill Harvey, a legendary amateur with more than 300 titles to his name prior to his passing in 2013. “I have so much respect for what he accomplished, and the reverence he had for the game has carried over to me,” said Harvey, whose home club is Sedgefield Country Club, another fabled Donald Ross design.

Charlotte Country Club is near the top of Harvey’s list of favored venues. “It’s a wonderful layout that demands precise and thoughtful play,” Harvey says, noting he especially likes how the course isn’t land-locked and has been able to modernize and lengthen for contemporary play. “It’s big, tree-lined and, like all Ross courses, you can’t be long. I absolutely love the course.”

As one of the CGA’s founding member

clubs, Charlotte Country Club holds a special place in the association’s tournament history. The 108th Carolinas Amateur represents the ninth time the club has hosted

**“Part of the challenge to our course is in the topography and elevation changes. If you’re striking the ball well, you can get to the hole. If you miss even slightly, you have a big challenge on your hands in scoring.”**

—Eric Williamson, PGA Head Golf Professional, Charlotte Country Club

this flagship event and CCC is one of seven rotation clubs across the Carolinas designated to host every 10 years, according to Rusty Harder, CGA Director of Rules & Competitions.

“Many factors make Charlotte Country Club special for hosting this tournament,” Harder says. “Starting with the facilities,

staff, and ability to make our players feel welcome and comfortable, the club has a very special feel. The course speaks for itself and is truly one of the premier designs in the Carolinas. It not only presents challenges for golfers with some lengthy holes, but there are also some shorter holes that require a strategic approach – it’s not all about bombing away out here.”

Founded initially in 1910 as the Mecklenburg Club, Charlotte Country Club had its charter amended along with the name change in 1917. Regardless the moniker, there’s more than a century of notable tournament golf here, including the 1972 U.S. Men’s Amateur, 2000 U.S. Senior Men’s Amateur, 2010 U.S. Women’s Amateur, and the 2018 USGA U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship.

“Part of the challenge to our course is in the topography and elevation changes,” notes Eric Williamson, PGA Head Golf Professional at Charlotte Country Club. “Twelve of our holes require an uphill approach shot and golfers find very few level lies here. Add to that, greens with severe contours, and players must pick the precise segment of the green to hit to relative to pin placement or face a difficult putt or pitch. If you’re striking the ball well, you can get to the hole. If you miss even slightly, you have a big challenge on your hands in scoring.”

Despite the location of the course in the heart of the nation’s 14th largest city, Charlotte Country Club is unique in its large physical footprint – nearly 200 acres of total land. Only two holes are bordered by homes, with large trees and natural areas ringing most of the property. This has allowed the course to be lengthened over the years, yet still maintain the integrity of the original Ross design.

“The course is a classic,” says Harvey. “It’s one of my all-time favorites. I’m looking forward to getting back there. To win here represents a special accomplishment.” ■

**Michael J. Solender** is a golf and travel writer based in Charlotte, N.C.

