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The Joy of Golfing

by
Tom Holbrook

Prior to moving to The Villages I lived in a place that golf was thought to be a luxury to be enjoyed maybe once a week or twice a month, if you could find the time to play. If you were fortunate enough to play more than that people thought you were rich or lazy. Even then, belonging to a club, you were pretty much limited to the same course each time, unless you were fortunate enough to have someone willing to drive with you at least an hour to seek out another course. Golf was the dessert to a week's worth of meat and potatoes work.

Having been away from golf for over 15 years I was excited about the thought of living at a place where I belong to a club (The Villages) where I can play close to 30 golf courses without having to go off the property. Over 20 of those courses I play free and the remainder cost me only a fraction of what I would pay to play similar challenging courses off the grounds. Of course I am able to go to anywhere else I choose and there are probably another 20+ quality golf courses within an hour's drive of my home.

Trying to get one's game back in shape after an absence of so many years can be a daunting task and you've really got to get serious about making it happen, which means playing more often than the normal. Thankfully, I'm married to a lady who believes that retirement should be just that... retirement... a time when an individual should be able to do that which pleases him or her, and as often as schedules allow. Now I know that sounds like a bunch of baloney to some of you guys out there but I've been blessed with a unique person with which to grow old.

Judy, by the way, has never played golf but at my encouragement she had her first lesson last week and we should be able to play together in the very near future. She is a bowler, a reader, a nature enthusiast, a shopper, an exerciser, a great cook, loves movies, and loves to travel to different places when possible. I am a reader, a writer, a quasi-golfer, a semi-good cook, a musician, and I love movies, travel and watching football and basketball. We try very hard to coordinate our schedules so we can do many things together but we also love our own time to do things with the gals or guys as the case may be. Hopefully golf will be one of our joint ventures shortly.

You know women golfers get a lot of bad press in the men's locker rooms and while some of it is possibly deserved it isn't fair to paint the whole flock with the same wide brush. But ladies, if you don't want to be the subject of conversation try hard not to be like a lady we were behind on the course the other day. After hitting out of the trap we watched this conscientious person raking, and raking, and raking, and raking... even going around the lip of the trap... a-l-l-l the way around... to make sure it had a uniform look with the rake strokes all going in the same direction. Yes, it's neat, but not timely. Please understand, she's the exception rather than the rule.

I walked on at Churchill Greens a couple of weeks ago and was teamed with three ladies and I must say it was a very pleasant experience. Betty, Barbara and Carol welcomed me into their threesome and treated me with the utmost courtesy throughout our round. I won't give their last names, to protect the innocent, but each of them played very well and I would be happy to play with them again. They all moved here from different locales... Boca Raton, FL, Daytona Beach, FL, and Frederick, MD... but after they met they discovered they all had begun their lives in Baltimore, MD.

One had been playing golf for 1 year, one 12 years, and the other 45 years... their reason for playing is to have as much fun as possible, within the proper rules and etiquette laid down by golf tradition. When asked to name one endearing quality of The Villages they have dwelt on most often since moving here, each of them, resoundingly, said the friendliness of the other residents is unlike any other place they've ever lived, and never have they seen a place that offered them so much to do to enjoy their remaining years. Thank you ladies for your kindness and hopefully we will see each other again.

Well, time to go, but if there are any individuals out there who would love to try the game of golf but have been intimidated by thoughts of your lack of knowledge and experience don't put it off any longer. I would say over 75% of those you see hitting on the golf courses as you drive by are just learning as well and would love to have you join them some morning or afternoon to a trip around the links.

And if one of those fellow golfers is Judy, you can bet you'll be doing lunch afterwards as well. Start enjoying your life to the fullest.

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