

ANCC Head Golf Professionals/Directors of Golf

Since its inception Army Navy Country Club (ANCC) has employed six head golf professionals. The tenure of the first three only covered the period from 1930 to 1933. While teaching golf professionals gave lessons from 1933 to 1938, ANCC has no documentation that anyone was given a contract as the “head” golf professional during this time. Over the subsequent eighty plus years (1938 – present) ANCC has employed only three head golf professionals. The following provides some specifics on those individuals who have served ANCC as the head golf professional.

Frank Hartig, a decorated World War I Army officer¹, joined the Club² as the golf professional in 1930. He resigned the following year to accept a berth at Saranac Lake (New York) and went on to be the first head professional at the Amsterdam (New York) Municipal Course (1934-1938) where he played a round to commemorate the course’s opening with Gene Sarazen in front of a gallery that included the course’s architect – Robert Trent Jones. He left Amsterdam to become the head professional at East Potomac Country Club, passing away in 1962 at the of 67.



Frank Hartig

Hartig’s successor was **Lionel B. Walker**, who started on June 1, 1931, only to be dismissed upon the recommendation of the Golf Committee for undisclosed reasons effective October 31, 1932. Walker subsequently served as a teaching professional at the Atlantic Driving Range, perishing in an automobile accident on October 5, 1935.

Effective November 1, 1932, the Club contracted with **J. Munro Hunter**, a Scottish-born Canadian who had won numerous amateur tournaments before assuming golf professional positions in Milwaukee and at the Indian Spring Golf Club (Silver Springs, MD). Hunter, six feet five and weighing 285 pounds, was regarded as golf’s counterpart to baseball’s Sultan of Swat, Babe Ruth. In 1922 in the qualifying round for the National Open, using a 17 ½-ounce driver, he jolted an awesome drive to the edge of the green on a 400-yard right-to-left dogleg. Two years later in a driving contest at the Western Open against Leo



J. Munro Hunter

¹ Per Henry Litchfield West’s “From Tee to Green Column, Washington Post, March 30, 1930, page 20, Hartig was wounded twice in World War I, losing some 5 inches of bone above his ankle. He spent three years in Walter Reed Hospital where the doctors were able to save his leg. For his gallantry under fire Hartig was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and the United States Distinguished Service Cross. Note: the Washington Post of April 24, 1931, reported that Hartig was also awarded the Victorian Cross (UK) but this is in error since the Victory Cross Society does not list him as a recipient. Despite his handicap, Hartig remained a good player.

² The name of the Club that time was the Army, Navy and Marine Corps Country Club.

Diegel, a top professional, on a rain-sodden course, Hunter's three drives plugged in just short of 280 yards; without bothering to tee up, Diegel conceded and retreated to the clubhouse.³

Hunter's short tenure at ANCC was a consequence of the economic conditions of the Great Depression; the Executive Committee decided to forego the full services of a golf professional in early 1933. The Golf Committee Chairman proposed hiring an assistant caddie master to perform many of the services which formed the basis of the non-salaried professional's income. Reasoning that this income, estimated at almost \$5,000 annually, offset by less than \$1,000 of wages for the assistant caddie master, would accrue to the Club, the proposal was approved. Hunter, who was offered a new contract with the sole privilege of giving golf lessons, opted for employment elsewhere, but not before setting a new course record of 68.

The next professional to appear was former Chevy Chase Country Club Assistant **Allan Burton**, whose association with ANCC would cover nearly three decades.⁴ His brother, Danny Burton, was already onboard as caddie master, and the Burton brothers operated as a team of teaching pros for several years. In 1938 the golf shop concession was awarded to Allan; a year later Danny left for a similar job at the Quantico Marine Base.



Allan Burton

As a teaching pro, Burton was noted for instilling in his pupils a proper respect for the hilly terrain. He stressed accuracy over distance to students that included Frank Knox (Secretary of the Navy), Sherman Adams (Chief of Staff for President Eisenhower), and such notables as Admirals Chester Nimitz and Ernest King, and Generals Lucius Clay and Omar Bradley. By his own account, one of Burton's rewarding memories was his tutelage of Ralph Bogart, a Junior member who at age 18 in 1938 set the course record of 65 and won the first of three consecutive Club Championships, including carding a 70 in 1940 to defeat LTC Omar Bradley.

Burton was also a very good player, recording a first round 67 in the 1950 Washington Post Pro-Celebrity Tournament at ANCC, placing him second to Ben Hogan's 65. Burton was twice honored with an "Allan Burton Day" by the Club. The first was on April 26, 1950 during which he was presented an automatic dishwasher and a sterling silver plate. The second was on October 9, 1957 at which General Omar Bradley and General David H. Tully presented Burton with a Buick Century automobile.

³ Hunter apparently had a contract with club maker Kroydon as "J. Munro Hunter" clubs by Kroydon can be found on the internet.

⁴ The exact date of Allan Burton's arrival is unknown, but it could have been as early as 1932. Records show that he was on board in June 1934 with a contract as a golf instructor (probably like that rejected by J. Munro Hunter). The date he was officially promoted to head golf professional is also not known, but it may have been in 1938 when he was given the full golf concession.

After this the relationship between the Club and Allan Burton seemed to sour. In 1960 he was presented with a one-year contract extension at the end of which his contract was not renewed, although he was given a generous severance package.

Steve Tobash took the reigns as ANCC's head golf professional in December 1961. Steve, who was raised in Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania, the sixth of nine children, came to golf as a caddy. After caddy apprenticeships in Florida and Baltimore, he enlisted in the Army and was assigned to Ft. Meade. The Army quickly recognized his golf talent and placed him in charge of golf operations. After his discharge he remained at Ft. Meade as the golf professional until 1959 when he became the head professional at Chartwell Country Club in Severna Park, Maryland.



Steve Tobash

During his nearly 40-year tenure at ANCC Steve witnessed significant changes at Army Navy including the rework of several holes at both the Arlington and Fairfax courses, the expansion of the Fairfax course from 18 to 27 holes and the introduction of golf carts.

Activities that Steve initiated included the junior golf program and the three-day and one-day member guest events. Steve also hired the first female golf assistant pro at ANCC (M.J. Smith) and for six years was involved with the PGA Golf Management program at Ferris State University, bringing 12 of the program's students to ANCC to work for the summer. In all, Steve mentored 75 pro shop staff members with a total of 50 of them becoming Club Professionals and Assistant Club professionals.

Steve's personal golf accomplishments include election to the Professional Golfers Association of America (1954), playing on the PGA Tour (1959), qualifying for the 1959 Club Professional Championship (1959), and playing in Mid-Atlantic PGA events with ANCC members that won the Maryland State Team Championship (1965), the Pro Junior (1968), and the Pro-President (1969).

Steve retired as the ANCC Head Golf Professional and Assistant General Manager of Golf on March 31, 2001. The Board of Governors bestowed Steve with the title of ANCC Golf Professional Emeritus and gave him a Life Membership in the Club.

An intensive search initiated well prior to Steve Tobash's retirement lead to the hiring of **Greg Scott** as the ANCC head golf professional and Assistant General Manager, Golf effective March 5, 2001. The Texas native (and Dallas Cowboy fan) began his professional career at Kingwood CC where he served as an assistant golf professional for four years. His next stop was Hackberry Creek CC in Irving, TX where he spent seven years as the club's first head golf professional. After Hackberry Creek,



Greg Scott

Greg tried his hand as a touring professional, playing the mini-tours and qualifying for the 1994 Shell Houston Open (he missed the cut by one shot with an even par score of 72-72 144). He returned to the club professional ranks at Westwood CC as the head golf professional (2 years), Director of Golf (3 years) and the General Manager (2 years). Greg departed Westwood to become Club Corp's Director of Operations/Mexico. His responsibilities included being the director of golf for the Marina Vallarta Club de Golf and managing the site selection, design, construction, and operation of the Vista Vallarta Club de Golf consisting of the Weiskopf Course and the Nicklaus Course, all in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

In January 2003 Greg was promoted to Director of Golf with responsibility for golf course operations, golf course maintenance and golf projects. He is the recipient of the 2015 Mid-Atlantic Professional Golf Association (MAPGA) President's Award for his work with the PGA in "collaborating with groups like former Members of Congress, multiple military fundraisers, and his support of PGA lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill." Greg retired effective April 1, 2022.

After a six-month nation-wide search, **Brad Myers** was selected as Greg Scott's replacement as the Director of Golf effective April 1, 2022. One of the first ten PGA professionals to become a Certified Club Manager (CCM), Brad has significant local roots. Originally from McLean, Virginia, he spent more than thirteen years (May 1999 to September 2013) as the head golf professional at Congressional Country Club. Brad left Congressional to become the Director of Golf at Hammock Dunes and Links Golf Course, a two-campus, 36-hole facility in Palm Coast, Florida where he remained until his acceptance of the ANCC position. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a degree in Political Science and Government, Brad's family consists of his wife Corrie (a Bethesda, Maryland native) and two daughters.



Brad Myers