

100 Years of Golf at Army Navy Country Club (July 2024) By: Charles Ludolph

“This throne of golf, this bunkered haven,
This earth of majesty, this seat of pars.
This other Eden, against the Fall.
This fortress built by nature for ourselves against
Intrusion, boredom, and self-seekers.
This happy breed of players in this little world,
This blessed sanctuary – nine and eighteen holes.”

Adapted from John L. Sullivan, Secretary of Navy, July 26, 1953. 1/

Many country clubs with golf courses sprang up in Boston, Arlington, Chicago, Philadelphia, and dozens of other U.S. sites in the 1880s and again after World War I, driven by suburbanization and the growing popularity of tournament sports. US military officers and their families were playing golf on military bases around the world from Kansas to Panama in the late 1800s. It was a natural sport for the infantry, artillery, and cavalry since it was set in an irregular terrain and required the sportsman to advance while maneuvering around hazards and carrying a bag of clubs.

The popularity of golf in the United States grew in surges as American society transformed from farmland to suburbs. Post-WWI, the use of automobiles grew, and suburbs sprang up around Washington as the Federal government grew. Golf and country clubs proliferated – in 1900 there were three golf and country clubs in Washington and then more than 20 by 1924. In the 1920s, the Army/Air and Navy sponsored National Service Golf Tournaments annually and these contests were followed closely by the newspapers. There was a serviceable 9-hole golf course at the Washington Barracks (now Fort Leslie J. McNair) in Washington DC that Dwight Eisenhower and other officers accessed when they were students at the Army Industrial College.

1/ Edward T. Folliard, “Ike’s Golf Club Is a ‘Sanctuary’ To Its Members” Washington Post, July 26, 1957, B1.

NOTE: Thanks to ANCC golf professionals – Brad Myers, Jeff Shelton, Greg Scott, Nancy Harvey and Pete Stassi as well as leaders of Career Women’s Golf Organization (CWGO), Women’s Nine Hole, WGO-18 hole and Senior Men’s GO for sharing their histories – Tim Campen, Carole Delong, Cindy Loughran, Barbara Lancaster, Susan Twitchell and Suzanne Campen. Also, much thanks to Lynn Wessman, Rich Fischer, and Jim Schroeder for invaluable information and guidance.

This chapter focuses on golfers (men, women, and juniors), leagues and associations, and golf events. The history of the ANCC’s physical golf courses is provided elsewhere in this ANCC Centennial History. Appended to this text are lists of championship cups, tournaments, the contents of the trophy cases and Pro shop wall plaques scattered around the clubhouses’ walls and storerooms with names of champions or lists of leaders. This chapter captures the “noteworthy” and the “firsts,” as well as a basic chronology from 1926 to 2024. Many, many great golfers that have enjoyed the courses do not appear here due to space and time, with apologies.

A Quick Summary of 100 Years of Army Navy Country Club Golf

For those too busy to wade through this 100-year history of ANCC golf organizations, events, and notable players with detailed annexes of leagues, bios, and tournaments; the following six-page section is offered.

When completed in 1928, the brand-new Arlington Golf Course was deemed “rugged” by local sports writers, and it was said by ANCC historians in 1989 that members were encouraged to pick up loose rocks on the golf course and throw them into the rough. 1/ Local sportswriters noted that the course was nearly bunkerless and that the heavy forest was the major hazard. Nevertheless, the new 9 holes (soon to be 18) were a most welcome addition to the Washington region and military officers soon began to transfer from other area country clubs.

From the beginning, ANCC management used every opportunity to encourage membership through open tournaments and hosting military golfers reassigned from around the nation.

Country Clubs and golf was a trendy new leisure activity that allowed families to escape the crowded urban limits. Golf was barely breaking out of its old constraints and shedding some of its basic character. The Haskell ball allowed more “bounce and roll” and metal clubs began to add power to the drive, but a recreational golfer still had to use every club in the bag to get to the clubhouse. Over the next 80 years with course crowds and time pressures golf would transform from a game of endurance played at 36 holes a day and “stymies” to one of “lift and place” and carts. Power and driving distance replaced managing your way around a course with shorter drives.

Over the one hundred years, Washington weather changed substantially with less snow and warming significantly. According to monthly historical temperature records at National Airport or equivalent maintained by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration since 1897, temperatures rose from a monthly average of 35 degrees Fahrenheit to 45 degrees in January and February. Likely making most deep winter days a warm and toasty 55 degrees in the daytime. The result is ANCC courses started year round golf course access in 2010 or so.

In the mid-1920s, there were 20-25 golf courses in the Washington area including all of the surrounding counties and most were a part of private Country Clubs or on military property. Today there are more than 100 golf courses – both private clubs and public links in the Washington area and Northern Virginia as well as scores of 9- and 18-hole courses on most area military bases. Until the 1970s, most local area golfers sought out golf tournaments in the District of Columbia or Maryland, but in 1971, the Maryland State Golf Association stopped allowing Virginia golfers to qualify in their state competitions and that greatly reshaped ANCC golfing. 2/

1/ “Army Navy Country Club, 1924-1989, Historical Review,” pg. 28.

2/ “About Us: History” on Northern Virginia Golf Association website.

From the very beginning ANCC dominated regional golf because of its large membership and because military families assigned to Washington were talented golfers – men, women, and juniors - whose skills were developed on golf courses from Hawaii to Portsmouth. The regional competitive drawback was that after 4 or 5 years these golfers were transferred away. From the beginning, ANCC had little difficulty qualifying twice the number of men and women golfers than other local golf clubs.

“Senior” golf organizations and tournaments did not take hold at ANCC or in many other country clubs until the early 1970s. Notwithstanding the existence of PGA Senior Championships in the 1940s, only in 1946 and 1947 could a senior compete in either Washington Metropolitan Golf Association (WMGA) or Mid-Atlantic Golf Association Senior Amateurs as golf clubs largely held back from formally supporting organized senior events.

ANCC hosted its first golf tournament in 1929 – National Army Championship. ANCC members and future members like Earl Naiden, Richard Sutherland and Omar Bradley were often winners or finalists in these throughout the late 1920s and into the 1930s. ANCC hosted some of these championships.

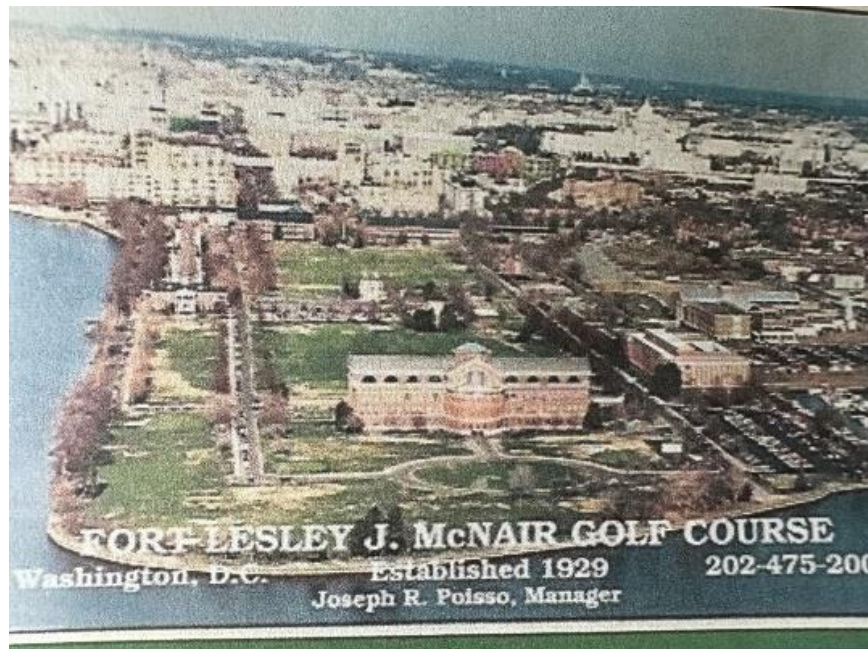
From the 1920s onward, “Team” inter-club matches were popular among both women and men. Army Navy Country Club led the way and by 1939 was hosting 5 men’s team matches including the Country Club of Virginia (Richmond) and Washington Golf and Country Club. 1/

Member-Guest tournaments at local area Country Clubs were introduced in 1945. Before that, local Clubs typically opened their courses only when hosting “Invitationals” for all qualifying golfers which sometimes ran to more than 300 aspirants seeking qualification. Army Navy Country Club adopted the Member-Guest format in the 1960s.

Starting with the late 1920s, Washington-area women golfers made their own competitive golf season sponsored mainly by the Washington DC Golf Association (WDCGA) and Mid-Atlantic Golf Association (MAGA). In 1927, as a way to raise awareness for the new Army Navy Marine Country Club, women golfers staged tournaments for all military wives and daughters stationed in the Washington region using the golf course at Washington Barracks (now Fort McNair) until the Arlington golf course was completed in autumn 1928. 2/

1/ “Washington, Virginia Tilts Slated for Service Squads.” Evening Star, April 3, 1939, page 14.

2/ “Women in Sport” Corrine Fraser, The Evening Star, August 14, 1927.



Aerial view of the Washington Barracks course on the reverse side of their course scorecard. The course was in use from 1926 to 2003 even though the picture above notes a 1929 date. The course manager, Joe Paisso, was a bodyguard for General George Patton during World War II.

ANCC management authorized the Women's Golf Organization (WGO) from 1930. The Women's DC Golf Association was founded in 1924 and the Washington Men's Golf Association in 1914. ANCC women competed actively in WDCGA events and junior men in the WMGA. However, Associations in the 1930s were rapidly filling out golf competitive schedules and by 1934, women were faced with a golf season of 25 events. Men's golf season also expanded rapidly. By 1934, there was a shared sense that the seasons were too long, and schedules were scaled back to about half of that level.

In all, in the early 1930s, DC-area clubs hosted 40 annual golf events, primarily Country Club-sponsored "Invitationals." But by 1990 or early 2000s, the Washington-area sponsored 120 championship "A" or upper level amateur Tournaments organized by Army Navy Country Club (ANCC), ARFAX, Washington Metropolitan Golf Association (WMGA), Mid-Atlantic PGA (MAPGA), Northern Virginia Golf Association (NVGA), Virginia State Golf Association (VSGA), Mid-Atlantic Golf Association (MAGA), and the Women's DC Golf Association) WDCGA. The Senior Golf League of Northern Virginia was formed in 2004 and the Northern Virginia Golf Association in 2019 which was built out of Northern Virginia golf leagues loosely affiliated to the Virginia State Golf Association (VSGA).^{1/}

^{1/} Notes and emails from ANCC/NVGA's Lynn Wessman and ANCC's Jim Schroeder, et al.

In the late 1930s, Army Navy CC (Arlington) staged seven major tournaments for men and one for women. In 1928, local country clubs discovered Scotch Foursomes format as a way to expand golfing interest and to be more inclusive. 1/ Blind Bogey and Tombstone match play formats were the most popular with both women and men in the 1930s 2/ By 1934, ANCC women dominated regional tournaments with 10 women at a ten or less handicap and 60 ANCC women forming WDCGA teams from “A” to “D” classes. 3/

Since television would not feature a golf tournament until 1954, one had to view a tournament in person and, in Washington, all local tournaments were free to enter for players and attendees until into the 1950s. In 1934, the NYC Metropolitan Golf Association banned women wearing Bermuda shorts from playing golf. The WDCA (now WDCGA) reacted by saying it is entirely a local option. Chevy Chase had an informal ban for some years. 4/ Women’s golf shorts bans resurfaced in 1953 when the USGA banned women wearing shorts at all their official tournaments. 5/



Pro golf Champ Marlene Bauer – Participated with sister, Alice, at the 1950 ANCC Celebrity Tournament. Both ignored the Bermuda shorts ban.

1/ “Scotch Foursome Makes a Hit with Players at Washington,” The Sunday Star, June 10, 1928.

2/ The Women’s District of Columbia Golf Association established handicap index tiers to improve competitive opportunities in their tournaments in the 1930s. Golfers were organized by 4 to 5 Divisions from zero to a maximum of 21 handicap index and then tournaments and CUPS were established in 5 classes from A Class and up.

3/ At Appendix 1D these acronyms are briefly summarized.

4/ “Women Here Regard Golf Shorts Calmly,” Washington Post, August 8, 1934, pg. 1.

5/ “Knicker Wearing Sarazen Approves - Golfing Ban on Shorts Brings Long Faces from Bauer Girls” Will Grimsley, Washington Post, February 7, 1953, page 8.

The first women military officers joined Army Navy Country Club (ANCC), as well as other regional country clubs, to play golf and tennis in 1947 and women commissioned officer membership accelerated throughout the Korean War; making some women ANCC full members. Issues over women's privileges would persist until well into the late 1970s and maybe beyond.

In those days, all amateur - national and local tournaments ---were played at 36 holes a day. The last U.S. Open of 36 holes in a day was in 1964 while ANCC events often played 36 holes per day into the 1990s. Very few Pro or Amateur events today are held with 36 holes played per day except for qualifying and match play events. The U.S. Amateur, U.S. Women's Amateur, and the Golf Week Senior Match Play tournaments are notable exceptions.

By 1952, gas-powered and electric battery golf carts were available at some golf courses around the country. Electric battery technology faltered until the 1960s. Batteries did not make it through the 16th hole and chargers frequently fried the batteries. Gasoline-powered golf carts were noisy and emitted a lot of smoke. By the 1960s, the technology was worked out and ANCC deployed powered carts in 1965-66. The Virginia Amateur and the Maryland Open barred golf carts until. 1/

1/ "Brownell Won In a Walk" Washington Star, July 17, 1974, pg. 53. Bobby Brownell was a great amateur golfer in the 1930s and partnered with ANCC amateur champion Ralph Bogart for all their long golfing lives. Washingtonians watched Bogart and Brownell on all things golf between 1950 and 1990.

Army Navy Country Club Golf Centennial History

The Long Form

1920s and 1930s

The first event for the new "ANMCC" (at that time Marines were in the title) golf course, as it was carved out of the countryside in the autumn of 1928, was typical for the Third Cavalry at Fort Myer (many of whom were the earliest members), but novel to the dairy farm community of Arlington. In the winter of 1928, as the golf course was being finalized by club manager Major Richard Newman, the ANCC acreage got immediate use hosting a very popular Sunday morning cross-country horse-ride and a hunt- breakfast for Club members which was often sponsored by Army Chief of Staff Major General Charles F. Summerall. 1/

In the early years, the course stood out as a challenge among local amateurs and pros. The first club pro to break par in 1930 at the Arlington course was Arthur Thorn (Woodmont Club) with a 69 and the first member was E.A. Noyes in 1933 with a 69.

In 1938, ANCC's Golf Committee Chairman, Commander E. K. Patton, convinced Washington's local pros to test the Army Navy Country Club for its potential to host the District Golf Association (now WMGA) local Pro Open Tournament in 1939. Walter McCallum- the Star's sportswriter and former golf pro reviewed the golf course relative to the rest of the local country clubs.

He wrote in his Sunday column, "It's tough. You can take our word for that. No course around the Capital has for so long withstood the par-busting habits of the pros. And it isn't because it is so heavily trapped, for there are few bunkers on the layout, if you compare it with such heavily trapped courses as Chevy Chase, Columbia, or Congressional. Enshrouding woods, cut-up terrain, sloping fairways, and tricky holes make of that service club course a layout that a guy can coast along at par for a dozen holes and blow himself to an 8. It's a score wrecker, and will, if the local pros stage their championship there, produce the highest winning score of the brief history of the District stroke play medal classic."

"Last year," he went on to write, "playing the last round through a rainstorm at Indian Spring, Wiffy Cox won with 291. (The Masters' tournament website reports that players between 1934 and 1950 carded around 285 in 72 holes compared to 260s today.) "No man will score that well at Army Navy and a 72-hole score of 300 will come pretty close to picking up the marbles." (Records do not report where the 1939 DGA pro's match was played.) 2/

1/ "Hunt Breakfasts on Every Sunday," Washington Post, December 16, 1928. Page s8

2/ Walter McCallum, "Straight Off the Tee," The Sunday Star, August 21, 1938, page 18

In its first years, ANCC golf course was the most important draw for golfing military officers stationed in Washington but who were, at first, members of other courses and clubs. Major Earl Naiden, Virginia State Champion, and National Army Tournament Champion in 1926, first was a member of the Columbia Golf Course and the Army Industrial College, but later joined ANCC.

Before joining ANCC, Major Richard K. Sutherland played at Burning Tree CC as a junior where his father was a member. 1/ General Royer Keefer and his wife Cornelia played at Chevy Chase and then joined ANCC too. Admiral Presley H. Rixey (Navy doctor to Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt was a “founding member” of both Army Navy Country Club and Washington Golf and Country Club. John and Claude Hodges moved to Army Navy Country Club from Congressional in 1929. (In 1954, the champion USAF Captain Lucille Busch was first a member at Argyle but by 1964 switched to Army Navy Country Club on her second tour in the Washington area.) The Maryland Junior Amateur and Virginia Amateur Champion, Ralph Bogart, recovered from asthma challenges as a junior member on the Army Navy golf course. In the 1950s, as his Bethesda-based insurance business grew, he switched to Chevy Chase Country Club.

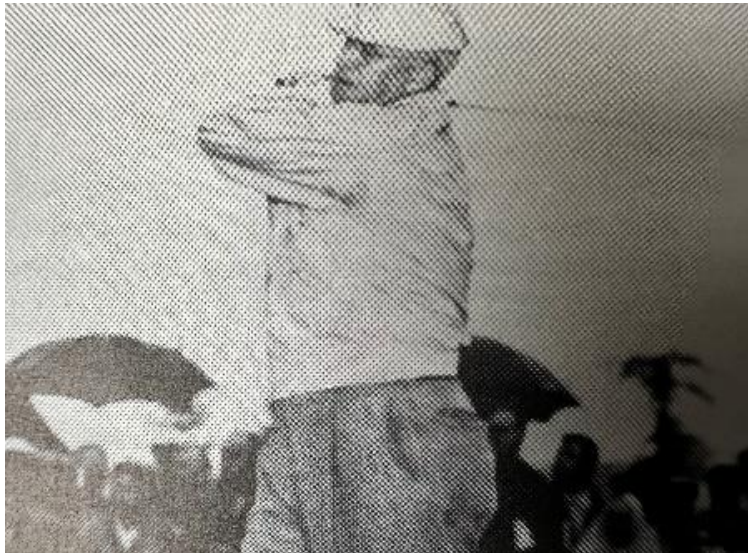


General Richard Sutherland (seated third from left in 1944 seated with Philippine President Osmena and General Douglas MacArthur. Source: Sutherland’s Wikipedia page.

With the ANCC golf course fully open for play in 1929, the Club announced its first tournament. Captain Frank Stoner who was the Washington District golf representative of the Army organized a qualifying tournament for Third Corps Army officers in early September and then hosted the “All Army National Championships” at the Army Navy Country Club on September 25-27, 1929. The contestants were drawn from army bases throughout the United States, Panama, and the Philippines. Housing was provided by borrowed field tents pitched in the woods on Club grounds. ANCC member Major Earl Naiden had won that National Tournament in 1926 for the 3rd Corps while 2nd Corps Lieutenant E.A. Baldwin won both in 1927 and 1928.

1/ “Service Star has Sound Game,” Washington Post, February 19, 1933, pg.SP5.

In 1929, Major Omar Bradley of the Fourth Corps eliminated Major Naiden in semi-finals and went on to oppose a West Pointer Lieutenant Baldwin at ANCC on September 27. The final match at the Club on a Saturday was a 36-hole combined medal and match play and attended by 600 people. According to local sports writers, Bradley fought tenaciously for every hole against a younger and more talented Baldwin. Finally, it was reported that Baldwin made a mistake and nearly overshot the 17th green but that his ball hit the flag stick and settled near the hole. Baldwin took the final championship 2 to 1 at the final hole over Bradley. As a golfer, Bradley was a tenacious competitor and went on to break Navy's dominance of ANCC's annual Army Navy Air Force Tournament in 1952 with a personal best 82 for 18 holes. 1/



General Omar N Bradley at ANCC Celebrities Tournament 1949
Source: ANCC History 1989. p 58.

Also in 1929, Club Manager Newman proposed its own Army, Navy & Marine Golf Tournament to be hosted at ANCC. It was widely promoted throughout the services and non-members were encouraged to participate.

Earl Naiden tried once more to win the National All-Army Championship at Fort Leavenworth in 1930 but lost to another ANCC member Major R. K.. Sutherland. During the 1930s local sportswriters thought Sutherland was the best golfer in the region. Because of the Depression starting in 1929, the National Army Championship ended after 1930 and much changed in golf. By 1942, General Naiden was in India commanding the unit flying ammunition to Chinese fighters. Sutherland was Chief of Staff to General McArthur in Australia and the Philippines. Notably Earl Naiden's wife was an ANCC Women's Golf Organization Chairman in 1930s and his son Neil was prominent in regional golf circles in the 1960s.

1/ "Major Bradley Proves His Pluck, But Loses Tight Links Battle," Evening Star, September 28, 1929, pg 27.



Earl Naiden -ANCC member and All Army National Champion golfer in 1926.

According to several contemporary sports observers, there were two characteristics peculiar to ANCC that made it stand out in the Washington region in the 1930s. First, the club was bigger than most in the area and membership was younger than the rest of the local Clubs. Typically, by the latter part of the 1930s, club championships involved 10 flights of ANCC men competitors and when fielding a team for tournaments; 20 or more golfers represented ANCC. Second, ANCC had a deep bench to draw on from the military service. It was not rare that state amateur golf champions, both men and women, were assigned to Washington for duty for several years and joined ANCC. In 1968, the ANCC qualified 61 women golfers for the WDCGA season compared to 30 or less for any other local club and 10 of these ANCC women golfers had handicaps of 10 or less.

Money was tight during the Great Depression; but golf remained popular at ANCC and throughout the country, amateur golf ruled at both regional and national levels. Local tournaments grew. Almost every local country club had an “Invitational” tournament for regional golfers in team match play and stroke play. For women, there were the WDCGA Keefer Cup, Corby Cup, and the Star Cup. In 1932, the Army Navy Country Club hosted its 1st “Invitational” to stay in step with the trend among local country clubs. That year there were 300 seeking qualification at ANCC Arlington. In 1936, Club Manager Newman established a men’s tournament called the Newman Cup which was on the Club schedule until retired in 1989. In the same year (1936,) ANCC member Admiral William Standley sponsored the Standley Cup which was played for at the Club until 1961. Standley was ANCC President (1936-37) and 6th CNO. He is credited with restoring the US Navy Fleet after ruinous budget cuts during the Great Depression.



Admiral William Standley (middle) - ANCC member and avid golfer (He was a member of ANCC's top golf team). At Walton Heath UK with Acting US Ambassador and British Foreign Secretary 1935.

And in 1937, ANCC women established "home and home" matches with Country Club of Virginia which ended in 1972 when the WGO agreed to retire the cup to make room on their season schedule with the ARFAX league. (See Appendix 2 for the list of ANCC trophies, cups, plates, plaques, and lists of champions.)

Appended at 1A is the Army Navy Country Club men's season schedule in 1939 and this was typical for the era and around the region. Match-play prevailed and events were mostly for ANCC primary members – male military officers. Women played frequently during the week but there were few competitions at that time and mostly off-campus at country club invitations or the WDCGA.

There were many standout Club golfers making the rounds of regional amateur tournaments in the 1930s. In 1928, Club manager Major Newman recruited Mrs. Claude Hodges to organize the Army Navy Country Club women's golf team. She became the Club's first women's team captain. Charlotte Strayer and Elsie Angwin were, contemporaneously, the first WGO

Chairmen. Mrs. C. K.. Wing became the first ANCC club member to head the Women's DC Golf Association.



Charlotte Strayer “swinging away” probably in 1922 at Fort Dix New Jersey. She was married to Colonel Thorne Strayer, an ANCC member in 1929. She was first leader of the ANCC Women's Golf Organization in 1929 and later, Chairman of the Women's Auxiliary Committee.

Source: U.S. Library of Congress, Golf Picture Archive.

Mrs. Hodges was a very talented golfer and sported a 6-handicap. In 1929, she won virtually everything she played. She was the first ANCC champion of the Mid Atlantic Golf Association Tournament (the next ANCC woman to win this trophy was in 1964 - Robbye King). She also won the WDCA championship (tombstone format), she was the first ANCC Women's Club Championship, and the WDCGA Star “A” Trophy.

She also organized a first-rate women's team, including champions like Mrs. Cornelia Keefer (WDCGA Keefer Cup), Mrs. W. H. Hale, Mrs. M.J. Garber, Mrs. K. N. Gardner, Mrs. Fred Furth, Elsie Angwin, Mrs. Paul Streit (Metta), and Mrs. J.T. O'Rear. Inexplicably, Hodges withdrew from competitive golf in 1930 but continued with her family as ANCC golfing

members. Her daughter Mollie played competitively during the 1930s. Hodge's team played for the rest of the 1930s and some survived to play into the 1950s as seniors. Pictured Below is Mrs. Furth who was a member of the ANCC Women's competitive WDGA (Now the WDCGA) team.



ANCC Golf Team Member - Mrs. Fred Furth shows her stroke, ANCC 1936.

Amateur women's competitive golf was not without controversy in the 1930s. Local women's golf associations had to deal with the propriety of women golfers teaming with male caddies. Then, in the summer of 1934, women, nation-wide, appeared on the golf course in Bermuda shorts. (In Paris, Marlene Dietrich was arrested for appearing publicly in Bermuda shorts. At that point, the New York City Metropolitan Golf Association promulgated an edict forbidding women to wear shorts as tournament attire. By August, the Washington golf establishment came down on the side of it being a "matter of personal choice" but there was substantial muttering that shorts were "unbecoming, unladylike and unnecessary" and "a fad that will just take care of itself." 1/

Later in the early 1960s, the Greens Committee was tasked to moderate the course "pathway slope down number one and ten holes to permit safe transit of electric golf carts by lady operators." 2/ From 1964, no incidents were reported.

1/ "Women Here Regard Golf Shorts Calmly," Washington Post, August 8, 1934. Pg. 1.

2/ Report of Executive Committee, July 1962 referencing a recent Golf Committee Report.

An important ANCC parent-child golf pairing was Navy Captain Ike Bogart and his son, Ralph. Ike Bogart was an accomplished golfer who competed from 1932 to 1941 in most Club competitions. In the early 1930s, Ralph was ill, and his family took him out of school and assigned him to the stewardship of ANCC golf professional Al Burton for a year. By 1937, Ralph (17 years old) won his first local championship; the DGA (now WMGA) Junior Tournament. He won three club championships in 1938, 1939, and 1940. In 1941 he played in every match play event in the mid-Atlantic in addition to the Pine Valley Invitational and the National Amateur, winning 30 out of 36 matches. After the war, Ralph joined Chevy Chase Country Club and won a competition every year until 1994, including the Maryland State Golf Association Senior Opens in 1976 and 1979. He was admitted to the State of Maryland Athletic Hall of Fame.



Ralph Bogart, ANCC Junior Golfer

Men's Team golf flourished. Ike Bogart and his son Ralph Bogart were frequent contestants; Captain K. J. Fielder captained the men's golf team. The team assembled, in addition to the above, were Major E.A. Noyes, Capt. B.R. Luscomb, E. H. Ely, and Major O.K. Sadtler, and Admiral William Standley. (See a preliminary and incomplete listing of top ANCC women and men competitive team members over the one hundred years in the appended trophy lists. Appendix 2.)

1940s and 1950s

In 1942, golf slowed to a near standstill at Army Navy Country Club. Women still participated in tournaments off-campus in a limited way, but ANCC hosted next to nothing. By June 1942, the federal government's war efforts restricted the manufacture of golf clubs and forbade access to leather for golf bags. Golf grounds maintenance equipment had limited access to fuel. Nation-wide, almost all golf events were suspended due to the war except events tied to the war charity efforts. Pro and amateur golf organizations took up the idea to raise money for the Red Cross, USO and Army and Navy Relief in the "Hale America" sporting event charities. National golf tournaments and other events raised \$1 million a year for wartime charities. In fact, the close relationship of golf and war-related charities like the USO gave rise to the post-war celebrity golf events in Washington starting in 1947 at Columbia Country Club and then moving to Army Navy Country Club in 1949-51 sponsored by the Washington Post.

The Army Navy Country Club team that organized the tournament were golf pro Allan Burton, Colonel M. M. Magee (Chairman of the Golf Committee,) General Clark Rufner, Chairman, Board of Governors (1948-1949), and Captain J. P.B. Barrett, tournament Chairman. The proceeds of the tournament and other concurrent celebrity events and donations amounted to more than \$12,000 in 1949 and \$25,000 by 1951. Tickets to the Army Navy Country Club Tournament went for \$2.40 per person, per day, and the events were attended by 3400 to 8000 people. The proceeds went to the U.S. Department of Justice in an effort by Attorney General Tom Clark to address juvenile delinquency.

On the West Coast, the Bing Crosby Pro-Am (which was started in the 1930s) was again being played on Monterey Peninsula in California. Army Navy Country Club hosted the "National Celebrity Tournament" (two days and 36 holes) with Bob Hope as well as radio star Arthur Godfrey. Godfrey staged his radio show that evening at the National Guard Armory to raise more money for charity. The first national champion golfer to announce support and interest to participate in the ANCC event- Francis Ouimet- who won the U.S. Open against UK's Harry Vardon and Ted Ray in 1913. It does not seem that Ouimet actually showed up in Arlington but there was a lot of initial interest in the tournament associated with his name. The tournament also drew interest from the top four scorers at the 1949 Ladies' Titleholders tournament at Augusta, GA – Peggy Kirk, Dot Kirby, Patti Berg, and Babe Didrickson Zaharias. Tennis star Pauline Betts Addie and Canadian golf pro Grace Lencysk actually played the 36 holes. Other touring professionals were Ben Hogan, George Fazio, Cary Middlecoff, and Sammy Snead. Generals Omar Bradley and Hoyt Vandenberg as well as Admiral W. H. P. Blandy played. Sammy Snead shot a 65 and Grace Lencysk a 74. Jane Russell and Eunice Kennedy were scorekeepers. Perle Mesta lent her hosting for a celebrity dinner at her house in Washington.

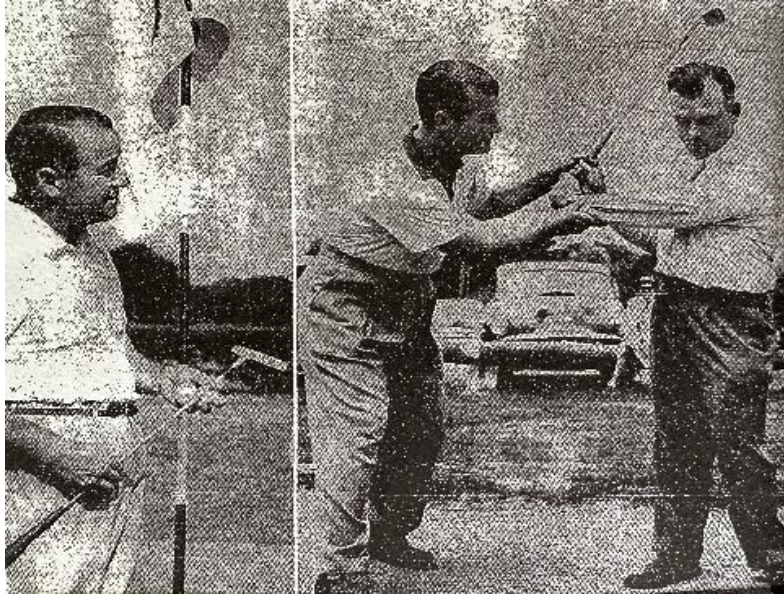
On June 3, 1950, the next ANCC Celebrity Tournament was another star-studded success and the attendance was 8000 spectators. Ben Hogan led the professional and top amateur participation that included Gene Sarazen, Jimmy Thompson, Chick Evans, George Fazio, Allan Burton, and Jim McHale. Women golfers included Maureen Greuett and Babe Didrikson as well as Marlene Bauer, Alice Bauer, Patty Bergand, and Peggy Kirk. Bob Hope added Milton Berle, Danny

Kaye, and Gordon McRae. Hogan won the two-day, 27 holes event 33-98 and Babe Zaharias won the women's section with 103. Fazio, Burton, and the Michigan football player Johnny Fischer tied for second. Bob Hope's ball hit a spectator. But perhaps the highlight of the day was when Babe Didrikson Zaharias took time out of the tournament to pull –aside 60-year-old sports-legend and fellow Olympian Jim Thorpe and give him a few golf pointers. She gave him one of her golf balls on the tenth hole and then teed off for him. She drove the ball 225 yards and it landed on the green. After that, Thorpe did very well and used only a two iron for the whole round. Dedrikson was - like Thorpe – a track and field Olympian. She then went on and between 1946 and 1950 she won the US Women's Open, British Ladies Amateur and the US Women's Amateur and co-founded the LPGA.



A champion golf duo forged at ANCC in 1950:
US Olympians Jim Thorpe and Babe Dedrickson in the ANCC golf pro shop.at Arlington
ANCC. Source: Cumberland County Historical Society on-line collection.

By 1951, the Celebrity Tournament at Army Navy Country Club had hit its stride. Perry Como, Don Ameche, and Tony Martin took up the celebrity duties, as well as Cyd Charisse and Dagmar. Golf professionals included Cary Middlecoff, Chandler Harper, Jimmy Demeret, George Fazio, Gene Sarazen, and Marlene Bauer among others and turned in scores comfortably under par. Air Force General Vandenberg was also a leader.



In a final prep for the Celebrity Tournament in 1951, Jimmy Demeret gave a quick lesson to Rear Admiral Fred Reader as Gene Sarazen looked on.
Source: Washington Post, June 2, 1951, pg. 12.

By 1951, however, the ANCC Board of Governors and the Golf Committee were challenged by the success of 7000 spectators on the course and the wear on the grass sod. It was noted that \$20,000 extra maintenance was required to return the grass to golf course condition annually as a result of the Tournament spectators. Accordingly, the National Celebrities Golf Tournament moved on to other local clubs.

Also, as local golf started to revive at ANCC, many new ideas were considered for the club to offer during the late forties. In 1945, "Member Guest" tournaments was introduced at Washington Golf Club (Army Navy Country Club did not adopt this format until the 1960s.) Similarly, "senior" golf had been considered in the 1930s by local clubs but the idea was not sustained by the majority of clubs. That is, in 1932, senior golf teams were well entrenched at Chevy Chase; so, Army Navy and Columbia considered starting a senior league but the idea soon flagged. Then in 1948, the ANCC Golf Committee considered, with strong encouragement from ANCC golf pro Al Burton starting a "senior" men's golf tournament and sought other clubs to establish senior teams for an inter club senior competition, but this sputtered out. Club-based Senior Tournaments regionally finally got traction in 1974.

1950s

Golf became a very popular sport with broad participation among all ages, income levels and with broad diversity in the 1950s nationwide. Moreover, military families and military officers were assigned to Washington as never before and ANCC rose to the challenge in many practical ways. Women military officers who had served in WWII and Korean War joined most all the area golf clubs and, as officers, the ANCC Constitution kind of gave them more access to the golf course as well as other facilities. The regional sportswriters emphasized golf's popularity; so "Invitationals" and Tournaments flourished for women and juniors as well as men. ANCC was very popular with officers assigned to Washington, but the military joined other local clubs as well. Managing access to the ANCC course, particularly on weekends, became a challenge and expansion of the Club's golf course and other facilities became a priority.

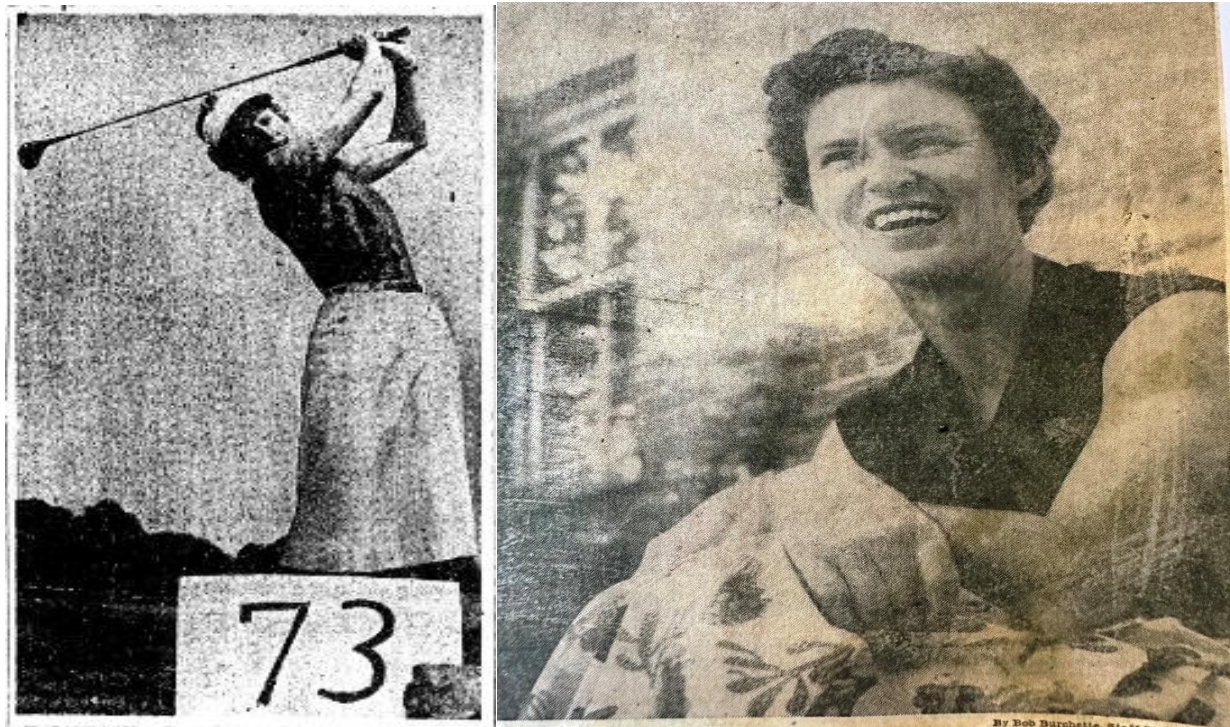
Typically, in the 1950s, ANCC fielded 150 golfers for intramural tournaments like the Army-Navy inter-service tournaments and qualified 20 to 30 golfers for 18-hole competitions with other clubs. The dominant competitive men's golfers were Bill Ely, Howard Nichols, Walter Davidson, Ernie Ruffed, Paul Schutz, and General W.C. James, among others. In 1952, LTC Bill Ely won the ANCC men's club championship and from then on Ely remained a force in the area. In 1962, Ely won the club championship as a Brigadier General and then again in 1963 when he was promoted to Major General. Then, to match his record, in 1965 he won the club championship as Lieutenant General. To keep his hand on his clubs, he built a golf course on his farm after retiring in 1966. By the time he was 105 years old and the oldest living graduate of West Point, he had "shot his age" more than 2000 times. With this kind of "senior" talent, golf pro Burton built a senior golf team at the club with General Jesse Drain, Colonel R. G. Rogers, Colonel William James, and Colonel R.A. Mountford. (In 1950, now U.S. Marine General James won the ANCC club championship.)

Regional golf leadership was plentiful at Army Navy and in 1949, Mrs. Nancy Torlinski, a leader of ANCC women's golf, a Club member from 1929, and permanently resident since 1937 - took over the Presidency of the Women's DC Golf Association and subsequently established a regional cup tournament for women's golf. In 1955, John Phillips became the ANCC's first President of the Washington Metropolitan Golf Association.

Local military golfers remained the lifeblood of competitive golf in Washington in the 1950s as two women golfers arrived who captured local sports headlines for most of the early 1950s. For example, Air Force Captain Lucille Busch transferred to Washington from San Diego, California. An information officer during World War II and the Korean War; and self-taught golfer, she at first joined the Argyle Country Club in Silver Spring and immediately started winning city-wide and state-wide competitions. By 1953, she had won Country Club Invitationals, the "Class A" Star Cup, and, in 1954, won the WDCGA championship.

About the same time, Margaret Allen, who was married to Marine Colonel A. H. Allen joined Army Navy Country Club. A native Virginian and "plus-two" handicap golfer, Allen played in the 1952 National Capital Open finishing third with a 75 behind professionals Betty Jameson and Babe Zaharias. She had been Norfolk, Virginia City Champion in 1953 and started playing

socially with Lucille Busch at the Arlington golf course in 1954. In 1954, Allen became the medalist for the 30th annual Virginia Women's Championship Golf Tournament and in 1955 won the Virginia State Championship at Hot Springs, Virginia and again in 1956. What brought drama to Washington golf was that for the years 1953 through 1957, Allen (ANCC) and Busch (Argyle) competed but were never able to dominate each other to the great joy of sportswriters and golf fans around Washington, D.C.



At left - USAF Captain Lucille Busch (1954) and at right ANCC Champ Margaret Allen (1956)

In 1957, Margaret Allen and her husband were reassigned to Albany, Georgia; she won many Georgia-state golf competitions. The ANCC and the WDCGA established a trophy in her name for Junior Girls and it was part of the Washington area scene for many years. Busch also was redeployed to the West Coast in the late 1950s, but in 1963, she came back to Washington and joined Army Navy Country Club and competed in senior women team matches for the Club.

The most important event for Club golfers in the 1950s was the acquisition of an additional 18-hole golf facility at Fairfax Circle in 1958. The expanded capacity, without the Arlington hills, became popular quickly. Fairfax's course length and bunker placement made it slightly more challenging, but the flatter topography was very much preferred for those valuing the golf experience without the challenges of sheer endurance.

In the 1950s, ANCC men and women played tournaments in DC and Maryland, as far afield as Baltimore. Throughout the mid-1950s and into the 1960s ANCC counted on several women to qualify for tournaments and team matches throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the region. Besides Margaret Allen, the ANCC team frequently included Metta Streit, Fran King, Ms. Rixey, Ms. C.P. Phoebus, Ms. Koshliek, and Ms. MacNaughton. There was a lot of golf activity in

southern Virginia and Richmond remained a real draw for ANCC golfers. ANCC women were frequent participants in Virginia-Carolina Women's Team Matches.

In 1951, Lucille Sadtler applied to the ANCC Golf Committee for permission to form a separate golf organization at Army Navy Country Club to meet the needs of women wishing only nine-hole golf experience. Limited independence from the long-standing women's golf organization was granted by the Golf Committee. Participation in Women's Nine-Hole events grew region-wide and in 1951, ANCC Pro Al Burton established a trophy for women's nine-hole competition at the Club called the "Home on Home Championship." It appears that this was one of the first women's events staged regularly at Army Navy Country Club. This was followed by the staging of a women's "hole-in-one" championship established in 1958.



The following have been identified in this picture:
Ruth Wiken, Margaret Mueller, Jean Herzog, Polly Harner, Alice Valario, Dorothy Kimball,
Catie Ross, St. Clair Craighill, Barbara Dinsmore, Mary Goodrich, Lorraine Ash, Elsa Kemp,
Jean Devlin, Louise Crook, Helen Williams, Beverly Bodine, Kay Kramer, Rachel Butt, Courtney

Golf Pro Al Burton in 1951 with some of Women's Nine-Hole Team Members.

Source: WNHGO history files.

1960s

RADM Philip H. Fitzgerald USN (retired)- Chairman, Golf Committee - from 1961 to 1963 supported many new golf play innovations among the members. His creativity in golf was far-reaching. That is to say, the popularity of golf nationwide brought in many new participants looking for new golf experiences and more course access. The expansion to Fairfax as well as the introduction of golf carts seemed to open up new organized golf event possibilities, and it fell to Fitzgerald, the Club Golf Committee, and Steve Tobash - the new head golf pro to meet these new demands and interests.

By the early sixties, golf carts were introduced which increased access for golfers but undermined one of golf's pillars – the course challenge to a golfer's endurance that was previously offset by golf caddies. The two golf courses had hundreds of caddy staff from 1928 to 1963. Central to that staff was Joe Jordan who started as a caddy in 1928 and by 1933 was caddy master for Arlington. From 1964 when carts were introduced, Jordan took on the job of Arlington course golf starter handling the tradeoffs of access, timing, rank, and club rules for women, men, and juniors.



Longtime ANCC golf manager -Joe Jordan -1928-1977. Source: Photo Archives of ANCC Golf Pro Pete Stassi, 2023.

In 1962, the partial separation arrangement of women's nine-hole and 18-hole groups seemed cramped for nine-hole women golfers, and so they applied to the Golf Committee for complete separation. Fran Ryon appealed to the club to formalize a separate women's nine golf organization, as there were more than ten teams in the women's nine-hole golf league. In addition, team golf grew in popularity with the women's Maryland-Virginia Team Match Association and in 1966 the Maryland –Virginia Nine Hole Team Match Association. At about

the same time, Chairman Fitzgerald also established the first ANCC member-guest tournament for both women and men. Also in 1961-62, ARFAX was formed by Washington Golf and Army Navy Country Club and seven other clubs. The first year there were 50 members. It was called the “21 PLUS” group as it was composed of women golfers with handicaps higher than that permitted by the Women’s District Golf Association (WDCGA today).

In 1962, Robbye King became the first ANCC junior member to win the WDCGA championship. King never was drawn to play for the Club Women’s Championship, but she had a long golf career in both Arlington and Charlotte, Virginia. As a junior she won most Virginia titles of VSGA and MAGA as she did with WDCGA. She played against and with Air Force Captain Lucille Busch who was her contemporary. She joined amateur golf tours and eventually a brief try as a touring golf professional before moving on to Charlotte Country Club.



Robbye King, ANCC Junior and Virginia State Champion, 1962

One thing more that remained consistent over the years was the capacity of ANCC golfers to qualify large delegations of competitive golfers year after year. For example, in 1968, ANCC had the most qualifiers for tournament play in the DMV region – 61 players of the 400 women who qualified for competition in the WDCGA. In 1968, more than 400 women qualified in the WDCGA but ANCC had twice the size of any other Club. Appendix 1A shows a table of women golfers published in a local newspaper to inform the sports reading public who they could follow through the summer season. (It was normal in those days for newspapers to publish all or some highlights of the anticipated golf season.) The Chart summarizes the ANCC women’s 18-hole golf team for the 1969 season with qualifying handicap indexes. The number of golfers of the other member clubs is also shown in summary for comparison.

A long look at Appendix 1B reveals several aspects of interest for the end of the 1960s. ANCC's women's 18-hole team was a strong and leading regional presence. ANCC's Jackie Evans was the strongest golfer in the region with a three handicap. (By this time, Robbye King and Lucille Busch had moved on.) Even though the concept of "A" team was not referenced, it appears that at least 10-15 women would compete at 10 handicap or less. (See the Appendix 2 for lists of members and their teams and their victories.) Finally, some ANCC members moved to Maryland clubs- like Metta Streit and Charlotte Decker.

1970s

Until the 1970s, the Virginia State Golf Association focused mainly on golf in Richmond and the South of the state from Virginia Beach to Hot Springs. VSGA would hold some state-wide events in Northern Virginia but not many. North/South travelling distances and differing course conditions affected regular exchange but for the exceptional efforts to put together “home on home” events. So, Northern Virginia golfers generally played tournament golf in Maryland, predominantly Baltimore Country Club and Clubs around DC. The Maryland State Golf Association was very open to allowing Virginia clubs as members. Northern Virginia Clubs also played in District of Columbia tournaments. This had been the setup from the very beginning of golf in the two States and District of Columbia.

However, in 1970, the Maryland State Golf Association decided to exclude Virginia golf organizations from Maryland tournaments. (There is no record of the reason. Likely factors in this decision were the growing numbers of Virginia-based golf clubs and participants, the lack of reciprocity of golfers was a factor, maybe there was a lack of reciprocity, and maybe the winning dominance of Virginia clubs.) As a result, when cut off by Maryland, Northern Virginia golf went through a rapid transformation to a mostly Northern Virginia circuit given southern Virginia geographic isolation and the large number of clubs spawned in Northern Virginia.

This transition took some years and ANCC’s General James Gunn took the lead in establishing ANCC in competitions that remain today. Gunn was an able golfer winning the 1966 Club Championship. In 1971, he stepped forward to be the ANCC Men’s “A” Team Golf Captain for the Washington Metropolitan Golf Association tournaments. In 1975, what is known today as the Northern Virginia Golf Association (NVGA) was formed with ANCC a founding member. The NVGA match play events involved 200 ANCC players by 1989. Over time, the Northern Virginia Golf Association (at that time called the VSGA Northeast Section) established four tournaments – Sectionals between North and South Virginia, Mid-Am, Four Ball, and Men’s Amateur with ANCC men participating actively.



At this time, ANCC member Gill Fitzhugh became a top competitor in this Northern Virginia region. Fitzhugh was a junior champion for Chevy Chase Country Club at the start but by the 1970s had made the move to ANCC. Fitzhugh played widely. His brother, Woody, was a touring professional but also owned a golf course in Northern Virginia.

In 1980, Gill Fitzhugh decided to cross the northern Virginia - southern Virginia distances and compete in Richmond in the Virginia Amateur. At that time, Vinny Giles of Roanoke, and later Richmond, was the reigning Virginia Amateur Champion. In the 1960s and 1970s, Giles was well known state-wide for his golf ability. So, by 1980, Fitzhugh was drawn to compete with Giles even in Giles' own backyard. That year, Fitzhugh did prevail over Giles at that Virginia Amateur but both were eliminated by Mark Lawrence of Richmond, 3 and 2. Fitzhugh was an active participant in "A" Team golf and he was the stroke play Club champion for many years. Fitzhugh did win many Northern Virginia regional tournaments. In November 1980, the Evening Star newspaper named Fitzhugh the "Area's Best Amateur Golfer."

During this era, ANCC "A" Teams typically had 12-14 members. Over the years- 1975-1990 – active participants included General James Gunn, Remo Nicoli, Bill Gallogly, Robby Robinson, Bob Flath, Gill Fitzhugh, Peter Jacobi, Jeff Urban, Fred Widicus, Bob Reese, Charlie Horner, Bob Hullender, Gerry Beierschmitt, Arnold Mentz, John Weaver, Bill Putnam, Perry Stone, Greg Carpousis, Jamie Gough, Pete Van Pelt, and Tom White. 1/

1/ ANCC 1924-1989 Historical Review and selected newspapers.

Besides ANCC Juniors Greg Carpousis and Fred Widicus, another junior - Robbie Black was also playing top level golf. The son of a Marine Colonel, Black picked up golf from around the world. When his family moved from Hawaii in 1978, ANCC got a formidable golfer. In 1978, with less than three months in town, Black won the District Amateur Championship by one stroke against Gary Marlowe - the 1978 Maryland Open Champion. Black also won the VSGA Open in 1978 over the pro-Woody Fitzhugh – Gill Fitzhugh's brother.

Black caused some excitement when he met Scott Inman of Springfield Country Club at the 1981 Northern Virginia Amateur Championship match. Inman was quoted in the newspaper the day before the final saying "tomorrow, I will blow Black away." However, the next afternoon Black prevailed and won the tournament by one stroke and said afterwards that Inman's taunt "was a good catalyst for me. It got me steamed." 1/ No one knows what the two golfers said to each other that fateful final game. Black being "steamed" improved his circuit by two key strokes. It was said by newspaper sportswriters that the actual difference was that Inman's putting collapsed. He missed seven putts of seven feet or less. Black turned professional and was still qualifying for the US Open at Woodmont well into the 1980s.



VSGA Handmacher Cup with winning team in early 1970s. ANCC Members –Greg Carpousis at far left and Jamie Gough at far right. The Handmachers, in foreground, holding the cup. Also pictured are the rest of the "North Team"- Tim Vigotsky, Neff McClary, John Cockrill, Bob Gardiner, Glenn Barrett, and Chip Heyl.

1/ "Black Turns Anger to Victory." The Washington Star, June 29, 1981, page 27

By 1970, golf carts were finally everywhere in play in club golfing, the same was not true in regional tournaments. Even though carts were available in some places in 1952 and ANCC introduced them at Fairfax in 1962 and Arlington by 1965, local tournament organizers resisted carts because they made golfing less strenuous. By 1974, WMGA, for the first time, permitted golf carts in their WMGA senior tournaments. But in the same week, VSGA banned carts from their Virginia Amateur tournament on the grounds that golf is a “test of endurance.” Local golf champion Bobby Brownell would not consider carts but said “I can see carts for senior tournaments.” 2/

In the 1970s women’s golf exploded for ANCC (likely due to the new leagues formed for every level of golfer in northern Virginia. In 1972, the Northern Virginia women’s golf league - ARFAX was formed with the leadership of ANCC. It was and is an 18-hole team, match-play league for golfers with less than a 36 handicap which expanded play for women beyond the 20 handicap limit for WDCGA qualification. In

1978, ANCC’s golf pro Steve Tobash, seeing that there were many women members wanting a better entry into basic golf, organized “Society of Swingers” which ultimately was taken over by the Pro Shop. In that time period – 1977-1990 – ANCC established the following Women’s Tournaments; Spring Handicap, Steve Tobash Bowl, WGO Chairman’s Classic, Women’s Seniors Championship, and the King— Looney or Two Lady’s Tournament. All the results are listed in Appendix 2 – “ANCC Trophies Plaques.” The Club hired its first woman teaching pro- Nancy Maunder in 1985 to strengthen the new golfers.

Moreover, women golfers during this period dominated Virginia golf. From 1969 to 1989, ANCC women’s teams had 14 first place finishes in Division One of the WDCGA Team Play league, were medalists and winner of Championship flights in the VSGA. Between 1980 and 2000 Patty Moore (absentee member) was winner of the Military Dependents National military tournament, and the Club produced three champions of the WDCGA tournament (Pamela J. Clark, Sue Keeney, and Betty Looney).

2/ “Brownell Won in a Walk” Evening Star July 17, 1974, pg. 53.



ANCC Sue Keeney on left wins Keefer Cup in 1977 after third extra hole
Source: WDCGA 1977 Scrap book on their website

The slightly built Sue Keeney (a four handicap) won several WDCGA championships in what competitors called her “boringly efficient” style. Keeney retorted in 1975 at a championship round –“Actually that is a compliment. I’m not spectacular. I’m not particularly long off-the-tee. I concentrate on hitting the ball square.”

During this era, ANCC produced two state champions who gained extra recognition from the Virginia State Golf Association. Nancy Hollenbeck in the 1970s and Robbye King in the 1960s. King is in the VSGA Hall of Fame and Hollenbeck has the Virginia State Golf Association Women’s State Team Match named after her.

In the 1970s, the growing support for “senior” golf that had been brewing in informal Club associations all over the country since the 1930s, took hold in Club organizations and golf leagues. There had been occasional “senior tournaments” around the region since 1929 -- the Maryland State Golf Association in 1937 and the PGA “over 50” Championship, but every time the notion of a senior golf program came up at local golf clubs, the management generally passed on the idea. What had been sporadic interest in senior tournaments in the region now became generally supported and organized. ANCC established a senior club championship in 1974. Moreover, there was a DGA Senior amateur in 1974 and DGA Senior Team in 1978. 1/

1/ Army Navy Country Club, 1924-1989 Historical Review, page 137.

1980s

On June 9, 1981, Army Navy Country Club hosted a 36-hole U.S. Open Sectional Qualifying Tournament for the US Open scheduled at Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pennsylvania on June 18. Twenty-nine golfers-(16 professionals and 13 amateurs) who survived local qualifiers the preceding month played at Army Navy that Tuesday. Lee Elder, the local PGA tour champion led those seeking qualification at Arlington that year. Other Pros included Jim Dent, Mark Alwin, Glen Miller, Larry Ringer, and Bob Bilbo. Army Navy's Greg Carpousis and Cedar Crest's Wayne DeFrancesco, both juniors, also put up the \$55 to enter the competition.

Army Navy golfers were normally represented in the previous qualifiers. In 1979, the Club's Assistant Pro, Ken Leber, competed as well as ANCC junior amateur champion Pete Van Pelt. Leber qualified for the Open that year. Also in 1969, ANCC's Assistant Pro Jim Duffy as well as amateur Ralph Bogart (he was a junior at ANCC in the 1930s) qualified. Bogart also went on to the Open. The 1981, ANCC Sectional did not go off without controversy. At some point, on June 9, professional Jim Dent "turned the air blue" after walking off the course early in the round, complaining about the high grass in the fairways, that Army Navy should not have been selected in the first place, also his pairing, and divers other pains. Les Barker, the competition official and a member of the executive committee of MAGA commented, "What does Dent know about the fairways? He wasn't in any." 1/

The 1980s may be remembered as an era of quiet social revolution for ANCC golf. Navy Lieutenant Commander Nancy Hollenbeck (a VSGA women's amateur champion -1975 and ANCC Women's champion -1986) became the first woman member of the ANCC Board of Governors -1980-1989. Her work on the board and on the Golf Committee changed significantly how ANCC managed golf privileges for men and women. Hollenbeck mastered "Rules of Golf" and officiated at golf events all over the region including the Metropolitan Washington Golf Association. At her death, the VSGA established golf champion ship trophy in her memory.

1/ "Fines Not Levied For All Remarks," Evening Star June 14, 1981, page 15



Nancy, pictured with the *Army-Navy Country Club Women's Championship Trophy - 1986*

Army Navy Country Club hosted its last Mid-Atlantic US Open Sectional in 1986. (After this Woodmont Country Club in Rockville took over as permanent host of this Sectional.) That year Mid Atlantic Golf Association expected 17 qualifiers from the Army Navy Competition because so many golfers were in town for the Kemper Open a few days before. Mike “Radar” Reid, son of an Air Force officer but never a Club member, won with eight birdies turning in a 136 for the 36 holes. Army Navy’s Junior Rick Schuller qualified with a 141. Coupled with playing the Kemper, the Qualifier was an exhausting stretch but most golfers found the Arlington Army Navy course more challenging. Joe Inman qualified with a 131, and observed, “I will tell you what, that course played hard. The tees were just as far back as they could get ‘em. And then the wind blew. It’s a hard little golf course. You’re never standing flat to hit a golf shot.”^{1/} Rick Schuller turned pro in 1986, played in Florida and National PGA tours and became a club pro in Richmond. In 2001, he played in the 83rd PGA Championship and was only two strokes behind Tiger Woods and was the leading “Club Pro” in the tournament.

1/ “Reid Leads 17 U.S. Qualifiers,” The Washington Post, June 3, 1986, pg. E4.

1990s

In 1991, Steve Tobash and the Club hired its second women's golf pro – M.J. Smith. Smith was a New Zealand golf champion, LPGA player and, at ANCC, one of the top 50 PGA golf teachers in the United States. By 1992, Smith rounded up five golfers who worked during the week but were not military officers to see if they were interested in forming a Working Women's Golf Organization for the purpose of providing member, working women, both military and civilian, of all playing abilities, the opportunity to meet other women golfers whose playing time was confined to "after-work hours." These five WWGO founders were Carole Delong, Mary Kathryn Horner, Gerry Bian, Terrie Spiro, and Jan Wiley; they are pictured below with Ladies Golf Pro M.J. Smith.



The Executive Committee and the Board of Governors approved the concept in 1993. By 1993, membership was 80 women and by 2024 the ANCC Career Women's Golf Organization has 140-150 members. Because the concept of this group was social and about community as well as regular weekly access to the golf course, the concept took hold firmly among spouses and women military officer primary members. The play started with nine holes at Arlington on Saturdays at 11 am. In 2023, the CWGO played 18 holes and at both Fairfax and Arlington on Wednesdays and Thursdays after 5 pm and Saturdays alternating between Fairfax and Arlington. Annual Member-Guest Tournaments sometimes ended at 10 pm in the dark and then there was food service and prize giving. 1/

1/ Carol Delong, CWGO History, March 2, 2022.

Another aspect of the CWGO started in 1995 – “Working Women’s Off-Site Weekend (WWOW). It was held at Myrtle Beach North Carolina in late February. 16 golfers participated in four foursomes that changed up every day for four days and played over four different local courses. The weather wasn’t always cooperative. Some days there was light snow and other days - sun and shorts. These off sites were expanded to include an autumn weekend playing in Fredericksburg, Williamsburg, and Cumberland and nearby Pennsylvania. In the 1990s, the CWGO opened its play to ANCC juniors and attracted many gifted young women players. Today, the CWGO supports mixed play at most of its events bringing men and professionals as partners. Like other parts of ANCC, the CWGO is a community that honors and values its members. For example, a Memorial Garden between Blue 1 and Blue 8 was established in honor of Carol Sherriff, an early CWGO President and longtime active ANCC member. CWGO members included Captain Mary Lou Conner, USN; BG Millie Hedberg, USA; CDR Diane Vosilus, USN; Col Sherry Sims, USAF; Col Liz Bustamante, USAF; Captain Mary Ann Cronin, USN; Captain Shelley Savage, USN; Lt Col Lisa Moore, USMC; Lt Col Judie Armington, USAF; Commander Leda Davis, USN; Col Cheryl Daly, USAF; Col Sherrie Balko, USA; Captain Margaret Ann Connors, USN. Two women in particular stand in the forefront: USN Captains Mary Ann Cronin and Shelley Savage, who are widely recognized in the WDCGA.^{1/}

The concept of “career women golf” spread through the region. The first Interclub program began in 1993 with Mount Vernon Country Club. Eventually, thanks to ANCC and professional – M.J. Smith, other Clubs joined a league. Most of the Clubs’ Head Professionals were male during that period and it was “accepted wisdom” that the career women’s golf league would not be successful. But now in 2023, there are 20 country and golf clubs in the region with career-women teams and supported by two divisions.

Over time, the ANCC has supported worthy charities and military association golf events with a long-term positive effect. For example, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Club golf pro, Steve Tobash, hosted an annual golf outing and championship for the Northern Virginia Special Olympics.

^{1/} Carole DeLong, in extensive email exchanges with author between March 2021 and June 2021 as well as the “History WWGO to CWGO” C. DeLong, June 2021.

After some familiarization, these proto-Olympians from around Virginia State would play at the ANCC. One of the players in the 1990s was Ms. Grace Anne Braxton of Fredericksburg. In the 1990s, Grace Anne was a Special Olympics swimmer, but her father, Harrison, encouraged her to try golf in an annual Special Olympics golf event at ANCC.



Grace Ann Braxton who first got excited about golf at Army Navy Country Club hosted by Steve Tobash.

According to Grace Anne (pictured above) her experience with the Army Navy tournament changed her life. Braxton went on from that experience and became two-time U.S. Disabled Golf Association women's champion, three-time Special Olympics World Games medalist and a two-time world champion. In 2007, she was a gold medalist at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in China. In 2022, she was inducted into the Virginia Golf Hall of Fame. 1/

1/ Email correspondence with Robin Utz, Golf Manager of Special Olympics Section 26 Northern Virginia.

2000s

In the almost 25 years of the 2000s, ANCC strove to put on a golf program for members that was challenging and fun. Army Navy Country Club strengthened the golf program for women, men, and juniors with a strong tournament program at home and participation all over Northern Virginia and the District under longtime golf Pro Greg Scott and then in 2022 Brad Myers. During most of the 2000s – the two Club courses hosted between 110,000 and 130,000 rounds of golf per year.

The “member-guest” event has grown over the past 65 years to arguably be the most popular event. In addition, women now have a robust competitive intra-club program including two MJ Smith tournaments, Keeler Cup, President’s Cup, Haffey Memorial, and Women’s Nine Hole Championship and many more. (Most are listed in detail in the Appendix.)

Over the span of 100 years Club golf changed substantially. The original “Club Championship” remains on the schedule as well as an “inter-service” event whose origin was in 1929 for men and 1927 for women. Trophy events like the Newman Cup and the Standley Cup are gone. Now newer tournaments for men and women’s “seniors,” “senior stroke play,” “stroke play,” and “juniors.” are part of the season.

The Club golf program was composed of a diversity of member leagues and golf organizations that had grown since the 1970s to include all manner of golfers in training and in competition. For women, there were the longstanding Women’s 18-hole Golf Organization with about 100 registrants. Typically, this group met frequently during the seven-month golf season (there is also a winter golf program). WGO 18 sponsored 10 major events and organized two play days per week at the two courses. Typically, forty women golfers competed in their Club tournaments. The Women’s Nine Hole Golf Organization included 80 registrants and sponsored a full program for the golf season. The Career Women’s Golf Organization had grown to 150 registrants. All three of these home Club programs were complemented by regional golf tournaments like the ARFAX golf league. The Junior Golf pro ran a large program of junior tournaments that was organized around the PGA Junior League model involving 72 children from 5 to 17 years.

Club women remained active in regional golf, participating in WDCGA events and in Virginia with ARFAX, the Virginia State Golf Association, and the Mid Atlantic. In 2014, Club member Shelley Savage was awarded WDCGA Lifetime Achievement Award and Cathy Ruesche was WDCGA President in 2010. WDCGA does not sponsor many team events, but among many others, Shelley Savage, Soon Hee Phillips, Mary Barbero, Judi Enright, and Judy Poinsett won Championships like the WDCGA Cup, the Metta Streit Cup, Corby Cup, and Linda Tucker Cup. These women were also frequent winners of championships for Club, Senior and Stroke Play in the 2000s and were very active on Club courses and throughout the region in golf. (See appendix 1C for short summaries and notable achievements of some of these ANCC golfers over the last 100 years.)



Shelley Savage – ANCC Member and First ANCC Woman Golf Committee Chairman

What is notable is the effort made by the ANCC and other regional club pros to innovate and remake golf so to be both sociable and competitive. Most of those more than 100,000 rounds of golf on Fairfax and Arlington are men, women and juniors honing their skills and testing their mettle. But at the same time many scores of Club golfers have registered in teams and leagues to play around the region. In the 2000s, the five men's golf associations – Washington Metropolitan Golf Association, Northern Virginia Senior Golf League, Northern Virginia Golf Association, ANCC's Senior Men's Golf Association, and the Northern Virginia Retired Men's Golf Association occupy more than 300 ANCC registrants on a weekly basis at ANCC or around Northern Virginia. (These associations are summarized and explained in Appendix 1D to this text.

As explained in the "1970s section" of this chapter, these Associations were developed in the 1970s to meet primarily DC and North Virginia golfing needs – some are played at scratch and some handicapped, some highly competitive and some socially friendly.

"A" Team golf or "Division One" golf developed during this period as a means to qualify players for golf matches primarily with for SGLNV and WMGA competition. The 2022 season list of ANCC "A" Team is below and includes some senior members that played at a high level of competitiveness.^{1/}

1/ See Appendix 2 for a historical listing of ANCC "A" Teams. This 2022 textual listing was provided by Lynn Wessman, member ANCC and member of several years of Senior "A" Teams.

2022 ANCC Senior “A” Team 1/

Bill Anhut	Scott Bishop	Stu Brown	Dan Sullivan
Trey Carson	Mike Connors	Art White	Lynn Wessman
Mike Daly	Brendan Ford	Sean Ford	Allen Taylor
Steve Galing	Peter Jacobi	George Marquardt	
Brad Moffett	Charlie Pelham	Scott Salmon	
Nelson Smith	Lloyd Stevenson	Charles Thomas	John Vaughn

Pictured below is the ANCC Men’s “A” Team that broke a long dry spell in April 2023 winning the 2023 Northern Virginia A-Team Championship against Springfield Country Club. ANCC had won seven titles between 1977 and 1990 but none since until 2023. (ANCC was however a runner-up five times.)



L-R: Chris House, Nathan Henderson, Ryan Peters, Eric Miller (Professional), Jamie Agnew, Nick Chauvenet, Team Captain Matt Bravo, Team Co-Captain Chris Ironroad, Team Co-Captain Kevin Dillard, Scotty Fore, Kyle Cardenas.

1/ See Appendix 2 for a historical listing of ANCC “A” Teams. This 2022 textual listing was provided by Lynn Wessman, member ANCC and member of several years of Senior “A” Teams.

John Hassan is pictured below with Jamie Agnew at the late April 2023 match at Springfield.



Most of these players have, from time to time, in the 2000s, won Club Championships. In fact, there is a high correlation between Club Championships and WMGA “A” Team Champions through the 2000s including Mike Connors, Dave Ziemba, and Gill Fitzhugh as well as Steve Galing and Peter Jacobi -mentioned above. (See Appendix 2 for a listing of “A” Teams throughout most of the 2000s, as well as A teams compiled here from historic reports in media from 1927. Men’s Senior “A” Teams in the 2000s included many of the same names as the seniors held onto their golf acumen even over 55 years and were recruited for “A” Team tournaments as well. But Jamie Gough, Remo Nicoli, Peter Jacobi, and Lynn Wessman often flowed back and forth to fill out the ANCC Team play.



Peter Jacobi (center) with fellow ANCC Member Roger Pitkin at right and Doug Bank (Trump) after winning Super Senior in 2020.

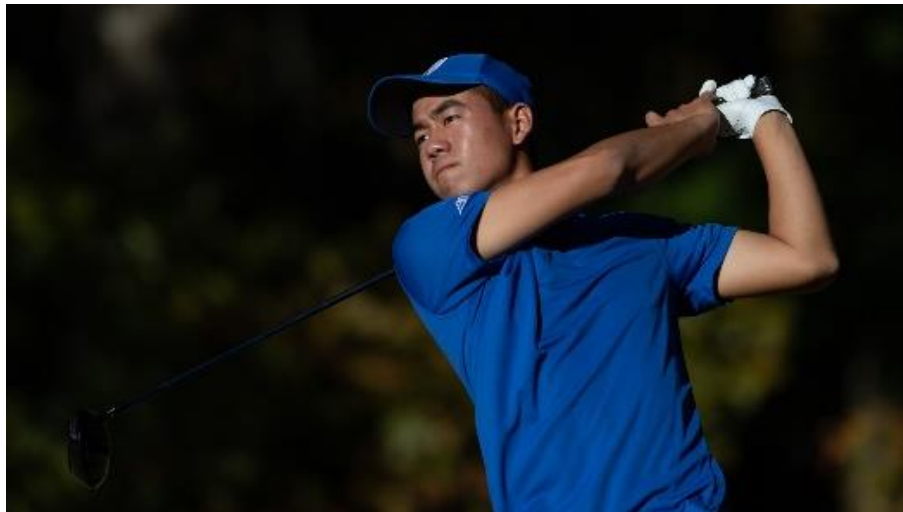
In 2000, the ANCC added more Club Championships to the golf season to provoke competitive interest. Club Stroke Play Championships, Senior Women Championships, Flighted Match Play Champions, and Junior championships were introduced. These yearly championships are captured in pictures by the ANCC Foundation website and in the separate chapter on Trophies and plaques and golf champion listings through the years.

The junior golf program was sustained by a Junior Golf pro and a program based on MAPGA lessons and programs that introduced girls and boys from 5 to 17 years to tournament play and rules and well as golf play.

Some Recent ANCC Junior Interclub Champions:

Tyler Aucoin	Clare Bowen	Kelly Chinn
Daniel Chun	Ethan Chun	Maxwell Clegg
Kyle Cardenas	Chris Dillard	Thomas Dillard
Kieran Donaldson	Charlie Finn	Kurtis Grant
Tyler Johnson	Graham Kalan	Andrew Koseny
Teddy Koseny	Josiah Mackay	Nickolas Marshall
Kaiya Mitchell	Thomas Ogden	TJ Repczynski
David Stanford	Kate Wacławski	Finn Watson
Connor Wood		

The Club encouraged juniors by sponsoring programs that involved intra-club competition, interclub competition, and Club Member Championships were open to juniors like Kelley Chinn and Mary Barbero (below) who were many times Club Champions from 2012-2018. (See Appendices 1A and 2.)





Kelley Chinn at U.S. Amateur and an early picture of Mary Barbero, second from left, starting her golf career at ANCC Sports Camp. Source: Youth Activity Director Sheila Chandler picture files.

The Ping Junior Solheim Cup

In September 2024, the Ping Junior Solheim Cup was hosted at the ANCC Arlington golf course. The American Junior Golf Association approached ANCC with the idea of hosting the 13th semiannual junior two-day match play tournament. This was the first prestige tournament hosted by ANCC since it hosted the VSGA Seniors Amateur tournament in 2014.

The EU Team was captained by Gwladys Nocera and were:

Andrea Revuelta, Spain/ Louise Landgraf, France/ Alice Kong, France
Sara Brentcheneff, France/ Molly Rålin, Sweden/ Martina Navarro, Spain/
Lily Reitter, France/ Victoria Kristensen, Denmark/ Havanna Torstensson, Sweden/
Benedicte Brent Buchholz, Denmark/ Perla Sol Sigurbrandsdottir, Iceland/ Paris Appendino, Italy

The US Team was captained by Beth Daniel and were:

Gianna Clemente, Fla / Asterisk Talley, Calif/ Nikki Oh, Calif/ Sofia Cherif Essakali, Fla
Elizabeth Rudisill, NC / Jude Lee, Calif/ Scarlett Schremmer, Ala/Mia Hammond, OH
Nathalie Yen, Ore. / Anna Fang, Calif/ Avery McCrery, Del / Madison Messimer, NC

Members of the US National Junior team as are Talley, Oh, Rudisill, Hammond, Schremmer. All 12 are ranked among the top 20 AJGA juniors.

The US Team won the two day matches of four ball, foursomes, and singles with a final score of 18.5 - 5.5 over Team Europe. The US Team's score of 18.5 points was the most points scored by

either team in the tournament's history. The ending score of 18.5 to 5.5 is also the largest margin any team has won by in tournament history.

The American team started the event strong earning eight points after Monday's four-ball and foursome matches. Alice Kong of Palais au, France, and Paris Appendino, of Turin, Italy, were the only two Europeans to remain undefeated after the first day. They tied their morning fourball match and won 1 up over Madison Messimer of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Sofia Cherif Essakali of Orlando, Florida. Team USA earned a total of 8 points after the first day while Team Europe earned 4. The second day, the USA team won 10 of 12 singles matches. Over the two days it became apparent that the northern Europeans found ANCC Arlington greens challenging as the greens had more than the usual hardness from weeks of drought.

All 24 junior players were very powerful golfers and really hit the ball through the course. Tees were set back to black tees to get maximum length and still the course seemed short for these junior champions. But it was the Arlington greens that the Europeans could not overcome. It paid to be Spanish or Italian. The greens were hard and fast both days and while the Americans were more used to playing fast greens, those are not normal conditions for the Europeans. ANCC greens are challenging but fast conditions made the Europeans struggle and lent perplexity. One European hit the stick on a hole and then had a 40 foot chip back to sink the putt. The surprises were frustrating and the teams loved it.



The winning US Junior Solheim team – September 2024 on Clubhouse Balcony.

Overall, the course and the ANCC hosts got top marks from Solheim and the two teams and a good time was had by all.

After 100 years, ANCC golf persists and even flourishes. Beyond that, it is a challenge to summarize these 100 years of golf champions and players beyond these pages of chronology at Army Navy Country Club beyond the sketch of “then and now” in the first pages of this chapter. Demographics of society changed, the sport evolved and expanded -- new variations became popular, club golf adapted and prevailed. But it is appropriate to share this almost 100-year-old poem of what naturally changed for ANCC golfers:

“We golfers of the olden days might just as well step down;
No longer will be heard the praise which echoed our renown.
For now wherever golf is played, the youngsters in their teens,
Are striding onward undismayed and we are but “has-beens.”

These lads who’ve taken up the game, though they may lack in style,
Possess a youthful, lithesome frame, and hit a ball a mile.
With muscles quite untouched by age, they swing with ease and skill;
They’re moving forward on the stage, while we are standing still.

‘Tis fine to watch these boys at play – these lovers of the game.
“I’ve made a 76 today,” you’ll hear them oft exclaim.
Some day we may expect to see their names on Fame’s high scrolls—
And should they ever challenge me, I’d ask a stroke a hole.”

(Henry Litchfield West- “From Tee to Green” The Washington Post, September 13, 1931)