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TOUCH-DOWN!

American Lake veterans welcome to St Andrews

ST ANDREWS, 14 June 2014

“I didn’t know what to expect; honestly, I was scared”.

St Andrews Legacy participant Aaron Boyle had just landed in Scotland, his first overseas trip since 2010 when he suffered a double amputation following a land mine explosion in Afghanistan.

“I’ve never been away from my wife and kid since then and they are the world to me. My son asked to come too, he knows how much golf means to me and I want



Steven Elliott, Jim Martinson, Aaron Boyle and Ed Boyle arrive in St Andrews

to push to become a better player so I can teach him the game”.

Using a ParaGolfer made by Ottobock, Aaron has been able to continue playing the game he loves. “It makes the difference,” says Aaron.

Aaron’s first round on Scottish soil was at The Duke’s Course, St Andrews.

“I learned more in nine holes on The Duke’s than in 16 years of playing. I

want to take in all the information and knowledge I can - I see that I have the ability to improve my golf game and not stand still”.

After a visit to the Old Course Hotel (the view “took my breath away” said Aaron) there was fish and chips (“the best I ever had”) and then it was time to wind down.

“I felt great, my body wasn’t sore. I was tired but relaxed, refreshed, and ready for the next day”.





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OPEN HOUSE

St Andrews Legacy gets a grip on golf's history

ST ANDREWS, 15 June 2014

“It’s bucket list stuff” - that is retired Apache helicopter pilot Steven Elliott’s take on the St Andrews Legacy experience.

Day two saw the group head for the Jubilee Course and a surprising discovery.

“Links courses are perfect for the way these guys play and the conditions don’t hinder them, but help them,” said Steven. “Jim and Aaron hit it consistently down the middle and they can get yards of extra roll - it evens things out and that was a real eye-opener”.



The St Andrews Golf Club has extended its hospitality to the visitors, granting them temporary membership.

“When we called in for the first time, club captain Michael Corder and secretary Tom Gallagher and all the committee made us feel so welcome,” said Steven.

Rhodri Price, the R&A’s director, championship operations, took time out from a family barbecue to sit down with the group. After a wide-ranging discussion, Rhodri opened up

a metal case beside him on the floor and told the veterans, “I’ve got something for you” Suddenly, there in front of them was the Claret Jug! “Hold it, take a picture,” Rhodri said.

“I thought of all the great players who have held that trophy as Open champions - and the many more who have not,” said Steven. “It was a moment that will never be forgotten”.

Thanks go to Rhodri for such a wonderful gesture, the perfect prelude to a round on the Old Course itself.





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ON THE OLD

Jim Martinson: I just do it a little bit different

ST ANDREWS, 16 June 2014

“I was really nervous - more nervous than I ever thought I'd be”. That's Paralympics gold medallist, champion skier and Boston Marathon winner Jim Martinson talking about standing on the first tee of the Old Course.

“Hitting straight down the fairway on number one was a highlight - with all the butterflies! I hit some good shots.

“On the links courses I can hit the ball further and it's real fun, almost like a puzzle. There are more bump and runs and you



can't just putt straight - it's like pool: it has completely changed my game”.

Jim has been golfing for four years, since retiring from business.

“I never played golf because I didn't think I could play golf. Pepper Roberts at American Lake gave me clubs, taught me how to play and I was like a kid in a candy store”.

After taking 60 years to get on a golf course, Jim plans to spend a lot of time on the fairways in future.

“Like downhill skiing, I can golf with my children, friends and grandkids. With a ParaGolfer I stand up and feel like an able-bodied player.

“I just do it a little bit different”.

Different...and quick too; the fourball of Jim, Ed, Steven and Aaron finished the round 25 minutes ahead of the following group.

• *The Courier newspaper covered the veterans' round with an article and video: [click here to view](#)*





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THE REMEDY

St Andrews Legacy goes to “beautiful” Kingsbarns

ST ANDREWS, 17 June 2014

“It’s been an adventure for me, the chance of a lifetime. I’ve never been out of the US except in service”.

Ed Boyle has never given up on his son, Aaron. They have golfed together for 16 years now and when Aaron suffered a double amputation four years ago, Ed was there to encourage him back onto the course.

“We had been golfing at American Lake, Washington, and in Texas and Colorado but after his injury Aaron told me: I guess that’s



over. I’m not going to be able to play anywhere.

“I told him: no, it’s not. We’re going to remedy that. *You are going to play*”.

They went back to American Lake where Aaron was introduced to Jim Martinson, who has been an inspiration.

This St Andrews Legacy trip has vindicated Ed’s determination.

“Aaron has improved so much since he got here

and he’s having so much fun”.

Day four was taken up with a visit to Kingsbarns Golf Links.

“It is beautiful - right along the water” said Ed, who has shown fine form in Scotland. At Kingsbarns the highlight of his round was reaching the green of the hardest hole on the course in two shots.

“You’ve got to be accurate, but the ball rolls forever on these fairways”.





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UNITED IN GOLF

Steven Elliott:
We're all fighting
the same fight.

ST ANDREWS, 18 June 2014

“Bringing us all together is a tremendous idea”. Steven Elliott had just been introduced to Cpl Scott Blaney of the Grenadier Guards and Matthew Whisken who served with the Queen’s Royal Hussars. “We’re all fighting the same fight, our injuries are the same and this is uniting us under one sport”.

Scott lost his right leg and his right elbow was shattered in a 2007 landmine explosion in Afghanistan but he has stared down the physical challenges he faces with



astonishing acts of endurance.

“The army teaches you to improvise, adapt and overcome” he says, and Scott has run marathons, swum the English Channel and rowed 3000 miles across the Atlantic. He also attained a golf handicap of nine.

Scott and Matt joined St Andrews Legacy at Balcomie Links.

“We all hit it off,” said Steven. “Scott’s physical accomplishments are amazing and

Matt is already playing golf after having his prosthesis for only a year”.

The Crail course provided Steven with his first birdie of the week - a tap in at the tenth after a huge drive and a wedge to hole-side.

Playing the links of Scotland has clearly helped Steven’s game and he feels he strikes the ball better than ever.

As he himself says: “I left a hacker and will come back a golfer”.





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GREAT DAYS

St Andrews Legacy embraced by Machrihanish

ST ANDREWS, 19 and 20 June 2014

“I absolutely love it. And how can you beat the scenery? The water and the mountains...it really feels like golf”.

Jim Martinson is now a big fan of Machrihanish Golf Links after spending two days on the Kintyre jewel and experiencing for himself the warm hospitality of the members.

Jimmy Simpson, a member for 50 years, was among six past captains who took part in the first day's matches. “We could have



made three or four more teams,” he said.

As they have been doing all week, the St Andrews Legacy players broke new ground at Machrihanish. “We’ve not had any disabled golfers that I can remember,” said Jimmy.

Machrihanish has a long association with the military. The Argyll and Southern Highlanders were partly drawn from the area and an American-led NATO base was next door for many years.

“Campbeltown women married US servicemen and we have some of their grandchildren as members. We always welcome Americans - even though they stole our girls!”

The standard of golf over two days was high. The second day's Texas Scramble was won with a nine-under-par score of 61.

The course with the best first hole in golf provided a wonderful climax to an unforgettable week.





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THANK YOU!

Success in St Andrews

ST ANDREWS, 29 June 2014

So the first veterans visit is behind us with two more to come.

We start with the disappointment that Leroy can't attend. He has injured his shoulder - but it's onwards and upwards.

The week is a huge success: why? Because of the support we've had in the town and the quality team behind what we are doing.

Thanks to the courses who let us play and



Just two guys playing golf in the sun at Machrihanish

to St Andrews Links Trust for believing in us; thanks to those who provided meals; Mick Cordner, Captain of the St Andrews Club; Hotel Du Vin; Sandy at Nahm Jim; the guys at the Balgove Larder; Jeff Hunt at PulsePoint Group; and the committee at Machrihanish GC. To Rhodri Price and his Claret Jug moment: Unbelievable!

Without Beverly reminding me what I still had to do and Gary helping with tuition and pace of play, success isn't possible.

Finally, thanks to a hidden talent, the guy engaging with the media, taking the pictures and preparing the newsletters: John Stewart has done an outstanding job communicating the joy experienced by the Tacoma Vets.

Please enjoy my three images of the week and thank you all once again for all your invaluable support.

Graham Proctor
Founder St Andrews Legacy



Welcome Home - the vets play 18 on the Old Course to the sound of the pipes. St Andrews and Scotland fill the air...



'You're only as good as your last Olympic gold'. What Jim heard after any wayward shot. The Ottobock ParaGolfer on the 18th green of the Old Course thanks to support from St Andrews Links Trust



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WORLD CLASS

Australians and Canadians meet on Scottish soil

ST ANDREWS, 14 July 2014

For Aaron McKinnon, grandson of a Scottish émigré, the “crazy long” flight from Australia was the start of a homecoming he never expected to make.

“A good friend of mine put me on to Soldier On Australia in Sydney and I applied for the St Andrews Legacy trip. I had so many emotions when I found out I was going, it was almost like I was standing beside myself”.

As well as playing, Aaron now coaches golf in Cairns, North Queensland.



“I have a passion for golf - it’s been keeping me together”.

Aaron is a former Leading Seaman and Boatswain’s Mate who spent 12 years in the Australian Navy, serving in SE Asia and Iraq as well as patrolling ‘the line’, the edge of Australia’s Exclusive Economic Zone. He was injured in 2006 and discharged four years later.

First stop for the second St Andrews Legacy event of the summer was Balcomie Links, home of Crail Golfing

Society, seventh oldest club in the world. On a calm day with some showers, Aaron and fellow Aussies Sam Bush, Nick O’Brien and Matt Searle met up with Canadians Norm Proulx, Bruno Turcotte, Will Parkes and Vincent Mancini.

“The feeling here is unbelievable, almost uncanny. There’s an eerie feeling of peacefulness that really does clear your mind,” says Aaron. “To have this opportunity and experience, to play golf in Scotland, is the biggest part of my rehabilitation”.





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BY THE OCEAN

Kingsbarns stirs up memories for Vincent Mancini

ST ANDREWS, 15 July 2014

Cape Breton Island native Vincent Mancini has been 40 years away from the water's edge but memories of his Nova Scotia upbringing have tumbled back on the seaside links of Scotland.

"The smell of the ocean and the seaweed on the beach reminded me of home, of childhood and growing up, of swimming in the Atlantic".

Vincent, who is retiring from service in November, was talking after visiting the



spectacular Kingsbarns Golf Links; "I've played golf on and off for 30 years but I rarely get the chance to play as much as I want. This trip has re-energised me and reminded me how much I enjoyed the game.

"I still can't believe I'm here".

Vincent has spent 35 years serving in the Canadian Military Police and the last five as a department operations officer in the Directorate of Casualty Support Management, which provides policy oversight and manages

programmes for the ill and injured and transition services for all Canadian Armed Forces Members.

Vincent began to play golf at Shilo, Manitoba, and now enjoys Hylands Golf Course in Ottawa - both are military facilities. The Fife links provide different challenges.

"These courses follow the natural shape of the land and you need to be strategic, it's the way golf was designed to be played but I'm not used to deep pot bunkers!"





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SIDE BY SIDE

St Andrews Legacy forges friendships for life

ST ANDREWS, 16 July 2014

“**K**now anyone who is a golf nut?” That question led to Matt Searle. A friend had seen that Soldier On Australia was partnering with St Andrews Legacy and looking for applicants to join in.

A 26-year veteran, who has seen service in East Timor, Somalia and Afghanistan, Matt is currently working at Crew Management Army, under Army HQ in Canberra. He was introduced to golf by his grandfather and remembers caddying and tending flags for him at the age of 5 or 6. “Visiting Scotland is



like coming to Mecca. I’m in awe of where we have walked, where we have been, what we’ve seen”.

Day three’s centrepiece was The Duke’s Course. “The fairways are separated by avenues of mature trees so the only distraction at The Dukes is its beauty. I loved the view looking down towards St Andrews and the North Sea”.

Matt witnessed a rare event for NE Fife - a cloud burst with some lightning. “I am used to

the tropics and that was a beautiful storm”.

Matt was playing with Aaron McKinnon and competing with Canadians Vincent Mancini and Norm Proulx. “The competition and the camaraderie kept us out there. We Soldiered On, we got to the end”.

Matt is savouring sharing time with the Canadians. “We’ve been side by side in major conflicts and peacekeeping missions. None of us had met before this trip but we are forging friendships for life”.





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LIVING TODAY

St Andrews trip is “a dream come true”

ST ANDREWS, 17 July 2014

“Live your life today. Today. You don’t know tomorrow. Yesterday is past, tomorrow we don’t know. Now”.

Master Corporal Normand Proulx was serving in Afghanistan in 2011 when he heard that Marielle, his wife of 26 years and an army veteran of 31 years, had breast cancer. “I thought I was facing danger in Afghanistan but it was at home that something happened”.

Marielle and Norm have two sons in the army, one based in Montreal and the other in Valcartier; “We are proud of being Canadian



and proud of wearing the uniform”.

With the cancer now in remission, Norm is planning ahead for when he leaves the army in September and he will be establishing a plastic welding business in Quebec.

Norm’s experiences have given him a valuable perspective on golf, a game he has played since 1988.

“It takes a lot of humility to play golf and it can make you a better person. We’re all proud, we all want to play our best, but it is hard.

Now, I’m more forgiving. I had a rough time forgiving myself for a bad shot”.

On the New Course, St Andrews, Norm teamed up with Will Parkes to take on Australia’s Aaron McKinnon and Nick O’Brien. Their match swung one way then the other, but was settled by Nick’s winning putt on the eighteenth.

Being in St Andrews, says Norm, is “a dream come true for me, it’s a gift from God. I’ll have this in my mind my whole life. I’m always going to play golf, that’s for sure”.





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THE OLD INSPIRES

St Andrews Legacy veterans see new meaning in golf

ST ANDREWS, 18 July 2014

“I’ve seen certain people change in front of my eyes in a couple of days. Golf has more meaning to me now than it did before and if I can help someone else to be in the position I am I’d love to do that”. That’s Sam Bush talking about his time in St Andrews.

Sam was a member of 2nd Commando Regiment and has served in Afghanistan, Iraq, E Timor and Singapore; he has also been to Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

The five-handicapper has been revelling in



the variety of courses provided by St Andrews Legacy. “I loved the differences. There was the history at Crail, the beauty of Kingsbarns, the Duke’s was very, very tough, though it was amazing, my 75 on the New was the most complete round of golf I’ve ever played, and the Old was a dream. St Andrews is so different to anywhere else. The first day I could do it, I went down to the Old Course at 5am and experienced the calm”.

Will Parkes, a 14-year veteran of the Canadian army who has served in Afghanistan, will be

returning to St John’s Newfoundland from IPSC Gagetown when he is discharged in December.

“The links of Scotland are five steps above any course I know in Canada. I have a new appreciation of how to play and I now think about every shot”.

His highlight on the Old Course was a birdie at 16, with his 7 iron chip shot running up to a few feet from the hole. “I now have a trophy ball signed by everyone on the trip”.





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OH YEAH!

The Open brings memories for a lifetime

ST ANDREWS, 19-20 July 2014

From holding the Claret Jug to meeting the best players in the world, including Tiger Woods and Adam Scott, it was an exhilarating few days at Royal Liverpool.

Perhaps the person most touched by it all was Cpl Bruno Turcotte, based at CFB Valcartier, Quebec, who celebrated his 33rd birthday on the Sunday. "I will remember this birthday for the rest of my life...it was the best ever. Oh yeah!" It included a rendition of *Happy Birthday* and a round of applause from several hundred patrons in the Links Pavilion



as they gathered to watch the final moments of an enthralling Open Championship.

For the youngest member of the group, it was also a magical few days. Nick O'Brien is 26 and comes from Gerobery, New South Wales, and now lives in Adelaide. From the moment he met Jim Furyk ("he told me: *it's an honour* - I didn't expect anything like that from him") to a final group shot with police and volunteers on the first tee, it was a memorable weekend. "I handed out all my pin badges and wrist bands, so many people asked about us

and what we've done. I came here hoping to experience some joy in my life. I want to get the guys that are not doing so well and give them something to start moving on in their lives. I'll be taking that back".

Sandy Dawson, captain of the R&A, and his wife Jane provided the highlight of the day when they brought out the Claret Jug for the veterans to hold. Said Sam Bush; "the first name that came out at me was Ben Hogan. I was quite emotional. It was a very impressive gesture from the R&A".





Top Row. Left - Bruno Turcotte with the Claret Jug on his birthday; Right - St Andrews Legacy participants meet R&A Chief Executive Peter Dawson

Second Row. Left - Nick O'Brien and Aaron McKinnon meet Jim Furyk; Right - Norm Proulx shakes hands with champion-to-be Rory McIlroy

Third Row. Left - Nick O'Brien and Will Parkes show off a signed pin flag; Right - St Andrews Legacy participants under the famous Open scoreboard

Bottom Row. Police, spectators and championship workers gather together with St Andrews Legacy participants on the first tee



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HUGE SUCCESS

TWO
become
ONE

ST ANDREWS, 24 July 2014

On 14 July two groups of four ill and injured veterans from Canada and Australia arrived in Scotland for a week's golf. Seven days later one group of eight packed up to go home.

It was the most fulfilling experience to watch the guys come together and bond as they did.

Without doubt, it was fantastic to meet legends like R&A Chief Executive Peter Dawson, world no.1 golfer Adam Scott, Tiger Woods, the most successful player



of our era, or captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club Sandy Dawson and his wife, Jane. Most important of all, the guys met each other.

This week was about golf, fun, sharing and building confidence. An old boss frequently asked his staff to define *evidence of success*. Having these guys laugh and smile as they did and feel valued by the people they met is a huge success. To surpass their expectations and give them something to build on going forward is further success.

Last year I sat in the St Andrews Golf Club with Major Jay Feyko and I asked him; how do we make it bigger and better? Jay's response was "you may be able to make it bigger, I don't know how you make it better". To the guys who attended I say: *thank you*. It *was* better. Thank you for taking this fantastic opportunity, appreciating it for what it was, and making the absolute most of it. Well Done...

Graham Proctor
Founder St Andrews Legacy



The Canadians come good over the Aussies to lift the Claret Jug



Swapping shirts at the end of a brilliant week



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SWING EASY

Lt Riad Byne learns how to hit the right spot

ST ANDREWS, 30 July 2014

“I loved it. In the military we say the best way to learn is under fire!” Lieutenant Riad Byne is talking about his first taste of Scottish golf at a windy Balcomie Links, Crail.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better way to start, on a golf course just chiselled out of the ground. It was Scotland!”

Riad and his fellow Canadians Warrant Officer Jean-Claude Migneault, Sgt Kevin O’Brien and Major Jay Feyko were



escorted round the course by St Andrews-based American veteran Gary Tamietti. “His first words were *hey, swing easy*. I learnt quickly that you don’t have to hit it long - hit it in the right spot”.

Riad has just been discharged from the Canadian military after 23 years’ service, including tours in the former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. He has had serious back injuries and has survived cancer treatment.

“Golf restored my life, it has become my

sanctuary. I lost a lot of myself. I can play and be competitive with myself and with my peers. This trip will be a source of strength for me for my whole life”.

Joining the Canadians are four Grenadier Guards, LCpl Scott Blaney, LCpl Nick Davis, Major Bernie Broad and Sgt Carl Shadrake. Says Riad: “They are amazing. I’ve worked with so many different militaries and there’s one thing that’s common, that doesn’t change: we all get on as if we’re brothers”.





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FAIR GAME

Golf makes blood
flow, heart pound,
mind twist

ST ANDREWS, 31 July - 1 August 2014

“My jaw is hurting from smiling”. Major Bernie Broad, a Grenadier Guard since 1981 who has been decorated nine times, says the two-day trip to Machrihanish Golf Club “will stay with me forever”.

Bernie has been playing golf seriously for just over a year, since losing his right leg. His left leg was amputated after an explosion in Afghanistan in 2009. While being treated at Hadley Court, Bernie attended Battle Back Golf nights and found he enjoyed playing the sport and could compete with anyone. The

former champion boxer said; “I have four pairs of legs - my octopus legs - and the golf legs are my favourites. The game is fair. It makes the blood flow, the heart pound and the mind twist. Every shot is so concentrated, so focussed. It feels like throwing a punch or taking a blow”.

Club captain Dave Rankin said; “It was humbling to see a guy with a double amputation swing so well and hit it so well. It was an honour to have these guys down here and if we can help out in the future I’d be happy to see them here again”.

On day one, Bernie partnered fellow Grenadier Guard Carl Shadrake, who was playing on his last day as a soldier, against Machrihanish’s Angus Brown and Ross Robertson. “Angus told me; *keep it short, keep it straight*. I kept telling myself; play Angus Golf, Angus Golf”.

On day two, he played with Canada’s Kevin O’Brien against 16-times club champion Stuart Campbell. “That was the best round of golf I have ever played. Stuart was always close, it was TV golf, and Stuart is a fantastic well-mannered man - a pure gentleman”.





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MOVING ON

Carl Shadrake looks forward to 'next chapter'

ST ANDREWS, 2 August 2014

“When I’m asked what I was doing on my last day in the army, I’ll have a good story to tell”. Lance Sergeant Carl Shadrake left the Grenadier Guards at midnight on the 31 July after 14 years’ service, right in the midst of the St Andrews Legacy trip to Machrihanish Golf Club.

“The wind was very kind to us, especially on day two. We had a bit of the wet stuff but the weather was very good”.

Growing up in France, where his British parents



ran a *restaurant de routiers*, or transport cafe, Carl was fascinated by the stories of ex-army truckers and thought: “I’ll have some of that”. Now aged 30, Carl has completed two tours of Afghanistan, two of Iraq, been to Bosnia and Kosovo, taken part in NATO or UN missions in Kenya and Uganda, worked with eight different militaries in total, and he has been seriously wounded twice by explosives.

By the time he arrived at Kingsbarns Golf Links Carl’s back was sore and he couldn’t hit long drives. Nevertheless, he made his first-ever

net eagle on the par 5 ninth, just as heavy rain started to fall. “It happened when everyone else was crumbling,” laughs Carl. “Playing such a good course has made me want to step up. It makes you want more from your own shots, more from your own golf”.

Married with one child, Carl is planning for the next five or so years. “I’m looking forward to the next chapter. I want to have two or three children. I own land in rural France, near Chardonnay where I grew up, and I want to build my own house there. I’ve moved on”.





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A LIFE IN GOLF

Kevin enjoys playing the Scottish way

ST ANDREWS, 3 August 2014

“Kevin is an absolute golfing machine”.

That was Carl Shadrake’s reaction on seeing Kevin O’Brien play his way around The Duke’s Course, the heathland track on the southern edge of St Andrews, host to the European Amateur Championship 2014.

“I enjoyed it very much,” said Kevin. “I liked the framing of the holes. The bunkers aren’t in the landing areas - it gives the mind a break”. On a day of occasional showers mixed with sunshine, there were rainbows over the bay. “Seeing the town down below



made me forget where my ball went!”

Now assistant golf professional at St Boniface Golf Course, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Kevin has been golfing from the age of eight years. “My father and mother both played and they put me in a junior programme”.

Kevin joined the army in 1990, one of five men to do so from a settlement of only 35 homes. “I didn’t know what to expect, I was blind going in”. Kevin was deployed to many countries during his 24-year long military career including Croatia, Bosnia and

Afghanistan, and he has been part of UN and NATO peacekeeping missions. He has suffered a broken neck and has undergone surgery for leg and shoulder injuries.

Going back to Canada with Kevin will be the Scottish slant on golf. “At home, I am mentoring a score that will effect my handicap. In Scotland there is a lot of team matchplay. You can strategise - it’s not just about numbers. Scots enjoy the actual sport. In these other formats you’re practising while you play and you can direct that towards getting a score when you need to”.





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MORE IN LOVE

Nick sees great things golf can do for people

ST ANDREWS, 4 August 2014

“It’s my sport and this has made me fall more in love with the game”. Nick Davis has been playing golf for three years. “It was something else to do, to go out and socialise and have a laugh but also be competitive against able-bodied people and beat them. There are not many games you can do that.

“Golf is my personal time. I can forget what may be happening and be in a happy place. It makes you remember how to enjoy life. I’ve seen the great things that golf can do for people. There is life after being injured, it’s about making the most of it instead of dwelling on it.



Golf helps people to realise that”.

Nick is married with four children, three of whom have been born since he was blown up and lost a leg.

The Grenadier Guard will return to England a lover of the links. “There is something about it that is more enjoyable. There is the rain and the wind to contend with - I’ve experienced severe wind only once in three years where I play - and you have to think about hitting a proper golf shot. You have to look at the course and select the right club - you have to factor all these

things in”.

Playing with the Canadians has been a pleasure, too. “They are fellow military and we have had the chance to integrate and get to know like-minded people. We all shared that common bond of being to recent conflicts”.

Remembering older conflicts was the theme later in the day when the veterans visited the Royal and Ancient Clubhouse and paid their respects to the members and staff who died in the First World War. August 4 was the centenary of Britain entering the war.





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OLD TIMES

St Andrews Legacy experience just incredible

ST ANDREWS, 5 August 2014

“Standing on the first tee gave me goosepimples on the back of my neck - which was quite cool”.

It takes a lot to impress Scott Blaney. Since losing his right leg Scott has swum the English Channel, run three marathons, and earlier this year he was part of a four-man team that rowed 3000 miles across the Atlantic in seven weeks.

“The Old Course is pretty special. You are in awe of everything around you, it’s just incredible. Everything is a massive experience, it’s all good. I like the calmness of being out on



a golf course, not worrying about everything else around you. It’s just you and the golf course”.

The finale to Scott’s round was a par, net birdie, on the eighteenth; “I loved it”.

With the emphasis on links golf, the week has had a positive impact on Scott’s game; “it has made me a better player, without a doubt”. The company of the Canadian veterans also struck a chord with Scott. “We were not just on our own here, it’s all different guys helping you to get through it, which is great. We could bond over it”.

Scott will be leaving the army in November, when he will start a full-time role with Team Army, giving motivational talks centered on his own experiences.

After the Old Course, there was the next challenge: getting married at the weekend. Scott returned to England armed with whisky from the Springbank distillery in Campbeltown, close to Machrihanish, and a special quaich from which to drink it, awarded to him by the organisers of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in recognition of his efforts to raise awareness of wounded war veterans.





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NEVER FORGET

St Andrews Legacy pledges to Soldier On

ST ANDREWS, 8 August 2014

Soldier On! What a great motto. At St Andrews Legacy that is exactly what we are going to do - *Soldier On*. Why? Because the benefits to ill and injured veterans is real, visible and incredibly positive.

This year we hosted three events, starting in June with the Tacoma Veterans. Who can forget the images of Aaron swinging on the first tee of the Old Course or the Jim Martinson fist pump overlooking the beach after he found the first fairway at Machrihanish?

The second visit was beyond belief. To have Tiger Woods walk over to talk with the guys and shake their hands was spectacular. The look on Sam's face when the R&A Club Captain appeared with the Claret Jug will stay with me forever.

The third and final event centred on the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. Again, the R&A helped make the week. A big thank you to Professor Wilson Sibbett for jogging across the 6th green to shake the hands of the Canadians on the

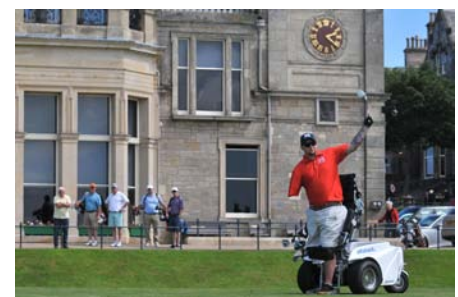


12th. "Welcome" he said in that soft Ulster accent, then informed the boys he is the Chairman of the R&A. The looks on their faces: priceless. The picture of the guys in the R&A, on 4 August, below the club's roll of honour, visually that says it all.

At 10pm that evening all the lights went out in the R&A clubhouse, replaced by a single light on the balcony. As I stood there on the first fairway with Carl, dusk fell as we remembered those who perished in the Great War. Carl provided the most poignant line of the week; "If that was the war to end all wars, why are we standing here now?" It wasn't the war to end all wars and we should never forget the toll modern day warfare has on these young men and the sacrifices they have made.

St Andrews Legacy will Soldier On into 2015 and beyond to put more smiles on more faces. To everyone who helped and supported St Andrews Legacy: Thank You. Through golf, twenty modern-day veterans know *they will not be forgotten*.

Graham Proctor
Founder St Andrews Legacy





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VETERANS DAY

St Andrews Legacy fundraiser in US a huge success

Del Rio, 11 November 2014

The first fundraising day for St Andrews Legacy to be held in the United States took place on Veterans Day at Del Rio Country Club, Modesto, California.

American flags decorated the grounds and paved the way for forty golfers taking the first tee in an emotional and inspirational day featuring US veterans Jim Martinson and Marc Esposito and Scott Blaney from the UK, men who have participated in conflicts and peacekeeping missions spanning more than 40 years.



All three men have suffered significant physical injuries, including amputations, but all have achieved extraordinary personal and sporting goals to raise awareness of the issues surrounding wounded and ill servicemen and women and their families.

Thanks to the generosity of the Del Rio community, they will be among eight veterans from the US, Canada, Australia and Britain taking part in a week-long St Andrews Legacy event next May which will include a round on the Old Course.

One of the Del Rio members taking time to meet the veterans and demonstrate support for the aims of St Andrews Legacy was State Senator Tom Berryhill, who represents one million people in California.

Senator Berryhill said; "I look forward to being involved with this programme for the rest of my life, and consider it a privilege to have been involved in the first annual event. This is a pretty special day, the start of something that will endure for years, and to be part of it is to be blessed".





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GIANT STEPS

Marc Esposito looks ahead to visiting St Andrews

Del Rio, 12 November 2014

“The longest I walked after getting out of a wheelchair was on a golf course; it was a big part of getting my mobility back. I got out there and got it back”.

For Technical Sergeant Marc Esposito, a US Air Force Combat Controller, golf became a therapeutic activity after he suffered severe leg and back injuries in Afghanistan; “I was focussed on walking and getting better, taking baby steps”.

In 2010, after two years of painful therapy,



Marc led a team of wounded servicemen in a 4000-mile fundraising cycle trip across America crossing the country from San Francisco to Virginia Beach, and is now assigned to the San Antonio Military Medical Center where he mentors wounded special operations men through recovery.

He will be one of the eight people taking part in the St Andrews Legacy event next May and he is determined to reduce his handicap from 15 to 10 by then. “It is so good to work towards something – to have

something to shoot for – playing your best at St Andrews”.

A participant at the Del Rio fundraiser on Veterans Day, Marc was touched by the response he encountered in California.

The singing of ‘God Bless America’ at the evening dinner, led by David Brooks, was an especially poignant moment for the Ohio native. “To exercise this highest degree of patriotism and respect for us as servicemen means so much”.





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SPECIAL BOND

Two warriors connect at Del Rio

Del Rio, 12 November 2014

“A warrior mentality and a warrior spirit”.

Marc Esposito is talking about Scott Blaney, who he met for the first time during the St Andrews Legacy fundraiser at Del Rio Country Club, Modesto, California.

“We shared our experience in Afghanistan, our stories of combat. It was an opportunity to connect in ways you don’t normally get the chance to. There is a special bond with brothers and sisters who have served and



when you are out of the fight you miss that. And when you get the chance to compete with comrades, that’s awesome”.

For Scott, the chance to connect with a fellow veteran was a significant part of a memorable week. “Marc’s an amazing bloke, to be honest. We have that military bond and we might have known each other for ten years: we spilt the same blood in the same mud. He knew how dangerous and volatile our place was. There is a special British-American bond”.

For both men, there is now the prospect of taking on new endurance fundraisers as part of a team. Scott said; “Maybe we can skydive together”.

Scott was also full of praise for the Del Rio members who contributed to the event on Veterans Day. “You couldn’t get better. The kindness and friendship is fantastic. They still say: *thank you for your service*. They know the sacrifice the British lads are making and it’s nice to know that. It is not falling on deaf ears”.





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PEBBLE BEACH

Scott completes dream double with St Andrews Legacy

Pebble Beach, 13 November 2014

Pebble Beach Golf Links: the very name carries with it the crash of the waves and the tang of the sea.

It is one of the great sporting pleasures to visit the world-famous course at Monterey and for Scott Blaney that chance came in the form of an invitation from the Pebble Beach Company.

Hearing of his efforts to raise awareness of veterans' issues Patrick Freeman, director of tournament operation, offered Scott a courtesy round on the historic links which was prepared



for the Pebble Beach Invitational, a tournament that matches players from the PGA, the LPGA, the Champions and Web.com Tours.

"I played a blinding round – a good bit of golf," said Scott. The highlights came on the sixth and the fifteenth holes where Scott got nett birdies. "I played some great shots. I parred two holes on a major course only a few days before a big national championship".

Having played on the Old Course earlier this year, Scott has completed a double few golfers

manage. "I never thought I'd ever get the chance to play these courses. It was just dreams. To see the sun going down while playing seventeen and eighteen – it was fantastic, really beautiful."

Scott is now planning ahead to May, when he will meet up again with Marc Esposito, Jim Martinson and the other American and Commonwealth golfers coming to St Andrews.

"I'm looking forward to hanging out with them, having some beers – and winning!"





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INSIDE JOB

Del Rio mission accomplished for Tom and friends

Del Rio, 14 November 2014

The inaugural St Andrews Legacy fundraising day at Del Rio Country Club was made possible by the efforts of four members in particular: Tom Cosentino, Mike O'Brien, Mike Kinch and Chuck O'Brien.

Having themselves visited the Home of Golf and experienced the magic of St Andrews they were determined to help others share it. The idea of staging a special event on Veterans Day was developed and became reality, with the result that eight American and Commonwealth military will now be able to visit Scotland next



Tom Cosentino

May for a week-long visit.

"I had cautious expectations" said Tom. "I was sure that between all four of us we could get forty participants, but the response was such that we could have had many more players with no trouble. We really wanted to make the experience special to all those who played and Duncan Reno, our general manager at Del Rio, and his staff were determined to provide us with a special day and night that all would remember and want to be part of again. The results were overwhelming - everyone said

they would be back again next year!

"I want to thank Jim Martinson, Marc Esposito, and Scott Blaney for making the trip to Modesto; for their graciousness, and their help in making the day and night such a huge success. Without them, this fundraiser would not have had such an impact on the participants.

"We are very excited to do this again next year and hope that we can duplicate the success we had this year".



Mike O'Brien



Mike Kinch (left) and Chuck O'Brien (right) either side of Scott Blaney