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DREAM START

End to year of anticipation for Josh Tankersley

Crail, 22 May 2015

SPC Joshua A Tankersley wears the Del Rio logo with pride and gratitude, knowing the generosity of the Modesto community contributed largely to the first of three St Andrews Legacy events taking place this summer.

“It is really profound that someone would give out from the kindness of their hearts for veterans; to know we get some healing from it and not expect anything in return - I have no words to express the thankfulness for people like that”.



Josh joined the US Army Reserve in 2008 at age 21 and two years later he suffered back, shoulder and leg injuries from an explosion in Iraq. He lost his left leg and has undergone over 30 reconstructive surgeries.

“I couldn’t walk for a year. Golf helped me develop and relax; psychologically and physically it helped me to rehabilitate - I was in deep depression”.

Josh had a challenging but exhilarating start to his Scottish golf career at a windy

Balcomie Links in Crail. “It is a beautiful course, the first course I’ve gotten to play by the ocean. I looked forward to this trip all year long, it was that important to me. It helped me a lot to stay focussed on what is really important in life”.

Josh understands that the stakes can be very high. He wears a bracelet with the words “Remembering the 22”, the number of veterans who take their own lives daily.

“Programs like this - I hope to say it’d save somebody’s life”.





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LIFE SAVER

“You get back out there” says Paul Adams

St Andrews, 23 May 2015

Two days into the St Andrews Legacy experience and already Paul Adams can see its potential for reaching out and helping veterans. “Golf brings together people from all over the world; who knows where this can go”.

“Golf saved my life,” says the 27-year veteran of the Canadian military who was diagnosed with PTSD after a tour in Kosovo and two tours in Afghanistan. “Golf got me motivated to get back on my feet and get my life together. I went back to school, joined

the Soldier On golf camp – it turned the corner for me and opened my eyes so that I realized there are other people out there having the same problems I’m having”.

Paul retired from the military a year ago and is now based in Trenton, Ontario, where he is learning the culinary trade. He cooks for fellow veterans on Saturdays and Mondays, “so they have food for the rest of the week - it is kind of a pay-back for all the help I got”.

Today’s round was on the Eden Course at

St Andrews Links. “I loved the course, it lived up to all the expectations”.

Paul and fellow St Andrews Legacy participant Jim Martinson have been taking in the special St Andrews atmosphere.

“We went down to the Old Course to watch some people play the seventeenth and eighteenth. Everyone seemed to have a smile on their faces and there were sounds of laughter and cheering out on the course. Jimmy and I sat there for 20 minutes”.





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GOLDEN DAYS

Golf a pleasure for Paralympian Jen Lee

Aberdeen, 24 May 2015

“I had no idea what was going to happen next. Walking and running - was I ever going to do that again?”

San Francisco's Jen Lee joined the US Army at 18-years-old. A specialist mechanic working on Blackhawks and Chinooks, he was deployed to Iraq in 2006 and 2007 but two years later a motorcycle accident led to an amputation above the left knee.

Jen took up sled hockey as part of his rehabilitation therapy. “I did a lot of



adaptive sports, I tried every sport there is,” says Jen. “Hockey was one of the sports available and I fell in love with it. I played roller hockey growing up, but I had to learn how to slide”.

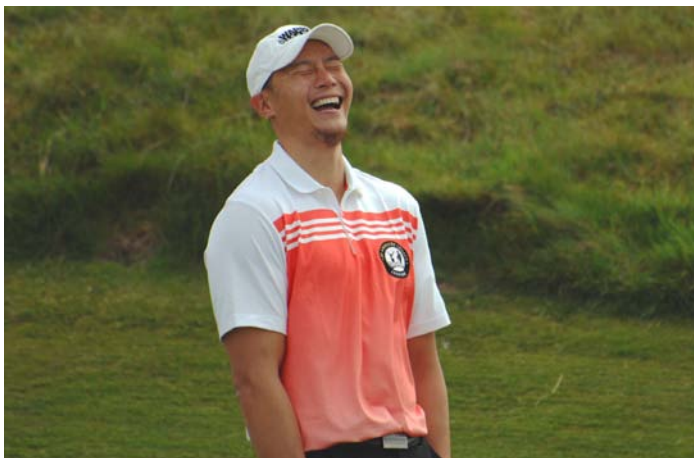
Jen became goal tender for the US national team and was in the side that won a gold medal at the Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi last year.

Jen took up golf seriously in 2010: “It was challenging, having to find a different way

to adapt, to do the weight shifting”.

There was opportunity for showing off his golfing skills at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, founded in 1780 and the sixth oldest in the world. The course takes a sinuous route through spectacular dune scenery and lies right on the edge of Scotland's east coast, but it was not the sea that impressed Jen so much as the sand.

“The biggest thing is the bunkers – you can be doomed; they are beautiful but deadly!”





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WAY TO GO...

St Andrews Legacy praised by veteran Gary Tamietti

Machrihanish, 25 May 2015

The US army sent Gary Tamietti overseas three times, 40 years apart. He was a helicopter scout pilot in Vietnam in 1969 and after four decades of civilian aviation he was deployed to Iraq in 2009 and 2011, flying fixed wing aircraft for Task Force ODIN.

Gary was shot down in Vietnam, suffering a broken femur and left hip and he also was shot in the arm. His rehabilitation owed much to golf, something he is keen to share with his fellow St Andrews Legacy participants.



"I was hospitalised in Fort Ord after Vietnam and the Pebble Beach Company would let those of us at the hospital in to play their course for \$5. I was motivated to do my exercises in the morning and play Pebble Beach in the afternoon. It helped flush the evil of war out of my head. You were left to cope. Some coped with drugs or alcohol, I coped with golf. I can visualize myself as a 19-year-old who nearly lost his life and was in a wheelchair for almost a year, and I remember the feeling at Pebble Beach and I impart that to these guys".

Gary is a staunch advocate of the St Andrews Legacy project.

"St Andrews Legacy surrounds these guys with ways to go forward. This is a very eclectic group. They get on and respect each other – that's a soldier thing. They have seen what I saw on active duty. They help each other; they are the first to offer support. They have all been in harm's way, they share that bond. The only way you survive is if the guys on the left and right of you take care of you. You're not an island".





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TAKE PRIDE

Jim Martinson: These guys are survivors

Machrihanish, 26 May 2015

“I really like the people out there. They are my age and they are extremely good golfers. If I lived in Scotland I’d live here and want to golf with people like that. I don’t know if they ever warm up, they just have fun golfing. A lot of golfers... I don’t think it is fun for them”.

Jim Martinson is speaking about Machrihanish Golf Club. This was his second trip to Kintyre and the welcome was as warm as could be.



Club captain Graham Anderson said: “It is good to have St Andrews Legacy down here for a second year.

“This makes our members see what can happen – and what can be overcome”.

For Jim Martinson, a Vietnam veteran who survived a double amputation and went on to build up a successful sporting and business career, meeting and interacting with his fellow veterans has been inspiring.

“We’ve all been to battle, but the battle after is sometimes harder than the one we were in. These guys are phenomenal; neat people. We relate to each other really well. We all lost people. It is hard on all of us but we have to go on.

“One of the things that make you survive is, you take pride in yourself. These guys are past the pity stage, and that’s what makes people survive. These guys are survivors”.





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COMING HOME

Étienne Aubé finds healing on the golf course

St Andrews, 27 May 2015

“First time was the most beautiful of my life. When I was asked: ‘Do you want to go back?’ – I cannot sleep anymore!”

Canada’s Étienne Aubé was a guest of St Andrews Legacy in 2013, and now that he is back: “Home sweet home,” he laughs.

Étienne was seriously injured during his second tour to Afghanistan when he stepped on an improvised explosive device. He lost his right leg at the knee, suffered severe trauma to his left leg, and a couple of



fingers were amputated. “A big part of my rehabilitation is on the golf course, with the weight shift and dealing with the slopes. Just to play golf relieves the pressure”.

There are plenty of challenges at courses like Royal Aberdeen and Machrihanish. “Royal Aberdeen had a great ambience – and I was scoring good that day. Machrihanish gave me lots of experience and the people were so gentle with us”.

Day 5 of the St Andrews Legacy event was

at The Duke’s course in St Andrews.

“I loved The Duke’s – the look of it...it is gorgeous; pretty, like we have at home”.

Étienne has enjoyed the company of the veterans he has met in St Andrews and he knows his family in Canada are right behind what he is doing. “We just connect with each other. I miss my family really bad but they know this is important for me and they are happy for me. My father is very proud when he hears what I have done”.





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GETTING GOOD

It's about what we can do, says Sam Bush

St Andrews, 28 May 2015

“I was a 12 handicapper as a kid, but after I broke my back I started getting really good”. That startling admission comes from Sam Bush, a member of 2nd Commando Regiment who has served in Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor, Singapore and throughout the Pacific.

Sam suffered two perforated discs and a fractured vertebra in an Afghan rocket attack. He was so severely wounded that he was flown home to Australia on a civilian airliner, strapped into the first



class compartment. The vibrations of a military plane might have killed him. Now recovered enough to play golf, Sam has developed a swing that puts less pressure on his back and he has improved his game to 5-handicap standard.

Sam is participating in a St Andrews Legacy event for a second time. “This is such a big deal. The trip last time changed my life. I could have possibly gone down some pretty bad roads but I’ve gone in a completely different direction. It’s made

me a better dad with my girls.

“Meeting the veterans and the younger guys who are amputees is something new in itself. It’s not about how they lost their legs, but about how they get on without them. Golf is a mechanism to get people together. Your clubs don’t know what your problems are. Because we have been through similar things we are able to communicate. Everyone understands; and it’s very strange. I don’t think you could do that with any other sport”.





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A REAL WINNER

Tom Watson sees St Andrews Legacy veterans home

St Andrews, 29 May 2015

The fifth St Andrews Legacy event began with a few disappointments: ESPN was not able to cover our USA v Commonwealth tussle, as we expected...equipment from OGIO didn't materialize...two participants had to call off at the last minute...then the Ottobock Paragolfers being used by Jim Martinson failed to make it all the way around Crail or the Eden Course.

Having sourced a demo unit, at Royal Aberdeen we were packing two of the three Paragolfers in Scotland! At The Duke's Jim gave a two-hour long training session



on using the Paragolfer to Guy and Marcus from Craigielaw, users of the demonstrator, who made a 150-mile round trip to be there. As Jim said: "We discovered these guys because the first Paragolfer broke down and there was no way to fix it. It is a \$30,000 product. They need to be more reliable and people need to be trained in using them".

On the plus side, there was Riley Bauman of Adidas-Taylor Made Golf, who supplied our eight players with cracking shirts and gave us a huge boost. I can't thank Riley enough.

We saved the best till last. We reach the final tee of the Old Course and Tom Watson, shooting a commercial for Ralph Lauren, steps off the Swilcan Bridge to watch the guys play. Is he good for a picture on the bridge? You bet...and he follows the guys up the final fairway! Tom Watson stands on the Tom Morris green as the guys putt out, talks to everyone and takes up his position beside the Americans on the steps behind eighteen for the group shot. Just brilliant!

Graham Proctor
Founder St Andrews Legacy





Huge thanks to the following:

Joel at Royal Aberdeen, David and Graeme at Crail, and David Scott at The Duke's for their support with golf; to the past Captains at Machrihanish for everything they do, way above and beyond; to Andrea for helping at ESPN; to Alan Smith for lending us his Paragolfer; and to three Americans whose attitude towards the guys and what we do really helped make the week; to Jim Martinson for hanging in there, to Riley Bauman at Adidas-Taylor Made Golf for coming up with the goods, and to five-time Open Champion Tom Watson for his time. Thank you for helping us to Soldier On!



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I CAN DO THIS

David Gillies sees positives in learning to play golf

Crail, 9 July 2015

It was carnage; there was blood everywhere". David Gillies was commanding a Mastiff 2 military vehicle in Afghanistan two years ago when it went over a trip wire, detonating 150kg of homemade explosives. His three comrades were killed in the blast. David has no hesitation in remembering the date of the attack: "29th of April" he says solemnly.

"A Mastiff weighs 27 tonnes and it was thrown 40 metres by the blast. There was a two-and-a-half metres deep hole by ten metres wide".

It took David 18 months to recover from his injuries, which included extensive damage to his legs, internal bleeding and shrapnel wounds to his arms and neck.

After joining the Royal Highland Fusiliers as a 16-year-old in 2002, David was posted to Cyprus for two years and was part of Spearhead Land Element for the UK. His battalion was deployed to Iraq three times. He went to Afghanistan in 2008, 2010 and 2013: "2008 was the best tour but the worst for the amount of fighting. It was every day for three months".

David took up golf a year ago, playing mainly at Rouken Glen in his home city of Glasgow, and he has relished the St Andrews Legacy experience, starting at Craighead Links, Crail, and featuring tuition from ex-military PGA pros Gary Tamietti and Kevin O'Brien.

"It has benefitted me. I couldn't play football anymore; walking is the only thing I can do. I'm meeting new people, making new friends. It is good to hear different stories, different banter... and I got golf lessons for the first time in my life. It will be hard to go back to my old game!"





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IN THE HOLE!

Mark Renton is St Andrews Legacy ace at The Duke's

St Andrews, 11 July 2015

Mark Renton has the honour of shooting St Andrews Legacy's first ever hole in one, producing an ace at the twelfth hole of The Duke's in the company of fellow-Scots David Gillies and James Langdon.

"We played it the day before when I took my 8 iron and was short. The next day I used a 7 iron, and again it pitched short. I turned away but Davie told me it was rolling on. I had just birdied the eleventh and I was hoping to get it close for a second birdie in a row but then I heard it going in. It is quite an emotional thing".



Mark enlisted in the 1st Battalion, the Royal Scots 25 years ago, joining up as his father had done with the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders. After serving all over the world, with combat missions in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Iraq, and deployments in Belize, Canada and the USA, Mark's last two years as a soldier were spent in the UK at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Always a sportsman, Mark represented the army and the infantry at football and golf. Now a member at Bathgate, he plays to a 13

handicap but that will surely fall as he gets more time to play. Much of the golf on this St Andrews Legacy trip was in a Texas scramble format, which suited Mark's temperament and brought out his leadership qualities. "It gets everyone involved and the team pulls you through the 18 holes. In the army you work as a team, not just thinking about yourself".

Now a civilian, Mark summed up his career: "I had a good service in the military, it is just a shame it came to an end. I had a fantastic time and made friends for life".





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IRON MAN

Gunther Mally forges enduring bonds in St Andrews

St Andrews, 12 July 2015

“In three weeks you can have a bond that’s tighter than with someone you’ve known for years”.

Gunther Mally is talking about his interaction with fellow St Andrews Legacy participants.

“To be able to be open and talk to these people, when you’re with these guys it’s not hard to talk to them – it’s a case of: *hey, I’m your brother*”.

Gunther spent over 18 years in the army, serving all over his native Canada. A vehicle



technician, he joined up at age 27 after leaving a factory job. “Every trade is in the army – and I loved sports”.

Gunther was a regular in military iron man events, carrying 50kg backpacks over tough terrain, and a keen ice hockey player. Now recovering from upper body injuries, golf has become his favourite pursuit.

“If you have one great shot, you remember that for the day. It’s easy to get angry, get mad and drop the hat – I don’t want to be that guy”.

As a child, Gunther used an old wooden club to strike balls field to field “aiming at trees” but he did not have much chance to get on a real track. “By the time I was 25-years-old I had played ten rounds on an actual golf course. In the military I played ten rounds a year and noticed I can hit it pretty well. Now I go to play as a family unit with my wife and daughter”.

A new course on the rota this summer is The Kittocks at the Fairmont St Andrews resort. “The scenery is beautiful, looking at the town. The golf was nice but I love the photos!”





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NOT ALONE

Don Hookey finds common ground with fellow veterans

Gleneagles, 14 July 2015

“I was in Grade 6 when I made up my mind to join the army. One of my uncles was in the army and I looked up to him a lot – I was going to follow in his footsteps”. Don Hookey got there in the end, but only after serving eleven years in the navy first – “because only navy positions were open”.

The Canadian navy took Don around the globe. “We supplied NATO ships in Canadian waters, I crossed the Arctic Circle and visited Iceland, Norway and Malta; I’ve been all over the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, sailed both

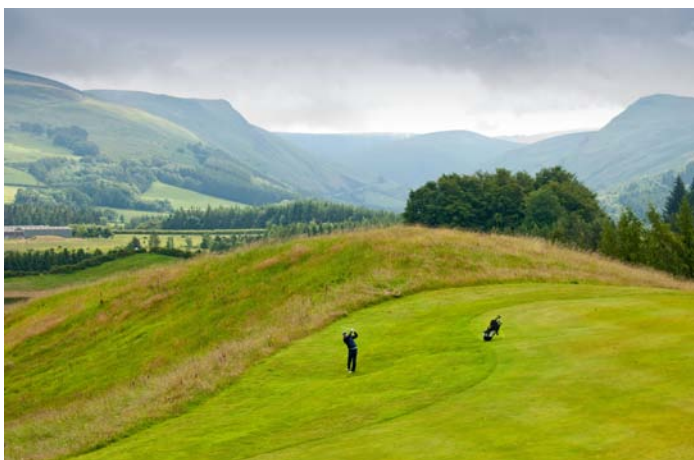
the Pacific and Atlantic, and been down through the Panama Canal. I loved travelling”.

The worst experience he had in the navy was in the aftermath of the crashed Swissair Flight 111. “I was part of the recovery mission, separating plane parts and body parts. It was sickening. Not one body brought on board was intact. My daughter was the same age as the youngest on the flight”.

Don was posted to Afghanistan for seven months after joining the army as a trucker and

he was subsequently injured.

Don’s favourite golf course was another new one on the rota, the PGA National Academy Course at Gleneagles, last year’s Ryder Cup host venue: “that was the best shooting of the entire trip”. The camaraderie of the St Andrews Legacy event has struck Don. “Looking at some of the other guys, my injuries don’t seem so bad, I do have all my limbs, but seeing them play the game it makes me want to push to become better. We have a lot of stuff in common. It’s good knowing we are not alone”.





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A BIG DEAL

St Andrews Legacy
“pretty amazing”
says Stephen Dusyk

St Andrews, 15 July 2015

“I was running around with special forces T-shirts as a child,” says Stephen Dusyk.

With a grandfather, father and an uncle having served in the forces it is hardly surprising that Stephen wanted to enlist as well and he joined Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the western Canada regiment in 2002. He did two tours to Afghanistan, in 2006 and 2008, spending a total of 450 days in theatre. “My company was called Contact Charlie because we were getting in so many fire fights. The hardest incident I was involved in came on

August 3 2008, when we lost four members of our platoon in a 12-hour fire fight”.

Stephen came to be part of the Provincial Reconstruction Team, helping to develop projects such as dam building and patrolling Kandahar city and its airport. He remembers the local people handing out food and grapes: “they wanted you there”.

In January 2013 Stephen suffered a catastrophic brain injury while playing ice hockey, landing on the ice head-first: “I couldn't form complete

sentences for a month”. An invitation to the Beacon Hall Soldier On to St Andrews event gave Stephen a much-needed boost – “it was the first time for two and a half years that I got excited to get out of the house and meet people. I struggle with loud noises, crowds and bright lights. Soldier On is a really good gateway”.

In St Andrews itself, Stephen found more encouragement. “Bringing these random people together is a pretty big deal, we all pulled together. Finding out about them and how we can help each other, it's pretty amazing”.





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IT IS A JOY

Veterans feel the special atmosphere of St Andrews

St Andrews, 20 July 2015

The second St Andrews Legacy event of 2015 involved five members of the Canadian military, four Scots and four Grenadier Guards. With golf scheduled at Crail, Gleneagles, Fairmont St Andrews and The Duke's St Andrews as well as access to The Open with the opportunity to meet players, this was the most complicated visit yet.

Grenadier Steve Gillespie made a first visit to the Home of Golf in the company of returning veterans Scott Blaney, who has recently completed an ETTF coaching certificate, and



Nick Davis. "This week has been a privileged experience. I'm a close friend of Nick's – he tried to get me to play. Golf has helped me move forward. I just started walking again. Nothing gave me joy but golf sorted me out in many ways".

For Yann Carpentier, a French Canadian who served three tours in Afghanistan and was shot twice, golf is the only sport he can do. "I never thought I'd have the privilege to come here. I feel I have achieved something. I know it is a big logistical challenge and I am very grateful.

You meet good people. The atmosphere in the town was unbelievable. You can smell golf, feel golf everywhere. Instead of playing for fun, I'm going to play it to perform".

Scotland's Mark Renton was just as enthusiastic. "You couldn't really buy this. From start to finish everything was outstanding".

There was one more highlight: St Andrews Legacy had 18 representatives at the Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening of The Open.





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NEXT LEVEL

St Andrews Legacy changing lives for the better

St Andrews, 21 July 2015

The second visit of 2015 delivered our first group of Scots, joining up with participants from Canada and England.

This trip was about development, taking individuals to the next level. Stephen Dusyk was one of the most fun individuals we have had and it was great to see him hitting them straight. Don Hookey was a star, a real star: I loved the smile that said; I can do it.

In 2014 Nick Davis hit enough good shots (five or six) to encourage him to get better.



We brought him back for tuition, but there was hardly any need - his game has improved beyond belief, a huge success story. Nick could see himself in fellow amputee Fraser Millar and helped him through the week. Thanks Nick.

Scott Blaney just loves golf. Last year Scott played the Old Course and his fundraising efforts on behalf of veterans led to an invitation to play at Pebble Beach. Characteristically, Scott now wants to coach others. He has completed an ETTF course and will soon be taking up a position at The Warwickshire Golf and Country

Club. We ARE changing lives for the better.

To our sponsors, especially Lou and Jeff, thank you for your support. Finally congratulations to Tim Grantham and the Grand Day Out team as they brought their project to a conclusion. All eighteen St Andrews Legacy participants agreed the Gala Dinner at The Open championship was fantastic.

Graham Proctor
Founder St Andrews Legacy





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A HARD ROAD

John Tobin: This is lifting me up

Crail, Balcomie Links, 21 August 2015

“Three hours before flight time I couldn’t get out the door. I didn’t think I was going to make it”.

For retired Sergeant John Tobin it has been a long, hard road to Scotland. “I lost interest in going outside the door. The more I get close to getting my boots on the paler I got. Most of the time I just take the boots off and go upstairs”.

John enrolled in the Canadian Air Force in 1986, serving until a year ago. He was



a flight engineer on helicopters flying search and rescue missions. A crash that resulted in the deaths of six men flying a CH113 Labrador was especially painful. “You question yourself. There is survivor’s guilt. Another guy took my place to get familiar with our procedures. He had kids that went to school with my daughter. That’s when it started spiralling down”.

A self-taught golfer who took up the game in his mid twenties, John got to

six handicap standard. “It has been 19 years since I golfed. I loved the challenge of golf, its ethics and the honesty. St Andrews Legacy is getting me back to a game I did love. It is dark places we get into and we can’t get out”.

At Crail, John re-experienced some of the beauties he remembers from flying. “You see the coastline, the rocks, the smell of the sea and the wind coming right off into your face. This is lifting me up. I did manage to get out the door”.





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IN THE ZONE

It's like therapy for me, says Wayne Walsh

The Duke's St Andrews, 22 August 2015

“I was in the army cadet movement and grew into the military. It was all I wanted to do – deploy overseas and see the world and help out”.

Retired warrant officer Wayne Walsh served in the Royal Canadian Signals Corps for 25 years. He completed seven overseas deployments: two to Afghanistan and two to Bosnia; one to the Golan Heights in Israel, one to Sri Lanka as part of the disaster response team following the tsunami, and once to the Persian Gulf



after 9-11. He suffered an operational stress injury in 2003, during one of the Afghan tours.

Still working for the military as a public servant in the Department of Defence, Wayne has experienced the benefits that an active golfing life can bestow. “I need a round of golf a week to clear my head and stay focussed in the zone”. He arrived in St Andrews via the Soldier On golf camp in Toronto. “I didn't get accepted first time, but I applied again this year. I didn't

know what to expect, but it was a great experience”. Once he learned he would be coming to Scotland, Wayne sought out previous St Andrews Legacy participants. “I talked to other guys who had been here; Riad Byne really briefed me”.

Day two of the third St Andrews Legacy trip of 2015 was spent at The Duke's. “It's like therapy for me. I take the time to look out and get into my own space. It brought back a lot of good memories. This is an excellent adventure”.





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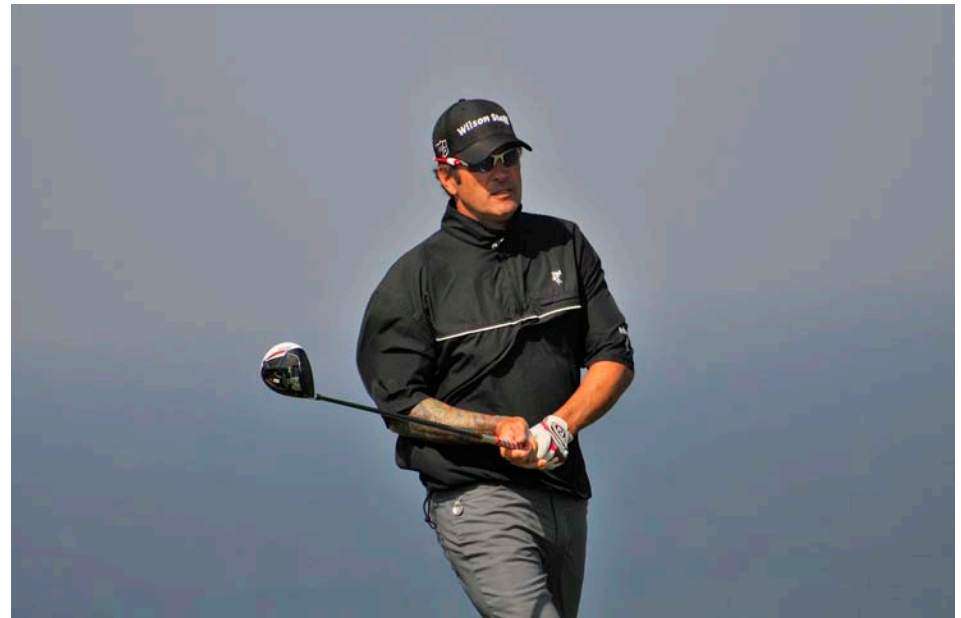
TO THE POINT

Michael Feyko's unique Swilcan Bridge moment

St Andrews, 23 August 2015

“It was 6.30 Sunday morning. I just went down and sat on the bridge. It was kind of a surreal moment – just me alone with nobody else in sight. With all the history of who has walked on that bridge and there I was sitting alone on it and it was almost a culmination point of all I have gone through”.

Michael Feyko was severely injured in a training jump in 1997. “I broke nine bones from the waist down. The other guy ran into me, my parachute collapsed and



his was fine”.

After three months in a wheelchair Michael joined a golf club as part of a rehabilitation programme; “I played and played and played”. By 2001 he shot his way into the PGA of Canada, scoring four-under the requisite standard at Cambridge, Ontario.

“I have a shorter swing than most and hit it further than most, especially with the back and ankle I’ve got. Golf builds the

core muscles that support the back. The sound of the ball going off the clubface puts me in a bubble. Nothing outside exists; it’s just me and the golf course”.

Later that day the group had a tour around the R&A clubhouse (“trace back the golf family tree, the roots are all Scottish” says Michael) before visiting The Kittocks course at Fairmont St Andrews. The dawn calm did not last: “It ended up being a Scottish golf day – 50mph winds and the waves crashing!”





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KICK ASS

Jeff Odom: I started being me again

St Andrews, 24 August 2015

“In the beginning stage it was very hard. I was still dealing with my hands and my dad physically pushed me about the course in my wheelchair. I thought: *I'm going to beat this, I'm going to play golf again*”.

Jeff Odom was in a car crash caused by a drunk driver. An aircraft mechanic working on F-16s with 13th Fighter Squadron, he spent three years at Misawa Air Base in Japan and was later deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operation Southern



Watch but it was back in the USA that he got hurt.

“I woke up in a hospital three days later from an induced coma. I had so many injuries from that accident. The spinal injuries left me paralysed; I had nerve damage in my hands. I classify under a quadriplegic for sports. I had a broken tibia and fibula in my right leg. I had intestinal damage. I was 24 years old. I was in my prime. It rocked me. The way I coped with it was sports”.

Jeff played tennis and represented Team USA at wheelchair rugby, playing the position of high-pointer. “It helped the transition to a different body, a different life. I started being me again. I still have a ceramic trophy from when I was a kid, a little boot, that says: Kick Ass”.

Jeff celebrated his 39th birthday at the Torrance Course. “The views were absolutely beautiful. I thought: *I'm going to hit this; I don't care where it goes. I just want to hit it*”.





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COMING ALIVE

Huw Jones: the spirit comes back amongst them

Royal Aberdeen, 25 August 2015

“Hand on heart, it was one of the most enjoyable and rewarding weeks I’ve had in golf”.

Huw Jones has twenty years of professional experience in the sport, running events all over the world. Last year he was tournament director for the Duke of York Young Champions Trophy at Royal Aberdeen, venue for day five of the third St Andrews Legacy event of the year. “It was great to return there and see some familiar faces. It’s a very welcoming



club. The extra bonus this year is I got to play the course – it was lovely to be inside the ropes. It has such a spectacular setting”.

For the past three years Huw has been involved in events for injured American and British servicemen at venues including Sawgrass, Congressional, and Royal Lytham and St Annes, but the St Andrews Legacy group had a wider range of conditions. “I have experience of guys with physical restrictions when there are

accessibility and mobility issues; this is a different challenge, a new challenge”.

Huw enjoyed the camaraderie between the participants. “That’s what its all about – the guys coming together. They all had the experience of being quite reclusive but when they were brought back as a group they came back alive again.

“The spirit comes back amongst them. Resilience, courage, determination – it comes naturally to these guys”.





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DON'T STOP

Golf keeps me in motion, says Donald Martin

St Andrews, 26 August 2015

“Everybody was always covered by grey soot. We were there when it was still smouldering”. Now working as a senior operations sergeant major with the 804th Medical Brigade, Fort Devens, MA, Donald Martin was in New York City for the final few months of 2001 dealing with the fallout from 9-11. “I knew right there and then I’d be going forward as part of the fight”.

His unique technical, tactical and operational knowledge brought him to



Kuwait and Iraq to ensure the set up of medical facilities and the distribution of medical supplies. “There was nothing in the theatre. It was all a case of setting up the theatre from scratch”.

It was front line work. Don suffered head, leg and back injuries which continue to be an issue. “We lost some people. We were fighting insurgents. They were everywhere. Everything was a threat. We got hit a lot. We were inching forward. I’ve seen a lot of killing; the constant,

constant seeing of the dying and the dead. All soldiers go through their own bit of hell on the battlefield and carry that within”.

After Iraq, Don was at Fort Belvoir, VA, for two years recovering from his injuries. He joined the Wounded Warrior Golf Program, and he was presented with a new set of Ping G20s from local sponsors. “I got out there. Golf keeps my joints working, keeps me in motion. If I ever sit down and stop I am done”.





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STILL IN PLAY

The golf is just the bonus, says Grant Overholt

St Andrews, 27 August 2015

“D

idn't lose one all day”. Grant Overholt is beaming at the end of his round on the Old Course, which ended with a tap-in par on eighteen. “I'm putting the ball up on a little rack I'm going to make. This is one of the best experiences I've ever had. These are the things you have to remember and they carry you. That's the kind of stuff you draw on”.

Grant joined the Canadian military almost thirty years ago, serving three tours in



the former Yugoslavia. He survived a car accident that left four others dead in Croatia. “In the military you're supposed to suck it up and move on. I was becoming more removed from things I enjoyed. It was hard to even leave my house and get the point of coming here.

“Having this environment where we're together, eating together, playing rounds together - to have it in a place that's gold in your mind - it makes it easier. It's the most ideal environment. You talk about

your stuff with other guys and feel a little more normal. It's like filling up your gas tank a little every day. This is a huge extension to Toronto. It's not a holiday; the golf is just the bonus.

“You get these one or two shots that really go and it helps me to get those good feelings again. It's cracks of light coming through. This carries forward and takes you to a new level. I don't care what we shot. We're enjoying it. We're enjoying the moment”.

