



Reading
Country Club

Reading Country Club Hall of Fame

The RCC Hall of Fame, established in 2021, recognizes those individuals whose passion as players and ambassadors of the game represent the spirit of golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable traditions. The first class of RCC Hall of Fame members were inducted on May 1 preliminary to the RCC Heritage Tournament.

The 2021 inductees

Byron Nelson (1912 – 2006)

Byron Nelson, a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, served as RCC's head golf professional from 1937 to 1939. During his three-year tenure, Lord Byron won the Masters tournament (1937) and the U.S. Open played at nearby Philadelphia Country Club (1939). Nelson won 52 PGA tour tournaments, including a record 11 in succession in 1945 and 18 wins in 30 tournaments. He also won the PGA Championship in 1940 and '45, the Masters in 1942 and played on the victorious 1937 Ryder Cup team. Byron was the first player to win 50 PGA tournaments.

Byron spent many hours on RCC's range practicing and giving lessons. Among his pupils were future Berks County golf stars Buddy Lutz and Betty Fehl.

Nelson won the Central Pennsylvania Open at RCC in 1937 and '39. He finished second by a stroke to Ed "Porky" Oliver by a stroke after setting a competitive course record of 66 in the first round in 1938. The Central Pennsy Open was played at RCC from 1934 to 1941.

In 2003, RCC's club championship named in Nelson Cup in Byron's honor.

Elmer J. "Buddy" Lutz (1928 – 2005)

Buddy Lutz learned the game from RCC's head professional, Byron Nelson. Lord Byron taught him well as Buddy is RCC's most decorated club champion with eight titles: 1948, '49, '51, '57, '58, '59, '64 and '66. He is one of only four players to win three championships in succession. In 1956, he was involved in the longest championship match when he lost to Paul Hill in 39 holes.

Buddy also won the Berks County amateur championship in 1948, '49, '51 and '63. His four wins are tied third all-time with Ed Anewalt III, trailing only his son, Chip, with nine and Johnny Markel with seven. Buddy won the Berks Am at RCC in 1948, '51 and '63.

His first victory came in 1939 when he won the Tyack Cup at RCC at age 14. He won the Philadelphia Junior championship at Philadelphia Cricket Club in 1947 and played in the U.S. Amateur in 1947 and the Canadian Amateur in 1949.

His two most notable wins came at the 1947 and the 1949 Sunnehanna Invitational in Johnstown, Pa. In the 1949 tournament, Buddy trailed Jack Benson, Pittsburgh, four down with five to play. He reeled off four consecutive birdies and a par to win by 1 up. In 1951, Lutz was the low amateur

at the Reading Open, a PGA tour event played at RCC. He also competed in the North-South Amateur in Pinehurst, N.C., where he scored a hole-in-one, and played in the U.S. Open.

Later that year, he turned pro and competed on the professional golf tour in 1952. Lutz earned his first check at the Canadian Open. Known as a long hitter, he won the long drive championship in 1952 at the Empire Open in New York.

Lutz returned to Reading the following year, was reinstated as an amateur and won numerous local golf events over the following years

He won RCC's J.C. Mumma Trophy in 1946, '49, '55, '59, '61, '63, '64 and '65 and the President's Cup, 1945, '46, '47, '48 and '49. He also won the Berkshire Country Club championship in 1945, '46, '51 and '71.

Buddy was elected to the Berks County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1994.

Chip Lutz

Chip Lutz is a two-time RCC club champion, winning in 1979 and '90. He also holds a record nine Berks County amateur golf championships (1979, '80, '81, '82, '83, '88, '89, '91, and '93). He won the Berks Am twice at RCC, defended his titles in 1980 and '89. His five wins in succession are a tournament record.

Lutz won every BCGA tournament in which he was eligible: Match Play Championship, 1988 and 2010; Senior Championship, 2009; Partners Championship, with his brother, Putter, 1993 and '94, with Scott Gerhart, 1982 and '83, and 1978 with his father, Buddy; Junior-Senior Championship, 2008 with his brother, Putter and 1995 with Rod Eaken; and the Hawley Quier Memorial, 1987, '91, '92 and '93. Chip also won the Berks County scholastic championship in 1971 and 1972, representing Exeter High School.

He is one of only two Berks County golfers to win the Philadelphia amateur Championship, taking the title in 1977. Herman Fry, an RCC Hall of Fame member, won in 1974.

Chip has been ranked as the world's top senior amateur golfer with six national amateur championships. He won the U.S. Senior Amateur Championship in 2015, The British Senior Amateur Championship in 2011, '12 and '16 and the Canadian Senior Amateur Championship in 2011 and '12.

Chip was also a member of RCC's 1979 Philadelphia Golf Association team match championship winning side. RCC is the only Berks County team to win the series championship. The GAP team matches have been played since 1897.

Herman Fry (1944 – 2013)

Herman Fry won the RCC club championship in 1984 and 1985. Herman holds the scoring record for a 54-hole championship at 206, four under par, in 1985. He was the first Berks County player to win the Philadelphia Amateur Championship, taking the crown in 1974 with a 3 and 2 victory at Cedarbrook C.C. over Frank Magee of Huntingdon Valley C.C. In 1984, he became the only Berks golfer to win the Golf Association of Philadelphia's Patterson Cup, defeating Buddy Marucci by one stroke. Marucci it was who lost 2-down to Tiger Woods in the final match of the 1995 U.S. Amateur Championship.

Herman won the Berks County Amateur championship in 1970 and 1977; the Berks Public Links championship in 1971, '72 and '83; and the Berks Junior-Senior Championship in 1993 with Chris Storck and 2000 with Dennis Johnson.

Mike Heller

Mike Heller is a four-time RCC club champion, taking the crown in 1975, '81, '87 and '98. He has the distinction of the longest between wins, 23 years. His 11-stroke victory over Charley Faber in 1981 is the largest margin for a 36-hole tournament. He is one of five players to win the championship in both stroke and match play.

Mike was also a consistent winner in Berks County Golf Association tournaments. He won the Berks Amateur in 1990 and '97; the Match Play Championship in 1996, '97 and '99; the Senior Championship in 2000, '02 and '05; the Partners Championship in 1976 with Nick Meter and 1990 with Dave Lindbom; and the Hawley Quire Memorial in 1978, '79, '83 and '90.

Mike was a member of RCC's 1979 Philadelphia Golf Association team match championship winning side. RCC is the only Berks County team to win the series championship. The GAP Team matches have been played since 1897.

Fred Tyler

Fred Tyler was a consistent winner at RCC and in county tournaments for three decades. He is second on the list of most RCC club championships with five: 1983, '86, '91, '92 and '94. Fred is one of five players to win the championship in both stroke and match play.

Fred's wins in Berks County Golf Association play include: the Hawley Quire Memorial, 1984, '86, '94 and '95; the Senior Championship, 1984, '92, '93; the Partners Championship, 1987, '91, '92 with Bill Whitman; the Match Play Championship, 1991; and the Senior Partners Championship, 1995 and 2005, with Bill Whitman.

Betsy King

Betsy King, a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, attended Exeter High School and played high school golf at RCC. Her first instructor was Henry Poe, RCC's longest-tenured golf professional. Betsy's early successes included back-to-back victories in the Pennsylvania junior girl's championship (1973 and '74) and a win over Betty Fehl in the 1975 Berks Women's amateur championship. Fehl was the dominant force in Berks women's golf, having won 30 of the 32 previous championships.

She played collegiately at Furman University, and was on the 1976 national championship team that included future LPGA players Beth Daniel, Sherri Turner and Cindy Ferro. Betsy was low amateur at the 1976 U.S. Women's Open. She joined the tour in 1977 and notched her first win in 1984 at the Women's Kemper Open. Her 34 tour wins include seven major championships: the U.S. Women's Open, 1989 and '90; the Dinah Shore, 1987, '90 and '97; and the LPGA Championship, 1992.

Since her retirement, Betsy has established Golf Fore Africa, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing clean, fresh drinking water to people in rural Africa. Betsy's desire is to enlist golfers around the world to join the cause by linking her passion for golf to compassion for children.

About Reading Country Club

Reading Country Club is a pristine example of golf course architecture from the games "golden years." Designed by Alexander Findlay, a native of Scotland and one of the pioneers of golf in the United States, the RCC layout remains a true shot-makers course that has challenged golfers from the era of hickory shafted niblicks to today's titanium and graphite technological wonders. The golf course and clubhouse were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2018.