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## THIS IS A DREAM

I didn't think I'd  
play golf again,  
says Brian Kebic



Craik, 24 May 2017

“I had back surgery in 2007; I was totally broken. I didn't think I'd play golf again. I was pretty scared at the time. I thought: I'm toast”.

Brian Kebic joined the Canadian forces in 1971, spending a total of 37 years in the active military and another four in reserve – “I spent my whole life in the military”.

A native of Hamilton, Ontario, Brian worked in steel mills out of high school

but didn't take to the factory life: “I hated being indoors. I was out looking for some adventure”.

Taking on a highly specialised role in signals intelligence (“our security clearance took a year”), Brian worked in Bermuda, California and Washington DC, but during the Cold War years he was mostly stationed in Canada, spending a lot of time in the north of the country, at CFS Inuvik and CFS Alert – “the closest city was Moscow”.

Brian took up golf in his twenties, playing at the military course at Kingston. He had caddied when a child and had watched Opens on television. After surgery, golf became part of his therapy and this led to contact with Soldier On and the chance to come to Scotland. There was, however, one big obstacle to get over.

“When I retired I swore I'd never fly again” says Brian, whose last flight was in 2003. “This is a dream. It's the only thing that would have got me on an airplane”.





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## FAMILY GOLF

### Claude Boulanger finds strength on the course

Lundin Links, 25 May 2017

Claude Boulanger officially joined the Canadian army back in 1985 but he had already spent his young life growing up in the military during his father's 35-year long service.

Claude himself spent over 20 years working as a supply technician, mainly in Canada but with one UN stint in the Golan Heights, before a foot injury led him to be medically released. He has had three operations on his right ankle and there have been other complications: "I got a foot drop too, and my hip is dealing



with the weakness of my ankle".

Now employed by the military in a contracts and procurement role, Claude has found golf to be a more than adequate substitute for the high impact games of his past, such as baseball and hockey.

"I bought used clubs but I still had three young boys. I would go golfing when I could and I got my kids into golf at a young age."

Claude's boys joined the army, the air

force, and the navy but one son had a tumour misdiagnosed and has become blind. "My son who is blind plays a lot. For the last three years that has been my passion, to keep him playing, helping him along, being his caddie".

Now living in Oromocto, New Brunswick, the Prince Edward Island native loved being part of the first St Andrews Legacy visit to Lundin Golf Club.

"I really enjoyed it, all wide open and right close to the water".





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## A GOOD JOY

### Jimmy Ochan finds some calm beyond the front line

St Andrews, 26 May 2017

Jimmy Ochan joined the Marines in the aftermath of 9-11, but there was more to it than that. "With what America did for me, I felt like it was something I can give back. America just took me from the dust".

Jimmy was born in Uganda where his father was in the military but was forced to leave the country at the age of six, becoming a refugee in Kenya before the opportunity arose to come to the US where he completed high school and did two years of college. Jimmy joined up in 2004 and was deployed to Iraq in 2005 and 2007. He went to Afghanistan in 2011. "I've seen a lot of dead bodies. I know



what war really costs people. It was rough in the beginning. In Iraq I was in the front line. Sometimes you come with a bullet in your chest. I can't believe I went through all that and made it. I guess God loved me. Some of my friends committed suicide or their wives left them, or became pregnant by another man. After Afghanistan I completely lost it. I couldn't sit with my back to a window".

When Jimmy was looking for activities to bring calm into his life, he stumbled across mini-golf with his son. "He wanted to play and I took him every Saturday. I fell in love, little by little. My wife comes along

and takes pictures. I fell in love with golf because of my son".

Coming to Scotland has given Jimmy a sense of being connected to the roots of the game: "I could be the first Ugandan to play in St Andrews. I'm making history".

A highlight of the trip was meeting Barack Obama after the 44th President of the United States had played the Old Course. "It was a shock and overwhelming, but with a good joy. I feel more joy. He cares about service members. He paid a bit of respect – that means a lot. It's one of those things you take with you to your grave".





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## FINDING PURPOSE

### Wade Knight begins life after military service

St Andrews, The Duke's Course, 26 May 2017

Wade Knight and Kris Morgan had an adventure just getting to Scotland for this St Andrews Legacy event, their flights being delayed so that they missed the first two days of the trip. "It was a trying time to get here," says Wade, "but I was always optimistic".

He packed a fair bit into day one, including meeting Barack Obama and then playing The Duke's Course. "I had to come to St Andrews to meet the US president! For him to take the time meant a lot. He seems such a personable guy".



Wade joined the military at the age of 17, starting off as an avionics technician working on helicopters and rising to crew chief. He was getting close to re-enlistment when he suffered a serious injury in Iraq; during a night shift operation he was tangled up in cables and dragged over the ground.

"I had lots of broken bones and my ankle was rebuilt. I broke most of the bones in my leg but the biggest injury was to my hands and wrist". Wade has an X-ray image of his left hand showing how extensive his surgery was. He had hospital treatment in San

Antonio for three years.

Now in dental school in Dallas, Wade is able to carry out procedures and is "helping people get out of pain".

He came to golf by way of a college friend. "I always thought golf was an old-timer's sport but now I've played for five years. The first one you hit well, it just clicks. When I started school I had to cancel my cable subscription to avoid watching too much golf. It's tough to go from being an able-bodied man, but golf is physically and mentally therapeutic".





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## A NEW REALITY

A chance to  
rediscover me:  
Troy Neufeld

Castle Stuart, 27 May 2017

“The biggest takeaway from this week: I could reconnect with the guys, to still have that camaraderie and team work – it was a chance to rediscover me”.

Troy Neufeld joined the Canadian army in 1993, serving as an infantry officer for 15 years. He was attached to the Parachute Company of Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry: “we were on the pointy edge of reconnaissance and parachuting. It was a small unit with tactical leadership opportunities”.

Troy’s service included a tour of Bosnia, but he became a global traveller due to his association with the SkyHawks, the Canadian



Armed Forces Parachute Team, which included the honour of being team leader. “I’ve made close to a thousand parachute descents all over the world”.

For the past five years Troy has retrained as a medic, specialising in emergency medicine and resuscitation medicine. His official retirement date from the military is 12 June - “St Andrews Legacy is the crowning touch to my career!”

Growing up in southern Alberta, Troy lived close to a golf course and played occasionally in the summer but it is only recently that he has spent more time on the fairways. “Sport

allows you to reconnect with guys with the same mind, it allows you to come into reality”.

Recalling his meeting with Barack Obama, Troy says: “the most striking thing was hearing his commanding voice and that he would take time to come over and shake our hands, asking: *what’s your name, where are you from*”.

A first St Andrews Legacy visit to the Scottish Open venue of Castle Stuart was a huge success with the staff doing a great job in making the veterans feel at ease. “I’ve never had the opportunity to play that calibre of course,” said Troy.





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## HEALING THING

Kris Morgan:  
Everything else in  
my head is gone...

St Andrews, Kittocks Course, 28 May 2017

Kris Morgan was hardly off the plane from the United States when he met his former president, Barack Obama. "The big thing that got me – when he shook my hand he also grabbed the back of my arm; that is total respect".

Kris has undergone a long series of treatments related to a Traumatic Brain Injury he received in Saudi Arabia in 1995. There have been blackouts and seizures. He couldn't drive a car until 2010. "There was damage on the brain stem and bleeding on the brain. I become undeployable. That was a killer to my heart. I wanted to be the first person in

my family to retire from the military. My dream was cut short due to the injury".

Kris' father, brother and both grandfathers had all served in either the navy or the army, but Kris joined the Air Force as an aerospace ground equipment mechanic. "I went to the recruiter's office to talk to the Army, but he wasn't in. The Air Force was next door – they said: why, come in here and take this little test..."

Having been introduced to golf by his grandfather as a child, Kris has found enormous benefits from playing the game as an adult. "Golf is a healing thing for

me. It's my outlet. Everything in my head is gone. It's a release. You don't think about anything except shooting good or beating your opponent".

Born in Kentucky, Kris lived his youth in Ohio and Kansas but has found home in Oklahoma City. Visiting the Kittock's Course, perched on a cliff top overlooking St Andrews Bay, Kris was enchanted by the sea views. "From the clubhouse, every single window you look out of is the ocean. I've never played golf courses like this. The greens were perfect. I couldn't even imagine playing courses like this all the time".





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## STAYING ACTIVE

### Golf and friendship to the fore for Steve Drover

St Andrews, 28-29 May 2017

When Steve Drover joined the Canadian military in 1990 his friends said: we'll see you in two weeks! Steve, though, made it to 22 years and is still working in the defence industry as the owner of Stone Zero Consulting.

Steve spent his last 12 years in service as a communications specialist, adapting to the post 9-11 world that followed the end of the Cold War period. "That's when we really got active. I've done a lot of operational tours – Africa, the Middle East, Afghanistan – multiple tours".



After years playing hockey and softball, golf gradually became more of a thing for Steve – "it's good to stay active; the only thing that matters is there and then".

Steve started golfing age 21 and plays to a single-digit handicap. He hit the pin at the par-three eighteenth hole at Crail and there were many other fine shots from him over the week. "If I played here I'd cut my driver down two inches and hit everything lower, the fairways are so hard. It's a more enjoyable form of golf. The first few days were frustrating; it

makes you really think".

The week ended with two rounds at St Andrews Links - on the Jubilee Course and the Old Course. "It's everybody's dream. I've done a lot of nerve-racking things, but the first tee on the Old was the most nerve-racking! The course itself is amazing. My best shot of the day was a 4-iron into the wind at the eleventh".

Steve praised his colleagues on the trip: "Therapeutic-wise, I try to hang around buddies".





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## LIKE HOME

I felt more  
accomplished  
here: Louie Ruiz

St Andrews, 28-29 May 2017

“I got blasted a couple of times – mortar incomings – I never stopped. I wanted to be out there with my brothers. I kept on going with it. You’re going to stay with the pain”.

Louie Ruiz has suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury and has had severe hip problems leading to surgery following his eleven years in the Marines, which included two deployments lasting 36 months in Iraq.

Now enjoying playing golf to a high



standard, with impressive ball striking. Louie has successfully integrated the sport into his recovery programme.

“My swing changed a lot after hip surgery. Before I couldn’t stand up; I fell. It took a long time to recover. My wife was my inspiration more than anything. I really did want to quit. I thought maybe I could swing with my hips, the right way, without being in pain all the time. I learned to hit the ball with more technique”.

The benefits of the St Andrews Legacy trip have been clear to Louie. “In Scotland my mind’s been released. I’ve had camps before and had PTSD when I came back. I’m having so much fun with all the other guys. We all fight the same cause. You have someone by your side”.

Fittingly, Louie’s best round of the week was on the Old Course. “I felt more accomplished here. I closed my eyes and just felt the breeze. It felt natural. It felt like home”.





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## KINTYRE REIGNS

### Neil Chamberlain: I've never felt so welcome

Machrihanish, 8 June 2017

“I’ve never felt so welcome in a place in my whole life”. Neil Chamberlain is referring to Machrihanish Golf Club, Kintyre. A drenching rain closed out the day on the championship course but that didn’t deter the veterans, the members, or the women from the Machrihanish Ladies section taking on their neighbours from Dunaverty over the nine-hole Pans Course.

A member of the army cadets from the age of 13, Neil joined the Welsh Guards in 1969, “the cream of the army within Wales.



I signed my life to the Queen”. His father had taken Neil down a coal mine to show him the alternative. “It really put me off. My father had been down the pits since he was 12 years-old”.

The first of three tours to Northern Ireland soon followed. “17-and-a-half, eighteen I was... Riots, petrol bombs, sniping at you. It was exceptionally scary on those streets”. There were further postings to Germany and Cyprus. Neil remembers being startled by a car backfiring when he returned to Wales

from Cyprus and jumping behind a hedge. “I was just keyed up. I couldn’t relax. You knew you were going back there.”

June 8 happened to be the 35th anniversary of the sinking of the RFA Sir Galahad during the Falklands conflict. “It was a poignant thing, the anniversary of when we lost a lot of men. Some guys I had trained and knew personally”. At dinner that evening the veterans and the Machrihanish members stood and saluted the 48 soldiers and crewmen who died on board the vessel.





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## MILES AHEAD

Scots treated us  
like brothers:  
Rick Greenhough

Machrihanish, 9 June 2017

Rick Greenhough joined the Canadian Infantry at 17-years-old. His father had been a first officer in the British Royal Navy. "A very strong sense of right and wrong was instilled in me when young. It was almost natural to go into the military life".

Rick was stationed in Cyprus in the mid-seventies as part of the UN peacekeeping mission separating the warring Greek and Turkish sides to the long-running conflict. Based on the Greek side of the dividing line, Rick saw daily horrors.

"That damn transfer station, it'll haunt



me to the grave. They'd bus in refugees from the north part of Cyprus. The way they'd been treated by the Turkish army - families of ten, twelve, fourteen, all with nothing left - I always felt I wanted to give them more. They lived in tent cities with open sewers". On one of his two tours in Cyprus, Rick saw how even the dead can be mistreated. The body of a man who had been shot by the Turks was left in the buffer zone, or Green Line, for four days. "The Turks tried to burn the body. I had to bag it. When I went to pick it up, it fell apart".

Rick has spent a long time struggling

with PTSD. "I'm miles ahead of where I was five years ago. I weighed 320 pounds and hadn't left the house in four years. I was frozen...I self-medicated. The only person I had was my wife. There's four years of my life I don't remember".

Golf has been an important part of the healing process. "I started golfing when I was very young. It does my heart good to know I'm not alone". Starting out on a week of golfing activities in Scotland, Rick was overwhelmed by the friendliness of the Machrihanish members. "It was wonderful. They treated us like brothers".





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## BACK INTO IT

### Golf has helped me through, says Brian Evans

St Andrews, 10 June 2017

Brian Evans joined the Royal Regiment of Wales in 1975 at the age of sixteen, leaving his hometown of Ystradgynlais to find himself guarding Rudolf Hess in Berlin the following year. Further postings or exercises saw him in England, Belize, Canada, Hong Kong, Northern Ireland, Denmark and Germany.

"I got married and had three children in the army. It was a family regiment. A few of us have always stuck together. The Regiment was a tribe. We played rugby or boxed against the English and it was about really, really winning!"



Brian started playing golf in 1994, when he left the army, under the influence of his brother. "I couldn't hit a seven iron. I was determined to hit a seven iron".

Eventually, Brian got down to a six handicap and had the honour of captaining Cradoc Golf Club. "I've been very lucky with golf and made some wonderful friends. Golf has been a very big part of my life. My wife died eight years ago and I became a bit of a recluse. I can honestly say that golf has helped me through. I wouldn't come out and stopped playing in

winter. I'm starting to come back into it".

Following two days in Machrihanish, next stop was The Duke's Course at St Andrews – "an amazing course, a pleasure to play".

Brian's great-grandfather was from Fife and returning to the region to meet new people has also been a pleasure. "It can be easier to open up to strangers and that's what I found coming here... they've been through a bit. It has helped. It has been a wonderful experience. I've had to pinch myself".





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## GLOBAL WITNESS

Jim Fisher  
experiences  
golf's simplicity

Crail, 11 June 2017

Jim Fisher comes from a family of military people. His father was in the Royal Canadian Air Force, a grandfather served in World War II, and a great uncle participated in the Great War. After graduating from University, Jim himself joined the Royal Canadian Artillery in September 1981.

An instructor and trainer in his early career at Chilliwack and Gagetown, Jim rose to become battery commander of the 2nd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse based at Petawawa following a three-year posting to Germany. He remained in Canada and the United States until 2003, when he went to Sierra Leone as a military observer.

"Sierra Leone was the poorest country on Earth. As a UN military observer you're on your own. Ebola breaks out all the time. Rebel factions are moving. There was a trade in diamonds going on and lots of criminal activity. And you were unarmed". Jim was there for six months. "There are no rules. I saw the ugliest side of mankind. Amputation was used as a tool. There were children with arms lopped off at the wrist".

After returning to Canada for six years, Jim was posted to Australia for five years as part of the ABCA programme with a deployment to Afghanistan to observe coalition operations. "I got to see a fair bit of stuff up

close as a witness to history. I was impressed by how well the coalition worked".

Jim was medically retired two years ago. He is now deaf in his left ear – "too many big explosions" – and has suffered significant facial nerve damage.

Golf has been part of his transition out of the military. "That's where golf's good. Golf's quiet and you can focus on a single objective". At Balcomie Links Crail, Jim had his first experience of driving a green, the seventh. "I was having a pretty good day. It's a beautiful, pre-par course. An interesting concept".





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## STILL IN PLAY

### Martyn Griffiths enjoys the best golf of his life

St Andrews, 12 June 2017

At the age of seven Martyn Griffiths decided he wanted to become a Welsh Guardsman, "one of those people who do trooping of the colour". He joined the army cadets and enlisted in 1977 at the age of 16. However, by the time he retired as a colour sergeant, in 2001, he still hadn't done a trooping of the colour: "I was on a course every time it was on!"

Still, he has been on duty at many of the most famous sites in Britain, starting at St James' Palace. "The smartest get to mount guard under the clock" he says, and he has a photo of himself on duty there taken by his wife before they were married.

Martyn was posted to Germany, Belize, and served four tours in Northern Ireland. He golfed at Castlerock. "I played golf with the RUC and in my bag was a pistol".

In 1982 Martyn was one of the British Task Force sent to liberate the Falklands. "It took six weeks to get there. We all thought: we'll never land, we'll just train and train and train". Martyn was in the advanced party on HMS Fearless. "The other boys were put on the Galahad. I was in command signals group. My best mate, Frank Ward, was killed that day. I was 21. It was what I joined the army for and I was now living it. I was there for three months. One of the happiest

moments I've ever experienced was when I met my wife at Brize Norton. She ran to meet me. You realize you're back home. I had to meet Frank's wife and I had to explain he'd done his job and he'd done it brilliantly. I get upset when June 8 comes round".

Martyn now spends a lot of his time with the Welsh Guards Golf Association – "I don't believe I'm out! I still attend pretty much all the meetings". He organises four competitions a year, involving around forty golfers from all over Wales.

In Scotland, Martyn said; "I've played the best golf of my life".





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## I MADE IT...

### Spinal injury can't stop Roy Rees at St Andrews

St Andrews, 13 June 2017

“I took a walk down to the Old Course. My heart was pumping. I was crying my eyes out. I thought: *I'm here, I've made it*”.

Roy Rees went through a spine operation that was so delicate it took him eight years to be fit enough to work again. He had to sit out a few rounds during this St Andrews Legacy event but he is a dedicated golfer who went from a 28 to an 11 handicap and he won't give up the sport without a fight.

“I tried numerous times to play but I could maybe only do the front nine. My back was in agony and I'd have to come off. Slowly

but surely I've been persevering but this has been the one that made me realize that I still want to play”.

Like other Welshmen who joined the military, Roy's father persuaded him not to go underground.

“I came from a very small mining community. My father was a face worker down the pits, and so was his father before him. He didn't want me going down that route. I went down in a cage to the very bottom; in that confined space, what they persevered with, my father tried to shock me out of it – it frightened the seven bells

out of me!”

Roy joined the Royal Corps of Transport in 1973, escorting high-ranking staff in Britain and Europe before becoming part of the Queen's “baggage train”, or driving force, based at Buckingham Palace. The group was inspected by HM herself every two years.

After a round on the Jubilee Course, Roy joined the rest of the group for a tour of the Royal and Ancient Clubhouse. “The history in there – the Roll of Honour, the clubs, the actual trophies – the aura of the place. It was an immense pleasure”.





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## FLYING BY

### It's pretty overwhelming: Derek Spracklin

St Andrews, 14 June 2017

Derek Spracklin spent the best part of twenty years in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, retiring in 2014. His first overseas tour was to Kosovo in 1999 when he encountered some of the worst offenders in the Balkan War, people guilty of genocide and torture. He was involved in peacekeeping in Bosnia during 2001/2 and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2006. "You can't get over how evil people can be until you see it," he says.

Now back in St John's and working as a co-ordinator for the National Peer Support



Agency, Derek is a civilian employed by the army. "I miss the brotherhood. You get in a slump. I was in a bad slump. I was a very negative guy at one point".

Derek was introduced to golf when he helped organize a golf camp for Soldier On in Victoria, British Columbia: "I find golf very therapeutic".

Meeting the other veterans at St Andrews was also a great help. "It's a very humbling experience. That military camaraderie, you don't see it in civilian life. The good

banter...I miss that whole camaraderie thing. To shake hands and talk to those guys, I feel just to be asked to come here was very humbling. I feel very blessed. I carried my bag the whole way. I walked everywhere in Scotland. It's pretty overwhelming for me. I'm learning a little bit more about the game of golf. Now I can play to my handicap and be a little bit better".

The Old Course itself provided Derek with a series of intense experiences. "Before you knew it, we were at hole 15. It flew".





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## IT LEADS HERE

### Old Course tops off St Andrews trip for Pierre Tassé

St Andrews, 14 June 2017

Pierre Tassé spent 40 years in the military, joining the Royal 22e Régiment, the Van Doos, in 1972. He was in Israel during the Yom Kippur War, Afghanistan, Kuwait and the UAE. "We went from peacekeeping to peacemaking, from wearing a blue beret to an actual beret. People look at Canadians as being respectful, forthright and honest".

Retiring as a Major, Pierre had a good career and is grateful for the opportunities he had. "The military sent me to University. I have nothing but high praise for the military and those who serve in the

military". He also paid tribute to the families of military personnel, especially the wives: "My hat's off to the women who support the husbands in the military, a woman who stays with you through your ups and downs".

Pierre has been golfing since 1976: "I got married and my brother-in-law gave me a set of serious golf clubs".

The final day of the St Andrews Legacy event featured a round on the Old Course. "Everything leads up to the Old Course.

It's surreal, unbelievable. It's nerve racking. The hole I enjoyed the most was really seventeen. It was such a daunting drive and the shot I was thinking about for most of the round. We all said to a man: I can't believe we're here. We all got knock-kneed... with the traditions, Tom Morris... because it is and always will be the home of golf".

The interactions between the Canadians and the Welsh were another highlight. "We made friends. This is a friendship that is going to develop over the years and has its genesis in St Andrews Legacy".





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## MOVING AHEAD

### Sam Shockley: It was my destiny to live

Royal Birkdale, 19-20 July 2017

“I don’t celebrate my birthday, I celebrate my life day. It was my destiny to live”.

Sam Shockley lost both legs when he stepped on a 20lb pressure plate during a minesweeping patrol in Afghanistan. The date was 17 March 2013. “I found a t-shirt that says: *I had a blast on St Paddy’s Day!* I was a point man, squad leader on the ground. I was the one holding the metal. I was leading from the front. I don’t have any animosity towards the Afghans. We are warriors as they are warriors”. Sam was awarded a purple heart for his actions, carrying the crest on the back of his wheelchair.



Sam underwent over 60 surgeries during the next two years. “It’s crazy how much it takes. I had my wife and family and a lot of good doctors. They guided me through each stage. My wife was my rock. I put her through hell in hospital but she was right there with me the entire time. You can’t thank someone enough”.

A golfer from age 14, Sam at first did not imagine he would take to the links again, but once he saw the SoloRider and the ParaGolfer it was “Game On!”

“Golf is me and my wife’s thing; it’s a couples

thing. 99 per cent of the time I go play, I play with her. She’s getting way better than me!”

First stop for St Andrews Legacy in July was The Open at Royal Birkdale, where Sam had a chance to meet many top professionals including St Andrews 2015 champion Zach Johnson and eventual 2017 winner Jordan Spieth, together with his caddie Michael Greller, and runner-up Matt Kuchar. “They were so humble, taking time to hang out with us and talk to us. Jordan gave me the glove out of his bag and signed it. That’s something I’ll always remember”.





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## ZONED IN

### I can't be here, I'm going to Scotland: Jimmy Riley

St Andrews, 21 July 2017

Jimmy Riley had an eventful week even before reaching the UK, undergoing emergency surgery for kidney stones and being detained in hospital following some complications. He told his doctor: "I can't be here, I'm going to Scotland. I don't care if I'm crawling, I'm going to Scotland... I knew it would be worth it".

Jimmy joined the 101st Airborne in 2006. "My kids were my big deciding factor but it's a pride thing as well". Rileys have been mainstays in the US military and Jimmy's father was a marine. Deployed to Afghanistan



in 2010, Jimmy was engaged in convoy security operating gun trucks. "We were constantly on-mission and travelled all over Afghanistan. I was hit by three IEDs on different occasions. The biggest one I hit was 250lbs. We called ourselves bomb-catchers. My left leg as of now is non-repairable. I have a whole lot of other injuries on top of that". The most difficult relate to a Traumatic Brain Injury, affecting his hearing, balance and vision. He also struggles with memory.

On his first day in St Andrews, Jimmy completed only his second-ever round of golf,

nine holes on the Balgove, visited the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, and then met NFL legend Peyton Manning who had been on the Jubilee Course. "I'm a huge sports fan in general and he's a Hall of Famer. You enjoy watching guys like that. He's definitely one of the best quarterbacks ever. He told me: *thank you for what you do*".

On the attraction of golf, Jimmy says; "I instantly fell in love with it, that self-challenge. It's peaceful and you're just focussed on your game, just zoned in on what you're doing".





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## BRAVE HEART

JD Wallace: I really want to be a good player and enjoy it

St Andrews, 22 July 2017

“I’m in Scotland as a Wallace! You want to tear up”. JD Wallace named his son William, after the archetypal Scottish hero, and has traced his lineage in the ancestral homeland. Now living on the family ranch outside of Austin, Texas, JD is overcoming some agonising past injuries but has made the brave decision to stay drug-free

He joined the marines in 1994, four days out of high school and just at the end of the first gulf war. His area of expertise became SE Asia, where he had a number of combat deployments. A helicopter crash on the



Thailand-Cambodia border led to severe problems with his back, although he continued operating despite the pain: “I kept doing what I was doing but my spine was all jacked-up. They couldn’t believe I was walking”.

A botched surgery led to JD being paralysed. “I had to learn to walk all over again. I have partial paralysis on the right side of my body and plates and rods holding my neck together”.

Although he has played golf on-and-off for most of his adult life (“marine bases have golf

courses”) it has been five years since JD was an active player and the chance to come to St Andrews has been invigorating. “I really want to be a good player and enjoy it. I get goose bumps about it. I feel super-privileged”.

Watching the best players in the world from the practice tee at The Open was an inspiration. “It was mind-blowing to see those pros at the level they are at, to see how they practice. I was learning from those guys and it helped me have an open mind on the rest of the week. I hit a driver twice today. I 8-ironed it and 9-ironed it all the way round”.





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## LOVE & HATE

### West Long gets golf into his blood

St Andrews, 23 July 2017

West Long is from Carroll County, Virginia. "I grew up in a household and community where you gave back. You go to work or do what you really had to do".

For West, that meant joining the army. He signed up in January 2005 and by the end of 2008 he had been to Iraq twice for a total of 28 months. "I'm an infantry guy, we were part of the task force. I have wear and tear throughout. We had our fair share".

Now out of the military, West has taken on the challenge of golf.



"It is the one thing I've learned to love and hate at the same time. When I started I was hitting the carts beside me. In St Andrews I hit 41 for the Strathtyrum front nine. I just go for it".

At The Open, West was impressed by the pros' preparation. "That really got my attention. That was a big thing, that focussing on a target".

A member at Rose Creek, Edmond, Oklahoma, West is used to spending his time on the course with wheels. "The first couple of days I wondered: why am I so tired? I

realised I spend five days a week in a cart, and then here we walk six miles. I play five days a week. I'm going to walk three of them. By God, I'm going to, just because it's worth it. My buddy is a triple amputee. I'm sore. I'm lucky to be sore. I'm going to take a handful of shots off my game. I'll be back".

There was more good golf to celebrate when West's playing partner, Brent Zepp, shot his personal low score of 65. Brent is the PGA director of golf at Chambers Bay Golf Club and he accompanied the veterans throughout the week.





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## FINDING PEACE

### Golf provides new motivation for Gerson Tocgonzalez

St Andrews, 24 July 2017

Gerson Tocgonzalez arrived in the USA from Guatemala as a three-year-old child and grew up in south-central Los Angeles. "I was always that kid that never belonged. At 18-years-old I became a resident and I wanted to join the military. I wanted to belong to something and not feel an outsider I needed to belong to a bigger family. Then 9-11 happened. I was ready to go".

Gerson was a reservist for four years, with multiple deployments to Ukraine and Poland, before enrolling for active duty in 2008. He was assigned to 2/4: "I was chasing war from 2004-

2008 and when I found the war they wouldn't stop sending me. It was the best time and worst time of my life".

Two seven-month long deployments to Afghanistan followed. The first involved medevac security and the second was in Helmand. "After the first deployment my wife noticed the change and told me I came back a little different. After the second there was a huge difference. I was more numb to feelings and attachments. That's the way it's been. I told my wife she has to mourn the person I was and fall in love with the person I am".

Gerson has been a golfer for only a year. "I didn't think golf was a sport, then I finally tried it out and I liked it. The Open and St Andrews has been a crazy experience. Watching the pros take that swing, just smooth and continuous, makes me want to work on my swing and stance. We met the champion. And St Andrews...for people who battle with ourselves every day it's nice to have a peaceful and relaxing environment around us.

"I struggle with something that motivates me or keeps me going. I feel that maybe I've found that thing".





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## A SAFE SPACE

What better place to start this thing:  
Nazim Arda

Craighead Links, Crail, 25 July 2017

Nazim Arda came to the USA from Turkey in 1998 and signed up within six months. "For me, it was about service – to my new home, my new country: something I can give back. When I joined it was a peacetime marine corps. I thought it would be a short stint, but it ended up a long haul: 14 years and two days. It became life. When you do something that long, you become it".

Nazim left the military four years ago after two tours to Iraq and three to Afghanistan. "I was getting tired...body's broken". On the first tour to Iraq in 2004, "we were engaged every day. We had some very heavy resistance. I went back in

2006; it was much less kinetic. In Afghanistan we fought on two fronts. I saw Turks, Chechens, Syrians, some Iraqis. What is this going to cause for the next generation of fighters? In the marine corps you leave a place a better place. We are very good at what we do but not so good at second and third order effects".

Nazim started golfing a year ago at Fort Belvoir. "I didn't know the rules, or how to keep score. I was sceptical, very apprehensive. I wasn't comfortable going out of the house. But I'm an outdoors guy. I like open spaces. Golf is safe, pristine, green as far as you can see. I'm not

thinking about the past, things that bother me. I find peace actually...as much as it aggravates and frustrates me. I kept telling myself as a beginner, what better place to start this thing. It's a life journey. You start off small and grow it. Everybody can get something out of it. The Strathynum started very hard for me, then I found a club I was very comfortable with. I used a 7-iron, pitching wedge and putter".

After his final round of the week at Craighead Links, Crail, Nazim remembered a good friend who he lost in 2006; "I wear his bracelet and today is his birthday".





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## SPECIAL PEOPLE

### Del Rio hosts fourth fundraiser for veterans

Del Rio, Modesto, California, November 2017

Our thanks are due once again to Del Rio Country Club, Modesto, northern California, for staging a fourth St Andrews Legacy fundraiser. The generosity of the Del Rio community has directly benefitted many of the American veterans who have come to St Andrews. They are a very special group of people.

It was wonderful to have Renee Powell as a guest this year, only days after her induction into the PGA of America Hall of Fame. Renee was one of the first seven



women to be offered honorary membership of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and she currently sits on the board of the NFL Hall of Fame. Renee hosted a well-attended clinic for girls associated with Del Rio and later gave a presentation to the members about her life in golf, starting with her introduction to the game at the age of three. Renee now runs Clearview HOPE, a ground-breaking initiative dedicated to helping sixty women veterans through golf. Renee called it “by far the most significant and rewarding programme I’ve ever done in my life”.

It was also a pleasure to see Jimmy Riley and his wife Miranda, who flew in from Kentucky, and Brian Evans from Wales, all of whom spoke about their St Andrews Legacy experiences from 2017.

Brian praised the long-term nature of Del Rio’s support – “it shows amazing commitment to helping veterans”.

Miranda poignantly summed up the impact of Jimmy’s trip to St Andrews this summer by stating: “I got back the man I married”.



