

Robert “Bobby” W. Green, PGA
Head PGA Professional
Providence Golf Club, Richmond, Virginia

Born in Vineland, New Jersey, Bobby Green was the youngest of five boys belonging to Margaretta and John Green. He was introduced to golf by his father and played in several father/son tournaments. Bobby participated in many junior tournaments in and around the Richmond, Virginia area. He primarily played at Laurel Golf Course, hitchhiking the 10 miles to get there. As a teenager, Bobby worked at Hanover Country Club (Ashland, Va.). After graduating from Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, Virginia, in 1966, he attended classes at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Bobby turned professional in 1969 as an assistant at Willow Oaks Country Club (Richmond, Va.) for Jack Isaacs (MAPGA Hall of Fame Class of 1996). In November of that year he went to work for Richmond Country Club’s Head PGA Professional Leo Steinbrecher (MAPGA Hall of Fame Class of 1990). He was elected to PGA membership on July 1, 1973, the same year the Middle Atlantic PGA created its Assistant of the Year Award and named Bobby as the recipient! It was in November of 1973 when he got his first Head PGA Professional job at Hanover CC. After 3 years at Hanover, Bobby accepted the Head PGA Professional position at Concord Country Club in Concordville, Pennsylvania. In February of 1979, he decided to get out of the golf business and into the insurance business working for Sun Life of Canada, Merrill Lynch and Allstate over the next 12 years.

In 1992, Bobby became the PGA Teaching Professional at Brantwood Golf Club in Elkton, Maryland and then its Head PGA Professional in 1993. In 1996, he moved to the Head PGA Professional job at Chantilly Manor Country Club in Rising Sun, Maryland for a short period before taking on the PGA Teaching position at Elkton Golf and Recreation Center. He remained at Elkton for four years when, in April of 2001, he took a teaching position at Rock Manor Golf Course in Wilmington, Delaware working for Head PGA Professional Jim Matthias. This is where Bobby truly began to make a difference in his community.

He conceived, planned and initiated his *GOLF & GRADES YOUTH GOLF PROGRAM*. For the next three years, Bobby was directly responsible for the ongoing management of Life Skills and Golf Instructional programs including after school programs along with spring and summer junior programs. He recruited and supervised over 20 volunteers, training them to teach the Life Skills instruction as well as golf coaching techniques. Among other things, the juniors were required to keep their grades up in order to be permitted to participate in the program. Working closely with the Mayor, his staff, state and local community leaders, and charitable organizations, Bobby coordinated the curriculum, fundraising plans, and promotional strategies for this program supporting at-risk youth. By developing a comprehensive business plan through the use of effective budgeting, Bobby essentially was running a “First Tee” Chapter, but without any support from a national organization. He not only raised a substantial amount of money to fund every aspect of the program, but also personally recruited approximately 50 kids the first

year and grew that number to over 150 by year three. This program is now a full fledged First Tee Chapter.

In March of 2004, Bobby was lured away from Rock Manor by the ownership of Providence Golf Club (Richmond, Va.) by way of a recommendation of renowned golf course architect Lester George. Bobby is known for his dynamic personality, positive attitude, and superb organizational skills. During his time as the Head PGA Professional at Providence, Bobby has done yeoman's work with Special Olympics Virginia (Area 6). For the past five years he has conducted an 11 week program that included two-hour sessions for Special Athletes (a total of around 80 in 2009). This is believed to be one of the largest (if not the largest) continuing training programs in the commonwealth. Not only does Bobby conduct the clinics, but he also gives one-on-one lessons to the athletes who practice at Providence. Bobby's personal approach to the athletes significantly and unquestionably contributes to the popularity and the overall success of the program.

In addition, Bobby graciously donates his time and Providence Golf Club generously contributes the facility in hosting the annual Area Golf Tournament for Special Olympians and their partners. Bobby's individual attention to each athlete has and continues to have a dramatic and significant effect on each of them. They not only learn the rules of golf, but they also learn some of the rules of life, all contributing to their improved self worth and self esteem. He also hosts a yearly local tournament to raise money to benefit the Area 6 program. Although the series is no longer conducted by Special Olympics Virginia, during its three year run, Bobby also hosted one of 11 statewide tournaments where Special Athletes competed against their peers from other regions of Virginia.

The Section President personally selects the recipient of this award. President Dean Hurst chose Bobby not only for his specific work for the Special Olympics, but also as a representative of the many MAPGA Professionals who are doing great things in their communities.

Bobby and his wife, Judy will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary this year on September 19. Bobby and Judy are extremely proud of their son Tory, now 31. After graduating from high school, Tory was accepted at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. He made the football team as a "walk-on" playing for 2 years, when multiple ankle injuries helped him decide to concentrate more on his studies. Tory left West Point at the end of 3 years because of the physical challenges caused by his earlier injuries. As a result of a wonderful West Point professor, he developed a sincere interest in economics and went on to earn a BS degree from Stanford University. Tory worked for Merrill Lynch in New York City before going to Los Angeles where he was with the Disney Company for a year. He currently works for Fox News in its Mergers and Acquisitions department.