

It is with tears in my eyes that I have come to NBGCC to say goodbye. It has been an amazing 25 years! Oh, so many great memories that I can't recount all of them. As I look out over the course a number of fantastic men and women come to mind. If I don't mention you it doesn't mean that I have forgotten you - it means that there are just too many to mention.

Well, here goes. First, I have to mention Doug Allen as he was the one who talked me into joining the NBGCC. Next to choosing Leslee to be my wife, that was the best decision that I ever made. And then Doug was kind enough to include me in his circle of elite golfers. They included Bob Norman, Don Whitmore, Fern Langlois and Larry Boland. I have so many great memories of years playing with these five men - I sure do miss them!

Next, I have to mention George Gosselin as he was instrumental in getting me to be a starter. I was apprehensive at first but the position turned out to be one that I often said "I can't believe they pay me to have this much fun"! Yes, I truly enjoyed talking, joking, helping, and solving the world problems with the members and guests. This job allowed me to meet and get to know so many great men and women.

The men I worked with as a starter were great and I certainly enjoyed them. Tiger, Bill, Mike B., Mike S., and Hutch. Of these I have to give a special thanks to Hutch as every time I had a problem, or needed assistance or guidance it was always Hutch who I went to. Yes, it was Jim who taught me the fine art of how to be a successful starter - thanks Jim!

I also got to work with the backshop boys and girls and over the years there certainly have been a lot of great young people that always did a fantastic job. I also must mention the young men and women in the proshop. They were great to work with and many of them I am proud to call my friends. I cannot forget the young men and women who worked at the bar and in the kitchen. Whoever was in charge of selecting these people certainly did an excellent job as every year we had a fantastic crew that really treated everyone well.

As I mentioned the kitchen, it reminds me of all the delicious meals that Leslee and I have had thanks to Karen and Lenny and most recently John.

To the people that I golfed with I owe a big thank-you. There are many great memories and obviously too many men and women to mention. I assure you that I will cherish those moments for years to come. Although I said I can't mention everyone, I do have to thank Rick for letting me win our yearly match since 1997 (there was one close one that if he had not of 4 putted on 18 he would have won). Then there are two ladies (I won't mention their names) that are the nicest losers I have ever met. There is an old saying "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again". Well, they have changed that to "if at first you don't succeed, change the rules and try again, and again, and again". Anyway to all the men and women that I have golfed with, it's been great - thank-you!

Another thing that stands out are the Men's Tournaments that I played in. Every one of them were fun and they did help to keep me supplied with hats, shirts, shoes and balls. It was great playing with different people each year and the one that I liked the best was the Men's Closing

Stag. Two of these I will remember forever. The first one I entered I was the second last person to be picked (not a happy feeling) but the last one I was first over all - thanks Rob.

As I stand here reflecting on all these great experiences those tears I mentioned earlier have disappeared. There are so many things to be thankful for and this experience at the NBGCC is one that I will cherish forever. So why all of a sudden do I have tears again? Well, it just so happens that I thought of the last person that I must mention and to think that I must say good-bye to him makes me sad. Jeff, for all the things that you have done for me, for giving me that job, allowing me to be me, for not trying to fix my swing, for all the rounds at Cobble Beach, for being my friend and I could go on and on. So Jeff, this is good-bye - many thanks - love you!

Dick Stewart