



THE BARCLAYS™

Volunteer Spotlight

The Barclays tournament office is proud to bring you the first installment of the “Volunteer Spotlight.” In each edition of *Volunteer 360*, we will highlight a volunteer who has a unique connection to the tournament. We can think of no better volunteers to interview in our first “Volunteer Spotlight” than Karan and Don Whamond, who have literally been with the tournament since Day One. We thank them for taking the time to do this interview and for all of their help over the years! Please enjoy the following discussion we had with Karan.

How did you and your husband get started volunteering at The Barclays?

The history of today’s tournament known as The Barclays began in 1954 when a group of volunteers got together to host a one day Pro-Am to benefit our local hospital. My parents were two of the leaders of this effort. Over the next 9 years that the Pro-Am was held (during my pre-teen and teenage years), I was recruited to sell Raffle Tickets, help stuff the Pro-Am goody bags, make sandwiches to sell, etc. In 1963 the organizing group was recruited to staff all critical committees at The Thunderbird - a full fledged stop for the pro golfers at the Westchester Country Club in Harrison, NY. Again, our community hospital was the charity beneficiary. Aside from assisting my Dad (who was responsible for what is now known as Player Services), I helped my Mom with the ‘party’ planning - very important back in those days. Don, who was a member of Westchester, was recruited to be a Marshal. In 1966, the Ford dealers who sponsored the Thunderbird, decided to move the event back to NJ, so that year there was no ‘big’ golf at Westchester. However, it also was the year that Don & I were married and plans were well underway for the inaugural Westchester Classic in August of 1967 and my Dad simply said, “Now that you are married, I expect you both to become really involved!”



How many years have you volunteered at The Barclays?

This year will be our 45th year volunteering for the tournament.

Wow, 45 years! That is amazing. Well, it certainly seems like you listened to your Dad! Thank you so much for your generous help all these years. I imagine you’ve been on numerous committees?

Yes, we started out on the Communications Committee. The Walking Scorer would hand the scores for her group (yes, back in the beginning only ladies were Walking Scorers) to one of our volunteers stationed on the green. The Communications volunteer would then transmit (by walkie-talkie) that info back to our tent where the scores would be recorded. There were only 3 channels - 1 for each group of 6 holes and everything was recorded by hand! At 9 & 18 copies were made of the scorecards and runners would deliver them to the Press Room, the Radio Tower and the Official Scoreboard so the press and spectators would know who was doing what out on the course. We actually created the scoring and recording forms which were adopted by the TOUR and used at all of their events for many years.

Over the years, between Don and I, we had hands on experience with all aspects of the needs of the players and their families including Registration, Transportation, Wives Activities, Caddie Registration, Courtesy Cars, Evacuation, First Aid, Child Care and Don did the announcing on the 10th tee of the player groups for 36 years.

Additionally we have been involved with the Media Center, Uniform Distribution, SHOTLink, Office Administration, Ambassadors, Evacuation, Standard Bearers, Admissions & Will Call.

Wow, I think that may be almost every committee we have! I'm sure you have so many great memories over the last 40+ years, what are some of your favorites?

Meeting and making new friends with the many volunteers, PGA TOUR Officials and players we worked with. Although we only saw many of them once a year during the tournament - we were a huge family looking forward to our reunions each year.



That's great. I'm sure that they'll be some new members to the already huge family this year, as we move to Plainfield Country Club. So what advice would you give to those first time volunteers who don't have 44 years experience?

Relax, yes, but be aware you are now part of a multimillion dollar charity tournament - one to give you pride in participation and excitement to be a part of such a significant event. Don't be afraid to ask questions, have fun and most importantly - dress for the weather. Many don't realize that the tournament will continue to be played, even in the rain, so come prepared!

That is great advice. Okay, final question. With past champions in your 44 years of volunteering, like Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Seve Ballesteros, Ernie Els and last year's Matt Kuchar, who is your favorite?

Actually our favorites weren't the Champions but those great supporters to us and their fans - Peter Jacobsen, Tom Kite, Phil Mickelson, Joey Sindelar and Brad Faxon to mention just a few. Of the past champions who were very loyal to us - Billy Andrade & Ernie Els.

Just maybe one of your favorite non-champions will take home The Barclays title this year! Thank you so much for taking the time to do this interview and for all you've done for The Barclays over the years. The Barclays would not be possible without volunteers like the Whamonds. See you in August for tournament #45!

If you would like to recommend a volunteer for a future "Volunteer Spotlight" please contact Bill Hansen at williamhansen@pgatourhq.com or 201-444-5356.