



THE BARCLAYS®

Volunteer Spotlight

The Barclays tournament office is proud to bring you another installment of the “Volunteer Spotlight.” In each edition of *Volunteer 360*, we will highlight a volunteer who has a unique connection to the tournament. For our third interview, we take a walk inside the ropes, as we talk to The Barclays Standard Bearer Chairperson, Alan Knowles. We thank him for taking the time to do this interview and for all of his help over the years! Please enjoy the following discussion we had with Alan.

When did you start volunteering at The Barclays?

My first year with The Barclays was in 2007. I remember arriving early Thursday morning for the first round of the Barclays to find total chaos. I stood there waiting to sign in when I noticed the Standard Bearer Chairperson behind the desk looking overwhelmed. I walked around and offered to help sign in the volunteers; she accepted my offer and that was my first impression of The Barclays. I instantly felt as though I had found a home. During that whole weekend I helped sign in the volunteers and it paved the way to the position I currently hold (*Standard Bearer Chairperson*). My wife, brother, and father all joined me during that weekend and left wanting to volunteer for the 2008 Barclays. In 2008, I was offered the Chairperson position and my brother and dad joined me as co-chairs of the Standard Bearer committee. Since 2009, my wife and several friends have volunteered for The Barclays, which is an event we look forward to every year!

That’s fantastic that your whole family has gotten involved in volunteering at The Barclays. It’s a great way for a family to spend time together and watch some great golf. We tend to see a lot of families volunteering together, which is great. Have you all always volunteered as Standard Bearers at The Barclays?

Yes, this my 5th year, all as a Standard Bearer and my family has been involved for 4 years, all as Standard Bearers as well.



One of Alan’s Standard Bearer volunteers in action at The Barclays in 2010.

Is The Barclays the only tournament that you volunteer for?

The Barclays was not my first tournament. It all started in 2002 with a Champions Tour event called the ACE Group Classic in Naples, Florida. I worked for the ACE Group and one of my co-workers had been involved with the tournament every year; so I asked him if he could get me to join. He gave me a list of jobs and I picked Standard Bearer. I remember arriving for my first day and the Chairperson assigning me the first tee time. The next thing I knew I was handed a standard and told to report to the first tee. I had no idea what I was doing and was extremely nervous. Needless to say I was thrown into the fire right away. Since I became the Chairperson, I have made sure all of my new volunteers are better prepared prior to heading out. In 2002, I also volunteered as a Standard Bearer for the SEI Pennsylvania Classic, a PGA TOUR event. In 2007 I wanted to stay local and volunteered as a Standard Bearer for The Barclays and the Constellation Energy Players Championship in Baltimore, MD, which is a Major Tournament on the Champions Tour. I have been working both tournaments the past 4 years until this year, when the Constellation moved to Westchester Country Club, which is the weekend before The Barclays.

Along with The Barclays and Constellation, in 2010 and 2011, I have added the AT&T National in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania to my tournament list, but as a Walking Scorer. It's a new position I have wanted to try for a few years and the AT&T has given me that opportunity. My plan is to continue volunteering for The Barclays as Chairperson of the Standard Bearers for as long as they want me, along with one other tournament each year. Not sure which additional tournament I plan to volunteer for next year, but I will look at the schedule and see where I want to go. In addition, I am looking at volunteering for the 2013 U.S. Open at Merion Country Club (near Philadelphia) as a Walking Scorer and hopefully being able to fulfill a dream of volunteering for the PGA Championship, Masters, British Open Championship, Players Championship and World Golf Championships.

Alan, that is already an amazing resume of volunteering, but it seems like you are set on building to it on a "major" level. What a fantastic goal to reach for! I know that several of our volunteers also work at numerous tournaments each year. Do you ever run into the same people at the different events?

Yes, I do. In fact, for the past 4 years I have seen Joe Reddy, a Walking Scorer for The Barclays, at the Constellation Energy Senior Players Championship where he also volunteered as a Walking Scorer. Joe has since moved over and joined me on the Standard Bearer committee at The Barclays.

As a standard bearer for numerous years, there must be some TOUR players that recognize you or you've walked with several times. Do you have any favorites?

There have been some really great guys through the years. My favorites have been Steve Stricker, Ben Crane, Padraig Harrington, K.J. Choi, Hunter Mahan, Adam Scott, Sergio Garcia, Tiger Woods, Tom Watson, Nick Price and I also had the honor of meeting Jack Nicklaus. Those are just the ones I can think of off the top of my head.

Wow, that is some impressive list of players! I'd have to guess you have quite a collection of memorabilia as a result? Any notable/special pieces?

I just filled my second trophy case of signed golf balls. I am very proud of my collection which has now topped 100. I also have all of my badges from every tournament I worked. The most notable memorabilia is a hat signed by Jack Nicklaus and signed golf balls from Tom Watson, Tom Kite, Nick Price, Adam Scott, Sergio Garcia, Padraig Harrington, Steve Stricker, K.J. Choi, and Tiger Woods to name a few.

What a fantastic collection. I think we may have more people try to sign up as Standard Bearers next year as a result! In addition to meeting those golf greats, what are some of your favorite memories from past tournaments?

I have so many wonderful memories and trying to pick my favorites will be very difficult. Let me start with how I got hooked on volunteering. It was the first round, in my first tournament, the 2002 ACE Group Classic in Naples Florida and I was walking with Graham Marsh and Leonard Thompson. As the players left the tee on the third hole, and I followed behind, Graham Marsh slowed up and when I caught up to him he wanted to know my name, where I lived, and what I did for a living. It was an absolute thrill to actually talk with a professional I grew up watching and here I am walking down a fairway talking to him like I would any other buddy. It was so surreal and completely fueled my enthusiasm in volunteering!

Another great memory was at the final round of the 2008 Barclays at Liberty National. I was walking with Tiger Woods and Zach Johnson and both were near the top of the leader board. I was aware of the large crowds that follow Tiger, but until you actually walk with him when he is at the top of the leader board you have no idea how intense it is. Personally, there are several other memories but my most cherished are the ones when I see the faces of volunteers when they return after their first time walking or having the opportunity to walk with their favorite golfer. The excitement in their eyes and smile is priceless and I look forward to seeing it every year. For example, last year at Ridgewood Country Club I had a member's son who wanted to be a Standard Bearer. He was a little young, but it was a request from his parents; so I invited him to walk with my brother on Saturday. After they returned from the round he was so excited he wanted to do it again; after seeing his face light up I invited him back to walk on Sunday. When he returned on Sunday, all excited and looking forward to walking again, I informed him we would work together and be walking with Pdraig Harrington. Little did I know Pdraig was his favorite player and after telling him to be back at a certain time he ran off with a smile on his face to tell his family. When we arrived at the first tee, Pdraig walked over and introduced himself. He had a grin from ear to ear and was on cloud nine the whole round. Those moments are the memories I walk away with feeling so proud of being a volunteer and the Standard Bearer Chairperson at The Barclays.

This year is already becoming filled with memories, as I have a wonderful and exceptional person on the Standard Bearer committee. Her name is Faith Tanner. She is traveling to each tournament on the PGA tour and volunteering to honor her late husband and promoting volunteerism. Her mission is so inspirational to me that I wanted her to be a part of the Standard Bearer committee. I was thrilled to hear she accepted our offer and am looking forward to working with her at The Barclays.

To read more about Faith and her journey please visit her blog <http://myblog.pgavolunteers.com/>.

The most recent thrill has come from volunteering at the 2011 AT&T National Tournament, recently played over the July 4th weekend, where I was a Walking Scorer. I had the honor to walk with Adam Scott and his caddie Steve Williams during the Pro-Am. It was a real treat walking and talking with them in a casual setting. They were both so down to Earth, and Adam signed autographs between holes. This is yet another valued memory that I can add to my list.



Alan Knowles (middle), with Adam Scott (right) and his caddie Stevie Williams (left).

What a great picture and year so far! Faith's story is very inspirational and we at The Barclays are so excited to have her volunteer at our tournament. In addition to Standard Bearer, she will also be volunteering on our SHOTLink and Supply Distribution committees, so she'll be busy! I am sure your great 2011 volunteering memories will continue at The Barclays. Are you excited to make the trip to the new venue this year, Plainfield Country Club?

I am very excited to be going to Plainfield Country Club. I read about the venue and I am a big fan of old courses with character and any Donald Ross designs. I am really looking forward to walking the course and seeing it up close and personal. I enjoy moving to different sites every year and experiencing outstanding golf courses, and Plainfield Country Club is no exception.

The Barclays is also excited about the fantastic new venue, Plainfield Country Club, which will surely be a great test for the world's best golfers. Finally, with over 1,100 first time volunteers at this year's Barclays, some of whom are on your Standard Bearer committee, what advice would you give to these new standard bearers?

The first thing I would tell them is to relax and have fun, as you don't get this opportunity every day. In addition, leave early to make sure you give yourself plenty of time to arrive for your shift. It's better to be early than late, because we rely on the volunteers to be on time.

That is great advice indeed coming from a veteran volunteer of many golf tournaments. Alan, thank you again for all your help over the years and The Barclays will continue to have you as our Standard Bearer Chairperson as long as you're willing!

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.