



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 first interview of 2012, we take a “shot” at talking to The Barclays SHOTLink Chairperson, Rebecca Henriques. We thank her for taking the time to do this interview and for all of her help over the years! Please enjoy the following discussion we had with Rebecca.

How did you start volunteering for The Barclays?

I believe it was about 8 years ago, I was having a conversation with our security guard in my building. He knew that I was an avid golfer and he also knew how much I LOVED Freddie Couples and asked me why I never volunteered for any golf tournaments. He was a marshal at the Buick Classic (which is now known as The Barclays) held at Westchester Country Club and he had been doing it for years. I went online and saw an option for SHOTLink, of course I had no idea what SHOTLink actually was, so I asked him. I didn't want to be a marshal, but I wanted to be out there with the players, so I signed up. Turns out I absolutely loved it, I even worked Westchester CC's signature hole one year and it was a great time. After my 2nd year of volunteering, I was asked to become a hole captain, which of course I said yes to. I worked the same holes at Westchester CC; 3, 16 and 17 for the two years I captained.



Rebecca with her favorite golfer – Freddy Couples!

Sounds like you had a great time volunteering on the SHOTLink committee. What made you decide you wanted to chair the SHOTLink committee?

When our previous chair stepped down, she took me aside and asked me if I wanted to take over. There was really no hesitation on my part; I considered it an honor to be asked.

Well The Barclays has absolutely loved having you as our SHOTLink chairperson and we certainly know how much time and effort goes into chairing a committee. What is your favorite part about being a chairperson?

I get to meet SO many amazing people, not that I didn't when I was a captain, but being a chair, I get to meet almost everyone. I love when people come back year after year and I recognize them, sometimes even remember their names. Mary, one of the captains, always tells me she is amazed that I remember so many people; I think after a while you develop a bond with them. I do have to say that I REALLY miss shooting the laser, so whenever I can relieve someone on a break, I jump right in. The captains know this about me so they do tend to let me muscle in on their holes 😊.

Why would you recommend the SHOTLink committee to someone looking to volunteer at The Barclays?

First and foremost, we have the best group of captains any committee can ask for. They are funny, hard working and really enjoy what they do. If you've ever worked SHOTLink, you know that regardless of the time of day, whether it is 5 a.m. or 8 p.m., we are always having fun, maybe even a bit boisterous...except, of course, when we're out ON the course!



Two SHOTLink Greenside Laser Operators in action.



A SHOTLink Fairway Laser Operator in action at The Barclays.

What would someone be surprised to know about the SHOTLink committee?

That operating a laser is really not that difficult. People tend to be a bit gun shy about the laser, but once the first 3 or 4 groups go through, it feels like you've been a SHOTLink volunteer forever.

That's great information for some of our new volunteers to know. Okay, since your committee is actually out on the course we have to ask - have any of your volunteers ever been hit by a golf ball? If so, we hope it wasn't on a fly!

I do remember quite a few years ago when we were at Westchester CC, a volunteer got hit on the 17th hole, I just happened to be there when it occurred. It was KJ Choi and luckily the ball did not hit her on the fly, but rather bounced in the rough and hit her shoulder. She was just a little sore, but I have to say that KJ was truly remorseful and I believe felt terrible. If I had to be hit by someone's golf ball, I would be okay with it coming from KJ's club! I have to say that where the laser was positioned on 17 was always a challenge with errant golf balls; we were always dodging them. Put it this way, a lot of recalibration went on Hole 17!

Well hopefully we have a volunteer "hit-free" year at The Barclays this August! Rebecca, thank you again for all your help chairing one of our largest committees. We certainly appreciate all the time and effort you put into the SHOTLink committee.

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.