

Pandemic Plans

ALTHOUGH COVID-19 CHANGED CORINNE FLYNN'S PATH, SHE IS SETTling INTO HER NEW ROLE AS A MERCHANDISER IN THE NEWPORT BEACH COUNTRY CLUB GOLF SHOP.

BY ASHLEY RYAN

The pandemic changed the plans of many people in Orange County and beyond, but for Corinne Flynn, it led her to a wonderful new experience at the Newport Beach Country Club.

"I first started working at NBCC in February of 2021," she explains. "Prior to that, I was a sales associate over at Balboa Bay Resort—[at] the Bayfront Boutique—and, although I loved my position over there, the COVID-19 pandemic had other plans for me."



Despite having to leave her position at the resort, Flynn wanted to keep working for the same company so she started browsing other opportunities with International Bay Clubs. This led her to NBCC. Her new, fast-paced position as a merchandiser in the on-site golf shop has been both a

thrill and a challenge as she adapts to the new environment.

Her typical days consists of assisting members, both in the shop and by phone, as well as working on the sales floor, writing special orders, setting up new displays with buyer Cassidy Pulcini and even helping members book their tee times.

"Before February, I knew little to nothing about golf and, since working here, I can now book you a caddie, sell you a sleeve of balls, tell you your handicap and call up your clubs on a golf cart," Flynn says.

Although she is settling in well to her new role, she says that it is not without its difficulties. "This is my first

experience working on a golf course and there are definitely some challenges that come along with that," she explains. "There is a lot that goes into not only the everyday operations, but tournaments and other upcoming events [as well]. I've added a whole new set of terms to my everyday terminology. Luckily, I have amazing co-workers who answer all of my questions and [have been] patiently teach[ing] me everything I know so far."

Still, despite the challenges, Flynn says she really enjoys working as a merchandiser due, in large part, to the NBCC members. "I've already built relationships with some amazing people while working here. Everyone I have encountered has been so friendly," she notes. "... I love hearing everyone's back story—about where they are from and how they got here. I get to work with well-established, educated and kind people every day. What more could you ask for?"

Aside from the people, Flynn is loving the overall atmosphere at NBCC. "I really enjoy the mix of a fast-paced, busy golf shop backed up to a quiet and serene golf course. You get a little bit of everything."

Before working for IBC, she worked in both merchandising and sales roles at various nearby retail stores, including Urban Outfitters, as well as a waitress

at a family-owned Italian restaurant for six years. She earned an associate degree in liberal arts from Santiago Canyon College followed by a bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising and design from California State University, Long Beach three years ago.

Outside of work, she can be found at the rock climbing gym, shopping at local thrift stores or flea markets, or playing with her kitten, Wiley, who was named after Wile E. Coyote from "Looney Tunes." Having grown up with a number of pets, Flynn says it wasn't long before she decided to adopt one of her own. "I plan to adopt lots more in the future. My ideal home is one filled with lots of animals," she says.

Although her new job was an adjustment initially, she says that she feels like she is once again stable after the pandemic threw her a curveball. "I thrive on routine," Flynn explains, "so it feels great to get back into the routine of waking up early, heading into work, going to the gym and then enjoying the evenings at home, cooking dinner."

Eventually, Flynn hopes to find a job that she can work remotely, so she can leave behind apartment living, buy a van and travel the country. "There are few things I would love more than to have my laptop opened up, settling into a full day's worth of work, with a Colorado mountain range as my view."