

Stepping Up

A RECENT PROMOTION BRINGS ANDREW ALDERDICE INTO THE POSITION OF FIRST ASSISTANT GOLF PROFESSIONAL.

BY ASHLEY RYAN

Andrew Alderdice is not new to Newport Beach Country Club—in fact, he joined just in time to see the modern clubhouse come to life. “I worked at the club for two weeks and then we had to evacuate the building,” he recalls of his first days at NBCC back in 2014. “We had to work out of the starter shack that was located at the old 1st tee, near the current chipping green. The Pickup and Martin families started demolition on the old clubhouse.”

Since then, Alderdice has been a dedicated member of the staff, earning a promotion this September to first assistant golf professional. Some of his time is spent in the golf shop, which he works in while also placing special orders for members and helping with club fittings year-round. But Alderdice can also be found on the course and at the driving range, ensuring that amenities are up to par and golf carts are clean. In addition, he checks on members to see if they need to place food or drink orders while also pairing up single golfers hoping to play with a group. Plus, he offers private golf lessons and is part of the Operation 36 junior golf program.

“I really enjoy the activity at the golf course. Newport Beach members are very active and there is always something to do,” Alderdice says. “And, of course, the clubhouse is one of the finest in the country and the golf course condition is the best. It’s always in great playing condition so being able to work at such a premier country club is so much fun.”

His biggest challenge is finding enough time to squeeze in lessons for all of the members that want them. “I have a GC Quad that my students love to use, and it’s hard finding enough time and a consistent schedule to ... [fulfill] all the requests.”

As Alderdice steps into this new role, he hopes to ensure that all staff are properly trained to offer high-quality

service for all members and guests. “I want each employee to have a great workplace and they know what is expected and they have the means to accomplish it,” he adds. “‘If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail’—[a] quote by Benjamin Franklin.” He says that organization and communication are also important goals within the department.

Before getting into the golf industry, Alderdice lived in Michigan, where he worked in a tool and die manufacturing plant. When he left that job after six years, he began working as a caddie at Lost Dunes Golf Club in southwest Michigan. He also spent time as a customer service representative and custom club fitter for Cleveland Golf/Srixon (2008-2012).

The switch from manufacturing to golf paid off, as it’s now a huge part of both his career and personal life. “My wife and I play a lot of golf,” Alderdice notes. “I’m a scratch handicap and she is a 15 handicap.” They are both also expert downhill skiers, enjoy boating and love to attend concerts or sporting events. Another hobby of theirs is traveling, which they often do to see family in Michigan and Oregon.

In addition to his wife Lauren, who Alderdice married two years ago, he has a dog named Bessie, who is cute, a fast runner and a big cuddler. You’ll often find the couple taking her for walks in the park.

Though he says NBCC has been a great experience overall, he does wish he had more time to play golf with the members. However, he wouldn’t change much about his job in the scheme of things—when asked if he could have any job in the world, he reveals he’d want to work at a country club near the water where he could manage the golf shop and still not be too far from a ski resort. Sounds like he’s in the perfect place already.

Stop by the golf shop to say hi or schedule a golf lesson with Alderdice.

