



KYLIE STEHMEIER

Singles player Caroline Stack, who went through the junior tennis program at Lake Arrowhead Country Club, is seen serving against Indian Springs last year.

Opening the Door to Youth

Young people who are entranced by the swing of a club by Jordan Spieth but have no access to a golf course are in luck.

The Southern California Golf Association has launched its Youth on Course program and the Lake Arrowhead Country Club has signed on as a participant.

Youth up to age 18 can join the program and are required to pass golf etiquette and rules quizzes before getting their golf pass and venturing out onto the course. At Lake Arrowhead Country Club, they will call for a tee time and pay

just \$5 to go out and play.

"This is a pretty awesome opportunity," said Tim Miskell, the club's director of golf.

The hope is that youth will be bitten by the golf bug and go on to join clubs and keep playing golf.

On its website, the SCGA says the mission of Youth on Course is to "promote the education and character development of Southern California youth through golf. We believe that golf teaches life lessons and develops character in a way that no other sport can match."

"It's not a bad place to be, on the golf course," quipped

Miskell. The course at Lake Arrowhead Country Club, he noted, "is in the best shape it's been in a while. It's very playable at the moment."

The hole that gets talked about the most on the course is #15, the so-called Monster.

"It's tough," Miskell said. "But it used to be even tougher before the bark beetle got some of the big pine trees. It's the most talked about hole on the golf course."

While some of the members are serious golfers, Miskell said he would characterize more of them as recreational golfers.

"They like to get away from the everyday hassles of work and life. Golf isn't their day job. They come out to have fun and enjoy the fresh air. That's the way it should be," Miskell said.

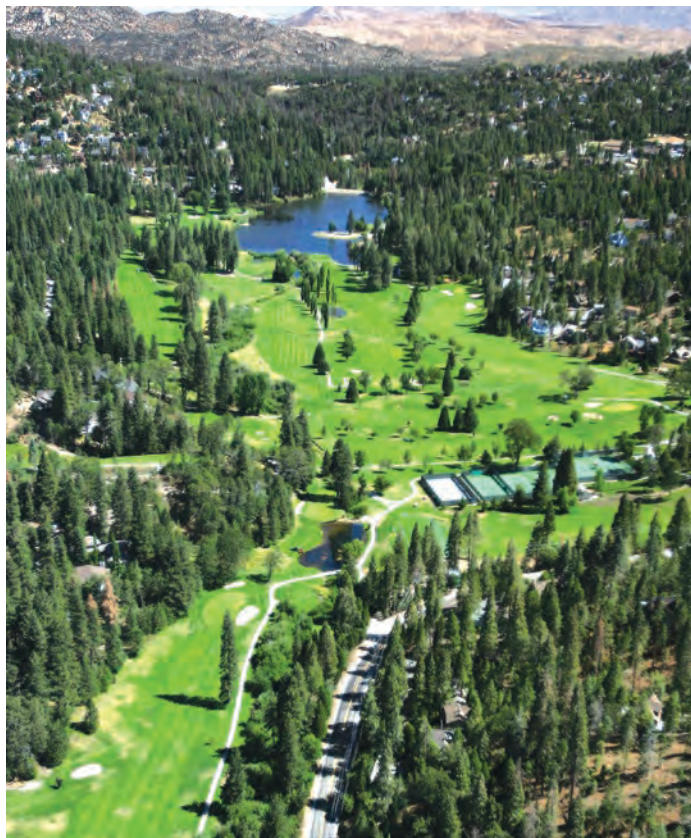
He himself gets to play a little but not as much as he would like.

In addition to Youth on Course, Miskell and his two assistant pros—Jeremy Fisher and Daniel Williams—also run a junior golf program for members' children. For two days a week during the summer, the junior golfers get instruction, learn the rules and etiquette and



GARY CARR

Jane Carr, the women's club champion at the Lake Arrowhead Country Club, tees off.



COURTESY MIKE BLANCHOT, LAKESIDE STUDIO

The 18-hole golf course at Lake Arrowhead Country Club is in the "best shape it's been in in a while," said Tim Miskell, director of golf. Youth will be able to play on the course through the SCGA Youth on Course program.



COURTESY LAKE ARROWHEAD COUNTRY CLUB

Members enjoy dining at the clubhouse after a round of golf or a game of tennis. The view from the large windows is stunning.



REBEKAH JOHNSON

Connor Stack, seen here serving against Colton's #1 singles player last March, went through the junior tennis program at Lake Arrowhead Country Club.

go out to play on the course.

"We have had students come out of the junior program to play on the Rim High team and beyond," Miskell said.

TENNIS PROGRAM

For those who prefer the court to the course, Lake Arrowhead Country Club also offers a tennis membership. Pro Don Linebarger has a clinic program for adult members, with time set aside for men and for women.

"They enjoy some friendly competition," Linebarger said.

He has about five tournaments scheduled for the summer, all in Lake Arrowhead. In addition to the men's and ladies' championships, there will be member-guest tournaments.

Linebarger and Jackie Bathauer, the assistant pro, also run a junior tennis program for children 6 to 14.

"We get them young and teach them good habits so they get proper stroking," Linebarger said.

Over the years he has had a number of juniors who went through the high school tennis program, like Caroline and Connor Stack.

Even when the junior program is going on, there are courts open to

members as the club has seven courts. Six are hard surface while one is clay. "Like the French Open," Linebarger said. Two of the courts are lit so members can play in the evening when they get home from work.

The courts are open year round, depending on the weather. Some winters, Linebarger said, there are four unplayable months; others there are just one or two.

The technology of tennis has changed dramatically, the pro said. Both racquets and strings have gotten much better with different materials.

Strings are now made of polyester rather than nylon, which gives the player more power, more spin and more control. The heads on the racquets have almost doubled in size.

Linebarger says there's no age limit to learning to play tennis. "I had a lady who was a teacher in Los Angeles. She had hit a tennis ball once as a young girl and always said when she retired she would be a tennis player."

That woman has realized her goal. "She came up, learned to play, can rally and keep the ball in play," Linebarger said. ■

—By Mary-Justine Lanyon



COURTESY LAKE ARROWHEAD COUNTRY CLUB

A new pergola courtside gives tennis players some shade while they relax after playing on one of the club's seven courts.