



FARMINGTON COUNTRY CLUB

HISTORY OF THE KENRIDGE INVITATIONAL

A group of men attempted to establish a golf and country club in the Charlottesville/Albemarle County area a number of times before succeeding with Farmington Country Club in 1929. Before Farmington, the local alternative was a nine-hole course, “Albemarle Golf Club”, located off of Meade Avenue in Charlottesville. However, the success of Farmington Country Club brought about the demise of Albemarle Golf Club. A 1931 article in ‘Golf Illustrated’ noted that “they” acquired a parcel of land, some one thousand acres, for development of a community and golf course.

Fred Findlay received the commission to design the original eighteen-hole venue, which opened in May 1929. Findlay was born in Scotland, and after serving in the British Army spent the rest of his life as an amateur painter and professional golf course architect. Records show that Findlay designed more golf courses in the Commonwealth of Virginia than any other individual. Fred Findlay’s son-in-law, Raymond F. Loving, actually began work on the golf course in early 1927, prior to the official formation of Farmington Country Club. Loving’s effort led to his appointment as the Club’s General Manager, before the golf course was even finished! To serve as Golf Professional, Jack Robertson was hired from The Cascades, and he remained until 1934.

Amongst the early Farmington members, Dr. Rice Warren, Dr. M.L. Rea and W. Fritz Souder established themselves in golfing circles. Soon after Farmington’s founding, it joined the Appalachian Golf Association which had existed for some fifteen years. Clubs from Lexington, Winchester, Staunton, Lynchburg, Roanoke and now Charlottesville made up the Association. An Appalachian Golf League trophy still resides in the Farmington Country Club’s library display case. In 1930, the Association elected Farmington member W. Fritz Souder as their President. All in all, the early Farmington members were well-known in competitive golf circles.

It did not take long for the Farmington membership’s wish to highlight and promote their fine venue to appear. Wayne Hall, Farmington’s long time Assistant General Manager, believes that the creation of the Kenridge Invitational served that purpose. The impetus for the Invitational apparently came from Hollis Rinehart, a founding member who sat on the first Board of Directors. The name ‘Kenridge’ comes from the nearby Rinehart estate, and was affirmed in the name of the first Kenridge Invitational, held in 1932. Players walking down the seventh fairway can still catch a glimpse of Rinehart’s old home, rising above the trees to the southeast.

1930’s – The Early Years

The inaugural Kenridge Invitational was held on May 20 – 22, 1932, with a field of 48 competing in this Match Play event. It attracted the 1930 Virginia State Open



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champion, amateur star Harry Thompson from Roanoke. The Championship Flight of sixteen included not only Thompson, but UVA student Charles M. Nelson and Farmington members C.Q. Quesenberry, J.O. Quaintance, W. Fritz Souder, M.L. Rea, Rice Warren and Hollis Rinehart. Charles Nelson defeated Souder for the title in 1932, and returned to win again in 1933 by defeating Dr. Rea in the finals.

In 1934, two Farmington members succeeded in reaching the finals for the first time with J.O. Quaintance besting Thomas Sommerville. 1935 saw J. Davis Marrett, a stalwart on the UVA Golf team crowned champion. From 1936 to 1939, only University of Virginia golfers reached the final match. William Shannahan defeated Tom Shepherd in 1936, followed by Richard B. “Dick” Payne’s victory over reigning Tennessee Amateur champion Lewis W. “Lew” Oehmig in 1937.

Oehmig played varsity golf all four years at Virginia, and in his fourth year he captained the 1938 team which included four current state amateur champions as starters. As team captain, Oehmig won medalist honors and finished as a semi-finalist in the National Intercollegiate Championship. A graduate of UVA in 1939 while residing on the ‘West Range’ of the Lawn and again in 1942 from the UVA School of Law, Oehmig’s golfing career would include a total of eight Tennessee Amateur Championships and seven Tennessee Senior Amateur titles. Nationally, it would include an unprecedented three championships and three runner-up finishes in the U.S. Senior Amateur Championship during a fourteen year span from 1972 to 1985. In 1977 at Shinnecock Hills, Oehmig became the only non-Walker Cup player to captain the American team. The overwhelming victory by the American amateurs would lead USGA President Harry W. Easterly, Jr. to remark at the prize presentation “Lew Oehmig should be the permanent captain of the Walker Cup team”. The culmination of Oehmig’s career as a ‘gentleman champion’ came in 1994, when he was given the highest award the USGA bestows – the Bob Jones Award for Distinguished Sportsmanship in Golf. Oehmig joined Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Ben Crenshaw, Charlie Yates and Peggy Kirk Bell, among others, honored for their example of excellence in character and for being an ambassador for the game. Lew Oehmig passed away in 2002, at the age of 86. Dick Payne, from Norfolk CC, subsequently won the VSGA Amateur and Senior Amateur championships in future years.

F. Dixon Brooke became the second back-to-back winner, with a victory over Walter Cushman in 1938 followed by his victory again in 1939. Sketchy notes indicate this 1939 final match involved two UVA golfers, but the name of the runner-up remains unknown.

1940’s – Pre and Post War

The decade of the 1940’s brought a return to member triumphs, as A. Patton Janssen defeated a young William C. “Bill” Battle. Janssen was the son of noted architect Benno Janssen, and brother of six-time VSGA Women’s Amateur champion



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Mary Patton Janssen. Battle, who would later become a decorated World War II veteran and Farmington member, served as USGA President in 1988 – 89.

Bill Battle would come up just short again in 1941, losing to fellow UVA Golf team member Walter Cushman in the final match of the 10th Kenridge. At that time, both Battle and Cushman held ‘family’ memberships at Farmington. The Championship Flight field of 16 that year included UVA Golf Coach Edward R. “Butch” Slaughter, along with former golf team members Shepherd, Oehmig and Cushman and current golf team members Bob Frackelton, Bill Battle and his brother John Battle, Jr. They were joined by Farmington members Bennett Barnes, C.C. Beaman, Holt Souder and Benno Janssen, helping to give this tournament a decidedly local flavor.

As with much of amateur and professional golf, tournaments came to a halt during World War II, with the Kenridge Invitational resuming in 1947.

The 1947 Kenridge had a Championship Flight that included Walter Hagen, Jr., John and Bill Battle and eventual champion Tom Leonard. Leonard, a member of the UVA Tennis team, was enrolled in the UVA School of Law at this time.

In 1948, the Kenridge Invitational was marked by the first appearance in the Championship flight of Raymond F. “Buddy” Loving, Jr. and medalist George Fulton, Jr. from Roanoke CC. The rivalry between Loving and Fulton would continue for the next twenty years to 1967, with six medalist honors, six runner-up finishes and ten Kenridge titles being shared by these two accomplished competitors. Farmington member Clinton McHenry, joining Loving in the quarterfinals that year, went on to become a professional golfer. The decade ended in 1949 with the first of four Kenridge trophies being awarded to Fulton, by a 5 and 4 margin over Farmington member Frank Sutton. Fulton would continue his golfing excellence apart from his Kenridge championships as the 1954 VSGA Men’s Amateur Champion.

1950’s – The Glory Years

The decade of the 1950’s began with Col. James Wilson defeating A. Pat Janssen 2 and 1 in the final match. Colonel Wilson, from the Army/Navy Club, was the runner-up in the 1950 Maryland Amateur after tying for second in the 1949 Maryland Open. The Washington D.C. area was also represented in the Championship Flight this year by Ray Swearingen from Columbia CC. Swearingen was a long-time Executive Director of the District of Columbia Golf Association, which later became the Washington Metropolitan Golf Association.

The Championship Flight medalist finally tasted victory in 1951, as Buddy Loving won the first of his record-tying six Kenridge Invitational titles with a 3 and 2 victory over co-medalist Bill Battle. This would be Battle’s third and final runner-up finish in the Kenridge. The quality of the competition that year was extraordinary, as



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evidenced by the first round loss by George Fulton, Jr. to Jack Donahue from Sioux City, Iowa. Donahue, who was stationed in Portsmouth as a Navy Lieutenant, recorded a 68 to Fulton's 69. The Championship Flight also included Farmington member and UVA Golf Team member Richard "Dick" Wells, who would be the 1973 Kenridge champion. 1952 was marked by the third back-to-back Kenridge winner, as Loving defeated Richmond CC member Harry Easterly, Jr. in the final match.

The 1953 Kenridge included the only runner-up finish for John Battle, Jr. as he lost 4 and 3 in the finals to James O. Watts from Lynchburg. Battle, a two time medalist, was a Championship Flight participant that year for the eighth of eleven total Kenridge finishes. This tournament, with a field of 111 players, included the first recorded exemptions, as defending champion Loving and 1952 U.S. Amateur champion Alfred J. "Jack" Westland were declared exempt from qualifying for the Championship Flight by the Kenridge Committee, chaired by Frank Sutton.

The 1954 tournament was noteworthy not for the actual participants, but the lack thereof as Bill Battle, Buddy Loving and George Fulton, Jr. all failed to make the Championship Flight. Loving's absence broke his string of six consecutive appearances, and would prove to be the only void from 1948 to 1963, a remarkable record of 15 out of 16 years. Fulton's omission was actually a withdrawal, due to his father's death. Loving and Harry Easterly, Jr. were co-medalists in 1955 with matching scores of 67, the lowest recorded medalist total to date. Loving again proved too tough on his home venue by claiming his then-record third Kenridge championship over two-time Metropolitan Amateur champion Wilson Barnes from Tuckahoe, NY.

The 20th Kenridge Invitational, held on May 29 – 31, 1956 was highlighted by the sole medalist finish of Jack Westland, and the lone Kenridge victory for CCV member Harry Easterly, Jr. Westland's amateur career included victories in the 1927, 1929 and 1934 Chicago District Amateur, 1929 French Amateur and 1934 Western Amateur. These victories led to his inclusion on the 1932 and 1934 Walker Cup teams. A golfing highlight during this time was his runner-up finish in the 1931 U.S. Amateur finals to Francis Ouimet. Ouimet's 6 and 5 victory over Westland allowed Ouimet to become the oldest U.S. Amateur champion, a record he held, oddly enough, until Westland's victory at age 47 in the 1952 U.S. Amateur. This tournament was held at Seattle Golf Club in Washington, Westland's home state, and his victory cause Westland to exclaim "I have waited for this moment since I was twelve years old playing at Everett", a reference to his play as a youth at Everett Golf & Country Club. Westland's attempt at defending his U.S. Amateur title in 1953 was cut short by his loss in the first round match to a newcomer by the name of Arnold Palmer. His national championships did not end with his victory in 1952 as he won the 1963 U.S. Senior Amateur championship. These titles bookended his return to the Walker Cup as a team member in 1953 and as the honorary captain in 1961.



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Jack Westland's participation in the 1956 Kenridge marked the first known occurrence by a sitting politician, as he served from 1953 to 1965 as a Congressman from the state of Washington. Westland passed away in 1982, and his interment in Arlington National Cemetery reflected his service as a Commander in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. Westland's play in the Kenridge that year ended with a second round loss to Benno Janssen. The Championship Flight included Judd Bromley, a noted senior golf champion, and the first appearance of 1965 and 1968 Kenridge Champion Wayne Jackson.

Harry Easterly, Jr. defeated George Fulton, Jr. 2 and 1 in the final match, and Easterly went on to finish as runner-up that year in the VSGA Amateur. Easterly, a 1944 graduate of VMI and Marine Corps veteran of World War II, went on to serve as VSGA President in 1965-66 and USGA President in 1976-77. Easterly's USGA tenure included his decision at the 1977 U.S. Open in Southern Hills to inform eventual champion Hubert Green about the death threat made against Green prior to the start of the final round. Easterly was appointed Chief Administrative Officer of the USGA in 1980, and he served in this capacity until 1983. Easterly chaired the VSGA Golf Course Development Committee, which led to the founding of Independence Golf Club in Richmond. He passed away at the age of 82 in 2005, just days after the 69th Kenridge Invitational.

Jack Westland followed up his medalist finish in 1956 with a victory in the 1957 Kenridge Invitational, defeating Virginia State Intercollegiate champion Glenn Mitchell 5 and 4. Buddy Loving recorded his fourth and final medalist finish in the event. Records indicate that George Gosey, Tom Strange and youngster Marvin M. "Vinny" Giles III all shot 77's and failed to make the Championship Flight, with Strange recording an 8 on the 11th hole with two balls out-of-bounds.

1954 Kenridge champion George Gosey's misfortunes continued in 1958, as he lost in a playoff for the sixteenth and final spot in the Championship Flight. The tournament saw 1949 champion George Fulton, Jr. become the third and final medalist to claim the victory trophy, with a win over five-time VSGA State Amateur champion Wynsol Spencer on the 21st hole.

The 1950's decade closed with Buddy Loving adding to his record total of championships by defeating George Fulton, Jr. 2 and 1. Loving made the finals by defeating UVA golfer Fred Phillips, with Fulton defeating 1957 champion Westland. Notes from the tournament show the field included the 1941 champion, Walter Cushman.

1960's – A Time of Change

The 1960 Kenridge witnessed George Fulton, Jr. avenge his loss the previous year to Buddy Loving by defeating Loving in the semi-final match, and Fulton carried this momentum through the finals by defeating Jordan Ball by a 4 and 2 margin. The Championship Flight that year bore familiar names from the past – Bill Battle, Easterly,



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Fulton, Gosey, Loving and Westland. It also included two active members of the U.S. Navy in Ball and Buzzy Outten, along with UVA golfer John Haner. Finally, it marked the first appearance of Bob Moyers from Harrisonburg, who would enjoy a much more successful tournament 25 years later.

The 25th Kenridge Invitational in 1961 saw George Fulton, Jr. make his record-setting fourth consecutive finals match, only to find Buddy Loving waiting in earnest. True to form, fortunes were reversed again with Loving recording his 5th Kenridge victory by a 3 and 1 margin. The Championship Flight included five Farmington members in Loving, Fendol Carter, Harry Pembroke, Fred Phillips and Jack Rinehart, Jr., along with West Virginia native William C. "Bill" Campbell. A nationally recognized amateur champion, Campbell won fifteen West Virginia Amateur championships, four North and South Amateurs, and was awarded the Bob Jones Award in 1956 by the USGA, its highest honor. The 1961 tournament also included for the first time a Senior Champions Flight. This flight was contested in stroke-play format, with Ray Swearingen winning with a final score of 243.

1962 was a record-setting year for the event, as Buddy Loving won his sixth and final Kenridge Invitational championship with a 1-up victory over Jordan Ball. Loving's impressive record included a 6-0 mark as a finalist, and this year marked his third title in four years – a record that has remained unequalled. This year was also noteworthy for the Championship Flight presence of David Carr, a UVA alumni and local businessman. Mr. Carr would later become a Farmington Country Club member, and after the membership purchased the Club in 1977 he was elected to serve as the first President of the Board of Directors.

The 1963 Kenridge included semi-final losses by both Loving and Fulton. Fulton fell to prominent Maryland amateur Ralph Bogart, while Loving lost on the 21st hole to eventual champion Bill Campbell. Campbell, who was currently serving on the USGA Executive Committee, followed up on this victory by winning the 1964 U.S. Amateur championship. This was his lone victory in the national championship, but it occurred in the midst of 33 consecutive appearances in this event that extended from 1941 to 1977. His national success continued with consecutive victories in the 1979 and 1980 U.S. Senior Amateur championship. An 8-time Walker Cup member and captain of the 1955 team, Campbell had a 7-0-1 record in the singles matches to go along with an overall record of 11-4-3. Campbell later served as USGA President in 1982-83, and in 1987 was named Captain of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews – becoming the first person to chair the two main governing bodies of golf.

A field of 183 invitees challenged for the 1964 title, and George Gosey ended several years of disappointment as the 1954 champion defeated George Fulton, Jr. by a 2 and 1 score. The Championship Flight included two future champions from the Tidewater area as Wayne Jackson and Morris "Moss" Beecroft both joined the final group of sixteen, along with former UVA golfer Woodrow "Woody" Millen, the older



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brother of current Kenridge Invitational Committee co-chairman J. Michael Millen. Surprisingly, the lone Farmington representative in this flight was Ted Davenport; Buddy Loving's absence broke his streak of nine consecutive years. Fulton's presence was his 10th consecutive, and it would continue. The Senior Champions Flight winner was James Swink for the third consecutive year, with a 232 total.

Wayne Jackson broke through in the 1965 Kenridge with a 3 and 2 victory over George Fulton, Jr. Records show that a field of 201 players participated, with only a few bearing witness to a dog picking up Jackson's ball on the 14th hole during play. This oddity was shared by what took place during the final match of the First Flight between Moss Beecroft and former UVA golfer Jim Fogleman. Standing on the 10th green, Beecroft broke his putter while tapping it against his shoe. Forced to putt with his driver, Beecroft ultimately won the match on the 7th extra hole over current Kenridge Invitational Committee co-chairman Fogleman. Fogleman's participation that year began a streak of 43 consecutive Kenridge tournaments that ended due to family obligations in 2008, and his participation in the 2011 tournament will be his record-setting 46th overall.

The 30th Kenridge had the 1965 finalists paired against each other again, but this year they faced each other in the semi-final match with George Fulton, Jr. reversing the results with a victory over Jackson. Fulton followed this with a 3 and 2 victory over Vinny Giles, claiming his fourth Kenridge title. This was followed by the 1967 Kenridge, which marked the final year of match play format in the tournament. Moss Beecroft, a future 6-time VSGA Senior Amateur champion, defeated Fulton by a 3 and 2 margin, ending an impressive series of streaks for Fulton. These included 13 consecutive Championship Flight appearances, and nine finalist pairings in twelve years. Fulton's victory total fell shy of the six titles of Buddy Loving, but Fulton's ten finalist finishes surpassed Loving's figure of six. It was fitting that this final year of match play competition included both of these remarkable champions making their record-tying 17th Championship Flight appearance.

The 1968 Kenridge Invitational ushered in the era of a stroke-play champion, and it provided the first and only champion to claim victory in both formats. Wayne Jackson shot a final round 70 to defeat Ralph Bogart for his second Kenridge championship. Jackson was a two-time VSGA Amateur champion, and later won the inaugural VSGA Mid-Amateur championship in 1977. Farmington member E.D. "Pepper" Mustard won the first of three Senior Flight Championships that year against a field of 35 seniors. The Kenridge Committee's decision to switch to the stroke-play format was made to allow all competitors the opportunity to play over the entire weekend, and it was well received by the invited players.

Vinny Giles, with an opening round 66, won the 1969 Kenridge Tournament. A nationally-renowned amateur golfer, Giles had runner-up finishes in the 1967, '68 and '69 U.S. Amateur championships, losing to Robert Dickson, Bruce Fleisher and Steve Melnyk. Giles finally broke through with a victory in the 1972 U.S. Amateur at Charlotte



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Country Club. He followed this with an international victory in the 1975 British Amateur and back again in the United States with the 2009 U.S. Senior Amateur title. A 4-time Walker Cup member, he captained the squad in 1993. Giles success in Virginia was remarkable as well; he was a 7-time VSGA Amateur champion, 2-time Senior Amateur champion and 3-time State Open champion.

1970's – Back to School

Central Virginia welcomed back a champion as Madison County native Jim Kite won the 1970 Kenridge. Kite, a former minor-league pitcher in the New York Yankee farm system, was runner-up in the 1987 U.S. Senior Amateur championship. He continued his strong play in 1971, losing the rain-shortened tournament to Mike Nesbit on the fifth extra hole. Nesbit would turn professional later that year, opening the door for the field in 1972. Roger McManus, from Hartsville, Ohio, had previously won the Sunnehanna and Middle Atlantic Amateur tournaments. He came to the 1972 Kenridge without ever having played the Farmington course, and he left with the title defeating a field of 214 that included Bill Battle, Cushman, Sutton, Loving, Fulton, Beecroft, Kite and Dave Pelz.

The 1973 Kenridge crowned Richard “Dick” Wells champion, who was followed by Northern Virginia’s Dave King in 1974. The fourth champion to repeat was Roger Simpkins, who claimed victory in the 1975 and ’76 tournaments. Simpkins was an All-American golfer and captain of the golf team for the University of Maryland, graduating in 1976. His victory in 1976 was actually a shared victory, with Virginia native and Maryland golfer Mike Pratt joining Simpkins as champion in the 36-hole event, shortened due to weather. Pratt, the 1971 VSGA Junior champion over runner-up Curtis Strange, continued his success that year with a victory in the Virginia State Open.

The University of Maryland success in the Kenridge continued in 1977 with a victory by ’70 graduate and ’73 Maryland Open champion Henri deLozier. Kenridge victories moved just north of College Park the following year, as Penn State golfer Sherman Hostetter won the 1978 Kenridge defeating runner-up Dave King. The decade ended with Larry Jones defeating a field of 141 that included a runner-up finish by Maryland golf team member and future coach Fred Funk.

1980's – Repeat after Me

College golfers continued their success with Steve Liebler’s victory in the 1980 Kenridge tournament. Liebler, a Newport News native, had won the 1976 AAA individual golf title as a 16-year old student at Churchland H.S. in Portsmouth. He was a member of the University of South Carolina golf team, where he attained All-American status in 1981 and 1982. Liebler was victorious again in 1981, and after a hometown victory in the Eastern Amateur that year he decided to pursue a career as a professional golfer. Liebler earned his PGA Tour card that year through Q-school, and enjoyed a five



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year run on the PGA Tour. Remarkably, Liebler was successful in making it through Q-school each year from 1981-1985. He left the Tour in 1985, returning to USC to become the golf coach where he remained until 1995.

Youth took a back seat in 1982 as 45-year old Air Force General Bob Hullender defeated a field of 159 golfers. Hullender was an accomplished amateur golfer, later winning the 1996 Texas Amateur along with three Harvey Penick Invitational titles. In 1994, after a runner-up finish in the U.S. Senior Amateur, Hullender was named Amateur of the Year by Golf World Magazine. His successes that year included the World Seniors, the International Seniors, U.S. Seniors Challenge, Texas Senior Amateur and the George L. Coleman tournament at Seminole Golf Club.

Back-to-back victories were in order again, as Duke University golfer Chuck Taylor won the 1983 and '84 Kenridge tournaments. A former walk-on to the Blue Devil team in 1982, Taylor became a two-time All-American, finishing his college career as runner-up in the 1985 ACC Championship. Taylor's victory in 1983 was at the expense of runner-up finishers Mike Pratt and Bob Moyers, but Moyers found success two years later, shooting a tournament-record 206 to win the 1985 title.

The 50th Kenridge Invitational in 1986 was highlighted by the victory once again for a University of Virginia golfer, as David Partridge won the first of his five Kenridge titles. Partridge, a high school champion from Waynesboro High School, was a four-year letterman at UVA from '73-'76. His amateur career later included 1993 and 1995 victories in the VSGA Amateur and Fox Puss Invitational, along with VSGA Mid-Am titles in '88, '93 and '06.

A familiar figure was presented the championship blazer in 1987 as Vinny Giles won his second Kenridge tournament. Giles fired rounds of 71-68-69 for a 2 under total of 208, too much for runner-up Sam Stein. Giles returned in 1988, but joined the field in watching Pulaski, VA native Chuck Tickle win his first Kenridge title after runner-up finishes in 1984 and 1986. Tickle, a two-time All-American golfer at Radford in '82 and '84, won the Northern Virginia Amateur later that year. The 1989 Kenridge saw the second title of the decade fall to David Partridge, as the field of 163 chased the Richmond banker but to no avail.

1990's – Goodbye and Hello

The 1990 Kenridge felt a lot like 1989, as David Partridge repeated his success as part of a field of 147. This tournament marked the first year that starting times were allocated to threesomes rather than foursomes, and tournament notes indicated that the players were very supportive of this change.

The 55th Kenridge Invitational in 1991 said goodbye to six-time Kenridge champion Buddy Loving. Loving, ever unassuming, joined past champions Wayne



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Jackson and Dick Wells for the 11:16 tee time on Friday's first round. A special guest for this tournament, Loving later wrote "the golf course was beautiful, the tournament was splendidly run, the memories were great and the number of acquaintances renewed were in the many dozen." The tournament said hello to a 31-year old furniture salesman from Martinsville, as Keith Decker defeated a hard-charging Dicky Linkous for his first Kenridge title. Linkous applied pressure on the tournament leader Decker with a 4-1-4 finish on Sunday, but Decker responded with a 4-3-3 finish to claim victory. It is fitting that the only two competitors to have won six championships shared the experience that year, and with his victory Keith Decker offered future invited players a view of the competitive spirit that would become one of his trademarks.

A weather-shortened tournament in 1992 crowned Kentucky native Pat Tallent the champion, as his two-round score was better than runner-up Decker and the field. Tallent was a two-sport star at George Washington University in the mid-70's, and his basketball prowess resulted in he being drafted in 1976 by the Washington Bullets. Tallent has continued his considerable golfing success since this title, with numerous victories in state and invitational tournaments along the East Coast.

With his victory in the 1993 Kenridge, David Partridge became only the second player to win four championships in eight years, tying the mark set 31 years earlier by Buddy Loving. The 1994 Kenridge title was won by former Duke golf standout Keith Kepley with a 2 under score of 208. Kepley had arrived at Duke in 1983 after a noted high school career in the Cincinnati area, and he graduated in 1987 as the golf team captain and three-time ACC Tournament participant. Kepley's fine play in '94 continued when he made it to the final 16 participants in the U.S. Amateur.

Not content with tying Loving's record two years earlier, Partridge's title in 1995 was his record-setting 4th in 7 years. This fifth championship overall left him one behind Loving's mark, passing George Fulton for second in total Kenridge victories. The 1996 Kenridge was won by a David, but it was Lexington native David Brogan who walked away with the blazer and trophy. Brogan, the 1975 VHSL AA champion from Lexington High School, has continued his excellence in state events with titles in the Greene Hills, Fox Puss and Valentine Invitationals over the years.

The 1997 Kenridge championship was a repeat for VHSL AA champions, as 2006 AA champion Keith Decker won his second title. His victory was followed in 1998 by the first Kenridge championship for Northern Virginia golfer Scott Inman. Inman, the 1994 VSGA Amateur champion and '96 Kenridge runner-up, fired a 2 under 208 to defeat Decker and a field of 144. Inman was an LSU golf teammate of Farmington Golf Professional Rob McNamara in the 1980's, and his victory was well-celebrated by the staff that evening.

A college golfer with local ties closed out the 1990's with a victory, as UNC golfer Whitten Meares claimed the 1999 Kenridge championship. Meares, a '97



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Woodberry Forest graduate and two-time Washington Post All-Met golfer, defeated a field of 146 that included 9 former champions.

2000's – Familiar Faces

The 2000 Kenridge champion's blazer did not require resizing, as '91 and '97 champion Keith Decker again walked away with the top prize. That year, the Senior Trophy was formally titled the Corbett King trophy, recognizing the many contributions made by the Farmington member and former Kenridge Committee official. The low Junior award was also named this year the Wallace McDowell trophy, recognizing the years of service by the Farmington member and VSGA official.

The results of the 65th Kenridge Invitational in 2001 were anything but odd, as Keith Decker repeated as champion for the fourth time. Decker fired a tournament-record 6 under 204, defeating a hard-charging Faber Jamerson. Jamerson, the 2000 VSGA Amateur co-medalist and eventual runner-up, was a 3-time Virginia State Open champion with victories in '96, '06 and '09.

The University of Virginia golf team welcomed another Kenridge champion with the 2002 victory by 22-year old Steve Marino. Marino, the 1997 VHSL AAA champion from W.T. Woodson High School, had won the 1999 VSGA Amateur tournament. Currently a PGA Tour member since 2007, Marino defeated a field of 146 other golfers that included current PGA Tour member and Farmington junior golfer Will Strickler, along with runner-ups Keith Decker and local golfer Tim Pemberton. Pemberton would take the next step the following year, winning the 2003 Kenridge with a 3 under total of 207. Pemberton, a William and Mary golf team member at that time, went on to qualify for the U.S. Amateur later that year. His local success included the '03, '04 and '05 Faulconer Invitational titles.

The 2004 Kenridge Invitational welcomed back a two-time champion from 23 year prior as Steve Liebler returned to Farmington, and in grand style he triumphed over runner-up Keith Decker and the field in winning his third Kenridge title. Liebler had just regained his amateur status, and was still serving as golf coach at the University of South Carolina. The 23-year gap between victories is a Kenridge record, and Liebler's victory that year in the Eastern Amateur sent a warning to Virginia amateur golfers that the golfing landscape was in for a change. Decker's runner-up finish was his 5th in the Kenridge, second only to George Fulton, Jr.'s six 2nd place marks.

In 2005, Decker avenged the 2004 results by handing Liebler his first 2nd place trophy with a 2 under score of 208 to win his 5th Kenridge trophy. These two competitors couldn't leave their rivalry tied, however, as Liebler returned to the winners circle in 2006, winning the 70th Kenridge Invitational. He shot a final round 66 to come from four shots back to win by a three-shot margin over Buck Brittain and Conrad von Borsig, his two closest competitors.



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The 2007 Kenridge championship was won by what is believed to be the youngest champion on record, as 19-year old Peter Wilson, a Woodberry Forest graduate and UVA enrollee triumphed after a one-hole playoff with Adam Horton in the 45-hole rain-shortened event. Wilson later transferred to ETSU where he is currently a junior on the golf team. Ironically, earlier that year the Kenridge Committee had to address two non-related issues regarding the qualification requirements of junior golfers in the tournament. The Committees' decisions were found to be in step with a 1993 report prepared by the Farmington Golf Committee.

Local golfers continued their success in 2008, as Western Albemarle graduate and Radford University golf team member Nick Little won the coveted Kenridge blazer with a one-shot victory over local golfer David Passerell. Tied with Passerell, the 1999 Kenridge runner-up, going into the final round, Little fired one of only two sub-par rounds that Sunday in claiming victory over the '00 VSGA Amateur and '02 VSGA Mid-Am champion Passerell. Little proved the following year that he was not just a one-year wonder, when he fired three straight 69's for a three-under final score. Unfortunately, his total was one behind that of the eventual champion, 44-year old engineer Dan Hosek from Alexandria, VA. Hosek, the 2007 VSGA Mid-Am champion, was playing in his first Kenridge, and his victory marked a pendulum swing back to 40-something champions from the college-age victors.

2010's – More History in the Making

The 74th Kenridge was held on June 4-6, 2010, which followed its traditional date of the first weekend after Memorial Day. History was truly made, as Martinsville's Keith Decker won his record-tying 6th Kenridge championship with a final round 68 for a 206 total. His victory tied him with Farmington's own Buddy Loving for most titles, and has set the stage for an exciting 75th tournament.

The 75th Kenridge Invitational was held on June 2 – 5, 2011, and it began with a celebration of the past champions on Thursday. Invitations were extended to past champions, inviting them to join their fellow victors for a special 'practice round' pairing. The stories and banter continued from the first tee to the Jefferson Room that evening, where the Kenridge Committee hosted the inaugural Champions Dinner. Sixteen past champions, representing 31 total Kenridge titles were in attendance. The setting, cocktails and meal were a genuine reflection of Farmington's classic traditions, and with Farmington Head Professional Rob McNamara leading the introductions, each past champion described in their own words what their Kenridge title(s) and experiences meant to them. A definite highlight was the attendance and commentary by the 1940 champion, Pat Janssen. Janssen noted that his victory came when he was 17 years old, helping to rewrite earlier erroneous reports of who was actually the youngest Kenridge champion!



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The 2011 tournament was blessed by tremendous weather on Friday, and the results were reflective of the early Kenridge years – outstanding play by UVA golfers and past champions. The first round co-leaders were Will Collins, a graduating UVA golf team member, and four-time Kenridge champion Steve Liebler with matching 67's. The low humidity continued on Saturday, and UVA Golf Coach Bowen Sargent matched this dropping number by shooting a four-under par 66 to take a one shot lead heading into Sunday's final round. A few brief sprinkles fell on the early golfers, but they disappeared for the final three groups as Nick Biesecker, playing in the final group fired an incredible front nine 30 to overtake Sargent and surge to a one shot lead over Collins. Collins matched his hot outgoing nine score of 32 on the back as well, for a tournament record round of 64 and a one shot victory over Biesecker. His final score of six-under par 204 tied the tournament record total set by Keith Decker in 2001.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Kenridge Committee would like to thank and acknowledge all of the past and current Committee members, volunteers, officials, staff and fellow members who have donated their time and effort in support of this tournament as we celebrate the 75th Kenridge this year. The Committee would also like to offer a special thank you to the Daily Progress and their staff for the use of many of their photographs within this document.