

“We prefer to walk”

I love the game of golf and for many, walking is an integral part of the game.

I enjoy walking (at times), mainly because I am thirty-eight and am looking more like it every day.

Truth be told, if the cart fee were only a dollar or two (I know on fantasy island), I doubt few would prefer carrying their clubs, but I digress.

One of my favorite courses (ever) is only twenty minutes away from my house.

It is private and was designed by one of the greatest architects of all time, Donald Ross.

I would bet on any given day, 80% of the people playing...walk.

The course is very easy on the feet as most of the tee boxes are very close to where you exit the previous green (as any well-designed course should be), but what really gripes me is this refrain I hear every time I play there: “We prefer to walk”.

“No, not many people prefer it, its cheaper”.

But they won't say that because they are private club members and saying “we walk” has cache', I guess (?), as if they are a more pure because they walk?

Like I mentioned earlier, the course was designed by one of the the true greats of golf and to not know that would be akin to entering the White House not knowing the President lived there, so it strikes me as strange that every time you tee it up there, one of the members *has* to weave in the designers name as if you didn't know?

“...that is a perfect Ross green, huh?”

“...gotta love ol' Donald's bunkers?”

“...you can play this course a hundred times and always have a different shot, isn't that the genius of Donald Ross?”

Look, I love and appreciate the classic courses as much as anyone, especially Ross designs, but why not let me say those things while I am playing instead?

Contrast that with my own club.

It is a nice enough design and on many days you'll find it in better shape than old Donald's course with 1/3 the budget. The 'problem' is, unless you've played Pumpkin Ridge, you may not have heard of the architect, Bob Cupp.

Does that bother me? No, not really.

I mean, when guests play with me, would they think I was delusional if I started describing Cupp greens or bunkers or the genius of his routing?

The important thing to me is, I like the course and my fellow members a lot. And to be honest with you, I am too cheap to pay \$400 + for the winter months when instead of playing, I am left to pick dirt out of my clubs with a dental pic because its too cold to play with them.

Sometimes, I admit, I do fantasize about being a member at the hoiter-toiter club, but then I am reminded of the grill room I would have to pretend to love with its paneling covered walls and puke green carpet (circa the Caddyshack premier).

I could picture myself saying to my guests how "that carpet gave the room character", instead of the real reason, which has something to do with preferring to walk.