

The Golf Chronicles

The story of golf at Reading Country Club and in Berks County

Byron Nelson
RCC Pro
1937-39



Number 17 • September 4, 2015



Herman Fry holds the record for the lowest 54-hole score, 206, four under par, in 1985. Herman shot 32-35—67 in the final round, which included a 4-putt double bogey 6 on the 13th hole. Mike Heller finished second at 215.

All About Buddy

Buddy Lutz won his eight titles over a span of 18 years, from 1948 to 1966. Fred Tyler also won titles 18 years apart, from 1976 to 1994.

Mike Heller holds the distinction of having the longest time between wins. His first title came in 1975 and his most recent in 1998, a span of 23 years.

Billy Eben, the youngest winner at age 16 in 1935, played in the match-play finals eight times, winning four titles

Buddy Lutz played in nine match-play finals, loosing only in 1956 to **Paul Hill** in 39 holes, the longest final match. Lutz came back in 1957 with a 10 and 9 win over **Jay Gibney**, matching the largest margin of victory.

A Place in History

Reading Country Club’s first club championship matches were played in 1924 on the 9-hole course. What follows are the records for the RCC championship play based on available information. I am hedging because I cannot find results for 1926, 1927 and 1929, and for 1942 and 1943, years in which tournaments may not have been staged because of World War 2. In addition, the match details for several years have not been found; if I can locate this information, I will revise the text as needed.

Match Play (36-hole final)

- Margin of victory: **Dick Hoffer** defeated **Barney Ollivierre**, 10 and 9 in 1934; **Buddy Lutz** defeated **Jay Gibney** 10 and 9 in 1957
- Longest match: 39 holes – **Paul Hill** defeated **Buddy Lutz** in 1956

Match Play (18-hole final)

- Margin of victory: **Greg Galtere** defeated **Denny Hess**, 5 and 4 in 2008 and **Byron Whitman** defeated **Guy McKeone**, 5 and 4 in 2012
- Longest match: 18 holes – **Dick Arms** defeated **Chip Lutz**, 1-up in 1977 and **Hugh McCullough** defeated **Fred Borchers**, 1-up in 1978

Stroke Play

- Lowest 54-hole score: 206, -4, **Herman Fry** in 1985
- Highest 54-hole winning score: 228, +18, **Pete Betz** in 2005
- Largest 54-hole margin of victory: **George Grafton**, 17 strokes over **Pete Betz** in 1999
- Lowest 36-hole score: 141, +1, **Mike Heller** in 1981
- Highest 36-hole winning score: 149, +9, **Chris Lucci** in 2002
- Largest 36-hole margin of victory: **Mike Heller**, 11 strokes over **Charley Faber** in 1981

Most wins

- **Buddy Lutz**, 8 (1948, '49, '51, '57, '58, '59, '64, '66)
- **Fred Tyler**, 5 (1976, '83, '91, '92, '94)

Most consecutive wins

- **Buddy Lutz**, 3 (1957, '58, '59)
- **Corky Lott**, 3 (1960, '61, '62)
- **Greg Galtere**, 3 (2008, '09, '10)

Won match play and stroke play championships

- **Joe Mullarkey** (1970m, '72m, '73s)
- **Mike Heller** (1975m, '81s, '87s, '98s)
- **Fred Tyler** (1976m, '83s, '91s, '92s, '94s)
- **Hugh McCullough** (1978m, '80s)
- **Greg Galtere**, (2008m, '09m, '10s)

Youngest winner: **Billy Eben**, age 16 in 1935

Oldest winner: unable to determine