

LIFESTYLES

IN PALM BEACH GARDENS

EVERGRENE • FRENCHMAN'S RESERVE • SAN MICHELE

MAGNOLIA BAY • OLD PALM • THE ISLES • FRENCHMEN'S LANDING
CRYSTAL POINTE • PROSPERITY PINES • BENT TREE • PALOMA

Touched By A Legend

By Ezra Sutton

I'm watching my Titleist Pro V1 golf ball roll end over end into the hole just as I envisioned it. Van smiles at me and says how do you do that? I just smile back. Then, my iPhone vibrates in my pocket. I reach into my pocket and pull out my iPhone. I look down and it's my publisher Sean Reid. Excuse me Van I have to take this.

Sean says, "Ezra I have a once in a lifetime story for you that is right down your target line. Jack Nicklaus is going to be at Bear Lakes in West Palm Beach for the grand reopening of its clubhouse and I'd like for you to cover the story. It would be amazing if you could get my readers a great picture of Jack Nicklaus."

I tell Sean you know that's my specialty and it would be my pleasure. Van says is everything okay? I tell him the future is looking really **bright** and we get back to our putting contest.

Fast forward to a violin playing majestically in the background. A red carpet leads up to the front door of the new Bear Lakes clubhouse. Golf's elite start to show up and everyone takes their seats. They all have gathered to celebrate the reopening of this elite golf club in West Palm Beach. General Manager Marius Iliu takes the podium and he speaks to the crowd thanking them all for coming out to celebrate this very special moment. He says "our main focus will be offering a consistent member experience for current and future members." Next to the podium is President Kevin Richardson. He thanks everyone for coming out as well and all who have been involved in this venture of building a new state-of-the-art clubhouse. Kevin then goes on to thank his hero Jack Nicklaus who he then called "a true role model for everyone in this country if not in this world." Pretty powerful but so true. Kevin then welcomes his hero Jack Nicklaus to the podium. Everyone who was sitting is now standing and cheering Jack who approaches the microphone.

Even broadcaster and analyst for all golf platforms Tim Rosaforte attended. The applause lasted for quite a while till Jack began to speak. Jack thanked everyone for showing to celebrate this very special evening for the



Jack Nicklaus



GM Marius Iliu, President Kevin Richardson with Jack and Barbara Nicklaus

Bears Club. Jack spoke for a while explaining what went into the renovation of the Bear Lakes clubhouse and how happy he was with the results of all areas of the new Bear Lakes clubhouse. "It's of today." Jack said it turned out to be "very, very special." Finally the moment had arrived.

Marius the general manager, in addition to Kevin Richardson, the president of Bear Lakes accompanied by Barbara and Jack Nicklaus, all got behind the red tape. They all took hold of these big gold scissors and cut the red tape. The crowd then stood up and cheered. Everyone then slowly went into the new clubhouse to see their new home.

My time on the other hand was drawing closer to my opportunity. Tamara Fitzgerald from the Venue Marketing Group who was organizing the interviews with Jack Nicklaus told me I was on deck. A baseball fan I presume (lol). I could see that Jack's interview with CBS channel 12 was drawing close to an end. Then, I received the nod. Tamara called me over and said, Mr. Nicklaus, I'd like to introduce you to Ezra Sutton from Seabreeze Publications.

Then it happened. I was touched by a legend. I shook hands with Jack Nicklaus. Let me say that once again I looked into the eyes and shook hands with the greatest golfer in this whole world hands down! No words could describe that moment but let's just say I had a grin from ear to ear. I knew Jack was busy so I went right into my question. I asked Jack to describe for me one hole on either



Tamara Fitzgerald, Shelli Lockhart, Lauren Eissei

of the two courses in which he was most fond of. Being a historian himself he described to me what went into the designing of a par-5 around Perini point – the highest point in West Palm Beach. I absorbed his answer, then I thanked Mr. Nicklaus so much for his time and I was on my way. Mission accomplished.

If golf is always down your target line I suggest you call over to Bear Lakes and set up a tee time and then go experience what the new clubhouse has to offer. Who knows – maybe that day at Bear Lakes you too could be touched by a legend.



Ezra Sutton and Jack Nicklaus

Thanks for reading,
Ezra Sutton