



**PGA**

Kentucky Section

## **2014 KPGA GOLF PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR NOMINATION**

**Name of Nominee:** Chris Osborne, PGA  
**Facility Name:** Bardstown Country Club  
**Facility Address:** 130 Maywood Avenue, Bardstown, KY  
**Facility Phone Number:** 502-348-6600  
**Nominee E-mail Address:** cjosborne@pga.com

1. Please describe the nominee's overall performance as a Golf Professional.

Chris has been involved in the golf business his entire life. From playing in KY Junior Am Championships, to winning the KY Open, to playing various tours around the world, to becoming a PGA member; the Kentucky Section has always been home. A second generation PGA Professional, Chris understood the hard work involved in being a golf professional and used this knowledge to become one of the best professionals he could be. He spent time learning the business at Hurstbourne Country Club, Spring Lake Driving Range, The Brown Cullen Company and Louisville Country Club before having the opportunity to take over at Bardstown Country Club. He uses his experiences from all of these positions to make Bardstown Country Club one of the best semi-private clubs in the state. He believes that our business is the "entertainment" business and that our livelihood depends on our customers and members "having fun." All of the programs at Bardstown Country Club are built around providing excellent customer service as the cornerstone of making sure customers enjoy themselves. As PGA Professionals, we all wear many hats. We have to strive for excellence in all aspects of our business. The nominee feels like our standards were developed around the premise that we are the experts in playing and teaching golf. While our business side has changed over the years, we can't let go of the reason most of us got into the business, to play and teach the game of golf. There is nothing more rewarding than to help others play better golf and in turn make sure they enjoy themselves. This is the best way to provide job security for all PGA professionals.

2. Please briefly describe the nominee's service to the local Section and to the Association.

Chris has served the Kentucky Section as a Board member for over 12 years. He has served as Secretary, Vice President, President and Honorary President of the KPGA. He has served on the National PGA Growth of the Game Committee for four years. He has served on the KPGA Foundation Board for the last six years and the KGA-PGA Board for the last five years.

3. Please briefly describe the nominee's leadership ability.

During his time on the Board of Directors, Chris has served as Chair or Co-Chair of every committee. He was on the selection committee to hire the new KGA-PGA Executive Director in 2012 and took a very active role in Section operations in the absence of an Executive Director. He helped to shape a

new focus for the KPGA Board of Directors which has resulted in a much more efficient operation and a better understanding of operations by all KPGA Board members. He helped to encourage and protect the mutually beneficial relationship with the KGA and will take over as President of the KGA-PGA in January. Chris believes that leadership is not always about telling people what to do; it's about leading by example and inspiring people to follow.

4. Please briefly describe how the nominee inspires fellow Golf Professionals.

Chris believes that the most important responsibility a PGA Member has is to promote his fellow PGA Members and help develop new PGA Members. Maybe this stems from being a second generation PGA Professional, but it's an active part of his daily life. He has helped develop his own staff in their journey to become a PGA member and aided in their professional development at their next job. He has also tried to always be available to help any of his fellow PGA Members with anything they need. Whether it's a plan they want to bounce off him for a new program or to help take their ideas to a new level, he always tries to find the time for his fellow members. Chris also feels very strongly that all PGA Members have skills and talents that they can bring to the table, so he has always encouraged his fellow members to get involved. There is a spot for every PGA Member that wants to help. It may be at the committee level, the Board level, the Officer level or maybe even the national level. Individually we can be good, but collectively we can be great!

5. Please briefly describe how the nominee grows the game of golf at the facility, in the community and throughout the Section.

Chris is a President's Council Member and has participated in almost every PGA Growth of the Game program. He served on the national PGA Growth of the Game Committee and helped take the feedback of his fellow KPGA Professionals to The PGA Board. While on the committee, he always made it clear that the future of golf was with the junior golfer. Bardstown Country Club adopted the PGA Sports Academy and incorporated the program into the junior camps at the club. It has allowed a successful program to grow even further. Chris helped put together a team for the PGA Junior League Golf program in 2013 and already has enough commitments for two teams in 2014. If you can develop the interest while they're young, combine it with some fun; then you can keep them playing golf for life. He developed a Get Golf ready program at Bardstown Country Club that has introduced a lot of new minority customers to their facility. It is a relatively untapped market and has the potential for rapid growth. It has also helped get the children of the GGR participants involved in the PGA Sports Academy.

Chris has always been available to help with other members with their Growth of the Game programs. Whether its help getting a Get Golf Ready program started or helping to work with the military at the Ft. Knox Play Golf America Day, Chris loves to help. One of his biggest sources of pride comes from a project he started eight years ago with a local group that places handicapped people in workplace. Little did he know this would develop into a lifelong friendship with one of his true Champions. He hired a young man who was visually impaired. This young man, Eric Duncanson, had just started competing in the Special Olympics. His goal was to win the State Tournament so that he could qualify to go to the National Games. Chris took Eric under his wing and as he taught him the business side of golf, a lot of their free time ended up being spent working on Eric's game. Eric became a part of the Bardstown Country Club and Chris' family. Chris started to caddy for Eric in the State tournament seven years ago and Eric finished runner-up in the first six championships. This past August, Eric won his first Special Olympics State Tournament with Chris on his bag. Eric will be representing Special Olympics Kentucky this summer in Princeton, New Jersey at the National Games and his favorite caddy will be on the bag. The friendship has taught Chris a lot about overcoming obstacles along the way and he has seen firsthand the value the game of golf has in helping to overcome these hardships. Eric truly believes that golf has saved his life and the game of golf is one golfer richer. These

relationships have opened the nominee's eyes to the opportunities that PGA members have to grow the game and let that growth develop into something a lot bigger than just the game of golf.

6. Please list any Section or National awards the nominee has received

Award	Year Received	Section
Merchandiser of the Year	2005	Kentucky
Bill Strausbaugh Award	2012	Kentucky