

## **Tony Rowe, PGA**



**College/University:** Carson Newman College  
**Year Turned Pro:** 1979  
**Facility and Job Title:** Ellington Ridge CC  
Head Golf Professional

### **Background and Credentials**

As an apprentice I worked at four fine clubs under four fine golf Professionals. Cherokee CC in Tennessee with Gary Toulson, Riverbend CC in Virginia with Don Saylor, PGA National in Florida with Mike Reynolds and Plainfield CC in New Jersey with Steve Philbrook. These four mentors guided me and helped me become a well rounded golf professional. One of my proudest moments was being elected to PGA Membership in 1982. In October 1987, Ellington Ridge Country Club in Connecticut selected me as their Head Golf Professional. I am forever grateful to the members of Ellington Ridge for their support for the past 24 years. I have enjoyed the diversity of my job at Ellington Ridge, I still enjoy going to work everyday.

### **What was your motivation to become a PGA Professional?**

I became a caddie at Elizabethton Golf Club in Tennessee when I was 10 years old. The Golf Professional, Tommy Horton, was well respected and lived a good life. So, by the time I was 15 I knew I wanted to be a golf professional.

**What is your specialty in the golf business?**

I feel that my greatest attribute is my diversity. I enjoy being involved in every aspect of a busy private golf club operation in the Northeast.

**Please list any accomplishments.**

1990 CTPGA Private club Merchandiser of the year  
1992 CTPGA Golf Professional of the Year  
1994 CTPGA Horton Smith Award Winner  
2007 CTPGA Junior Golf Leader Award Winner  
2009 CTPGA Bill Strausbaugh Award Winner  
1989-2000 CTPGA Board of Directors  
1997-1998 CT Section President

**What was your greatest moment in golf?**

I won the Tennessee PGA Junior Championship at my home course when I was 15 years old. It was a great thrill coming up to the 18<sup>th</sup> green with me friends and family cheering me on.

**What or who has had the greatest impact on your career?**

Tommy Horton was the PGA Professional at the Elizabethton Golf Club where I grew up. He gave me my first set of clubs and taught me how to play the game. Tommy and I still stay in touch.

**Besides golf, what else do you enjoy?**

The winter! Anyone who works in the golf in the Northeast knows how demanding the golf season is to get through. The winter is an opportunity to recharge and do some fun activities.

**If you could play any golf course in the world, which one would it be and who would complete your foursome?**

Augusta National would be awesome to play. I would play a fivesome with my four PGA Professional mentors, Gary Toulson, Don Saylor, Mike Reynolds, and Steve Philbrook. No doubt that I would learn something from each of them during the round.

**If you could give lessons to anyone in the world who would it be and what advice would you give?**

Any junior! As you mature into adult life always play the game like a kid. Fear is the toughest thing to overcome. Develop good fundamentals and play golf for fun.

**What is your favorite golf instruction tip?**

Keep your core moving and finish in balance. The more aggressive you are through the ball with your core the less "flippy" your hands are at impact.