



## Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, October 22, 2024

11:30 AM Buffet Opens | 12:00 PM Meeting Begins  
Great Hall, Clinton Center

PGA TOUR Champions tournament, The Simmons Bank Championship featuring Freddie Black, Tournament Chair and professional golfer Padraig "Paddy" Harrington

Produced by: Past President Aaron Lubin and Ellon Cockrill  
Moderated by: Past President Aaron Lubin

Little Rock is a community that consistently punches above its weight. Nowhere is this more evident than with the recent announcement that our city will host a new PGA TOUR Champions tournament. The inaugural Simmons Bank Championship, which will be played at Pleasant Valley Country Club from October 21-27, will serve as the second round of the PGA TOUR Champions' annual Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs. The top 54 players in the Charles Schwab Cup standings will be competing to earn their spot among the top 36 to gain entry into the final event of the season. This event will be held annually over five years. Come hear Club 99er Aaron Lubin moderate a panel that includes **Freddie Black** (tournament chair) and professional golfer **Padraig "Paddy" Harrington** (two-time British Open winner, PGA Championship winner and World Golf Hall of Fame inductee) discuss the tournament and its potential economic impact on central Arkansas.



Following a successful amateur career, including winning the Walker Cup in 1995 at Royal Porthcawl in one of his three Walker Cup appearances, **Padraig Harrington** turned professional in September 1995 and immediately secured his European Tour card, shortly before gaining his maiden tour victory at the 1996 Spanish Open after only 10 events as a professional.

In 1999, he fulfilled one of his career ambitions, qualifying for the European Ryder Cup team, thus beginning an association with the famous trophy that lasted for over 20 years.

After achieving the European number one ranking and securing the Harry Vardon Trophy in 2006, the following year Padraig won the Irish Open at Adare Manor, the first Irishman to win the national title for 25 years, emulating the victory of John O'Leary in 1982. A few months later he became the first European to win a Major Championship since 1999 and the first player from Ireland in 60 years since Fred Daly at Hoylake in 1947 to capture the Claret Jug, when he was victorious at the Open Championship at Carnoustie.

The following year he became the first European since James Braid in 1906 to successfully defend his title, retaining the Open Championship title at Royal Birkdale, becoming only the 16th player to defend The Open and the 24th player to record multiple Open victories. Only three weeks later, Padraig won the PGA Championship at Oakland Hills, Michigan, in the process becoming the first European since Scotland's Tommy Armour in 1930 to acquire back-to-back Major titles.

The three Major victories in the space of 13 months helped him to reach a career high of third in the World Rankings and earned him the European Tour, PGA Tour and PGA of America Player of the Year awards. In addition, he won the Golf Writers' trophies on both sides of the Atlantic and the European Tour Shot of the Year.

With a career total of 31 victories around the world, Padraig continues to compete at the elite level and achieved the great distinction of being appointed Captain of the European team for the 2020 Ryder Cup, which took place at Whistling Straits in September. As a player, he was a regular in the side for over a decade, winning on four occasions, and was also a Vice-Captain for three Ryder Cups.

Padraig was given the ultimate accolade in a glittering career when he was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame, class of 2024.

Born in Dublin, Padraig is a proud family man and is married to Caroline with two children, Patrick and Ciaran.

**Freddie Black is the EVP, Community and Agriculture Chairman for Simmons Bank.** In addition to overseeing Simmons Bank's agriculture division, Community and Agriculture Black serves as a liaison and advisor for Simmons' Community Banking group while supporting bank-wide business development efforts. He brings four decades of leadership experience to his position, with previous roles ranging from chief community banking officer and head of Business Development Strategy to regional chairman for Arkansas and southwest Missouri. Freddie wears just as many hats in the civic sector. He serves as tournament chairman for the Simmons Bank Cup, a new PGA TOUR Champions tournament set for an October 2024 debut at the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Freddie also serves as a board member for the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute and was previously the governor-appointed chairperson for the Arkansas Beverage Control Commission. He formerly served as chairman for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and is a former board member for the University of Arkansas Foundation.

Freddie was also awarded the Brandon Burlsworth Foundation "Legends Award" in 2022. Freddie's Simmons career began in 1984 when Simmons completed its acquisition of First State Bank and Trust in Lake Village, Arkansas. It was evident even then that Freddie believed in "going the duration." Freddie holds a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Arkansas and graduated from Louisiana State University's School of Banking in 1983.

A committed family man, Freddie spends his free time with his wife, children and grandchildren, and working on his family farm in Lake Village, Arkansas.

## Zoom Login for October 22, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83030125138?pwd=11N1cFyEhv1dJg7JjU7IKVR6O6Jref.1>

Meeting ID: 830 3012 5138

Passcode: 401646

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One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,83030125138#,,,,\*401646# US (Chicago)

## Special Events and Meetings

### Tailgate for Dunbar Bobcats - Volunteers Wanted

Date: October 22, 2024

Location: J.A. Fair

Time: 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

### Drug Take Back Day - Volunteers Wanted

Date: October 26, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Shifts available

Location: Park Plaza Mall parking lot

### Affinity Group: Women of Rotary

Date: Friday, October 25, 2024

Host: Kim Kirkman

Time: 8:15 - 9:00 AM

Location: Zoom

## Upcoming Programs

### October 2024

#### October 22: PGA TOUR Champions tournament, The Simmons Bank Championship, Pleasant Valley Country Club

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**Moderated by: Past President Aaron Lubin**

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#### October 29 Election 2024: Panel Discussion

**Produced by Jay Barth**

Election Day is just around the corner and this year is shaping up to be one of the more interesting and intense elections in recent memory. From the race for President to a local tax initiative and local leadership roles on the ballot, our Election Panel (**Roby Brock, Jay Barth, Rex Nelson and Robert Coon**) will help us make sense of the choices we face and will make some predictions about possible outcomes on November 5th.

## Community Corner

*Introducing a place for members to announce and invite participation to upcoming events! Have something to share? Email [kfetter@littlerockrotary.org](mailto:kfetter@littlerockrotary.org)*

**From 99er Marisha DiCarlo** - Arkansas Children's is excited to host the author of GIRLS ON THE BRINK: Helping Our Daughters Thrive in an Era of Increased Anxiety, Depression, and Social Media, Donna Jackson Nakazaw for their 2024 Anne Hickman Lectureship Series  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024 • 11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M. STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER Tables of 10 without books: \$350 Tables of 10 with 10 Girls on the Brink books: \$550

Reserve your table today to be part of this important conversation: [bit.ly/AnneHickmanLectureship](https://bit.ly/AnneHickmanLectureship)

### Club Leaders



**Jason Chacko**  
President



**Mitch Bettis**  
President-Elect



**Molly McNulty**  
President-Nominee



**Natalie Ghidotti**  
iPast President



[Drew Harper](#)  
Treasurer



[Greg McCarroll](#)  
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Secretary



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[John Monroe](#)  
Club Director



[Kevin Newton](#)  
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[Wendy Wood](#)  
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[Ross Burnett](#)  
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[Chris Mangum](#)  
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International Service Chair



[Dan Parker](#)  
Club Service Chair