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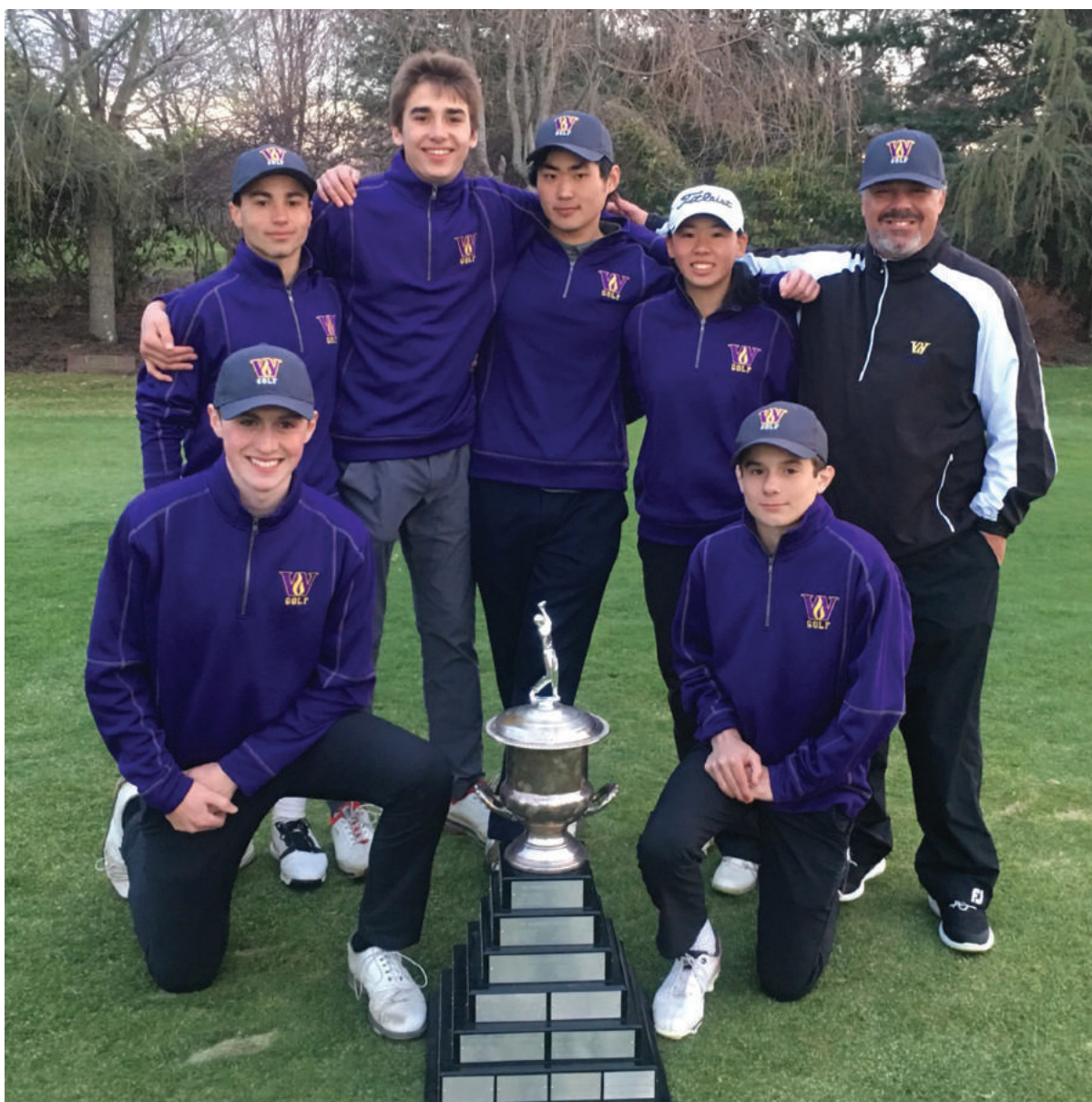


VOL.9 NO.1

MAY/JUNE 2019

29 YEARS OF THE BEST COVERAGE OF GOLF IN RI, MASS & CONN

Wheeler Wins Challenge Cup



Wheeler Warriors Top Ben Sapovits, Jack Mancini, Eric Tang, Allison Paik and Coach Shane Drury. Kneeling William Giguere

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Tiger Woods win is great for golf, see page 21

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Warriors, Gill, Garvin and LeBlanc Hoist Hardware at Challenge Cup Championship

Liam Gill, Angela Garvin and Aidan LeBlanc won their respective divisions at the rain-shortened 37th edition of the Challenge Cup Championship at Alpine CC.

Gill, who battled an illness during the offseason, fired a brilliant 1-under par 71 to hoist the hardware in the Boys High School Division. The Wayland, Massachusetts product bested playing partner Mac Lee by 1-stroke to earn top honors. Challenge Cup newcomers Aaron Paskowski and Colin McMahon Shea tied Drew Semons for third place with a 2-over par 74.

For the second consecutive year Angela Garvin won the title in the Girls Division. The University of Maryland commit fired a sterling 2-over par 74 in coasting to a 5-stroke victory over the duo of Molly Smith and Emily Nash.

Beverly's Aidan LeBlanc outdueled Cumberland's Max Jackson for top honors in the Boys Middle School

Division. LeBlanc posted a 5-over par round of 77 to earn a hard fought 2-stroke victory.

In the team competition, the result wasn't decided until the final scorecards were signed. Allison Paik's round of 80 sealed the victory for the Wheeler School. Mitchell LaCamera, a last minute substitution, posted a round of 82 and Ben Sapovits canned a huge 12-foot putt to lead the Warriors to their first team title at the Challenge Cup Championship. Jack Mancini chipped in with an 80 to round out the scoring for Wheeler. The Warriors fired a team total of 324, 1-stroke clear of St. John's of Shrewsbury and 2-strokes better than the defending champion Hendricken Hawks.

"This is a big win for our program," stated Wheeler coach Shane Drury. "I played in the first Challenge Cup Championship in 1983. I almost won the individual title in 1986. I know the history of this event well. I am thrilled for our school and the kids."

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Challenge Cup Gets by With a Little Help from its Friends

Kudos to Alpine CC superintendent Scott Gabrielson and the club's membership for completing the tournament. The opening round of play was washed out as over 2-inches of rain soaked the course. Gabrielson and his staff did an amazing job of creating playable conditions.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the May 2019 edition. I hope the banner on the front page didn't cause too much consternation. This will indeed be our last printed issue for the foreseeable future. It has only taken us 19 years to get into the 21st century way of doing business.

It was not without a lot of thinking and soul searching that the decision was made to switch to an online-only presence. I've had so many people (most of them close to me in age) ask me to keep printing the paper because that is what they have always seen and read. I'm one that can't start my day without reading the newspaper and always looking at newspapers when I travel.

But I must admit that I'm spending more and more of my time getting my news on my computer or mobile device. It is definitely the way of the world. What better way to let readers know that we were going online-only than printing 25,000 copies.

There were many reasons for switching to online-only. Obviously, it is a huge cost savings, and I am able to pass those savings on to my loyal advertisers, many of whom have been with us from the start in 1990. More and more of the advertisers I approach say they don't do print advertising anymore. Why? "We don't know how many people are actually viewing our ads in your paper," is the common comment. Google Analytics is changing the game.

With our online issue we will be able to tell advertisers how many people opened the email, how many different stories they read and most importantly from an advertiser's perspective—how many people looked at their ad! All the ads in the publication have hyperlinks. When you look at an ad on the computer, you can click it and go right to their website. Click again and you return to the publication. It certainly is easier than when you are reading the paper.

We had done two online-only issues in December 2018 and in February of this year. Both were hugely successful and we had a great deal of positive feedback, including from many advertisers who saw new

hits on their websites. I found that I actually liked reading the paper on my computer. Also, we saved so many trees. Our website is in the process of making things even easier for you. There is a short tutorial for reading the paper online for those like me who are slow to pick up online tricks. Please let me know your thoughts.

Back to this issue. Congratulations to Wheeler School that won the Challenge Cup Team Championship in an extremely close finish. We have always featured a great deal of junior golf, and we will continue to do so. Thanks so much to David Adamonis, Jr who does a wonderful job with the juniors.

Jon Pannone is the new owner of Spargo Golf. We have a story on page 7. Tom Spargo has been a good friend and advertiser since the middle 1990's and he did a fine job apprenticing Pannone. Tom will still be around occasionally helping out and we wish him well in his retirement.

The RIGA has a new employee, and we have a feature on page 8. Paul Kenyon talks about the new ownerships of Metacomet and The Aquidneck Club, formerly Carnegie Abbey. Scott Cordischi has an in depth interview with Dannielle Griffiths, the Brown University women's golf coach.

The Preserve in Richmond continues to grow immensely, and we feature them on pages 14, 15 and 40. You need to take a look at this amazing facility that is the brainchild of Paul Mihailides.

Bruce Berlet does an outstanding job covering the happenings of golf in Connecticut. His column is always full of good information. Next month he will be featuring the Travelers Championship.

Mike Kirby joined us last year and he does a great job covering eastern Massachusetts golf. Jay Gearan covers central Massachusetts. He had his first chance to get to The Masters this year. Many of his pictures and insights are on our Masters page on page 21. Russ Held always does an excellent job keeping us informed about western Massachusetts happenings in golf.

I saw some cartoon work by

Jerry King of Ohio this winter and decided to include a cartoon in each issue. Besides watching some of bad shots that make me smile in disbelief, I now can laugh at a golf cartoon.

We want everyone who reads the paper to subscribe to receive the online issue the minute that it is finished. The process to subscribe takes about ten seconds. Just go to www.snegolfer.com and hit subscribe. I promise we will not send you emails other than the issues and breaking golf news when appropriate. The dates the paper will appear online are June 9, July 28, October 6 and December 15. Those are all Sunday evenings where you can look at your computer after watching the finish of that week's golf tournament.

Keep your head down and swing easy.

Bruce Vittner is a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and can be reached at bruce@snegolfer.com.

TRIVIA

1. Each hole is named for a ?
2. What president had a cabin built for him?
3. Amateurs can stay in the ?
4. The clubhouse is built of ?
5. What president has a tree named for him?
6. What is the name of the creek at No. 12?
7. What is the name of road leading to clubhouse?
8. What is the name of the bridge at No. 15?
9. What was the property before being a golf course?

- Answers
1. Tree
 2. Eisenhower
 3. Crow's Nest
 4. Cement (first in the South)
 5. Eisenhower
 6. Rae's Creek
 7. Magnolia Ln.
 8. Sarazen Bridge
 9. Fruitland Nurseries



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CVS Health Charity Classic Announces \$1 Million Donation to Southern New England Charities

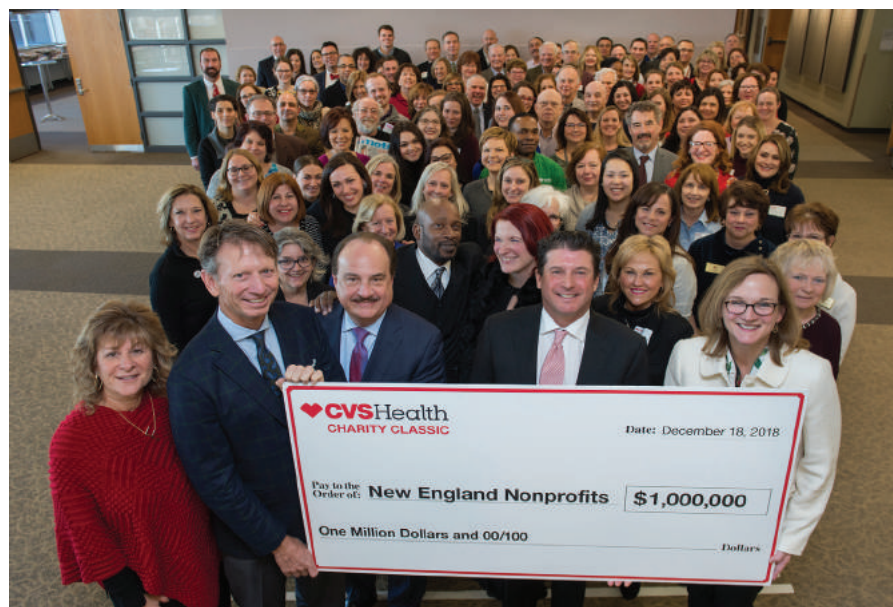
Charity Classic Impact Totals More Than \$22 Million in 20 Years

With the CVS Health Charity Classic wrapping up another successful year, CVS Health President and CEO, Larry Merlo, announced today that this year's donation of \$1 million will support nearly 80 area nonprofit organizations across Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts. This brings the total amount donated over the last two decades to more than \$22 million.

The 2018 event series drew in world-class golfers including Rory McIlroy, Jim Furyk and Brooke Henderson, to the greens of Rhode Island Country Club. In addition to the world-class golf talent, the Charity Classic's two-day food festival, Crave RI, brought in more than 250 restaurant, brewery and vineyard partners to the Dunkin' Donuts Center. Additionally, CVS Health announced the date for the 2019 CVS Health Charity Classic. The 21st annual event series will kick-off on Thursday, June 20th.

At the heart of the CVS Health Charity Classic is a dedication to giving back to the community and providing assistance to Southern New England charities that focus on helping the community year-round. Donations from the 2018 CVS Health Charity Classic will support the vital missions of a wide range of charitable organizations across the region. The Charity Classic's support touches the lives of people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds through organizations including:

- Crossroads Rhode Island, the largest homeless service organization in Rhode Island, to stay open around the clock, year-round.
- The American Heart & Stroke Association that provides women in underserved communities access to healthcare services, cardiologist outreach and blood pressure screenings.
- City Year whose mission is to help children achieve their full potential through tutoring and mentoring from peers close to them in age.



Local PGA Tour Veterans Brad Faxon and Billy Andrade present \$1-Million check for New England Non-Profits.

"Through the Charity Classic, we can provide essential funding to target critical needs within the community," said Eileen Howard Boone, Tournament Chairperson of the CVS Health Charity Classic. "We are so pleased to be able to support the remarkable work of these nonprofits in their efforts to help enhance education, healthcare and social services in local communities."

In addition to the \$1 million donation to area nonprofits, the Charity Classic invested time in the community alongside Old Colony Habitat for Humanity to help provide a local family with a new, affordable home.

CVS Health President and CEO, Larry Merlo, alongside Tournament Chairperson Eileen Howard Boone, as well as PGA TOUR professionals and CVS Health Charity Classic Co-hosts Brad Faxon and Billy Andrade, awarded the 2018 donations in front of a crowd of CVS Health colleagues, charity partners, event volunteers and Charity Classic sponsors.

In all, 78 local non-profit organizations across Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts will benefit this year from the CVS Health Charity Classic.

About CVS Health Charity Classic

The CVS Health Charity Classic is one of Rhode Island's largest charitable event series, including a golf tournament featuring some of the world's top professional golfers and a two-day food festival highlighting local restaurants, breweries, and vineyards. Since its inception in 1999, the Charity Classic has donated more than \$22 million for Southern New England nonprofit organizations that provide vital funding to a range of programs serving children and families. For additional information on the CVS Health Charity Classic, please visit www.cvshealthcharityclassic.com. Follow the Charity Classic on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates on the event as they happen.



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Stop trying to make Birdies

Did the title of this article grab your attention? Did he really just tell me to STOP trying to shoot lower scores? This guy has gone off the DEEP END!!!

This is typical of what I hear from students who are struggling to shoot the scores they want. Don't get me wrong, I would love to see you make more birdies and shoot lower scores, but it is more about how you are going to achieve it. This article is geared towards the golfer wanting to break 90 or even 80. I think we can all relate to what you are about to read. The reality is that when you are trying to make birdies, you are usually being aggressive with your decision-making on the course. Whether it is trying to hit a club further than your normal comfortable distance, hitting a club that you don't have a lot of confidence in, playing a low

percentage shot from a poor lie, or just poor course management in general; these all have something in common: they have a tendency to lead to higher scores!

There are certainly times where this type of thinking pays off, but the disaster of higher scores awaits more often than not. Let's look at a few examples: Because you are trying to make birdie, hitting a driver when your driver is not cooperating (always easier to blame the club) on a tight driving hole with hazards usually leads to you diving into your golf bag for another round of ammo. Because you are trying to make birdie, trying to hit that long Par 4 in two shots because you believe that you should hit the green in regulation even though your handicap suggests otherwise - as you wrap that club around your neck and try to hit the ball as far as you

possibly can, you helplessly watch the ball wander into the trees, water, along the ground or OB. Because you are trying to make birdie, you get too aggressive on a putt and leave yourself a 5-footer coming back, and then miss that one for a bogey from the middle of the fairway? You get the point.

Playing a round of golf with sound course management skills is an eye-opening experience for many of my students. They begin to realize that they do not need to hit driver on every hole, they do not need to hit every green in regulation, and they start to see value of mastering inside 100 yards is the best way to start to lower your scores. This is all part of my philosophy in my instruction and coaching programs here at my Golf Academy. We are offering New Student Assessments to gauge your current game and put together a

plan of how to achieve the scores you are looking for.

Todd Campbell is the director of the Golf Academy at Mulligan's Island in Cranston. He writes an Instruction Column in each issue of SNE Golfer. He can be reached at 508-951-4371 or at tcampbell@pga.com

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Keith Mitchell

Age: 27
Birthplace: Chattanooga, Tenn.
Family: Married, wife Marietta
College: Univ. of Georgia
Turned Pro: 2014



Keith Mitchell is one of the longest hitters on the PGA Tour. He turned professional after graduating from the University of Georgia in 2014. He played on the Latin-America Tour in 2015 where his best finish was runner-up at the Brazil Open. He was on the Web.com Tour in 2016 and 2017, but never won. His stellar play at the Web.com season ending finals in 2017 earned him enough money to get his PGA Tour card for 2018. His best finish in 2018 was a second at the Puntaquina event, and he earned over \$1.6 million to keep his card for 2019.

This year's Honda Classic was Mitchell's greatest golf achievement. He won the event by making a 15-foot put on the last hole. This earned him a two-year exemption and a trip to this year's Masters where he finished 43rd. Mitchell has earned \$4,148,000 on Tour in his career and he is currently in 19th place in this year's FedEx points race.

Spargo Golf Has New Owner

Spargo Golf, the award winning club fitting and club building company located at 1000 New London Ave. at the Mulligan's Island complex in Cranston, has a new owner. Jon Pannone. John has been working at Spargo Golf for over four years and took ownership last fall.

"This was my ultimate goal, to see that the Spargo Golf brand continued the way it had been since I started it back in the 1990's in Narragansett and then at the Eagle Quest Dome in East Greenwich and finally here in Cranston," said Tom Spargo who has moved (at least part-time) down to the Villages in Florida.

"I knew that I wasn't going to be here forever, and I had known Jon and his family a long time." Jon's father, Gary, has been coming to Spargo for clubs for twenty years and Tom has watched Jon and his older brother Jason grow up and be excellent golfers. "Jon had shown an interest in club-fitting, so when he approached me about working at Spargo Golf



John Pannone

in 2015, I could see that his passion for fitting clubs and making clubs to

help all levels of players improve was there. I was happy to take him on as

an apprentice. After six months, I knew he would be the perfect person to carry on the Spargo Golf brand"

Jon started at URI and played on the golf team, but then transferred to South Carolina-Beaufort, an N.A.I.A. school. Jon won four individual titles and was awarded All-American honors for his successful play. "It was my assistant golf coach, T. Jay Baker, who really showed me how much better I could be with changes to my clubs," said Pannone who instantly noticed the benefits of properly fitted clubs.

"The fact that Tom is so highly regarded in his field (Spargo Golf was named a Top 100 Club Maker and Fitter by *Golf Digest*, for most of the last decade) by his peers, I knew that he would be the perfect person to teach me how to reach the top of the profession," said Pannone whose goal is to be ranked a Top 10 Club Maker.

Continued on page 31

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Meet Dalton Balthaser, RIGA'S New Swiss Army Knife

When Rhode Island Golf Association Executive Director Bob Ward went searching for a replacement for the departed Tyler Malo, he was hoping to find someone who could handle a multitude of tasks as the RIGA continues to embrace the new, expanding world of technology.

Ward believes he hit the mother lode when he found 22-year-old Dalton Balthaser, a recent graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia, who was working as an intern for the Philadelphia Golf Association.

"The guys who run the Golf Association of Philadelphia are very good friends of mine and if he was trained by them, I know he comes from a good background and he'll be a great asset for us," He's going to take over for Tyler and hopefully expand our social media products. He has a bit of a journalism background. So hopefully he'll be writing some stories about events and upgrading our newsletter, said Ward."

Working for the Philly GA gave Balthaser just the insight he needed.



Dalton Balthaser and Bob Ward

"It solidified to me that I want to be in the golf business," he said. "This is my passion. I enjoy sharing stories and highlighting organizations, people, members of clubs. I thought this would be a good place to get my career started."

Joining the RIGA staff of Ward, Jim McKenna, Katie DeCosta and Kate McCurry in early April, Balthaser says he immediately felt comfortable. "These people are great," he confided. "I've only been here (for a little while) and they feel like my family. It's a relaxed environment, but they get their work done. That's what drew me here. They are a team and they

made me feel like I was part of the team."

Balthaser will be in charge of handling the RIGA's social media accounts such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and live broadcasting some of the tournaments (Periscope). "I'll also be responsible for writing content for the website, doing tournament recaps at events, writing more (features)," he said.

In addition, he'll be assisting with the technology aspects, such as handicapping and Golf Genius. "I'll be like a Swiss army knife. It won't just be communications. Whatever they need, I'll be happy to help them out."

Balthaser grew up in Kutztown, PA, just north of Philadelphia, in a family that did not play golf. "I always wanted to be a writer, he said. "No one in my family played golf, so I kind of got into golf a little later than anyone else. I was in the eighth grade when I first became interested in golf. That was when Tiger Woods won the U.S. Open (in 2008). It fascinated me how he could basically win on one leg.

"My passion for golf kind of grew

throughout high school. As I kept playing and watching on T.V., I became more passionate about it." His interest in golf as a career began when he entered the internship with the Philadelphia Golf Association two years ago. "They hired me as a communications intern. I did all sorts of things for them. I really got me passionate about golf and the golf business."

His ultimate goal is to write. "I'd love to cover the PGA Tour, full time. That's my dream job. I know that it's tougher because newspapers aren't covering it much anymore. Digitally the Associated Press has one guy (Doug Ferguson) who covers the Tour. USA Today has one guy. ESPN has one or two. It's a little tougher today, but ultimately that's my dream."

Asked if he might someday be drawn into joining the staff at the United States Golf Association, Balthaser answered, "If it were to come up and it strikes my interest, sure. I just kind of want to be as productive as I can on a communications standpoint."

Continued Page 13

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Faxon's Group Purchases Metacomet—Carnegie Abbey Sold

After more than 40 years piling up accomplishments in golf, Brad Faxon is not finished. This spring, he has added still another new title: Golf course owner.

The Rhode Island native who has represented the United States in International competition as both an amateur and a pro, who has piled up more than \$19 million in earnings on the PGA and Champions Tours, who delves part-time as a course designer and who now works as a member of Fox Television's national telecasting team, heads a group that recently completed purchase of Metacomet Country Club in East Providence.

The course was listed for sale on internet sites for \$3.5 million. Published reports say Faxon's group paid \$2.2 million and agreed to assume \$1.5 million in debt. Once the home of many top-line businessmen and judges, the 117-year-old facility had been in danger of closing. As with so many other clubs, increasing costs and

declining memberships pushed the property into grave financial danger.

Faxon is part of a five-person team that now owns the course. The others are New England PGA Hall of Famer Steve Napoli, the former pro at Wannamoisett and Carnegie Abbey, Karl Augenstein, the head of the company which has run the municipally owned Triggs Memorial Golf Course in Providence for nearly 30 years, Tim Fay, a former president of Wannamoisett Country Club and Brendan Van Deventer, the man who put together the purchasing group.

"What they are doing is saving the golf course," said Bob Ward, the executive director of the Rhode Island Golf Association. "It's still one of our best. We certainly did not want to lose it."

"We like our team," Napoli said. The goal here is to restore the club to its former glory. I think the current membership, and our new members, will be very pleased."

The course, designed by the famed

Donald Ross, has hosted every major championship offered by the RIGA. The new owners spent time in late March inspecting the course and considering possible changes with members of the staff of Gil Hanse, one of the top course architects in the country. Hanse and Faxon have worked together in course design, including at the TPC of Boston.

While Faxon is a long-time member of Rhode Island Country Club, he also is a former member and club champion at Metacomet. His father, Brad Sr., a former RIGA champion himself, is a long-time member at Metacomet.

The new ownership group has not wasted any time in making upgrades at the course. It already has made renovations to the clubhouse and has done work, with the help of arborists, in removing some trees to open vistas to the Providence River and Narragansett Bay.

The happenings at Metacomet put an end to a busy winter. It started with

an even more expensive sale of another of the state's prime courses. The glitzy Carnegie Abbey facility was bought at auction by a group of members for \$8.8 million. The new owners have renamed the course The Aquidneck Club.

The new owners consist of a group of members who purchased it from real estate developer J. Brian O'Neill. International yachtsman Peter de Savary built the course, which is in the Scottish Links design, two decades ago, with the course designed by Donald Steel of England.

The sale did not include the full 350 acres on which the course is leased from the Benedictine Monks who run the adjacent Portsmouth Abbey School. Among others, the residences in the main clubhouse are already owned and were not included. The fee did include the clubhouse itself, the club's 41 slip marina and six acres for development of condominiums and another 2.5 on which individual homes can be built.

Continued On Page 31

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Griffiths Shines as Brown Women's Golf Coach

After a long, 4-hour bus ride home from Ringoes, New Jersey she talks about her team. She is disappointed as her young squad just finished three days of competition at the Ivy League Championship at The Ridge at Back Brook where they finished in 7th place. This wasn't in the plan, but she and her team will learn from the experience and use it as motivation heading into next season.

Brown University women's golf coach Danielle Griffiths has been at this for a while. She is now completing her 12th season on College Hill which is something she may not have envisioned when she graduated from UNC-Wilmington in the spring of 1997.

An Indiana native, Griffiths was a feisty point guard and loved the sport of basketball as a kid as almost every person does in the Hoosier State. She was introduced to the sport of golf by her grandfather around the age of 10



Brown's Womens Golf Team surrounds Danielle Griffiths

and has loved it ever since. In the mid 90's at UNC-Wilmington she was a 4-year letter winner and eventually captain of the women's golf team under then head coach Jan Mann.

(More on her in a moment)

By the time she graduated from the school in the spring of 1997, Griffiths had the golf bug. She loved the sport and, ideally, wanted to become a collegiate golf coach someday. However, she knew that the path to coaching would be a difficult one.

"20 years ago, it was rare for college golf programs to hire assistant coaches, particularly at the smaller schools like UNC-Wilmington," she said. "Coach Mann knew of my interest in coaching, but suggested that I experience the real world first so I took her advice."

One of her first jobs was here in New England at Acushnet Company in New Bedford, referred to by many people as Titleist. There she spent five happy years until her phone rang. On the other end was her former college coach, the aforementioned Jan Mann.

Mann had just accepted the head coaching position at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and she wanted Griffiths to join her in starting up the women's golf program from scratch at the school. After little deliberation, she accepted.

"Coach Mann is the reason that I got into coaching in the first place," said Griffiths. "If it weren't for her, I probably wouldn't be here at Brown today."

She remembers fondly starting the women's golf program at Virginia. "It was kind of neat coming in on the ground floor so-to-speak," she said.

I remember we started it up with

six freshmen and took it from there. Now, they're a top 25 program."

After two years at the University of Virginia, her then husband was transferred to Boston in 2005 which required a move back to New England. Her college coaching days were over temporarily so she picked up work as a teaching pro at the prestigious Kittansett Club in Marion, Massachusetts as well as Rhode Island Country Club in Barrington.

Former Brown University assistant football coach Joe Leslie is one of Griffiths' pupils and tells this story about her ability to teach: "I remember going to Myrtle Beach one year with my friends and my golf game was putrid," he said. "My friends actually thought I might quit the game because I was so bad. Then I go back to Myrtle Beach a year later to play with those same friends and they literally said 'tell your coach that she should be the teaching pro of the year!'"

Then, in 2007, it was the break she had been looking for. Then Brown's Director of Men's and Women's Golf Mike Harbour left to pursue other professional opportunities. That opened the door for current men's coach Mike Hughes who had been his assistant. Hughes took over the men's golf program at Brown and Griffiths was hired to take over the women's program.

"I remember when I first started I had a 5-year plan in mind to recruit the best student-athletes that would represent Brown in an exemplary manner, to be in contention for an Ivy championship and to build some type of indoor facility," she said. While the timeline may have been slightly ambitious, Griffiths has most definitely accomplished those goals.

"I will forever be grateful to girls like Meghan Tuohy '12, and Carly '12 and Heather Arison '12," she said. "They were my first recruiting class and really helped lay a solid foundation for this program." The three of them were named National Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar-Athletes as seniors. With those student-athletes and others, Griffiths' Bears were able to rack up some pretty impressive accomplishments on the course earlier this decade.

In the fall of 2010, the Bears won the

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Billy and Bernhard were playing a match. Bernhard had to take a drop from a cart path. He took out his long putter as a tool to measure the distance. Billy said that he could not use a long putter to gauge the distance to move his ball. Bernhard disagreed.

Ruling: Under the new rules of golf agreed upon by the USGA and the R&A for 2019 a long putter can no longer be used for use in making a ball drop. This effectively makes all players use their driver to get more distance in a drop (always no closer to the hole).

Championship of the 26th Annual Northern Illinois Huskie Classic, carding a school record 296 on the final day of competition. Carly Arison captured medalist honors at the Huskie Classic, shooting 75-75—150 to capture the individual title in the 74-player field.

In the fall of 2011, Griffiths directed the Bears to a first place team championship at the Lehigh Invitational, carding a 298 on the final day and Stephanie Hsieh '15 tied for 1st. Megan Tuohy was the first ever women's golfer under Griffiths' tenure to receive the prominent Ivy League award of first team Academic All-Ivy for Brown. More recently, she recruited and graduated four-time All-Ivy selection and former Ivy League Individual Champion Christine Kim '18.

Last season, while playing three freshmen, the team played extremely well at the Ivy championships leading after days 1 and 2. And, despite having their best scoring round on day 3, the Bears were bested

by Harvard and Princeton who had extraordinary rounds bumping Brown down to third place.

Still, then-freshman Brittany Park captured Ivy League Rookie of the Year honors for her sensational rookie campaign. And Griffiths was selected by her peers as the Ivy League Coach of the Year as well.

Off the course, she also achieved her goal of an indoor facility which she feels has really helped her program in recent years. "It took me 8, not 5 years to get it done, but it has been a big help to us," Griffiths said. "I am so thankful that our Athletic Director Jack Hayes fought for this because it really has been a big help."

That indoor facility was an old dance studio inside Brown's Olney-Margolies Athletic Center. Highlighting the facility are five areas for hitting, along with a putting and chipping area. With netting of the walls behind the entire space, the teams can use Flight Scope, a technology to track the dispersion rate of the golf ball flight within 50

feet.

A contoured, peanut shaped green, 50-feet long by 18-feet wide, has three different slopes and three different types of turf for chipping, to make it an amazing putting green that rolls smooth and fast. The 7,000 square foot facility was designed by Keepers Turf, who also designed similar facilities at Ohio State and Notre Dame.

Griffiths has designs on improving this facility by making the green space bigger and adding a state-of-the-art Trackman simulator, but that will come in time. "It's a long way from when I got here in 2007 when we bought carpeting from Home Depot and used that to putt on indoors," she said.

Now, after the bus ride home from New Jersey, she contemplates what's next for her program. "We have such terrific young talent having played three freshmen (Pinya Pipatjarasgit, Hailey Freedman, Roshannah Gaur) and two sophomores (Brittany Park, Naomi Lee) this weekend," she said.

"I need to continue to recruit well and I have so many great things to sell to prospective student-athletes. Brown is a world class university which sells itself. The open curriculum is so unique to our school and, to me, once we get them on campus it is an easy sell."

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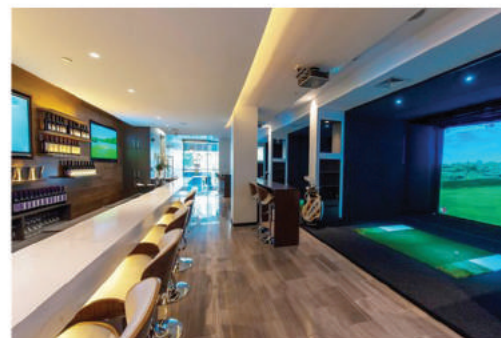
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Gately Still Making an Impact

In recognition of Barry Gately's tireless contributions to junior golf, in 2011 the Challenge Cup deemed the month of April, "Barry Gately Month". It had been an annual tribute in the month of April to recognize the late Challenge Cup President's birthday on April 28th (a ribbing he thoroughly enjoyed).

After a successful career in the printing business, Barry dedicated the final 30 years of his life to the betterment of our youth. Despite suffering a stroke in 2005, Barry still was a fixture at virtually all of the Challenge Cup's competitions (unless of course it was football season at Governor Dummer Academy).

In addition to this recognition, the Challenge Cup established a tournament in Barry's name (the Gately Cup) in 2003. The 36-hole stroke play competition brings together junior golfers and collegiate players. A scholarship in Barry's name is distributed annually. This year's event will be contested at Connecticut National GC on August 15-16.

Thorbjornsen, Fosdick Invited to Sage Valley

Reigning U.S. Junior Amateur champion Michael Thorbjornsen and Florida Southern-bound Chris Fosdick have been invited to junior golf's version of the Masters, the Junior Invitational at Sage Valley. The Junior Invitational is limited to the top 54 junior players in the world. Players stay in cabins with their fellow competitors at Sage Valley and are treated to a clinic by one of the top PGA Tour players in the world. Rory McIlroy will be this year's host. Rory McIlroy (2015), Tiger Woods (2016), Jason Day (2017) and Brooks Koepka (2018) were the previous year's host. The winner of this prestigious competition wins the coveted "Gold Jacket".

Tournament Treadmill

The month of April is full of competitive opportunities on the Challenge Cup circuit. Annually the madness begins on the Saturday prior to April vacation. This year the Challenge Cup had over 500 players compete during an 11-

day stretch in which nine days of competition were contested. Here are the highlights from the best week in junior golf.

Giacchetto, Team Curran Tops at Ryder Cup

Andrew Giacchetto fired a 1-over par 72 to claim low individual honors at the 29th annual New England Junior Ryder Cup at Ledgesmont CC. Giacchetto, who is headed to the University of Indiana this fall finished 1-stroke clear of Jack O'Donnell, Nate Ingram and Vikram Konanki.

The team competition was a wire-to-wire job as Team Curran captained by yours truly eked a mere 1-stroke victory. Vikram Konanki and Nate Ingram led the charge for Team Curran with 2-over par 73's, but it was freshman Reed Bodley who cemented the victory with a 76.

"This tournament is one of the best events on the Challenge Cup schedule," stated individual champion Andrew Giacchetto. "I have been playing in this event for the past 4 years. I am disappointed we didn't win the team tournament, but it is nice to close out my Ryder Cup career by winning the individual title."

"The captains have as much fun with this event as the kids," stated Steve Feinstein. "Once the field of players is set we conduct a draft with each team selecting their squad. There are big time bragging rights on the line. There is a lot of ribbing amongst the players and captains, all in good fun of course."

For the 29th consecutive year, participants were outfitted with team golf shirts and Pro V1 golf balls courtesy of Footjoy and Titleist. Once again, Challenge Cup Tour sponsor Spinal Technology Inc provided the traditional team lunch.

Annually the teams are named in honor of four former Challenge Cup players, who are members of the PGA or web.com Tour (Keegan Bradley, Peter Uihlein, Richy Werenski and Jon Curran). All four players were former Challenge Cuppers.

It is no wonder with the aforementioned amenities and the chance to play one of New England's finest courses that the New England Junior Ryder Cup is the best one-

day junior competition in all of golf.

Team Results

Team Curran
Captain Dave Adamonis Jr.
226-232-458
Team Uihlein
Captain Steve Feinstein
232-227-459
Team Werenski
Captain Rick Angeli
230-234-464
Team Bradley
Captain Joe Guise
243-239-482

Indy Results

1. Andrew Giacchetto	
Team Werenski	72
2. Jack O'Donnell	
Team Uihlein	73
2. Vikram Konanki	
Team Curran	73
2. Nate Ingram	
Team Curran	73
5. Colin McCaigue	
Team Werenski	76
5. Reed Bodley	
Team Curran	76
7. Ethan Whitney	
Team Curran	77
7. Tucker Gullbrants	
Team Uihlein	77
7. Max Hutter	
Team Uihlein	77
7. James Bosworth	
Team Uihlein	77

Spitz, Angeli and Arter in Midseason Form at Dave Adamonis Sr. Players Championship

Dave Spitz fired a sterling final round of 1-under 68 to edge Matt Parziale by 2-strokes for the overall crown at the 30th annual Dave Adamonis Sr. Players' Championship. Spitz, who opened the tournament with an even par round at Metacomet CC trailed the 2017 USGA Mid Amateur champion, Parziale, by 2-strokes entering the final round.

Over the final round at Warwick CC, the duo was joined by Scott Carmichael and Herbie Aikens in a brilliant battle. The quartet overcame winds gusting up to 50 mph to separate themselves from the pack. Spitz pulled clear from the aforementioned trio by carding an impressive 4-under par 31 on the inward nine. The former Rhody Ram finished the event with rounds

of 70-68 for a 1-under par winning total.

Meanwhile Ricky Angeli captured his first Challenge Cup crown in dramatic fashion by firing rounds of 71-75 for a 1-stroke victory over Tucker Gullbrants and Mac Lee to earn the title in the Junior Division.

Perhaps the most impressive performance of the tournament was provided by Mike Arter. The long-time participant coasted to a 7-stroke victory in the Legends Division over David Holmes. Arter, who is 20+ years older than the Spitz and Parziale was in contention for the overall crown before settling for a tie for 9th with a 149 total to the Legends Division title for the second consecutive year. Not to be outdone Lauren Dohoney captured the first running of the Girls Division by firing a closing round of 82.

Challenge Cup Junior Invitational Headlines Upcoming Junior Schedule

The 21st annual Challenge Cup Junior Invitational at the highly acclaimed Ridge Club in Sandwich, Massachusetts headlines a busy schedule of events for junior golfers over the next month.

5/4-5/5

Challenge Cup Invitational The Ridge Club

5/7

Hendricken Hawk Invitational Agawam Hunt

5/9

Fathers for a Cure Misquamicut Club

5/11

IMG Academy Junior World Qualifier

Wintonbury Hills GC
5/18-5/19

Spinal Technology Junior Classic Old Marsh CC

5/27

IMG Academy Junior World Qualifier

Rehoboth CC
5/28-5/29

RIL Championship Cranston CC



Dave Adamonis, Sr. Players winners Mike Arter, Ricky Angeli, Lauren Dohoney and Dave Spitz

Button Hole Hosting Drive, Chip and Putt Qualifying

Button Hole Short Course in Providence will again be the local qualifying site on June 15, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM for the very popular **"Drive Chip & Putt"** Contest. The contest is open to age 7-15 who compete in four age categories: ages 7-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15 with both boys and girls divisions.

Players that qualify at Button Hole will advance to regional qualifying later in the summer and then sectional qualifiers in the fall. The finals are at the Augusta National Golf Club in April 2020 the Sunday prior to the Masters. Players **must**

register at www.drivechipandputt.com. There is NO entry fee. It's free. Please visit the website for all of the rules and regulations. We hope to see you at Button Hole on June 26, 2015, but please remember to register online at www.drivechipandputt.com. There is **no** onsite registration. You can also visit the New England PGA www.nepga.com website (Jr Golf/Drive Chip Putt) for more information.

The range, course and practice area at Button Hole are a great place to prepare for the Drive Chip & Putt contest". Visit www.buttonhole.org, open 7 days a week.

Continued from Page 8

I want to help grow the game. No one brought me to the game. I brought myself to the game, so there are a lot of people out there who may want to play. They just want a way to gain access. I want to shed light on other ways people can get involved in the game."

He played baseball, basketball and golf in high school.

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Challenge Cup winners Liam Gill and Angela Galvin



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the most efficient airport, beautiful beaches, fishing seaports, restaurants, services for food, medical, shopping, and all the adventure New England has to offer. We as Rhode Islanders don't appreciate enough, the great Pawcatuck and Arcadia area of our state, which is largely undiscovered and should be enjoyed."

Private residences available at the

landscapes. Mornings climbing rock walls, fly-fishing, or soaring on a zipline is followed by relaxing in a hobbit hillside home magically carved into the earth, on the deck of a yurt or a tall tree house, all with concierge service. As winter eases off the calendar, clay tennis, croquet and paddle courts will return to life, surrounding a new spa facility with its handsome pool house. Some 100

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from walking edges of salt pond, riding waves or paddling kayaks. Block Island, treasured for its open beaches, fishing tournaments and fine dining is a ferry ride away; closer by charter boat to the storied fishing grounds.

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A couple of quotes from our members help to describe The Preserve. "All our family members are proud owners at The Preserve. Golf, fishing, shooting sports, snowmobiles, and some awesome food. Lodge is super cozy, and the staff is top notch. By far the finest Range and Sporting Shoppe hands down!" – *Adam Vinatieri, NFL's All Time Points Leader.*

Said *Larry Martin, CEO & Founder of Field and Stream* "I've Traveled around the world visiting these communities, and The Preserve is by far the best sporting facility in the world."

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See Preserve Images on Page 15



Travelers Championship Improves Every Year

When Travelers became title sponsor of the PGA Tour's annual stop in Connecticut in 2007, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Andy Bessette initiated the Travelers Championship's motto that "The Status Quo Is Unacceptable" in setting the tone for trying to improve every year. Travelers basically saved the tournament that began as the Insurance City Open at Wethersfield Country Club in 1952. The insurance giant has been associated with the event since its inception, but it made its biggest contribution after Canon ended its title sponsorship and 84 Lumber Company left the PGA Tour, leaving an opening on the schedule that Travelers quickly filled on the major-league circuit.

Though the biggest sporting event in Connecticut was still alive at the highest level, it had several shortcomings compared to other tournaments. The most significant in trying to draw marquee players to TPC River Highlands in Cromwell were the practice facility and clubhouse, both of which were among the worst on the PGA Tour.

The first issue was solved in June 2008, when a \$4.5 million, 23-acre, state-of-the-art practice facility opened, receiving rave reviews from players and fans. The practice range was 360 yards long and had 110,000 square feet of tees, 13,000 square feet of chipping area and 11,000 square feet in putting greens.

"A practice facility is extremely important to Tour players," 2007 Travelers Championship winner Hunter Mahan said during his Media Day visit the following spring. "Preparation leads to success. We want a facility that is going to allow us to play our best and provide the best idea of what we see on the golf course. From what I see, that is exactly what this facility provides."

Mahan was right – in spades. The facility, located adjacent to the north side of the course, also included The First Tee of Connecticut Learning Center, which has a four-hole course known as the Karl Krapek Family Learning Links, a practice putting green and the David & Geri Epstein Learning Center, a 7,500-square-foot building that houses year-round youth programs, special events, The First Tee of Connecticut administrative offices and the history of the PGA Tour in Connecticut interactive exhibit.

The First Tee of Connecticut serves more than 72,000 young people each year across the state, with a mission of impacting their lives by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. When the complex opened, it was the only First Tee facility in the country with offices, a practice range and mini-course in the same location.

In 2016, a \$3.5 million enhancement project to improve the infrastructure and playability of the course was completed. The primary focus of the project was the renovation and repositioning of the bunkers, while several greens and tee boxes were also modified. The Tour implemented the project over the majority of the off-season in order to minimize disruption of play. Original architect Bobby Weed was consulted, and the work was done by renowned golf construction company McDonald and Sons, Inc., which has been involved with renovation projects at a number of high-profile clubs and tournament venues throughout the country.

"By keeping the existing layout of the course intact while focusing our enhancements on certain key components, specifically our bunkers, greens and tee boxes, we were confident that the project would continue to separate TPC River Highlands as the premier golf course in the state," TPC River Highlands general manager David Corrado said.

"TPC River Highlands is already a great course and a favorite of a lot of players on Tour," 2014 Travelers Championship winner Kevin Streelman said during his Media Day visit the following spring. "But with the enhancements that they conducted, I think it will only strengthen the layout and provide us with an even higher quality golf course. It will also be particularly exciting to see a new tee box in place on the drivable 15th hole, as that serves to 'kick-start' the exciting finish that 15, 16, 17 and 18 bring to TPC River Highlands."

The latest major upgrade is the antiquated clubhouse, which dated to the early days of Edgewood Golf Course in the 1930s and is undergoing a \$17 million facelift that will increase its capacity from 10,000 to 40,000 square feet. Starting in 2014, an annex was added to the southeast side of the clubhouse to accommodate players

and their families during the Travelers Championship, but the facility was still short of PGA Tour standards.

But within days of Bubba Watson winning his third Travelers Championship title and then donating \$200,000 of his \$1,260,000 winnings to give the tournament a record \$2 million for charity in a single year, the razing of the former clubhouse began and is on schedule to be finished in late spring and in time for the tournament June 20-23. It will be the third-largest clubhouse on the PGA Tour behind those at TPC Sawgrass, the flagship course that hosts The Players Championship in Ponte Vedra, Fla., and TPC Scottsdale, the home of the Waste Management Phoenix Open in Arizona. But both of those courses are at resorts.

"We'd talked about a new clubhouse for years, but true planning was decided in 2016," said Corrado, who is in his fifth year as River Highlands GM after being the head pro at TPC Boston in Norton, Mass., former home of the PGA Tour's Deutsche Bank Championship. "We had outgrown the building and wanted to continue to elevate the amenities of the club and the tournament. This is the last leg of the stool and takes things to a new level. It will provide us the opportunity to do so much more for the tournament, our members, their families and our community in the years to come."

As with the new practice facility and course enhancements, the PGA Tour and Travelers shared the cost. "It's definitely a partnership," Corrado said. Tournament and Travelers officials again appreciate the arrangement that benefits so many.

"It's exciting to see the progress that has been made since the end of the 2018 Travelers Championship," tournament director Nathan Grube said. "It really is a game-changer for us, allowing the tournament to offer fans and players a new and different experience. I think anyone who has come to the Travelers Championship and knows what was in that spot before is going to be really impressed with what will be there now."

Bessette said, "We want every aspect of the Travelers Championship to be world-class, and this new clubhouse will elevate the tournament even more. From hosting events during tournament week to making merchandise available to fans in the pro shop to giving the PGA Tour players a big locker room with lots of amenities, it will certainly be a

multi-purpose venue that everyone will enjoy. We can't wait to see the finished product."

The new clubhouse will be two stories high on the site of the former clubhouse and stretch to where the old practice green and chipping area were and out toward the area where the "Fan Zone" is located during the tournament. The reception area will have a fireplace with a comfortable sitting area, the golf shop will increase to approximately 1,500 square feet, the large locker rooms accompanying lounges for men and women and parking will be slightly increased.

An upper-level meeting space, named The Overlook, will handle as many as 50 people and have a built-in buffet and attached balcony overlooking the course. An upstairs restaurant will be Grille 58 in recognition of Jim Furyk's PGA Tour record 58 in the final round of the 2016 Travelers Championship. An event hall named Highlands View will seat as many as 500 people for meetings and 350 people for large activities such as corporate parties, weddings and banquets.

Corrado and his 16-person off-season staff are working out of a temporary building near The First Tee of Connecticut until the new clubhouse is finished. The staff will increase to approximately 150, including golf course maintenance, when the new clubhouse opens.

Despite a rainy fall, the project remained on schedule, and work continued on the interior and exterior of the building despite an average of 40 inches of snow, most of which fell in November and March and never in large amounts. Bartlett, Brainard Eacott Inc. of Bloomfield is the general contractor for the project, and the architects are Chapman Coyle Chapman of Marietta, Ga.

The greens were covered during the winter, and more expansive water-relief channels were added on some of the putting surfaces. Everything progressed well enough for the course to open by late March. "All preventive measures did their job," Corrado said.

The latest major improvement could help the tournament continue its streak of major awards from the PGA Tour. For the second consecutive year, the 2018 tournament was honored with the "Player's Choice" Award during the PGA

Tour's Tournament Meetings. That came a year after the event earned a record four awards, including "Tournament of the Year" for the first time.

"The tournament committee should be extremely proud of its hard work and innovation in making the tournament the best among its peers on Tour," PGA Tour Chief Tournaments and Competitions Officer Andy Pazdar said in a statement when the award was announced.

The "Players Choice" award is voted on exclusively by PGA Tour members and based on players' experiences with tournament services, hospitality, player and family amenities, community support, attendance, golf course and other attributes.

"We're honored to receive this award and try to think of everything when it comes to the players because we want them to enjoy their week," said Bessette, one of the few top officials from a title sponsor to help recruit players at other tournament sites. "We take great pride in the relationships we build with the players on the PGA Tour, so having them give this to us makes it very special."

The Travelers Championship goes above and beyond to assist players, caddies and their families, not only during tournament week, but throughout the FedEx Cup season. One of the major perks for players is a charter flight provided from the U.S. Open, played the week before the Travelers Championship. This year it will be from Pebble Beach in California.

"This award is incredibly meaningful because it comes directly from the players, and we work hard to deliver a world-class experience for them," Grube said. "The tremendous support we receive each year from the players and the PGA Tour helps us to generate significant money for charity and deliver an economic boost to our community and state."

All of the recent improvements aren't all that has made the tournament special of late. In 2017, it ended with an historic shot and one of the most iconic in PGA Tour history when Jordan Spieth made a 61-foot bunker shot on the first playoff hole to beat Greg Berger and cap a wire-to-wire victory. It was the first time in Tour history that a player sank a bunker shot to win a playoff, and the ensuing chest-bumping celebration between Spieth and caddie Michael Greller was arguably the best in Tour history. It also was the first time that Spieth won in his tournament debut, and he was only

the fourth player to win the Travelers Championship in his first start. Spieth also became the second youngest player to reach 10 career PGA Tour victories in the modern era behind Tiger Woods.

The tournament has generated more than \$40 million for charity, including the record \$2 million for more than 150 local charities last year that included the \$200,000 contribution from Watson, who joined World Golf Hall of Famer Billy Casper (four) as the only players to win the event more than twice. The total amount generated for charity is more than \$16.7 million since Travelers became title sponsor, and at least 750 charities have benefited over that time. Travelers emphatically demonstrated its dedication to the event in 2014, when it became the first title sponsor to sign a 10-year contract extension with the PGA Tour.

"Reaching the \$2 million mark was an important milestone and will have such a meaningful impact on so many local organizations," Bessette said. "Bubba's generosity mirrors our charity-first approach and follows a similar sentiment that runs through the PGA Tour and many of its players."

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, founded by the late actor Paul Newman, was the primary beneficiary of last year's tournament, with three campers serving as honorary co-chairs. Watson directed his \$200,000 donation to the camp, which is naming the trading post at the Travelers Mini Golf Course on its campus in Ashford as the "Bubba Watson's Trading Post" in recognition of the 12-time PGA Tour winner.

In addition to receiving the "Players Choice" award and being named "Tournament of the Year" in 2017, the Travelers Championship was selected "Most Fan Friendly Event" and "Best Tournament Sales." The tournament has now earned 14 PGA Tour awards since 2009, with the others being "Most Fan Friendly Event" (2010, 2012), "Best Title Sponsor Integration" (2009, 2010, 2012), "Best Marketing Program" (2011), "Best Use of Players" (2012), "Best Charity Integration" (2013) and "Best Special Event" (2016, when it hosted the Bruce Edwards Foundation Dinner in memory of the Wethersfield native who caddied for 30 years on the PGA Tour, mostly for Hall of Famer Tom Watson, before he died of ALS.)

In 2018, the tournament had its best field since Travelers became title sponsor, and early commitments to the \$7.2 million championship this year

included Watson and fellow Top 20 players Brooks Koepka, who repeated as U.S. Open champion and then won the PGA Championship last year, British Open winner Francesco Molinaro, 2018 Masters titlist Patrick Reed, Justin Thomas, Jason Day, Bryson DeChambeau, Tony Finau, 2012 Travelers champion Marc Leishman and two-time runner-up Paul Casey. When Reed committed in late March, the four reigning major winners were in the field. Woods ended the Travelers' major championship run in April when he rallied for his first Masters title in 14 years, first major in 11 years and 15th overall, three behind all-time leader Jack Nicklaus. For more information on the tournament, visit www.TravelersChampionship.com.

LACAVA'S FAITH PAYS OFF AGAIN

Newtown native Joe LaCava has caddied on the PGA Tour for 29 years, starting with his cousin Ken Green, a Danbury native and five-time winner whose career was dramatically affected by a horrific RV accident in 2009 that cost him the lower part of his right leg. But what began as hobby for LaCava has become a lucrative career.

LaCava, 55, went to work for Fred Couples in 1990, the start of a successful partnership for more than 20 years, during which the duo had 12 victories, including the 1992 Masters and 1996 Players Championship. When Couples took breaks due to back issues that began in 1994, LaCava caddied for Mark Calcavecchia, Justin Leonard, Mike Hulbert, John Cook, Jay Haas, Bill Haas and Camilo Villegas.

LaCava stayed with Couples on the PGA Tour Champions until Couples encouraged him to go with a younger player who would be able to offer a steadier income. LaCava hooked up with another former No. 1 Dustin Johnson in May, 2011, and they contended at the British Open and won the Barclays that year.

But the relationship lasted only four months. Couples introduced LaCava to close friend Woods, who had parted ways with Steve Williams, his caddie for 13 years. When Woods inquired about his services, LaCava didn't waste time giving an affirmative answer. "Because he's Tiger Woods," LaCava said. "It's a no-brainer. That's my thought. It's Tiger Woods, right?"

LaCava, known for a funny side, is able to think quickly on his feet, which made him a major asset for Woods.

They started with the Frys.com Open and immediately hit it off, winning eight times in 2012 and 2013, when Woods finished second and first on the PGA Tour money list. But Woods was limited to 19 starts in the next four years, finishing in the Top 10 only twice, and played just once in 2016 and 2017 due to injuries and surgeries, including spinal fusion. Woods told LaCava that he could work elsewhere during his lengthy absence, but LaCava stood by his man and was paid his full salary, which reportedly is more than \$1 million annually.

"I'm committed to your return and you playing golf again," LaCava told Woods. "I missed it for sure. I never complained about being home, but I missed working in general ... I missed my buddies, some of the caddies, going out to dinner. But most of all I missed being in the hunt and winning. Definitely missed it, how could you not?"

But LaCava got to see all 10 of his son Joe's high school football games. He was able to drop his daughter, Lauren, off at college near Boston. A big sports fan, he went to many New York Giants, New York Rangers and University of Connecticut games.

LaCava, a single-digit handicap, also played a lot more golf, including at places like Ridgewood Country Club in Danbury, where he learned to play, and Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J., which has hosted several major championships.

"Some days I played 27 holes and had a blast doing it," LaCava said. "And I'm surprised how many of my friends could take off, guys with normal jobs. I never had trouble filling a foursome."

LaCava joked he was home so much that his wife, Megan, would like him out of the house. "Yeah, she got tired of me," LaCava said. "That's automatic isn't it? I say that in a funny way. It was nice to be home for many things."

Woods returned for the Safeway Open in 2017 and missed the cut, then made 18 starts in 2018, finishing in a tie for sixth and second in the British Open the PGA Championship before finally notching career victory No. 80 in the season-ending Tour Championship. Then after finishing in the Top 20 in five of six starts early this year, Woods rallied for his first Masters victory in 14 years, a record, and 15th major title, three behind all-time leader Jack Nicklaus. It was the first time Woods won a major after trailing after three rounds, and he joyously departed the 18th green into the

arms of his mother, two children and girlfriend, Erica Harman, a manager at his restaurant in Jupiter, Fla., as chants of "Tiger, Tiger, Tiger" reverberated around one of the world's most famous courses.

LaCava, who retrieved the flagstick on the green, was almost certain that his boss would move within one win of Sam Snead's career record and one of Nicklaus' record for Masters titles. "He's a very confident person so he always thought he could do it," LaCava said. LaCava said the advice that he gave Woods just before they started played out through most of the final round. "On the first tee I told him, 'Intense but loose,'" LaCava said. "Don't carry the weight of the world. It's a delicate balance, to make sure you're fired up enough to hit the big shots, but you don't want to be so overwhelmed by the moment that you tighten up and lose your ability to swing the golf club as you know how to."

"I think he did that. I thought he was pretty loose. But I didn't want him to lose the intensity. At the same time, this isn't the end all. Not 'Let's just have fun no matter what happens.' Don't get me wrong. But be loose."

But LaCava also cursed out his boss after Woods bogeyed the fourth and fifth holes to fall three behind leader Molinari. Woods then ducked into a restroom and cursed out himself before

emerging a new man.

A half-dozen marquee players had a chance to don a green jacket, but LaCava thought his employee's major concern was Koepka. "You're watching Brooks because he's probably going to be the guy who's going to do something if anyone's going to do something," LaCava said. "Brooks had made (double-bogey) 5 at No. 12, but he was hitting everything to 10 feet, so I was thinking, 'This guy could come in at 14 (under par).'"

But Woods was the only player to reach 14 under when he hit an 8-iron to 2 feet to set up a birdie 2 at No. 16. It was reminiscent of what Nicklaus did in 1986 when he became the oldest Masters champion at 46. A calculated bogey at No. 18 gave Woods a one-stroke victory over Koepka, Johnson and Zander Schaufele, the same margin for Nicklaus 33 years earlier.

LaCava jokingly denied Woods a read on the short putt at the 16th. "He said, 'Take a look.' I said, 'Take a look? It's a foot and a half,'" LaCava said, laughing. "He said, 'Left center,' I said 'Go for it.' 'It obviously went in."

The incident epitomized the relationship between LaCava and Woods. "We're buddies more than anything," LaCava said. "He's the boss, and I work for him, but he doesn't treat me like that."

And their tight relationship was emphatically displayed after Woods tapped in for the win as they shared a

mighty bear hug and then participated in some fun-loving horse play. "I don't know if I dreamt about him winning another major, but I pictured it," LaCava said. "I wouldn't have stuck around if I didn't think he was capable of pulling something like this off."

After Woods received countless congratulations as he walked to sign his scorecard, he was greeted at the clubhouse by several players, including past Masters champions Watson, Zach Johnson and Bernhard Langer, along with Koepka, Thomas, Rickie Fowler and Ian Poulter. "It was the coolest thing to see all those players greet him," PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan said. "They've all competed against Tiger. And they've all lost to him."

While the loud and prolonged adulation continued, LaCava leaned against a black Mercedes in the parking lot holding the 18th hole flagstick.

"He's high-fiving people, he's talking to people, he's signing autographs," LaCava said. "He's much more fan-friendly, which I think is awesome. He's great with the kids, talking to guys in groups more ... and everybody out there is pulling for him. How many guys did you see sitting there waiting for him on 18?"

Despite one of the greatest comebacks in sports history, LaCava said Nicklaus' career majors victory record wasn't at the front of his or Woods' mind. "It's been

a long time, lot of question marks, lot of injuries," LaCava said. "I think 15 is, who knows, looking back 10 years from now, 15 may be the hardest one."

LaCava said Woods' scheduling earlier in the year was helpful. He didn't play the Valspar Championship or Bay Hill Invitational, which he has won a record eight times, but the rest obviously proved beneficial.

"I'm not saying he skipped those (tournaments) because of this (the Masters), but he was fresh," LaCava said. "The 2018 season was about playing tournament golf again, trying to get a win. He said let's play a little less, I've won that tournament, I know I can do that, let's win a major."

Woods will shoot for his 16th major title in the PGA Championship on May 16-19 at Bethpage State Park on Long Island, where he won the 2002 U.S. Open. Then it's the U.S. Open on June 13-16 at Pebble Beach Golf Links in California, where he romped to a record 15-stroke victory in the 2000 national golf championship.

With Woods having won at the sites of the next two majors, Nicklaus quipped, "I'm shaking in my boots."

Bruce Berlet is the retired golf writer for the Hartford Courant and writes a Connecticut Notebook column in each issue of SNE Golfer.

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Aging Golfers Recover Lost Distance - Overcome Injuries Through Custom Club Fitting

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It's no secret that age and injury can drastically affect a golfer's game, making for less enjoyable rounds. The good news - with a professional club fitting, most golfers can hit farther and more accurately so they can once again enjoy the game.

Surprisingly, a *Golf Magazine* study found that 90% of U.S. golfers might be playing with improperly fit clubs. Says world-renowned instructor David Leadbetter, "It never ceases to amaze me that golfers buy clubs off the shelf and assume they're right for them. Whether you're a great golfer or a casual one, getting a custom club fitting is one of the quickest ways to improve your game."

The discrepancy between potential and actual performance is much greater for older golfers. Similarly, those recovering from injuries may have movement restrictions hindering their swing. Both groups can uniquely benefit from a fitting. By working with their exact swing mechanics, a master club fitter can maximize what's working without putting pressure on injuries or areas of the swing that may be declining. One fitter, Club Champion, has a proven history of success.

Sherwood Schoch (85, Tipton, PA) was a Navy pilot and Olympic athlete who holds the record at his club for shooting under his age. At 84, he shot 74, after being fitted at Club Champion. "From the initial fitting forward, it's been a game saving experience," Schoch shared. "Between health and age, I was on the brink of throwing in the towel, but no more. Now it's a rare round if I don't shoot my age. The fitting changed my world!"

Schoch's fitter Brett Castleberry said, "We went with a lighter shaft, but needed a heavier swing weight to create more lag. It increased his clubhead speed by 3-mph and helped him make better and more consistent contact. As a result, he gained 15 yards on his irons." As for overcoming Schoch's physical problems, Castleberry continued,

"We went with graphite shafts for two reasons. It was lighter, and it helped dampen vibrations which helped us address the problem with his hands."

Club Champion delivers a Tour-quality fitting that produces longer, more accurate shots with a nearly 100% satisfaction rate. Their approach is unbiased; no specific vendor is promoted. The only goal - find the best combination of components to lower your scores. Leadbetter adds, "Club Champion is the #1 premium club fitter, builder and retailer of the best brands in golf. Their master fitters and builders are unrivaled experts. With over 35,000 combinations, Club Champion will build the perfect clubs for you." A *Golf Digest* study found that 8 out of 9 Club Champion custom fit golfers lowered their scores by as much as six strokes per round and added an average of 21 yards off the tee.

Boston store manager Alex Wolk stated, "Some of the biggest success stories at Club Champion have been senior players. Through the shaft I can recover lost distance and create better results with less effort exerted. Most older golfers tire towards the end of 18 holes and lose concentration. Often overexertion of the body and its muscles is the cause. My job is to figure out what shaft is going to create more mechanical fluidity and allow for better results with less effort. Chuck Baldwin, a customer of mine from New Hampshire is a great example. He's an avid golfer who plays 75+ rounds a year, but due to age and physical limitations he's seen his distance decrease and handicap increase. With his new custom fit clubs, he added 20-30 yards per iron."

Baldwin shared had been fitted in the past but was disappointed by the limited shaft offerings he'd seen. He loved the fact that at Club Champion he could mix and match heads and shafts to suit his needs. He bought new Callaway irons and



Club Champion has hundreds of options

fairways and Cobra hybrids. He was able to use his old driver head, but with a new shaft. He added an average of 15 yards with his driver. Baldwin particularly liked the ability of Club Champion to tweak the lie angle on his irons during the fitting. He said, "It took about six iterations to dial in the specs I needed. This type of service was not available from any other fitter."

Ranked by *Golf Digest* among the 100 best club fitters nine years in a row, Club Champion's unique coupling system allows them to combine any head and shaft together. Golfers hit the precise combination to be custom built for them. Club Champion stands out because they build clubs in-house, to exacting, unrivaled tolerances. Variables such as swing weight, length, lie and flex DO alter performance. The experience and know-how combining these

intricate parts together is what separates Club Champion from its competition.

When Club Champion says you'll add 20 yards off the tee, they mean it. Legendary instructor Hank Haney believes, "There isn't anyone who can't benefit from club fitting. With the advances in custom fitting to optimize your equipment, everybody can achieve more distance. At Club Champion, you get a truly professional fitting. They can prove it works. For somebody not to take advantage of Club Champion's expertise, they're wasting a tremendous opportunity."

With more than 50 studios across the country including Needham and Bedford in the Boston area, at Club Champion, you don't just buy clubs, you buy guaranteed improvement! Information is available at clubchampiongolf.com or 888-340-7820.

PGA MERCHANDISE SHOW PHOTOS



The OCCC is one of only a few place places that can host this huge event



Suzy Whaley, PGA President, opened the Show



R.I.'s Brad Faxon, who now lives in So. Fla., is right at home at the Show



Annika Sorenstam, who lives in Orlando, is a regular at the Show



John Daly and his Loudmouth brand



Greg Norman spoke at the Show



Cobra Puma was popular during Demo Day



"Excuse Me" are the words heard most frequently in the crowded aisles



Fashion area accounts for half of the Shows, real estate

The Masters is one of the Most Unique Events in Sports.



It's all about tradition, and it's defined by a set of odd rules and customs that just don't exist outside of Augusta National.

Here are some of the oddest traditions that make the Masters and Augusta one of a kind.

- Food prices are ridiculously low and tipping is banned. Sandwich prices range from \$1.50 for egg salad or pimento and cheese and a ham and cheese on rye is \$2.50.
- Cell phones are prohibited at all times and cameras are not permitted during the tournament.
- It's one of the only places in the U.S. where there are long lines for payphones.
- Only four minutes of commercials per hour are allowed during the broadcast and no blimps are allowed.
- Until 1983 players had to use local caddies, and even today, players' caddies must wear the white Augusta National jump suit and a green Masters hat.
- Fans are called patrons and can't wear their hat backwards.
- The rough is referred to as the second cut.
- Patrons can bring in collapsible Masters chairs, but they must not have armrests (this reporter has that chair and brings it every year, and no one else has ever sat in it while I walked around the course—I place it on the first tee to get pictures of everyone teeing off on the Wed. practice round that I get a pass to attend as a member of the Golf Writers Assn. of America.)
- There is a huge fence around the entire property. Only one deer has been spotted on the course in 65 years.
- There is a house in the middle of the parking lot. The owners refuse to sell even after being offered millions.
- Don't apply for membership. The only way to become a member is to be nominated by a current member. The membership is about 300 and most memberships have been passed down through inheritance.

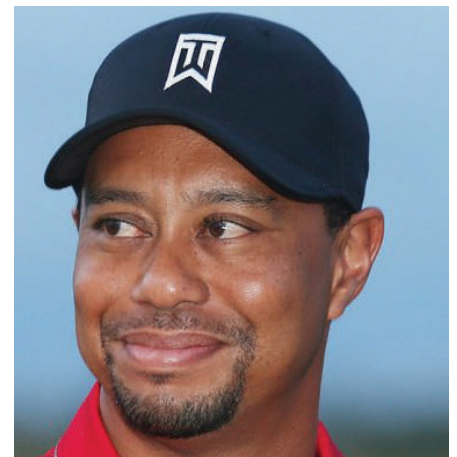
Tiger Wins at Augusta National—A Day to Remember

Two years ago when Tiger Woods was trying to make a comeback, he was playing in a tournament and had to withdraw with terrible pain in his back. He decided to have back fusion therapy.

This reporter made the bold statement, **"Tiger may come back and play in some tournaments, but he will never win again."** No one fully recovers from fusion surgery, and especially with how violent Tiger always swung the club so violently, there was no chance to return to his once dominant form.

Time to eat crow. Watching him play at this year's Masters Tournament was truly thrilling. How could you not root for him? What a boon to professional golf and what a great ratings boost for CBS. Do you think Jim Nance was happy? Ian Baker Finch, who was also announcing from The Masters said, "This is about the most moving and exciting thing I have ever seen in the game of golf."

Playing early in the morning Sunday because of the impending storm and lightning attack, Tiger seemed as tranquil as the morning weather. Gone was his menacing stare. Gone were his forceful strides down the fairways. He seemed almost serene all tournament



Tiger Woods wins the 2019 Masters two years after spinal fusion surgery.

Then came the twelfth hole. We watched Jordan Spieth lose the tournament a couple of years ago with a tee shot into the pond at the short (150-yard) par 3. Molinari did the same as did Tony Finau (who will win this event probably more than once). An opening for Tiger, and he strode right through it.

Imagine sitting at the 12th hole? It is at the far end of the course, and all the seats were filled hours before this



The new 5th hole at Augusta National. Tiger bogied the hole all four (4) rounds.

long. He did not show that strong emotion when he made a bogey on the fifth hole for the fourth consecutive day.

How much easier it is to like and root for Tiger now than it was before. This is truly a great comeback story. I was not able to take my eyes off the screen for the whole 18 holes. Francesco Molinari was playing so well all tournament. This holder of the latest British Open title was rolling along so smoothly. Every difficult chip and putt that Molinari had found a proximity to the flag, or fell to the bottom of the hole. He looked like he was going to be the one wearing the green jacket at the end of the day.

threesome reached it. It's a long walk, trust me. At least it is downhill from the parking lot. Most patrons probably didn't even remember the walk back up the hill as they talked about what they saw. They might have been able to get within shouting distance of hole 18 when Tiger walked off to a hero's welcome.

This old-time reporter is going to make another prediction. Tiger Woods will win again.

Bruce Vittner is a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and can be reached at bruce@snegolfer.com

Hitting the floor at the PGA Show

Scouting the exhibits at the vast PGA Golf Merchandise Show held at the Orange Convention Center in Orlando this past January, I put plenty of steps on my pedometer—literally miles—checking out the newest and greatest in equipment, apparel, instruction aids, crazy new gizmos, equipment—you name it. I also did the huge circle of manufacturers ringing the practice area of the Orange County National Golf Course. In all this dogged exploration, a few items emerged as truly noteworthy. Here's what turned me on.

PUSH CARTS WITH A WOW

Clicgear pushcarts not only look smart, they fold easily into a compact "package" you can easily store in the back of your car or garage. Vibrant colors like yellow, lime-green and orange coordinate with golf bags. And you'll love their accessories like cooler bags, shoe brushes, wheel covers, seats and more. www.clicgear.com

Clubs that work & don't cost a bundle

Each manufacturer typically comes out with new, updated versions of last year's lines, touting the "wow" factor to grab attention. You have to ask yourself will XYZ hybrid give me 10 yards more in distance or will this wedge guarantee I will get out of the bunker every time? Probably not. Unless your clubs are really outdated with stiff shafts when you should be using graphite, and forged blades when cavity back would be more forgiving for you.

With a club manufacturer like **Tour Edge**, you can find reasonably-priced well designed clubs that come with a lifetime warranty. And it only takes 48 hours from custom fitting to delivery. Their newest design in the CBX T3 series featuring a deeper face, more compact head and shorter surface area from heel to toe, makes this an ideal fairway wood for usage off the tee on tight holes and for those who seek a



Kate Lord Collection

more penetrating flight off the deck. It has a classic profile yet delivers the same lower launch angle and low spin rate as the popular 167cc CB fairway wood. www.touredge.com

KBS Shafts marry well with Tour Edge design for all golfers. Straight shafts deliver more energy than graduated shafts.

Smart way to keep white wine cold

Corkcicle sells a variety of insulated drink ware products and bags such as backpacks, totes and duffels. What I particularly like is their long icicle-looking thing you put in the freezer than pop into your wine bottle after opening it to keep your wine chilled. It works especially well for sippy drinkers who love taking it slow and easy in the hot sun. No ice bucket needed. And what a great tournament gift. www.corkcicle.com

Birddog

You'll find original, whimsical drawings of canines, birds, fish and other sporting motifs subtly worked into the designs of Bird Dog Bay's ties, belts, socks, tote bags and leather and waxed canvas goods. Founder Steve Mayer, artist, imaginator, is the sole illustrator and designer for all his products. Men love his Egyptian cotton dress shirts too, many in wonderful check patterns. www.birddogbay.com

Go crazy

Loudmouth, always a mind-blower for its audacious, colorful and wickedly clever designs, introduced several new

fashions this year including Flamingo Garden, Five Alarm Stretch tech and Bakers Dozen skorts for women; Fancy Ombre Purple Pink and Red Golf shirts for men; and hot new items in hats like the Five Alarm Trucker Cap, belts, socks, golf bags, backpacks, even aprons such as Captain Thunderbolt that men find cool for grilling. www.us.loudmouthgolf.com

See-through bags

One of the more standout handbags on floor was from **Capri Designs**. They come in different shapes and sizes and are PVC clear see-through bags with minimal trim in various colors and materials like coated cotton canvas, leather and carry straps. Important to note: this is one time you'll want to hide any little personal items you want to keep private in smaller pouches as the contents of Capri bags are totally visible. Happily the smaller accessory bags are available from Capri in colorful solids. www.Capridesigns.com

Tied up

Vineyard Vines' neckties were the inspiration that got the company on the map. Small motifs like sailboats, whales and golf balls set the style for high prep on the "Vineyard." Hot sellers in golf shops, the company now offers a huge product line for men, women and children from shorts and slacks to shirts and tops. Pastels tend to dominate but the designs, quality and classic fit is what makes vv stand out among the vast array of lifestyle apparel. For example men's Breaker waist pants' sizes include a 35"—not always easy to find in sports clothing. vineyardvines.com.

Classics with a twist

One collection of **Kate Lord's** classics by **Ahead** is rendered in Surf, Daffodil and True Navy, with a hint of pink in the hats. We also love their black and white collection including tops, skorts, and half- and full-zip jackets in lightweight polyester jersey. Raspberry, nectarine & black? Yes! www.aheadweb.com.

Katharine Dyson is a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and writes a Women's feature column in each issue of SNE Golfer.

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100 Courses in 100 days

Many golfers say they would love to play every day. David Blakelock is taking that to an extreme.

The Needham resident is in the midst of playing 100 golf courses in 100 days, starting in California and ending in Massachusetts, crossing 9,368 miles and 25 states, in hopes of raising \$100,000 for Alzheimer's research. "It's either a golfer's dream or a golfer's nightmare," is how Blakelock describes it.

Blakelock's mother-in-law died of Alzheimer's disease in July and his mother now has the debilitating disease, prompting him to search for a way to raise funds and awareness for the cause. He came up with 100 rounds of golf in 100 days, a logistical nightmare that saw him begin March 14 at JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa in Palm Desert, then on to Nevada, down to Arizona and Texas, across to Florida, up the East Coast, over to the Midwest, and through the Northeast corridor before finishing his trip with three courses in his home state.

Blakelock, a 57-year-old retired entrepreneur, worked with the Alzheimer's Association to coordinate and promote the trip. The nonprofit organization urged him to conclude the journey on June 21, the longest day of the year. That round will be played on Pinehills Golf Club in Plymouth.

"The day with the most light is the day we fight," the association says in explaining why the summer solstice is its biggest fundraising day of the year. Visit Blakelock's website www.100days100courses.com for more information about the trip and how to donate.

French man

The United States team's performance at last year's Ryder Cup, a 17½ to 10½ defeat, was to say the least disappointing. However, one Cape Cod man enjoyed it.

Ryan Walsh, the superintendent at Woods Hole Golf Course, assisted with preparing Le Golf

National outside Paris, the site of the European team's runaway win. He was assigned to manage the putting greens, driving ranges, short game areas and other practice settings.

Walsh earned the opportunity after winning a contest run by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He had a couple concerns early on, among them the language barrier, but he said the bilingual staff helped him along the way. He also had to adjust to measuring in centimeters instead of inches.

"I get frustrated how we're the only ones who don't use the metric system," Walsh told the Cape Cod Times. Walsh's days were long and exhausting, starting at 4:30 a.m. and ending at 9 p.m., but he did get in chats with U.S. captain Jim Furyk and vice captain Steve Stricker.

Perhaps the best moment came the Thursday before play began, when Walsh attended a ceremony recognizing the work of all those involved in the game. "It's nice to see people of that stature and players of the world take the time to show their appreciation," he said.

The winners are...

The Cape Cod Chapter of the New England PGA gave out a number of awards at its recent spring meeting. The top honor, Professional of the Year for 2018, was presented to Eastward Ho! head professional Brian Hamilton. Cummaquid Golf Club assistant Thomas Rourke was the 2018 Assistant of the Year.

Other winners include Teacher of the Year Greg Richboud of Cape Cod National and the chapter's Junior Leader of the Year, Holly Ridge's Darren Falk. The Wessner points winner, given annually to the player who accumulated the most points during chapter and regional events, went to Bay Point Country Club's Scott Trethewey, who edged out Matt Baran of Oyster Harbors.

Dollars and sense

Anyone who has played Cape Cod's 13 excellent municipal golf courses knows that they are almost

always crowded. So why are they sinking into debt?

The Town of Yarmouth, which operates Bass River and Bayberry Hills clubs wanted to know, so town officials hired a consultant, JJ Keegan. His conclusion: Resident golfers are paying too little while squeezing out visitors who are paying a much higher rate to play.

Approximately 62 percent of all play is produced by a small group of residents who pay \$750 to \$1,000 for a yearlong membership, allowing them to play as much as 200 rounds per season. That comes out to as little as \$3.50 per round for those residents but only accounts for 29 percent of the revenue, not enough to keep the courses in the condition expected by customers, Keegan said.

Keegan, at a conference last month attended by officials from other Cape towns that operate municipal courses, recommended that residential rates be increased to \$2,000 or more. "Good deal or not for your residents, in the end, to sustain your golf facilities, it comes down to value equaling the total experience for the price," Keegan told the town officials.

Closed cases

Another Eastern Massachusetts golf course has closed its doors. Middlebrook Country Club, a 63-year-old, nine-hole, par-34 layout at the southern end of

Rehoboth, shut down in October. The owners are planning to convert it into a solar farm.

In nearby Attleboro, it appears the last rounds have been played at Highland Country Club. The nine-hole private club founded in 1901 sought bankruptcy protection in January 2018 and was purchased by the City of Attleboro nine months later. Mayor Paul Heroux put together a 15-member task force to determine what the city should do with the 93-acre property.

However, only two of the 15 members urged the city to pursue golf at Highland. As a result, Heroux has renamed the site Highland Park and a local businessman has donated \$50,000 to establish walking trails there. The initial public event there, a 5k run to benefit the Attleboro YMCA, was held on April 27.

Mike Kirby, a columnist for *The Sun Chronicle of Attleboro*, can be reached at mkirbygolf18@gmail.com.

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Ouimet Gala Raises \$1 Million for Scholarship Fund

Every year for the past 69 years the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund sets high expectations and fundraising goals, and each year they exceed expectations, so it's no surprise that the 2019 Annual Banquet, honoring Johnny Miller for his "Lifelong Contributions to Golf," broke a few records.

On April 11, the Sheraton Boston Hotel hosted over 1,200 loyal supporters who opened up their wallets to the tune of \$300 each. Combined with a Silent Auction, over \$1 million was generated which will provide financial assistance to nearly 500 kids each year to achieve their dream of a college education. Last year the Ouimet Fund awarded \$2.2 million to need-based students.

Hall-of-Famer Johnny Miller was the guest speaker and honored with the 22nd Francis Ouimet Award for Lifelong Contributions to Golf at the 69th Annual Banquet. The Connolly Group, a division of Morgan Stanley, again sponsored the Banquet, which has become the largest annual golf dinner in America.

"We are thrilled to have Johnny Miller as our 2019 honoree and also to have Dan Hicks of NBC conduct a "fireside chat" with Johnny," said Executive Director Bob Donovan. "They worked together for many years in the NBC Golf broadcast booth. We are also delighted to have Tom E. Curran of NBC Sports Boston serve as Master of Ceremonies. Johnny Miller continued the tradition of tremendous Ouimet honorees. He had a superb Hall of Fame record with 25 PGA Tour victories including a legendary final round U.S. Open record 63 in winning the 1973 US Open."

The Francis Ouimet Award for "Lifelong Contributions to Golf" became part of the Ouimet Annual Banquet when the late Arnold Palmer was honored in 1997. Subsequent honorees have been Gene Sarazen, Ben Crenshaw, Curtis Strange, Ken Venturi & Eddie Lowery, Former President George H.W. Bush, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Nancy Lopez, Greg Norman, Peter Jacobsen, Jack & Barbara Nicklaus, Gary Player, Tom

Watson, Annika Sorenstam, Mark O'Meara, Mr. Ouimet himself in 2013, the Centennial of his historic U.S. Open victory, Brad Faxon, Tom Lehman, Nick Price, Jim Furyk and now Johnny Miller.

"I am happy to be here in Boston to accept this prestigious Ouimet Fund Award," said Miller before the overflow crowd in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Boston Hotel. "I had heard about the program and all the good things the Fund does and promised to attend after my broadcast career ended, so this is a really special honor."

Johnny Miller had a spectacular career as a PGA Tour player with 25 wins, including the 1973 U.S. Open and The British Open at Royal Birkdale in 1976. The U.S. Open victory is considered one of the greatest moments in golf history. He stormed from behind in the final round, hitting all 18 greens at treacherous Oakmont Country Club, and torched the field with an Open record 63. It was part of a dominant stretch in the mid-seventies, with eight wins in 1974, and seven more over the next two seasons.

Miller collected nine of his victories in the desert, including the Bob Hope in Palm Springs, as well as Phoenix and Tucson. In 1975, his margin of victory in Phoenix was 14 shots, and in Tucson 9 shots, earning him the nickname "The Desert Fox."

Over the last 25 years, Johnny Miller was a legendary broadcaster for NBC, known for his insightful and candid commentary. He pulled no punches and occasionally sharply criticized and rankled players, becoming known as the announcer that would tell it like it is. Over the years, he has covered some of the most important golf tournaments in history including U.S. Opens and Ryder Cups.

Today, Johnny Miller, and his wife Linda, make their home in Napa, California and Utah. They have six children and 22 grandchildren. He has designed or re-designed 34 golf courses and has his own foundation, The Johnny Miller "CHAMP" Foundation.

Thomas Riordan, a Ouimet alumnus and a long-time Ouimet Board member, was honored with the Richard F. Connolly Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Riordan is principal of



Johnny Miller receives the Francis Ouimet Award from Jim Blue, Ouimet president.

The Riordan group, a manufacturer's representative firm specializing in clothing and other products. He had an outstanding amateur golf career with a strong competitive record. He then went on to become Caddie Master and then head professional at New Seabury Country Club before going into the retail industry.

Throughout his career, Tom has always "given back to golf" and to the Ouimet Fund. Tom's contributions to The Fund have impacted thousands of scholars and come in many forms. Tom has been a member of the Ouimet Board since 2001 and been very involved on the Banquet Committee and with Endowed Scholarship Programs. Riordan's background in golf, knowledge of Ouimet programs and commitment to helping young people working in the game have made him a tremendous asset to the Ouimet organization and worthy recipient of the Richard F. Connolly Distinguished Service Award.

Anna Hurley, who has worked as a caddie or in the cart barn for five years at The Ridge Club and is a junior at St. Michael's College, was Student Speaker. She is from Sandwich, MA. Anna gave an inspiring talk about overcoming severe Epilepsy to go on to captain three sports in high school. She is the starting field hockey goalie at St. Michael's and involved in numerous charitable efforts.

The 2019 Ouimet Fund Banquet was another memorable night. But we've been saying that for years, and the truth is, it just keeps on getting better!

Tom Gorman is Publisher of www.england.golf and can be reached at teetalk@aol.com



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Senior Men's Golf League Continues to Grow

The very popular Senior Men's Golf League, played every Thursday on courses in Central and Western Mass. teed off for another season earlier this month beginning at Heritage Country Club in Charlton, the first of 28 weekly stops. There's a new commissioner at the helm this year as Jim DeCarolis of Leominster succeeds retiring director Pete Demerski, who ran the show for many years.

The Senior Men's League draws an average of 67 golfers a week, with Gardner Municipal Golf Course gaining the largest turnout last year with 95 players. Green Hill in Worcester drew 83 and Westminster C.C. 82. The majority of golfers are from Central Mass. but players also arrive from Western Mass., New Hampshire and Connecticut.

The league, open to senior men golfers 55 and over, requires no annual cost and is easy to join. Golfers pay \$22 for an 18-hole round and another \$16 to \$18 for a cart if needed. The tournaments employ a point quota system with the range from 6 to 30. Handicaps range from five to 30-plus.

"It's a great league. I've played in it every year since I retired, and each week is very enjoyable for everyone," said DeCarolis, who noted that interested golfers should arrive on Thursdays at the designated course between 6:45 and 8 a.m. Tee times are assigned on a first come, first-served basis. For more information contact DeCarolis at seniormensgolfma@gmail.com or at 508-560-9545.

The Senior Men's Golf schedule for May and June is as follows: May 2 at Chicopee CC; May 9 at Green Hill in Worcester; May 16 at Townsend Ridge; May 23 at Gardner Municipal; May 30 at Ellinwood CC in Athol; June 6 at Holden Hills CC; May 13 at Templewood in Templeton; May 20 at Leicester CC; June 27 at Tekoa CC in Westfield.

Central Mass. Girls' Golf Tourney

At Augusta National in early April, right before the start of the 83rd edition of the Masters, golf history was made when the final round of the inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur was played.

And it will be a historic day on May



Jim DeCarolis

1 for girls on high school golf teams with the inaugural Central Mass. Girls' tournament at Bay Path Golf Course in East Brookfield. Invited to the event will be the teams from David Prouty High, along with Notre Dame Academy, Westboro, Wachusett Regional, Worcester, Quabbin and Auburn.

"The girls' teams in Central Mass. have never had something like this," said Dennis Streeter, the coach of the David Prouty girls' team. "After the regular season the girls always had just the sectionals and the state tournament. This will be like the league championships that the boys have had for years in the fall."

Each school will bring six players who will play 18 holes in the tournament. Four of the best six scores will be counted and a championship trophy will be awarded to the low team and also the low individual.

Bay Path is a nine-hole course, so the golfers will play each hole twice in the tournament. Streeter credited David Prouty athletic director Chuck Fahey as the prime mover of the event. "We hope to have a field of around 42 players, so that will be perfect for a nine-hole course," Streeter said. "We'll begin at 9 in the morning. It will be

fun, and we hope to keep it going in the future."

Westboro High girls golf coach Sandy Robichaud is thrilled about the CMass Tournament. "I think it's great, and I hope it stirs the pot for some other schools to begin girls' golf teams. We need more teams and we need more girls playing the game."

Interestingly, Robichaud is a good friend of Westboro High grad Rick Pano, the father of 14-year-old golf phenom Alexa Pano, who was born in Westboro. One of the top junior players in the country, Alexa played in the Augusta National Women's Amateur and missed a playoff for the final stop to play in the final round at Augusta National by only one shot. "I met Alexa when she was only 9, and she's just a natural in golf," Robichaud said. "She's won a ton of U.S. Kids events and has even played in an LPGA event."

Central Mass. Players on Tour

Fran Quinn from Holden is back for another season on the PGA Champions Tour. And Brittany Altomare, from Shrewsbury, is touring once again with the best LPGA players in the world.

Quinn, through six events, was

ranked 38th on the 2019 Charles Schwab Cup Money List, through the Mitsubishi Electric Classic which ended on Apr. 21. Quinn's best finish was a tie for fifth at the Hoag Classic in Newport Beach, California where he fired rounds of 64-67-74 and earned \$74,400.

On the day before his 54th birthday, Quinn, aiming for his first Champions Tour win, took a three-shot lead into the final round at Newport Beach CC, but closed with a disappointing 3-over-par 74. Kirk Triplett defeated Woody Austin in a playoff and cashed \$250,000.

The 28-year-old Altomare, a former star at Shrewsbury High and later at the University of Virginia, tied for 12th at the Lotte Championship which ended Apr. 17 at Ko Olina GC on Oahu, Hawaii. She carded rounds of 68-73-69-71 for a 7-under total, earning a check for \$30,643.

Earlier in April, Altomare tied for 11th at the HSBC Women's World Championship, earning \$27,613. Entering the Hugel-Air Premia LA Open in Los Angeles on Apr. 25, Altomare was ranked 39th on the LPGA 2019 money list with \$104,096 in seven events. Her career earnings since her 2014 rookie year now total \$1,436,830.

Mass. Four-Ball

The Mass Golf 2019 Four-Ball Championship will take place in Central Mass. at The International (Oaks and Pines) in Bolton on May 13-14. The championship, with a full field already set, is open to two-person teams of amateur golfers who have an active MassGolf/GHIN Handicap Index not exceeding 6.0.

Walter Sharis and Warren Nelson captured the first Mass. Four-Ball in 1981 at Concord CC. Last year Jimmy Hervol of Hopkinton CC and Tim Umphrey of Tatnuck CC won the championship defeating Mike Calef of Pine Oaks GC and Kevin Silva of Back Nine Club after a three-hole playoff on the Captains Starboard Course in Brewster.

Jay Gearan writes a Central Mass. Notebook column in each issue of SNE Golfer.

Many Changes at Western Mass Clubs

The long off-season in Western Massachusetts did not come to an end without its share of changes in area pro shops. At least seven local courses had new pros in place as the 2019 season opened.

The biggest changes included **E.J. Altobello** taking over at Springfield Country Club and **Brian Keiser** on board now at Longmeadow CC. Milton Torres is now at Crestview CC. He was formerly at CC of Wilbraham. **Rick Fleury**, formerly of Elmcrest CC is at the Ledges GC in So. Hadley, Rick Leal, formerly of Wyckoff CC is at the Golf Club of So. Hadley; and Tekoa CC in Westfield now have **Rick Leal** who was formerly at Wyckoff CC.

Altobello joined the private club in West Springfield after spending 20 years at Tekoa CC in Westfield. He spent the last 12 years working in two major capacities - as director of golf and head superintendent - at the public course.

"I won't say that I work harder than anyone else in this business around here," Altobello said. "The hours I work, they're no more or less than anyone else. I had



E.J. Altobello

a good staff at both ends to help me. But the way I look at it, people have real jobs in this world. It's not that bad, man ... what we do (as golf professionals). We work a lot of hours during those (in-season) months, it's what you do." Altobello, 43, became just the 12th head professional at Springfield CC, which was founded in 1897.

Altobello earned Class A membership with the PGA of America in 2003 and last year he was honored with the Youth

Player Development Award through the Connecticut Section PGA. He has also been very active on numerous committees, including the Western Mass. Golf Hall of Fame and at the local level with the Junior PGA League. He was also selected as a captain's pick for the Julius Boros Challenge Cup matches this spring. Altobello replaced **Dave Dell**, who resigned this winter after 12 seasons. Dell relocated to the Naples, Fla. area.

At Longmeadow CC, Keiser arrived as a former assistant at a number of high-profile courses. He replaced **Tim Quirk**, who relocated to upstate New York after spending nine seasons at Longmeadow CC.

Bolduc takes relief:

Longmeadow resident **Roberta Bolduc** will step back from her longtime, volunteer role as a United States Golf Association championships competition rules official. She has helped officiate 50 national championships, including 22 Women's Opens and five U.S. Opens, during the last three decades.

"Sometimes I've had to pinch myself, because it doesn't all feel real," Bolduc said. "There were some incredibly magical moments and memories. The places it has taken me in this world and to where I've been inside the ropes."

Her memories include being general chairman of the 1995 U.S. Girls' Junior at Longmeadow Country Club, with a field that included the likes of champion **Marcy Newton**, **Cristie Kerr**, **Candy Hanneman** and **Grace Park**.

Bolduc later found her place as an on-course rules official with the USGA, often finding herself walking with final-round groups in contention for major championships.

She was 10 feet from **Birdie Kim** when she holed out from a bunker at the 72nd hole to win the 2005 U.S. Women's Open, was there for **Annika Sorenstam's** two Open wins and was green-side when **Jenny Chausiriporn** make that long putt at Pumpkin Ridge to pull even with **Se Ri Pak** at the 1998 Open.

Bolduc spent 12 years on the Women's Committee, including two as chair. That later enabled her to speak at the opening ceremonies of the Curtis Cup at St. Andrews in 2008, and she also led the U.S. women's squad to a silver medal at the World Amateur Team Championships in Buenos Aires in 2010.

She was the first woman to serve as president of Longmeadow CC and chairperson of the golf and green committee. The club celebrates its centennial in 2022.



Roberta Bolduc presents 2009 U.S. Open trophy to Kristie Kerr

As a player, Bolduc competed at 10 USGA Championships, including the Women's Mid-Amateur and nine Senior Women's Amateurs. She won the Women's Eastern Senior Amateur Championship during the mid-1990s, a few years after falling to **Ann-Marie Tobin** in the final of the Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts Association Championship at Myopia Hunt Club in Hamilton.

Western Front

Mike Bechard of Longmeadow was honored at the Western Mass. Tee Party on May 9 for his commitment, dedication and promotion of golf in the region. The 13-year head professional at Ludlow CC has spent 19 seasons at the private club, in addition to 11 years as a head pro at Greenock CC in Lee ... **Bobby Downes** has taken over as head pro at Country Club of Wilbraham, where he spent the 2018 season as an assistant pro. He has taken over for Torres, who is now director of golf services at Elmcrest CC in East Longmeadow and Crestview CC in Agawam. Downes was head professional at Veterans GC in Springfield from 1992-2004, and had kept his hand in various teaching capacities. Downes carries one of the most recognizable names in golf in Western Massachusetts, with his father **Red Downes** being a Hall of Fame college coach at Western New England and brother **Billy Downes** being a former high-level tour player and current head pro at GreatHorse in Hampden ... **Mike Zaranek** has moved on from Crestview CC and has returned to Brattleboro (Vt.) CC as a head pro. Zaranek is a former longtime head pro at Crumpin-Fox Club in Bernardston.

Russ Held writes for The Springfield Republican and Masslive.com and does a Western Mass. Notebook Column in each issue of SNE Golfer.



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Rehoboth, Shattuck, Swansea, Tekoa CC, Triggs, Winnepaug and dozens more. There are also some nine-hole courses for those that would rather just play nine including Kings Crossing, Louisquisset, Midville and Pinecrest in Rhode island. The Golf Season Passport can be used through December 31, 2019.

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While you are on the website, please register for information

about golf events for your area. The Massachusetts group runs tournaments from time to time at some great courses, and regularly has over 100 players per event. We have played The Crumpin Fox Club, The Ledges Golf Club, Metacomet Country Club, Crestwood Country Club and Blackstone National GC along with many others. You can also get a \$10 off coupon from the Golfers Warehouse stores in New England and also a \$25 off putter fitting from Spargo Golf in Cranston.

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Looking Back—May 1997

Twenty years ago this month our cover picture was of Brett Quigley with the caption New England's newest edition to the PGA. Quigley, a Barrington native who had starred at the University of South Carolina had earned his card by finishing fifth on the Nike Tour in 1996 to earn a full playing status on the PGA Tour for 1997.

Quigley, the nephew of Dana Quigley and the son of Paul Quigley, the Rhode Island amateur legend, has been snake-bitten by injuries his whole career, but has still managed to win almost \$12 million on the golf tours.

We had a huge story about Winnapaug Country Club celebrating its Diamond anniversary. This Donald Ross gem, opened on July 4, 1922, is still going strong under the ownership of Joe and Maria Luzzi who purchased the course in 2015. I've told the Luzzis that we will do a big story in 2022.

Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club had a huge story, but this one was sad as we acknowledged the passing of Bernard Baccari who was co-owner with Maureen Mihailides of the course that opened for play in 1995 and now is The Preserve at Boulder Hills, an amazing location.

Tom Gorman, who has been writing for us since 1995, had a story about a 21-year-old named Tiger Woods playing at Bay Hill with huge crowds following his every move. They were calling it Tigermania. It has returned in full force today.

Dudley Darling, the owner of Juniper Hills in Northboro who was the president of the N.E.'s Chapter of the National Golf Course Owners Assoc. wrote about how the use of pesticides was declining to decrease the potential for environmental damage.

George Brahman used to do caricatures in each issue, and this issue featured Ed Mauro, Jr. who was the RIGA President after serving as a VP for the past 15 years. Mauro would go on to be very instrumental

in the building of Button Hole Short Course and Learning Center in Providence.

Every issue since we started in 1990 has had a travel story—the best perk of this publication. This issue featured Hilton Head, S.C. and was written by Paul Harber who wrote for Boston publications for over 30 years.

The paper was packed with advertisers; I don't know why we didn't make more money. Softspikes had the back cover. Myrtle Beach Jet Express (no longer in business) had the inside back cover. We had big advertisements from Boulder Hills, Poquoy Brook, Firefly, Golfers Warehouse (who has advertised in every issue of this publication—Thank you, Thank you--Kirby's GolfHouse in Johnston, Precision Golf, Blissful Meadows that had recently opened, Lindbrook, Foxwoods Casino that would be opening in a few months, Par Mor, Swansea, Foster, Atlantic Golf, Pro Golf Discount (gone), Midville, Cranston, Bethel Inn, Club House Golf Works run by Tom Spargo, Majesty Cruise Line that featured a cruise to Bermuda for golfing, Golden Triangle Driving Range in Johnston and Long Shot Driving Range in Richmond.

Do those stores and companies bring back memories? It's always fun to look back. We switched to covering all of Connecticut and Massachusetts in 2010, as we became Southern New England Golfer rather than Ocean State Golf. Look for the next issue online on June 9.

Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of Southern New England Golfer and can be reached at bruce@snegolfer.com.

**SNE GOLFER
HAS GONE 100%
DIGITAL! STARTING
JUNE 2019**

New Subscriber Drawings and Prizes

The reason that we are publishing this issue as a physical newspaper is that we wanted to let all our readers know that this is the last one in that format. What better way to let golfers and golf readers know that we will be online only, than to print 25,000 copies with the banner across the front page.

Hopefully most everyone will sign up to receive the publication. We promise that we won't use your email information for anything other than sending you each of the six online issues per year or some special golfing news that can't wait for the next issue.

To entice readers to sign up for our publication at www.snegolfer.com we will be giving away prizes every week beginning on May 5 and continuing until June 30. We will pick a Grand Prize winner on July 5 who will win a Sky Caddie Linx GT GPS Range Finder. The winner

will be pictured in the July 28 issue with the range finder.

Weekly prizes will be hats, balls, and other golfing paraphernalia. All winners will be recognized in the July 28 issue. We hope that you want to continue being part of *Southern New England Golfer*. Reading the paper on a computer is certainly different than a newspaper, but this old editor has gotten used to it, and actually prefers it because you can click right to a website from our website, with every ad having hyperlinks.

Take a look at our website at www.snegolfer.com and read the online May 2019 issue while at your computer. When you open it, click the bottom right button on the flipbook page to see the paper in full-screen mode. It is actually larger than the printed paper. We look forward to having as many subscribers as we have readers now.

Continued from page 7

"When I started at Spargo Golf I kept taking apart and rebuilding my own clubs. Tom let me learn. I saw his passion, and it became infectious with my passion. Tom has let me do most of the fittings for the last couple of years. Our shop has stayed in the Top 100 and we are on the Mizuno Top 100 as well. We have been a great team and I will always be indebted to Tom for being such a wonderful mentor," said Pannone.

Besides becoming an excellent club-fitter and club-maker, Pannone remains an excellent golfer. "I am a Professional and have a plus-3 handicap. I play in most of the state opens in New England and set a new course record of 61 at Potowomut C.C. in East Greenwich," said the proud, but modest Pannone.

"We meet such a diverse group of players; men, women, young and old, I think we have between the ages of 11 and 82 at Spargo Golf. They all have a common goal—to get better at golf," Pannone added.

Tom Spargo may be gone part of

the year, but he will still be part of the Spargo Golf team. "Tom's apron will always stay in the shop," said a smiling Pannone who added that Steve Coletta, who has worked with Tom for many years, is also a major part of Spargo Golf.

When questioned about working some more at his namesake shop, Tom Spargo said, "I have built a year-round model that works. I always told people that I had the best job in the world, because I enjoyed coming to work every day and helping people improve at this wonderful game that we love, and Jon feels the same way. Yes, I will be stopping in and helping out when I am back in Rhode Island."

Bruce Vittner is a member of the Golf Writers Assn. of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and can be reached at bruce@snegolfer.com.



Callaway's Skyline Golf Shoe

Callaway's new Skyline golf shoe offers a clean, contemporary styling with its roots being grounded in technical performance. The foundation of the shoe is built on Callaway's new POWERdrive™

platform designed for total comfort and performance. POWERdrive™ platform is a combination of three key technologies that enable the body to generate power. The **Fusion-Lite** TPU outsole provides optimal support and structure, while allowing great underfoot feel and traction. The outsole includes strategic cutout to allow the shoe to flex and move with the foot throughout the swing.

The insole comforts the foot with soft, molded EVA and features additional heel and arch support. The **Duo-Max** midsole consists of two separate layers, the top for comfort and the second layer made of harder density for structure and support. Available in sizes 8-14 and medium and wide widths, the suggested retail is \$149.95.



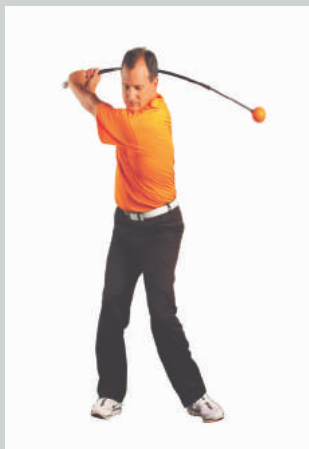
Glove Ride

What to do with your wet and sweaty glove after or during your round? **Glove Ride** is the answer.

The Glove Ride is a new golf accessory that attaches to your golf bag with a carabiner. It has a Velcro strip adhered to a rubber pad which your glove(s) (up to 3) can attach, allowing them to dry naturally, keep their shape and have easy accessibility. To add to its hybrid function it also carries your favorite poker chip ball marker.

Glove Ride is a handy accessory for every golfer, and it makes an ideal and economical tee gift. You can logo both sides of the poker chip and the rubber pad can take a logo as well. Three different logos for three different sponsors if you wish! One size fits all, and it is something that all golfers would benefit from as it keeps your glove dry as you travel from hole to hole and a perfect way to store your glove for the next round.

For more information and how to include the Glove Ride in your next event; contact Dave Honeywell, 802-583 4653, dave_golfhouse@madriver.com



Orange Whip Trainer

Orange Whip Golf is the leader in the golf training aid category and the Orange Whip Trainer has been voted the #1 Teaching and Training Aid by PGA and LPGA Professionals for the past 5 years. It's also used by over 300 Tour Professionals worldwide to increase and maintain flexibility and increase the strength of your golf muscles.

Whether you are a Tour Player or a beginning golfer, using the Orange Whip Swing Trainer allows you to feel if your

swing is in Rhythm and Balanced. Providing a low impact workout, the Trainer will increase your flexibility and strengthen your golf muscles. It is the perfect warm-up tool before you play, practice, and for off-season training.

The Orange Whip is available in Full-Size, Mid-Size, Compact, Junior, Wedge, Putter, and LightSpeed models. Visit OrangeWhipGolf.com for more information.

Scheyden Aviator Sunglasses



Scheyden Precision Eyewear showcases their new golf-specific frames, the 'Confidence In Action,' or "CIA," at the 2019 PGA Merchandise Show. Many that

have played a round using the sunglasses are blown away by the optical clarity and tinted lenses that actually accentuate one's read of the greens. The golf-specific 'CIA' is handmade in Japan and features a feather-light, incredibly strong, titanium frame with a high definition lens. The lens is a decentered eight base, 33% Light Transmission wrap. This lens that actually appears to brighten and sharpen your vision on the golf course, yet still provides 100% UVA and UVB 400nm protection. The LT33 lenses are top drill mounted eliminating 60% of the lower frame and allowing for an unobstructed view while addressing the ball. The frame also includes adjustable, oversized, soft, tacky, silicone nose pads that will keep the frames comfortably in place during the most powerful of golf swings.

For more information regarding Scheyden Precision Eyewear or to purchase products visit www.scheyden.com or call (714) 843-1975.

Maximizing your Mobility

Golf is a sport that requires a great deal of mobility both for increased performance and decreased risk of injury. Many of us are amazed by just how much professional golfers can showcase their inner Gumby when performing their golf swings and getting into certain positions, but what they're capable of doing isn't some lucky coincidence. Their mobility is the result of swinging a club millions of times over their lifetime, as well as core strength and flexibility work. While people are born with a natural amount of flexibility, that tends to decrease in most of us as we spend more and more time at a desk throughout our lives. Luckily with the right techniques and exercise selection, just about anyone can improve their flexibility.

But there's a difference between having FLEXIBILITY and having MOBILITY. The other half of the equation is that once you create flexibility, you need the strength to be able to pull your body into the positions that you want it to get to in order to create MOBILITY.

There is a never-ending variety of exercises that you can do to help build that strength, often with bands, body weight, or very light weights, that will allow you to get the most out of your new-found level of flexibility. With that being said, rather than taking a shotgun approach to picking your stretches and strengthening exercises, it would benefit you to have a screening done by a physical therapist or TPI fitness specialist to get an idea of where your problem areas are and what to do to reap the greatest benefits. Then with just a little consistency in your regimen you'll be able to swing away with greater ease and less pain than ever!

Steve Zarriello is the owner of Olympia Fitness and Performance, located in Cranston, RI. He has been training clients of all different ages, abilities and backgrounds to help them reach their specific goals for 10 years. His primary focus is on working with golfers to help improve their ability to play the game and keep them pain free.

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Alpine Country Club



Alpine Country Club in Cranston, RI not only has one of the most storied golf courses and golf facilities in Rhode Island, but also is home to some of the finest PGA professional staff.

With one of the top short game areas in the state, driving range, and simulator, Alpine provides an atmosphere that encourages your game improvement. In addition to lessons, our professional staff can take our member's games to the next level by fitting them exactly with the clubs they need with TrackMan, Sam Putting Lab, and additional technology.

Alpine Country Club also has a fully stocked golf shop with a national and local PGA award winning merchandiser that provides

our membership with the best line of products for the whole family.

Alpine welcomes back renowned local chef Mario Santilli for another wonderful year of gourmet dishes, comfort food, and the best country club food around!

We bring you in for the golf and food and keep you here with an amazing member experience and the comradery of our membership. Contact Alpine today to set up a golf lesson, outing, or contact us about being part of the Alpine family with a golf membership

For information about becoming a member at the Alpine, contact our General Manager Joshua Bennett today. (401) 943-2670 x21 jbennett@alpinecc.com.

Continued from Page 9

As if the sale of the two courses was not enough, the RIGA also became indirectly involved in politics, fighting a proposal made by Gov. Gina Raimondo to impose a seven percent tax on memberships in clubs in the state, not just golf courses but the YMCA, boat clubs or any such activity. For a golfer who spends \$5,000 year in golf memberships, that would mean an extra \$350 a year.

To this point, the measure has not been passed. Appearances are that it will not become law in its present form, at least not this year. "It was one of the craziest winters since I've been associated with the association," Ward said. "So many things happened."

As the new season begins, much of the focus shifts to what shapes up as one of the most interesting State Amateurs

in years. The 114th Amateur will be held at the impressive Shelter Harbor Club on the Westerly-Charlestown line. The facility is as spectacular as any golf club in the state with huge practice areas, a glittering clubhouse and terrific vistas throughout. It will be the first multi-day event at the 14-year-old course built on 400 acres. Golf Digest has ranked it the 63rd best modern course in the country.

That, too, has brought in some extra work for the RIGA_ in this case pleasant work. If more players than usual apply to compete, plans have been made to add another qualifier to the usual three held each year.

Paul Kenyon is a retired sports writer for the Providence Journal and writes a R.I. Notebook column in each issue of SNE Golfer.

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Also at Harbour Indoor Golf Center, 100 Federal Way, Johnston, RI (Nov-Apr)

RIGCSA Has Awarded \$350,000 in Scholarships

The Rhode Island Golf course Superintendents Association has had a long history of providing scholarships and research grants to universities and university students. Founded and conceptualized in 1983 by then President John Streeter it was the goal of the association to assist not only our profession but to provide financial assistance to students at accredited universities.

The original annual tournament which is the main fundraiser was held at Valley Country Club where John Streeter was superintendent. Some of the individuals responsible for the start-up include Mark Richard, Richard Lombardi, Joe Ray, Don Silven, Jim Piquette Mike Iacono, Vin Iacono and John Lensing as well as, continued support from board and committee members over the years.

The initial three years was a learning process for the concept but in the fourth year this worthy undertaking took off and has continued to this day. To date, the fund has given close to \$350,000 in scholarships.

The RIGCSA annually awards scholarships and research grants under the following criteria:



Scholarship recipients in attendance at the RIGCSA Annual Meeting held on January 22, 2019: Sophia Felicetti, David Mihailides and Emily Tibbels with Scholarship & Research Committee Chairman Mark Richard, CGCS.

1. The C.R. Skogley Memorial scholarship, named for the renowned URI turfgrass scientist, professor and innovator, is awarded to a University of Rhode Island turfgrass management student.
2. An employee of a RIGCSA member who is enrolled in an accredited turfgrass

- management university program.
3. RIGCSA member children and grandchildren who are attending accredited university studies either in turf management or other degree pursuits.
4. The Ryan Reynolds Legacy Award began in 2005. The Rhode Island Golf Course

Superintendents Association awarded \$20,000 in scholarships for the year 2019 to the following students. Each student received a scholarship of \$2,000.00.

RIGCSA Scholarship Recipients:

Colleen Callahan
University of Virginia
Lily Chalifour
Eastern Connecticut State University
Emma Daly
University of Vermont
Sophia Felicetti
Johnson & Wales University
Ashley Marino
Roger Williams University
Kaitlin McLeod
Quinnipiac University
David G. Mihailides
University of Rhode Island
Emily Tibbels
Plymouth State University
Ryan Reynolds Legacy Scholarship
Emma Colombo

University of Massachusetts- Amherst
 The C. Richard Skogley Memorial Scholarship was awarded at the RIGCSA March meeting to Ryan Restivo. Ryan is a senior in the Turfgrass Management program at the University of Rhode Island.

PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Championship Now Accepting Applications

36th Annual Event Expected to Attract More Than 3,000 Golfers From Across the Globe. Over 1,600 people had already signed up as of April 10.

The 36th annual PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Handicap Championship began accepting entries on March 13. A 72-hole, net stroke play tournament, the World Am will be played August 26-30 on 60 of Myrtle Beach's best courses. More than 3,000 players from across America and more than 20 countries are again expected to participate in golf's largest single-site tournament.

Early entry into the event, which includes at least four rounds of golf, nightly admission to the World's Largest 19th Hole and a gift bag, is \$535 through May 16, a \$100 savings off the regular cost. The tournament, which flights players based on age, gender and handicap, is open to all golfers 17 years of age and older.

"The PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Handicap Championship is golf's greatest amateur tournament, and we are looking forward to year 36 being the best event yet," tournament director Scott Tomasello said. "Myrtle Beach is the only destination capable of hosting a 3,000-player tournament, and we can't wait to welcome golfers from across America and the world to the area."

The World Am flights players into nine divisions – men 49 and under, senior men (50-59), mid-senior men (60-69), super senior men (70-79), seasoned seniors (80+), women 49 and under, the gross division, senior (50+) gross division. There is also a "Just For Fun" flight, created for players who want to enjoy the World Am experience without the pressure of competition.

After four days of competition, all flight winners and ties advance to the World Championship Playoff, an 18-hole shootout that crowns the

event's winner.

While the competition is initially what lures players to the bucket list event, it's only part of what keeps them coming back. At the heart of the World Am's appeal is the camaraderie among its participants and much of that kinship is fostered at the World's Largest 19th Hole.

Each night of the event, the 19th Hole overtakes all 120,000-square feet of the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, providing participants with free food and drinks, live entertainment, celebrity guest appearances, a golf expo and more. Among the big names that have appeared at the 19th Hole in recent years are David Feherty, Brandel Chamblee, Charlie Rymer and John Daly.

Players will also receive a gift bag that includes a Chase 54 polo, a pullover, a logo'd hat, a PGA Tour Superstore gift card and an assortment of other goodies. For more information, visit [www.](http://www.PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com)

MyrtleBeachWorldAmateur.com.

Editor's Note:

I will be playing in the World Amateur again this year. It will be my 15th tournament and it is something that I look forward to every year. The wonderful people that you meet is even better than the great courses that you will play. Also, it's the only real chance that this old guy gets to play competitive golf with people who all have the same handicap as I. If you would like to more about the event you can call me at 401-464-8445.

In June SNE Golfer will not only be going completely digital. Our website and the SNE Golfer publication will be getting a complete makeover.

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Rochester, N.Y. is a Premier golfing destination

For a modest city adorning the southern shore of Lake Ontario in western New York, Rochester has long stood as one of America's most avid golfing cities, steeped in the game's history and traditions. The seven-county area that makes up the Rochester District Golf Association (RDGA) — extending up to Lake Ontario, down into the Finger Lakes region, and midway to both Buffalo and Syracuse — boasts 66 golf courses, about half of which are accessible for public play.

RDGA Executive Director Tim Vangellow said the quality of golf in Rochester extends from the most exclusive private clubs to the least expensive public facilities. "Golf really

keeps us at the center of the golf world. Golf in Rochester is a very big deal and we are blessed with a strong local golf community."

One of golf course architecture's most legendary figures, Donald Ross, designed more than half-dozen around the Rochester area, including both layouts at Oak Hill, the Country Club of Rochester, Monroe GC, Irondequoit CC and Brook-Lea CC, which hosts an annual Symetra Tour event, the Danielle Downey Classic.

"We have a pretty amazing collection of Donald Ross designs that are very close together, all within 20 minutes of each other," Vangellow said. "That's one of the nice things about Rochester. We don't have the bad traffic jams or huge



The Links at Greystone

is the major sport here in Rochester," Vangellow said. "You can play high-quality courses in Rochester for an affordable price. The number of options and affordable courses that are available make this a great place to play golf."

Rochester will enjoy golf's spotlight again this year, when one of the game's major events, the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, returns to venerable Oak Hill Country Club from May 21-26.

In 2023, the PGA Championship will be contested at Oak Hill for the fourth time. "Having Oak Hill in Rochester, we have major golf events seemingly every decade or more," said Vangellow, who has served as RDGA executive director for the past eight years. "That

long distances. Everything is quite easy to get to and very convenient."

Among a very small sampling of the most memorable and highly regarded public access golf layouts around Rochester are The Links at Greystone, Ravenwood Golf Club, Shadow Lake and Mill Creek. "But I can't stress enough that the list goes on and on," Vangellow said. "The vast number of really great, high-quality daily fee courses we have in the area is what sets Rochester apart from other golf destinations." Learn more about Rochester golf and playing options at VisitRochester.com/golf.

Editor's Note: SNE Golfer will be visiting Rochester this summer for a story.

Inaugural Kissimmee Family Golf Classic Scheduled June 20-23

With a star-studded golf course lineup and an idyllic host destination, the first annual Kissimmee Family Golf Classic will be played June 20-23, 2019. The 54-hole, team scramble event is open to any combination of family members and will be a celebration of the bonds the game helps create.

Cost of entry is \$799 for a team of four. Tournament rounds will be played at the Nicklaus and Watson courses at Reunion Resort, one of Florida's premier golf facilities, and Celebration Golf Club, an unforgettable co-design of industry legends, Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Sr.

Entry also includes a VIP welcome gift package, breakfast and lunch each day at the tournament, and on-course contests.

"Kissimmee has so much to offer as both a golf and family vacation destination, the decision to launch this tournament was a natural one," said John Poole, Executive Director, Experience Kissimmee. "Golf and family are inextricably linked for so many players. It's a multi-generational game, allowing for special time spent with parents, grandparents, and children in a fun, stress-free environment."

The schedule of events for the Kissimmee Family Golf Classic:

June 20: Welcome Reception

June 21: Nicklaus Course at Reunion Resort, 8:30 a.m.

June 22: Watson Course at Reunion Resort, 8:30 a.m.

June 23: Celebration Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.

Closing Ceremonies/Farewell Awards Reception will be held at 1:30 p.m. on June 23.

Reunion Resort features three award-winning golf courses and the brand-new Nicklaus Clubhouse. It is the only place in the world where players can test their skills on signature-designed courses by Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, and Tom Watson. The Nicklaus and Watson layouts will be hosting the Kissimmee Family Golf Classic, allowing tournament participants to enjoy nationally-acclaimed courses.

The Nicklaus Course, featuring a new state-of-the-art clubhouse, is a Parkland-style layout that is smooth and flowing with long horizon lines and elevated tee boxes and greens. It can be as deceptive as it is beautiful. An eight-time major champion, Tom Watson's layout at Reunion is one of his finest architectural works. The layout, a Top 100 Resort Course, showcases wide fairways and large undulating greens,

placing a premium on creativity.

"This is the first year of this event, and we believe it will grow quickly," said Kevin Baker, General Manager of Reunion Resort. "The quality of golf, value, and beautiful weather will make the Kissimmee Family Golf Classic a favorite destination event."

Celebration Golf Club has been ranked among the top 25 family golf courses in the U.S. and has drawn rave reviews for both the quality of its design and its commitment to customer service. Among the six sets of tees at Celebration are four between the 5,958 and 6,817 yards, helping ensure an enjoyable challenge for players of all skill levels.

"Families from around the world visit Kissimmee to enjoy its close proximity to legendary attractions. Plus, the value they receive at our area resorts, hotels, and restaurants is unmatched," said John Bixler, General Manager of Celebration Golf Club who added, "The Kissimmee Family Golf Classic will combine all those elements in a tournament that will place equal emphasis on fun and competition."

Kissimmee is a one-of-a-kind sunny golf and vacation destination, providing easy-access to world-famous theme parks, incredible outdoor adventures, and renowned cuisine. With an average high temperature of 73 degrees, January is an idyllic time for a golf getaway.

More information about the Kissimmee Family Golf Classic is available at www.kissimmeefamilygolfclassic.com

For advertising

information

visit our

website www.snegolfer.com.

Or call 401-

464-8445

Homewood Suites Package Helps Drive Daytona Beach's Golf Offerings

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. -- Daytona Beach is well-known for its white sand beaches, family vacations, and its reputation as the World Center of Speed, but golf is an increasingly vital part of the Central Florida oasis.

The area's popularity as a golf destination is enhanced by the package offerings of Homewood Suites, which is perfectly-equipped to host a foursome or two taking a golf buddies' trip. The hotel offers studio and two-bedroom suites along with a complimentary, hot breakfast buffet each morning and cocktail hours each evening from Monday through Thursday.

Packages at Homewood Suites, located directly across from Daytona International Speedway, start at \$348 per person for a three-night and three-round offer. The courses available in the package include: The

Hills Course at LPGA International that was designed by Arthur Hills in 1997 and stretches out to 6,894 yards from the back tees. Hills created a layout with pine tree-lined fairways bordered by water hazards and marshland with small greens. There are five sets of men's tees at the Hills Course along with three sets of women's tees. It will be a challenge no matter which tees are chosen.

Also included is DeBary Golf & Country Club has been a U.S. Open qualifying site three times and been a U.S. Senior Open qualifying site, a testament to the quality of the layout. Designed in 1990 by Lloyd Clifton, DeBary was created from land that was once an orange grove and runs through a residential community. However, on most holes, houses are hidden by a buffer of trees and vegetation. DeBary plays 6,776 yards

from the back tees.

The third course is Halifax Plantation Golf Club in nearby Ormond Beach was designed by Bill Amick in 1993. It plays through corridors of oak trees more than 100 years old intermingled with native pines. It's a hefty 7,128 yards from the championship tees but there are four sets of men's tees and two sets of women's tees from which players at every handicap level can find a comfortable yardage.

Homewood Suites enjoys an ideal location – it's just yards from ONE DAYTONA, the area's newest retail, dining and entertainment complex – making it an ideal spot for golf groups looking to have a good time on and off the course.

For more information on a Daytona Beach golf trip, visit <https://www.daytonabeach.com/things-to-do/golf/>.

Visit SNEgolfer online and sign-up to receive our two (2) web Issues of SNE Golfer this winter.

You can read the issues at snegolfer.com or have the issues delivered to your inbox.



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RHODE ISLAND COURSES

- 1. BEAVER RIVER G.C. (18) P**
343 Kingstown Rd. Richmond, RI, 401-539-2100 www.beaverrivergolf.com, PS,CR,CH,SB,O
- 2. BUTTON HOLE SHORT COURSE (9) P, X**
1 Button Hole Dr. Providence, RI, 401-421-1664 www.buttonhole.org, CL,CH,DR,PS, Lessons
- 3. COUNTRY VIEW G.C. (18) P**
49 Club Lane Burrillville, RI, 401-568-7157 www.countryviewgolf.net, CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 4. COVENTRY PINES G.C. (9) P**
1065 Harkney Hill Rd. Coventry, RI 401-397-9482 www.coventrypin.es.com CR,CH,CL,SB,DR
- 5. CRANSTON C.C. (18) P**
69 Burlingame Rd. Cranston, RI, 401-826-1683 www.cranstoncc.com, CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 6. CRYSTAL LAKE G.C. (18) SP**
100 Bronco's Hwy. Mapleville RI 401-567-4500 www.crystallakegolfclub.com CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 7. EXETER C.C. (18) SP**
320 Victory Hwy. (Rt.102) Exeter, RI 401-295-8212 www.exetercc.com CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 8. FAIRLAWN GOLF COURSE (9) P, X**
3 Sherman Ave. Lincoln, RI 401-334-3937 www.fairlawngolfcourse.com CR,CL,CH,SB,O
- 9. FOSTER COUNTRY CLUB (18) P**
67 Johnson Rd. Foster, RI, 401-397-7750 www.fostercountryclub.com, CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 10. HARBOR LIGHTS MARINA & C.C. (9) P**
150 Gray St. Warwick, RI, 401-737-6353 www.HarborLightsRI.com, CR,CL,PS,DR,CH,O
Restaurant, Leagues
- 11. JAMESTOWN G.C. (9) P**
245 Conanicus Ave. Jamestown, RI, 401-423-9930 www.jamestowngolf.com CR,CL,CH,SB
- 12. KINGS CROSSING G.C. (9) P**
655 Old Baptist Rd. N. Kingstown, RI, 401-294-2872, www.kingscrossinggolfclub.com CR,PS,CH,O
- 13. LAUREL LANE C.C. (18) P**
Laurel Lane, off Rt.138, W. Kingston, RI 401-783-3844, www.laurellanecountryclub.com CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 14. MIDVILLE COUNTRY CLUB (9) P**
100 Lombardi Ln. W. Warwick, RI, 401-828-9215 www.midvillegolfclub.com, CR,CL,PS,CH
- 15. NEWPORT NATIONAL G.C. (18) SP**
324 Mitchells Ln. Middletown, RI, 401-848-9690 www.newportnational.com, CR,CL,PS,SB,O
- 16. NORTH KINGSTOWN G.C. (18) P**
615 Callahan Rd. No. Kingstown, RI, 401-294-0684, www.nkcg.com, DR,PS,CR,CL,CH,O
Dan's Tavern on the Green
- 17. PINECREST GOLF CLUB (9) P**
25 Pinehurst Dr. Richmond, RI, 401-364-8600 www.pinecrestri.com CR,CL,CH,SB,O, Leagues

- 18. RICHMOND C.C. (18) SP**
Sandy Pond Rd. Richmond, RI 401-364-9200 www.richmondcountryclub.net CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 19. ROSE HILL GOLF CLUB (9) P, X**
222 Rose Hill Rd. So. Kingstown, RI, 401-788-1088, www.rosehillri.com CR,CL,CH,SB, Leagues
- 20. TRIGGS MEMORIAL G.C. (18) P**
Chalkstone Ave. Providence, RI 401-521-8460, www.triggs.us, CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 21. WINDMILL HILL G.C. (9) X**
35 Schoolhouse Rd. (off Rt 136) Warren, RI 401-245-1463, www.windmillgolfri.com CR,CL,CH,O, Restaurant
- 22. WINNAPAU G.C. (18) P**
184 Shore Rd. (Rt. 1A) Westerly, RI 401-596-1237 www.winnapaugcountryclub.com CR,CL,CH,DR,SB,O
- 23. WOOD RIVER GOLF (18) P**
78 Woodville-Alton Rd. Hope Valley, RI, 401-364-0700, www.woodrivergolf.com, CR,CH,SB,O

RHODE ISLAND DRIVING RANGES

- A. BUTTON HOLE LEARNING CENTER**
1 Button Hole Dr. Providence, RI 401-421-1664 www.buttonhole.org, target greens, 2 putting greens, lessons
- B. IRON WOODS GOLF PRACTICE CENTER**
1081 Iron Hill Mine Rd. (off Rt.146) N. Smithfield, RI, 401-766-1151, www.iwgolf.com, putting greens, grass tees, covered area, bunker, lessons, repairs
- C. MULLIGAN'S ISLAND GOLF & ENTERTAINMENT (9) X**
1000 New London Ave. (Rt 2) Cranston, RI 401-464-8855, www.mulligansisland.com
60 stall driving range, covered area, batting cages, mini-golf, par 3 course, 18-hole pitch and putt, PGA Golf Academy, **Spargo Golf** on premises, club fitting and repairs

MASSACHUSETTS COURSES

- 24. BAY POINT CLUB (18) SP**
Bay Pointe Dr. Onset, MA 508-759-8802 www.baypointclub.com PS,CR,CL,DR,O,SB
- 25. BLACKSTONE NATIONAL G.C. (18) SP**
227 Putnam Hill Rd. Sutton, MA, 508-865-2111 www.bngc.net, CR,CL,CH,PS,O,DR
- 26. BLISSFUL MEADOWS G.C. (18) SP**
801 Chocalog Rd. Uxbridge, MA, 508-278-6110 www.blissfulmeadows.com, CR,CL,CH,DR,PS,O
- 27. BUNGAY BROOK G.C. (9) P**
30 Locust St. Bellingham, MA, 508-883-1600 www.bungaybrook.com, CR,CL,DR,PS,CH,O
- 28. CAPTAINS COURSE (36) P**
1000 Freemans Way, Brewster, MA, 508-896-1716 www.captainsgolfcourse.com CR,CL,CH,PS,O
- 29. CHEMAWA GOLF COURSE (18) P**
350 Cushman Rd. N. Attleboro, MA, 508-399-7330, <http://chemawagolf.com> CR,CH,O,CL
- 30. EASTON C.C. (18) SP**
265 Purchase St. Easton, MA 508-238-2500, www.eastoncountryclub.com CR,CL,PS,CH,DR,O
- 31. HAZELTON GC (18) P**
329 Summer St. Rehoboth, MA 508-557-1856 www.hazeltongolfclub.com CR,PS,CH,O
- 32. HILLSIDE CC (9) P**
82 Hillside Ave. Rehoboth, MA 508-252-9761 www.hillsidecountryclub.com Sauna, Pool, Courts,CR,CL,CH,Tiki Bar,O, Lessons
- 33. JOHN E. PARKER MUNI. G.C. (9) P**
17 Fisher St. Taunton, MA, 508-822-1797 CR,DR,CH,SB, Skins Thurs. at 3:45
- 34. JUNIPER HILL G.C. (36) P**
202 Brigham St. Northboro, MA, 508-393-2444 www.juniperhillgc.com, CR,CL,PS,CH,SB,O
- 35. MAPLEGATE COUNTRY CLUB (18) SP**
160 Maple St. Bellingham, MA, 508-966-4040 www.maplegate.com, CR,CL,PS,CH
- 36. THE LINKS AT MASS GOLF (18) P, X**
300 W. Maine Rd. (Rt 123) Norton, MA 508-222-0555, www.linksatmassgolf.org CL,PS,CH,SB,O
- 37. NORTON COUNTRY CLUB (18) SP**
188 Oak St. Norton, MA, 508-285-2400 www.nortoncountryclub.com, CR,CL,CH,SB,O
- 38. OLDE SCOTLAND LINKS (18) P**
695 Pine St. Bridgewater, MA, 508-279-3344 www.oldsotlandlinks.com, CR,CL,SB,DR,O
- 39. PINE OAKS G.C. (9) P**
68 Prospect St., S. Easton, MA, 508-238-2320 www.pineoaks.com, CR,CL,CH,O
Retail Store
- 40. REHOBOTH C.C. (18) P**
155 Perryville Rd Rehoboth, MA, 508-252-6259 www.rehobothcountryclub.com, CR,CH,PS,O
- 41. SHAKER HILLS G.C. (18) P**
146 Shaker Rd. Harvard, MA, 978-772-3330 www.shakerhills.com CR,CL,CH,PS,O
- 42. SHINING ROCK G.C. (18) SP**
91 Clubhouse Way, Northbridge, MA, 508-234-0400, www.shiningrock.com, CR,CL,CH,PS,O
- 43. WENTWORTH HILLS G.C. (18) SP**
27 Bow St. Plainville, MA, 508-316-0240 www.wentworthhillsgc.com, CR,CL,CH,PS,O

MASSACHUSETTS RANGES

- D. ATLANTIC DRIVING RANGE/ SHADOWBROOK (9) X**
754 Newport Ave. So. Attleboro, MA, 508-761-5484, www.atlanticgolfcenter.com, heated tees, retail shop, mini golf, chip and putt
- E. STIX GOLF & BASEBALL FUN CENTER**
582 Kelley Blvd., No. Attleboro, MA 508-695-0091, www.stixfuncenter.com, TrueStrike golf mats, grass tees, minigolf, batting cages, putting green, bunker, lessons

CONNECTICUT COURSES

- 44. AIRWAYS G.C. (18) P**
1070 S. Grand St., W. Suffield, CT 860-668-4973, www.airwaysgolf.com CR,CL,CH,SB,O
- 45. ELMRIDGE GOLF CLUB (27) P**
229 Elmridge Rd. Pawcatuck, CT, 860-599-2248 www.elmridgegolf.com, CR,CL,DR,PS,CH,O
- 46. FOX HOPYARD (18) SP**
1 Hopyard Rd. East Haddam, CT 860-434-6644, www.golfthefox.com CR,CL,CH,PS,DR,O
- 47. LAKE OF ISLES C.C. (18) P**
Foxwoods Casino, Mashantucket, CT, 860-312-3636, www.lakeofisles.com CR,CL,PS,SB,Rest.,O, Golf School
- 48. MOHEGAN SUN GOLF CLUB (18) P**
7 Dows Ln. Baltic, CT 860-862-9230 www.mohegansungolfclub.com CR,CL,PS,CH golf packages, Lessons
- 49. PORTLAND GOLF CLUB (18) P**
169 Bartlett St. Portland, CT 860-342-6107 www.portlandgolfclub.com CR,CL,PS,O, Rest.
- 50. QUARRY RIDGE GOLF CLUB (18) SP**
9A Rose Hill Rd. Portland, CT 860-342-6113 www.quarryridge.com CR,CL,CH,PS,O riding only
- 51. RIVER RIDGE GOLF CLUB (18) P**
259 Preston Rd. Griswold, CT 860-376-3268, www.riverridgegolf.com CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 52. SHENNECOSSETT G.C. (18) P**
93 Plant St. Groton, CT, 860-448-1867 www.shennygolf.com CR,CL,CH,PS,Rest.,O
- 53. SKUNGAMAUG RIVER G.C. (18) SP**
104 Folly Ln., Coventry, CT, 860-742-9348 www.skungamauggolf.com, CR,CL,CH,PS,O

MAP KEY

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| () = Holes | PS = Pro Shop |
| P = Public | CH = Clubhouse |
| SP = Semi Private | O = Outings |
| X = Executive | SB = Snack Bar |
| CR = Cart Rental | CL = Club Rental |
| DR = Driving Range | |

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SNE GOLFER LOCATOR MAP



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5th Annual RI Children's Golf Course Home Fundraising Tournament is Scheduled for June 22nd

The 5th Annual RI Children's Golf Course Home Fundraising Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, June 22 at Coventry Pines Golf Course. Open to players of all ages and skill levels, the event is a nine hole, four-person Scramble followed by a barbeque lunch. There is also a Women's Division. Tee times are available throughout the day. \$40 per person, \$50 with cart.

All proceeds will play a huge role in helping to improve the quality of the Children's Instructional Programs, add After-School activities, upgrade the Youth Practice Area and continue the mission here in Rhode Island.

The RI Children's Golf Course is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit (EIN 46-4514409) dedicated to providing educational programs and activities where disadvantaged families, at risk youth, children with life threatening illnesses and young people from all

walks of life have the opportunity to learn good values, healthy habits and character building skills through the game of golf.

They have joined the First Tee LINK Program and have partnered with the Children's Wishes Group of Rhode Island that grants Wishes to Rhode Island children who are facing life-threatening medical conditions that are malignant, degenerative or progressive.

In addition to the Saturday Junior Clinics, Summer Youth Instructional Leagues and Day Camps, there will be a Thursday afternoon Junior Pro League for more experienced players.

For questions about the programs or more information, please call/text 401-215-0776, email djmcbmcb@gmail.com or visit our website: <http://www.richildrengolfcourse.com>

Name the Hole!



Name the Hole Above and Win a 2019 Season Passport. Email answers only to bruce@snegolfer.com. Winner will be recognized in the June 2019 issue.



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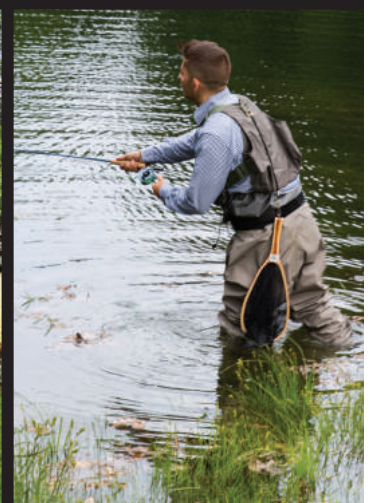


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* For J.D. Power 2018 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards.

** Discounts not available in all states.





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