



CORONAVIRUS

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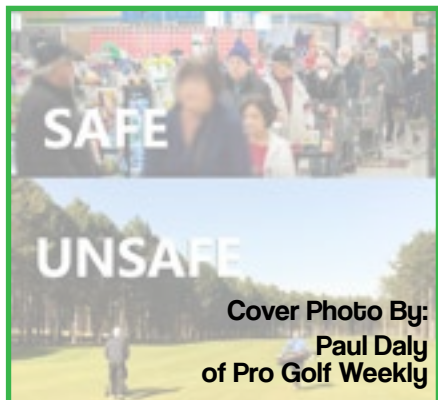
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by Bruce Vittner

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editorial

Welcome to our first issue of 2020. We apologize for not doing the May issue. With all the things that were going on with the Coronavirus pandemic, courses not being open and having no money for advertising, it just didn't make sense. The May issue is the first one that was planned that wasn't done since 1994.

Back to the positive. We think you will really enjoy this issue. It is crammed full with good stories, albeit not many golf tournament results. Who could ever imagine something like this happening in the United States and yes, around the entire globe? We have been hard on some of our politicians, but honestly they are just trying to do the best they can to keep everyone healthy and alive.

Missing golf tournament's on television and in person is something that is really affecting this reporter. Guess it has been my life for too long. But, the story on the next page is honestly the truth. I don't think I've ever had more fun watching a golf match. It is the first time in 21 years that we won't see a CVS Health event.

We welcome some new folks to the staff at snegolfer.com. Rob Arel, owner of Blackdoor Creative who has been handling our website since 2010 with the assistance of Stephanie Martineau are doing the layout. Jason Moroney did a fine job for five years, but he has become too busy. He will be missed.

Enjoy the publication. Keep your head down and swing easy. Also, stay safe and subscribe!

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

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4. Seminole
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7. Oakland Hills
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9. Olympic
10. Colonial

1. New Jersey
2. New York
3. Washington
4. Florida
5. Oregon
6. Florida
7. Michigan
8. Wisconsin
9. California
10. Texas

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Coronavirus Alters The World

Where were you when you first heard the term coronavirus? We were reading the paper in St. Augustine, Fla. while looking at the Atlantic Ocean in early February. This virus had started in China and there was talk that it could spread around the world. With today's modern medicines there was little to worry about, right? WRONG!

We went on with our lives, played golf in the warm sun of Florida and were looking forward to a river cruise up the Mississippi in early March. We flew to New Orleans on March 8, spent two days in that bustling city, including the crowds on Bourbon St., and then boarded the river boat.

It was near the end of the cruise when everything changed. Opryland emailed us to tell that our theater tickets were cancelled for St. Patrick's Day as they were closing for the foreseeable future. The riverboat announced that it was their last trip, and all employees had to leave the boat

to travel home, except a skeleton crew to bring the boat back to New Orleans. We scrambled to change our flight and got home on March 16.

The middle of March was when everyone was panicked about the coronavirus pandemic. Governors in Southern New England were faced with tons of decisions, even about golf. Was it safe to keep golf courses open? Could golfers keep their distance between players? Connecticut courses were closed for only two days, Rhode Island stayed open, then closed, then reopened again after a couple of weeks. Massachusetts was the last state in the country to open, causing much controversy.

Certainly golf isn't the main concern when choosing what is, and what isn't an essential business. Maybe some of us diehards think it is the most important activity, but it really is far down the list when thinking of the safety of the population.

Was it safe to keep open golf courses? Could golfers keep

their distance between players? What about touching golf carts, pins, ball washers, rakes in traps, bathrooms and port-a-potties? Connecticut courses were closed for only two days. They closed on March 25 and reopened on March 27 and remained open through the whole process, except for Fairfield County that is close to the major problems in New York and remained closed. Connecticut also allowed out-of-staters to come and play which helped the courses' revenue tremendously. Governor Ned Lamont has been praised by golfers and course owners alike for his stance on golfing in Connecticut.

Rhode Island courses stayed open when the pandemic hit in March, but severe limitations were put on players. The groups had to be social distancing, the tee times were fifteen minutes apart and the players had to walk. A short time later carts were allowed, but only with one rider unless the pair were from the same household. They then closed for a short

time, then reopened again with the approval of Governor Gina Raimondo. She has not allowed out-of-staters to play golf in Rhode Island, however, and that has caused several courses to see a huge drop in play.

Massachusetts was the last state to reopen its golf courses, much to the chagrin of golfers and club owners, many of whom had suggested mutiny. There was a larger-than-most-state proportion of coronavirus cases in Massachusetts, and Governor Charlie Baker, a non-golfer, felt that golf was not something that should be exempt from closing. Courses were closed the last week of March and didn't reopen until May 7. There was a great deal of controversy in Massachusetts. Massachusetts does allow out-of-staters to play in Mass., so that is helping at the present time.

Bruce Vittner is the publisher/ editor of snegolfer.com and can be reached at: bruce@snegolfer.com.

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A Tale of Two Televised Golf Matches

For those of us who were dying for any live golf event during the last three months (the last live event was the first round of The Players on March 12), television provided us with two matches, one on May 17 and one the following Sunday on May 24. One of the matches was quite blah, and one of them was GREAT.

We'll start with the first match. It pitted Rickie Fowler (most everyone's favorite with a great deal of charisma) and Matthew Wolff. Matthew Who you say? Matthew Wolff, a second year pro from the great golf factory of Oklahoma State University who has won one tournament.

Their opponents were Dustin Johnson and everyone's favorite, Rory McIlroy. Seemed like a lopsided match before it began. The reason that the four were chosen is that they all are sponsored by TaylorMade, and they were the principal sponsors for this Skins Game match.

The match was played at Seminole in Florida, one of the top private clubs in the country with a who's who membership. The course was wide open, and it needed to be as Wolff hit the ball very far, but often in very wrong directions. Dustin Johnson admitted that he had only practiced twice since the pandemic hit in mid-March. It showed.

McIlroy is the best driver of the ball of any Tour player and he showed it often, although Wolff won the long driving contest with a blast of 357 yards. Rickie Fowler was the best player that day as he birdied seven holes, but it wasn't enough. McIlroy had four birdies, Wolff three and Johnson, normally a birdie

machine, managed only one during the 18-hole match.

The match went down to the 18th, but neither team could win, as they were tied in skins. In fact McIlroy and Johnson had not won a skin since the sixth hole. The result was a closest to the pin contest on the par 3 17th. Wolff hit one of his best shots of the day that ended up 18 feet away, but McIlroy then put it 13 feet away to win the match. Ho-Hum.

To be honest, the day was rather blah. Yes, it was live television, but the banter was limited at the start, and almost non-existent the rest of the day. Seminole was beautiful, the Atlantic Ocean provided a great backdrop, but the excitement was not there. The skeleton crew were often seen in the background hustling to get in position for the next shots, and the players often had to wait while shots were set up.

The event raised \$5 million for COVID-19 assistance which is a wonderful thing. The players donated their winnings, and calls were coming in from fans around the country donating to this wonderful cause.

The next event was one week later and held at Medalist in Hobe Sound, Fla. Would this be another bust? It was outstanding! I know that because I got three phone calls as soon as it ended from my diehard golf buddies.

It didn't hurt that Tiger Woods was on one team and Phil Mickelson was on the other. What made it even greater was that Woods had retired football star Peyton Manning as a partner and the GOAT, Tom Brady was Mickelson's partner.

I think the format had a lot to do with the excitement of the

match. It was strictly match play and the format changed for each of the nines. The front nine saw everyone play their own ball as in a typical partners match, but on the back nine they played alternate shots which made it much more cerebral and much more pressure-packed for the quarterbacks. They even had one hole where they had to play the whole hole with one club. Tiger chose a four and Mickelson chose a six-iron. Both quarterbacks chose 7-iron, but the hole was tied.

Medalist is home for many of the top touring pros including Tiger Woods and Justin Thomas, who served as our roving reporter (although he only had to rove for one match). The weather was awful wet. The match was delayed a half hour, then it rained continually all day. The match would have been delayed more if they didn't have time constraints for the telecast.

All the players were mic'd up, and the conversations between players, opponents, outside callers, Charles Barkley (who served as celebrity announcer at the 18th, and Justin Thomas who followed the players all day was magical—truly must-see TV.

The purse for the match was \$10 million, and all four players agreed to donate their share to the COVID-19 charities. Tiger and Peyton won three of the first six holes. The best shot of the front nine was the shot that Brady hit on the seventh hole. Up until that point he had been hitting most shots sideways. He didn't even have his driver with him. He lost four balls on the front nine.

Barkley who had been making wisecracks right from the start of the match, and his

favorite target was Brady. "I want to challenge him even-up," said Barkley, who is known for an unusual golf game that is not very good. On one hole Barkley commented to Brady, "Hit it on the green and I'll donate \$50,000." Brady missed by a wide margin.

Brooks Koepka, the winner of three majors in two years, called in and said he would donate \$100,000 if Brady could make a par on the front side. On that seventh hole Brady hit his shot right into the palmetto bushes and had to take a drop. He hit his next shot (3rd) to within 137 yards of the green on this par 4 hole. His next shot was a high iron that landed two feet past the hole and spun back into the cup for par--\$100,000 from Koepka and it shut Barkley up as Brady said "Take that Chuck" to Barkley who was a little quieter for a couple of holes. Brady's team didn't win the hole, however, as Tiger lipped out a birdie putt from about 50 feet and then had a tap in.

Peyton Manning has game. We had seen him play at Willowbrook on Cape Cod in a charity event that was run by Paul Fireman for many years. He is very strong and hits it long, although with the very poor conditions and the pressure of playing with Tiger and Phil got to him quite a bit. Manning did make a birdie on the par 3 fourth by sinking a long putt.

Mickelson made some great putts and gave a wonderful explanation of what he was going to do with an uphill chip to a short-sided pin with a wet green—very cerebral and it went just like he said it would. Mickelson and Brady won the 11th

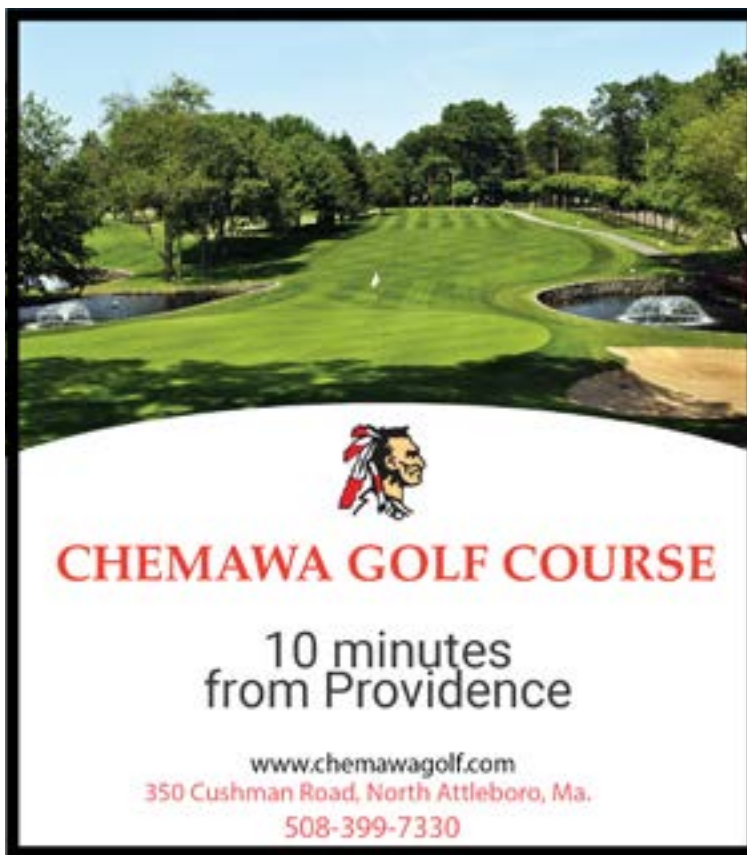


hole when Brady knocked in a putt from off the green for an eagle, and then they won the 14th when Manning missed a short putt.

Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson called in and was on the air for a few holes. On the par 3 sixteenth he offered to donate 100,000 meals for needy in the Seattle area for all who could get their tee shots within twelve feet of the pin. Brady hit it to eight feet, Mickelson to ten feet and then Manning hit it 17 inches from the cup. Tiger—well he hit to 18 feet and was the only one to not get the meals donated. The announcer said, “What would be the odds that Tiger would be furthest from the pin?”

The last two holes were tied, so Woods-Manning were 1-up winners. The real winners were the fans who turned in to watch (5 million was the figures used in the count day later) and the charities that would be benefiting from the even \$20 million that was raised from call-ins and corporate sponsors throughout the day.

How great is that, and how great was the entire production. Congratulations for raising all that money and providing us fans with a wonderful afternoon of watching golf that will stick in our memories long after we are back playing golf and enjoying life post-coronavirus. •



A Fun New Golf App

I recently came across a very interesting article that golf writer friend Gary Van Sickle wrote in the Morning Read, the excellent online golfing publication. Van Sickle's story was about a South African golf professional named Andrew Georgiou that had just created a new app called GolfPlayed.

GolfPlayed provides a thorough digital listing of global golf courses, categorized by country or, in America's case, by state. Simply go through the alphabetized listing of, say, Ohio, and click on the courses you played. Do that for every state and for every country and, bingo: GolfPlayed computes your number.

Georgiou is a South Africa native who played college golf at Columbus (Ga.) State University, where he was a three-time NCAA Division II All-American. He played on just about every known professional tour and qualified for the 2012 British Open. He's 34, semi-retired from tour play and looking for a different golf gig.

One day he was asked about the number of courses he had played in his lifetime, and Georgiou said he had no idea. “You're a pro golfer. You're basically living my dream, and you don't know where you've played?” his incredulous host asked.

Georgiou promised to figure it out. The famous courses he played were easy to remember: Augusta National, Pebble Beach, Cypress Point, Royal Lytham & St. Annes. However, he got stuck after his list grew to 100. He searched for an app or a

website for help. “The only things I could find were for GPS or handicaps, and I didn't care about those,” Georgiou said.

So, an idea for an app was born. So far, there are 30,000 members of GolfPlayed, which is free. Georgiou's goal is one million members and to use that database to turn it into a profitable business. A matching website is in the works.

The app does more than just list courses. You can list the players you played with, as well as post pictures, comments and scorecard info. The menu page on the app features a “map” option. Clicking on it gets you a map of the world, with red pins placed on every course you have played. You can change the colors of the flags to remember special occasions.

After reading the story I spent hours listing the courses that I have played in my lifetime. The number was over 200. It just means that I am old and spent way too much time playing golf. Oh, that's right, my late good friend Bill Henry's favorite saying was—“God does not subtract from your days on earth those days you spent on a golf course.”

Take a look at the website. I have a feeling that you will be hooked also. •

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

Subscribers Wanted

Since this publication went totally online in June of 2019 after 28 years of print, we have seen an excellent uptick in subscribers. We used to print 25,000 copies and delivery them to most all golf courses, driving ranges, golf stores and many grocery stores throughout Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. It was very tedious, back-breaking, time consuming and very expensive.

Being rather old and set in our ways, we thought that golfers would only read the printed publication and this is what advertisers wanted. We had seen many publications switch to online-only, but we had not gotten into the 21st century.

Finally when print costs continued to rise and the cost of delivery became higher, going online-only was the way to keep the publication afloat. Last June we published our first online-only issue. We didn't take three days to get the paper out

because everyone was able to see it the moment it was finished and went online. We didn't have to send a huge check to the printer. Also we did not have to pay our five delivery services.

What do you do when you are saving all this money? The first thing was to cut all the advertising rates in half. Advertisers were happy, and they became much happier when they saw the huge uptick in their business and we saw a huge open rate on our website.

One of the best things about online advertising is that each ad is linked right back to the advertiser's website. When you read the ad in a physical paper, you had to right down the telephone number and then dial the business when you got around to it. Not anymore. You see and ad on your cell phone, tablet or computer and can click right on the ad and the business' website appears. Book a tee time, order a takeout, buy

a product and many options are right at your fingertips.

I wish we had switched to online-only many years ago. I'd probably have more hair. Now the purpose of that large headline. We want and need more subscribers. Here is the link to our website—www.snegolfer.com and it will take you about 15 seconds to subscribe.

I promise that there will never be a charge for subscribing to our publication. We will not inundate your inbox with foolish emails. You will get each copy of the publication the moment it is finished. We are only planning two more issues this year because of all the problems, but we will send out occasional stories and good golfing information.

The more subscribers that we have the better the advertisers will feel about advertising, and the more activity they will see as a result

of their ads. You'll notice all of the many ads in this issue. Our advertisers have been hurt badly by this coronavirus pandemic, but they still saw the need to get their message out to our great readers.

My last request is to tell three of your good golfing friends to consider subscribing as well. I promise you that you will always find something worthwhile to read in every issue. As we did last year, we are going to be randomly picking names from new subscribers and offering them prizes such as balls, hats, rounds of golf and other items. We will announce the names of the winners in the July 25 issue.

Keep your head down and swing easy, and be safe.

Regards,
Bruce Vittner
Publisher/Editor

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Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association 2020 Scholarships

The Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association awarded \$19,800 in scholarships for the year 2020 to the following students. Each student received a scholarship of \$2,200.00.

RIGCSA Scholarship Recipients:

Hans P. Bengtson, Johnson & Wales University Christopher Bresnahan, University of Vermont Jillian M. Cabral, Bridgewater State University Cara Cummins, Roger Williams University Margaret Drohen, University of Massachusetts Adam Kroian, University of Rhode Island Jessica McLeod, Haverford College

Ryan Reynolds Legacy Scholarship:

Ashley Cromack, Montclair State University

The C. Richard Skogley Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Sydney Pellerin who is a student at the University of Rhode Island.

Each year the RIGCSA hosts a golf tournament in which all proceeds go into providing scholarships to deserving students and funding research at the University of Rhode Island. This year they will host their 38th Annual Scholarship and Research Tournament at Pine Brook Country Club on October 6, 2020.

If you would like more information or to contribute to this fund, please contact Julie Heston, RIGCSA Chapter Executive at (401) 934-7660, jheston@verizon.net or visit our website at www.rigcsa.org. •



Pictured from L-R: Back row: RIGCSA President – Michael Varkonyi; Hans Bengtson, Scholarship & Research Committee Chair – Mark Richard, CGCS Front row: Margaret Drohen, Jessica McLeod, Sydney Pellerin, Ashley Cromack, Cara Cummins

Find Your Distances

One of the most important lessons you could take is a Bag Mapping session. Bag Mapping is charting out your average carry and total distances with all the clubs in your bag. We will typically offer this service as part of a package of lessons that our students purchase through our Academy. This is also a service that is not rushed into, meaning I need to be convinced that you are first hitting the ball solid and then can demonstrate some clubface and club path control to get the proper distance potential based upon your clubhead speed.

We typically will select a 7-iron to start the process, and you will hit 20 full swing shots with all data being recorded with our TrackMan 4 launch monitor. We take out the 5 worst shots from the group and then take the

average of the remaining 15 shots in regard to carry and overall distance. This average indicates what you **SHOULD** be playing your distances at.

I know you may be saying to yourself that you can hit your 7-iron further than the average data shows. As that may be true on the occasional “perfect” shot, how many of those did you hit out of the 20 balls you were given to start with? If it was only a few, then its time to realize that golf IS a hard game and we don’t always hit perfect shots. In fact, we maybe only hit a few “perfect” shots in an entire round, with the majority of your shots being considered “mis-hits”.

When you mis-hit your shots, you will lose distance and accuracy and one of the main causes of mis-hits is not finding the center of the

clubface at the time of impact. This usually leads to distance losses anywhere from 5 up to 20 yards or more possibly!

If you are not sure if you are striking the center of the clubface, try spraying some foot powder on the face and hit some shots. I am willing to bet that not too many are in the middle of the clubface. Other factors contributing to distance loss are poor clubface control and poor ground contact. Once we have the data with the 7-iron, we will continue with various other clubs using the same method to determine a true average carry & overall distance chart that you can rely on.

Knowing the actual average carry and overall distance you hit your irons will be a huge advantage for your golf game. Club selection decisions will

be based more on reliable data averages rather than emotion. You will start to hit more greens in regulation rather than coming up short, or trying to get the maximum distance perfect shot by swinging out of your shoes because that is the distance you think you are supposed to hit it. And for that occasional “perfect” iron you just flushed over the green, enjoy a well hit golf shot as they don’t come along too often! I bet you will have more birdie putts by playing the averages!

If you are interested in a Bag Mapping session, please contact:

Todd Campbell
at the Golf Academy
Mulligan’s Island

toddcampbell@pga.com

508-951-4371

RISE STAR



Zac Blair

One of the touring pros who didn’t want 2020 to be disrupted. He had earned his PGA Tour card for 2019-2020 by finishing 12th at the Korn Ferry playoffs. His win at the Korn Ferry’s Ellie Mae Classic had earned him enough to get into the playoffs.

Blair’s 2019-2020 season had already earned him \$693,643 as he finished fourth at the Safeway Open last September, followed by 28th at Houston Open, then a tie for 14 in November. As 2020 began he finished tied for 21st at the Farmers Insurance event in January followed by a good week at Pebble Beach where he finished tied for 18th.

He is currently in 71st place in the standings for the Fed Ex Cup 301 points on earnings of \$693,343. His lifetime earnings on Tour are \$4,538,643.

Age: 29

Birthplace: St. George, Utah

Family: Married, wife Alicia

College: Brigham Young University

Turned Pro: 2014

How the RIGA is dealing with COVID-19

Bob Ward is in his 21st year working for the Rhode Island Golf Association, his 14th as the Executive Director, since taking over for Joe Sprague Jr. He'll be the first to admit that nothing in the past has prepared him for what the RIGA and golf in general has had to deal with this year. It's the same with almost every industry and every community; COVID-19 has been devastating to normal operations and everyday life in general.

"I'm not sure anyone has ever seen anything like what's happened this year," said Ward. "It's crazy, it's a little scary, it is unfortunate for what's going on, economically for everyone. For golf it is absolutely not the way anyone envisioned the season beginning."

While the virus is the elephant in the room, the RIGA's woes began in early March when its offices at Button Hole were ravaged by a fire. "On top of all this coronavirus situation that we're dealing with, we also are dealing with the fire," said Ward. "That's another layer on top of all this that has made this more difficult that anyone would want."

The staff had been working separately, from their respective homes, but in early June a temporary office was opened and will house the RIGA for the remainder of this golf season. "When the season ends," said Ward, "We'll work from home again until the Button Hole office is back and ready to go."

As with almost everything else, the virus has hurt the RIGA, but not to any great extent as far as membership is concerned. "We're down about 10 percent in membership," said Ward.

"I'm not sure if that's because some of the public course clubs have lost out of state members because they couldn't join yet. I'm hoping that once the out of state residency restriction gets lifted, that number will jump up a little bit. If we only lose 10 percent of our members, I think we'll have done pretty well considering the circumstances."

The RIGA is unique in that several of its member courses are not in Rhode Island. Some are just over the border in the neighboring states of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The non-resident restriction that RI Governor, Gina Raimondo, has had in place, really affected those club's members in addition to the out-of-staters who belong to clubs within R.I.

"It's the number one e-mail, phone call or text I get," said Ward. "It's very difficult to explain the whole situation to people who live a mile or even a half mile over the border, to rationalize that the governor of our state does not want out of state travel unless it's for work or essential business. Golf is recreation."

"I understand that the governor is trying her best to keep the virus from spreading, but out of state residents don't quite understand the rationale behind those types of decisions. It's definitely been the most difficult thing to deal with."

The RIGA schedule has been severely affected with the first third of the season postponed. "We've rescheduled everything so far," said Ward. "From early July until early October we are pretty jam packed and that's without any rainouts figured in. If we can get around 80 percent of our weeklies completed and our schedule in total, I think we'll have done very well for the year."

"It's just not financially feasible to rent 60 or 70 more golf carts every tournament to get 130 people around a golf course."

-BOB WARD

The season (particularly the weeklies) are scheduled to begin on June 15th, but they still are awaiting the decision to allow two to a cart and if that is not allowed, some if not all of the weeklies, women's and men's senior schedules may be canceled.

"It's just not financially feasible to rent 60 or 70 more golf carts every tournament to get 130 people around a golf course," Ward explained. "I'm sure most golf courses are not going to want 130 golf carts racing around their clubs. We really need to have two to a cart." Of course some people may object to riding two to a cart. If that happens they'll have the option of walking or receiving a 100 percent refund.

In addition to running its own set of tournaments each year, the RIGA also helps operate the Northeast Amateur at Wannamoisett in Rumford, and this year most likely would have been involved in the U.S. Senior Open that was scheduled for Newport Country Club. Both have been canceled.

The USGA would have handled most of the workload at Newport but the RIGA has a big hand in helping at the Northeast. "That's pretty much the story for the elite amateur circuit around the country," said Ward. "There are a couple that are holding out and hoping."

"Playing the golf tournament is the easy part. It's everything else you have to plug in, from having

kids travel, to housing, feeding, to figuring out if caddies will be allowed.”

And then there's the prospect that most states require a 14-day quarantine or a contestant happens to test positive. “If they do have to quarantine, who pays for them to stay?” Ward asked. “It's a pretty easy decision to pass this year and look to next year.”

Another victim of the virus is the New England Junior Invitational. “Maine has the 14- day quarantine though August,” said Ward. “So if they came down to play they would have to quarantine 14 days after they got here and then quarantine 14 more days after they went home. It didn't make any sense to run the tournament. It was a difficult decision and I hope all the parents and the kids understand why we did it.”

Each club has the option to modify its local rules regarding playing from bunkers. RIGA tournament rules will allow contestants, if they are in a lie that is abnormal (footprint for example), to lift the ball, smooth the area with their foot and replace the ball. Golf has always been a game of adaptation and adjustment. Never has that been more in play than the summer of 2020. •

* This column was written before June 1 when Governor Raimondo ended the restriction of out-of-staters playing golf in Rhode Island.

Tim Geary is a retired sportswriter for the Fall River Herald and writes a RI Notebook in snegolfer.com.

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Phil and Tiger are playing a match. Phil, as he occasionally wants to do, hits a ball way into the water. He sees the red line where he must drop, takes a new ball and drops it from shoulder height. Tiger says that is the wrong way and it is a penalty of one stroke. Is Tiger correct?

Calvino Ruling

Yes. The rule was recently changed to have your arm just hang down and drop it from about your knee. The reasoning behind this was to keep ball from rolling a long way from where it was dropped. Phil would be penalized one stroke for an improper drop.

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Many Uncertainties Lie Ahead for the Golf Industry

Golf courses are open everywhere in Southern New England and throughout the country. The PGA Tour will be resuming play this month at the Colonial in Ft. Worth, Texas. Everything is returning to normal in the sport of golf, right? Not so fast!

Yes, many things are starting to transition back to normal or, shall we say, the “new normal” following the Covid-19 crisis that virtually shut down planet Earth. But there are many uncertainties that lie ahead.

Take college sports, for example. While the NHL and NBA have finalized plans for a return this summer, we still do not know what will happen with NCAA sports this fall. And that makes life challenging for coaches throughout the country including URI Men’s Golf Coach Gregg Burke.

“I’ll never forget where I was when this whole thing started,” said Burke. “Our team was in Wilmington, North Carolina preparing for the start of our spring season when I saw on the news that New Rochelle, NY was being locked down because of an outbreak of the coronavirus.”

“My first thought was, I have to get my guys home,” he said. “I literally started counting in my head, North Carolina, Virginia, D.C., Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut. I figured I had six or seven states to get through to make it home to Rhode Island, so off we went.”

It was on the ride back home that Burke remembers all of sports shutting down including the Big East men’s basketball tournament which was the last to close up shop. It was also on that ride home that he learned that his team’s spring season was canceled which was news he sadly shared with his team.

When I caught up with Burke by phone recently, he was in his office at URI where he had been since 7:30 a.m. that morning.

“No one knows what’s going to happen,” he said. “My schedule for this fall and next spring was done a year ago, but now I am looking at all sorts of contingency plans. I have to look at things based on the parameters of normalcy and non-normalcy.”

As it stands, URI men’s golf is scheduled to open up play this September at Colgate in Hamilton, NY. That will be followed by a trip to Beth Page in New York, Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH and Villanova and Georgetown.

“Who knows if we will have a fall season,” Burke said. “And if we do, what if you can’t travel? It becomes one big jigsaw puzzle. We assume that things might be better in the spring, but who knows if we will be able to get on a plane in February or March? I have never had to plan for things like this before while having no idea what’s going to happen.”

Brown University Head Football Coach James Perry is also uncertain as to what will happen this fall in terms of college athletics, but he said that player safety will be his top priority. “We’re always leaders in this league in terms of how we educate our kids and how we take care of our kids,” he said. “I look forward to taking care of our kids and making sure that they are safe and that their football environment is the best it can be. I look forward to hopefully getting our kids back on campus this fall and whatever the protocols are, we look forward to implementing them and be at the forefront of doing that.”

Perry also admitted that, even when things return to the “old normal,” that things like zoom meetings will now be incorporated into how he and his staff teach their players as well as recruit prospective student-athletes to Brown.

In the meantime, college coaches like Perry and Burke continue to deal with the uncertainty of what will happen this fall. Burke made two

great analogies about how he, his fellow coaches and student-athletes are dealing with the situation.

“I asked my players how many of them have played Black Jack for money before and they all raised their hands,” Burke said. “I told them that the virus, the NCAA, the federal and state government and our administration are the dealer and we need to play the cards that we are dealt.”

Burke closed the conversation with this golf analogy: “Sometimes you hit a drive right down the middle of the fairway and your ball lands in a gigantic divot. Another time you drive one into the woods and it hits a tree and winds up right in the middle of the fairway,” he said. “There are a lot of people that are a lot smarter than we are making these decisions. We need to deal with them as best we can no matter what they might be.” •

Scott Cordischi is a local sports talk host and writes a column in each issue of snegolfer.com

“My schedule for this fall and next spring was done a year ago, but now I am looking at all sorts of contingency plans. I have to look at things based on the parameters of normalcy and non-normalcy.”
-GREGG BURKE

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The [Preserve Club & Residences](#) in Richmond, Rhode Island was conceived by Paul Mihailides with a dual mission to build a community of sportsmen and women who appreciate the outdoors lifestyle and to offer a complete experience of luxury and adventure for members and residents.

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We offer Townhomes on the Green with in-home elevators, gourmet kitchens and open floorplans, situated in the heart of [The Preserve](#) for those wishing to be close to Members Lodge dining, pool and other amenities.

Our Cozy Cabins nestled in the woods are perfect getaways for sportsmen and women who appreciate a smaller footprint without sacrificing quality or luxury. Single family homes along

Laurel Lake offer two-, three-, and four-bedrooms, spa-like baths, impressive architectural features and luxury appointments.



Our Hilltop Lodge hosts eighteen one-level residences, with stunning open-floor plans, stone fireplaces and private balconies with hilltop views. This lodge is complete with a spa, fitness facilities, indoor and outdoor pool, and our Hilltop Terrace restaurant for the comfort you crave and the luxury you've earned.

[Stay and Play](#) packages are year-round opportunities to experience so much of what we offer and as anticipation beats the heart of a new adventure, your first step is to decide how to spend your day. Our staff and concierge service will

ensure your time with us is catered, accommodated and most importantly, fun. The slate of options covers all seasons and passions.

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PGA Tour Creates Pipeline for College Players

The dream is alive for college golfers. The PGA Tour recently announced the formation of the PGA Tour University. The new program has been designed to give the top Division I senior golfers post-college playing privileges on its various developmental tours, including the Korn Ferry Tour.

“This is a massive opportunity for the Tour to make an impact,” said Brendan von Doehren, the Korn Ferry Tour’s senior director of tournament and membership affairs, and the program’s brainchild. “We want to have the best players in the world come through our tours. This is going to really help in that.”

PGA Tour U will officially be launched this fall. The U will determine its graduates based on a filtered version of the World Amateur Golf Ranking, which will only include college events

and PGA Tour events, including majors. No amateur events or other pro events will count. There will be no ageing process for results, and the standings will incorporate the final two years, or 104 weeks, of play.

College players will now be incentivized to stay in school, as one of the requirements is stay in school with a plan to graduate. The top 5 four-year players on the program’s points list after the NCAA Championship will receive their Korn Ferry Tour cards to compete that summer and potentially parlay those starts into a PGA Tour card, while Nos. 6-15 will have the option to play full-time on the Mackenzie Tour, PGA Tour Latinoamerica or PGA Tour China. •

Dave Adamonis is the director of the Challenge Cup and writes a Junior Golf column in each issue of snegolfer.com.



JOEY LENANE

Joey Lenane posted an impressive round of 4-under par 67 to best a stout field of 52 juniors at the 31st annual Northeast Junior Ryder Cup at Rehoboth CC. Lenane, who recently earned an invitation to the inaugural Maridoe Junior Invitational, posted 7 birdies en route to a 3-stroke victory.



JOHN BRODERICK

Reigning Doral Publix Junior Classic champion, John Broderick, fired a sizzling 3-under 33 on the back nine to lead Team Oppenheim to a 1-stroke victory in the team competition. Broderick posted a 1-under par of 70 to finish runner-up.

Lenane, Team Oppenheim Earn Top Honors At Northeast Junior Ryder Cup

The captains of each team seem to enjoy this event as much as the players. “The captains have as much fun with this event as the kids,” stated winning captain 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.”

Bryce Zimmerman, Raymond Dennehy IV and Bennett Ostern carded even par rounds to finish joint third.

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, Rob Oppenheim, Peter Uihlein and Richy Werenski).

TEAM	CAPTAIN	TOTAL
Team Oppenheim	Steve Feinstein	291-293-584
Team Uihlein	Dave Adamonis Jr.	293-292-585
Team Bradley	Joe Guise	289-300-589
Team Werenski	Rick Angeli	291-301-592

Challenge Cup Remembers Desantis

Roughly two years ago Challenge Cup tournament director Steve Desantis passed away unexpectedly on June 7th at the age of 59. Desantis, who was an outstanding multi-sport athlete, was a fixture at Challenge Cup events for 17 years. Steve's passion and commitment to the Challenge Cup, its players and their families was unrivaled.

Former Challenge Cup standout Mark Baldwin summed up Steve's impact on people succinctly.

"I always loved talking with Steve. He was quick with a smile and a laugh. He always offered help to friends and strangers alike. He touched a lot of lives with small kindnesses at Challenge Cup events and beyond"

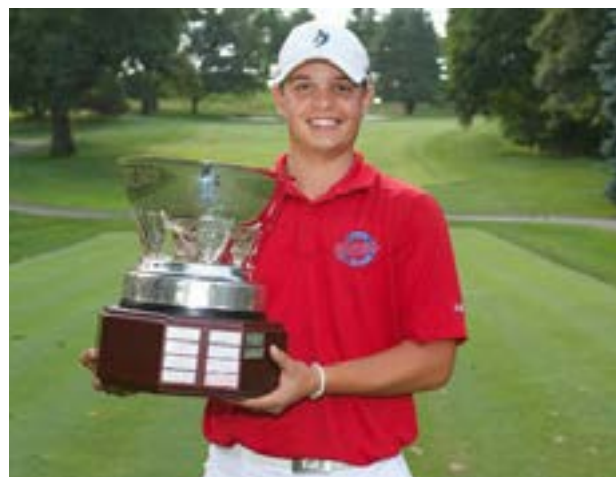
Steve has been greatly missed, but his memory will live in eternity. Two seasons ago the Challenge Cup established a scholarship in Steve's memory, the Steve Desantis Scholarship. Elon bound Emily Nash was the first recipient of this award.

Last season the Challenge Cup debuted a new event the Desantis Cup. The event brought together the top players from the Northeast in a true Ryder Cup format. Players from eight states competed in this event. Every top player in the Northeast played in this tournament, a true testament to the love Challenge Cup Nation felt for Steve. •

Hot Start for VanDerLaan

Former Challenge Cup Player of the Year John VanDerLaan started his inaugural season on the Korn Ferry Tour in fine form. The 2018 NCAA Division II individual champion has posted four top 25 finishes in six starts. The KFT rookie led the Country Club de Bogota Championship through three rounds. VanDerLaan was unable to keep pace, closing with a 1-over par 71 to finish in a tie for sixth. Currently JV ranks 16th on the KFT Merit of Order.

Dave Adamonis is the director of the Challenge Cup and writes a Junior Golf column in each issue of snegolfer.com.



Happy Birthday Foon

Steve Feinstein, who is well known amongst countless golfing circles for his tireless contributions to junior golf, will celebrate his birthday on June 20th.

Feinstein, who's age is unknown similar to Latin America baseball players, list of contributions to junior golf is quite lengthy, as he has served as a past President and Golf Chairman at Ledgemont Country Club, he is a current member of the board of directors for two of the most prestigious national junior tournaments in the country; the Optimist International and the Orange Bowl International championships, he is the President of the United States Challenge Cup and a tournament director for the Future Collegians World Tour. In 2012, Steve served as the president of the RIGA.

His contributions extend beyond the golf course as well, as he is a soundboard to countless parents and players. •



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PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando is an Experience

One of the highlights of being in the golf business is that we get to go to the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando. This golf extravaganza brings together golf pros, golf businesses, course owners and managers, club officers and golf writers together for a four-day feast of everything that is golf. There are people from around the world that attend this golf event that sees millions of dollars being spent.

Each year there are many celebrities from the golf industry who attend as well. Some years there have been as many as 50,000 people on hand, but this year it did not seem as crowded. We saw Greg Norman flying in on a helicopter to Demo Day that is held the first day at Orange County golf and driving range, a gigantic area where manufacturers set up huge booths to demonstrate their wares and let visitors try them out.

Many pros visited their sponsor booths during the three days of the indoor show. We saw Bubba Watson, Annika Sorenstam, Brad Faxon and many other pros and The Golf Channel did many of their shows live at a huge raised booth. It truly is a feast for golf fans, but the general public is not invited.

Tour Edge, a United States golf manufacturer with headquarters in Chicago, always has a huge booth and they have some of the best equipment available in the world. They now have a few



Tour Edge Wingman Putter

The new Exotics Wingman putter by Tour Edge is an extreme M.O.I. modern mini-mallet design that promotes the face square to the swing path for a more true roll due to the weighted wings integral to the design.

The multi-material putter has an extremely high resistance to twisting with one of the highest M.O.I. (Moment of Inertia) ratings of any putter available on the market. Couple this extreme resistance to twisting with the Lock-On Alignment Technology and golfers have the ability to dial in putts with deadly accuracy.

A separate interchangeable weight kit including two 8-gram weights and two 15-gram weights gives golfers the option of adding or subtracting more overall weight to the heel and toe of the clubhead to obtain their preferred feel.

www.touredge.com



Champions Tour players using their equipment including Scotty McCarron and Tom Lehman. Their new putter (shown here) was something that sparked a great deal of interest. One of the great things about the Tour Edge Company is their two-day delivery. "We almost always complete our two-day delivery promise," said founder and CEO, David Glod to a group of golf writers.

The talk of the show was the new **Finn Cycle**. It is a single rider electric golf cart that was developed by Sun Mountain founder Rick Reimers and introduced in 2019 at the show. Word was that Finn's sales have been doing very well across the country. Courses are leasing or purchasing these cycles and using them for the first few rounds in the morning and later in the evening after the last groups have gotten well into their round. One fellow said that he played 18 holes in just over an hour with the Finn. It is pictured below.

www.FinnScooters.com

We were given a dozen **Seed** tour-grade golf balls from the new company in Ireland. Their philosophy is to send balls by the dozens from their factory in Ireland to places around the world. We tried the balls and they seemed to work very well.

www.seedgolf.com

Another benefit of the PGA Show is that most all the writers are there covering the event. We hold our annual Golf Travel Writers of America meeting during the show and catch up with old friends. We will soon have to change our name as we now have almost a dozen writers from Canada who really enjoy coming down to the warm weather of Florida in January.

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

CVS Health Charity Classic Unveils \$1 Million Donation

2019 CHARITY CLASSIC SUPPORT BRINGS TOTAL AMOUNT DONATED TO MORE THAN \$23 MILLION

CVS Health President and CEO, Larry Merlo and PGA TOUR Champions and CVS Health Charity Classic Co-hosts Brad Faxon and Billy Andrade came together to announce that the 2019 CVS Health Charity Classic generated \$1 million for Southern New England charities. This brings the total amount donated over the last 21 years to more than \$23 million.

“Over the past 21 years, the Charity Classic has had the pleasure of connecting with organizations that are making a significant impact in the communities that we live and work in,” said Eileen Howard Boone, Tournament Chairperson of the CVS Health Charity Classic. “We are so honored to celebrate another charitable milestone with CVS Health colleagues, charity partners, Charity Classic sponsors and event volunteers.”

The 2019 CVS Health Charity Classic featured some of the world’s top professional golfers including Brooke Henderson, Colin Montgomerie and Keegan Bradley. The Event Series also attracted sold out crowds to Dunkin’ Donuts Center for Crave RI. The two-day food festival displayed Rhode Island’s diverse culinary scene with more than 250 local restaurants & beverage profiles in downtown Providence.

Looking ahead, CVS Health announced the date for the 2020 CVS Health Charity Classic. The Event Series will take place Thursday, June 18 through Monday, June 22.

The mission of the CVS Health Charity Classic is to give back to the community and provide assistance to charitable organizations that focus on helping the community year-round. Donations provided by the 2019 CVS Health Charity Classic provide vital funding to a range of programs serving children and families.

In all, 86 non-profit organizations across Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts will benefit this year from the CVS Health Charity Classic.

“The Joe Andruzzi Foundation is honored to be one of the longtime chosen charities of the CVS Health Charity Classic,” said Joe Andruzzi, three-time New England Patriots Super Bowl Champion and Joe Andruzzi Foundation Co-Founder & Board Chair. “The generosity of CVS Health and the Charity Classic will help the Foundation to provide New England cancer patients and their families a chance to focus on recovery – not bills.” •

TIDES FAMILY SERVICES

Tides Family Services addresses the needs of at-risk children through services such as counseling and educational and court advocacy.

JOE ANDRUZZI FOUNDATION

The Joe Andruzzi Foundation is committed to providing help, hope, and a reason to smile, for New England cancer patients and their families by contributing financial support when it is needed most.

SOJOURNER HOUSE

The mission of Sojourner House is to promote healthy relationships by providing culturally sensitive support, advocacy, and education for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence; and to effect systems change.



Plusses and Minuses for Connecticut Golf

The coronavirus has caused immeasurable hurt and harm in so many ways to all segments of society, and that certainly includes golf. One of the few positives in Connecticut to come out of the horrific COVID-19 pandemic was increased money in the cash registers of many golf courses. Many Connecticut courses enjoyed a financial bonanza, especially from players from Massachusetts, the last state in the nation to lift a ban on golf that lasted 45 days.

Golf was a cash-cow in parts of the Nutmeg State after March 25, when the office of David Lehman, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, announced courses could open under certain restrictions. While many Connecticut courses had an increase in golfers and revenue, Massachusetts courses lost millions of dollars.

Paul Banks, who has worked at the nine-hole Copper Hill Golf Club in East Granby for 26 years, the last 11 as owner, said things were “insane” immediately after his club opened. It included daily play of more than 200 rounds, nearly half by Massachusetts golfers.

“People were trolling the Internet to get phone numbers (for courses),” Banks said. “We had two foursomes from Maine, and one guy from Cape Cod came all the way here but played only nine holes because it got too dark to keep going. But no one really complained because they were just happy to be able to get out there.”

Banks also got one especially intriguing call. Despite the restrictions, Banks considered himself quite fortunate. “I was glad to be on this side of things, but I felt really sorry for clubs five miles away in Massachusetts,” Banks said.

Todd Goodhue, the pro at Shennecossett Golf Course in Groton, was amazed with a 40 percent increase in players over three weeks in late April and early May. Most of the increase was from Massachusetts, but some players traveled from New York.

“We were jamming busy from the first tee time to the last tee time,” Goodhue said. “We had a lot of Boston traffic, and I went through the tee sheets every day and saw all kinds of exchanges from Massachusetts that we never saw before. And part of our clientele is the casino traffic, but with the casinos closed, it was strictly golf-driven traffic.

“We had to go through some hoops to stay open, like no carts because the Town of Groton said there were too many touch points, but I was just happy to be open. I feel sorry for clubs that had to stay closed.”

At the other end of the spectrum is Connecticut’s biggest sporting event, the Travelers Championship at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell on June 25-28. On April 16, the PGA Tour announced the first four tournaments after the restart of play on June 11 would be TV-only. Though it was a positive that the \$7.4 million tournament was going to be played barring more problems from the pandemic, it was difficult for one of the best-attended golf events in the world that annually attracts more than 200,000 fans would be played without spectators.

The tournament has raised more than \$42 million since it began in 1952 as the Insurance City Open at Wethersfield Country Club, including nearly \$20 million since Travelers became the title sponsor in 2007. That includes a record \$2.1 million last year, when the tournament had its best field since the insurance magnate elevated the event to unprecedented heights. But this year, officials have had to scramble to find new ways to raise money for more than 150 local charities

because there wouldn’t be any corporate tents, ticket sales, concessions, pro-ams and other amenities.

Only players and other essential personnel will be allowed on the TPC premises, and the event will be televised on CBS and the Golf Channel. Tournament director Nathan Grube, the lead man in a monumental challenge to the championship team working to revamp the event safely, said a later date for the tournament was not among several options considered.

“This is a whole new version of the Travelers Championship,” Grube said three weeks before the scheduled final round. “We had to rebuild from the bottom up, and things kept changing every week. It was a strange time where we were planning about four different versions of the tournament. When you saw The Players Championship get canceled (on March 12), every tournament after it started going, ‘Oh, my gosh what if?’ And so we started working backwards from ‘What if we are canceled’ to a limited build, no build, fans, no fans, all these difference scenarios, and it was factoring into the timeline.”

**"WE HAD TO REBUILD
FROM THE BOTTOM
UP, AND THINGS KEPT
CHANGING--EVERY
WEEK"**

NATHAN GRUBE

Andy Bessette, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Travelers, called it a 'unique world.' Everything feels so weird, so surreal. We draw hundreds of thousands of fans whom we love, it's part of the ethos of who we are. Is it going to be strange? Yes, but given the lack of live sports right now, we're fortunate, in a way, that golf isn't played in an arena and we can abide by all the concerns of health and safety.

It will feel empty, but we're going to proceed. We're not sure we have all the answers as to how, but we're going to figure it out. We're going to work with social media events with a goal of making everything as good and entertaining as possible because the tournament is great for charity, it's great for the community and it's great for business."

As of June 1, there had been no decision on how the media would be allowed to cover the tournament. "It's a subject the Tour has been looking at every closely," Grube said. "We're lucky to have had robust coverage through the years, but it will obviously have to be less this year."

While Grube and his staff were in an evolving situation for months, they made a special effort to reach out to their charity partners. "We're committed to them and have always been creative, so we're approaching this year with the same priority of getting as many charity dollars as possible," Grube said. "The tournament is a big commercial for the region, so we've looked at all options. We're excited sports is back and golf is in position where it can take place. People have said they understand the TV-only situation. It will be different, but we're embracing it. Everyone sees it as just blip on the radar."

Grube said there has been "an unbelievable response" from sponsors, and officials continue to work with the PGA Tour and State of Connecticut as the world tries to deal with COVID-19 that shut down most areas, forcing sports such as golf, the NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball to drastically change their schedules.

"There were a lot of efforts with Gov. (Ned) Lamont and the Center for Disease Control," Bessette said. "Safety is a priority where everyone feels comfortable, but this is the largest sporting event in Connecticut that is the pride of the state and we want to do everything possible to make it as successful as possible."

Grube and Bessette aren't sure what being the third event in the restart of PGA Tour will have on the field, but it could be helped that eight events were canceled or postponed until after the Travelers Championship. Early commitments included 2019 FedExCup champion Rory McIlroy, ranked No. 1 in the world, No. 3 Brooks Koepka, No. 4 Justin Thomas, No. T7 Patrick Cantlay, No. T7 Patrick Reed, No. 13 Bryson

DeChambeau and Bubba Watson, who will try to tie Hall of Famer Billy Casper for most tournament wins (four). Chez Reavie is the defending champion after earning his first PGA Tour title in 11 years in 2019 with a four-stroke victory over Vermont native Keegan Bradley and Zach Sucher.

"Despite having a lot of different things thrown at us in the past, we've always had a good field," Grube said. "We don't know exactly what we're going to have this year, but we're already off to a good start. The players want to get back and play, and we've already got phone calls so we may have opportunities to get more good players who are looking for places to play because of the condensed schedule. They're still trying to figure it out, just like the rest of us, but I'm optimistic we'll have a great field."

"We're following all the rules," Bessette said. "We considered a limited number of fans, but conducting the tournament without crowds on-site is in the best interest of protecting everyone, including the Connecticut community at large."

Grube said the tournament explored virtual options for special events such as Women's Day with an eye toward creativity in a different business model with a different inventory. "We have to make charities benefit and make sure we have financial stability that we can carry forward for the long term," Bessette said. He added that a portion of this year's profits will go to the COVID-19 relief efforts. Fans interested in contributing to tournament charities can do so by visiting www.travelerschampionship.com. Those who purchased tickets through Ticketmaster will receive a full refund. •



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The Connecticut State Golf Association pushed all of its events forward by about six weeks with the first tournaments scheduled June 2. The only events lost as of early June were the six U.S. Golf Association qualifiers that the CSGA runs, but three major championships were moved: the Palmer Cup at CC of Waterbury from May 26-27 to Aug. 17-18, the Connecticut Women's Open at Rockrimmon CC in Stamford from June 15-16 to Aug. 26-27 and the Senior Match Play at Innis Arden GC in Greenwich from June 1-3 to Oct. 5-7. Five One-Day tournaments also were moved to later dates.

The **Julius Boros Challenge Cup** between teams from the CSGA and Connecticut Section PGA, scheduled for May 7 at New Haven CC, might not be played because of the challenge of trying to mesh the schedules of the two organizations and the club. And players on both teams have more commitments as the summer moves on.

"It has been an unusual year, to say the least," CSGA executive director Mike Moraghan said. "As you can imagine, the whole thing has been a juggling act, but fortunately all the clubs have been great to work with. Normally the schedule is finished well in advance, and we're running tournaments by April. But even now, we're still working on the schedule and trying to save every event. We've had to put time into coming up with procedures for conducting tournaments in every facet in ways that can keep people safe from the time a player arrives at the course until the time the player leaves the course."

It was a busy three months working with our lobbyist and the State of Connecticut, specifically the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), first to keep golf courses open for play and then to assist golf course operations in understanding the Best Practices required by the State. All in all, we've been extremely busy but consider ourselves every fortunate given what so many people are going through."

The **Connecticut Section PGA** canceled five events, including its Spring Meeting and new Connecticut PGA Open, and moved four major tournaments: the Walt Lowell PGA Tournament at the GC of Avon from May 26 to July 27, the Hartford Women's Open at Goodwin GC and Keney Park GC in Hartford from June 8-9 to Aug. 22-23, the Charity Classic at Hartford GC from July 20 to Sept. 15 and the Connecticut PGA Championship at Wintonbury Hills GC in Bloomfield from May 18-19 to Sept. 21-22. The winner of the latter event is usually the Section qualifier for the Travelers Championship, but the PGA Tour said the 41 Section exemptions were eliminated this year.

"Our team worked very diligently to be responsible to our events and other events in the market place," Section executive director Tom Hankte said. "Players want to participate, but with the time frame being compressed, you don't want to overlap with each other, you try not to step on others' toes. Everything wasn't taken lightly, it was examined very carefully."

Dennis Dungee, the Section's Tournament Operations Director, had the unenviable task of trying to sort through all the scheduling problems and "persevere through uncharted times" while dealing with different rules in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

"When the pandemic reached 'stay-at-home' mode, the staff went from thinking about events to giving our best efforts to understand all the orders and restrictions in place so that we could keep the Section membership informed and up-to-date as possible regarding course operations," Dungee said. "The toughest part was, and really continues to be, that golf was able to continue, under heavy restrictions in Connecticut, but the courses in Western Massachusetts portion of the Section boundaries were ordered to close. So, as both states began the re-opening phases, we tried to be up-to-date and knowledgeable on two different sets of state orders and restrictions."

"Obviously, with a limited window of time for competition this year, we will forego a few events," Dungee said. "But the positive side to that is sponsor/partner dollars have been taken from those events that we decided to cancel and moved to events we will operate so prize purse money will be high than years past in just about every event."

The **Connecticut Women's Golf Association** canceled five events and moved its championship at the Country Club of Farmington from June 9-12 to Aug. 3-4. The rescheduling resulted in a change of format so the tournament could be played over two days instead of four. There will be no qualifying round, with entrants seeded according to handicap in two flights of 16 players who will play two rounds each day.

The CWGA started the season with two unique events. They held their first two board meetings via Zoom and had a Virtual Better Ball Tournament (Net vs. Par) on May 26 and 27. There were 112 participants in six flights, and playing partners didn't have to play together or on the same course. Four members still in Florida took part, and scorecards were submitted from 32 courses, 29 in Connecticut and three in the Sunshine State. Points were awarded for net scores in relation to par on each hole.

"We had a wonderful turnout for our first ever virtual golf event," CWGA public relations director Carol Galbraith said. "We thank all of our members for participating in the fun competition and hope we will be able to golf together in the not-to-distant future. And special thanks to Michelle Murphy from Stonington Country Club who ran the event."

The **Southern New England Women's Golf Association** also postponed all of its events, starting with the Spring Meeting that was done via Zoom on May 30. The Invitational Championship will be July 14-15 at Richter Park GC in Danbury, the Memorial on Aug. 12 at The Tradition at Wallingford and the Open Team Championship on Sept. 13 at Keney Park GC. •

Wait until you try “The One” Fingered Glove



There was no social distancing at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando this past January. At that stage in the game, no one was even talking about COVID-19.

So as usual, the aisles of the massive Orange County Convention Center were packed with buyers, sellers and promoters in the golf industry who had come to show off their latest and greatest products. Southern New England Golfer was there too. Here are some of the things I discovered especially geared to ladies.

Clubs

touredge.com

Many of you may already play Tour Edge clubs. After all, the company has been producing very solid equipment since 1985 at prices that won't cut into your spa budget. This year is no exception.

Not only do you have plenty of choices like the HL3 Hot Launch premium designs where the offset four-

piece driver head is made of titanium and a full set including bag is priced at \$799 while the smartly-styled Moda Silk sets are at \$699.

Even more affordable options include Lady Edge and Bazooka sets (\$259.99).

Hot Launch clubs are premium quality clubs providing exceptional custom fit and value and Bazooka (I still have one of their circa 1990's drivers) has always represented a terrific deal and excellent playability.

Tour Edge goes even further offering a guaranteed 48-hour custom fit delivery program and a Lifetime Warranty. And did we mention Tour Edge clubs are made in the USA! Can't beat that.

HL-J Hot Launch sets are also available for kids in several age brackets. I suggest you log onto their web site and explore all your options including trying out their putters and sharp-looking bags that come in many color combos.

Balls

volvik.com

Volvik continues to lead the gang in eye popping colors like its new Vivid matte finish balls rendered in hot pink, scarlet and other startling hues as well as their high gloss bright brights. Talk about eye candy.

Volvik balls promise low driver spin, high launch and more distance and come in a variety of performance levels like their XT Soft feel product. These balls also make great table favors at member guest events.

Playing Aid

golfwith.golfzon.com

First there was Golf Buddy's talking range finder that was about the size of an ipod and their very high tech watches.

Now they've come out with the World's first talking laser with 6x magnification, three targeting modes and pin finder with vibration mode. I've always been a fan of Golf Buddy (I use the GB Voice 2).

Bags

gloveit.com

Glove-It seems to have a bag for every purpose with coordinated accessories. You can show up at the course with your golf bag, shoe bag, tote, visor, cross-body bag, even your glove, all matching. Designs are themed like Watercolor, Snow Leopard, Geo Mix, and black and white Abstract Pane.

Gloves

theonegolfglove.com

Here's my vote for my favorite new product: "The One." The first time I wore it someone asked if I'd had a hand injury. Well, it did look a bit strange as this is a single finger golf glove is slipped onto your middle finger, then strapped around your wrist with a narrow Velcro closure. Once I figured all this out, I went on to wear it for several rounds of golf. The great thing about it, you forget you even have it on, yet the palm of your hand is totally protected when you swing, giving you a firm grip on your club. That after all is what



a glove is supposed to do So far it only comes in white. I would like one in pink, green, and....all of them really.

Apparel

vineyardvines.com
katelord.com
sofibellawear.com
skechers.com

If you're into sharp and preppie, you should love Vineyard Vines golf fashions. Think Scalloped hemmed skorts in sensible 17" length. Blues, pinks and corals predominate in the stripped, solid and printed half zips and shirts.

Ahead's Kate Lord line continues to unfurl classic apparel where quality is a given. The Kate Lord attire I have enjoyed wearing holds up year after year, both the fit, the color and the style.

Whether you invest in a skort like their Prentiss in a limelight and blue print, the black, white and poppy coordinated tops made with just a bit of spandex assure shirts fit wash after wash. Solid tops are accented by swatches of black and white print while the casual full zip midlayer jackets, sweats and tees also coordinate with the rest of the line.

Loved the golf and tennis styles of Sofibella, a ten-year-old company with extraordinary flair. The apparel is feminine and flirty without being trite with fun details like a ruffled-edged skort and subtle designed fabrics. Were they classic or wonderfully zany? Both. Sofibella has a basic line of stretchy pants and tops as well as very cool children's clothing.

Skechers have always appealed to those who love a softer shoe, but now their Go Golf Pro 4 model is seriously geared to providing a more stable and secure fit with waterproofed leather uppers and Softspikes integrated into a dynamic diamond traction plate.

Skechers "Twist" version has the clever twist dial adjustable front closure and waterproof protection shields while "Sport" is made of breathable synthetic and mesh uppers and moisture management interiors. There are spikeless golf shoes and shoes with a relaxed fit. I really liked their styles with themed embellishments like "Dogs at Play" and "Bloom" embossed with flowers.

Golf Bags

sunmountain.com

For 2020, Sun Mountain's H2NO collection of waterproof golf bags includes a cart bag and two carry bags, each constructed with waterproof fabric, taped seams, and waterproof zippers.

Sun's waterproof carry bag options include the H2NO Lite 14-way with 14 individual club dividers, the E-Z Lite Dual Strap System shoulder straps and six pockets including a hydration sleeve, velour-lined valuables pocket, and full-length clothing pocket. \$299.

H2NO Superlight has four club divisions and six pockets and weighs less than 5 pounds. •

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Strange Times Made Strange Rules

How would you like to go to a neighboring state to play golf only to get arrested? How would you like to be a dues-paying member of a private country club only to be forced to park down the street and enter through a service area? How would you like to be a member of the same club and be told you can't play three holes or use the practice green?

Welcome to the crazy world of coronavirus. While golf prides itself in having one set of rules for everyone – that's right, Tiger Woods plays by the same rules as us – that's not the case during the pandemic-related shutdowns as governors in each state have set different rules for the sport.

Three Massachusetts men found out the hard way when they tried to play in Rhode Island while the Bay State still banned the sport. They parked their cars at a McDonald's in Richmond, R.I., tossed their clubs into a buddy's SUV and went off to play nearby Meadowbrook Golf Course.

However, under Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo's order, out-of-staters were not allowed in the Ocean State for non-business purposes unless they self-quarantine for 14 days. Police, tipped off by McDonald's workers, arrested the three for violating the governor's order.

Things are even stranger over at Pawtucket Country Club. Although Pawtucket may be in Rhode Island, most of the course itself is in Seekonk, Mass. The club's owners wanted to strictly to adhere to each state's rules to avoid any chance of a

shutdown. As a result, Massachusetts members must park at an adjacent lot in Seekonk and walk through a service area to get to the course.

Once at the course, they are not allowed to play the 1st, 10th or 18th holes or use the clubhouse. Those are in Rhode Island. And because Massachusetts bans the use of carts, Bay Staters must walk the course. Rhode Islanders are allowed to ride, one player per cart.

Pawtucket CC's owners said they had no choice. "I don't want to risk being shut down or losing my liquor license for a year," co-owner Gary Reis said. "I'm scared to death. I'll be honest, I'm so afraid of breaking a rule that would cause everyone there to suffer. I don't want to be responsible for someone's enjoyment for the next year because I made a mistake."

Another crazy twist: There are other courses on the border of the two states who don't face the same conditions as Pawtucket. Wentworth Hills Golf Club in Plainville, Mass., has a sign at a small bridge welcoming you to Rhode Island as you play holes 14-16. Swansea (Mass.) Country Club also has three holes in Rhode Island while New England Country Club is partly in Bellingham, Mass., partly in Woonsocket, R.I.

Because those courses are technically based in Massachusetts due to the location of their clubhouse, they play by Massachusetts rules. No carts, but it's OK if out-of-staters tee it up. •

A Familiar Face Returns



For more than three decades, he was one of the most familiar faces in Eastern Massachusetts golf. Beginning in 1987, just three years out of Bryant College, Drew Chapman became the head PGA professional

at Highland Country Club, a private, nine-hole gem in Attleboro. There, he mentored Jim Renner of Plainville, who played three years on the PGA Tour, winning more than \$1 million, and Davis Chatfield, now a member of the Notre Dame University golf team. In 1996, the Attleboro Area Golf Association elected Chapman to its Hall of Fame.

That all ended in January 2018 when Highland filed for

bankruptcy. Chapman was not out of a job for long, as he became the assistant pro to his mentor, Tom Tetrault, at Fall River Country Club, where he had grown up and learned the game.

Now, Chapman has been named head pro at The Links at Mass Golf in Norton, one town up from Attleboro. The 18-hole, par-3 course is the home of First Tee of Massachusetts, which introduces the game of golf and its inherent values to young people. "It's a wonderful opportunity to be working with Mass Golf and their efforts to grow the game," Chapman said. "We have a fantastic facility here to allow us to accomplish our goals."

Among his goals, Chapman said, was to make golf fun and provide a safe environment that keeps kids coming back to the game throughout their lives. "That's what really gets me excited, that I now get a chance to make a bigger impact on the game than just taking care of a limited number of people," Chapman said. "For me, it's about giving back to the game that's been so good to me."

Mike Kirby, former editor of The Sun Chronicle of Attleboro, can be reached at mkirbygolf18@gmail.com

Local Senior Tour Delayed by Coronavirus

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the start of the Central Mass. Senior Men's Golf Tour was delayed for several weeks, but the golf action for the 55 year-old and over crowd is now in full swing according to Director Jim DeCarolis. "We had our first event on May 21 at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown and followed the next week at Gardner Municipal," said DeCarolis. "Overall, we lost five tournament dates."

What follows is the schedule of events throughout June and July: June 4, Ellinwood CC in Athol; June 11, Ledges GC in South Hadley; June 18, Quail Hollow Golf & CC in Oakham; June 25, Templewood GC in Templeton; July 2, Mill Valley Golf Links in Belchertown; July 9, Westminster CC in Westminster; July 16, Leicester CC in Leicester; July 23, Gardner Municipal GC in Gardner, July 30, Chicopee CC in Chicopee.

The Senior Men's Golf Tour will hold events every Thursday through Oct. 22. There are no annual dues or membership fees, and you can show up as a group, pair or single. For more information, contact DeCarolis at 508-560-9545 or email at seniormensgolfma@gmail.com.

The weekly cost is \$24 to walk. Cart riders will pay an additional \$16 to \$20 more depending on the course. There is also an optional "Closest to the Pin" contest each week with two winners, one from the regular tees and one from the forward tees. Entry fee for the contest is only \$1. The format is always point quota with the following points awarded: eight for a double eagle; five for an eagle; three for a birdie; two for a par, one for a bogey.

Gardner Municipal's 85th Season:

The staggering economic downturn we're experiencing these days because of the coronavirus pandemic invites close comparisons to the brutal financial crisis and double-digit unemployment numbers of the 1930s. But here's something to think about, more on the positive side. If the Great Depression didn't happen, perhaps there never would have been a golf course in Gardner.

Built with funds from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA), Gardner Municipal, with its original nine holes, opened in 1936. On May 11, the course teed up its 85th consecutive season.

All these years later, GMGC still stands as an impressive legacy of a successful government relief program, one which gave work and hope to millions of unemployed people across the country. From 1935 through 1943, the WPA helped rebuild the U.S. infrastructure with new bridges, roads,

military buildings, airport runways – and hundreds of golf courses.

The work in Gardner culminated with the very first shot hit from the first tee at GMGC on May 1, 1936, inaugurating the course. Mayor James Timpany had the honor, borrowing highway superintendent Fred Proctor's hickory shaft club that is still on display at the Gardner Museum.

Another Gardner tradition, one of the longest running golf tournaments in the state—The Delay Memorial—was not held this year on its traditional Memorial Day Weekend as it has every year since 1948. Dan Berry, pro shop manager at Gardner Municipal, said he is hopeful that the 73rd Delay Memorial will still be held, and he's looking at the calendar for a future weekend date that would accommodate the tournament this summer or perhaps early fall when pins sit properly in holes and scorecards, pencils, bunker rakes and golf ball washers possibly make a comeback.

The Delay Tournament honors the memory of World War II heroes Donald and Richard Delay, two of Gardner's finest athletes, who were killed on June 3, 1942, in Chickasaw, Alabama. Donald Delay was the first golfer to ace GMGC's 5th (now the 14th) hole. He and his brother were awarded Victory Medals and Air Force Citations of Honor and are buried in Gardner. Six years after their deaths, the Delay family began the tournament to honor the brothers' memories.

Pleasant Valley Public Play:

Pleasant Valley Country Club, the former home of multiple PGA Tour and LPGA Tour events is still private, but allowing public play on the following Mondays in June: June 8, 15 and 29. Interested golfers should call the PV pro shop (508-865-5244) to book a tee time between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. The cost including a cart is \$75 per golfer. More Mondays may be available for public play if more outings are cancelled.

A Silver Lining: Early Aeration:

Bill Frank, the superintendent of Gardner Municipal, knows what it takes to get a golf course ready for play when winter ends and spring emerges. And Frank saw some silver linings in the pandemic clouds which delayed course openings throughout the country. He's upbeat about what he sees as better-than-ever course conditions in May and into the summer, especially because of early turf growth without foot traffic and a major schedule change to the maintenance of the greens.

"We've aerated (punched holes into) all the greens in early



May,” said Frank. “We normally aerate in August, but with no golfers in the way, the golf course greens won’t be interrupted as they have in the past toward the end of the summer. Usually,

when the greens are punched in August, we lose a lot of revenue, so this may become the new norm. The greens will be great this August.”

Other courses in the Central Mass. area, including Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg, which will celebrate its centennial in 2021, also aerated all its greens in early May before regular golf play began for the season.

Worcester's Cosgrove:

The annual Walter Cosgrove Worcester County Four-Ball at Green Hill Municipal Golf Course in Worcester, after weeks of speculation that it would have to be cancelled, was back on the 2020 schedule for early June. Although Green Hill was closed from Mar. 24 to May 16, the Cosgrove got the green light to go from head pro Matt Moison. The field, though, will be cut in half from 120 two-golfer teams to 64 because of the state-mandated 15 minutes between tee times. Steve Larson and Mike Haglof are the defending champions, carding rounds of 65-70 last year to defeat Dan and Dave Falcucci by a shot.

Jay Gearan writes a Central Mass Notebook in each issue of snegolfer.com. If you have something to include in future issues, please contact editor Bruce Vittner at bruce@snegolfer.com.

1 Time To Tee It UP

I grew up playing golf on a Donald Ross course in central Massachusetts. The greens were very tricky to putt on, so I was advised to aim for the fat part of the green and forget about shooting for the pin. Today, I can't even tend the pin. The “new normal” is anything but normal.

With the advent of the coronavirus, golf has become saddled with government regulations that may be well intentioned but, to borrow a golf term, seems a little over the top. Like President Reagan was fond of saying, “The scariest words ever heard are I am from the government and I am here to help you.”

I spoke with my doctor who is associated with Brigham and Women's hospital, and he is, as are many of his fellow physicians, an avid golfer. I asked the good doctor his thoughts on the regulations. “I think an easy way to remember the proper protocol is to remember to always be at least two club lengths away from your fellow golfers.” A relative who is a nurse at Mass General who also enjoys golfing perhaps said it best. “When a foursome tees off, they are almost certainly more than six feet apart. One is on the left side of the fairway, one is on the otherside, one is in a bunker and the other is in the woods asking a squirrel if he saw a ball come crashing through the trees.” So why is there a battle between the states when it comes to golf?

In Massachusetts all golfers are welcome. Yet, as of May 31, only Rhode Island golfers can play courses in the Ocean State. The absurdity of this showed itself when golfers from Mass, playing Pawtucket Country Club could only play 15 holes. You see part of the course is in Massachusetts and part of it is in Rhode Island, so Massachusetts golfers were forbidden to play the holes 1, 10, and 18, since these holes are in Rhode Island. And Massachusetts does not allow golf carts, a major source of revenues for golf courses. But let's look at what courses need to do to comply with state regulations.

1. You must have a tee time. 2. You must stay in your car until 15 minutes before your tee time. 3. Clubhouse, locker rooms, restaurant and pro shop must be closed. 4. No caddies are allowed. 5. All players must remain 6 feet apart, and there are no rakes in the traps.

Your favorite course is providing a safe environment for you to get a chance and enjoy the great outdoors so give them a call, book a tee time and help a local business survive in these uncertain times. •

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② Great Escape to the Cape

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Every year visitors pour into Cape Cod for a summer of sun and fun. However, the COVID-19 virus is forcing us to change the way we work and play. Many outdoor festivals are being cancelled, and there are some limits on how your favorite restaurants and stores are able to serve the public.

However, Cape Cod has 559 miles of beautiful coastline, and 130 beaches that draws visitors from around the world. And the Cape has lots of golf courses that are extending the opportunity to tee it up.

The Cape's 27 public and 15 private courses offer a variety of tracks that will suit your game. I spoke with several golf course managers to see how things were going during this "new normal." One of the finest par 3 courses you can play is located at Blue Rock in South Yarmouth, Mass. The course is only 2,520 yards from the white tees, but communications director Matt Pitta says that after playing the course, golfers admit they used every club in the bag. " "

I also spoke with Bruce McIntyre, manager of two municipal golf courses: Hyannis Country Club, and Old Barnstable Fairgrounds in Marston Mills. These are two challenging municipal courses located in the middle of the Cape and are easily accessible for golfers. Bruce wants to remind folks that while golf on Cape Cod in the summer is very popular. Fall golf on Cape Cod is a good time to play, with cooler temperatures and fewer crowds. Many courses on the Cape are open all year round. So whether it's Spring, Summer, Winter or Fall, take a trip with your buddies to some great scenery and fantastic golf on Cape Cod. The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce also has more information including a golf map.

③ Free the Children

The kids are climbing the walls. They miss school, seeing their friends and burning up some energy in the schoolyard playground. And I am sure they are tired of classes via Zoom. The warm weather is here, but, because of the coronavirus, Little League and other sports activities have been put on hold. Yet there is a sport that kids can enjoy now, and continue playing the game their entire life. Let's tee it up at the First Tee.

The First tee is a program that is available to all youngsters. The organization's goal is to teach values such as honesty, integrity, sportsmanship and respect while introducing the kids to golf. The First Tee provides access to golf clubs for all the kids. It does not matter if you are new to the game, because group lessons are provided for youngsters between the ages of 5 and 18.

The Links at MassGolf in Norton Mass, is an 18-hole par-3 course that is a great training ground for kids who want to be the next Tiger Woods.

First Tee has locations in every state, The Links at Mass Golf, which is located at 300 West Main St. in Norton, is only a five minute ride from The Boston TPC course, where the PGA TOUR has played in pursuit of the FEDEX CUP.

For more information check website, and for the Norton First Tee call for tee times at 508-222-0555. Tee times must be made before arriving at the course. Before teeing off a staff member will read the rules so everybody has a safe and enjoyable day on the links.



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July 2000

The cover of the July 2000 issue, Vol. 7. No. 1 had Billy Andrade and Brad Faxon on the cover with the headline CVS Classic Returns. This was going to be the second year of the tournament that was the brainchild of CVS chairman Tom Ryan. With any event, you don't know what the reaction will be from the fans, sponsors, players, golf course and myriad other items. The fact that they were getting ready to host the second year, meant that everything had gone well the first year.

John Daly, Justin Leonard, Davis Love III, Craig Stadler, Jay Haas and Jeff Sluman were just some of the names on the roster for the 2000 event. Greg Norman had been on the docket, but he had to pull out of the event for hip surgery two weeks before this two-day tournament. ESPN was again going to televise the event.

Larry Lambrecht of Westerly, a noted golf photographer, was featured in an article. Lambrecht had photographed most every major event for many years and was at the coronation of Tiger Woods who had just won the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach. One of Lambrecht's specialties is photography of golf courses and he has been a regular contributor to most all the national and international golf publications. He still does golf calendars that highlight his great photos, and he worked for many years with Rees Jones.

The Northeast Amateur had just finished and the winner was Luke Donald of England, who went on to have a great career on the PGA Tour and is still playing. Another story was about Cranston Country Club holding its 1st Million Dollar Madness Hole-in-One Contest. The event was being held to promote its new driving range and raise money for Button Hole Kids Course. Scott Cordischi (who has been writing for this publication for many years) was going to broadcast the final rounds live on his 790 The Score broadcast. Editor's Note: Nobody made a hole-in-one.

Another story featured Reggie Parker who won the RIWGA Championship by defeating Julie Greene 2 and 1 in the finals. Parker, who summers in Rhode Island and belongs to Misquamicut, also belongs to Seminole CC that just held the charity event last month. Parker's husband Larry was her caddie. When asked about his caddying ability he said, "I showed up, I kept up, and I shut up, just what a caddie is supposed to do." In other divisions Jeanette James of Alpine won the President's Bowl by defeating Kibbe Reilly 2-up and Sharon Novembrino of Alpine beat Kirbrae's (and Channel 12's) Karen Adams 3 and 2 in the Past President's Cup.

The Course Profile for the issue was New England Country Club in Bellingham, Mass. Formerly a nine-hole named Winnesucket C.C., it had now become a championship 18-hole layout designed by Hale Irwin. The course features many elevation changes and some great risk/reward holes and is easily accessed by golfers from Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Stow Acres Golf School in Stow, Mass. was another story in the publication. They had a unique way to get their story out to the public—they just invited a group of golf writers—including this intrepid reporter—to come to the school for a free day of golf lessons. It was my first lesson in 42 years of playing golf (yes, that's right, I have now been playing for 62 years). The school used a five-to-one ratio of teachers to students, so everyone got plenty of attention. I still have the handouts that they gave to us that day and we also were videotaped. I think my posture is even worse than it was 20 years ago.

Many of the advertisers in that issue are still with us today. CVS took the back page, and they were planning to do plenty this year until the coronavirus pandemic struck and cancelled the event. Clubhouse Capital was a huge sponsor in those days as the company was doing golf course financing as well as course sales and acquisitions. Golfers Warehouse has been advertising with us since we began and we so appreciate their support. The same goes for Rehoboth CC, Maplegate, Blissful Meadows, and Laurel Lane.

Looking at the map page, there are many driving ranges that advertised then that no longer exist—Eagle Quest Dome, Dartmouth Golf Dome, Golf Central Driving Range in Wyoming, Ironwood just closed, Mike Harbour's D.R., Seekonk D.R. Sherwood Golf Center in Seekonk and Smithfield D.R. Too bad!

Bruce Vittner is the Publisher/Editor of snegolfer.com and enjoys looking back at old publications. We have every issue on file if there is something you would like to look back on. He can be reached at bruce@snegolfer.com.

Two Western Massachusetts Golf Courses Have New Head Pros

John Cook enters his first full season at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow, while Mike Bergeron, getting back to his Western Mass. roots, will be the new head pro at Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke.

Cook had been the head professional at Manchester (Conn.) Country Club from 2009-2019 before taking the new position at Twin Hills. Cook takes over for John Steffen, who was at Twin Hills for the past 10 seasons. Steffen is now general manager at Blue Hills Golf Course in Roanoke, Va.

Cook became a PGA Member in 2008 while working at Manchester Country Club after serving as their assistant professional, working for PGA Hall of Fame member Ralph DeNicolo. His first job in the industry was serving as a PGA apprentice at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain, Conn. where he spent two years working for Greg Yeomans before being hired as the assistant professional at Manchester Country Club.

Bergeron returned to the area to begin his first head pro job at Wyckoff. Rick Leal, now at Tekoa Country Club, was the head professional at Wyckoff in 2018 and 2019. After 32 years as head pro, Tony Kelley left Wyckoff in 2017.

Bergeron was the first assistant at The Orchards Golf Club in South Hadley back in March of 2017. He had also spent time working during the winter months the past few seasons at Indian Canyons Golf Resort in Palm Springs, Calif., before making his way back home to Wyckoff.

Starting his 42nd season at Amherst Golf Club, David Twohig, currently holds the longest active, consecutive year tenure as head professional at a golf club in Western Massachusetts, and shows no signs of slowing down.

The Twohig name has a long, storied tradition at Amherst. Ed Twohig Sr., David's father, was hired in 1943, with his first full season as head professional in 1944. After graduating from UMass-Amherst in 1975, David Twohig worked as an assistant under his father's tutelage for three years, before taking over as head pro at the nine-hole Amherst layout in 1979.

"All my brothers grew up here playing golf and working for dad. That is typical when you look around western Mass; lots of families like the DiRicos, the Bontempos, the Kringles, I would hate to miss any, the O'Neills, the Toskis, families that were in the business, kids carrying on what the parents did," Twohig said.

Unassuming and modest in his nature, Twohig has quietly gone about the day-to-day duties in the golf business, growing the game and caring for the Amherst members all along his 42-year career trek. What has been the key to such a successful run? "You settle in to what you are comfortable in. What I have always tried to do here, is provide what they do at any other 18-hole course in terms of competition and the general way things are run. And we have an exceptional nine-hole course," Twohig said.

Joining a long list of esteemed professionals, former Republican golf writer Russ Held has been chosen as the 2020 Rollie Jacobs Tee Party honoree. Held is the 74th recipient of the Tee Party award, a tradition and selection process that originated in 1947. With golf courses opening late this season due to the corona virus, Held will now be honored on October 1st at Ludlow Country Club.

Words from Tee Party committee chairman and Country Club of Greenfield head professional Kevin Piccuch endorse the obvious choice of honoring Held. "Choosing Russ as the 2020 Tee Party Honoree was an easy decision for the committee. Russ has been an important part of the Western Mass Golf community for the past 20 years. He has single-handedly helped to grow the game of golf in our area as much as any person," Piccuch said.

"Russ had very big shoes to fill when it came to covering golf in Western Mass. taking over for the likes of Tee Party Honoree Jim Regan, a legend himself. Russ not only filled those shoes but, in many respects, went beyond."

Known for his modest demeanor among his peers and golf pros alike, Held took time out to reflect on this worthy milestone. "The Tee Party list is a very storied group of people, only 73 others before me ... in the history of golf in Western Mass. How am I on that list now? I know a handful of other media members, guys like Gerry Finn and Jim Regan, had been honored over the years. But those guys are legends. I am very humbled to even be considered to be part of it. It's more than a Hall of Fame list. I'm guessing I really don't understand the impact I had on golf around here for 26 years. It's very humbling," Held said.



Editor's Note: Russ Held wrote for snegolfer.com for the past ten years and did a wonderful job covering western Mass golf. Chris Miracle has agreed to write for us in each issue and this is his first column.

New England Offers Remarkable Summer Golf Selection

For passionate and golf-starved New Englanders, is there a better month than June to get out into the sunshine, enjoy temperatures in the 60s or better, and to start that elusive challenge of finding fairways and greens?

With most of the six-state region experiencing a delay in opening due to COVID-19, it seems an eternity that we've hit a few grounders, chili-dips, three-putts and bunker shots. That scenario changed for the better because now we can enjoy almost 15 hours of daylight, allowing plenty of time for our favorite pastime.

With pent-up demand to play and almost 800 public and private courses throughout New England, June is the busiest month. Since restrictions on air travel are still in effect, there's no better time to pack up the car with a suitcase and golf clubs and book a golf trip/vacation. Here are suggestions.

Vermont Golf

Since 1950, Stowe Country Club has been at the hub of Vermont golf. The actual course began across the river at the Stowe Center Shop building on Mountain Road and players crossed a trestle bridge to play the now #13, #14, and #15 holes. Over 50 years ago when the ski lodge owners were looking for something to fill their rooms in the summer months the plan to expand the course was made. The expanded 18 holes was finished in 1962 and today the popular, semi-private course features scenic, rolling landscape stretching out to 6,100 yards from the tips with par 72.

Stowe Country Club is a challenging and rewarding test of skill and offers 360-degree views of the mountains," said Josh Nicholls, golf sales and communications manager for Stowe and sister course Spruce Peak. "Starting June 15, we are accepting summer reservations with attractive sat-and-play packages. We invite golfers to come to Vermont to enjoy long summer days and create memories that last a lifetime."

<https://www.stowevtgolf.com>

<https://www.quecheeclub.com>

Maine Golf

In addition to offering six notable golf resorts - Bethel Inn Resort Golf Course, Point Sebago Resort Golf Course, Boothbay Harbor Oceanside Golf Resort, Sebasco Harbor Resort, Samoset Resort and my favorite Poland Springs Resort - Maine showcases many affordable daily fee golf courses, drawing visitors from near and far.

The Poland Spring Resort, about a two-hour drive north of Boston, is on the National Register of Historic Sites. Amenities include 18-hole golf course, tennis, pool, playground, hiking, mini golf, disc golf, and many indoor activities such as exploring the rich history at the two

Poland Spring museums.

If you're looking to get-away after being cooped up at home, you're not alone, so a road trip to Poland Springs may scratch that itch, but with many new safety precautions in place affecting every traveler. Call ahead to be advised of breaking news.

"This season will be very different from any other and we are taking all necessary precautions to accommodate our guests," said Cyndi Robbins, who with her late husband Mel has owned the fabled Inn since 1975. "The weather has been good, the golf course is in great shape, and the tee sheets have been filling up. We are optimistic how this summer will turn out."

There are several discount golf programs to consider before booking your Maine expedition.

<https://themainegolftrail.com>

<https://www.maine golfpass.com>

<http://mainetrifecta.mybigcommerce.com>

Cape Cod Golf

The Cape Cod peninsula - from Bourne to Provincetown - includes 15 towns and 44 public and private golf courses - each with its own unique history. Together, these courses serve a booming golf industry that generates in excess of \$300 million annually in direct and indirect spending.

To most, Cape Cod is a vacation tradition offering countless beaches, fine dining, superior lodging, seafood and fresh salt air. To others, the Cape has been answering the call of golfers by offering an outstanding selection of 18-hole courses, 9-hole courses and par-3's. According to the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, there were over 1 million rounds of golf played last year both public and private.

Vacationers appreciate the Cape for its 559 miles of seacoast and many boating opportunities, but stay-and-play golf packages have been an attraction for decades. One, two or three-day packages to play golf on the Cape are a spring and fall ritual for many, but summer is prime-time. A pilgrimage to the birthplace of golf on the Cape - Highland Links - is a must for anyone even with the slightest interest in the game. Highland Links is located in Truro, perched high along the windswept bluffs overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Golf was first played there in 1892, making this place one of America's golf treasures. •

Here are a few opportunities to explore:

<https://www.capecodgolfvacation.com>

<https://www.golfincapecod.com>

<http://www.golfyarmouthcapecod.com>

Tom Gorman is publisher of www.newenglandgolf.com and writes a column in each issue of snegolfer.com

New England Golf Trail Launches June 10

New England dot Golf (www.newengland.golf), a digital marketing platform that highlights the best of golf in New England and beyond, has launched a partnership formed with dozens of public and private golf courses, called the New England Golf Trail, that opens for business June 10.

The New England Golf Trail newengland.golf/new-england-golf-trail was created to provide golfers with affordable and unforgettable golf experiences by leveraging New England dot Golf's exceptional partnerships with dozens of top golf courses throughout New England.

The New England Golf Trail team will be led by 25-year golf industry veteran James McFadyen, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to planning golf travel trips to the six-state New England Region. McFadyen, founder of the Coastal Carolinas Golf Trail, recently moved back to the Boston area, having lived and worked at Pinchurst and Southern Pines, North Carolina for many years.

"We are thrilled to hire Jim McFadyen to develop the New England Golf Trail into one the country's most respected and desired golf destinations starting June 1," said Thomas Gorman, principal of New England dot Golf, the No. 1 rated golf website in the Northeast. "Over the past three months, the golf industry has suffered some financial hardship, but now due to pent-up demand, golfers are seeing tremendous opportunities to travel by automobile, rather than fly, to their favorite destinations. The New England Golf Trail is ready, willing and able to accommodate with quality service, personal consultation and competitively priced golf tours."

McFadyen's connections in the golf industry are deep. His resume includes affiliation with First Tee in North Carolina, International Network of Golf and Golf Myrtle Beach. He's worked at three of the top-100 Private Clubs in America, as well as sales and marketing background with Golf Trails in the Carolinas, Mt. Washington Valley, New Hampshire Golf and Golf Maine. •



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WORLD AMATEUR HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP

WORLD AMATEUR HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP TO GO ON AS SCHEDULED,
WORLD'S LARGEST 19TH HOLE WILL BE ON ONE-YEAR HIATUS

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

The 37th annual PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Handicap Championship will be played as scheduled, Aug. 31 - Sept. 4, but one of the event's most popular components, the World Largest 19th Hole, will be on a one-year hiatus.

To offset the absence of the World's Largest 19th Hole, tournament organizers have reduced the cost of the event by \$100, allowing golfers that enter by the newly extended early entry deadline of June 11 to play for just \$435.

"We feel confident we can safely run a golf tournament with players following social distancing recommendations," said Scott Tomasello, tournament director for Golf Tourism Solutions, the company that operates the event. "But the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic make it impossible for us to move forward with plans for the World's Largest 19th Hole. The 37th annual PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Handicap Championship will again be the game's greatest amateur event, but the one-year elimination of the 19th Hole is in everyone's best interests."

More than 1,700 players have already signed up for this year's tournament, which will allow golfers the opportunity to compete in a 72-hole, net stroke play event with all flight winners and ties advancing to the World Championship Playoff, an 18-hole shootout to determine the tournament champion.

The tournament, which flights players based on age, gender and handicap, is open to all golfers 17 years of age and older. 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, 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.

While thousands of players will participate in the tournament, they will be dispersed onto upwards of 35 golf courses each day, allowing the event to maintain a safe environment in the "Golf Capital of the World."

In addition to four rounds of golf, players will also receive a gift bag that includes a polo, a pullover, a golf towel, a logo'd hat, a PGA Tour Superstore gift card and an assortment of other goodies valued cumulatively at \$250.

The World's Largest 19th Hole, which takes up all 120,000 square feet of the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, is typically the event's social hub, providing players free food, drink and live entertainment. •

For more information
visit www.MyrtleBeachWorldAmateur.com

Pictured below is William Welch, 2019 Champion



Kissimmee Has Much to Offer

Most people think of heading to central Florida for a vacation is to go to Orlando. Think about it—You say you are going to Disney World. Where is your destination? You say “Orlando.” Actually Disney World’s entrance is in Kissimmee just off of Route 192.

A group of golf writers were recently invited to Kissimmee by Experience Kissimmee, the vacation, convention and visitors bureau-like arm of the town that was founded in 1883. “We have 22,000 vacation homes and 45,000 accommodation options. There is something to suit every traveler’s needs and budgets,” said Jennifer DiDomenico from the media relations department.

Our visit to Kissimmee included three rounds of golf, a wonderful visit to Gatorland, great dining and a stay at the Embassy Suites by Hilton on Kyngs Heath Rd. in Kissimmee. This newest Embassy Suites in the area offers complimentary made-to-order breakfast and an evening reception for all guests. There are over 300 spacious two-room suites and over 40,000 square feet of meeting space.

Our first round was at Omni Orlando Resort at Championsgate. This immense four-diamond resort features two excellent Greg Norman designed golf courses. We played the International Course, a vast layout that featured many water hazards. The greens are sloping and Norman has designed many obstacles to make the round more



challenging. The pot bunkers will give you a taste of Ireland and Scotland.

There is also a David Ledbetter Golf School on site, and we saw many young boys and girls who were attending the academy. The Omni has stay and play packages that offer excellent deals for playing both courses.

Our second morning might have been the highlight of the trip. Our group ventured to Gatorland that is right in town on S. Orange Blossom Trail. Normally golf trips just include golf, but like last year when we visited Kissimmee and kayaked up Shingle Creek, and this year we visited a very unique place that is perfect for the whole family.

Gatorland is 110 acres of thousands of alligators and crocodiles to see, an aviary, a breeding marsh tower, petting zoo, nature walk and much more. We watched them feed the gators up close and personal, we saw albino gators, baby gators and a host of other unique sights. Gatorland has the largest collection of gators in captivity in the world and is a great and affordable way to spend a few hours with your family.

Our second round was played at Reunion Golf & Spa Resort’s Palmer Course. Reunion is the only property in the world that has a Nicklaus,



Palmer and Watson course. You must stay on property to play the courses, but there are plenty of options for your accommodations. There are ten-bedroom homes, but also there are units from 700 to 10,000 square feet to choose from as well as an outstanding eleven-story hotel that has a fine restaurant.

Our third round of golf was at Celebration Golf Club. We knew we were in for a treat when we drove up to Celebration Golf Club and two beautiful 1920’s cars were parked in front.

Celebration Golf club is part of the Disney-designed town center and community that opened in 1996. The course is public and is the last collaborative design by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Jr. With many wetlands, this parkland course is picturesque and can play quite tough depending on the teeing area that you choose.

You know there’s water when you go to the practice area and the landing area is a pond with distance markers floating on the surface. Unique! The first green sits right next to a pond, so you need to be careful. The second hole requires a drive over severe vegetation and small trees. The third hole is a par 3 over a pond. Both the second and third holes have a huge bunker behind the green.

It gets much more forgiving

after that until you get to the 17th hole that has a green that sits out on a peninsula. The course is very well conditioned and is a treat to play. You will definitely think back to the many ways you could have scored better by playing the course correctly.

Celebration has a wonderful golf school right on the other side of the pond where the practice area is located. They have all the sophisticated equipment to make your lesson much more valuable and helpful. All the members of the press were invited for a lesson, but this writer thinks he needs more.

Other courses in Kissimmee to consider are Falcon’s Fire Golf Club (one of my favorites) that is just off Route 192, Harmony Golf Preserve, Kissimmee Bay Country Club, Remington Golf Club and Mystic Dunes, a Gary Koch design that we played last year and is a great deal of fun.

These last two visits to Kissimmee have made me a believer. There is wonderful golf, great attractions, fine restaurants and accommodations in this wonderful town that sits just south of Orlando. •

For more information about golf, housing, attractions, and much more in Kissimmee visit their website.

experiencekissimmee.com

Hilly Golf Oasis in Central Florida

We had the great fortune to visit Mission Inn Resort, the 36-hole golf and sports complex that is located 40 minutes from Orlando and one-half hour from The Villages this past winter.

Howey-in-the-Hills is the town where the resort is situated. Hills is the key word as you play the famous El Campeon course designed by George O'Neil in 1917 and enhanced by Charles E. Clarke of Scotland in 1926. It is one of the two courses on the property and one of the oldest golf courses in the South.



The town was named after William Howey from Illinois who purchased 60,000 acres of prime land in Lake County, Fla. with the intent of creating the largest horticultural empire in the world. The area and climate were perfect for citrus growth with its sandy soil, excellent drainage and protection from frost due to the 100 square miles of surrounding fresh water. He planted 48 citrus trees per acre and hired a 200-person sales force to sell oranges across the southeast.

In 1924, the 75-room Hotel Floridian was constructed on the Howey plantation to provide lodging for visiting investors. The area expanded so quickly that a golf course was built, but the stock market crash in 1929 and one of the worst freezes in Florida history crushed Howey's citrus empire.

In 1964 Nick Beucher, also of Illinois, a former top executive for Morton Salt and then a huge broker in the meat industry, saw an ad in the Wall Street Journal and bought the Floridian Country Club that had been badly neglected. He retired from the brokerage industry in 1973 and he and his wife, Margaret, moved to Florida to develop the Mission Inn Resort on the neglected property.

Over the years, members of Nick's family have joined the business and actively operate the resort that now sits on 1,100 acres and provides outstanding tennis courts, a fishing area with a huge pavilion and marina, beautiful hotel with 176 rooms, some villas and condos, four restaurants, a trap and skeet range, conference center, beautiful grounds for walking

as well as the two excellent golf courses.

El Campeon is the third oldest resort course in Florida, and is recognized as one of Golfweek's "Classic Golf Courses of America" and Las Colinas, the other course on the property that was designed by Gary Koch and opened in 1992 was nominated by Golf Digest as "Best New Resort Course". The courses are used every year for the Florida High Schools Championship.

We loved El Campeon. The fourth and the 13th holes are almost mirror images as they both require tee shots over a lake and then go straight uphill to hidden greens. There is quite a bit of water on the course, but none as intimidating as the double-dogleg par 5 17th hole that requires either the second shot for very long hitters, or third shot for most of the rest of us, to carry a huge pond that sits in front of a very sloping back to front green. There is a huge tree in front of that pond and center of the fairway that increases the difficulty of the hole

Number 18 is a risk/reward par 4 that doglegs right over a pond. The more you cut off the dogleg, the closer the green, but the tee shot is all over water. There is plenty of water and also huge trees that line most of the fairways. It is a great challenge.

We played Los Colinas the second day. It is a tamer course, but fun to play. It is a links-style course with many open fairways, but still has plenty of fun holes. The second hole is an excellent par 3 with water on the right and a huge bunker left and behind the green. A few holes require threaded shots between huge trees. It is a much flatter course and easier for many of the hotel guests.

We have many friends who live at The Villages who visit the courses monthly when they are down in Florida for the winter. Staying at the property is a delight, however, as there is always something to do. The sprawling property has activities for everyone, and with the \$2.5 million renovation that was completed in 2014, it is a great destination for a vacation in Florida. The restaurant is outstanding. If you are there for a weekend, make sure you experience the Saturday Night Unlimited Seafood, Sushi and Prime Rib buffet or the extravagant Champagne Sunday Brunch.

One of our favorite features of Mission Inn Resort is that we were sitting in our room overlooking the beautiful, pristine property with no traffic and high-rises about an hour after we got off the plane in Orlando.

To get more information about Mission Inn Resort visit www.missioninnresort.com or call 800-874-9053

Innisbrook Gets Even Better

The Golf Writers of America held their annual Golf Tournament at Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor, Fla. in January after the PGA Merchandise Show. Innisbrook is a half-hour from the Tampa Airport and an hour and one half from Orlando. We have played there and written about the fine resort in the past, but what a joy and treat to see how many major improvements have taken place over the years.

Isn't it great to be able to play where the PGA players play? The Copperhead course is host too the Valspar Championship each March (unfortunately it was cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic). It is so much fun watching it on television and remembering your good (forget the bad) shots on this great course.

When the idea to build Innisbrook, now a Salamander Resort, was conceived, the concept was both exciting and unique: a luxurious Florida golf resort with multiple courses and condominium-style accommodations. After it opened in 1970, the Tampa Bay area property quickly vaulted into the echelons of the country's finest golf resorts, and has remained there ever since thanks to the addition of many more amenities, the staging of a PGA TOUR event for the past 29 years, and an owner dedicated to quality and service. Its popularity has never been greater.

This past year they completely remodel the interiors of all of its 400 suites to feature an appealing and modern look. Each unit was completely refreshed to receive all new furniture, furnishings, flooring, stainless-steel appliances, quartz counters, cabinets, lighting, draperies and other décor.

These enhancements follow many other improvements made by Innisbrook owner Sheila Johnson since she purchased the property and Salamander Hotels & Resorts, the company Johnson founded, began managing it.

The celebrated golf resort's suites are located in low-rise lodge buildings, which were designed to blend into the property's 900 wooded acres through the use of a "back-to-nature" style of architecture. Many of the units look out on the Copperhead course.

Innisbrook's popular South Course had a renovation and will re-open this fall. All the greens have been planted with TifEagle Bermuda Grass – the same surface used at the resort's celebrated Copperhead Course. In addition to the replacement of the greens, the project also includes the expansion of the greens to their original size, and re-sodding and improvement of all bunker edging.

The suite makeovers and South Course restoration are just the latest in a series of improvements Salamander Hotels &

Resorts have made at Innisbrook. Other recent enhancements include: restoration of the famed Copperhead Golf Course, renovations to the Island Golf Course, installation of new greens on the North Golf Course and expansion of the Osprey Clubhouse.

Also the addition of the Market Salamander Grille & Bar, opening of the Salamander Spa and Fitness Center, refurbishing of its 65,000 square feet of Conference Space and revamping of the Loch Ness Pool Complex. This is in addition of spending \$26 million in 2009 to build the world-class spa.

Tram service is available throughout the property and shuttle service is available from the airport, so renting a car is not mandatory. They have a great many golf groups visit, in fact the return rate is about 50 percent. Groups of 12 or larger have a golf concierge assigned to handle all aspects of the visit.

Let's talk about the golf. The Copperhead course is the most famous. It can be a monster, as it plays to over 7,300 yards from the tips. "We have many people who want to play where the pros play, and we let them, but the course is more fun when you play from the tees that best suit your game," said a person in the pro shop. Our Golf Writers group played from just over 6,000 yards and it was plenty tough.

One of the unique things about the Copperhead course is the elevation changes. "This is not your typical Florida property, as we have 70-foot elevation changes on some holes," said our starter. The first hole is a good example, a downhill, winding par 5. The par 5's are all very challenging, especially the uphill over water 5th hole that is deserving of its number one handicap. One of the most challenging holes is the third, called "narrow neck" that has water on both sides of the fairway. Number 12 is a fun par 4 that requires a lay-up to the pond off the tee, and then a long carry over the pond to a well-bunkered green.

Our favorite course on the property was the Island Course. Set among tall pines, cypress and live oaks with moss draping towards the ground; it is a scenic wonder with enough wildlife to make a nature walker proud. We saw a bald eagle, all types of birds, and a raccoon during our round.

The front nine plays around Lake Innisbrook. It is narrower than Copperhead, but the shot-making needed on many holes, especially nine and 18 will give you a good test of golf. Number 7 is the signature hole and it is a great par 5. Sixteen might be the toughest.

The North and South courses are both fun, with the North



being a little more difficult with water coming into play on 11 holes. The par 3's are excellent and they play longer than their yardage. The South course is more links-like on the front nine. The houses that frame the par 5 eighth are exquisite.

Larry Packard designed all four courses. He lived on the property and died at the age of 100. He designed parts of Mt. Desert Island in Bar Harbor, Me., did work at O'Hare Airport and worked on over 250 golf courses, although the four at Innisbrook are his only complete designs.

The service at the property is phenomenal. I dropped my clubs off at the course the first day, and they were waiting for me at the first tee for the next two days. There is a great practice area. "We strive to make the stay at Innisbrook as comfortable and fun as possible," said the managing director Mike Williams at our welcoming party. They have succeeded. It's pretty difficult to make the golfing experience much better with great courses, excellent accommodations, wonderful staff and great weather. It's as good as a golf vacation can be. •

You can get more information and pictures about Innisbrook, a Salamander Golf & Spa Resort and their golf packages at www.innisbrookgolfresort.com or call them at 800-492-6899

REVIEWS

Golf CB5 : Golf is more fun when you're not in pain. Bogeys and Doubles hurt... playing golf shouldn't. Whether it's a bad back, sore wrist or bum knee, golfers are always dealing with pain. However, for many it can be emotional pain, too... first-tee jitters, the sting of a bad round or even a terrifying tee shot. Whatever the reason, Golf CB5 helps you feel better and makes golf more fun!



Health and wellness company Boomer Naturals has launched a breakthrough new product line called Golf CB5 – a doctor-formulated alternative to CBD that helps manage pain, inflammation, anxiety and even sleep. Golf CB5 is 100% legal, FDA compliant and has no CBD, no Hemp and no THC. A proprietary, plant-based blend of natural ingredients, Golf CB5 has been clinically shown to support the body's regulatory system and help improve physical and emotional health. Golf CB5 is available in AM, PM or Anytime Gummies and Tinctures as well as their best-selling Pain Relief Roll-on and InstaFreeze Pain Relief Cream. Golf CB5 and SKIN Sunscreen can be found online at www.boomernaturals.com, as well as public, private and resort facilities across the country.

Waterloo Hats : Each year we see the Wallaroo Hat booth at the PGA Merchandise Show. It is always busy and the staff is always so nice. This year, after many bouts with skin cancer, it was time to make a purchase. All the hats, both men, women and children's have the Seal of Approval from the Skin Cancer Foundation and have an SPF of either 30 or 50.



The company is located in sunny Colorado and have a wonderful motto—"It's a Sunny Life. Wear Your Hat." The prices are very reasonable, the quality is exceptional and the styles and fit. You can get more information or order a hat at www.wallarohats.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.

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, davegolffhouse@madriver.com

There Will Never Be Another Arnold

While watching this year's Bay Hill Classic in Orlando before the pandemic hit, I had many great memories of Arnold Palmer who started this tournament and whose name is attached to the event.

The memories go back to 1957 just before the Wethersfield Open outside of Hartford, CT. My dad, an excellent athlete, had recently taken up golf with his brothers. It was the result of the Arnold Effect, much similar to the Tiger Effect in the late 1990's. Occasionally he would take me with him. His brother was a lefty like myself, and he had a real old set of mongrel clubs that he gave to me.

I took to golf like water to a fish and couldn't get enough of it. The PGA Tour was stopping in Hartford and my dad asked if I wanted to go with him. What a thrill. As we were standing outside the ropes at one of the fairways, a player stopped by and tapped me on the shoulder and with a big smile said, "How are you doing son?" It was Arnold Palmer.

I never forgot that moment, and very fortunately I had the opportunity to talk to Mr. Palmer again. It was at the Golf Writers 50th Anniversary Dinner in Myrtle Beach. Arnold Palmer was the guest speaker and he regaled the writers with a talk that lasted about 40 minutes. He received a standing ovation, and then started walking through the crowd. I stopped him and mentioned my memory at the Wethersfield Open. His reply was perfect—"Well isn't that what you are supposed to do?" He said he always looked to talk to someone in the crowd to say hello. What a great idea and too bad it doesn't happen more often, although some of the young guns are doing it more.

Just one other great memory of Arnold Palmer. I was covering my first U.S. Open at Oakmont in 1994. It was Arnold's last Open, the temperature hovered around 100 degrees on the Friday and he was not making the cut. I was with good friend and fellow reporter Paul Kenyon from the Providence Journal, who had been covering golf tournaments for many years.

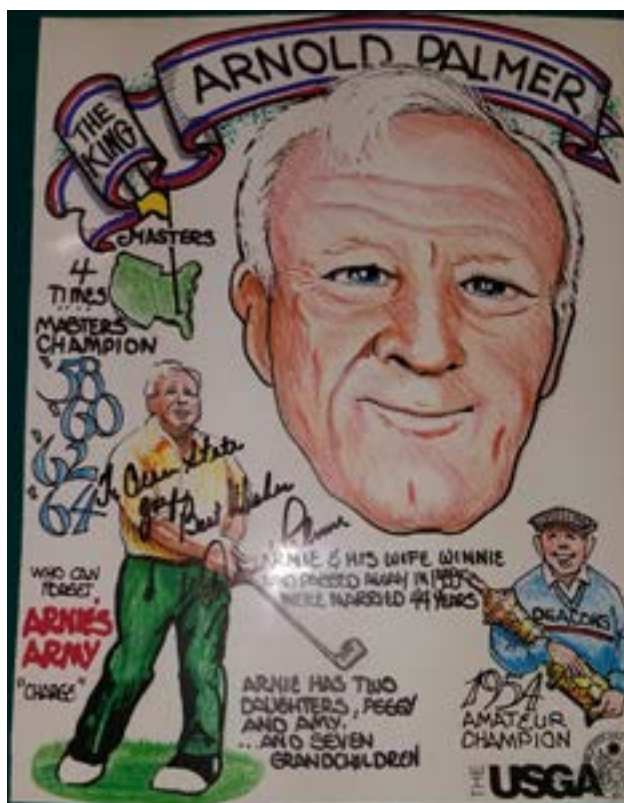
Mr. Palmer came into the press tent, obviously exhausted and drained of all emotion. He tried to speak, but started to cry. He put a towel over his head to try to compose himself. After about two minutes he took the towel off his head and tried to speak again. He was not able to speak as tears flowed down his cheeks. The entire press contingent of over two hundred rose as one and

gave him a standing ovation. He nodded and was ushered out the back entrance. As we stood there with tears in our eyes, Paul turned to me and said, "You will never see anything like this as long as you cover golf tournaments." He was right.

Fellow Rhode Islander Billy Andrade, who is the other half of Faxon and Andrade who have been so involved in the CVS Charity Classic, received the Arnold Palmer Scholarship to go to Wake Forest in North Carolina, Palmer's alma mater. When he invited Arnold to play in the CVS Charity Classic in 2001, he agreed to come and it was one of the best years ever.

Arnold regaled the crowd with a story about Billy Andrade. Cell phones were just becoming popular and Palmer was on Billy's contact list. Being an A for Arnold, he was first on the contacts. This became a problem as Billy's son would always play with his dad's phone and hit the first contact. "I was always getting calls from Billy Andrade," said a smiling Palmer who said he came to the event to straighten out the cell phone problem.

Since Arnold Palmer was coming to Rhode Island we decided to do a caricature of him for our publication that was called Ocean State Golf at the time. George Braman was our artist who did these pictures in most every issue of the publication highlighting people that we were writing about. This was the only time that George and I wanted to get an autograph of



one of his pieces. We made two copies of the caricature and mailed them to Arnold's office in Latrobe, PA. In about three weeks we received two signed autographs of the picture. I still have it hanging in my office, and always get great comments.

At the Masters in Augusta, all former winners were allowed to compete up until a few years ago. Arnold always played the Par 3 event on the Wednesday before the start of the event. My favorite place to watch that fun event was behind the green at the last hole (9). Palmer hit his tee shot over the pond and landed past the hole. You could see it rolling back towards the hole and I took a picture as the ball was falling into the hole for a 1. It was the price picture in our issue that month.

There have been many great memories over the past 30 years of publishing, and fortunately for this reporter many of them included Arnold Palmer. •

Bruce Vittner is the Publisher/Editor of SNEGolfer.com and can be reached at bruce@snegolfer.com.

If any person can be labeled with the tag “survivor” it certainly is Ken Green, the 61-year-old controversial, glib former PGA Tour and occasional Champions Tour pro from Danbury, Connecticut.

Green’s childhood, he said in his book released last year, *Hunter of Hope: Life In, Outside and on the Ropes*, was marred by sexual abuse by his father’s friends, a nasty divorce as an adult, money problems, gambling, battles with alcohol abuse, thoughts of suicide, the death of one of his sons (Hunter) from a drug overdose, and a horrific traffic accident that took the lives of three people, including his brother and girlfriend and cost Green his right leg.

Yet Green keeps on keeping on, thanks to a strong will and the use of a prosthetic right leg. He vowed after the accident that occurred in Mississippi in 2009 while travelling to and from golf tournaments that he would once again play golf, even as he lay in a hospital bed after doctors had removed the lower portion of his right leg. He made good on that vow and built himself physically and mentally to return to competitive golf, playing in a few Champions Tour events (for players over the age of 50), regional and state tournaments. And, playing pretty well at that.

After being fit with a prosthetic leg from the knee down, he taught himself how to play the game again. He began hitting balls on the range, playing practice rounds, and then got himself fit enough that he was able to play several events on the Champions Tour, as well as local and regional events. He finished fourth at the Connecticut Senior Open at Shennecossett Golf Course in Groton in 2019, and tied for second at both the 2018 and 2016 Connecticut Senior opens.

“I’ve have had so many crazy things happen to me,” said Green, who splits his time between homes in West Palm Beach, Florida and New Fairfield, Connecticut. “I guess it’s the Ken Green reverse one percent law. I don’t think many people have had things happen, good and bad, like I have.”

Green was born in Danbury and moved to Honduras with his family where his father, Martin Green, whom he claimed was an alcoholic, was principal of the American School in the Central American country. Having to choose between soccer and golf, young Green chose the latter and he wound up quitting school at the age of 16 while attending Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury, Ct., telling his mother that he wanted to pursue his dream of playing professionally.

He did wind up finishing his high school education and attending Palm Beach Junior College in Florida for a year before he was recruited to play for the University of Florida, earning second team All-Southern Conference honors in 1979. Green indeed did turn professional in 1979 and joined the PGA Tour the following year. He became a proficient player, known for his all-out style of play and fierce competitiveness. He posted five wins on the PGA Tour, lost two tournaments in playoffs, and captured five international events. His selection to the U.S. Ryder Cup team in 1989 was a highlight of his



Ken Green (L) Douglas Rose (R)

career. Even after his life and golf game began to break down in the late 80’s and 1990’s, Green could occasionally rise up. He finished seventh at the 1996 U.S. Open.

“I had a great run during the 1980’s and I felt like I was getting better every year,” said Green, now 61. “I was winning tournaments on the PGA Tour, was on the Ryder Cup team, and winning overseas, which I am equally as proud of as

my wins in the states. I would love to have been able to see what I was capable of if I didn’t lose my

focus. I was still young and probably had another six or seven really good years ahead of me when things broke down.” Green’s sister, Shelley, caddied for him for several years while on Tour.

“Things broke down,” he said, because of a nasty divorce and losing custody of his children. He began drinking more than socially, gambling, fell into the deep hole of depression, started missing cuts and continuing to pile up fines from the PGA Tour.

Green had over two dozen fines levied against him, such as for sneaking friends into The Masters in the trunk of his car, swearing on the course, burying or flinging into the water several putters, and signing autographs for fans while playing. Perhaps his most famous run in with the PGA Tour power- that-be was when he had a friend grab him a beer during The Masters in 1997 while playing a tournament round with the legendary Arnold Palmer, his childhood hero.

Of *Hunter of Hope: Life In, Outside and on the Ropes*, Green said, “The book gave me the opportunity to show what I went through, and maybe it can help people out there that have gone through or are going through similar things as I have; the loss of a son, a nasty marriage and divorce, depression, and the tragic accident. I can give my point of view and maybe help people, and get them back on the right track. If I can do it, then people reading the book may say that they can do the same thing.” He also talks openly, and admittedly in a painful way, about sexual assault he experienced as a pre-teen while in Honduras, abuse that only ended when he was sent to live with his mother in the U.S.

He also does a podcast titled “Sportsballs” (of course), during which he dishes on golf and other issues, still holding true to his shoot from the hip approach and willingness to tell the truth as he sees it. He also enjoys spending time with his son Ken, Jr.’s family that includes two children.

When in Connecticut, Green spends much of his golfing time at Danbury’s Richter Park Golf Course and Ridgewood Country Club, “courses that I grew up playing.” He added, “The pros around the state are very kind to me, probably because I was a former Tour pro, and I can play pretty much anywhere I’d like.”

And that’s all Ken Green wants these days; a chance to play golf and help people fighting their own emotional and physical issues.

John Torsiello is a long-time golf writer from Connecticut who writes an occasional story for snegolfer.com.

Name That Hole



The first person to email the correct answer to bruce@snegolfer.com will receive a prize. Prizes may include one of the following: a Season Passport, balls, hat or other prizes.

Visit SNEGolfer online and sign up to receive each issue delivered to your inbox. You'll also receive the latest news and updates as they happen!

July 25 Issue Preview

Normally we have all the things that all planned for the next issue, but not this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. We know that the PGA season will be kicking off on June 11 in Texas and we hope to have results from different events on the tours.

The Challenge Cup hopefully will have results for our junior golf pages. We will promise to deliver a fact-filled and fun group of stories for your enjoyment. Stay safe and get out to enjoy one of the greatest games on the planet.



SNE GOLFER MAP LISTING

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,DR, Lessons
3. **COUNTRYVIEW 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.coventrypines.com CR,CH,CH,SB,DR, simul.
5. **CRYSTALLAKE G.C. (18) SP**
100 Bronco's Hwy. Mapleville RI
401-567-4500
www.crystallakegolfclub.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,O
6. **CRANSTON CC (18) P**
69 Burlingame Rd. Cranston, RI
401-826-1683
www.cranstoncc.com CR,CL,PS,CH,O
7. **EAST GREENWICH G.C. (9) P**
1646 Division Rd. E. Greenwich, RI
401-234-9836
Facebook at EGCOUNTRYCLUB
CR,CL,CH,O,Rest.
8. **EXETER C.C. (18) SP**
320 Victory Hwy. (Rt. 102) Exeter, RI
401-295-8212
www.exetercc.com CR,CL,PS,CH,O
9. **FAIRLAWN GOLF COURSE (9) P,X**
3 Sherman Ave. Lincoln, RI
401-334-3937
www.fairlawngolfcourse.com
CR,CL,CH,SB,O
10. **FOSTER COUNTRY CLUB (18) P**
67 Johnson Rd. Foster, RI
401-397-7750
www.fostercountryclub.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,O
11. **HARBORLIGHTS MARINA & CC (9) P**
150 Gray St. Warwick, RI
401-737-6353
www.harborlightsri.com
CR,CL,PS,DR,CH,O, Les.
12. **JAMESTOWN G.C. (9) P**
245 Jananicus Ave. Jamestown, RI
401-423-9930
www.jamestowngolf.com CR,CL,CH,SB
13. **KINGSCROSSING CC (9) P**
655 Old Baptist Rd. N. Kingstown, RI
401-294-2872
www.kingscrossinggolfclub.com
CR,PS,CH,O
14. **LAURELLANE COUNTRY CLUB (18) P**
Laurel Lane, W. Kingston, RI
401-783-3844
www.laurellanecountryclub.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,O
15. **MIDVILLE COUNTRY CLUB (9) P**
100 Lombardi Ln. W. Warwick, RI
401-828-9215
www.midvillegolfclub.com
CR,CL,PS,CH
16. **NEWPORT NATIONAL GOLF CLUB (18) SP**
324 Mitchell's Ln. Middletown, RI
401-848-9690
www.newportnational.com

- CR,CL,PS,SB,O
17. **NORTH KINGSTOWN G.C. (18) P**
615 Callahan Rd. N. Kingstown, RI
401-294-0684
www.nkgc.com CR,CL,CH,O,DR,PS
Fat Belly's
18. **PINECREST GOLF CLUB (9) P**
25 Pinehurst Dr. Richmond, RI
401-364-8600
www.pinecrestri.com
CR,CL,CH,SB,O Leagues
19. **RICHMOND CC (18) P**
74 Sandy Pond Rd. Richmond, RI
401-364-9200
www.richmondcountryclub.net
CR,CL,PS,CH,O,DR
20. **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
21. **TRIGGS MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE (18) P**
1533 Chalkstone Ave. Providence, RI
401-521-8460
www.triggs.us CR,CL,PS,CH,O
22. **WINDMILL HILL G.C. (9) X**
35 Schoolhouse Rd. Warren, RI (off Rt 136)
401-245-1463
www.windmillgolfri.com
CR,CL,CH,O, Restaurant
23. **WINNAPAUG CC (18) P**
184 Shore Rd. (Rt 1A) Westerly, RI
401-596-1237
www.winnapaugcountryclub.com
CR,CL,CH,DR,SB,O
24. **WOOD RIVER GOLF (18) P**
78 Woodville-Alton Rd. Hope Valley, RI
401-364-0700
www.woodrivergolf.com
CR,CH,SB,O

RI Driving Ranges

- A. **BUTTON HOLE LEARNING CENTER (9)**
1 Button Hole Dr. Providence, RI
401-421-1664
www.buttonhole.org
Target greens, 2 putting greens, lessons
- B. **MULLIGAN'S ISLAND GOLF & ENTERTAINMENT (9) X**
401-464-8855
1000 New London Ave. Cranston, RI
www.mulligansisland.com
60 stall driving range, covered area, batting cages, Top Tracer, mini-golf, par 3 course, 18-hole pitch and putt, PGA Golf Academy, Spargo Golf on premises, club fitting and repairs
- Massachusetts Courses**
25. **BAY POINTE CLUB (18) SP**
19 Bay Pointe Dr. Onset, MA
508-759-8802
www.baypointeclub.com,
PS,CR,CL,DR,CH,O,SB
26. **BLACKSTONE NATIONAL G.C. (18) SP**
227 Putnam Hill Rd. Sutton, MA 508-865-2111
www.bngc.net CR,CL,CH,PS,O,DR
27. **BLISSFUL MEADOWS G.C. (18) SP**
801 Chocalog Rd. Uxbridge, MA
508-278-6110
www.blissfulmeadows.com
CR,CL,CH,DR,PS,O
28. **BUNGAY BROOK G.C. (9) P**
30 Locust St. Bellingham, MA
508-883-1600
www.bungaybrook.com
CR,CL,DR,PS,CH,O

29. **CAPTAINS COURSE (36) P**
1000 Freeman's Way, Brewster, MA
508-896-1716
www.captainsgolfcourse.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,O
30. **CHEMAWA GOLF COURSE (18) P**
350 Cushman Rd. N. Attleboro, MA
508-399-7330
www.chemawagolf.com CR,CH,O,CL,
31. **EASTON CC (18) SP**
265 Purchase St. Easton, MA
508-238-2500
www.eastoncountryclub.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,DR,O
32. **FRANCONIA G.C. (18) P**
619 Dwight Rd. Springfield, MA
413-787-6467
www.vets-franconia-golf.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,O
33. **HAZELTON CC (18) P**
329 Summer St. Rehoboth, MA
508-557-1856
www.hazeltongolfclub.com
CR,PS,CH,O
34. **JOHNE. PARKER MUNICIPAL G.C. (9) P**
17 Fisher St. Taunton, MA
508-822-1797
CR,DR,CH,SB, Skins Thurs. at 3:45
35. **JUNIPER HILL G.C. (36) P**
202 Brigham St. Northboro, MA
508-393-2444
www.juniperhillgc.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,SB,O
36. **MAPLEGATE COUNTRY CLUB (18) SP**
160 Maple St. Bellingham, MA
508-966-4040
www.maplegate.com
CR,CL,PS,CH
37. **THE LINKS AT MASS GOLF (18) P,X**
300 W. Main Rd. Rt. 123 Norton, MA
508-222-0555
www.linksatmassgolf.org
CL,PS,CH,SB,O
38. **NORTON COUNTRY CLUB (18) SP**
188 Oak St. Norton, MA
508-285-2400
www.nortoncountryclub.com
CR,CL,CH,SB,O
39. **OLDE SCOTLAND LINKS (18) P**
695 Pine St. Bridgewater, MA
508-279-3344
www.oldescotlandlinks.com
CR,CL,SB,DR,O
40. **PINE OAKS GC (9) P**
68 Prospect St. S. Easton, MA
508-238-2320
www.pineoaks.com
CR,CL,CH,O,Retail Store
41. **REHOBOTH CC (18) P**
155 Perryville Rd. Rehoboth, MA
508-252-6259
www.rehobothcountryclub.com
CR,CH,PS,O
42. **SHINING ROCK CC (18) SP**
91 Clubhouse Way Northbridge, MA
508-234-0400
www.shiningrock.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,O
43. **WENTWORTH HILLS GC (18) SP**
27 Bow St. Plainville, MA
508-316-0240
www.wntworthhillsgc.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,O
- Massachusetts Driving Ranges**
- C. **ATLANTIC DRIVING RANGE**
754 Newport Ave. S. Attleboro, MA
508-761-5484
www.atlanticgolfcenter.com

- heated tees, retail shop., mini golf, chip and putt
- D. **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 Golf Courses**
44. **AIRWAYS GC (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, School
48. **MOHEGANSUNG G.C. (18) P**
7 Dows Ln. Baltic, CT
860-862-9230
www.mohegansunggolfclub.com
CR,CL,PS,CH golf packages, lessons
49. **QUARRY RIDGE (18) SP**
9A Rose Hill Rd. Portland, CT
860-342-6113
www.quarryridge.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,O riding only
50. **RIVER RIDGE GOLF CLUB (18) P**
259 Preston Rd. Griswold, CT
860-376-3268
www.riverridgegolf.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,O
51. **SHENNECOSSETT G.C. (18) P**
93 Plant St. Groton, CT
860-445-0262 (PS 448-1867)
www.shennygolf.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,Rest.,O
52. **SKUNGAMAUG RIVER GOLF CLUB (18) P**
104 Folly Ln. Coventry, CT
860-742-9348
www.skungamauggolf.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,O

MAP KEY

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



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REHOBOTH COUNTRY CLUB

2020 Tournament, Leagues & Outing Dates
Seasonal Preferred Tee Times & Season Passes
Now Available



Weekday Special

18 Holes w/cart \$36, Valid 7am to 12pm (M-F)
Not valid with other discounts, coupons, tournaments and outings. Not valid holidays.
Weekday Greens Fees - 18 holes \$30 / Seniors \$25, 9 Holes \$20

Weekends & Holidays Golf 155 Perryville Road • Rehoboth, MA
18 holes - \$36, After 12pm \$26
PRO SHOP: 508-252-6259
Tournament prices 18 holes w/cart \$42 Min.
33 People Banquet and Golf League Dates
Available. Call Pro Shop
CLUBHOUSE: 508-252-6202
www.rehobothcountryclub.com

EVERY DAY RATES

Monday thru Sunday

18 Holes \$22
13 Holes \$17
11 Holes \$15

Cart Fees \$20.00 (\$10.00 p.p.)

*Restaurant open to public
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