

SNE GOLFER

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR ISSUE



TIME ▾	PLAYER ▾	TIME ▾	PLAYER ▾
7:54	Brown	12:00	Clark
8:04	Smith	12:18	Norton
8:12	Johnson	12:26	Barry
8:20	Jerome	12:34	Sullivan
8:28	Lyons	12:42	Martin
8:36	Wright	12:50	Moore
8:44	Costello	12:58	Jackson
8:52	Quinn	1:06	Defusco
9:00	Palmer	1:14	Jones
9:08	Burns	1:22	Adams
9:16	Monig	1:30	Hilton

GOLF DOING WELL DURING COVID-19



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WHALEY**

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editorial

Welcome to our third and last issue of 2020. Normally we do four issues per year, and once in a while there are even five issues. This year does not quite qualify as normal. When we started trying to get advertisers back in March, the world, and certainly southern New England, had just started to hear the words “coronavirus and Covid-19.

The golf world came to almost a complete stop. The Masters was postponed, golf was not allowed in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and golf shops were closed for business. Course owners were panicked, rightfully so! Connecticut was the only beam shining as they remained open throughout the

initial scares from the pandemic. Golf is an outdoor sport right? People keep a six-foot distance between themselves quite easily on a golf course.

For a month and one-half nothing happened in the golf industry. Certainly not in the golf publishing industry when course owners and retailers didn't know where their next dollars were coming from.

The end of May and the beginning of June really showed a turn around. Courses started filling up their tee sheets. Regular golfers couldn't wait to resume their wonderful game. Athletes who couldn't play their favorite sport, switched to golf because it was allowed. Couples started to play golf to get out of the house. Families started to play golf together. People had more disposable income because they couldn't eat out, go to the movies, travel, fly, take a cruise, and many other activities that were in limbo because of this crazy and very serious pandemic.

There are a couple of stories right near the front of this issue that I hope you read. Page 5's cover story highlights the thoughts from the previous paragraph. My favorite quote from an owner was by Glen Bourque of Chemawa G.C. in North Attleboro, Mass.—Covid has been the Vaccine for the Golf Industry. What a true statement. The National Golf Foundation that we quote in this issue raves about how golf is booming; some say back to the days of the Tiger Effect. The same holds true for the retail golf industry. There are some good comments on page 7

In the 31 years that I have been doing this publication we have never had a 2,500 word story. Can't say that anymore after you read Bruce Berlet's story about Connecticut's Suzy Whaley, who just completed her two years as president of the Professional Golfers' Assn., a body of 29,000 professionals around the country. Bruce said it was one of his favorite columns of all time because of the person, and also the position that she filled. Hope you enjoy it, and don't stop for lunch in the middle of reading it.

One of the true joys of this publication is the chance we have to visit and write about great golf courses. We visited Montcalm G.C. in New Hampshire last month and it was an amazing place. Word has it that it will turn private within the next couple of years, so make it a point to play it before you can't. We also have a story written by two of my friends from the golf industry. They went to Payne's Valley near Branson, Missouri to write about this wonderful course designed by Tiger Woods in the Ozark Mountains to memorialize the late Payne Stewart who came from that area.

Thank you to all my writers who continue to do a fine job telling stories that you probably would not see anywhere else. We will be back with the next issue in April 2021. Let's hope that things are better and the golf industry continues to shine. Keep your head down and swing easy.

BRUCE VITNER

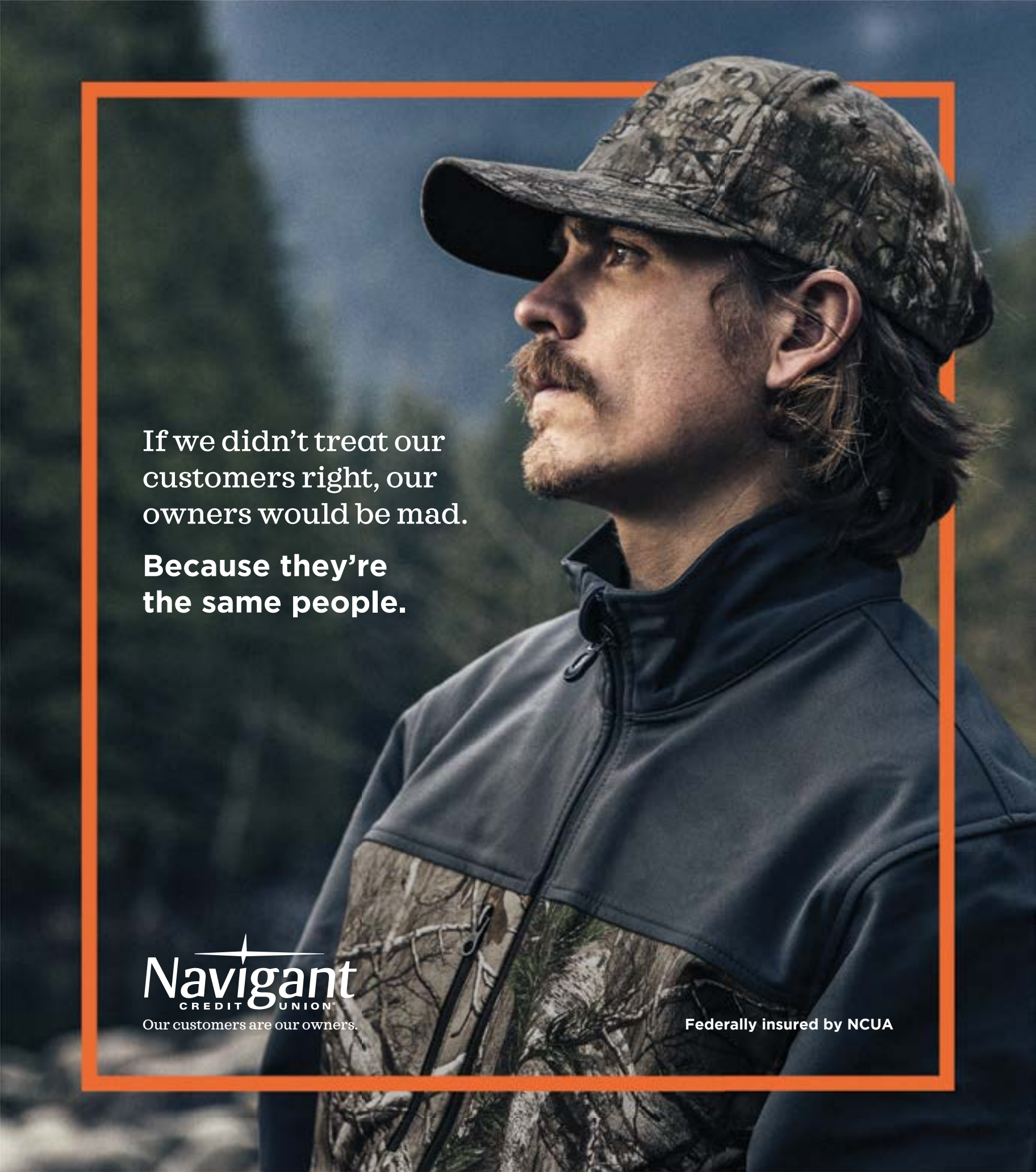
Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of snegolfer.com and can be reached at bruce@snegolfer.com.

TRIVIA

What College did they Graduate from?

1. Bryson DeChambeau
 2. Collin Morikowa
 3. Jack Nicklaus
 4. Arnold Palmer
 5. Billy Andrade
 6. Bubba Watson
 7. Patrick Reed
 8. Keegan Bradley
 9. Ricky Fowler
 10. Brad Faxon
1. SMU
 2. Oklahoma State
 3. Ohio State
 4. Wake Forest
 5. Wake Forest
 6. Georgia
 7. Georgia
 8. St. Johns
 9. Oklahoma State
 10. Furman

Answers

A man with a mustache and goatee, wearing a camouflage baseball cap and a dark blue jacket with a camouflage pattern on the lower half, is shown in profile, looking towards the left. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees. The entire image is framed by a thick orange border.

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GOLF IS THRIVING DURING THE PANDEMIC

“ The Pandemic was a Vaccine for the Golf Industry. ”

Despite the pandemic and spring shutdowns of golf courses in our area, the rounds of golf in 2020 are outpacing rounds in 2019 in both June and July. This news comes from the National Golf Foundation that is considered the bible of golf statistics.

We did our own survey of golf courses in the southern New England area to get their feel for what has been happening in this unprecedented year where so much of our lives have been turned upside down by this Covid 19 pandemic. Many didn't want to reveal their percentages, but some offered us some information for this article.

“The tee sheets have been mostly full,” said Tom Palmer, manager at Cranston C.C. “We have lost a great many of our tournaments, but some have been rescheduled and others have already promised that they will be back next year. We struggled to keep up with the cart situation when players were limited to one in a cart, but that has ended. We have seen so many new people and many of them are young,” he added.

The most interesting conversation I had

with any owner of a public course was with Glen Bourque of Chemawa G.C. in No. Attleboro, Mass., the pretty 18-holer that draws players from both Rhode Island and Massachusetts. “Our golf rounds are almost back to a normal year after having lost seven weeks of no playing in Massachusetts in April and May, but our food and beverage income is almost non-existent,” said Bourque.

Here are more of Bourque's quotes. “The Pandemic was a Vaccine for the Golf Industry.” I wanted to use that as a headline to the story. He went on to add that he is seeing many new players at his course. “We are seeing many couples playing, and also entire families. There are way more people in their twenties playing golf during the day. I think that many people are working from home, and decide to play golf in the middle of the day to get away from the home office, as you can choose to work any part of the day at home,” said Bourque.

Many course owners talked about new players at their golf course. This might be due

to people have more time to visit different golf courses when they don't have to go into work. Being outdoors is certainly a positive trait for golf. Many gyms and fitness centers were closed for a long time, and people still wanted to exercise. What better way than walking around a beautiful parklike setting like a golf course!

Alan Rustici who owns the fine 27-hole facility, Elmridge Country Club, in Pawcatuck, Conn. spoke of how his business is up 20 percent from previous years. “We were fortunate that Connecticut kept the golf courses open throughout the pandemic, as it is very easy to socially distance on the golf course. We saw many new golfers come in off the street that had never been here before. Our tournament business has suffered with many cancelled in the spring, but now they are being held and most are happy just to get a box lunch after the round.”

Rustici quoted the National Golf Foundation, saying that many people have shown interest in playing golf, but just weren't doing it over the last ten years. “This year's pandemic has proven that

Story Continues on Page 6

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correct as people we have never seen before are now coming to the golf course," said Rustici who added that Connecticut has a ruling that you can't sell liquor in an establishment unless you are selling food.

Karl Augenstein, general manager of Triggs Memorial Golf Course in Providence has also seen an increase in golf in 2020. "We have been fortunate to keep doing very well during the coronavirus pandemic. Our business was hurt when we had to close in April, but we are seeing many new players and the tee sheet has stayed quite full since we reopened," said Augenstein who said they have worked very diligently to keep everything sanitary and safe during these trying times.

Increases in golf are not limited to 18-hole facilities. Robert McNeil, who owns Kings Crossing in North Kingston, R.I. says that he has seen about a 20 percent increase in play at his course. "I think many of the new golfers are people who just wanted to get outdoors in the fresh air for a couple of hours."

How do we keep the surge in golf continuing? Golf has a spectacular opportunity to get new golfers. Live sports on television are limited, but golf is growing its numbers with the great golf events that are being televised each week. More and more young players are winning or coming close. Golf has become a great outdoor sport for youngsters as well as whole families. Driving ranges have been booming all summer.

Existing golfers are playing more, former golfers are returning to the game, and so many people are taking up the sport for the first time. When this pandemic is finally over (and it doesn't seem like that will be anytime soon), it is so important to keep all of these current golfers continuing to realize what a fun sport and activity golf is and how it is a sport that you can play your whole life.

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

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RISING STAR



Doc Redman

Age: 22
Birthplace: Chapel Hill, N. Carolina
Family: Single
College: Clemson University
Turned Pro: 2018

Doc Redman won the 2017 USGA's Men's Amateur Championship in 2017, and then played on the 2017 Walker Cup team. He turned professional for the 2018-19 season.

None other than Brad Faxon told us to watch this rising star who earned his PGA Tour card for the 2019-2020 season. He finished 2nd in the 2019 Rocket Mortgage Championship and twentieth in the Open Championship.

In 2020 he finished tied for third at the Wyndham Championship, tied for 11th at the Travelers and tied for 13th at Houston. In the current 20-21 season he has already tied for third at the Safeway Open

Doc (his real first name) is in seventh place in the 2020-21 Fed Ex standing and \$ his career totals on Tour are just under \$2.5 million.

GOLF RETAILERS DOING WELL

We wanted to find out how retailers were doing during the coronavirus pandemic. The story on page 5 talked about how golf courses have been thriving during the last few months. How about the golf retailers?

Michael Britt is the regional manager for Golfers Warehouse that has stores in Cranston, Rhode Island, Auburn, Braintree and Danvers in Massachusetts, and Hartford, Connecticut and seemed like the best person to query. We asked him "How is it going?"

"We closed all of our stores on March 20 on our own decision. We saw all the problems that were being caused by the coronavirus, and thought it was better to shut down to protect all our workers and customers. We opened the Cranston store on May 9, and the business was booming. We sold out of push carts right away, and the ball sales were outstanding. The Harford

store reopened on May 20, and we saw the same thing happen."

Said Britt, "Our three stores in Massachusetts were finally allowed to open on June 8, so they were really closed almost three months. We were very careful in all our stores. Social distancing was strictly enforced and everyone had to wear a mask. We had such a run on golf balls that I offered to take a truck up to the Titleist factory in New Bedford, but that was not allowed, as I wouldn't be able to get into the factory."

One of things that surprised Britt were the amount of golf shoes sold. "I guess people didn't realize how uncomfortable their old ones were when they had to start walking the course because of the limit on golf carts. Another factor in the increase of shoe sales was the number of new golfers who wanted to get outside and play," he said.

"People showed patience when we first opened. Not everyone could get into the store and lines formed outside. I think most people were just very happy that we were finally open again," said a smiling Britt who

has served in this capacity for many years.

Other products that sold really well have been golf bags, starter clubs and used equipment. "We have seen a great rise in club fittings. This is an indicator of new golfers and those who realize that they want to get better at the game," added Britt.

Joe Mastrati whose store, Second Time Around Sports in Cranston, R.I. has been in business for 28 years, says that golf saved his business. "I opened up with a curbside service when the coronavirus hit. I couldn't keep golf push carts in stock. I went through three or four orders, but then I couldn't get any more. Customers would tell me what they wanted and I'd bring them out to the curb," added Mastrati.

"Golf kept me going. There was no lacrosse, baseball, softball and soccer. If it wasn't for golf, I would have had to close my business. I have never seen anything like this in golf since Tiger Woods came on the scene. I never realized there were so many left-handers who play golf," said Mastrati who has always maintained a huge inventory of used clubs and children's sets.

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As we head into the off season, it's a great time for a SAM PuttLab putting evaluation to see where the weak links of your putting strokes truly are. From there, we can help you put together a winter putting training program that works to help bring out your full putting potential come next season! Below are some basics fundamentals that should always be considered when working on your putting stroke along with some corresponding drills.

Set Up and Aim – For a proper setup, assuming you have a properly fit putter, all body lines (feet, hips, shoulders, forearms & eyes) need to be aligned parallel to the target line, with a proper grip, eyes over the ball, and ball position one golf ball forward of center. Drill: Use a putting mirror on ground to help with setup & alignment.

Putter Face and Path Direction - The putter face angle at impact is 83% responsible for the initial ball direction and is the most important factor in determining the initial start line. You will miss shorter putts mainly because of a misaligned putter face at impact. The putter path in relation to the target line is responsible for 17% of the initial ball direction. Shorter putts are mainly not missed due to pulls and pushes of the path, as the path is only a minimal factor in the starting direction of the ball. Drill: Use an elevated String Line to practice starting the ball online.

Impact Spot - Hitting the ball off-center from the sweet spot (often indicated by a line on top of the putter head) of the putter will most likely result in distance and direction errors. Although certain putter designs help offset this flaw, a repeatable setup and stroke is necessary to consistently find the sweet spot. Poor balance and an irregular stroke are the usual suspects of these off-center hits. Drill: set up two golf tees just a bit wider than width of your putter and make strokes through the tee gate to find the sweet spot.

Launch & Spin – Many amateurs are adding too much loft to their putter at setup by playing the ball position too far forward in their stance, but their hands are in the center of their body. The golf shaft is now leaning backwards which adds loft at impact. This impact condition creates higher launch and more backspin resulting in the ball jumping when first struck and then skidding once it lands back on the putting surface, which in turn affects the distance the putt will roll out. Drill: Check setup from a face on view in a mirror, look for shaft in a neutral position (no lean), hands should be over putter head.

Putter Face Rotation - Face rotation is a natural result of moving the putter back and forth on a tilted swing plane. The putter should always be square to the path you are swinging the putter on. Most amateurs use too much forearm and hand action creating excessive rotation while better players tend to hold off that action resulting in blocks. In either case, activating the forearms and hands reduce consistency of face rotation at impact and should be avoided.

Drill: Place a golf shaft under your arms and make some putting strokes by just rocking your shoulders up and down and without activating your forearms or hands.

Please contact me at the Golf Academy at Mulligan's Island in Cranston, R.I. if you would like to book a SAM PuttLab evaluation. (508) 951-4371, toddcampbell@pga.com

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LEOPOLD AND GIANA PAPA LEADING P.O.Y RACES IN RHODE ISLAND

The year 2020 was certainly one that will not be forgotten by the Rhode Island Golf Assn. for a long time. Before the golf season even began there was a fire at the Button Hole facility in Providence that did extensive damage to the building and forced the staff to work from home.

Working from home has not been the abnormal in this Covid-19 year, but it certainly made life more difficult for Bob Ward and his staff. Their website shows many men's and women's tournaments cancelled, but they have still had quite a successful year.

Bobby Leopold of Wannamoisett C.C. is leading in the men's Player of the Year category. He recently won the Mid-Amateur Championship, besting Austin Calley of Winnapaug and Bill Forcier of Wannamoisett by two strokes.



Jaime Lukowicz of Agawam Hunt is in second place, 34 points behind Leopold. Michael Hamilton of Kirkbrae C.C. is third and Andrew O'Leary of Pawtucket C.C. is fourth. Davis Chatfield of Wannamoisett C.C. is fourth, but he only played in one event.

On the distaff side Giana Papa of Valley C.C. is in first place, followed by Kay Bullock of Montaup C.C., Lisa Ferrara of Wannamoisett, Marily Weigner, of Wannamoisett. Kibbe Reilly, also of Wannamoisett is fifth. She has been the Player of the Year in years past.

In the Men's Senior division Darren Corrente of Wannamoisett has a huge lead over David Boggini of Shelter Harbor followed closely by Bruce Heterick and Dean Parziale, both of Agawam Hunt.

In the Junior Divisions Harry Dessel of R.I.C.C. has the lead over John Baldwin of Acoaxet C.C. followed by Maxwell Jackson of Pawtucket then Spencer Dumas of Wannamoisett. The Girls are led by Gianna Papa who is still young enough to be a Junior. She has a huge lead over Kylie Eaton of Kirkbrae C.C., then her little sister Vincenza Papa followed by Olivia Williams of Potowomut.

Final standing will be available of the Rhode Island Golf Assn. website.



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THIS ISN'T YOUR FATHER'S PGA TOUR, FAR FROM IT!

With the 2020 FedEx Cup in the books and a new PGA Tour season just underway, all eyes are on the seemingly great collection of young talent out there. There's Collin Morikawa (23 year of age), Victor Hovland (22), Scottie Scheffler (24) and Matthew Wolff (21). And fellow newbies Doc Feldman (22), Joaquin Niemann (21) and Sung-Jae Im (21). All of these young men are in their early 20's and have shown that they are more than ready to compete with the Big Dogs on Tour.

Some of those "Big Dogs" aren't too much older. Like John Rahm (25), Bryson DeChambeau (26), Xander Schauffele (26) and Justin Thomas (27). And then there's the ancient artifacts like Brooks Koepka (30), Rory McIlroy (31) and reigning FedEx Cup Champion Dustin Johnson (36).

As you can see, the PGA Tour is absolutely stacked with great young talent. The question is: why?

To get to the bottom of this, I caught up with a Ben Tuthill who is the Chairman of the Northeast Amateur Golf Tournament held annually at Wannamoisett Country Club and former PGA Tour star and Rhode Island native Brad Faxon.

"First of all, it's no surprise that these guys are having great success on Tour," Tuthill said. "They were all top amateurs in the country and, when you get to that level, you're usually going to have success at the next level."

A great amateur golfer himself, Tuthill also believes that the so-called rules of engagement have changed for young people who are serious about the sport. "Today, kids start playing the sport at such a young age and are competitive early on," he said. "They not only have swing coaches, they have coaches for the mental part of the game and, beyond that, they are focused on the fitness and training aspect of things as well."

Tuthill and many of the members of Wannamoisett have had the fortunate opportunity to not only meet, but also get to know many of these great Tour players when they were amateurs playing in the Northeast. "Scottie (Scheffler) played four of five years here. He's one of my favorites," Tuthill said. "He's a great kid from a great family as most of them are."

Tuthill also remembers Morikawa as well. "Colin was an awesome kid," he recalls. "He was an amazing amateur." Tuthill also believes that, unlike when he was a young boy playing the sport, that there is much more tournament golf for young players these days and that helps refine their games and get used to competition at an early age.

Rhode Island's Brad Faxon, who has had a long and successful professional golfing career, agrees adding, "Organizations like the AJGA give them a competitive Junior Tour that allowed them to play quality courses against great players week in and week out. As they approached college and high-level amateur golf, they had plenty of experience and they are more prepared for all situations. Like the LPGA Tour, the average age is coming down on the PGA Tour and the college experience helps mature them as well as gives them the highest level of competition - arguably more than the Korn Ferry Tour."

And then there's one other MAJOR factor which might help explain the plethora of great young talent on the PGA Tour. It's called "The Tiger Effect." Tiger Woods burst onto the PGA Tour scene on August 29, 1996 at the Greater Milwaukee

Open. Eight months later, he was being fitted for his first of five green jackets after a dominating victory at the Masters.

Wolff, Hovland, Niemann and Im weren't even born when Tiger won for the first time at Augusta National, and Morikawa was only two months old. But they grew up in what was one of the biggest golf booms watching Tiger in his prime.

Whether you were a golf fan or not, it was pretty hard not to notice Tiger Woods over the last two decades which, not coincidentally, were the formative years for most of the great young golfers we see on Tour today.

While Tiger pretty much dominated the competition in his prime, that seems rather unlikely for this cast of PGA Tour puppies. First, because it's hard to imagine anyone reaching the level of Woods who, along with Jack Nicklaus, is considered to be the very best the sport has ever seen. Second, and maybe as important, there are so many great young golfers on Tour that it will be hard for any of them to dominate the sport with such tough competition to deal with on a weekly basis.

Whatever the case may be, we golf fans are in for a treat for many years to come because of all of the talented young guns on.

Scott Cordischi hosts a sports talk radio show and writes a column in each issue of snegolfer.com.

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Bryson and Matthew were playing a match. Bryson was having trouble lining up his putt, so he asked his caddie to stand behind him and give him his thoughts. Bryson went ahead and putted with his caddie standing behind him. Matthew said that was a penalty.

Ruling:

A player may not make a stroke with his caddie or partner standing in his line, either front or back of him. This applies throughout the course and results in a two-stroke penalty in stroke play and a loss of that hole in match play.

HAZELTON G.C. OPENING NEW CLUBHOUSE



We recently played Hazelton Golf Club in Rehoboth. We had written about its resurrection from the former Sun Valley GC in 2016, but it has taken longer than owner Joe Moniz expected to get it shipshape. Hazelton is the vision of Moniz of Warren, R.I. who resurrected Crestwood Country Club, also in Rehoboth, when he purchased that private course in 2012.

Sun Valley opened in 1959. It was designed by noted New England golf architect, Geoffrey Cornish, and was considered the public course jewel of southern New England. The course had hundreds of weeping willow trees and a brook running throughout the property. Sun Valley lost over 300 of the weeping willows during Hurricane Bob in August 2001, and that was really the death-knell that sent the course into deep decline.

Why did Moniz want to rebuild this course that was truly in disrepair and closed? "Maybe I'm a little crazy, but I remember what good bones it had, and thought that we could bring it back to its glory days," commented Moniz who has done yeoman's work in getting Crestwood back up to speed.

"We had replaced all 19 greens (the practice green, also) and plowed under the whole property in 2016," said Moniz who also is building a new road into the property to replace the one that caused so many car springs to break.

"There is a great deal of symmetry to Hazelton and Crestwood," said Moniz. "There are only 400 yards separating the 16th on Crestwood with the sixth at Hazelton. Cornish designed both courses, and the topography is very similar," added Moniz who hired a top-notch shaper and also Tim Gerrish, who had worked for Cornish, to redesign the greens that now average almost 8,000 square feet.

The golf tees will measure almost 6,800 yards, so it can play as a true championship course. They currently have four sets of tees. "We are going to add new tees this fall and get to 6 or 7 tees including beginners' tees that will be no

longer than 200 yards. "We did this at Crestwood, and some members are loving playing from the very front tees, said Moniz.

"I want to make Hazelton G.C. the best public golf course in the area. We want to have tournaments, and are looking forward to bringing back the course to its original glory," said a proud Moniz who mentioned that many leagues have already signed up for play in 2020.

Anna Krajewski is the clubhouse manager. She gave me a tour of the soon to open clubhouse. "We used some of the same beautiful flooring from the old clubhouse and it looks just great," said Krajewski who plans to open the bar and restaurant soon. "We are also building an outdoor patio that should be a huge success," she added. The patio overlooks the spacious new 18th green and will be a huge improvement from the past.

Krajewski proved that she was more than just clubhouse manager as she talked about the beautiful bridge that was built between the first green and the second tee, the added irrigation and sprinkler systems, and the smoothing of many of the fairways. The parking lot has more than doubled in size, and plans were underway to rebuild all the cart parts.

Kevin Medeiros is the superintendent, and his dad, Jim, who was the long-time superintendent at Wannamoisett and then at Stony-Lea in Brockton is now giving his son some great pointers.

Our thoughts after playing last week were that the greens are great, the layout is excellent and the fairways get better each week. The brook that runs through the course is in play on nine of the holes. With multiple sets of tees and large greens, a nice clubhouse and a great layout, Hazelton will become a course that you will really enjoy playing.

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

KEISER RALLIES TO WIN CONN. PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

After making a double-bogey 6 on the first hole as cart mate Chris Tallman had a tap-in birdie, Brian Keiser found himself six strokes back of the Connecticut Section PGA's best player the past few years. But Keiser stuck to his game plan of just trying to grind away to put together some kind of challenge and birdied five of eight holes midway through the final round on the way to a second even-par 70 and a one-stroke victory over Tallman in the Connecticut PGA Championship at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield.

Keiser's stirring comeback came after he four-putted and three-putted the final two holes in the first round to finish with more putts (36) than strokes (34). It also gave Keiser his first victory since he won the Connecticut PGA Professional Championship at Wintonbury Hills in 2010.

"It's nice to come back and win something for the first time in 10 years," said Keiser, the head pro at Longmeadow (Mass.) Country Club. "Making six on the first hole didn't make it any easier because I knew how tough Chris was going to be. But I just told myself to keep grinding because I knew I could make some birdies like the four I made (Monday). I said just grind it out and see what happens, just try to stay in touch with Chris. I figured if he stumbled a bit and I kept playing good, I might have a chance."

A three-putt bogey at the fourth hole dropped Keiser seven strokes back of Tallman, but he began his birdie binge with a wedge to a foot and sand wedge to 2 feet at Nos. 5 and 6. Keiser chipped to a foot and tapped in for another birdie at the par-5 eighth, and the momentum continued to swing on the difficult 190-yard par-3 ninth hole into the wind, where Keiser three-putted from 50 feet but Tallman hit his tee shot over the green, chipped 25 feet past the pin and three-putted for a double bogey.

Keiser got even with a wedge to 5 feet for birdie at the 11th hole and a 7-iron that came within inches of a hole-in-one at No. 12. He took the lead for the first time with a par at No. 14 as Tallman's second shot from the rough clipped a tree and fell 100 yards short of the green. He wedged to 18 feet but missed his par putt to go 3 over for the day.

Tallman topped his second shot at the 15th hole and missed an 18-foot par putt to fall two behind, but Keiser mishit his approach shot at the 16th hole and couldn't get up-and-down from 60 yards, cutting his lead to one. The tournament had

an intriguing finish at the 18th hole, where Keiser wanted to hit his drive left to keep it away from out of bounds down the right side but hooked his ball 50 yards left of the fairway into the rough to the right of the adjacent 10th hole. He hit a wedge 35 feet past the pin, nearly holed the birdie try and tapped in for par. Tallman had a 25-foot birdie putt to force a sudden-death playoff but left it short and right, holing a 2-footer for par and 74.

Keiser earned \$4,000 and 75 points in the Player of the Year race, while Tallman got \$2,500 and all but clinched his second POY title. He won in 2018 and finished second to Kyle Bilodeau last year.

"I just missed a lot of putts and didn't hit the ball as well as (Monday) when I put myself in better positions," said Tallman, the general manager at The Orchards Golf Club in South Hadley, Mass. "I just didn't feel confident today and didn't hit a lot of good shots. I just tried to hang in there but didn't execute. It was kind of a shaky day, but Brian played steady and deserved to win."



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[FOSDICK & SZEWCZUL] WIN T OF C TITLES



Chris Fosdick



Dave Szewczul

A couple of familiar names prevailed in the Tournament of Champions at Bull's Bridge GC in Kent.

Chris Fosdick birdied the final hole to overtake Cody Paladino again and win by a stroke with a bogey-free, 6-under-par 66. Then Dave Szewczul birdied the first playoff hole, the par-5 18th, to beat Frank Geiger in the Dick Siderowf (Senior) Division after each had shot 70. Szewczul failed to get up-and-down on the same hole in regulation, giving Geiger of H. Smith Richardson GC in Fairfield a shot at the victory in overtime.

"I was solid tee to green, solid all day, but I missed that putt and one on 17 from about three-and-a-half feet and one on 16," said Szewczul,

who hit 14 of 18 greens in regulation. Szewczul made up for the misses with an approach shot to 12 feet in the playoff by which time a two-putt sealed the win over Geiger, who was on in four after an errant drive.

Fosdick didn't birdie the reachable par-5 first hole but quickly made up for it. He drove the 328-yard, par-4 second hole and two-putted from 40 feet, the first of five birdies in seven holes that led to a 5-under 31 on the front nine. "I kind of went on a tear after the first," Fosdick said. "Because it was a one-day tournament, I decided I needed to be aggressive from the start."

Paladino had three birdies on the front nine but also made two bogeys and had to play catchup. He had a strong comeback with

four birdies on the back side, including at the 18th hole, but came up a stroke short.

Though he lost in the finals of the Wallingford Country Club club championship, 2002 was a breakthrough season for Fosdick. "I drove the ball well today, that was key," he said, crediting coach Tom Rosati at Great River Golf Club in Milford for a swing with better tempo and for a short game that is both improved and savvy.

Fosdick said his up-and-down on the final hole to win was a good example. "I might have chipped that in the past, but that would have been much more unpredictable," he said. "I decided to putt it up to the green and let it trickle down to the hole."

Fosdick made a curling, 41/2-foot putt to win the Dick Tettelbach (under 55) division. Defending champion Peter Tomlinson made four consecutive birdies in a front-nine 31 but slipped to 38 on the back side and finished third. Glen Boggini of Manchester Country Club was fourth at 70.

In the Siderowf division, Szewczul finished one stroke ahead of Ralph Giansanti of the Country Club of Farmington and Hermanson, who missed a short birdie putt at the 17th hole and then failed to get up-and-down from the left side of the 18th green. Rick Malafronte of Indian Hill Country Club in Newington and Richard Stevens of the eClub of Connecticut tied for fifth at 72.

SUZY WHALEY

Suzy Whaley has been a trailblazer in many ways – a kind of Amelia Earhart in spikes without wanting the moniker – but none more significant or historic than being the first woman to be elected an officer in the PGA of America.

Whaley earned the distinction in 2014 when she was chosen secretary during the organization's annual meeting in Indianapolis, receiving 52.63 percent of the 114 votes in balloting with two men. As the final tally was posted on two video boards in the front of a hotel ballroom, Whaley's supporters pumped their fists, delegates gave her a standing ovation and she hugged everyone in sight as she took a five-minute stroll from the back of the room to one of the head tables.

"It's an incredibly special day for me, my family, the Connecticut Section PGA and our members," Whaley said on that memorable day. "Our association has a long-term strategic plan, and I'm excited to be part of implementing that plan. We have so many opportunities to bring diverse groups into the game, that's what I'm excited about."

Whaley's election enabled the PGA of America to turn the page on one of its darker chapters. A month before she was chosen, PGA President Ted Bishop was ousted after using a social-media rant to call European pro Ian Poulter a "Lil Girl" and writing the Englishman sounded "like a little girl squealing during recess" in the wake of the U.S. team's loss in the Ryder Cup. Whaley's supporters made it clear that the association needed to go in a different direction and selecting her would help.

"Who among us is more passionate about teaching the game to every person, to show the magic of our game to every child, to every man and to every woman?" Connecticut Section PGA Hall of Fame member Gary Reynolds said in his nominating speech. "Sometimes we are lucky, lucky to experience a moment where we can embrace change."

Voters didn't just want to embrace change, they wanted to embrace Whaley, a mother of two daughters and the director of instruction at her golf academy at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell at the time. In 2010, the former Farmington

resident who now runs a golf school in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., became only the second woman elected to the PGA's board of directors.

But the historic vote drew raves from every corner of the room – friends, supporters, board members, teaching pros and especially her new executive colleagues. Whaley was so touched she forgot to insert her name into the oath during the swearing-in ceremony. "I am so proud to be a PGA member and so honored to serve all of you," she said as her voice cracked.

On the day when Whaley made history, Derek Sprague of Malone, N.Y., became the association's 39th president, heading the list of four inductions. But it was the election of Whaley that had the greatest long-term impact for an organization that has been mostly male-dominated in 104 years and has become an \$84 billion industry.

"I think it's great to have a woman in a national leadership position because I think it opens the door for women in other leadership positions," Sprague said. "It can only inspire other women to get into leadership positions."

When Seth Waugh was named the PGA's new CEO in August 2018, he asked Whaley what she hoped to accomplish once she assumed her presidency. "She looked at me and said, 'Can I give you an answer after I think about it?'" Waugh told the Orlando Sentinel. "I get up the next day to work out, what 6 a.m., and look at my email and there's something

from Suzy, sent at 4:15 a.m. It said, 'Here's my list, please excuse the typos.' I start reading through it and said, this is a long list ... 44 items ... OK. "The good news is we agreed on pretty much all 44, and we've added about 40 more since then. We're excited where we can take this."

The real work for Whaley and Waugh involved improving the lot of the PGA of America's more than 29,000 members, many of them teaching pros like Whaley, and growing the game. Whaley is now one of the most powerful and knowledgeable people in golf and especially proud of what the organization has contributed to making the lives of its membership better and to grow the game in her six years as



a power broker. It included becoming only the ninth woman to be certified as a PGA Master Professional in 2018, the organization's highest educational level.

In her two years as president, Whaley said the PGA has worked hard to significantly impact the lives of its members, provide resources to its 41 Sections, advance the game and ensure its brand is highly regarded in the marketplace.

"We've grown our employment opportunities through executive search, established lifelong learning education to allow our members the opportunity they need to advance their careers, created PGA.com as a member promotion center and to connect consumers with our coaches, highlighted our members through a new social media strategy, showcased our members through our digital and television partners, conducted world-class championships, purchased Next Gen golf to provide player development opportunities and organized play for 18-to-40-year-olds, expanded PGA Reach to broaden our reach amongst juniors, diverse demographics and veterans," Whaley said. "We've also worked hard to ensure our members suffering through 2020 had the resources they need from our Golf Emergency Relief Fund, and we've applied to the IRS for approval of a deferred saving plan for our members."

But what should have been the crowning moment of her presidency, presiding over the first national event hosted by the Connecticut Section PGA, was muted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A PGA board meeting decided the meeting scheduled in Hartford in late October would be virtual in light of travel concerns and the Connecticut Convention Center being closed until 2021.

"This was certainly a challenging year in extraordinary times," the 53-year-old Whaley said. "While so many families and businesses suffered, our members and golf were not immune. It became immediately clear that we needed to bring relief to our members. We also knew with great clarity that we must work together alongside our allied associations to ensure golf could reopen as soon as states allowed in a responsible manner.

"We are grateful that we brought golf back in a way that so many could enjoy at a time when other sports remained shut down. It was an unimaginable year, but I'm proud of our leadership team and how we supported so many in a time of great need. It's disappointing our annual meeting is unable to happen in Hartford, but we'll still conduct it virtually and highlight the Connecticut Section PGA as they so deserve. I wouldn't be in this role without Gary Reynolds, Tom Hantke, Howie Friday and so many other members of the Section. I am looking forward to celebrating with them even by computer screen."

Hantke, the Connecticut Section PGA executive director for 25 years, was one of 10 Section and family members in Indianapolis for Whaley's selection and has been serving on the eight-member PGA Section Executive Committee

since 2014, the last two years as the chairman who selected members to serve with him and delegated assignments.

"Suzy has been a tremendous source of pride for the Connecticut Section," Hantke said. "As the first-ever PGA of America officer from our Section, past presidents and the entire membership alike have never been better enabled to connect golfers and stakeholders in the game in the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts markets. She's been a tremendous spokesperson for the association, articulating so well the important pillars of serving the member, growing the game and embracing diversity and inclusion.

"And, although many of the issues and challenges she and her fellow officers and board members have faced during her leadership tenure would lead one to believe these would cause separation from what's happening back home could not be further from the truth. Suzy has remained grounded to the game and PGA Professionals, often playing in tournaments, attending local seminars and even caddying and spectating when her daughters have been playing.

"We owe a great deal of gratitude for the way Suzy carried herself and represented the association and PGA Professionals. She brought that image home for us and in doing so raised the standing of each and every one of the Connecticut Section golf professionals" added Hantke

Prior to her historic election, Whaley's most notable achievement was becoming the first woman to qualify for a PGA Tour event in 58 years when she won the 2002 Connecticut Section PGA Championship, earning a spot in the 2003 Greater Hartford Open. She was the first PGA of America woman professional to win a section championship and first to qualify for a PGA Tour event since Babe Zaharias in 1945. The only other women to play in a PGA Tour tournament are Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam, Michelle Wie and Brittany Lincicome, all of whom received sponsor's exemptions.

Sorenstam said Whaley motivated her to accept an invite to the 2003 Colonial Invitational two months before the GHO. "When I watched TV, I'd sometimes think how neat it might be to play with the guys, especially a friend like Tiger (Woods), but that lasted about 10 seconds," Sorenstam said. "But when Suzy qualified and I got the invitation from the Colonial, I thought why not.

Whaley grew up in Dewitt, N.Y., outside of Syracuse, where her first love was skiing. But at the age of 9, she learned golf from her mother, Mary Ann, a professor at Syracuse University who would caddie for her daughter in many tournaments, and then worked with PGA of America Hall of Fame member Joe Tesori. Suzy's high school career began on the boys' team because there wasn't a girls' team, but she eventually won several state girls titles. She then played at the University of North Carolina with future LPGA players Donna Andrews, Katie Peterson-Parker and Kathy

Johnston, earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1989 and qualified for the LPGA Tour a year later but lost her card.

Whaley became a waitress at the Rain Dancer, a steak house in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where she played golf during the day and worked at night. She competed on the Central Florida and Futures tours in 1991, then failed to regain her card and married Bill Whaley, the director of golf at Inverrary Country Club in Fort Lauderdale. They had met through Peterson, Suzy's roommate in college who worked with Bill for several years before going to UNC.

Whaley regained her card in 1992, but despite feeling more prepared to play, she lost it again largely because of injuries and continued conditional status. At the end of 1993, she decided to start a family and get into another part of the golf business. Jennifer was born in 1994, and mom stayed home for two years before starting to work for renowned golf instructor Jim Flick for five years at Ibis CC in West Palm Beach, Fla., where Bill had become director of golf. Kelly was born in May 1997, and the Whaleys moved to Connecticut on July 4 after Bill was hired by the PGA Tour and sent to TPC River Highlands, home of the Travelers Championship.

She visited five clubs in the Hartford area in 1998, and by the time she got home, she had heard from all of them. Tumble Brook CC offered the best deal, so Whaley took a teaching job at the club in Bloomfield. She worked there for four years while also giving lessons at Blue Fox Run GC in Avon once a week in 1999-2001. She also taught at TPC River Highlands and Torza's Driving Range in Cromwell, then after earning her PGA of America Class A card, she took the head job at Blue Fox Run in February 2002.

Whaley became a member of the PGA of America and the LPGA Teaching & Club Professional division, and her many wins have included the Connecticut Women's Open three times, National LPGA Teaching & Club Professional Championship, Connecticut PGA Club Professional and LPGA Northeast T&CP Section Championship twice. She also competed in the 2002 and 2005 PGA Professional Championships, the U.S. Golf Association Senior Women's Open and the LPGA Senior Women's Championship.

Off the course, Whaley became a PGA Master Professional and the PGA Director of Institution for Suzy Whaley Golf at TPC River Highlands and the Country Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach Gardens. In November 2010, she became only the second woman to be elected the District 1 Director of the PGA Board of Directors. In 2019, she captained the United States team in the inaugural Women's PGA Cup, a team competition for women PGA members from around the world, and was recognized as one of Golf Magazine's "Top 100 Teachers in America" after receiving teaching awards that included Golf Digest Top 50 Best Teachers in America, LPGA Top 50 Instructor, two-time Connecticut PGA Teacher of the Year, 10-time Golf Digest State Teacher of the Year and U.S. Kids Golf Master Kids Teacher.

A 2016 Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame inductee, Whaley is a five-time PGA Junior League Championship finals coach and has instructed more than 300 children to collegiate golf. From 2004-06, she worked as an LPGA commentator for ESPN and then began her own instruction and coaching business. She also served on the ANNIKA Foundation Board and the PGA Tour Policy Board and is an honorary director for The First Tee of Connecticut. She was honored with the 2017 Betsy Rawls Award from the American Junior Golf Association for her service, dedication and contributions to women's golf and named a 2015 Sports Business Journal "Game Changer" as a woman leader who had a major impact on sports business. She also received the 2015 Margo Dydek Award from the WNBA's Connecticut Sun for her ability to engage, challenge and inspire while serving as a role model.

Bill and Suzy Whaley are both PGA of America members. He is the National Director of Golf for the PGA Tour Properties Division, and their daughters played at Quinnipiac University in Hamden and the University of North Carolina. The Whaleys were the First Golf Family of Connecticut for decades, and Suzy has been the First Lady of the PGA of America for two years but remains modest about a moniker that others have placed on her.

"It's always an honor to be referred to as a trailblazer, but I see the LPGA Founders as trailblazers in the game," Whaley said. "For me, being a first happened because someone before me opened the door to give me the opportunity to walk through. However, if being a first allows someone else the chance to see themselves in leadership because I did it, well, that would be amazing."

Now, after being a member of the PGA of America for almost two decades, Whaley plans to still stay involved in the association, starting as honorary president for the next two years.

"I will continue to wear my logo proudly and work every day in the industry to ensure all feel welcome to play the game and to promote our members and the great work they do in our communities," Whaley said. "We are the direct connection between the game and those who play it, and I am passionate about getting as many as possible to play for as long as possible with the best experience possible!"

Sure sounds like a trailblazer, pioneer or whatever you want to call someone who has had such a major and important influence on the game for decades.

Bruce Berlet has been covering golf for 50 years. He was the long-time columnist for the Hartford Courant and writes a column in each issue of snegolfer.com.

Editor's Note: We have never run a 2,500-word story. Seemed like this was the best time to do it.

HOW CREATIVITY SAVED THE COVID SUMMER

This has been a very strange year indeed for golfers. Because of Covid-19 many courses opened late, tournaments were cancelled, we had to walk or use single carts and even pro shops were closed or restricted as to the number of people who could come inside. Electronic scorecards were introduced; individually wrapped snacks were passed to us through windows and masks kept our smiles silent.



Still, in spite of all these things people found ways to make our golf experience viable and fun as clever people saw this season as a challenge to be met head on –to shake things up a bit and try new ways of doing things. Take one club I know where a few members were determined to reinvent their Friday night 9-hole couples league. It had been up and running for more than 50 years, but by the end of last year it had dwindled and floundered, so golf club directors decided it was time to call it quits. They felt they could use those tee times after 4 pm on Fridays for new events like “9 and Dines” and mixers.

However there happened to be a tenacious few twilight leaguers who hung on to the idea

that golf, drinks, dinner and jokes with old and new friends was still a great way to spend a Friday evening. They were determined to fix it, make it work despite they had lost their official status along with their shotgun tee start on late Friday afternoons.

So here's what happened. One of the ladies volunteered to grab several tee times in consecutive slots as soon as they became available in the Foretees system. Starting around 3:30, she plugged four people into each time who had agreed they wanted to play. It took a lot of calls to line up the foursomes, but this lady was determined. After the first night things got a bit easier as people lined up their next week's foursomes during dinner.

She also arranged to have the golfers sit in a separate room where social distancing could be accomplished. As each golfing foursome finished, the players would come in, fill the first table set up for eight, get their orders taken for dinner immediately, then the next group of foursomes would take the next set of tables and so on. By the time the last golfers were in and at their table, even though the dining was staggered, everyone was finally together so prizes could be announced, special feats noted and “Joke Guy” could recount some of his favorite material.

Prizes were donated, some as goofy as giant bags of tees and hats from strange places. There were golf balls, rain shirts and other great bounty donated by those who had promotional products to spare.

One of the keys to the growing the renamed “Friends

on Friday” group was that it was totally facilitated by club members like “Game Guy,” an accomplished graphic artist with a wicked sense of humor. Game Guy not only came up with a different contest for each night, he designed and printed out special scorecards for the scramble. All the contests were team competitions and all allowed everyone to have a good time regardless of skill level. And Game Guy was your ultimate cheerleader, there at the first tee to make sure everyone understood the details of games like “Texas Mulligan Scotch, Square Dance, Stableford Money Ball and Square Dance.

I asked Game Guy (actually Jeff White) how and why he came up with these games. He said, “Everyone likes a scramble because they are playing together, but traditional scrambles can be so mundane. Often you are constantly using just one person's ball, so less experienced players are left out. I found there were just not a lot of decent games out there for a four-person scramble.

“So I searched for ways to make it easy but different and I also wanted to be able to pull all the players into the competition and fun.” People loved it. The word spread.

FonF golfers talked about Lucky Sevens Casino Scramble where you had to use only your seven iron on the 7th hole and you could get deductions in points for a scorecard's best (and worst) poker hand; the Texas Mulligan Scotch Scramble where pairs alternated shots and both get 2 shots; or the Square Dance Scramble where you swapped

partners every other hole. Each Friday it became more and more fun. Most importantly, the games worked because Jeff had spent hours ironing out all the details.

The evenings grew so popular by the end of this season, people were peeking into the dining room to see just what was causing all the laughter and good fun, things much valued in these stressful times. FonF hope their club will reinstate their shotgun start next season, but one thing for sure, either way they were back with a bigger field and more of Jeff's incredible scramble games.

Jeff's design skills and creativity has led to the birth of a full collection of games and colorful scorecards that he is offering to other golfers and clubs guaranteed to add spice and pep to their scrambles, member guests, leagues and other occasions. Cards are theme-designed and include graphics, score bar, and detailed instructions on each card. He can also custom design special formats and scorecards for special events like wedding scrambles and charity tournaments. The scorecard format allows space for the club logo to be added and can be printed 3 up on an 8-1/2 x 10 inch card stock. For more information email: jeffreywhite27@msn.com

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

MALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Nick Maccario has enjoyed such a good season that he leads the Mass Golf Male Player of the Year point standings, thanks to a win at the Hornblower Memorial and seconds at the Mass. Amateur, the New England Amateur, the Oumet Memorial and the Amateur Invitational.

But he really earns the Eastern Mass. Player of the Year honor by what he accomplished on a foggy Sunday morning in August. Maccario shot an otherworldly 15-under par 56 at Bradford Country Club to beat both the course record and his own personal best by an eye-popping seven strokes.

"I was surprised. I didn't even have a reaction. It still really hasn't hit me," Maccario told NBC 10 Boston. Maccario, a Haverhill native who played four years at St. John's Prep as well as some competitive golf at Saint Anselm's College, recorded five pars, 11 birdies and two eagles. The person who perhaps enjoyed the day the most was his partner for the day, Nick Fiset.

"It's kind of like, you go to a Sox game and you're watching a no-hitter, or if you went to the Pats Super Bowl against Atlanta, you're kind of watching it going, 'I can't believe this is happening, I can't believe I get to watch this,'" Fiset said.

FEMALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Stop us if you've heard this before: Shannon Johnson is the Eastern Mass. Female Player of the Year. The 37-year-old Easton resident has dominated women's golf in recent years and has even stepped into the national spotlight, winning the 2018 USGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship.

This year, she captured the Mass. Women's Stroke Play Championship for the Baker Trophy and the Women's Four-Ball Championship for the Townshend Cup while finishing second in the New England Women's Amateur and leading the Mass Golf Female Player of the Year point list.

A native of South Dakota, she played for Indiana University and has worked for Ping, the golf equipment manufacturer, since graduating from college.

TIP OF THE CAP

Congratulations to Needham's Jake Shuman for competing in his first PGA Tour event, the Wyndham Championship in Greenville, N.C. Shuman, a four-year player at Duke University, finished second in the Monday qualifier but shot a 74-70 to miss the cut.

For the previous 59 years, the Attleboro Area Golf Association has run one of the most unusual, demanding and popular regional tournaments in all of New England. Then the coronavirus pandemic struck, and so did fears that the AAGA Championship would come to an end.

The Association did not want to cancel the 60th event, but the all-volunteer committee did not have the manpower or the resources to minimize the risks at tournaments like the PGA Tour has done. But the show went on with the help of the four host courses and by imposing some strict rules.

The biggest change, said Bob Beach, co-president of the AAGA along with Bob Gay, is that all spectators were banned from the courses. Having family members and friends there to support players has always been a big part of the event. By Sunday's final rounds, there would often be hundreds of people along the fairways and circling the 18th green.

The friendships would extend into the clubhouse for some 19th hole celebrations.

"We feel bad about that," Beach said before the Aug. 20-23 tournament. "That's been a big part of the open for 60 years, the camaraderie. We just can't do it, it's unfortunate.

The AAGA Championship differs from other regional tournaments in that it is held on four different courses over four days. Most events of this type in New England are at one course over, at most, three days.

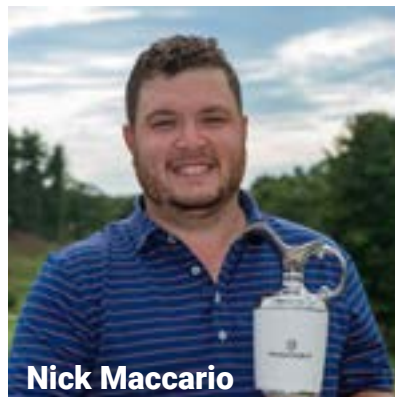
As a result, the AAGA needed the help of the four courses – Heather Hill Country Club and Wentworth Hills Golf Club in Plainville, Norton Country Club and Foxborough Country Club – to pull everything off. That meant rounding up enough carts to fulfill players' needs while sticking to Massachusetts' one-player-per-cart rule.

In the qualifying event at Heather Hill, for instance, the AAGA had its biggest field ever, 138 players, but the course had just enough equipment to satisfy the demands.

This year's winner was Brett Chatfield of Attleboro, a former player at Bentley University and the older brother of Davis Chatfield, a two-time AAGA champ, and now a member of the golf team at the University of Notre Dame.

Beach said the AAGA took a lot of pride into putting on the event despite the public health crisis.

"The AAGA has enjoyed providing these events for 60 years," he said. "Let's do what needs to be done this year and hope this is all behind us next year."



Nick Maccario



Shannon Johnson



Jake Shuman

CENTRAL MASS. SENIOR TOUR

The Central Mass Senior Men's Golf Tour, which has enjoyed increasing participation throughout the summer, will continue to 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 Jim DeCarolis at 508-560-9545 or email at seniormensgolfma@gmail.com.

Tournaments through the end of the season include the following: Sept. 29 at Templewood GC; Oct. 1 at Mill Valley in Belchertown; Oct. 8 at Gardner Municipal; Oct. 15 at Holden Hills and Oct. 22 at South Hampton.

"A true gentleman on and off the course, and a decorated veteran." Those were some of the words Jim DeCarolis used to describe Herschel Jones of Westminster. DeCarolis, the director of the Central Mass. Senior Golf Tour, sees Jones just about every Thursday when the over-55 crowd tees it up at different courses in the area.

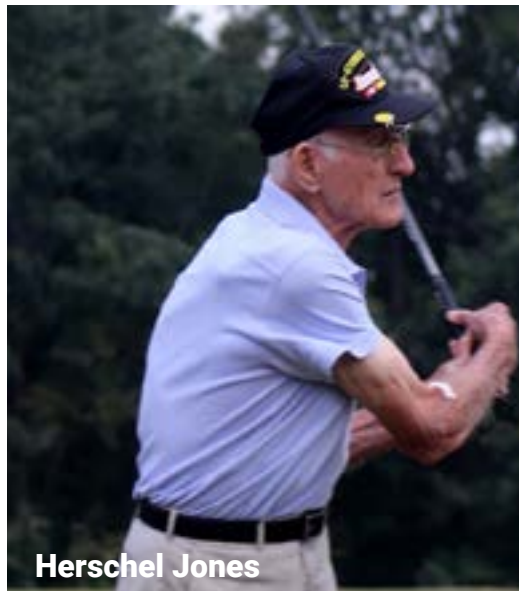
The oldest player among all competitors, the 95-year-old Jones, who plays golf three times a week, fought with the U.S. Marines in World War II and years later returned to battle as a U.S. Army helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

Asked about the secret to such longevity, Jones said, "I'm not really sure. Smile a lot and keep moving, keep active. I guess I learned in the military the importance of staying in good physical condition. And luck is very important in life, and I've been very lucky."

With remarkable swing speed for his age, Jones, from the forward tees, smacks his drives deep down fairways. He also possesses a sharp short game. "I was a Kentucky farm boy, growing up in the Great Depression," Jones said. "In those days my father had to figure out how to do everything, even with only a sixth-grade education. I started school at age 5 because my older brother pretty much refused to go to school unless I went with him, so we would walk three miles from our home to a one-room school house."

As a teenager in Kentucky, Jones earned his private pilot's license using money he saved from helping out with his neighbors' wheat threshing. "Back in those days, you could get a pilot's license with only 12 hours of instruction and two of those hours were ground school," Jones said, smiling.

While playing the second hole at Westminster CC, Jones, who has shot scores lower than his age hundreds of times, recalled an eagle he made on the hole a only a few years ago. He also has a hole-in-one on his golfing resume.



Herschel Jones

"I never played golf as a kid," said Jones, who once got his handicap down to 8. "Now, at my age, with the forward tees, they make the game so much more enjoyable. And with every year, it gets easier to beat my age."

He was 17 years old, a senior at Fulgham High School and its number-one ranked student when he left a few months before graduation in 1943 to join the U.S. Marine Corps, taking part in the battles of the South Pacific. "My high school was so small, and it no longer exists. They did send me my high school diploma later," Jones said.

After his discharge from the Marines in 1946, Jones, hoping to be stationed in Germany, re-enlisted in the military with the U.S. Army. "The recruiter promised me I would be going to Germany," Jones said, "but 30 days later I was in the Philippines."

After being transferred from the Philippines to Guam and then finally to Germany, he decided to make the military a career which lasted 24 years including action in Vietnam.

An Army Major, Jones was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in Pleiku, Vietnam in September of 1966 while serving as aircraft commander aboard a helicopter, which was re-supplying an artillery position with ammunition. Flying low because of bad weather, the copter was struck with heavy enemy fire and damaged. Jones gave orders to continue the flight and later returned to the resupply point. In the battle Jones suffered shrapnel wounds to his neck and was later awarded The Purple Heart.

When asked why he liked golf so much he answered, "Golf is such a great sport, it's great for the psyche, like a walk in nature."



Mackenzie Whitney

CENTRAL MASS. PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Owen Quinn ranks 19th on the Richard Haskell Mass Golf Player of the Year Standings. Quinn repeated as the Worcester County Amateur champion this year, firing a 1-under-par 71 at Wachusett Country Club to clinch the title. The 21-year-old Quinn from Holden is a recent graduate of Lehigh University and the son of Fran Quinn Jr. who has played on the PGA and Champions Tour.

In the Anne Marie Tobin Mass Golf Women's Player of the Year Standings, Emily Nash is ranked 19th. The Lunenburg native earned her first collegiate victory for Elon University this year, finishing as co-champion of the individual tournament title at the Kiawah Island Classic in March.

Also notable in Central Mass. was the special victory by 16-year-old Mackenzie Whitney at Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2021 and also host the Massachusetts Open.

Whitney captured Oak Hill's women's club championship and became the youngest club champ in the long history at the prestigious and demanding Donald Ross course.

With steady rounds of 71-75-82-228, Whitney led the women's field and won by six shots over Oak Hill's all-time winningest club champion, Joanne Catlin, who posted 77-76-81-234.

THE ORCHARD'S CHRIS TALLMAN WINS CT PGA PRO CHAMPIONSHIP

In case you missed it, Chris Tallman, general manager at The Orchards Golf Club in South Hadley, won the \$20,000 Connecticut PGA Professional Championship at Wampanoag Country Club on Sept. 1. Tallman, one of the top players in the Connecticut Section PGA for several years, made two crucial birdies that enabled him to break from the pack to win his second title by two strokes over newcomer C.J. Konkowski.

Tallman, closed with a 2-under-par 70 for a 36-hole total of 5-under 137. His victory earned Tallman \$4,000 for first place, 100 OMEGA Section Player of the Year points and a spot in the 54th PGA Professional Championship at PGA Golf Club in Florida on April 25-28, 2021. The Section Player of the Year also earns an exemption to the national event, but if he finishes in the top three, the first alternate goes to Port St. Lucie.

Tallman was the 2018 Section Player of the Year and finished second to Kyle Bilodeau in 2019, when he won the Stroke Play Championship to earn his only berth in the Travelers Championship. He also won this event in 2018 and the 2019 Connecticut PGA Championship. Billy Downes, Great Horse head professional, and the 2013 champion, closed with 69 for 142 and birdied the second playoff hole, No. 10, to earn the first-alternate spot.

Paced by three birdies on the back nine in her Sunday round, Angela Garvin ended her summer golf on a high note, winning the 2020 Hartford Women's Open held at Keney Park

Golf Course. Garvin, of Feeding Hills, had come close to winning the tournament in her first four attempts, losing in a playoff to pro Brooke Baker three years ago.

After shooting an even par 70 on day one, Garvin trailed first-round leader Camden Morrison by five shots. In the final round, Garvin was even at the turn after a bogey on the 9th hole. "That was an annoying bogey. I was hitting my irons well and I just told myself to stay patient," Garvin said. "I knew there were some birdies ahead."

Her foresight proved correct as Garvin had a two-putt birdie at the par-5 10th hole. She then drove the 290-yard 12th and two-putted from 12 feet for another birdie to go 2 under. On the par -5 14th, Garvin hit a wedge within 12 inches and tapped in for birdie to get to 3 under. She would make par on the final four holes, missing an 18-foot birdie putt at the 18th to post a 67 and a two-day total 137.

Morrison tied for second at 2 under along with former LPGA and Futures Tour player Jordan Lintz. Garvin, who also won the Providence Open in July, was the low amateur for the fourth time at the Hartford Women's Open. A member at The Ranch Golf Club, she hit 16 greens in regulation on Sunday.

"I feel really good because I'd been so close every year," said Garvin. "I was very disappointed losing in the first round of match play in the Massachusetts Amateur as the defending champion, so this helps make up for that. Since the Amateur, I just practiced on every part of my game."

Garvin heads back to the University of Maryland this fall, but the golf team will only be allowed to practice and not compete in

tournaments due to Covid-19 restrictions. She played in three of five tournaments with the Terrapins in the spring, and her best finish was a tie for 35th in the Illinois Invitational at Medinah Country Club.

Billy Downes, head professional at Great Horse (Hampden, Mass.) won the Senior Connecticut PGA Championship, conducted at Mill River Country Club in Stratford, Conn. Downes of Longmeadow, Mass., shot rounds of 69 and 72 for a 36-hole, one-under par total 141. Bob Mucha, head professional at Edgewood Golf Course (Southwick, Mass.), finished second with a one-over par total of 143 (73-70).

By their finishes, Downes and Mucha qualify for the 32nd Senior PGA Professional Championship, which will be played at the PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla., on October 15-18, 2020. The Senior PGA Professional Championship brings together a field of 264 contestants representing the PGA of America's 41 nationwide Sections and features a total purse of \$300,000.

Begun in 1989, the Senior PGA Professional Championship is modeled after the PGA Professional Championship, with a field of 50-and-older senior PGA Professionals who advanced through 41 Section Championships conducted from June through August this year.

The top 35 finishers in the national Championship earn a berth in the 82nd KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, which will be conducted in May 27-30, 2021, at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Chris Miracle, golf professional at Franconia G.C. in Springfield, writes a Western Mass column in each issue of snegolfer.com.



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HARRY RADLEY WINS PLAYGOLFMYRTLEBEACH.COM WORLD AMATEUR HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP



MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

Harry Radley (Indianapolis, Ind.) made a gross par on the first hole of a three-way, sudden death playoff to emerge victorious in the Flight Winners' Playoff at the 37th Annual PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Handicap Championship Friday at Barefoot Resort's Dye Course.

Radley, Doug Mrstik (Sarasota, Fla.) and Bruce Moskovciak (Jacksonville, Fla.) all shot net 71s and were tied after 18 holes. The trio began the playoff on the Dye Course's par-4 18th hole and Radley's par was good enough to allow him to emerge from a field of 2,150 golfers and claim the mantle of World Champion.

Neither Radley, who entered the round as a seven handicap, or Moskovciak, who received one stroke on the day, got a shot on the 18th hole while Mrstik, a 20-handicap, got a stroke.

Ryan Reynolds (Camden, S.C.)

shot a 1-under par 71 to complete his victory in the Gross Division.

Michael Batten (Jacksonville, Fla.) shot a 79, which allowed him to overcome a one-stroke deficit and beat Jim Marcelak (Fort Myers, Fla.) to win the Senior Gross Division.

Brian Katrek (Mableton, Ga.) and Todd Stires (Murrieta, Calif.) combined to win the Casa de Campo Pairs Competition, shooting a combined, net team score of 4-over. By virtue of winning, the pair received a 4-day, 3-night stay at luxurious Casa de Campo and unlimited golf.

"The 37th Annual World Am was certainly different, but the one thing that didn't change was the competition at the heart of the event, and we are delighted to congratulate Harry Radley on earning the title of World Champion," Tournament Director Scott Tomasello said.

"We enjoyed a week of great golf and while we are grateful to have been able to play the World Am, we are certainly looking forward to next

year's tournament and a return to more normal circumstances."

Golfers from all 50 states competed in this year's World Am, a 72-hole, net stroke play event, but the 2020 was altered due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The biggest change was the absence of the World's Largest 19th Hole, which usually serves as the event's social hub, providing players free food, drinks, live entertainment and more each evening.

All participants had their own cart for each tournament round. There were no more than 72 golfers on each course (approx. 36 players per flight), and a tee time window with threesomes was instituted. Complimentary range balls were provided and placed on respective ranges to eliminate touch points, and no spectators were allowed.

For more information on the tournament, visit www.MyrtleBeachWorldAmateur.com. The 2021 World Am will be played Aug. 30 – Sept. 3.

WARREN WINS NEPGA CHAMPIONSHIP



HAMILTON, Mass.

After reducing the 100th New England PGA Section Championship to a one-horse race on Tuesday, Shawn Warren, PGA, trotted to victory at Myopia Hunt Club on Wednesday, winning the tournament for the second-consecutive year and third time overall. "To go out and shoot 4-under yesterday to give myself that big cushion going into today allowed me to relax and not have to grind it out all day," Warren (Falmouth CC) said after his round.

Wednesday's 76 was Warren's only over-par round of the tournament and left him at 1-under par for the 54-hole event, five strokes clear of Scott Johnson, PGA (Oakley CC) who finished second after shooting 75 alongside Warren in the final group. Tedesco Country Club co-hosted the tournament with the 185-player field alternating between the two courses over Monday and Tuesday's rounds. Sixty-six players made the 36-hole cut into the final round at Myopia on Wednesday.

Warren entered the final round with a six-stroke lead at 5-under par and was in Position 1 the entire day. He carded three-straight birdies on Myopia's fourth, fifth and sixth holes to get to 8-under par. Despite four bogeys and a triple over the final 12 holes, Warren still managed to finish the tournament

as the only player under par.

"I was 3-under early on in the round and that allowed me to play a little more conservative and really stick to the game plan," Warren said. "This place, as everybody can tell with the scores, you're one swing away from getting into a lot of trouble. I did a good job earlier of steadying the ship and keeping the ball in play and then in the end I just hung on. It was nice not to have to grind it out too much but it's still a tough battle."

Warren, who also won the NEPGA Championship in 2013 and 2019, becomes the seventh three-time Section Champion as the event celebrated its centennial championship. "What a special place. To win the 100th is huge, to win back-to-back, I'm so fortunate, but to do it on this piece of property, this club, Myopia Hunt Club, it's a dream come true," Warren added.

Johnson made four birdies and shot 3-over par 75 to finish alone in second. The low round of the day belonged to Jeff Seavey, PGA (Goose River), a 1-under par 71 that catapulted him from a tie for 14th entering the day into a solo 3rd finish. Three-time NEPGA Champion Rich Berberian, PGA (Vesper CC) shot 73 and tied for fourth with Robert Bruso, PGA (Blackstone National GC) at 6-over par.

The top 10 finishers earned an exemption into the 2021 PGA Professional National Championship. Liam Friedman, PGA (Nashawtuc CC), David Bennett, PGA (CC of Vermont), Jeff Martin, PGA (Wollaston GC), John Hickson, PGA (Chequessett Y&CC), Greg Yeomans, PGA (Bay Club at Mattapoisett) and Matt Baran joined Warren, Johnson, Seavey and Bruso earning those exemptions. Berberian and Seul-Ki Hawley, PGA (Winchester CC) are already exempt into the field.

With the cancellation of the 2020 PGA Professional Championship, the NEPGA reserved one exemption for the lowest finisher in the Section Championship who qualified for the 2020 event and did not earn an exemption this week. That spot went to Kirk Hanefeld who finished tied for 10th.

The Section's five PNC alternates, in order, are Danny Kish, PGA (Atkinson Resort), Todd Rollins, PGA (Laconia), Steven Hausmann, PGA (Amherst CC), Boomer Erick, PGA (Boston GC), and David Jankowski, PGA (Burlington CC).

The NEPGA Section Championship would not have been possible without the support of presenting partners Omega and Club Car, and Supporting Partners Titleist, Footjoy, TaylorMade, Nike, Mohegan Sun, Avidia Bank and the PGA TOUR.

Thank you to Myopia Hunt Club and PGA Professional Michael Bemis for hosting the centennial championship after staging the inaugural championship back in 1921. Thank you Tedesco Country Club and head golf professional Jake Leech, PGA, for serving as the gracious hosts for the tournament.

Results on page 26

PARTIAL RESULTS

- 1 Shawn Warren, Falmouth CC: 69-68-76--213 -1
- 2 Scott Johnson, Oakley Country Club: 74-69-75--218 +4
- 3 Jeff Seavey, Goose River: 73-75-71--219 +5
- T4 Rich Berberian, Vesper CC: 73-74-73--220 +6
- T4 Robert Brusio, Blackstone National GC: 71-74-75--220 +6
- T6 Liam Friedman, Nashawtuc: 74-74-73--221 +7
- T6 David Bennett, CC of Vermont: 72-74-75--221 +7
- T8 Jeff Martin, Wollaston GC: 72-76-74--222 +8
- T8 John Hickson, Chequessett Yacht & CC: 72-76-74--222 +8
- T8 Greg Yeomans, Bay Club at Mattapoisett: 74-71-77--222 +8
- T11 Todd Rollins, Laconia: 75-77-71--223 +9
- T11 Matt Baran, The Ridge Club: 72-78-73--223 +9
- T11 Danny Kish, The Atkinson Resort: 76-71-76--223 +9
- T11 Kirk Hanefeld, Salem CC: 72-74-77--223 +9
- T11 Seul-Ki Hawley, Winchester CC: 71-74-78--223 +9
- T16 David Jankowski, Burlington: 75-76-73--224 +10
- T16 Steven Hausmann, Amherst CC: 72-77-75--224 +10
- T16 Daniel Wilkins, Laconia: 77-73-74--224 +10
- T16 Boomer Erick, Boston GC: 73-76-75--224 +10
- T20 Tommy Lucko, Winchester CC: 77-76-72--225 +11
- T20 Eric Barlow, Winchester CC: 74-79-72--225 +11
- T20 Frank Dully, Kernwood CC: 72-79-74--225 +11
- T20 Rico Riciputi, Wentworth by the Sea CC: 71-77-77--225 +11
- T20 Robert Tramonti, Triggs Memorial GC: 71-75-79--225 +11
- T20 Steven Daly, Cape Club of Sharon: 70-75-80--225 +11



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SEASON PASSPORT AVAILABLE OCTOBER 6TH

Golfers from around New England have been enjoying the great golf discounts from the Season Passport since 2010. This combined coupon book offers over 250 individual deals at over 75 golf courses. Most of the courses are in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, but there also deals in other places

Because of the lost time playing this year because of the coronavirus, we will be offering a special price of \$39.95 until Christmas of 2020. After that the price for the Passport will return to \$64.95. There are discounts purchasing three or more of the passport, if you want to buy it with your golfing buddies. The Golf Season Passport will include discounts at many of the best public courses in New England including Blackstone National, Country View, Cranston, Cranwell, Crystal Lake, Crumpin Fox Club, Foxborough, Fox Hopyard, Gardner Municipal, Green Mountain, Fenner Hill, Laurel Lane, Manchester CC, No. Kingstown, Portland, Quarry Ridge, Rehoboth, Shattuck, Swansea, Tekoa CC, Triggs, Winnepaug and dozens more. There are also some nine-hole courses for those that would rather just play nine including Kings Crossing, Louisquisset, Midville and Pinecrest in Rhode Island. Returning this year is the fine Brattleboro CC in Vermont. The Golf Season Passport can be used through December 31, 2021.

Each course will be allowed to have up to three deals, and offer up to four plays per deal. This gives golfers an opportunity to not only save money, but also play their favorite courses more often.

Thousands of golfers from around New England have enjoyed the Season Pass and Season Passport and have saved

hundreds of dollars while golfing. You can purchase your pass at www.golfwesternmass.com or at www.snegolfer.com or call 401-464-8445.

While you are on the website, please register for information about golf events for your area. The Massachusetts group runs tournaments from time to time at some great courses, and regularly has over 100 players per event. We have played The Crumpin Fox Club, The Ledges Golf Club, Metacomet Country Club, Crestwood Country Club and Blackstone National GC along with many others. You can also get a \$10 off coupon from the Golfers Warehouse stores in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Ron Joseph who has a large group of golfers that play every Wednesday had this to say about the Season Passport; "We save hundreds of dollars each year on our golfing fees with the Season Passport. Each week we look at books and decide where we are going to play the following week. Since some of the courses have more than one coupon, we often go back to the courses we like the most."

There is a coupon code attached to the ad below. You can use that code at either www.golfwesternmass.com or at www.snegolfer.com to save \$15 if you order the book by December 25. The book makes a great gift for the golfers in your life and you will definitely save money on your golfing experiences next year with the Season Passport.

Please call or visit the websites for more information or to make a purchase. The Season Passports are mailed the same day the order is received.

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MYRTLE BEACH FALL CLASSIC NOV. 15-19

The 7th annual Myrtle Beach Fall Classic sponsored by Short Par 4 is scheduled November 15-19 offering four (4) rounds of tournament golf on the best courses Myrtle Beach has to offer, green fee, cart fee, range balls, entry gifts, flight prizes, raffles, food and more.

The Myrtle Beach Fall Classic, sponsored by Short Par, is entering its seventh year after a sellout in its first six showings. This event caters to those players in the Northeast and Mid-West that cannot play golf at home because Mother Nature has ended our golf season. Check your calendar and your wallet and save the dates of November 15-19!

The tournament takes advantage of Myrtle Beach's mild fall season and two-man teams will play some of the best courses on the Grand Strand. Take the plunge now before it sells out again because contestants from prior years are coming back and offer high praise for the quality selection of golf courses, the format, the gift prizes for entering and the bonding among players as the four-day week progresses. A few of the golf courses in the 2020 rotation include: TPC Myrtle Beach, Tidewater, Myrtle Beach National King's North, World Tour Golf Links, Caledonia, Pine Lakes and Barefort Resort.

"This will be my third year and I wouldn't miss it," said Dan Riley, a 9-handicaper from Virginia Beach, who has also teed it up in the World Amateur for the past few years. "The two-man team format makes it fun and challenging. If you play well with

your partner, you can cash. If not then come back next year and try again. I love coming to Myrtle Beach to play in these major events. They know how to run world-class amateur tournaments."

Probably, the best reason to sign up early for the Fall Classic is the golf course lineup. Without a doubt, the event features one of the best collections of Myrtle Beach golf courses that you will ever find in a tournament setting. You might even find one of your bucket list courses during one of four tournament days. With top-notch golf course designers and superior conditions, every course in the rotation has received numerous accolades from some of the Nation's best media outlets.

It isn't just the great golf courses that brings 432 players to the Fall Classic annually. It's the friendships and memorable experiences off the golf course. With a welcome reception to meet-and-greet fellow competitors, your week gets started in grand fashion. To top it off, all competitors will close out the week with complimentary lunch and thousands of dollars in randomly drawn prizes and awards to top finishers.

The 7th annual Myrtle Beach Fall Classic is operated by Golf Tourism Solutions. Two-man teams compete over 72 holes with different formats each day. Is there a better way to extend our 2020 golf season!

Myrtle Beach has just finished hosting the World Amateur (see story on page 21) without any issue with Covid 19. If you missed that event,

or want to repeat that great golfing experience, then a trip to Myrtle Beach should be in your future.

Tom Gorman is the publisher of New England Golf and writes a column in each issue of snegolfer.com. He recently finished second in his flight at the World Amateur. You can subscribe to his free site that has weekly stories about golf.

\$2.5 MILLION AWARDED IN OUIMET SCHOLARSHIPS

Executive Director Colin McGuire recently announce that \$2.5 million worth of scholarships were awarded to young men and women across Massachusetts for 2020.

The Ouimet Scholarship program, which began in 1949 has now awarded over \$38 million in scholarship money to 6,050 deserving boys and girls who have worked at golf courses throughout the state.

Considered the golf charity of Massachusetts, the Ouimet Scholarship program continues to be a major benefactor for students needing assistance for a college education. You can learn more about the program and see first-hand the work that is being done at www.ouimet.org.

MONTCALM GOLF CLUB IN NEW HAMPSHIRE IS MARVELOUS



There are times over the past 29 years of publishing this paper (now online only) that I wanted to get a story out as soon as I had visited the golf course. This is one of them. My wife and I visited Montcalm Golf Club in Enfield, N.H. in August. Marvelous and mammoth are the two adjectives that fit the course the best.

Montcalm was designed by George Sargent, a UMass graduate (in 1975) who is a well-known architect in New England. It sits between the Green Mountain National Forest and the White Mountain National Forest just ten miles from Dartmouth College and 20 minutes north of Lake Sunapee.

The views are spectacular throughout the course, which makes it worth the four years it took to build the course which spanned six months blasting the ledge and outcroppings throughout the 450-acre property. The clubhouse sits near the top of the property and the driving range looks right across at Whaleback Mountain.

When it opened, *Golf Digest* named Montcalm one of the *Top Ten Best New Courses in the Country*, and in 2007 it was named one of the best in New Hampshire. That rating certainly would apply now as well. The holes are so well designed as you travel up and down hills. One of the real perks are the new Club Car carts that were just purchased. You might think you are riding in a Mercedes, the seats are so comfortable.

We met with course administrator M.A. Ricci who has been in the golf industry for many years. "We are a premier

golf facility and easy to get to in the Upper Valley. You can enjoy scenic vistas while playing outstanding golf, and everyone who visits wants to come back soon. Our goal is simple: to provide an unparalleled golf experience combined with warm, friendly service. I believe you can find no better semi-private course in the state," said Ricci while we dined on the scenic veranda.

Talk about great service—the head professional, Steve Rogers, who used to be the pro at Newport Country Club years ago, met us in the parking lot and played nine holes with us, and his tips were invaluable, both for my game and the knowledge that he had about the course.

The course can play 6,829 yards from the back tees, but I'd suggest something much more comfortable. Rogers and the staff recently added new green teeing boxes and also have combo tees that are such a smart idea.

Hole 3 is a steep downhill par four, that prepares you for some of the upcoming slopes. Remember the ball travels further downhill, but the reverse is also true, as there are quite a few uphill holes as well. The hole you will never forget is the 10th. Since we were in skiing country, I was looking for the black diamond signage. The hole measures 452 from the black and we played it at 400 yards, but it was only a short iron for the second shot that tumbled for about 100 yards down the hill to the large green.

The greens are massive. The par 5 fifth has large sloping green, and the fifteenth hole has a green that drops

about eight feet near the back.

Montcalm is unforgettable. That is one of the reasons that I wanted to get this story out right away. The other reason is they are currently offering a wonderful stay-and-play package in partnership with the Courtyard by Marriot that is 12 minutes from the course. They have a two-night stay that includes three rounds of golf and breakfast or lunch each day at the club each day. There is also a one-night stay package called the Vista that includes two rounds. The Courtyard was very nice, and very accommodating. They had already reserved a number stay and play packages and were looking forward to many more.

The other reason for wanting to get this story out is that the course is closing on October 15—remember mountains in New Hampshire. Rogers says the views in September and early October are spectacular with the peak foliage. I hope you can make it there. Ms. Ricci says that they plan to offer specials in the spring for us southern New Englanders to venture to New Hampshire in 2021—hopefully the pandemic will have eased a great deal.

If you go, you won't forget it, and you won't regret it. You can get more information by calling 603-448-5665 or visiting the website at www.montcalmgolfclub.com.

Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of snegolfer.com and has been a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America for 25 years.

PAYNE'S VALLEY, A TIGER WOODS DESIGN A GREAT ADDITION TO BRANSON'S GOLF SCENE



Great views in the Ozark Mountains

Tiger Woods' first daily fee course design, which got national exposure in its television debut in late September, is the newest addition to Big Cedar Lodge near Branson, Mo. Tiger's tribute to the late Payne Stewart – an 11-time PGA Tour winner and a native son of the Ozarks – was the venue for a match between Tiger and Justin Thomas against Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose after the U.S. Open.

Payne's Valley joins an ensemble of courses operated by Big Cedar Lodge that includes 18-hole courses Ozarks National and Buffalo Ridge, and short courses Top of the Rock and Mountain Top. The array of golf is just part of the story of Big Cedar Lodge, which was developed by Bass Pro Shops owner Johnny Morris. Morris has overseen the growth of Big Cedar Lodge into a destination that offers fishing, boating, shooting, shopping, hiking and biking. The resort calls itself "America's Premier Wilderness Resort."

Everything about Payne's Valley is expansive. The fairways are spacious and the greens are enormous. It is challenging and fun and difficult and scenic all wrapped into one course. There's even a 19th hole – a par-3 currently under construction leading to the clubhouse – that overlooks the 18th green in a spectacular setting.

"The difference compared to Buffalo Ridge and Ozarks National is that Payne's Valley stands out in its look and even in the way it plays," said Matt McQueary, Big Cedar Lodge director of golf sales and marketing.

"You go to some destinations and the courses generally look the same from photograph to photograph. You might have to know what you are looking for to tell them apart," he said. "Here, you take a picture of a hole and you pretty can tell which course it belongs to – whether it is the par 3s or even the whole 18."

Golf at Big Cedar Lodge ranges in price from \$60 for the Mountain Top short course to \$225 for a round at Payne's Valley. The peak rate for Buffalo Ridge is \$135 and Ozarks National costs \$195, according to Big Cedar Lodge's online reservations engine.

"Branson has always had golf courses, but I don't think it has had any on this level," McQueary said. "I think this brings us into the fold when we talk about national golf destinations where you are willing to travel a little bit more to play, and I think this course – Payne's Valley – is going to be a bucket list course."

Tiger designed Payne's Valley with the full spectrum of player abilities in mind. "I think the average golfer is kind of tired of getting beat up," McQueary said. "You are coming here to play maybe one round – you

aren't playing your whole career here – and do you want to get your butt handed to you for 18 holes, or do you want to have fun and keep the ball in play?"

McQueary said Tiger was hands-on during construction, making several site visits and being involved in the conceptual design of the course that will play 7,308 yards from the tips. The 19th hole will be a 202-yard par 3 from the back. "He is not usually here overnight. He'll fly in – you'll see the TW jet kind of flying in low and landing at the airport. It's usually a half day," McQueary said.

Woods made a site visit last fall shortly after undergoing knee surgery but he still walked the entire 18 holes, including the final five that had yet to be sodded. On No. 14, he saw that a fairway bunker on the left looked a lot like the set-up on No. 15, so on the fly, he sketched out moving the bunker. The result is that No. 14 now has a bunker on the right side of the fairway.

The tragedy of Stewart's death was national news. He won the 1999 U.S. Open in June of that year and died four months later when the pressurization system of the Learjet he was in failed shortly after takeover from Orlando. The jet, on autopilot and its crew and passengers dead, flew on more than 1,500 miles before running out of fuel and crashing in northern South Dakota.

Gregg Dewalt is editor of alabamagolfnews.com.

Dan Vukelich is editor of newmexicogolfnews.com.

If You Go

Big Cedar Lodge is about a hefty 21-hour drive from Providence or Boston, but three airlines – American, United and Delta – serve the nearest airport, Springfield-Branson.

There's an array of lodging at Big Cedar Lodge, ranging from rooms at three different lodges to "glamping" campgrounds, cottages, log cabins and a villa and suite that each can accommodate 12-14 people.

As a long-time tourism destination, nearby Branson has plenty of lodging options, including condos and lake cabins, hotels and motels. One of the best is the Hilton Branson Convention Center. It is conveniently located in the heart of downtown Branson and within easy walking distance of many of the shows and the ever-popular Branson Landing that features a wide variety of shops and restaurants.

NORTHERN TRUST & DUSTIN JOHNSON'S GREAT SIX-WEEK RUN



This was the first year that we were not in Norton on Labor Day weekend to cover the professional golf tournament since the Deutsche Bank Championship began back in the early 2000's. This year it was being called the Northern Trust Championship, and it was the first leg of the revised FedExCup.

What a year to miss! Dustin Johnson was this year's champion and he did it in style. Imagine shooting 30 under par for four rounds of golf. As writers, we get to play the course about a month before the event when the club hosts Media Day. Sometimes the previous year's winner is present, but mostly it is held on a conference call where members of the media get to ask questions to the previous champ. It's much like the Zoom meetings that we are all getting quite accustomed to.

It is not an easy course? We get to play from quite forward of where the actual event is played. This fair-to-midland writer has never come close to breaking 80. Dustin Johnson averaged 63.5 for his four rounds, one of which was a score of 60. That was not even the lowest score of the tournament. Scottie Sheffler, a rising star, shot 59 on one of the days.

Fortunately the Northern Trust was on television. I must admit that the Golf Channel and the national stations are doing a great job covering the tournaments. It is quite fun to watch on television, and it certainly saves this writer many miles of walking around TPC Boston. It seems so different without spectators. It certainly is easier for the mobile cameramen

and announcers to move around.

One of the changes without fans is that players who hit errant shots often find their balls quite a bit further in the woods, because there are no spectators to stop the balls. How often have you seen players spray a shot into the crowd and have it bounce back, or at worst be in a good lie where people have trampled down the grass to make for easier shots.

Johnson was never challenged the week of the Northern Trust. He won by a whopping eleven strokes. It was the impetus for him to have a great run in future events, and if it wasn't for Jon Rahm making a 66-footer at the FedEx finals he would have even been a better run.

The key to Johnson's play was in his putting. He had been having trouble making putts in the earlier tournaments after play began in June, but with his brother Austin's help (he is also his caddie) reading putts with him, he went on a wonderful role winning \$15 million in FedEx money.

Let's hope that next year's event at TPC Boston will be open for spectators, and yes the media. This issue would have had dozens of pictures from the event and a fine interview from the winner. Instead we all sat in our living room. At least we were socially distanced!

Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of snegolfer.com and is a long-time member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America, and has seen less professional events this year than in the past 30.

LOOKING BACK

FALL 2011 OF SNE GOLFER

Nine years ago this month the Southern New England issue had Webb Simpson on the cover next to his wife, Dowd and son, James, as he held the Deutsche Bank trophy. Simpson won the event in a playoff against Chez Reavie who had also finished at minus fifteen. Both players made birdie on the first playoff hole, then Simpson won it with a seven-foot putt on the second hole (no. 17).

Another feature of the issue was a wonderful feature on Seth Waugh, CEO of Deutsche Bank Americas that was written by the late Joe Gordon. Gordon had starting writing for us after retiring from the Boston Herald. He had covered golf for over 30 years for the Herald and was a wonderful addition to our publication. Waugh, a native of Ayer, Mass., was a driving force in getting the Deutsche Bank event started, and getting it in Massachusetts. A Labor Day finish made it even more attractive and exciting. Waugh retired from Deutsche Bank a few years ago and is now a driving force in golf as the executive director of the PGA of America.

Rhode Island's Bobby Leopold made it to the round of 16 at the U.S. Amateur and Bob Dickson had a feature story. Leopold finished 64th in the medal play, the last player to qualify for match play. One of Leopold's wins in match play

was against Harris English who has gone on to an excellent PGA Tour career including a top 5 finish in this year's U.S. Open.

Keegan Bradley was also featured in this issue. He had recently won the PGA Championship in Atlanta. He then got to throw out the first pitch at Fenway Park for his beloved Red Sox. Next he got to flip the coin at the fifty-yard line for a Patriots game. For this native New Englander, it was truly heady stuff.

Danielle Kang is having an excellent year on the LPGA Tour. In 2011 she won the Women's U.S. Women's Amateur at Rhode Island Country Club in Barrington.



David Adamonis, Jr's column was full of great golf stories from the younger set. Peter French won the individual crown and led his Mass. team to the New England Junior Championships by

13 strokes over Connecticut and Massachusetts. Rhode Island was three behind them, but R.I.'s Seamus Fennelly was tied for second in the individual awards.

The Golf Channel's Frank Nobile was pictured in the issue, as he was visiting Wentworth Hill Golf Club in Plainville, Mass. to see good friend Casey Bierer who was the general manager. Nobile was in the region to cover the Deutsche Bank event that is a short distance from Wentworth Hills.

There was a whole page story and advertisement for the Fourth Annual Southern New England Golf Expo that was going to be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center in February of 2012. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence were the beneficiaries of the event that was entitled a Celebration of Golf. The event, with Amica Insurance as a big sponsor only lasted a couple of more years.

We include a Looking Back column in each issue of snegolfer.com. For the last four years the issues have been online, so you can find them at snegolfer.com.

*If you are looking for an earlier article, you can contact
Bruce Vittner at
bruce@snegolfer.com.*

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 GC** (9) P,X
1 Button Hole Dr. Providence, RI
401-421-1664
www.buttonhole.org CL,CH,DR,PS, DR,
Lessons
- 3. COUNTRY VIEW G.C.** (18) P
49 Club Lane Burrillville, RI
401-568-7157
www.countryviewgolf.net CR,CL,PS,CH,O
- 4. COVENTRY PINES G.C.** (9) P
1065 Harkney Hill Rd. Coventry, RI 401-397-
9482
www.coventrypin.es.com CR,CH,CH,SB, DR,
simul.
- 5. CRYSTAL LAKE 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. HARBOR LIGHTS 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 Conanicus Ave. Jamestown, RI
401-423-9930
www.jamestowngolf.com CR,CL,CH,SB
- 13. KINGS CROSSING GC** (9) P
655 Old Baptist Rd. N. Kingstown, RI 401-294-
2872
www.kingscrossinggolfclub.com CR,PS,CH,O
- 14. LAUREL LANE CC** (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. WINNAPAU G 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.baypointclub.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 GC** (18) P
329 Summer St. Rehoboth, MA
508-557-1856
www.hazeltongolfclub.com CR,PS,CH,O
- 34. JOHN E. 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 C.C.** (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

Map Listing

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.oldsotlandlinks.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 GC** (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

48. **MOHEGAN SUN G.C.** (18) P
7 Dows Ln. Baltic, CT
860-862-9230
www.mohegansungolfclub.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

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

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SALITO FINDS A NEW HOME AT KENEY PARK G.C.

After playing, teaching and helping manage and grow the game of golf for 55 years, Ralph Salito finds himself in a comfortable place at one of true success stories in recent Connecticut golf history. The 66-year-old joined the staff at the city of Hartford-owned Keney Park Golf Course this year as Director of Golf, bringing his vast experience in the game and affable personality to the job.

"It happened very quickly actually," Salito said of landing the position at Keney Park, which underwent a multi-million dollar renovation several years ago that brought the Devereux Emmet-designed track a new luster and respect. "The previous professional here went to a club near his home, and the Connecticut Section PGA stepped up as a city consultant to fill the position. I was happy to get the post. I had extensive background from 13 years at Richter Park."

Salito believes the people of the Hartford area, indeed anyone that makes a tee time at Keney Park to be in for a treat. "The fact that a Devereux Emmet design is so spectacularly kept for a public price of, in some cases, \$18 greens fees makes it a true value as opposed to, say Pebble Beach, a resort course the public can play for up to \$600.

The par-70 golf course occupies Hartford's historic 700-acre Keney Park, located in the city's north end. The first nine holes of the course were finished in 1927, and the remaining nine were completed in 1930. Keney's original designer the early 20th century American architect Emmet, has many illustrious courses to his credit, including Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., the site of several U.S. Opens. The Connecticut PGA Section was hired to be a business consultant at Keney Park Golf Course, and the Hartford City Council approved a \$5.8 million comprehensive restoration.

Salito, who was inducted into the Connecticut PGA Golf Hall of Fame in 2018, came to Keney Park with a wealth of experience. Prior to coming to Keney Park, he started and developed RalphS Golf Sales Consulting, establishing relationships with manufacturer's lines of clothing and various golf industry products and marketed to facilities in the Northeast. He also provides professional consulting in pro shop design, buying and merchandising. That enterprise, of course, was on hold because of the pandemic.

From 1998 to 2010 he was Head Golf Professional/Director of Golf at Richter Park Golf Course in Danbury, a municipally-owned course that has averaged 45,000 rounds annually for the last 12 years. While there, Salito "worked hard to develop good will for the golf course in the overall community".

Salito was Head Golf Professional/Director of Golf/General Manager at The Club at River Oaks in Sherman from 2010 to 2015. From 2017 to 2018 he was Operations Supervisor for The Country Club of Waterbury, and he had earlier stints as an assistant pro at Race Brook Country Club in Orange and Wee Burn Country Club in Darien.

Salito has played vital roles in the golf business leadership fields during his long career. He was Honorary President, President, Vice President, Secretary, and was on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Section PGA. He was also a 2002 Public Merchandiser of the Year recipient from the Connecticut Section PGA; was a 2005

Bill Strausbaugh Award Winner; was a Connecticut Section PGA Inaugural Committee member for Walter Lowell Distinguished Public Golf Course Award; a Tournament Inaugural Committee member for the Connecticut PGA Hall of Fame; and a Connecticut PGA rules official.

A highly accomplished player, Salito was the Senior Connecticut Section PGA Senior Champion from 2002 to 2005; won the 2007 Connecticut Senior Open; was a 2005 and 2012 Walter Lowell PGA Tournament champion; qualified and played in 30 Connecticut State Open championships; was a seven-time Julius Boros Challenge Cup PGA Team member; served as assistant captain of the team, in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and was captain in 2018 and 2019.

That Salito has dedicated his entire professional career to the game of golf and the people that play it is "my legacy to the game of which I am most proud of." He added, "Golf is very similar to life. Man's deepest craving is to be appreciated, in golf as well as in life. Helping people in your profession or being recognized for volunteering and fund raising is rewarding. And whether it be for breaking 100 or winning an event, golfers want to be recognized for their accomplishments."

On golf in the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Salito said, "I have never heard as many success stories, people playing at every type of facility, as I have heard this year. Our hope is that this trend will continue into the future, and for all the right reasons. People that haven't played before are enjoying the game like I could never have imagined. I have noticed golfers seeming to have a sense of immediacy when they visit. They play fast, leave the facility, and it's on to the next life task."

Salito enjoys playing golf socially with his family and friends these days. "I played competitively for 55 years and now I am happy to have completed a wonderful club professional playing career. I have always supported every aspect of the game and life of a golfer, as well as the friends I have made. I chose the best career and the best sport. I am forever grateful and appreciative for what the game of golf has given me...a great, fulfilling life."

Connecticut golfers and those in the industry are also grateful and appreciative to have had their lives and favorite sport made better by Ralph Salito, who has taken such a committed and nurturing role in the game for over five decades.



Ralph Salito
Photo Credit: Mark William Paul

John Torsiello of Connecticut writes a column in many issues of snegolfer.com.

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Could we get enough advertising dollars for online issues only? That was the key question. The first thing we did was cut the advertising prices about in half. I then went to the advertisers with the lower prices and asked their thoughts. How many emails do you have? Where are they located?

We coordinated with a person who had been collecting emails from all the golf shows in southern New England and at different golf events. He had a list of almost 40,000 golfers. "I'll be happy to send out your publication as part of my weekly emails whenever it is completed," he said. "It will help my open rate because it is an excellent publication and my subscribers will enjoy reading it," he added.

The key for us has become the fact that all the ads and

map listings are linked to the advertisers' websites. When you are reading the paper online with your computer or tablet and you see an ad that you are interested in, you can just click on the ad and it goes right to the advertiser's website. You can't do that with a paper!

I've found that reading a paper online is quite enjoyable. The white background makes it easier to read. The online paper reads just like a paper. You just scroll down, page after page. The print is bigger on my computer than it was in the physical paper. I've also been reading it on my tablet. It is not quite as large a print as the computer, but is easily readable while sitting in my easy chair watching a game. And just think of all the trees we are saving!

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The publication is normally produced four times a year.

In 2021 look for issues on

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