

FALL 2022 | VOL 12 NO 4

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PRESIDENTS CUP

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| 1. | How Many Presidents Cups have there been? | 14 | 1. |
| 2. | In what state was this Cup held? | North Carolina | 2. |
| 3. | When did the Presidents Cup begin? | 1994 | 3. |
| 4. | In what country was the last Cup held? | Australia | 4. |
| 5. | When was the event held at Liberty National? | 2017 | 5. |
| 6. | How many Koreans were on this year's event? | Three | 6. |
| 7. | Was the event ever held in Korea? | Yes, in 2015 | 7. |
| 8. | Has there ever been a tie? | Yes, in 2003 | 8. |
| 9. | Has the Internationals ever won the event? | Yes, in 1998 | 9. |

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our Fall/Winter 2022 issue. This is the fourth issue of the year, and for the first time we had a common theme for each issue—How the great game of golf is made better.

In our spring issue we focused on how Superintendents make the game better. What would courses look like if it weren't for the hundreds of superintendents in southern New England working their magic to make the courses look and play so wonderfully? It was fun to talk to so many supers who usually are in the background when you think of going to your favorite courses.

Our June/July issue focused on Club Professionals. Our quote was "The Swiss Army Knives of Golf." Just think of all the things that club pros provide for us to make the game more enjoyable. From giving lessons, to controlling a staff, to running events—the club pro is always doing something to make our game of golf better. Just ask any club pro and the reply will be, "I don't play as well, because I never get a change to practice—I'm too busy."

The Aug/Sep issue focused on Golf Leagues and how that helps the bottom line for golf courses and provides a great deal of camaraderie for the members of the leagues. Knowing that you have that steady influx of income from the leagues makes it easier for golf courses to make a profit for the year.

This Fall issue is focused on golf tournaments and how it helps the bottom lines for both the golf courses and the charities that run the events. We were able to talk to many course owners and also many volunteers who organize the tournaments. You will get some new ideas, and also see the benefits of these charity events.

We are traveling out to the Scottsdale area in December for about the 20th time. We've got stories of where we are staying, as there won't be another issue until next spring. If you have the chance to get to this area over the winter, you will certainly be glad you did. We used to publish a winter issue, but it is just too difficult to get enough advertising to make it work. We were able to travel to Maine during the beginning of September, and that story is also in this issue.

This publication would never exist if it wasn't for the great writers that we have. I'm afraid to tally up the total years that these writers have been doing their job, but you readers are definitely the benefactors of their skills. Thank you very much to them and to you readers who have made this publication a success over these past 33 years. Have a wonderful winter, enjoy the holidays and we will see you again in April 2023.

BRUCE VITTNER

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Southern New England Golfer is published 4 times per year: Spring, June/July, August/September, and Fall. Occasional emails will go out to subscribers throughout the year.

Mail articles, releases & items to:
Editor, Southern New England Golfer
P.O. Box 10038, Cranston, RI 02910
Materials will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self addressed envelope.

Southern New England Golfer is not responsible for advertising copy. Corrected advertising will be placed in future issues.

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Off-Season Full Body Movement & Swing Assessment

Make a commitment to your golf game this off-season by getting a full body movement and swing assessment.

We are pleased to announce that we have teamed up with Dr. Michael Edwards, PT, DPT at Shore Golf Performance & Physical Therapy to offer in-house physical therapy, pain management and golf performance. Michael has over 5 years of experience as a sports orthopedic physical therapist with a passion for treating the golfer. He is Titleist Performance Institute Medical 2 certified and is also certified in dry needling.

Michael has worked with golfers of all ages and skill levels, from juniors to recreational golfers to even PGA Professionals. He is a proud supporter of the Rex Hospital Open and Korn Ferry Tour where he served as a physical therapist for the players in 2019 and 2021.

What to expect? You will receive an initial evaluation and movement assessment where we will discover where your physical limitations are and connect the dots to why you move and swing the way you do. Upon completion of assessment, you will then leave with a targeted plan of care specific to you, whether that be independence with a home exercise program and/or recommendation for continued treatment.

Story Continues On Page 6

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Now that you have the physical basis covered, its time to see how your motions patterns are affecting the movement of the golf club throughout your swing. We use TrackMan at our Academy to track the ball/club interaction and give you an explanation of why the ball is curving and the potential distance loss you may be seeing in your game.

By understanding the golf club impact principles of your swing, we can start the process of changing the match-up patterns to get a more favorable outcome that you desire. You will receive multiple drills that can be done at home without a golf ball and drills that you can utilize at the range.

Lastly, once you have the body and swing covered, its time to work on the fun stuff – SPEED! Using products from either The Stack System (www.thestacksystem.com) or Speed Sticks from (www.superspeedgolf.com) are a

great way over the off-season to build up your speed gains just in time for Spring! In addition, there are multiple options for measuring your speed gains, such as PRGR, Voice Caddie, and Garmin to name just a few and are listed on the Stack System website.

By working on your identified weaknesses, understanding better potential swing match-ups and training overall speed, your game will Thank You come the Spring. We are offering an Assessment Special this off-season: 45 min evaluation and movement assessment with Dr. Michael Edwards and 45 min Trackman assessment with Todd Campbell for only \$200. ■

If you are interested in signing up for the assessment package, please contact
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michael@shoregolfperformance.com

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Tournament Golf: Fun and Profitable



SCENIC HOLES AT RHODE ISLAND C.C.

Tournament golf--it can be lots of fun for those who participate in it and very helpful to the benefitting charity or organization that runs it, AND the club that hosts it. Take it from a guy that co-chairs a golf tournament and has played in hundreds of these events.

The tournament that I have co-chaired for many years is the Brown Football Association Golf Classic which is held each August at the beautiful Rhode Island Country Club in Barrington.

Believe you me, putting together all of the details to run such an event is more than a one-person job but, if you do it well and select the right location, it can be well worth it.

Having just held our 30th annual BFA Golf Classic, all of which have been played at RICC, I would guess that we have raised in excess of \$1 million dollars for the Brown Football program over the years – all while enjoying a great day of

camaraderie with alumni, family and friends of the program.

How have we raised out money over the years? Truth be told, it's not on what we charge to play in the event. Rather, we sell sponsorships, conduct live and silent auctions and have a raffle for people to enter all while providing the most important element – a great day of golf!

Our tournament includes lunch before we tee off and dinner/heavy hors d'oeuvres following golf. The combination of people's passion for Brown Football, the sport of golf and the magnificent venue and golf course has made our event something that many have put on their calendar annually as a "must-do" each summer.

I cannot emphasize enough how much the beauty and the first-class treatment we receive from RICC contributes to the success of our event. In addition to being a great Donald Ross layout, the

setting of Rhode Island Country Club right along the shores of Narragansett Bay is a big draw.

"We're lucky in that we have a great golf course that is actually very friendly to players of all skill levels," said RICC head golf professional Kyle Phelps. "These tournaments can attract golfers of many kinds and I think that they all can enjoy the course."

"We are also fortunate to have such a great venue as our clubhouse overlooks holes 15-18 and the bay which, from a social aspect, makes for a great place to hold lunch before or a reception afterward," he said.

While Rhode Island Country Club probably doesn't "need" to host Monday afternoon tournaments, they do because they find it very beneficial to the club.

"I would say that most clubs rely on these tournaments because they can use the revenue to maintain the status quo which means great golf course conditions and amenities which has gotten more expensive in recent years, as well as to avoid possible cuts in services and to improve facilities," Phelps said.

"For us, we have many members affiliated with great charities, so some of them hold their charity events here," he said. "And I will tell you this: almost everyone who holds their event here immediately books a date for the following year because of the great experience they had."

I can certainly attest to that last statement as the Brown Football Association has a standing agreement with the club to reserve the first Monday of each August for our event. And, if you are wondering how this event started 30 years ago-It was created by Bob Hall who was a magnificent football and baseball player at Brown University back in the 1960's who also happens to be a long-time member of RICC.

In addition to the great golf course and setting for our event, RICC also provides a first-class experience to its tournament guests allowing full use of the practice facilities and essentially treating all who attend like members for the day.

"I can tell you that my predecessor, Fred Bruno, had that exact philosophy," Phelps said. "To treat everyone to the absolute best experience possible while they are here so that, when they leave, they will always want to come back."

There have been noticeable changes and

improvements made to the golf course in recent years as well, many of which have been made possible by revenue generated from outside tournaments.

"Following the USGA's 2011 U.S. Women's Amateur we decided to make some improvements to the golf course," said Phelps. "We removed many trees and other impediments that restricted both sunlight and airflow which has made a big difference in helping to maintain top course conditions."

"And," Phelps added "we have just hired an architect to help us to try to restore the course to as close to the original Ross design as possible. Having the revenue from the tournaments that we host has certainly helped us to do something like this."

Scott Cordischi, long-time sports figure in Rhode Island, writes a column in each issue of snegolfer.com. ■

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RI's Billy Andrade wins Payne Stewart Award

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida--In recognition of his character, sportsmanship and commitment to charitable giving, Billy Andrade, who has enjoyed a 35-year career on both the PGA and Champions Tours, has been named the 2022 recipient of the PGA TOUR's Payne Stewart Award presented by Southern Company. Andrade will be honored on August 23, at the annual Payne Stewart Award Ceremony in conjunction with the TOUR Championship.

The Payne Stewart Award is presented annually by the PGA TOUR to a professional golfer who best exemplifies Stewart's steadfast values of character, charity and sportsmanship. Stewart, an 11-time winner on the PGA TOUR and World Golf Hall of Fame member died tragically 23 years ago during the week of the TOUR Championship in 1999.

Southern Company, the Official Energy Company of both TOURS, was the presenting sponsor the year of Payne's passing. A year later the PGA TOUR created the Payne Stewart Award in his honor and Southern Company has graciously supported the presentation.

"It's very special. Payne was unbelievable to me and I got to know him very well. I'm speechless really, to think that now I'm part of this elite group of past recipients who have all done it the right way," said Andrade. "It's nice to see that people have watched and seen that I can inspire others, and I can't thank Southern Company, the TOUR and Jay Monahan enough to now call myself a Payne Stewart recipient."

Andrade, 58, was born in Bristol, Rhode Island, but has called Atlanta home since 1988 when he first joined the PGA TOUR. As an Atlanta resident, Billy developed an affinity for the history of East Lake Golf Club, which will soon add his name next to the other recipients on a plaque located in the clubhouse's Great Hall.

Since joining the PGA TOUR, Andrade has used his platform to give back to charitable



causes close to his heart, and has continued that commitment over three decades of playing. He and his wife Jody have two children, Cameron and Grace.

"Billy Andrade is an ideal representation of a Payne Stewart Award recipient," said PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan.

"As someone who exudes kindness and respect, Billy is a stranger to no one, and has spent his career fostering meaningful relationships, that have helped fuel his charitable endeavors. That unwavering commitment to helping others is what draws so many people to him, and what

would certainly make Payne proud."

In addition to a sculpture by Bob Pack presented at the ceremony, the Payne Stewart Award is accompanied by an annual Payne Stewart Award Grant made possible by Southern Company. The \$500,000 grant supports several initiatives in Stewart's name and is distributed as follows: \$100,000 to Payne & Tracy Stewart's primary charity-The Stewart Family Foundation; \$100,000 to Payne Stewart Memorial, located in Missouri at Kids Across America; and

\$300,000 to a charity designated by the winner.

Andrade has chosen to direct funds to a number of charities including the East Lake Foundation, Camp Twin Lakes and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence. Further, the \$300,000 designation will be matched by the Andrade family through the GracieCam Foundation, bringing the total community impact to \$600,000.

Andrade has been connected to several past Payne Stewart Award winners. He is the recipient of Wake Forest University's Arnold Palmer

Scholarship, named for the 2000 co-recipient; he has teamed with close friend Brad Faxon since 1991 to generate support for children's charities in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island; and each May he partners with 2017 winner Stewart Cink to host the East Lake Invitational to raise funds for the East Lake Foundation and its continued neighborhood revitalization efforts in Atlanta.

"For years Billy's tireless dedication to causes that benefit the well-being of children has exemplified what we at Southern Company call being 'bigger than our bottom line,'" said Tom Fanning, Chairman, President & CEO. "His contributions to Atlanta, Rhode Island and numerous other communities make our world a better place through providing access to health care, education and social services for the children and families who need it the most."

Andrade is the 25th recipient of the award, joining a distinguished group of respected golfers including last year's recipient Justin Rose and a who's who of outstanding professional golfers. ■



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Rhode Island Golf Year in Review

Another golf season is coming to an end in Rhode Island, and it has been a busy one.

Former Rhode Island Amateur champion and Notre Dame star Davis Chatfield has advanced to stage two of Korn Ferry Tour Q School. He finished nine-under for the tournament. The cut was seven-under par.

Stage two begins on October 11. It is unclear where exactly Chatfield will be playing at this point, as there are multiple locations. RI's Will Dickson missed the cut.

University of North Carolina's Dylan Menante won his second consecutive Northeast Amateur title at Wannamoisett Country Club, and he did it in record breaking fashion. Menante finished at 19-under par for the tournament, a new Northeast Amateur record. He is the first repeat winner of the Northeast Amateur since Luke Donald did it in 2000 and 2001.

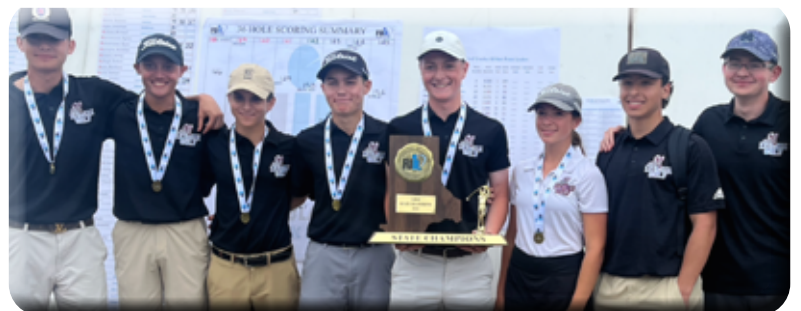
The operation and management of Triggs Memorial Golf Course in Providence is up for bid this fall. Three bids have been accepted by the City of Providence, and those bids are FCG Associates (current management group), the Northeast Golf Company and the Rhode Island Golf Association (RIGA). A decision is expected to be made by the City in a few weeks.

For the second year in a row, La Salle phenom Max Jackson won the State Individual High School Champion. Jackson posted a two-round score of 139 (3-under) at Cranston Country Club to win the title by five shots over Narragansett's Sebastian Carlson and Moses Brown's Harry Dessel. Jackson becomes the first player to win back-to-back State Titles since Will Dickson won four in a row from 2014 to 2017.

Patrick Welch will make his first career PGA Tour start at the Shriners Children's Open in Las Vegas from October 3-9. Welch got into the tournament after winning the Southern Highlands Collegiate last March. Welch is a redshirt senior at Oklahoma and is currently 11th in PGA Tour University rankings.

The La Salle Academy Rams (pictured below) won the 2022 High School Golf State Championship at Cranston Country Club. The Rams posted a two-day score of 605 (37-over) to beat Bishop Hendricken and by 19 shots and claim the title. This is La Salle's first golf team title since 1974.

Earlier in the year, Kevin Blaser edged Mike Hamilton to win the Rhode Island Amateur at Wanumetonomy. Blaser was three up with four to play before Hamilton drained a long putt on 17 to tie the match. Blaser won with a par on the 18th hole after Hamilton put his shot in the trees.



Top American Golf Course Designers Meeting in Rhode Island



ROBERT MCNEIL



THE PRESERVE IN RICHMOND, RI

If you have noticed a large group of men and women wearing plaid sports coats the last few days in Rhode Island, it is because the American Society of Golf Course Architects have descended upon Rhode Island from October first to sixth for their Annual Meeting. Over 80 golf course architects from around the country will be discussing the latest trends in design.

The reason that these famous architects are in Rhode Island is due to the fact that member Robert McNeil is on the Education Committee and worked closely with the ASGCA administration to set up the education program and the golf venues. McNeil, of Saunderstown, RI, is the owner of Kings Crossing Golf Course in North Kingstown and did the redesign of The Preserve in Richmond, R.I. He has also currently doing major renovation work at Owl's Nest Resort and White Mountain Country Club in New Hampshire.

The meeting features the Donald Ross Award, ASGCA's highest honor, presented annually to

an individual who has made significant and lasting contributions to the profession of golf course architecture. First awarded in 1976 to golf architecture pioneer Robert Trent Jones, the honor continues to this day as one of the most prestigious in golf architecture.

The meeting will be held at the Graduate in Providence with "business" meetings at Wannamoisett, Newport CC, Misquamicut and Shelter Harbor. Please say hello and thank you to these fine architects. Expected to attend include Gil Hanse who designed TPC Boston that hosted many tournaments, Rees Jones, son of Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Michael Hurdzan along with many other famous course architects.

You can visit asgca.org to get more information about the organization. ■

Bruce Vittner is the publisher and editor of snegolfer.com

Golf Outings a Boon for Courses

Golf outings, or tournaments, can be highly effective fundraisers that foster relationships and support for an organization or group. And corporate golf outings can foster camaraderie among employees. Then there's 30 or 40 guys who want to get together for a fun and competitive round.

Most golf clubs in Connecticut welcome individuals wishing to hold a golf tournament on their course. This isn't just limited to daily fee courses but private ones as well, although the number of tournaments a private club will host in a given year is likely less than at a public course because it has members to cater to.

Bob Sparks, Head Golf Professional at Torrington Country Club, said TCC hosts between eight to 10 outings a year, all on Mondays when the course is usually closed for play by members. The events draw between 74 and 124 players and start sometime in late April and continue through the fall.

"From a public perspective, June and September are the busiest months for outing," said Sparks. "Those outings consist of the typical charity outing and then year-end outings for leagues and such are that are usually held in September as leagues finish their seasons."

Besides golf, food and drinks are an important part of any outing. Some will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner, while others just lunch or and/or dinner. "It's lunch and dinner typically," said Sparks. "The most popular is a standard barbecue lunch and a three entree buffet, some with carving stations."

Sparks said outings carry with them organizational networking and build or solidify relationships. "Outings have been around for so long and there are so many. I think the challenge is to be a little different and offer something out of the ordinary. With costs and time associated with playing in outings, patrons can only do so

much and play in a limited number of events each year."

Outings can be a boon for the course at which they are staged, although Sparks said that comes with a caveat. "The challenge is at what point do they make sense for a private club? It certainly is a balancing act of revenue versus the value of a membership to your members. And public courses with normally full tee sheets will be giving up revenue to run a shotgun start outing."

And outings call for adding work for the staff and their hours to payroll, "but a shotgun start creates some down time during play which allows staff to catch up on some work and creates a break and some quiet time," said Sparks.

A hard-to-figure benefit of allowing outings is the value a club can receive from a patron that plays in an outing and who may book a party, or join the club at a later date from visiting in an outing.

Wintonbury Hills Golf Course, a premier municipal tract in Bloomfield, hosts between 40 to 75 outings year, according to Ciaran Carr, General Manager. They start up as early as the beginning of April and run throughout summer and into autumn. The outings usually have between 70 to 100 golfers, said Carr.

"We have a dedicated event menu ranging from breakfast, BBQ lunch and a full buffet dinner. The key to running a successful outing from the club's standpoint is "planning in advance and getting lots of help," said Carr.

Juggling an outing and daily fee play on the same day can maximize the financial benefit of hosting an event, said Carr. "It's the most revenue we can make on a given day if the timing is correct. We either have an early start option at 8 a.m. or later at 1:30 p.m., which means the golf course always has some tee times available for residents and pass holders."

Added work for the staff consists of setting

up signs, par-three hole-in-one challenges and tents. "It's double the usual workload for certain employees." Clubs would like to think outings provide a hand-ons experience for players who have not played the course prior and who may be inclined to come back for a paid round, but Carr said that is unproven.

Outings can benefit the club financially, said Carr. "Certainly tournaments on Monday Tuesday and Wednesday will bring in more money than regular play, but it's also harder to find staff those days."

Blue Fox Run Golf Course in Avon hosts between 50 to 60 outings and tournaments a year, said General Manager Barry Wilson. They draw between 50 to 90 participants and start up in early May going through the fall.

"I do a lot of non-profit tournaments," said Wilson, "and we put on a nice barbecue spread for them. I have been hosting the events for 20 years. I try and streamline my staff the day of a tournament and try and make the day as normal as possible. The most important aspect of running an outing is having good contact with the person or persons running the event."

Tori Pisco, vice president of sales and marketing for The Alliance Group which has six courses in its stable including Tunxis Plantation Country Club in Farmington and the Golf Club at Oxford Greens in Oxford, said the six courses hosts a combined 250 outings a year. The average outing consists of 120 players, with many of the events held during June and September.

As for how to run a successful outing, Pisco said, "It's the 5 P's: Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance. The key to running a successful outing is creating a realistic timeline for the day that your staff and clients can all rely on. The timeline needs to be complete with a game plan for what needs to be done, any potential challenges to prepare for, and who is responsible for each task. The overall goal is to make the clients' day as easy as possible, so they can enjoy their outing after all of the hard work they've put in leading up to the day."

Pisco said the outings benefit the clubs financially in many ways. "For one, they offer the opportunity to build lasting customer relationships that create a supportive community

for the club over time. In a less romantic but more practical way, they promise certain revenue throughout your season."

Outings are a "tremendous" amount of work for staff, Pisco explained. "Outings alter the routine maintenance schedules, which requires advanced planning. For the golf staff, an outing can require a lot of moving parts--literally...tents, tables, chairs, golf carts, range balls, signage, food and beverage stations, all to be coordinated in a short amount of time, usually very early morning. At the end of the round, it's a quick sprint to clean up the course and gather the client's things while also hosting an award banquet and scoring. Most outings require more staff than a regular day of public (or member) play. That said, our staff often express a liking for outing days because it's an interesting break from the routine day-to-day play, and outing participants usually bring a vibrant energy." ■

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

John N. Calvino, Esq.

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Justin and Jason are playing a match. Jason hits the ball into the woods and is not sure that the ball he sees is his. He picked it up to identify it and it was his. Justin says that is a penalty because he was not informed beforehand that Jason was going to pick it up.

Ruling: Rule 12-2 says that a player must notify his opponent or an official if he is going to pick up a ball to identify it. If stroke play it is a one-stroke penalty. In match play it is loss of hole.

LIV Golf was Live in Bolton

BOLTON, Mass.

LIV Golf is not trying to be the PGA Tour and Matt Foley is fine with that.

The assistant golf pro at Green Hill Municipal Golf Course attended the opening round of the LIV Golf event at the International golf course on Friday, Sept. 2, and he enjoyed the more laid back atmosphere.

"The PGA Tour is strictly competitive and this is more of a sporting event," Foley said. "It's fun. It's entertaining to go to. I don't care what they shoot. If someone breaks 60, sure I'll care, but I don't care what anyone shoots. I'm just here to see them on a course I've seen. It's not a competitive thing, it's a fun day to go to. That's the difference to me."

No one was telling anyone to be quiet while the golfers played. In fact, loud music blared over speakers on the range and throughout the course.

Foley admitted he would have trouble focusing if music played in the background, but the LIV Golfers didn't.

"I feel like the crowd out there is almost on top of you with the music," said Cameron Smith after making his LIV Golf debut at the International. "It feels like the course has a bit of a heartbeat. Yeah, it was very different I would say, but something that I really enjoyed, and I can't wait for this to keep going onwards and upwards."

Dustin Johnson sank a 35-foot eagle putt on the first playoff hole to win the \$4 million individual prize and he pocketed another \$750,000 by combining with Talor Gooch, Patrick Reed and Pat Perez to win the team event. Johnson finished regulation at 15 under to enter the playoff with Anirban Lahiri and Joaquin Niemann.

A total of 48 players played 54 holes Sept. 2-4 after shotgun starts in the \$25 million tournament. There was no cut and Sihwan Kim earned \$120,000 for finishing last after a rollercoaster ride of shooting 87, 63, 76 for a total of 16 over par. In another difference from the PGA Tour, the tournament at

the International was the first LIV Golf event to allow golfers to wear shorts.

Rick Freeman, 64, of Lancaster has been a member of the International for 12 years and he volunteered to drive the golfers from the range to the first tee before each round. He was thrilled that his club hosted the event even though the club was closed to members for a while.

The International's Pines Course closed this summer and will be replaced in a couple of years by a new course designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. The Oaks Course, site of the tournament, closed to members two weeks prior to the event and reopened the day after the event ended.

"I want to see the pros play our golf course and what they do to it," Freeman said, "and where they hit the ball and how easy it is for them and how hard it is for them. If you think you hit a long drive and you're short of the cart path, are they going to be 80 yards past the cart path on a particular hole? It's been eye opening really."

When Freeman drove Johnson around during a practice round, he saw his drive land on the green and bounce over on the 341-yard, par-4 fifth hole.

"The biggest thing for me in hanging out with these guys," Freeman said, "is they're no different than all us hackers. They talk the same BS. They cajole each other the same way. Dustin Johnson on the seventh tee was giving Pat Perez driving lessons. He was saying, 'Your hip is not opening up enough,' and he was turning him."

In the media, LIV Golf is often referred to as "controversial LIV Golf" because it's financed by Saudi Arabia. Critics accuse the Saudis of using golf to cleanse their history of human rights abuse.

Freeman believes the money that LIV Golf donated to local charities and the improvements the organization made to the club more than made up for any negative feelings about the Saudis.

LIV Golf worked on the course and grounds for a month leading up to the tournament, including



CAMERON SMITH, NEWEST MEMBER OF LIV

bringing in two tractor trailer loads of flowers.

"There are plenty of things that the Saudis are involved with that nobody says boo about," he said, "but golf is just an easy target. But I don't feel like I'm betraying anybody or taking any political stance by being involved with this."

Dave Connor, 62, of West Boylston attended the second round with his sons, John and Ryan. He has family members who are members at the International so he decided to check out the tournament.

"I want to see how the pros play it and to see this tour," Connor said. "It's awesome. It's incredible. We thought we'd never be able to see this in this little area that we're from, the Worcester County area. To see these pros here is wonderful." He wasn't bothered that Saudi Arabia finances LIV Golf.

"There are a lot of problems in the world that bother me," he said, "and they're not the only ones. The game of golf, these guys want to play and be competitive, so be it."

Greg Norman, CEO of Saudi-backed LIV Golf, parachuted with a member of the Frog-X Navy SEAL team onto the first fairway just before the 1:15 p.m. shotgun start of the opening round. After a member of the Frog-X Navy Seal team with the American flag and another with a LIV Golf banner parachuted onto the first fairway, Norman made his grand entrance, sliding along the grass as he and his parachute partner landed with music blaring from loudspeakers on the first tee.

Smith was interviewed by a LIV Golf television crew just before he teed off in his LIV debut. He didn't know what to make of Norman parachuting right in front of him. "I had heard some whispers, but that stuff frightens me," Smith said. "If I was him, I'd get up there and tell them to go back down."

The 67-year-old Norman, winner of 89 professional events, including two British Open titles, was happy to bring golf back to the Boston area on Labor Day weekend. The Country Club in Brookline hosted the U.S. Open in June, but the PGA Tour no longer stops at TPC Boston in Norton.

"I just know Boston is a great city," Norman said. "I've been a huge Boston Celtics fan, I'm a huge Larry Bird fan. I used to fly from Australia for the weekend to watch the Celtics play back in the '80s. So I have a really good affinity here."

His daughter and son-in-law both graduated from Boston College.

"So I've got a lot of close associations in Boston," he said, "and just to bring golf back here was really important to me. Just look at the fans and the support we've got out here and it just shows you golf is a force for good and we're just happy to be here." ■

Bill Doyle is a retired sports writer for the Worcester Telegram and writes a Central Mass column in each issue of snegolfer.com.

Putting Arc is Excellent Tool to Improve Putting

It was about 2006 when I first saw the Putting Arc. I was at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando and was introduced to David Hamilton. He had patented a golf training device for putting called, logically, the Putting Arc, and he was demonstrating it at the Show. Hamilton, who resides in Mississippi, had incorporated in 2002 after the Putting Arc was designed in 2001.

"This product came about with the efforts of three people," said Hamilton to the group of writers that were listening to him. VJ Trolio, an assistant pro at Old Waverly G.C. in Mississippi, was watching Jay Haas putt and noticed that his putter did not go straight back and straight through as taught by most golf instructors. He noticed that the putter went slightly inside on the backstroke and then back inside on the follow through.

Trolio then got a line laser, attached it to his putter, and tried to measure how much the putter moved inside at different distances from the ball during the stroke, while keeping the laser on the ball-target line. He gave these measurements to Hamilton, who was a member at Old Waverly, and asked for the answer.

Hamilton had no idea, but his son, Joey, was a math and computer programming wizard and worked on the Star Wars Missile Intercept System. He gave his son the measurements, and the next day Joey explained that the putter was moving on a very large circle (an arc that had been first documented over 2,200 years ago).

Being an entrepreneur, Hamilton and his two compatriots used a band saw and a string to lay out the ellipse on plywood. They patented the product in 2002 with all three of the founders' names on it. They built many more, and started demonstrating them at tournaments. It was Greg Norman who saw the wooden putting arc in 2003. He told Mike Shannon, our Tour rep, that it needed to be smaller and lighter so that caddies could easily carry it around. Within two months a small T3 version of the putting arc was on the market.

Hamilton was off-and-running. The full line has expanded to include the Deluxe, the MSIII (that I was given in 2006 and still use all the time today), the MS-3D, the T3, the Arc Glider, the toe-arc T4, the Folding Arc Mirror, the Putting Practice Kit and Alignment Mat.

These products are seen at most every Tour event and sales of the Putting Arc are generated around the world. Since there are no adjustments, they are easy to set up and use, and will work to help your putting stroke for years to come. The Putting Arc has been voted the most used putting training aid in the Golf Range Assn. of America survey of top teaching pros in the U.S. for the past five years.

All products are made in the United States and are available by calling 800-898-0701 or visiting the website at www.thePuttingArc.com. ■

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Charity Golf Events: A Win-Win for Everyone

On a sunny warm early September day, I joined my son and two other players to participate in a fundraiser golf tournament for one of the 150 chapters of the First Tee.

Celebrating more than 25 years, The First Tee helps young people learn the game of golf while empowering them to develop important life skills. Often the youngsters who participate do not have the advantages of belonging to a club and live in urban areas. Supported big time by local as well as national donors, it's a program that has touched the lives of more than 2.2 million kids with 500 locations located throughout New England and the country.

Like many charity golf tournaments, this format was a no-pressure scramble with foursomes paying to play for impressive prizes such as clubs, balls, and high ticket gift cards donated by local businesses. Area restaurants like Chick-fil-A® and Dunkin, supplied a sumptuous free breakfast and lunch as well as beverages while well-organized volunteers eagerly handled the staffing. All-in-all, it was a win-win for everyone. First Tee raised thousands of dollars, making it possible for them to offer their program to more youth, the organization received great publicity, and local vendors got to showcase their products. And of course, we players had a really fun day of golf.

For a couple of years, as America shut down due to Covid, there were few charity events, but this year things are in full swing and Covid is in our rear view mirror. If you take a look at the lineup of charity golf tournaments in our area you will find a robust lineup of events spanning the months when the courses are open. Events range from benefits for hospitals, food banks, homeless shelters, Toys for Tots, Make-a-Wish, pet charities, medical research for diseases like cancer and heart health, and historic preservation of particular antique structures.

Golf tournaments organized by groups like the Rotaries and Masons typically donate their funds

raised to selected local charities, perhaps money for a new library, scholarship fund or ambulance service. Memorial tournaments honor someone that has passed with raised funds typically going towards that person's favorite charity or perhaps a course clock or stone bridge.

There are a few events left to be played before the cold sets in here in the northeast, but this is an important time for those who organize these tournaments to get moving for next year. There are so many details that must be taken care of over the next few months that go into a successful fund raising event. At the top of the list of a successful Charity Golf Tournament, is a worthy cause. Once that's set, planners need to set the theme, line up the date and the course, vendors, publicity, raffles and prizes as well as decide on the format, special contests, food, and a list of potential donors.

Save the Date notices can go out, potential sponsors can be contacted and committees mobilized.

The Format

1. Pure Scramble The Scramble is the most-common format for team tournaments. It can be played by 2-, 3- or 4-person teams. Everyone hits, you choose the best position, then everyone hits from that place and you keep doing this until the ball is in the hole. Certain rules may apply such as requiring two drives from each player. Scrambles can be handicapped or not. If handicapped the easiest way to do this is to take a percentage of everyone's handicap, add them together and subtract these points from the gross score. If handicapped, some events might offer a gross prize and a net prize (gross score less handicap points).

2. Texas Scramble (or Shambles) All four players tee off, and then select the best shot of

the group. The three remaining players pickup their balls and place it where the best shot is located (same as a Scramble). However from the second shot on, all players play their own ball. The player with the lowest score for a hole uses that score as the team score. This too can be handicapped or not.

3. Best Ball In a Best Ball tournament, all members of each team play their own balls on each hole. At the completion of the hole, the lowest score among all team members serves as the team score. This can also be played as 2 Best Balls of Four, 3 Best Balls of Four, and one format I particularly like: 1 Best Ball of Four on par 5's; 2 Best Balls of Four on par 4s and 3 Best Balls of Four on par 3s. Again, prizes can be awarded for gross or net or both but this requires some careful work on the part of the scorers. Or you can simply put down your gross scores and ask the pro shop to do the heavy lifting on this.

4. Modified Stableford A Modified Stableford competition can be played by individuals or as a team tournament. In Modified Stableford, the idea is to have the highest score - because your score on each hole is worth a certain amount of points. A birdie, for example, might be worth 2 points. Modified Stableford has been used in several tour events over the years, including currently at the PGA Tour's Reno-Tahoe Open.

5. Money Ball (known by many different names) Money Ball is a familiar format that is known by many different names, such as Lone Ranger, Devil Ball, Pink Lady and Yellow Ball. Whatever you call it, it puts the onus on one player per team per hole to come through with a good score. Players in a group of four rotate playing the "money ball." On each hole, the score of the golfer whose turn it is to play the money ball is combined with the best low score of the other three team members for the team score. (The "money ball" is usually metaphorical, but some tournaments might require golfers to use a specific ball for the money ball. For example, the golfer on the spot might have to play a yellow ball to stand out from his teammates.)

On-course contests like closest to the pin, closest to the line, longest drive etc. adds interest to the tournament. Perhaps you can offer a special prize for the team that dresses best to fit your event theme if you have one. And be sure to choose a team format where players of all skills can have a good time and contribute, even it's only rolling in some putts. Make the format too difficult and you'll lose players and that means losing entry fees.

Be sure to start now and get the ball rolling for next season and push to get your event on the area golf calendars. Remember, Charity Golf Tournaments are win-wins for everyone. Certainly for me it was a great day: playing with my son; meeting some super young golfers and those who supported them; indulging in plump donuts and fried chicken sandwiches; getting a good dose of sun and fresh air; and the kicker, coming in second place. You've gotta love it. ■

Katharine Dyson is a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America.

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Turgeon Wins Attleboro Open/ Students Raise \$27,000

Golf, especially in a tournament, brings out the best in all ages. That was on full display recently in two Attleboro area events.

On the senior side of the leger, Dave Turgeon captured the Attleboro Area Golf Association Open, becoming the oldest champion in the tournament's history.

Turgeon is 64, making him older than the City Open, as the annual tournament is called.

The local golf association was founded in 1961 by local enthusiasts George Fredette, Alex Ohlson and Mai Wendell, not long after John F. Kennedy was sworn in as the 35th president of the United States, and has held a tournament every year since, even during the recent pandemic.

Turgeon is also 51 years older than the youngest competitor in the field, 13-year-old Gavin Walsh, who just entered his freshman year at Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro.

Turgeon's triumph comes seven years after the AAGA crowned its youngest champion, 16-year-old Davis Chatfield, then a Bishop Feehan junior who recently turned professional after a four-year career at the University of Notre Dame.

This year's tournament was a vivid display of the enduring popularity of the City Open over its 62 years and its hold on generations of golfers. Young or old, local golf enthusiasts always mark their calendars for the third weekend in August when the area's best players are tested and a champion emerges.

The AAGA Open is unique. Other areas of Massachusetts hold regional golf tournaments, usually at a single course over two days. But no other local golf association puts on a four-day event involving a qualifying round, then four days of competition over four different courses. Players' skills are tested on the fast, undulating greens at Foxborough Country Club, the wide variety of holes at Heather Hill Country Club and the narrow,

unforgiving fairways of Wentworth Hills Golf Club and Norton Country Club.

Not surprisingly for someone of his age, Turgeon overcame various health issues to post a four-stroke victory over Jared Winiarz of Norton, a recent graduate of the University of Hartford and a member of its golf team. He displayed perseverance in winning the title on his 13th try.

"I've just had a lot of health issues for a number of years now," Turgeon said after the final round. "(I had) a couple of surgeries. It was great to be able to play this year, be healthy..."

On the junior side, golf teams from Attleboro, North Attleboro and Bishop Feehan high schools competed in September in the 10th annual 24 Hours of Golf fundraiser at The Links at Mass Golf in Norton.

The student-athletes combined for more than 400 holes and raised over \$27,000 for the Michel Golf Fund, which supports youth golf in the Attleboro area.

Golf helped Mike Michel through a somewhat troubled childhood. He would spend hours with friends at Locust Valley Country Club in Attleboro, enjoying time with friends and staying out of trouble. After starring at Bishop Feehan High School, golf helped him get a scholarship and a quality education at Rutgers University, where he played the game at a Division I level.

Michel believes golf has helped make him the person he is – a husband, father and executive at a local insurance agency. Golf, he believes, teaches young people to work hard. It teaches them responsibility, honesty and respect for others. And it's just a lot of fun to play.

"To say I owe the game more than it owes me is an understatement," he says.

That's why he began the 24 Hours of Golf fundraiser in 2012 to help local kids like him whose families may not have the means to pay for the sport.

In past years, it was just Michel and a buddy who would play around the clock, using glow-in-the-dark balls, light sticks on the pins and headlights on utility carts. The grueling task required several changes of footwear, plenty of coffee and occasional doses of ibuprofen.

Now in his 40s, he decided this year to enlist the three high school teams. Some of the players saw the event on Facebook in prior years and were eager to participate.

The first group teed off at noon one day and play was wrapped up at noon the following day, with teams of golfers alternating for two six-hour shifts. Bishop Feehan, with Plainville native Jim Renner, a graduate of the high school who enjoyed two years on the PGA Tour, on its team, won the gross score while North Attleboro came out on top

for the net score.

Following the conclusion of play, former New England Patriot Logan Mankins, a North Attleboro resident, signed autographs and posed for photos with kids and attendees. Burgers and hot dogs were also served, along with free golf vouchers.

Michel declared the day a success.

"It was absolutely perfect weather and we ended up playing 432 holes combined," Michel told The Sun Chronicle. "The guys loved it. They said it was awesome." ■

Mike Kirby, formerly the editor-in-chief of The Sun Chronicle of Attleboro, can be reached at mkirbygolf18@gmail.com.



AMONG THE PLAYERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 24 HOURS OF GOLF FUNDRAISER AT THE LINKS AT MASS GOLF IN NORTON ARE, FROM LEFT: JOHN LALLIER, FORMER PGA TOUR PRO JIM RENNER, JAKE MCKINNON, KEVAN HIGGINS, MIKE MICHEL, RYAN DONOHUE, JUSTIN CIOMBOR AND KRIS CARRIER

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three colors and are available in shorts as well as long pants, and the price is very reasonable. ■

Roy Wagner is the designer of The Perfect Pants & sells them exclusively online at perfectpocketpants.com



Ream Wins World Amateur

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

Terry Ream (Reno, Nev.) shot a net 71 (gross 74) to win the Flight Winners' Playoff at the 39th Annual PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Handicap Championship Friday at TPC Myrtle Beach

Ream finished one shot ahead of Steven Keener (Rocky Mount, Va.) and Chris Hebert (Pica-yune, Miss.), both of whom carded net 72. Keener shot a gross 79 while Hebert fired a gross 82. David Hunt (Orlando, Fla.) fired a 74 to best Danny Oh (Lewisville, Texas) and win the Men's Gross Division title in an 18-hole playoff.

Steve Crossland (Houston, Texas) shot a 288 to beat Russell Burnham (Dallas, Texas) by eight shots en route to victory in the Men's Senior Gross Division. Mike Bivins (Boynton Beach, Fla.) finished three shots ahead of Charles Wilson (Cartersville, Ga.) to capture the Men's Mid-Senior Gross Division crown.

Alexis Bennett (Santee, S.C.) finished with a four-round total of 297, six strokes better than second-place Jill Pilkington (Lincoln, Neb.) to win the Women's Gross Division title.

Keener and Matt Thurman (Rocky Mount, Va.) combined to win the Casa de Campo Pairs Competition. By virtue of winning, the pair received a 4-day, 3-night stay at luxurious Casa de Campo with unlimited golf.

The World Am placed players into 11 divisions – men 49 and under, senior men (50-59), mid-senior men (60-69), super senior men (70-79), seasoned seniors (80+), women 59 and under, senior women (60+), the gross division, senior (50+) gross division, mid-senior (60+) gross division, and women's gross division. There is also a "Just For Fun" flight, created for players who want to enjoy the World Am experience without the pressure of competition.

After four days of play, all flight winners and ties advanced to the World Championship Play-



off at TPC Myrtle Beach, an 18-hole shootout that crowns the event's winner. A Tom Fazio/Lanny Wadkins design, TPC Myrtle Beach has long been ranked among the best public courses in all of the golf-rich Palmetto State.

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

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

Players also received a gift bag that included a polo, pullover, golf towel, logo'd hat, PGA TOUR Superstore gift card and an assortment of other goodies valued cumulatively at \$250.

For more information, please visit www.MyrtleBeachWorldAmateur.com. ■

Charity Golf Raises Millions in Central Mass.

NORTHBOROUGH, Mass.

For 16 years, Brian Schofield of Douglas has run the Don Watson Memorial Golf Tournament at Juniper Hill Golf Course to benefit cancer research, small non-profit organizations and local charities. The tournament has raised more than \$250,000, including donations, silent auctions, raffles and matching gifts.

Schofield also ran another golf tournament at Juniper each spring for seven years until this year and that event raised about \$60,000 for the same organizations.

Charity golf tournaments pay off not only for the organizations that run them, but for the golf courses as well. "Yeah, there's no downside to it," Schofield said. "The effort you put in is the benefit you get out. Everyone's a winner. You go out and have a good day with friends and family for a good cause and everyone benefits."

General manager and part-owner Dudley Darling said Juniper's two courses, Riverside and Lakeside, host 25-30 charity golf tournaments a year, including events on both courses four or five times a year. "Basically, they're helping put golfers on the course," he said.

Darling said shotgun and double shotgun starts require more work from his staff to line up carts, place name signs on carts, lead golfers to their opening holes for shotgun starts and set up and take down sponsor tee signs and hole-in-one signs, but it's all worth it.

"It's good," he said. "It's work, but it's fulfilling because you know that you're helping them make a contribution to a worthwhile cause."

Most golfers playing in such tournaments stay for a banquet at the course afterwards. Juniper can accommodate almost 300 diners, more than enough for a double shotgun of 288 golfers and a few volunteers.

Juniper's regular rates are \$72 to ride during

the week and \$77 on weekends. For charity tournaments, the charge increases to \$140 to \$175 per golfer, but that includes a meal, administration fees and a contribution to the charity.

"It's very important for the charities," Darling said, "because a lot of them since the pandemic have been hurting to get funds for their programs."

"It can be very lucrative," Schofield said, "but getting help from volunteers is obviously a benefit. It depends on what the cause is, the people that are involved. Schofield said, "Raising \$3,000 to \$7,000 a year is a successful day for a local cause, but corporate backing and celebrity involvement for a cause with a wider appeal can be much more profitable."

"It's really dependent on the audience and how hard you push," he said. "Trying to figure out how to market it correctly is helpful. If you have a list of contacts that are engaged and willing, then it's a little bit easier."

Schofield has enjoyed working with Darling and his staff at Juniper. "Juniper has done a fantastic job for me over the years," Schofield said. "Dudley, Rita (Cappello, events coordinator) and the entire staff from food, the day prep, the event itself, having both courses numerous times, have been very accommodating, very helpful. So it brings in business to the courses and you're able to raise funds for a great cause."

Schofield said he's also taken part in bowling and dart tournaments as fundraisers, but he believes golf works better.

Schofield also serves on the golf committee at Whitinsville Christian School and helps run a golf tournament at Blackstone National Golf Club in Sutton that has raised \$20,000 for the school in each of the past two years.

Tournaments at Juniper have also benefited such organizations as the Veterans Inc. homeless

shelter, the Jimmy Fund, the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts scholarship fund, Never Stop Fighting ALS and Shrewsbury High School athletics.

The annual golf tournament at Juniper Hill is the only fundraiser for the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts. On Sept. 26, 240 golfers played in the event, which annually raises about \$75,000, much of it from sponsors. The money raised pays for about 30 college scholarships each year.

Over the past two decades, the organization has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships, according to Melissa Hurley, PFFM special events director. "I think it's a good fundraiser option," Hurley said, "because people are outside. They get to spend time with their friends. It's low key. You don't have to love golf to come out and have a great day."

At the start of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts golf tournament, players drove their carts under a U.S. flag hanging from an aerial ladder on a Northborough fire truck.

A golf marathon on Aug. 4 and 5 played on

Riverside and Lakeside by more than 100 golfers raised \$1 million for Golf Fights Cancer. Golfers played up to three balls per hole with each ball counting toward the goal of playing 100 holes.

On the Friday before Thanksgiving, Juniper holds its own benefit event. Golfers pay only for their carts, but donate frozen turkeys that are given to the Worcester County Food Bank, Veterans Inc. and the Northborough Food Pantry. The Worcester County Food Bank parks a refrigerated truck at the club to accept the turkeys.

"They enjoy it," Darling said. "As we get closer, more interest builds. The staff likes it too because it's something they can feel good about helping out." Darling hasn't played in any of the charity events at his club. "I'm too busy working on them," he said. ■

Bill Doyle is a retired sports writer for the Worcester Telegram and writes a Central Mass Notebook column in each issue of snegolfer.com.



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One Last Round for the Michael LeClair Memorial Golf Tournament

Mike LeBlanc, the head professional at Westminster Golf and Country Club in Central Massachusetts, often thinks of his late Oakmont Regional classmate, close friend and golf teammate Michael LeClair, who was only 19 when he died in an automobile accident only a few miles away from the Westminster course 30 years ago.

"Mike would be 49 now, and I wonder what his life would be like had not it been cut so short," said LeBlanc. "There are many layers to reaching the PGA Tour level, but he was a terrific golfer and had such a passion for the game. I do know this-- nobody would have tried harder."

Three decades have passed, but the memory of Mike LeClair lives on, easing, even just a little, the awful pain of his tragic death.

LeBlanc still marvels, thinking of the day when LeClair, a senior in high school and before golf equipment technology ramped up with metal drivers and extra-long golf ball design, reached the green on the long, par-5, 16th at Westminster CC in only two shots, using a driver and a 6-iron.

LeClair was, without a doubt, one of the best young players in Central Mass. Gone too soon.

A Worcester Telegram & Gazette All-Star, and Oakmont's number-1 player under Coach Phil Hanno in the early 1990s, LeClair was mostly unbeatable in head-to-head competition and qualified for the state tournament in 1991, placing fifth. The son of Bernie and Vicky Leclair of Westminster, Michael was a student at Anderson College (now University) in South Carolina and a member of its golf team.

While home for the summer after his first year in college, the awful accident occurred. After his death, thanks to the LeClair family and a dedicated



LEFT TO RIGHT:
MICHAEL'S PARENTS VICKY LECLAIR & BERNIE LECLAIR,
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SKLYA NOLAN, TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER
BRIAN KANE & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, JON GASTONGUAY

committee led by family friend Brian Kane of Lunenburg, the Michael LeClair Memorial Golf Tournament was launched in the summer of 1992 and has continued every year since, reaching its final event earlier this month.

The LeClair tournament has reached its final green, but its legacy will remain for many, many years to come. "Brian was just an awesome kid and such a good golfer. He was quiet and dedicated to the game. You would just never hear a bad word said about him, recalled Kane, who, only six weeks after LeClair's death, had a full field of 144 golfers ready to play, honoring his memory.

I remember the day after the accident and Mike's death, gathering together with friends and golfers who knew him well, and saying, "We just have to do something," said Kane, who understood well the importance of honoring LeClair and helping the family grieve and find some hope.

The tournament was then born. And every year since that first meeting in the summer of 1992, the LeClair tournament proceeds have been donated toward scholarships for worthy Oakmont Regional High graduates. This year Jon Gastonguay and Sklya Nolan were the recipients.

"I feel very honored to receive the LeClair scholarship," said Gastonguay, who, like LeClair, captained the Oakmont golf team. "I'm very grateful for the financial assistance as I begin my college career."

The cliché, all good things come to an end, applies to the LeClair Tournament, which had a terrific run for so many years. But times change, and golf fundraising has changed too. "After 30 years, and great participation, we felt that it's just time to end the tournament and celebrate all the good that it has done over the years," Kane explained. "And we still have over \$65,000 to award to students and that will continue yearly far into the future." In other words, the memory of Mike LeClair will live on.

"Mike was a great golfer and a great son," said his proud father, Bernie. "Before he left for college he won a tournament in nearby Gardner and a trip to Scotland where he played British Open courses including St. Andrews. People have asked me over the years, what kind of kid he was, and I always answer, 'Well, he was my son, and I'm biased, of course, but, really, he was just the greatest. We've missed him so much as the years have passed on.'"

In a generous and fitting gesture at the banquet following this year's tournament, WCC pro LeBlanc honored both Bernie LeClair and Kane for their dedication by awarding them lifetime honorary memberships to Westminster CC. Said LeBlanc, "The owners and I felt that it was the right thing to do. There was no hesitation."

And, as he has since he was a teenager, T.J. LeClair, Michael's younger brother who now lives in Foxboro, was in the field and expressed gratitude for all their hard work and organization that kept the tournament going for three decades. "The support from my father's friends, Michael's friends and my friends has always amazed me. Most years, my friends would get together and enter about three or four foursomes," T.J. said, sadly reflecting on what might have been except for the tragic accident on that late June night in 1992.

"Mike had game, that's for sure," T.J. said. "I remember riding bikes to Westminster with him on summer days to play golf and always looking up to him as my older, better brother. Maybe he would be a head pro today or involved in some aspect of golf, but we never got to find that out. I am totally sure though that he would have been successful in whatever he did in life." ■

Jay Gearan writes a Central Mass story in each issue of snegolfer.com

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Poland Spring and Maine Trifecta Make for a Great Trip

We have written often about Poland Spring Resort and their wonderful bargain (The Maine Trifecta) many times over the last twenty years. We managed to make it up to Poland Spring in August for two nights, and we managed to play all three rounds of golf.

The Trifecta includes staying at the Poland Spring Resort in Poland Spring, Maine, and playing The Links at Poland Spring, Spring Meadows Golf Club in Gray and Fox Ridge Golf Club in Auburn. It's called the Maine Trifecta, and all three courses are within 15 minutes of each other. Visit polandspringresort.com and click on golf packages or rates for more details, but to book the trifecta, you should call the resort at 207-998-4351.

Poland Spring is all about nostalgia and history. "This started as a stagecoach stop," owner Cyndi Robbins said. "If you're looking for glitz, you're not going to find that here. You're going to find a relaxing vacation. That's why at the entrance it says, "Stress Free Zone." The resort is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

In 1896, Poland Spring opened the first resort golf course in the U.S. Famed architect Donald Ross redesigned the original nine holes and designed another nine from 1912-1915. A Ross expert restored the course about 10 years ago. It measures just over 6,000 yards and is a joy to play.

In addition to golf, the resort offers three grass tennis courts, an Olympic sized swimming pool, mini-golf, disc golf, shuffleboard, bocce, horseshoes, hiking trails and other outdoor



activities. Guests can read one of the 10,000 books in the resort's library while relaxing on an Adirondack chair on the Maine Inn's front porch which overlooks the golf course. They even had evening entertainment on the bandstand on the Monday we were there.

The Poland Spring Bottling Museum and the Maine State Building, including the Maine Golf Hall of Fame, are located just behind the hotel that offers breakfast every day. A Poland Spring bottling plant is also located nearby. This reporter would encourage everyone to visit the Maine State Building for a marvelous tour. The Maine State Building (pictured) was built for the Chicago World's Fair in May of 1893. After the Fair it was

disassembled and put on train cars and returned to Poland Spring.

Babe Ruth, Walter Hagen, President Theodore Roosevelt, President William Howard Taft and President Warren Harding all golfed at Poland Spring. Sonny Liston trained at the resort in 1965 before Muhammad Ali knocked him out in the first round in nearby Lewiston to retain his heavyweight championship.

The other two courses in the TRIFECTA package are very good. The Pollard brothers opened nine holes at Spring Meadows on their former dairy farm in October of 1999 and the course expanded to 18 holes in 2001. A 1922 barn was converted into a clubhouse. The course plays to a par 71 from 3,617 to 6,660 yards. Forced carries over water and wetlands provide a challenge.

"It's got some very unique holes," owner-operator David Pollard said. "It's got a lot of doglegs, left and right. It's a thinking person's course. You just can't get out the driver and hit away. You've got to think about what you want to do. There are some berms and wetland areas."

Last December, Spring Meadows became the first Maine golf course to be named New England

Golf Course of the Year by the New England Golf Course Owners Association.

Fox Ridge opened in 2001 and plays to a par of 72 from 2,115 yards to 6,814 over 200 acres of rolling hills, native fescue, babbling brooks, century old stone walls and stone bridges. "I think it plays tougher than the other two, for sure," Fox Ridge head golf pro Jerry DiPhilippo said. "We usually get a lot of wind here, so it definitely plays a little tougher."

The signature, par-3 fifth hole plays downhill onto a peninsula green surrounded by a pond. The par-5 ninth and par-4 18th also play over water. Three divers retrieved 16,200 golf balls from the

The day before we played, Fox Ridge hosted a Maine Amateur qualifier and no one beat par. We didn't either. For more information, visit polandspringresort.com, springmeadowsgolf.com or foxridgegolfclub.com. ■

Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of snegolfer.com and is a member of the Golf Writers Assn. of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America.



Age: 31
Birthplace: Valencia, Cal.
Family: Married, wife Lacy
College: U. Cal-Berkeley
Turned Pro: 2013

Max Homa

Max Homa has taken quite a while to reach stardom. He turned professional after graduating in 2013 where his team won the NCAA Championship. He played on the Korn-Ferry Tour in 2013 where he won twice to earn his PGA Tour Card for 2014. He also played for America in the 2013 Walker Cup.

His rise to stardom didn't really happen until this year when he won the last two tournaments on the 2021-22 PGA Tour—Wells Fargo and Genesis Invitational, and also did very well in the recent Presidents Cup. His earnings for the 21-22 season were \$3,448,578. His career earnings have now risen to \$14,289,354—not bad for a player who most felt had not played up to ability until lately.

His caddy is Joe Greiner. The two met at the age of six, and Greiner has been on his bag for many years. He and his wife, Lacy are expecting their first child very shortly.

RISING STAR

Scottsdale Area Shines in the Winter



THE PHOENICIAN COURSE IS TRULY BEAUTIFUL

We have been visiting the Scottsdale area in Decembers for 20 years. It all started when Bill Huffman, a golf writer from the area decided to bring together golf writers from the United States and Canada (and even Iceland and Eurpoe) to see what a wonderful golfing area that Greater Phoenix had to offer.

It has become must travel and seeing Scottsdale every December, and this writer has only missed three events (much to my shagrin). The accommodations and golf courses are fabulous and it is so good to get out of the cold New England weather for a week.

Since we are not publishing a winter issue this year (difficult to get advertising), we wanted to write a story pre visit so our readers could possibly consider the thought

of taking a winter vacation in Arizona this year. You certainly will not be disappointed by the weather, the golf, the fine dining and the wonderful hotels.

We try to make it out to Scottsdale a few day before the event to warmup the golf clubs, the rusty swing and because we want to get warm. This year the event is being held at WeKoPa in Fort McDowell, Arizona, not far from Scottsdale. They have two of the finest and well-conditioned courses you will ever find. The courses are on an Indian Reservation, so the water supply is not limited and the courses are always plush. The routing for both of the courses is outstanding. The hotel on the property where we are staying also has a casino, so there is plenty to do after golf.

We are going out a few days before

the event and staying at the magnificent Phoenician Resort in Scottsdale that sits right along Camelback Mountain. We have played the course and some of the holes actually go slightly up the mountain. The course is lush and the holes are fun and not too difficult if you play the correct tees that range from just over 4,500 yards to just over 6,500 yards.

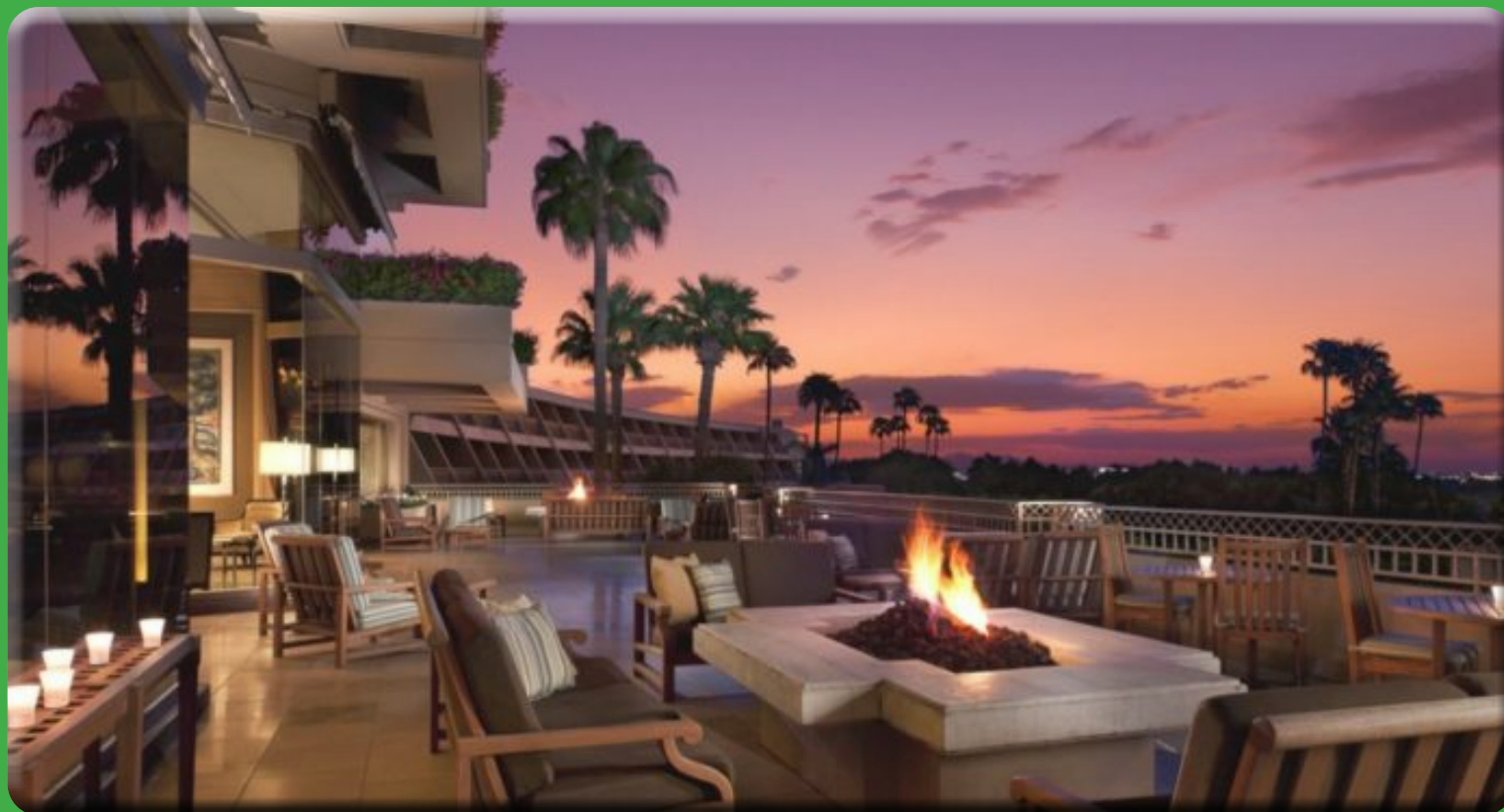
The Phoenician is a Marriott property that has almost 600 rooms and 65 suites and many dining options. It is also very close to the wonderful Scottsdale shopping areas that makes my better half quite happy. The property opened in 1988, but it was redesigned and upgraded in 2016.

There is so much to see and do in the Scottsdale area. Many of the writers bring their better half to enjoy the weather, the shopping, the golf and the beautiful scenery and wonderful dining. We are flying from Boston with one stop in Denver. There are also flights from Providence and Hartford for us in southern New England. You definitely will not

be disappointed.

Scottsdale was selected as the North American Golf Destination of the Year in 2019 by the International Association of Golf Tour Operators. There is some 330 days a year in the area. TPC Scottsdale is home to the Phoenix Open and it is a public golf course. You could play a different course every day for two months in the Greater Scottsdale area. This reporter wouldn't recommend doing that many, but would sure encourage you to consider visit the winter wonderland for golf in the United States. You can call the Phoenician at 480-941-8200 or visit their website. To call WeKoPa, the number is 480-789-5300. ■

Bruce Vittner is a member of the Golf Writers Assn. of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and considers the Scottsdale area to be the best golfing destination in America. He can be reached at bruce@sneoglf.com.



THE PATIO AT THE PHOENICIAN

Thankful Fern-Boros Competes in First National Event in Alaska



No one among the 132 starters in the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Golf Championship was happier and more thankful to be in Alaska than Lisa Fern-Boros. On July 14, she underwent two hours of minimally invasive brain surgery at Mount Sinai Health System in Manhattan, N.Y., to try to determine why she had experienced discomfort for three years.

"We knew there was something wrong but didn't know what it was," said Fern-Boros, a retired engineer from Shelton. "All I knew is that I wasn't feeling well for so long, so I went to see a specialist."

Dr. Joshua Bederson, a professor and chairman of neurosurgery at Mount Sinai, supervised the operation in which a probe was put through Fern-Boros' nose to the front of her

skull and a hole was drilled between two optical nerves to her pituitary. The minimally invasive procedure helps a patient recover quickly from brain surgery without any side effects, and two days after the operation, Fern-Boros was released from one of the most renowned medical facilities in the world with a good prognosis from Dr. Bederson.

"I had a lot of help from friends on the trip to New York," Fern-Boros said. "I'm not completely out of the woods, but I got the best of three possible outcomes. I only have inflammation, but I'm still awaiting complete results from a biopsy."

Fern-Boros, 61, had three Zoom "visits" with Bederson and achieved her initial goal of playing in the Connecticut State Women's Amateur

Championship on July 6-7 at Tashua Knolls Golf Course in Trumbull. She shot 19-over-par 163 to tie for 12th and won the Super Senior Division but skipped the Hartford Women's Open to save her strength before a 10-hour flight from Newark, N.J., to Anchorage, Alaska.

Fern-Boros learned she would be making the 4,400-mile trip to the country's 49th state via a letter that she received from the United States Golf Association on the last day of her hospital visit. "I felt fortunate to get in the championship because I was only the second alternate in the qualifier in Syracuse," she said.

Fern-Boros, who plays out of the Highland Golf Club in Shelton, was accompanied to Alaska by close friends and fellow Southern New England Women's Golf Association competitors Jen Holland and Jo Rasmussen. Holland, a four-time winner of the Connecticut State Golf Association Liz Janangelo Caron Player of the Year Award from Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield, won her record 10th SNEWGA Individual Championship title on July 19. Rasmussen, from Tashua Knolls GC, tied for 15th in the State Women's Amateur.

"It's nice that the three of us went," said Fern-Boros, who made her first visit to Alaska. "I don't think I would have gone alone."

Fern-Boros has a connection to Fairfield native Julius Boros, the greatest player in Connecticut golf history and a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame who won three major championships. Her deceased husband, Lance, was Julius' nephew, and now she competed in her sixth USGA championship. The longtime member of the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame selection committee has played in one USGA Mid-Amateur, one Senior Amateur, the Senior Women's Amateur and the now-defunct State Team Championship three times. She also has had numerous high finishes in the SNEWGA Championship, including a win in 2016, third in 2014 and 2017, fourth in 2019 and fifth in 2018. And Fern-Boros' goal this time? "Not finishing

DFL," she said. And what does DFL mean? "Dead*Last," she said with a chuckle.

Though Fern-Boros accomplished that goal, she and her friends each missed the 36-hole cut for match play. But that will never erase the countless memories from playing in the first national championship in Alaska.

"My driver was non-conforming, and I volunteered it to be checked. I didn't come all this way, including medical hurdles, to be DQ'd," Fern-Boros said. "The pro shop altered it by one-half inch, and it's in a 'fixture' to prove it is legal. I recreated a lie from my second shot on the 18th hole the second day. It was my 'birch bark bogey.' Bark isn't coming home to Connecticut, but I had it long enough for a picture. It was kind of a bogey hole anyway with water adjacent to the green and magnetically attracted many balls, though none of mine.

"We watched Pam Kuong from Massachusetts in round one of match play, but unfortunately, she lost. Due to lost luggage that went to Croatia, she was wearing Jo Rasmussen's rain jacket. I can honestly say we made new friends all week. Temple Mitchel from Massachusetts and Johanna Kung from Delaware were kindred spirits. We took a glacier cruise one day, and I have way more energy in the tank since the operation.

"At the players dinner, it's customary for the past champion, Lara Tennent, to deliver a speech. Hers was based on the acronym 'GRATEFUL': Golf-Relationships-Alaska-Thank-you-Ellen Port-Family-USGA-Lucky.' I said to myself when I arrived that I was the most grateful golfer in the field. The past champion reaffirmed that for me and others. It's all such a reminder that life is so short." ■

Bruce Berlet is the retired Hartford Courant sportswriter who writes a Connecticut column in each issue of snegolfer.com.

Looking Back 28 Years

We went deep into our files to pick a Looking Back column for this issue. Volume 1 No. 8 was published in October of 1994. We apologize to the young folks that read this publication, but sometimes it's good to see what the elders were doing 28 years ago.

The cover had the picture of the three Quigley's Paul, Dana and Brett, probably the most successful golfing family in Rhode Island. Paul is the oldest and was always an amateur player, albeit one of the best the state of Rhode Island ever had. His brother, Dana, had a long career on both the PGA Tour and the Senior PGA Tour. He was often on the top of money lists when the Senior Tour was in its infancy. Brett Quigley had a little success on the PGA Tour, but has experienced more success on the Senior Tour and is currently in 44th place on the Senior Tour standings.

The late Bob Nolan was our most witty writer. His column in this issue was entitled "Your Putter or Your Wife". The gist of the column was that golfers often make many weird decisions because of the madcap things that golfers do. He talks about the golfer who stops in the middle of his putt as a funeral procession is driving by. "It's the least I could do, she was my wife for 40 years," he replies to his playing partners. The column continues with choices golfers make between golf and their wives. Funny stuff as always.

The Mulligan Interclub Championship used to be a huge event in Rhode Island and courses competed against each other. In 1994 Wannamoisett captured the crown and set a tournament record for low score. Tom Goryl, Marc Forbes, Bill Lunnie, Jr. Greg Richard and Mike Hogan made up the winning team.

There was a story about Stan and Dave Baluik written by Dave Adamonis, Sr. entitled "Like Father, Like Son," talking about how both became

club professionals in Rhode Island. Greg Burke did a fine story about Newport Country Club. The title gave all the information needed—Theatre by the Sea—as it talked about the beautiful Newport Country Club.

Joann Walker, golf pro at Newport Country Club and Mike Trangese, Commissioner of the Big East Conference were featured in the People in Golf column. The Adams Cup of Newport, the great college tournament that was held at Newport Country Club for over ten years was featured. Rick Lewis, Tom Drennan, Pat Horgan and Ron Petro were featured in the picture. Matt Adams and his dad had started the event, and Matt now works for the Golf Channel.

Joe Prisco, golf coach at Providence College for 42 years was the George Braman caricature of the month. Prisco had taken the Friars to nine NCAA Championships, and Dave Adamonis was on one of those teams.

The New 1994 Buick Roadmaster was featured on our back cover as the local Key Buick Dealers had been our major advertiser. There were quite a few automobile advertisers in that issue. Many of the advertisers in the issue are no longer in business. Hope we didn't have anything to do with that! ■

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We would love to spread our wings and find some more businesses that would consider being part of this publication that was founded in 1990. We publish four issues per year. The first is always near the end of April and features the Masters and many local events that are being held or prepared.

The second is always in the beginning of June when tournaments are just getting underway. Our third issue is at the end of July and again features

many major tournaments held on our area as well as many travel and personal stories.

The last issue features Ryder Cups and Presidents' Cups as a staple. We always feature travel stories in every issue. We are looking for places where our readers would enjoy visiting and playing golf. If you have a resort or destination golfing area that you wish to promote, we can do a great job for you.

The medical field, financial industry, travel and so many other industries should certainly see the benefit of reaching this demographic of dedicated golfers who read our publication from cover to cover every issue.

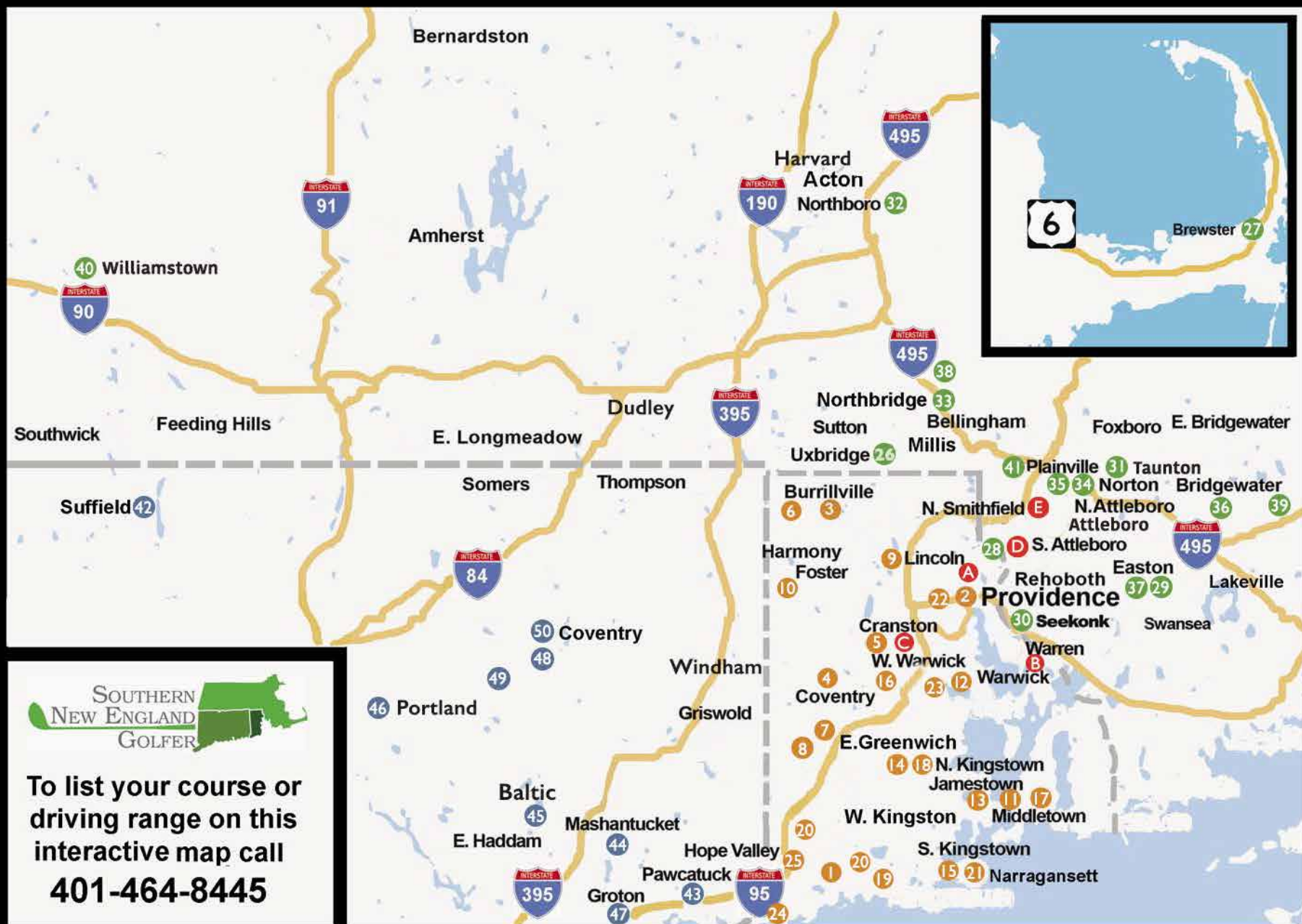
Each issue of the publication is sent to 80,000 emails. Many people forward it to friends and relatives. You are certainly welcome to see our very competitive advertising rates or set up an advertising schedule for 2023 by visiting www.snegolfer.com or calling 401-464-8445.

Regards,

Bruce Vittner

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**Next Issue:
April 23, 2023**



We hope you have enjoyed reading this latest issue of Southern New England Golfer Magazine. Please tell your friends about it, or simply forward the link to your golfing buddies. Keep your head down and swing easy!

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www.winnapaugcountryclub.com
CR,CL,CH,DR,SB,O
25. **WOOD RIVER GOLF** (18) P
78 Woodville-Alton Rd. Hope Valley, RI
401-364-0700
www.woodrivergolf.com
CR,CH,SB,O

A. BUTTON HOLE D.R.
1 Button Hole Dr. Providence, RI
401-421-1664
www.buttonhole.org
2 putting greens, lessons

B. D GOLF CENTER
324 Market St., Warren, RI
401-919-3500
covered+outdoor bays, high-tech
teaching
www.dgolfrange.com

C. 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, mini-golf, par 3
course, pitch and putt

26. **BLISSFUL MEADOWS G.C.** (18) SP
801 Chocalog Rd. Uxbridge, MA
508-278-6110
www.blissfulmeadows.com
CR,CL,CH,DR,PS,O

27. **CAPTAIN'S COURSE** (36) P
1000 Freeman's Way, Brewster, MA
508-896-1716
www.captainsgolfcourse.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,O

28. **CHEMAWA GOLF COURSE** (18) P
350 Cushman Rd. N. Attleboro, MA
508-399-7330
www.chemawagolf.com
CR,CH,O,CL

29. **EASTON C.C.** (18) SP
265 Purchase St. Easton, MA
508-238-2500
www.eastoncountryclub.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,DR,O

30. **HAZELTON GC** (18) P
329 Summer St. Rehoboth, MA
508-557-1856
www.hazeltongolfclub.com
CR,PS,CH,O

31. **JOHN F. PARKER G.C.** (9) P
17 Fisher St. Taunton, MA
508-822-1797
<http://www.johnfparkergc.com>
CR,DR,CH,SB, Skins Thurs. 3:45

32. **JUNIPER HILL G.C.** (36) P
202 Brigham St. Northboro, MA
508-393-2444
www.juniperhillgc.com
CR,CL,PS,CH,SB,O

33. **MAPLEGATE C.C.** (18) SP
160 Maple St. Bellingham, MA
508-966-4040
www.maplegate.com
CR,CL,PS,CH

34. **THE LINKS @MASS GOLF** (18) P, X
300 W. Main Rd. Rt. 123 Norton, MA
508-222-0555
www.linksatmassgolf.org
CL,PS,CH,SB,O

35. **NORTON COUNTRY CLUB** (18) SP
188 Oak St. Norton, MA
508-285-2400
www.nortoncountryclub.com
CR,CL,CH,SB,O

36. **OLDE SCOTLAND LINKS** (18) P
695 Pine St. Bridgewater, MA
508-279-3344
www.oldsotlandlinks.com
CR,CL,SB,DR,O

37. **PINE OAKS GC** (9) P
68 Prospect St. S. Easton, MA
508-238-2320
www.pineoaks.com
CR,CL,CH,O, Retail Store

38. **SHINING ROCK G.C.** (18) SP
91 Clubhouse Way Northbridge, MA
508-234-0400
www.shiningrock.com

39. **SOUTHERS MARSH G.C.** (18) P
30 Southers Marsh Ln. Plymouth, MA
508-830-3535
www.southersmarsh.com
CR,CL,DR,Top Tracer,PS,CH

40. **WAUBEEKA GOLF LINKS** (18) P
137 New Ashford Rd. Williamstown, MA
413-458-8355
www.waubeeka.com
CR, CL, CH, PS, O, DR

41. **WENTWORTH HILLS GC** (18) SP
27 Bow St. Plainville, MA
508-316-0240
www.wntworthhillsgc.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,O

D. **ATLANTIC DRIVING RANGE**
754 Newport Ave. S. Attleboro,
MA 508-761-5484

www.atlanticgolfcenter.com
heated tees, shop, mini golf, chip
+ putt

E. **STIX GOLF+BASEBALL FUN
CNTR**
582 Kelley Blvd. No. Attleboro, MA
508-695-0091

www.stixfuncenter.com
TrueStrike golf mats, grass tees,
minigolf, batting cages, putting
green, bunker, lessons

42. **AIRWAYS GC** (18) P
1070 S. Grand St. W. Suffield, CT
860-668-4973 CR,CL,CH,SB,O
www.airwaysgolf.com

43. **ELMRIDGE GOLF CLUB** (27) P
229 Elmridge Rd. Pawcatuck, CT 860-
599-2248 CR,CL,DR,PS,CH,O
www.elmridgegolf.com

44. **LAKE OF ISLES C.C.** (18) P
Foxwoods Casino, Mashantucket, CT
860-312-3636
www.lakeofisles.com
CR,CL,PS,SB,Rest, O, School

45. **MOHEGAN SUN G.C.** (18) P
7 Dows Ln. Baltic, CT
860-862-9230
www.mohegansungolfclub.com
CR,CL,PS,CH, golf packages, lessons

46. **QUARRY RIDGE** (18) SP
9A Rose Hill Rd. Portland, CT
860-788-2845
www.quarryridge.com
CR,CL,CH,PS,O riding only

47. **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

48. **SKUNGAMAUG RIVER GC** (18) P
104 Folly Ln, Coventry, CT
860-646-1151 CR,CL,CH,PS,O
www.skungamauggolf.com

49. **TALLWOOD CC** (18) P
91 North St, Hebron, CT
860-646-1151 DR,CL,CH,PS,O
www.tallwoodcountryclub.com

50. **TWIN HILLS** (18) P
199 Bread and Milk St. Coventry, CT
860-742-9705 DR,CL,CH,PS,O
www.twinhillscountryclub.com

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

