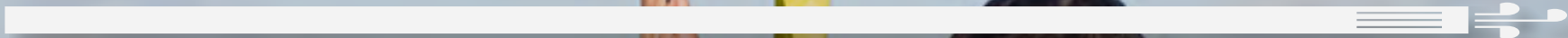


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LINKS & LESSONS

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to our third issue of 2023. Last issue we talked about what you liked best about golf, and what you were not so crazy about this wonderful game. It created quite a lot of talk for our cadre of writers, and also from quite a few readers. We are continuing with this theme as we asked our writers what were your best moments in golf, and also what are some moments that you might want to forget. Hope it brings some thoughts to you as the reader and what were your best and worst moments on the links.

Just as we were going to print for the last issue, a huge roar came out in the golf world with the word that the PGA of America and LIV were in the process of merging. We did not get a chance to write about it as the publication was being put to bed---No, we don't know how to stop the presses, although now it's how to stop the website! We promised to try to get the facts, but now, six weeks later there is still much confusion. I tried to put some facts that are now known in a story on page 5, but there are still a ton of decisions that must be made. What do you think? We'd like to get some feedback from readers and we will include some thoughts in our October 2 issue. Maybe things will be settled more by then.

We went down to Pennsylvania soon after the last issue, and a couple of stories are in the travel section. There are a ton of nice courses in that area and we hope you enjoy the stories. It was difficult not to choose Wyndham Clark as our rising star player of the month. Getting his first win in May and following up with an exciting win at the U.S. Open certainly qualifies as a rising star.

The summer time is when most of the regional tournaments are happening and we tried to get a good cross-section of events covered in our tri-state region. Wasn't that a great win for Keegan Bradley. Not many players can say they won at their favorite event, especially since Keegan used to go to the Travelers when he was just a young lad. Bruce Berlet does a great story about the tournament and the reflections of Bradley right after his win.

There are many other items covered in this issue and we hope you enjoy them. Please support our advertisers who keep this publication alive. Keep your head down and we will see you again on October 9, just in time for the Ryder Cup in Rome.

Keep your head down and swing easy. We will see you again on October 9 for our next issue. ■

BRUCE VIT'TNER

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Most Memorable Moment in Golf

Having been the publisher of this publication and a member of the Golf Writers of America since 1993 and the Golf Travel Writers of America since 2005 has certainly provided this writer with many more memorable times than bad times. Probably the most memorable experience I've had occurred in 1994.

Lou Martone and I went to the 1994 U.S. Open at Oakmont C.C, in Pennsylvania. It was my first major tournament and we looked forward to getting great pictures and stories for Ocean State Golf, as our publication was known then. It was the second round on Friday and Arnold Palmer was playing in his last U.S. Open and his home was just a short way from Oakmont. Everyone was rooting so loudly for him, but you could tell that he was not going to make the cut and his Opens were

ending.

The temperature was about 100 degrees that day and you could tell that Palmer was exhausted as he finished up his round to amazing clapping and hollering. He smiled to the crowd and walked off to sign his card as his face was bright red and his perspiration was drenching his clothing.

Paul Kenyon from the Providence Journal was near me and he said, "Bruce, let's go into the press tent and listen to what Palmer has to say." We went into the tent along with about 100 other golf writers from around the world. After about 10 minutes when Palmer had signed his card and walked to the press tent, he sat next to the moderator.

He started to speak and he broke down and could not say anything. He put a towel over his head and after about a minute he tried to speak

Story Continues On Page 6

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again with no success. As I looked around the huge tent I saw everyone with tears in their eyes including yours truly. Paul Kenyon said, "You can cover golf for another 50 years, and you will never see anything like this." He was right! After about 5 minutes Palmer stood up, waved and said "I'm sorry!" and walked out the back of the tent. Paul was correct, I've never seen anything close to the emotions that were shared by everyone in that tent.

The second most memorable moment occurred in Northern Ireland in 2007. A group of U.S. writers were over in Northern Ireland to do travel stories as guests of Northern Ireland Tourism. A day of the trip was set aside to cover the finals of the Walker Cup, the amateur rendition of the Ryder Cup.

The match was coming down to the wire and a

couple of the players were walking down the 18th fairway to root on their teammate. It was Jonathan Moore for the U.S. against Nigel Edwards for the deciding point. For these amateur matches they let the media walk down the fairways. On one side of me I had Rory McIlroy rooting for Edwards and the other was Rickie Fowler rooting for Moore.

The boys could not have been more polite and friendly to this American writer. We talked all the way down the fairway where Moore prevailed to give the U.S. the win. I have since talked to both of my walking companions, and they remember that match like it was yesterday. I'm so happy that I decided to walk down the fairway to see the final match, and even more excited about who I got to walk with. ■

Where Do We Stand With LIV?

Just as we were going to press in early June we were flummoxed by an announcement that LIV Golf, the Saudi Arabian-back Golf Tour was going to merge with the PGA Tour. What an announcement? Could this really happen? Why was Jay Monahan, PGA Tour Director taking a health absence, and had no remarks to make? Who was Jimmy Dunne? Who was Yasir Al-Rumayyan, and why was he going to get a membership to Augusta National? How much money was going to go into the PGA Tour coffers? Would the players that jumped from the PGA have to give money back? Would the PGA Tour allow the players that jumped to come back? Could those players play on the Ryder Cup team?

The internet was going wild--It was almost like Prime Day. We are now almost six weeks out from the announcement, and still there are a million questions. We know some things—Jimmy Dunne is a member of the PGA Tour, a member of Augusta National and a point man in the negotiations. Yasir Al-Rumayyan is the governor of the Public Investment Fund—the person who is handling the at least two billion dollars that the Fund is using for LIV. Don't know if he will get a membership in Georgia.

My biggest concern is what about the money. The figures thrown around when Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Phil Mickelson, Cameron Smith, Sergio Garcia and others jumped to LIV were mind-boggling. Do they just keep that money? What part do they pay back? Who do they pay it to? Will there be a period of penance where the players will have to sit out?

There are still hundreds of questions that need to be answered. Jay Monahan is coming back from his health problems. Will he be accepted back? Who might take his place if not? Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods are reported to be the two players that LIV really coveted. Both players have laughed off the request, with Rory saying he would quit golf. Whatever the final outcome, you can be sure that golf will be different in 2024. Let's hope it all works out for the best. Not sure what the best is, but at least let's not use the scoring board that LIV used this year. This old timer could never read it and figure out who was ahead. I think there is room for some kind of team events as LIV used in 2023, but I still think that golf is an individual sport. Let's hope that some of that funny-money that LIV passed out goes to some good causes. ■

Fix your Clubface for Straighter Shots

How many of you out there have directional problems in your golf game? Slicing or hooking the ball is a common problem we see and you need to be able to make the proper adjustments to enjoy the game. Unfortunately, the many adjustments I hear people make, such as “I’m trying to keep my head down” are not really fixing the problem.

Ball curvature is defined by the following: The **PATH** in which you swing the golf club in your downswing (left, right or down the target line) combined with the position of the **CLUBFACE** at impact (open, closed or square) relative to the path will determine the curvature of the golf ball. The Gear Effect we discussed previously will also have a say in the flight of the ball, but let’s assume for now in this article that we have center-face contact. Of the two factors (Path & Face), the Clubface has the most influence, as it is responsible for 75% of the starting direction of the ball with an iron and 85% with a driver. So, improving the position of the clubface at impact will have a big effect on your ball flight.

How do we go about fixing things? Well, if you have a ball flight that curves to the right, then the clubface is open to your path. This will produce a slicing effect and is the most common ball flight problem that we see. There are a few basic things to look at to help get a more square clubface at impact:

1. How is your grip (weak, neutral or strong position) – a more weak or neutral grip could lead to an open clubface at impact.
2. Grip Pressure (tight or loose) – the tighter you grip the club, the less flexibility you have in your hands and wrists to allow them to rotate the clubface properly through the downswing.
3. Do you rotate the clubface open excessively in the backswing – learn the concept of a toe-up position as you take the club away.

The opposite would be true for a ball that curves to the left, the clubface being closed to your path. This will produce a hooking effect.

1. Your grip may be too strong.
2. Grip pressure may be too loose.
3. The clubface may be too closed in the backswing.

As I stated earlier, these are just a few of the obvious things we look at, and there are other factors that may influence your clubface. Try a few of these tips mentioned above to see if you could find a straighter ball flight. You can also sign up for a TrackMan Analysis at our Golf Academy to get some great feedback on your swing & golf ball flight. ■

Todd Campbell is the Director of the Golf Academy at Cranston Country Club. He writes an Instruction column in each issue of SNE Golfer.

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Your Round Begins When You Wake Up

Ever wonder what accounts for the outcome of your first tee shot? Sometimes you can jump out of the car, rush to the tee, and hit your best drive ever. However, if you are serious about more frequent success on the 1st tee, pay attention to how you begin your day.

Most people begin their day with their mind already racing. We rush to get dressed, wolf down some food, drive too fast to the course, smack some golf balls, and expect to be centered and balanced with a good tempo on the first tee.

Ben Hogan talked about moving himself in slow motion before a round and Phil Mickelson has talked about the necessity of morning meditation to neutralize his distracting career demands. Most of us don't have to worry about juggling sponsors, but we all have hectic and overpacked demands on our time.

Resolve to begin your day in a better way. A short, new morning routine can be as simple as getting out of bed 10 minutes earlier for some mindful breathing followed by a few flexibility exercises. You can learn more details about this in my new book *Better Golf Better Life*. You will be rewarded with clearer thinking, and a boost in creativity and focus. If it's a golf day, you will likely hit a better first tee shot and play better golf. ■

Dr. Rich Goldberg is a Professor of Psychiatry at Brown University, Founder of Dr. Rich Golf (www.drrichgolf.com) a golf mental coaching program, and author of "Better Golf Better Life" available on [Amazon](#) and Kindle.

*Dr. Rich is a long-time member of Ledgemont CC in Rehoboth, Mass. and has been coaching people in the area as well as around the country. He will be writing a column in each issue of *snegolfer*.*



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Rhody RoundUp

Golf season is in full swing in Rhode Island and it has been a busy last month or so, starting with the prestigious Northeast Amateur at Wannamoisett Country Club. Here is the Rhody RoundUp:

University of Alabama rising sophomore Nick Dunlap dropped a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to win the Northeast Amateur at Wannamoisett Country Club. "It feels great. I found out I was playing, I actually wasn't going to play, it was a lot to get from L.A. to here, but I had a couple of guys convince me. I heard the golf course was really good and the tournament was unbelievable. I'm glad I came and played," said Dunlap after the round. Dunlap trailed Tennessee rising sophomore Caleb Surratt by three shots heading into the back nine before storming back to win on the final hole.

The Providence Open at Triggs Memorial Golf Course was won by North Carolina's Brian Hughes, who finished ten-under par for the week to edge Ethan Whitney and Brandon Berry by one shot. Whitney took home low amateur honors, after a seven-under par second round. Morgan Smith won the women's division at even par. From a local angle, Rhode Island's Will Dickson and Andrew O'Leary both carded top ten finishes, while Brad Adamonis finished in a tie for 33rd.

Bobby Leopold marched to his fourth Rhode Island Amateur Championship. Leopold beat Harry Dessel 9&8 at Montaup Country Club to capture his second title in two years. "It doesn't seem real. To be able to get it done, especially to do it again at Montaup where I won back in 2014 is crazy. I just played really steady golf all week. I Played great at the beginning and just tried to get ahead of my matches as quickly as I could and stay that way," Leopold said after the round. Leopold is now tied with Brad Valois with four Amateur championships.

Other Notes: Coventry's Sam Fuentes qualified for the U.S. Junior Amateur, and will be the only Rhode Islander in the field. University of Rhode Island commits Luke Stennet and Tyler

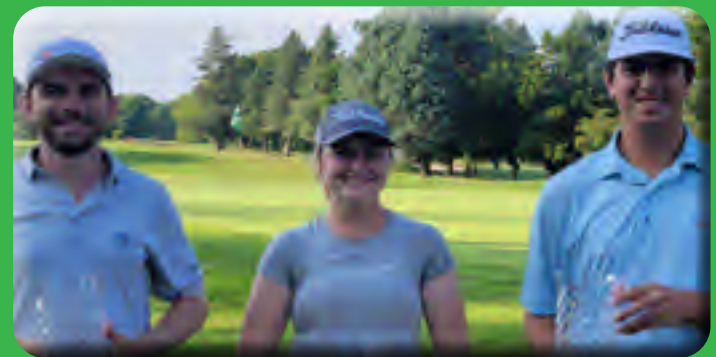
Bruneau also qualified. The 2023 U.S. Junior Amateur will be held at Daniel Island Club in South Carolina from July 24-29.

Bryant University star Ty Dupuis is headed to the U.S. Amateur. This is the second straight year in which a Bryant golfer will head to the Amateur after Jack Woods went last year. The 2023 U.S. Amateur will be held at Cherry Hills Country Club in Colorado from August 14-20.

The Rhode Island Women's Amateur is set to be held from August 1-5 at Kirkbrae Country Club. Kylie Eaton is the defending champion. ■



NICK DUNLAP



HUGHES, SMITH, WHITNEY



BOB WARD & BOBBY LEOPOLD

Metacomet Coming Back as 9-Holer

A nine-hole golf course will open “sometime in 2024” on the property formerly known as Metacomet Golf Club in East Providence. The course will not be called Metacomet, but Met Links. “We certainly wanted to pay homage to Metacomet, the Tribal history, the name of the course, so Met Links seemed to be a contemporary spin on Metacomet,” said Robert McNeil, President and Principal Architect at the Northeast Golf Company.

Northeast Golf Company began work in June and it will take three to four months to complete. “We expect it to be done by August or September. Everything will grow in and the course will be set to play in 2024. There is no exact opening date at this point,” added McNeil.

Metacomet’s back nine greens were taken up and sold to Brae Burn Country Club of Massachusetts in November of 2021. McNeil says that Northeast Golf Company was able to save five additional greens, as well as the practice putting green. However, Metacomet’s original back nine is gone. As for the new nine holes, Northeast Golf Company was given space for seven holes. So essentially, they had to fit nine holes in a seven-hole frame, meaning some rerouting had to be done.

“We had old members in mind when we were developing the final routing. How can we make what’s there as good as it could be,” said McNeil. In March of 2021, Metacomet’s clubhouse was destroyed. McNeil says that a new clubhouse being built is probably a year or two away. “In all likelihood, at the beginning of the program here, there is going to be some type of temporary structure that we can use as a clubhouse, pro shop, check in point, cart storage area etc.

All that is going to be handled from day one and then once the build out of the broader development happens, the clubhouse will be built into that development. Probably a year or two away.” There is still some permitting and things going on, but

the final plans for the course are set and work will begin in about a month. McNeil concludes, “Stay positive about Metacomet because it is going to be special. It’s not a negative story anymore, it is a positive story now, an exciting opportunity for everyone to walk away from the past and look forward to the future of what this property is going to be,” said McNeil who also owns Kings Crossing in North Kingstown and is planning work at the old Bristol (RI) course. ■

Joe Calabro runs www.golfnewsri.com, covering golf in Rhode Island while also streaming podcasts you can listen and view on the site.

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The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

Our topic for this issue is remembrances of our most memorable moments in golf, both good and bad. I've had a few of the former and too many of the latter to ever squeeze into this space.

Here are my favorite memories, not necessarily in order...

The Day I Finally Broke Par: I had been playing golf for 32 years and had never accomplished the feat. I'm told that a very low percentage of those who play the game ever see a round that ends with a red number, so I feel blessed.

It came on July 27th, 2002. The only reason I know the exact date was because I have the scorecard framed, complete with my signature and those of my three playing companions. I was playing my home course of Triggs Memorial in Providence, one of Donald Ross's premier designs.

My front nine had been rather pedestrian, a three-over-par 38, with one birdie. I caught fire on the back like never before in my life and never since, to tell the truth. I birdied 10, parred 11, birdied 12 and 13, bogeyed the short par 3 14th, birdied 16, parred the very long and difficult par 4 17th, and then faced a 40 to 45 footer for birdie on 18. It was a severe right-to-left break and as soon as I hit the putt I knew. Dead center. 1-under 71. I screamed at the top of my lungs, "I finally beat this (bleeping) game!"

Winning the Club Championship: After being a member of Woodland Greens for 15 years, I somehow was the medalist after qualifying and seeded first. Won my first two matches easily but the semi-final went 20 holes and I won with a birdie. The final was a classic. I played against a good friend, Gil Baker. It was 98 degrees and humid and required walking the 36-hole final. I was up by 3 after the first 18. We ate, showered, and got new caddies. Gil came storming back and had the match tied after just five holes of the afternoon round. I managed to go one-up on the 34th hole and then on the 35th I hit the best 3-wood of my

life, on a par 3 220-yard hole. The ball stopped two feet away. Tap in, victory.

Having a Private Drink with Arnold Palmer: I was at the Dunes Club in Myrtle Beach, but I went over that in a previous issue.

Winning the Golf Writers of America Association Tournament: At the same Myrtle Beach Dunes Club, I holed out twice from the fairway. Shot 75 in the first round and 78 in the second. It was fortunate that the really good players all decided to play poorly.

Achieving Three Holes in One: Interestingly enough, my three holes in one included the first ever recorded on the 8th hole at TPC Boston.

Winning the Club Championship: A wonderful memory winning the club championship of the senior (Gold) division at Triggs in 2021.

Bad moments. Let me count the ways...

Eagle on Wrong Green: Hitting a 5-wood to within a few feet of a hole at Tidewater Golf Club in North Myrtle Beach and thinking I had a kick-in eagle only to be informed by one of my playing partners that I had hit to the wrong green.

Lost Ball, Lost Match: Losing a public links match because someone else (playing a different hole) hit my ball by mistake and refused to acknowledge it. It went as a lost ball and I had to go back to the tee.

An 11 on Hole 10: Taking an 11 on the 10th hole at the Dunes Club in the GWAA championship after firing a nice 37 on the front and climbing back into contention on the second day of the tournament.

Surviving 500 Tough Rounds: About 500 rounds where I wanted to kill myself for playing so poorly. ■

Tim Geary is a retired sportswriter for the Fall River Herald and writes a column in each issue of snegolfer.com

Best & Worst Moments in Golf—Where do I begin?

Let's start with the fact that I have always been around a 10-handicap, give or take a few strokes. At my best, about 20 years ago, I was as low as a 7. Today, not playing nearly as much, I am probably closer to a 12.

With that said, I can tell you that I always strive to break 80 when playing 18. Any score that begins with a "7" means I had a good day on the course and I walk off very happy feeling a sense of accomplishment.

Likewise, if I cannot break 90, it was a very disappointing day on the links for yours truly. So, in a nutshell, that is how I judge whether it was a good day or a bad day on the golf course.

As far as individual moments that stand out for me, I would say that my first round in the 70's which was a score of 75 at Trull Brook Golf Course in Tewksbury, MA back in 1993 was a great feeling. I had taken up the sport of golf in 1990 and was self-taught. I have to say that I was pretty damn proud of myself on that day.

Another moment that stands out for me was in the late 90's when I partnered with former Providence Journal sports writer Kevin McNamara in the Point Judith Fourball each year. We were partners for two years and, while we never won the championship division, we did manage to win the first and seventh divisions in our two years as partners and were undefeated (a perfect 6-0) in match play over that span.

Likewise, I partnered with good friend Matt Fitzgerald for many years after that in the Pt. Judith Fourball and we managed to qualify for the championship division year after year after year.

What made that accomplishment so special was the fact that my handicap was cut to a 4 by the committee despite being a 10 on the board at Triggs Memorial in Providence. We had no margin for error, yet we still would grind out a best-ball score that would get us into the championship

division each year.

Here's another good moment. In 1993, I worked part time as a bartender at a restaurant called "Alicia's" in Haverhill, MA. The owner of the bar, myself and quite a few of our regular patrons were avid golfers. Just across the Merrimack River in Bradford, MA, there was a bar called Kelly's which also sported a crew of avid golfers.

With that, we decided to create a tournament called "The River Mug" which was a Ryder Cup-style event featuring pairs of golfers from each bar squaring off in 18-hole best-ball match play.

There were seven twosomes from each bar and, as luck would have it, the match was even at 3-3 and would come down to my match. All even after 18, we headed to the first tee for a sudden death playoff where I was able to drain a 10-foot birdie putt to win The Mug for Alicia's. What a moment!

The winning team was to be treated to a nice meal and open bar at the expense of the losing establishment. Needless to say, it was quite a night at Kelley's for Team Alicia's.

Lastly, one of my greatest AND one of my worst golf moments occurred at the same time when was invited to play in the CVS Charity Classic Pro-Am in 2000.

The golf pro in our group was Donnie Hammond. We played great that day and finished with the best score. I'm not sure what the prize was for the winning team but, if my memory serves me right, it was something pretty special.

Thinking we had won the event, we later found out that we were disqualified for having turned in an incorrect scorecard. Apparently, the scorecard that Hammond signed and turned in was one stroke different from what our spotter had which led to the disqualification.

So, from thinking we had won the event to being disqualified was quite the rollercoaster of emotions for all of us and most definitely qualifies as one of my best and one of my worst moments on the golf course. ■

Scott Cordischi, a local sportscaster for many years, writes a column in each issue of snegolfer.com.

[Could I Have Parred The Course?]

When we were planning it, we thought it would be a great golf getaway. As it turns out, our trip to Hilton Head, South Carolina, became my favorite golf memory. But it was not because I played at Harbor Town Golf Links, the famed Pete Dye creation plays host to a PGA Tour event and features a Pebble Beach-like closing hole with a red-and-white striped lighthouse. That was great, too. No, the most memorable part of the trip included a “Caddyshack” moment that was both hilarious and tragic – at least to this golf addict.

The adventure began when my wife Carol informed me that someone she knew had a place in Hilton Head we could rent for a few days. We could make it a golf trip, she said, but it’s over Father’s Day weekend. She had me at “golf trip.” Our sons are old enough now, I convinced her, past the age when they give Dad a tie and a card.

When we arrived, we immediately booked a tee time at Harbor Town for me (Carol was too intimidated; “you’ll have more fun without me”) as well as a few other courses. The booking sheets weren’t too full, we discovered. More people visit in spring, one employee in the Harbor Town pro shop told us. Hot down here in June. And humid.

He was right about that. Carol is not an early riser, so a round before the sun rose too high in the sky was out of the question. Late afternoons increased thunderstorm chances so typical of the South, so we opted for late morning rounds.

I played Harbor Town with three other men and was shocked to see how relatively easy the opening holes were. By the end, I was waving the white flag and cursing Pete Dye. My wife thought I’d been to war by the time she picked me up.

We played Jack Nicklaus’ Golden Bear Club and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course at Plantation Island, both solid layouts with lots of sand and water. For Father’s Day itself, we booked Heron Point, another Pete Dye creation and a sister course to Harbor Town. The starter paired

us with another couple a little older than us, we introduced ourselves and headed to the first tee, looking forward to another four to five hours of golf bliss.

One of the great things about golf is that you can meet memorable people when you play, strangers who you remember. Another great thing is that you don’t have to be in tip-top shape to play. The husband was memorable – but not in a good way. And he wasn’t even in good enough shape to golf.

Wheezing and huffing, he would arrive at his ball, decide on the club he needed – and order his wife to retrieve it for him. Every time he would bark out a command, we would roll our eyes.

Early in the round, my phone rang. Hey, he piped up, no phones on the golf course. “It’s my sons,” I said, “wishing me Happy Father’s Day.” That quieted him.

The thing is, I didn’t care. I was playing too well to let him bother me. And Carol had struck up a friendship with our female partner, probably out of sympathy.

Rain began moving in at the turn, so we decided to break for lunch while the storm passed. That meant another hour of hearing him brag about how much he earned while she waited on him. When the skies cleared, our partners decided they would call it a day. The course was wet, they said, so they would try to get a raincheck.

Awwww, that’s too bad, we said. So, it was just Carol and me and my chance to score the lowest round of my life on a challenging course in Hilton Head. Wow.

I shot 38 on the front, a fantastic score for someone whose handicap never fell below 10. And I kept on striping it, finding greens and making putts (or at least not three-putting) on the back. But then the clouds rolled in again.

As we left the 15th green, the screens on our cart warned us to prepare to leave the course due to severe weather, but we didn’t need the message. A swirling wall of rain appeared to be headed right at us. And all I could think of was the scene in “Caddyshack” when Bishop Pickering is playing fantastic despite a heavy storm. Should we stop, the bishop asks greenskeeper/caddy Carl Spackler, played hilariously by Bill Murray.

Carl Spackler: "I'd keep playing. I don't think the heavy stuff's gonna come down for quite a while." Bishop Pickering: "You're right. Anyway, the good Lord would never disrupt the best game of my life!"

We played 16, a par-3 that I parred despite growing rain. I remained at two over par, with a chance to go even on the day with birdies on the last two holes.

Then the screen began to flash: "Return to the clubhouse immediately!" Are you kidding me, I thought. Nooooooooo. But it didn't take much convincing once I saw that swirling wall moving almost upon us. I don't want to be Bishop Pickering, I thought, who finally misses a putt, yells, "RAT FARTS!" and is struck dead by lightning.

It began to pour heavily as I gunned the cart along the paved path, which soon began overflowing with water. It can't possibly be raining this hard, we said to each other, laughing as the water soon rose over the cart's floor.

When we got to the clubhouse, we ran to our respective restrooms, disrobed and wrung our clothes out over the toilets. They were that wet. We couldn't help but laugh at each other's appearance,

a mess of wrinkled clothes and dripping hair. We made our way back to the grill room as the rain eased, hoping the course would dry off enough for us to resume playing.

No. An announcement confirmed what I feared: The course was unplayable, and there would be no more golf that day. "RATFARTS!"

So, I'll never know if I could have enjoyed a birdie-birdie finish and signed a scorecard for an even-par 72 (I've shot even for 9 holes, never 18). The framed scorecard with a photo of me with a big smile would have been a terrific addition to my office wall.

Then again, this is golf. I could have gone triple-bogey, triple-bogey, failed to break 80 and regretted returning to the course to finish my round. One thing is certain: It made for a memorable day—with a better ending than Bishop Pickering's. ■

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

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Rory and Rickie are playing a match. Rory hits his ball left into the high grass and it becomes embedded. He says that he can invoke the embedded ball rule and lift, clean and place his ball at a spot no nearer the hole. Can he?

Ruling: Rule 25 says that an embedded ball can only take place on closely mown areas, not semi-rough or rough. Rory would have to attempt his shot from the place where it lies or take an unplayable lie with a one-stroke penalty.

“Local” Keegan Bradley Wins Travelers

CROMWELL, Conn. –

Keegan Bradley had wanted to win the Travelers Championship “forever,” starting when he traveled from his home in Woodstock, Vt., as a teenager to watch what was then the Canon Greater Hartford Open, dreaming he might one day play inside the ropes.

Bradley’s favorite player was David Duval, one of the best in the world in the 1990s, and he nearly realized his dream in 2019 when he rallied to get within a shot of Chez Reavie before hitting his drive into the water and making double-bogey 6 on the 17th hole, eventually finishing in a tie for second with Zach Sucher.

But Bradley completed a personal goal in grand style this year, starting with birdies on his first five holes of the tournament and finishing with a final-round, 2-under-par 68 for a 72-hole total of 23-under 257, a tournament record at TPC River Highlands. He threatened Justin Thomas’ PGA Tour record of 253 in the 2017 Sony Open, but a stretch of 52 bogey-free holes ended when he hit his drive into the water at No. 13, the first of three bogeys in four holes. But two closing pars gave him a three-stroke victory over Zac Blair and Brian Harman and was worth \$3.6 million from a \$20 million purse in the PGA Tour’s final “designated” tournament of the year that included the top eight players and 70 of the top 77 in the Official World Golf Rankings.

Perhaps fittingly, Bradley’s final drive stopped in the left rough under a chair of one of his legion of fans who had come to cheer “the hometown boy” who gave a double “thumbs-up” as he approached the 18th green to chants of “Kee-gan, Kee-gan, Kee-gan.” Then after sinking his final putt, Bradley thrust both arms skyward twice, lifted his sons Logan and Cooper and hugged wife Jillian, the niece of Red Sox legend Carlton Fisk.

“This is for all the kids who grew up in New England, gotta sit through the winters and watch other people play golf,” said an emotional Brad-



ley, who has played the only PGA Tour event in the Northeast every year since 2011. “Feels unbelievable. This is a special week, and I literally can’t believe this is real. It’s a day that I’ll remember for the rest of my life. I’m so thankful to be from New England and have the fans support me so much. I am lucky enough to live out some of my dreams, and this was certainly one of them.

“I am so proud to win this tournament. Travelers and everyone involved puts on a first-class tournament. It’s been like this for a decade, and it was really special because I don’t get to have my family out here a lot anymore. Having them here

was an advantage for me, and they've sort of been my good luck charm. They keep me calm, and it's an incredible feeling."

Within an hour of his win, Bradley received texts from Michael Jordan, Aaron Rodgers and dozens of players on the New England sports teams that he follows so closely, especially the Patriots, who have won as many Super Bowls as Bradley has won PGA Tour titles. He had "warmed up" for the tournament by playing Captain's Corner Mini-Golf in Salisbury, Mass., on Father's Day with his sons after playing "terrible" and missing the cut in the U.S. Open before returning to the family's summer home in Newburyport, Mass. He had ended a five-year victory drought in the ZOZO Championship in Japan in October caused largely by putting woes after the U.S. Golf Association made the controversial decision to ban anchor/belly putters in 2016. He continued to be among the game's elite ball strikers but struggled on the greens for nearly six years, though he never complained about the ruling that adversely affected numerous players and even drove some off the PGA Tour.

But in September 2021, around the time he started working with renowned putting coach Phil Kenyon, Bradley began experimenting with an Odyssey Versa Jailbird putter. For most of the 72 holes of the Travelers Championship, Bradley putted like Hall of Famer Billy Casper, the only four-time winner of the tournament that began in 1952 as the Insurance City Open.

He converted a 54-hole lead for the first time in five tries, notched his sixth PGA Tour victory, including the 2011 PGA Championship with a belly putter, and put himself in position to make the U.S. Ryder Cup Team for the third consecutive time. He also joined fellow New England natives Paul Azinger, Brad Faxon and Fairfield native J.J. Henry as winners of Connecticut's biggest sporting event after he captured the CVS Charity Classic hosted by Faxon and Billy Andrade at Rhode Island Country Club a record five times with two different partners.

"When the putter is working, that's our God," Bradley said. And after every big make, Bradley held his putter in front of him with two fingers and bowed before handing it to his caddie. "We just pay our respects," a smiling Bradley said. "If the putter is working, we'll do whatever just to keep it going. We just bow and say, 'Thank you.' "

When Bradley was born in 1986, his aunt/hero/inspiration, LPGA Tour star and World Golf Hall of Famer Pat Bradley won three major championships. He is the eldest child of Mark Bradley, the head pro at the Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Club in Wyoming, with whom he briefly shared a 28-foot trailer that they affectionately called "Tin Cup II" in the Crystal Springs Campground, a RV park in the small central Massachusetts town of Bolton, while he was a young teenager. Growing up as an all-state ski racer in Woodstock, he decided to pursue golf. His family moved to Hopkinton, Mass., where he won the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 Individual Championship in 2004.

Not many big-time golf colleges showed interest in Bradley, and he ended up at St. John's University, where he won nine tournaments, including the Big East Conference title, before graduating in 2008, when he turned pro. Andrew Svoboda, the head pro at Great River GC in Milford who earned an exemption into the tournament by winning the Connecticut PGA Championship, was another former St. John's player in the field. He was in the top 20 after two rounds but struggled on the weekend and finished in a tie for 64th. He missed the cut in the U.S. Open by a shot the previous week.

Bradley played on the NGA Hooters and Nationwide Tours before making the cut in his first PGA Tour event, the Sony Open in Hawaii in 2011, when he won the Byron Nelson Championship and was the Rookie of the Year.

"When I got my PGA Tour card in 2010, the first thought in my mind wasn't to play the majors, whatever, it was 'I get to come play Hartford,'" Bradley said. There would be four more victories before his New England sports moment for countless reasons, including moving to 28th in the world rankings after having fallen as low as 152nd.

"This is as good as I've ever played, but I have been playing great all year," said Bradley, whose celebrations included chugging a Boston Lager out of the Travelers Championship trophy. "Almost every tournament the past month, I've had one really, really solid round. I had my coach, Darren May, come in, and we had a great three days. The swing and putting felt really good.

I've wanted to win this tournament forever, so the feeling of wanting to push and win was something I needed to fight against and just let myself

go out and play. I'm sort of an anxious person, so I knew I was going to be fighting a lot of thoughts, including wanting to win too much. Winning this tournament with my family here was an incredible thing."

Travelers officials will have a tough act to follow after having their deepest field since the insurance magnate became the title sponsor in 2007. "It was fun to see," tournament director Nathan Grube said. "The whole idea of the elevated events was to get the (top) guys together more often and that's what has happened."

Grube said this was the first time since 2019 that the tournament was "all the way back" from the COVID-19 pandemic. From no fans in 2020 to very limited fans in 2021 to even what Grube called "70-75 percent back" last year, but there were no restrictions in 2023. He also said the build-out for the corporate hospitality and merchandise was "the biggest I have ever seen" and was noticeable to everyone.

But despite a record purse and a record profit of more than \$3 million for 160 charities, Andy Bessette, the executive VP and chief administra-

tive officer for Travelers, quickly began to continue his motto that the status quo is unacceptable.

"The week was phenomenal," Bessette said. "When you look at the fans who were out here, and everything they buy; the better we do, the better off for charity. We also learned a lot of things about being elevated that will be very helpful for next year. I'm very, very close to finishing negotiations with the PGA Tour to be elevated on a more permanent basis."

The 2024 Travelers Championship will be June 20-23, which is again the week after the U.S. Open, and the schedule will include 16 elevated events, including the four majors. Time will tell if the optimism is warranted, but Bessette likes what he's hearing.

"The players love us," he said. "The players want us to be elevated." ■

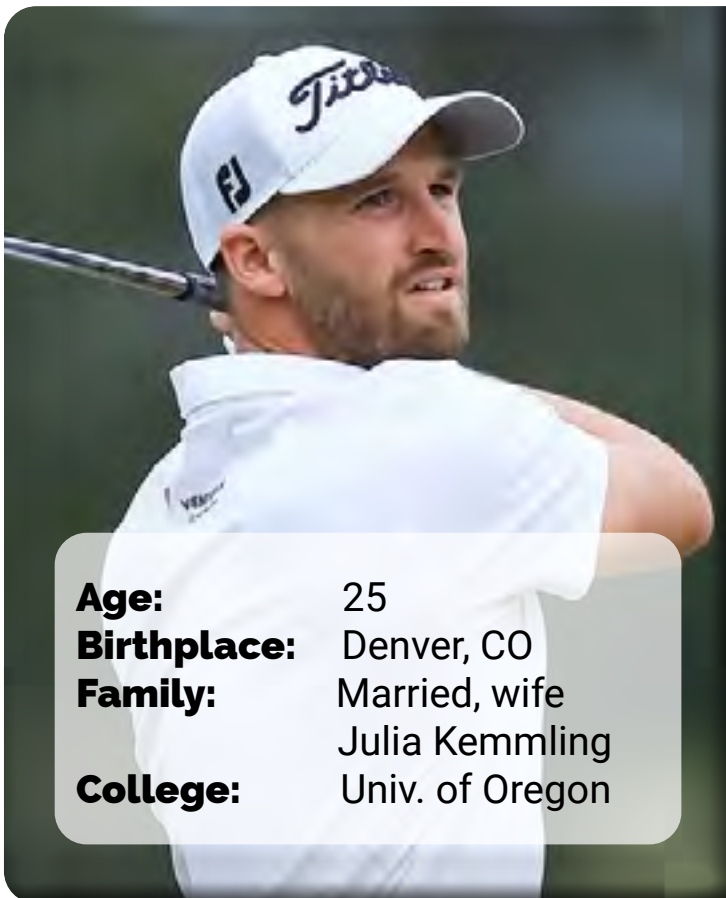
Bruce Berlet is the retired Hartford Courant sportswriter who writes a Connecticut column in each issue of snegolfer.com.

Wyndham Clark

Wyndham Clark was a high school golf star who was a classmate of NFL's Christian McCaffrey. He first enrolled at Oklahoma State in 2012, but left after his mother died of breast cancer and enrolled at the University of Oregon where he shined on the golf team in 2016. He turned professional in 2017 and finished 23rd on the web.com Tour to earn his PGA card for 2018.

In 2020 Clark finished second at the Bermuda Championship to earn enough to star on the PGA tour. This year has been his breakout year as he won his first tournament (Well Fargo) in May and then followed it up with a dramatic win at the U.S. Open in June in California where he earned \$3.6 million. He is currently ranked fourth in earnings on the FedEx Cup standings and is a strong candidate to make the U.S. team at the Ryder Cup event in Rome in October.

RISING STAR



Age: 25
Birthplace: Denver, CO
Family: Married, wife Julia Kemmling
College: Univ. of Oregon

Late Entry Adamonis Wins Conn. Senior Open Debut

Last in, first to the finish line.

Brad Adamonis personified perseverance before the Connecticut Senior Open at weather-plagued Shenecossett Golf Course in Groton. Adamonis, a Rhode Island native, was visiting from Florida with several family members and hoped he would be able to compete in the major senior event in Connecticut for the first time. He saw the course for the first time during a practice round two days before the tournament, arrived at the club at 6:30 a.m. on the first round and waited for six hours, mostly in rain that delayed play two hours, before learning he would be the last alternate to tee it up in the 144-man field.

Thirty minutes later, Adamonis quickly found the deceptively difficult course to his liking, shooting a 3-under-par 68 to trail Frank Bensel by a stroke. In the final round, he and Bensel battled neck-and-neck in gusting winds throughout the day in the final threesome, with Adamonis making a two-putt birdie 4 on the 18th hole for a 36-hole total of 5-under 137, one better than Bensel.

"I just tried to go off experience that I had in the game," Adamonis said of his lack of knowledge of the Shenecossett course. "I wasn't hitting it particularly well, but I scrambled well, which is what my late father (Dave, who was the co-founder of this publication) always said it was so important to do."

His father taught Brad the game and was coach of the Division II national powerhouse Johnson & Wales golf team that won several national championships. Dave also was always part of Brad's gallery in the five Travelers Championships that he played at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell.

"I led after the first round in 2009 and finished sixth," Adamonis said.

A year earlier, Adamonis nearly won the John Deere Classic during his five years on the PGA Tour. "Had a 20-footer for birdie on the hole to win but missed," Adamonis said with a smile.



BRAD ADAMONIS

Kenny Perry, the 2009 Travelers champion, won in a playoff on the first extra hole, beating Adamonis and Trinity College grad Jay Williamson. Adamonis also was a first-team All-Mid-American Conference in his senior year at Miami of Ohio University, turned pro after graduation and played on the Nationwide Tour and NGA Hooters Tour. He earned his PGA Tour card in 2008 and won his first pro tournament on the Nationwide Tour in 2007 at the WNB Golf Classic.

Adamonis, who turned 50 in January and Bensel appeared as if they might be headed to playoff for the \$4,000 first prize (\$2,800 for second) most of the day. After the two players who couldn't finish the first round due to rain delays completed their 18 holes Tuesday morning, 76 players, including 26 amateurs, made the cut at 75. Bensel led after the first round thanks to an eagle 3 on the 18th hole for 67, one better than Adamonis, Kirk Hanefeld, Artie Wilson and amateur Bill Hermanson of East Lyme.

Adamonis shot 3-under 33 on the front nine to tie Bensel at 5 under. Adamonis made a Houdini

par at the 10th hole, where he sliced his drive under a tree, punched his second shot to 75 yards short of the green, wedged to 15 feet and made the putt. Bensel, meanwhile, missed a 12-foot putt for birdie.

The frontrunners jockeyed for position down the stretch until the decisive 18th hole. Adamonis hit a drive and wedge from 163 yards downwind to 35 feet, setting up his closing birdie. Bensel's drive stopped 20 feet from going out of bounds in the left rough, and his wedge second shot off of hardpan hit the green but bounded over into a bunker. He blasted to 10 feet but couldn't convert for a tying birdie.

"I played pretty well, kept the ball in play all the way," said Bensel, 55, the assistant pro at Century CC in Purchase, N.Y., who spends time in Jupiter, Fla. "It was tougher today with the wind blowing. I scrambled well but couldn't convert enough birdie chances. But it was great fun."

Bensel has won dozens of local, regional and national tournaments, including the Connecticut Open, which he will try to win for a record-tying fourth time July 24-26 at Shuttle Meadow CC in Kensington. And though he didn't win this time, Bensel enjoyed having 13-year-old son Hagen, named after legendary Walter Hagen, follow him for two days and his wife and two other children greet him after he finished.

Hanefeld, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., finished third at 139, two ahead Wilson, of West Warwick, R.I.; Billy Downes, of Longmeadow, Mass.; Fran Quinn, of Holden, Mass.; Charlie Blanchard of Warwick, R.I.; and David Jones of Norwich, who was the low amateur for the fifth time. ■

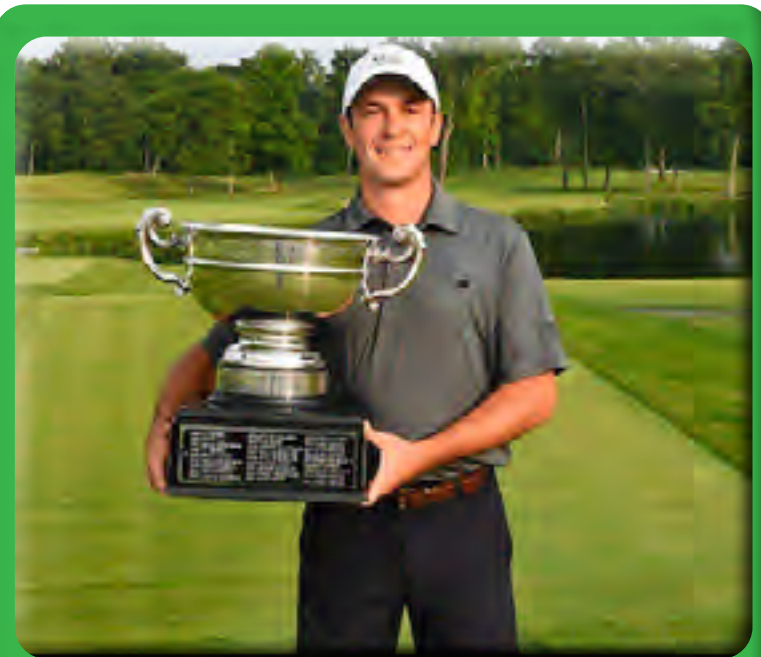
DOWLING CAPTURES THIRD STATE AMATEUR TITLE

Rick Dowling birdied the first hole and never looked back in a 2-and-1 victory over Cody Paladino in the Connecticut State Golf Association Amateur Championship final at the Country Club of Darien. Dowling (Golf Performance Center) took a 4-up lead after seven

holes before Paladino (Hartford GC), the 2013 champion and finalist in 2020 and 2021 after becoming a reinstated amateur, won the 13th and 16th holes to move within 1 down. But Dowling, the 2017 and 2019 champion who lost in the final last year, made a conceded birdie on the 17th hole and had a 2-up edge after the morning 18.

In the afternoon, Dowling again birdied the first hole for a 3-up lead and retained that advantage until Paladino birdied No. 9. After a two-hour rain delay, Paladino, who has won five different state titles, including the Connecticut Open, and is a three-time CSGA Player of the Year, made a 25-foot birdie putt on the 10th hole. But he lost the 11th hole to a par, and Dowling regained a 3-up lead with a birdie at the 15th hole. Paladino staved off elimination with a birdie at No. 16, but Dowling became the ninth player to win at least three State Amateur titles when each player parred the final two holes.

"It is really cool just to win the tournament. It is a marathon week," said Dowling, who won the 2021 and 2022 CSGA Mid-Amateur. "I wasn't really feeling great about my game earlier in the year, so to get a little momentum going and play some good golf this week was great. I was able to sneak through some matches early, and then I found my stride. I can't believe I won. It is awesome." ■



RICK DOWLING

BOGGINI PREVAILS IN SENIOR MATCH PLAY PLAYOFF

Glen Boggini made a 5-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole to defeat Dave Olender and win the CSGA Senior Match Play Championship at the Black Hall Club in Old Lyme. Olender had forced overtime with a conceded birdie on the final hole of regulation, but Boggini quickly ended the playoff with a brilliant 118-yard wedge shot to capture his first CSGA title since the 2014 Public Links Championship.

"It is always hard to play with your friends, but in the senior events there is a lot more camaraderie," said Boggini, from Manchester CC. "It isn't quite as cut throat, and you know win or lose, they are going to be your buddies. It was a pleasure to play with (Dave), he is a gentleman, and if it went the other way, I would have been happy for him."

Olender (Ellington Ridge CC) took a 2-up lead with a par at the difficult 12th hole, but Boggini won Nos. 13, 16 and 17 to regain the lead before prevailing on the first playoff hole. "This win is special because they are so few and far between because when you are a golfer, success is a very low percentage," Boggini said. "When you happen to run into one, it is really special, and when it happens at a place like this, it is even more gratifying." ■

FERN-BOROS EARNS SECOND CWGA TITLE

Lisa Fern-Boros parred the first playoff hole to defeat Jean Sennett and win the Connecticut Women's Golf Association Championship at Stonington CC. Fern-Boros (Highland GC-Shelton) reached the title match with 21st-hole victory over qualifying medalist Mercedes Large (Wampanoag CC-West Hartford)

after a 19th-hole win over Myra Macmillen (Blackhawk CC-Stratford). Sennett (Wampanoag CC), the 2021 champion, had reached the final with a 1-up victory over Lynn Scully (CC of Waterbury).

"Winning never gets old even though I have," Fern-Boros quipped after capturing her second title. "The key was the first hole, which I played six times, twice in each match, and won five of six times. Unfortunately, Jean hit it in the water in the playoff."

Fern-Boros, who played 59 holes in two days, also beat Sennett to win the title in 2017 and captured the Senior Championship in 2016, 2017 and 2022. She'll defend that title Aug. 21-22 at Watertown GC after shooting for a fourth Southern New England Women's Golf Association Championship victory Aug. 7-8 at Hunter GC in Meriden. In the Founders Cup final, qualifying medalist Michelle Murphy of the host club defeated Christine Bishop (New Haven CC), 1 up. ■

SAWKAS CAPTURE FATHER-SON CHAMPIONSHIP

John Sawka made a 6-foot par putt on the 18th hole for a 5-under 65 that gave he and his son Bradley a one-stroke victory in the CSGA Father-Son Championship at Watertown GC.

"I felt good over the putt," John said. "Fortunately, I wasn't in control of Golf Genius today so I had no idea what was happening. I didn't know if we had a three-shot lead or a one-shot lead so I was pretty calm, cool and collected over the putt. Once the putt dropped, Bradley gave me a big hug after and said, 'Dad I think we won.' It was really good stuff."

The Ellington Ridge CC members got off to a quick start with four birdies in a front-nine 32. They made three more birdies and clutch par at the 18th hole, especially satisfying for Bradley, who is committed to UConn.

"I think this is tremendous," John said. "I still remember my first Father & Son tournament at Indian Hill Country Club and Bradley was 10 years

old and we go to the first tee and we are playing the back tees. Bradley looked at me and said, 'Dad I don't think I can reach the fairway,' and I said, 'Buddy just hit it down the walking path and let's do the best we can.' And here we are today at Watertown and this is just really special. This is one that I always wanted and I will always remember for the rest of my life that I won a CSGA event with my son."

The Sawkas finished one ahead of Steve and Clark Robinson (Wethersfield CC) and Zac and Luke Stennett (Tallwood CC-Hebron). ■

FOURSOME HEADED TO JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Andrew Beauton of Guilford and Emily Luo of Danville, Calif., won the boys and girls divisions in the Junior Connecticut PGA Championship at Tumble Brook CC in Bloomfield. Beauton shot 6-under 136 for 36 holes to finish three strokes ahead of Will Gregware of West Hartford. Luo, the runner-up last year, shot 142, one better than Kristina Xu of Danville, Calif. Beauton,, Gregware, Lue and Xu earned spots in the PGA of America Junior Championship on Aug. 1-4 at Hot Springs CC in Hot Springs, Ark.

Gregware of Farmington Woods CC quickly added to his resume with a 5-and-4 victory over Gavin Kvadus of Glastonbury CC in the Connecticut Junior Amateur at Fairview CC in Harwinton. It was the first CSGA title for a member of the 2019 PGA Junior League Fairview Farm team.

"It feels amazing," said Gregware, a University of Maryland commit who lost the first hole but never trailed after winning Nos. 4 and 6. "This is always a tournament that I have circled on the calendar all year round. I look forward to it. I had a really good run last year reaching the semifinals, but I came up just short and that was in the back of my mind this week. I'm really, really happy to get it done. This win means everything to me. It was a really special one. I'll remember this one for a long time."

Gregware reached the final with when he chipped in for birdie on the 18th hole for a 1-up victory over Charles Schrohe of Burning Tree CC in Darien. Kvadus, who reached match play in a 10-for-2 playoff, defeated Robby Rosati of Great River, 3 and 2.

Annie Dai of the Connecticut PGA Junior Association shot even-par 144 for 36 holes to win the Connecticut Girls Junior Amateur at Fairview Farm. Dai finished two strokes ahead of Aoife Devaney of CC of Waterbury and three in front of 13-year-old Arabella Lopez of Redding CC.

"I am really excited to have won," said Dai, who was a member of the 2019 PGA Junior League Fairview Farm team. "It is such an honor to win the second Connecticut Girls' Junior. It was a really exciting two days for me." ■

Bruce Berlet is a retired sports writer for the Hartford Courant and writes a CT. Notebook column in each issue of snegolfer.com

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Memories, Memories

From the time he could first walk, my grandson, Dougie, had a club in his hand and he was hitting anything small and round like apples and plastic balls. His first club was a kiddie plastic toy, but even then he developed a knack for connecting with whatever round object he could find. Fortunately his activities were confined to our backyard, so no real damage was really done. The tops of dandelions were a particular favorite. Poof.

His grandfather as well as I were both golfers, so we loved our young grandson's budding interest in the game. Soon he graduated to a series of junior sets in various sizes and was able to go with us out on the course once he understood golf's rules of etiquette. We did not want our little guy to be THAT fellow who annoyed real serious golfers. It helped that my son, his father was also an avid golfer so Dougie got the bug from all angles.

When he was 12, the two of us went out to play our club course. It was a beautiful day with the lake in the distance sparkling from the sun. We teed off on one of the hardest holes on the course, the par 5 16th hole which confronts players with two deep and nasty brooks crossing the fairway in two places. Dougie's tee shot carried the first brook while his second shot was also right down the middle landing just short of the second brook and about 90 yards from the elevated green. His third shot landed about 6 feet from the pin and you guessed it; he made the putt. His first birdie ever.

I hadn't seen him so excited since the time he got his first real set of clubs. He couldn't wait to tell his dad. So in the middle of the fairway he tried to call him using my cell. No luck. He tried his mom. No luck there either. In fact it seemed no one that day was answering their phone.

But we had to celebrate, so we went into the clubhouse and he ordered a huge hot fudge sundae. When he got home his dad wrote the date, the hole and the score on the ball. It sits in his father's golf room to this day along with other



DYSON & HER GRANDSON DOUG

trophies and items recalling golfing milestones.

For me, this had to be a highlight of my golfing life. To be the only person around when your child accomplishes an amazing first, is a thrill. Every once in a while, we both recall that day: The day his grandma saw him get his first birdie.

Then there was the time I was playing in my regular league. I was excited to try my new robot cart. It was a few years ago when those first golf carts were heavy, cumbersome and required considerable youth and strength to get them in and out of the trunk of the car. (I was younger then.) But it really did the job and allowed me to send my clubs ahead of me, so I could follow on foot.

I was able to direct the cart with a remote but the fatal flaw was the on/off switch that was located on top of the cart's handle. You see, I also carried a small canvas bag containing essentials like snacks, lipstick, sunscreen etc. I was playing pretty well that day, happy I had not yet made a "snowman" and loving the walking thing.

About midround, I parked the cart near the green, hung my little canvas bag on the handle, and walked up to the green to putt. After finishing the putts, I walked off the green to continue to the next hole. But where was my cart? I thought I must be losing it. I looked everywhere, walking all around the green.

The group ahead of me yelled over, " We just saw a cart heading in that direction across the

fairway," they said pointing to a far line of trees. So I headed where the cart had last been seen. I found it lying in the bottom of a brook. Everything... clubs, battery, small canvas bag. Everything was wet and had fallen into the brook.

Another problem: the green snarly area leading to the brook was solid poison ivy. What to do? I borrowed a towel, laid it on top of the poison ivy, took off my shoes and walked into the brook to retrieve my equipment. I knew I had to work fast as it was almost time to tee off to the next hole.

I got it all on top of the bank, put the battery, balls, clubs and my soggy little canvas bag back together and miraculously the cart started when I turned it on. Running barefoot with the cart moving towards the tee in front of me, I grabbed a ball, a club and teed off. Barefoot. I hit the best shot of my round. Indeed, I ended up scoring my low round of the season. Just goes to show you should never count yourself out.

And the culprit? My cute canvas bag has a strap handle that I had apparently hung on top of the on/off switch. When I went off to putt, the cart took off.

Actually I have to think long and hard of any bad memories I've had playing golf. Except maybe one time when one rules fanatic in our foursome called over the tournament chair at the end of a round to report one of our players had an extra club in her bag and had to be disqualified. Apparently her husband had been hitting some balls at home and threw the club he was using in his wife's bag. She never used the club and didn't think much about it as she was relatively new to the game, but I can tell you this: none of those who played that day including me, would play with this grim reaper fanatic ever again.

The joy in playing with family and friends, old and new, is what I love the most. I still go out and play with my grandson and occasionally he'll even give me a putt or two. Love that young man! ■

Kathie 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.



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A Hole-in One That Wasn't

You'd think that my most memorable moment on the golf course would be about my only hole in one, but that's not true. It's about the time I played in the \$10,000 Hole-In-One Contest in the Lori Lajoie Charity Golf Tournament at Worcester Country Club in 2010.

Whoever carded an ace on the 175-yard, par-3 13th hole that day would receive \$10,000. I played first in my foursome and drove my ball well left out of bounds over a stone wall. After my playing partners teed off, I re-teed and guess what happened? My ball took one hop into the cup. I ended up with a par and no \$10,000.

You know how golfers jump up and down when they get a hole in one? I dejectedly dropped my head to my chest and my arms toward my knees. I was not happy that I hadn't found the cup on my previous swing.

The witnesses behind the 13th tee didn't realize I had hit a second tee shot so they thought I had carded a hole in one and they screamed in excitement. Golfers playing nearby holes heard their shouts and figured someone must have aced the \$10,000 hole. Word must have spread.

When I finished playing, I told head pro Allan Belden that he wouldn't believe what had happened to me during my round. "You're not the one who got the hole in one, are you?" he asked me.

Then I told him what actually had happened. Belden said he'd tell me a story to make me feel better. During the annual Worcester CC Invitational, the club awarded a two-year lease on a BMW to the first golfer who aced a particular par 3 during the tournament. No one had ever scored a hole in one on that hole during the tournament, so one year the tournament director, who played in the event, recommended that they switch to a different par 3, which he thought would be easier to ace. The year they switched to a different par 3, someone aced the par 3 the tournament formerly used. And guess who aced the different par 3? The tournament director who spearheaded the switch.

So he won nothing either.

That story didn't make me feel any better. I had two children in college at the time so \$10,000 would have come in handy. But at least I had an interesting story to tell on the golf course.

Six years later, I did get my only hole in one on the par-3, 165-yard eighth hole with a 5 hybrid. My ball hit the right side of the green and rolled to the left toward the flag in the back of the green. Unfortunately, I didn't see my ball drop into the cup.

Chris Forsberg, one of my playing partners, said he thought the ball may have gone in the cup, but I figured it must have rolled off the back of the green. I was so convinced it did, I brought my wedge and putter to the green after I rolled my push cart toward the ninth tee. I didn't think I beat the 12,500-to-1 odds of an average golfer getting a hole-in-one.

The four of us walked together to the flag, and at the same time we all looked in the bottom of the cup, and there it was: the Titleist Pro V1 that I had been playing with since I found it the week before. The others screamed for joy, but I said nothing. I was stunned. I never hit a home run in Little League, never scored a touchdown in high school, never bowled a perfect game, but I finally carded my first ace. I felt numb, but then it dawned on me that I had figured out how to avoid three-putting. Don't putt at all.

I foolishly forgot to pocket the ball for safe-keeping and nearly sliced it into the pond that runs along the ninth hole. Fortunately, it stopped just short of the water, so I switched balls on the spot. I must admit that I have no idea where that ball is now.

Fortunately, the hole-in-one didn't cost me a lot because the clubhouse bar was empty except for my thirsty playing partners. I'll never have trouble remembering the date of my first and so far only ace. It was my son Brendan's 25th birthday, May 10, 2016.

Unfortunately, I'll also never forget missing out on \$10,000 a few years earlier. ■

Bill Doyle is a former sportswriter for the Worcester Telegram and writes a column in each issue of negolfer.com.

Why Can't I Forget the Bad Things?

As a golf writer for over 40 years, and a golfer going back even more years, I've been blessed to have so many wonderful, truly memorable times on and around golf courses. Looking back as a player, my albatross, a super-rare 2 on a par 5 at Quail Hollow Golf & Country Club in Oakham, made only a few years ago, has to be my career, single-hole highlight.

A couple of aces rank up there too, both at my home course, the first in 2005 and the second hole-in-one 13 years later. I'm hoping for a third, but who knows?

One very weird but lucky shot in my golfing career remains unforgettable. Needing a par on the final hole to win a match many years ago, I hit a decent drive on the par 4 and was left with a 150-yard iron shot to the green. Talk about overcooking. Instead of flying toward the green directly in front of me, my golf ball hooked wildly to the left, heading straight toward the clubhouse. Ah, but thank God for that metal trash can sitting near the side of the building. My shot slammed into the can, bounced 90 degrees to the right, rolled down a driveway, through the rough, landing just five-feet from the pin. I birdied. At times, yes, golf can be ridiculous.

Writing about golf since 1981, I've covered hundreds of local and state tournaments, high school championships, along with many professional tournaments. And I'm perhaps most proud that I've interviewed four of the five golfers who have won all four of golf's modern men's majors at any time during their careers, an accomplishment referred to as a Career Grand Slam: Gene Sarazen, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. The legendary Ben Hogan is the only one I missed. (I'm hoping Rory McIlroy will join the club soon because I've also interviewed him.)

Yet, with all the good in our tremendous

sport, comes the bad, of course. Asked to include a "moment about golf that I would like to forget," I'll reach back a couple of decades ago to a day which, as you will read, I've completely gotten over.

I mean, I have too much respect for the great game of golf to use this space to complain, rant and whine about why I was unfairly excluded from a 10-player Shootout, a stupid, irrelevant and weird event at my home course, Gardner Municipal that I really didn't want to be in anyway.

But I truly believe I could have qualified for this prestigious, top-notch golfing event held just once every year, and although I still congratulate all the other competitors who made the cut that day for the Shootout, it would have been so great for me to join them.

So why mention here, so many years later, the way I was robbed in the "Chip Off" contest used to determine the players who would go on to get into the Shootout. You had to make the cut for the Shootout, and there was one spot open. I became the odd-man out of this rinky-dink tournament, limited to only 10 players. I, of course, had no problem with being the only golfer excluded. No big deal. That was it, and I really don't want to explain any more here. That's it. You will hear no more about this. (Editor's Note—We hope not)

Once I got the thrilling news that I was among the six players vying for the final five spots in the spectacular, annual Shootout, I eagerly practiced for hours to be ready for the sensible and equitable Chip-Off. But just minutes before the Shootout Tourney began, I did not qualify for the blatantly unfair Chip-Off held at our multi-tiered practice putting green. And that's all you need to know.

For seven, no, eight days prior, I was engulfed in Chip-Off mania. My wife, Janice, a college psychology professor, offered psychological

tips. My son, Mike, a captain of the Fairfield University golf team at the time, and a true chip off the old block, helped with my short-game swing. That's all you need to know.

But I didn't qualify in the Chip-Off and 10 guys went on and played in the Shootout and seemed to have fun, although it was nothing I was ever really interested in. Six guys chipping to a cup 50 feet away, the five closest qualifying for the mystical Shootout. So, I cannot bear to write about the circumstances surrounding my Chip-Off failure. And I won't.

This dysfunctional Chip-Off was held on the practice putting green where a great shot, a chip that felt so pure and crisp as it left my club, the ball truly on its way to nestling about a foot from the intended target, suddenly plopped and popped to the right, some 20 feet short of the target cup. The sound was sickening, a dull thud, a ball on its way to victory, hitting another cup! That's right, a hole in direct line with the intended hole. An incredible rub of the green. As one of the competitors said, "That ball was

hit so good, it just had to find a hole to go into."

Too bad it was the wrong hole. "It's like hitting a high-tension wire. This man should be allowed to take another shot," shouted an intelligent woman from the crowd watching the proceedings. "Only one shot is allowed," the officials told my mother.

And so, in the honored tradition of my humble heroes of golf—Bobby Jones, Gene Sarazen and Happy Gilmore, I have always accepted my fate and the terrible Chip-Off rules that prohibited golf justice. And I will write no more about this unfortunate incident from many years ago.

(This story will be continued in the next edition of Southern New England Golfer) This editor hopes not! ■

Jay Gearan writes a Central Mass. column in each issue of snegolfer.com. Glad he has a good sense of humor.





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Go for the History— Stay for the Golf

We recently had the opportunity to take a golf trip to Montgomery County in Pennsylvania. My wife and I had visited the area about 10 years ago to see Valley Forge and all of its wonderful history. The story of General George Washington and the Continental Army's 1777-78 winter encampment at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War was so inspiring and made you proud to be an American.

What a surprise on this recent visit. The museum has been enhanced with many new features about this iconic place in American history is better than ever and a wonderful place to bring your family.

Another thing to bring on your trip to Montgomery County (which sits about a half-hour northeast of Philadelphia) is your golf clubs. The area is a hotbed of golf with over 50 courses that are open to the public. The reason for our visit was the Spring Conference held by the International Network of Golf that we have been members for over 20 years. The conferences are held each year in different parts of the country, and the organization made a good choice in picking this area of excellent golf.

The event was held at the Valley Forge Casino Resort, a full-service casino that is just a mile away from the Valley Forge Museum. The food was excellent and the five-story hotel was a fine place to hold the event. The area has dozens of hotels and motels in the area for your choosing.

One of the top courses that you can play in the area is Raven's Claw Golf Club in Pottstown, about 20 minutes from the casino. You know you are on precious ground as you see the remnants of a storage unit from the Revolutionary War as you get close to the first green.

The course traverses up and down small hills near a residential area and each hole is much different from each other. It was designed by Ed Shearon III who came out to greet our group and talk about the work that went into the design of

the course that had opened in the early 2000's. "We thought that the remnants were important to save on the course," said Shearon who talked about the routing of the course and the best way to play certain holes. Raven's Claw has a nice restaurant in the clubhouse, and we were treated to a nice meal by the owner/chef of the restaurant.

Montgomery County is easy to get to from New England. It took us 4 ½ hours driving from Providence. We took the New Jersey Turnpike and got off before Philadelphia. If you are flying, the Philly airport is less than an hour away. You will enjoy this pretty and historic part of our country, and you were really enjoy the golf courses. ■

STEPHANIE MARTINEAU-LOURA

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Golfing in the Poconos

Coming of age in the 1960's and early 70's I had many friends who went on their honeymoon to the Poconos in Pennsylvania. Heart-shaped beds, honeymoon suites, all-you-can drink events and many other perks were some of the reasons that our friends chose the Pocono Mountains for their honeymoon. My wife and I were maid of honor and best man for our best friends who visited the Poconos in 1966. No, they were not thinking about GOLF.

We had visited the Poconos in 2011 and 2013 to write stories, and since we were heading to Pennsylvania (Montgomery County) for a conference in June, we figured why not head over to this excellent golfing area in the Pocono about an hour and one-half away..

Our first stop was at Jack Frost National in Blakeslee. We knew we were in the mountains, as we had to drive straight uphill to the course that sits at over 2,000 feet above sea level and right next door to the Ski slopes. What a beautiful view from the outdoor dining area next door to the pro shop.

The course, designed by Terry LaGree and opened in 2007, is quite amazing. It can play as long as 7,256 yards from the tips to a very comfortable 5,129 yards from the forward tees. It really is a course for everyone as we saw many women, youngsters and mature golfers on the course, as well as guys who wanted to challenge that over 7,000 distance.

LaGree did a fine job laying out the course. You never see another hole as you wind through the course. Most of the holes are relatively flat. You drive down quite a way to get to the opening hole, a pretty par 4. The most difficult hole is the ninth that heads back up the mountain. Make a par on this par 5 and you will be quite proud.

The tenth hole goes down the other side of



THE 11TH AT JACK FROST

the mountain. As short as you hit it going uphill, you are rewarded with the roll downhill on 10. The 11th hole was the favorite of all of the writers—a downhill par 3 with water in front and on the right and a beautiful waterfall past the green.

The course was named the 17th best public course in America in 2014 by Golf Advisors. It deserves the award, and you will certainly enjoy it also. You can get more information at jackfrostonational.com.

The second course we visited was Woodloch Springs in Hawley, Pa. It is part of the Woodloch Pines resort that has hundreds of homes owned by people from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and elsewhere. The facility is amazing and easy to get lost as it winds around a couple of mountains.

The property includes lakes, most all kinds of sporting activities, wonderful dining areas and an excellent golf course that we all enjoyed playing. Most all of the units on the massive property are second homes for people in the tri-state area. We stayed in one of the homes that was divided into three separate parts.

The golf course was excellent. The course winds through dozens of the homes, but you don't ever feel that they infringe on the golf course. Since we were still in the Poconos we knew that we would be going up and down, but the course



WOODLOCH SPRINGS GC



SHAWNEE INN & GOLF RESORT

played very nicely. We saw probably ten deer on the course and many beautiful birds and other small animals.

The par 5 third hole is the most demanding. Your tee shot is straight downhill with a hazard at 210 yards. Play short, but then you need a long second shot to get down to the fairway. Your approach shot to the green is about 140 yards, but try to avoid the two large bunkers protecting the green.

Golf Digest has given the course 4.5 stars since it opened 26 years ago. It is easy to see why as the course was in pristine condition. We were treated to an excellent dinner by the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau. Their representative James Hamil had an easy time convincing the eight writers that we were in a wonderful place with an excellent golf course.

Our last stop was at Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort in Shawnee on Delaware, Pennsylvania. This legendary resort was opened in 1911. The property started as Worthington Hall in 1904 and legendary golf course architect A.W. Tillinghast designed the original golf course in 1907 across the river from the resort, his first design.

The Shawnee Open started in 1912 and the 1919 U.S. Women's Championship was held there and won by Alexa Stirling. In 1938 the PGA Championship was held there and won by Paul Runyan who beat resident Shawnee pro Sam Snead in match play. Jackie Gleason learned to play golf at Shawnee. Hale Irwin won the NCAA title there in 1967.

The Shawnee Inn truly sits on the edge of the Delaware River. In 1996 the river did major damage to the property as it flooded the golf course and grounds and first level of the Inn in 2004, 2005 and again in 2006. After that flood the owners embarked on a renaissance with many new amenities and services for guests as they spent millions of dollars.

While we were there the final stages of a new bridge across the Delaware River was being finished, as most all of the holes on the property are on the other side of the river. They now have their own Brewing Company and recently opened a new restaurant on property. If you are looking to visit a throwback resort (now wonderfully current) and golf courses over 100 years old, then Shawnee Resort is the place to go. ■

A Round at Pebble Beach

Through the years, reminiscing about favorite golf memories, one that stands above the rest – top ten bucket list material – was the chance to have traversed the Pebble Beach Golf Links. Back in 1998, during a week-long trek along the coast of California on U.S. 1, riding along in a rented Chevy Lumina with my then fiancée, now wife Kristen, we checked in late at night after a long day of driving, finding a Days Inn in Monterey.

On a whim, early the next morning, with extra encouragement from Kristen, I dialed up the pro shop at Pebble Beach to see if there was a chance to play that day. Speaking with the pro shop attendant, I was told to come on down, with no guarantee of a tee time, but at the very least we could take a cart and tour the course.

Cruising down 17-Mile drive, we found the entrance to the road that led to the course and lodging resort area. Finding the pro shop, I was told that there might be a spot in a foursome in an hour or so, but in the meantime, we found an upstairs restaurant to catch breakfast (including \$12 glass of orange juice at the time), then headed over to the range where I hit some complimentary golf balls to pass the wait.

Thinking it was probably a full tee sheet, I decided to browse the pro shop store to pick out a shirt or two before seeing about getting a cart to tour the course. While looking at the fleece wear, one of the best phrases to this day I have heard in a golf shop was uttered by the starter, “Miracle, you’re on.” I still get chills whenever I retell the story about hearing that I was about to head to the first tee at Pebble Beach.

One of the unique things about the round was that it was the next day after the AT & T Pebble Beach Pro-Am had its final round postponed till late August, which was won that year by Phil Mickelson, back in the day with no LIV controversy attached. To sum up, course conditions were

excellent with slick greens like the pros play week to week.

It was a cool, gray, overcast day – perfect setting for what felt to me like heaven on earth as I was set up with rental clubs, and paid what seems now very reasonable, a \$395 greens fee. I was paired up with two gentlemen from Arkansas and another from New York. Each had a caddy from Pebble, but mine was a little better. Yes, the only time it would occur, Kristen carried my clubs that day.

Pebble Beach lives up to the hype, ranked as the top public course in the country, where one of the most beautiful spots in the golfing world sits where land merges with the sea. Once you get to the seventh hole, attacking that short par 3 with a club ranging from sand wedge to five-iron, depending on the wind, the view of the ocean is spectacular. As I played the eighth through tenth holes, all sitting along the ocean, I was swept up in the views of the course and ocean while my caddy was more excited about the seals along the edge of the course. I was just very content that Kristen was the caddy that day, as I finally made it to Pebble.

Each hole had its own memorable challenge for our foursome that day, but the picturesque par 5, eighteenth hole provided a humorous moment for me. The two golfers from Arkansas – each shot over 100 that day - had a Scottish caddy named Jimmy, who was double-bagging their clubs. Both players topped their tee shots into the water just off the tee, with one exclaiming after that “this game is killing me.” Letting his two players walk ahead, Jimmy strolled near me, and said in a thick Scottish accent, “Chris, if the game is killing them, think of what it has been doing to me all day.”

We finished off the round, putting out on 18, then getting a photo taken to mark the big day, which was capped off for Kristen and I with dinner at Clint Eastwood’s restaurant, Mission Ranch, in nearby Carmel. A perfect day indeed. ■

Chris Miracle is a golf pro at Springfield C.C. and writes a column in each issue of snegolfer.com

Looking Back to Aug. 2012

Lucky Eleven years ago in the August/September issue of Southern New England Golfer we had Chris Swift on the cover as he had just captured the New England Amateur at Falmouth Country Club in Maine. Swift, of New Canaan, Conn. was the only player to break par over the 72 holes on the demanding layout. He was entering his second year at Marquette University and had never won a junior tournament. Finishing second was Garren Poirier of Vermont and third was Jake Nutter of New Hampshire.

The other picture on the cover was of a young Richy Werenski who had just won the prestigious Porter Cup in Niagara Falls. He made 16 birdies, one eagle and one bogey over the four rounds. Werenski is now playing on the PGA Tour. Charlie Blanchard, who was often on our cover, won his second R.I. Amateur at Wanumetonomy in July of 2012. He defeated Jamison Randall of Cumberland in the finals.

Our rising star was Ted Potter, Jr. who was having a strong year. He has barely survived on Tour, and has never become a star. We must have picked him because he was left-handed.

This issue features the winner of the Northeast Amateur. In 2012 the winner was Justin Shinn who beat Jordan Russell on the third hole of a playoff.

We had a picture of Seth Waugh, who grew up in Ayer, Mass. He was the CEO of the Americas of Deutsche Bank in 2012 and was instrumental in growing the tournament in Norton, Mass. He is now executive director of the PGA of America after retiring from the bank.

Marc Leishman won the Travelers Championship in 2012 and continues to play well. He beat Charlie Hoffman by one stroke and became the fifth first-time winner in the last seven Travelers Championships.

Morgan Pressel and Jay Haas teamed to win the CVS Charity Classic in 2012. They were two shots ahead of Suzann Pettersen and Fred Funk.

Both Annika Sorenstam and Lorena Ochoa, LPGA Hall-of-Famers played in the event.

Other names highlighted in the 2012 issue were Ali Prazak who won the OSWGA State Amateur and Nicole Scola who won the RIWGA State Championship by beating Amanda Sabitoni 3 and 2 in the finals. Ricky Stimets won the Worcester County Amateur. Mike Calef captured the Mass. Amateur title after winning the MGA's Mid-Am the previous year.

Bob Beach won the first Patriot Golf Award from the NEPGA. Beach, the head professional at Braintree Municipal was rewarded for his tireless work with veterans and their families within the VA hospital network.

We ran a golf commentary column about TEE IT FORWARD. You don't hear much about this great concept nowadays, but this reporter thinks it is one of the best concepts in golf—especially as we get older and can't reach the greens we had always been able to in the past.

Brad Faxon was highlighted at Button Hole Short Course and Learning Center. Each year he has a Junior Golf Day for boys and girls ages 6-16 and in 2012 over 100 youngsters were there to learn the game of golf and have fun.

As is the case in this issue, in 2012 we highlighted golfing in Maine. There were stories of The Ledges, Links at Outlook and Nonesuch River.

There was a sad note in the issue in 2012 as we wrote about the passing of Lou Lombardi who had been the superintendent at Cranston Country Club for many years where he worked with his cousin Michael who is the owner. Lou had been a science teacher in West Warwick before switching to become a course superintendent. ■

Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of snegolfer.com and writes a Looking Back column in each issue of the publication.

Product Reviews— Putters

On our trip to Pennsylvania in June for our Spring conference for the International Network of Golf we were treated to two companies who were promoting their relatively new putter companies.

Caliber Golf and Makefield Putters made presentations at the conference and also had putters available for the members to try on the practice green and even use out on the course.

Caliber putters were the most unique putters I have ever seen. The shaft is like a hockey stick. The two brothers who are developing the product and the company are from Wisconsin and both grew up playing hockey and having a hockey stick in their hands.

They had quite a difficult time getting the USGA to accept their particular style of putter, as there are many rules and regulations that must be followed to get approval for equipment. I have noticed that many excellent golfers are, or were, excellent hockey players. I'm sure that some would feel more comfortable putting with their arms widely separated as they do when they are making a slap shot or an important putt.

The Makefield Putters are located in Bensalem, Pennsylvania not far from Philadelphia. This company is much further along in their process of making putters. They have a very wide range of styles of putters and their specialty is using very specific types of metal in their putters that help with rolling the putt. I was able to use one of their putters during the round and was really impressed with how quickly the ball rolled instead of skidding when I hit it.

One of my partners during the round was a representative from Makefield Putters and he gave me a lot of technical advice about why the putters were so good. As I have gotten older my putting is not as consistent as it once was. Got to blame the putter, right?

Here are the two websites for the putters. Both sites are well done and very informative. Caliber



CALIBER PUTTER

putters website is www.calibergolf.com and Makefield is www.makefieldputters.com. You will get much more information than this reporter could ever explain and I encourage you to take a look at each. I think Patrice Bergeron would certainly check out the Caliber putters. ■

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

World Amateur Handicap Championship Soars Past 3,000 Entries

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. –

The opening tee shot of the 40th annual PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Handicap Championship is two months away, but players from all 50 states and 17 countries are among the 3,198 people already registered to play in the milestone event.

A 72-hole, net stroke tournament, the World Am will be played August 28 - September 1 on more than 50 of Myrtle Beach's best golf courses and the surging registration numbers reflect the continuing interest in a one-of-a-kind event.

The World Am, which has been called the "Every Man's Major," allows regular golfers, who are flighted by age, gender and handicap, the rare opportunity to compete over 72 holes with flight winners advancing to the World Championship Playoff.

Highlighting the World Am's broad appeal, there are players as old as 90 and young as 16 registered for the 2023 tournament, while Portugal and Canada lead the nations sending international participants. The 2022 field had an average handicap of 11.9 while Reno's Terry Ream claimed the mantle of World Champion, shooting a net 71 (gross 74) at TPC Myrtle Beach.

"The [PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com](https://www.playgolflife.com) World Amateur Handicap Championship is one of golf's greatest events, providing amateurs a unique competitive and social experience," said Scott Tomasello, the World Am's tournament director. "The 2023 tournament will be a celebration of the game of golf and a tournament that has been delighting players since 1984. We can't wait to welcome players from across the world to the 40th annual World Am.

The World Am flights players into nine divisions – men 49 and under, senior men (50-59), mid-senior men (60-69), super senior men (70-79), seasoned seniors (80+), women (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



WORLD AM IS SO FRIENDLY

"Just For Fun" flight, created for players who want to enjoy the World Am experience without the pressure of competition. After four days of tournament play, all flight winners will compete for the right to be crowned "World Champion" at the Grande Dunes Resort Course.

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

The deadline for entrants is August 4. For more information, please visit www.MyrtleBeach-WorldAmateur.com. ■

Golfing in Vermont

We had been scheduled to go to Vermont and stay at Killington Resort Villages the third week of July. The weatherman did not cooperate as parts of Vermont were flooded. We postponed our trip and are planning to go in August, but that meant that this story wouldn't come out until October 2 when we have our next issue of SNE GOLER.

That wouldn't be fair to the Resort and the two courses that we were scheduled to play—Killington Golf Course and Green Mountain Golf Course that are quite close together. What to do? What to do? I had written about the two courses in 2002 and knew the courses were great, and the people were friendly and the accommodations excellent.

With the aid of Kristel Killery at Killington G.C. and David Bowyer at Green Mountain who read my story from 2002 and made the necessary changes that happened over 21 years ago, we were able to get this story to you in this issue, so you can still plan to visit while the weather is perfect.

I was amazed that Killington Golf Course was able to open the next day after nine inches of rain fell in other parts of Vermont and some towns were flooded. Below is the story from 2002 with updates from Kriste and Davel.

Killington Golf Course was built in 1983 and is one of legendary designer Geoffrey Cornish's best works. As you can expect the course has many elevation changes, but the course is fun and they now have brand new electric carts that are like Cadillacs that breeze up and down the hills.

My favorite hole was the second, a straight-way par 5 with a large elevation drop. The third, a downhill par 3 measuring 183 yards from the back tees to a very narrow green was one of the most difficult holes. The 11th hole seems like you are driving into an abyss as your ball sails over a flat area and then drops about 80 feet to the fairway below.

Boston Magazine recently named hole 15 as

one of the best in New England, but most of the holes could earn that distinction. The Killington Golf Course offers tee times seven days a week from May-October. Every Thursday, locals and visitors are invited to enjoy Michelob ULTRA League nights. On Wednesdays the resort offers a Fore For All package, for guests staying at the Killington Grand Hotel, located just feet from the pro shop. Call 802-422-6700 to book a tee time or visit killington.com to learn more.

Green Mountain National is a municipal course, but it is not what you would expect from a muni. The course was designed by Gene Bates and Steve Durkee, who has become the hottest designer in Vermont, and it took almost three years to carve it out of the Green Mountains. It measures 6,589 yards from the back tees and has hosted a stop on the New England Pro Tour the last two years. The white tees are 6,164 and the course is extremely fair for women with a yardage of 4,740. The views are impressive and many of the tee shots have drops of over 100 feet, so your drive seems like it hangs in the air forever. You don't have to be a mountain goat to play it, but taking a cart is definitely a good idea.

The landing areas are generous from the tee and the greens are quite large but also quite undulating. A few of the holes have hazards in front of the tees (the locals call it puckerbrush) but there are no forced carries more than 160 yards. The course is carved out of the woods, so there are definitely a lot of trees if you spray your tee shots.

The best part of the course is the par 3's. The seventh is considered by many to be the signature hole (the pro shop said that each hole is unique and could be the signature). It measures 151 yards from the blue tees, but the drop in elevation of 80 feet makes the hole play much shorter. You'll love watching your ball descend towards the green that has a hill behind it that serves as a backstop for over-hit shots.

My favorite par 3 was the seventeenth, a down-hill that measures 201 from the blues and 169 from the white. I had the great fortune of getting my first hole-in-one (after 44 years of trying), so this hole will always have a special place in my list of great holes.

"The course was carved out of a great deal of stone, but six inches of loam was put in all areas that have rock. You will notice one giant rock as you go up a large hill to tee off for number 10, and then come back towards that big hill on number 11. The eleventh hole has a severe slope from back to front, so make sure you get it well on the green or it will roll 20 yards off the green.

The foresight of the town residents to build such a beautiful course has helped to keep the

hotels full in the summer. It has been rated the best public course in Vermont, and when it opened was rated the fifth best new upscale course in North America by Golf Digest.

The Ride from Providence takes about three and one-half hours, but it is definitely worth it. ■

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

NAME THAT HOLE



Can you guess this issue's Name That Hole picture above?

Hint: North of New England

Last Month's Winner: David Johnson
Answer: River's Edge in North Carolina

To win, be the first person to email bruce@snegolfer.com with the correct answer.

Winner receives a **2023 Northeast Golf Pass**,
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One of the best features of our advertising is that all that ads are linked right back to the advertiser's website. Anyone who is reading the publication online can just click the ad and it goes right to you. No more putting the magazine down and going to the telephone, or writing it down and forgetting about it. 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--just like the one you are reading now--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 60,000 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 2024 by visiting www.snegolfer.com or calling 401-464- 8445. ■

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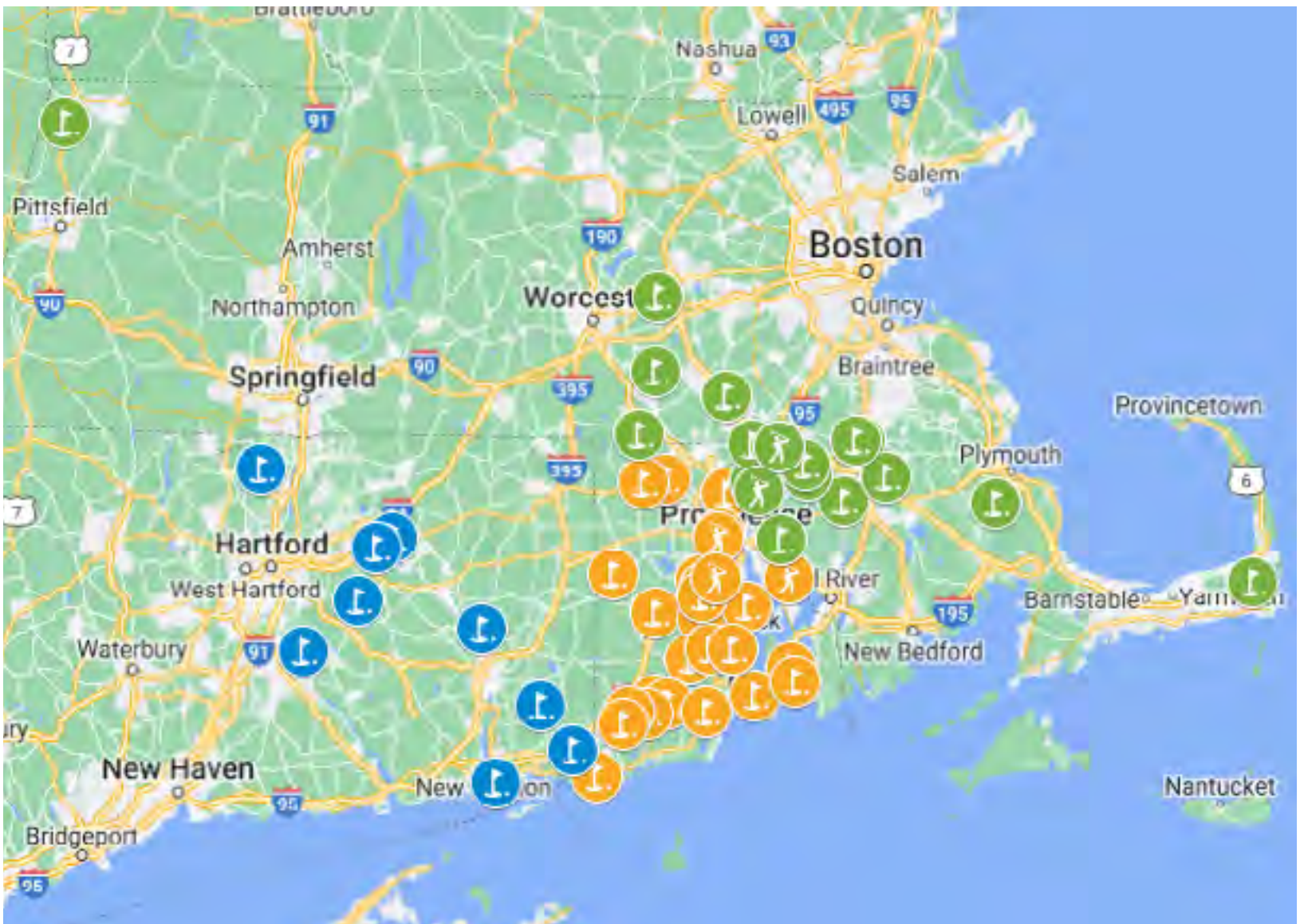
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- S = Simulation

