

GOLF PENNSYLVANIA GOLF NORTHEAST

Vol. XXX No. 1

Spring 2018

Spring Golf Is Here

Destination:

Spring Golf At The South Jersey Shore

PGA Merchandise Show and Golf Industry
Comes to Rescue Through Innovation

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First Time Trip To PGA Merchandise Show

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Wyoming Valley Duo Wins Modified Stableford

Results; Philly PGA, PPGS & GAP/AGA

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Stockton Seaview Pines Course

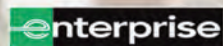
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Spring Golf at the South Jersey Shore



The Shore Club formerly Wildwood Golf & Country Club

By **MIKE KERN**

In case you hadn't noticed, the world around us continues to change. So why should golf be any different? Particularly in the way that impacts private facilities. The past few years have seen several clubs in the Philadelphia area change the way they conduct their business. And most experts think that those who don't adapt will have a very hard time moving forward in such a fluid landscape.

The South Jersey Shore is no exception. Linwood Country Club was recently brought by local restaurateurs Frank and Joe Dougherty, who own Dock's Oyster House and two other establishments in Atlantic City. And the Union League of Philadelphia, which has done a tremendous job in making the former Torresdale-Frankford in Northeast Philly even better since taking over not long ago, will now try to do the same thing at Sand Barrens, a 27-holer on Route 9 between Sea Isle City and Avalon that was a popular place for public golfers. Now it becomes another spot for Union League members to call home, in keeping with that organization's unfolding plan.

Then there's Wildwood Golf & Country Club, which is undergoing a transformation of its own. Having just celebrated its 100th anniversary, it will be transformed to The Shore Club. And overseeing that rebranding is Morningstar Golf and Hospitality, LLC, which manages several other courses both around here and in England. Its president is Matt Galvin, who hired South Jersey native Matthew Pogozelski away from Trump National Philly, where'd he spent the last eight years, to be the new general manager.

So why were these moves even necessary?

"It's no surprise that a lot of clubs, especially member-owned clubs, are having a tough time," said Galvin, who is originally from the east coast, still co-owns Forsgate off exit 8A of the Jersey Turnpike and started this company five years ago. "They don't run it like a business. It's run by volunteer committees. Everyone is very dedicated and well meaning. But some people who succeed in their daily lives, no matter what business they're in, still find it hard to run something as a volunteer. So some clubs wind up selling out, when they find out it can't go on forever (like it had).

"So you now have a trend in the industry where equity clubs are being sold or recapitalized. They're over-leveraged and have too much debt, and their members are retiring. Sometimes it's just hard to make a transition. There's always going to clubs that are stable and sizable, with a long history, but it's not always the case. So decisions have to be made, to deal with the future. Sometimes the members are left with nothing. We try to be very honest and open. We want to find a way to do it without having that happen.

"The board at The Shore Club wanted to do it the right way. They repaid the bank, and refunded deposits and initiation fees. No board wants to be the last board of a club before it goes out of business. Or may have to open to the public."

In certain cases, it's a necessary evil. But you need a facilitator. That's where Galvin and his people enter the equation.

"They did a careful search to explore their options, with different groups," he explained. "They put everything on the table. They weren't going to wait until it became an emergency. They were very forward-thinking. There wasn't any bank foreclosure, or sheriff at the door, which is what unfortunately does eventually happen at some other places. They wanted to



Atlantic City Country Club Hole #15

control their destiny. There's a lot of history there.

"The Union League, from what I'm told, didn't want to inherit a membership. They wanted to go in with a clean slate. Wildwood saw it as an opportunity, since some of the people who played at Sand Barrens will now be dumped into the market."

Morningstar has a plan to put money for probably overdue upgrades into both the grounds and the clubhouse. Right now the membership is about 300, about evenly split between year-round and seasonal. "We kind of have two masters to serve," Galvin said. They would like to get their numbers closer to 400. The first part of the capital improvements is an extensive bunker project.

"Things will get done in phases," Galvin said. "We're just beginning. From a physical plant standpoint, we're gaining a complete makeover. But we're going to do it in bits and pieces, so as not to disrupt our operations. We're going to update the outside of the facility, concentrating on the main entrance. And there will be some general upkeep. Plus we're completely renovating the ballroom.

"We're no longer a not-for-profit club. From a user standpoint, people are going to notice what's being done. We want it to be a great experience, on the course and every other way."

One thing that will remain in place is head pro Fred Reidel, who interestingly gave Galvin – who admittedly doesn't play nearly enough – his first golf lesson a quarter-century back. "I'm still a 25 (handicap), and I blame that on him," Galvin joked.

They're also going to roll out a caddie program, as well as update their staff training to enhance the hospitality end of it.

"We want to be what the members expect it to be," Galvin pointed out. "We don't want it to be stuffy. We're not trying to be anyone else. We want the atmosphere to be shore casual. That's how we're promoting it. Relax, enjoy yourself, have some fun with your buddies. And do it in a reasonable amount of time. Just have a great day.

"The mission of the board is to keep it private. The goal is to have a premium-club experience. We want to have a vibrant social component. We're going to have some special events. We want to keep costs down and make it more affordable. We hope it can become like an extension of your living room or house, down at the shore, part of your social routine. At the same time, we know the course is the number one draw to our property. But you want someone to join for all the other benefits, the exclusivity of it, the attention to their needs.

"The feedback has been very positive. I think it's made the members' life easier. But we have to deliver top service every day. From a community standpoint, the re-branding has helped spread the word. I think they'd heard our name before, but maybe people from Sea Isle or Stone Harbor or Ocean City had it in their minds that we were all the way out on the island. They never identified it as something that could work for potential customers from Somers Point all the way down to Cape May. I think the club is in a good spot."

Obviously, there's also many of us who, for whatever reasons, only want to play on a daily-fee basis. And even with the loss of Sand Barrens, there's still no shortage of options. For me, the South Jersey Shore is a destination. You can go there for a week and play some really good golf and never play the same place twice. I have my favorites, I'm sure everyone else has theirs. And for those who haven't have never been, here's a sampling of some of what it has to

Spring Golf at Jersey Shore continued on page 5



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The Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club – The Bay Course Hole #2



McCullough's Emerald Links Hole #7

Spring Golf at Jersey Shore *continued from page 3*

offer, in no real order. I'm not a golf snob. Even though not every one is created equal, in my world they're all worthy. So here goes.

Atlantic City has always been a place that seriously got me excited just thinking about it, going back to the time when the Fraser family owned it. The course has changed since then, but the feeling has stayed the same. It's a taste treat. And it's first class all the way. The conditions are always pristine. And the layout, with the addition of a few holes along the bayfront, has only gotten even better. As if that were possible. There are parts along the back nine –and you know where they are – where you actually feel as if you're in Heaven. It's that tranquil. But it's still a challenge. Big time, with carries over water and sharp doglegs and on and on. There are some holes you can maybe attack, and others that are going to attack you. Simple as that. And for my money it remains about as good as you're going to get in those parts. Or even beyond.

Shore Gate might be the toughest course down there. Well, at least this side of Galloway National, which is private and awesome. But Shore Gate can be a bear, especially if you're unrealistic enough to tackle it from the wrong set of tees. Which I've seen way too many mid-handicappers do. And they usually pay the price. Even from the right set of tees it's no pushover. The par 3s are particularly stout. But so is the par-5 ninth, which will remind you a little of 18 at Pebble Beach. Ditto the closing hole. And the 10th. Oops. Did I forget the second and third? Or maybe the seventh. In other words, it would probably be easier just to list the so-called easier holes. Good luck with that. And yes, there is sand all over the place. And enough water to get your attention. Virtually from start to finish. You make some pars here that you know you had to work for. Not a bad thing.

Seaview, of course, has not one but two really good tracks. The Bay Course hosts the LPGA's Shop-Rite Classic each year. It's the shorter of the two, and it's a second shot kind of test. You have to work the ball to fit the contours of the Donald Ross design. You can really have a lot of fun here, but it can jump up and bite you too. The wind comes into play almost all the time. The second is a par 4 that can sometimes require a fairway wood into the green. The third, a par-5 going the opposite direction, could then be reached in two with a long iron. For some reason after all these years it just makes sense. There are birdie opportunities, and some holes where you're battling just to make bogey. Interesting stuff.

The Pines is the exact opposite, as you'd expect from the name. Even though they've taken a bunch of trees out, which has only made it better, you still have to hit most of your shots through the woods. There's a bunch of doglegs to navigate, back-to-back par 5s to close out the front side and begin the home nine, and a closing stretch that includes back-to-back lengthy par 3s. So it's not easy. Neither is it impossible. If you're game it can make for a cool 36-hole day. With a stop for lunch in the timeless hotel in between rounds. Trust me it's a suggestion everyone should take advantage of at least once.

Blue Heron Pines, part of Ron Jaworski's growing empire (or more accurately, the flagship entity), was one of the original courses that helped turn the region into a destination a quarter-century ago. When Jaws took over the first thing he did was clean the place up, in terms of removing all the unnecessary junk grass in the rough and around the greens, and it made all the difference. It opened everything up, which added to the look and improved the pace of play. Always a good idea. This course has a really nice mix of short and long holes. I of course prefer the short ones. When you're turning 60 and are my size and have lost a little off your fastball, you start thinking that way. Maybe even downwind too. And you can still make

bad scores on them. The tough holes are, well, tough. There seems to be a lot of them on the back nine. The 15th is one of the best holes down there, a par 4 with a slight dogleg left over water. It's one of those places where you could go over and over and never get tired of. Much to be said for that.

Twisted Dune is unlike anything you're going to play this side of Scotland. I love it. Because I've always enjoyed playing on the other side of the pond. You have to be creative, you can get it done in different ways, it's not the point A to point B formula that we often encounter over here. And that's OK. It might not be for everyone. There are blind shots, wide fairways, inviting greens. There's also forced carries, sinister rough and undulating putting surfaces. No two holes are alike. And they often go in all kinds of directions. If nothing else, it sure ain't boring. I guarantee you will leave with some indelible impressions. And that's what will lure you into a return engagement. It's definitely the kind of place that you're going to appreciate more each time you play it.

Grete Bay is another private club just outside of Ocean City that used to host the LPGA Tour. It's also a place where you can run into Bobby Clarke or Steve Coates. Or maybe even owner Pat Croce, who has done many things to improve the product since he took over awhile ago. That included cutting down a tree to the right of the fifth fairway that Clarke apparently hit too many tee shots into. Or was that Coatesie? Anyway, it's gone, following a vote that raised money for charity. This place has a very comfortable feel to it. And I've played it enough to know that there are some holes you're absolutely going to remember. The closing stretch consistently ranked as the hardest finish in women's golf. So make sure you take advantage of whatever holes might be a little vulnerable before that. And there are some, but not many. Especially if the wind is blowing, which can make it awful tricky.

McCullough's Emerald Links didn't make a great first impression on me. My bad. I've come to really embrace it. It might have had something to do with the fact that I got to play with the owner, former mayor Sonny McCullough, once or twice. Or that a good friend is a regular there. Whatever. I've gotten past the fact that it's not Pine Valley. What is? I do know I can have a good time there, maybe make a birdie or two while getting fairly beat up in some other parts of the course. I love the eighth and ninth holes, a dogleg right with a blind second shot followed by a well-protected medium-length par 3 over the wet stuff. And one of my fondest short holes anywhere is No. 15, where some people can go for the green if they're willing to take it over the treeline. I on the other hand am content to smack it down the middle and leave myself a little wedge into a two-tiered green. I've made 3 there, and I've made 5. But I always know on the tee that I'm going to have a chance. Any more I don't get to say that often enough. I could play that hole 18 times and I'd go home with a smile on my face.

The Vineyards at Renault is yet another place where I never have a bad time. I played there when it first opened with designer Ed Shearon (who also did Raven's Claw), who told me that the front and back nines were actually reversed from his original plan for logistical reasons. It happens. The owners wanted the 18th to go back to the clubhouse, which makes sense. But the ninth might be a better golf hole. No matter, this is aesthetically pleasing. And challenging. Even though it doesn't always look the part. The difficulties here can sometimes be on the subtle side, although every once in awhile it does slap you in the face. Hard. One hole winds around a vineyard, another has a fairway split by a huge sand area. Shearon is big on the geometry of a course, which makes for a very interesting routing. I love the false front on the 17th green, which can turn an easy short iron into a head-shaker. I've been there, so I know.

There you have it. Spring is one of the best times to head down there. So what are you waiting for? Tell them the balding midget who now plays from the forward tees sent you. Yo, somebody has to do it. If I break the course record I won't take credit. Unless it counts in the Senior Division.

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By Mike Kern

Make sure you wear comfortable shoes.

It was one of the best pieces of advice I've ever got. It came from a colleague, a veteran of countless PGA Merchandise Shows, to me, who was going to his first. The showcase, billed as The Major of Golf Business and even The First Major by the powers that be, is held each January in Orlando. For three days people from everywhere descend upon that city's massive convention center to, well, check out the game we love, in all its many forms. It's quite something. A little imposing, a lot overwhelming. But I figured I had to finally make my debut sometime. For way too long I simply couldn't get away because of my job commitments. Now that I had an opportunity to partake like so many folks I knew, who was I to resist? All I needed was a reason. And the time. So off I went in search of who knows what. I just knew I was going to see some things I could almost never imagine and hopefully gain some new, meaningful experiences.

I wasn't disappointed, even if it was a bit much to absorb and digest all in one sitting. But the comfortable shoes did come in handy. Especially by the final day, when exhaustion had pretty much taken over. In a good way, of course. It's something that all of us should do at least once. And now I can say my bucket list has one more check mark on it.

Where to begin? Well, how about chronologically. Because I knew the right folks I was actually invited to a Monday event at Lake Nona hosted by Tour Edge, the company that gives you some really good equipment, including its exotic brand fairway woods that many of us have enjoyed. First they did presentations on several products, before taking us outside to the driving range to try them out before we played. I take this as a time to learn. And listen. Not to mention ask questions. Maybe even some of the right ones. Anyway, some of the offerings I was already familiar with, such as Golf 8.5, a program run by Kay McMahon's eduKaytion golf. I first met her several years ago, and I think she has novel ideas on how to teach the game, especially to youngsters, by making it simpler. What a concept. But as with anything else that's trying to break new ground, it's bound to meet resistance from the establishment. So be it. I think she knows what she's talking about. Then Tour Edge introduced some of its new stuff, which we later got to try out at the demo lab. And I have to say that one of their offerings, a driver iron, turned out to be one of the best things I tried. I

hit the 8 about six times, and each one went straight and true. Now I've always been pretty good on the practice shots, but I really think they could work for me on the course. I'm already in the process of getting my hands on a set. I was told they are not new, that they have been out but are just improved, which made me wonder where they'd been all my life. If that's the only thing I got out of the trip it would go down as successful. We also found out about a company that lasers greens to figure out where the uphill putts are (seriously, I can't make this up). Not that I'm always going to find the right spots with my approaches, but it can't hurt, right? Exotics gave us a new driver to try out, which I plan to do as soon as possible. And on and on. There were people extolling the virtues of prescription sunglasses for golfers that they could make for you to one of my favorites, a system of training devices by SuperSpeed designed to, you guessed it, get you back some of your swing speed. Like who couldn't use that. I'm not usually big on training aids, for whatever reasons, but this one was easy to buy into. It wasn't hard to use, you can do it almost anywhere and the concept made sense. I can't wait to try it out. And again, I usually don't say that about stuff that's supposed to help me out. I guess it just takes the right product to motivate me.

So that was my introduction. What awaited me Tuesday dwarfed that. And almost anything else I'd ever seen. We headed over to Orange County National Golf Center, which as the sign says boasts the biggest driving range almost anywhere. I'll take their word on it. What you had is a circle that might take you a half hour to walk around. If you weren't stopping every 10 yards or so to check out another vendor. In other words, you could spend the day and then some. You definitely had to pace yourself. Again, there was something for everyone. But I had to also keep reminding myself it was still just a preview of what was yet to come. The tough part is trying to see what interests you and what doesn't. Sometimes it's not that hard of a call. But sometimes you'll find yourself spending 10 minutes at a booth that maybe you would be have been better off bypassing. Just because there's something for all tastes doesn't mean that you'll necessarily be interested in every one. That's why they make vanilla and rum raisin. I did get to see Jan Stephenson, who still looks great at 66 and should be in the World Golf Hall of Fame, do a clinic for the Golf Channel with some new wedges from Cleveland Golf that she was trying. I later got to try them too. And meet her, for like the 10th time. Trust me it never gets old. But Cleveland, which has always made a great wedge, has now come out with models for the golfer like me. It's more forgiving.

First PGA Merchandise Show continued on page 11

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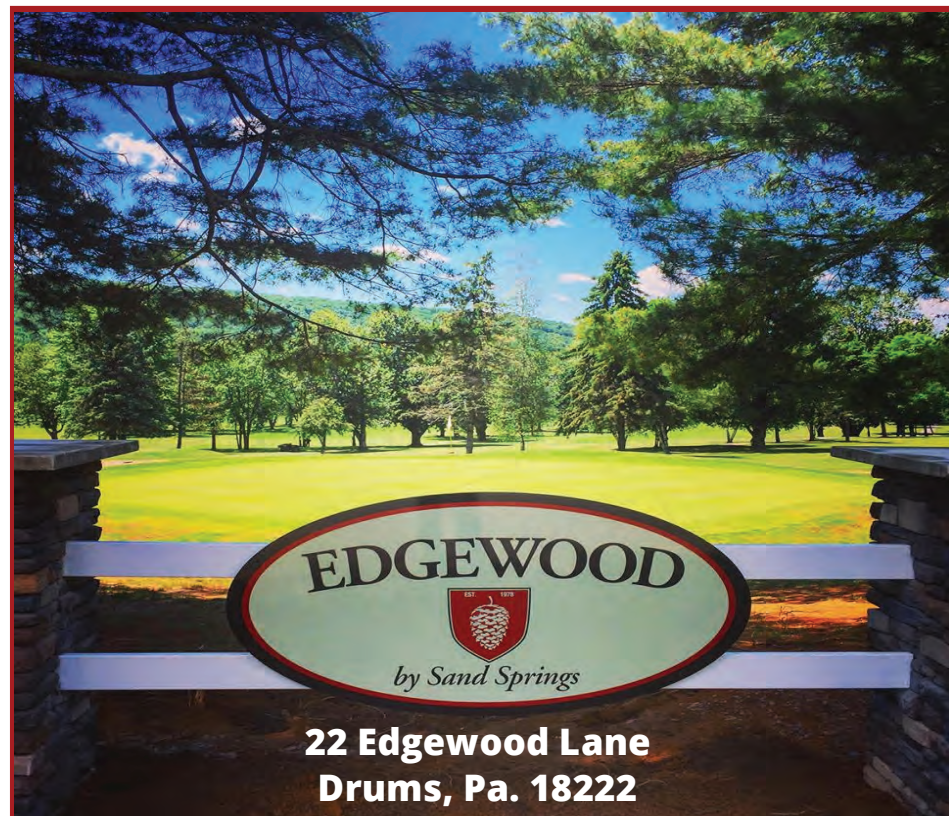
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Golf Industry Finally Coming to the Rescue Of the Average Golfer ... Through Innovation



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By Tony Leodora "The Traveling Golfer"

For years golfers have been crying out in anguish – from the desolate stretches of the waste areas, from the swamp-like muck of the wetlands, from the dark recesses of the woods and the opposite side of the OB stakes. They battle the frustrations of the world's most difficult sport. They try all of the new swing techniques. They listen to all of the mumbo-jumbo from the mental gurus. They try to buy a game at the golf shop.

Occasionally – very occasionally – there comes a light at the end of the tunnel. The invention of the metal wood was one of them. The average golfer quickly embraced that new bit of technology. The introduction and quick proliferation of the hybrid was another. These inventions all started new trends on the equipment side of the golf industry.

Often, these new trends make their debut at the annual PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando. This year's 65th PGA Merchandise Show was no exception. More than 1,000 exhibitors greeted visitors from all 50 states and from 90 countries around the world. While the show is put on by the professional golfers who make up the PGA of America, the latest trend seemed to be increased attention on the average golfer – the ones who make up the overwhelming majority of the world's 60 million golfers.

A number of the products that caught the eye of our roving research team serve the specific purpose of making the very difficult game of golf a bit easier for the average player. And easier is a good thing. Of special note this year was the Busiest Booth at the Show designation, which went to Cleveland/Srixon.

The biggest crowds seemed to be around the new Cleveland CBX wedge. Cleveland's John Rey explained, "Our new CBX wedge is really the first wedge designed for game improvement golfers, who are buying game improvement irons. In the past they were forced to buy either a blade wedge, which didn't match the weight and feel of his irons or a set-matching wedge, which was basically a 10-, 11- or 12-iron.

"Now, with our CBX wedge, golfers can get all of the spin performance of a tour caliber wedge, due to our Rotex face and dual V-sole design, but they also can get the feel and forgiveness of game improvement irons due to the cavity back shape and some of the weighting features we put into it."

Other noteworthy products merely attracted attention because of their amazing style. Even if your score on the golf course is not good ... at least you can look good.



Tony Leodora Host of GolfTalk Live



Antigua Anchorage Pullover

One of the great success stories from the world of golf apparel in recent years is Antigua. The Phoenix area-based company has been around for 36 years but the last 10 years has seen a quantum leap across the board – especially in women's golf apparel.

While function has always been a keystone of the company – manufacturing clothing that is meant to be worn while playing the game – a bit more fashion can be seen in the line this year. Most notably, the new line of Anchorage men's pullovers, is an item that looks equally appealing on the golf course or for an evening on the town.

This 100 percent polyester double knit solid ottoman texture pullover has a rich look, while maintaining a bit of give in the fabric to aid performance. It is accented with dyed-to-match double knit large ottoman quilt pattern sleeve insets. It has a quarter-zip stand up collar and open bottom. "The Anchorage pullover is receiving a lot of attention because, not only is it designed for golf, but it is a lifestyle piece," says John Anderson, Antigua's national sales manager for the golf division. "This is our best-selling fashion outerwear piece. It comes

in five great colors and is already the hit of the new golf season." Despite the rich look, Anchorage pullovers are reasonably priced at \$84.95. www.antigua.com

Club Champion

Sometimes, in order to find the best discoveries during PGA Merchandise Show week, it is necessary to move out of the huge Orange County Convention Center. In this case, the move was just a few blocks down International Drive to the Orlando site of the Club Champion fitting center. Club Champion -- with 26 locations across America and soon to be 36 – is the fastest-growing premium club fitter in the country. With all of the high-tech equipment on display at the PGA Show, it was necessary to find someone who could provide a roadmap to success for serious golfers who were looking to take advantage of the advances. "What makes us unique is we're a brand diagnostic fitter," says Nick Sherburne, founder and master fitter for Club Champion. "What that means is, you're going to come in, we're going to see how your existing clubs perform on the Trackman launch monitors and you will be working with a full-time certified fitter who is one of the best in the industry.

"We have 200 different shafts for woods, 200 different shafts for irons and all the different heads on the market, from all the major manufacturers. We have a connector that allows every shaft and every head to go together. What our fitters are going to do is see where

Golf Innovation PGA Merchandise Show continued on page 13

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Cleveland CBX Wedges



Jan Stephenson demonstrates Cleveland Wedges

First PGA Merchandise Show from Page 7

You might sacrifice a little feel, but Jan said every one she hit went up and straight. That's something golfers like me can use. They've also come up with a driver designed for people with slower swing speeds. Again, my kind of equipment.

All the major brands were there, from Wilson to Callaway to Cobra to Ping to you name it. And they all had something new to show. And then there were the not so major companies. I actually brought a pair of therapeutic socks from Incrediwear. The man told me to wear them that night and they would help soothe my aching feet. So I took a shot. And somewhat to my surprise, because I'm more of a half-empty kind of guy, it worked. When I woke up the next morning my feet actually felt better. Which made me feel good that I had found something that didn't let me down. Sometimes it's those small victories. Maybe I should just have more faith. Sometimes, though, it's about getting re-acquainted with something that you already know about. And there's nothing wrong with that. In my case it would be High Heat, which has been producing superior equipment for some time now. They started with the driver, which did nothing but work. Then it was on to fairway woods, and more of the same. They most recently came out with hybrids, which my one friend was like stealing if you used them. I've never been good with the hybrids, but I can swear by the driver and 3 wood, both of which are in my bag. So what do they do to improve upon that? Well, they redesigned their clubs to give you a more forgiving sweet spot. And they also made them look better, with a sleeker appearance that looks great when you put it on the ground behind your ball. If you haven't tried them they are more than worth checking out, I think once you hit them you'll see what a difference they can make. I could list all the testimonials they've received over the years from people in the industry, but this publication isn't big enough. And as nice as it to know there's new stuff out there waiting to be uncovered, it's comforting to know that some of your favorites are just getting better and better each and every day. Anyone who knows me understands that I need to take my change in moderation, even if that's what I was here for.

Wednesday morning I headed over to the main event, what I had really come for. Me and about two zillion other curiosity seekers, or so it seemed. What I quickly found out is it's better to have a game plan, which of course I did not. My friend did, and when I followed him around everything seemed to make at least a little more sense. But since I was a first-timer and I just wanted to kind of find my way, I walked. And walked. And walked. The whole setup has to be seven or eight football fields. Maybe more. The Philadelphia Golf Show it isn't. And it's divided into sections. Clubs here, shoes there. And so on. But of course I still got lost. Several times. What

else did you expect? I must admit that by the following afternoon I was getting around much better, in some cases even giving other people directions. Imagine that. I tried to take my time and see most everything, which turned out to be more or less a rookie mistake. You can't see everything. It's impossible. So you have to pick your spots. I also picked up on the fact that this is more for the club pros trying to do business with the manufacturers. Which is how it should be. Of course it's also a great place for writers to get material for stories, but it's business first. Because this is where golf courses and individuals who work there set themselves up for the season ahead. What are we going to stock in our shop? They're making decisions that could impact their whole bottom line. Me, I was more into the sheer fascination of it all. Which means I could mostly peruse and occasionally shake my head. Some things made sense, others didn't even come close.

I mean, the apparel section itself was way over the top. For obvious reasons. People sell apparel. And tons of it. There's no shortage. You had the brands you know, and some you didn't. And some just trying to break in, which is hardly an easy proposition. I saw some things here that I don't think can succeed. And you wonder why people would invest in some cases their life savings to come up with something that is going to change a golfer's existence. But in many ways it's about dreaming. One guy had come up with a cartoon character dog that he had put onto a headcover, with children's books to go with it. Plus shirts and hats. And he seemed to be doing pretty well. Might have had something to do with his reasonable prices. The kids couldn't get enough. Ditto their parents.

There were more travel stops than even I could compartmentalize. And I'm into travel. There were people hawking suntan lotions and all kinds of products to help your body be a better machine. Again, a lot to take in. But I tried. For the better part of two days, with breaks in between. I'm sure I missed plenty too. That's just the way it works. But I saw more than enough to know it was worth the trip. I met people. I ran into people that I hadn't seen in years. And astonishingly, they even remembered me. Who knew I had it in me. For my money, every golf person should do what I did at least once. Like your 15 minutes. Next time I vow to be more prepared. And maybe bring some slippers, just in case.

I just hope that the people I spent time with and had conversations with appreciated me being there as much as I appreciated them going out of their way to enlighten me. Because that's what it's all about. I don't know what I thought I'd get out of it, but when it was finally time to head home I just felt I was somehow a little better for having taken the plunge. I suppose it was just my time. I figure even if only one or two good things came from it on an individual level, the investment had paid off. Which makes me wonder why it took so long. But there's always next year. If nothing else I can get more of those socks.



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Copper Tech Plus Golf Glove



Nexbelt's Rowland Thomas Luxury Belt



High Heat 257+



Pyramid Putters

Golf Innovation PGA Merchandise Show from page 9

the leaks are in your bag, see where they can make you better, and they are going to tackle it using the technology – and not just a brand name -- to improve your game.”

High tech equipment requires high tech club fitting. That's where Club Champion excels. www.clubchampiongolf.com

Copper Tech Plus Golf Glove

When the Copper Tech golf glove first hit the market, it was immediately seen by many as the best overall glove on the market. Not only was it infused with copper, to help circulation, but it was a great everyday glove that was durable and provided excellent feel. Standing pat might have seemed to some like a good strategy, but the research team immediately went to work on improving the product. “The glove initially attracted attention because it works,” said Copper Tech Founder Lloyd Cohn. “If you have muscle pain, joint pain, arthritis pain, the Copper Tech glove has been an excellent choice. “Now, the Copper Tech Plus has twice the copper, it's got better trim and it's even got a stronger magnet. People are finding that they get better relief.” Copper Tech Plus comes in one-size-fits-all and is available in either white or black. It is quickly making its way into national stores such as PGA Tour Superstore and Walmart, or it can be purchased on the website for less than \$20. www.coppertechglove.com

High Heat 257+

The High Heat driver, fairway woods and hybrids have been a hot item at the PGA Show the last few years. Designed by Dean Knuth, the man who devised the USGA's slope and rating system, the clubs are another example of a product marketed to the average golfer. They have won awards for their ingenuity and versatility. Now the new 257+ technology has been added to the face of the entire line.

The number – 257 – refers to the USGA's maximum allowable measurement for trampoline effect. It refers only to the sweet spot on the face of the club. Now, there is an increased number allowable for the heel and toe of all clubs ... and High Heat is taking dead aim at that number. “Players actually will be able to get increased distance from heel and toe hits,” explains Knuth, who has made this line of golf clubs his passion. “This greatly impacts and helps amateur golfers, who don't hit it on the center of the clubface all of the time.

“Almost all major manufacturers are at or near the 257 limit on the sweet spot,” Knuth continues. “However, they all drop off significantly outside of the sweet spot. We actually increase the trampoline effect outside of the sweet spot. This is the only club where golfers can actually gain distance on off-center hits.” The new 257+ clubs also come with a re-designed top face that aids in alignment. www.knuthgolf.com

Nexbelt's Rowland Thomas Luxury Belt

Ever since taking the PGA Merchandise Show by storm in its debut year of 2013, the Nexbelt story has gotten better and better. Known as “the belt with no holes,” the belt that first became famous for its ratchet fit system has become a leader in style. Colors, different

buckles and different textures have been introduced each year, leading to a huge assortment of options.

What next? The Rowland Thomas Luxury Belt is the newest item from Nexbelt and it is an unrivaled piece of high fashion. Now there's a Nexbelt model that can be worn confidently along with the most expensive imported suit ... or the flashiest golf course combination.

“These belts use calfskin leather, imported from Italy, and are hand-made in America,” explains Nexbelt CEO Eddie Rowland. “They come in five different models, including the serpent belt, which looks like a reptile, even though all of the styles are made from calfskin. These are the first luxury ratchet belts in the U.S. and we just felt there was a calling for something really elegant.” The retail price for this new line of luxury belts is between \$180 and \$230, a big jump from the reasonably priced line of Nexbelt products – but well below other imported and hand-made luxury belts from designers such as Gucci, Armani and Louis Vuitton.

www.rowlandthomas.com or www.nexbelt.com

Pyramid Putters

Equipment scouts at the PGA Show had to venture to the New Product Section to find the new Pyramid Putters. The debut/fail rate for putters is always very high. But this new putter has a very good chance to stick around. The Pyramid Putters feature Pyramid© grooves on the leading edge that help center the ball on the sweet spot of the putter face. The grooves that make up the pyramid create a visual tracking line directly to the target. When the ball is struck in the sweet spot of the putter face, the horizontal-milled grooves provide the ball with top spin, preventing the ball from skidding or bouncing off the line, and tracking toward the target.

The Precision Grooved Face© of the Pyramid Putter consists of the horizontal sweet spot milling described above. The toe and heel are diagonally milled so the same result is achieved on off-center hits. “Pyramid Putters give you the tools to sink more putts, plain and simple. We took a holistic approach to improve scoring on the greens,” explains Colin Callahan, Creative Director of Pyramid Putters. “The Pyramid Putter features a unique milled face that reduces skid when hit off the sweet spot and provides a gear effect to keep your ball on line for putts that are hit off the toe or heel. The putter features a superb alignment triangle on the leading edge that helps the player imagine a tracking line to their target.

“In addition, the flange features a target line, that when aligned with the leading-edge pyramid, lets the golfer know that their lie angle is correct. Pyramid Putters also come standard with a parallel width grip to keep the wrist action to a minimum. The current Aztec series has the option of blade or mallet.” The putters are available in a blade or mallet style and are priced at \$279.95. www.pyramidputters.com

Srixon Q-Star Tour

Paying \$50 a dozen for a premium golf ball is a tough pill to swallow for some golfers.

Golf Innovation PGA Merchandise Show continued on page 17

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Augusta National Takes an Unexpected Turn Toward Women's Golf



Augusta National Golf Club Hole #12 Photo by Getty

By **BILL PENNINGTON** – *The New York Times*

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Almost 16 years ago, when the Augusta National Golf Club became a battleground over its exclusively male membership, it was hard to imagine that the club's chairman would one day support women's golf in a groundbreaking way.

As the home to the Masters tournament since 1934, Augusta National's grounds are hallowed because they remain mostly unchanged and famously inaccessible. Policies at the club have been amended at a glacial pace; the first female members were not admitted until 2012.

But on Wednesday, Fred Ridley, in his first major appearance as the new chairman of Augusta National, unexpectedly announced that the club would create and help host the Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship next year. The 54-hole tournament will be played the week before the 2019 Masters, with the first two rounds at a local club near Augusta and the final round at Augusta National on April 6, a Saturday.

The objective is to grow the game of golf and to benefit women's golf at all levels.

The event may accomplish both goals quickly since it will most likely be the most watched women's golf tournament of 2019.

"This is a dream come true," said the retired star Annika Sorenstam, who attended the announcement. "It will be an exciting carrot for these young amateurs."

The ripple effects could be considerable and multifaceted.

Young girls around the world taking up golf can now aspire to a heretofore unfathomable ambition: winning a national women's championship at the celebrated home of the Masters. The tournament, coming just before the Masters, should soon become a spring broadcasting fixture attracting more converts to golf.

There will most likely be other consequences. The women's professional tours have in recent years seen a throng of teenagers joining their ranks, and not always with the best results for the young players. A chance to play in a new national championship at Augusta National might stem the rising tide of adolescents by making the amateur option more appealing.

The change may also persuade more female college golfers to remain in school, since there is a new title to chase. Those golfers might find their parents enthusiastically backing a decision to remain on campus, because mom and dad probably long for the chance to get inside the gates at Augusta National, too.

The inception of the Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship is good news for other non-competitors as well. Tickets to the Masters are among the most



Fred Ridley, Chairman of Augusta National Golf Club at 2017 Master's

sought-after in American sports, in part because of the course's renowned aesthetics and design.

Ridley, who became the club's chairman last October, did not disclose details about how many fans would be allowed to attend the new event, but it will undoubtedly be a hot ticket and bring more attention to the women's game.

What is known is that the tournament will have an international field of 72 elite players. Winners from various recognized amateur championships, including the United States Women's Amateur, will be invited along with many of the highest ranked women in the world amateur golf ranking. The first two 18-hole rounds will take place at the Champions Retreat Golf Club in Evans, Ga.

Ridley said he considered the new tournament to be an extension of Masters week, which also includes a youth drive, chip and putt championship on the Sunday before the main event.

The new women's tournament could, however, create a scheduling conflict for the L.P.G.A. The ANA Inspiration, the first major of the year on the women's calendar, is held the week before the Masters.

Ridley said Wednesday that he had spoken to L.P.G.A. Commissioner Michael Whan and that Whan had agreed that the new championship would have a positive long-term impact on women's golf.

In 2002, Augusta National received exacting scrutiny over its membership policies after Martha Burk, then the head of the National Council of Women's Organizations, wrote a private letter to the club's chairman at the time, William Johnson, questioning its exclusion of women.

Johnson answered Burk with a sharply worded news release that said, in part: "There may well come a day when women will be invited to join our membership, but that timetable will be ours, and not at the point of a bayonet."

An ensuing firestorm included extensive news media coverage and a small protest led by Burk near the gates of Augusta National during the 2003 Masters.

The mood at the club on Wednesday was far more conciliatory, and it appeared the golf world had Ridley to thank for that.

Asked what motivated him to help grow the women's game, Ridley, a former United States Amateur champion, answered: "I just felt that there was an opportunity and a platform to make a statement as to how we feel about this part of the game. I just felt it was time to do that. I happen to have three daughters, and they all love golf. They're not really very good players, but they all love the game. And I know they're going to be really excited about this."

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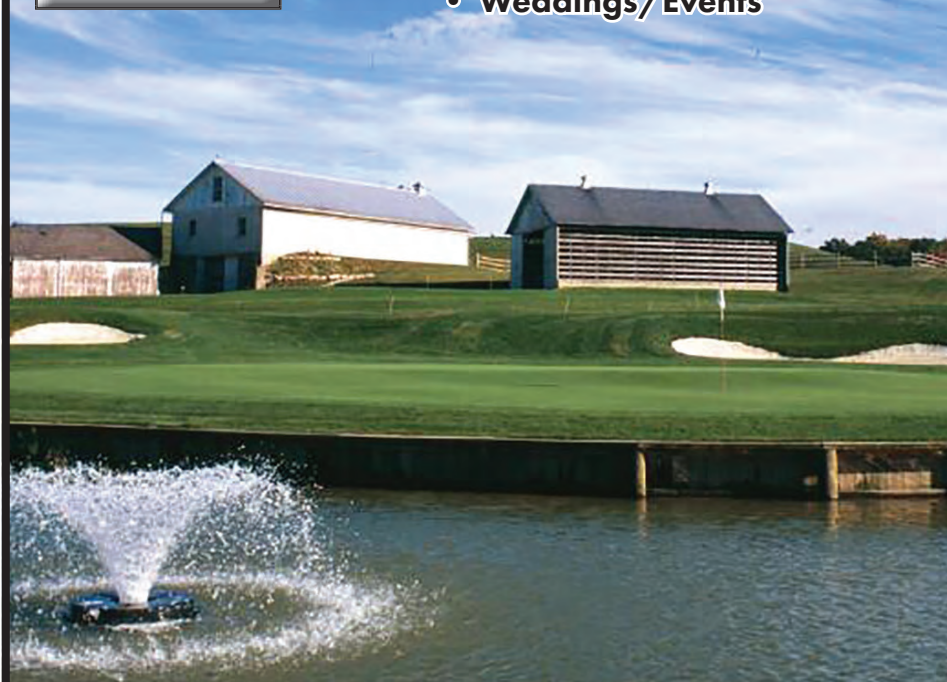
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Srixon Q-Star Tour Balls



SuperSpeed Golf Training Aid



Survivor Tour Golf Tee Tour Edge CBX Fairway Woods & Hybrids

Golf Innovation PGA Merchandise Show from page 13

But many are willingly pay the price ... hoping for the same excellent performance that the world's best golfers get from their golf ball. However, what happens when the majority of golfers discover, through ball-fitting and the detailed statistics now provided by launch monitors, that the high-priced ball is not helping them? In many cases, it is hurting them.

Golfers with swing speeds in the 80s and 90s cannot benefit from the design of most top-line golf balls. That's why Srixon produced the Q-Star Tour golf ball.

It has all of the technological developments and high-quality components of the best tour golf balls – but with engineering designed to make the ball respond well to slower clubhead speeds. “The Q-Star Tour takes all of the technology of our multi-piece golf balls for tour players but we use a lower compression so that average swing speed golfers are able to compress it,” explains Jeff Brunski, Srixon's director of research and development. “They will get better launch conditions for their game, but still get the tour caliber greenside control. It's all about getting a golf ball that is designed for your game.”

Now, not only are the majority of golfers able to play a ball that will help their game, they can play a ball that will help their bank account. The Q-Star Tour golf ball sells for around \$29. It is currently available only in white, but optic yellow is said to be on the way. www.srixon.com

SuperSpeed Golf

Training aids are the residue of over-imaginative inventors. They lie awake at night dreaming of new gimmicks that will turn Joe Shankchop into the next coming of Jordan Spieth. Basements, garages and closets are full of these devices. Some are too complicated. Others too time consuming. And others just don't work.

Now there is one that is simple, easy and makes so much sense. It works for everyone from the beginner to the touring pro. Super Speed Golf is a system of three weighted “clubs” that train the golfer to attain a higher club speed. They are not actually clubs, used to hit a golf ball. The grips and shafts are the same ... but at the end of the shaft is a small weight. Two of the training clubs weigh less than a normal golf club, and one weighs slightly more. Going back many years, golfers would swing two golf clubs, or a heavy weight ... trying to hit the ball farther. While the weighted instrument might build strength, it actually teaches the golfer to swing slower. Counter-productive.

This new system of swinging a much lighter club, then a slightly lighter club, before advancing to a slightly heavier club, has been proven to increase clubhead speed in a very short time. “If you just swing a heavy club by itself, your body is going to rotate slower and the club is going to move slower,” explains SuperSpeed president Mike Napoleon. “Neurologically, this actually creates a slower reaction speed when you stand up on the tee and pull the trigger with the driver. The way you actually train for speed is to move faster. With SuperSpeed's lighter clubs, you move faster first and this creates a re-set of how fast your body is able to respond, when you pull the trigger.” SuperSpeed is now used by more than 350 touring professional golfers. The set sells for \$199.95 and comes with a series of training videos. www.superspeedgolf.com

Survivor Tour Golf Tee

When performance golf tees first hit the market, they were perceived as a novelty. But, then again, isn't every new golf product considered a novelty until it becomes proven? The Philadelphia-based Greenkeepers company, led by brothers Frank and Jim Carroll, has been manufacturing injection-molded plastic golf accessories for more than 20 years. They have successfully introduced – and improved – a number of products over the years. The performance golf tee is a prime example.

First there was the Four Yards More Tee, with a flexible cushion atop a solid plastic tee. Then there was the Survivor Tee, a one-piece tee with a height indicator on the shaft. Now, there is the Survivor Tour Tee. “Performance, durability and the fact that the professionals in the game are using performance tees are the keys to success,” explains Frank Carroll. “All of our tees give the golf less ball spin. You have less golf-ball-to-tee-surface contact, which provides longer distance and less ballooning in heavy wind. Performance tees are becoming an instrument of the game. They are no longer just a piece of wood that you pick up for free in the pro shop and put in your pocket. It's actually something that enhances your ability to play the game.”

Tour Edge CBX Fairway Woods and Hybrids

Why do most Tour professionals play a particular brand of club? Because they get paid to do so. Why do most of the Tour professionals playing Tour Edge Exotics clubs play the clubs – especially fairway woods and hybrids? Because they perform so well.

After making performance-based decisions, professionals on the Champions Tour chose Tour Edge Exotics in alarming numbers. The Exotics CBX fairway woods and hybrids ranked in the top eight models in play in both the hybrid and fairway wood model counts over the last four events of the 2017 season. Tour Edge had the fifth-most metalwoods in play among active manufacturers over the last month of 2017 on tour, according to the Darrell Survey. Even when the stakes were highest at the end of the season, five new players that had never played a Tour Edge club in a professional event changed to the new Exotics CBX over the last four weeks of the Champions Tour.

Exotics CBX clubs earned three Top 5 finishes, four Top 10's and five Top 20 finishes in the 2017 Champions Tour despite only being introduced to players at five total events during the season. And the results continued at the start of 2018, with the winner and runnerup at the Chubb Classic using Exotics CBX clubs.

The Exotics CBX features a higher Center of Gravity, located slightly forward in the club head through the use of a carbon fiber in the sole, which is significantly lighter than stainless steel. This helps to increase ball speed and reduce spin, which makes for less dispersion. Tour Edge's extremely thin Beta-titanium cup-face enlarges the ideal hitting area on the clubs. It is brazed to stainless steel behind the hitting area which allows the face to flex more at impact. This has led to independent robot tests that have shown the Exotics CBX to average more than 16 yards longer in distance than several of the best-selling fairway woods on the market. The Speed Ramp sole design on the Exotics CBX products provide reduced turf interaction so the club can maintain its speed through the hitting area. “It's really exciting because the success is a product of breakthrough technology,” says Tour Edge founder Dave Glod. “It's not because of hype or because we pay players to use our product.” www.touredgogolf.com

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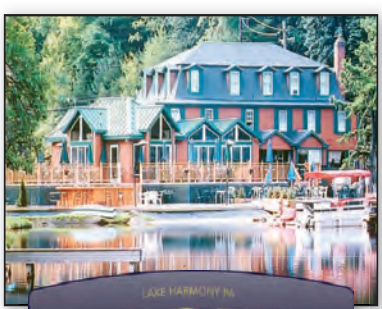
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Valley Forge Invitational - Symetra Tour



Emily Gimpel from the University of Maryland entering 4th year on Symetra Tour at the Valley Forge Invitational, May 21-26

By Mike Kern

So what do Lorena Ochoa and Inbee Park have in common? Other than, of course, the fact that they're two of the greatest players of the LPGA's modern era. Well, before they became who they were, or on the way to doing so, they both played on the Symetra Tour. And they're hardly the only ones. So have Nelly Korda, Gerina Pillier, Mo Martin and Madelene Sagstrom, who've now all made it to the top level of women's golf. Everyone has to start somewhere. That's what the Symetra Tour is about. It's the proving ground, the Triple-A of the LPGA, the women's equivalent of what is now known as the Web.com Tour on the men's side, one step short of making it to the majors. And this year the Symetra Tour will be making its first appearance in the Philadelphia area when the inaugural Valley Forge Invitational is held at Raven's Claw golf course in the western suburbs of Pottstown on May 24-26. Not a bad way to start the Memorial Day weekend.

"We see a lot of opportunity for the area," said Lisa Karl, Vice President of Sales and Strategic Partnerships for Valley Forge Tourism, at the introductory media conference. "There's the potential for up to \$1 million in economic impact. So we definitely wanted to make this happen. We feel it's the right fit."

Montgomery County, with 53 courses, likes to think of itself as a golf destination. And Raven's Claw is considered one of the best public facilities in the state. Soon 144 extremely talented wannabes will put it to the test. And vice versa.

"We are looking forward to finding out what these players can do here," said course designer Ed Shearon, who's done a whole bunch of quality work in the tri-state region and beyond. "From Day 1, we wanted to make this a players's course. There are great shot values, and great shot balance. We want to make sure this tournament is successful. Obviously having this can only elevate the (stature/perception) of the course. We feel like it's right up there with what you would face at many private courses. It's going to be fun to watch."



Raven's Claw Golf Course Hole #1

This is one of three new events on the 2018 Symetra schedule. It's not easy to make something like this go from a concept to reality. And the following week, the LPGA's annual Shop-Rite Classic will take place once again at the South Jersey shore. So consider the VFI a preview/prelude.

For those who maybe aren't as familiar, the Symetra Tour has been in existence for nearly four decades. Its graduates have gone on to post over 400 LPGA wins. That includes 10 majors. Not overall but just since 2013. The top 10 finishers at the end of the season will receive their LPGA cards for 2019. That's the ultimate incentive.

You might not know who some of these female golfers are at the moment. But there's a good chance that at least some of them will turn into household names at some point. Perhaps even soon.

"The Symetra Tour has experienced tremendous growth, with schedule increases of 50 percent and (purse) increases of over 100 percent," said LPGA Commission Mike Whan. "The women that have (moved on) ... have consistently proven they belong among the elite in the world. It is very likely you are watching the next breakout stars. (They) are the future. The Symetra Tour does an excellent job of giving the players that platform to showcase their skills, as they continue to strive for their dreams."

You can say you saw them when. Never a bad thing. Sort of like getting in on the ground floor.

There are many ways for people to get involved in making this a week to remember. Let's start with sponsorship. There are packages in place ranging from \$50,000 to \$4,000. So every budget or interest level can be accommodated, from naming rights to the Meet Your Pros party (which will be held at the ballroom at nearby SunnyBrook Ballroom) and the Pro-Am to golf carts, caddie bibs, trackerboard and leaderbord, driving range and putting green to hole signs. There is also a Junior Clinic and VIP Hospitality. It's pretty much up to the individual or company, but getting involved is certainly a viable

Valley Forge Invitational - Symetra Tour continued on page 35

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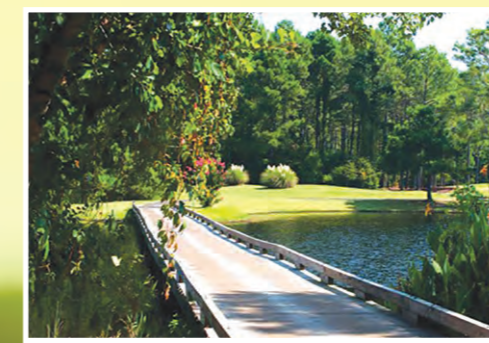
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Rivers Edge



Sandpiper Bay



Eagle Nest



Crow Creek



Blackmoor Golf Club



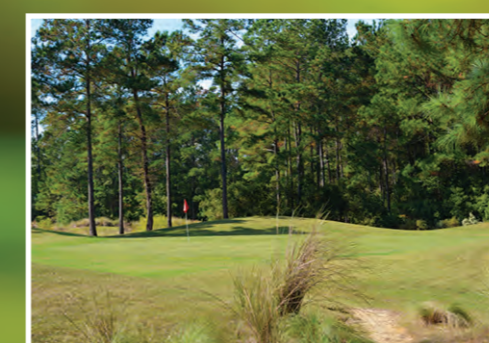
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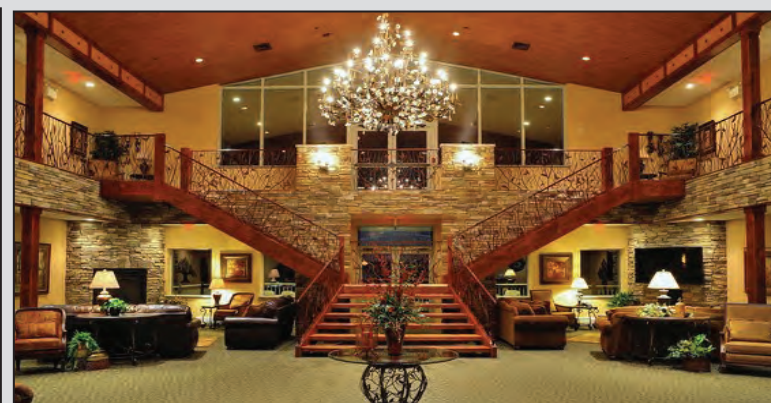
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Bonavoglia, Evans Retain Ben Marshall Four-Ball title



Mike Bonavoglia celebrates his ace on No. 13.

April 30, 2018
Wyoming Valley Country Club

Two events entered, two victories for the team of Mike Bonavoglia and Eamon Evans.

The reigning AGA/GAP Ben Marshall Spring Four-Ball champions successfully defended their title April 30 at Wyoming Valley Country Club. Bonavoglia and Evans carded a 3-under-par 67, highlighted by a hole-in-one, to prevail. Bonavoglia aced the par 3, 165-yard 13th hole with an 8-iron.

"It looked good. All of a sudden it just took the slope and Plinko-boarded along the aeration holes," Bonavoglia, 34, of Dunmore, Pa., said. "It probably Plinkoed right into the hole. The guys went nuts. I said, 'Did that really go in?' We were just in shock. It didn't sink in until I took the ball out of the hole. It was awesome."

"The hole-in-one kicked it into the next gear for us. When that went in, we were like, 'Wow. We may have a chance to win here,'" Evans, 34, of Clarks Summit, Pa., added. "He hits it just right of the flagstick, and that green is severely sloped from right-to-left. He literally hits it 13 to 15 feet right of it, and it lands perfectly in the first cut and starts to roll downhill. Our playing companions are like, 'That's going in.' The ball just disappeared. We were all going crazy."

It marked Bonavoglia's third career ace (2012 at Sugarloaf Golf Club, 2016 at Elmhurst Country Club).

The Bonavoglia and Evans team carded a 6-under-par 65 to triumph a year ago. The two met during their high school golf days when Evans, a North Pocono High School graduate, worked at Elmhurst, where Bonavoglia, a Dunmore High School alum, is a member.

"We reconnected over golf [a few years ago]. We just stayed in touch and said, 'Let's enter something,'" Evans, a Glenmaura National Golf Club member, said. "Now we're hoping we can enter some more. We have similar golf games, which makes it easier to play when it's a four-ball event. We knew we had to get together again to defend the title."

"It's definitely good to have a partner like him," Bonavoglia added. "He made a lot of crucial putts for par. We had a couple of hiccups, but in the end, it definitely worked out. Everything seemed to fall into place."

No doubt the duo will try to make it three-for-three in the AGA/GAP Ben Marshall Spring Four-Ball next year.

"We already made plans," Bonavoglia said.

Senior Division

When initial teammate Tommy Sohns needed to withdraw due to a work conflict, Mark Occhipinti called the bullpen. Fellow Country Club of Scranton member Edward Mesko stepped in and stepped up.

He and Occhipinti carded a 4-under-par 66 to take the event's Senior Division title.

"[Sohns] texted me this morning and said, 'That worked out,'" Occhipinti, 54, of Dunmore, Pa., said. "Eddie and I play together in the Member-Member at the Country Club of Scranton. I have to give him most of the credit. He was the better putter. I covered him on solid pars, but he really had a good day with the putter."

"I typically play Wyoming Valley pretty well. I like the golf course," Mesko, 60, of Stroudsburg, Pa., added. "I just knocked in some putts early and hung on the rest of the way."

Mesko opened with three consecutive 12-footers for birdie to send his team on a subpar voyage. He also snuck in a 15-footer for a 2 on the par 3, 102-yard No. 5 following a solid 9-iron. The team never looked back.

"We got off to a fast start, so that really helped. We weren't even close to a bogey until No. 9, which was a three-putt," Occhipinti said. "We covered each other when we had to. It was a good round of golf I'd say. It's always nice to get a win."

Complete results: <http://bit.ly/2ratsqR>

Golf Association of Philadelphia

Founded in 1897, the Golf Association of Philadelphia (GAP) is the oldest regional or state golf association in the United States. It serves as the principal ruling body of amateur golf in its region. The Association's 200 Full Member Clubs and 70,000 individual members are spread across Eastern Pennsylvania and parts of New Jersey and Delaware. As Philadelphia's Most Trusted Source of Golf Information, the Golf Association of Philadelphia's mission is to promote, preserve and protect the game of golf.

Final Team Results Open Flight Gross:

Eamon Evans, / Michael Bonavoglia, Glenmaura National Golf Club, Elmhurst Country Club	-3	67
Kevin Rossi, / Justin Masters, Scranton Municipal Golf Course, Country Club of Scranton	-1	69
Eric Williams, / Irv Williams, Honesdale Golf Club	-1	69

Final Team Results Senior Flight Gross:

Mark Occhipinti, / Edward Mesko, Country Club of Scranton	-4	66
Martin Behm, / Art Brunn, Irem Country Club, Wyoming Valley Country Club	-1	69
Matt Froncek, / Kenneth Bolcavage, Elkview Country Club	-1	69

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LOW PRO

Brian Bergstol (PGA)	67
Mike Furey (Mahoning Valley)	71
Alex Knoll (PGA)	73
Jeff Fick (Willow Hollow)	75
Gregg Meyer (Woodstone)	76

LOW SENIOR PRO

Mike Grabosky (Heidelberg)	74
John Pillar (Woodloch Springs)	74
John Kulhamer (Green Pond)	81

LOW AMATEUR

Tony Sarko	67
Randy Kurzinsky	70
Bob Andreko	73

TEAM LOW GROSS

Mike Grabosky (Heidelberg)	62
Brian Bergstol (PGA)	62
Alex Knoll (PGA)	63

TEAM LOW NET

Joe Ambrose (Kings College)	60
Mike Furey (Mahoning Valley)	61
Jeff Fick (Willow Hollow)	62

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Golf's New World Handicap System

Designed to Welcome More Golfers

USGA and The R&A Release Key Features

LIBERTY CORNER, N.J. (Feb. 20, 2018) - The USGA and The R&A announce key features of the proposed new World Handicap System (WHS), designed to provide all golfers with a consistent measure of playing ability globally.

The idea for a new, unified system was conceived by the USGA and The R&A and developed following an extensive review of systems administered by six existing handicapping authorities: Golf Australia, the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) in Great Britain and Ireland, the European Golf Association (EGA), the South African Golf Association (SAGA), the Argentine Golf Association (AAG) and the USGA.

The new system will feature the following:

- Flexibility in formats of play, allowing both competitive and recreational rounds to count for handicap purposes and ensuring that a golfer's handicap is more reflective of potential ability

- A minimal number of scores needed to obtain a new handicap; a recommendation that the number of scores needed to obtain a new handicap be 54 holes from any combination of 18-hole and 9-hole rounds, but with some discretion available for handicapping authorities or national associations to set a different minimum within their own jurisdiction

- A consistent handicap that is portable from course to course and country to country through worldwide use of the USGA Course and Slope Rating System, already successfully used in more than 80 countries

- An average-based calculation of a handicap, taken from the best eight out of the last 20 scores and factoring in memory of demonstrated ability for better responsiveness and control

- A calculation that considers the impact that abnormal course and weather conditions might have on a player's performance each day

- Daily handicap revisions, taking account of the course and weather conditions calculation

- A limit of Net Double Bogey on the maximum hole score (for handicapping purposes only)

- A maximum handicap limit of 54.0, regardless of gender, to encourage more golfers to measure and track their performance to increase their enjoyment of the game

Quantitative research was conducted in 15 countries around the world, through which 76 percent of the 52,000 respondents voiced their support for a World Handicap System, 22 percent were willing to consider its benefits, and only 2 percent were opposed. This was followed by a series of focus groups, in which more than 300 golf administrators and golfers from regions around the world offered extensive feedback on the features of the proposed new system.

This feedback has helped shape the WHS, which has been developed by the USGA and The R&A with support from each handicapping authority as well as the Japan Golf Association and Golf Canada.

Mike Davis, CEO of the USGA, commented, "For some time, we've heard golfers say, 'I'm not good enough to have a handicap,' or 'I don't play enough to have a handicap.' We want to make the right decisions now to encourage a more welcoming and social game. We're excited to be taking another important step – along with modernizing golf's Rules – to provide a pathway into the sport, making golf easier to understand and more approachable and enjoyable for everyone to play."

Martin Slumbers, Chief Executive of The R&A, said, "We are working with our partners and national associations to make golf more modern, more accessible and more enjoyable as a sport and the new World Handicap System represents a huge opportunity in this regard.

"We want to make it more attractive to golfers to obtain a handicap and strip away some of the complexity and variation which can be off-putting for newcomers. Having a handicap, which is easier to understand and is truly portable around the world, can make golf much

more enjoyable and is one of the unique selling points of our sport."

The tenets of the new system focus on three main objectives: to encourage as many golfers as possible to obtain and maintain a handicap; to enable golfers of differing abilities, genders and nationalities to transport their handicap to any course globally and compete on a fair and equitable basis; and to indicate with sufficient accuracy the score a golfer is reasonably capable of achieving on any course around the world, playing under normal conditions.

Given worldwide alignment towards a single system, all parties will now embark on a two-year transition period targeting implementation in 2020. When adopted, the World Handicap System will be governed by the USGA and The R&A and administered locally by the six existing authorities and national associations around the world, with safeguards included to ensure consistency as well as adaptability to differing golf cultures.

The six handicapping authorities represent approximately 15 million golfers in 80 countries who currently maintain a golf handicap.

The announcement is the latest step in a multi-year collaboration between The USGA and The R&A, as well as handicap authorities and national and regional golf associations around the world to introduce one set of Rules of Handicapping, aimed to support modernizing, growing and improving accessibility of the sport.

As an extension of their support of the Rules of Golf worldwide, Rolex has made a commitment to support the USGA's and The R&A's efforts to implement a World Handicap System.

To provide feedback to the USGA on the new World Handicap System, email us at whsfeedback@usga.org, or see usga.org/whs. Golfers are encouraged to follow and join in the conversation on social media by using [#golfwhs2020](https://twitter.com/golfwhs2020)

About the USGA

The USGA conducts the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Open, as well as 10 national amateur championships, two state team championships and international matches, attracting players and fans from more than 160 countries. Together with The R&A, the USGA governs the game worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, equipment standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The USGA's reach is global with a working jurisdiction in the United States, its territories and Mexico, serving more than 25 million golfers and actively engaging 150 golf associations.

The USGA is one of the world's foremost authorities on research, development and support of sustainable golf course management practices. It serves as a primary steward for the game's history and invests in the development of the game through the delivery of its services and its ongoing "For the Good of the Game" grants program. Additionally, the USGA's Course Rating and Handicap systems are used on six continents in more than 50 countries.

For more information about the USGA, visit www.usga.org

About The R&A

Based in St Andrews, The R&A runs The Open, elite amateur events, international matches and rankings. Together The R&A and the USGA govern the sport of golf worldwide, operating in separate jurisdictions but sharing a commitment to a single code for the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status and Equipment Standards. The R&A, through R&A Rules Ltd, governs the sport worldwide, outside of the United States and Mexico, on behalf of over 30 million golfers in 140 countries and with the consent of 152 organisations from amateur and professional golf.

The R&A is committed to working for golf and supports the growth of the sport internationally and the development and management of sustainable golf facilities.

For more information about The R&A, visit www.randa.org.



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Calhoun/Anderson	-10	61
Ladden/Wheeler	-9	62
Turner/Bickel	-9	62
Watters/Nicholson	-8	63
Atkins/Lennon	-7	64
Wood/Duckett	-7	64
McCormick/Pillar	-7	64
Smith/Ferguson	-7	64
Bergstol/Hatch	-7	64
Kiddie/Ambrose	-6	65
Sheflott/Seeman	-6	65
Hall/Smith	-6	65
Kellogg/Melton	-6	65
Pohle/Pohle	-6	65
Wallis/Gebhart	-5	66
McGraw/Welman	-5	66
Duffy/Walker	-4	67
Riedel/Mulholland	-4	67

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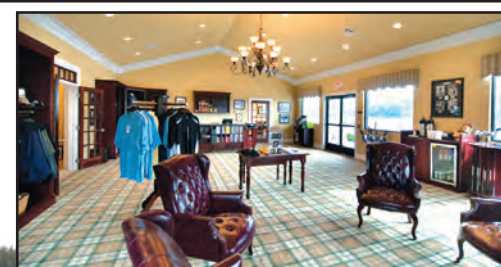
Rivercrest G.C. - Phoenixville, PA Par 70

		R1	R2	Total
Kevin Nicholson	White Manor CC	33	34	67 -4
John Appleget	The Shore Club	35	35	70 -1
Michael Little	Lookaway GC	36	35	71 E
Billy Stewart	ACE Club	38	33	71 E
Bob Hennefer	Indian Springs GC	36	35	71 E
John Spina	Philadelphia Cricket Club	34	38	72 +1
Dave McNabb	Applebrook GC	37	35	72 +1
Stu Ingraham	M Golf Range	33	39	72 +1
Mike Furey	Mahoning Valley CC	34	38	72 +1
Mike Tobiason	Deerfield GC	37	35	72 +1
Andrew Turner	Sunnybrook GC	34	39	73 +2
John Pillar	CC at Woodloch Springs	38	35	73 +2
Mike Mack	Burlington CC	38	35	73 +2
Ashley Grier	Overbrook GC	40	33	73 +2
Sam Ambrose	Aronimink GC	37	36	73 +2
John DiMarco	Laurel Creek CC	38	35	73 +2
Dave Quinn	Philmont CC	37	36	73 +2

Callaway Golf TPD Championship

Fieldstone G.C. Greenville, DE Par 70
Pro Stableford Media Results

		R1	R2	Total
Dave McNabb	Applebrook GC	34	33	67 28
Brendon Post	University of Delaware	35	31	66 28
Dave Quinn	Philmont CC	34	33	67 27
Mark Sheftic	Merion GC	33	35	68 24
Michael Little	Lookaway GC	35	34	69 22
Scott Reilly	Philadelphia CC	33	37	70 22
Mike Tobiason	Deerfield GC	36	33	69 22
Jamie Komancheck	RiverCrest GC & Preserve	36	34	70 20
Eric Kennedy	Overbrook GC	34	36	70 20
John Rudolph	Fieldstone GC	33	38	71 20
Zac Oakley	Heritage Shores	34	36	70 20
Jimmy Maack	Kimberton GC	35	36	71 18
Brett Melton	Radley Run CC	35	36	71 18
Michael Wheeler	Whitford CC	37	34	71 18
Matt Episcopo	Pine Valley GC	36	35	71 18
Zachary Kempa	Chester Valley GC	36	35	71 18
Jakob Gerney	Trump National GC- Philly	37	34	71 18
Greg Matthias	Tavistock CC	37	34	71 18
Tom Michaels	Berkshire CC	36	35	71 18
Ashley Grier	Overbrook GC	36	35	71 18
Cody Ceccato	Toftrees Resort	39	33	72 17
Chris Wilkinson	Llanerch CC	38	34	72 17



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2018 BMW Championship

Aronimink Golf Club to Host Top 70 Golfers in FedExCup Playoffs



Aronimink Clubhouse Hole #18 Photo by Russell Kirk



Aronimink Golf Club Hole #7 Photo by Russell Kirk

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa. ... Coming off a successful 2017 BMW Championship at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, Ill., the Western Golf Association is launching ticket sales for the 2018 BMW Championship at Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

"We're pleased to be bringing the world's top golfers to Aronimink and the Delaware Valley's tremendous golf fan base," said Vince Pellegrino, Western Golf Association senior vice president of tournaments. "The club has hosted some of golf's finest championships, but it's been more than six years since it last hosted a PGA TOUR event. We're looking forward to the energy and excitement the 2018 BMW Championship will generate."

Fans may order their 2018 BMW Championship tickets at www.bmwchampionship.com. Grounds, upgraded Trophy Club, and all-inclusive 1899 clubs are currently available in limited quantities. A variety of corporate hospitality options also are available.

Philadelphia-area businesses already have demonstrated their enthusiasm and support for the BMW Championship, with more than 60 corporate supporters signed on, more than 60 percent of corporate hospitality opportunities secured, and additional Chalet inventory added at the tee on the 18th hole in response to demand. For more information on corporate hospitality, contact David Fox at fox@wgaesf.org or 610-356-8000 x225.

Located just outside Philadelphia, Aronimink is hosting the BMW Championship for the first time.

Founded in 1896, the club has been host to several major tournaments, including the PGA

Championship (1962), U.S. Amateur (1977), Senior PGA Championship (2003) and AT&T National (2010, 2011). The 2018 BMW Championship – set for the week of Sept. 4-9 – will mark the first time since 1959 that the event, formerly known as the Western Open, has been contested in the state of Pennsylvania.

"Aronimink looks forward to welcoming fans near and far to join us at the 2018 BMW Championship for a week of drama, fun and world-class golf," said Joe Fabrizio, Aronimink president. "When spectators arrive on the grounds next September, they will find a fully restored course that is among the most challenging and celebrated in the country."

The BMW Championship is the penultimate event of the PGA TOUR's FedExCup Playoffs, with the top 70 PGA TOUR players vying to earn one of 30 spots in the season-ending TOUR Championship and the chance to be crowned FedExCup

champion.

Past BMW Championship winners include Dustin Johnson, Jason Day, Rory McIlroy, Zach Johnson, Justin Rose, Tiger Woods, and 2017 winner, Marc Leishman.

To prepare for the BMW Championship, Aronimink has been restoring the course to its original 1928 Donald Ross American parkland design. Under the direction of noted course architect Gil Hanse, based in nearby Malvern, Aronimink has increased the number of bunkers (75 to 176) and restored greens and fairway areas to their original dimensions to return the course to its 1928 layout.

One example of restored greens is on the 15th hole, a long par-4, where an additional 25-to-30 feet has been added to the back of the green to restore a "punch bowl" effect. Also underway is the restoration of the tee boxes to Ross' original free-form, "amoeba-like" design. The Donald Ross-designed course is consistently rated one of the finest in the United States.

Proceeds from the 2018 BMW Championship will be used to fund Platt Evans Scholarships for caddies attending Penn State University and to establish a scholarship house at Penn State-University Park, where scholarship recipients will live together. Since 2007, the BMW Championships has raised more than \$26 million for student scholarships for caddies of modest means.

Volunteer Registration

To ensure the 2018 BMW Championship runs smoothly, the WGA also is accepting registration for 2018 tournament volunteers. More than 2,200 volunteers are being recruited to perform key tasks inside and outside the ropes during tournament week. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit www.bmwchampionship.com.

About the BMW Championship

The BMW Championship dates back to 1899 when it debuted as the Western Open, making it the third-oldest tournament on the PGA TOUR schedule, behind only the British Open and U.S. Open. BMW has sponsored the tournament since 2007 when it became the penultimate event of the PGA TOUR's FedExCup Playoffs. The BMW Championship features a field of the top 70 players in the FedExCup standings to determine the final 30 players for the FedExCup finale at the TOUR Championship in Atlanta. Since 2007, the BMW Championship has contributed more than \$26 million to the Evans Scholars Foundation, the event's charitable beneficiary. To learn more, visit www.bmwchampionship.com.

Top Money Winners

Y-T-D-statistics through: Masters Tournament, Apr 8, 2018

YTD Rank	Player	Events	Money	YTD Wins
1	Justin Thomas	10	\$5,221,300	2
2	Bubba Watson	10	\$3,674,254	2
3	Patrick Reed	13	\$3,453,052	1
4	Phil Mickelson	11	\$3,366,551	1
5	Patton Kizzire	14	\$3,177,988	2
6	Dustin Johnson	7	\$3,115,667	1
7	Justin Rose	7	\$3,025,483	1
8	Jon Rahm	9	\$2,787,698	1
9	Rickie Fowler	9	\$2,624,060	
10	Tony Finau	13	\$2,430,435	
11	Jason Day	7	\$2,356,550	1
12	Paul Casey	9	\$2,288,135	1
13	Marc Leishman	11	\$2,211,914	
14	Pat Perez	10	\$2,190,741	1
15	Alex Noren	9	\$2,183,059	
16	Rory McIlroy	7	\$2,146,263	1
17	Cameron Smith	11	\$2,123,370	
18	Brian Harman	12	\$2,111,118	
19	Chez Reavie	15	\$2,082,502	
20	Brendan Steele	10	\$2,034,258	1
21	Patrick Cantlay	9	\$1,996,830	1
22	Gary Woodland	13	\$1,934,717	1
23	Jordan Spieth	10	\$1,899,046	
24	Luke List	15	\$1,888,795	
25	Ian Poulter	9	\$1,815,760	1
26	Bryson DeChambeau	11	\$1,761,787	
27	Henrik Stenson	5	\$1,736,492	
28	Kevin Kisner	10	\$1,640,256	
29	Austin Cook	13	\$1,610,277	1
30	Chesson Hadley	13	\$1,596,481	
31	Ted Potter, Jr.	14	\$1,506,517	1
32	Rafa Cabrera Bello	10	\$1,429,947	
33	Beau Hossler	14	\$1,351,414	
34	Charles Howell III	14	\$1,331,302	
35	Keegan Bradley	12	\$1,298,957	
36	Kyle Stanley	12	\$1,280,954	
37	James Hahn	12	\$1,259,564	
38	Adam Hadwin	12	\$1,255,281	
39	Tiger Woods	6	\$1,185,348	

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Lookaway – The "Pure Golf" Experience



Lookaway Clubhouse



(L) Harry Ferguson, Rees Jones, Bruce McKissock & Bill Waldman Opening Day 1999

By Tony Leodora

It seems hard to believe that 20 years have passed since renowned golf course architect Rees Jones stood next to founding members Harry Ferguson, Bruce McKissock and Bill Waldman, as they began an era of golf excellence at Lookaway Golf Club in Bucks County.

In 1998 golf was still arcing toward an unprecedented zenith in popularity. Courses were being constructed at a record pace throughout the decade. In many areas there as a “build it and they will come” attitude.

Not in Pennsylvania’s Bucks County, which eventually became home to Lookaway.

“We spent a lot of time looking for the right piece of property,” recalls Jones. “The group behind the development of Lookaway wanted something special. Our goal, from the beginning, was to build the finest pure private club in the Greater Philadelphia area.”

That is a stunningly bold statement. But Jones did not blink when he originally uttered those words. And he does not blink now, when he reiterates them.

“I’m looking forward to the 20th anniversary,” Jones said last summer. “Lookaway opened as one of the premiere private clubs in the area ... and it continually has gotten better. That is quite an accomplishment considering the challenges the golf game has faced in recent years.”

Lookaway faced those challenges from the start with a successful two-faceted plan.

The first was financial. The original business model depended on a group of founding members and a strong network of investors, who saw a unique opportunity at Lookaway. That plan was reinforced in recent years as the club maintained a solid financial footing, yet invested \$3.2 million in capital improvements over the last four years. At the same time a healthy \$500 thousand capital reserve fund was maintained, without any assessments to the members.

The second was a commitment to the original mission statement of creating the “pure golf” experience.



Lookaway Hole #18

“On opening day, we had a great feeling of accomplishment. Twenty years later, we celebrate how far we have come and the realization of our collected vision of Lookaway Golf Club,” asserts founder and board president Harry Ferguson. “The foundation is strong for this club to stand the test of time and be one of the modern iconic golf clubs of the Philadelphia region.”

The golf course is the driving force behind Lookaway’s success story. Its rolling terrain presents the perfect amount of elevation change for a great golf course. The wide fairways, accentuated by decorative fescue that is well out of play, provide the perfect start to each of the 18 adventures. The greens are large and challenging -- but nothing like the tricked-up variety that can be found at many courses designed during this same era. And the conditions are simply the finest at all times.

The proof of Lookaway’s excellence lies in its ability to please its members.

In today’s time-constraints lifestyle, Lookaway offers the ability to play quickly, no tee times and the flexibility to play nine holes or even a few holes in the afternoon and evenings. The separate practice facility, designed to hone the short game, is a state-of-the-art addition to the driving range and putting green.

The clubhouse is an extension of the atmosphere that exists on the golf course. Simple elegance is the style of the renovated main building, which dates back to 1752. Men are not required to wear jackets, except on special occasions.

The relaxing atmosphere is carefully cultivated by General Manager John Pitocchelli, who responds to the needs of the members. They want healthier food choices. He has instituted a “scratch kitchen” where all items are made from scratch, with fresh ingredients using a local farm-to-table concept.

To say that Lookaway stands as a model for the modern country club – both architecturally and fiscally – is an understatement. A lot of planning went into all aspects of the overall plan for Lookaway ... and it is paying major dividends.

TWISTED DUNE GOLF CLUB

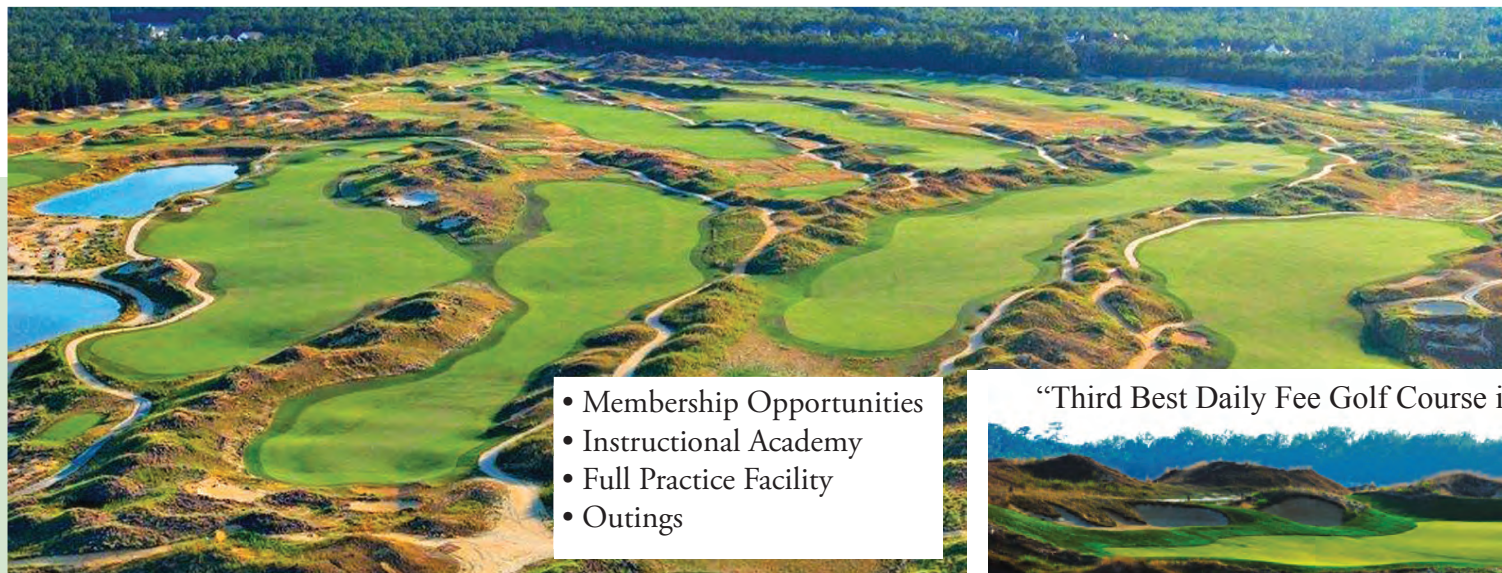
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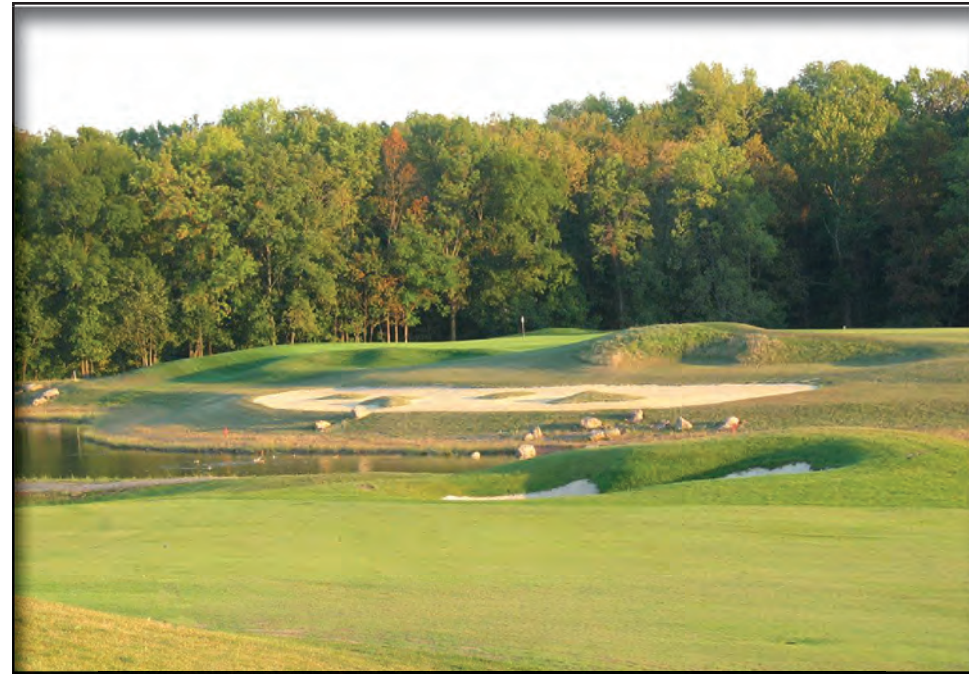
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Raven's Claw Golf Course – Hole # 9



Raven's Claw Golf Course – Hole # 2

Valley Forge Invitational -Symetra Tour *continued from page 19*

option for most interested parties. Even if you simply want to be part of the Pro-Am, where you could get paired with the next big thing. You never know. For more information contact Dean Schneider at dean.schneider@lpga.com.

Valley Forge is the sixth event on the schedule, which will end in early October at the Tour Championship in Daytona Beach. There are 21 stops in all, with Philadelphia being by far the largest host venue. There are tourneys in Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Daytona Beach, as well as Rochester, Albany, South Bend and French Lick, where they play a Donald Ross layout that was the site of the 1924 PGA won by Walter Hagen. But there's little doubt that if the community gets behind this in terms of support it could be among the ones the players will be talking about most.

Emily Gimpel grew up around here, playing at Whitemarsh Valley CC. While learning to play the game at her home course, she met Shearon, and then-head pro Jim Bromley, who is now head pro at Raven's Claw. She's also played Raven's Claw in the Montgomery County Amateur (she won the junior championship twice). Needless to say she can't wait to come back home to compete.

"It means so much to me, that my friends and family are going to be able to come out and watch," she said. "It's definitely hard to be away from them. But it's a sacrifice I have to make for my career. I'm chasing my lifetime dream, and I'm loving every minute of that. But it will be nice to sleep in my own bed."

Especially if she picks up a nice payday. Or maybe even gets to hoist the trophy. Now that would be a story.

Shearon thinks the eventual champion will be someone who can think their way around the property. Yes, you have to hit shots. That goes without saying. But Raven's Claw is a strategic examination. There are places you don't want to be, and places you need to be to score. It's not just hit it and hit it again. You have to have a plan.

"It's not just the most powerful player who will win," he stressed. "We're very proud and honored. We tried to design it for all playing abilities. It has some great features. Plateaus, bluffs, wetlands. The best architect is God. Just

about every shot has some kind of hazard to go with it. I'm anxious to see how it stands up."

It took a lot to even get this far. But the work has really just begun. You only get one shot to get it right. And if they do, this could become a fixture on the Symetra Tour for years to come. At least that's the hope. And goal. And why not? Philly probably should have more events. It's that good of a golf locale. But it takes effort, and commitments. In this case they appear to be in place, to everyone's satisfaction.

"This has been an eye-opening experience," said Mike Nichols, the Symetra's Chief Business Officer. "This area is golf heaven. And we are very fortunate to be bringing one of our events here."

Added Ed Harris, the Chief Marketing Officer of Valley Forge Tourism: "We had a mission. We knew we had great golf to promote. We just needed some good partners."

That's often the way it works. Maybe because of this newly-formed affiliation, Montco golf won't be so much of a hidden gem any longer. It's been known to happen.

"There is a natural connection between our passion and what is being done for the sport and the economy in Montgomery County," said Raven's Claw owner Bob Davis. "This event shows the area's focus and commitment to the game, and especially its involvement in women's golf."

It's a showcase. And in a sport that's trying to attract newer, younger blood for the next generation, that's a huge positive. And the female market remains largely untapped. Maybe not so much going forward. Not after these girls come in and do their thing. It could inspire some in the galleries to want to be like them. The process has to begin somewhere.

And by the way, for those of you so inclined, you will actually be able to play Raven's Claw right up until the start of the tournament. But you might want to get your tee times early. And you can play the day after, mostly likely with the same pin positions they used in the final round. So how many times do you get to do that?

Just another reason to check it out before all those picnics or trips to the beach get going. And for all of mid-handicappers out there, we might actually learn something by watching some of the swings that will be on display.

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Wyoming Valley Duo Wins 2018 Modified Stableford



Wyoming Valley Country Club's Thomas Biscotti and Eric Plisko edged Honesdale Golf Club's Wayne Stephens and Eric Williams in a scorecard playoff to win the AGA/GAP Modified Stableford Tournament April 18 at Huntsville Golf Club.

April 18, 2018
Huntsville Golf Club

Wyoming Valley Country Club's Thomas Biscotti and Eric Plisko edged Honesdale Golf Club's Wayne Stephens and Eric Williams in a scorecard playoff to win the AGA/GAP Modified Stableford Tournament April 18 at Huntsville Golf Club.

Both teams posted 43 points to finish tied atop the event's Open Division. In the tiebreaker, Biscotti of Plisko accrued 21 points on the back nine to the Honesdale duo's 19.

"We knew it was going to be a tough day. Everybody is playing in the same conditions," Biscotti, 40, of Mountain Top, Pa., said. "We were excited to play. It was the first tournament of the year for us."

"It was my first round of the year," Plisko, 31, of Sugar Notch, Pa., added. "Being an accountant, I just got done with tax season so I didn't care if it was snowing or sleeting out there. I was going to be able to play."

It didn't snow or sleet, but the Biscotti and Plisko team did overcome chilly temperatures and petulant winds en route to victory. A Biscotti birdie on the par 3, 159-yard 17th hole proved critical. He knocked a 9-iron to 10 feet below the flagstick.

"It was especially important to me because I had just three-putted No. 16 for bogey. I knew we were playing very well so I knew we were going to be close," Biscotti, a dentist, said. "I really wanted to make the putt. It was nice to keep the momentum going with that birdie."

Plisko added three birdies of his own on the decisive back nine. He went back-to-back on Nos. 13 (par 4, 335 yards) and 14 (par 5, 502 yards), draining a 15-footer on the first and two-putting on the latter after reaching the green in two with a 6-iron. Plisko knocked a pitching wedge 125 yards to 15 feet on No. 10 (par 4, 379 yards). That birdie succeeded an eagle on No. 9 (par 5, 520 yards), where Plisko pummeled a downwind 3-wood 265 yards to six feet.

"The putter felt well. It kind of just felt like I was going to make everything I looked at," Plisko said. "Hats off to Huntsville. The greens for this time of year were phenomenal."

The Biscotti and Plisko team finished second in the Anthracite's Sam Spencer Four-Ball a year ago. Consider Wednesday a one-up.

"Tom and I play well together. Once I joined Wyoming Valley, he and I became good friends," Plisko said. "We get along very well and kind of feed off each other on the golf course."

"He's as good a partner as I could ask for," Biscotti said. "We practice and play a lot of golf together. Eric is the two-time defending club champion. That's a tournament that I haven't won. I certainly want to win, but Eric's a tough player. There's a lot of competition at our club."

Biscotti and Plisko will next represent Wyoming Valley in the BMW GAP Team Matches, which begins Sunday, April 22.

Senior Division

As a year-round golfer, Mark Czerniakowski is generally prepared for cold conditions. He only brought one winter hat to Huntsville, however, leaving his better-ball partner, Christopher Clauson, scrambling for gear prior to a noon tee time.

"I put the winter stuff away and forgot about it," Clauson, 61, said. "I wasn't equipped,

and [the Huntsville pro shop] already ran out of hand warmers and hats. I had to buy a 1960s headband. It saved the day."

"He's a pretty demanding partner," Czerniakowski, 50, added.

The headband — and proficient, complimentary putting — won the day for the Lu Lu Country Club members. Clauson and Czerniakowski posted 42 points to take the Senior Division title.

Czerniakowski's pitching wedge produced birdies on Nos. 3 (par 3, 113 yards) and 4 (par 4, 320 yards). A putting adjustment on the back nine allowed Clauson to add three birdies — Nos. 14 (par 5, 485 yards), 15 (par 3, 161 yards) and 17 (par 3, 150 yards) to the team's scorecard.

"All of a sudden, I started putting. Thank goodness or Mark would've disowned me," Clauson said jokingly.

The venue prompted the Philadelphia, Pa. residents to take advantage of a new tournament opportunity, courtesy of Anthracite's merger with the Golf Association of Philadelphia.

"We like the course," Clauson said. "The weather's been so horrible lately. We needed to get those competitive juices flowing again. We suffered through the cold and got a win. It was nice."

Complete results: <https://www.golfgenius.com/pages/1365317>

Anthracite Golf Association

The Anthracite Golf Association merged with the Golf Association of Philadelphia in 2018. Anthracite, an organization founded in 1951, promotes golf in the Northeastern Pennsylvania region. At the height of its growth, Anthracite included 46 Member Clubs in 18 counties.

Golf Association of Philadelphia

Founded in 1897, the Golf Association of Philadelphia (GAP) is the oldest regional or state golf association in the United States. It serves as the principal ruling body of amateur golf in its region. The Association's 200 Full Member Clubs and 70,000 individual members are spread across Eastern Pennsylvania and parts of New Jersey and Delaware. As Philadelphia's Most Trusted Source of Golf Information, the Golf Association of Philadelphia's mission is to promote, preserve and protect the game of golf.

FINAL TEAM RESULTS

Biscotti, Thomas / Plisko, Eric	Wyoming Valley Country Club	43
Stephens, Wayne / Williams, Eric	Honesdale Golf Club	43
Bliss, Bob / Edwards, Mark	Scranton Municipal Golf Course	39
Sagan, Gary / Thompson, Earl	Huntsville Golf Club	38
Barkley, Jason / Vonderheid, Todd	Moselem Springs Golf Club,	
	Huntsville Golf Club	37
Burgess, Donald /	Glenmaura National Golf Club,	
Hudacek, III, Stephen	Lancaster Country Club	37
McGarry, Tyler / Mulhern, Zack	Fox Hill Country Club	36



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