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USGA Holds Men & Women's Open at Famed Pinehurst No. 2



Payne Stewart 1999 Champion (©USGA Museum /J.D. Cuban

By MIKE KERN

U.S. Open Men's June 12th to 15th U.S. Open Women's June 19th to 22nd

Has it really been 15 years since the U.S. Open was first held at famed Pinehurst No. 2 in the sand hills region of North Carolina, where Payne Stewart sank an 18-foot par putt on the closing hole to beat Phil Mickelson by a shot, eight years after he'd first won the national championship at Hazeltine National in a playoff with Scott Simpson? Stewart, of course, would tragically be taken from us a little over four months later in a plane crash that mesmerized a television audience. And Mickelson, who wouldn't win his first major until five years later at Augusta, would fly across the country to become a first-time father the next day. The images from that overcast Sunday remain timeless. And there's a plaque in front of the clubhouse overlooking the 18th green to commemorate Stewart's euphoric clinching fist pump.

This June the U.S. Golf Association its taking its flagship event back to Pinehurst for the third time. In 2005, journeyman Michael Campbell of New Zealand held off Tiger Woods by two strokes to hoist the trophy. That was Campbell's only PGA Tour win. He does have eight European Tour wins and seven on the Australasia Tour (also three on the Challenge Tour), but none since then. And in 23 majors since then the best he's done is a fifth at the 2005 British Open (where he just missed the playoff in 1995) and a sixth at the 2005 PGA Championship. He's missed the cut at his last six U.S. Opens. But he'll always have that week.

Anyway, Woods will not be playing in this one, while as he recovers from back surgery. He wasn't at the Masters, either (for the first time). And it wasn't quite the same. Just don't try telling Bubba Watson that. Woods is a three-time winner of this major, with two runnerups. And he won it on one leg over 91 holes in 2008 at Torry Pines. But that was his last major win. He has't been a factor in this one on the weekend since tying for fourth in 2010. Maybe we'll see him at July's British Open at Royal Liverpool (Hoylake), where he won in 2006. Or at the PGA in August at Valhalla, where he beat Bob May in a 3-hole playoff in 2000 to complete his Triple Crown.

Then there's Phil Mickelson, the reigning British Open champ. And he's a six-time runnerup in this Open, which is a record. He was second last year at Merion, where the tournament was his to win on the final nine before two bogeys (both with wedges in his hand) gave the title to Justin Rose. It happens. So Lefty will be THE storyline, for better or whatever. He tied for 33rd in 2005. He needs this major to finish off a career grand slam, and his birthday is June 16, the day after the final round. It probably can't happen because it's the happy ending most folks finally



Pinehurst No. 2 16th Hole (©USGA/John Mummert)

want to see. But you never know.

it will be on pine needles or up

The other storyline this year has nothing to do with the men. The USGA has decided, for the first time, to hold the men's and Women's Open at the same site. Even though the Women's Open has had three very successful Opens right up the road at another Donald Ross gem, Pine Needles. So be it. This is their experiment, and we'll just have to see how it goes. I'm sure the women will be thrilled if there's an 18-hole playoff on Monday, or God forbid the weather dictates that at least some of the men are still out there trying to settle matters on Tuesday. Even if the men are done as planned on Sunday, who knows what the course might look like by the time the women take over? Everyone knows that Open courses usually are about at the limit by the time the championship ends. Now the USGA has to figure out a way to make it work for two weeks instead of one. Again, we'll see. Maybe it'll actually even be a huge success. One can only hope, because everyone will be monitoring the situation.

"It's really a celebration of golf," said Mike Davis, the USGA's Executive Director and the person responsible for setting up the course, which has been restored to pretty much what it looked like back in the 1940s by the design team of Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore. "I've honestly never seen as good a renovation as I've seen here, the attention to detail. It's always been a wonderful iconic golf course, a championship test. But right now it's all those things and more, with some of the features that have been brought back. It's certainly more aesthetically pleasing. But I think from a shot-value standpoint it's going to give the best players in the world some shots that they simply haven't had to make in past U.S. Opens."

Ironically, the U.S. Open has always been known as the hardest major, for all the obvious reasons. It's been defined by heavy rough, more often than not. But Pinehurst now has very little of the high stuff. Instead, there's a whole bunch of natural sand areas flanking the fairways, filled with wire grass. In other words, it's going to be different. But the one thing that hasn't changed are the greens, which are like inverted saucers and not easy to hold even under everyday conditions.

"They really took it back to the roots, the unique aspects, of Donald Ross," Davis said. "It's hard to believe you could make it better, but it's a good bit better. It gives players options. Sometimes they're going to be on sandy hardpan. Sometimes they're going to be on soft, footprinted loose sand. Sometimes they're going to be up against or underneath wire grass. Sometimes some of the vegetation, sometimes

U.S. Open continued on page 13





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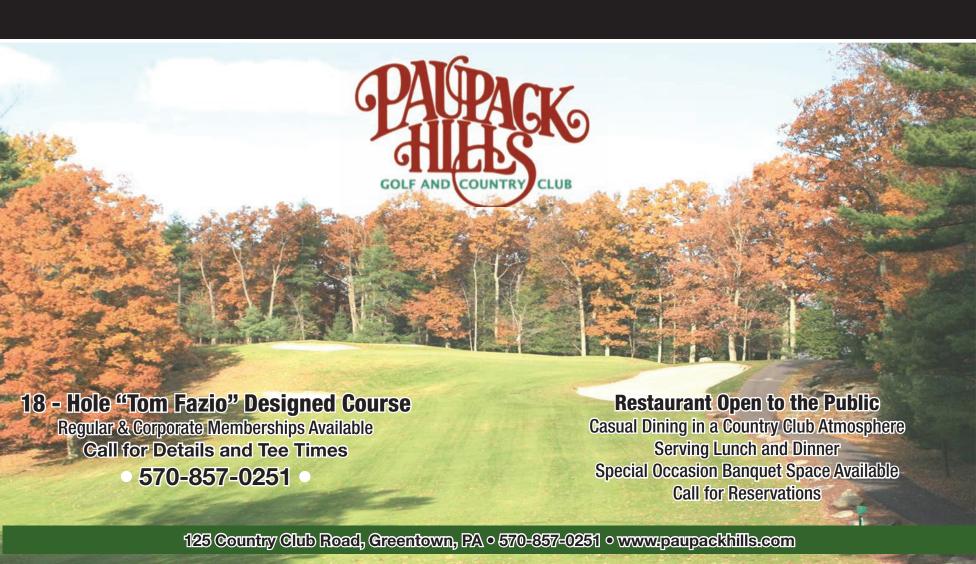




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Williamsburg's Golden Horseshoe Golf Club is Robert Trent Jones Sr.'s, Finest Design



Williamsburg Golden Horseshoe Golf Club Hole #4 Gold Course

By Mike Kern

The Gold Course at Williamsburg's Golden Horseshoe Golf Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013. Legendary architect Robert Trent Jones Sr., the Open Doctor, called it his finest design. The timeless layout, which cuts between Virginia pine forest and rolling terrain, is considered one of the best examples of tranditional architecture anywhere. It's hosted five USGA events through the years and is listed as one of Golf Digest's Top 100 public places to play.

Recently, to commemorate the golden anniversary, his son Rees, who's renowned in his own right, took the time to offer some of his thoughts on the Gold Course from his perspective. Which is only proper, since he's the one who oversaw the renovation. Here's some of what he had to say.

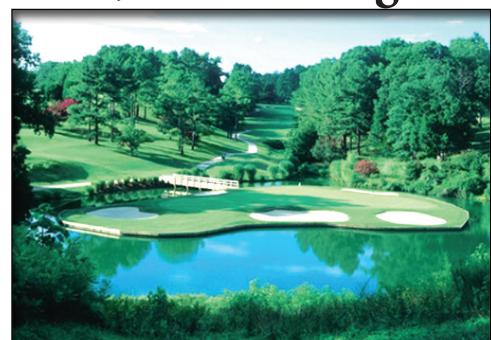
"They gave dad a wonderful piece of property (to work with)," Rees reflected. "It took a knowledgable architect to know how to route the golf holes on a pretty rugged piece of ground. But my father used to say, 'The more rugged the land, the more spectacular the result.' And I think that's what he achieved (there).

"I think you've got the best combined par 3s that you'll find in the nation. I think he probably routed those first. I think he found them first. He would put X's all over the map and marked where the green locations should be, the tee locations, and then I be you he found — I'm sure he found — the 16th hole first. That wasn't the first island green (in the world), but it certainly catapulted the idea of the island green, not just par 3s, into the forefront for years to come.

"It's a finesse golf course. It has smaller greens than my father usually build in that era. He was lengthening golf courses, and he was building bigger targets for the longer (approach) shots. But here, he built the smaller greens because of the shorter golf course. I think that's why it has stood the test of time. This is still regarded as one of the best golf courses in the whole Mid-Atlantic area. It's got a great finish. So I think he did the job. And then I redid it."

Hey, it's what they do for a living.

Question: Because you were in college when it was built, what do you see now that your dad did here that is something you either recognize from other places or something that you



Williamsburg Golden Horseshoe Golf Club Hole #9 Gold Course

took and used in some of the development designs you've down down the road?

RJ: "I think what most people who play golf courses and analyze them dont' understand as my father did, that a piece of property like this can create a spectacular result. On a rugged piece of ground, somebody has to lay out the holes, actually find 18 holes that work. This golf course fits the terrain on every hole. So I take that away from what my dad taught me about how to route golf courses. This is the type of golf course that we're going to have in the future, not overly long. Finding a natural piece of ground (and) utilizing it to its optimum.

"Another thing I learned from my dad, I think he was the best at contouring greens as far as making par a standard of excellence. I think he gave the golf course a lot of flexibility in his green design. When I came in and changed it, I had to take out some of the contours. With the increased speed of the greens today, some of the pitch in those old green had to be reduced. (But) Pretty much of his ideas and concepts are still intact ... and utilizing trees. I think trees are very, very much a part of the inland game of golf, and I think it's a huge mistake for some of these architects that are taking down all the trees. Because what they are doing is planting high fescue grass in place of the trees to make the definition and the challenge. You can't find your ball in the high fescue grass. I think this is a true parkland course because the trees are so spectacular. When you have trees like you do here, with some space around them, you get a shot like Bubba Watson made at Augusta (to win the 2012 Masters) and you have to wrok the ball in different directions and make decisions whether to pitch out or go for it."

Q: We talk a lot about the wow factor within the industry. If you're going forward, what might you change here if you were given a blank check?

RJ: "I (already) made them 15 years ago. We lengthened the golf course a little bit in a couple of places where we had the opportunity. For the most part, we got the green contours the way we wanted. We might one day want to change the bent grass we chose then for one of the more modern bent grasses that is more heat tolerant and a little denser. But that's just a process of the evolution of the turf-grass industry. We might (also) line the bunkers, but I think they're in pretty good shape."

Q. What do you think is the best golf course your father ever designed, and why?

Williamsburg continued on page 9

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Professional National Championship Brings Top Club Pros to Dunes & Grand Dunes



By Tony Leodora "The Traveling Golfer"

Myrtle Beach, SC – Just because they work at a golf club -- instead of spending all day, every day out on one of the professional golf tours -- doesn't mean they can't play competitive golf.

Proof of that claim will take place from **June 22 through 25** at the historic **Dunes Golf and Beach Club** in Myrtle Beach when the **47th PGA Professional National Championship** will be contested. PGA professionals who do not compete on any of the professional tours will vie for this national championship – and the top 25 in the field will be rewarded with an automatic spot in the PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Kentucky.

The Dunes will be joined by the popular **Grand Dunes Resort Club** as co-hosts of this very large event. The Championship will bring a field of 312 PGA members to Myrtle Beach, most of whom qualified through competition in their respective PGA Sections.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to welcome the country's most skilled club professionals for their most prestigious annual event," said Dunes Club PGA head professional Dennis Nichols. "We have been fortunate to host a number of high-level professional and amateur golf tournaments in the past and are excited to serve The PGA of America."

Designed in 1948 by legendary Robert Trent Jones Sr., the Dunes Golf & Beach Club will serve as the primary host course in the National Championship, including the final 36 holes. All contestants will compete the first two rounds on The Dunes and Grande Dunes Resort Club.

The site of the Senior Tour Championship from 1994-1999, The Dunes also has hosted the final stage of the 1973 PGA Tour Qualifying School that yielded such golfers as Ben Crenshaw, Gary McCord and Gil Morgan.

golfers as Ben Crenshaw, Gary McCord and Gil Morgan.

For years the Dunes Golf & Beach Club has been ranked on a number of Top
100 course lists in America. It also is ranked as the top course in the golf-rich state

of South Carolina.

The par-72 Dunes Golf & Beach Club extends to 7,195 yards and is the only layout in Myrtle Beach proper with ocean views. Prior to the 2014 National Championship, Rees Jones, son of the late Robert Trent Jones Sr., completed renovations that included converting green surfaces from bentgrass to Champion Bermudagrass, and modifying tees and bunkers.

Among the many prestigious events held at the Dunes Club, it was host of the former Senior Tour Championship from 1994-1999, and was home to the Golf Writers Association of America National Championship from 1954-2005.

"The Dunes Club is extremely proud of its tradition of hosting prestigious events," said Nichols. "This event is a great one for the club and it just seems to get bigger and bigger every year."

The importance of the Professional National Championship is not lost on the Greater Philadelphia area. In 2015 the PNC will be played on the two courses at Philadelphia Cricket Club – the Hurdzan-Fry-designed Militia Hill course and the recently renovated A.W. Tillinghast masterpiece, the Wissahickon Course.

"We will have a large contingent from Philadelphia Cricket Club in Myrtle Beach to observe this year's Championship," said Jim Smith, director of golf at Philadelphia Cricket Club. "A number of our board members will be there, as well as Geoff Surrette, executive director of the Philadelphia Section PGA. We all understand the importance of this event and want to make sure Philly Cricket is ready for it."

The 2015 Professional National Championship will be part of a very busy summer of golf activity in the Philadelphia area. In addition to the event at Philadelphia Cricket Club, the 2015 U.S. Women's Open will be contested at Lancaster Country

Cricket Club, the 2015 U.S. Women's Open will be contested at Lancaster Country Club.

"It's good to see championship golf being played in the Philadelphia area," said Surrette, who will have a major part in next year's PNC. "I think holding the U.S.

Open at Merion last year really ignited interest in golf. Now, hopefully, it continues with these other events."

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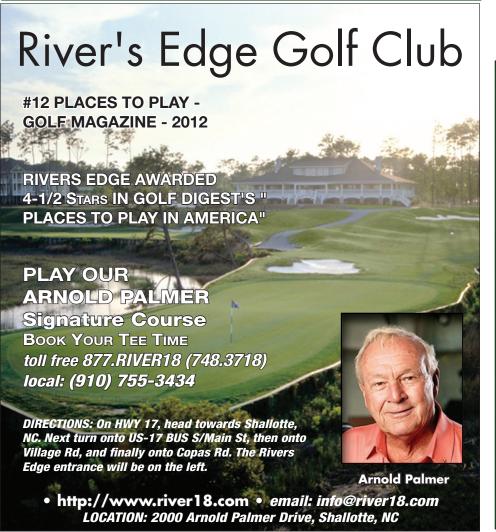
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Williamsburg Golden Horseshoe Golf Club Hole #8

Williamsburg from page 5

RJ: "There is no best golf course, not even in heaven. I would say Oakland Hills is probably the course that meant the most to him. My father got criticism for changing a Donald Ross golf course. But if those critics would see what the bunkers looked like before and what it looked like after the change, they would say he did a hell of a job. He resurrected that golf course to get it ready for the 1951 Open because it had gone on hard times during the Depression of the Second World War. I'd say working on Oakland Hills was one of his favorites. Working on Augusta, the 16th hole was probably his favorite hole because he built the entire golf hole. I used to go perpendicular to the hole that dad built. I think Peachtree may have been his favorite job, not necessarily his favorite golf course, because he did it with Bobby Jones. He idolized Bob Jones and he loved every minute of it. I would say that was the favorite experience he had. He and Marion, my mother, and dad become very good friends with Mary and Bob Jones. The favorite jobs are where you meet your favorite people and it's your favorite place. and you just enjoy being there. I think that's what dad had at Valderrama. Then Spyglass Hill, he loved that he built a golf course that really challenged the best in the game. That's what he did, and what I've done, too. When you get those assignments, you know that the owners of the courses and members of the courses really want their course to

Desically win the championship."

Q. How do you think both your dad's course with your work have stood the test of time?

RJ: You do try to look forward. For a while we really had a hard time doing that because the equipment was changing on us so fast. But I think a lot of us take advantage of this equipment. So we really have to to design it for the standard of today, thinking the same standard is going to hold true, and I think that's the case now. I think my dad sort of had a crystal ball with this golf course, even though he didn't build a long golf course. But if you read the history of my father, he built a lot of courses the same length. Actually when I started in the business with my father, I worked for him for more than 10 years. Seven thousand yards was a long course, so this was actually not a short golf course 50 years ago. But I think you want a golf course that's going to maintain the challenge and the enjoyment. The members love this place. They asked me how do you know you've been a success. I said you know you're a success in designing a golf course when you go back and they're glad to see you. And that's the case here."

It should be noted that Rees was responsible for the Green Course at Golden Horseshow, which has also won numerous awards.



View of Williamsburg Golden Horseshoe Golf Club Pro Shop Hole #11

Q. Can you talk a little bit about the work you've done at Pinehurst No. 2, and what would you look forward to for the upcoming U.S. Open? (Which, by the way, has since undergone another renovation by the team of Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore that has totally changed the look of the place back to what it resembled some 75 years ago).

RJ: I did the work before the 1999 Open at Pinehurst No. 2, and before 2005. I changed the painting, they're changing the frame. I rebuilt the greens, took them over the sides, we mowed away all the rough around the greens, we added length for both the Opens. They're bringing back the old frame, which was a sandy waste area. So it really gives the holes much more definition. They're putting the wire grass in, which is very indigenous of that area. So when a player hits into that natural area, he may have an easy shot with no obstruction, but he might be right up against the wire grass. So it's going to be an indeterminate hazard, which will make it more challenging. You'll have to make the players have to think about whether to hit the driver off the tee. I think the changes they have made has given the course a lot more definition and you can visualize the holes a little bit better, so I think that's very good. I think it may play a lot easier if they don't hit into the wire grass, because they're not going to have any rough. So the guys that hit it straight are going to have a real advantage.

"You (still) have the crown greens, which I believe Ross wanted. Some people say that it was all the top dressing, but I think he was trying to build the ultimate golf course. Augusta National was being built at the same time and he wante dhis course to be better than Alister MacKenzie's, so I think that's why he built the crown greens. You have to hit the center of those greens. They're much smaller than the square footage because you can't hit the sides because it will reject the ball down. But the chipping areas are contained. That's where he got his dirt for the greens. He cut to the right because of the sandy soil and took that soil and put it on top. But they're contained so the ball doesn't go too far away from the greens."

Tell that to the poor guy who makes a double bogey after he misses his target by like a foot or two. Ouch. See you at Pinehurst. And hopefully at the Golden Horseshoe, too.

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Forward CG key to SLDR's length



TaylorMade Golf touts latest SLDR. 'company's longest driver ever.'

By Reid Nelson

After several generations of hugely successful white drivers and fairway woods, TaylorMade went back to black, or at least dark charcoal, for its new SLDR driver.

Now, after a few short months on the market – enough time to become the No. 1 driver on the PGA Tour and most other tours around the world – the folks at TaylorMade are making the SLDR available in white, the color that captivated golfers like cult Kool-Aid when the R11 and subsequently R11S, R1 and various generations of the Burner and RocketBallz drivers hit the market.

But it's more than cosmetic differences that set SLDR apart from every other driver TaylorMade has made.

A radical shift in weight distribution brings the center of gravity (CG) much closer to the face of the new SLDR than with other drivers on the market, regardless of the manufacturer. The low, forward CG produces

more penetrating drives by reducing spin and increasing ball speed. Because they get less back spin, players using the SLDR, including TaylorMade's tour pros, can use more loft and generate higher launch angles without the fear of drives "ballooning" in the wind.

Sounds simple enough, right? Higher launch angle, lower spin rate, faster ball speed. It all adds up to the longest driver TaylorMade has ever built, as confirmed by robot testing.

And simple is a good word to describe the new SLDR because, despite all the technology designed into this very clean, traditional looking head, the SLDR is much more user friendly that the generations of adjustable drivers TaylorMade has offered going back over the past decade or so.

Going back to the original r7 – the first driver to incorporate movable weights – TaylorMade has been the undisputed leader in driver innovation and technology. Over that time, multiple movable weights, adjustable hosels and adjustable sole plates have allowed golfers to 'dial in' loft, face angle, heel-toe (draw and fade) bias and even lie angle. But the myriad

of combinations could become daunting, if not downright confusing, and that's just if you stuck with the weights and adjustments that came with your new weapon. Consider the fact that golfers could purchase additional movable weights, from just a gram up to 16 grams, and the possible number of set-up differences becomes mind-boggling.

Enter the SLDR. Offered in four lofts – 8° 9.5°, 10.5° and 12° – the SLDR features an adjustable hosel that allows the player to change loft by + 1.5 degrees. But the only other variable in the SLDR's design is a sliding weight – where the SLDR name comes from – located just back of the face, in the mid-portion of the sole plate.

The sliding weight can be moved to one of 21 positions, heel to toe, by simply loosening and re-tightening a set screw. Moved toward the heel, the weight promotes a draw; moved toward the toe, the weight promotes a fade. It's easy; the words "draw" and "fade" are even stamped into the sole plate. Even the neutral position is easy to locate, thanks to a blue hash mark.

Aesthetically, the SLDR is arguably the best-looking driver Taylor Made has made in years, possibly going back to the classic shape of the r7 SuperQuad. (If you're one who appreciates traditional, classic head shapes, that is.) Unlike the R1, the crown of the SLDR, whether in charcoal-gray or white, is solid in color and basically free of graphics except for a tiny "T" at the sweetspot and an SLDR logo that is so small it's invisible at address to all but the most eagle-eved player. The only

that it's invisible at address to all but the most eagle-eyed player. The only real distinguishing feature of the SLDR for any distance at all is the chrome "button" at the heel somewhat reminiscent of the brass backweight on the classic, persimmon Powerbilt drivers of old.

The SLDR comes standard with a Fujikura Speeder 57 shaft in the 55- to 61-gram range, depending on flex, and is priced at \$400. The TP version sports a Fujikura Motore Speeder TS 6.3 shaft, 62 to 66 grams, and is priced at \$500.

Find a TaylorMade retailer or club fitter and give one a try. You'll be impressed by the feel and the sound as much as the distance delivered by the SLDR. But remember, thanks to the forward-thinking engineers at TaylorMade, you'll need to use more loft than you're currently playing to take maximum advantage of the forward-weighting of the SLDR.



TaylorMade Limited Edition SLDR White driver. Beginning with the R11 in three years ago, TaylorMade started producing white-crowned drivers exclusively.



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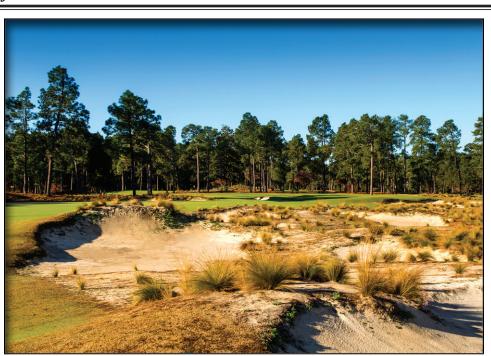
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7th Hole (@USGA/John Mummert) Pinehurst No. 2

US Open from page 3

against a pine cone. It might be a little easier, but there is an element of luck I suppose involved. That's kind of the nature of the game we play. It wasn't meant to be equal all the time or necessarily fair.

"This is absolutely a wider Open than we're used to. Thst's not a bad thing. One of the great things about moving these championships around is that you get different types of courses. We should celebrate that, celebrate the great architecture. What's so neat is there's only two mow heights out there. The height they cut the fairways and the height they cut the greens. And that's it. We never encounter something like that for a U.S. Open. From a golf maintenance standpoint, it's a really wonderful thing."

The men can play it at 7,562 yards, although Davis said he can't imagine them playing it that long on any given day. And it'll be about 900 yards less for the women.

"The intent of back-to-back Opens, when we did this, was to set it up the same way (for both)," Davis said. "We want these two weeks, to the extent possible, to play exactly the same, given the slightly differing ability of the men versus the women. You're going to see us use roughly the same hole locations. We will be on the so-called Payne Stewart location, in round four, for both the men and the women. The greens, they're going to be roughly 111/2 to 12 on the Stimpmeter, slightly softer the second week. So I suppose if I was a female playing in the Women's Open, I would be watching very, very closely that first week. Because they're going to get an idea of how the setup is going to be. Same grass sites, same bunker preparation.

"The idea is that if the men are hitting a wedge (approach) and it's kind of a bounce, stop, that's what we'll want for the women. This all wounds wonderful on paper. I can assure you we've spent a lot of time thinking about this. Will we get it perfect? I can guarantee you we will not. I can promise that. We could have one week very dry and breezy, the next week still, humid, soft. They're going to play differently. But the idea is same golf course, same setup.

"We've gotten a lot of questions about why we're playing the Women's Open second. Simply put, we feel the agronomists, the superintendents, feel we have the best chance of getting the putting greens right having the men play first. That's the reason. If Mother Nature cooperates, we will have more moisture on the ground the second week than the first. And we feel like going from a real dry situation to a semi-dry situation, if you will, is just better. We've also had some questions about divots. I mentioned that at the LPGA players meeting and I said, well, divots are just part of the game. I think half the players scowled at me and half of them laughed. So I'm not sure."

If nothing else, it should prove interesting, to say the least.

This much is certain: some people will love it, others won't. That's simply the way this stuff works. Chances are this will turn into a one-time logistical thing, just because. But two golfers are going to leave with trophies. And that's all the ultimately counts.



Pinehurst No. 2 3rd Hole (©USGA/John Mummert)

Pinehurst is one of those venues that you either love or detest. It's a matter of taste. There are those who believe it's overrated. And maybe they're right. Myself, I've always appreciate the nuances. And the degree of difficulty, even when it does border on the unfair. Just ask John Daly, who's probably still trying to chip his ball up that slope on the eighth hole. Surely you remember that? Yes, Pinehurst demands precision, especially into the putting surfaces. But what Open layout doesn't?

"They wanted to get back to Donald Ross and its orgins," Davis reiterated. "The big challenge was trying to set up a golf course for both weeks that you didn't compromise one week or the other. When the idea came up, we thought the one place it would probably work would be Pinehurst.

"We went into this knowing there were risks. But we went into it knowing there was a lot more upside. I think it's going to showcase just how good the females can play the game."

Fair enough. But again, it has to play out before we can offer relevant assessments. There's bound to be comparisons, whether that's right or not.

"We can already see how this Women's Open is the most talked about and anticipated Women's Open yet," said Vicki Goetze-Ackerman, president of the LPGA player directors, who won the 1989 U.S. Amateur at Pinehurst. "The increase in awareness and exposure for the event and women's golf are significant positives for the LPGA Tour, as well as the game of golf. We feel that bringing the women's and the men's games together is not only innovative and openminded, but a great opportunity to showcase the best of the best for both genders.

"Personally, I think this is the coolest thing ever. When I heard about the two Opens coming to Pinehurst, I was super excited. Pinehurst will endure the test of time. Anyone who has won on Pinehurst No. 2 can attest to the treachery that the course contains. So it will be a treat for all of us to watch the two Opens. I'm super-biased to Pinehurst, I know. But it's a fantastic venue and it's great to be part of it.

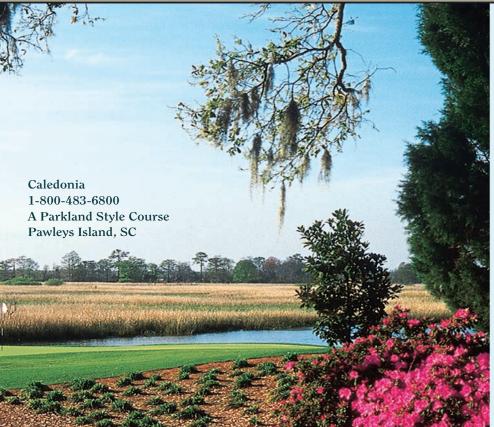
"The LPGA players very much look forward to June and being part of an historical event ... that we'll remember for years to come."

The powers that be would surely second that. The men are scheduled to crown their champion as usual on Father's Day, the 15th, and the women will do likewise seven days later. Remember, there is no longer an 18-hole playoff for the women should there be a tie. Instead, there's a 3-hole aggragate format followed by sudden death.

And in case you're into planning ahead, next summer the Women's Open is coming to Lancaster Country Club. And in 2017 it'll go to Trump National in Bedminster, N.J. The 2016 men's Open will be returning to one of the best hosts, Oakmont C.C. near Pittsburgh. That same year the 100th anniversary of the inaugural PGA will be played at Baltusrol in Springfield, N.J. Also, the 2016 Women's Amateur will be held at Rolling Green in suburban Philadelphia (Springfield, Delaware County), where JoAnne Gunderson Carner won the Open in a playoff with Sandra Palmer. It was her eighth and final USGA win, the most by any female.

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Royal St. Kitts GC 12th Hole. St Kitts underwent a major renovation that established it as an excellent example of resort golf.

By Tony Leodora

In recent years, the big word throughout the golf industry has been "contraction." rapidly. During 2013 a total of 158 golf courses closed in the U.S., compared to only 14 courses opening.

There are very few areas in the world that have shown golf growth. Everyone

points to China as the leading example. And, certainly, there has been great growth in China.

But that country pales by comparison to the growth that is taking place in another country. Within the next couple of years, the amount of golf courses on the tiny West Indies island of St. Kitts will triple.

Dating back to 1976, when architect Robert Trent Jones first brought golf to the island with the opening of the Royal St. Kitts GC, visitors had only one option. That is changing rapidly.

Kittitian Hill, an upscale residential and opulent cottage hotel property, plans to unveil a dramatic golf course designed by Masters champion Ian Woosnam in December of 2014.

Another spectacular Christophe Harbour, also is underway. It will combine luxury residential

Especially in the United States, the number of golf courses has been contracting



St. Kitts Island Cottage in Belmont Farm, the first phase of the Kittitan Hill Resort to Open in Late 2014

properties, with several five-star hotels and a mega-yacht marina – all complemented by a Tom Fazio-designed golf course. Target for opening is 2015.

In advance of the new developments, the original Royal St. Kitts GC also underwent a major renovation that established it as an excellent example of resort golf. It is an extremely enjoyable layout, yet the ever-present trade winds can add enough challenge for any level of golfer.

"We realize now how important golf can be to the total tourism capability here

on St. Kitts," said Ricky Skerritt, St. Kitts Minister of Tourism. "The beauty of the island is the main attraction, but playing golf on such a beautiful island is very appealing to a lot of people."

Mike Cole is a PGA professional who grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Twelve years ago he moved to Jamaica and ran the golf program at the famous White Witch GC. In 2013 he followed the renovation at Royal St. Kitts GC and moved to the island.

"I saw the tremendous potential that exists here," said Cole. "The quality of life is absolutely great. As soon as more people learn about this island, it will become the hottest thing in the Caribbean."

The renovation of Royal St. Kitts

St Kitts Golf

continued on page 17





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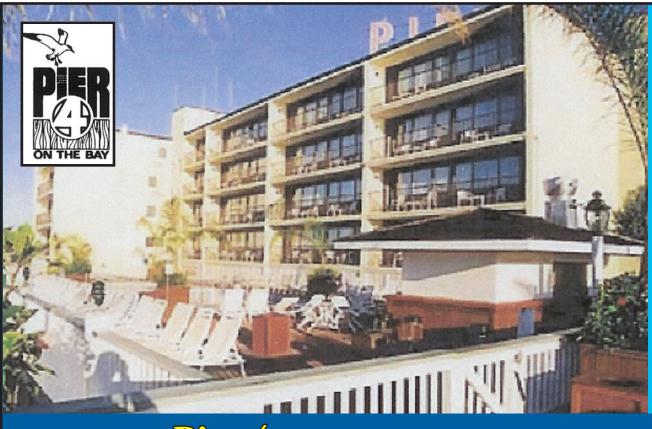
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Royal St. Kitts Golf Course Looking back 14th Hole

St. Kitts Golf from page 15

GC by Canadian architect Thomas McBroom established it with modern drainage and the latest technology with regard to turfgrass and agronomy.

There is a links-style feel to the course, as few trees dot the landscape and the seaside back nine is whipped by the ever-present trade winds. However, golfers are able to find almost any shot they hit. That factor aids pace of play, often a point of contention at resort courses that were designed to be too difficult for the caliber of everyday player.

The new Kittitian Hill course should be quite the opposite. Located on a former 400-acre sugar plantation, the golf course has more than 200 feet of elevation change. Also, there are a series of "gaughts" or ravines that are caused by

extreme storm water runoff. Golfers will have a total of 10 forced carries across the hazard areas.

The course plays up the side of a mountain, affording spectacular water views and panoramic vistas of the countryside. The entire project is being planned with the environment in mind.

"The plan is not to use any insecticides or pesticides on the course," explained Bob Harrington, the golf course project manager. "There are going to be a number of areas on the property where organic farming will be practiced. A farmto-table culinary style will be part of the culture here. As a result, great care is being taken to preserve the natural condition of the property."

At Christophe Harbour, the scale of everything is grand. The project covers 2,500 acres of cliffs



Royal St. Kitts Golf Course 17th Hole

and waterfront on the southeast tip of St. Kitts.

"This is one of the most spectacular projects I have ever been involved in," said renowned golf course architect Tom Fazio, who has been involved in a number of world-class golf properties. "The only word you can use to describe every phase of Christophe Harbour is 'spectacular.' It is absolutely breathtaking."

With regard to the golf course, which is currently under construction, Fazio had the same impressive assessment. "Take the best holes at Pebble Beach and put them on cliffs about 100 feet above the sea," said Fazio. "That's what the entire course will be like."

With that kind of quality golf situated on a small island, there is a substantial amount of attraction for the traveling golfers of the world. If that is not enough, there is always the sister island of Nevis, just a short ferry ride away. A Robert

Trent Jones II golf course, with more spectacular views of the Caribbean and Mt. Nevis, is located at the impressive Nevis

Four Seasons Resort.

All of this development will enhance the natural beauty that exists on St. Kitts – one in a string of Caribbean islands that share a volcanic origin.

"I hear a lot of people comparing the look and feel of St. Kitts to Hawaii," says Tom Jaronski of The Golf Connection, a Royersford, PA-based company that runs pro-am golf tournaments throughout the Caribbean and Mexico. "The golf is great. The scenery is great. The weather is great. The biggest challenge St. Kitts faces today is that not enough people know anything about it. Once they come, they're hooked."

Getting hooked on a beautiful island like St. Kitts is a given. Getting hooked on St. Kitts Golf is the next project of the 40,000 inhabitants, known as Kittitians. And they are off to a flying



Royal St. Kitts Golf Course 9th Hole

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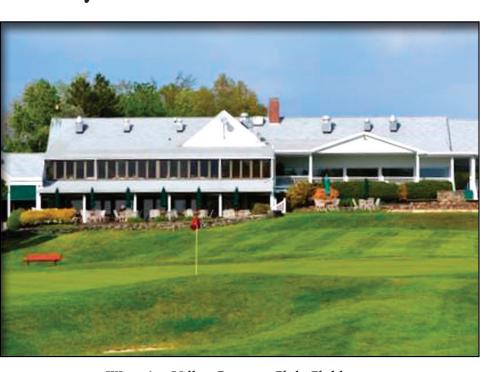
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McCarthy Returns to Wyoming Valley C.C.

3-Day Betterball Scratch Tournaments a Mainstay of Northeast PA Golf



Wyoming Valley Country Club Clubhouse

By John Zimich

Highlighting the summer golf schedules at private golf clubs in Northeastern Pennsylvania annually is the three-day member-guest better ball of partners golf tournament. In many cases it's the social event of the year while for others it's the competition that brings them back year after year.

On the Wyoming Valley scene **Wyoming Valley Country Club**, founded in 1896 and one of the oldest in the United States, each year kicks off the three day better ball of partners season during the first full weekend of June.

The **John A. Allan** or **Allan** follows at the **Fox Hill Country Club** at the latter part of June while **Irem Country Club** holds **the Potentate** the first full weekend in August. There's plenty of golf to be played with qualifying rounds Friday followed by either match or medal play the following two days before champions are crowned in all flights.

At Wyoming Valley Country Club this year (2014), there's something new and something old. For the **J.J. McCarthy** or **McCarthy** is returning after a 22-year absence. The family of the late J.J. McCarthy graciously accepted and wanted the club's premier event to return to its "roots." After 1991 the tournament was named the Classic and previously it was called the J.J. McCarthy, who was a stalwart member at the club for many years prior to his passing. John McCarthy of McCarthy Tire and his sister Katie McCarthy Lambert are serving on the tournament committee along with co-chairs Marty Behm and Paul Eyerman, Atty. Bob Bull, golf chairman; Steve Bolinger Vince Tassitano, club president; Tony Genoble, Randy Park, club manager; Pete Korba, head PGA golf professional, and Chris Snopkowski, golf course superintendent.

Snopkowski and assistants Mike Madara and Scott Kotula have the golf course in superb condition for the 104 teams entered while great food and libations are provided by Park and staffers.

"Our tournament is definitely the pinnacle of the season," said Korba. "We



Wyoming Valley Country Club Hole # 15

have players coming from all over the country. States like New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland and Kansas.

"To show you how popular our McCarthy is we had waiting list of 19 teams and to enter is based on senior membership."

Korba added that it takes a complete team effort to conduct the three-day event with the women members handling scoring. Spectators are welcomed to view the action and some bleachers have been erected to accommodate them.

Because of the 104 teams there are two waves of qualifying, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Both holes No. 1 and 10 start play with 15 low teams joining defending champions John Olszewski and Eric Williams in the championship flight while flights first through 22 will consist of four teams to accommodate play.

The Olszewski-Williams duo have won this event on several occasions. Other past victors include Mark Jarolen and Len Coleman, father-son twosome of Dave and Matt Kachurak, late Andy Stetz and top Allentown area golfer Dick Adam, Northeastern Pennsylvania golf legend, the late Art Brunn Sr., who teamed with club members the late Joe OKama and Dr. Thomas O'Donnell. Ted Tryba, a two-time winner of the PGA Tour and his late father have also been in the winner's circle at the Wyoming Valley Country Club along with Dr. Ron Shevock and Dave Monka and Dr. Tom Biscotti and John Mikiewicz.

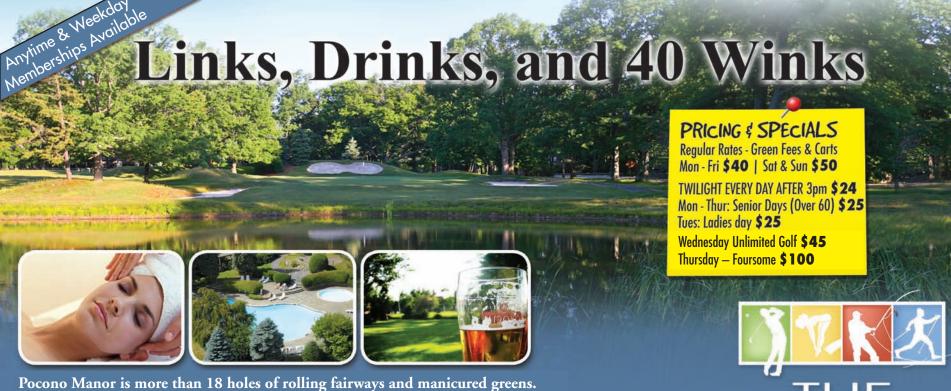
Fox Hill Country Club, like Wyoming Valley, has a rich golfing history in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Both clubs were designed by legendary golf architect A. W. Tillinghast and feature undulating fairways and greens sloping back to front. Tillinghast also designed nationally-ranked courses like Bethpage Black, Winged Foot, Baltusrol and San Francisco Country Club.

Winged Foot, Baltusrol and San Francisco Country Club. Since 1929, Fox Hill Country Club has held both open and invitational tournaments. In bygone years it carried an individual format.

Bill Lawler, club historian, golf author and one of the top amateur golfers in

3-Day Betterball Tournaments continued on page 29

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Total

73

73

73



Philadelphia PGA Section



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Skee Riegel Senior Open Radnor Valley CC - Villanova, PA Par 70

Total

Stu Ingraham - M Golf Range	67
Rob Shuey - Philly PGA	68
Don DeAngelis - Center Square GC	68
George Forster - Radnor Valley CC	70
Greg Farrow - Deerwood CC	70
Jack Connelly - North Hills CC	71
John Kellogg - Radley Run CC	71
Bob Lennon - Wilmington CC	71
Bill Sautter - Philadelphia Cricket Club	71
Rick Flesher - Applebrook GC	72
Mike Moses - Concord CC	72
John Allen - GolfTEC Mainline	72
Don Allan - Burlington CC	72
Harvey Williams - Philly PGA	72
Ed Dougherty - Philly PGA	73
Dave Roberts - Cedarbrook CC	75
Brian Kelly - Bucknell GC	75
Kerry Mattern - Cedarbrook CC	75
Mike Mack - Burlington CC	75
Roger Stern - Wedgewood Golf Course	75
Dan Haskell - Philly PGA	75
Wayne Phillips - Lehigh CC	76

Deleware Valley Open

Laurel Creek CC - Mount Laurel, NJ

Dave Quinn - Links GC (p)	68
Don Allan - Burlington CC	68
John Bierkan - Aronimink GC	68
John Rudolph - Fieldstone GC	69
Greg Matthias - Brandywine CC	70
Dave McNabb - Applebrook GC	70
John Appleget - Wildwood Golf & CC	70
Brendon Post - Ches. Bay GC - Rising Sun	70
Eric Kennedy - Overbrook GC	70
Jordan Gibbs - Huntingdon Valley CC	70
John Allen - GolfTEC Mainline	71
John Lynch - Peninsula Golf Club	71
Eric McNamee - Golf Galaxy	71
Bill Walker - Riverton CC	72
Dan Bolstein - Riverton CC	72
David Morano - Lancaster CC	72
Steve Frederick - Lehigh CC	72
Billy Stewart - ACE Club	72
Michael Little - Rolling Green GC	73
L	

Joe Kogelman - GolfTEC-KoP

Chris Krueger - Kings Creek CC

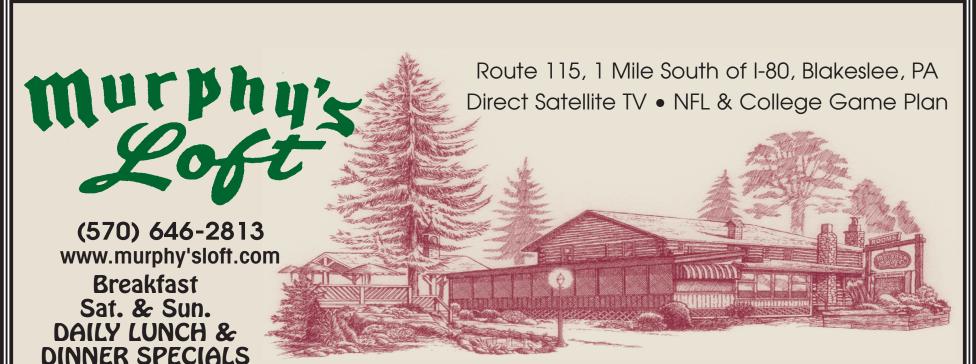
Dave Pagett - Whitemarsh Valley CC

Connelly Cup Head Pro Championship Trump National GC Philly-Pine Hill, NJ

	Total
Mike Moses - Concord CC	69
Dave Quinn - Links GC	71
Corey McAlarney - Scott Greens GC	74
John DiMarco - Laurel Creek CC	74
Eric Kennedy - Overbrook GC	74
Jeb Boyle - Čentre Hills CC	74
Gary Hardin - Northampton CC	75
Stu Ingraham - M Golf Range	75
Linda Nevatt - ACE Club	75
Hugo Mazzalupi - Patriots Glen Golf Club	76
Rick Gibney - Colonial GC	76
Mike Mack - Burlington CC	76
Graham Dendler - Trenton CC	76
Don DeAngelis - Center Square GC	76
Steve Kiefner - Northampton CC	77
Ryan Lagergren - Stonewall	77
David Clark - Pine Valley GC	77
J R Delich - Applebrook GC	78
Dave Cartwright - Trump National GC- Philly	78
John Kellogg - Radley Run CC	78
Reed Lansinger - Philadelphia Cricket Club	78
Judd Caruso - Belles Springs GC	78

Haverford Trust Co. Classic Dlymouth Meeting DA

Sunnybrook GC - Plymouth Meeting, PA	Par 72
	Total
Rusty Harbold - Lancaster CC	67
Brian Kelly - Bucknell GC	68
Dave McNabb - Applebrook GC	69
Terry Hertzog - CC of York	69
Stu Ingraham - M Golf Range	70
John Lynch - Peninsula Golf Club	70
Steve Swartz - Conestoga CC	70
Scott Reilly - Philadelphia CC	71
Rob Shuey - Colonial GC	71
Terry Hatch - Hidden Valley GC	72
Don Allan - Burlington CC	72
Bill Walker - Riverton CC	72
John Allen - TaylorMade Golf Ex.	72
John Rudolph - Fieldstone GC	72
Don DeAngelis - Center Square GC	72
Mark Parson - Philly PGA	72
Greg Matthias - Brandywine CC	72
Billy Stewart - ACE Club	73
Richie Krebs - Outdoor CC	73
Mickey Sokalski - Philmont CC	74
Shawn Hall Radley - Run CC	74
Graham Dendler - Trenton CC	74



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Woodloch Springs Pr	o–Am
CC at Woodloch Springs	Par 72

LOW PRO

Jarred Ramnath (Woodloch)	/1
John Pillar (Woodloch)	73
Mike Molino (Scranton)	73
Dustin McCormick (Glen Brook)	74
LOW SENIOR PRO	
Greg Wall (Pocono Manor)	75
Joe Ambrose (Paupack Hills)	77
LOW AMATEUR	
Eric Williams (Woodloch Springs)	74
Adam Deraymond (Whitetail)	76
Fran Hamm (Scranton)	78
Ed Streisel (Skytop)	78
TEAM LOW GROSS	
Mike Molino (Scranton)	65
Jared Cottell (Woodloch Springs)	68
Brad Paukovitz (Whitetail)	69
TEAM LOW NET	
Jarred Ramnath (Woodloch Springs)	60
John Pillar (Woodloch)	61
Ioe Ambrose (Paupack Hills)	63

Wyoming Valley Motors Pro-Am at Buck Hill White & Blue Par 72

LOW PRO

Dustin McCormick (Glen Brook)	72
Brian Fruehan (Elmhurst)	75
Joe Ambrose (Paupack Hills)	78
Brad Paukovits (Whitetail)	78
LOW SENIOR PRO	
Gary Clark (Buck Hill)	73
Ray Silnik (Blue Shamrock)	77
Brian Boyle (Skytop)	77
Greg Wall (Pocono Manor)	79
Tom O'Malley (Buck Hill)	79
LOW AMATEUR	
Mike Guro ()	70
Eric Williams (Honesdale)	71
TEAM LOW GROSS	
Jim Muschlitz (Southmoore)	64
John Kulhamer (Green Pond)	65
Brian Fruehan (Elmhurst)	66
TEAM LOW NET	
Joe Anthony (Buck Hill)	57
Gary Clark (Buck Hill)	59



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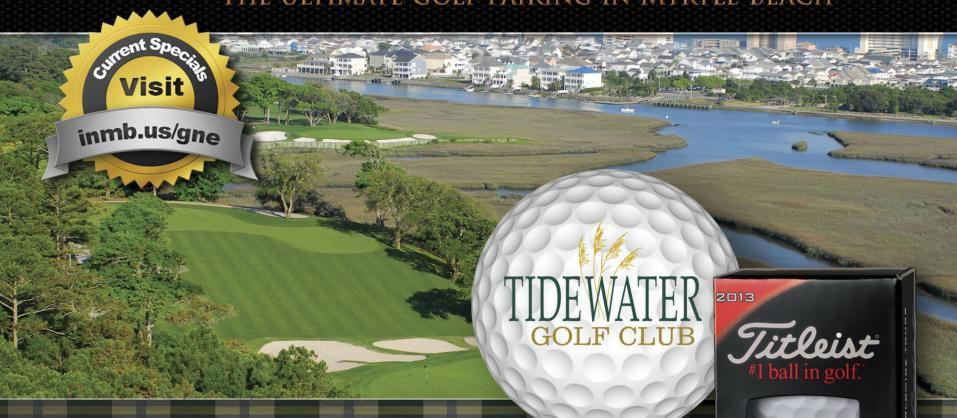
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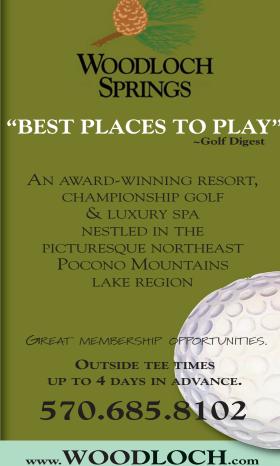


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Williams & Gardas 2014 Moore Tournament Champs



The team of Eric Williams & Jim Gardas, with (Ctr)Floyd Bowen, AGA tournament Committee

Wilkes Barre, PA - The team of Eric Williams & Jim Gardas have become synonymous with the title AGA John Moore Champions, the team has captured an impressive 9 of the last 10 titles.

On Saturday the eventual champions found themselves 2 shots back of Fox Hill Country Club's Mariano Medico and Chase Makowski combined to card a round of 7-under par 65 at Valley Country Club.

Heading into Sundays final round at Fox Hill Country Club, Williams & Gardas knew they would need to have a terrific round if they planned on retaining their hold on the title, as there were 8 teams within 3 shots of the lead. Williams & Gardas answered the call with with a round of 6-under par 65, good enough for a one shot victory over Austin Smith & Santo LaFoca of Huntsville Golf Club 67-66-123 for a solo second.

AGA Executive Director Patrick Lloyd said "they make a tremendous team and as I travel and visit our member clubs, we actually have golfers making the Tiger vs. the field comparison when it comes to the "Moore" tournament and Eric (Williams) & Jimmy (Gardas)."

In the Flights portion, Irem Country Club's Jim Blinn & Chuck Brand finished where they left off after carding the low round on Saturday with a impressive 67 at host Paupack Hills Country Club. The team used their local course knowledge to combine for a round of 70 on day 2 at Irem Country Club for a two-day total of 67-70-137 to capture the "Flights" title by 4 shots over Scranton Muni. Golf Club's Jerry Tonkin & Steve Mazur who finished 70-71-141.

Other Flight winners included Jim Fonzoni & Bob Zagorsky (2nd Flights), Joe Mantione & Bob Zaleski (3rd Filght), Luke Chesniak & Arthur Rinaldi (4th Flight), Jerry Stanvitch & Pete Larioni (5th Flight), and Jerry Gavin & Jim Davis (6th Flight).

In total 200 players representing 51 clubs competed in the rain shortened event, the Anthracite Golf Association would like to thank all participants, host clubs, and executive committee members who volunteered their time to make the 2014 AGA John Moore Tournament a success. For more results go to **www.anthracitegolf.org**

2014 AGA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



2014 Anthracite Golf Association Scholarship Recipients

The Anthracite Golf Association, now in its 64th season promoting golf in Pennsylvania, is celebrating its 29th year of awarding scholarships to deserving young golfers.

This program is a great example of your tournament fees at work. Portions of our tournament proceeds help promote the AGA scholarship program and defray costs of our very successful junior tour program. This year's recipients were recently honored at a reception at Glenmaura National Golf Club.

Since the AGA Scholarship program began in 1986 Over \$155,000 has been awarded to over 130 student athletes.

Listed here are the recipients for 2014, their schools and their awards.

Vince Scarpetta Sr. Scholarship: Emily Okrepkie, Holy Cross High School

Art Wall Jr. Scholarship:
William Dombroski, Crestwood High School

The Scott Saunders Memorial Scholarship: Connor Knight, North Pocono High School

The Francis "Gunner" Hayes Scholarship: Courtney Melvin, Wyoming Area High School

Adam Slamas Memorial Scholarship: Austin Renz, Danville Area High School

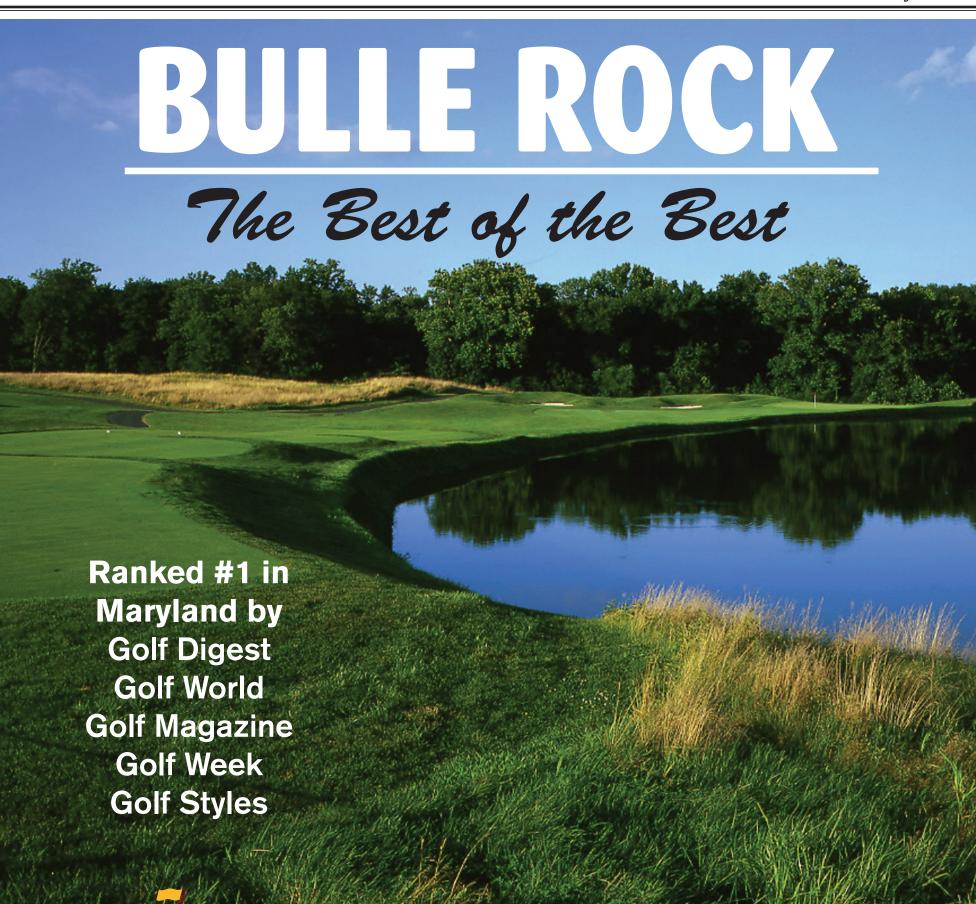
Dennis M. Corvo ScholarshipAnthony Sebastianelli, Abington Heights High School

The Frank O'Neill Jr Scholarship: John Barone, Dunmore High School

The AGA Executive Committee Scholarship: Michael Bonland, Holy Reedemer High School

AGA Founders Scholarship Winners: Matt Dalo, Berwick Area High School Sean Solysiak, Tunhannock High School

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Irem Country Club Picturesque Hole # 1

3-Day Betterball Tournaments from page 19

Northeastern Pennsylvania, noted the Allan was an open invitational until 1970 when the first member-guest tourney was won by the twosome of the late Don Koval and Joe Stencik. Stencik was a standout athlete at Coughlin before earning a golf scholarship to national powerhouse Houston University in Texas. He's now a head pro in Florida.

Like the patriarch of the McCarthy family, John Allan was a driving force at Fox Hill Country Club and a passionate golfer.

Several of the topnotch amateur golfers in the country have competed in the Allan, like Masters winner Art Wall Jr., Francis (Pooch) Allan, Ed Gonsky and Mike Jaros, the latter from Binghamton, N.Y.

Among the winning teams of the Allan include Ted Tryba and Dr. Sandy LaFoca, Jarolen and Billy Musto, Brunn Sr. and Wally Kuharchik along with Carlyle Robinson and Jim Cicon. Robinson and Cicon won the Allan five times while Brunn Sr. and Kuharchik were multiple winners. Brunn's son, Art Brunn Jr., one of the stop amateur performers in Northeastern Pennsylvania, also is an Allan winner. He won his with Atty. Steve Greenwald.

Fox Hill Club member Ed Hennigan and Bob Gill, another of the topnotch golfers the club has produced over the years, have won the prestigious Allan with partners Brian Corbett and Dave Monka.

The Allan alternates its form of play between match and medal play. It also attracts more than 100 teams or so and is very popular with its members and guests. This year's top players at Fox Hill to watch are John Mulhern, club president; Bob Zaleski, Jim Hoover, Don Crossin, Mark Answini, Hennigan, Gill and Mikiewicz.

Ron Garrison, head golf superintendent, and staffers are working hard on the course in preparing for the event as are club manager Shane Bradley and head golf pro Francis Hayes and staffers.

Irem Temple closes out the three-day member-guest better ball tournaments in August and like Wyoming Valley Country Club and Fox Hill attracts the area's top players.

Another Tillinghast golf course that goes back a long ways, this beautiful 18-hole layout will be in topnotch condition for the 2014 August event thanks



Fox Hill Country Club Hole # 17

to the hard work of head golf course superintendent Chris Pries and staffers.

The Potentate provides a stern test for the players because of its fast undulating greens, side and downhill lies. One of the hardest par 3 holes in the region is No. 7 that measures more than 200 yards. There are traps left and right of the undulating green and one doesn't see many birds made here. In fact, a par is a very good score on No 7.

Longtime Irem pro Paul Roman, his assistant Billy Mattiolli and staffers each year do a tremendous job of running the Potentate from the golfing end. This year's Potentate is being held in honor of Potentate Paul Detwiler, honorary chairman. Chairman is Keith Hillard. "Our tournament showcases our course and facilities," offered Roman. "The members look forward to this weekend with great anticipation. I must say though it's not as competitive as it used to be. It's a little bit more on the social side"

He said some twosomes are comprised of business partners while others are from other country clubs that share events. Just like Fox Hill and Wyoming Valley other teams include brothers, fathers-sons, cousins, relatives and longtime friends. Teams to watch in the Potentate are ones captained by Irem members Lou Belgio, Scott Francis, Jim Breck, Dr. Chuck Brand, Lynn Kilduff, Brett Slocum, Gary Neupauer, Jeff Hodorowski, Tom Stitzer and Bob Lipski.

Dr. Brand and Joe Weiskarger, another of the topnotch golfers in the area, are defending champs, winning in a five-hole sudden death playoff with Mulhern and Breck. The finals had to be carried over to another day because of darkness.

As was the case with Wyoming Valley Country Club and Fox Hill, the now member-guest tourneys were once opens and invitationals that attracted outstanding golfers like former PGA pro Mike Souchik, Bill Skomsky of Berwick, Wall, Jr., Alex Sott, Sam Serafin, Jaros and Gonsky.

Past winners of the Potentate have included Ron Pieczynski, Rollie Schmidt, Tom Gauntlett and Kuharchik. Kuharchik has been playing in the three memberguest tournaments for 54 years and will be teeing it up this year with longtime

friend John Churnetski in the McCarthy. At Wyoming Valley Country Club, Max (The Bear) Hritzik and Chet

Blazick will be making their 34th consecutive start in the 2014 McCarthy. The events have produced some great golf over the years and memories that

last forever.



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