

# GOLF PENNSYLVANIA

# GOLF NORTHEAST

Vol. XXXII No. 9

Fall 2021

DESTINATIONS:

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MUST PLAY IN THE POCONOS

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## LPGA SHOPRITE CLASSIC AT SEAVIEW

By MIKE KERN

In September 2015, England's Mel Reid had this to say about her golf career and life, after her mother Joy had died three years earlier in an automobile accident near Munich while traveling to watch her play in a Ladies European Tour event:

"(My life) was a mess ... I wasn't coping. I was rebelling. I was spending time with people who partied. I was hitting the self-destruction button. I was with a lot of people, but I was lonely."

Obviously, it would have went either way. But fortunately for her, and the game, in this case it has so far turned into a happy turnaround.

And ironically, she might have the pandemic to thank for that.



"I think most golfers go through things," Reid, who turned 34 in September, said at a recent media day at Seaview Resort in Galloway, N.J., where she will defend her LPGA ShopRite Classic championship the first weekend in October. "We put so much into it, all the sacrifice, and when it's (going) great it's worth it. You want to do it more. And when it's not great, it can be really hard. You're away all the time, you're on your own, you travel, and you feel like you've been doing it forever."

"When I was home (during the pandemic), I hadn't slept for three weeks in my own bed since I was like 14 years old. At one time, really. That's true. Obviously what happened (to the world) wasn't great for a lot of reasons. But for me, it really did re-birth my career. It gave me a bit of breathing space, if I'm being totally honest. I found my love for the game again."

And a year ago, she made the ShopRite her first LPGA Tour win, after

posting six wins on the European Tour, where she'd been Rookie of the Year in 2008 following an accomplished amateur run.

The irony of that part of her journey is not lost on her.

"I'm sure I'll have another dip like that," said Reid, who just participated on her fourth Solheim Cup team. "It's just the way golf is. It's important that you do what's right for you. For some people, that means taking time off. Some (others need to) play more. It's understanding yourself. Being out here as long as I have, I understand myself probably more than younger players. You're constantly figuring out what works (best) for you. You just try to keep your energy up as much as possible."

And that extends to how much time she spend on the practice range.

"You're never going to hit 150 7-irons from a perfect lie," Reid explained. "In an entire season, probably. "But we kind of know that's our safety net, right? We hit lots of balls. I've learned from being around some of the guys that you have to go out and test it on the course. I've seen so many talented players who can spend too much time on the range. Then they get on the course and they can't hit a chippy 8-iron from 130 yards, you know. That's why I'm always telling juniors to get out and play. I really do believe that."

"There's a time and a place for the range. But once you get to a certain level I believe playing is more beneficial."

So what's it going to feel like returning to South Jersey, this time as the defending champ? At a place, by the way, where she had never even made the cut before. But last year, due to Covid, it was played in the fall instead of late spring. And will be at least once more. We'll have to wait and see about the future.

"Winning (here) was very cool, but (actually) more of a relief," Reid acknowledged. "It was a confirmation that I was doing the right thing. Are you good enough, if you put your mind to it? For me, it wasn't like that was a massive boost of confidence. Just relief. Now we did it, now we can push on. What's the next level, see how far we can take this. That was the immediate feeling after winning."

"I just felt like something was missing in my career. Now, the only thing I think is missing is a major championship. I've checked off a lot of boxes. If I did have to quit the next day, I would have been proud. So it was a life-changer. I don't know if I'd have felt like that if I hadn't won on the LPGA."

From her perspective, and maybe those around her or looking in from the outside.

"I like to use my platform as a voice," she said. "That just kind of elevated  
Cont. on page 5

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my platform a little bit. I think it does give you a different kind of respect. That's important. Some may have looked at me being out here awhile and not quite getting over the line. So that may have changed things a little bit. It's nice to be put in that category, I guess.

"It's a huge privilege (to be defending). You want it to be like that. Obviously I have some great memories here. That helps. I'm excited. To defend on American soil is cool.

"I love the course at Kingsmill (Williamsburg, Va.), and I've never made the cut there (either). It's funny. When you win a golf tournament you really don't so much different than when you finish 20th. Just get a few more putts (to go in), or get the odd bounce here or there. But you walk off thinking you really didn't do that much differently.

"Now I can come back and think about the good shots I hit, instead of the bad shots I hit (in previous trips). I know it wasn't as wet (in the fall) as it normally is in May. And there weren't near as many bugs. Maybe that made a difference. They hiss me off. We don't have them in England. We just have wasps and things like that."

Fair enough. Hey, welcome to her renewed existence. It's all part of the journey. She's savored every step of it, albeit some more than others. Which only means she's human. And pretty good at her chosen profession.

TAP-INS: Among the early commitments are six of the top 10 women in the world rankings. Players have until Sept. 24 to say they're coming. Lexi Thompson, the 2019 champion is in. Ditto Anna Nordqvist, a two-time winner who just took the British Open at Carnoustie, her third major. Also in the field is Hall of Famer Laura Davies, who has 87 worldwide victories and a big-time fan favorite. In addition, 16 participants from the Solheim Cup are expected to compete.

Fans of course will be allowed to attend after a year's absence. And there will be a pro-am, again after a year's hiatus. Which means the tourney itself will once more be 54 holes instead of 72. Remember this is the biggest sporting event in South Jersey, and the tourney has donated over \$37 million to charities over roughly 31/2 decades. ShopRite has served as the title sponsor since 1992, with Ancer continuing to be the presenting sponsor.

Rachel Drummond and Brynn Walker are joining Megha Ganne as sponsor exemptions. Drummond, who plays full-time on the Euro Tour, will be making her LPGA debut. Walker is a Radnor High School graduate who played at North Carolina and is now on the Symetra Tour. Ganne is a senior at Holmdel High in Monmouth County, is back for a second straight year after an eye-opening showing at the U.S. Women's Open.

Maybe the biggest news of the week is the fact that the Golf Channel will be producing the first all-female broadcast of an event in this country. Cara Banks will be calling the action, in the booth along with Hall of Famer Judy Rankin.

"I can't wait," said Banks, who is expected her second child, and first boy, in November. "I'm so ready to step in the booth, and try a different part of the golf production world. With Judy by my side I feel like I'll be in safe hands. She will be a huge help for me.

"It's so easy to overcomplicate it. On TV you don't need to spill out the obvious. You have to know your analysts well enough to know what to tee them up on. A lot of it is being a traffic cop. Keep the ball going, listen to the producer.

"I hope it's a pretty big deal. NBC had the first all-female hockey broadcast in March. This has been a long time coming. So I want to grab it with both hands and have a go. I hope to do a good job. It's what I've been waiting to do. The fact that we're doing something so unique is great."

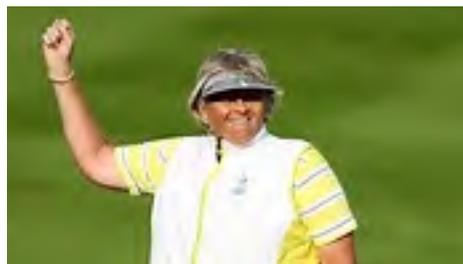
Added Reid: "I feel like it's 2021, it should be like this. If you're good enough at doing your job, it doesn't matter what's your race, gender, sexuality. If you're good enough you're good enough. There's a lot of incredible women out there. It shows golf is moving in the right direction. Maybe it's been slightly behind. To see it progressing over the last year or so is amazing to watch. And something I'm pretty proud of. For someone like myself who fights for things it's pretty good to see."



Lexi Thompson



Anna Nordqvist



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## FALL GOLF AT THE SOUTH JERSEY SHORE

By MIKE KERN

I have to admit I don't get to the Jersey Shore as often as I used to. Which means I don't play as much golf down there as I once did. For the first nearly 60 years of my life, I vacationed in first Wildwood and then Strathmere and finally the south part of Ocean City, for mostly two weeks each summer but sometimes just one. Either way, at some point I started taking my clubs with me, as friends I'd made encouraged me and my kids got older and didn't need me to be around as much. At least that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it. Sue me.

But alas the family really grows up and then some move away for their jobs and the other has a family of his own, so you know how that goes. We were going to go last year but Covid got in the way. And this year, the people we've rented from for years still decided they weren't going to open up the bottom half of their house to outside guests. Perfectly understandable. But that means it's been way too long, even if we do make our share of day trips. It's just not the same.

Anyway, it's still one of my favorite places to play. And this year I did manage to do more of it. It's amazing how much you forget just how good some of your favorite courses really are. Recently I was reintroduced to two of them, and it was great to experience once again. And if you know anything about that area, you know that the



Seaview Bay Course hole # 2

spring and fall shoulder seasons are probably the best times to tee it up. Just because.

In early September I got to play the Bay Course at Seaview, following a one-year hiatus. It was the annual media day for the LPGA Shop-Rite Classic, and our usual foursome joined up to have some fun and maybe do some damage. We did win it three straight times at one point, but that was awhile ago. In 2019 our scramble team did finish third, losing on a match of cards. And this time we again lost on a match of cards, after finishing in a five-way tie for second. It happens.

If you've never played Seaview, it's on Route 9 in Galloway Township, right across the bay from Atlantic City. So some of the views are

pretty cool. There is a sister course, the Pines, on the other side of the road which is probably a little harder. As the name suggests it's tree-lined, and longer. Given the choice I prefer the Bay, since it suits my current game better. But trust me you could a lot worse than make it a 36-hole kind of day and take on both. Or do them in back-to-back days. They're both worth the investment.

The Bay is a Donald Ross design that hosted the 1942 PGA Championship, which back then was a match-play event where Sam Snead won the first of his seven major titles. A little history is never a bad thing. The greens are small and there's plenty of doglegs. Which makes it a shotmakers layout. Approach shots here are almost everything. But of course it helps if you can put yourself in the proper position with your drives. The wind pretty much dictates what you're going to be able to do, and there's usually more than enough of it. The second hole is a long par 4 that heads out to the bay. If you make par there you feel like you've accomplished something, since I'm always hitting a wood in. But the third, a par 5 of about the same length going back the other way, you almost feel bad if you don't have a good birdie chance. Or maybe even eagle. It's that kind of a place. A little quirky in places, but very enjoyable.

Chances are you will have your share of birdie opportunities. But you can just as easily get in trouble that you perhaps didn't foresee and get a little exasperated. The par 3s are something. The 17th plays



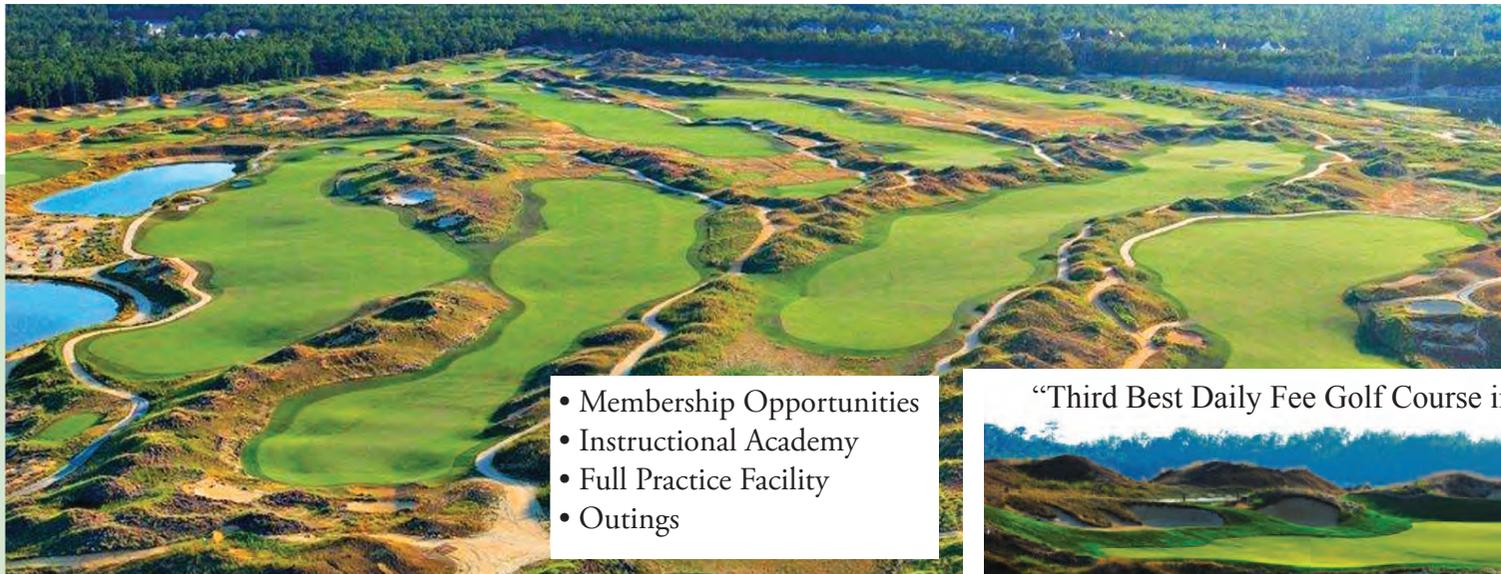
Twisted Dune Hole #16

less than 100 yards but can still be a bogey if you take it for granted. The other one on the back side is a bear, about 200 yards or so with a slight lean to the right and bunkers on both sides. Trust me we're not on it very often. One on the front is close to that distance, going uphill, again with sand on each side. And lastly, there's about a 170-yarder going over water that looks like it should be more manageable that it turns out to be. I'm sad to report that our group played those four holes in even par, which obviously hurt our chances. Ditto the fact that we only parred two of the par 5s. So how did we get to 9-under? Yo, all I know is we had fun. It's really hard not to. And isn't that what it's supposed to be about? Just saying. I think too often that tends to get lost in the equation. Not here. And you can always say you

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## PAYNE STEWART KIDS GOLF FOUNDATION CREATED TO SUPPORT YOUTH GOLF IN AMERICA

Brentwood, TN -- The name Payne Stewart will forever be etched in our minds and memories not only as an elite golfer who won 11 PGA TOUR tournaments, including three major championships, but also as the dapper dresser in signature knickers and a flat cap who dramatically holed a final putt to defeat a young Phil Mickelson at the 1999 U.S. Open. This popular and inspiring champion with one of the game's most fluid swings died tragically at the age of 42 in a plane accident.

A key aspect of Stewart's legacy, as directed by his wife Tracey, is to help lower-income and inner-city kids across the country learn the game of golf.

To achieve that goal, the Payne Stewart Kids Golf Foundation was created to design groundbreaking youth programs that would have a broader reach than conventional programs.

The resulting Payne Stewart Golf Experience (Camps & Clinics) is a true introductory golf program designed to compete with little kickers soccer, t-ball and other youth sport development programs. Targeting kids ages 4-9, the game-based play programming and the use of modified golf learning equipment will make it easier for kids to hit the ball and experience early success at the camps and clinics. By using gymnasiums, parking lots, athletic fields and similar spaces, Payne Stewart Golf Experiences (Camps & Clinics) advance Payne's vision by creating new golf spaces that give more families with kids the ability to learn and play golf, especially to kids in need and inner-city families.

The Payne Stewart Kids Golf Foundation supports the expansion of these golf learning experiences for kids in lower-income and inner-city locations. Donations to the Foundation fund modified golf learning equipment, "kids in need" scholarships, and entire inner-city programs.

"Our goal with the Payne Stewart Kids Golf Foundation is to support this

introductory golf program by raising funds to help expand the number of camp locations, provide adequate equipment, give families in need an opportunity to participate, and assist with other donation opportunities," says Dan Anderson, COO/CMO and co-developer of the Foundation. "We have flipped the traditional golf paradigm on its head by helping bring golf to kids away from the golf course. We partner with churches, YMCA's and other missionally aligned organizations to create unique spaces to play and learn golf closer to home."

The overriding mission of the Payne Stewart Kids Golf Foundation is to develop healthy kids for life through the fun of golf. The faith-based life skills curriculum coupled with the game-based golf skill development program, gives kids a fun introductory experience that creates well-rounded, life-long citizens in sport and life. Our hope is that more kids from all backgrounds will have the opportunity to enter into the next phase of traditional youth golf programs including PGA



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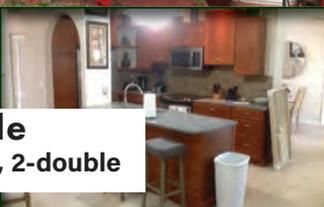
For more information about the Payne Stewart Kids Golf Foundation please visit [www.paynestewart.org](http://www.paynestewart.org). An overview of the clinics and camps can be seen at Golf Life TV, Fall 2020 episode: <https://vimeo.com/475671318>

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played where the best women golfers on the planet do. Something to be said for that.

About two weeks later, I played Twisted Dune for the first time in, well, too long. Located just outside Ocean City, I've always considered this to be one of the best tests down there, in large part because it's different than anything else you're going to find. It reminds you of playing in Great Britain. And I can tell you that this time around there did nothing to change my opinion. So why did I wait so long between rounds? I blame myself.

Jim Endres, the Head Pro and General Manager, actually remembered me from a radio show I had done with him a few years back. Imagine that. And I thought I had to introduce myself. Nice to know that I leave an impression.

As I sometimes do, my first drive was right down the middle. I figured it might be my best of the day. And I wasn't too far off. Then I struck a 9-wood flush and put it on the back of the green. Probably too much club but what the hey. Even though I was playing from the senior tees (still roughly 5,800 yards), it was playing way long due to the heavy rains that had fallen late the night before. So there was very little roll. And I need all the roll I can get. But it was a good start. Too bad the pin was in the front, and I wound up three-putting. Away we went. And it wouldn't be my last three-putt, by the way.

Two and three are the fourth and second handicap holes. For a reason. The second is a long par 4 where it took me three to get on, not surprisingly. Actually not on but just over the back, since again I took too much club on the approach. And I hit a bad chip, which I usually don't do. So it added up to a double bogey. On three, a long par 3 where I hit a driver from 180, I missed the green right and missed about an 8-footer to save par.

I finally made a par at 5, a par 5, but in full disclosure I needed a mulligan to do so. Sorry. Then, somehow, I reeled off four straight pars. Now I was hitting a lot of woods into greens, but who cares. The eighth is 120 yards, the only short par 3 there. Six and seven are medium length par 4s, while nine is a 470 yard (from where I was hitting) par 5. If you are hitting good shots you will have some birdie looks. If you're not, it can be a tad stressful. But that's golf, right? And yes, there is a good amount of heavy stuff guarding the fairways, so you really want to avoid that at all costs, which I mostly did. It might be prudent to bring some extra balls just in case. Don't say you weren't warned.

I birdied 11, a 375-yard par 4 where I sank about a 20-foot downhill that barely slid in the side door. They all count. And it was about the only putt of any consequence I made all afternoon. It wasn't the greens' fault. They were in great shape. The two par 3s coming in are strong. The 13th is about a 150-yarder that requires some carry over gunk to a large green with bunkers on the left and water on the right.

Pars there are at a premium. And the 16th might be my favorite hole on the course. It's about 160 for me, and we were playing it into a relatively healthy breeze. I killed a 7 wood, straight as an arrow, since I was worried (as you should be) about leaving it in the cavern that fronts the putting surface. It left me with an almost impossible putt down the hill with a severe slope from right to left. I didn't hit a bad putt but still had about 10 feet coming back and missed that. Still, I really wasn't that upset cause the tee shot had been so good. At least by my standards. By then I was kind of on a bogey train anyhow. Nice to know that some things always find a way to level out.

The 17th is another real nice hole, a par four with a slight dogleg left and an uphill second shot. I got up and down from just in front of the green (after hitting a 3-wood) to save par. Good thing, because 18 usually chews me up. And it got me again. It's all about length, and that's not my forte any more. I hit a decent drive, not a good 3 wood and a so-so chip and left with a 5. Which I could have predicted before we ever left the tee.

But if nothing else, it brought back some wonderful memories. I made a promise to myself not to stay away as long before the next time. It's just too good to pass up.



Shore Gate Hole # 5

Another course I feel the same way about and also haven't been to in a couple of years is Shore Gate, which is just outside of Sea Isle City. It's a lot like Twisted Dune in that there's really no bad holes. And it too is a challenge, especially if you play it from the wrong set of tees. Which can go for just about any layout. So be smart when you choose.

Shore Gate has a bunch of holes that will get you if you're even a little off. The second is a par 4 where you have to decide how much you're going to try and chew off as you drive over the water. And even if you hit a good drive, the second shot is no bargain. Suffice it to say I don't par it much. And the third is no letup. It's a dogleg left par 4 where you really have to be precise with your first shot. The

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Cont. from page 11

second is a par 4 where you have to decide how much you're going to try and chew off as you drive over the water. And even if you hit a good drive, the second shot is no bargain. Suffice it to say I don't par it much. And the third is no letup. It's a dogleg left par 4 where you really have to be precise with your first shot. The fifth is a short par 3 but it's over water. Seven is a dogleg right par 4 with all kinds of trouble to the right. The eighth is a really good par 3 of about 170 to a well-guarded landing area. And nine, which may be the signature hole (a term I really don't like to use but in this case it does apply), is a par 5 that will remind you a little of the closing hole at Pebble Beach. Water is all down the left, on every shot, and I can count the times I've had birdie putts there.

The back nine is just as stout. There's some quality par 4s, highlighted by the 18th, which is a fitting way to end. You really have to be driving the ball well to have a realistic chance. The 17th is a testy par 3, especially at that point in the round, about 180 or so kind of uphill to a relatively small target. All in all, it's a lot of golf. But who really would want it any other way?



Cape May National

We all have our faves. And there certainly are enough options. I know people whose opinions I value that rave about Cape May National, and I wouldn't argue with them, even though I haven't been there more than a few times. That has more to do with logistics than anything else. I do remember that it was quite the setting. Very peaceful, with an emphasis on natural. Nothing wrong with that. And I know that several of the holes have made the various lists of Best 18 at the South Jersey Shore. I don't know how much more confirmation anyone needs. I need to put this on my list of places to reacquaint myself with.

McCullough's Emerald Golf Links, right down the road from Twisted Dune, has really grown on me over the years. It was built on a landfill, by the mayor of Egg Harbor Township, who I got to play with once. It might not have as much wow factor as some of the others, but it's more than attractive enough for me. The eighth

and ninth, a dogleg par 4 right followed by a 170-yard par 3 over wet stuff, are as good a closing stretch to a nine as you're going to come across. Simple as that. There's a blind tee shot early on the back nine, which comes right after the 10th green, which is built so you can have pin placements that are borderline illegal. I hit one of the great chip shots of my life there once. Funny the things you remember. Maybe my favorite hole not only there but in the whole region is No. 15, a 280-yarder that a really good player can try to drive by hitting it over trees. Of course that's not my play. I just try to hit it down the middle, which I usually can, and leave myself a wedge into a multi-level green. It's just fun to play, and you always have a chance to do something. Good or otherwise. I often have made par there (or better) and then screwed up the 125-yarder that follows. Nobody said it has to make sense.



McCullough's Hole # 7

The other par 3 on that nine, the 13th, is also a keeper. It measures about 170 or so, and plays downhill. But there's water to the front left, and not much room if you go long. And the green is anything but easy. There's a few pin placements that are virtually lethal, whether you're on the green or not.



Ballamor that can drive you

A few others worth checking out are Ballamor, which is also just outside of Ocean City and has a number of multi-level greens that

Cont. on page 15

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Cont. from page 13

can drive you crazy. In mostly a good way, of course. And the 18th is a Pebble in reverse, with water down the right. The approach into the green, albeit short, will make your mind think bad thoughts.



Harbor Pines Hole #7

Harbor Pines, not far from McCullough's, is always in great shape and has more than a few holes that can put a crimp in your handicap.



Atlantic City CC with skyline

Atlantic City Country Club, which I hear is going private again, is the kind of place that is worth calling in a favor or two to get on. The holes along the bay are especially mesmerizing. There's just nothing bad about it. But again, you might need to do some work to make it happen.

Along those lines, Greate Bay, in Somers Point, has just been sold to the Ocean Casino after years of being run by Pat Croce's friend and business partner, Mark Benevento. So I'm not sure what's going to happen. But a lot of former Flyers call it home, and the LPGA played there back in the day. All I know is the closing stretch was always ranked as the hardest on the ladies tour. So there is that.

You can never go wrong by heading to Blue Heron Pines, which for some time now has been part of the Ron Jaworski stable of facilities.



GreateBay Hole #3

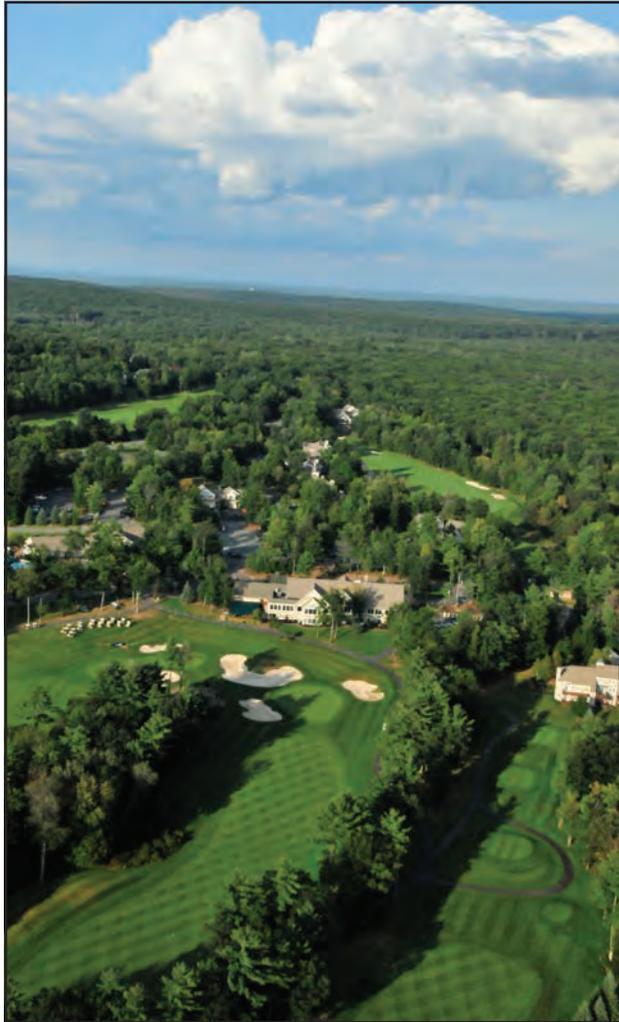
And everyone knows that nobody does it any better than Jaws. He went in and cleaned up the place, making something that was already good just so much better. The golf is top notch, and the hospitality goes above and beyond. Jaws and his family wouldn't have it any other way. And it shows. What more can you say? And if you run into Ron please tell him he still owes me from the time during an International Network of Golf Spring Conference that I hit a shot he said I couldn't hit. That kind of thing happens so infrequently that I have to bring it up. He'll understand.

And don't forget Vineyard National at Renault, which is probably the closest course to get to if you're traveling down from Philadelphia. The thing about this place is, it's so much more than golf. Even though the golf could more than stand on its own. It's an Ed Shearon design, and I got to play it with him right after it opened. Again, some things you just keep as snapshots. The new owners want to make your stay as memorable as possible. They want it to be a destination. And they do have a winery, restaurants and hotel to make that possible. I can



Vineyard National at Renault

tell you from firsthand experience that the food is worth going for on its own. And people who know me know I judge my stops as much for how I eat as how I play. I know the folks who help manage all the many amenities this has to offer, and I can tell you they know what they're doing. If you've never been, it should be on your check-off box list. Or something like that.



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FURYK'S WIN PLACES 42nd U.S. SENIOR OPEN AT SAUCON VALLEY C.C. IN SPOTLIGHT

By Pete Kowalski

Saucon Valley Country Club, known for the pristine quality of its 60 holes of golf, celebrates its centennial in 2020. Among the myriad of highlights of its history are the seven national championships, conducted by the United States Golf Association, that have been contested on the nationally ranked Old and Graces Courses.

The club in Bethlehem, Pa., however, anticipates its next USGA Championship – the 2022 U.S. Senior Open – with innovative energy and planning under the leadership of Mimi Griffin’s company known as MSG Promotions, which will handle the hospitality sales, operations, volunteers, and client services for the 42nd Senior Open, June 21-26, 2022.

Saucon Valley will become the first club in the nation to host three U.S. Senior Opens in 2022. The championship will be played on the Old Course, which will be 100 years old in 2022. It is also MSG’s third Senior Open at Saucon Valley.

PAST USGA CHAMPIONSHIPS AT SAUCON VALLEY (7)

Year	Championship	Champion
1951	U.S. Amateur	Billy Maxwell
1983	U.S. Junior Amateur	Tim Straub
1987	U.S. Senior Amateur	John Richardson
1992	U.S. Senior Open	Larry Laoretti
2000	U.S. Senior Open	Hale Irwin
2009	U.S. Women’s Open	Eun-Hee Ji
2014	U.S. Mid Am	Scott Harvey

The U.S. Senior Open is the most prestigious competition for senior golfers (50 years and older) anywhere in the world. The field is 156 competitors who play 72 holes of stroke play and the winner is awarded the Francis Ouimet Trophy. The list of champions includes legendary stars such as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Billy Casper, Hale Irwin, Lee Trevino, and Bernhard Langer. In fact, past U.S. Open champions have won the title 10 times since the championship began in 1980.

Each of the previous Senior Opens at Saucon Valley, 1992 won by cigar-smoking underdog Larry Laoretti and 2000 won by World Golf Hall of Famer Hale Irwin, were enthusiastically and genuinely embraced by the golf fans, local businesses, and hospitality clients in the Lehigh Valley, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and adjacent states like New Jersey.



“We take these championships very seriously,” said Griffin, who has been coordinating U.S. Open corporate sales and hospitality for the USGA since 1995. “We set high standards in ‘92 and 2000. We have a big hurdle to meet those expectations (in 2022).”

Saucon Valley president Dave Kennedy added: “I know that I speak for the

entire Saucon Valley Country Club family in expressing just how proud we are to continue our outstanding relationship with the USGA,” club President David Kennedy said. “We’re immensely proud as a private club that we’re helping foster economic growth and prosperity as well. Bringing the Senior Open back to our area will be great for golf fans from all over the region.”

At an August event at which the logo for the 2022 U.S. Senior Open was unveiled, USGA executive producer of content Mike Trostel, who previously served as director of the Museum at the Association’s headquarters, presented some intriguing pieces of Saucon Valley’s USGA history including Larry Laoretti’s straw hat; Hale Irwin’s driver and Billy Maxwell’s putter used in the winning the 1951 U.S. Amateur.

“I think one thing that really helps foster exciting golf is getting a great experience from a fantastic host club and that’s what we have here at Saucon Valley,” Trostel said. “Only 13 other clubs in the entire country have hosted more (USGA events) than Saucon Valley. It’s certainly in an elite and selective group.”

Another elite group to consider is that of the possible participants in the 2022 U.S. Senior Open. Among the recognizable players are Pennsylvania native Jim Furyk (who has posted two victories early in his PGA Tour Champions career), Phil Mickelson (who easily won his first try at senior golf), Steve Stricker (the 2019 Senior Open champion and 2021 USA Ryder Cup captain), Ernie Els, Fred Couples, Davis Love and Retief Goosen.

“Jim (Furyk) is a Manheim Township High School graduate and having him here will open up that entire Lancaster market too,” Griffin said. “Golf fans from all over this area are in for a treat. And then you realize what a great list of players who could also be playing and you understand why there is such excitement building for a tournament that’s two years away.”

A former college basketball player and ESPN TV analyst in addition to her event management experience, Griffin thrives in creative solutions for her clients.

“The vantage points that we will provide for corporate hospitality will be second to none,” she said. “Our emphasis will be on the total tournament experience and we are open for business.”

Despite the current economic environment with business shutdowns due to COVID-19, Griffin said that sales, this far in advance of the competition, for the numerous hospitality locations and tent/table options were strong.



Photo of putting green for 19th Hole in August (Saucon Valley CC)

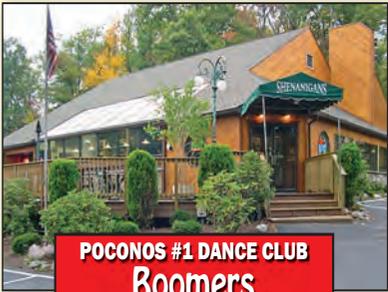
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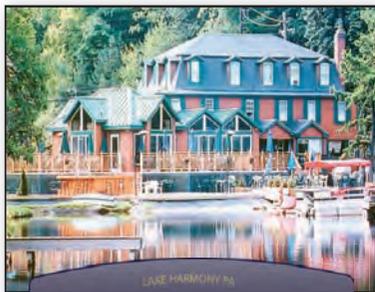
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## PAUPACK HILLS, JACK FROST NATIONAL & SKYTOP MUST PLAY IN POCONOS

By Bob Oliver

One of the great things about the game of golf is its challenge, as no two courses are the same. Oh, they might have 18 holes, and a variety of tee boxes may present differing playing yardage. Some present differing environmental challenges, as Mother Nature surely impact play. And those golf course architects unveil their craft in dastardly and sublime ways.

Golf battles all the elements and a player must be prepared for both expected and unexpected demands on their ability and strategic know how. There are numerous bounces in a round, both good and bad, as the golf ball seems to have a mind of its own.

Through it all there are some attributes which make a golf course a good one or even better, from the land on which it is situated to the natural hazards which come into play. The creative juices of the architect clearly enter the equation, as these artists see things that are not apparent to the uneducated eyes.

And there are the desires of the management group, thinking about what they would love to see and how deep their pockets are. No one way is correct, no other way is wrong. It's been said beauty is in the mind of the beholder, and that statement comes into play when thinking about golf.

In a nutshell, designers hope to create a set of challenges that amaze players, confound them and create enjoyment and memorability.

One golf course that clearly meets the test is Paupack Hills Golf Course, situated Greentown, Pa., in the Poconos. While Scranton and Wilkes Barre are relatively close, it is nestled in a secluded wilderness setting that has a special beauty. Local players appear from a nearby radius of course, but also from Philadelphia and New York City who come looking for great golf, family activities and seclusion.



Par 3 #16 at Paupack Hills

"We have a little bit of everything you can imagine for a great vacation, and provide front and center an outstanding test of golf that will challenge all levels of players," explained Jack Dungan, pro shop manager. "We are a destination property, with not only a wonderful Tom Fazio designed golf course but all the amenities needed for a great vacation for buddies trips or families."

Paupack Hills Golf Course will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2024 and has been working hard at upgrading and sprucing up the entire facility. New ownership has invested in the infrastructure and a fine destination is getting better all of the time.

"We have been diligent in upgrading the facility and strive to provide

our customers in the best possible golf experience," added Dungan. "Golf is a big priority, but we provide our guests with various food and beverage options, boating and other family activities and a great atmosphere. There is a wealth of things to do for just about everyone."

The Paupack Hills golf design is strong. You'd expect that from a course designed by world class architect Tom Fazio (see related story). Fazio worked on numerous courses learning his trade with his uncle George, including Moselm Springs and Jeffersonville along with Paupack Hills, then known as Tanglwood. Uncle George Fazio handed the Paupack Hills project to Tom and the design hatched.

The Fazio feel is throughout the Paupack Hills layout, as he expertly took advantage of the natural beauty of the site. As were most courses in the 1960s it is of modest length, just under 6,600 yards from the back tees. But the undulating hills, strategically placed bunkers and of course trees make it anything but an easy challenge.

The 6th and 16th holes have a view of Lake Wallenpaupack in the background while the 18th hole requires precision with an idea of risk/reward to navigate around Lake Tanglwood.

"We have been diligent in our goal to improve all aspects of the course," explained golf course superintendent Patrick Moran. One of our projects is to upgrade the bunkers, while we've also trimmed or removed some trees which over the years since our opening had encroached on parts of the course. We've done a lot of work with our greens and believe they offer challenge while being fair."

Suffice it to say the greens offer the size to allow Moran's team to nestle holes in numerous locations, making every round a different challenge. There can be a two club difference on some holes based upon pin position of the day.

One doesn't find a lot of straightaway tests at Paupack Hills. Slight to major doglegs require ball movement both left to right and right to left. And Fazio worked in a great deal of temptation, not only on the 18th hole but on the par-4 sixth which, if one is brave and has the ability, can cut dozens of yards off the 413-yard hole by cutting the corner and firing over threes to a well apportioned fairway on the dogleg left test.

But beware. The view from the tee might get your mind wandering from the difficulty of a corner-cutting shot.

Back-to-back par-3 holes bedazzle in the home stretch as the 16th and 17th – unusual but not unheard of. "I guess if it was good enough for Alister MacKenzie at Cypress Point it's okay at other courses. There's no rule against it," said Fazio with a laugh.

One amenity for those who wish to explore the area is the resorts shuttle services, which can drop and pick up at off site locations to include a casino trip.

Paupack Hills is a must play test, but a visit to the Poconos wouldn't be truly complete without sampling the challenges of Jack Frost National, Skytop and other great destinations.

There is no question that service is a mainstay at Jack Frost National (Blakeslee), from one's arrival to departure. On the golf course itself two traits are apparent: large beckoning fairways and cavernous greens. Hitting a fairway isn't really all that difficult at Jack Frost,

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There is no question that service is a mainstay at Jack Frost National (Blakeslee), from one's arrival to departure. On the golf course itself two traits are apparent: large beckoning fairways and cavernous greens. Hitting a fairway isn't really all that difficult at Jack Frost, but being in the right position to attack the green is. That's because one can be on the green and faced with extremely difficult putting tests.

Stretching as long as 7,200 yards over 200 beautiful acres, Jack Frost is challenging yet playable for all levels of players. Beauty throughout the track, this gem can jump up and bite if one sprays or mishits their shots. On a recent visit, this reporter actually four putted a hole and was happy to make that last putt!



Jack Frost #9 in the Fall

"We are not your typical mountain course, although we obviously are located in the Poconos," explained Director of Golf Keith Devos. "We are proud of our conditioning, and while our design is carved through a forest, we offer wide corridors that allow a player to hit fairways and not be blocked at every look.

Member tees are about 6,300 yards with forward (5,729) and advanced (6,741) giving players lengths fitting of their own game. Oh, and then there are the championships tees of 7,256.

Jack Frost offers a fine blend of design, with several short par-4, a couple lengthy ones and holes moving left and right, up and down, all in a secluded setting. There are some forced carries, but not too severe, as it's a fun playable layout.

"My favorite hole is number 14, a stout par-4, but I have to say there isn't a bad test on the layout," added Devos. "It's no pushover, and it offers a player options to use every club in the bag.

Bottom line, Devos says Jack Frost offers "a golf experience that has players saying: I will be back."



Skytop Lodge

Not too far away from Jack Frost is a destination that has it all, from water sports to hiking and of course golf with numerous lodging options. Historic Skytop Lodge, nearly 100 years young, offers lodging and amenities too vast to mention, and also provides a fun

traditional golf course. The overall resort is on 5,500 beautiful acres. So when you aren't ATVing, whitewater rafting, horseback riding or trail walking you can walk the fairways and sample hazards such as bunkers, ponds and trees on a course that will challenge your game. Named at the turn of the century to the Historic Hotels of America, the grand resort offers a little bit of everything to each visitor.

"The opportunities for fun for the whole family are endless here. And we are proud of our golf facility," explained Director of Golf Brian Boyle of the Robert White design. "We take pride in our golf course; it has history, offers a challenge and is fair. Might not be the longest course in the area, but it's not a pushover."

The golf course was designed prior to structures surrounding it, so White was not constricted but man-made obstructions. He was able to deal with the lay of the land, using its best attributes in his design. At 6,659 yards from the back tees, players can also choose the member tees at 6,386 yards and forward tees at 5,713. The course meanders through the tree-lined mountain and takes advantage of elevation changes offering a chance to take in the natural beauty. When not hitting one's shot the breathtaking views are marvelous.

A tough par-4 of 414-yards opens one's day, with the player needing to beware of water along the right side. Water comes into play on several holes, trees on most and compact greens throughout. It's par-3 holes vary in length so different clubs come into play.

The 18th hole is a bear. Only 352 yards from the white tees, water fronts a large wall of dirt that makes one's approach shot requires accurate calculations to ensure proper distance. It might be a 120-yard shot, but factoring the retaining wall could play two or three clubs longer as anything shot will be a penalty on this amphitheater centered green.

Bottom line is that Skytop's golf course is a wonderful part of the resort's list of activities. Fun, playable and challenging.

This reporter learned first hand that a trip to the Poconos on a quick golf vacation should be anything but quick. Each of the courses played left him wanting for more. And a dozen other nearby courses are said to be beckoning as well. Clearly this won't be a final trip to this marvelous venue.

Mention the name of world-renowned golf course architect Tom Fazio and people smile!

The Norristown native has designed more than 250 courses around the world and these are given plaudits from ownership, superintendents and players alike. Tom Fazio courses are regarded as beautiful, challenging and fun to play.

He started his on-the-George Fazio, working handful of years, learning of a designer who built



job training with his uncle Philadelphia area projects for a his craft under the watchful eyes pleasing courses in his own right.

That tandem of Fazio's a generation apart in age did quality work. And that led to a George Fazio project that quickly became the first course Tom Fazio designed on his own – Paupack Hills in Greentown, Pennsylvania, centered in the Pocono Mountains.

"I was thrilled by my uncle who gave me the canvas to design my first solo course," remembered Fazio of what was then called the Tanglewood project. "My uncle was there for me, but I got to craft the design mostly on my own. It was a challenging property, because of the mountainous terrain. Very beautiful, but those rocks and boulders presented endless difficulties.



In a ranking by The Sun News, golf experts voted two holes, #2 and #13, as part of the "Dream 18," a compilation of the best 18 holes on the beach



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Arcadian Shores Golf Club in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina was designed by renowned golf course architect Rees Jones.

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## FOX HILLERS TAKE SECOND-STRAIGHT SENIOR COAL SCUTTLE AT HOME COURSE



Joe Mantione, Mark Answini, Bob Gill, Don Crossin, Jim Hoover

The Senior "Scuttle" will remain in Fox Hill Country Club's grill room for another season.

On their home turf, Fox Hill came out firing Wednesday, finishing at 8-over par and winning the 39th AGA/GAP Senior Coal Scuttle Championship. It marks the second consecutive Senior Coal Scuttle for the Exeter, Pa. club. Fox Hill is also fresh off their seventh-straight Super-Senior Coal Scuttle trophy.

The top four-of-five scores count toward the team total in the Senior Coal Scuttle. Fox Hill finished 12 strokes better than second-place finisher Country Club of Scranton, who filed a 20-over total on the day. Overall, 13 teams vied for this year's Scuttle title.

As last year's victors, Fox Hill was denoted the host for this rendition. And boy, did they take advantage of the home cooking. Leading the way was Bob Gill at 1-under par 70, who finished second overall in the individual portion.

Gill showed he was glad to be home early on, getting to 3-under par through the first six played. On No. 1 (par 4, 393 yards), he hit a 9-iron to about five feet and jarred the putt for 3. Another birdie followed immediately after on No. 2 (par 4, 415 yards), where a 7-iron stopped 15 feet away and the look for converted. His next arrived on No. 6 (par 5, 467 yards). Gill hit a crushed driver there, followed by a 3-hybrid from 205 yards to about 40 feet, leading to a two-putt for birdie 4. He finished at 2 under at the turn — a good sign for things to come for his championship squad.

On Fox Hill's second side, Gill began with a bogey on No. 10 (par 4, 340 yards). He knew what he needed to do after that. Having played this nine countless times, the situation called for eight-straight pars coming in, which Gill delivered on. His 1-under round was only bettered by Huntsville Golf Club's Santo Lafoca for the individual

medal. Lafoca rode a 3-under second nine to finish at 2-under 69 for the day's individual medal.

"To be honest with you, I always thought under par would win," said Gill, 62, of Shavertown, Pa. "I didn't put the foot on the gas and I had some really good birdie cracks but they didn't go in. I didn't come close to making a bogey in those last eight holes. However, Santo had a great back nine, so good for him."

Fox Hill's full squad showed out, too. Don Crossin's third-place finish at 1-over 72 was another eye opener for the winners. Jim Hoover, also a member of the Super-Senior winning team, finished at 2-over 70 and good for a tie in fifth place. Mark Answini (6-over 77) finished tied for 12th place, while Joseph Mantione (10-over 81) rounded out the team.

"We had a real consistent team effort. We've been able to defend and win the Coal Scuttle in the past 10 years with a good nucleus of guys," said Gill. "We had four scores that were very competitive. If you shoot 8 over par as a team, you're going to win almost all the time. It certainly it helps that Fox Hill's greens are fast and sloping so there was certainly a home-field advantage."

The club will go for a season-long sweep when it tees off Sept. 25-26 in the Men's Coal Scuttle Championship at Glenmaura National Golf Club and Wyoming Valley Country Club, to its list of 2020 accolades.

"It's big. In this area, the Coal Scuttle goes back to the 30s, so we take a lot of pride in having that Scuttle in your men's grill room," said Gill. "It's great cameraddie and you see all the guys again. We won a lot of regular Coal Scuttles in the 80s and 90s, and now that we're now Senior golfers, it's still nice to be able to play and compete. And win."



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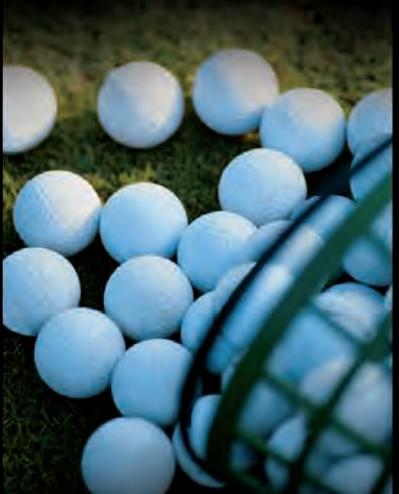
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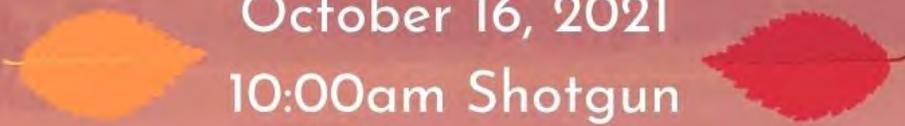



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## MILLER HANGS ON TO WIN FORME TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP



Hole #11 Huntsville Golf Club Dallas, PA

DALLAS, Pennsylvania—On the final hole of the final round of the final Forme Tour tournament of 2021, Brad Miller recovered from an errant drive, hit one of the top shots of his life after a recovery chip out and then made a five-foot par putt to seal the win at the Forme Tour Championship. It was Miller's first PGA TOUR-affiliated Tour title as he defeated Travis Trace by a stroke.

Holding a one-shot lead over Trace and standing on the 18th tee at Huntsville Golf Club, Miller hit his drive into the trees on the right. "That tee shot was giving me nightmares the whole week. I've been hitting this really nice cut driver the whole day—really the whole week. I tried to do it, and it just hung on a little too much at the end," Miller said of his wayward drive.

His tee ball was so far right that he hit a provisional, just in case. "Luckily there were a lot of people out watching, so they were able to find [the ball] pretty quickly." After chipping back into the fairway, Miller said he "got kind of lucky." He faced a 219-yard approach shot into the par-4 green. "That's a perfect 4-iron number. I can swing as hard as I can," he added. "I hit a little cut and hit it to four feet and made the putt." That was enough to secure the win.

The other winner Friday was Trevor Werbylo. He waited behind the green as the drama unfolded, realizing he had locked up Player of the Year honors with his Points List win, taking the title by 36 points over Corey Shaun, thanks to his tie-for-17th finish this week. The first-year pro, who was still in college as recently as three months ago, will be eligible to play in all open 2022 Korn Ferry Tour tournaments. Joining Werbylo and Shaun in the top five were Turk Pettit, Andrew Yun and Mac Meissner.

Miller knew before the week that he had no chance of mathematically moving into the top five. The best a win could do was get him to No. 6, something he accomplished with his 65-64-68 performance and the opportunity to bypass the first stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament. After the second rain delay of the week late Thursday, Miller began wondering if officials would reduce the tournament to 54 holes. His suspicions proved correct.

"When we got the text that it was 54 holes, instantly, final-round jitters start. That's normal, expected. But I played solid," Miller said.

Miller ultimately felt the turning point in the round came when he birdied both back-nine par-5s (Nos. 12 and 14) while Trace was making pars. The two traded pars the rest of the way.

"This is my biggest win so far," said the 31-year-old Baltimore native who played collegiately at the University of Richmond. "I'm a little older. It's taken me through more of a process. Everybody is coming out of college, and with the way it's set up now with PGA TOUR U., that they start here, a lot of them are going to do well on the next level and eventually make their way to the TOUR—and that includes myself."

- Thursday night, knowing Huntsville Golf Club was unavailable for

play Saturday and considering the two weather delays in both the first and second rounds, Forme Tour officials made the decision to reduce the Forme Tour Championship to 54 holes. Following the conclusion on the second round early Friday morning, officials notified players of the change.

- The cut came early Friday morning, at 3-under, with 73 players qualifying for the final round.

• Brad Miller felt the 13th hole was pivotal in his win. After making a birdie at the par-5 12th, he missed the green pin high to the right, while Trace was 30 yards over the green. "We both should have made bogey," he said. "Mine was a much easier shot." Trace chipped to 10 feet and drained his putt for par, forcing Miller to feel like he needed to make his from seven feet. "We still had [five] holes left, but that was important. I was able to make birdie on the next hole, and we parred in from there."

• While still an amateur, Brad Miller was in a playoff for a spot in the 2011 U.S. Amateur. Playing at the qualifier at Piney Branch Golf Club in Upperco, Maryland, he holed out from the fairway for eagle to earn his playing spot. Comparing that shot with his 4-iron approach, his last full swing of the Forme Tour Championship, Miller thought about it. "I can't think of all the shots I've hit. That was pretty good at Piney Branch, but under the circumstances, this one today I would have to say was at least top two."

• With his second-place finish, Travis Trace moved from No. 74 to No. 17 on the Points list, allowing him to bypass the first stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament and immediately qualify for the second stage for players finishing between the 11th and 25th positions on the Points List. Of those players not finishing in the top 10, Trace, Ian Holt (18th), Keller Harper (19th), and Wil Bateman (21st) all moved into the top 25.

• Keller Harper had the round of the day, shooting an 8-under 63. He was actually 10-under for the day. Thursday, Harper was on the ninth tee—his 18th hole of the day—when officials halted play for the afternoon. He returned to the tee this morning, put his approach shot on the par-5 on in two and then made a 24-foot eagle putt.

• Twelve players posted three rounds in the 60s this week: Quade Cummins, Blake Elliott, J.J. Grey, Ian Holt, Mac Meissner, Byron Meth, Brad Miller, Bryson Nimmer, Jeremy Paul, Corey Shaun, Trey Shirley and Travis Trace

• Will Bateman stayed hot, after shooting a second-round 62 that he completed early Friday morning. He played his 18th hole, No. 9 at Huntsville Golf Club and made a par-5. In his final round, the Canadian eagled No. 12 for a second consecutive day and went on to turn in a 5-under 66 to finish alone in third.

• Corey Pereira shot a final-round 66, moving up 38 leaderboard positions into a tie for 21st, but he dropped four spots on the Points List, just missing the top 25, ending 26th. Pereira had seven birdies and two bogeys on the final day and finished with a birdie on his final hole of the tournament.

## Quotable

"I wasn't paying attention to what anybody else was doing. I had an idea. I knew I was one up on Travis, but I had not idea if anybody got to 7(-under), to what they needed to shoot." —Brad Miller

"The goal every week is to play as good as you can and maybe win. The finality of [the win] I knew exactly what it meant." —Brad Miller

Tournament results on page 29

## RUNNING DEER GOLF CLUB

## NJ STATE SECRET

By Bob Oliver

Shhhhhhh. I need to share a secret. Can you keep it under your golf cap?

Everyone knows the golf courses of New Jersey are some of the finest in not only in the United States but in the world.

For example the vaunted Pine Valley Golf Club, the world number one in many rankings. There is Baltusrol (Lower), site of dramatic US Open championships and its sister Upper course, Plainfield, Somerset Hills, Galloway National, Ridgewood and Hidden Creek to name a modest few. Each has one thing in common: each is private.

Of course, the state has a wealth of courses which are open to the public scattered throughout. Challenging layouts at various price points. Courses at the shore, in the mountains and on lush farmland. These courses whet our golf appetite and keep us coming back.



Elevated view of hole #3 at Running Deer GC

So the secret? Well, it's not really a secret, as its tee sheet is often close to full, but yet it's a course which hasn't received proper props – South Jersey's Running Deer Golf Club. Located in the garden belt of the Garden State, a couple miles from Vineland, Running Deer is easily accessible. The drive is well worth the gas, as the layout has chops from every tee box.

Running Deer has been site of qualifiers for the U.S. Open and the Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur, as well as numerous GAP tournaments. It has been recognized by publications such as Golf Digest and Golf Style, golfbuckcounty.com and others, yet it still gets a blank stare when mentioned in conversation by those not in the know.

It features a playable, challenging and enjoyable design while located about 35 miles from the Walt Whitman Bridge and Atlantic City. So near!

Hence, the secret. But for those who do know of the course and its beauty and challenges, to say nothing about its fees, Running Deer is a wonderful test whether on a day trip or a needed respite on the way to the Jersey Shore.

"We are blessed with a wonderful venue, great conditions carved out of Jersey hardwoods," explains head professional Klay Knerr, who reviews each and every comment card and proudly states how complimentary they are.

Designed by Ed Carman around the turn of the century, Running Deer offers a secluded destination where holes are not on top of each other. Each is like its own challenge in the wilderness. Sand is everywhere, some ponds beckon, and condition are well maintained. The greens are ample, and offer distinct challenges with deceptive breaks. They are kept quick!

The holes are tempting and challenging, with variety as no two holes are the same. There are varying lengths, challenges of wide swaths of sand, strategically situated ponds and rolling landscape. The combination, as well as the wonderful green complexes, make it a thinking golfers' layout.

Running Deer is not a hilly course, but it does have deceptive mounding that require some thought to conquer. It's ample rolling fairways can be found by non-wayward shots, but positioning is imperative as mounds and bunkers can bite with authority. Bunkers, as in approximately 70 attract wayward shots, along with a quarry

Once on the green, one notices they are large, true and with pin position locations that can confound and bedazzle. Without care and consideration three-putts are always a dastardly option even for the finest of putters. Beware.

The par-3 holes are each unique, stretching from 140 to 210 yards guarded by everything from bunkers to ponds to fescue and of course the aforementioned green complexes.

Over the years conditioning has become a must do by Ron Jaworski Golf, which acquired the course in 2008. Enhancements are continually in action, whether it be pruning back trees or cleaning out some fescue to growing great grass. This is the case at Running Deer, which has seen enhancements in each part of the course in recent history.

"We take pride in our service, our amenities and our wonderful golf course," added Knorr. "We constantly strive to improve our course, paying attention to details. Our greens are wonderful, and we've removed some trees to allow for better airflow. We are continuously working to improve."

Adds Ron Jawowski Golf executive B.J. Jaworski, "Running Deer offers unique holes and my best advice it to sample the right set of tees for your game. Each hole has areas to avoid, and other areas to seek, setting up your next shot. It's a super layout."

Running Deer golf course has gotten rave reviews, and now that big secret has been unveiled!

## AS THE GOLF WORLD RE-OPENS TO TRAVEL THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC OFFERS BIG SMILES

By TONY LEODORA

In America, the game of golf began to reopen during the second half of 2020. People found that golf courses were among the safest places on the planet. Good for mental and physical health.

During the second half of 2021, the rest of the golf world began to reopen. People traveled freely across the country ... and they even began traveling to golf destinations around the world.

That renewed movement was a saving grace for tourism in places like the Dominican Republic.

Long recognized as the finest golf destination in the Caribbean and all of Latin America, the Dominican saw a major resurgence in the second half of 2021.



#5 at Dye Four

Part of the resurgence was sparked by the marketing company, DR Golf, and its convention that was held at the spectacular Secrets Cap Cana ... near the tourist haven of Punta Cana. It brought together golf writers, destination representatives and golf packagers from around the world.

"This was not an easy effort," admitted Teddy De Lara, director of DR Golf. "Some people are still hesitant about traveling. But the ones who came here saw that the resorts and golf courses were committed to safety."

The delegates who attended, along with the growing numbers of visitors at the Dominican resorts and golf courses, all had one thing in common – smiling faces. And that is quite understandable, considering the quality of the resorts and golf courses in the Dominican.

"We are very proud of all of our properties in the Dominican Republic," said Luis Nunez, regional commercial director for AMResorts. "But Secrets Cap Cana is a very special property. Most people rate it as their favorite in the area."

Also on display in the greater Punta Cana region are golf

courses that represent the Mount Rushmore of golf course architects. Jack Nicklaus has two spectacular designs – the seaside course at Punta Espada and the parkland-style course at Hard Rock. Tom Fazio has Corales, home of the PGA Tour's Corales Championship. Pete Dye has his collection of three courses at Casa de Campo – Teeth of the Dog, Dye Four and Links.

Punta Espada features 13 holes with spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean. The course hosted a Champions Tour event in 2008, 2009 and 2010. The final one was won by Freddy Couples, who established the course record with a 62.

Casa de Campo is a world-renowned resort. The Teeth of the Dog course, the oldest of the three courses, is regarded as one of the finest in the world. It also is regarded by many as the greatest work in the somewhat controversial career of Dye.

Corales is a fun stop for the professionals on the PGA Tour. The Fazio design also has many oceanfront holes and provides a great break from the usual weekly schedule.

Hard Rock is the newest course in the region, opened in 2010. It is part of a very hip resort that is, not surprisingly, a favorite of American visitors.

"I have been living in the area for about 10 years now," says Casa de Campo golf professional Todd Gilley, who had earlier employment stops at places like Bald Head Island in North Carolina. "The golf in this area, not just my club, is so spectacular. It is truly a golf paradise."

Call it a golf paradise, within a vacation paradise. Golf in the Dominican Republic is open again ... and golf travelers are loving it.



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# Philadelphia PGA Section

## SCOREBOARD



**100TH PHILADELPHIA PGA  
PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**  
MON, AUG 30 - TUE, 31, 2021  
ARONIMINK GC • APPLE BRROK GC



Pos.	Player	Total	R1	R2	Total
1	Brett Walker Sunnybrook GC	-8	67	66	133
2	Zac Oakley Bidermann GC	-6	68	67	135
3	Billy Stewart Union League LH	-3	67	71	138
4	Ashley Grier Overbrook GC	-2	66	73	139
T5	Rusty Harbold Philadelphia Cricket	-1	71	69	140
T5	Terry Hertzog Merion Golf Club	-1	69	71	140
T5	Dave McNabb Applebrook Golf Club	-1	70	70	140
8	Trevor Bensel Overbrook Golf Club	E	71	70	141
T9	George Forster	+1	70	72	142
T9	Hugo MazzalupiPatriots Glen National	+1	71	71	142
T9	Steve Sanderson Pine Valley Golf Club	+1	68	74	142
T9	Parks Price Country Club of York	+1	70	72	142
T9	Scott Reilly Philadelphia Country Club	+1	70	72	142
T9	Mike FureySaucon Valley Country Club	+1	72	70	142

**PHILADELPHIA SENIOR PGA  
PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**  
TUE, SEP 14 - WED, 15, 2021  
HUNTSVILLE GOLF CLUB



Pos.	Player	Total	R1	R2	Total
1	Dave McNabb Applebrook GC	-4	67	73	140
T2	John Pillar Woodloch Springs	-3	73	68	141
T2	Brian KellyBucknell Golf Club	-3	69	72	141
4	Terry Hertzog Merion Golf Club	E	75	69	144
T5	Terry HatchRoyal Oaks GC	+1	73	72	145
T5	Eddie Perrino Eagle Rock Resort	+1	71	74	145
T7	Dave QuinnLaurel Creek CC	+2	73	73	146
T7	George Forster	+2	70	76	146
T9	Bill Walker Riverton CC	+3	76	71	147
T9	Hugo MazzalupiPatriots Glen GC	+3	72	75	147
11	John Appleget Indian Spring CC	+4	72	76	148
T12	Barry Dear Golf Academy	+5	76	73	149
T12	Brendon Post U of Delaware	+5	76	73	149
T12	John Spina Philadelphia Cricket	+5	75	74	149

**HAVERFORD PHILADELPHIA PGA CLASSIC**  
TUE, SEP 7, 2021  
SUNNYBROOK GOLF CLUB



Pos.	Player	Total	Gross
1	Parks Price Country Club of York	-4	68
T2	Zac Oakley Bidermann Golf Club	-4	68
T2	Brett Walker Sunnybrook Golf Club	-4	68
4	Brian Bergstol Shawnee Inn & Golf	-3	69
T5	Mike Moses Concord Country Club	-2	70
T5	Billy Stewart Union League Liberty Hill	-2	70
T5	Noah Firestone Galloway National GC	-2	70
T5	Michael Little Lookaway Golf Club	-2	70
T5	Dave PagettWhitemarsh Valley CC	-2	70
T5	Alex Knoll Glen Brook Golf Club	-2	70
T11	Rich Steinmetz Spring Ford CC	-1	71
T11	Andrew Turner Berkshire CC	-1	71
T11	Brian Kelly Bucknell Golf Club	-1	71

SENIOR PRO

1	Mike Moses Concord Country Club	-2	70
2	Brian Kelly Bucknell Golf Club	-1	71
T3	John Pillar CC at Woodloch Springs	E	72
T3	Stu IngrahamMGolf Range	E	72
5	Pete Lovenguth Applecross CC	+1	73

**PHILADELPHIA PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP**  
MON, SEP 20, 2021  
LOOKAWAY GC



Pos.	Player	Total	Gross
1	Trevor Bensel Overbrook GC	-5	67
T2	Brian Kelly Bucknell Golf Club	-4	68
T2	Mark ShefticbLookaway GC	-4	68
T2	Andrew TurnerBerkshire CC	-4	68
T2	Eric Kennedy Overbrook GC	-4	68
T2	Zac Oakley Bidermann GC	-4	68
T7	Rich Steinmetz Spring Ford CC	-3	69
T7	Matt Episcopo Pine Valley GC	-3	69
T7	Rusty Harbold Philadelphia Cricket	-3	69
T10	Brett Walker Sunnybrook GC	-2	70
T10	Braden Shattuck Bidermann GC	-2	70
T10	Michael Rushin Bear Trap Dunes	-2	70
T10	Dave Quinn Laurel Creek CC	-2	70
T10	Mike Tobiason Deerfield	-2	70

SENIOR PRO

1	Brian Kelly Bucknell Golf Club	-4	68
2	Dave Quinn Laurel Creek CC	-2	70
T3	Eddie Perrino Eagle Rock Resort	-1	71
T3	Dave McNabb Applebrook GC	-1	71



## LUTZ RETURNS WITH RECORD-BREAKING SENIOR AMATEUR WIN AT CC OF SCRANTON



CLARKS SUMMIT, Pa. – Chip Lutz didn't just return. He returned only like Chip Lutz, a GAP Senior Champion unlike any others of his time, could.

The LedgeRock Golf Club member marveled at Country Club of Scranton (par 72, 6,652 yards), taking the 51st Senior Amateur Championship. It was his second Senior Amateur win. Lutz, who fired a 1-under 71 Tuesday paired with an opening 4-under 68 in the opening round, finished at 5-under 139 for the week.

At six strokes better than the rest of the 99-player field, he set the margin-of-victory record.

Entering Tuesday, Lutz possessed a two-stroke lead over the home club's Michael Vassil, a 14-time Scranton Club Champion and 10-time Senior Club Champion. With a 1:45 p.m. beginning time, the leaders were greeted on the first tee with erratic, gusting winds. That one-stroke Lutz lead split in half after No. 1 (par 4, 402 yards), where his three putt meant bogey 5 to begin. Lutz steadied the ship with a string of six pars after that. His birdie on No. 8 (par 4, 296 yards) was another sigh of relief to get back to level par. On the other hand, Vassil found three bogey blemishes (Nos. 3, 5, 7) at a time when he couldn't afford to while chasing the LedgeRock legend.

"After making those pars, plus the birdie, I was feeling relatively okay at the turn. Mike and Mark [Bartkowski] weren't making a huge push on the front. I didn't really know what anyone else out there was doing at the time," said Lutz, 66, of Reading, Pa.

The 2015 U.S. Senior Amateur Champion flexed his muscles with a statement-making hot streak on Scranton's back side. After bogeying Nos. 10 (par 4, 400 yards) and 11 (par 3, 151 yards) on Monday, he really wanted to attack those today. A par on 10 was an improvement, but a 9-iron to 12 feet on the 11th was even better with birdie 2. Next, Lutz decided to take advantage of the upcoming par 5s. On No. 12 (par 5, 483 yards), Lutz found the green complex in two, but still sat 60 feet away. His eagle putt came to rest above the hole, and with confidence, he jarred a challenging six-foot slider for the 4. On the par-5, 535-yard 14th, a 3-wood draw from 300 yards out ran out to 30 feet from the hole. Lutz two putted there to get to 7 under for the championship.

"After that stretch, I didn't think anybody was really going to be close to me. I was just trying to finish after that," said Lutz.

With room for error coming down Scranton's final test holes, Lutz played it conservatively. Short par putts on both Nos. 17 (par 3, 218 yards) and 18 (par 5, 503 yards) didn't fall. And it didn't matter.

"I putted really well all week. Unfortunately, I did stumble coming in there, but I don't want to dwell on that too much," said Lutz. "This really is an amazing venue. [Vassil] was gracious enough to show me the course on Friday before the event here so that was a big help to get some insight and take some notes. It's really a shot maker's club. You really have to navigate yourself around the course."

The nine-time GAP Senior Player of the Year Award winner (2010-18) last grasped the GAP Senior Amateur trophy in 2014. It's a title he's more than welcome to invite back into his crowded and decorated trophy case – one that includes three British Senior Amateur Championships, two Canadian Men's Senior Championships and the aforementioned U.S. Senior Amateur title. All of that – plus countless other achievements – resulted in a 2015 National Senior Amateur Hall of Fame induction.

But all the national success and thousands of miles traveled around the globe caught up to Lutz two seasons ago. That's the reason you haven't seen his famed name among many tee sheets lately.

"I guess you never know whether you still have it or not, and there's always that doubt. I took some time off from the game. It was just one of those things, 'Do I want to give it up? Do I want to continue?,' so I had to reflect on where I've been and where I'm going," said Lutz. "I still really haven't solved that question completely, but it sure is good to be back."

Some answers to that solution surfaced two weeks ago in the U.S. Senior Amateur at the Country Club of Detroit (Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.) where Lutz reached the Quarterfinals as the No. 2 overall seed.

"I did work on my game leading up to the U.S. Senior Amateur because it's always something I want to do well in. That was important to me, and although I didn't go the distance, there's no doubt that was helpful in preparation for this week's event," said Lutz, who is exempt into the #USSeniorAm via his 2015 victory.

"GAP is my home."  
Chip Lutz

Joining him in Detroit was Chris Fieger, Sr. of Philadelphia Publinks Golf Association, who finished as runner-up this week at CC of Scranton. Fieger, the two-time reigning Senior Amateur Champion, entered the day five back of the eventual winner.

"If you try to get a little aggressive with this golf course, you're going to hit it over some greens and then you're going to be dead. And then I had two three putts today, but I had four yesterday. So if you're going to catch a player like Chip, you can't have that many three putts," said Fieger, 58, of Denver, Pa., who finished at 1-over this week. "But Chip's record speaks for itself. He's such a great player and also humble. I've never played with him so one of these days we're going to end up getting paired together."

Although Lutz may have some questions that still remain regarding how much competitive golf he wants to entertain, there remain no questions about his GAP legacy, especially with his record-setting performance in this week's storybook return.

"This is my first individual victory in a few years. It's just great to be back in the winner's circle, especially here in GAP, where I haven't participated for a couple years, so I'm thrilled," said Lutz. "GAP is my home."

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## McCANCE LEADS HUNTSVILLE TO COAL SCUTTLE TITLE • GORMAN WINS INDIVIDUAL



Bernadette McHugh, Barb Pagana, Kyleen McCance, Danielle Dalessandro



DALLAS, Pa. – Huntsville Golf Club, after finishing second a year ago, got its revenge and captured its fifth AGA/GAP Women's Coal Scuttle Championship Wednesday at Fox Hill Country Club (par 70, 5,483 yards).

"This win means a lot because last year Wyoming Valley Country Club defeated us," Kyleen McCance, who led Huntsville with 35 Stableford points, said. "Winning today allowed me to appreciate the Huntsville family and how supportive they have been for me."

Huntsville amassed 94 Stableford scoring system points – four clear of reigning champion Wyoming Valley.

The format consists of four player teams with the top-three-of-four point totals counting toward the team total. Additionally, there was an Individual competition, which also used Stableford scoring. The event switched from 18 holes of individual stroke play to Stableford in 2018.

Wyoming Valley's Molly Gorman earned individual medalist honors with 36 points.

However, Huntsville displayed its strength, taking the next two spots on the leaderboard and three of the top nine. McCance finished second, Danielle Dalessandro (34 points) third and Barbara Pagana (25) ninth. Bernadette McHugh rounded out the Huntsville team with 23 points. She finished in a tie for 11th.

McCance, who was last year's individual medalist, registered her first birdie of the day on No. 9 (par 4, 289 yards), thanks to a gap wedge from 91 yards to 15 feet.

Things really kicked up a notch for Huntsville as McCance reached the back nine.

"I looked at the leaderboard after every hole and knew that we were down and in order for us to get back in the lead, I had to come up

big on the back nine," said McCance, 16, of Hanover Township, Pa..

That she did. McCance fired her second birdie of the day on No. 11 (par 3, 90 yards) and carded her third and final birdie on No. 14 (par 5, 412 yards).

"On No. 14, I pitched a 5-iron from 40 yards to five feet and drained the putt," McCance said. "I believe that making those crucial birdies on the back nine gave us the necessary edge to come out with a win."

The most significant difference between this year and last year for McCance and Huntsville was leaving everything out on the course.

"Last year, we missed a few players. [This year] I tried to do everything that was in my control, and that was to put our club in a better position to win," McCance said. "I thought we played very well today, making crucial birdies. Capitalizing on our defeat from last year goes a long way."



Molly Gorman Individual Champion

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2 Brian Bergestol + Riley Hogan + Jake Haberstumpf + Zach Fischl	-12
-- Harvey Williams + Justin Lyle + Scott Schoenberg + John Sheroda	-6
3 Dustin McCormick + Albert McCormick + Dave Miller + Maurice Rapp	-5
T4 Kevin Edwards + Mike Sugden + Alec Weiss + Scott Sargent	-4
T4 John Kulhamer + Charlie Leon + John Mace + Berry Stolzman	-4
T4 Nick Lussier + Drew Nowicki + Kevin O'Malley + Dave Maziarz	-4
T4 Greg Wall + Edward Mesko + Fran Hamm + John Martines	-4
-- Terry Hatch + Ashton Leshner + Freddie Leshner + Milton Trexler	-4
-- Tony Cella + Don Allan + Keith Devos + Robert Cella	-3
-- Michael Grabosky + Marc Miller + Troy Shelly + Lou Kleiman	-3
8 Wayne Phillips + Clyde Shuman + Tom Davis + Jeff Codrea	-2

### Better ball of Foursome NET

1 Terry Hatch + Ashton Leshner + Freddie Leshner + Milton Trexler	-14
-- Jim Muschlitz + Mike Guro + Dylan Spadt + Shane Gunning	-12
T2 Justin Alunni + Doug Taylor + Ernie Sims + Nick Rossetti	-11
T2 Harvey Williams + Justin Lyle + Scott Schoenberg + John Sheroda	-11
-- Brian Bergestol + Riley Hogan + Jake Haberstumpf + Zach Fischl	-11
4 Joe Ambrose + Ed McKarski + Mark Myslinski + Jim Young	-10
5 Patrick Spang + Bob Spang + Felix Marzan + Kory Harmison	-9
-- Nick Lussier + Drew Nowicki + Kevin O'Malley + Dave Maziarz	-9
--Kevin Edwards + Mike Sugden + Alec Weiss + Scott Sargent	-8
6 Michael Grabosky + Marc Miller + Troy Shelly + Lou Kleiman	-8
-- Dustin McCormick + Albert McCormick + Dave Miller + Maurice Rapp	-7
-- John Kulhamer + Charlie Leon + John Mace + Berry Stolzman	-7

### Low Pro's

1. Brian Bergstol (Shawnee) 69
2. Jeff Fick (Moselem Springs) 70
3. Gregg Meyer (Woodstone) 71
3. Evan Grube (Woodstone) 71
3. Kevin Edwards (Olde Homes lead) 71
3. Terry Hatch (Royal Oaks) 71
7. Mark Monahan (Philly PGA) 73

### Pocono Pro-Am Whitetail Golf Club

Thursday Aug. 12



### Team Gross

1. Gregg Meyer (Woodstone) 61
2. Kevin Edwards (Olde Homes lead) 62
3. Brian Bergstol (Shawnee) 62

### Team Net

1. Brad Paukovits (Whitetail) 58
1. Terry Hatch (Royal Oaks) 58
1. Brian Boyle (Wild Pines) 58

### Low Amateurs

1. Nathan Fry (Chesnut Hill) 67
2. Frank Betz (Woodstone) 70
3. Riley Hogan (Shawnee) 71
3. Jason Wilson (Shawnee) 71

### Low Sr. Amateurs

1. Bill Paukovits (Whitetail) 75
1. Bill Steirer (Moselem Springs) 75

### PROFESSIONALS

Alex Knoll	66
Terry Hatch	69
Jeff Fick	69
Dustin McCormick	70
Justin Alunni	76
Brian Bergstol	76
Wayne Phillips	77
John Kulhamer	77
Greg Wall	78

### AMATEURS

Mike Guro	71
Jason Wilson	72
Riley Hogan	74

### SENIOR AMATEURS

Tom Karam	75
Don Cain	77
Wayne Haluska	77

### POCONO PRO AM POCONO MANOR Thursday, Aug.19

### TEAM GROSS

Dustin McCormick	62
Alex Knoll	62
Brian Bergstol	63
Mike Molino	67
Greg Wall	67

### TEAM NET

Terry Hatch	57
John Kulhamer	60
Howie VanBuskirk	61
Brad Paukovits	61
Jeff Fick	61

## THURSDAY AUGUST. 26 WOODSTONE



### Low Professional

Pos.	Player	Gross	Total
1	Bergstol, Brian	-3	69
T2	Meyer, Gregg	-1	71
T2	Edwards, Kevin	-1	71
4	Fick, Jeff	+1	73
5	McCormick, Dustin	+2	74
6	Brown, Ross	+3	75
7	Kulhamer, John	+4	76
8	Van Buskirk, Howie	+5	77
9	Hatch, Terry	+6	78
10	Spang, Pat	+7	79
11	Paukovits, Brad	+8	80
12	Grube, Evan	+9	81

### Low Amateur

1	Juhasz, Zach	-6	66
2	Hogan, Riley	-2	70
T3	Ashner, Marc	E	72
T3	Smith, Tyler	E	72
T3	Haberstumpf, Jake	E	72

### Low Senior Am

1	Barlok, Tom	-1	71
T2	Cericola, Scott	+3	75
T2	Spadt, Dylan	+3	75
4	van Horn, Gene	+6	78
T5	McCormick, Albert	+8	80

## 29TH AGA/GAP WOMEN'S COAL SCUTTLE

WED, AUG 25, 2021

FOX HILL COUNTRY CLUB



## STABLEFORD POINTS TEAM

1	Huntsville Golf Club	94
2	Wyoming Valley Country Club	90
3	Glenmaura National Golf Club	65
4	Glen Oak Country Club	62
5	Irem Country Club	61
6	Elkview Country Club	59
7	Fox Hill Country Club	45
8	Scranton Canoe Club	26
9	Emanon Country Club	20



## INDIVIDUAL STABLEFORD

1	Gorman, Molly Wyoming Valley CC	36
2	McCance, Kyleen Huntsville GC	35
3	Dalessandro, Danielle Huntsville GC	34
4	Yanoski, Hannah Glen Oak CC	30
5	Mileski, Deborah Wyoming Valley CC	29
6	Walter, Merri Irem Country Club	27
7	Goeringer, Kathy Wyoming Valley CC	25
8	Tarapchak, Rachel Glenmaura National	25
9	Pagana, Barbara Huntsville Golf Club	25
10	Novack, Debbie Elkview Country Club	24

## 50TH FOUR-BALL STROKE PLAY

MON, AUG 30, 2021

LAUREL CREEK COUNTRY CLUB



Pos.	Players	To Par	Total
1	Geiger, Curtis + Foley, John Raven's Claw Golf Club	-7	63
2	Cerbara, Stephen + Hart, Liam Huntingdon Valley Country Club, Spring Mill Country	-7	63
3	Maguire, Alexander + Sokol, Brad Brookside Country Club, Green Valley Country Club	-6	64
4	Dilcher, Zach + Raihl, Brandon Hartefeld National, Philadelphia Cricket Club	-6	64
5	Welsh, Patrick + Czerniakowski, Mark LuLu Country Club	-6	64
6	Cooper, Geoffrey + Dougher, Kevin North Hills Country Club, Philadelphia Cricket Club	-6	64
7	Mandel, Marc + Baloga, Chris Philadelphia Cricket Club, Briarwood Golf Club	-6	64
8	Falone, Zachary + Tennekoon, Daniel Little Mill Country Club, Makefield Highlands Golf Club	-6	64
9	Gordon, Neil + Martinez, Cesar Five Ponds Golf Club, Commonwealth National Golf Club	-5	65

## 39TH AGA/GAP SENIOR COAL SCUTTLE

WED, SEP 15, 2021

FOX HILL COUNTRY CLUB



Pos.	Team	Gross	Total
1	Fox Hill Country Club	+8	292
2	Country Club of Scranton	+20	304
3	Huntsville Golf Club	+30	314
4	Elkview Country Club	+31	315
5	Irem Country Club	+35	319
6	Elmhurst Country Club	+38	322
7	Emanon Country Club	+44	328
8	Glen Oak Country Club	+47	331
9	StoneHedge Golf Assn.	+53	337
10	Wemberly Hills Golf Club	+54	338
11	Pocono Farms Country Club	+62	346
12	Wyoming Valley Country Club	+63	347
13	Scranton Canoe Club	+71	355

## INDIVIDUAL SCORING

1	Lafoca, Santo Huntsville GC	-2	69
2	Gill, Bob Fox Hill Country Club	-1	70
3	Vassil, Michael CC of Scranton	+1	72
4	Crossin, Don Fox Hill CC	+1	72
5	Hoover, Jim Fox Hill CC	+2	73
6	Bolcavage, Kenneth Elkview CC	+2	73
7	Burns, Tim CC of Scranton	+4	75
8	Hinton, Tim Elmhurst CC	+5	76
9	Mattioli, Billy Irem Country Club	+5	76
10	Heck, Michael Elkview CC	+5	76
11	Corbett, Brian CC of Scranton	+5	76
12	Answini, Mark Fox Hill CC	+6	77
13	Sohns, Tom Elmhurst CC	+6	77
14	Andrejko, Bob Wemberly Hills GC	+7	78
15	Belgio, Lou Irem Country Club	+7	78

## SUPER SENIOR COAL SCUTTLE TEAM

1	Fox Hill Country Club	+10	220
2	Emanon Country Club	+14	224
3	Nittany Country Club	+21	231
4	Elkview Country Club	+25	235
5	Elmhurst Country Club	+26	236
6	Wemberly Hills Golf Club	+31	241
7	Country Club of Scranton	+33	243
8	Valley Country Club	+35	245
9	Scranton Canoe Club	+39	249
10	Glen Oak Country Club	+42	252
11	Wyoming Valley Country Club	+50	260

## SUPER SENIOR INDIVIDUAL

1	Chiavacci, Gene Emanon CC	+1	71
2	Miller, Tom Wemberly Hills GC	+3	73
3	Hennigan, Ed Fox Hill CC	+3	73
4	Hoover, Jim Fox Hill CC	+3	73
5	Scarpetta, Jr., Vince Nittany CC	+4	74
6	Heck, Michael Elkview CC	+4	74
7	Berry, Richard Fox Hill CC	+4	74

## WORLD AMATEUR HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP MAKES A TRIUMPHANT POST-COVID RETURN



By TONY LEODORA

MYRTLE BEACH, SC – There were a lot of anxious moments in the planning for this year’s 38th Myrtle Beach World Amateur Handicap Championship. The Covid Year edition in 2020, sans the ever-popular 19th Hole, bravely was held ... but with a many-year low of 2,200 participants.

Would there be a bounce-back in 2021?

Let’s just say that the bounce was to the moon and back.

The success of the 2021 edition of the world’s largest golf tournament can be measured on many levels.

- Participation soared to more than 3,500 players, a total that the tournament has not seen since before the economic crash in 2008.
- The 19th Hole once again was a bustling site of activity – with so many food stations, vendors, activities and great musical acts on the ballroom big stage.
- The 19th Hole even was expanded to an outdoor area, with more food, music and areas for lounging and enjoying the beautiful South Carolina weather.
- Speaking of weather, the five days of the tournament – four rounds, plus the championship round – basked in a collective all-time best Low Country display of warmth and sunshine.
- As a result ... also giving credit to agronomic changes that have swept through the area in recent years ... the course conditions, especially the putting surfaces, met with collective rave reviews from the players.

“I couldn’t be happier with the outcome of this year,” said Bill Golden, president of Golf Tourism Solutions, the company that organizes the massive year-round effort behind the World Am. “We had a record number of first time players. I am seeing nothing but smiling faces throughout the 19th Hole. It’s as if so many people used this event as a point of celebration, after a couple of very trying years.”

The only person who might have been happier was Jean Oberg – the new World Amateur Handicap Champion.

Oberg, from North Palm Beach, Florida, is a relatively new golfer – but one who is on a fast-learning curve. She competed in her first World Am in 2020, with a 35 handicap. This year she entered the

competition with a 22 handicap ... and now stands atop the world. Her story is an interesting one. Once a competitive equestrian, who reached the Olympic trial level, she used those instincts to fuel her rise through the golf ranks.

“I came here last year for the first time, played in the worst handicap group, and struggled,” admitted Oberg. “But I got hooked right away. I thought it was the most amazing experience I could ever imagine.”

Oberg, who became a veterinarian, after losing all of her horses in a barn fire, spent the next year channeling the same focus and dedication to golf that she once used in her equestrian career.

The big difference: “Back then I was competing for 90 seconds. Now it is for 4 ½ or 5 hours,” she said with a laugh.

Although still considered a novice golfer, Oberg showed the wisdom of a seasoned veteran with her approach to this year’s tournament.

“What I do is I play against myself,” she revealed. “I don’t look at the field. I don’t look at other players’ handicaps. I don’t even look at my own score. All I do is play the best game I can play, hole-by-hole.”

That proved to be a winning formula. And now her name has been inscribed on the silver trophy ... along with the previous 37 Myrtle Beach World Amateur Handicap Champions.

Tony Leodora’s daily videos and photo collections from the 38th World Amateur Handicap Championship can be found on his Traveling Golfer Facebook Page.



Tony Leodora Host of GolfTalk Live



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*Above image from Mission Inn El Capeton.*

**EL CAMPEON** - Built in 1917 by Chicago-based golf course architect, George O'Neil, with further enhancements in 1926 by Charles E. Clarke of Troon, Scotland, El Campeón is one of the South's oldest courses. It blends unusual Central Florida elevation changes of more than 85 feet with features of traditional golf design, including spectacular rolling fairways and undulating greens.

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Golf Advisor ranked El Campeón #9 in its list of Top 10 U.S. courses in 2016. Players will find El Campeón is sublimely challenging and frustratingly addictive.

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shot-making.

The signature hole, "Alligator Alley", is the par 5 12th, spanning 493 yards along a tree-lined fairway and requiring absolute accuracy from tee-to-green.

Las Colinas was nominated as "Best New Resort Course" in 1992 and named "Best Places to Play - 4 stars" by Golf Digest. Golf Advisor ranked Las Colinas #3 in its Top U.S. Courses in 2017.

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**MAYFAIR CC** - Opened in 1927, the 18-hole course at the Mayfair Country Club in Sanford, Florida features 6,400 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 72. The medium-length layout has 3 sets of tee boxes, and the course rating is 68.7 with a 117 slope rating. The overhanging trees and bunkers challenge golfers on every hole. Located north of Orlando, the Mayfair Country Club features a driving range, practice range, snack bar, and banquet facility. With many upgrades in progress, Mayfair is becoming one of Orlando's most popular, laid-back, and fun public courses for golfers to enjoy and hang out.



[WWW.GOLFMAYFAIR.COM](http://WWW.GOLFMAYFAIR.COM)

**MOUNT DORA GC** - It's billing as "the longest 5,700 yards in Florida," is high praise for this par 70, 88-acre challenge with tight tree-lined fairways, postage-stamp greens, and rolling hills that provide a variety of sidehill, downhill, and uphill lies to keep the best golfers on their toes. "The Old Course" built in 1945, is a featured course in the Florida Historic Golf Trail. Enjoy this hidden gem and step back in time, where golfers can choose to walk or ride, enjoying the game in a truly peaceful and old school, charming and traditional golf setting.



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**THE RESERVE AT ORANGE LAKE** - Located in the West Village of Orange Lake Resort, The Reserve consists of 18 holes and 6,505 yards of



expansive greens that were specifically redesigned to be in harmony with our carefully preserved wetlands to give you the taste of natural Florida. While this course is the shorter of our two championship courses, it offers a challenging layout to test golfers of all skill levels. The driving range is available during the day and is also lighted for those who want to practice after dark. For extra fun, check out the Legends Walk located in the North Village, the only lighted par 3 walking golf course in Central Florida. (Not included with card).

[WWW.ORANGELAKEGOLF.COM](http://WWW.ORANGELAKEGOLF.COM)

**VICTORIA HILLS GC** - Located in Deland, this Ron Garl-designed championship course has been honored with numerous accolades and awards since its opening in 2002, including being ranked 41 in the Top 50 Public Courses you can play by Golf World (2010). Five sets of tee boxes create a challenging yet fair test no matter what your handicap. The course plays 7149 yards/ 142 slope from the tips with some formidable carries over sand waste areas, ravines, and water hazards. Greenside collection areas, swales and deep bunkers serve to protect the many large, sloping, and raised putting surfaces. A good short game is key to scoring well here.



[WWW.VICTORIAHILLSGOLF.COM](http://WWW.VICTORIAHILLSGOLF.COM)

**ZELLWOOD STATION GC** - Tucked away in the rolling hills just five miles Northwest of Apopka and 15 miles from downtown Orlando, Zellwood Station Country Club offers a special treat - hilly terrain, great greens, and very memorable golf holes. Zellwood Station boasts two par 4's that are driveable (264 & 266 yards) offering great hopes for marking an eagle on your scorecard. The ninth, nicknamed "Train Wreck," will definitely get your attention before making the turn. Holes 12 thru 16 dogleg around a cavernous dry lake dubbed "Crater Junction" - hit this hazard and it is all over! The stout par 3, 17th hole, measures 243 yards exceeding any on the PGA TOUR! Fun and wickedly challenging, once you've played Zellwood Station, you'll want to return and conquer it all over again!



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The 18th hole at Victoria Hills Golf Club.



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