

GOLF PENNSYLVANIA

GOLF NORTHEAST

Vol. XXXII No. 10

Spring 2022

U.S. SENIOR OPEN AT SAUCON VALLEY
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RENOVATION OF PRIVATE & PUBLIC COURSES
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ICONIC REGIONAL PARTNERS PROVIDE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT U.S. Senior Open Championship at Saucon Valley C.C. Fuels Community Spirit

By Pete Kowalski

One of golf's enduring legacies is the 19th hole.

There and then, the bonus gathering after a round accentuates the stories, the libations (and maybe the food), and the memories. And the bets are settled.

MSG Promotions, the overall event and outside-the-ropes management group for the 2022 U.S. Senior Open Championship at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, ratcheted up this social concept with innovative fan engagements that are financially supported by household-name regional supporters such as Yuengling, C.F. Martin Guitar, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Wind Creek, X-Golf, St. Luke's University Health Network, Service Electric, and PBS39.

The 19th Hole (OK, the name isn't original) at the 42nd U.S. Senior Open offers ANYONE within a comfortable drive from the Lehigh Valley a wide range of family- and fun-driven activities for the price of an upgraded ticket. Total transparency, the official name is the 19th Hole presented by Lehigh Valley Health Network because of their significant commitment.

The 660,000-square foot space located in a triangle of land surrounded by holes 16, 17 and 18 of the championship routing of the Old Course at Saucon Valley is a convenient center to make a pit stop after strolling the fairways with players like Jim Furyk, Phil Mickelson, Bernhard Langer, Steve Stricker, Retief Goosen, Vijay Singh, and Fred Couples.



19th Hole Center

Within the white picket fences of the 19th Hole 'compound' spectators will find a 9,000-square foot putting green (designed and built by SVCC grounds director Jim Roney and crew), golf simulators, a sports bar, a food court, and food trucks featuring Lehigh Valley



19th Hole Stage

delicacies, social gaming on the action occurring on the 16th, 17th and 18th holes and live music during the practice rounds on Tuesday and Wednesday in the late afternoon.

"Community support and spirit are priceless, particularly if they come from iconic commodities," said MSG Promotions Founder and President, Mimi Griffin. "We are so lucky to have these familiar and highly regarded companies and institutions provide the funding needed to bring a unique idea to reality. They have given us a high creative ceiling because of their support and energy. We feel strongly that the U.S. Senior Open, particularly the 19th Hole, will be THE place to be in June."

Because the previous two U.S. Senior Opens in 1992 and 2000, conducted by the United States Golf Association, were successes financially and with huge crowds, there is a feeling of gratitude to the region for its past support.



19th Sports Bar

"For the 42nd U.S. Senior Open, we want to show our appreciation to the people who so readily supported our previous Championships at

Cont. on page 5

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at Saucon Valley,” Griffin said. “The 19th Hole and Junior Experience presented by Lehigh Valley Health Network, along with the Wellness Pavilion and Medical Services presented by St. Luke’s University Health Network, the Epic Putt Experience presented by PBS39, the social gaming in the 19th Hole presented by Wind Creek, the Craig Thatcher Band concerts presented by C.F. Martin, the golf simulators presented by X-Golf, the Sports Bar in the 19th Hole presented by Yuengling, the Volunteer Experience presented by Service Electric, are, in part, a way of saying ‘Thanks.’ But they also provide an oasis from watching the world’s best senior players. We hope the overall experience is something people are talking about and will be talking

about well after the champion is crowned.”

Meanwhile, the local grassroots support of the Championship continues to blossom.

Ticket and corporate hospitality opportunities are still available. Thirty-five of 42 total Open-Air Suites have sold and those on holes 15, 17 and 18 have sold out. In fact, inventory for those suites has been added on holes 9, and 11.



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RENOVATIONS, RESTORATIONS PRODUCE “NEW” GOLF COURSES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

By TONY LEODORA

Americans are spoiled. They live in a disposable society.

As soon as anything begins to show signs of wear, they throw it away and replace it with something new.

That goes for everything from the smallest items, up to cars and houses.

It wasn't always that way. I can still remember bringing my lunch to grade school in a brown paper bag and being instructed, sternly by my mother, to fold the bag after lunch, put it in my schoolbag and bring it home for use the next day. And the next. And the next.

Recycling ... before the term ever was popular.

In the world of golf, the story isn't quite the same. Although equipment manufacturers are quite pleased to see golfers toss an old set of clubs in the trash ... or the lake ... as soon as they become infested with the double-bogey bug. Then shell out the bucks for the latest and greatest model.

Golf courses are not quite as disposable. If they close, they usually are not replaced.

But, for many years, they often were not really given the tender loving care that should be devoted to a 175-acre (on the average) piece of hallowed real estate.

Certainly, the grounds staff mowed the fairways in nice optical patterns. And they groomed the putting surfaces so that they provided a smooth roll. But many other aspects often were left unattended.

Trees were over-planted, or grew to the point where they strangled the playing surfaces. Greens were mowed until they shrank into monotonous little circles. Bunkers eroded and suffered from poor drainage. Invasive strains of grasses competed for space with delicate strains of bentgrass.

All of this merged, calamitously, with golf's great downturn. It began at the start of this century and gained momentum, with a rude shove, from the economic collapse of 2008.

As golf courses closed at an alarming rate – without the benefit of new ones being created – there came an unexpected benefit. The great Age of Renovation exploded on the national golf scene.

And, as always, the Greater Philadelphia area in general – and Montgomery County in particular – was on the cutting edge of this new golf renaissance.

Major golf course renovations have been popping up with alarming frequency throughout the area.

“Renovations have provided a major portion of the work for golf course architects for almost 20 years,” said Montgomery County native Tom Fazio, arguably the greatest golf course designer in the world. “But with that work comes a lot of responsibility.”

Fazio should know. He has been called to lend his artistry two of the most famous historic golf courses in the world – Merion GC, which sits on the border of Montgomery County, and Pine Valley, in nearby New Jersey.

“To say that an architect has to be very careful when working on an iconic golf course is an understatement,” reasoned Fazio. “Pine Valley and Merion are two of the jewels of the golf universe.”

Thankfully, a number of other “jewels” have been polished in Montgomery County in recent years.

PHILADELPHIA CRICKET CLUB



Philadelphia Cricket Club Hole #3

The Wissahickon Course at Philadelphia Cricket Club is one of the finest creations of renowned Philadelphia-based architect A.W. Tillinghast. It has stood as a shining star in the galaxy of Philadelphia area courses since 1922.

But even shining stars begin to lose their sparkle over the years. In 2013-2014 architect Keith Foster and historian Phil Young collaborated on a restoration that would fit the famed Tillinghast style.

Thousands of trees were removed and the magnificent long views of this naturally picturesque piece of rolling countryside were restored. The acclaim was immediate, resulting in the Wissahickon course hosting the 2015 Club Professional Championship and the 2016 Constellation Senior Players Championship.

The price that had to be paid to bring those events to Philadelphia Cricket Club was a steep one. The course was closed for construction for the better part of two years.

“Our members are a spectacular group of people,” said Jim Smith, director of golf. “They supported the idea of temporary inconvenience for permanent improvement. More importantly, they support the idea that we need to give back to the game of golf.”

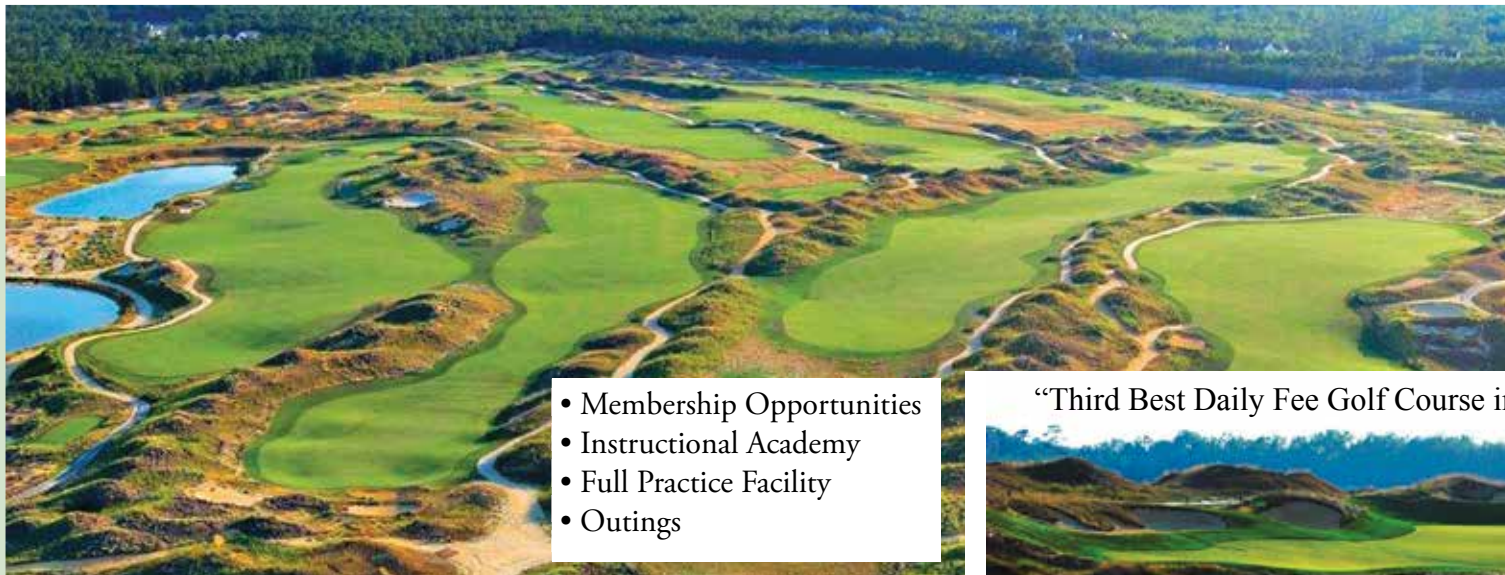
And, as the course has matured in its new wardrobe, it has become increasingly handsome year after year.

Aronimink

Easily the second-most drastic renovation to take place in the area can be seen on the Donald Ross-designed classic at Aronimink. Sticklers will point out that Aronimink sits a few miles across the Montgomery County line but improvements to the course have resulted in huge professional golf tournaments that had a major financial impact on the county. Thus, it is included in this renovation story.

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REVITALIZATION OF NORTHAMPTON VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

By Steve Gordon

Maintaining a golf course to a high standard involves more than fertilizer and mowers. Northampton Township found this out the hard way since it purchased the 59-year-old Northampton Valley Country Club three years ago. GM Mario Finocchiaro said it best when he was explaining the job and how they are approaching "15-plus years of non-maintenance of the whole property."

NVCC has been a popular facility in an area with limited golf courses. This Edmund Ault-designed course once held a reputation for being the best-conditioned course in the area with the best greens. However, that has given way to other newer public courses in the Lower Bucks County area.

For the past decade-plus the bunkers rarely saw new sand, not to mention that more often than not they became ponds after rains. Trees were overgrown and not trimmed, teeing areas and some greens were let go to become barely grassed features, while fairways and rough developed patches of crabgrass and just showed general signs of neglect. Then there were the long rounds caused by just packing golfers on the golf course.

Finocchiaro and new head pro Ryan Skierski are feverishly working to address all of those things and to restore the course to return it to a desired destination for local residents as well as visiting golfers from outside the area. The township is also said to be considering resident and nonresident rates keeping in line with how other township-owned courses are structured.

Improvements started last year with a major drainage project. Heavy rains or extended rain created annual erosion of the water runoff across holes 7 and 8 and settling at the low point of the 9th hole. The system will now take this runoff underground and deposit it into a newly created water retention area.

A new sprinkler system was put in which will evenly supply water throughout the course for healthier turf on tees, greens, fairways and rough. It also will eliminate a maintenance headache for staff and inconvenience to golfers from frequent temporary bandaid patches and digging up sections of the course to keep the old system working. On the same theme for healthier turf as well as play issues, trees have been removed to allow for better air flow and sight lines. It also serves to speed up play so balls can be easily spotted without the delay of searching through pine tree branches at ground level. Specifically for playability and tee turf, trees will be removed from around the 13th tee.

A major project ongoing that is expected to be complete for the beginning of the season is bunkers. A handful of bunkers that are no longer in play have been eliminated for starters. However, the majority of this is the rebuild of all the bunkers on the course. Every bunker was dug out, drainage and liners were put in and all filled with new sand.

Finocchiaro said new modern mowers will be in the maintenance garage replacing aging and inadequate equipment while new golf carts are now populating the cart shed.

NVCC is the only local public course with memberships. There has always been a tight-knit group of members but Skeriski reported that the membership roster now has a waiting list.

Traditionally having two par 3s in the first five holes has caused play to back up. Strict adherence to 10-minute tee times will curb that along with potentially some new teeing areas. Spacing the tee times eliminates overcrowding the golf course which will make play more enjoyable. No golfer likes hitting a shot then having to stand and wait minutes to hit the next shot. It does not promote getting into a rhythm and it wears on the players, especially on 90-degree humid summer days. It also makes the job of the on-course marshals more manageable when they don't have to deal with potential unhappy golfers.

With all this being done it is hoped the estimated 45,000 to 50,000 rounds could increase while making the course more enjoyable to play. The course is scheduled to be rerated because of the work being done.

The revitalization also has attracted new attention. The Workhorse Tour is coming in August, a junior PGA event is on the calendar along with a three-day Notah Begay tour for juniors ages 8-16 in July. In short, things are looking up for NVCC.



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And, Aronimink has had more than one renovation, with the goal to attract a professional event.



Aronimink Country Club

Around the turn of the century, Montgomery County-based architect Ron Prichard was commissioned to do a major restoration of Aronimink – one that included removal of a large number of trees and the moving of many bunkers. Work on a number of sacred Ross courses over the years drew harsh criticism but architecture expert Ron Whitten, writing in *Golf World* in 2007, listed Prichard as “one of the best architects who specialize in Ross recoveries, understanding the need for course design to change with the times.”

Prichard’s work resulted in Aronimink being awarded the 2003 Senior PGA Championship.

In 2016, Chester County-based architect Gil Hanse embarked on another restoration at Aronimink ... finishing in the spring of 2018. A second construction project in such a short time may have surprised some but it resulted in wider fairways, 100 additional bunkers, 18 new tee boxes and larger greens. More importantly, it was completed in time to host a women’s major championship – the KPMG Women’s PGA Championship.

“I felt like we’re repainting the picture of the course that Ross wanted,” said Hanse.

A most impressive critique comes from Aronimink’s most famous member, former U.S. Amateur and Senior Tour champion Jay Sigel. “Gil Hanse did a fabulous job,” said Sigel. “I call him an artist at this point.”

The latest portrait of Aronimink is being heralded around the country.

THE 1912 CLUB

Other renovations across the area carry far less national implications than the work at Philadelphia Cricket Club and Aronimink – but may even be of more importance to the members. In some cases they provided CPR on clubs that were in critical condition.

The 1912 Club, formerly Plymouth Country Club, is such a case. Membership at the old William Flynn design in Plymouth Meeting had dropped to less than 150 members, when it was sold in

1918 to a group headed by golf professional Brian Quinn.

Chuck Caparo, who served two different terms as president at Plymouth CC, spanning 12 years, said that the equity members sold the club and he was expecting “major improvements to be done to the golf course.”

Again, major tree removal was the first step in the renovation process. Vistas of the golf course, which had been obscured by columns of massive trees, were opened. Then a number of holes were either altered or removed and the overall routing of the course was changed. The practice range was moved and agronomic conditions were improved.



The 1912 Club

“The final result is a vastly improved golf course,” said Caparo. “Many people thought that removing the trees would make the course much easier. Actually, it is now much more difficult.”

The most important change has been in the number of members and the energy at the club. While Plymouth Country Club had great history – the 1912 Club now is creating a new, and successful, history.

Spring-Ford CC

The Royersford layout at Spring-Ford CC is another course with historic bones. J. Franklin Meehan designed the original 9 holes in 1923, before William Gordon came and finished the course in the 1950s.



Spring Ford CC



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Cont. from page 11

Even though the pandemic-fueled golf boom has resulted in a full membership and the first waiting list in many years, Spring-Ford's decision-makers have embarked on a \$1.4 million renovation that will conclude by summer of this year. It comes as part of a master plan that includes suggestions by Gil Hanse.

Again, tree removal is the first step in the plan. The tree work had been an ongoing process for a few years but got amped up in the recent work. There also was a major bunker renovation, using the modern capillary concrete system. Finally, some greens were expanded to create more hole locations.

Tyler Rae, a Wilmington, Delaware-based architect, was brought in to oversee the project.

"The architect has been very hands-on and is doing a great job," says Rich Steinmetz, Spring-Ford's head professional and an accomplished tournament player in the Philadelphia PGA Section. "This has always been a great, challenging golf course but, after this renovation, it will be so much better in so many ways."

INDIAN VALLEY CC



Indian Valley Country Club

Another design by the accomplished William Gordon (Saucon Valley leads his long list of work), Indian Valley opened in 1953 as a working man's country club in the rural area of Telford. Over the years, the area changed ... and so did the club.

The most drastic change became known as Vision 2020 – a \$4 million golf course and clubhouse renovation.

"It's amazing the change that has taken place in the last couple of years," says Thomas Link, Indian Valley's head golf professional. "There is the physical change to the course and clubhouse and then there is the change to the membership."

For the first time ever, Indian Valley has a full membership. Some of that is due to the golf boom but a lot of the credit must be given to the improvements.

Architect Andrew Green, who has been getting a lot of attention for his renovation work across the country – including famed Congressional CC in Washington – was commissioned for the job.

"There are a lot of improvements but the most significant was with regard to drainage," explains Link. "Indian Valley sits on a ridge of shale that presents major challenges to growing grass.

Thanks to the drainage work, we have seen a major improvement in turf conditions. This course is so much fun to play now."

The capillary concrete system also was used to renovate the bunkers, which now give the course an impressive look. Add shiny new features throughout the clubhouse and there is no wonder Indian Valley CC is busier than ever.

RAVEN'S CLAW GC



Ravens Claw

Many would be surprised to see Raven's Claw GC on this list. For one thing, the Limerick Township course opened as the newest layout in Montgomery County in 2005. Second, it is a daily fee course. They are the most difficult courses to renovate because it often means losing up to an entire year of revenue.

Unless some innovative thinking is behind the process.

Golf course architect Ed Shearon, another Montgomery County native, has always been an innovative thinker. His course designs are interesting. His renovations are practical.

In the case of Raven's Claw, he began adding some touches of renovation not long after the course opened.

"I look at renovations as an ongoing project," said Shearon. "Fix something before it becomes a problem. That way you won't have to shut down the entire course."

Hole-by-hole, over the years, he added protective trees; shifted fairways; approved aesthetics. Then, in 2019, he began his most aggressive project. He started a year-long process of changing the grasses on all of his greens. It entailed painstaking work and over-seeding but the net result was faster, smoother greens – without any interruption of play.

While new course construction has come to a halt in Montgomery for almost 20 years, there has been a rise in the number of "new" golf courses thanks to the renovation boom. "Keeping up with the Joneses" is now the mantra for local courses. And the golfers of Montgomery County – and beyond – stand to benefit.

Note – A special show on Renovations will be the topic of the May episode of the Traveling Golfer television show on NBC Sports, the WingDing Network and the Fun Roads Network – plus anytime at www.travelinggolfervideo.com

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CELINE BOUTIER TO DEFEND TITLE AT SHOPRITE CLASSIC

By MIKE KERN

There was nothing more Celine Boutier could do but wait to find out what fate had in store for her. By that point she had done about as much as she realistically could have, by shooting a closing 8-under par 63, which matched her career best, to come from five shots off the lead over the last 18 holes to assume a one-shot advantage at the ShopRite LPGA Classic on the first Sunday in October.

But she still didn't know if was going to be enough. Or if she would be left with more work to do. And she had nearly an hour from the time she finished to think about it. It probably felt more like 24



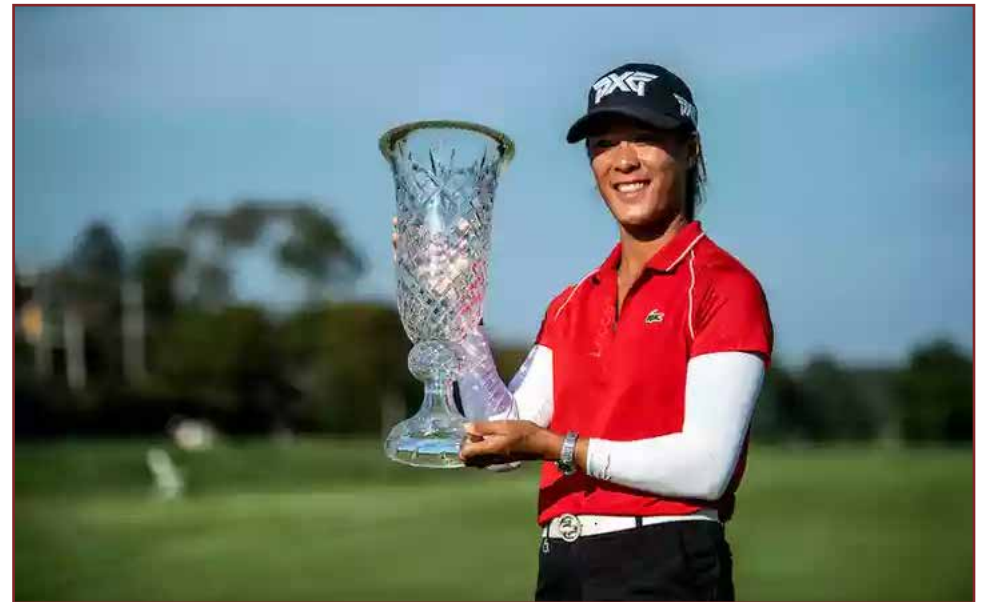
Seaview Bay Course Hole #2

Out on the course at Seaview Resort, just across the bay from Atlantic City, were the co-leaders after the first two rounds, Imbee Park and Jim Young Ko. Park is already an LPGA Hall of Famer, ranked third in the world, one spot behind Ko. And the 17th hole is a short par 3, followed by a par 5 that yields plenty of birdies. And even some eagles. So Boutier's position seemed anything but secure.

Then again, as we were about to learn once more, that's why the rules insist you play things out.

Neither Park or Ko, who both trailed by one, could birdie 17. In fact, Park had to get up and down from out of a bunker, and Ko could only two-putt from a good 40 feet. So it came down, as it should but rarely does, to the last hole. Park came up well short of the green to the left from 240 yards out. Ko reached the green from just over 200 away, but again left herself with this time about a 60-footer. Each left themselves about 7-8 feet to force a playoff, which would have been the first one in this tournament since 1992. When, incidently, another French golfer, Ann Marie Palli, had outlasted Laura Davies. Back then the event was held at Greate Bay outside of Ocean City.

History repeated, but there would be no need for extra holes. First Park missed, barely. Then Ko did the same. And that was it. They would have to settle for a tie for second with Brooke Henderson, who carded a 64. Park and Ko had identical 64-65-69s. It wasn't quite enough.



Instead, the trophy went to Boutier, who is 27. It was her second win on the LPGA Tour, and first in 21/2 years. But it was her first on American soil. The first had come in Australia. And it capped a couple of months in which she played in the Olympics, was part of the European's Solheim Cup win in Ohio, and won the French Open, which is sponsored Lacoste, the brand she represents.

Her 63 was the lowest round of the tourney on the tricky Donald Ross Bay Course. Her winning total was 14-under 199.

"I'm not realizing it yet," Boutier said immediately afterward. "The (first LPGA win) was so long ago. It was time for another."

Now she doesn't have to wait any longer. But it was sure worth the extra 45 minutes. And then some.

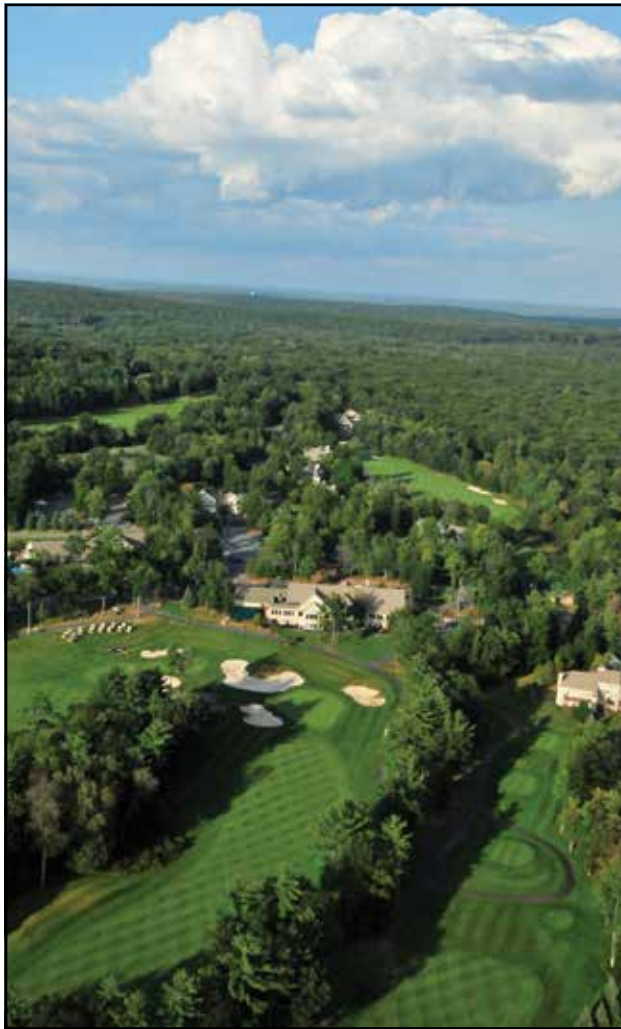
"It was such a surreal day," she went on. "I did not expect to win. I knew I was going to have to shoot a low score just to have a chance. I left everything out on the course. I was preparing for a playoff."

"I was kind of stunned (when they missed). I'm still a little bit surprised by it. But I'm super happy with the way it ended."

Why not? She earned it, even if maybe she did get a little outside help. But she did what she had to. That's what mattered most.

"I've been playing very solid all season," Boutier explained. "But my putting has been inconsistent. I knew it was just trusting my process. I knew I just had to give myself more chances. That's what happened this week."

"It's hard enough to win out here, without having to worry about what other people are doing. I was 6-under (for the round) after a nine holes. I knew I had to keep it going, that I could have a chance."



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“Being 100 percent honest, I didn’t think (her score) would be enough to win. But at least I put myself in that position.”

And she did have to make about a 6-footer for bird at 18 herself, or there would have been a four-way playoff.

So what was it like, having to wait around like that, knowing all she could do was watch it unfold on a television screen?

“I went in the locker room, and it was very quiet,” Boutier said. “It felt like the perfect place for me to be and not worry. It was pretty nerve-racking. It was a crazy turn of events.”

You think?

“I knew it was very likely (at least one of them) was going to birdie it,” she continued. “I signed my card, checked my phone. My mom was texting me. I knew it was going to take a long time. And I ended up in the locker room. But I was mentally getting ready to play more golf.

“It’s been an insane year. But a most amazing experience. Very special. I can’t even rank which one (of her accomplishments) was better. They’re all different. And all very meaningful ... I still can’t believe they both missed. They both obviously know what pressure is (about). I just had to stay patient. I can’t compare my (two) wins. They’re both obviously so big, in different ways. I know how hard it is to win.”

She actually knows Palli quite well, since Palli lives in Phoenix and there used to be a tourney there. And Palli was at Seaview earlier in the week to compete in the Pro-Am, which like the fans returned after a one-year Covid-dictated absence.

“I hope she’s happy,” Boutier smiled.

There’s little doubt that French golfers from all over were celebrating.

“You never know what can happen,” said Boutier, a two-time all-America at Duke and national player of the year in 2014. “You’re not really paying attention to what’s going on with the other people out there. You have to focus on your own game. That’s something you learn. I’m not the longest hitter, but I know what to do with my strengths.

“Winning on home soil is never easy. (The French Open) was my first pro event playing as an amateur. My whole family was there. Each week is so different. I think you get more and more competitive with it, as you grow up.”

Winning on any soil is a big deal. And next year, she gets to return to the South Jersey Shore as a defending champion. Maybe she can get

some pointers on how to handle that from Palli.

Tap-Ins: Brittany Lincicome, the 2011 winner, learned on Saturday evening that her 91-year-old grandmother had passed away after a long illness. But she chose to stay to honor her and closed with a 69 for a 203 ... Defending champ Mel Reid missed the cut ... So-Yeon Ryu, the first-round leader, tied for 14th at minus-8 ... Two-time champ Stacy Lewis tied for 19 at 7-under ... Maria Fassi was fifth, at 12-under (with a final-round 64), followed by Patty Tavatanakit at 11 ... No word yet on whether the tourney will return to its late May-early June dates next year, which had been the norm for so many decades. Because of the pandemic it was switched to the fall last year. So we’ll have to wait until the schedule is released, which should be relatively soon.

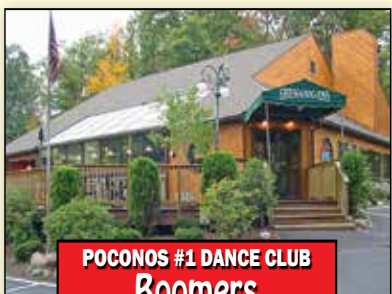
Continued on page 29



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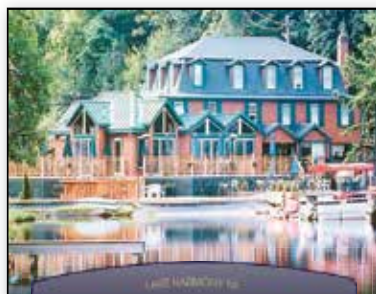
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LOCAL PHILLY GOLF EVENTS THIS SUMMER

By Mike Kern

In case you weren't already aware, there's a lot of big-time golf events coming to the Greater Delaware Valley area this summer. Four, to be exact, three in the same month and two even on the same weekend.



First, the Curtis Cup, the women's equivalent of the Walker Cup, will be held at Merion in Ardmore in suburban Philadelphia, which of course is always ranked as one of the best places to play in America if not the world. I know it's probably my personal favorite, if I had one last place to tee off.

The biennial matches are scheduled for June 10-12, an amateur competition that features the top female amateurs from the United States taking on those from Great Britain and Ireland. It's jointly run by the USGA and The Royal & Ancient. On the East Course, where it was held in 1954. This will be the 19th national championship that Merion has hosted. The last was the U.S. Open, its fifth, in 2013, 32 years after it had been there previously. And the U.S. Amateur will return in 2026, for the first time since 2005, followed by another Open in 2030, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the immortal Bobby Jones completing his grand slam on the 11th hole in the 1930 Am. And there's also a plaque in the 18th fairway to mark the spot where Ben Hogan hit his iconic 1-iron shot to the green on the 72nd hole that led to a two-putt par and spot in the next day's 18-hole, three-way playoff, which he went on to win some 18 months after he suffered injuries to his legs in a car crash that nearly claimed his life and threatened his career. So there is no shortage of history on the grounds, since those are arguably two of the most indelible moments in the game's treasure chest.

This will be the 41st Curtis Cup. The Americans have won the last two, including last year in Wales after the matches were moved back from 2020 due to the pandemic. It was their first victory on the other side of the ocean since 2008. They won six of the eight singles matches on the last day to win by five points. They had trailed by three after the first day. The U.S. holds an overall 29-8-3 advantage.

On that same weekend, the LPGA ShopRite Classic will return to

its traditional dates after being held for two years in the fall due to Covid. This tournament has been a staple at the South Jersey shore for well over three decades. And for awhile now it's been held on the Bay Course at Seaview, just across the marshes from Atlantic City. The final round of the 54-hole competition will be televised on CBS, a first.



This tourney means so much to the entire community down there, in terms of raising money for any number of charities. June is also Women's History Month, so there is that. The defending champion is Celine Boutier, who recorded her second LPGA victory last October. On Sunday she matched her career-low score with a 63 to hold off Inbee Park, Jin Young Ko and Brooke Henderson.

Two weeks later, the U.S. Senior Open will return to Bethlehem on Saucon Valley's Old Course. This event was held there in 1992, when cigar-smoking Larry Laoretti won his only senior event. What a feel-good story that was. And the fans in the Lehigh Valley responded in such a way that the 2000 Senior Open was also held there. That time Hale Irwin won by three over Bruce Fleisher.



Nine years later they U.S. Women's Open went there, in July. Eun-Hee Ji won her only major title by making an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole. And how often does that happen?

Saucon is one of the best 54-hole venues anywhere. It has hosted seven USGA championships, starting with the 1951 men's amateur. And if you know anything about Mimi Griffin, who is running her fourth major at her home club, you know it's only going to be first-class in every way. Because she simply doesn't know any other way to do it. And some of the players who are eligible to be there will only make it that much more attractive. Among the possibilities are Phil Mickelson, Pennsylvania's own Jim Furyk, Ernie Els and 2019



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Cont. from page 19

champion Steve Stricker. Plus the other usual suspects. Mickelson, who almost won at Merion in '13, was a six-time runner-up in the U.S. Open, which is a record he would rather not have. But he won all of the other three majors, six in all. Still, the man who won the PGA Championship last year at the age of 50, becoming the oldest to win any major, did not play at the Masters (where he's a three-time champ). He decided to take some time off after making some controversial comments, which he claimed were said were off the record, about the PGA Tour and the new tour that money people in Saudi Arabia are trying to get off the ground with Greg Norman serving as the spokesperson. So I guess we'll have to wait and see what happens with Lefty.

Then, on August 18-21, the BMW Championship will come to the highly-acclaimed South Course Wilmington Country Club in Delaware. It's the first time the PGA Tour has held an event in that state. It's also the second leg of the Fed Ex Cup playoffs, and the last tourney before The Tour Championship. So you will have 70 of the best players on the planet trying to secure one of the 30 spots in the finale.

It's the third time in five years that this event has been held in the Northeast. In 2018 it was hosted by Aronimink in Newtown Square, Pa. And last year it was held at Caves Valley in suburban Baltimore. The one thing you can count on is that there figures to be plenty at stake.

The club was established in 1901. The South Course opened in 1959, and was designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. The club hosted the 1913 U.S. Women's Amateur on what is now known as the Old Course. It has also hosted five other USGA events: the 1965 and '78 U.S. Junior Amateur, the '71 U.S. Am, the '78 Girls Junior and the 2003 Mid-Am. It also was the site of the 2013 Palmer Cup competition between Europe and a U.S. team that included 2019 BMW winner Justin Thomas.

So there you have it. Our extended area will be showcased. Enjoy.



HOW LONG IS BRANDON MATTHEWS?

Brandon Matthews started developing his driving distance more than two decades ago, around the age of 4 or 5, when most kids are lucky to be out of pull-ups and preparing for kindergarten. This week, he'll showcase what has become one of the longest drives in the world in his second PGA Tour start at the Wells Fargo Championship.

Picture this: it's the early 2000s. A bright-eyed Matthews holds his dad's hand as they make their way to the par-4 15th at Emanon Country Club in Falls, Pennsylvania, where a little lake separates the tee from the fairway. There, Ted Matthews sits his son on the red tee, approximately 60 yards to cover, and the training begins.

"As soon as I got it over, he moved me back a tee and then did the same thing, as soon as I got it over from the next tee back, move back a tee," Matthews said Tuesday, on location at TPC Potomac in Potomac, Maryland. "From a very young age I was just trying to hit it as hard as I can, so I developed power before I developed technique."

Two out of the last three weeks, he's had to take the driver out of his bag because there hasn't been a hole he could hit with it. Not necessarily a bad thing when your stock 4-iron goes nearly 250 yards, but Matthews admits it's been "painful to do" since it's his strength.

"When I do have driver in the bag, obviously there's a big advantage

there, especially if I'm hitting it well and consistent and I feel good with it," he said. "So I do feel good with it this week, and it is nice to have that thing back in the bag."

That advantage led the Korn Ferry Tour in driving distance in 2019 at 331.3 yards. The two years before that, in 2018 and 2017, he averaged at 333.7 yards and 341.5 yards, respectively.

For reference, last season's leader on Tour, Bryson DeChambeau, averaged 323.7 yards. Cameron Champ currently leads the Tour at 323.5 yards.

"My normal one that I've been hitting, kind of the 'fairway finder cruiser' will fly somewhere around 3 – just over 330 [yards], and then if I kind of lift one, I can fly north of 340," Matthews said about where his driving distance stands now.





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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Laneski, Plisko prevail in scorecard playoff



Emanon Country Club's Rick Laneski and Wyoming Valley Country Club's Eric Plisko captured the 22nd GAP/AGA Ben Marshall Spring Four-Ball in a playoff Wednesday at Fox Hill Country Club (par 71, 6,540 yards).

The team bested Honesdale Golf Club's Wayne Stephens and Eric Williams, Elmhurst Country Club's Frank Kacvinsky and John Mikiewicz of the host club, and Glenmaura National Golf Club's Matthew Dougherty and Pocono Farms Country Club's Patrick Mitchell. All four teams finished regulation tied at 3-under-par 68.

Huntsville Golf Club's Santo Lafoca and Bill Lydick won the Senior Division (par 71, 6,149 yards) with a 4-under-par 67. Country Club of Scranton's John Martines and Nittany Country Club's Vince Scarpetta, Jr. took the Super-Senior Division (par 71, 5,723 yards) with a 1-under-par 70.

Name	Club	Score
*Eric Plisko/Rick Laneski	Wyoming Valley CC/Emanon CC	68
Eric Williams/Wayne Stephens	Honesdale Golf Club	68
John Mikiewicz/Frank Kacvinsky	Fox Hill CC/Elmhurst CC	68
Patrick Mitchell/Matthew Dougherty	Pocono Farms CC/Glenmaura	68
Michael Thomas/Luke Fayocavitz	Scranton/Glen Oak CC	69
Chris Killiany/Mario Costa	Elkview CC	70
Peter Blasi, Jr./Floyd Bowen	Wyoming Valley CC	71
Eamon Evans/Mike Bonavoglia	Glenmaura/Elmhurst CC	71
A.J. Donatoni/Mike Haley	Fox Hill Country Club	71
John Henry/Stephen Hudacek, III	Huntsville/Glenmaura	73
Billy O'Dell/Dylan O'Dell	Elkview Country Club	73
Anthony Bellino/Tyler McGarry	Emanon CC/Huntsville	73
Brad Flickinger/Mike Domanish	Scranton/Elmhurst CC	73
Kyle Hutnik/Bill Rodweller	ehigh CC/Green Pond CC	74
Kevin Rossi/Justin Masters	Green Pond CC/Scranton	75
Gershom Spengler/Bill Ianieri	Jack Frost National	75
Scott Sklanka/James Glattly	StoneHedge /Glen Oak	75

NET RESULTS

Name	Club	Score
Eric Williams/Wayne Stephens	Honesdale Golf Club	64
Jeff O'Malley/Paul Batyko	Elmhurst Country Club	66
Jim Lanza/Chris Mathewson	Elmhurst/StoneHedge	67
Scott Sklanka/James Glattly	StoneHedge/Glen Oak	67
Peter Blasi, Jr./Floyd Bowen	Wyoming Valley	67
Kyle Dempsey/Christopher Batyko	StoneHedge	67
Chris Killiany/Mario Costa	Elkview	68
John Mikiewicz/Frank Kacvinsky	Fox HillCC/Elmhurst	68
Gershom Spengler/Bill Ianieri	Jack Frost	68
Patrick Mitchell/Matthew Dougherty	Pocono Farms/Glenmaura	68
Eric Plisko/Rick Laneski	Wyoming ValleyCC/Emanon	69
Kyle Hutnik/Bill Rodweller	Lehigh /Green Pond	69
A.J. Donatoni/Mike Haley	Fox Hill	69
John Henry/Stephen Hudacek, III	Huntsville/Glenmaura	70
Eamon Evans/Mike Bonavoglia	Glenmaura /Elmhurst	70

SENIOR DIVISION

Name	Club	Score
Bill Lydick/Santo Lafoca	Huntsville Golf Club	67
Kenneth Bolcavage/Art Brunn	Elkview/Wyoming Valley	68
David Scarpetta/Gary Latimer	Pocono Farms/Wemberly Hills	69
Marty Behm/Joseph Weiscarger	Irem/Wyoming Valley	69
Mark Answini/Joe Matione	Fox Hill Country Club	71
Mark Bartkowski/Mike Bartkowski	Pocono Farms /Elkview	73
Paul Gruzski/Bob McCloskey	Paupack Hills/Elmhurst	73
Bob Andrejko/Steve Mazur	StoneHedge Golf Assn.	74
William Gill/Don Crossin	Fox Hill Country Club	76
Tom Barlok/Sean McFadden	Woodstone Country Club	77
George Travis/Randy Cleary	StoneHedge /Wemberly Hills	78
Jerry Dougherty/Barry Westington	Scranton Canoe Club	78
Mark Occhipinti/Paul Woelkers	Scranton/Elmhurst	78
Walter Savitts/Anthony Andrejko	Wemberly Hills Golf Club	79



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ONE-OF-A-KIND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CCNC, ROYAL DORNOCH

By Pete Kowalski

The founding father and first president of The Country Club of North Carolina, Dick Urquhart, called the land on which the 36-hole facility stands the Royal Dornoch Golf Village.

Little did Urquhart know that the club he began in 1963 with the who's-who of business movers and shakers of North Carolina would have a unique relationship with the club that was the home of legendary Scottish golf architect Donald Ross – Royal Dornoch Golf Club. But that is exactly what has transpired because of the good will and fellowship that is the calling card of golf.

CCNC, a member-owned private club and gated residential community with 2,000 acres that features longleaf pines and three lakes and upscale tennis, fitness, swimming, and pickleball facilities, has a slew of excellent players who are always looking for a game. In the early 1960s, small coteries of CCNC members began making trips to Royal Dornoch because of the allure of this northern Scottish gem which opened in 1877 and whose championship course was designed by none other than Old Tom Morris.



A noted testament to the link between CCNC and Royal Dornoch is a framed scroll at the club in the Sandhills of North Carolina in Pinehurst, which closes with these words: 'with this message of greeting goes our hope that Dornoch, Sutherland and Dornoch, North Carolina may continue to have close and increasingly friendly relations for many years to come.' It also eloquently states commonalities between the two clubs.

It was signed and sealed on Oct. 24, 1971, by Royal Dornoch GC captain W.B. Alford and hangs in CCNC's popular eatery adjacent to the golf shop and overlooking the 18th and first holes of the club's Cardinal Course. The breakfast and lunch spot is called, appropriately, the Dornoch Grill (insider tip – don't pass up a burger there).

The Dornoch Grill also serves as the home 'office' of 1958 U.S. Junior Amateur champion Gordon 'Buddy' Baker, 80, who still almost

always shoots his age or a lot better on either of the highly ranked Cardinal and Dogwood Courses.

Champions and championships are deeply woven into CCNC's history as 2012 U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson is also a member. Simpson, who attended Wake Forest University on the Arnold Palmer scholarship at the Winston Salem school, is the epitome of the North Carolina roots that CCNC embraces. He visits the club frequently, owns a home on property and served as the honorary chairman of the 2021 U.S. Junior Amateur. That USGA championship was the third hosted by the club, which has intentions to be a regular site for amateur championship golf. In 1980, Hal Sutton won the U.S. Amateur at CCNC, and Doris Chen took the U.S. Girls' Junior title in 2010.



Par three sixth hole CC of NC

Simpson, who won the 2007 Southern Amateur at CCNC with his father as his caddie, has a long emotional tie to CCNC.

"I love this place," he said right before the U.S. Junior Amateur. "I started coming here when I was 3 or 4 years old ... there couldn't be a better place for me to be part of not only a USGA championship but also merging with the Country Club of North Carolina, a place I call home."

Of note in 2023, CCNC will host the Atlantic Coast Conference men's golf championship.

Harold Varner, an East Carolina University who recently won the Saudi International with a walk-off 90-foot eagle putt, is the club's first Ambassador, a program that highlights professional golfers with North Carolina ties who have made significant contributions to their community.

At CCNC, espousing North Carolina carries over to every detail – even how the club is decorated. COO/General Manager Don Hunter, who has been at CCNC since 2018, enlisted a member-based search to find hyper-local artists whose work would be displayed in the newly renovated clubhouse. Woodwork, painting, sculpture and pottery adorn the upgraded dining areas that opened in 2020.

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Begun in 2011, the Patriots Program is a recognition of and tribute to the active military community in the Sandhills and offers reduced membership rates for golf and the many other amenities available at the facility.

CCNC holds the servicemen and women from Fort Bragg in nearby Fayetteville in great esteem and hopes that providing an opportunity for socializing and recreation outside of their stressful careers will be a welcome mesh point for them and their families.

In 2022, 30 military personnel are members at CCNC through the Patriots Program.



Hole 314 Royal Dornoch

The thriving membership of CCNC grew because of hosting the U.S. Junior Amateur in 2021, and at rates that rivaled its best years. The club's diversity is reflected by memberships in three separate categories -- local, state, and national categories. Since 2003, it has been a certified member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and it hosts many popular golf tournaments included the Annual Father-Son Invitational, since 1970, which includes two world-class players and their dads as champions: Tom Kite and Scott Hoch.

The Dogwood Course was designed by Ellis Maples and Willard Byrd and renovated by Kris Spence in 2016. The Cardinal Course, designed by Willard Byrd and Robert Trent Jones Sr., completed a renovation by Arthur Hills in 2002.

While competitive golf is a cog in its strategic plan, CCNC revels in its relationships with other clubs. In October of 2021, it hosted an inaugural interclub competition with Saucon Valley CC in Pennsylvania, Hamilton G&CC in Canada, Sycamore Hills GC in Indiana, and Blue Mound G&CC in Wisconsin, with the emphasized intention of creating relationships and fellowship among the participating clubs. The annual match will be hosted by a different club each year.

In March, CCNC will be the site of the Friendship Cup, a 12-player set of Ryder-Cup style matches between members of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club from Canada and the U.S.

However, the sought-after relationship match is with Royal Dornoch.

To maintain and strengthen the relationship that started with the presenting of the scroll in 1971, official inter-club matches have been conducted annually since 2011 but informal matches have been in place since the 1970s. Each club hosts the competition and a 'proper' dinner every other year. In 2022 and COVID willing, the matches will be played at Royal Dornoch on September 25-29.

CCNC is the only annual match with Royal Dornoch's reciprocal club

roster and the inter-club match has been listed as a fixture on the annual Royal Dornoch competition calendar. It is believed to be the only ANNUAL FIXTURE between U.S. and Scottish golf clubs.

And to cement the relationship Royal Dornoch, in 2017, designated CCNC as a reciprocal club making it the only club in North America to possess this enviable honor.

To put this honor in perspective, the worldwide list of Royal Dornoch's reciprocal clubs includes Royal Melbourne, Royal Sidney, Royal Queensland, Royal Hobart and Lake Karrinyup in Australia; Royal Auckland in New Zealand; Royal Cape in South Africa; Royal Colwood in Canada, and Hong Kong Golf Club.

In formalizing the relationship in 2017, Neil Hampton, Royal Dornoch's general manager said: "This is only the tenth time we have established a reciprocal arrangement with another club in our 140-year history, so it's a rare and considered decision."

Consider this nifty tie-in: the designer of CCNC's Dogwood Course, Ellis Maples, is the son of Frank Maples, who served as Donald Ross' course construction supervisor and was superintendent of Pinehurst No. 2.

"There is something a little more special about the Royal Dornoch and CCNC matches," Hampton said. "We've been able to take advantage of a unique relationship and make it an important date on each club's calendar."

The matches, which started with 10 players now includes 12 players from each club, including the respective professionals.

Long-time CCNC member Ziggy Zalzneck was instrumental in bringing the two clubs together. Zalzneck recalls meeting a Royal Dornoch member named Sam Bruce while playing matches at Haig Point in South Carolina in the early 2000s. Bruce recommended Zalzneck for Royal Dornoch membership and that escalated the pace of the establishment of the matches. Zalzneck rented a house on the course (in May and September) in his early years as a member. During one of his May visits in horrible sleeting weather he met a Royal Dornoch member named Roly Bluck, who happened to be the club captain. The two became fast and long-time close friends. Zalzneck then introduced Bluck to Dick Urquhart and the two 'hit it off' and Urquhart gave his endorsement for intra-club matches under Zalzneck's guidance.

The match prize is named for Bluck, now deceased. The Roly Bluck Putter is an antique flatstick with a wooden shaft.

"The pandemic has jumbled our schedule for this great event," Zalzneck said. "We are hoping to go back to Dornoch in September. But regardless of what happens, it's been a lifetime of great friendships and stories that are beyond priceless. How about a kid from Pennsylvania who lived in North Carolina becoming friends with a lad who is captain of one of the world's best clubs? We are so lucky golf has tied CCNC and Royal Dornoch together through this crazy game we love. We are also lucky to have this unique relationship with Royal Dornoch."

The relationship is unique and is an 'old world/new world' tale of friendship, fellowship, and fun.

Dick Urquhart, CCNC president from 1963-1994, would have been proud.



Roly Bluck Putter

NEMACOLIN REACHES NEW HEIGHTS WITH SECOND PETE DYE COURSE, NEW ADVENTUROUS AMENITIES



Nemacolin Aerial View

By Mike Kern

Nemacolin, the sprawling luxury resort nestled in the picturesque Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania, an hour from Pittsburgh, might as well be in another time zone because the reality is, it's a whole other world apart.

Perched in southern Pennsylvania's Allegheny Mountains, Nemacolin is the vision of Joe Hardy of Lumber 84 fame (his daughter Maggie is now in charge), and has undergone a recent re-branding. Amenities-wise, the resort has pretty close to everything. And, if by chance there's something it doesn't, they can probably try to find it for you. That's how this place operates: First-class at every turn, with the needs of the guests taking top priority. Without exception.



Indoor Bay

Let's see: there's the Woodlands Spa to pamper you. There's a new and improved state-of-the-art Nemacolin Golf Academy to help you improve your swing, or play some of the best courses on a simulator. They work with scratch golfers as well as beginners. Either way, it's

definitely a box to check.

There's no shortage of hiking trails, for those who are into that. And, trust me, some of the views are magnificent, particularly when the leaves are turning. There's a three-level ropes course (and one for little tykes), indoor axe throwing (I can't make this up), skiing, wine tastings (and they have quite a cellar), a climbing wall, off-road Jeeping, bowling, archery, shooting ... and I'm only getting started. Oops, almost forgot, the Lady Luck Casino is just up the road.



Mystic Lodge

It's a self-contained oasis. There's a spot where you can see animals like bears, lions, tigers and even a white buffalo. Falling Rock has an infinity pool, and 24/7 butler service. And, I do mean round-the-clock. Of particular note is the rose bath that they ran for my wife. Talk about honey points. The Chateau, which provided the original lodging, resembles something you would expect to experience in Europe. The first time we were there, my wife looked around and started crying, saying we didn't belong. But it didn't take long to discover that we, indeed, could. The walls are like a museum, with fine artwork. Hardly the usual accommodations. Just do your best to

continued on page 36

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SHOPRITE CLASSIC NEWS

continued from page 17

By MIKE KERN

When Celine Boutier won the ShopRite LPGA Classic last fall at Seaview's famed Donald Ross Bay Course, she was ranked 65th in the world. When she comes back to defend her title this June (10-12), as the tournament returns to its traditional dates following two years of having to move on the schedule due to Covid, she will have moved up some 50 spots on that list. And yes, much has changed in the interim.

"The highs and lows are going to be there," Boutier said at the recent media day in Galloway, N.J., across the bay from Atlantic City. "No matter how long you're doing it, you try to ride the wave to the top of the world. And when you struggle a bit, you have to weather the storm, believe you can come back. It's never either too bad or too good. You have to keep looking forward."

Last October, she shot a career-low 63 in the final round, for a 14-under par 199 total, to hold off the likes of Jin Young Ko, Imbee Park and Brooke Henderson. It was her second career LPGA win, but first in this country (she had previously won in Australia in 2019). And she became the first French woman to win since 2003.

Now she's coming back as anything but an afterthought. She is having some season, ranking in the top six in both greens in regulation and putting. Nobody has made more birdies.

"That win confirmed that I belonged," she emphasized. "It gave me reassurance. I was getting ready for a playoff. It was kind of shocking (when nobody caught her coming down the stretch). It was a surreal experience. I was a few groups ahead (of the last tee time), and I was trying not to get too far ahead of myself. Waiting was actually the most stressful part. It can get in your head a little much. I was watching in the locker room. At least I got to share it with two other players.

"For sure it's going to be different (this time). But everyone (that goes through this) has the same sort of experience. Obviously there's going to be good memories. I hope to draw from that. It's going to be a fun week no matter what. It's always going to be a special place for me."

You think? Some things are forever.

"I like the fact that (the course) isn't too long, but it's pretty tricky," she continued. "You have to hit good approach shots, which is my strength. It just fits my eye. I have pretty good memories to look back on, so I really like being here."

Fair enough. But her situation will also come with an added burden.

"It's definitely a good feeling, especially the holes where I can go back out and remember what I did, and whatever," the 28-year-old Boutier, a former top-ranked amateur, pointed out. "I think that will help. I don't feel like I will have more pressure on me. But there's going to be expectations, not just from everyone else but from myself as well. You just have to handle that better. Other than that, it's still just going out and playing. You can't worry about nerves."

During the event, there was a video detailing what she had accomplished seven months earlier. So what did she think when she saw it?

"Well, I definitely don't like to watch myself, in general," she readily acknowledged. "So it's not something I'm looking up a lot. But it was nice watching my last putt. But not the full last round or anything. That's not me.

"What made it amazing was I ended up with the trophy at the end of the day."

And until somebody takes it away ...

"When you win your second, it was amazing for my confidence," Boutier explained. "And the fact that I won my first in America. You realize (the first one) wasn't just a lucky week. Especially when you see who was behind you (trying to catch up). That was kind of crazy. It's not a turning point, but it does make you believe in yourself more. And that's so important. You want to say you belong. And then you have to keep that momentum going.

"My long game has been solid for some time. Now I'm able to score (better). That wasn't always the case. I was a little inconsistent in that way. I've been making a lot of birdies. That's key for me."

Now all she has to do is keep doing it. Because that's the mark of a true champion.

"I know the season is pretty long," Boutier said. "And just because I'm playing a few weeks of solid golf doesn't necessarily mean that it's going to last a long time. I'm just trying to focus on one week at a time.

"For me, the mental challenge of pro golf is completely different (than being an amateur). It's way more competitive. It was extremely hard not to be intimidated by the (really good) players of the tour. You don't necessarily want to compare yourself to other people, which I was doing for the first few years. That can definitely damage your confidence.

"You just want it to be fun."

And winning can certainly do that to a perspective.

TAP-INS: The presenting sponsor continues to be Acer. And the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino is now the Official Pro-Am Hotel Partner. The PGA Tour Superstore has also come aboard, and is launching a "Birdies for the First Tee" campaign. All good. In 33 years this tournament has raised nearly \$40 million for charities in the South Jersey community. The impact is immeasurable. When it went away for a few years due to circumstances beyond its control back in the mid 2000s, the losses were felt. But these days it only seems to be growing.

World No. 1 Jin Young Ko, major champion Lydia Ko and LPGA Hall of Famer Imbee Park have confirmed they'll be in the field, which is expanding to 144. The purse is \$1.75 million. Also competing are recent past champions Mel Reid (2020), Annie Park ('18), In Kyung Kim ('17), two-time winners Anna Nordqvist (2015-16) and Stacy Lewis (2012, '14) and Brittany Lincicome ('11).

Meaghan Francella, a former LPGA Tour winner who has earned a spot in the upcoming LPGA Championship, will be playing on a sponsor's exemption. She is the teaching professional at Philadelphia Cricket Club. She figures to have a pretty large gallery. And probably an enthusiastic one, to say the least.

The course has undergone an extensive enhancement project to improve the playability of what was already a challenging yet fair layout. All of the greenside bunker complexes have been dealt with to ensure they play a lot more consistently. Also, issues with the cart paths and irrigation system have been addressed. And don't forget the fact that many trees have been removed, which means the winds can play an even greater role in determining who does what. Trust me, it was blowing so severely on media day that the course played at least a few strokes more difficult. So we'll see what kind of Mother Nature obstacles the actual tournament week might throw at them. Hope to see you down there. It's been a true love affair with the community, so be a part of it. It's well worth the trip.

SHIELDS HOLDS ON FOR SENIOR



Kevin Shields is presented the trophy by PAGA President Paul Romano after winning the 2nd Pennsylvania Senior Open Championship, at Valley Brook Country Club, presented by DICK'S Sporting Goods

CANONSBURG, Pa. - Kevin Shields finished as runner-up in the Pennsylvania Open on three different occasions. In the 2nd edition of the Pennsylvania Senior Open, he wasn't about to let that happen again. Shields shot a second round 71 (-1) to finish at 3-under par 141 at Valley Brook Country Club to win the championship, presented by DICK'S Sporting Goods.

"I would be lying if I said I didn't want this," said Shields, who finished second in the Pennsylvania Open in 2003, 2005 and 2011. "I almost won the state open three times. I don't lose sleep over it but it does bother me. I'd never won a state title. I couldn't even win our high school state title. So this is better than I even thought."

Shields had a clean round with the exception of his lone blemish, a double-bogey on the 17th that dropped his lead to a single stroke.

"I really butchered that hole," said Shields. "I only hit one really bad shot there but I butchered it."

To get the win, Shields had to hold off first round co-leader Brian Kelly, who played very strongly over the 36 holes, with just a single bogey in that time.

"I really worked on my ball striking," said Shields, who collected a \$4000 prize for his win. "I don't think I'm ever going to be a great putter. The course today was resistant to scoring. The pins were always good and it was just hard to make putts out here."

Entering the day in a tie at 2-under par, Shields moved in front as the aforementioned lone bogey Kelly made took place on Tuesday's first hole. The lead went to two shots after Shields made birdie on the 544 yard, par-5 fifth hole.

The players strung together six consecutive pars each before matching birdies on the par-3 12th. When Shields made another birdie on the par-5 14th, his three-shot lead made his victory seem inevitable. But the rare miscue with the double-bogey on the 17th brought the edge down to just a shot. However, Kelly could do no better than par on the 18th, which Shields matched, giving him the championship in the event's second year of existence.

"Maybe that's my senior maturity," said Shields, who turned 50 earlier this year. "Maybe in a past life what I did on 17 would have bothered me and I'd have hit bad shots, but I hit two good shots there."

Amateur stalwarts Sean Knapp of Hannastown Golf Club and David Brown of St. Clair Country Club tied for third at even par 144. Rich Steinmetz, golf professional at Spring Ford Country Club, tied for fifth with amateurs Rick Stimmel (Diamond Run Golf Club) and Ken Phillips (Lancaster Country Club), with a score of 1-over par 145. Stimmel and Steinmetz tied for the low round of the day on Tuesday with scores of 70 (-2).

Defending champ, professional John Pillar of Woodloch Springs, finished in a tie for eighth place at +2.

The Pennsylvania Golf Association would like to thank the staff and membership of Valley Brook Country Club for the hospitality shown during the championship. Thanks as well to DICK'S Sporting Goods for sponsorship of the event.

2ND SENIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Pos.	Player	To Par	Total
1	Shields, Kevin The Club at Nevillewoo	-3	141
2	Kelly, Brian Bucknell Golf Club	-2	142
T3	Knapp, Sean (a) Hannastown Golf Club	E	144
T3	Brown, David (a) St. Clair Country Club	E	144
T5	Stimmel, Rick (a) Diamond Run	+1	145
T5	Steinmetz, Rich Spring Ford CC	+1	145
T5	Phillips, Ken (a) Lancaster CC	+1	145
T8	Pillar, John Woodloch Springs	+2	146
T8	Hough, Bernie Wildwood Golf Club	+2	146
10	Baker, Ryan	+3	147
T11	Barry, John (a) Lancaster Country Club	+4	148
T11	Mazzalupi, Hugo Philadelphia Cricket	+4	148
T13	Stoops, Rob (a) Butler Country Club	+6	150
T13	Molino, Mike Country Club of Scranton	+6	150
T13	Allen, John The 1912 Club	+6	150
T13	Blazewick, Frank Stonecrest Golf Course	+6	150
T17	Erdely, Roger (a) Cedarbrook GC	+7	151

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ANTHRACITE GOLF ASSOCIATION RESULTS



22ND GAP/AGA

BEN MARSHALL SPRING FOUR-BALL

Wed, Apr 27, 2022

Fox Hill Country Club



AMATEUR GROSS

Pos.	Players	Total
1	Plisko, Eric + Laneski, Rick Wyoming Valley, Emanon	68
2	Williams, Eric + Stephens, Wayne Honesdale GC	68
3	Mikiewicz, John + Kacvinsky, FrankFox Hill, Elmhurst	68
4	Mitchell, Patrick + Dougherty, Matthew Pocono Farms, Glenmaura	68
5	Thomas, Michael + Fayocavitz, Luke Scranton, Glen Oak	69

SENIOR AMATEUR GROSS

1	Lydick, Bill + Lafoca, Santo Huntsville Golf Club	67
2	Bolcavage, Kenneth + Brunn, Art Elkview, Wyoming Valley	68
3	Scarpetta, David + Latimer, Gary Pocono Farms Country Club, Wemberly Hills Golf Club	69
4	Behm, Marty + Weiscarger, Joseph Irem Country Club, Wyoming Valley Country Club	69
5	Answini, Mark + Matione, Joe Fox Hill Country Club	71

SUPER SENIOR GROSS

1	Scarpetta, Jr., Vince + Martines, John Nittany Country Club, Country Club of Scranton	70
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38TH GAP/AGA

JOHN MOORE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

Sat, May 14 - Sun, 15, 2022

Elmhurst Country Club - Emanon Country Club

Pos.	Team	Total
T1	Williams, Kyle + Draper, Stephon Glen Oak Country Club, Country Club of Scranto	133
Won on 1st playoff hole		
T1	Kelchner, Joe + Bierly, Corey Berwick Golf Club	133
3	Williams, Eric + Gardas, James Honesdale Golf Club, Glenmaura National Golf Club	134
4	Lopatka, David + Barone, John Elmhurst Country Club, Glenmaura National Golf Club	134
5	Knolles, Ryan + Lee, Matt Towanda Golf Club	137
6	Nardella, Doug + Bolcavage, Kenneth Elmhurst Country Club, Elkview Country Club	139
7	Mikiewicz, John + Biscotti, Tom Fox Hill Country Club, Wyoming Valley Country Club	139
8	Olszewski, John + Olszewski, A.J. Wyoming Valley Country Club	140
9	McGarry, Tyler + Bellino, Anthony Huntsville Golf Club, Emanon Country Club	140
10	Wilson, Jonathan + Bevevino, Tony Irem Country Club	141
11	Flickinger, Brad + Walsh, Jason Country Club of Scranton	142

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POCONO PRO GOLF SERIES

2022 PPGS Event Calendar

Date	Event	Host Course	Course Contact	Host Professional
Thursday, April 21	Spring Pro-Pro	Glen Brook Golf Club	570-421-3680	Dustin McCormick
Thursday, May 5	Pro-Am	Mountain Laurel Golf Club	570-443-7424	Howie Van Buskirk
Thursday, May 12	Pro-Am	Irem Country Club	570-675-4653	Chris Mathews
Wednesday, May 25	Pro-Am	Skytop Lodge	570-595-7645	Justin Alunni
Wednesday, June 1	Pro-Am	Olde Homestead Golf Club	610-298-4653	Kevin Edwards
Wednesday, June 15	Pro-Am	Pocono Farms Country Club	570-894-4435 x110	Kyle Monahan
Wednesday, June 22	Pro-Am	The Country Club of Woodloch Springs	570-685-8102	John Pillar
Tuesday, June 28	Pro-Am	Glen Brook Golf Club	570-421-3680	Dustin McCormick
Thursday, July 7	Pro-Am	Wyoming Valley Country Club	570-824-8241	Pete Korba
Wednesday, July 27	Pro-Am	Elmhurst Golf & Country Club	570-842-7691	John Roche
Wednesday, August 3	Pro-Am	The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort	570-424-4000	Nick Lussier
Wednesday, August 10	Pro-Am	Green Pond Country Club	610-253-2505	John Kuihamer
Thursday, August 18	Pro-Am	Pocono Manor	570-839-7111	Greg Wall
Thursday, August 25	Pro-Am	Woodstone Country Club & Lodge	610-760-2777	Gregg Meyer
Thursday, September 8	Pro-Am	Whitetail Golf Club	610-837-9626	Brad Paukovits
Thursday, September 15	Pro-Am	Buck Hill Golf Club	570-595-7730	Brian Fruehan
Thursday, September 20	Pro-Am	Scranton Canoe Club	570-378-9976	Spencer Lunger
Thursday, September 28	Pro-Am	Country Club of Scranton	570-586-2311	Mike Molino
Thursday, October 13	Pro-Am	Elkview Country Club	570-222-3080	Jared Cottell
TBD	Stroke Play (2-day)	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	Pocono Cup	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	Fall Pro-Pro	TBD	TBD	TBD



2-PERSON SCRAMBLE AT GLENBROOK

- 1st Place - Mike Molino and Dustin McCormick 55
 2nd Place - Brian Bergstol and John Pillar 60
 T3rd Place - Jim Muschlitz and Bob Fritz 62
 Jeff Fick and Terry Hatch 62
 T5th Place - Greg Wall and Howie Van Buskirk 64
 Alex Knoll and Dave Fields 64
 7th Place - Evan Grube and Ray Silnik 65

POCONO PRO SERIES AT IREM CC

Professional	Amateur Stroke Play - Amateur
1 Brian Bergstall 72	1 Logan Paczewski (A) 69
2 Terry Hatch 74	2 Kyle Pritchard (A) 72
3 Brian Fruehan 76	3 Jonathan Wilson (A) 73
4 Dustin McCormick 77	4 Chad Kelly (A) 77
5 Jim Muschlitz 78	5 Justin Tresslar (A) 80
T6 Gary Clark 79	T6 Billy Mattioli (A) 81
T6 Spencer Lunger 79	T6 George Kibowitz (A) 81
T6 Chris Matthews 79	T6 Jake Haberstrumph (A) 81
9 Howie VanBuskirk 80	9 Riley Hogan (A) 84
10 Kevin Edwards 84	10 Tony Libassi (A) 85
Senior Amateur	11 Joe O'Malley (A) 86
T1 Dominik Carr 74	12 Bill McDermott (A) 88
T1 Jeff Widecke 74	13 Matt Macurak (A) 92
3 Dave Strohl 81	14 Steve Vosburg (A) 95
4 Dave Miller 84	15 Sean Wursta (A) 96
5 Al McCormick 86	16 Pete Warner (A) 97
6 Jerry Dougherty 87	17 Phillip Mathews (A) 100

2022 Mountain Laurel Golf Club Pro-Am Results

TEAM GROSS

- 1ST BERGSTOL SHAWNEE-56
 2ND KNOLL-GLENBROOK-62
 3RD SILNIK-WOODSTONE-64
 T-4TH FICK-MOSELEM-67
 T-4TH MUSCHLITZ-SOUTHMOORE-67

TEAM NET

- 1ST VANBUSKIRK-MT. LAUREL-60
 2ND LUNGER-CANOE CLUB-58
 T-3RD MATHEWS-IREM TEMPLE-63
 T-3RD MCCORMICK-GLENBROOK-63

LOW AMATEUR

- T-1ST JASON WILSON-68
 T-1ST JAKE HUBERSTRUMPF-68
 3RD ERIC WILLIAMS-73
 T-4TH RILEY HOGAN-74
 T-4TH JERRY DOUGHERTY-74

LOW PROFESSIONAL

- 1ST KNOLL-GLENBROOK-66
 2ND BERGSTOL-SHAWNEE-69

LOW SENIOR AMATEUR

- 1ST DYLAN SPADT-67
 2ND SCOTT FREY-69
 3RD SCOTT CERICOLA-75
 4TH FICK-MOSELEM-72
 T-5TH LUNGER-CANOE CLUB-73



Philadelphia PGA Section

SCOREBOARD



DELAWARE VALLEY OPEN
 (Silvercrest Cup Qualifier)
 Mon, May 9, 2022
 Rolling Green GC



Individual Pro

Pos.	Player	Total
1	Terry Hertzog	Merion 68
2	Alex Knoll	Glen Brook 68
3	Braden Shattuck	Rolling Green 69
4	Dave Quinn	Laurel Creek 70
5	Joanna Coe	Merion 71
T6	Hugo Mazzalupi	Linfield 72
T6	Bill Walker	Riverton 72
T6	Parks Price	York 72
T6	Grant Gardiner	Merion 72

Senior Pro

1	Terry Hertzog	Merion 68
2	Dave Quinn	Laurel Creek 70
T3	Hugo Mazzalupi	Linfield 72
T3	Bill Walker	Riverton 72

TPD CHAMPIONSHIP

Mon, Apr 25, 2022
 Hartefeld National Golf Club



Pos.	Player	Stableford Points
1	Trevor Bensel	Sandy Run 31
2	Steve Sanderson	Pine Valley Golf Club 27
3	Rich Steinmetz	Spring Ford 24
4	Mark Sheftic	Lookaway Golf Club 23
T5	Joanna Coe	Merion Golf Club 22
T5	Andrew Turner	Berkshire 22
T5	Rick Gibney	Colonial Golf 22
T8	Dave Quinn	Laurel Creek 21
T8	John DiMarco	The Legacy Club 21
T8	Parks Price	York 21
T8	Mike Paukovits	Chestnut Hill 21
T8	Alex Knoll	Glen Brook 21
Pos.	Player	Stableford Points
1	Rich Steinmetz	Spring Ford 24
2	Rick Gibney	Colonial Golf 22
T3	Dave Quinn	Laurel Creek 21

continued from page 27

not let it overwhelm you.

WORLD-CLASS GOLF

Over the years, I had the pleasure of getting to sit down and talk with game-changing designer Pete Dye on several occasions. One time I asked him to explain the thought process behind his indelible creations. Without hesitation he flashed a knowing smile and offered, rather succinctly, "They pay me a lot of money to build tough golf courses. So, I give them what they want. And if I beat people up for 17 holes and then they hit a great shot over a forced carry on the last, they'll want to come back and try to do it again. That means I've done my job."



Mystic Rock at Nemacolin

Which brings us to Shepherd's Rock, one of two Dye layouts at Nemacolin. Shepherd's is the newest of the sister tracks, opening in 2017, which makes it one of Dye's last works. And, as our forcaddie told us before we headed out, it was going to be a challenge. Even more so, or at least in a different way, than the adjacent Mystic Rock, which we had been built two decades earlier and hosted a PGA Tour event in the early part of the century. And which we had tackled the previous day.

Can't say we weren't warned.

We would have figured it out on the first green anyway, when a couple of putts caught the wrong side of a slope and refused to stop until they had rolled into the fringe. Yo. Or by No. 2, where I had to aim about 50 feet right of the cup just to try and leave maybe a 15-footer for my next one. It sure was eye-opening. Not to mention mind-numbing. I saw things I'd never seen before, including approach shots that landed past the flag but nonetheless spun all the way back off down the fairway. Past where the player had hit the original shot.

In fairness we felt some of it had to do with the pin placements, since there was a group of PGA pros going out after us. But I know severe when it rears its penal head. Not that there's anything wrong with a stout test. And there were two short par 3s on the back nine. The interesting thing is the routing for the most part was reasonably navigable, which isn't always the case with Pete. But the greens are what left the striking impressions.

Anyway, the 18th is a wonderful way to close, a medium-length par 4 with a slight dogleg right to a green guarded by water right and back and a bunker left. So from about 150 out I hit a 9 wood (try not

to chuckle) that was pure and ended up on the back fringe, leaving me with a 15-footer for birdie. I didn't even mind too much that it lipped out. I was ready to come back right there. In other words, mission accomplished.

Mystic Rock, on the other hand, might actually be a little harder from tee to green. You'll just have more level putts. There are a few quirks, like a blind drive on the par-5 11th. But they've made some changes, like taking out a sand trap to the right of the 15th fairway, that have made it more manageable. And the closing stretch can stand up to just about any other, starting with a par 5 with water all down the left side that leads to a peninsula green. I once had a snake encounter there, and I don't like snakes. It happens. That's followed by a 170-yarder to a green that's also guarded by water on the left and sand in the opposite direction. And 18 is a daunting uphill par 4 that bends slightly to the right as it heads back to the majestic oasis that is Falling Rock, our home for the trip.

DINING FOR ANY TASTE

Yes, the golf is worth the visit on its own, but you're undoubtedly going to get hungry. Thankfully, the food at Nemacolin - and that's no small consideration in my travels - is an absolute taste treat. Whether you're getting an omelette or a burger at Aqueous, a steak at Rockwell's or Italian at Barattolo, you're not going to walk away hungry. Some of the highlights were the shrimp cocktail at Aqueous (they looked like baby lobsters, with a perfectly spicy cocktail sauce), the meatballs (they came highly recommended from Kelly O'Donnell, Director of Golf Operations), risotto and Tiramisu at Barattolo, and the split-bone 20-ounce Cowboy at Rockwell's.

And, if you truly want to spoil your palette you can indulge at Lautrec, a French culinary masterpiece that features a seven-course chef's tasting menu. Magic, as they proclaim, in every bite. And all the appropriate wines to accompany each one.



Mystic Rock #18

Nemacolin is uniquely alluring, in any number of ways. It does have some real-life magic for every taste. And I'll always have the 18th at Shepherd's Rock. Lot to be said for that.

Learn more at nemacolin.com.

IT TOOK AN EXPANDED SEARCH TO FIND THE TOP GOLF PRODUCTS FOR 2022

By TONY LEODORA

To say that the 69th PGA Show at the massive Orange County Convention Center in Orlando was a bit different this year would be an understatement of epic proportions.

But the best news is that the annual gathering of the golf industry took place ... generated interest ... and provided some energy that will carry throughout the year.

Yes, the vendor count was down – about half of the normal 1,000 companies exhibiting their wares. And the number of attendees followed suit.

But those who attended this year's scaled-down edition of the PGA Show found golf industry people who were invigorated by the new boom in golf – in terms of rounds played, equipment sold, lessons scheduled and trips booked. That energy led to a good business climate, despite the less-crowded aisles.

And a number of great new products were rolled out. Many took to the grand stage of the PGA Show to make their debut. Others were launched on Demo Day – or through massive social media and e-mail campaigns.

It may have entailed a more dogged search to compile the list of all-stars ... but nobody ever said this job was going to be easy. At least there was no need for hand-to-hand combat to get through the aisles en route to discovering and analyzing the new products.

Without further fanfare, here are the eye-catching new products of 2022.

The world of golf ball manufacturing has become as high-tech as, well, rocket science. At the forefront of the high-tech research and development push, to produce the best golf ball possible for all golfers, is Bridgestone Golf.

And a lot of the technology comes from the roots of that large company ... rubber. That technology has produced the new Tour B series of golf balls, a lineup that was the talk of the PGA Show in Orlando.

BRIDGESTONE TOUR B SERIES



“Our big focus at Bridgestone, we’re a rubber company,” explains Elliot Mellow, manager of golf ball marketing. “Changing the polymer, changing the rubber is a big deal to us. That’s what we’ve done with our new Tour B series, which features our new reactive IQ cover that reacts to the force of impact of each shot.

“What that means is, off the driver, the cover actually firms up a bit and becomes faster and longer. The flip side of that is, with a 9-iron or wedge, the ball has some shock-absorbing properties and stays on the face longer. That allows the grooves to impart more spin.”

Bridgestone calls it “the smarter tour ball.” It is available in RX

and RXS for the under-105 mph swing speed players, and the X and the XS that is being played by the high-speed players like Tiger Woods and Bryson DeChambeau. Plus Bridgestone has a unique fitting system on their website that can help players determine the best ball for their game.

www.bridgestonegolf.com

CERTIFRESH CIGAR TUBEAUX



CertiFresh Cigar has long been the leader in producing individually packed, logoed and humidified cigars for golf course sales. They successfully took any maintenance of cigar displays out of the hands of golf shop personnel, while guaranteeing golfers a fresh, quality cigar.

Now the company has found a way to produce an attractive, large cigar display case, which still takes almost all of the maintenance away from golf shop personnel.

The new Tubeaux by Rocky Patel is an attractive enclosed display case for cigars that includes a compartment for a four-month humida-pack, similar to the smaller packs enclosed with the individually packaged cigars.

“We’re not going away from our custom-packaged premium cigars that stay fresh for an entire year,” explains Eric Nelson, president of CertiFresh Cigar. “This new product gives us the look of the old stand-up humidor in a smaller space. We put the golf shops on a timeline, where we send them a new humida-pack every four months, to keep their humidor fresh.”

Now CertiFresh offers the best of both worlds – individually packaged cigars that can be logoed or personalized, plus a more traditional stand-up humidor that still guarantees a fresh, premium cigar at the golf shop counter.

www.certifreshcigar.com

COPPER TECH'S USA AND CAMOUFLAGE GLOVES



After producing a quality golf glove, interwoven with copper fiber to aid in blood circulation and pain relief for a number of years, Copper Tech has

added two new, trendy gloves.

The new USA glove is striking red, white and blue model that comes out just in time for the 2022 Olympics in China. It also will be a popular model to wear during the 2023 Ryder Cup competition that will be held for the first time in Italy.

The camouflage glove appeals to the outdoors set. It sports the popular camouflage design and actually is being worn by many people off the golf course – for hunting, shooting or other outdoors activities.

“We made our name all these years by providing great, functional golf gloves that also promoted increased circulation through the use of copper infusion,” explained Lloyd Cohn, founder and president of Copper Tech Gloves. “Now we’re just trying to have some fun with the gloves. The feedback we get from people is that they enjoy wearing gloves for different occasions. People are having more fun playing the game of golf than ever ... and our Copper Tech gloves are just another part of the fun.”

www.coppertechglove.com

HIGH HEAT WITH FUJIKURA SHAFT



High Heat – the line of drivers, fairway woods and hybrids developed by Knuth Golf – has made its name in the production of golf clubs for the amateur golfer. Their innovations in recent years have made them an award-winning company that serves the largest segment of the golf market.

This year, they entered into a marriage with another well-known company to produce clubs that are even better-suited to the needs of the amateur golfer.

The new line of High Heat drivers and fairway woods are now equipped with the Fujikura shaft – a shaft that High Heat co-founder Steve Trattner calls “the finest golf shaft in the business.”

Dean Knuth developed the heads that made High Heat famous. The Fujikura engineers designed a shaft that is specifically made to work well with those heads.

“Let’s face it, amateurs need a different center of gravity,” explains Trattner. “They need our three-trampoline technology, where players get the same distance no matter where they hit it across the face. And they need our 257 Turf Glider Sole, which eliminates fat shots and thin shots.”

Now that the head has been matched with a shaft that works best for players with lower swing speeds than tour pros and elite amateurs, High Heat has once again captured the attention of educated golfers.

www.highheatgolf.com

NEXBELT’S CAYMAN AND BISON BELTS

The “belt with no holes” – Nexbelt – continues to bring new innovation and style to a product that already is a market leader. While there are a number of ratchet belts on the market, following Nexbelt’s lead, no company has been able keep up with the development of new styles and materials.

This year’s focus is on two new belts. The first is a Bison belt, made from



100 percent American bison. Not only does the belt have a rich look to it, there is also a rich, supple feel that works in either a dress or casual setting. The second is the Cayman belt, an impressive addition to Nexbelt’s line of dress belts. While these new belts are similar to the crocodile and alligator styles, they feature striking accent colors and come in navy, black and grey. “All of our belts feature the custom sizing, cut-to-fit system that made Nexbelt famous,” comments Barrett Martens, global sales manager. “The new designs just add to our huge line of styles and colors that can be worn both on and off the golf course.”

And, despite the great style and quality, Nexbelt won’t break the bank. Prices begin as low as \$56.99.

www.nexbelt.com

TOUR EDGE 722 C AND E SERIES



The secret behind the rise of Tour Edge in the golf equipment industry is simple. The Batavia, Illinois-based company leads in time and money spent on research and development. And that effort produces continued innovation.

The latest innovation can be found in the Tour Edge Exotics line of 722 drivers.

This line takes innovation from last year’s 721 driver and divides it into two models – C722, E722 – each designed specifically to accommodate the needs of a specific segment of golfers.

“Different strokes for different folks,” says Jon Claffey, VP of marketing for Tour Edge. “These are top of the line, ultra-premium, tour quality drivers but made for different swings.”

The C722 is made for players with clubhead speed over 105 mph. Players with slower swing speeds are using the E722.

“We debuted these drivers and immediately had four Champions Tour players using them,” explains Claffey. “Hard swingers (Alex Cejka, Scott McCarron) are playing the C722 driver and players with more tempo (Bernhard Langer, Mike Weir) are playing the E722.”

The Tour Edge question for 2022: “Are you an E or are you a C?”

TOWEL TAG



The new Towel Tag is the ultimate tee gift for an outing, or promotional item. It is a combination pull-through towel and bag tag – each available to be logoed and personalized with the name of a golfer or a company.

In terms of promoting an event – a logoed golf ball only lasts a few holes; a logoed hat is seen on a semi-regular basis. A logoed shirt or outerwear is seen even less often.

A logoed Towel Tag is seen every time the player goes out for a round of golf. Not only is it a good promotion, but it is functional. The quality is immediately visible, differentiating it from many other golf accessories.

“Towel Tag is a functional bag tag that also provides a permanent place for your golf towel,” says Craig Holub, president of Towel Tag. “You will never lose a towel again. The fact that we can personalize both the tag and the towel with a company logo, the name of an event or the name of the golfer makes it a double promotion. That’s double visibility for more exposure. And golfers love using it.”

www.toweltag.com

TURF HOUND MATS



The scene is a familiar one. A golfer heads to the range to prepare for a round of golf and sees that the hitting area is limited to artificial golf mats. And the grumbling begins.

No more.

TurfHound is a company dedicated to producing a performance golf mat – one that replicates the experience of hitting balls off natural turf. Simply put, it is not a carpet or a piece of plastic made into a golf mat ... it is the finest performance golf mat in the industry.

Made in the USA, completely from American-sourced materials, TurfHound mats are now found in more than 900 high-end golf clubs across the country ... and upwards of 60 more in Canada.

“Our founder, Rick Reynolds, set out to design a product that would feel as realistic as grass,” explains Brian Golden, senior VP of sales and marketing. “We have a dual-density foam system that is injection molded and patented. We hear all the time that members walk into the golf shop and tell the pro that they like hitting off our mats as much as they like hitting off natural turf.”

To make the mat experience even more realistic, TurfHound mats have an area that is similar to hitting off the fairway and another area that

is like hitting out of the rough.

www.turfhound.com

WHEEL PRO BY ZERO FRICTION

The Zero Friction company has made its mark for years in the golf accessory business, now it steps out with an innovative new product. The Wheel Pro



Push Cart is a one-of-a-kind golf bag that features a 3-in-1 design. It can be used as a stand bag, pop on wheels to make it a push cart, or remove the wheels to make it a bag for a motor cart.

“We’ve come out with an innovative golf bag/push cart combination,” says Zero Friction president John Iacono. “So many people like to walk today. When we looked at our new line of golf bags that we were coming out with, we wanted to give the golfer the opportunity to use their golf bag as a push cart.

“We patented a wheel design that is removable. The wheels can attach in two seconds to the bottom of the bag and there is an ergonomic handle that comes up. At the same time it is a stand bag. It gives the option of carrying the bag one day or pop the wheels on and the handle comes up to create your own push cart. Or, if you don’t want to do either, you can leave everything off and put it on the back of a motor cart.”

www.zerofriction.com

VALE PUTTER BY BLOODLINE

The Philadelphia-based manufacturing company, Greenkeepers, has a long history of successful product launches in the golf industry. Their injection-molded plastic products include the Four Yards More Tee, the Survivor Tee and the new training aid, the Bottle Tee.

Now they have made a major step into the world of putters by partnering with Bloodline.

The new Vale Putter by Bloodline uses the stand-alone alignment technology that drove Bloodline’s launch, but added space-age polymer technology to lessen overall weight and greatly increase feel.

Another great improvement discovered by adding polymer to the body of the putter – the suggested retail cost dropped from the \$500 category to \$299.

Ernie Els is using it on the Champions Tour and others are sure to follow.

The Bloodline stand-alone patented technology allows the golfer to set the line of the putt, then walk behind the putter as it stands on its own, and check to make sure that alignment is correct. And this can be done in practice or during competition.

www.bloodline.golf



THE EASIEST CLUBS YOU'LL EVER HIT



HOT LAUNCH
522 SERIES

INTRODUCING TWO SIDES OF GAME IMPROVEMENT

The E range features upgraded Houdini Sole technology designed to produce the easiest clubs you'll ever hit.

The C range incorporates Diamond Face 2.0 technology, producing faster ball speed and added forgiveness in classic club designs.



Tour Edge
HOT LAUNCH