

JULY/AUGUST  
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# Golf Association of Philadelphia

CELEBRATING AMATEUR GOLF SINCE 1897



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# Letter from the President

**Welcome** to the new Golf Association of Philadelphia publication.

We had a fantastic run with the *Philadelphia Golf Magazine* and appreciate all it did to advance the mission of the Golf Association and golf, in general, in the time we were partners.

We are steadfast in our desire to continue providing you with updated information about golf in this area. We are not certain what next year will bring other than our continued commitment to do the best we can to keep you informed and our ongoing efforts to get better every day at what we do. Enjoy this first issue and be sure to let us know what you think of it. We look forward to working toward a better way to communicate the great information of the Association to you, our members.

## Golf Myth: Does a hard golf course equal a good golf course?

The past two U.S. Open Championships have been held at very difficult golf courses. Accordingly, the scores have been high relative to the normal scoring on the PGA Tour. The press has emphasized the difficulty of the golf courses but what worries me is that very little of what's spoken or written mentions that, though the golf courses may be challenging, they are also very fair.

The mere fact a golf course plays difficult doesn't make it great and vice-versa.

A number of factors make a golf course special: shot values, variety, beauty, sequence of holes and a proper balance of reward for good shots and pain for those bad ones.

Any golf course can be made hard. Hole locations in unfair places, excessive rough, poor tee positions relative to the landing areas, speed of greens, etc., all contribute to course toughness.

Too many times I hear golfers speak of their club in terms of how hard it is instead of the other virtues that their course possesses.

Philadelphia is blessed with not only two of the world's Top 10 courses, Pine Valley Golf Club and Merion Golf Club, but also a number of facilities that in their own right are wonderful tests of golf, enjoyable to play and memorable.

Pine Valley and Merion are not in the Top 10 just because they are hard. They are Top 10 staples because they require a variety of shot types, reward a good stroke and properly penalize a bad one.



GAP President Dan Burton

What you may not know is that the Golf Association of Philadelphia spends a great deal of time "setting up" each course before a competition. Many times we have multiple courses for a single event and we try to set each facility up consistently and fairly. For example, in the Amateur Championship the hole locations are a reflection of pace of play for the Qualifier before they progressively get harder and the tees more difficult. We want the players to enjoy their experience, we want good shots to be fairly rewarded, we want the pace of play to be consistent with our guidelines and we want the golf course to be experienced in a way consistent with the architect's intent.

We would like the players and the members of those clubs to view it in a similar fashion.

We should all be proud of our own club and its unique features and be ready to point them out. However, let's not confuse difficult with good. It's about the course's personality, the uniqueness of its layout and the quality of turf. If someone shoots a good score on your course, tip your hat. Remember Johnny Miller posted a 63 on the Sunday of the U.S. Open at Oakmont Country Club once. It also may have been the best single round of golf ever played. It certainly was not a poor reflection on the course. So the next time you are espousing the virtues of your own club try to broaden the discussion beyond it's difficulty and enjoy your course's personality.

*Daniel B. Burton*

**Dan Burton**  
President

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# HVCC'S GALBREATH JR. DOES IT AGAIN; WINS THIRD JUNIOR BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIP

**NEWARK, Del.**— Robert Galbreath, Jr. of Huntingdon Valley CC narrowly knocked off Robert Robertson of Sunnybrook GC, 1-up, at Cavaliers CC (par 71, 6,558 yards) to win his third Junior Boys' title, taking his place in the GAP record books as only the second player to accomplish such a feat in the 93-year history of the storied Junior Program.

Galbreath steamrolled over the competition that included a, 7&5, victory over Vinny Alessi of Penn Oaks GC; a, 6&4, win to top Bobby Arthur of Tavistock CC and a, 7&6, Final Four triumph over Jimmy Johnston of Merion GC before defeating Robertson in the final.

Meredith M. Jack of Merion Cricket Club was the only other player to win three Junior titles, only he did it in consecutive fashion from 1914 to 1916.

"It's really nice that I've won three [Junior Championships]," said Galbreath, who had no idea he was only the second junior player to do so. "It's a really special feeling. This is just great, I really can't explain it."

In each of Galbreath's match-play victories, the 16-year-old from Huntingdon Valley, Pa. jumped out to quick leads. Galbreath never trailed any of his opponents through the entire match-play portion of the Championship.

"When you're playing match play you try to get off to the quickest start you can just to build a lead," he said. "You have such great players in GAP and great junior golfers, so you need some cushion against a lot of these guys because of how good they are. That's just what my mindset was throughout the tournament."

"He just got off to a hot start," Robertson said. "I knew that I had to make a lot of birdies to get to him. That was really the only way I was going to win a hole."

But for the first time in the contest, Galbreath's cushion was threatened as Robertson paled No. 7 (par 4, 454 yards) to Galbreath's bogey that brought his lead down to 1-up as the match headed to No. 8 (par 4, 319 yards).

"I wanted to give myself a little bit more of cushion against a player like Rob Robertson," said Galbreath of the only opponent that forced him to play a full 18 holes in the match play portion of the event. "He's a really good player and you had to watch out for him on the back nine."

"I usually take a little bit to warm up," said Robertson of his playing style. "The back nine is where I usually make my move."

However, Galbreath put a quick stop to Robertson's surge as he halved No. 8 and then birdied No. 9 (par 4, 348 yards) as Robertson's drive found the right trees and then the right greenside bunker. Galbreath's drive of 300-plus yards left him only a 45-yard approach shot to which he stuck to within a couple feet for a conceded birdie.

"I really needed to make sure I took advantage of the opportunity," Galbreath said. "I hit a good drive and I was lucky enough to hit a wedge shot close enough to make birdie. I just wanted to have a 2-up lead

rather than a 1-up lead going to the back nine."

Galbreath's lead grew to three holes on No. 12 (par 4, 382 yards) with a par. But his advantage quickly diminished on No. 16 (par 5, 518 yards) after Galbreath knocked his bunker shot over the green and was forced to concede the hole to Robertson who was on the green for birdie.

Galbreath was now 1-up with two holes to play.

"Knowing that I had been in situations like that before really helped," Galbreath said. "I just wanted to make sure I put the ball in play on No. 17."

Added Galbreath, "It kind of sounds crazy but I think it was an advantage for me to watch what he did off the tee. That gave me a little extra time to calm down and talk to myself a little bit about what I was doing wrong and doing right in the match and focus on those things."

Galbreath indeed put his tee shot in play and halved the hole with Robertson after brief weather delay.

But from the onset of No. 18 (par 4, 383 yards), things looked grim for Galbreath who was now dormie. After

Robertson laced a drive down the right side of the fairway, Galbreath's tee shot went dead left into the trees but miraculously found the fairway after a fortuitous bounce left him 160 yards to the flagstick.

"I've been very lucky the last few years in a lot of tournaments and that was a really fortunate break that I got," admitted Galbreath of his drive on No. 18.

"That's what happens when you're playing well," said Robertson of Galbreath's rather auspicious drive. "I thought that if I hung within two [holes] of him I'd be all right toward the end."

From that point Galbreath hit a hard 8-iron to the front collar of the green while Robertson was on the green for birdie just 15-feet beyond the hole. Unfortunately, for Robertson, his birdie putt missed and Galbreath two putted for par to halve the hole and the win.

"I just tried to make sure that if he was going to beat me it was going to be with birdie," said Galbreath. "That's what you have to do in match play. You can't give holes away."

In the First Flight Final, Peter Eiler of Commonwealth National GC defeated Andrew Lawson of Hershey's Mill GC, 2-up.

Lawson jumped out to a two-hole lead on Eiler before Eiler came back with a birdie on No. 9 to bring the match back to All Square.

Eiler took the lead for good on the next hole (No. 10, par 4, 383 yards) with a par and closed out the victory on No. 18 with a long birdie putt.



*Matt Raudenbush (L) of Pine Valley GC, the 2006 Junior Boys' Champion, presents winner Robert Galbreath, Jr. of Huntingdon Valley CC with the trophy.*

**Final:** (8) Robert Galbreath, Jr., Huntingdon Valley CC, d., (3) Robert Robertson, Sunnybrook Golf Club, 1-up

**Final Four:** (8) Robert Galbreath, Jr., Huntingdon Valley CC, d., (13) Jimmy Johnston, Merion GC, 7&6  
(3) Robert Robertson, Sunnybrook Golf Club, d. (15) Joe Bernard, RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve, 19 holes



# Historic Merion GC ready to host 103rd Open Championship

By Rick Woelfel

16th hole at Merion GC

**A field of 72 players consisting of both amateurs and professionals will negotiate the same hallowed grounds as legendary figures Bob Jones and Ben Hogan did a time ago.**

**U**nder any circumstances, the day of the Philadelphia Open Championship is the most significant occasion on the Golf Association of Philadelphia calendar. That should certainly be the case this year when the Open is played for the 103rd time on Monday, Aug. 6.

The championship will be the largest in recent years, with 72 players competing, rather than the customary 60. It will be the most lucrative in history, with a \$40,000 purse. The defining element of this year's Open however will be the venue, the East Course at Merion GC.

The Open has been to Merion GC nine times in the past, most recently in 1990, when Pete Oakley prevailed by shooting 137 for the 36 holes. But since then, Merion GC has again become one of the assortment of courses sought by the USGA for championship events.

Following a renovation, the club hosted the 2005 U.S. Amateur Championship and preparations are well underway for the 2009 Walker Cup and the 2013 U.S. Open Championship. Against that backdrop, this year's Philadelphia Open Championship promises to be crackling with tradition and intensity.

No one is more excited by that prospect than defending champion Dave Quinn. The head professional at Links GC in Marlton, N.J., Quinn defeated Mike Ladden, then of Philadelphia CC, in a four-hole aggregate playoff at Llanerch CC last July after both players finished the regulation 36 holes at 3-under-par 139.

Quinn will be attempting to become the first man to successfully defend the Open title since Frank Dobbs of Spring Ford Country Club won it back-to-back in 1991-92.

Quinn estimates he has played Merion GC half a dozen times, but never in competition. "I'm looking forward to it," he said. "I Hope I have my 'A' game, because Merion GC can bring you to your knees. I would just like to have the chance to defend at Merion GC; that would be something I would remember for the rest of my life."

Two years ago, Merion GC played to 6,887 yards for the U.S. Amateur, with a par of 70. Edoardo Molinari won the title by playing the last 15 holes of the championship match in the equivalent of 7-under par, but during the stroke-play portion of the event, none of the 256 players in the field shot lower than 69.

Over the course of the 36 holes in the Open, Merion GC is certain to extract a toll on the field and Quinn expects to pay his share. "They could set it up so that 10-over par wins," he said. "A lot of courses have some holes that are easier and some that are harder. Par is a great score at every hole at Merion GC."

Quinn points out that because the GAP is able to keep players updated on scores as the day progresses, it's easier for the players to stay patient and not worry about occasional misfortune. "If you get to 2, 3 or 4-over par, you can see that that's happening to everybody," he said. "You can play patient golf and try to make par."

The qualifying procedure for this year's championship was modified. Instead of reserving 45 spots in the field for professionals and 15 for amateurs, the GAP conducted three open qualifiers, to fill 43 spots in the field. A total of 29 players were exempt from qualifying.

The Philadelphia Open Championship was first played in 1903. It came to Merion, then Cricket Club, for the first time in 1913, a year after Hugh Wilson's masterpiece was completed. That same year the championship became a 72-hole medal-play test. Two-time U.S. Open champion Johnny McDermott prevailed with a winning score of 305. The tournament would remain at 72 holes through 1939 and during that span was the equivalent of a PGA Tour event, with a list of champions that included McDermott, Long Jim Barnes, Johnny Farrell (twice) and Tommy Armour.

The tournament's present format was adopted in 1940.

The last amateur to win the championship was Chris Lange of Overbrook GC in 2004.

## Open Championship

**What:** 103rd Open Championship

**Where:** Merion GC (par 70, 6,694 yards)

**When:** Aug. 6, 2007

**Format:** 36 holes stroke play

**FYI:** Dave Quinn, the director of golf at Links GC, outlasted Mike Ladden, then an assistant at Philadelphia CC, in a four-hole aggregate playoff at Llanerch CC last year. Both players finished regulation at 3-under par. It was Quinn's first Open title. Chris Lange of Overbrook GC, in 2004 at Philadelphia CC, was the last amateur to win the championship. The Golf Association of Philadelphia restructured the Open Championship for 2007. Starting this year, the event and its qualifiers were solely administered by GAP. The field was expanded to 72 players and the purse guaranteed at \$40,000. The exemption list also increase for both amateurs and professionals. A total of 43 spots were available in qualifying.



*Two of the most famous moments in golfing history occurred at Merion Golf Club. Bob Jones completed the Grand Slam and Ben Hogan returned from a serious automobile accident to capture one of the most thrilling Opens in history.*

## Merion Golf Club

Sept. 27, 1930

Bob Jones completed the Grand Slam with an 8&7 victory over Eugene Homans. None of Jones five matches went past the 14th hole. In the 36-hole final, Jones was 7-up after the first 18. In 1944, American sportswriters named the Grand Slam the "outstanding sports achievement of all time." In 1950, the Associated Press voted it "the supreme athletic achievement of this century."

At the time, Jones was indisputably the best golfer in the world. He had won three U.S. Opens, four U.S. Amateurs and two British Opens by this point in his career. The one significant championship that had eluded him was the British Amateur. Because the Walker Cup was scheduled to be played in England in 1930, with the USGA covering team member Jones' expenses for the trip, an opportunity arose for Jones to play in the British Amateur and British Open while traveling. When Jones won the British Amateur at the Old Course in May at St. Andrews, the British Open at Royal Liverpool in Hoylake in June, and then the U.S. Open at Interlachen Country Club in July, all eyes turned toward Merion.



June 1950

Ben Hogan, who endured life-threatening injuries in a car accident in February, 1949, fulfilled his mission to once again win a national championship with an exhilarating victory in the 1950 U.S. Open Championship. The format at the time called for a 36-hole finish on Saturday. Many, including Hogan, wondered whether he could sustain good play on his damaged legs. Hogan was two strokes back after the third round, but the final 18 holes would be difficult for him. When he reached the 12th tee he was leading by three strokes. After his tee shot his legs locked. Hogan limped over to where a friend, Harry Radix, stood in the crowd and said to him, "My God, Harry, I don't think I can finish."

Three-putt greens on 12 and 15 took away two from Hogan's lead, then another bogey on 17 put him in a tie for the lead with Lloyd Mangrum and George Fazio. Hogan now needed to make par on the longest par-4 hole on the course just to tie the leaders. Reminiscing in 1971, Hogan recalled how he played the finishing hole: "The 18th is a very long par 4. You had to go all out with a driver, then hit all you had to the green. The pin was cut on the right side of the green, behind a bunker. So I thought about cutting a 4-wood in there, reconsidered, and hoped to reach the front of the green with a 1-iron, which I did." Fazio saw Hogan's approach shot and called it the greatest shot he had ever seen. He two putted from 40 feet to tie the leaders and put himself into a playoff. Another par a day later on the 18th hole of the playoff sealed the victory for Hogan, who scored 69 to Mangrum's 73 and Fazio's 75.

*Article and photos courtesy of USGA/Merion Golf Club*

## GOLF ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA

As of 7/24/07

# Player of the Year Standings

### WILLIAM HYNDMAN, III PLAYER OF THE YEAR

NAME, CLUB	POINTS
Chris Gallagher, Penn Oaks GC	360
Philip Bartholomew, Yardley CC	335
Chip Lutz, LedgeRock GC	315
William McGuinness, Tavistock CC	300
Michael McDermott, Merion GC	226.6
Cole Willcox, Philadelphia CC	225
James Sullivan, Jr., Huntingdon Valley CC	206.6
Mark Miller, Yardley CC	195
Jamie Slonis, Tavistock CC	180
Brian Gillespie, St. Davids GC	165

### SENIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

NAME, CLUB	POINTS
Raymond Thompson, Overbrook GC	165
Robin McCool, Saucon Valley CC	115
Charles Jones, Philadelphia Publinks GA	90
Daniel Burton, Bent Creek CC	70
Alan Over, Bent Creek CC	70
William Lawler, Fox Hill CC	57.5
Wally Swiger, Huntingdon Valley CC	55
George Marucci, Jr., Pine Valley GC	50
Fred Tyler, Jr., Moselem Springs GC	50
William Whitman, Berkshire CC	50

### JUNIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

NAME, CLUB	POINTS
Robert Robertson, Sunnybrook GC	330
Robert Galbreath, Jr., Huntingdon Valley CC	325
J.R. Fasy, Wilmington CC	175
Andrew Lawson, Hershey's Mill GC	145
Russell Hartung, Doylestown CC	135
Bobby Arthur, Tavistock CC	135
J.D. Hall, Merion GC	135
James Bea, Spring Mill CC	100
Joe Bernard, RiverCrest GC & Preserve	98.3
Michael Kania, Overbrook GC	95



# Patterson Cup Preview

By Gian Rodriguez

## 105th Joseph H. Patterson Cup completes Association's Major season



**T**he Golf Association of Philadelphia's 105th edition of the Joseph H. Patterson Cup, an especially difficult 36-hole championship in its own right, will be an even tougher task as it brings an end to one of the most trying week's on the organization's tournament circuit.

Set for Aug. 9 at a tight Berkleigh CC and a challenging Moselem Springs GC in the foothills of Pennsylvania's central mountains, this year's quest for the Cup is set to begin three days after the arduous 36-hole Open Championship at a historic Merion GC in Ardmore, Pa.

Last year's Patterson Cup champion Steve Arnold of Yardley CC tries to become only the second player to win back-to-back Patterson Cup championships since living legend Jay Sigel did so two decades ago.



Steve Arnold of Yardley CC

"I try to prepare myself the best I can and go out and see how well I can play," Arnold said. "Obviously the Patterson Cup is a little different because I am the defending champ, but I'm just trying to make it another tournament and not build it up in my head."

Arnold, who also earned the centennial Silver Cross Award last season with his Patterson Cup victory, will face off against 131 of the



17th hole at Berkleigh CC



18th hole at Moselem Springs GC

area's top amateur golfers in an event that will also help determine this year's winner of the annual Silver Cross competition.

The two rounds of the Patterson Cup combined with the qualifying rounds of the Philadelphia Amateur Championship are used to determine the Silver Cross winner.

As mentioned prior, the Patterson Cup begins on the heels of the 103rd Open Championship (Aug. 6). The Open's field will also include some of the same players participating in the Patterson, totaling 72-holes of competitive golf in four days.

"It is going to be a long few days with the Open and the Patterson Cup going back-to-back," Arnold said. "It's a lot of golf and a fair amount of travel but hopefully I can play well in the Open and ride the momentum from that to the Patterson Cup."

Kyle Davis of Fieldstone GC, the 2006 Amateur Champion and 2006 William Hyndman, III Player of the Year, is one of the region's top players gearing up for that first week in August.

"It should be a great test of golf and I look to improve on last year's performance," said Davis of his second-place finish in the



2006 Patterson Cup and his low amateur honor at the 2006 Open.

Berkleigh CC and Moselem Springs GC present the field with a fair combination of elevation changes, challenging greens, tight and open fairways, all less than two miles apart.

"To have any success in this game you must take one tournament, one round, one hole, one shot and one target at a time," said Davis of facing Moselem Springs GC and Berkleigh CC shortly after Merion GC. "If I can do that successfully, I will be happy no matter what."

This year's Patterson Cup marks the first time either Berkleigh CC or Moselem Springs GC have hosted the event.

The Patterson Cup, played annually since 1900, is named for Joseph H. Patterson, a member of Philadelphia Cricket Club in the 19th century.



Sign up for the Golf Association of Philadelphia's EGAP newsletter, *Greenside with GAP*, a monthly update on the organization's happenings at [www.gapgolf.org](http://www.gapgolf.org).

## Joseph H. Patterson Memorial Cup

**What:** 105th Joseph H. Patterson Memorial Cup

**Where:** Berkleigh CC (par 72, 6,800 yards back tees) and Moselem Springs GC (par 70, 6,824 yards back tees)

**When:** Aug. 9, 2007

**Format:** 36 holes stroke play, 18 holes at each course

**FYI:** The Patterson Cup, the final Major on the GAP Calendar, is the one-day, stroke-play championship of the Association. The Patterson Cup also serves as the final rounds of the Silver Cross. The Silver Cross is awarded to the player with the lowest aggregate score in the Amateur Championship Qualifier and Patterson Cup (four rounds in all). Stephen Arnold of Yardley CC is the defending Patterson Cup Champion. Arnold finished 1-under par on Philmont CC's two courses, North and South, to defeat Kyle Davis of Fieldstone GC and Michael McDermott of Merion GC by a stroke. This will be the first time either Berkleigh CC or Moselem Springs GC has hosted a leg of the Patterson Cup. William Hyndman, III, Huntingdon Valley CC, captured the Patterson Cup a record 10 times. His reign spanned three decades. Hyndman earned the Patterson Cup in 1946-47, '52, '54-55, '62-64, '68-69.



## WHAT'S IN THE BAG

**Chris Gallagher  
of Penn Oaks GC**

**E**ver wonder what the top amateurs are using to navigate the golf course. Here's a chance to get inside the bag. This issue we'll look at what **Chris Gallagher of Penn Oaks GC** uses as his tools for the trade. At press time, Gallagher sat atop the William Hyndman, III Player of the Year standings after a second-place finish in the Middle-Amateur Championship and a third-round appearance in the Amateur Championship. He also qualified for the Open Championship set for Merion GC recently. Gallagher is a past Major Champion, he won the 2003 Patterson Cup.

### Driver

Titleist 907D2, 9.5 degrees with a UST ProForce V2 shaft (stiff flex).

### 3-wood

TaylorMade V Steel 15 degrees with Graphite Design Purple Ice shaft (stiff flex).

*"I bought this club on a whim with the pro shop credit I earned for winning the 2003 Patterson Cup and it hasn't left my bag since. Nothing stays in my bag for four years but this club has and I don't see it leaving anytime soon."*

### Hybrid

Adams Idea Pro 18 degrees with Aldila VS Proto shaft (stiff flex).

*"I can hit it high, low, left to right or right to left. A very versatile club and I absolutely love it."*

### Irons (3-PW)

Titleist 735\*CM with True Temper Dynamic Gold SL shafts (stiff flex).

### Wedges

Titleist Vokey Spin Milled 53 and 59 degrees.

*"They have a very soft feel and classic shape. I am excited every time I get one of these wedges in my hands on the golf course."*

### Putter

Scotty Cameron Santa Fe by Titleist.

*"This putter has a great look and nice weight. It has my mother Joan's initials stamped on the toe, JMG. She passed away in 2005 and I think it's a nice way to remember her. It gives me a chance to tell people how great she was when they ask what the initials are. I will hang onto this putter even when it falls out of favor with me because it's something personal and special."*

### Golf Ball

New Titleist Pro V1.

*"I've never played anything but Titleist golf balls. To me, the Pro V1 is far and away the best ball on the market."*

**In closing:** *"I've always been a very loyal Titleist equipment user. They make very classic equipment that I feel I can always count on in any situation. Thanks for taking a look inside my bag. I hope you found it helpful."*



*Chris Gallagher*



# WHAT DOES THE GOLF ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA DO FOR YOU?



## THE BACKBONE OF HANDICAPPING

*Arguably, the Golf Association of Philadelphia's most important service is Course Rating.*

*The USGA Course Rating System is the standard upon which the USGA Handicap System is built. It affects all golfers in the calculation of a Handicap Index. Players "play to their handicaps," when their net scores (gross score minus handicap strokes) equal the USGA Course Rating.*

The Golf Association of Philadelphia's five course-rating teams, comprised of 47 volunteers, rate an average of 25 to 30 courses each season. Each GAP member club is rated on a seven-year cycle, or when changes made to the course warrant a re-rating. A new golf course is rated every three years for the first nine years, as golf courses can endure much change in their first decade of existence.

Every GAP club is issued a USGA Course Rating and Slope Rating for each set of tees rated. A player's USGA Handicap Index is calculated by using the Course and Slope Ratings of the courses on which they play, which makes accurate Course Ratings extremely vital to the Handicap System.

The Course Rating is established based on the ability of a scratch golfer. The rating established based on the ability of a bogey golfer, is known as the Bogey Rating. The Bogey Rating is not traditionally published, but is used to calculate the Slope Rating. The Slope Rating is simply the slope of the line on a graph that would connect the Course Rating to the Bogey Rating. A course's Slope Rating illustrates how

much more difficult the course is for the bogey golfer than the scratch golfer. The higher the Slope Rating, the bigger the gap is between the Course Rating and the Bogey Rating.

Course Ratings are primarily based on tee to green yardage. In addition to yardage, each hole is evaluated based on 10 obstacles assigned values from one to 10 to determine difficulty, including: Effective Playing Length, Topography, Fairway, Green Target, Recoverability and Rough, Bunkers, Out of Bounds/Extreme Rough, Water Hazards, Trees and Green Surface. A Psychological Effect is also applied based on the total of the obstacle values.

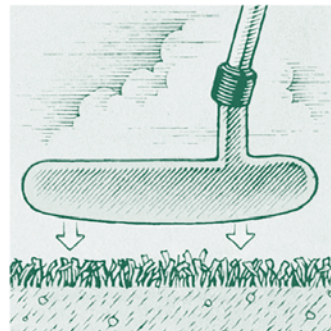
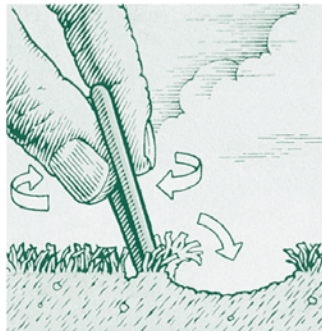
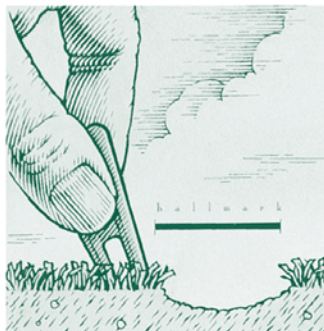
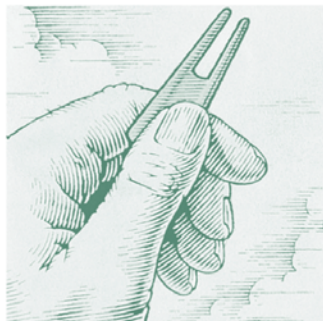
As Course Ratings are completed, they are submitted to the GAP Course Rating Review Committee for approval. Member clubs are then notified of newly approved ratings and are issued a certificate and Course Handicap Conversion Charts. These Conversion Charts allow your USGA Handicap Index to be portable to any course with a USGA Course Rating. Simply apply your Index to any club's Conversion Chart, and you will find out your Course Handicap for each set of tees rated. This enables anyone with a USGA Handicap Index to compete on a level playing field.



## The Proper Way to Repair a Ball Mark



- 1** Use a prolonged ball mark repair tool (preferably), knife, key or tee.
- 2** Insert at the edges of the mark—not the middle of the depression.
- 3** Bring the edges together with a gentle twisting motion, but don't lift the center. Try not to tear the grass.
- 4** Smooth the surface with a club or foot. You're done when it's a surface that you would putt over.



Source: Golf Course Superintendents Association of America



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