CLASS OF 2008 HALL OF FAME

J. WOOD PLATT

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DUPONT'S HISTORY
SMERAGLIO GRABS PATTerson
A LOOK BACK AT TREDYFFRIN CC

WILLIAM HYNDMAN, III

R. JAY SIGEL

VISIT THE GOLF ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA WEB SITE AT WWW.GAPGOLF.ORG FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS AND NOTES
Letter from the President

As I look back on the last three years as President, I can’t help but be grateful for all the support both the Golf Association of Philadelphia and myself have received during that time. Any organization’s success and its ability to meet specified goals and objectives relies heavily on its constituents. The Golf Association of Philadelphia is no different.

With that said, I begin my long list of thank yous with the Association’s backbone, the Member Clubs. Their willingness to donate facilities for the benefit of the tournament schedule is remarkable.

This year, for example, Huntingdon Valley Country Club hosted a pair of multi-day events, the Junior Boys’ Championship and the Brewer Cup, within a month’s time. It is that kind of support that permeates the Association’s Member Club roster and allows us to hold 70-plus events a year.

As a competitor myself, it’s a special treat for the organization’s golfers to be afforded the opportunity to compete at so many of the area’s, and country’s, top venues.

A very special thanks to all our tournament volunteers and course raters for their dedication and tireless efforts. The Association would not be what it is today without your assistance. I commend you for your passion.

Next, I would like to recognize the Association’s staff led by Mark Peterson, the Association’s Executive Director. Many of you see Kirby Martin, the Director of Competitions; Marty Emeno, the Director of Operations; Gian Rodriguez, the Media Relations Manager, and Chris Roselle, the Tournament Director, at our events and recognize how hard they work. However, not to be forgotten are those staff members at the Golf Office who aren’t as visible but are just as important in producing high-quality tournaments and award-winning customer service. It is an entire staff effort.

To my fellow Executive Committee members, it has been an honor to serve with you the past three years. I had the good fortune of following Craig Ammerman and Neil McDermott to the position of President and I can not thank them enough for all their guidance and support.

In my decade of service with the organization, I have been marveled at how singularly focused the Executive Committee is when it comes to the good of the game and the Association. It is amazing.

Many executive committees and boards have members with diverse agendas and opinions and I can honestly say that in the three years I have been President, the sole focus of the committee has been the work of the committee. No agendas. No side issues. For that, I am very grateful.

I also want to wish Rich Meehan well. Rich is the Association’s Vice-President and my replacement. Good luck, Rich.

Golf has been a central part of my entire life and when I was elected President, I felt the weight of 100-plus years of history on my shoulders. Golf and its traditions and the joy it adds to everyday life in this community is inspiring.

When I think of the Platt Scholarship Trust, all the tournaments the Association runs each year, the GAP Team Matches, and all that we do, I am amazed at how we make everyday life better for many people.

I can not adequately express how much I have enjoyed being your President and how grateful I have been for this opportunity. It has been one of the greatest joys of my life. I wanted very much to leave the Association and golf in Philadelphia better today than when I began my Presidency. I hope that I have done so.

Thank you for all you do for golf in Philadelphia.

[Signature]

GAP President Dan Burton
GEORGE E. HAINES, JR.

George E. Haines, Jr., 64, of Gladwyne, Pa., a national and international competitor, a golf journalist, a teacher and coach, died July 16 of pneumonia at Cathedral Village in Roxborough, Pa.

Mr. Haines, by winning the New Jersey State Golf Association Amateur Championship in 1968 at Hackensack Golf Club and again in 1979 at Baltusrol Golf Club, became the only man to win the title in both match and stroke play formats. He played in the 1968 U.S. Open and 10 U.S. Amateur championships.

A native of Far Hills, N.J., Mr. Haines won 14 club championships as a member of Somerset Hills Country Club. Accomplished in tennis and squash, he won the Somerset Hills golf and tennis championships on the same day in 1967.

Mr. Haines estimated he played at more than 400 golf courses around the world. He competed in 20 Canadian Amateurs, once finishing fourth; seven British Amateurs and national championships in Scotland, Belgium, France, Germany and Bermuda.

From the mid-1970s until the 1990s, Mr. Haines authored The Golf School historical section of the Golf Journal, the USGA's official publication at the time. As a member of Merion Golf Club, he wrote USGA Championships Held at Merion. He also contributed to other publications and maintained a keen and enduring interest in the history of golf.

Mr. Haines was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business. At Penn, he qualified for the NCAA Championships in both golf and squash.

For many years, he served as a mathematics teacher and coach of teams in six sports at The Haverford School in Haverford, Pa. He coached the 1982-83 squash team to a national title, which brought recognition to him and the team and election to The Haverford School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Haines is survived by his wife of 31 years, Elizabeth, who has been one of the leading amateur golfers in the Philadelphia region for many years.

“When the last three years of his life were very difficult,” said Mrs. Haines. “His spirit and his eagerness to stay on top of what was happening in the world of golf and the USGA and the championships, it never ceased. Shortly before he died, he wanted the 2008 USGA Media Guide, which shows his willingness to live and his desire to write about golf and be interested in what was going on.

“When he could no longer play, his enthusiasm didn’t wane. I think that speaks volumes of the man’s courage and spirit. His spirit was so alive.”

Mr. Haines is also survived by a son, George; a grand- son, two sisters and a brother; and his parents, Audrey and Robert Johnson.

Memorial donations may be made to the Center for Neurology at Pennsylvania Hospital, 302 S. Eighth St., Suite 4B, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Winter Series

Tentative dates and venues for the Winter Series tournaments have been announced and are as follows:

- Oct. 29, Hershey’s Mill Golf Club
- Nov. 6, Bala Golf Club
- Nov. 13, Olde York Country Club
- Nov. 20, Cavaliers Country Club

All Winter Series events use a shotgun start and begin at 10 a.m. Tournament formats will be released by the beginning of October. Please visit the Golf Association of Philadelphia Web site, www.gapgolf.org, for details.

Correction

In the May/June issue article titled Changes Aplenty as Clubs Adjust to Trying Times, it should have been noted that J. Robertson Cox of Blackney Hayes Architects served as the architect on Sunnybrook Golf Club’s course renovation.

Association’s first Green Conference set

The Golf Association of Philadelphia’s first Green Conference is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Oct. 10 at Philadelphia Country Club.

Discussion topics are:

Sustainability – issues courses face or will face due to the heightened cost of commodities; environmental concerns; elimination of chemicals by the EPA and/or state authorities and the cost and availability of water and issues raised by lower allocations.

Architecture – concerns when renovating a course or an area within a course.

Environmental Concerns Extend Beyond the Golf Course – other environmental worries at a club such as the kitchen, cart buildings, maintenance facilities, etc.

Audubon International’s Cooperative Sanctuary Program – an option available to all clubs to make a positive step and be a responsible steward of one’s environment.

Golf’s Economic Impact – present an overview of the national report and a snapshot of one’s state’s results.

Representatives from each GAP Member Club will be invited.

Limited seating will be open to the public.
The Association’s founding fathers formed the organization in 1897 to promote interest in the game of golf in the City of Philadelphia and its vicinity. Even today that mission remains prevalent in all the Golf Association of Philadelphia does.

In recent years, the organization has focused its efforts to grow the game through a number of Junior Golfer initiatives (17 and under): complimentary junior handicaps, complimentary high school golf team handicaps, the formation of Mary’s Girls, the creation of a pre-junior event and the constant adjustment of its Junior Tournament schedule to better fit players’ needs.

The Association began intensifying its Junior focus in 2004. It did so by offering all Member Clubs free Junior Handicaps for players 17 and under. In concert with that move, the Golf Association of Philadelphia also offered any high school golf team within its charter limits complimentary handicaps. Both programs are intended to familiarize young golfers with the USGA Handicap System.

Also in 2004, Mr. Larry Ballen of Bala Golf Club sought a way to honor his late wife Mary as well as give back to the game they enjoyed together. What quickly evolved was Mary’s Girls, a development program for young, committed female golfers who are not members of a private club.

The program provides instructional and financial support to urban female golfers to excel at the game. The ultimate goal is to help participants attain college golf scholarships. Just this May, Joanna Coe, a recent Mary’s Girls participant who just completed her freshman year at Rollins College, captured the NCAA Division II Women’s Golf National Championship. That victory also helped her Rollins team capture its 12th women’s golfing National Team Championship.

Five years ago, the Golf Association of Philadelphia created a Pre-Junior Tournament as a forum to introduce younger golfers to the rules, course etiquette and the game, itself. The six-hole Pre-Junior, for players ages 8-10, serves as a fantastic introduction to the sport and has proven to be a great success.

In all, the Golf Association of Philadelphia conducts 10 Junior competitions throughout the year in a variety of formats for all handicap levels. Included in those events are eight for Juniors (14-17) and five for Junior-Juniors (10-13). Additionally, in alternate years the Association conducts the USGA Junior Amateur Championship Qualifier.

The Association recognizes Junior Golf is the future of the game and it will continue to review and enhance its program in any way possible.

Log on to www.gapgolf.org for more information on the Junior Program or any other Golf Association of Philadelphia initiative.

Founded in 1897, the Golf Association of Philadelphia (GAP) is the oldest regional golf association in the United States and serves as the principal ruling body of amateur golf in its region. Its 136 Member Clubs and 56,000 individual members are spread across parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. The purpose of the Association is simple: To promote, protect and preserve the game of golf in the region.
Platt: Unmet need reaches record high
Caddie Scholarship Needs Your Assistance

The Platt Caddie Scholarship, the charitable arm of the Golf Association of Philadelphia, has provided financial assistance to deserving caddies in pursuit of higher education since its inception in 1958. However, as tuition costs escalate the Trust’s donation levels have plateaued and assisting those young men and women with their financial needs has become increasingly more difficult.

In fact, at the late July Platt Education Committee Meeting in which grant amounts are determined and announced, it was noted that the remaining unmet need of Platt Caddie Scholars reached a record 47 percent for the 2008-09 academic year. That’s up from 38 percent a year ago.

Unmet need is generally defined as the cost of tuition minus the sum of the family’s contribution, any grants or scholarships received (not including Platt) and a student’s summer earnings. The Scholarship then determines its grant size from that remaining portion and the balance represents the remaining unmet need. That remaining total was the 47 percent number.

“It’s becoming more and more difficult for the Scholarship to do all it can to help our scholars,” said J. Clark O’Donoghue, the Platt chairman. “There is no end in sight to the escalating costs of tuition which means the unmet need will only continue to increase in future years.”

With the facts presented, the Platt asks you to kindly consider making a donation in support of the Caddie-Scholars and the traditions of the caddie they keep alive. Since its inception, the Platt has awarded more than $12 million in scholarships to over 3,000 young men and women. And for the 2008-09 academic year, $700,000 was awarded to 190 students.

“I extend my sincere thanks to all those individuals within the Golf Association of Philadelphia who have provided financial support to the Platt,” said O’Donoghue. “I also invite those who may not have contributed to the Platt to thoughtfully consider doing so this year. It is a great way to give back to the game we all love so much and to help the young people in our community. More information about the Platt Caddie Scholarship can be found on the Web at www.PlattCaddieScholarship.org including an on-line donation form. Donations can also be mailed to P.O. Box 808, Southeastern PA, 19399.

Coe Makes Mary’s Girls Proud

Joanna Coe is proof positive Mary’s Girls is making a difference.

The four-year program grant recipient (2004-07) recently completed her first year at Rollins College as the NCAA Division II Women’s Golf National Champion. Coe established a new Division II scoring record at 1-under-par 287 to shatter the old mark by five strokes. Her victory also helped Rollins to its 12th team title.

“[Mary's Girls] was a great resource for my family and I,” said Coe, 18, of Mays Landing, N.J. “Tournaments are expensive when you factor in the entry fee, plane ride, hotel and food, and I have two older sisters. Mary’s Girls really helped me to be able to compete. Without it, I wouldn’t have been able to get the exposure to college coaches through the high level junior tournaments.”

Coe, a graduate of Oakcrest High School, is Rollins fourth women’s golfing champion. “I had never broken 70 or shot under par in a tournament before nationals,” said Coe. “I broke a lot of personal goals that week.”

Larry Ballen, a member of Bala Golf Club, established Mary’s Girls in 2004. Mr. Ballen sought to honor his late wife, Mary, an avid golfer and supporter of women’s team golf, and approached the Golf Association of Philadelphia for counsel.

What evolved was Mary’s Girls, a development platform for committed young urban female golfers who are not members of a private club. The program provides qualified applicants with financial assistance to help them excel at the game with the ultimate goal of winning college golf scholarships.
DICK GEESAMAN, JR. has been a Golf Association of Philadelphia volunteer since 1993, serving as both a tournament official and course rater. The long-time Lu Lu Country Club member (15 years) has recently focused his energies on rating courses where he’s created a tool that streamlines the data viewing process. The Association has duly adopted that tool and it has been in use for the last two years. As a tournament volunteer, Geesaman served as both a starter and scorer.

Q. How many years have you volunteered? Rated golf courses?
A. I have volunteered for 10 years and have rated courses for eight years.

Q. Why did you get into course rating?
A. My background is in mathematics, and I was curious how you could come up with formulas and results for each golf course.

Q. How and why did you create the course rating tool?
A. After a couple of seasons as a course rater, it became obvious that the important job of a course rating team is to focus on, and record, what they see on each shot. The resultant values for these observations should be automatically and consistently calculated for each rating. The calculations are the job of the tool, freeing up the team to record on what they see. The tool also produces the required paperwork for the USGA and GAP and can be used as a training tool for new raters.

Q. What’s your favorite part of volunteering/course rating?
A. The opportunity to see a wide variety of courses and meet, and work with, so many nice people. It’s also very nice to see young people grow up over the years and mature into good players and, more importantly, good men.

Q. What’s your most memorable volunteer/course rating moment?
A. I recall one of the first tournaments I ever worked as a volunteer. I was starting and I announced the first player of the first group by loudly announcing the player by his first name and the last name of the second player to play. The first player, politely, turned and said, “I thought you said I was first.” Everything worked out and a good laugh was had by all.

Q. Who’s your favorite golfer (professional, amateur) and why?
A. Arnold Palmer and Chi Chi Rodriguez, not because of their skills or titles, but because of the way they always made the fans, who came to watch them, know they appreciated them.

Q. What’s your most memorable moment as a player?
A. Even though I am not a “low handicap” golfer, I’ve had four holes-in-one. I remember each very well.

Q. Favorite aspect of the Golf Association of Philadelphia?
A. I have worked with many of the staff and volunteers/course raters. Although these folks represent a wide variety of professional backgrounds and means on the “outside,” there is no question that the important thing for these individuals, as a group, is to ensure the enjoyment of golf in this area.
YARDLEY CC’S SMERAGLIO CAPTURES SECOND PATTERN CUP, THIRD CROSS

When he arrived at Waynesborough Country Club on Aug. 14 for the 106th Patterson Cup, Glenn Smeraglio was in his element. The Yardley Country Club veteran has a preference for medal-play competition.

“You come here, it’s two rounds and stroke play,” he said. “I always like stroke play because I think that identifies the best player.”

And by the time dusk had fallen, Smeraglio had identified himself as the best player in the 114-player field. He followed up a 2-under-par 67 at St. Davids Golf Club to claim the Golf Association of Philadelphia’s stroke-play championship with a 69 at Waynesborough with a 3-under-par 67 at St. Davids Golf Club to claim the Golf Association of Philadelphia’s stroke-play championship with a 36-hole total of 5-under-par 136.

Matt Mattare of Saucon Valley Country Club wound up second at 137 after missing a 12-foot birdie putt on the final green at St. Davids that would have tied him with Smeraglio and forced an 18-hole playoff. Geoffrey Cooper of Laurel Creek Country Club was third at 139 while John Brennan (Spring Ford Country Club) and David West (Whitford Country Club) shared fourth place at 141.

It was the second Patterson Cup for Smeraglio, who also won the title in 1998 at Lu Lu Country Club. At 48, he is the oldest man to win the Patterson since the late William Hyndman, III, won his 10th in 1969 at age 53.

The win also gave Smeraglio his third Silver Cross championship after previous wins in 2000 and 2001.

It was Mattare who set the pace in the morning with a 67 at Waynesborough that featured three birdies on his last four holes. “I was rolling the ball great,” he said. “The greens were absolutely perfect. All you had to do was get it on line. I was hitting the ball off the tee, too. I think I hit 15 greens, I was really striping it.”

Smeraglio and Michael McDermott of Merion Golf Club, who opened with a 70 in his bid to become the first man in history to win the Mid-Amateur, the Amateur and the Patterson Cup in the same year.

Smeraglio showed he was on his game by hitting 16 greens on the way to his morning 69. It was his first round at Waynesborough in more than 15 years.

Mattare started his afternoon round with a birdie at the first and at the turn was 1 under for his round and 5 under for the tournament. He began wobbling when he bogeyed the 10th (par 4, 175 yards). He birdied 11 (par 5, 545 yards) but fell out of the lead after bogeys at 12 (par 4, 439 yards) and 14 (par 3, 163 yards). At that point, he trailed Smeraglio by two shots while the other first-round contenders had fallen by the wayside.

Mattare had a chance to pick up some additional challenges.

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As satisfying as the win was for Smeraglio, he isn’t regarding it as the climactic moment of his playing career. He recently qualified for his third U.S. Mid-Amateur and sounds like a man with a lot of good golf left in him who is looking for additional challenges.

Smeraglio was playing a half hour ahead of Mattare on the other side of the golf course, played his first 13 afternoon holes at even par, although he had trouble adjusting to the greens at first.

“You rush out of [Waynesborough] and you head over [to St. Davids],” he said. “I didn’t even get a chance to putt over there. You open up with a 180-yard par 3 and hit in the bunker and don’t really know what the speed of the greens are. They were definitely slower at St. Davids than they were at Waynesborough.”

While Mattare was faltering, Smeraglio surged to the front with birdies at the fifth, seventh and eighth (his 14th, 16th and 17th holes of the afternoon). He credits a new diet with giving him more stamina this season.

“I lost 30 pounds [since February],” he said. “I thought that would help me down the stretch, just like this. I made three birdies in the last five holes. I’m proud of myself for doing that.”

Mattare, the son of Saucon Valley Country Club general manager Gene Mattare, made his last stand with a birdie at the par 3, 17th and gave himself a chance at the 392-yard par 4, 18th when he knocked a wedge to the front of the green and watched it run up close. His birdie try slid by the right edge.

“I figured it was probably going to be inside right or right edge and when I got over the putt I figured ‘It’s got to be more than that,’” he said. “I didn’t trust the original line and pushed it a little bit.”

As satisfying as the win was for Smeraglio, he isn’t regarding it as the climactic moment of his playing career. He recently qualified for his third U.S. Mid-Amateur and sounds like a man with a lot of good golf left in him who is looking for additional challenges.

“I don’t think of myself as an older guy until I play with the young kids and they hit it 30 yards by me,” Smeraglio said. “You know what? You still have to hit greens, you still have to putt, you still have to get the ball in the hole. I think I do that as well as anybody does.”

Rick Woelfel is a freelance writer from Willow Grove, Pa., who has covered golf in the Philadelphia region for the last 13 years.
DuPont Country Club history

The term “country club” has come to mean a facility with golf as its central focus. Such was not always the case.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when golf was still establishing a foothold in America, many country clubs were intended to be multi-faceted recreational facilities, and golf was just one of a variety of sporting diversions offered to members and guests.

DuPont Country Club was founded on that premise.

E.I. duPont de Nemours & Company founded the club on May 20, 1920, with the idea of providing recreational opportunities for its employees.

At first, the most popular sporting pastime was baseball; there was actually a ballpark on club property that hosted games between teams comprised of company employees, including women’s teams. There was a clubhouse, more suited to baseball than golf.

Golf made its debut at DuPont in 1921 when Wilfrid Reid laid out nine holes at the behest of the DuPont family, who encouraged Reid to immigrate to America from his native Scotland.

Two years later, Tommy Fisher was hired as the club’s first full-time golf professional. Like Reid, a Scotland native, Fisher came to DuPont after stops at Aronimink Golf Club and Llanerch Country Club. A former professional soccer player who later coached at Haverford College, Fisher would remain at DuPont until his retirement in July of 1949.

While Fisher was getting settled in, a new golf course was under construction, designed by Donald Ross.

It’s not known if Ross actually set foot on the DuPont site. A sketch of the routing, which hangs in the office of Tristan Engle, Dupont’s grounds superintendent, includes the name of J.B. McGovern, Ross’s longtime associate, alongside that of Ross himself and it is a virtual certainty that McGovern was in charge of the project on a day-to-day basis.

The design includes a par for each hole, which some other Ross designs, including Aronimink, did not. The yardage was listed at 6,162 yards with a par of 72.

The new course, along with a new clubhouse, was officially dedicated on April 18, 1924. At first, the sand greens remained but by 1926 grass putting surfaces had been installed.

It soon became clear one course was not enough. Even in those days DuPont had one of the largest membership rolls in America.

By 1937, architect Alfred Tull was at work on a second course. A native of England, Tull moved to Canada with his family at age 10 before arriving in America at age 17.

The new course was ready for play in 1938. It was dubbed the Nemours Course, while the original layout was named the DuPont Course.

More changes were at hand, however. The DuPont Company was planning to expand its experimental test station, which was adjacent to the DuPont Course. The golf holes were in the line of fire.

In 1946, the club purchased a large plot of farmland directly across from the Nemours Course and Tull was soon at work again, designing what would be a new DuPont Course.

At the same time, construction on a new clubhouse began.

The new golf course, along with the new clubhouse, was formally dedicated on May 28, 1949. This is the course that visitors to the club are perhaps most familiar with. It originally played to 6,700 yards from the tips, with a par of 72.

The club was also able to preserve nine holes from the Ross course, so as the 1949 season peaked, DuPont’s 5,000 members had access to 45 golf holes.

More were on the way. In 1955, the Louviers Course (6,570 yards, par 70) opened in Newark, Del., complete with its own clubhouse and golf shop while the nine-hole Black Gates Course made its debut on the Wilmington, Del., grounds.

In 1965 Black Gates was converted to an 18-hole executive course and renamed the Montchanin. The Louviers Course was later sold, to the chagrin of some members.

The Nemours Course hosts the majority of member play; it plays to a maximum 6,171 yards with a par of 71. Most members will play it from the middle tees at 6,000 yards even. The routing includes a portion of the old Ross Course, specifically holes four through six, plus the ninth green.

It is the DuPont Course, however, that visitors and guests are most
familiar with since it was the site of the McDonald’s LPGA Championship.

For most of its history it played to 6,405 yards from the member tees and 6,649 from the tips with a par of 71.

The LPGA Tour came to DuPont in 1987 and stayed for 18 years. During that time the McDonald Championship (The tournament became the McDonald’s LPGA Championship in 1994) raised millions of dollars for Ronald McDonald Children’s Charities while giving area golf fans the chance to see some of the world’s best golfers up close.

The biggest names in the sport tended to wind up in the winner’s circle.

Laura Davies won three times, Betsy King, Juli Inkster, Se Ri Pak and Annika Sorenstam twice each.

While the club had always been highly regarded in Delaware and within the Golf Association of Philadelphia, hosting the LPGA Tour put DuPont in the national spotlight.

Sorenstam’s successful title defense in 2004 was the tournament’s last stand in Wilmington. It departed as Lester George was preparing to do a major renovation of the DuPont Course.

Although William and David Gordon gave the layout a few nips and tucks at one point, there had been no major changes to Tull’s original work.

The course was shut down shortly after the LPGA left town and stayed closed for over a year while George and his team worked to rebuild all 18 greens according to modern USGA specifications, added several new tee boxes, rebuilt the bunkers, installed a new irrigation system, regressed the fairways and made a number of other improvements.

The work was slowed by severe weather that fall, which washed away seed and required that some areas be regressed more than once.

While the work was in progress, DuPont’s members were still able to utilize the two remaining courses on the property as well as play other courses in the region through a series of reciprocal agreements.

The DuPont Course reopened on July 9, 2005. Today it is a true championship test, measuring 7,120 yards from the back tees while still playing to a par of 71. Additional markers are positioned at 6,763, 6,325 and 5,812 yards, along with a forward set at 5,244 yards. Par for women is also 71.

The most significant change occurred at the 15th hole, a par four, which plays to 388 yards from the middle tees. Before the renovation, the hole played straight away off the tee, but George repositioned the green, moving it back and to the right, while bringing a creek more into play. The player hoping to reach the green in regulation must clear the green with his approach, but many players, especially mid-to-high handicappers, will likely choose to lay up and try to knock the ball close with a wedge, hoping perhaps for a one-putt par but happy to walk away with a five.

This season Director of Golf Kent Thomas and his staff have hosted several major events, including the Women’s Eastern Amateur, the Philadelphia Section PGA Assistant’s Championship and most recently, in early August, a U.S. Amateur Championship Qualifier in which Chris Gold of Little Mill Country Club fired a 63 at the Nemours Course on the way to finishing the 36 holes at 134 to earn medallist honors.

Now refurbished, DuPont is once again testing the game’s best.

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Kingston’s Pieczynski takes weather shortened Open; McDermott finishes as low amateur

BUCKINGHAM, Pa. – Intense lightning and rain forced Greg Pieczynski to wait 90 minutes before completing his one and only round of the weather shortened Open Championship on July 23 at a scenic and challenging Lookaway Golf Club (par 72, 6,901 yards). Pieczynski stood at a tournament best 5-under par with his ball in the right rough on the final hole when players were forced to leave the golf course.

When play resumed, the 25-year-old Kingston, Pa., resident, didn’t miss a beat, smacking a smart 8-iron and stroking two solid putts for a par to register the greatest victory of his short professional career.

Pieczynski’s 5-under 67 put him two shots clear of the field and sent the second-year pro home with the $8,000 winner’s share. Michael McDermott of Merion Golf Club, the reigning Amateur Champion and William Hyndman, III Player of the Year, and Dave McNabb, the head professional at Cavaliers Country Club, tied for second at 3-under par.

“Even though I was in the prime position when I was sitting in [the clubhouse during the delay] I wasn’t assuming it was only going to be one round,” said Pieczynski, an aspiring PGA Tour hopeful who is currently working at The Academy Golf Center in Wilkes Barre, Pa. “You always have to assume it’s going to go the distance. I was playing so well I was looking forward to going back out there.”

The Golf Association of Philadelphia tournament committee decided to reduce the championship from 36 to 18 holes after the lengthy stoppage and the threat of more severe weather looming. Torrential rains and lightning stopped play at 2:38 p.m. The final two groups to complete their initial 18 holes of play returned to the golf course at 3:58 p.m. It was determined any more stoppages, and with another storm already closing in, would result in a lack of daylight.

It was the first Open shortened to 18 holes since 1997.

“That was the goal but it’s still kind of a shock when you do it,” said Pieczynski, of winning the 104th Open. “I’ve been playing well all summer and had a good feeling [coming in here].”

Pieczynski announced his championship intentions early. He hit a “hard” sand wedge from 120 yards on No. 1 (par 4, 378 yards) to six feet for birdie and then made a nice up-and-down from the greenside bunker on No. 3 (par 5, 573 yards) to get to 2 under.

On No. 6 (par 3, 183 yards) Pieczynski rocketed a 6-iron to six feet for another birdie. He hooked his sand wedge over the green on No. 7 (par 4, 394 yards) to drop a shot, but responded in style on No. 9 (par 4, 355 yards) by draining a 40-footer for 3. He headed to the backside at 3-under and tied for the lead on a crowded scoreboard. At one point, four players were at 3-under par.

A poor approach on No. 10 (par 4, 337 yards) resulted in a second bogey before Pieczynski birdied three of the final six holes. He lofted a gap wedge from 82 yards on No. 13 (par 5, 587 yards) to 10 feet; launched a 7-iron on No. 15 (par 3, 166 yards) to 20 feet and rocketed a 9-iron from 156 yards to 10 feet on No. 16 (par 4, 409 yards). He made a nice par saving 12-footer on No. 17 (par 5, 520 yards) after a bad drive and, then, after waiting an hour and a half, knocked his 8-iron from 168 yards on No. 18 (par 4, 434 yards) to the center of the green.

“I didn’t take anything for granted. Some goofy things have been known to happen. I knew if I knocked it on the green and tried to make a birdie I would make an easy par,” said Pieczynski, who has attended the PGA Tour’s Q-School the last two years. “And fortunately, that’s what happened.”

McDermott, who in addition to holding the 2008 Amateur trophy, is also the reigning Middle-Amateur (2008) and Patterson Cup (2007) champion, was looking to become the first individual to hold all four of the Association’s Major titles at once. Instead, he finished as the Low Amateur for the third time in his career (2000, 2003).

After a non-descript even-par front side, McDermott turned up the dial on No. 10 with a sand wedge from 100 yards to 10 feet for birdie. An 8-iron miss to the left of the green on No. 11 (par 3, 175 yards) temporarily stopped his momentum, but McDermott rebounded in a hurry with three birdies in his next four holes. He knocked a pitching wedge from 135 yards to 15 feet on No. 12 (par 4, 390 yards); hit a sand wedge to 10 feet on No. 13 (par 5, 587 yards) and an 8-iron to 10 feet on No. 15. McDermott had a chance to go even lower when he reached the par 5, 17th in two but three putted from 20 feet for a disappointing par.

“No question,” said McDermott if the weather was in the back of his mind. “I said let’s play hard for 18. I got off to kind of a slow start, not bad, but I just wasn’t hitting it great. Then I played a great back nine. I knew that that score was going to be around it and if someone played really well, like Greg did, then it was beatable.”

NOTES – The 72-player field was comprised of 40 amateurs and 32 professionals from the Philadelphia Section of the PGA of America or head professionals of GAP Member Clubs. Of those 72 players, 24 were exempt entrants and 48 were qualifiers from one of three sites. The Open carried a purse of $40,000 for the professionals… this was the first time the Open Championship has been competed at a Bucks County course… defending champion Mark Miller of Yardley struggled with the putter and finished at 3-over-par 75.

Visit page 25 for complete results.
HUNTINGDON VALLEY, Pa. – Longtime friends David Brookreson of Huntingdon Valley Country Club and O. Gordon Brewer, Jr., of Pine Valley Golf Club captured their respective divisions of the inaugural Brewer Cup on July 17. Brookreson defeated clubmate Craig Scott in 20 holes for the Senior Division title while Brewer, the tournament’s namesake, stopped a gritty Charles McClaskey of Wyncote Golf Club, 3&2, for the Super-Senior Division crown at a steamy Huntingdon Valley Country Club.

“It’s not easy to describe,” said Brewer, a former seven-time Huntingdon Valley club champion on taking the title. “Winning any tournament is great. Winning the inaugural Brewer Cup is extra special. And to do it here at Huntingdon Valley adds to that.”

Added Brookreson, “Winning the championship is great. When it’s at your home course and when the trophy’s got [Gordon’s] name on it, it makes it special. I’ve known [Gordon] for 40 years. It seems to me he’s gotten better with age.”

Brewer’s match play scorecards back up Brookreson’s statement. Brewer was in red figures in all three of his Super-Senior matches for the week including a 3-under total in the 16 holes of the final. He birdied No. 15 (par 5, 538 yards) after his hybrid from 254 yards grazed the flagstick in two to remain 2-up at the time and No. 16 (par 4, 363 yards) when he knocked a sand wedge from 81 yards to a foot and a half to close out the match.

McClaskey did all he could to challenge Brewer. He hit 15 of 16 greens en route to shooting even par on those 16 holes.

“It’s always tough to beat your friends,” said McClaskey, 69, of Elkton, Md. “Gordon and I play together in a lot of team events together. We both played solid golf today.”

Both Brewer and McClaskey pointed to the sixth hole (par 4, 392 yards) as the turning point of the match. Brewer was 1-up at the time when he smacked his drive into the right hazard. McClaskey found the green in two but was left with a difficult 25-foot downhill putt. Brewer took a penalty stroke and smacked a fantastic cut shot from 173 yards just to the back edge of the green and managed to get up-and-down for bogey. McClaskey rolled his speedy putt 10 feet past and missed the comebacker.

Brewer remained 1-up.

Two holes later Brewer registered another birdie to go 2-up and McClaskey was in trouble.

“I don’t know what happened,” said Brewer, 71, of Pine Valley, N.J., talking about his game. “You can’t explain or understand it. I couldn’t have had any less confidence coming in here. I wasn’t even sure I could even qualify. I began to hit it pretty good in the qualifying round. Then I just kept playing better in each round.”

In the Senior Division final, neither Brookreson nor Scott held more than a 1-up advantage at any time. A Scott par on No. 13 (par 3, 166 yards) gave him a 1-up edge heading into the final stretch.

The two then halved the next three holes before a poor hybrid tee shot on No. 17 (par 3, 205 yards) found the left-side creek. Brookreson safely found the green with his long iron and the two were All Square with a hole to play.

On No. 18 (par 4, 428 yards) both registered unforced bogeys after their approaches from the middle of the fairway. On the first extra hole, No. 1 (par 4, 382 yards), Brookreson made a fantastic up-and-down from the back left fringe and Scott two putted for par to keep the match going.

On the second playoff hole (No.2, par 4, 432 yards), Brookreson found the fairway and ripped a 7-iron from 162 yards to 20 feet. Scott’s tee ball found the right trees but got a fortunate kick back into the fairway. He launched a 3-wood from 260 yards that stopped about 20 yards short of the green. However, his par save missed and Brookreson two-putted for the win.

“It was just weak legs,” said Scott, 59, of Marshalls Creek, Pa., about his final tee shot. “On any day, any one can beat the next one. I played good enough golf to make the final. It was a treat.”

Back to Brewer for a moment. In addition to his USGA accomplishments, Brewer won Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur titles in 1967 and 1976 as well as the 1997 GAP Senior Amateur Championship title, which earned him Player of the Year honors in that year.

Visit page 24 for complete results.
As a player, administrator and benefactor, John Wood Platt was perhaps the single most influential figure in the history of the Golf Association of Philadelphia.

A seven-time Philadelphia Amateur champion and four-time Joseph H. Patterson Cup winner, Platt was the only man to serve as Association president on two different occasions, and the caddie scholarship trust that bears his name has helped numerous young men and women continue their education. This October, Platt and all his contributions will be enshrined in the Golf Association of Philadelphia’s inaugural Hall of Fame class.

Platt was born April 16, 1898. His early exposure to golf included hitting balls around an open field on the site of what is now Walnut Lane Golf Club.

He also caddied at North Hills Country Club and at one point apparently ran afoul of the USGA’s amateur status regulations; possibly for earning money as a caddie after reaching his 16th birthday. He was soon reinstated, and in 1918, while playing out of North Hills, won the Philadelphia Junior Boys’ Championship, defeating H.L. Newton of Frankford Golf Club in the championship match. (The age limit for juniors was 21 at the time.)

The following year, Platt won three matches at the U.S. Amateur Championship to reach the semifinals including a 38-hole victory over Francis Ouimet in the quarterfinal, before being eliminated, 7&6, by S. Davidson Heron. Heron went on to defeat Bobby Jones in the final.

In 1920, Platt won his first Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur Championship, defeating Horace Francine of Huntingdon Valley Country Club over the latter’s home course.

Platt, by now a member of Whitemarsh Valley Country Club, won additional Philadelphia Amateur titles in 1922, 1924 and 1928 and reached the final on two other occasions before losing, once to his brother Zimmer in 1926. He won the Patterson Cup in 1926 and 1928 and finished second in the Philadelphia Open in 1921. He also won the Silver Cross four times between 1922 and 1928.

When he traveled to England to play in the British Amateur in 1921, Platt was part of an American team that competed against their peers from Britain in a challenge match that was a precursor to the Walker Cup. In 1922, he defeated Tommy Armour in the final of the Nassau Country Club Invitational, one of the country’s most prestigious amateur events at the time.

During the 1930s, Platt remained one of the top players in the area. He captured the Silver Cross in 1931 and the Pennsylvania Amateur in 1935 before winning his fifth Philadelphia Amateur in 1938.

That year marked the start of a three-year period when the Amateur was contested at stroke play. Platt was perhaps the most vocal advocate for the change, and observers, then and now, have maintained that he pushed for it to give himself an advantage.

Platt also won his third Patterson Cup that year as well as the Silver Cross. The following year he won his sixth Amateur and seventh and last Silver Cross. In 1941, he won the Patterson Cup for the fourth and last time.

In 1942, the Philadelphia Amateur was restored to a match-play format, and Platt, now 44 years old, reached the semifinals at his home course of Whitemarsh Valley. That year the semifinals and final were played on the same day in sizzling temperatures.
Platt, who had had two bouts with sunstroke earlier in his career, got past George Griffin, 4&3, in the semifinals before facing Duff McCullough in a championship match that was delayed until late afternoon, supposedly at McCullough’s insistence, to allow Platt to recover from his morning match.

The championship match reached the 20th hole before Platt prevailed to win his seventh and last Philadelphia Amateur title.

In the following years, Platt continued to compete in tournaments, but focused more of his energy on the administrative side of golf, particularly after becoming a member of the Association’s Executive Committee in 1945.

His last great moment as a competitor came in 1955, when he headed to Belle Meade Country Club near Nashville, Tenn., to compete in the first U.S. Senior Amateur Championship. After 18 holes of qualifying and four matches, Platt defeated George Studinger, 5&4, in the 18-hole final to finally claim a USGA national championship at age 57.

Platt died of a heart attack Dec. 8, 1959 at age 61.

Fifty years later, his accomplishments continue to impress. His seven Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur Championships will likely never be equaled and his total of 11 GAP Major titles puts him third on the all-time list behind William Hyndman, III (15) and R. Jay Sigel (13).

Platt’s daughter, Mary Clay Platt Lee, watched her father compete on a number of occasions and said he wasted little time getting on with his business. “He played fast,” she recalled, “really fast. He used to say that you could see where the ball landed and that you should make the decision about what club to use and how to use it while you were walking up to it. By the time he arrived at his ball he’d made his decision and he would go ahead and hit it.”

Apart from his competitive success, Lee remembers how much her father enjoyed the game of golf for its own sake. “He refused to let the stress of the game get to him,” she said. “He enjoyed looking at the flowers and the trees, it was part of the beauty of the game.”

J. WOOD PLATT RÉSUMÉ

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Rick Woelfel is a freelance writer from Willow Grove, Pa., who has covered golf in the Philadelphia region for the last 13 years.
William Hyndman, III built an amateur golfing résumé that was second to none for its sheer longevity.

At the tender age of 19, Hyndman became the then youngest winner of the Amateur Championship when he earned the first of three Amateur titles in 1935.

Some 48 years later — at the tender age of 67 — he became the oldest person to win a USGA national championship when victorious at the 1983 U.S. Senior Amateur.

In between, Hyndman won countless other events and played on numerous local and national teams, showcasing his skills and camaraderie around the globe.

Still, throughout such a lengthy and distinguished amateur career, Hyndman may have enjoyed nothing more than his chance to share his passion for the game with others.

Upon his passing in September of 2001, that has become the legacy Hyndman left to Philadelphia golf, the memberships at Huntingdon Valley Country Club, Pine Valley Golf Club and others, and certainly to some of the top amateur players in the area over the past 50 years.

The man born on Christmas Day, 1915, was a true gift to the area golfing landscape. This October, William Hyndman, III will be part of the inaugural class to be inducted into the Golf Association of Philadelphia Hall of Fame.

WILLIAM HYNDMAN, III

had a pretty good chance of running into him," said Jim Sullivan, Jr., the former Amateur and Silver Cross winner who grew up at Huntingdon Valley.

Hyndman, approaching 80 at the time, would often join up for nine-hole matches with Sullivan, who was approaching high school graduation back then.

Hyndman practiced nearly every day and lived across the street from the eighth hole. When a fence was erected to enclose the course, a four-foot gap was left by the green to allow Hyndman easy access.

"I don't know if I ever beat him in any of our nine-hole matches," Sullivan said. "We played for a soda. He never let me give him the soda, but I don't know that he ever had to buy me one."

Here was a man who had achieved nearly everything in amateur golf, yet received no greater pleasure than seeing others develop the love for golf as he had decades before.

"He always made sure to tell you how wonderful the game of golf had been to him," said fellow Huntingdon Valley member Dave Brookeson, whose personal résumé includes Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur, Middle-Amateur, Joseph H. Patterson Cup, Silver Cross and Senior Silver Cross championships. "He gave back so much to the game. You’d see him out there playing with anyone, and he always offered encouragement.

"He’d never give a lesson, but if you asked him a question, he’d offer a positive comment. Those talks were a tremendous influence on me."

For Hyndman, the turning point in his career may have come at the final of the 1955 U.S. Amateur, when he was defeated, 9&8, by Harvie Ward. Hyndman was then 39, his game only blossoming into form. Prior to that tournament, Hyndman had earned one Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur Championship, along with four Patterson Cups, three Silver Crosses and two Crump Cup victories at Pine Valley.

It was certainly a tremendous list of achievements. Yet, following that tournament, Hyndman would take home two more Association Amateur titles, six more Patterson Cups, three more Silver Crosses, two more Crumps, two Philadelphia Open titles, two Sunnehanna Amateur Tournaments, a Philadelphia Senior Amateur, a North and South Amateur Championship, and a Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship crown.

He would be named to five Walker Cup teams, play in nine Masters Tournaments (he is the last Amateur to record a hole-in-one, that being on hole No. 12), reach three British Amateur finals and win two U.S.
Senior Amateur Championship titles, first in 1973 and again in 1983.

O. Gordon Brewer, Jr., who like Hyndman has his name engraved twice on the U.S. Senior Amateur trophy, talked of a conversation he once had with Jack Nicklaus, a two-time Walker Cup teammate of Hyndman. The Golden Bear referred to Hyndman as one of the best players he had ever known.

“Bill was the leading amateur of his era,” Brewer said. “I learned a great deal from him. He just had an ability that was exceptional for an amateur.

“No matter what the shot, Bill had the creativity and the confidence to know he could do it. That’s something you see in true champions.”

Hyndman, who shot 67 at Huntingdon Valley CC at the age of 76, won his final club championship at Adios Golf Club in Florida, in 1990, giving him the rare distinction of having won clubs championships over seven different decades.

“He just got better with age,” Brookreso said. “I used to ask him how. He’d always just say, ‘Dave, I’m like a good red wine.’ He was.”

And on Oct. 7 at Torresdale-Frankford Country Club during the Player’s Dinner and the Hall of Fame induction ceremony, the current elite of Philadelphia Amateur golf will raise a toast to one of the true champions and true gentlemen of the sport.

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### Bobby Jones sees greatest shot

In October of 1958 William Hyndman, III was part of a quartet that represented the United States in the inaugural World Amateur Team Championship at St. Andrews with Bobby Jones serving as the non-playing American captain.

Three plus rounds into the competition, Australia emerged from a tight race with Great Britain, Ireland and the United States - as the likely victor. Hyndman, however, carried America’s final hope if he could tally an aggregate seven on the final two holes, including the infamous Road Hole.

The following is an excerpt from A Centennial Tribute to Golf in Philadelphia by Jim Finegan.

“Jones explained the situation to Hyndman on the tee, As Jones later wrote, “The best that I could tell him was… that I thought he should go for a 4-3 finish, never dreaming that a 3 at 17 was at all possible.

In these circumstances – the climax of an international competition where one man is left out there alone to uphold the prestige of his country; at his side, the game’s most revered figure and perhaps its greatest champion; under lowering laden skies with a cold, heavy wind driving across the links – in these circumstances, then, how monumental is the task of playing this terrorizing 446-yard hole in 4, how near to unthinkable the achievement of a 3.

Again in Jones’s own words “… I had the night before told our team to take no chance with the road at 17 unless the situation appeared to be dire…”

Hyndman selected a 4-iron and turned toward Jones. There was no choice but to go courageously for the hole, cut some 15 feet beyond the Road Bunker. The shot called for him to assume full risk of that ruinously deep vertical-faced pit on the left, the bank and the road and the stone wall on the right… Jones nodded… Hyndman then unfurled as brilliant a long-iron as that hole – indeed, any hole – is ever likely to witness. With just a suggestion of fade to counter the right-to-left wind – “The ball hung there,” Bill recalls, “fighting the wind all the way” – the ball cleared the venomous pot bunker, floated down onto the green, and nearly struck the flagstick as it coasted to a stop no more than six feet past the cup.

“I wanted to aim the putt left to right, but my caddie told me to knock it at the middle of the hole. I did, for 3, then nearly birdied 18. We tied Australia.”

In a playoff two days later, St. Andrews was closed on Sunday, the Australians were victorious.

However, when Hyndman returned home he found a framed photo of the 17th hole with the inscription: “The 17th hole, the Road Hole, St. Andrews, where I saw Billy Hyndman hit the greatest shot of my life.” Signed, “Bob Jones.”

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### WILLIAM HYNDMAN, III RÉSUMÉ

**Golf Association of Philadelphia**

*Amateur Championships 1935, 1958, 1965*  
*Junior Boys’ Championship 1932*  
*Open Championships 1968-69*  
*Senior Amateur Championship, 1980*  
*Silver Cross 1946, 1952, 1954, 1956-58*

**United States Golf Association**

*U.S. Amateur Championship*  
1955 – fell to E. Harvie Ward, Jr., 9&8, in the final at CC of Virginia in Richmond, Va.  

*U.S. Senior Amateur Championship*  
1973 – defeated Harry Welch, 3&2, at Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest, Ill.  

*Walker Cup*  

*World Amateur Team Championship American representative*  
1958 – Tied for low amateur at St. Andrews (Old Course) with Charlie Coe, Billy Joe Patton and Bud Taylor  
1960 – Tied for low amateur at Merion GC (East Course) with Jack Nicklaus and Dean Beaman  

**Pennsylvania Golf Association**  
Senior Amateur Championship (1 – 1978)

**Other notable Amateur accomplishments**

(in alphabetical order)  
British Amateur Championship runner-up (1959, 1969-70)  
Masters Tournament (7 – top finish 1959 T18)  
Middle Atlantic Golf Association Amateur champion (1966)  
North and South Amateur Championship winner (1961)  
Northeast Amateur Invitational Golf Tournament winner (1974)  
Sonny Fraser Tournament champion (1948, 1952, 1957, 1961)  
Sunnehanna Amateur Tournament for Champions winner (1958, 1967)  
Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship winner (1968)  
U.S. Open Championship tied for 15th (1957)

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Tom Kerrane is a sports writer for the Norristown Times Herald and has been covering golf since 1990.
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The site of Laura Ladden holding the Glenna Collett Vare Trophy is getting to be a familiar one.

Ladden, who plays out of Whitford Country Club, defeated Alison Shoemaker of Philadelphia Cricket Club, 12&10, to win the 111th Philadelphia Women’s Amateur Championship at Rolling Green Golf Club. It was her third championship in succession and the seventh of her career.

Ladden won medallist honors in qualifying with a 1-under-par 70 then won three matches to get to the final without having to go past the 14th hole.

She was just as impressive in the finale, taking the lead with a birdie at the fifth hole and building a 5-up lead after the 10th.

“In match play you can really focus on only one hole at a time,” Ladden said. “If you make a mistake, you just leave it and move on, which works well for me.”

Shoemaker, who was appearing in her first final, won her first and only hole at the 11th; she appeared to have won the 13th but called a one-stroke penalty on herself when her ball moved as she was stroking a putt.

At the lunch break, Ladden was 7-up and maintained her momentum in the afternoon, hitting the last 15 greens before closing out the match at the 26th hole.

“Shoemaker said. “She’s amazing. “She’s amazing.”

Ladden’s seven titles tie her with Meghan Bolger for fourth place on the all-time list behind Helen Sigel Wilson (12), Ann Laughlin (11) and Dorothy Porter (9).

“It just kind of puts everything in perspective after everything that happened to me previously,” Ladden said. “Now my priorities are shifted a little bit and golf is just fun. I love being out here and competing against all these women. It’s not something I feel like I have to do anymore, it’s something I want to do.”

Andy Karff of Philmont Country Club established the William S. Flynn Memorial Tournament, better known as the Flynn Cup, in 1997 as a vehicle to celebrate the architect’s legacy in the Philadelphia area. Every October since, the area’s Flynn-designed facilities get together for an inter-club competition at one of his courses. This fall Bala Golf Club, which was added to the rotunda last year, will host.

And one of its most famous sons, R. Jay Sigel, will serve as guest dinner speaker. Sigel, a current member of the Champions Tour and, arguably, one of the greatest amateur golfers of all-time, learned the game at Bala Golf Club as a child and still holds an honorary membership at the Belmont Avenue site. He’s also expected to be healed from earlier left shoulder surgery and represent Bala in the competition.

The tournament is a modified-stableford format consisting of 10 players from each club – seven men, two women and one club professional. Connie Lagerman, William Flynn’s daughter, will present the Flynn Cup to the team with the highest point total.


The tournament is typically held the first Friday in October.

Plymouth Country Club will host next year’s tournament.
Gone but not forgotten: Tredyffrin Country Club

Located in the heart of the Main Line, Tredyffrin Country Club played host to the first Philadelphia Section PGA Championship, the immortal Bobby Jones established the course record and its signature hole may have inspired Jones to create the most famous par 3 in the world.

And there is a good chance that you didn’t know of its existence.

More than six decades have passed since the 18-hole, par-70 facility in Paoli closed its doors for good. It’s actually been gone for 39 more years than it was around. And finding anybody that has first-hand memories of the place is becoming more and more difficult with each passing year. Tony Difronzo of Coatesville, Pa., worked there as a youngster, and he is now 76.

“I remember as a young boy, I caddied and did other odd jobs, like picking dandelions off the greens and raking traps for 25 cents an hour,” said Difronzo, who still has newspaper clippings and notes from his experiences in 1941-42, just prior to Tredyffrin’s demise.

For more than a quarter century, the 6,228-yard Tredyffrin Country Club was one of the region’s premier private clubs. Situated on 135-acres just south of Lancaster Avenue (Route 30) on both sides of Leopard Road (now Route 252), the course opened in 1917 and was designed by Alex Findlay (1866-1942), a Scot who is recognized by historians as the first golfer to record a score of 72 in 1886, thus establishing the standard target score, or par, for 18 holes on a regulation course. Called the “Father of Golf in America,” Findlay went on to design more than 100 courses all across the country, but made his biggest impact in the Philadelphia region at places like Llanerch, Coatesville, Tavistock and Reading country clubs, as well as Philadelphia public courses Walnut Lane and John F. Byrne.

“There were few courses in the area at the time and [Tredyffrin] was one of the elite,” said Malvern’s Dave “Pappy” Kilpatrick, 92, who also caddied at the club as a kid.

“The layout was fantastic,” added Difronzo, who remembers being paid $1.25 for 18 holes. “If it was still around, I honestly believe it would rival Merion. Compared to places like Chester Valley, Waynesborough and Aronimink, I would put Tredyffrin above all of those.”

In its infancy, the club was limited to 200 members and Tredyffrin routinely played host to prestigious tournaments. Just eight years after becoming the first winner of the PGA Championship in 1913, Jim Barnes prevailed in the Main Line Open at Tredyffrin. And in 1922, the best professionals in the region gathered in Paoli to crown their first section champion.

“In my research, I discovered that they actually had sand greens through 1923,” said Pete Trenham, who serves as a historian for the Philadelphia PGA.

In addition, the Golf Association of Philadelphia’s Powell Cup made its debut at Tredyffrin in 1926, and club member Charles S. Powell donated the trophy that is still awarded annually to the winning team.

Pro golf immortals like Byron Nelson and Sam Snead tackled the course, which featured holes 1-14 on the east side of Leopard Road and 15-18 on the west. But Jones provided the single most memorable moment when he reportedly carded a 66 at Tredyffrin during an exhibition in 1930, the same year he attained golf’s original Grand Slam.

“I was a kid and I walked the course to watch [Jones] play,” the late Frank Rossi of Malvern, Pa., told the Daily Local News in 2001.

“There wasn’t a statue, but there was a framed plaque in the clubhouse to commemorate Bobby Jones and the course record,” Difronzo confirmed.

With a picturesque pond fronting a shallow green, the 135-yard 15th hole was the most memorable at Tredyffrin. Club members were convinced that playing the hole prompted Jones to incorporate a similar design to the 12th hole at Augusta National, which opened three years later.

“I heard that from quite a few members of the club in the early 1940s,” Difronzo recalled. “It was just a beautiful golf hole and I can...
see why Jones may have gotten the idea to put something like it on his home course in Georgia."

Even though dues for an entire family was just $60 per year and it cost members $2 per round, the Depression hit Tredyffrin and nearby St. Davids Golf Club, particularly hard. And despite some innovative ideas, things didn’t improve much during World War II.

"It wasn’t far from the Paoli Train Station and during the war years, golfers couldn’t get gasoline due to rationing," Trenham explained. "One of the members donated a horse and wagon and they used it to shuttle golfers back and forth."

In an effort to bolster its sagging fortunes, St. Davids made a play for some Tredyffrin members, offering to waive the initiation fee if they would switch clubs.

"Quite a few did," said Trenham. "St. Davids survived and Tredyffrin didn’t."

To complicate matters, funds from the club were apparently missing. By 1943, membership had dipped below 100 and the end was near. "There were some problems with the manipulation of funds, and that eventually caused it to fall apart," DiFronzo said.

The property was eventually sold in 1945 for a mere $30,000. The Paoli Shopping Center now occupies the part of the course that was west of Leopard Road. The eastern portion is now a residential neighborhood featuring streets like Golf Club Lane, Fairway Road and Longercourse Lane.

It is the only indication that Tredyffrin Country Club was once located in the area.

Neil Geoghegan is a sports writer for Journal Register News Service and has covered golf since 1993.
WHAT’S IN THE BAG

Grant and Jonathan Liu of Commonwealth National Golf Club

Grant and Jonathan Liu of Commonwealth National Golf Club carded a 4-over-par 74 on July 2 at JC Melrose Country Club to earn the Father-Son (younger) Junior-Junior Division Championship. Grant, 46, is a Golf Digest Top 100 panelist, who was recently listed No. 32 in Golf Digest’s Top 250 Golfer Doctors in America and serves as the Junior Golf Chairman at Commonwealth National GC. Jonathan, 13, has been swinging a club and hitting golf balls since he was 2 years old.

JONATHAN LIU

Driver
TaylorMade R7, 11.5 degrees with 60 Re-Ax regular shaft.

“When I got this driver I was very young, so I needed more loft. That’s why I got the 11.5 degrees. We recently replaced my junior shaft with the original regular shaft and I love it.”

5-wood
TaylorMade 200 steel with Golfsmith Hi-Cor GS 50 shaft.

“I got my 5-wood from my dad only about a month ago and we replaced his shaft with a junior one. It goes far and straight and it is very light. My dad says I hit it farther and better than he did.”

Hybrid
Nike Slingshot, 3-20 degrees.

“I got this hybrid because I hit my older Nike hybrid so well I wanted to get another one. It doesn’t go that far, but it is very easy to hit. And that’s what I love about the Nike hybrids.”

Irons
Nike Slingshot (5-approach wedge) with graphite shafts.

“My irons are very much like my hybrid. They are very easy to hit and they go up in the air. When I was playing in a junior match at Fox Chapel Golf Club, the kids I was playing with commented on my irons. They said when I hit the ball my irons make the smoothest and most solid sound.”

Wedges
Cleveland Tour Action 900 Junior Series; Titleist Vokey 60 degrees.

“I’ve had the Cleveland wedge for a very long time and we replaced the short graphite junior shaft with a steel True Temper shaft a few weeks ago. Recently, I have been chipping amazingly and getting a lot of up-and-downs.”

Putter
Ping Craz-E.

“I got this putter for Christmas five years ago and we cut down the shaft. I recently got it extended back to a normal length because it was getting way too small.”

Ball
Titleist ProV1x.

“I have tried many Titleist balls but I seem to putt better with this type of ball.”

In closing
“I would like a new driver with less loft. The next thing after that would be to add steel shafts to my irons.”

GRANT LIU

Driver
Ping G2, 10 degrees with Grafalloy ProLaunch Blue stiff shaft.

“I don’t hit the ball very far but I finally found a driver and shaft that confidently allows me to hit the ball consistently straight and solid at a reasonable distance.

This club is staying in my bag.”

3-wood
TaylorMade R7 steel, 15 degrees, 70 Re-Ax regular shaft.

“I can hit this club well off the tee but I still have trouble hitting it consistently off the ground. I’m still looking for a 3-wood that will work for me in both situations.”

Hybrids
Ping G5 19 and 22 degrees, both Grafalloy ProLaunch Blue stiff shafts

“I replaced my 2, 3 and 4 irons with these two hybrids, which have greatly improved my game. Compared with the long irons, my hybrids are easier to hit, go straighter and higher, and are much better out of the rough. There are fewer misses and I can now get the ball on the green from 200 yards in the rough. I liked the driver shaft so much that when I found out these Ping hybrids were available with these shafts, it was a no-brainer.”

Irons
Titleist 535*CM (5-PW) with Dynamic Gold Superlite shafts, R300.

“When Titleist came out with this blade/cavity back combination set a few years ago, I jumped at it. I like the classic look from above, blade-type irons in wedge, 9 and 8 irons, and the forgiveness of cavity back irons in my 7, 6 and 5 irons.

Wedges
Cleveland Tour Action 588, 56 and 64 degrees; Titleist Vokey 252-08 52 degrees.

“I use four wedges because I thought I should play to what I feel is my strength, which is my short game. In addition, I don’t hit as many greens as some better ball strikers, so I need to get up-and-down more often. I hit the 52-degree wedge 95 yards and chip with it from short grass. I pitch from different distances and chip from the rough with the 56 degree. I’ll use the 56- and 64-degree wedges from the sand, preferring the latter when the sand is hard or wet, the shot is short, or if I have to get the ball up quickly. I started using the 64 degree six years ago after going to a Pelz short game school. It faces so far upward that my caddie at Carnoustie said I should be careful not to hit myself in the face with my golf ball when using it.”

Putter
Odyssey TriForce 1 (black face insert).

“This putter feels great and fits my eye – I make tons of putts with it. I got this putter nine years ago after winning a gift certificate at a member-guest tournament at Radnor Valley [Country Club]. It’s a heavier, steadier version of a Ping Anser putter I used for years before.”

Ball
Titleist ProV1

“I’ve played Titleist balls for over 30 years. I like the feel and control of the black ProV1 when I putt and play short shots around the green.”

In closing
“Overall, I don’t really tinker around too much with the combination of clubs that I have. I bought my driver, 3-wood and hybrids – all virtually brand new – on Ebay, a great source for golf clubs. Over the past few years I’ve also learned to perform simple clubmaking tasks: regripping and reshaping, for instance. I’m no junkie, but I can keep my clubs in good shape and also build for my kids the clubs best suited for their size and strength.”
The Rules of Golf

How do you spell relief?

When I think of a player getting relief from something under the Rules of Golf, I immediately think of the term “nearest point of relief.” The key to understanding this term starts with the definition in front of the United States Golf Association (USGA) Rules of Golf book. It states, “The nearest point of relief is the reference point for taking relief without penalty from interference by an immovable obstruction (Rule 24-2), an abnormal ground condition (Rule 25-1) or a wrong putting green (Rule 25-3). It is the nearest point on the course nearest to where the ball lies:

(i) that is not nearer the hole, and
(ii) where, if the ball were so positioned, no interference by the condition from which relief is sought would exist for the stroke the player would have made from the original position if the condition were not there.”

You will note that this term is not applicable to rules such as Water Hazards (Rule 26) or Ball Unplayable (Rule 28). These rules have specific options with penalties attached. Under the rules stated in the definition (24-2, 25-1, 25-3), the key thing to remember is that there is only one nearest point of relief.

In practice, it becomes a measuring contest by the player in determining the nearest point of relief. The player is not guaranteed an open shot or a better situation merely because he is entitled to relief from interference from an immovable obstruction, an abnormal ground condition or a wrong putting green.

The only thing the player is guaranteed is relief from the applicable condition in accordance with the applicable Rule. The nearest point of relief may be in the middle of a bush (or in another undesirable place), in which case, the player is obligated to use this reference point if he elects to take relief under Rules 24-2 and Rule 25-1, or is required to take relief under Rule 25-3.

At the end of the definition, there is a Note that assists the player in the method of determining the nearest point of relief.

It states, “In order to determine the nearest point of relief accurately, the player should use the club with which he would have made his next stroke if the condition were not there to simulate the address position, direction of play and swing for such a stroke.” The best example of how this works is the situation of a ball lying in the middle of the cart path.

The player does not have the option of dropping on either side of the path. He must find the nearest point of relief where interference from the cart path no longer exists (i.e. relief for lie of ball, stance and area of intended swing). This point may vary depending on if the player is left-handed or right-handed, the club with which he would use for the next stroke or the direction of play. In some cases, it may be advisable for the player to take relief on both sides of the path, put a mark on the nearest point of relief, and then measure to find THE nearest point of relief.

There are two very informative decisions in the USGA Decisions on The Rules of Golf book that are extremely helpful in understanding this concept.

You can refer to Decision 24-2b/1 (Determining “Nearest Point of Relief”) and Decision 25-1b/2 (Diagrams Illustrating “Nearest Point of Relief”) to get a better understanding. If you read through these decisions slowly and use a situation at your favorite course to put them in context, I’m sure it will help you understand.

You can also view those decisions on the USGA Web site at www.usga.org.

Tom Carpus is a PGA Master Professional from Kennett Square G&CC where he has been since 1998. He is an instructor at the USGA/PGA Rules Workshops and has been a member of the PGA of America Rules Committee since 1995. He has officiated at 13 PGA Championships, the Masters, PLAYERS Championship, BMW Championship and will be at this year’s Ryder Cup at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky.
## GAP Tournament Qualifiers

### 26 to 27 years

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<td>Samantha S.</td>
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### 14 to 16 years

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Club</th>
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GOLF ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA

GAP Tournament Results

Pre-Junior Tournament

Junior Club Tournament (St. Martin's) July 9, 2004

Boys

Cameron Winters, Huntingdon Valley 68

Cameron Stover, Honeybrook 71

Cameron Thompson, Huntingdon Valley 75

Cameron Young, Huntingdon Valley 77

Girls

Lucy Winters, Honeybrook 69

Avery Davis, Honeybrook 70

Mary Kline, Honeybrook 74

Kristen Kline, Honeybrook 77

Golf Staff

Justin Greaves, Chief Examiner

Mary举行，T图纸

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James Kinnard, 2nd Vice President

Amy Shinsky, Secretary

Janice Mack, Treasurer

Carrie DeSantis, Chief Scribe

Jim Whelan, Director of Operations

Jason Huber, Membership Coordinator

John Kundratic, Youth Coordinator

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GOLF ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA

GAP TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Joseph DelongCip, Jenkintown 95
Michael Hayes, Willow Down 94

Super Senior Open
Name:  Score:  Place:  Notes:
O’Connell, 68 1 1st
Charles McCurdy, 78 2 2nd
James Sherett, 78 3 3rd
O’Connell, 68 4 4th
Mike Mehan, 50 5 5th

Failed to qualify
*David Jordan, Woodside 79
*Warren Drakas, Philadelphia 79
*Jarts Schninger, Philadelphia 81
Art Boston, Dunfalt 82
Bill Millet, JC, Mehl 82
Bob Wicker, Little Mill 82
Christopher Frazier, Sunnybrook 83
Baskin Davis, Overbrook 83
Herbert Gonzdon, Doylestown 84
Kent Worthman, Jr., Philadelphia Publics 84
Clay von Sollecken, Sunnybrook 88
Jay Cuban, JC, Mehl 90
*n deployment in play

Match play bracket
Senior Division Final Round
1. David Brooks, Huntingdon Valley 85
2. J.C. Donnelly, Concord 84
3. Robert Lafferty, North Hills 75
4. Ben Fox, Chester Valley 76

Senior Division Semifinals
4. Garrett Conway, Burlington 80
Daniel Novak, Talamore 80
Jack Rosenberg, Waynesborough 79
James DeLuca, Lookaway 77
Cameron Liebert, Edgmont 76
John Fasy, Wilmington 75
Jerry Temple, Jr., Cavaliers 75
Andrew Keeling, Yardley 73

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Junior-Junior Flight
Name:  Score:  Place:  Notes:
Ian Byerly, Coatesville  92-87-81-89=349
James Braunsberg, Blue Bell  77-78-86-82=323
Cameron Liebert, Edgmont  80-84-82-76=322

Junior-Junior Flight Semifinals
4. Garrett Conway, Burlington 80
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James DeLuca, Lookaway 77
Cameron Liebert, Edgmont 76
John Fasy, Wilmington 75
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Junior-Junior Flight Quarterfinals
16. Dougherty d. 9. Thomas Bartolacci, Jr., St. Davids, 21 holes
Ian Byerly, Coatesville  92-87-81-89=349
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Junior-Junior Flight Open Championship
Huntingdon Valley 76

Junior-Junior Flight Open Championship Scores
Name:  Score:  Place:  Notes:
David Brooks, Huntingdon Valley 85
Jordan Luke, Waynesborough 84
Robert Lafferty, North Hills 75
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Name:  Score:  Place:  Notes:
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Jordan Luke, Waynesborough 84
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Ben Fox, Chester Valley 76
Stroke play qualifying

Bastian, Jr., Rolling Green, 5&3
1. Robert Firth, Jr., Commonwealth def. 7. Matw
3&1; 6. Ade d. 3. Drew Guarino, Burlington,
Thornton d. 2. Connor Goodrich, Woodbury,
Frankford, 4&3; 7. Thornton d. 6. Matt Ade,
5. Andrew Willner, White Manor d. 7. W. Evan
Quirk, Huntingdon Valley, 1-up
Five Ponds, 5&4; 6. Rosenberg, Jr., d. 3. Jack
1. Dupre d. 8. Nolan Dirienzi, Rolling Green,
Quarterfinals
Rolling Green, 2-up
Final
Commonwealth, 2&1
3&2; 6. Papariello d. 7. Jonathan Liu,
Final
Match play brackets
Garrett Grubb, Overbrook WD
Jack Farris, Huntingdon Valley 64
Thomas Leighton, Huntingdon Valley 60
Daniel Altieri, Hopewell Valley 51
Jacob Klaus, Tavistock 50
Andrew Willner, White Manor 49
Nolan Dirienzi, Rolling Green 47
Jack Quirk, Huntingdon Valley 44
Eric Stafford, Philadelphia Publinks 44
Alex Dupre, Rolling Green 43
Jack Gregor, Huntingdon Valley 41

Ages 60 and over
Robin McCool, Saucon Valley WD
Vince Yost, Cedarbrook 86
Joseph DeAngelis, Jericho 86
Charles Johanson, Philadelphia Cricket 84
Bob Harris, Blue Bell 84
Dennis Durkin, Whitemarsh Valley 83
Andrew Guinan, Applebrook 80
Jack Gregor/Douglas Gregor,
Luke Schweitzer/Kurt Schweitzer,
Michael Johnson/Kevin Messerle,
Andrew Schmehl/Mike Brunswick,
Jeff Clark/Christopher DeLuca, Lookaway 69
Estanislao Guerrero, Norfolk, Va. 71Du-69Ne–140
Christopher Gold, Haddonfield, N.J. 71Du-63Ne–134

Pennsylvania
Bruce Summer, Philadelphia Country Club 85

Yale

Steve Woulfe, Tavistock 77

New York

O’Hair, Philadelphia Cricket 83

Delaware

Fred Hensley, Huntingdon Valley 79

Ohio

Jim Quinn, Columbus 79

West Virginia

Bob Berenholz, White Manor 86
David Maslanka, Seaview Marriott 84

Virginia

Bill Smith, Sandy Run WD

North Carolina

John Pappas, Wintergreen 75

Alabama

James Donnelly, Wayne, Pa. 76

Missouri

David Hackett, Kansas City 84

Florida

Robert Fernandez, Jericho National WD
Michael Flatley, Bellewood WD
Bill Smith, Sandy Run WD

Wisconsin

Robert Berenholz, White Manor 86
David Maslanka, Seaview Marriott 84

New Jersey

James Donnelly, Wayne, Pa. 76

Oregon

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South Carolina

Robert Fernandez, Jericho National WD
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Michigan

Robert Berenholz, White Manor 86
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<td>Brian Kania, Overbrook</td>
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</table>

Silver Cross Award standings

The Silver Cross is awarded to the player with the lowest average score in the qualifying round of the Amateur Championship and the Patterson Cup.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Scores</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael McDermott, Mert</td>
<td>Bradford CC</td>
<td>-156</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Kania, Overbrook</td>
<td>Wilderness Highland</td>
<td>-155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Bernard, RiverCrest</td>
<td>RiverCrest</td>
<td>-154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warren Smith, Cavaliers</td>
<td>Cavaliers</td>
<td>-153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Penn, Commonwealth</td>
<td>Commonwealth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathan Sutherland, Golden Oaks</td>
<td>Golden Oaks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Wachter, Phoenixville</td>
<td>Phoenixville</td>
<td>-152</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Kaelin, Saucon Valley</td>
<td>Saucon Valley</td>
<td>-152</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Murray, Merion</td>
<td>Overbrook</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Hyndman, III</td>
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<td>-145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael McDermott, Mert</td>
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<td>-145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Dziak, Spring Ford</td>
<td>Spring Ford</td>
<td>-141</td>
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<td>Andrew Zoeller, Waynesborough</td>
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<td>Tuck Koch, RiverCrest</td>
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<td>Ben Bershad, Hopewell Valley</td>
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<td>-141</td>
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<td>Sean Leonard, Lu Lu</td>
<td>Lu Lu</td>
<td>-141</td>
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<td>Dental Society, Philadelphia</td>
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<td>-141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Hargadon, Sandy Run</td>
<td>Sandy Run</td>
<td>-136</td>
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<td>Geoffrey Cooper, Laurel Creek</td>
<td>Laurel Creek</td>
<td>-136</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Brennan, Spring Barrens</td>
<td>Spring Barrens</td>
<td>-136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael McDermott, Mert</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>-136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You haven’t played golf until you’ve played the Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest-designed course, White Clay Creek Country Club at Delaware Park. With 7,007 yards of trimmed green and natural rough, this course is challenging enough for the avid golfer, yet playable for the beginner. Water comes into play on most of the holes. Carts are equipped with a state-of-the-art GPS system and electronic scorecard, as well as on-site beverage service.

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