

Golf Association of Philadelphia

CELEBRATING AMATEUR GOLF SINCE 1897

Magazine



GAP TEAM MATCHES

COMMONWEALTH NATIONAL DEFENDS TEAM MATCHES TITLE



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INSIDE - WHITEMARSH VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

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Letter from the President

As I write this letter on a cold and blustery day in late February, it's nice to be thinking about the upcoming season, and in particular, the GAP Team Matches. There is nothing in all of the golf world and, maybe, in all of amateur sports, quite like the GAP Team Matches.

The Matches, which serve as the customary opener to the golf season, were the genesis of the Association in 1897. They have grown in many ways, spawning fantastic champions, great memories and long-lasting friendships.

Its scope is mind bending. This year a record 324, 12-man teams (3,888 players each week of the three weeks) from 126 Member Clubs will participate in the Matches. And for the first time ever, the Association welcomes a public facility, Wedgwood Country Club, to the Division AA bracket.

Its size may be unique but its format, too, is uncommon nowadays, where no strokes are given. It's the purest form of golf. You against your opponent: straight up.

If you were wondering what makes it special, I think the look on the faces of the Commonwealth National Golf Club Team on the front cover of the Magazine says it all. This was their first overall championship and, without question, one of the highlights of their golfing careers. Good luck to all our participants this year and enjoy the vast variety of golf courses represented in the Golf Association of Philadelphia Team Matches.

We are equally excited about the creation of three new events to this year's schedule: The Father-Son Middle Tournament; the Brewer Cup and the 27-Hole Senior Challenge. All of these events were added to the calendar due to increased demand.

The Father-Son Middle Tournament, to be held at Bellewood Golf Club, was added because last year we turned away too many families. The Association understood the disappointment and decided to address it immediately.

The addition of the Brewer Cup, a match-play tournament honoring the legendary O. Gordon Brewer, Jr., increases the Senior Championships circuit to six events – Warner Cup (Gross), U.S. Senior Open Qualifier, Brewer Cup, U.S. Senior Amateur Championship Qualifier, Chapman Cup (Gross) and



GAP President Dan Burton

the Senior Amateur Championship. These individual events, listed above in chronological order, are spread out over the entire season.

The Association also increased the number of senior team events to three with the addition of the 27-Hole Senior Challenge. It joins the Senior Four-Man Team and Senior Better-Ball.

The new 27-Hole Senior Challenge, set for Sept. 15 at Concord Country Club, will consist of two-man teams playing nine

holes of four-ball, nine holes of aggregate and nine holes of alternate shot – selective drive. It's a very entertaining format to say the least.

The Golf Association of Philadelphia continues to strive to meet the tournament demands of the marketplace and our members and we feel these additions to the calendar do just that.

All of this could not be possible without the tremendous support of our Member Clubs. In 2008, we are especially grateful to Huntingdon Valley Country Club for hosting both the inaugural Brewer Cup as well as the Junior Boys' Championship, both multi-day events.

As you've already noticed, the Association revised its E-Revision format with the increase to its Handicap Revision schedule. This year, 20 E-Revisions will be generated concurrently with the GHIN Revision cycle. The E-Revision will contain your current GAP/USGA Handicap Index and respective course handicap. Also, you'll find new information and stories on and about the Association, upcoming tournaments and a portal to post your scores on-line in the click of a button.

I urge you to go the Web site often to stay closely in touch with the Golf Association and its happenings throughout the year.

We look forward to another exciting season with 64 tournaments scheduled for 2008.

Your Association continues to do all it can to provide you with the highest levels of service, most attractive competitions and timely communications.

In closing, I personally want to thank our Member Clubs, our volunteers and our staff for all they do to promote, protect and support the game of golf in the Philadelphia region.

See you on the course.

Daniel B. Burton

NEWS & NOTES

GOLF ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA NEW MEMBER CLUBS

The Association welcomes **Bensalem Township Country Club** in Bensalem, Pa., **Great Bear Golf & Country Club** in East Stroudsburg, Pa., and **Woodbridge Golf Club** in Kutztown, Pa., as full Member Clubs for 2008. Bensalem Township CC is a par 70 measuring 6,180 yards from the back tees. It was established in 1960 and designed by William Gordon. Great Bear G&CC is a 1997 Jack Nicklaus-designed signature course. It measures 7,025 yards from the championship tees and plays to a par 71. Woodbridge GC is a brand new semi-private facility that plays to a par 70 and 6,207 yards. Emidio Filippini was the course designer.

HEAD PROFESSIONALS

The off-season produced a number of head professional changes at Member Clubs. Applebrook Golf Club welcomed **James Masserio** as its teaching and playing professional and promoted **Ed Gibson** to its head professional. Masserio served as Aronimink Golf Club's director of golf the past 18 years. **Jeffrey Kiddie**, who was the head professional at Applebrook Golf Club since its inception in 2001, ironically enough switches places

with Masserio and is the new director of golf at Aronimink Golf Club. Blue Bell Country Club welcomed **Stephen Wahal, Jr.**, Overbrook Golf Club did the same to **Eric S. Kennedy** and West Chester Golf & Country Club brought in **Casey O'Reilly**, who served in that same capacity at the now defunct Berkleigh Country Club, a year ago. **Eric McNamee** replaces the retiring Ted McKenzie at Stonewall, **Keith Devos** takes over at Meadia Heights Golf Club for Doug Ritter, and **David Pagett** fills the void at Whitmarsh Valley Country Club after longtime head professional James Bromley announced his retirement from the golf business last year. **Robert Sedlak** takes over at Glen Oak Country Club, **Michael Reilly** does the same at North Hills Country Club, **Brendan Reedy** heads to Spring Mill Country Club and **Brian Virgilio** was named the head professional at LedgeRock Golf Club. At Penn Oaks Golf Club, **Harry Hammond, Jr.** was named the director of golf and **John Cooper** the head professional.

SUPERINTENDENTS

Danielle Soldo was named golf course superintendent of Olde York Country Club in Chesterfield, N.J., in August. Soldo is only one of two female

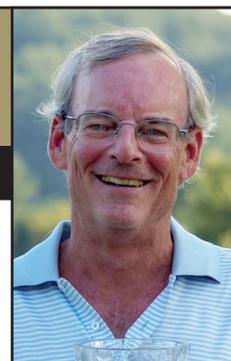
golf course superintendents in the Golf Association of Philadelphia joining **Tristan Engle** at DuPont Country Club. Soldo comes to Olde York Country Club from Forsgate Country Club, where she served as assistant golf course superintendent since 1999. Soldo received a bachelor's degree in Botany from the University of Rhode Island and is a graduate of the prestigious Rutgers University Turf Management Program. She resides in East Windsor, N.J., with her husband and three sons... **Bruce Cadenelli** was named French Creek Golf Club's new superintendent last November. Cadenelli, 57, comes to the Elverson, Pa., course after time at Caves Valley Golf Club Metedeconk National Golf Club and most recently, Shallow Isle in Colts Neck, N.J. He oversaw the grow-in teams at both Caves Valley and Metedeconk. He has more than 30 years in the golf course business.

What's going on at your club? Let the *Golf Association of Philadelphia Magazine* know so we can spread the news. Send your information to Golf Office, c/o Martin D. Emeno, Jr., at P.O. Box 808, Southeastern, PA 19399 or via email to memento@gappgolf.org.



WHAT'S IN THE BAG

Raymond Thompson of Overbrook Golf Club



Raymond Thompson of Overbrook Golf Club registered arguably the single greatest Senior season in Golf Association of Philadelphia history. The then 55-year-old became the first individual to capture every Major elder circuit tournament in the same year: the Warner Cup (Gross), the Chapman Cup (Gross) and the Senior Amateur Championship. He also earned the Senior Silver Cross (an aggregate compilation of all three of the aforementioned events) and his first Senior Player of the Year. Here's a look at the Thompson's tools of the trade.

Driver

Titleist 905S, 9.5 degrees with Speeder stiff flex shaft.
"I have played Titleist drivers for the past 10 to 12 years. I like its traditional look. I expect this club won't make the cut for 2008 because it's time to upgrade and find a couple of more yards."

3-wood

Cleveland 15 degrees with Fujikura Vista Pro stiff shaft.
"This club doesn't get very much use. I usually hit my driver straight so I don't have to give up any distance for accuracy of the tee."

Hybrid

Titleist 19 degrees with Aldila NV stiff shaft.
"I replaced my 2-iron with this club because I can hit it a lot higher."

Irons (3-pitching wedge)

Callaway X-Forged Project X rifle 6.0 shafts.
"A classic, clean look like the old forged irons but with some muscle. These quite possibly could be the best irons I've ever played."

Wedges

Titleist Vokey Spin Milled 52 and 58 degrees.
"I use the 52 as my gap wedge and for chipping from fringes, fairways, and light rough. I use the 58 degree for bunkers and chipping or pitching out of heavy rough."

Putter

MacGregor Bobby Grace M5K.
"I bought this about three years ago. For me, it is the most solid putter I've ever used. I actually bought a second one of the same model in the event that it might slip out of my hands by accident and hit an unsuspecting tree."

Golf Ball

Titleist Pro V1x.

In closing: "I don't change equipment too much. The only thing I do fool around with is the driver. I'll experiment with some different shafts looking for an extra five or 10 yards. I like the classic look. That's me."

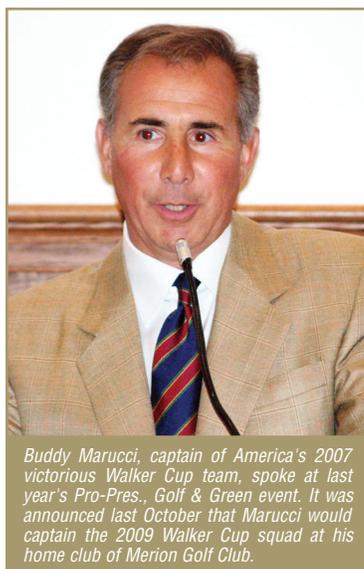
WHAT DOES THE GOLF ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA DO FOR YOU?



SEMINARS, SURVEY AN IMPORTANT PART OF ASSOCIATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Although tournament administration and the hosting of individual Handicap Indexes are arguably the most visible functions of the Golf Association of Philadelphia, the Association also performs surveys and various seminars that help uphold the organization's creed of preserving, protecting and promoting the game of golf.

In this, its 112th year of serving the game, the Association, as in the years preceding, presents an annual Club Management Survey to each of its participating clubs and it also hosts a number of seminars benefiting the Association's individual members, club professionals, volunteers and junior golfers.



Buddy Marucci, captain of America's 2007 victorious Walker Cup team, spoke at last year's Pro-Pres., Golf & Green event. It was announced last October that Marucci would captain the 2009 Walker Cup squad at his home club of Merion Golf Club.

The annual Club Management Survey is a yearly compilation of statistics that illustrate the range of services, activities, staffing and expenditures at participating Member Clubs. Conducted by Hilger, Flick & Company on behalf of the Association, complimentary copies of the survey are provided to each of those participating clubs within the organization.

In addition to the survey, every spring the Association hosts an all-day seminar on the Rules of Golf designed to benefit everyone from the seasoned rules official in need of a rules refresher, to the first-timer interested in learning the Rules of Golf. Other seminars held throughout the year include: the Presidents' Council, Chairmen's Meeting and Pro-Pres., Golf & Green, providing insight to some of the significant topics facing the member golf club industry today. And, not to be forgotten, are the Course Rating seminar, for the volunteer course rater, and the College Golf Seminar, aimed at shedding light on everything regarding collegiate athletic requirements, expectations and possibilities for the junior golfer.

Through these programs, the Golf Association of Philadelphia remains steadfast in its pursuit of preserving, protecting and promoting the game of golf.



About the Platt Caddie Scholarship:

Founded in 1958, the Platt Caddie Scholarship is the Philadelphia region's only organization dedicated to furthering the educational goals of caddies while supporting the traditional role of the caddie in the game of golf. The Scholarship was founded by the Golf Association of Philadelphia in honor of its first contributor, J. Wood Platt, an accomplished player of the era. Headquartered in Wayne, Pa., the organization runs a variety of programs designed to assist caddies with their educational goals: the Matching Fund Program; a Caddie Mentoring Program; the Francis C. Poore Caddie of the Year Award; the Eagle Club Tournament and Alumni Tournament; and a Corporate Matching Gift Program.

Platt Caddie Scholarship Facts:

- \$12.3** million to **3,100** caddies since 1958
- 207** Caddie-Scholars
- 200** Male Caddie-Scholars
- 7** Female Caddie-Scholars
- 72** New Caddie-Scholars
- \$800,000** Scholarship Awards
- \$3,864** Average Award
- 3.1** Average G.P.A.
- 273** Lifetime Contributors
- 3,300** Par Club Members
- 52** Cubs with Caddie-Scholars
- 30** Schools Matching Funds
- \$44,650** Matching Fund Contributions
- 130** Caddie Mentors



Father-Son International, other tournament changes set

The Golf Association of Philadelphia heads overseas to the Emerald Island of Ireland for the inaugural Father-Son International. Slated for Sept. 21-27, the Father-Son International includes competitive rounds of golf at each of the following courses: County Louth, European Club, Portmarnock Golf Club, Royal Dublin Golf Club and The Island Golf Club. The tournament will be round-robin competition, similar to the popular Member-Guest format.

To be eligible, one team member must be a member of a Golf Association of Philadelphia Member Club. Teams can be comprised of fathers-sons, stepfathers-stepsons or grandfathers-grandsons.

Land price for the event is \$3,199. Price includes golf,

accommodations, transportation, a daily Irish breakfast and an arrival and farewell dinner. Players are responsible for air transportation. If needed, Jerry Quinlan's Celtic Golf, at 800-535-6148, can provide assistance with air reservations.

For tournament questions, please contact the Golf Office at 610-687-2340.

There are also a handful of other tournament additions and changes to the 2008 Golf Association of Philadelphia Tournament Schedule. A summary of those additions and changes follow.

Brewer Cup

Announced at last year's Annual Meeting, the Association created the Brewer Cup, a match play event for Seniors (55 years of age and older). Named in honor of O. Gordon Brewer, Jr., a two-time U.S. Senior Amateur Champion and an avid Golf Association of Philadelphia supporter, the inaugural Brewer Cup is set for July 15-17 at Huntingdon Valley CC, where Mr. Brewer has been a longtime member. The tournament consists of an 18-hole stroke play qualifier with the Top 16 Seniors and Top 8 Super-Seniors (65 years of age and older) advancing into match play. The tournament is open to seniors with a GAP/USGA Handicap Index of 7.0 or lower. Super-Seniors must have a GAP/USGA Handicap Index of 12.0 or less.

Senior 27-Hole Challenge

An event for players 55 years of age and older, the Senior 27-Hole Challenge replaces the Senior Net Championship on the tournament schedule. The Senior 27-Hole Challenge is a gross event consisting of three nine-hole stipulated rounds in three different formats: four-ball stroke play, aggregate and selective drive - alternate shot. Both a Championship and Super-Senior Division will be offered. The tournament is open to seniors with a GAP/USGA Handicap Index of 7.0 or lower. Super-Seniors must have a GAP/USGA Handicap Index of 12.0 or less.

Father-Son (Middle)

A Father-Son (Middle) has been created for fathers with sons ages 18-29. Therefore, eligibility for the Father-Son (Older) is now for sons 30 years of age and older. One team member must be a member of a Golf Association of Philadelphia Member Club with a valid USGA Handicap Index. Players turning 30 years old after the Father-Son (Middle), but prior to the Father-Son (Older), must play in the Middle event. The Father-Son (Older) will still be split into two divisions, Championship (fathers 64 years of age and younger) and Super-Senior (fathers 65 years and older). The Father-Son (Middle) will have one division.

TOURNAMENT CHANGES

Amateur Championship

Beginning in 2009, the exemption granted to the reigning Amateur Champion to advance automatically into match play will no longer be available.

Knuth Tournament Handicap System

The stroke adjustment for Net events has been adjusted to match the Knuth Tournament Handicap System, ie. 7-8 points, two-stroke reduction; 9-10 points, three-stroke deduction; 11-12 points, four-stroke deduction; 13-14 pints, five-stroke deduction, etc.

Marston Cup

The age requirement for the Marston Cup has been expanded to encompass the age group of 40-54 year olds. Previously, the tournament was open to 45-54 year olds.

Winter Series

The Association established a Winter Series to offer all players of any skill level an opportunity to compete in tournament golf during the normally quiet, off-season months. A four-tournament series took place in March and another is set for November. Tournaments ranged in disciplines and included events for both individuals and teams. Venues touched each area of the Association's territory. Visit the Golf Association of Philadelphia's Web site, www.gapgolf.org, for results and additional information.

In a minute...

with Jay Moorish, architect

TECHNOLOGY has changed the world of golf course architecture. And if you ask Jay Moorish, the renowned course architect of Bent Creek Country Club in Lititz, Pa., it's the primary issue facing the game today.

"All architects are trying to figure out how to deal with all the new equipment, especially with how it relates to older courses," said Moorish, who designed Bent Creek in 1991. "The [biggest problem, actually] is the ball. That is 85-percent of the issue."

Moorish said the affect of that equipment is most pronounced with top players. "It's made poor players look almost as good as great players. It's added so much distance to where players can drive over any problem areas they might face."

Moorish has been active in golf course design since 1964, serving a four-year apprenticeship with Robert Trent Jones and two years with George Fazio. In 1970 he met Jack Nicklaus and joined his design support firm in 1972. In 1983, Moorish left the Nicklaus organization to pursue his own golf course career. He formed a partnership with Tom Weiskopf to design more than 20 courses, but now works primarily with son Carter Moorish.

Reachable par 4s are a trademark Moorish design feature, like the 321-yard, seventh hole and 310-yard, 17th hole at Bent Creek.

"I was always interested in those type of things," said Moorish of the short par 4s. "What I'm trying to do is create two 3s in one hole. You could hit a 7-iron off the tee and hit another 8- or 9-iron for your second shot, take par and move on. Or you can be a hero and go for it."

And thoughts on Bent Creek? His lone Northeast design.

"I love it. I really do. For a shortish course (6,731 yards from the back tee) it's as good as I know," said Moorish. "However, to score well you have to go about it the old-fashioned way, strategy. There is a good and a bad place on every hole."

Jay Moorish is 71 years old and lives in Cisco, Texas. Although his schedule has tapered off of late, he's still active with courses in Colorado and Wisconsin.



Member Club Spotlight

Whitemarsh Valley CC

By Fred Behringer

How many golfers have dreamed of building a golf course in their backyard? One young Philadelphian, George C. Thomas Jr., not only got to build a course where he lived but went on to world-wide recognition as a leading golf course architect.

George C. Thomas Sr. bought the land that now contains Whitemarsh Valley Country Club in 1892 and presented it to his son when he was 21. The new owner, who earlier had designed a nine-hole course in Massachusetts, created an 18-hole layout on the rolling Montgomery County site near the Philadelphia border.

Thomas eventually ranked among "the select geniuses who produced golf's Golden Age of Architecture in the 1920s," according to Golfweek's Bradley Klein. Thomas designed Los Angeles Country Club-North, Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, Bel Air Country Club and Riviera Country Club during that period.

Whitemarsh Valley's founders incorporated in 1908. In the 100 years that followed, the club has played host to many of the finest golfers in the world and produced significant champions of its own while serving as the venue for local and national championships on the amateur and professional levels.

In June, Whitemarsh Valley will stage the Philadelphia Amateur

Championship for the 15th time as part of its 2008 centennial celebration when Phil Bartholomew of Yardley Country Club will seek to defend his title.

Players from Whitemarsh Valley hold 13 Amateur championships, eight of them by J. Wood Platt. Lucius Deming won it in 1921, William Goeckler in 1934 and John Dyniewski in 1954-55 and 1962.

Platt also earned the Golf Association of Philadelphia Silver Cross seven times.

The first GAP Middle-Amateur Championship took place at Whitemarsh Valley in 1984 with Gene Maginnis Jr. of the host club emerging as the champion.

Whitemarsh Valley also collected six Philadelphia Team Championships between 1924 and 1947.

During his time as the professional at Whitemarsh Valley, James "Long Jim" Barnes did much to call attention to the club in its early years as he won the first national PGA championship in 1916 and the Philadelphia Open Championship in 1917. After leaving Whitemarsh Valley, Barnes went on to capture a second PGA Championship, a U.S. Open and a British Open.

While Barnes' stay at Whitemarsh Valley was relatively short, the club

**"One of the great
golf courses."**

– Ben Hogan



is known for the enduring careers of its professionals. Morris Talman served as the pro from 1917 to 1957; Sam Penecale, from 1957 to 1985; and Jim Bromley, from 1985 until 2007.

Barnes' predecessor at Whitmarsh Valley, Ben Nicholls, and his brother Gil made headlines in 1913 when they lost an exhibition match to the famed British golfers Harry Vardon and Ted Ray, who began a tour in the United States with the match at Whitmarsh Valley.



The club contributed to women's golf history by holding the 1934 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship, won by Virginia Van Wie, and the 1951 Women's Western Open Championship, then recognized as a major, won by Patty Berg. Berg held membership privileges at Whitmarsh Valley while serving in the Marines during World War II.



From 1963 through 1980, Whitmarsh Valley welcomed the best golfers on the PGA Tour to the Whitmarsh Open, later called the Philadelphia Classic and finally the IVB Golf Classic. Arnold Palmer won the first tournament, Jack Nicklaus won it three times, Tom Weiskopf won it twice and Tom Kite made it his first PGA Tour triumph.

James W. Finegan wrote in the book *A Centennial Tribute to Golf in Philadelphia* that Whitmarsh Valley "certainly witnessed more rounds by the finest players of the 20th century than any other course in the Philadelphia area."

The club's own outstanding players, along with Platt and Dyniewski have included Bill Robinson, winner of 20 club championships spanning four decades; Jimmy McHale, the first amateur to win the Philadelphia Open Championship and twice a member of the Walker Cup team; and Annette Kane, Philadelphia Women's champion and Pennsylvania Women's champion, who teamed with Helen Sigel Wilson to win many Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia titles.

Through the years, the course created by George C. Thomas Jr. for Whitmarsh Valley has stood the test of time very well. It has been tweaked several times, most recently by designer Ed Shearon, a Whitmarsh Valley member, yet the Thomas routing remains essentially intact.

It is a design that Ben Hogan described as "one of the great golf courses."

Fred Behringer is a golf magazine editor, public relations consultant and member of the GAP Communications Committee. He is the former editor of Philadelphia Golf Magazine and Philadelphia Golfer and has covered golf in the Philadelphia area for more than 40 years.

George C. Thomas, Jr. by Thomas Paul

RENAISSANCE MAN as defined by the dictionary is an individual knowledgeable or proficient in more than one field. That fits George C. Thomas, Jr., to a tee.

How often do you find a person who was considered a world-class expert and author on subjects as far ranging as golf course architecture, deep-sea fishing and the breeding of rose flowers?

Thomas' career also included prominence in more than those somewhat leisurely, albeit, diverse pursuits.



He was an expert civilian aviator at a time when aviation could not be considered much more than dare-devilish. In fact, in 1917, he was appointed captain in the incipient Army Air Corps where he had a short but dramatic stint in World War I. He not only commanded and trained his "C-plane" squadron but also personally funded it. During his one-year tour of duty in Europe, Thomas survived three life-threatening crashes, prompting him to tell his close friend, novelist Zane Grey, many years later, "I wasn't just damn lucky, it was rather a miracle."

Thomas, Jr., was from a wealthy and socially prominent Chestnut Hill family. His father made a fortune in investment banking. Their estate was known as Bloomfield, the site of Whitmarsh Valley Country Club today.

In 1905, after George, Jr., had designed his first course, a nine-hole facility in Marion, Mass. – a course that still exists today and is a good deal like it was back then – a group of men approached the Thomas family and asked to put a golf course on Bloomfield. The family agreed, provided George, Jr., would be the course designer. It was done and Mount Airy Country Club, known today as Whitmarsh Valley Country Club, was born.

Following the death of his parents and the conclusion of World War I, Thomas sold the Bloomfield property to the club, and after relocating to his own estate, Edgehill in Chestnut Hill, Pa., he moved to Beverly Hills, Calif., presumably having selected it as the ideal environment to breed and grow roses. In California in the 1920s, Thomas designed Los Angeles Country Club–North, Bel Air Country Club and the remarkable Riviera Country Club, as well as a number of others in Southern California.

In the golf architecture profession today, Thomas, Jr., is considered to be perhaps the most imaginative architect in the history of the business. He definitely left an indelible stamp on golf course architecture in almost all areas including construction science, architectural aesthetics and in the art of strategic arrangement. He even managed to design a par 3 with a bunker in the middle of the green, the enduringly unique and famous sixth hole at Riviera Country Club.

Thomas did all that as a rare breed in the early days known as the "amateur/sportsman" architect. The fact is he never took a cent for anything he ever did in golf architecture, and having left a true stamp on the profession, he gave it all up and returned to his real passion as a world-class hybridizer and breeder of roses.

George Thomas, Jr., was indeed a Renaissance man.

Thomas Paul is a former Golf Association of Philadelphia Executive Committee member who is a known historian on golf course architecture. He is one of a select group of individuals currently working with the USGA on the creation of an architectural archive.

GAP Team Matches begin 112th season

BULLS-EYE ON REIGNING CHAMPIONS COMMONWEALTH NATIONAL GC

By Rick Woelfel

For some golfers, the GAP Team Matches serve as a tune-up for the season to come. For others, they are the highlight of the calendar; the only opportunity they have to engage in formal competition.

The Interclub Matches, as they were originally called, served as the basis for the founding of the Association, and today, are one of the largest golf competitions in America. If you don't believe it, look at the numbers associated with the Matches. They are staggering.

A total of 126 clubs from three states will participate in 2008, fielding 324 teams among them. Huntingdon Valley Country Club and Philadelphia Cricket Club will field five teams each. A total of 17 other clubs has entered four teams.

When the Matches begin on Sunday, April 13, 3,888 golfers will be competing in the season-opening Matches. Play will continue on April 27 and May 4, with the Playoff and Challenge Matches set for Saturday, May 10.

Each spring, the Matches continue to grow, and this year three clubs, Great Bear Golf & Country Club, Bensalem Township Country Club and Woodbridge Golf Club, will be participating for the first time, after joining the Golf Association of Philadelphia in January.

There is a first-time defending champion in the elite Division AA



addition to newcomer Wedgwood Country Club, Manufacturers Golf & Country Club, Overbrook Golf Club, Olde York Country Club and Glenmaura National Golf Club are all returnees.

A few familiar names remain, however, including Tavistock Country Club, which won three consecutive titles from 2004-06 and reached the playoffs a year ago despite playing all its matches on the road.

The golf course at Tavistock was closed for renovations during last year's GAP Team Matches and first-team captain Mark Kemenosh said visitors to the club will be impressed with what they see this year.

"We're thrilled with [the renovations]," Kemenosh said. "They hit a home run here, as far as doing what they set out to do."

The "new" Tavistock will play longer than it used to; roughly 6,800 yards from the back tees. But the greens will be larger, after having been restored to their original size and Kemenosh said the renovated course still puts a premium on accuracy. "It looks more open," he said, "but I think it's still deceptively tight.

You have to be able to work the ball."

For the first time, there is a daily-fee club in the AA bracket. Wedgwood in Turnersville, N.J. reached the upper tier after winning a Challenge Match last spring.

Situated just a few miles from Pine Valley, the club has more than

"GOOD FELLOWSHIP WILL ALWAYS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER WINNING A MATCH."

100 members, but it's also a haven for public golfers looking for a good match.

Commonwealth National Golf Club triumphed a year ago, besting Huntingdon Valley Country Club, Philadelphia Cricket Club and Llanerch Country Club in the four-way championship match.

Commonwealth's captain John Robinson said the victory reverberated around the club.

"The team took a lot of pride in it," he said. "Everybody at the club feels the sense of victory, whether they're on the team or not."

But as competitive as the Matches are, Robinson said good fellowship will always take precedence over winning a match or defending a title.

"Camaraderie is the No. 1 thing," he said. "Winning is secondary to that. We treat the players on [opposing teams] as if they're members here."

There has been a reshuffling of the top bracket this season. In



addition to newcomer Wedgwood Country Club, Manufacturers Golf & Country Club, Overbrook Golf Club, Olde York Country Club and Glenmaura National Golf Club are all returnees.

"I think part of it's the makeup of the area," said Bill Milner, Wedgwood's first-team captain. "We just don't have a lot of private clubs near us and some people here grew up as public-course players."

Like any other club, Wedgwood had to work its way to the AA Division, which is limited to 16 teams.

There is a total of seven divisions, from AA through Division F (which was created for the first time in 2006 in response to the increasing scope of the competition). Each division is subdivided into four-team sections, with each team facing the others in its section on a round-robin basis.

Playoff and Challenge Matches allow teams to move from one bracket to another and sectional alignments are changed each year to allow the participants to visit different courses.

Teams competing in the series for the first time are slotted into



divisions based on where they are likely to be the most competitive.

The Matches format remains the same as usual. Each team consists of 12 players, with six players playing at home and six on the road. Three foursomes compete at each club, with each player competing in a singles match and a better-ball match, simultaneously.

A point is awarded for the front nine, back nine and total and additional quarter-points are earned based on the margin of victory.

The GAP Team Matches were first played in 1897 and have been

contested annually since, save for the war years of 1943-45 and 1994, when the Matches were cancelled because of an icy winter and spring that left many courses unplayable in the early part of the season.

Huntingdon Valley has won the title in the top bracket a record 31 times, including a record seven straight championships from 1970-76.

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

GAP TEAM MATCHES DIVISION AA ROSTERS

Division AA

Section I

Glenmaura National Golf Club

Captain: Jim Gross

Championships (0).

Name	H.I.
Christian Davis	+2.5
Stephen Hudacek, III	+1.1
Gary Geldhof	+0.9
Michael Gross	+0.4
John Horutz	+0.2
Vince Scarpetta, Jr.	+0.1
Gary Latimer	0.1
Eugene Chiavacci	0.4
Matt Dougherty	0.5
Ricky Gross	0.5
Steve Scarpetta	0.5
Bill Ciccotti	0.7
Jim Gross	0.7
Ed Gregorczyk	2.4
Mark Bolus	2.5
Gerald Coyne	3.3

Llanerch Country Club

Captain: Dave Poletti

Championships (7): 1922, 1924, 1926-28; 1935, 1938.

Name	H.I.
Sean Coyle	0.4
J.P. Glynn	0.4
Jim Robertson	1.1
Tom Spano	1.1
Mike Shevlin	1.8
Kevin McDermott	2.2
Sean Glynn	2.5
Brian McDermott	2.5
Gerry Gallagher	2.6
Dave Poletti	2.7
Mike Moscony	3.2
Jimmy Robertson	3.3
Joe Kilroy	3.6
Mark Fuessinger	3.7
Joe McClatchy	5.1
Mike Brown	5.2
Neil McDermott	5.2

Manufacturers Golf & Country Club

Captain: Vaughn Schill

Championships (0).

Name	H.I.
Paul Polinsky	+1.7
Jim Macallister	+0.4
Jim Muller	0.1
Max Muller	0.5
Joe Cunningham	1.4
Vaughn Schill	1.6
Dave O'Malley	1.7
Robert Tunstall	2.4
George May	2.6
Jeff Prickitt	2.7
Drew Eddy	2.8
Joe Gerngross	3.3
Matt Skilton	3.5
Mark Walkush	3.5
Pete Williamson	3.5
Brian Sawyer	3.6
Joe Morrissey	3.7
Tom McCabe	4.4

Yardley Country Club

Captain: Terry Sawyer

Championships (5): 1989, 1997-98, 2000, 2002.

Name	H.I.
Mark Miller	+2.3
Glenn Smeraglio	+1.6
P.J. Bartholomew	+1.1
Chris Ault	+0.6
Daniel Charen	+0.5
Ed Erickson	0.0
Joe Gunerman	0.2
Paul Rogowicz	0.4
Matt Pesci	1.4
Jeff Muhlbauer	2.1
Al Padovano	2.3
Terry Sawyer	3.0
Steve Budnez	3.4
Paul Dansbury	3.4

Section II

Huntingdon Valley Country Club

Captain: Jim Sullivan, Jr.

Championships (31): 1898-1904; 1906, 1910-12; 1914, 1963, 1966, 1970-76, 1978, 1983-85, 1987, 1990, 1992, 1996, 1999, 2001.

Name	H.I.
Robert Galbreath, Jr.	+1.8
Dan Pinciotti, Jr.	+1.6
Jim Sullivan, Jr.	+0.5
David Brookreson	0.0
Eric Fonner	0.1
Patrick Welsh	0.2
Mike Gregor	0.3
Craig Scott	0.4
Sean Seese	0.5
Doug Gregor	0.8
Michael Dougherty	1.0
Wally Swiger	1.1
Sean Ryan	1.4
John Quirk	1.7
Jeff Beltinger	2.1
Kevin Bondi	2.4
Jim Sullivan, Sr.	2.4

Overbrook Golf Club

Captain: Byron Miller

Championships (6): 1948-50; 1981, 1986, 1988.

Name	H.I.
Chris Lange	+2.8
Ray Thompson	+2.4
Oscar Mestre, Jr.	+0.6
Mark Endres	+0.6
Frank McFadden	0.0
Chris Lange, Jr.	0.6
Andy Thompson	0.8
Brad McFadden	1.6
Bob Loftus	1.7
Matt Walsh	2.1
Nick Bellisario	2.1
Marty Hayden, Jr.	2.4
Bob Cunningham	3.7
Michael Rogers	4.0
Rich White	5.1

Spring Ford Country Club

Captain: John Brennan

Championships (0).

Name	H.I.
John Brennan	+1.0
Doug Zelner	+0.5
Rob Dziak	+0.2
Rick Custer	1.2
Jim Prendergast	1.2
Bobby Frankil	2.7
Julian Brown	3.1
Fred Luck	3.7
Mike Ridgeway	3.8
Bill March	4.3
Tom Fuhs	4.5
Dennis Perna	4.5
Pete Zollers	4.6
Bruce Bernstiel	4.7

Tavistock Country Club

Captain: Mark Kemenosh

Championships (3): 2004-06.

Name	H.I.
Tom Gramigna	+1.2
Bill McGuinness	+1.2
Jamie Slonis	+0.9
Mike Tash	+0.9
Len Fox	+0.1
Sean Leonard	0.0
Bobby Arthur, Jr.	1.9
Bob Arthur	2.1
Doug Cusick	2.1
Jim Meyers	2.3
Ron Cusick	3.6
Drew Siok	3.8
John Cobb	3.9
Mike Quinn	4.9

Section III

Commonwealth National Golf Club

Captain: John Robinson

Championships (1): 2007.

Name	H.I.
Mike Moffat	+1.7
John Robinson	+1.2
Ryan Gelrod	+1.0
Mike Anderson	+0.9
Ken Sim	+0.7
Brett Diakon	0.0
Cory Reighard	0.8
Matt Bellis	0.9
John Alterman	0.9
Scott Carney	1.2
Jim Ferrero, Jr.	1.2
Mike Kerrigan	1.3
Tom Krug	1.4
Dr. Grant Liu	1.6

Moselem Springs Golf Club

Captain: William West

Championships (0).

Name	H.I.
Chris Storck	+1.1
Joe Butto	+0.6
Perry Landis	+0.1
Scott Harrington	0.0
Larry Schultz, Jr.	0.2

Tom Soares	0.5
Brandon Siemion	0.7
Don Kozik	1.2
Dave Strohl	1.2
William West	1.2
Gregg Angelillo	1.4
Chuck Sakmann	1.6

Wedgwood Country Club

Captain: Bill Milner

Championships (0).

Name	H.I.
Glenn Foley	+1.1
Lance Oberparleiter	+0.6
Bradley Roberts	+0.5
Bill Cregar	0.4
Joe April	0.6
Paul Bickford	1.1
Jim Gillespie	1.3
Steve Passalacqua	1.3
Bud Carr	1.5
Bill Milner	1.9
Tim Papa	2.0
Glenn McClaskey	2.1
James Rocks, III	3.1
Fran Begley	3.2
John Kappas	3.7

Wilmington Country Club

Captain: Don MacKelcan

Championships (0).

Name	H.I.
Steve Walczak	+0.1
Peter Zurkow	0.0
Chris Anderson	0.2
Nate McDonald	0.2
Steve Casey	0.9
J.R. Fasy	0.9
Bret Morris	0.9
Cameron McDonald	1.0
Bill Fasy	1.5
Todd Anderson	1.6
Don MacKelcan	1.6
Peter Moran, Jr.	1.7
Jeff Ciconte	1.9
Bruce White	2.0
Tom Ciconte, Jr.	2.2
Randy Mitchell	2.8

Section IV

Huntsville Golf Club

Captain: Brian Corbett

Championships (0).

Name	H.I.
Sam Lewis	+0.6
Todd Vonderheid	+0.4
Brian Corbett	0.1
Santo Lafoca	0.1
John Cattoni	0.7
Matt Cuddy	0.2
Jason Barkley	1.3
Jeff Ranck	1.3
Tony Clapps	1.4
Lee Eckert	2.5
Ken Ralston	2.9
Al Flora	3.0

Olde York Country Club

Captain: Tom Mensel

Championships (0).

Name	H.I.
Craig Seaman	+1.0
Mark Metaxas	0.2
Gerry Baldachino	0.3
Justin Van Hynning	0.3
Greg Wright	1.3
Al Colacello	1.4
William Stanley	1.8
John Quattrocchi	2.1
Mike Bohardt	2.5
Ted Jiggetts	2.5
Tom Mensel	2.5
Paul Bustard	3.5

Philadelphia Cricket Club

Captain: Chris Kallmeyer

Championships (0).

Name	H.I.
Jim Donnelly	+2.5
Rob Robertson	+1.6
Bryan Winsko	+0.9
Scott Storck	+0.3
Kevin Kelly	0.1
Robert Wurtz, Jr.	0.2
Mark Peterson	0.3
Jose Rovelli	0.6
Chip Culp	0.9
Bob Ball	1.4
Jhoon Chang	1.7
Jason Sieminski	1.8
Stephan Whitenack	2.0
Chris Kallmeyer	2.2
Joe Dellicarpini	2.4
Ryan Ade	2.5
Francis Vaughn	2.7
Jeff Sumner	2.7

Philadelphia Country Club

Captain: P. Chet Walsh

Championships (5): 1907-09, 1913, 1993.

Name	H.I.
John Sawin	+3.0
Eric Beringer	+1.8
Cole Willcox	+1.5
Chet Walsh	+1.5
Cory Siegfried	+0.5
Britt Murdoch	0.0
Scott Morris	1.0
Trey Best	1.3
Paul LaNoce	1.8
John LeBoeuf	1.8
Tom Shallow, Jr.	1.9
Rob Good, Jr.	2.1
Jim Finegan, Jr.	2.2
Ted Beringer	2.2
Mike Nilon	2.5
Don Ashley	2.6
Richard Smith	2.7
Steve Peck	2.7

Merion Golf Club looks for seventh straight Interclub Matches title

By Rick Woelfel

The Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia's Interclub Matches is about more than competition. For today's players, the Matches are also a way to connect with this region's rich golfing heritage.

The Matches date back to 1897 and through the years some of the greatest names in the sport, from Nonna Barlow to Glenna Collett Vare to Helen Sigel Wilson to Dorothy Porter, have competed in them.

The 108th edition of the Matches gets underway on Tuesday, April 29. Competition will continue each Tuesday and Friday through May 13.

Playoffs will be held on Thursday, May 15, if needed, with Challenge Rounds and Super-Jump Rounds to follow on May 16 and 20 as clubs try to move from one cup to another.

A total of 73 clubs will compete, fielding the maximum-allowable 156 teams. Three clubs, Applebrook Golf Club and RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve will be entering teams for the first time.

The format for the Matches will be the same as usual. The teams are divided into 26 brackets, or cups, of six teams each. Seven players on each team compete in 18 holes of match play. One point is at stake in each match, and extra holes are used to decide matches that are All Square after 18.

As usual, most of the attention will be focused on the top bracket where six clubs, Huntingdon Valley Country Club, Gulph Mills Golf Club, Sunnybrook Golf Club, Philadelphia Cricket Club, Spring Ford Country Club and defending champion Merion Golf Club will compete for the Philadelphia Cup.

For most of the last century that trophy has been on display in the Merion clubhouse.

The women of Merion have won 63 of the 107 previous Philadelphia Cups, including six straight and 11 of the last 13.

Last year, Merion prevailed by defeating Huntingdon Valley in a playoff at Aronimink Golf Club after the scheduled regular-season match between the two clubs was rained out.

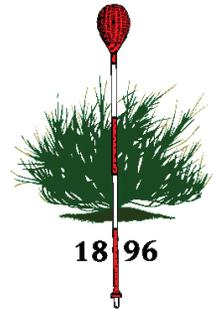
As hard fought as the Matches are, the mutual respect between competitors is evident. Marji Goldman, a recent addition to the lineup at Philadelphia Cricket but a longtime Team Matches participant, said the respect between players combined with the team format, make the Matches special.

"We all know how hard the game is," she said. "We appreciate each other's ability and what goes into it. Golf is basically an individual sport, so the team thing is unique and rare."

Lindsay Forgash may have summed up the Matches best after she and her teammates won Merion's 63rd Philadelphia Cup last May.

"We're playing for many, many, many teams before us," she said. "I feel a sense of tradition, not only for Merion, but because women's golf in the Philadelphia area is so strong."

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



Women Golfers Give Back

THE UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION wants to take the Women Golfers Give Back (WGGB) concept nationwide. That's because WGGB is the only organization in the country in which women golfers raise money exclusively for girls golf.

Since A.K. Frazier founded the Philadelphia-area based charity in 2003, Women Golfers Give Back has raised \$236,000 to fulfill its mission of expanding access to the game for girls.

"I have a background in philanthropy and a love for golf, so I put the two together," said Frazier, a top player in the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia circles. "To me, this program is about helping girls and those who normally wouldn't have

a chance to play."

This year five programs will receive WGGB grants: the LPGA/USGA Girls Golf of Valley Forge; Girls Golf of Philadelphia; LPGA / USGA Girls Golf of Lehigh Valley and Southern Lehigh Valley and First Tee of Philadelphia.

Frazier initially funded the organization by collecting \$100 from as many friends and acquaintances as possible. Today, the organization generates a majority of its funding from an annual golf tournament and corporate sponsorship.

Its two largest fundraising events of the year are scheduled.

The second annual Girls' Night Out dinner is set for April 8 at Waynesborough

Country Club. Judy Stoudt of the First Tee of Delaware will be honored and Val Skinner, a veteran on the LPGA tour and philanthropist, is the Keynote Speaker. Cost is \$50 per person.

On June 9, the third annual golf tournament returns to Gulph Mills Golf Club. A silent and live auction will follow. Cost is \$3,000 for a hole sponsor and \$400 per person.

For more information on either event, contact A.K. Frazier at a.frazier@comcast.net.





Tavistock CC's Bolger to represent U.S. in Curtis Cup

By Martin D. Emeno, Jr.

Meghan Bolger received the phone call of a lifetime, fittingly enough, on her way home from the golf course and with her biggest supporter, sometimes caddie, and father Mike alongside in the car. It was the United States Golf Association, and she was selected to represent Team America in the 2008 Curtis Cup.

"I knew the USGA was going to be having a meeting after the [South Atlantic Ladies Amateur, the second Orange Blossom Tour tournament in mid-January], but I didn't know exactly when the decision was going to be made. I knew I would be either getting a call or finding out like the rest of the world on the Internet or TV," said Bolger of Tavistock CC and Haddonfield, N.J. "For [my dad] to be there for the phone call was exciting. I've been fortunate to have him caddying for me throughout the years. It's been special for us to have that."

Bolger was one of eight women selected to represent Team USA in the Curtis Cup Matches, which is set for May 30-June 1 at The Old Course at St. Andrews in St. Andrews, Scotland. The biennial competition, which began in 1932, features the best amateur female players from the United States of America against a similar squad from Great Britain and Ireland. Bolger, who will be the oldest American representative (by seven years) at 29 years of age, enters the international stage as the two-time reigning U.S. Women's Middle-Amateur Champion and a seven-time winner of the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur. She is the first Philadelphia area woman to participate in the Curtis Cup since Deborah Massey of Saucon Valley CC in 1976.

"I can tell you that I am very pleased to have Meghan on the Curtis Cup Team," said U.S. captain Carol Semple Thompson. "She is a strong player and will partner well with the younger players. Her experience as a college coach (she coached the women's golf team at the University of Mississippi from 2001-07) may be helpful to me as well. I know

she is a strong match player and likes to win – sounds like a good combination to me."

The summons to represent America, though, even with Bolger's impressive resume, wasn't a given. Consider this, zero of the reigning U.S. Middle-Amateur Champions from 1999-2005 were selected for the subsequent Curtis Cup teams.

Bolger bolstered her case, however, throughout 2007 with a third-round showing in the North and South Women's Amateur, by qualifying for the U.S. Women's Open Championship and placing in a tie for 13th at the Women's Eastern Amateur. That was all in addition to taking her second U.S.



Meghan Bolger

"I'VE WORKED EXTREMELY HARD TO PROVIDE MYSELF THE OPPORTUNITY. I KNEW IT WOULD BE THE MOST INCREDIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR AN AMATEUR GOLFER."

Mid-Am. title. In early January, she tied for seventh in the Harder Hall Invitational at Harder Hall CC in Sebring, Fla., only days prior to a strong fourth-place effort in the South Atlantic Ladies Amateur, better known as The Sally, at Oceanside CC in Ormond Beach, Fla. Both of those latter events are part of the Orange Blossom Tour.

"It's funny because things have nicely fallen into place. I've worked extremely hard this past summer, fall and now winter to provide myself the opportunity. I knew it would be the most incredible accomplishment for an amateur golfer," said Bolger, who attended Eastern High School and Tulane University. "And if I didn't make it, then I would know that I worked hard and was close. I would not have regretted anything."

Following the Curtis Cup, Bolger will play a full schedule with an eye on another attempt at LPGA Q-School later in the year. Last September, Bolger failed to advance

through the first stage and didn't play in the second qualifier because it conflicted with the U.S. Mid-Amateur.

"I love the amateur side of golf," said Bolger. "I'm very happy with where I am and what I've been able to do. It's just been an incredible experience."

And the best may be yet to come.

NOTES: Beginning this year, the Curtis Cup has changed to a three-day format, featuring three foursomes (alternate shot) and three four-ball (better-ball) matches on the first two days. On the final day, all eight players from each side will play in singles matches. A total of 18 points are available. The U.S. Team has won the last five Curtis Cup Matches and leads the series 25-6-3.

Martin D. Emeno, Jr. is the editor of the Golf Association of Philadelphia Magazine. He is entering his eighth season as a Golf Association of Philadelphia staff member.

Q & A with Mike Davis

By Martin D. Emeno, Jr.

Mike Davis is the senior director of USGA Rules and Competitions. Davis replaced a retiring Tom Meeks after the 2005 U.S. Amateur at Merion Golf Club (East Course). He took a few minutes out of his busy schedule to answer a few questions for the Golf Association of Philadelphia Magazine.

Was joining the USGA and becoming a part of the staff something you thought you would be doing? How did it come about?

No, not really. Like many college students, I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do after school. I had a couple different interests – sports and real estate. In my last year of school, I sent off several resumes. One of those went to Mike Butz, USGA Deputy Executive Director (then the Manager of Championship Relations in charge of handling logistical matters for USGA championships). Mike, like me, is a Chambersburg, Pa. native. Our families were both members of Chambersburg CC. We knew each other, but not as well. As so often happens when sending out resumes, I got a very thoughtful letter back from Mike saying the USGA had no openings but that he would keep my resume on file for the future. Three or so years passed when out of the blue Mike contacted me to say a position has recently opened. How often does that happen when a person actually keeps your resume and follows through? I was living in Atlanta at the time working in commercial real estate. I flew up to New Jersey and met with Mike, David Fay and P.J. Boatwright (a Rules of Golf legend and the man who set the golf course up for many U.S. Opens) and the rest is kind of history. Eighteen years have passed since the USGA gambled on me. I couldn't be happier. And, I often think about where I'd be if Mike Butz had not been the true gentleman he is by doing something so many other people would not have done.

How difficult was it following a legendary figure in Tom Meeks? What did you learn from Tom?

Tom worked over 30 years for the USGA. He truly was, and still is, a legendary figure. In many respects, following Tom was challenging. Tom was well known and very liked around the country. His experience with the Rules and conduct of championships was (and is) incredibly vast. I could not begin to recount the thousands of things Tom taught me over the years. So much of golf administration is experience. As anyone would do from a working relationship, I have tried to emulate the many things Tom did well and learn from the few things he might have done better. Tom was great about handing over the reins to me the last few years of his career. He and I are still very good friends. I talk to him often and still seek his advice.

How many times do you visit an U.S. Open venue prior to the beginning of a tournament?

U.S. Opens typically are chosen seven to eight years out. I will have visited a potential site anywhere from once to a half-dozen times prior to its selection. Thereafter, in those seven or so years leading up to the Open, I probably will make a dozen site

visits. Early on, it might be that a course is undergoing some type of agronomic, operational or architectural change. About two to three years out, we do the golf course set-up. That involves determining how each hole will play. We also will determine what the various grass heights will be. Sometimes that visit also involves a possible change at a hole – a new teeing ground, a fairway contour change, tree removal, etc. Within the final year, it gets down to us (our USGA Chairman, Green Section representative and me) fine-tuning the set-up specs and working closely with the superintendent on agronomic issues. We also discuss and plan for the myriad of details that are unique to hosting an event the size of an Open.



Mike Davis

What's the one thing those on the outside don't understand about the complexity of a course set-up?

How much effort the Grounds Staff puts into the course preparation. The level of detail is simply amazing. Further, when the golf course is set up as difficult as an Open, there is very little margin for error before playing conditions become over-the-top too hard. We have to watch the course like a hawk. I am not sure this type of brutal set-up necessarily does a lot of good for daily golf, but we feel once a year this strenuous test does bring out different aspects of the game for the world's best.

How much consultation do you do with the course superintendent in setting hole locations and tees?

A lot. I have said it many times, there is absolutely no one person more important to the success of a U.S. Open (or any of the USGA National Championships for that matter) than the Golf Course Superintendent. I have found time and time again that no one knows a golf course better than the superintendent. They generally have a good understanding of how holes play in varying weather conditions. They all seem to know their greens exceptionally well. To not utilize the superintendent's – as well as the golf professional's – knowledge is both foolish and somewhat arrogant. Setting hole locations involves many things. It is part science and part art. First, you have to truly understand the abilities of the golfers in your competition. Then you need to understand each hole's architecture – what type of approach shots will be played and what was the architect's intent. You then need to carefully study the putting green design and factor in green speed and firmness. The faster and firmer, obviously the more conservative hole locations need to be. Last, you have to be able to anticipate worst case conditions (e.g., strong winds, drying conditions, etc.)



that might make an otherwise good hole location unfair. My personal view is that hole locations should never be pushed. If I'm not sure a hole location will work, I will almost always opt to move it to a more conservative location. Like Rules officials, those of us that set hole locations almost all fall into two categories – those that have set a bad hole and those that will.

Some people have suggested the USGA might be in love with even par winning the Open. Is that true?

Based on recent winning scores, it is easy to see why people think this. The truth is we are not aiming for an even or over-par winning score – honest. We are perfectly fine if under par wins. Recall Tiger [Woods] won the 100th U.S. Open at Pebble Beach at 12 under – and the USGA loved it. I would further add that we are not talented enough to set a course up so a certain score wins. I believe there is about a 15-shot spread in the winning score based on how tough or easy Mother Nature is over the four rounds. Our set-up philosophy strives to test every aspect of the players' games – the various forms of shot making with all 14 clubs, course management and the mental side of the game. We want every part of that test to be tough, yet fair. Like it or not, that's the trademark of the U.S. Open. This philosophy is nothing new either, we've been doing it for over half a century. Sometimes we do a good job; other times we make a bogey or two.

You were a past Pennsylvania State Junior Champion, what memories do you recall from that?

Well, I'm still very proud to this day to have my name on that trophy. How it got there I'm not quite sure. We played at Hershey Country Club: 18 [holes] the first day followed by 36 [holes] the next. I played solid the first 36 and then just got into a zone on the final 18. I came to the last hole only needing a par to break 70 (something I had not done to that point). Like so many golfers, I thought about the score I might shoot and got out of my comfort zone...hello bogey. But it was good enough to win. I do recall one funny, now, embarrassing then, story: A high-school friend caddied for me. I think it was his first time on a golf course. I finished several groups ahead of the last group, which were the leaders going into the last round. One player in that last group, Arnold Cutrell, who is still a very fine amateur, had a 25 to 30-footer on the last hole to tie me. There were a couple hundred people that had circled the green. Everyone went silent. Arnold struck the putt and it narrowly missed. Well, my caddie friend suddenly goes crazy with jubilation by clapping and yelling at the top of his lungs like fans would do at an Eagles' game if the Steelers' missed a field goal at the end of the game to tie it up. Those couple hundred spectators were somewhere between shocked and appalled by his outburst. I recall kind of pretending I didn't know him. Anyway, winning the state junior title was a very proud moment. I truly have a very soft spot in my heart for the Pennsylvania Golf Association and the Golf Association of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia PGA announces site for 2008 Play Golf America



The Philadelphia Section PGA announced that Wood's Golf Center in Norristown, Pa., will once again host the Section's Play Golf America Day. The Day will be held on May 10 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Play Golf America Day is an opportunity for individuals to come and experience a day of lessons and demos at no cost. Philadelphia Section PGA Professionals will be on-hand all day providing free 10-minute lessons to anyone interested. Additionally, many club manufacturers will be on-site to give individuals a chance to try the latest in golf equipment.

This year marks the Section's fourth Play Golf America Day and the second at Wood's Golf Center. Hartefeld National held the previous days in 2005 and 2006.

A new feature to the 2008 Play Golf America Day will be the Junior Tour Kick-Off Day. The Kick-Off Day is open to all juniors ages 6-18 and will feature a variety of activities. The Kick-Off Day is the unofficial start to the junior season. More information on the Junior Tour is available at www.phillyjuniortour.com. More information about Play Golf America Day can be found on the Section's Web site, www.phillypga.com, or by contacting the Philadelphia Section PGA at 215-886-7742.

The Rules of Golf

By Craig Ammerman

In a GAP team match (or a four-ball match at your course), you and your partner are sharing a caddie, as are your opponents. The opponents' caddie accidentally causes your ball to move in any way other than helping you search for it. Each of your opponents gets a one-stroke penalty in the four-ball match. In the singles matches, your opponent incurs a one-stroke penalty; the match between your partner and his opponent is not affected.

This is one example why it is useful to know the rules. Here are more examples for this format, in which you and your partner are identified as A and B and your opponents as C and D; in addition to the team match, A plays C and B plays D in singles matches:

- A concedes the match, a hole or a stroke to C and does not specify to which match the concession applies. It applies to the four-ball (team) match and to A's singles match with C, but not to B's match with D. If A specified that the concession only applied to his singles match with C, the four-ball match is not affected.
- A concedes a match, hole or a stroke to D. The concession applies to the four-ball match; A has no authority to concede anything in the B-D singles match.
- A holes out in 3 to win a hole for your side in the four-ball match. B is left with a putt to win or halve that hole with D. B asks A for advice. That is okay (A and B are partners and may exchange advice) so long as the four-ball match has not concluded. Once it ends, neither A and B nor C and D can provide advice to each other, because they no longer are partners.
- All four players are on the green; A's ball is farthest from the hole with B's ball on the same line. Under the rules, side A-B can play those shots in any order. But side C-D concedes B's putt. If B putts before A plays a stroke, A is disqualified for that hole in the four-ball match, but incurs no penalty in his match with C.

The rules that govern four-ball match play are in Rule 30. The incidents mentioned here and others involving this format are in the Decisions on the Rules of Golf under Rule 30. Go to www.usga.org and click on rules if you desire the benefits that knowledge of the rules brings.

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This may surprise you, but the rulemakers have been making the game less difficult to play in a few important ways.

One former rule was known as the stymie. It dates to a time when a player rarely could touch his ball after teeing it until he picked it out of the hole. One exception was in this specific instance: "When the balls lie within six inches of each other on the putting green, the ball lying nearer to the hole may ... be lifted until the other ball is played.." The rules said "a player is laid a stymie if on the putting green the opponent's ball is in the line of his putt to the hole..." When that occurred and the balls were not within the six-inch exception, players often hit pitch shots over their opponent's ball. The stymie disappeared when the USGA and R&A produced the first joint set of rules in 1952.

Craig Ammerman served as the Golf Association of Philadelphia President from 2000-02 and the USGA Executive Committee from 2002-07. He also served on the USGA Rules Committee from 2002-07. Ammerman has worked more than 40 USGA National Championships, including six U.S. Opens and U.S. Amateurs, five Masters, two PGA Championships and one British Open.

In more recent times, rulemakers have found other ways to put more fun into golf:



- In 1980, for the first time, a ball embedded in its own pitch mark in a closely mown area (fairway) could be lifted and dropped without penalty.
- In 1984, local committees were allowed to replace a penalty of disqualification with two strokes in stroke play or loss of the first hole in match play if a player is late for his starting time but arrives within five minutes of that time.
- In 1988, players were allowed to put a substituted ball in play in some cases, whereas prior rules called nearly all substitutions a wrong ball, which has more serious consequences.
- In 2000, golf facilities and competitions were given a local rule to use at their discretion to permit removal of stones from bunkers.
- In 2008, the rulemakers allowed players to lift a ball in a hazard if necessary to identify it; thus, there no longer is a free pass if you play a wrong ball from a bunker or water hazard. Also, the penalty for a player whose ball strikes himself, his partner, their equipment or their caddie was reduced to one stroke from two strokes in stroke play or loss of hole in match play.

Feel better now?

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One 2008 rules change that has escaped much attention may impact how golf is played at your course. It effects rules regarding a ball that has not been found and may be lost in a water hazard, abnormal ground condition (casual water, ground under repair) or obstruction, or a ball that has not been found and is believed to have been moved by an outside agency, i.e. another player on the course or an animal. Prior to 2008, these rules said in order to treat a ball as lost in these circumstances, there must be reasonable evidence to that effect.

Reasonable evidence had multiple interpretations. When facing these situations, rules officials asked whether there is any other place the ball could be. If so, such as high rough or trees near a water hazard, the ball cannot be considered lost in the water hazard. This is material, because it may be preferable to take the one-stroke water hazard penalty and play from the forward point that often represents than to accept stroke and distance.

Effective this year, in these rules reasonable evidence has been replaced by "it must be known or virtually certain" that the ball is lost in these situations. The USGA and R&A believe this language is more likely to produce the interpretation they always intended, but not the one that often resulted previously.

The question rules officials ask during competitions should serve you well when these circumstances arise at your course. Ask whether there is anywhere other than the hazard or abnormal ground condition where the ball could be. If so, the player whose ball is involved must invoke stroke and distance and return to the spot from where that shot was played.

2008 GAP SCHEDULE

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
Chairmen's Meeting	April 9	Lancaster CC
GAP Team Matches	April 13, 27, May 4	---
Compher Cup Matches	April 21	Pine Valley GC
Middle-Amateur Qualifier	May 1	Talamore CC
Middle-Amateur Qualifier	May 5	White Clay Creek CC
Warner Cup (Gross)	May 7	Whitford CC
USGA Open Qualifier	May 8	Woodcrest CC
GAP Team Matches Playoff & Challenges	May 10	---
USGA Open Qualifier	May 12	White Manor CC
Amateur Championship Qualifier	May 13	Hopewell Valley CC
Pro-Pres., Golf & Green	May 14	Brandywine CC/Concord CC
Amateur Championship Qualifier	May 16	Radnor Valley CC
Middle-Amateur Championship	May 21-22	Fieldstone GC
Warner Cup (Net)	May 27	Bala GC
Father & Son (Middle)	May 28	Bellewood GC
Team Championship Qualifier	June 2	Overbrook GC
Spring Net Championship	June 3	Bucks County CC
Senior Four-Ball Stroke Play	June 5	Hershey's Mill GC
Amateur Championship	June 10-12 & 14	Whitemarsh Valley CC/ Philadelphia Cricket Club (Militia Hill)
Caddie Tournament	June 16	Merion (West)
Open Championship Qualifier	June 18	Olde York CC
USGA Junior Amateur Qualifier	June 18	Three Little Bakers CC
Four-Man Team	June 19	The Saint Annes Club (Back Creek)
Open Championship Qualifier	June 23	Spring Ford CC
Junior Boys' Championship & Junior Team Championship	June 24-26	Huntingdon Valley CC (Centennial/Flynn)
Open Championship Qualifier	June 25	LedgeRock GC
Team Championship	June 26	Wyoming Valley CC
USGA Senior Open Qualifier	July 1	Burlington CC
Father & Son (Younger)	July 2	JC Melrose CC
Pre-Junior Tournament	July 9	Philadelphia Cricket Club (St. Martin's)
Senior Four-Man Team	July 10	Golden Oaks GC
Christman Cup	July 11	Whitford CC
Patterson Cup Qualifier	July 15	Laurel Creek CC
The Brewer Cup	July 15-17	Huntingdon Valley CC (Toomey/Flynn)
Jock MacKenzie Memorial	July 21	Sandy Run CC
Open Championship	July 23	Lookaway GC
Patterson Cup Qualifier	July 25	Brookside CC
Francis X. Hussey Memorial	July 28	Rolling Green CC
Junior-Junior Boys' Championship	July 29-31	Phoenixville CC
Chapman Memorial (Gross)	July 31	North Hills CC
USGA Amateur Qualifier	Aug. 4	DuPont CC (DuPont/Nemours)
The Deeg Sezna Four-Ball	Aug. 5	Hartefeld National
USGA Middle-Amateur Qualifier	Aug. 7	Galloway National GC
Fall Net Championship	Aug. 11	Deerwood CC
Williamson Cup Matches	Aug. 11	CC of Scranton
Patterson Cup	Aug. 14	St. Davids GC/Waynesborough CC
USGA Senior Amateur Qualifier	Aug. 25	Cedarbrook CC
Marston Cup	Aug. 27	Bent Creek CC
Four-Ball Stroke Play Championship	Aug. 28	RiverCrest GC & Preserve
Senior Amateur Championship	Sept. 2-3	The Springhaven Club
Father & Son (Older)	Sept. 11	Woodstone GC
Senior 27-Hole Challenge	Sept. 15	Concord CC
Chapman Memorial (Net)	Sept. 17	Green Valley CC
Senior Challenge Matches	Oct. 1	Manufacturers G&CC
Challenge Matches	Oct. 2	Stone Harbor GC
Tournament of Champions	Oct. 3	The ACE Club
Player's Dinner	Oct. 7	Torresdale-Frankford CC
Mason-Dixon Matches	Oct. 11-12	Columbia CC, Chevy Chase, Md.
Volunteers Day	Oct. 13	French Creek GC
Annual Meeting	Oct. 22	Philmont CC

All Venues and Dates are Subject to Change

Association to create Hall of Fame

Since its inception in 1897, a number of all-time great amateurs have called the Golf Association of Philadelphia home. This October, those legends will start to be officially remembered and recognized with the creation of the Golf Association of Philadelphia Hall of Fame.

The inaugural class will be recognized at the Association's annual Player's Dinner held on Oct. 7 at Torresdale-Frankford Country Club.

The Association will accept nominees through the end of April. A nomination form is available on-line under the About GAP/Hall of Fame tab or by contacting the Golf Office at 610-687-2340.

The first class for the Golf Association of Philadelphia Hall of Fame will be announced in mid-summer.

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