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Golf Association of Philadelphia

CELEBRATING AMATEUR GOLF SINCE 1897

Magazine

March/April 2009
Volume 3 • Issue 1



Tavistock Country Club Looks for Fifth Title in Six Years



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

Association Remains Committed to Mission

Integrity, honesty and fair play are but a few of the qualities that define our game. The Golf Association of Philadelphia celebrated two examples of good character to start the 2009 season.

Dick Vermeil, former head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles and past member of Philadelphia Country Club, inspired our caddie-scholars and J. Wood Platt Caddie Scholarship Trust supporters at the Annual Caddie Brunch with his message of "seven common sense principles of leadership, not always in common practice." Coach Vermeil's message reminded us of the valuable life lessons that are offered in the game of golf.

Our very own O. Gordon Brewer, Jr., president of Pine Valley Golf Club and former president of Huntingdon Valley Country Club, received the Bob Jones Award for 2009. This is the USGA's highest honor, given in recognition of sportsmanship in golf. Jack Connelly, a long-time friend of Mr. Brewer and past president of the PGA of America, recalled, "Gordon's strength was his ability to lead with integrity and fairness as my first golf chairman of Huntingdon Valley."

Technically, there is no off-season at the Golf Association. Mark Peterson, the organization's Executive Director, and his staff are working especially hard to prepare for the 2009 season and to provide support to our Member Clubs as they weather the headwinds of financial challenge. The Golf Association responded to our club leaders' need for timely information and best practices with the first issue of GAP Boardroom Insights, which focused on club services. The next Boardroom Insights will focus on membership development and golf operations.

The leaders of our Member Clubs are working closely with key operations staff, including the club manager, green superintendent and PGA Professional. These important professionals are on the front line of customer service as they bring a wealth of experience from their professional organizations to help their clubs face today's economic challenges. The recent 2009 Presidents' Council, the Association's annual gathering for Member Clubs to listen about and discuss industry hot-button topics, featured expert speakers in marketing, food and beverage operations and technology solutions. We also added an afternoon forum for marketing directors focused on addressing the critical need for membership development information.

Like our Member Clubs, the Golf Association has carefully examined expenses to ensure we deliver our services in a cost-effective manner. Prior year investments in Web site development have paid off by eliminating the need to publish a printed Schedule Book this year. An electronic reminder system for players has been developed to promote tournament and event activities. Future offerings will include discussion group forums for department heads of Member Clubs.

Playing opportunities exist for all ages through the Golf Association. Our Winter Series is already underway for the all-weather golfer, and our GAP Team Matches kick off at the end of April. To recognize the life-long nature of the game, we have added a Super-Senior Player of the Year Award for 2009.

Recognizing that families' recreation budgets are strained, many clubs are adding amenities that will attract new families. Strong junior golf programs are high on the checklist for prospective members. The Golf Association is committed to several initiatives to support the youth programs at our clubs and to expand the game to new juniors. We are working closely with the Philadelphia Section of the PGA and its leaders: Jim Smith, Jr., the president, and Geoff Surette, the executive director, to support junior programs. Golf is a wonderful way for families to spend time together and for parents to share with their children a game for their lifetime.

This is a great year to attend USGA championships in our area. Merion Golf Club and Saucon Valley Country Club continue their long history of hosting USGA championships. Saucon Valley CC will host the world's top women golfers at the U.S. Women's Open Championship, July 6-12. The Walker Cup at Merion GC will feature the best amateur golfers from the United States vs. those from Great Britain and Ireland on Sept. 11-13. The Walker Cup is a great opportunity to follow future stars of the PGA Tour. I remember the 1985 Walker Cup at Pine Valley, watching players like Davis Love, III, Colin Montgomery and Scott Verplank. Consider a trip for the family or your junior golf program to one of the championships.

The Golf Association is committed to fulfilling our mission of promoting the game and delivering the highest quality tournaments and Member Club services.



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Welcome to a new membership year with the Golf Association of Philadelphia

The Golf Association of Philadelphia is pleased to provide you with your 2009 GAP Membership Card. The back of the card offers a convenient location to keep your GAP/GHIN Handicap Index label, which is available at either, your home club or on-line at www.gapgolf.org by logging into your My GAP Locker and clicking on the My GAP-Revision link.

As a Member of a Golf Association of Philadelphia Member Club, you in turn are a Member of the Golf Association of Philadelphia, the oldest regional or state golfing association in the country. The Association's history runs long and rich in the Philadelphia area and you are a part of that proud tradition. The Golf Association of Philadelphia was formed in 1897.

Your Member benefits include a complimentary subscription to this magazine, the *Golf Association of Philadelphia Magazine*, the aforementioned GAP/GHIN Handicap Index, access to the historic GAP Team Matches (full Member Club Members only) and championship competitions (full and affiliate Member Club Members only) and various informational and educational seminars. Golf Association of Philadelphia Individual Members are also eligible to receive a complimentary year-long subscription to *Golf Digest*, the world's No. 1 golf publication. Most importantly, though, your membership is helping to Protect, Preserve and Promote the game we love.



Thank you for your support. We look forward to another year of serving you and the game of golf.

Golf Association of Philadelphia Celebrating Amateur golf since 1897

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- GAP Team Matches
- *Golf Association of Philadelphia Magazine*
- Handicap Administration
- Junior Golf
- Platt Caddie Scholarship
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*Stonewall (Old Course) 9th hole
Site of 2009 Amateur Championship*

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GAP - REVISION

AMATEUR GAP MEMBERS ONLY GOLF COURSE HANDICAP ADMINISTRATION MEMBER CLUBS PLAY PLAY

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HOME COURSE HANICAP

COMMONWEALTH	
Blue	18
Red	19
White	21
Yellow	22

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Here is a list of upcoming Golf Events that you are eligible to participate.

3/2/2009 News
USGA Museum offers discount to Golf Association of Philadelphia Members

The USGA Museum and Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History in Far Hills (Somerset County), N.J., has extended a special buy-one-admission, get-one-free offer to all Golf Association of Philadelphia members who would like to visit the Museum.

The USGA Museum reopened last June after three years of renovation and expansion, and its new facility provides visitors the opportunity to explore golf history in America from the perspective of the USGA, its national championships and its champions. The visitor experience, which celebrates the legendary players and great moments in the game's history through a variety of interactive displays, is highlighted by the Museum's Hall of Champions, a rotunda which houses the 13 original USGA championship trophies and lists the name of every

CLUBS

The Golf Association of Philadelphia welcomed five new Member Clubs to the organization this January: **Galen Hall Golf Club** in Wernersville, Pa.; **Loch Nairn Golf Club** in Avondale, Pa.; **Miry Run Country Club** in Robbinsville, N.J.; **Northampton Valley Country Club** in Richboro, Pa.; and **Schuylkill Country Club** in Pottsville, Pa. These five additions bring the Association Membership to 135.

Galen Hall Golf Club is a par 72 layout measuring 6,271 yards from the back tees. The original nine-hole course was designed by Alexander Findlay and first opened to the public in 1911.



Famed golf course architect A.W. Tillinghast added nine holes to the existing golf course in 1917, including the famous Moat Hole, No. 15, which is the first island green ever created.

Loch Nairn Golf Club was built and designed in 1979 by H.C. Smedley. Loch Nairn, a par 70 at 6,409 yards, is laced throughout its tree-lined fairways with strategically placed streams, lakes and ponds, and there are 11 holes where water comes into play.



Miry Run Country Club was built in 1964 by Bill Gordon. Originally a private equity club known as Skyview Country Club, it was sold in 1993, changed its status to a semi-private and was subsequently renamed Little Valley Country Club. A year later, the club was again sold and changed its name to Miry Run Country Club. The back tees are 6,657 yards in length and play to a par 72.



Northampton Valley Country Club was founded in 1964 by Philip Sklar, then a young stockbroker who took a leave of absence from his firm and convinced several friends to invest in building a golf course. Ed Ault, the very prolific Washington-area architect, designed the parcel of land, which today is a par 70/6,329 yards.



The original nine-holes of **Schuylkill Country Club** were built by Frank James at a cost of \$20,700. In 1921, the course and clubhouse opened and the members officially moved from the Pottsville, Pa., location to



Orwigsburg, Pa. The golf course received many changes through the beginning years, but none as much as when the club decided to expand to 18 holes and hired renowned golf course architect Donald Ross. In the mid-1940s, Ross made plans that required changing the original nine-hole layout by adding holes to the east and west ends of the existing course. Schuylkill is a par 72 at 6,857 yards.

PEOPLE

Jeffrey Hass, the former golf professional at Lu Lu Country Club, accepted the same position at French Creek Golf Club.

Andy Waters, formerly of Philadelphia Cricket Club, assumed the head golf professional position at Lu Lu Country Club.

Mike Reynolds has been appointed the head golf professional at The ACE Club.

Schedule Book

The Golf Association of Philadelphia has moved its entire Tournament Entry Process on-line for 2009 and will not publish a Schedule Book this spring. Entries for all organization tournaments are available at www.gapgolf.org under the on-line registration section. Printable paper entries may also be found by clicking on the tournaments/2009 schedule tab.

2009 COURSE RATING SCHEDULE

The Golf Association of Philadelphia rates every Member Club within a 7-10 year period. All raters have a working knowledge of the USGA Course Rating System. All raters are continuously educated through seminars and on-line training programs facilitated by the USGA and the Golf Association of Philadelphia. Volunteer course raters regularly drive significant distances to show up at the course very early in the morning. They work as a team to solidify the backbone of the USGA Handicap System that allows golfers from all over the world to compete on an equitable basis. Without an accurate USGA Course Rating, this would not be possible. Scheduled to be rated in 2009 by one of the Association's five voluntary teams are:

- *The ACE Club*
- *Burlington Country Club*
- *Chester Valley Golf Club*
- *Concord Country Club*
- *Edgmont Country Club*
- *French Creek Golf Club*
- *Golf Course at Glen Mills*
- *Huntingdon Valley Country Club (Centennial/Flynn/Toomey)*
- *Lederach Golf Club*
- *Limekiln Golf Club*
- *Links Golf Club*
- *Meadowlands Country Club*
- *Merion Golf Club (East/West)*
- *Philadelphia Country Club*
- *Philadelphia Cricket Club (Wissahickon)*
- *Radley Run Country Club*
- *Raven's Claw Golf Club*
- *Rolling Green Golf Club*
- *Schuylkill Country Club*

as of 3/1/09

For the Record

The Fox Hill Country Club Champions for 2008 were: Donald Crossin, Men's champion; Ed Hennigan, Senior champion; and Natalie Morrow, Women's champion... in the list of 2008 Club Champions, Thomas Mallouk should have been listed as the Lookaway Golf Club Senior Club Champion.



GLENMAURA'S KOYTEK NAMED CADDIE OF THE YEAR

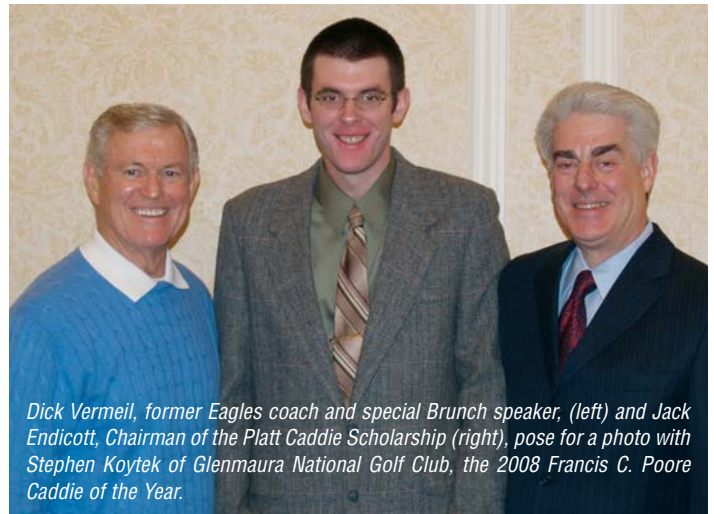
J. Wood Platt and the other Trust founders established the Platt Caddie Scholarship in 1958 to "Give them all a chance." The "them" in that statement being high-school aged caddies who desired a college education and were in need of aid.

It's apropos, then, that as the Scholarship turns 50, the recently announced 2008 Francis C. Poore Caddie of the Year, Stephen Koytek, is exactly the type of high-character, motivated individual Woody Platt and the Trust envisioned assisting.

Koytek, 21, is set to graduate from Penn State University this spring with a B.S. in Engineering Science and minors in nanotechnology and mechanics. Upon graduation, he will remain at State College in pursuit of a Master's in Engineering Science with an eye toward a Ph.D. in Material Science.

"If it wasn't for the [Platt Caddie Scholarship] I don't know if I would have even been able to attend college," said Koytek, who carries a 3.90 GPA and caddies at Glenmaura National Golf Club. "To be able to become a college graduate, the first one in my family on either side, is a big deal for my whole family. J. Wood Platt put me on the right path to a great career and to be able to succeed in life in general."

Koytek was recognized as the Platt's Caddie of the Year at the Trust's annual Caddie Brunch on Dec. 20 at Philadelphia Country



Dick Vermeil, former Eagles coach and special Brunch speaker, (left) and Jack Endicott, Chairman of the Platt Caddie Scholarship (right), pose for a photo with Stephen Koytek of Glenmaura National Golf Club, the 2008 Francis C. Poore Caddie of the Year.

Club. His mother Donna, father Stephen, and brother Tyler, 10, attended the annual pre-holiday gathering of more than 200 caddie-scholars, board members and supporters of the Platt.

"I knew about the Award, and I always thought of winning it, but I never thought that I would," said Koytek, who has attended the last four Caddie Brunches. "I'm still in shock I was the one selected. It is one of the proudest achievements of my life to win this award."

In addition to his educational résumé, Koytek is the acting vice-president for the Society of Engineering Science and a member of the Tau Beta Pi fraternity, the second oldest collegiate honors society in the country. He's also active in the Science Lions, a club that puts on shows at schools and other children's events across the area that teaches kids about science in new, exciting ways.

Koytek hopes to complete his Master's and Ph.D. in three years and then move into the biotechnology/renewable energy field as a research manager.

"I want to personally thank all the members of Glenmaura National Golf Club who have treated me so well since I've been there," said Koytek. "I also would like to thank everyone associated with the Trust for all its support and hard work."

The Caddie of the Year Award's namesake, Francis C. Poore, served on the Platt Board of Trustees from 1969 to 2003. He was a valued advisor and friend to the scholarship's management, associates and fellow Trustees. Through his excellent leadership, conscientious service and dedication, he contributed immeasurably to the development and growth of the organization. His commitment to the Scholarship and his mentorship to the caddie recipients were unparalleled. He will forever stand as the model and epitome of the virtue and essence of the Platt Caddie Scholarship. The Education Committee looks at all Platt Caddie-Scholars in their senior year of college and selects the one individual who stands out among his or her peers over the past four academic years.

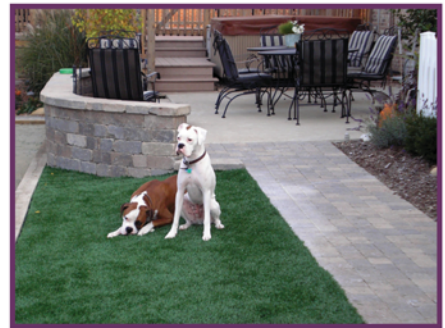


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STONEWALL & DALE: A PERFECT FIT

By Neil Geoghegan

When Dan Dale beat out over 100 applicants to become the superintendent at Stonewall in 1995, club founder Jack May sat down with the nervous 31-year-old and laid out his core philosophy.

"The old man said, 'Look, just put an imaginary line up the middle of every golf hole and then work from the center out,'" recalled Stonewall General Manager Paul Mauer. "He said, 'I want those fairways, tees and greens perfect before you get to the rough.'

"And Dan followed it to a 'T.'"

Fourteen years later, with the Chester County club set to host its most prestigious tournament this summer – the Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur Championship – Dale is still on the job and most worried about ... the tall fescue which borders the fairways beyond the secondary rough. That should tell you a lot about the job Dale's done over the years with the fairways, tees and greens.

"We've got a pretty demanding membership," Dale explained. "For a lot of them, we are their second or third club to places like Pine Valley [Golf Club], Merion [Golf Club] and Aronimink [Golf Club]."

"Managing the fescue and keeping the weeds out is a nightmare. They want to have a good, uniform fescue everywhere on the course and it just doesn't work like that always."

A native of Oil City, Pa., Dale is also quite concerned with the maintenance of the 189 bunkers on the property. He wants everything to be as close to perfect as possible when Stonewall's Old Course and North Course, just shy of its seventh birthday, play host to the 109th Amateur Championship on June 15-17 and 20. Stonewall's Old Course was the primary venue for the 2000 Amateur.

"We've hosted a lot of local events like the Philadelphia Open Championship, the Pennsylvania Open Championship and the Women's Trans National Championship, but nothing is like the Amateur," Dale said. "The preparation will be a lot more intense for this."

In the winter months, Dale has a full-time staff of five, including two assistants, a mechanic and two workers. That number swells to 34 in the summertime, including part-timers and seasonal workers. And his annual budget of \$1.45 million only goes so far, especially for such a respected 36-hole facility.

"Usually the benchmark for a superintendent is to have excellent playing conditions within a certain budget," Mauer said. "Dan's done very well."

Dale, 45, earned a degree in plant and soil sciences from West Virginia University and then spent short stints at Indiana (Pa.) and Coatesville country clubs before becoming an assistant superintendent at St. Davids Golf Club in 1990. After serving four years under Henry Wetzel, Dale applied for the position at Stonewall on lark. But thanks to a strong recommendation by Pete Trenham, the head professional at St. Davids at the time, and a strong interview, he got the career-defining job.



"I was plenty scared," he admitted. "I thought I'd be lucky to last three years and here I am in year No. 14. The best part of it was that we didn't have a committee like most private clubs. It was Jack May, myself and Paul Mauer making all of the decisions."

There were, obviously, a lot of good decisions made over the years. The Old Course debuted in 1993 and quickly became one of the region's most respected layouts. The North Course followed a decade later and before long was mentioned as one of the nation's top new courses. Both were designed by renowned golf course architect Tom Doak.

"The way Doak put this course together and the setting, it looks like it's been here for 100 years," Dale said of the Old Course. "And the [North] is a great second course that compliments the Old Course."

May – a member at Pine Valley who also was a major force in establishing Waynesborough Country Club in 1965 – died in March of 2008. To see Stonewall play host the Amateur Championship once again would have been a very big deal for May, according to Dale.

"He was all about amateur events," Dale said. "Mr. May didn't think the pro events were as important. He always dreamed of holding the Philadelphia Amateur here once again, so it's unfortunate that it didn't happen before he passed. But I know he'll be looking down for this."

"I kind of sense his presence all the time. We used to joke that Stonewall had an invisible tent over top of it because every storm seemed to bypass us. But after he passed, we've been getting more rain than we ever have in 14 years. I call them the 'May rains.'"

Dale lives in West Chester with his wife, Tami, and daughters Madison, 14, and Taylor, 8.



Stonewall (Old Course) 8th hole

Neil Geoghegan is a sports writer for Journal Register News Service and has covered golf since 1993.

Doug Domeshek *Golden Oaks Golf Club*

Doug Domeshek of Golden Oaks Golf Club, a course rater, has volunteered with the Golf Association of Philadelphia since 2004. Domeshek took an early interest in the course rating process and under the tutelage of William Carr and Bob Harris, quickly became a very knowledgeable, consistent and dependable rater. In recent years, Domeshek has been one of the highest participating raters for the Association. He was appointed a 2009 team captain. Domeshek is an accomplished golfer as well. He moved to Golden Oaks Golf Club earlier this year, but formerly was a long-time member at Heidelberg Country Club where he was a three-time club champion.



Q. Why did you get into course rating?

A. I love the game of golf, wanted to play courses that I otherwise would never play and to give back to the Golf Association of Philadelphia.

Q. What's your favorite part of volunteering/course rating?

A. We get into many theoretical situations that really don't affect the outcome of the ratings but are well worth talking about. You see, all the guys that I rate with are good folks, fun to play golf with and generally easy to beat! My team captains [Will Carr and Bob Harris] have been so good to me in helping me along in learning the process.

Q. Who's your favorite golfer (professional, amateur) and why?

A. I absolutely love Tiger but, moreover, enjoy watching golf played at its finest by anyone.

Q. How did you get started in golf?

A. I grew up at the Atlanta Country Club but never played golf. When I was about 28, I found an old bag of clubs in a customer's trash. A driver, 3-wood, 5-wood, 3-, 5-, 7- and 9-irons, and a pitching wedge. I had a friend take me out to Green Hills Country Club, an old nine-hole public course that used to be owned by gangsters. The first hole is a reachable par 5 that I actually reached in my first attempt. But, of course, I three-putted for par. I have been hooked ever since.

Q. What's your most memorable moment as a player?

A. I've had lots of great moments including four holes-in-one and have won three club championships [at Heidelberg Country Club]. My most memorable moment, though, was making a par from hell on the 18th hole, a par 5, in the final round of my club championship, that included a poor drive, two 7-wood shots, a pitching wedge and an 18-foot putt from a different level from the rough that went drain-o to win my second club championship by one stroke.

Q. What's the craziest thing you've seen as a volunteer/course rater?

A. Last year, Cory [Reighard, the Golf Association of Philadelphia's Director of Course Rating] and I got stopped by the police at the entry way of Linwood Country Club. We had to present identification and were asked several questions about our whereabouts the previous evening. The police had the entire area taped off, like you see on those TV shows. We never did find out what kind of crime was committed.

Q. Favorite aspect of the Golf Association of Philadelphia?

A. Hands down, my favorite aspect of the Golf Association of Philadelphia is the GAP Team Matches. I have played in every division from D to AA but have not gotten the chance to play for the overall championship. I think that will change. My new club, Golden Oaks Golf Club, has an outstanding team, and will make it to the top... you heard it right here. Kudos to Kirby [Martin, the Golf Association of Philadelphia's Director of Competitions] and the staff for putting together such great competitions.



Patterson Cup moves to two days

SUPER-SENIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR CREATED

The Golf Association of Philadelphia announced a format change to the Joseph H. Patterson Cup, the addition of a Super-Senior Player of the Year, and a new feature that will allow Spring Net Championship competitors to bring a friend to the June event as part of its 2009 tournament changes.

The Patterson Cup, the Association's 36-hole stroke-play championship, and in recent years, the organization's season-ending Major, has been expanded. This year, still in the same place on the tournament calendar, the Patterson Cup will be contested over two days, 18 holes a day, with the field cut to the low 60 players and ties after the first round.

"We believe these Patterson Cup changes will give the individuals competing in the event more of a championship tournament experience, with leaders being grouped together on the second day and knowing their position of the leaderboard," said Kirby Martin, the Association's Director of Competitions. "In addition, it will bring a championship feel to the Silver Cross as well." The Silver Cross is comprised of the rounds of the Amateur Championship Qualifier and Patterson Cup.

"Moving the event to two days also gives the Association a little more flexibility in scheduling the Patterson Cup. It has become increasingly more difficult to administer the event at two closely located facilities throughout the years."

This year's Patterson Cup is set for Aug. 13-14 at Llanerch Country Club.

Keeping in step with recent additions to its Super-Senior Division program, the Association created a 2009 Super-Senior Player of the Year Award. Similar to the other Golf Association of Philadelphia Player of the Year awards, the Super-Senior Player of the Year will be awarded to the super-senior golfer who accumulates the most points in specific Super-Senior Division tournaments.

Another change to highlight is for our Net competitors. Golf Association of Philadelphia Members competing in the Spring Net Championship on June 1 at Raven's Claw Golf Club will have the special opportunity to bring a non-GAP member to participate in the tournament. Those guests will get an opportunity to experience competing in a Golf Association of Philadelphia tournament for a nominal fee while in their own separate division.

Other addition tournament changes are as follows:

Administration fee – Withdrawals prior to the Tournament deadline will be subject to a \$20 administrative fee.

Practice rounds – This new policy will allow practice rounds for all GAP events **when permitted** by the host venue. The Golf Association Tournament Staff will inform players registered for each event whether or not a practice round is available, at what times players may play and at what cost.

Player's Dinner – All Flight Winners will be invited to attend the year end Player's Dinner. The Association feels this is a great way in which to honor all of our champions.

Players from the same club playing together – The GAP recently changed its policy to allow players from the same club to compete together at all events. In the past, players from the same club were only allowed to be paired together in a select number of events.

Tournament handicaps – The Association recently changed its entry process to allow the use of the most recent handicap revision prior to the closing date for an event.

MERION GOLF CLUB GOES FOR EIGHT STRAIGHT

By Rick Woelfel

When it comes to the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia's Interclub Matches, Merion Golf Club reigns supreme.

The women of Merion have dominated the competition for the Philadelphia Cup—the top bracket of the Interclub Matches, almost since the series inception back in 1897.

Merion has won seven straight Philadelphia Cup competitions and 12 of the last 13. Overall, it has captured the title 64 of the 108 times the Cup's been contested.

And after last season, when they defeated Sunnybrook Golf Club and Philadelphia Cricket Club in a three-way playoff at Llanerch Country Club to keep the streak intact, no one is expecting the defending champions to cede the throne without a fight.

Merion will be challenged this year by Spring Ford Country Club, Huntingdon Valley Country Club and Gulph Mills Golf Club in addition to its playoff foes of a year ago. Between the other five clubs in the Philadelphia Cup bracket, they have won 28 titles in comparison to Merion's 64.

This year's competition will get underway on Tuesday, April 28 and will continue each Tuesday and Friday through May 12 with 156 clubs from 73 teams divided into six-team Cups or brackets. Playoffs, Challenge Matches and Super-Jump Matches, which enable teams to move from one Cup to another, will be held May 14, 15 and 19.

Teams field lineups of seven players each. Each match is conducted at scratch over 18 holes of match play; extra holes are used to determine a winner if a

match stands All Square after 18 holes.

Over the course of the last 111 years, some of the greatest female players in history have competed in the Interclub Matches – Florence Vanderbeck, Glenna Collett Vare, Helen Sigel, Wilson and Dorothy Porter all played in years past.

Today's players are linked to their predecessors while at the same time establishing milestones of their own. Through it all, however, Merion's accomplishments have withstood the test of time.

"We do have a string going," said Merion captain Liz Haines. "That's a tremendous motivating factor."



Larry Paster is an Ace at Philmont Country Club

By Eddie Levin

Larry Paster had a very difficult 2007 winter that was followed by a splendid 2008 summer.

On Nov. 12, 2007, Paster was starting his round on the South Course at Philmont Country Club and began to have severe hip pain. For the next five holes, Paster limped around the course because he did not want to walk off.

As the pain began to intensify, Paster, who practices physical therapy, contacted some of his friends who were orthopedic specialists. By the time he finished his abbreviated round, Paster already had a bone scan and an MRI scheduled.

The results showed deterioration in his hip, and following four weeks of physical therapy and no improvement the decision was made to have hip replacement surgery.

On Feb. 12, 2008, Paster had successful hip surgery and was back on the golf course two weeks later.

"I made a deal with my doctor," said Paster, who currently carries a 3.5 handicap. "He said if I felt no pain that I could play golf, but if the pain came back then I had to stop."

On March 28, now five weeks removed from surgery, Paster decided to play nine holes with some friends. Starting on No. 10 on the South Course with a par, Paster stepped up to the 11th hole, which was playing 146 yards.

With the wind in his face, Paster hit a knock down 6-iron to the uphill hole with an undulating green. With the hole location mid-left in the center of the green, Paster's shot started right and then kicked left rolling directly into the hole.

"I thought I hit the ball over the green," said Paster, who prior to the shot already owned two other holes-in-one. "As I was looking for my ball, my friend Bob Fox walked over to the hole and said it's in the hole."

On Aug. 2, Paster was playing in Philmont County Club's better ball tournament. At the 194-yard 15th hole on the South Course, he

decided to hit a Rescue Club equivalent to a 4-iron. From the point of contact, Paster knew he struck the ball well, and it was tracking toward the hole. The shot hit the green and one-hopped into the hole.

To cap off his summer, Paster played in the ELBET, named after Ellis and Elizabeth Gimbel (who founded the old Gimbel's Department store) with Bobbi Rose, who is 93 and the grand dame of Philadelphia golf. At the par 3, 213-yard 11th hole of the North Course, Paster hit a knock down 3-wood.

Once again thinking he had overshot the green, Paster took out his 60-degree wedge and went hunting for his ball. When he found out the ball was in the hole, he was in complete disbelief.

"I was shocked," said Paster. "When I got back to the grill room everyone gave me a standing ovation. It was very appreciated."

"I do not ever remember anyone having three holes-in-one [in such a short span]," said Mickey Sokalski, who has been the pro at Philmont for 20-plus years. "We put a sign up for him and members offered their congratulations."

Paster had a plaque made with the picture of the hole for each hole-in-one and his name resides on the hole-in-one plaque in the clubhouse. That gives the long-time Philmont Country Club member six holes-in-one in 21 years.

Paster capped 2008 by claiming his first Top 20 finish in a Golf

Association of Philadelphia Senior tournament at the Chapman Cup (Gross) in late July at North Hills Country Club. He did fail to register a hole-in-one, however. I'm guessing he used his quota for the year.

Eddie Levin is a freelance writer from Lafayette Hill, Pa. He has covered sports in the Philadelphia area for the last 11 years.



Special offer for GAP Members at the USGA Museum

The USGA Museum and
Arnold Palmer Center for
Golf History in Far Hills



(Somerset County), N.J., has extended a special buy-one-admission, get-one-free offer to all Golf Association of Philadelphia members who would like to visit the Museum.

The USGA Museum reopened last June after three years of renovation and expansion, and its new facility provides visitors the opportunity to explore golf history in America from the perspective of the USGA, its national championships and its champions. The visitor experience, which celebrates the legendary players and great moments in the game's history through a variety of interactive displays, is highlighted by the Museum's Hall of Champions, a rotunda which houses the 13 original USGA championship trophies and lists the name of every USGA champion and championship.



In addition to the 2-for-1 offer on admission, Golf Association of Philadelphia members will also receive a 10 percent discount in the gift shop.

Tours of the USGA's Research and Test Center, which are included with admission, are available to visitors on Fridays at 1 p.m.

The Pynes Putting Course, a nine-hole course featuring severe humps and swales, will open in April. The \$5 green fee includes a souvenir ball and the chance to play with replicas of putters such as Bob Jones' famous Calamity Jane II.

The USGA Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The Museum is located at 77 Liberty Corner Road in Far Hills, N.J.

For more information about the USGA Museum, visit www.usgamuseum.com.

To take advantage of this offer, simply present your Golf Association of Philadelphia Membership Card or print the Museum ad and/or story from the Web site, www.gapgolf.org.

Regina joins Golf Association of Philadelphia staff

The Golf Association of Philadelphia has named Tony Regina the assistant Director of Communications.

Regina, of Holmesburg, Pa., will manage media relations, cover association events and contribute to the association's Web site. He will also work on the Association's quarterly magazine and other publications.



"I'm excited to join an organization as accredited as the Golf Association of Philadelphia," Regina said. "The staff here is very friendly and dedicated to the Association. I'm thrilled to be a part of such a talented team."

Regina, a La Salle University graduate, spent three years as an editor for Intercounty News Media Group. He served as managing editor for the Record-Breeze, a weekly newspaper in Gloucester Township, N.J., from 2005-07. In 2008, he was named executive editor of the company's South Jersey group — overseeing and directing nine publications.

"I hope to draw from my experiences in journalism and to help the Golf Association of Philadelphia grow," Regina said. "There's a lot of tradition here. I look forward to being a part of it."

Added Mark Peterson, the Association's Executive Director, "We are excited to welcome an individual with the diverse talents of Tony onto the staff. He will make a great addition."

In 2003, Regina worked for the Philadelphia Eagles as an intern for the team's video production department. He then spent a season in NFL Europe as assistant video director for the Berlin Thunder.

SCHOOL RULES

*School Rules tracks where Junior Players
in the Golf Association of Philadelphia
are heading next.*

Dan Bernard of RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve, 19, will be attending Bucknell University in the fall of 2009... **James Braunsberg of Blue Bell Country Club**, 17, has selected Drexel University... **Mark Endres of Overbrook Golf Club**, 18, will enter Boston College... **Zac Falone of Rolling Green Golf Club**, 18, will matriculate at St. Joseph's University... **J.R. Fasy of Wilmington Country Club**, 18, will be staying in-state at the University of Delaware... **Michael Kania of Overbrook Golf Club**, 18, will be joining his brother, James Kania, at the University of Kentucky... **Scott McCool of Saucon Valley Country Club**, 17, will be headed to California State University at Chico... **Jerry Temple, Jr. of Cavaliers Country Club**, 18, will be joining J.R. Fasy at the University of Delaware.

To be listed in School Rules, please send information to
Martin D. Emeno, Jr. at memento@gapgolf.org or
Chris Roselle at crosele@gapgolf.org.

Season Opens with GAP Team Matches

TAVISTOCK LOOKS FOR FIFTH TITLE IN SIX YEARS *By Rick Woelfel*

In April of each year, the Golf Association of Philadelphia comes together for a celebration of the game. On three consecutive Sundays, more than 3,700 golfers from across the area will flock to the links in the organization's most far-reaching competition.

The GAP Team Matches have become a season-opening ritual, one that connects golfers from across the region, regardless of their club affiliation or handicap.

Some of the participants are among the most accomplished players in the region, who compete regularly in championship events. Others bypass tournament play, by design or necessity. For them, the matches are the highlight of their season.

"We have only a handful of guys that play in tournaments," said John Brennan, the captain of Spring Ford Country Club's first team. "But we have guys that really gear up for those three weeks of team matches. We have a good core of players and they clear their schedules for those three days."

The 109th edition of the matches will include a record 128 clubs, including defending champion Tavistock Country Club. A total of 316 teams will compete. Huntingdon Valley Country Club and Philadelphia Cricket Club have each entered five teams in the series. Eleven other clubs have entered four.

Several clubs have dropped out of the series this year, but five others, Galen Hall Golf Club, Loch Nairn Golf Club, Miry Run Country Club, Northampton Valley Country Club and Schuylkill Country Club will be competing for the first time.

The matches will commence on Sunday, April 19, and continue on April 26 and May 3. The Playoff and Challenge Matches will be staged on Saturday, May 9.

To veterans of the matches the format is familiar. Newcomers may find it a bit puzzling at first.

Tavistock will be trying for its fifth championship in six years in the elite Division AA after winning the traditional series-ending four-way playoff over Yardley Country Club, Commonwealth National Golf Club and Huntsville Golf Club. Division AA includes the Top 16 clubs grouped into four sections of four teams each.



The remaining teams are placed in one of six divisions, A through F. Each division is then subdivided into four-team sections. Each team plays a round-robin against the other three teams in its section.

The subsequent Challenge Matches determine which teams move up or down the ladder from one division to another.

When new clubs join the Golf Association of Philadelphia and



14th hole, Tavistock Country Club

enter the team matches, Kirby Martin, GAP's Director of Competitions, relies on the rule of equity, placing the new teams where he believes they will be the most competitive.

Each team fields a 12-man lineup with six players competing at home and six on the road each week. Each player contests a better-ball match and a singles match simultaneously. The matches use a Nassau-style scoring system; three points are at stake in each match, and additional quarter-points are awarded for margin of victory.

There has been shuffling of the 2009 AA Division. Brookside Country Club of Pottstown, Lancaster, Country Club, Merion Golf Club and RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve have stepped up, replacing Glenmaura National Golf Club, Philadelphia Country Club, Wedgwood Country Club and Wilmington Country Club.

The defending champions had extra reason to celebrate in 2008. Tavistock's teams returned home after spending 2007 on the road with their course closed for renovation.

It's common for a corps of members to walk the course during the matches each week, and there's no question the players themselves, like those on other teams in the top brackets, take the matches quite seriously.

But veteran competitor Bob Arthur, Sr. pointed out that the series is characterized by good fellowship and mutual respect. "There is a lot of camaraderie," he said. "We see so many of these guys on a regular basis and [in tournaments] we're paired together all the time.

"We want to win, but we enjoy the guys we play with."

Another veteran, Doug Gregor from Huntingdon Valley, echoed those sentiments. "It's about friendships," he said, "and building new friendships and new acquaintanceships."

The GAP Team Matches were first played in 1897 when they



MOHLER NAMED 2010 USA CURTIS CUP CAPTAIN



The United States Golf Association announced on Feb. 17 that Noreen Friel Mohler, 55, of Bethlehem, Pa., and Northampton Country Club has been selected as the captain for the 2010 USA Curtis Cup team. The 2010 Curtis Cup will take place June 11-13, 2010, at Essex County Club in Manchester, Mass.

Mohler was a member of the USA's victorious 1978 Curtis Cup team that defeated Great Britain and Ireland, 12-6, at The Apawamis Club in Rye, N.Y.

The Curtis Cup is a biennial competition between female amateur teams from the USA and Great Britain and Ireland. The first Match was held in 1932 at Wentworth (England) Golf Club, and the USA owns a 26-6-3 record, including victories in the last six Matches. In 2008, the Curtis Cup was contested at the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, where the USA team was victorious, 13-7.

"This is the highest honor that I have ever received in my golfing career," said Mohler. "I am honored, humbled and excited about this opportunity. It was the thrill of a lifetime to play in the Curtis Cup, and I'm sure that it will be a life-changing experience as a captain."

Mohler was a semifinalist in the 1975 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship and has played in five U.S. Women's Open Championships. After stepping away from her playing career for a number of years to concentrate on her family and business affairs, she returned to the game in 2006 and reached the quarterfinals of the 2007 USGA Women's Senior Amateur Championship and the semifinals of the 2008 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship.

Born in Woburn, Mass., Mohler is a three-time Massachusetts State Women's Amateur Champion (1973, 1980-81). She is also the co-chairman of the Marshals Committee for the 2009 U.S. Women's Open, which will be held at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, Pa., July 6-12.



Courtesy of USGA

WALKER CUP TICKETS FOR SALE

Tickets for the 2009 Walker Cup on Sept. 12-13 at Merion Golf Club are still available and for sale.

The Walker Cup pits the finest amateur golfers from Great Britain and Ireland against those from the United States. While Merion has hosted many other USGA championships, this is the first time the Ardmore, Pa., club will host the prestigious Walker Cup.

Merion Golf Club member Buddy Marucci will captain the United States team, as he did for the 2007 U.S. victory at Royal County Down.

The Walker Cup features spirited, intense competition between the two teams in an atmosphere that captures the utmost in sportsmanship. Merion and the USGA are eager to welcome a knowledgeable gallery, and Merion will be able to accommodate up to 10,000 spectators each day

For more information about ticket sales visit the Web site 2009walkercup.org, call 484-708-1050 or email the ticket department at tickets@2009walkercup.org.

GAP/Exelon Invitational Ticket Deal

The Golf Association of Philadelphia and Exelon Invitational are teaming up to offer tickets to the region's only event with PGA Tour players at a discounted price. In an exclusive offer, Golf Association of Philadelphia Members can purchase tickets to the Exelon Invitational hosted by **Jim Furyk** presented by CBIZ at a \$5 discount. Simply visit comcastix.com, click on the sports tab and type in the promo code GAP when prompted in the payment screen to purchase the discounted tickets.



The Exelon Invitational is set for June 8 at its annual site, The ACE Club. Last year, Furyk and Steve Stricker faced Aaron Baddeley and K.J. Choi in the four-ball match play event. Furyk has announced one guest so far for this year, **Anthony Kim**. Kim finished sixth on the money list a year ago and was a two-time winner of tour, taking the Wachovia Championship and AT&T National. The 23-year-old Kim also represented the United States on the 2008 Ryder Cup team.



Lancaster Country Club to host 2015 U.S. Women's Open

The United States Golf Association announced on Feb. 7 that Lancaster Country Club was selected as the site for the 2015 U.S. Women's Open Championship. The dates of the championship are July 9-12, 2015.

"Lancaster Country Club is a great, treasured layout," said Jerry Hostetter, club president. "It's a hidden gem that will show very well nationally and internationally. We have overwhelming support within the club, and hosting the U.S. Women's Open is a great opportunity for the community."

Designed by architect William Flynn, the Old Course at Lancaster CC opened in 1920. A course revision to bring it very near to the original Flynn layout was completed in 2007, under the guidance of Ron Forse.

Lancaster CC was a local qualifying site for the 2008 U.S. Women's Open and also hosted the 2002 and 2007 Pennsylvania

Opens, the 1990 and 2005 Pennsylvania Women's Amateurs and seven Pennsylvania State Amateur championships.

An interesting historical note about the club involves the 1948 Pennsylvania Amateur, when Lancaster member Billy Haverstick defeated 19-year-old Arnold Palmer, 3&2, en route to winning the title at his home club. Also, 2003 U.S. Open champion Jim Furyk grew up playing golf for nearby Manheim Township High School, which used Lancaster CC as its home course.

Known for its generally rolling topography, Lancaster CC is intersected by the Conestoga River, which comes into play on seven holes. Highly contoured greens, canting fairways and a mixture of elevation changes are hallmarks of the course design.

The 2015 U.S. Women's Open will be the ninth occurrence of the championship to be played in Pennsylvania. In July,

Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem will serve as the site of the U.S. Women's Open; the 2010 championship will be played at Oakmont Country Club.

Previously, the U.S. Women's Open has been played at these other Pennsylvania sites: Bala Golf Club in Philadelphia (1952), Churchill Valley Country Club in Pittsburgh (1959), Moselem Springs Golf Club in Fleetwood (1968), The Kakhwa Club in Erie (1971), Rolling Green Golf Club in Springfield (1976) and Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont (1992).

In total, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has hosted 77 previous USGA championships and will also be the site of the 2009 Walker Cup Match at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, from Sept. 12-13.

The U.S. Women's Open was first played in 1946.



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The College Corner makes its debut and gives a look at what some Junior Players from the Golf Association of Philadelphia are doing on the college level.

Bobby Arthur of Tavistock Country Club, a 19-year-old freshman at the University of Delaware participated in three of the five fall events for the Blue Hens. His highest finish came at the Lehigh Kelly Gutshall Invitational at the Weyhill Course at Saucon Valley Country Club where he placed 30th... **Phil Bartholomew of Yardley Country Club**, 20, a junior at Elon University, competed in five of the six fall events. Bartholomew, the 2007 Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur Champion, posted his best finish tied for 19th place in the Hummingbird Intercollegiate at The Country Club of Sapphire Valley in Sapphire, N.C.... **Eric Schmehl of Moorestown Field Club**, 20, a junior at Catawba College, recorded



SCHMEHL

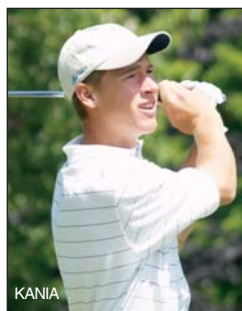
two Top 10 finishes during the fall golf season. Schmehl, who competed in all four fall events for the Indians, finished with a stroke average of 75.13 over the eight rounds played. His first Top 10 finish

came at the Anderson Invitational in Anderson, S.C., at Brookstone Meadows Golf Club where he placed fifth with a two-round total of 141 (73-68). At the Tusculum Fall Classic held in Greeneville, Tenn., at Link Hills Country Club, Schmehl posted rounds of 71 and 69 to finish in eighth place... **James Bea of Spring Mill Country Club**, 19, just completed a very successful fall season for the St. Joseph's University Hawks. Bea, only a freshman, played in all six fall events for the Big 5 school. The highlight of the fall for Bea came at the Old Dominion/Seascape Golf Invitational in Kitty Hawk, N.C., where after rounds of 68-72 (140), Bea finished tied for the overall lead. Bea also posted a seventh-place finish at the 15th annual Navy Fall Invitational in Annapolis, Md., as well as a fourth-place finish at the Georgetown Intercollegiate in Beallsville, Md.... **Tyler Canfield of Downingtown Golf Club**, 20, a West Chester University sophomore, tied for 28th with a score of 168 in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Championships at Hershey Country Club. Unfortunately, that was Canfield's lone tournament appearance of the year as he battled a knee ailment most of the season... **Brian Creghan of Plymouth**

Country Club, 21, a Guilford College junior, posted his best finish of the season with a tie for sixth place (72-73-71-216) in the Sea Trail Intercollegiate at William Byrd Golf Course in Sunset Beach, N.C. Creghan, who serves as the Guilford team captain, has an overall scoring average of 75.83 this season... **Amory Davis of DuPont Country Club**, 20, a sophomore at the University of Virginia, scored his best career finish in sixth place at the Virginia Commonwealth University Shootout with a tournament score of 6-under 207. Davis, who competed in all four fall events for the Cavaliers, finished second on the team with a fall stroke average of 72.82...

Brandon Detweiler of Lancaster Country Club, a 21-year-old sophomore at North Carolina State University, played in two of three fall events for the Wolfpack. Detweiler, who made it to the Round of 16 at last year's USGA Amateur Championship, compiled a 75.4 scoring average this past fall. His best finish came at the Bank of Tennessee Invitational at The Ridges in Jonesborough, Tenn., where he finished tied for 46th... **Stephen Dressel of St. Davids Golf Club**, 20, who is also a member of the Elon University golf team, claimed medalist honors at the Sea Trail Intercollegiate this fall. Dressel, a sophomore, posted a fall best three-round total of 212 (69-74-69). Dressel, who competed in all six fall events, also posted three other Top 20 individual finishes and compiled a scoring average of 74.87...

Christopher Gold of Little Mill Country Club, 21, a University of Maryland senior, played in all five fall events for the Terrapins. Gold, who had a scoring average of 74.8, posted his best finish of the fall with a tie for 37th place in the University of North Carolina-Greensboro Bridgestone Golf Collegiate at Forest Oaks Country Club... **Stephen Hudacek, III of Glenmaura National Golf Club**, a 21-year-old senior at St. Joseph's University, competed in four of the six fall



KANIA

events for the Hawks. His best finish came in the first event of the year where he finished tied for 15th place at the 15th annual Navy Fall Invitational... **James Kania, Jr., of Overbrook Golf Club**,

a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of Kentucky, competed in two events this past fall. As a freshman, Kania played in seven tournaments in 2007 and compiled a 74.86 stroke average. His best finish as a freshman was a sixth-place finish at the University of Kentucky Bluegrass Invitational in Lexington, Ky.... **Kevin Melnick, Jr. of Plymouth Country Club**, a 19-year-old freshman at Boston College, competed in three of five fall tournaments for the Eagles. Melnick's best finish came at Big 5 Classic, held at the Philadelphia Cricket Club (Wissahickon course), where he finished in a share for 40th place with a two round total of 154... **Matt Raudenbush of Pine Valley Golf Club**, 20, a freshman at the University of North Carolina, played in one fall event. Raudenbush finished in a tie for 17th place in the Duke Coca-Cola Individual Collegiate at Duke University Golf Club in Durham, N.C., with a three round total of 224... **Colin Smith of Radley Run Country Club**, 19, a freshman at the University of



C. SMITH

Delaware, completed a very successful fall golf season. Smith played in all five events for the Blue Hens and compiled a scoring average of 74.40. The highlight of the fall campaign came at the Scotty Duncan Memorial

Golf Invitational where Smith fired rounds of 70 and 67 at White Clay Creek Country Club to capture medalist honors. Smith also placed second in the 15th annual Navy Fall Invitational with rounds of 70 and 69... **Zach Smith of Doylestown Country Club**, 21, a junior at St. Joseph's University, played in five events this past fall. His best finish came at the Cleveland State Invitational in Avon, Ohio, where he finished tied for ninth place with a three-round total of 220 (73-73-74)...

Nathan Sutherland of Berkshire Country Club, 19, a Miami University sophomore, recorded two Top 10 finishes in the fall including a best fourth-place showing at the Georgetown University Invitational in Washington, D.C., at the Member Club at Four Streams. In five tournaments this season, Sutherland was Miami's highest-placed finisher twice. Tied for the team high in rounds with 14, Sutherland holds the second-lowest scoring average for the RedHawks at 74.50.

To be listed in the College Corner, please send information to Martin D. Emeno, Jr. at memento@gapgolf.org or Chris Roselle at croselle@gapgolf.org.



FROMAL INDUCTED INTO BIG 5 HALL OF FAME

By Tom Kerrane

Curt Fromal never intended to stop playing basketball.

Having been one of the stars at La Salle University in the 1960s, Fromal continued his playing career professionally and in tournaments.

It was at one such tournament, though, after Fromal turned 30, when his body let him know his competitive basketball days were winding down.

This is how Fromal was formally introduced to golf.

He had dabbled in the sport before, but his competitive juices had always been directing him to the basketball court. This time, they steered him toward the driving range.

Having recently turned 68, Fromal has never regretted that decision. These days, Fromal might be enjoying the most rewarding time of his athletic career.

Fromal, a 4.8 handicap at The Springhaven Club, won the Golf Association of Philadelphia's Super-Senior Silver Cross Award last year. In February, he was inducted into the Big 5 Hall of Fame.

"I was shocked," Fromal said when notified of his induction with this year's class. "There are probably a lot of guys who should go in before me. I never expected to get in the Hall of Fame.

"I'm very grateful, very honored."

He has the same feelings toward his time on the golf course.

"I love to compete, love the camaraderie," Fromal said. "It keeps you young.

"When you compete all your life, there's always the need to continue competing. Golf gives me that."

During his basketball days for the Explorers, Fromal stood out despite measuring only 5-foot-7. Some of his hardwood skills easily transferred to the golf course.

"The hand-eye coordination that is required by both sports, that's important," he said. "I'm not a good ball-striker, but fairly good from 100 yards in. I think that comes from my basketball, the feel required.

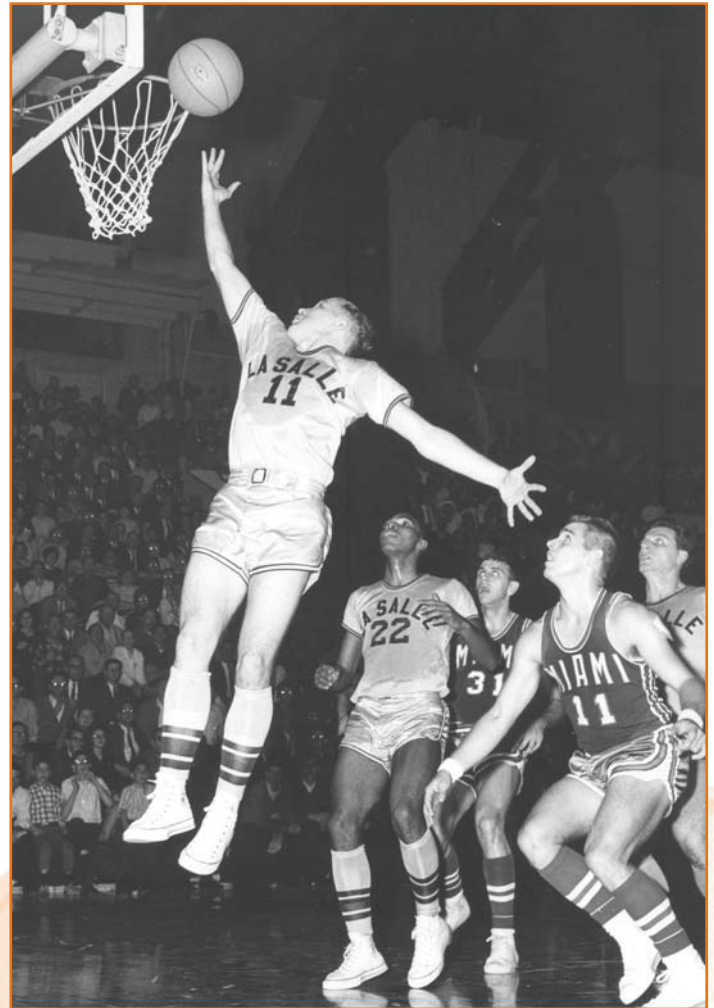
"Golf is much more frustrating, though. In basketball, you spend so much time reacting. In golf, you really don't want to think that much."

During his senior year at La Salle, Fromal averaged a team-high 19.2 points a game and was named to the UPI "Little All-America" First Team for players under 6-feet. He led the Explorers to a 15–8 record and an NIT berth.

The biggest highlight for Fromal came against No. 3-ranked St. Joseph's his senior season, when his 34-point performance brought La Salle back from 20 points down in the second half, the Hawks eventually winning, 93–85.

Following college, he was drafted by the 76ers in 1965 and spent a few days in camp, but ended up playing for Johnstown in the Eastern Professional Basketball League.

"You played on weekends and were back to work on Mondays,"



Fromal said of his pro career.

He also worked briefly as an assistant coach at La Salle under legendary Tom Gola, on the bench the year the Explorers went 23–1 but could not compete in the NCAA Tournament.

The Hall of Fame dinner was held on Feb. 13, with a ceremony taking place the next day during the game between La Salle and St. Joe's.

"I was pretty shook up," Fromal said of standing at mid-court at the Palestra once again. "There were close to 8,000 people. It was surreal, walking out on that floor. My family really got into it. And La Salle won the game, which made it a perfect weekend."

Over his 68 years, Fromal will tell anyone, he has been lucky enough to experience many perfect weekends.

And unlike basketball, he has no plans to stop playing golf.

Tom Kerrane is a sports writer for the Norristown Times Herald and has been covering golf since 1990.

GAP Clubs Look To Stay Ahead of Curve

By Fred Behringer

Golf clubs, to succeed in these trying times, are employing a variety of techniques to attract and retain members. For older clubs that have not upgraded facilities recently, the challenge is particularly acute. Their conundrum pits declining membership and revenue plus older members resistant to change against the interests of younger family-oriented members.

Clubs also face the question of whether to go into debt or assess members to pay for improvements to help them keep or enhance their competitive position.



Clubs in the GAP region that have elected to modernize courses or to rebuild clubhouses report membership stability and even growth. Newer clubs tailor programs to members with a lifestyle vastly different from earlier eras. Some boards have tried reduced or suspended initiation fees, deferred payments and other financial incentives to meet membership targets.

Yet many in the golf business suspect the next few years will see some clubs sold, merged or closed.

Tavistock Country Club in Haddonfield, N.J. is one organization that did not wait for problems to fester. Blessed with a long waiting list for membership, the club nevertheless renovated and expanded its clubhouse in 2002 and closed its golf operation in 2007 to rebuild a course that reopened in 2008.

The clubhouse work included creation of a casual lounge that has become quite popular in keeping with a pronounced trend toward more relaxed dining. Members' reaction to the golf course improvements has been "tremendous," according to Tom Gramigna, Tavistock's finance chairman. "If you ask people now," he said, "you're going to get 99.9 percent saying it's 10 times better than it was."

Even so, Gramigna has noticed members paying more attention to the cost of a round of golf and in some cases changing their membership category to reflect the number of rounds they play. But he adds that the club is in "very good financial shape."

"We're successful at Tavistock," Gramigna noted, "for a couple of very specific reasons. One, the pure math – there's no magic to

this – we have more members than virtually any other club, which is good and bad. It's good because you take all your expenses and divide by more people obviously. That's how we've been able to be inexpensive. The bad end of it is sometimes it's a little more crowded than people might like it.

"No. 2 is we've always had a very substantial and still continue to have a substantial waiting list because of the value and more importantly because of the location. The location is very convenient for people that live in our area. There're not many choices like there are in Philadelphia."

Gramigna cautions that the improvements have left Tavistock with some short-term debt, but he feels that as long as the waiting list provides initiation fees from incoming members, this will not be a problem.

Huntingdon Valley Country Club also has made substantial investments to modernize facilities. Steve Christian, the club president, said, "We have always had a very disciplined approach to investing in capital. I think the clubs that are going to survive at the end of the day are the ones that continue to invest. I think back to how controversial it was when we built the two international squash courts and when we did our recent dining room renovation project, but to attract and retain people, those are the kind of things that you absolutely have to do.



"I always tell people it's a three-legged stool, and we're tackling all three. One leg is barriers to entry, how to make it more affordable for younger people, older people. Another is to offer amenities that everybody wants, the new dining room being one of them and expanding the terrace. And then the third leg is just to deliver quality and value."

Huntingdon Valley also converted a room previously used for private functions into the Huntingdon Pub with lighter fare and happy hours to "reenergize the casual crowd," Christian pointed out.

"Two things have really taken off at our club," he added, "one being trap shooting, and the other is paddle tennis. The days of just joining a club to play golf are probably long gone because



RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve

there are so many opportunities to play golf elsewhere. It is about adding amenities."

Christian felt the challenge of retaining members began long before the current economic slump because families have so many competing activities. "People are out at lacrosse games and swim meets, you name it," he said, "so we've got to find a way to get as much touch points as we can for all the families."

Geoffrey Surrette, executive director of the Philadelphia Section of the PGA, agreed, noting, "The clubs that do the best are the ones that energize the entire membership. Fathers no longer arrive at the club at 7 a.m. Saturday and get home at 7 p.m. They are involved in family activities."

Five-year-old **RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve** in Oaks, Pa., Montgomery County, is a club that understands Surrette's point. Dan Lejeune, the owner and CEO, from the beginning has emphasized a family atmosphere with total equality for women members.

"We've taught over 100 women to play golf," Lejeune said. "I tell our members that if you want to tee off as a couple on Sunday morning at 7:30, you can do that. There aren't many clubs that do that. There are no restrictions on women. Whatever their membership, it's applied equally. There is not a hint of discrimination here, none whatsoever. I think it's been a big part of our success. That's what families are looking for these days."



Wyncote Golf Club

Lejeune also noted that family participation at RiverCrest has inspired "a tremendous junior program." And six sets of tees, with the shortest covering just 4,496 yards, encourage women, seniors and juniors to feel comfortable on the golf course.

Dozens of social events also bring families to the club from the traditional (New Year's Eve party, Easter brunch, breakfast with Santa) to the offbeat (Margaritaville party, sushi nights, karaoke, Night in Vegas).

Even with RiverCrest's progress, Lejeune is aware of today's testing economy. The entire staff has been working, he said, on "aggressive cost-cutting measures that will make us even more efficient and more profitable."

Richard Meehan, president of the Golf Association of Philadelphia, agreed that involving the family in activities is important to clubs' health.

"Families are busier, and member clubs are competing for their recreation time and dollars," Meehan said in an interview last fall. "Many prospective members are looking for clubs with strong junior golf programs and even junior camps. Playing golf is a wonderful way for families to spend time together."

As the economic crisis forces some private club members to reevaluate their expenses, will they turn to daily-fee operations?

Jim Pepple, owner of **Wyncote Golf Club**, a high-end public course in Chester County, said, "I'm seeing a lot of interest from private golfers who are testing the field. Golfers, even my members, have started factoring in how much they're paying divided by how much they're using it, figuring the cost per round. It's a mindset that being a member any more isn't as important as the price per round."

Pepple expects daily play to remain level or even increase in 2009 as more golfers look to the daily-fee option. He is concerned, however, that the economy will affect corporate and charity outings.

How golf overall will fare this year is uncertain. Know for sure that clubs are aware of the challenge and are striving for creative solutions.

Fred Behringer is a member of the GAP Communications Committee.



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Trenton Country Club History

By Rick Woelfel

Trenton caught the golf bug late in the 19th century.

At the time, the New Jersey state capital was a thriving business and social center, and the formation of a country club was a logical step.

In the 1890s there was something called the Trenton Field Club (TFC) that disappeared in 1897 when its property was sold to a developer. Trenton Country Club did not descend from the TFC, but more or less took its place.

The club was officially incorporated on Oct. 21, 1897.

A group of business and professional men were behind the move, most notably Bennet A. Van Syckel, who was a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court and had taken up golf while spending time at his summer home in Mantoloking, N.J.; he often spent time hitting golf balls on the beach. Frank O. Briggs was named the club's first president.

The group located a plot of land belonging to the Woodruff family, known as Oaklands, and entered into a five-year lease. By 1903, the club had exercised an option to buy the 98.7-acre site.

Trenton Country Club officially opened its gates on March 26, 1898. Tennis courts, a baseball diamond and a shooting range were all available to the members as well as a golf course.

From the start, the club was intended to be an all-purpose recreational facility. That tradition continues today; there is a full range of activities available for swimmers and tennis players as well as golfers, which are structured to accommodate the needs of members with young families. Junior golf and tennis clinics are conducted regularly.

The origins of the club's golf course are somewhat murky.

There apparently were nine holes available when the club first opened, probably situated on a plot of ground just south of the Oakland's site. Within a year, a permanent nine holes had been constructed on the Oakland's property.

The question of who designed these original courses has never been fully resolved, though it is likely they were the work of a McDonald or MacDonald Schroeder, who served as the club's first golf professional (designing the course would have been part of his job) perhaps with the input of one or more members.



Another name that has surfaced is that of an A. Graham, who provided golf instruction at the club in the summer of 1898. Club sources have speculated this may have been Archibald Graham, who would go on to win the first New Jersey State Golf Association Amateur Championship in 1900 and was later a U.S. Amateur Championship finalist, but this is highly unlikely, since receiving any form of compensation for providing golf instruction back then would have jeopardized his amateur status.

The permanent course measured 2,347 yards when it was completed; there were some alterations made somewhere around 1911 when the club was beginning



9th hole





10th hole

to acquire additional land with the idea of expanding the layout.

By 1914, the course had been expanded to 18 holes, which, according to the 1917 edition of the American Golf Guide, measured 5,151 yards. It appears the architect may have been Jimmy Norton, the golf professional at the time.

Whether or not he actually designed the new holes, it is a virtual certainty Norton was directly involved in their actual construction, along with grounds chair Arthur D. Forst.

A.W. Tillinghast made a study of the layout at Trenton somewhere around 1922, although it is not known if he actually made an on-site visit.

Sometime in the 1920s, Peter Lees put together a report on the course at the request of Chris Callaway, the golf professional from 1922-29.

In any case, there were some alterations made to the course around 1924 and again for the 1930 season, which extended the layout to 6,300 yards in length, close to what it is today.

In 1995, architect Ron Prichard was brought in to put together a master plan for future alterations of the golf course. A redesign and renovation specialist, who handled a renovation at Aronimink Golf Club a number of years ago, Prichard carried out the plan one step at a time, as circumstances and club finances allowed. He focused his work on the bunkering and adapting the location of the hazards to suit today's equipment technology.

The project also included an overhaul of the golf course's irrigation system.

As this story was being completed,

Prichard was finishing a new master plan with an eye toward additional improvements. His efforts coincided with improvements to some of the club's other facilities. In recent years the swimming pool and clubhouse have been renovated and paddle tennis courts have been added.



"What we really had to do was make the facility coincide with our mission statement and our commitment to be a family," said club president Bob Durst. "We had to make the swimming facility and the dining facility the best that we could make them."

Today the course measures 6,358 yards from deepest of four sets of tees and plays to a par of 71. There are intermediate and forward markers at 6,127, 5,493, and 5,347 yards.

The course rating and slope from the back are 71.0 and 130, and decrease to 69.9/128, 67.5/122 and 66.9/119.

Two sets of tees are rated and sloped for women; women's par is 72.

One of the most demanding holes here is the par 5 12th, which plays to 566 yards from the back and 560 yards from the next set of tees. The player must be wary of out of bounds to the right. The fairway runs uphill to a point roughly 180 yards from home, where bunkers mark the edges of the fairway. These two bunkers were moved further out in the fairway by Prichard in the course of his work. The green front is open, with bunkers to either side of the putting surface. Par for most players here is cause for celebration.

Durst anticipates some changes to the golf course in the future, including some tweaking to a pair of par 3s, Nos. 5 and 15, as well as renovating and, perhaps, rerouting its network of cart paths.

The list of top competitors who have called Trenton home includes Robert Kotz, a 13-time club champion between 1962 and '88. He was the medalist in the 1965 Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur Championship at Philadelphia Country Club and Gulph Mills Golf Club.

Dr. Otto Tomec won eight championships between 1930 and 1952. During the Depression Era, Kenneth Wolcott won a record seven straight from 1931-37 while Matt Scammell, Jr. reached the Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur finals at Merion Golf Club in 1947 before losing to W.B. McCullough, Jr. of Huntingdon Valley Country Club.

No history of Trenton Country Club would be complete without an account of the careers of George and Dennis Milne, who ran the golf operation for six decades between them.

George Milne came to the club in 1941. He served in World War I as a U.S. Army Air Corps photographer before becoming an assistant to his father at Forest Hill Field Club, beginning a career in golf that would span 65 years.

During his career at Trenton Country Club, Milne worked to bring the game of golf to the masses. He taught at various adult evening schools and at the Trenton YMCA. He also established a caddie program at the Trenton Boys Club.



PGA™

Play Golf America Days

Once again the Philadelphia Section PGA will be organizing several Play Golf America Days throughout the Delaware Valley. The first Play Golf America Day will be held at Wood's Golf Center in Norristown, Pa., on Saturday, May 9. The Section will also be hosting Play Golf America Days at the Marriott Seaview Resort on both Saturday, May 30 and Saturday, Sept. 12 with all the events running from 9 a.m.– 3 p.m. This year marks the Section's fifth year conducting Play Golf America Days. In 2008, both Wood's Golf Center and Marriott Seaview played host to Play Golf America. Play Golf America Day was previously held at Hartefeld National in 2005 and 2006.

Play Golf America Day is an opportunity for individuals to come and experience a day of lessons and demos at no cost. Section

PGA Professionals will be on hand all day providing free 10-minute lessons to anyone who is interested. Additionally, many club manufacturers will be on site to give people a chance, for free, to try the latest in golf equipment.



A special feature added to the 2009 Play Golf America Day at Wood's Golf Center 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 Tour season. More information on the Junior Tour is available at www.phillyjunortour.com.

The Section is also excited to announce that Divot the Clown will be on hand May 9 at Wood's Golf Center. Divot will showcase some of the skills that have made him a nationally renowned trick shot show artist. For more information on Divot the Clown visit www.divotthec clown.com.

The Marriott Seaview Resort will also be hosting a Community Day on both May 30 and Sept. 12. The event will feature golf, food and beverages, and prizes to be given away every hour. For more information please visit www.seaviewgolf.com.

Play Golf America Day is just one of the many promotions run by the PGA of America to promote the game of golf. Other promotions include PGA Free Fitting & Trade Up Month (April), PGA Free Lesson Month (May), Women's Golf Month (June), Family Golf Month (July), Patriot Golf Day (Sept. 4-7), PGA Family Course (Year Round) and Get Golf Read (Year Round). All of these initiatives are targeted at both growing and maintaining the game of golf for individuals of all abilities. To find out more information on any of these terrific programs or to locate a participating facility please visit www.playgolfamerica.com.

More information about the Philadelphia Section PGA can found on the Section's Web site www.phillypga.com or by contacting the office at 215-886-7742.

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The Rules of Golf Quiz



1. A player hits his tee shot into the water hazard fronting the tee. He then decides to play under stroke and distance (Rule 26-1a). Instead of playing from within the teeing ground, he plays a ball from in front of the tee markers without realizing his error at the time. He takes two more shots with that ball to reach the green, then holes out with three putts. At that point he is informed he played from in front of the tee markers by a spectator. What is the player's score for the hole?

- A. 9
- B. 10
- C. 11
- D. He must go back to the tee and correct his mistake before beginning play of the next hole or be disqualified.

2. On his chip shot over a bunker a player hits his shot a little fat and accidentally strikes the ball a second time on his upswing. The ruling is:

- A. he must count the stroke and add one penalty stroke, for a total of two strokes in all. The ball must be played as it lies.
- B. he must count the stroke and add one penalty stroke, for a total of two strokes in all. The player must correct this error by replaying the stroke from the original lie.
- C. there is no penalty, the stroke is cancelled and must be replayed.
- D. there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies.

3. In which of the following is the player's original ball NOT a lost ball according to the Rules of Golf:

- A. when a substituted ball is dropped in the fairway at the spot from which the previous stroke when the player intends to play under penalty of stroke and distance.
- B. when a stroke is made at a substituted ball dropped under an inapplicable Rule or procedure.
- C. when the original ball is found and identified after a search of just over 5 minutes but the player has not yet put a substituted ball into play.
- D. when a substituted ball is dropped following the procedure in the water hazard Rule when the player does not have knowledge or virtual certainty her ball is in a water hazard.

4. Which of the following is NOT the player's ball in play?

- A. A stray ball the player mistakes as his in a lie he deems unplayable which he lifts and drops within two club-lengths of the spot where he found it.
- B. The ball he played from the teeing ground onto the putting green of a par 3 hole, which he has marked, lifted, and set aside on the fringe next to his golf bag.
- C. A second ball played from the teeing ground which the player intended to be a provisional ball but failed to announce as such.
- D. A putting ball the player places on the putting green in substitution for the ball he lifted from the putting green.

5. A player's ball is out of bounds if:

- A. any part of it lies out of bound
- B. more than half of it lies out of bounds
- C. all of it lies out of bounds
- D. all of the above

6. In match play before John chips from just off the putting green he asks his opponent Barry to remove the flagstick. Barry does as John asks and lays the flagstick down on the fringe near his own bag. John sculls his chip which heads quickly towards the flagstick. Barry lifts the flagstick so the ball won't hit it and the ball is stopped by Barry's bag which he didn't have time to move. The correct ruling is:

- A. Barry loses the hole since John's ball struck Barry's equipment.
- B. Barry loses the hole since Barry moved a removed flagstick while John's ball was in motion and that that action influenced the movement of John's ball.
- C. The hole is considered halved since John should lose the hole for striking Barry's equipment and Barry should lose the hole for moving the removed flagstick.
- D. Barry incurs no penalty for moving the removed flagstick. Since John's ball struck his opponent's equipment, he may either play the ball as it lies or immediately cancel and replay his chip without penalty.

7. In stroke play, in figuring out the nearest point of relief and the area where she must drop her ball in taking relief from a paved cart path, a player sticks several tees in the ground. When she drops the ball it first strikes a part of the course as prescribed by the Obstruction Rule then rolls and is deflected by one of the tees without going nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief. If the player plays the dropped ball she incurs:

- A. no penalty.
- B. a penalty of one stroke for striking her equipment and not re-dropping the ball.
- C. a penalty of one stroke. If she lifts and re-drops the ball she will incur a total penalty of two strokes.
- D. a penalty of two strokes for striking her equipment and not re-dropping the ball.

8. While preparing to play his tee shot from the 9th tee a player grazes his teed ball with a practice swing knocking it off the tee.

- A. The player has not made a stroke at the ball but incurs one penalty stroke for moving his teed ball. The ball must be replaced.
- B. The player has not made a stroke and there is no penalty. The ball may be played from anywhere within the teeing ground and may be re-teed.
- C. The player incurs a one stroke penalty for moving his ball and has made a stroke at the ball. The ball must be replaced or the player's penalty will increase to two strokes.
- D. The player incurs no penalty but has made a stroke at the ball. He must play the ball as it lies with his second stroke.

9. A player replaces his ball on the putting green but does not remove the coin marking its position. While assessing the break of his putt he accidentally drops his towel which causes his ball to move a few inches. The player:

- A. incurs no penalty since the position of the ball was marked when it was moved. The ball must be replaced.
- B. incurs a penalty of one stroke and must play the ball as it lies from its new position.
- C. incurs a penalty of one stroke and the ball must be replaced.
- D. incurs a penalty of two strokes and the ball must be replaced.

ANSWERS

1. B. Player has not made a stroke – see definition of Stroke; the ball when moved was not in play – see definition of Ball in Play; play of the hole has not begun so the ball may be played from anywhere within the teeing ground and it may be teed – see Rule 11-1.
2. C. The ball was in play when replaced on the putting green whether or not the coin is lifted – see Rule 20-4; the player's equipment caused his ball in play and at rest to move – see Rule 18-2a.

3. D. Definition of Lost Ball.

4. B. See Decision 15/4.

5. C. Definition of Out of Bounds; paragraph 3.
6. D. Moving a removed flagstick permitted – see Rule 24-1, ball in motion striking opponent's equipment – see Rule 19-3.
7. A. The ball after being dropped is correctly in play under the Rules. Tees are not player's equipment when used to mark the position of a ball or the extent of an area in which a ball is to be dropped – see definition of Equipment.
8. A. Rule 14-4.
9. B. The player made 7 strokes and incurred total of 3 penalty strokes for making that stroke from a wrong place [i.e. in front of the tee markers instead of from within the teeing ground].

4. B. See Decision 15/4.

5. C. Definition of Out of Bounds; paragraph 3.

2009 GAP SCHEDULE

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
Chairmen's Meeting	April 16	North Hills CC
GAP Team Matches	April 19, 26, May 3	
Compher Cup Matches	April 21	Hollywood GC, Deal, N.J.
Middle-Amateur Championship Qualifier	May 4	Spring Ford CC
Warner Cup (Gross)	May 7	Hopewell Valley CC
Middle-Amateur Championship Qualifier	May 7	Burlington CC
GAP Team Matches Playoffs & Challenges	May 9	
Amateur Championship Qualifier	May 11	Links GC
USGA Open Championship Qualifier	May 12	Laurel Creek CC
Pro-Pres., Golf & Green	May 13	Whitemarsh Valley CC/ Philadelphia Cricket Club (Militia Hill)
Amateur Championship Qualifier	May 14	Coatesville CC
USGA Open Championship Qualifier	May 18	Cavaliers CC
Middle-Amateur Championship	May 20-21	Tavistock CC
Warner Cup (Net)	May 26	Silver Creek CC
Father & Son (Middle)	May 28	Golden Oaks GC
Spring Net Championship	June 1	Raven's Claw GC
Senior Four-Ball Stroke Play	June 2	Brandywine CC
Team Qualifying	June 2	Aronimink GC
Four-Man Team	June 10	Whitford CC
Amateur Championship	June 15-17 & 20	Stonewall (Old/North)
Open Championship Qualifier	June 22	Woodstone CC
Junior Boys' Championship & Junior Team Championship	June 23-25	Riverton CC
Team Championship	June 25	LedgeRock GC
USGA Junior Amateur Championship Qualifier	June 29	Glenmaura National GC
Open Championship Qualifier	June 30	Penn Oaks GC
Father & Son (Younger)	July 1	Sunnybrook GC
Caddie Tournament	July 6	LedgeRock GC
USGA Senior Open Championship Qualifier	July 6	Overbrook GC
Pre-Junior Tournament	July 8	Philadelphia Cricket Club (St. Martin's)
Brewer Cup	July 13-15	Old York Road CC
Christman Cup	July 14	Torresdale-Frankford CC
Jock Mackenzie Memorial	July 20	Sandy Run CC
Senior Four-Man Team	July 21	Meadowlands CC
Open Championship	July 22	Bent Creek CC
Patterson Cup Qualifier	July 23	The Springhaven Club
Francis X. Hussey Memorial	July 27	Rolling Green GC
Patterson Cup Qualifier	July 28	Medford Village CC
Junior-Junior Boys' Championship	July 28-30	Merchantville CC
Chapman Memorial (Gross)	July 30	Philadelphia CC
USGA Championship Amateur Qualifier	Aug. 3	Concord CC/GC at Glen Mills
Deeg Sezna Four-Ball	Aug. 4	Hartefeld National
Williamson Cup Matches	Aug. 10-11	Oak Hill CC, Rochester, N.Y.
Patterson Cup	Aug. 13-14	Llanerch CC
USGA Senior Amateur Championship Qualifier	Aug. 17	Galloway National GC
Marston Cup	Aug. 19	Cedarbrook CC
Fall Net Championship	Aug. 24	White Manor CC
Father & Son (Older)	Aug. 25	Indian Valley CC
Four-Ball Stroke Play Championship	Aug. 28	Philmont CC (North)
USGA Middle-Amateur Championship Qualifier	Aug. 31	Links GC
Senior Amateur Championship	Sept. 8-9	Jericho National GC
Senior 27-Hole Challenge	Sept. 15	Cherry Valley CC
Chapman Memorial (Net)	Sept. 22	Radley Run CC
Tournament Of Champions	Oct. 2	Stone Harbor GC
Senior Challenge Matches	Oct. 7	Bulle Rock, Aberdeen, Md.
GAP/PGA Challenge Matches	Oct. 8	Woodcrest CC
Mason-Dixon Matches	Oct. 10-11	The Ridge at Back Brook
Volunteers Day	Oct. 14	Huntingdon Valley CC (Toomey/Flynn)
Player's Dinner	Oct. 15	Whitford CC
Annual Meeting	Oct. 21	Manufacturers G&CC/Lu Lu CC

All Venues and Dates are Subject to Change

Robert Henry "Skee" Riegel

Robert Henry "Skee" Riegel, a Philadelphia Section of the PGA legend, passed away on Feb. 22 at the age of 94. In the mid-to-late 1940s, Mr. Riegel was arguably the nation's top amateur, winning the 1947 U.S. Amateur Championship, the 1948 Western Amateur, and 1946 and 1948 Trans-Mississippi Amateur. He was chosen for the Walker Cup team in 1947 and 1949 and was unbeaten in two stints, winning all four of his matches in that time.



"During the '46, '47, '48 period, there was no greater amateur golfer than Skee Riegel," said Robert Mullock, president of the Cape May National Golf Club, where Mr. Riegel was golf pro emeritus. "At one time, for a few years, [he

was] the best amateur golfer in the world."

Riegel turned pro in early 1950 and joined the PGA Tour. In 1951, he nearly won the Masters Tournament but finished second when Ben Hogan edged him out. That year he finished eighth on the PGA Tour money list. In 1951, he joined the Wilson Sporting Goods advisory staff, and he was a loyal Wilson staff member for over 50 years. In 1954, Riegel returned to Pennsylvania as the head professional at Radnor Valley Country Club. He won the Pennsylvania Open in 1957 and 1959 and the 1960 Philadelphia Open. For more than 15 years after leaving the tour, he was a factor in the U.S. Open Championship and the PGA Championship. During those years he played the PGA Tour during the winter and continued to finish in the money quite often. Beginning with 1946, Riegel played in the U.S. Open 16 times, the Masters Tournament 11 years in a row, and the PGA Championship nine times.

Riegel was an expert on the USGA Rules of Golf. For more than 30 years he was a permanent member of the Philadelphia Section's tournament committee and the rules chairman of every Section tournament. In 1975 he was given the Horton Smith Award by the Section for his many hours spent educating golf professionals on the Rules of Golf. Riegel was inducted into the Philadelphia Section PGA Hall of Fame in 1993.

Mr. Riegel was born in 1914 in New Bloomfield, Pa., and grew up in eastern Pennsylvania. He attended Harrisburg Academy, West Point and Lafayette University before graduating from Hobart College.

Mr. Riegel's wife, Edith, died in 1996. There are no survivors.