

The Met Golfer

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

EXTRA



MGAGOLF.ORG



In This Issue

December 2017

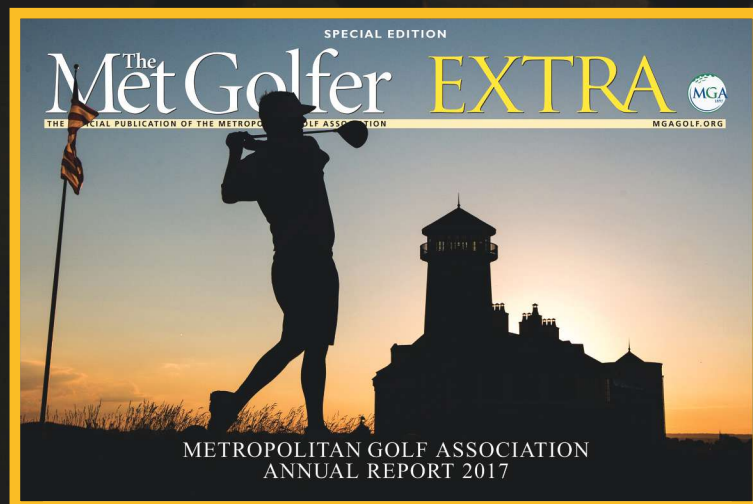
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This page: While certainly not ideal for golf, snowfall provides a beautiful, fresh look at some of our favorite golf course landscapes. See more on page 17. (Photo: The par-five 5th at Glen Ridge Country Club by GRCC Superintendent Gabriel Wochley)

A '17 to Remember



Does anyone else feel as if we should only be halfway through 2017? As you can imagine, the championship season in particular flies by for us here at the MGA, not leaving much of an opportunity to reflect on what's transpired from one event to the next. So, as we get ready to enter 2018, we've taken advantage of the quieter portion of the calendar to reminisce on a spectacular 2017 in multiple ways:



Annual Report: Recount the MGA and MGA Foundation's year that was in this visual presentation of 2017, featuring everything from our core services and championships to educational programming and this year's Modern Dream 18 Presented by Rolex.



Videos: Relive the championship season, from previews and recaps of individual events to a comprehensive year-end recap featuring all the can't-miss moments!



Best 17 Photos of 2017

Photos: Look back at 17 of our favorite photos from 2017 in a sleek, visual presentation. Plus, browse through our extensive photo galleries from the entire year, which include special events, championships and more!

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A REPURPOSED RETREAT



A repurposed maintenance building extends the golf season for members at Old Oaks Country Club in Purchase, N.Y., providing them with a state-of-the-art facility in which they can work on their game all winter long.

Measuring 3,000 square feet, the building houses a lounge area, a green for putting and chipping, three hitting bays, and a dedicated lesson bay—complete with launch monitor software and two cameras for instant video feedback. “Having all of these elements certainly helps the student,” says Nick Maselli, who succeeded Bobby Heins as head professional last fall and has been at the club since 2002.

Though the building faced its initial transformation several years ago, updates have kept the most beneficial technology, equipment, and turf in the space. The green—a special padded turf—also allows for effective offseason work on the short game. “Not a lot of guys are giving chipping lessons in the winter and watching the ball stop on a green,” says Maselli, who teaches three days a week through the winter and offers demo days for his members.

In addition to the golf benefits, the facility has also provided an added social value. “People are going to come in throughout the day and hit some balls and hang out and have a cup of coffee,” Maselli says. “So it’s provided a little bit more camaraderie in the winter months, as a side effect.”

The facility is one part of a series of recent golf projects by the club, which range from the opening of vistas and construction of additional tees on the golf course, to the expansion of tee space on the practice range and creation of a three-acre short game facility.



Maselli looks on during a lesson with one of his students, Ben Ropiak.



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Season's Greenings

BY SCOTT KRAMER

Golf clubs should not be among the gifts you give the golfer in your life this holiday season. Those really should be fitted. So what might make a perfect present? Coach Labs' Gen i1 smart ball (\$129) connects to a mobile device via Bluetooth. It weighs and feels like a typical ball, but contains a computer chip that measures putting data, such as initial direction, speed, impact force and ball rotation – to help golfers improve on the greens. Speaking of helping out, Sun Mountain's 2.5+ stand bag (\$220) weighs under three pounds. Its carbon-fiber legs, strong plastics and ultralight fabric will ease shoulder burden for walkers. Galvin Green's Insula Lite Dean half-zip pullover (\$185) is soft, lightweight and whisper-quiet during a golf swing. Its thermal regulation technology keeps a body warm without overheating. And another electronic product, Arccos 360 (\$250), is easy to use and helps golfers work on course management, to improve their scores. It consists of 14 featherweight sensors – one for each club in the bag – that fasten to the grip's butt end and then communicate every shot's distance and location to a smartphone app. The app also doubles as an excellent GPS guide for nearly every course in the world. Two products from vineyard vines are sure to make perfect stocking stuffers. The Plaid Bungee belt (\$78) provides comfortable stretch for men who perhaps indulge a little at holiday party buffets. It's made of cotton and rubber, with leather ends and a nickel buckle. And the women's Starfish Performance headband (\$12) wicks moisture, offers four-way stretch, and is made of polyester and spandex for ultimate comfort. Happy Holidays!





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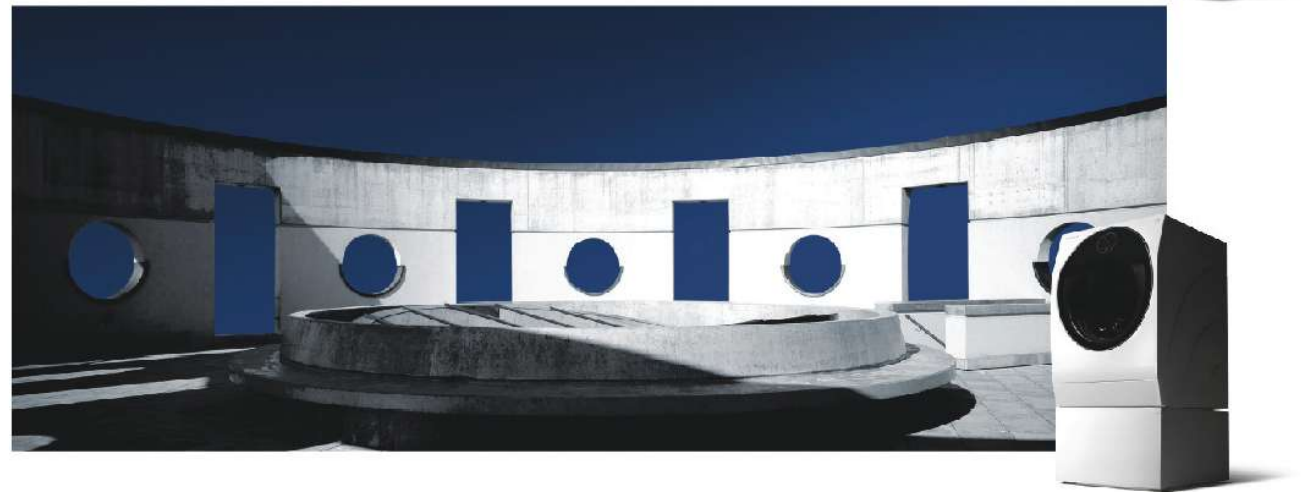
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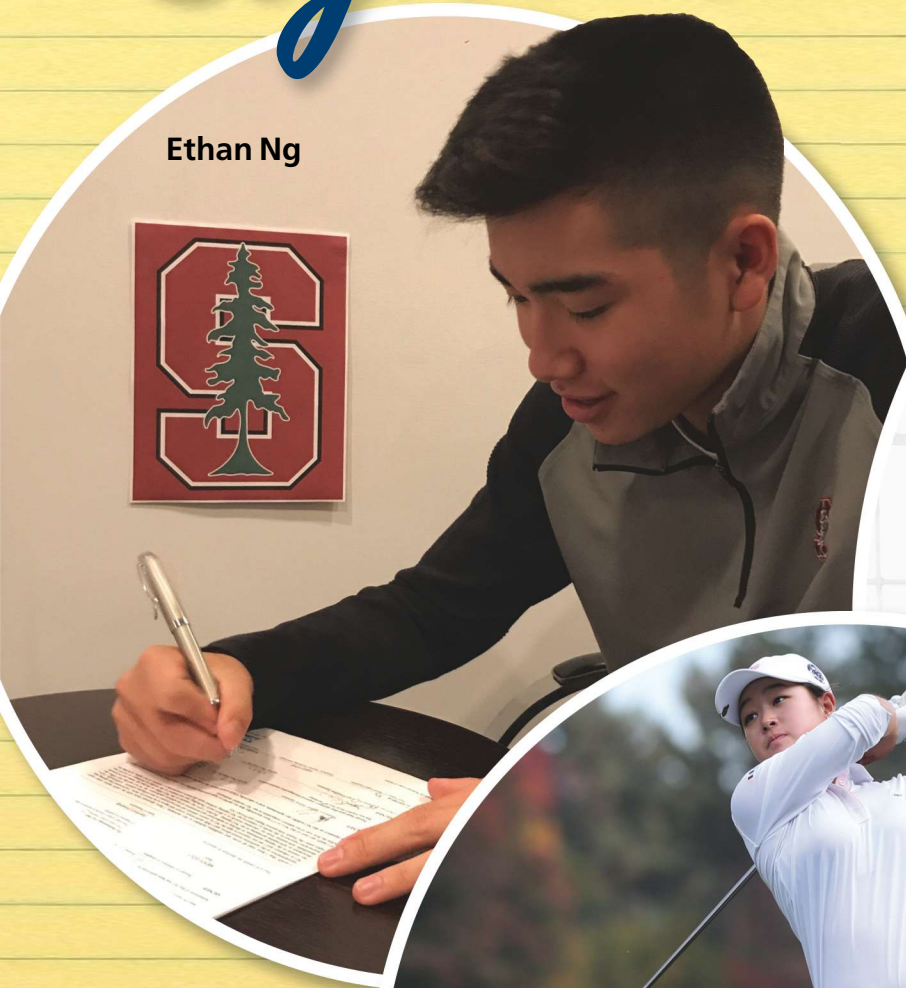
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Ethan Ng



Kyra Cox



Kelly Sim



Last fall's MGA/WMGA squad for the French-American Challenge featured a young core, with a trio of high school juniors. This fall, all three made a big step toward continuing their educations and golf careers by making their college commitments official.

Ethan Ng of New York, N.Y., who also represented the MGA in the Carey Cup at the beginning of 2017, inked his National Letter of Intent to Stanford. The two-time Carter Cup champion is the second ranked boys recruit in the Empire State, according to *Golfweek*.

Kyra Cox of South Salem, N.Y., and Kelly Sim of Edgewater, N.J., also made official commitments, both signing as the top-ranked girls recruit in their respective states, according to *Golfweek*. Cox, who at 15 years old became the youngest-ever champion in the New York State Women's Amateur, signed with three-time defending Southern Conference champion Furman. Sim, a three-time all-state honoree and two-time state champion in New Jersey, committed to 2017 NCAA Championship runner-up Northwestern.

- More Met Area Commitments**
- Prescott Butler, Old Westbury, N.Y. – Alabama
 - Doug Ergood, Mount Laurel, N.Y. – North Carolina
 - Ami Gianchandani, Watchung, N.J. – Yale
 - Caroline Hodge, Larchmont, N.Y. – Florida State
 - Anina Ku, Basking Ridge, N.J. – Harvard
 - Lauren Peter, Carmel, N.Y. – Ohio State
 - Ryan Pongrac, Freehold, N.J. – Delaware

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MAKING PRACTICE PERFECT

This winter could end up feeling longer than usual for members at Hudson National Golf Club in Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., as they anticipate the spring opening of the club's expansive, modern practice range and new short game facility—both designed by Tom Fazio.

Measuring 340 yards long by 200 yards in its widest spot, the range will be highlighted by its TrackMan Range capability—a radar set-up and app allowing players to receive instant feedback on their shots with data such as carry and total distances, ball speed, height, launch angle and direction, and more. Players will have multiple short and long-game targets, including greens as well as mowed fairway averaging 30 yards in width and stretching to 60 yards in the wedge

landing area. The teeing area measures nearly 400 feet wide, allowing for more than 35 hitting stations, all upon natural grass. A teaching facility—planned to open early in the summer—will sit adjacent to the range and be fully equipped with the latest tools for instruction and club fitting. Members received just a taste of using the new range at the end of the 2017 season, gathering for a long drive competition.

Meanwhile, the new short game facility will feature a pair of greens surrounded by closely mown turf, rough, and bunkers. Varying slopes and terrain will allow players to practice a wide range of different shots and stances—all providing the perfect preparation in order to take on the club's championship course.



Ground was broken for the facility with tree removal in January 2017. It then took months to blast and level the site before sodding and seeding took place in September.



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LAYOVER ▶ SAN DIEGO

BY TIM HARTIN

Stunning scenery, pristine conditions, outstanding service, and a fun layout make Maderas Golf Club an enjoyable experience all around.

Everyone knows golf's big hitters in the San Diego area—such as Torrey Pines or La Costa farther up the coast—but the region has much more to offer in terms of daily fee options. Plus, depending on the direction you take, you can tee it up along the water or in the mountains.

COURSES:

1 Maderas Golf Club – Three lakes, five waterfalls, and large stands of wildflowers make Maderas—less than 30 miles north of the city—a scenic splendor. The layout is no pushover either. Elevation changes on the Johnny Miller-Robert Muir Graves design call for a variety of shot types through the round, while smooth-rolling, undulating greens test your skills with the flat stick.

2 Coronado Golf Course – Minutes from downtown San Diego and located right on the San Diego Bay and Glorietta Bay, Coronado is a local favorite thanks in part to its views. It measures 6,600 yards from the back tees with inviting fairways, and well-maintained, gently breaking greens.

3 Steele Canyon Golf Club – Located 20 miles east of the city lies the 27-hole Steele Canyon—a Gary Player design. The Canyon nine is more rugged and calls for quality shot-making, while the Ranch nine features winding fairways and the Vineyard nine meanders through woodlands and streams.



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The resort is renowned for the 18-hole championship Miller course and the Soffer course voted among the top 100 “Best Resort Courses” by Golf Week. Both pristine golf courses have gone through more than \$45 million in renovations changing the landscape of Florida golf. The South Course’s (Soffer) debut was December 2006 and the North (Miller) opened in December 2007. Originally designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr., both courses offer lush, tropical grounds accentuated with a variety of elevation changes, contoured fairways, sharp changes within holes and strategically placed water features. Varied flora and trees indigenous to Florida’s tropical climate create an oasis-like feel throughout the courses giving nearly each hole a private feel, with more than \$100,000 in landscaping spent on each hole of play. Occasionally, a beautiful statue can be found nestled within the foliage, reminding golfers that beauty surrounds them at every turn.

The resort’s courses are home to hundreds of birds that continue to call Turnberry home. Special nesting areas have been positioned throughout the courses. Even a separate “Flamingo Island” was built within Lake Julius, the largest and deepest body of water at the resort named after Golf Hall of Famer and former Golf Director Julius Boros. The Island ensures resident Flamingoes are able to nest and nurture their young in a natural environment.

Whether a golf getaway, corporate tournament, or you are looking to join the Turnberry Lifestyle through a variety of memberships, this legendary South Florida location awaits.

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SNOWY SNAPSHOTS

Colder temperatures made their way to the Met Area in the early parts of the month, with the first snowfall coming shortly after. As the flakes fell down, the snow-filled posts went up all across social media. Thanks to our member clubs (as well as the USGA) for sharing the seasonal sights from throughout the region!

