

# The Met Golfer

# EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG

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*This page:* Youngsters gear up for football season at MetLife Stadium, one of the summer's three MGA/MetLife Youth Clinics. For more awesome clinic photo galleries, [click here](#).

MGA  
MetLife  
Youth Clinic



# 54 Holes in...Atlantic City

## BY BRAD KING

**F**or all the glitz of the gambling casinos that light up the night across this unique oceanfront oasis, there's an entirely different side to Atlantic City. Sprawled across its tranquil surroundings are nearly two dozen artfully crafted, meticulously maintained golf courses that offer all price points and course styles to suit both recreational and competitive players.

### GOLF

- **Atlantic City County Club**, Northfield. Golf history buffs should visit the venerable ACCC — most recently restored by renowned designer Tom Doak — which has evolved into one of the granddaddies of golf clubs anywhere in the country. The club's rich background alone makes it one of the East Coast's finest destination courses, as does its spectacular setting along Lakes Bay overlooking the AC skyline.
- **The Bay Course at Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club**, Galloway. Home to the ShopRite LPGA Classic, the course was initially routed by Hugh Wilson of Merion Golf Club fame and opened in 1915. A year later, Donald Ross completed the course by adding sand bunkers and pulling together several strategic elements.
- **Shore Gate Golf Club**, Ocean View. Though only a couple of miles from the beach, the landscape is remarkably rolling. It also has a "vibe," to put it in more Jersey terms, that is similar to the state's internationally-renowned jewel, Pine Valley.

### OFF-COURSE

- **Resorts Casino Hotel**. The first casino hotel in Atlantic City, and the first legal casino outside of Nevada, Resorts is buzzing with activity after the recent opening of Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville. Its LandShark Bar & Grill is the only year-round full-service bar and restaurant on the ocean side of the Boardwalk.

Visit [PlayACGolf.com](http://PlayACGolf.com) for more Atlantic City golf package information.

The fourth hole at historic Atlantic City Country Club



# Weather Woes

BY MATT CEPLO, CGCS

Photos by John DeTemple Jr.

**H**ave you noticed any portions of the greens on your home course looking well, less than green? What about off-colored areas in the fairway or rough?

Simply put, this hasn't been the most ideal summer for superintendents and course maintenance staffs. In fact, it's been one of the worst in recent memory. In June, we had record-breaking rainfall, which brought unprecedented disease. The weather didn't allow any time to apply products without them being washed away.

Then July hit with the kind of heat wave we haven't experienced in almost a decade. This put the turf under a great deal of stress — we had soil temperatures that peaked over 100 degrees for three straight days.

Mix that with a steady flow of afternoon thunderstorms and turf was primed for disaster. Saturated soils heat up more quickly, and when subjected to high temperatures, the soils can actually “cook” the grass. It's a deadly combination when trying to maintain green speeds or peak the course for an important club function.

There are many factors that influence how well a golf course weathers these environmental pressures: drainage, irrigation system sophistication, course location, soil composition, budgets, and staffing, to name a few.

But even with the most effective resources and astute management practices, sometimes Mother Nature is just too tough to handle.

**Matt Ceplo** is the golf course superintendent at Rockland County Country Club in Sparkill, N.Y., and a former president of the Met GCSA.





CAPTION THIS

# Search Party

Photo by Frank Becerra/*The Journal News*

If you picked up a copy of *The Journal News* on the morning of Saturday, August 3, you probably noticed a few familiar faces on the cover of the sports section. Unsure if Matt Lowe's (*second from right*) ball went into the hazard on the 15th hole during the Round of 16 at the Met Amateur, a search party broke out, which included Lowe's playing partner Sam Bernstein (*left*), Assistant Director of Rules & Competitions Brian Farrelly (*middle*) and MGA Executive Director Jay Mottola (*right*). Though they didn't find Lowe's ball, Brian was able to use the reflection to fine-tune his hair.

*Click here and give us your best caption for this photo for a chance to win a great MGA prize!*





# Junior Mints

BY A.J. VOELPEL

Photo by Dan McKean

I can't help but think of the familiar PGA Tour slogan when I watch junior golf in the Met Area: Damn, "these guys are good!"

Seriously, the local talent (especially this summer) is overflowing. Before I started working for the MGA, I was completely unaware of the depth of junior ability in the Met Area and how competitive these kids are on the national level. The scope of some of their schedules is mind-blowing; many, when not competing in a local event, travel around the country competing in USGA, American Junior Golf Association events (AJGA) and other national competitions—knowing that strong finishes could attract the attention of college coaches nationwide.

And the talent runs deep enough so that when one junior moves on to college, another comes up through the ranks. The Met Area is like the Kentucky basketball program in that we don't replace, we reload.

But our current crop has my full attention...

Just a few weeks ago I was editing a story about local players that were competing in the U.S. Junior out in California. Two of our top guys, 17-year-old Jim Liu (who won the 2010 U.S. Junior at age 14) and 16-year-old Met Junior champion Cameron Young, finished 1-2 in the on-site, 36-hole stroke play qualifying. Six out of the seven

local boys that made the trip qualified for match play. On the girl's side, there was 17-year-old Nicole Morales, among others, making her move and also advancing to match play.

When I was done, I rose from my chair and noticed a *Met Golfer* magazine from last summer (Aug/Sep 2012, pictured), sitting on a narrow rack that hangs on a wall behind my desk. Sure enough, Liu, Young, and Morales were gracing the front cover—as kids to watch.

We sure know how to pick 'em, huh?



The field for the 2013 Carter Cup at Baltusrol. Winner Ryan Rose in the front row (second from left)

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# Who's Your Daddy?

BY SCOTT KRAMER

It's been some summer for five-time major champion Phil Mickelson. After tying for second at the U.S. Open in June, he captured the Scottish and British Opens on back-to-back July weekends. All the while, Lefty was playing two of Callaway's new Mack Daddy 2 lob wedges – the 60 and 64-degree models – named after, well, him.

And as they say, timing is everything. In this case, Callaway's was uncanny. Long before Mickelson's hot streak began, the company had already scheduled to begin offering the Mack Daddy 2 (\$119) to consumers in mid-July, in lofts of 52, 56, 58 and 60 degrees. More lofts and sole grind options will follow in November.

While Mickelson still uses the company's JAWS sand and gap wedges, he's clearly benefiting from the latest technology in his Mack Daddy 2 lob wedges, including larger, laser-milled micro grooves that promise more spin from the rough, and a versatile, rounded leading edge that helps get shots airborne quickly.

While the Mack Daddy 2 higher lofts are offered in a choice of three sole grinds, the 52 and 56-degree models are currently only available in a standard grind.





# Mirror, Mirror

BY SARA DICKSON

Photos by A.J. Voelpel

**M**any amateurs I teach struggle with inconsistent contact, especially when they're hitting off the turf. I notice high handicappers exhibit divot patterns that tend to reflect a low point where the swing arc bottoms out behind the ball, resulting in "fat" shots. Here's an easy drill that teaches you what it feels like to have a centered pivot.

A centered pivot puts you in a position that geometrically increases your chances of striking the ball before striking the ground – solid and crisp, just like the pros.

Sara Dickson is an Assistant Professional (PGA Certified in Instruction) at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, Conn.

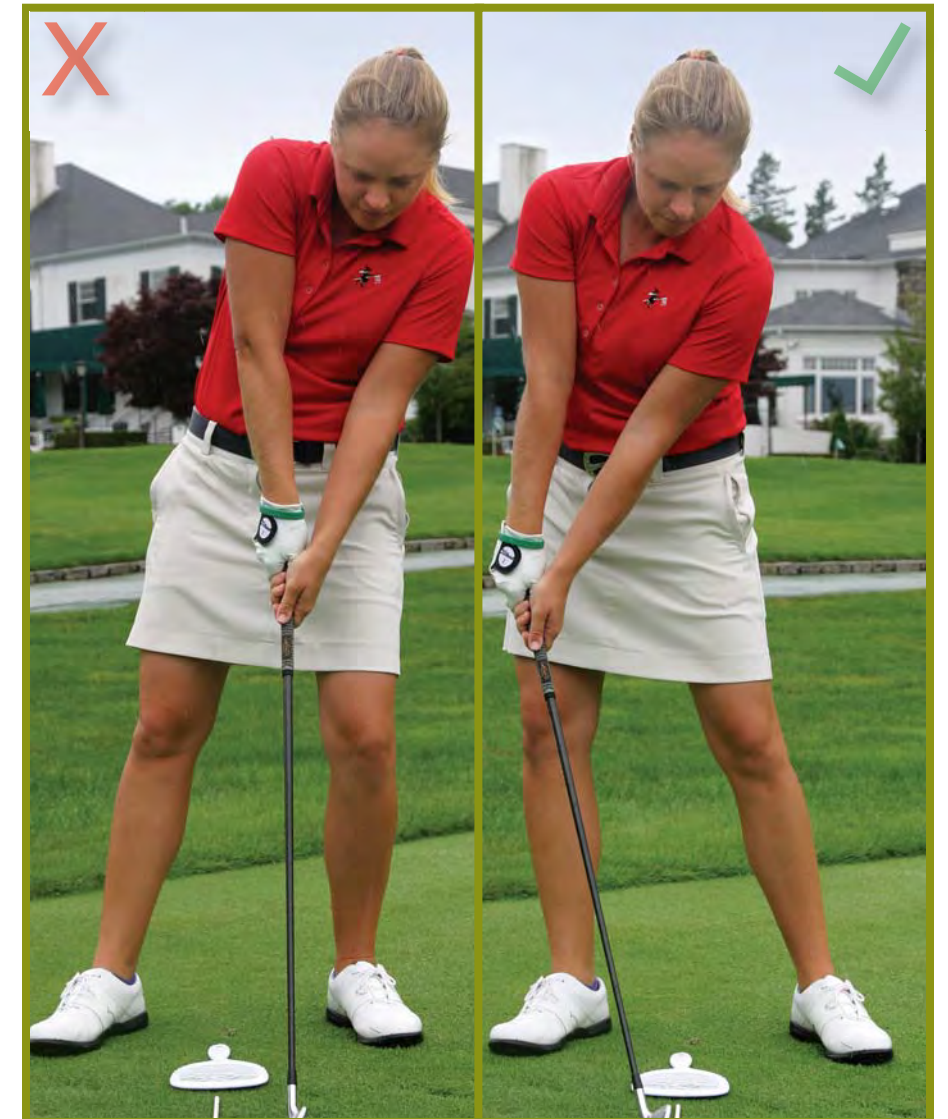


**Setup:** A drill you can do at home or on the range is to take a small handheld mirror and place it on the ground. As you take your setup, be sure you can see your face reflecting in the mirror. An alignment stick can serve as a visual representing the golf ball.



**Backswing:** If your weight and head translate away from the ball and you can no longer see your reflection in the mirror (*left*), it is likely your weight will remain too far back and cause your club to strike the ground behind the ball on the downswing.

If your head remains stable and directly over the mirror (*right*), you have made a correct centered pivot and will have more control over where your club strikes the ground on the downswing.



**Impact:** If the bottom of your swing occurs before the ball, your weight and hands are too far back (*left*). Notice my head is still behind the mirror. Moving your head off of the ball on the backswing requires lots of tricky timing on the downswing to get it properly positioned at impact.

Your best shots are when your weight and hands continue to move forward on the downswing (*right*). This leads to a divot location in front of the ball. Notice my head is still centered over the mirror where it started.





# Dufner Does NYC

Photo courtesy of the Empire State Building

As if his spirits weren't high enough, newly-crowned PGA champion Jason Dufner found himself (and his Wannamaker Trophy) on the Empire State Building's iconic 86th floor Observatory. He'll try to maintain his New York magic when he heads across the Hudson River to Liberty National for the Barclays.



# Shot Trackers

Photo by Barry Sloan

Scores for MGA championships don't magically appear on our website and mobile app (My MGA), although it might seem like it. Working with the USGA in developing state-of-the-art software and with great new tablet technology, the MGA has ramped up its live scoring capability at almost every event this year. But it couldn't happen without the support we get from our scoring volunteer committee (*Chris Freitag pictured*) who do the real work of logging all scores from "inside the ropes."

We're continuing to expand the committee and invite anyone interested in watching exceptional tournament golf to contact Jim Landers at [jlanders@mgagolf.org](mailto:jlanders@mgagolf.org).





# What Happens Next?

VIDEO BY A.J. VOELPEL

**B**een in this situation before? Brian Mahoney, MGA Director of Rules and Competitions, is live from the 2013 Met Open with an explanation for this common rules occurrence.

Click on the video to the right for the proper relief procedure when your golf ball stops on a cart path.





# Pet Peeved!

BY NICK FISHER

Photo by Jeff Day

**P**iggybacking off our Aug/Sept *Met Golfer* cover story (dogs around the Met Area), we asked our Facebook and Twitter followers what their number one golf-related pet peeves were. It's no shock a majority answered with some version of slow play, but what else gets on a golfer's last nerve? Here's what some of you said...

**f** **William Kilbride:** "People who line up each putt like it's to the win the Masters, especially inside of five feet!"

**f** **Anthony J. Bombace Jr.,** "Right behind slow play is the lack by some players to fix divots and ball marks on tees, fairways and greens!"

**f** **Frank Pasquale:** "Too many people try to play the back tees when usually it's too much golf course for them."

**t** **@lord\_dgord:** @MGA1897 When I'm addressing my ball and sprinklers suddenly pop up! — *Blaise (pictured) from Round Hill agrees.*

**t** **@Jporphy:** @MGA1897 Sand footprints on greens. Please hit your shoes when coming out of the sand and before stepping on the green.

**t** **@purcellprep:** @MGA1897 When there are practice golf balls scattered around the practice area!

**Click here to check out our adorable Met Area pup photo gallery. Send photos of your dog on the course to the editor ([ajvoelpel@mgagolf.org](mailto:ajvoelpel@mgagolf.org)) to be included.**

