

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG

In This Issue

January 2013

- 2 Column:** Welcome to the premiere issue of *Met Golfer Extra*
- 4 Five Things:** New president Jeff Holzschuh brings a wealth of experience to the MGA
- 5 Beyond the Met:** Which colleges and universities are the area's best juniors headed to?
- 7 Culture:** The Westchester County resident whose book, "Gangster Squad," is about to be a feature film
- 8 Players:** Harrison Shih of Saddle River, N.J., is one of the rising stars in MGA championship circles
- 10 Rules:** Brian Mahoney explains how a player can take relief, or not, from a sandy cart path
- 11 Instruction:** Darrell Kestner reveals the putting tip he gave Nick Watney before last year's Barclays
- 12 Equipment:** Get a peek at TaylorMade's latest adjustable driver, the R1
- 14 Travel:** 54 Holes In... San Diego, one of America's best golf cities
- 15 Parting Shot:** The Met Area was well-represented at the PGA Tour's season-opening event

This page: Sebonack Golf Club (practice green, foreground) and National Golf Links of America (windmill, through trees) will each host a USGA event in 2013: The U.S. Women's Open at Sebonack, June 27-30, and the Walker Cup at National, September 7 & 8. Photo by A.J. Voelpel.

Extra Motivation

BY GREG MIDLAND

I am often reminded of the dedication that Met Area golfers show during the so-called offseason. Many public courses in our area, and some private clubs as well, keep the flagsticks and tee markers in place and welcome the hearty souls who want to play even when the calendar says winter. A couple years ago, we did a photo shoot on a relatively balmy January day with New Jersey native and professional golfer Chris Nallen, who was only too happy to hit some balls on the snow-covered fairways of Panther Valley Golf & Country Club (left). Whenever golfers have a chance to put clubface to ball, we usually take it.

That philosophy guides the mission of the new digital publication you're reading, *Met Golfer Extra*. It didn't arrive with a thud in your mailbox, but rather with a "ding" in your inbox. Why debut a new magazine in the dead of winter? Because we know you're thinking about golf, just as we are, and our commitment to communicating with MGA members is a year-round proposition.

"Extra" will deliver bonus content to you on a monthly basis. Rich photography will combine with easily digestible, self-contained pieces that will enlighten, entertain and inform. While the publication shares a name with our print magazine, it's designed to be a complimentary companion that helps us bring you even more stories of interest on the people, places and events that make up golf in the Met Area. You'll also find some familiar topics such as Rules, Instruction, Equipment and Travel, but in shorter formats.

At the start, *Met Golfer Extra* will be delivered to those who already receive the MGA e-Revision Newsletter. However, we encourage you to forward it to anyone you think may enjoy it. We also want the content to be a two-way street. If you think we're missing out on something to cover, drop us a line at letters@mgagolf.org. We want to hear from you and have this be a publication you enjoy receiving each month.

And soon, those months will turn into spring, and none of us will have to hit a ball off snow.

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THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

5 Things About... Jeff Holzschuh

Photo by Jim Krajcek

The MGA elected a new president in December 2012, and Jeffrey R. Holzschuh, 52, brings to his position a long list of achievements on and off the golf course. Holzschuh, of Greenwich, Conn., is Chairman of the Institutional Securities Group at Morgan Stanley, where he was worked for 29 years. While his specialty is energy, he has also been involved in a handful of golf industry mergers and acquisitions, including the 2012 sale of the Acushnet Company (Titleist).

Here are five things to know about the MGA's leader:

- 1 He chairs Morgan Stanley's Global Power and Utility Group, serves on the Energy Advisory Committee to the U.S. Secretary of Energy, and is a founding member of the U.S. Partnership for Renewable Energy Finance.
- 2 At 6'6", Jeff played Division I basketball at Niagara University in Lewiston, N.Y. He currently serves as Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees.
- 3 Locally, Jeff plays golf at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, N.Y., and the Stanwich Club in Greenwich, Conn., and carries a 0.6 Handicap Index. He has volunteered for major championships at both clubs.
- 4 He currently serves on the USGA Championship Committee and the World Amateur Golf Ranking Committee.
- 5 In 2011, Jeff qualified for the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship in Houston, Texas. He also played that year in the Met Amateur at Piping Rock, and in 2012 qualified for the Ike Championship at Atlantic and the MGA Mid-Amateur at Meadow Brook.



School Colors

The map features the following callouts:

- Stanford University:** Callout with a red 'S' logo. Golfer: **Jim Liu**, Smithtown, N.Y., 2013.
- University of Southern California:** Callout with a red 'SC' logo. Golfer: **Annie Park**, Levittown, N.Y., 2013.
- Vanderbilt University:** Callout with a black 'V' star logo. Golfer: **Theo Humphrey**, Greenwich, Conn., 2014.
- University of Alabama:** Callout with a red 'A' logo. Golfer: **Nicole Morales**, South Salem, N.Y., 2014.
- Sienna College:** Callout with a green 'S' logo. Golfer: **Scott Kim**, River Edge, N.J., 2013.
- New York Lafayette College:** Callout with a black 'A' logo. Golfer: **Peter Kim**, Metuchen, N.J., 2013.
- USMA at West Point:** Callout with a black 'A' logo. Golfer: **Steven Pedersen Jr.**, Scotch Plains, N.J., 2013.
- Woodcliff Lake, N.J.:** Callout with a red 'L' logo. Golfer: **Jared Mactas**, Woodcliff Lake, N.J., 2013.

A number of top Met Area junior golfers, including five who have won MGA championships, recently announced where they will be playing college golf.

The list of schools is impressive not only for their successful golf programs but also for their academics, proving that our junior golfers are indeed student-athletes.

Most of the players seen here start their college careers in 2013, but two, 2010 WMGA/MGA Women's Public Links champion Nicole Morales of South Salem, N.Y., and 2011 MGA/MetLife Boys champion Theo Humphrey of Greenwich, Conn., are high school juniors and made verbal commitments for the fall of 2014. Morales will attend the University of Alabama, the reigning NCAA women's champions, while Humphrey will take his swings at Vanderbilt.

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Angels and Demons

The movie "Gangster Squad," set to open on January 11, boasts an all-star cast including Josh Brolin, Ryan Gosling, Nick Nolte, Sean Penn and Emma Stone. While the film is set in 1949 Los Angeles, it is based on a book written by Paul Lieberman (*below*), a Hartsdale, N.Y., resident and member of Bonnie Briar Country Club in Larchmont, N.Y. Lieberman, 63, is an executive producer on the film, whose title refers to the LAPD officers who combatted organized crime in the City of Angels.

Lieberman grew up on Long Island, captained the golf team at Williams College in Massachusetts and then embarked on a journalism career that took him from the Westchester-Rockland Newspapers (now the *Journal News*) to Atlanta and then to Los Angeles. Though he and his wife returned to Westchester in 1999, he remained employed by the *Los Angeles Times* and wrote a series of articles in 2008 about the famed Gangster Squad.

"I knew the project would have a Hollywood future," says Lieberman. "Warner Brothers bought the rights, and then I wanted to tell the real story at some length, so I did the book this past year. The movie is 'inspired by' the book, but it's also inspired by the long history of gangster films."

Lieberman, a member of the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association, spent considerable time on the set. "What's very special for me is that I've been in touch with the families of some of these long-dead

police officers, and they will be at the premiere."

Lieberman will conduct a question-and-answer presentation about the Gangster Squad at the Greenburgh Public Library in Elmsford, N.Y., on January 15 at 7:00.



Rising Star: Harrison Shih

BY LES SCHUPAK

Eighteen-year-old Harrison Shih of Saddle River, N.J., a freshman at Columbia University, ended 2012 on a high note by tying for 16th at the Patriot All-America Invitational, played December 29–31 at the Wigwam Golf Resort in Litchfield Park, Arizona. Shih, who reached the semifinals of the 2012 Met Amateur at Hollywood (left) and placed second in the Carter Cup, is a member of Columbia's golf team.

Shih received an invitation to play in this 54-hole event as a result of his AJGA All-America designation. The invitational, which is chaired by Basketball Hall of Fame member and former Phoenix Suns owner Jerry Colangelo, boasts a field of 84 of the country's best collegiate players and benefits the Folds of Honor Foundation.

"This was my first non-college amateur tournament in which I competed [since I started at Columbia] and it was special playing with many guys whom I had heard and read about," he said. Shih scored rounds of 73-69-73 (+5).

Shih plays out of Alpine Country Club, where PGA professional Jason Birnbaum is his swing coach. He is exempt into the 2013 Ike Championship at Wykagyl Country Club and the 2013 Met Amateur at the Stanwich Club, and expects to play in other top amateur tournaments as well.



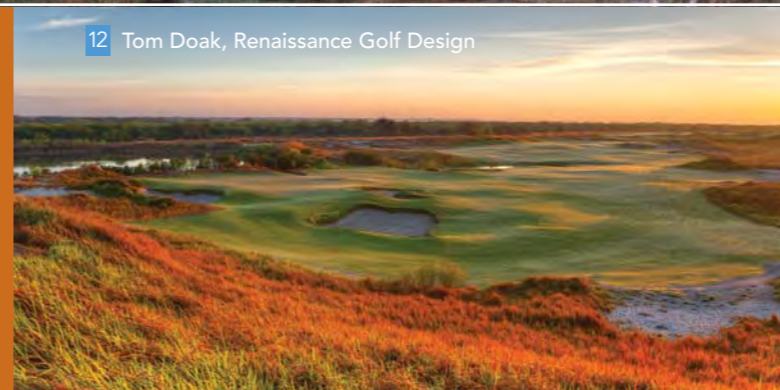
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– *Golf Magazine, January 2013*

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What Happens Next?

BY BRIAN MAHONEY

Photo by John DeTemple Jr.

The photo here shows a competitor in the MGA's 2012 Ike Championship at Atlantic Golf Club in Bridgehampton, N.Y. The player's ball lies on a sandy cart path and he is seeking counsel from a nearby MGA rules official, to review his options under the Rules of Golf.

Like any savvy golfer, the player first identifies where relief may take him before lifting his ball under Rule 24-2. (The *nearest point of relief* is a question of FACT, not a choice!) In this case, the nearest point would put him in a patch of tall grass, likely resulting in a less desirable lie.

The competitor, well within his rights, chooses not to take relief and instead plays the ball as it lies off the path. This example reminds us that it's advantageous to investigate your options before proceeding (and certainly before picking up your ball). If you are faced with a situation like this, remember to consider your options first—it may save you a few strokes.



Hold Steady

Learn the secrets that helped Nick Watney win the 2012 Barclays

BY DARRELL KESTNER WITH DAVE ALLEN

Photos by Fred Vuich

Just before the start of The Barclays last summer at Bethpage Black, a mutual friend, Sam Reeves, asked if I would see Nick Watney and look at his putting stroke, which I happily did. Nick, like so many golfers, suffered from an out-of-balance setup—his weight was too much on his heels. As a result, **he swung the putter on an excessively inside-to-out path** and had to over-rotate the clubface through impact to get it back to square, which led to the occasional mis-hit and poor distance control. **It also caused some excessive head movement during the stroke.** Here's how I fixed his stroke in time for him to win his first-ever FedExCup event.

First, I had Nick move his feet about 4 inches farther away from the ball, which helped position his weight over the balls of his feet and restore his balance. Next, to tone down the amount of face rotation in his stroke, I had him make one-arm strokes, using his free hand to hold the brim of his cap in place. This encouraged Nick to keep his head still during the stroke, and also feel the stroke more in his forearms than shoulders. During the stroke, it's vital to keep your body still from the neck up and the beltline down, allowing the shoulders to react to the movement of the forearms, and not vice versa. The quieter your body is, the easier it is to control the tempo and pace of the stroke and keep the face square.

Darrell Kestner is director of golf at Deepdale Golf Club in Manhasset, N.Y., and at Golf & Body in New York City.



At address, you should be able to easily lift your heels off the ground and not wiggle your toes. This is an indication that your weight is on the balls of your feet, and not the heels.



To prevent any excessive head movement during the stroke, make several one-armed strokes holding onto the brim of your cap.

New Heights

BY SCOTT KRAMER



If you are one of the many golfers who uses an adjustable driver and enjoys tweaking things like clubface angle or weight setting, things are about to get even more fun.

In 2013, a slew of drivers with this adjustable loft feature will hit the market. The onslaught is led by the R1 driver (\$399) from category pioneer TaylorMade. Golfers can alter its loft to one of 12 settings between 8 and 12 degrees. Add in the adjustable plus/minus 4-degree face angle and interchangeable weight plugs, and there are 168 possible ball flights to pick from.

Golf industry studies have shown that as many as 80 percent of golfers play a driver with the wrong loft for their game—usually they try to get by with too little loft. So expect to see players continuously toying with the R1 loft, particularly as weather and turf conditions change. It's truly mesmerizing to see trajectory vary so dramatically with a quick turn of the included wrench.



Grande Dunes Resort Club

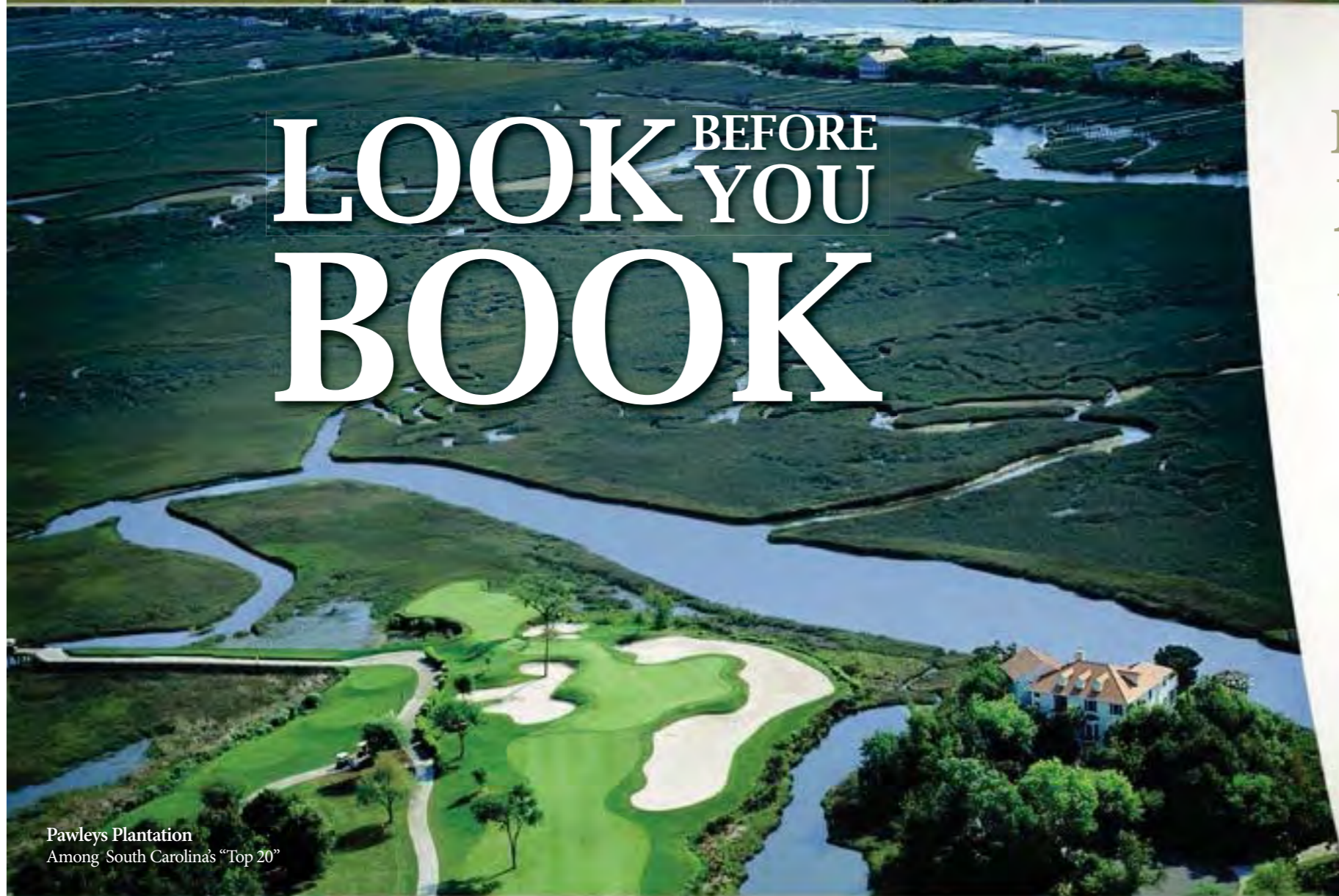
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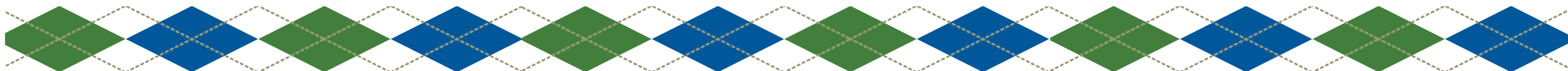
Blackmoor

Tradition Club

Willbrook Plantation

Wachesaw Plantation East

Wild Wing Plantation



54 Holes In...San Diego

BY EVAN ROTHMAN

Photo by John Mummert/USGA

Golf's best take the stage on January 24-27 to tackle Torrey Pines during the PGA Tour's Farmers Insurance Open. Your own visit to what's known locally as "America's Finest City" need not be quite as challenging. Here are our suggestions for a great stay and play.

GOLF

- **Torrey Pines GC** (torreypinesgolfcourse.com). While those intent on testing the limits of their game at this bustling municipal facility will gravitate to the South course, toughened up by Rees Jones pre-2008 U.S. Open, the somewhat less exacting North is set to undergo a \$7 million redesign in winter 2015 by native son Phil Mickelson.
- **Aviara GC** (golfaviara.com). Among the prettiest courses in all of California—which is no mean feat—this Arnold Palmer design boasting numerous sand and water hazards abuts the gorgeous Batiquitos Lagoon ecological reserve. Aviara debuted the country's first TaylorMade Performance Lab, and the parent resort, now a Park Hyatt, is likewise first-rate.

LODGING

- **The Lodge at Torrey Pines** (lodgetorreypines.com). A stay here ensures Torrey Pines tee times; if that weren't enough to seal the deal, its luxe guestrooms, A.R. Valentien fine dining restaurant, world-class spa and ideal La Jolla location surely should.
- **The Grand Del Mar** (thegranddelmar.com). This 249-room, AAA Five Diamond resort takes full advantage of San Diego's superior climate, with copious patios, verandas and breezeways connecting its amenities—including the city's only Tom Fazio-designed course.

OFF-COURSE

- **In-N-Out Burger** (www.in-n-out.com). Proof of quality? Stewart Cink's Twitter avatar is a picture of the golfer in front of a burger and fries from this beloved California institution since 1948, with more than 200 in-state locations.
- **San Diego Zoo** (sandiegozoo.org). Simply put, the Augusta of animal enclaves.

The cliffside perch of the third green on Torrey Pines South, in all its glory.

Stay Strong

Photo by Stan Badz/PGA Tour

Even while nearly 5,000 miles away on Maui, Connecticut native J.J. Henry is thinking about his home state. The Fairfield native wore a Sandy Hook Elementary School hat during the Hyundai Tournament of Champions at Kapalua, showing his support for the people of Newtown. "I didn't know any of the families directly, but they are so close to that same close-knit community where I grew up that I felt like I did," the 1994 Met Amateur runner-up told PGATour.com. "It's just a small gesture to say we are thinking of you."

