

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG



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This page: Each year at Plainfield CC in Edison, N.J., players from the upstairs locker room do battle with their counterparts from downstairs in the "Battle of Short Hills." The fun event commemorates part of the original Revolutionary War battle that was fought atop Plainfield's fourth fairway. The Americans were victorious this year and the Brits surrendered their weapons. Pictured (L-R): Carl Gambello and Bill Fleming kneeling before the victors Bob Bunting and Tom Walker.

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BEST IN SHOW

BY MADDI VETRANO

Tuxedo Club, in Tuxedo Park, N.Y., with its picturesque lake surrounded by the Ramapo Mountains dotted with vintage mansions that evoke a different era is the perfect place to host an event such as the “Concours d’Elegance.” Two years ago, The Tuxedo Club introduced a car show to their list of summer events, which appropriately takes place surrounding their beautiful and historic main clubhouse. In a scene that matched longstanding classics with sporty models, muscle cars, and some rather rare entries, participants evaluated each “contestant” and voted for their favorites in a variety of categories. To further assist the appraisal, the cars made their own version of a runway walk, circling Tuxedo’s signature lake in pageant fashion.

Photo: The Tuxedo Club

54 Holes in The Scottish Highlands

By Tom Mackin

While the golf world rightly turned its eyes to The Old Course at St Andrews for The Open Championship this month, veteran travelers to Scotland know there is another less heralded region to the north that is well worth a visit. Although an effort is required to get to the Highlands — a scenic but approximately three-hour drive from both Glasgow and Edinburgh airports — these three courses are well worth the journey.

COURSES

- 1 **Nairn** – Superb conditions have long been the calling card at this venue, home of the 1999 Walker Cup and 2012 Curtis Cup. A gentle walk belies the effort needed to score well, but the greens roll as true as anywhere in the world. Golf history aficionados should ask to see the newly created Club Archive room in the clubhouse. It features an impressive collection of golf artifacts.
- 2 **Castle Stuart** – Good enough to host the Barclays Scottish Open in 2011 just two years after opening, Castle Stuart is all about the angles. Figuring out the best approaches from wide fairways to thoughtful green complexes is both challenging and enjoyable. The Scottish Open returns again next year but even better news is that a second course and on-site accommodations are scheduled to debut in 2018.
- 3 **Brora** – Although overshadowed by nearby Royal Dornoch, this James Braid design is straightforward and fun, with sheep and cattle often roaming the fairways (but not the greens, which are encircled with an electric wire). Playing just over 6,200 yards from the tips, a steady wind stretches this seaside course farther than you might expect. A rare and daunting par-3 closer caps off this natural links experience.

WHERE TO STAY

- **Culloden House** – A location on the southeast edge of Inverness makes this 17th-century manor house a perfect base for a Highlands golf trip. With only 28 bedrooms, highly personalized service is the standard. A walled garden on the property even offers a quiet place to contemplate swing changes.

OFF-COURSE

- **Clynelish Distillery** – In a region overflowing with distilleries, this one is just a 10-minute drive northwest from Brora and traces its origins to 1819. The 14-year old single malt, with just a touch of smoky flavor, is a wonderful way to toast your good fortune of playing golf in Scotland.

Photo: Castle Stuart Golf Links

Multiple stunning visuals will attract your eye on Castle Stuart's ninth hole.

Pitching for DISTANCE

BY RON KORN

Ron Korn, Head Golf Professional at Cedar Hill CC in Livingston, N.J., and the 2005 NJPGA Teacher of the Year, has a way for you to get more distance with your irons by working on how you chip and pitch.

In 30 years of teaching, I often have students complain about hitting their irons all similar distances, with almost no difference between 6 and 9 irons. At that point, I can picture how they chip and pitch without ever seeing it.

My prescription for getting them more distance with their irons is to show them how to hit low, piercing, checking chip and pitch shots.

The chipping and pitching stroke is like taking an x-ray of the swing. It's a short motion with no time for a loop or a saving move. The x-ray seems to always reveal that the player is trying to get under the ball instead of hitting it forward. You have to hit the ball forward for it to go up.

Check out these chipping and pitching images to help you gain yardage with your full swing.



1



2



3



4

Helpful

- Have a relaxed right wrist, as when you paint: the handle comes before the bristles (Image #1)
- Have a low take-away for the shot: this is true even if you want the ball to go high
- Put your nose and shirt buttons in front of ball: this promotes a descending strike
- Hit and scrape the clubhead: the leading edge is sharp; let it scrape
- Finish your follow through suddenly: don't stop gradually after the strike (Image #2)
- Have a longer backswing than follow through: you have to go back enough to activate the right wrist

Harmful

- The pendulum stroke: this does not work on thin lies
- Trying to get under the ball: your divot will be behind the ball
- Having firm wrists: not enough wrist going back will give you too much wrist coming down (Image #3)
- Accelerating the downswing: have a one-speed swing, an accelerating down swing can cause a short back swing
- Following through: if the follow through is over-emphasized, you will push the ball (Image #4)

THE MET OPEN

100 YEARS



The MGA is celebrating the 100th playing of the Met Open Championship on August 25-27, 2015, and is pleased to debut a special series "The Met Open – 100 Years" that explores the rich history of the Met Open, the MGA's premier championship.

DAVIES · GRAHAM · O'MEARA · TILLINGHAST

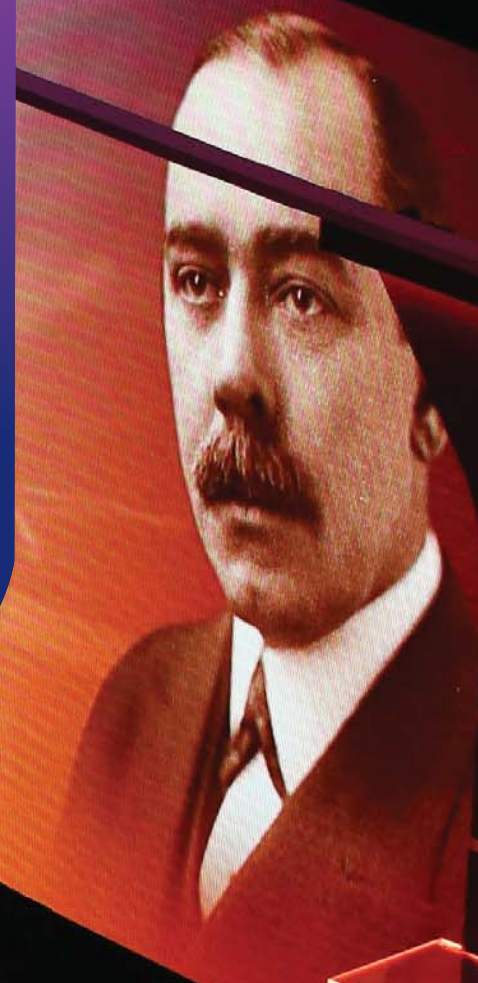


Induction
★ 2015 ★

ST ANDREWS, SCOTLAND

LONG LAST TILLINGHAST

BY TIM HARTIN



A range of renowned golf architects have left their imprint on the Metropolitan Area, but perhaps none more so than A.W. Tillinghast. Bethpage State Park, Winged Foot, Baltusrol Golf Club, Quaker Ridge, and Somerset Hills are just a few “Tilly” designs in the area, and they all can now tout their designer as a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum. Tillinghast was enshrined as part of the Class of 2015, with the induction ceremony kicking off The Open Championship week just down the street from the Old Course at the University of St. Andrews. Tillinghast is credited to have worked on more than 265 courses during his career and his courses have hosted 50 Major Championships. His masterpieces have truly stood the test of time and are still revered among the best in the world. Heralded as a pioneer of American golf, the only question surrounding his induction is why it took so long. The Met Area in particular has attested to his greatness for decades, and the area’s top professionals and amateurs will get to experience one of his best during the 100th playing of the Met Open over Winged Foot’s East Course.

Di Dougherty of Sky Sports served as emcee for the World Golf Hall of Fame induction ceremony held at the University of St. Andrews.



PLUS-SIZED SPIDER

BY SCOTT KRAMER

TaylorMade's been riding its spider-themed putters for quite some time. The latest arachnid entry, the Daddy Long Legs+ (\$249), may leave quite a bite on your game. The company calls DLL+ its "most technologically advanced and stable putter" ever. It features a SuperStroke XL 2.0 grip with a 125-gram counterweight and a lightweight, single-bend steel shaft. The counterbalancing helps maximize stability, while the oversized grip helps eliminate wrists from commandeering your putting stroke. According to the company, the putter has 200 percent more weight above the hands to raise the balance point by 2 inches, allowing you more control of the heavier head. This fresh design sports a sleek matte black finish accented with a non-glare tour satin grey and contrasting alignment lines. Seventeen individual pieces make up the face-balanced head. A deep-milled aluminum face insert gives you a crisp feel at impact and gets the ball rolling quickly and accurately. The insert's rough surface also softens the impact sound. The putter is offered in lengths of 34.5, 36 and 38 inches. And with the upcoming USGA ban on the act of anchoring putters, it's a worthy alternative that may well help plenty of golfers on the green.

It's All in the **NAMME**

BY TIM HARTIN

There's no question that the youthful charge in professional golf is being led by Jordan Spieth. Here in the Met Area though, a similar spotlight on the new age of golf has been led by Cameron Young of Sleepy Hollow. At just 18 years old, the future Wake Forest Demon Deacon already has an eye-catching golf résumé which is always expanding. Young's recent win at the Ike placed his name in the MGA annals once again, and it's only fitting that his record-setting performance deals with his age. Now a three-time MGA champion, Young holds the distinction of being the youngest winner in two premier MGA events: the Carter Cup and the Ike. His first MGA victory came in 2011, as he claimed the Carter Cup crown by two strokes at the ripe age of 14 years and three months, a mark some 20 months younger than the previous record held by Morgan Hoffmann. He added the Met Junior title in 2013, then fast forward to late June 2015 and he was at it again. This time, Young posted a final round 66 at challenging Friar's Head to run away with an impressive five-shot victory at the Ike. At 18 years and one month, Young bested Andrew Giuliani's previous tournament record by 16 months. With Young continuing his high-level play and about to take his game to the collegiate ranks, there's no telling which record he'll leave his name on next.

Cameron Young and Friar's Head managing member Ken Bakst admire the Ike trophy.



Young hoisting the Carter Cup in 2011.



As it LIES

Video by Maddi Vetrano

This edition of Rules of Golf comes to you from Paramount Country Club, where the area's best juniors competed in the 98th Met Junior Championship. The MGA's own Director of Rules, Competitions, and GHIN Services takes you on the grounds at Paramount to showcase a couple rules to keep in mind no matter where you play.



Whistling Straits Awaits

BY TIM HARTIN

Matt Dobyens captured his second career PGA Professional National Championship at The Philadelphia Cricket Club in early July and will lead a quintet of Met Area Club Professionals competing in the 97th PGA Championship at Whistling Straits, taking place in Kohler, Wisconsin, Aug. 13-16. Dobyens, the Head Professional at Fresh Meadow, Ben Polland of Deepdale and Grant Sturgeon of Winged Foot comprised the all-Metropolitan PGA final grouping at the 48th National Championship and secured the Section an impressive 1-2-T3 finish. Mountain Ridge's Brett Jones and Quaker Ridge's Brian Gaffney also played their way into the field for the season's final major with top-20 finishes. Gaffney, who will be making his fourth PGA Championship appearance, birdied the 72nd hole to finish in a five-way tie for 20th, then birdied the first playoff hole to grab the final advancing position.



Matt Dobyens



Ben Polland



Grant Sturgeon



Brett Jones



Brian Gaffney

Park Passes Westchester Test

BY TIM HARTIN

Professional golf made its return to Westchester Country Club in a major way with the KPMG Women's PGA Championship. While the site may have been new for the event, the result was very familiar as Inbee Park came away with her third-straight Women's PGA Championship title—all of which have come in the Empire State. The South Korean put on a show at the legendary West Course, and placed an exclamation point on her win with a bogey-free final round 68. Finishing with a score of 19-under and being five shots clear of Sei Young Kim, Park was rightfully thrilled with the outcome and said, "Maybe New York is a lucky town for me. Maybe I should move here or something." It's uncertain whether Park is getting ready to relocate or not, but one thing is for sure: major championship golf will always have a home in New York, especially in the Met Area.



Ride Golf's **New Wave**

BY MARK McCORMICK

Just a year ago, GolfBoard made its debut at the PGA Merchandise Show and was named the PGA's Best New Product of 2014. Now the skateboard and golf cart hybrid is making its way into the Metropolitan Area.

The Oregon-based company first made headlines across the nation last year with its slogan, "Surf the Earth," which big-wave surfer and co-founder Laird Hamilton created. His plan? To attract younger golfers by giving non-golf fans a different look that will attract them to playing the game in a fast-paced environment.

The product itself features a four-wheel drive, skateboard-length vehicle which runs on a lithium battery. It can range up to 15 miles and produce speeds of 7-14 mph thanks to low and high speed settings. Directing wherever you want to go is a breeze, just move your weight toward the location of your ball. The most attractive feature of GolfBoard, however, is the claim that pace of play can decline sharply with their use. A foursome with a GolfBoard for each player can look to complete a round in three hours.

MGA member clubs that have taken on the trend of GolfBoard include Country Club of Darien, Nassau Country Club, and Hampton Hills Golf and Country Club. The lowest priced GolfBoard model comes with a price tag of \$6,500, but monthly leasing options for the same model are also available. If you're looking to breeze through a quick round after work, this new component to the game may be worth a try.

"As a PGA Professional, I am always looking for ways to grow the game and to add to the 'cool factor' of golf. The GolfBoards have been a huge part in that and have been an immediate success at our club."

— Cory Muller, Head Golf Professional
at Country Club of Darien



MET OPEN

Magic

BY MADDI VETRANO

RUNNING THE FIELD

“It has been a long time since any Met Open ever had a more dramatic ending than this one.”

With this poignant quote etched by legendary golf writer William D. Richardson to set the scene, this month's Met Open Moment takes us back to 1934 at Echo Lake Country Club, when young Paul Runyan took down a field of golf titans to earn himself the coveted Met Open title.

Back in 1934, the “Metropolitan” Open was considered as daunting a major as the Masters, the U.S. Open, the Open Championship, and the PGA Championship. The top players that circled the leaderboard in those events were the same that battled at the Metropolitan Open to create historically competitive fields.

Earlier that year, Runyan took home the PGA Championship, and was now eyeing the Met Open trophy alongside golfing greats such as Walter Hagen, Craig Wood, Wiffy Cox, Willie MacFarlane, and Joe Turnesa. Early in the competition, Wiffy Cox was leading, with Hagen and Runyan hot on his trail.

The real drama began when Cox began to falter and opened up the competition for already three-time champion Hagen and up-and-coming golf star Runyan, who both made the turn in the final round at 2-under.

The story looked to be writing itself – “Walter Hagen Wins Again” - until the “old war horse” started making blunders. Meanwhile, Runyan, calmly as ever and two groups back, remained flawless along the way.

What happened on the last hole is what makes this moment so indicative of a great Met Open moment.

As Runyan made the final stretch, he took his second shot on 18 and missed the green, landing in the bunker. Everyone was ready for what appeared to be the making of a three-way playoff between Runyan, Hagen, and Cox for the title.

With unwavering nerves, “Little Poison”, given that nickname due to his dangerous and reputable short game, easily escaped the sand and landed just 5 feet from the hole. The tension was still thick though, as Runyan had to sink that tricky, winding five-footer to make par and win the trophy.

With the temperament of a veteran, he assessed his putt and confidently tapped the ball towards the hole. The sound of the sinking putt in the bottom of the cup declared Runyan as the 1934 Met Open Champion.

Runyan would go on to tie for fourth in the first Masters Championship later in 1934, win another PGA Championship in 1938 and become one of the most legendary and sought-after teaching professionals in the country – all catapulted from that defining Met Open in 1936.

