

### In This Issue

May 2014

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Jack Nicklaus and Tony Jacklin warmly shake hands after Nicklaus conceded a two foot putt that would tie the 1969 Ryder Cup Matches at Royal Birkdale. The act is commemorated at a new event that salutes one of the game's greatest acts of sportsmanship.



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Golf Cum Laude

#### **BY MGA STAFF**

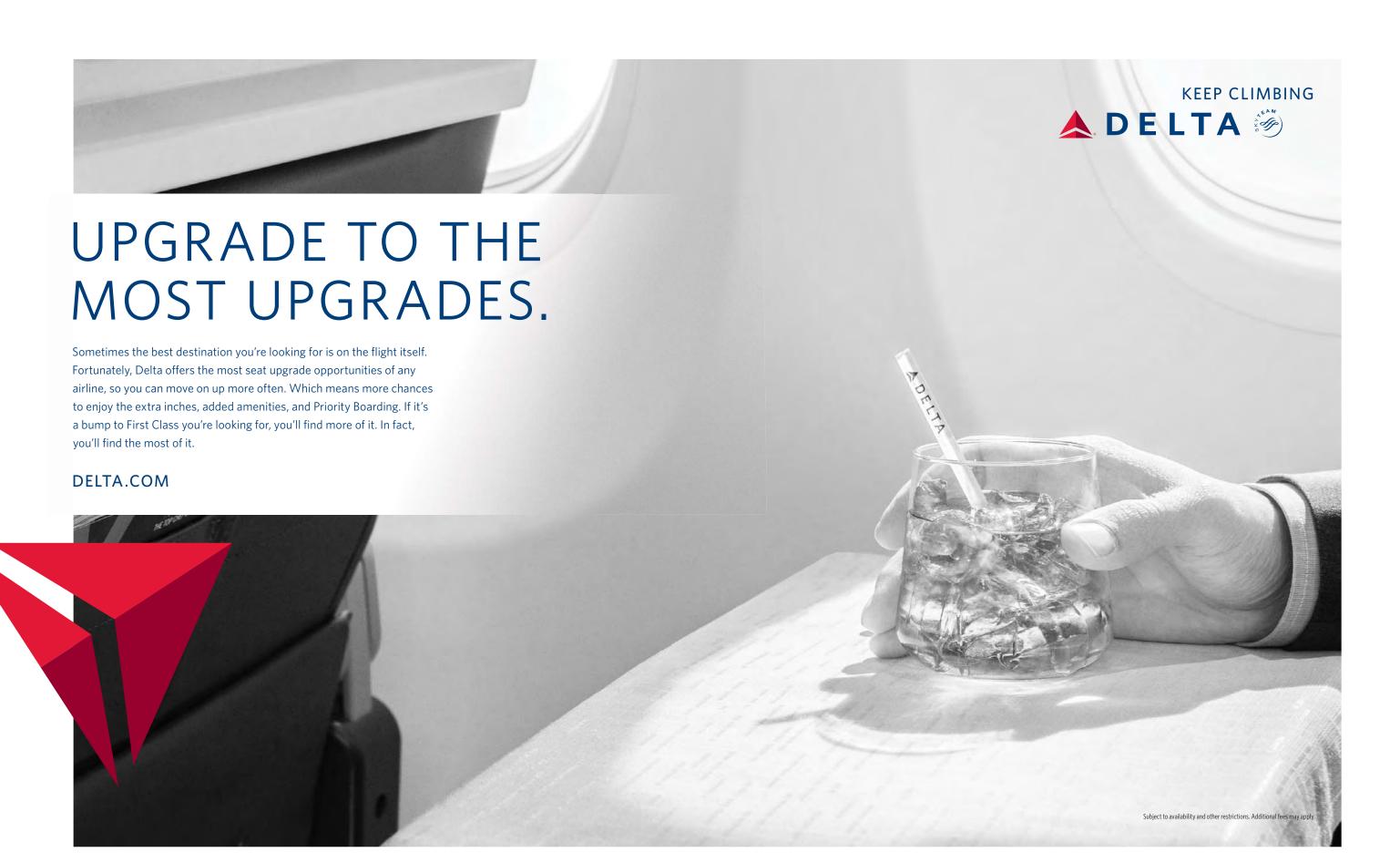
**Photo by NCAA Photos** 

tanford senior and seven-time MGA Champion Cameron Wilson earned the NCAA Individual Title on Monday, May 26, thanks to a triumphant 8-foot birdie putt on the third playoff hole that secured the win over Georgia Tech's Ollie Schniederjans. Currently the fifth-ranked amateur in the world, the hard fought win also puts him in the record books alongside golf legends Tiger Woods (1996) and Sandy Tatum (1942) as only the third Stanford Cardinal to win the NCAA Individual Title. In addition, he is only the third left-handed player to win the title alongside Scott Langley (2010) and Phil Mickelson (1992, 1990, 1989). Wilson, a native of Rowayton, Conn., who plays at Shorehaven Golf Club, started building his golf resume early on, winning the 2009 Carter Cup/MGA Junior Stroke Play Championship, 2009 Met Amateur, and 2009 MGA Player of the Year title, all at a record age of 16. His talents have only matured with age; he won back-to-back Ike titles in 2012 and 2013 at both Atlantic GC and Wykagyl CC, respectively, the Ike Team Championship in 2012, and finished 2nd at the 2013 Met Open after forcing a playoff with eventual winner Mark Brown.

This is the second consecutive year that the NCAA Individual title was claimed by a Met Area player – in 2013 Annie Park from Levittown, N.Y., earned the women's NCAA Individual Title for USC and this year her team established a record-setting nine championship wins for the season. The last man to win NCAA Individual honors from the Met Area was way back in 1930 when Princeton's George Dunlap won.

Wilson will look to make the grade in the U.S. Open Sectional Qualifying Round on June 2 at Old Oaks and Century Country Club to earn a spot in the upcoming U.S. Open Championship in Pinehurst, North Carolina. And make no mistake, if he gets there – he's in it to win it.







## THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OFFICIAL STYLE OF THE MGA

vineyard vines has teamed up with the MGA for its 2014 Golf Collection. With performance technology and classic appeal, this golf apparel line represents high-end style on and off the course. vineyard vines is the only apparel that will be provided at MGA Championships and events throughout the Met Area.

t was one of the greatest acts of sportsmanship ever recorded in golf when Jack Nicklaus conceded a two-foot putt to Tony Jacklin (cover photo) in the finals of the 1969 Ryder Cup Matches at Royal Birkdale, England, halving their match and resulting in the first-ever tie in the history of the event. This year, that spirit was commemorated in the first-ever playing of the Concession Cup, a 36-hole match play competition between teams from the United States and Great Britain and Ireland, made up of mid-am, senior and super-senior amateur players.

The event was played at the aptly-named Concession Club in Bradenton, Florida and the MGA was proudly represented in the senior division by ten-time MGA Player of the Year and former U.S. Mid-Amateur champion George Zahringer of Deepdale (back row, third from left). George joined a distinguished roster of teammates, including former U.S. and British Amateur champion Vinny Giles, who served as playing captain, four-time Walker Cup captain Jim Holtgrieve, and four-time U.S. Mid-Amateur champion Nathan Smith, among those on the the U.S. team. Zahringer contributed two victories to the USA Team to help lead them to a decisive 21 1/2 - 14 1/2 victory over GB & I.

"I was honored to be selected as a member of the squad. I have known and competed against many of my teammates as well as some of the international players. Moreover, it is always a privilege to represent your country, particularly at this level," he noted. "This is one of the highlights of my career and I believe for all the others who competed this week," he said.

Adding to the aura of the event was the reunion of Jack Nicklaus and Tony Jacklin (first row, center), who co-designed the Concession Club course and who remain good friends. At the opening ceremonies Honorary Chairman, Paul Azinger, referred to them as two of the "greatest living ambassadors of the spirit of the game."



LEGENDS

#### RULES

Tt's a common occurrence at MGA events: A ball lands on a sprinkler head in the fairway, or a player hits a tree branch on his backswing. Maybe halfway through a round a player finds 16 clubs in his bag. Now what? While most MGA competitors are well schooled in the basics of The Rules of Golf, there are any number of situations that can arise during competition where the answer may not be so crystal clear and which could, and should, have the benefit of an expert opinion. After all, guessing wrong can have big consequences and cost a player disqualification, a spot in a championship or even a win.

Enter the MGA Bluecoats, our highlytrained volunteer corps of about 150 officials who are on hand at every MGA event to assist players with any ruling situations to insure that they are maintaining pace of play, conforming to the rules and avoiding costly penalties. And, every Spring, just as the buds are breaking on the trees and clubs are coming out of the bag, this dedicated corps of volunteers convene at the MGA's annual Tournament Officials Seminar for a one-day refresher course on The Rules and on all MGA tournament procedures, to insure that the highest standards of play are always enforced at MGA events. They are the heart and soul of the MGA Tournament Program and are a large part of what makes MGA events among the best and most professionally run in the country.





### NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP PLAN

Berkeley Hall Club recently introduced new membership plans for non-property owners who are interested in joining one of the finest golfing communities in the country. This non-equity plan is ideal for families who prefer the very best in service and quality – Two Fazio-Designed Championship "Core" Golf Courses, an Award-Winning 33-acre Practice & Learning Center, a State-of-the-Art Spa & Fitness Center, a River Park and social and dining activities in our 45,000 sq. ft. Jeffersonian Clubhouse.

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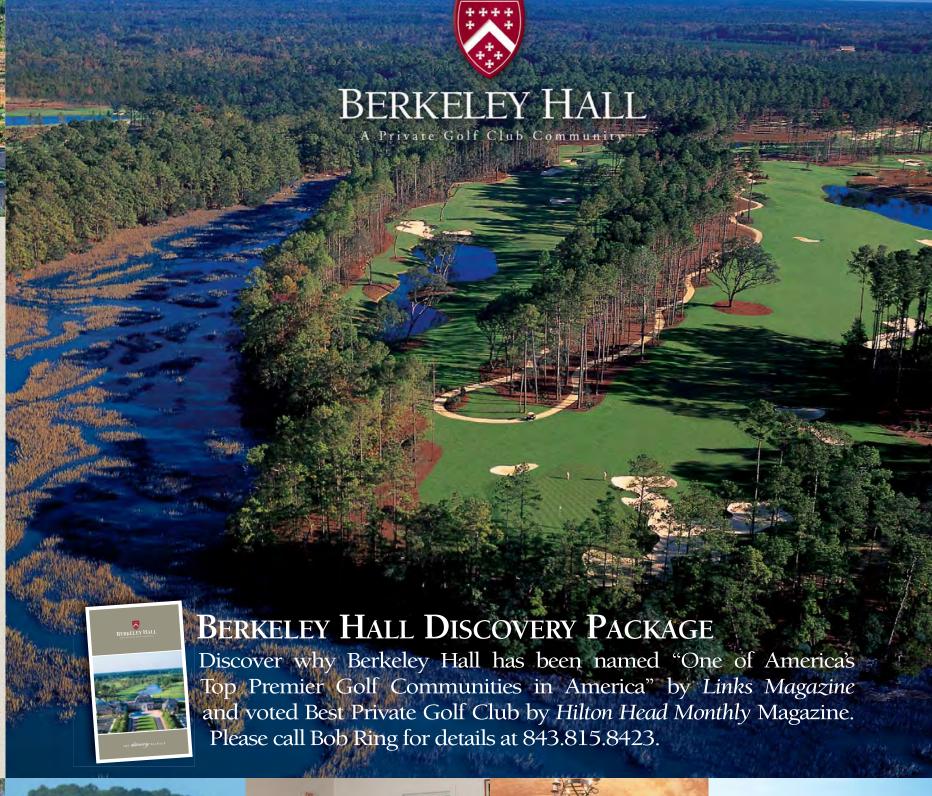
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arcical! You couldn't miss a hole that size unless you were blind." "The very idea makes me angry." "...his suggestion is absurd. The golf hole is just the right size now."

If you guessed these were quotes from traditionalists railing against the recent proposal by Mark King, CEO of Taylor Made to experiment with enlarging the golf hole to a mammoth 15 inches you would be wrong. The words were actually aimed at Gene Sarazen more than 80 years ago when "The Squire" took an early stand in favor of enlarging the hole.

Attention to King's idea was sparked by a New York Times article and by widely circulated photos of Sergio Garcia and Justin Rose putting into a 15 inch cup at an event that King staged at the Oconee Course at Reynolds Plantation outside Atlanta one day after the Masters. King's theory, if the game is too hard and takes too long, let's try something different especially for beginners of all ages and for juniors. If we make the game "easier" and less frustrating maybe we will be able to attract new players and get more golfers to stay with the game and graduate to becoming more traditional golfers.

These thoughts have sparked fears of revolution among the game's traditionalists, but it turns out the idea is actually not so new after all. Larger holes have been proposed as far back as the 1920's when a club in Maine actually played through an entire season with six-inch holes. And surprisingly, one of the idea's more notable proponents was Sarazen, who as early as the 1930's took a stand in favor of enlarging the cup size to 12 inches, a position for which he received lots of flack in the local press as noted in a 1933 article in *The Bakersfield Californian*.

So, as the saying goes, "Everything Old Is New Again"...and golf is no exception. No question the idea has a polarizing effect in the world of golf-you love it or hate, probably depending on how good your putting skills are, but whatever your stand – revolutionary? – not so much.



**COMEBACK STORY** 

othing beats the sights and sounds that signal the return of spring to the Met Area.

One of the most common signs that warmer weather is on the way is the chirping of birds returning from their winter retreat in the South. A place where that sound is especially welcome is at GlenArbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills, N.Y., where they'll be beginning the 12th year of their Environmental Enhancement Program and its flagship Bluebird Program.

When GlenArbor owner Grant Gregory and his son Morgan first started the club they made it clear that "stewardship of the land" would be one of four principles the club would uphold. When the Bluebird Program was first conceived, GlenArbor's Superintendent Ken Benoit was skeptical of the results the program would produce, but quickly became one of its biggest fans. "The Bluebird program has become as much a part of GlenArbor as the golf course is," said Benoit. The Program positions bluebird boxes throughout the golf course which are monitored weekly throughout the nesting season with the help of Bedford's own "Mr. Bluebird," Tom Meyer, a bluebird expert. It wasn't that long ago those bluebirds, the state bird of New York, were on the endangered species list yet, since the Bluebird Program's inception, the club has fledged over 800 bluebirds, greatly bolstering the population in the area. In addition, GlenArbor also houses four bee hives, which produce honey that is given out to the membership every year.

For its efforts, GlenArbor is the only golf club that has been awarded the Environmental Stewardship Recognition Award by the North American Bluebird Society and in 2010 received the Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.



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n May 19, the MGA Foundation celebrated the start of the 20th year of its flagship junior program, GOLFWORKS, with its annual Day of Golf, held this year at the Maidstone Club in East Hampton, N.Y. More than 150 avid supporters of the Foundation's premier youth initiative, which provides meaningful summer employment to high school students and introduces them to career opportunities within the golf industry, were on hand to mark the occasion and learn about the great success of the program in impacting the lives of young people through golf. In the program's 20 years, it has grown from 12 students at six clubs to 250 students at 80 MGA clubs annually and is today one of the nation's most successful junior golf initiatives.

Many of the program's great success stories and some of the tremendous achievements of many of its graduates were shown in a short video at the Day of Golf (right, and available on our website) and will also be featured in the June/July issue of The Met Golfer. Congratulations GOLFWORKS - 20 years young and we've only just begun.



#### **BY SCOTT KRAMER**

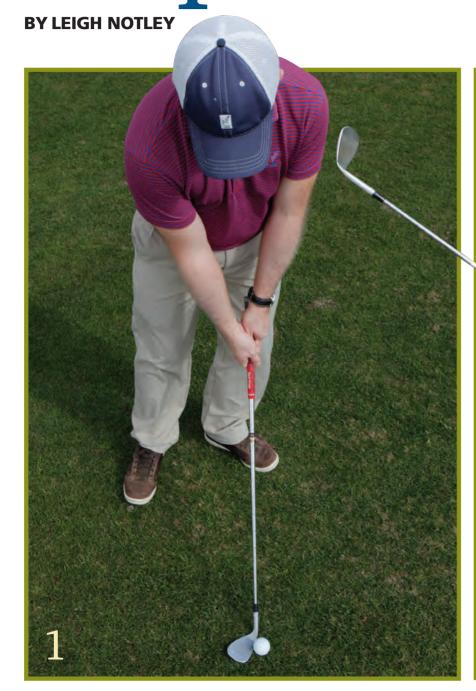
fall TaylorMade's brand-new SLDR S woods, perhaps the most pleasant surprise is the SLDR S Mini driver (\$279). This silver-headed, 260cc clubhead combines a low-and-forward center of gravity location with available high lofts of 10, 12, 14 or 16 degrees. That helps maximize trajectory, carry and overall distance, say company officials who are quick to caution it won't get you as much yardage as you would with its full-sized SLDR S driver sibling. Our testing actually produced comparable distance. The Mini has a shorter, controllable shaft. Off the tee, it reliably delivers high launch and low spin. Directly off the ground and even from the rough, hitting the ball is a breeze. The smaller clubhead – it's only 100cc larger than a typical 3-wood – helps project the ball pleasantly high, generating more ball spin from the turf than off of a tee. Also worth a look: The company's new SLDR irons (\$899/set) that bear a classic clubhead shape and size with a distance-enhancing slot behind the face that allows the clubface to flex more at impact, then catapult the ball with "driver-like face speed," says Tomo Bystedt, TaylorMade's director of product creation for irons, putters and wedges.



# Flop Shot Set Up

While flop shots can yield great results, they are very challenging shots and are only advisable when absolutely necessary. However, when you don't have a lot of green to work with and need the ball to stop quickly, the flop shot can help you save a stroke and is your best bet for getting you close to the hole.

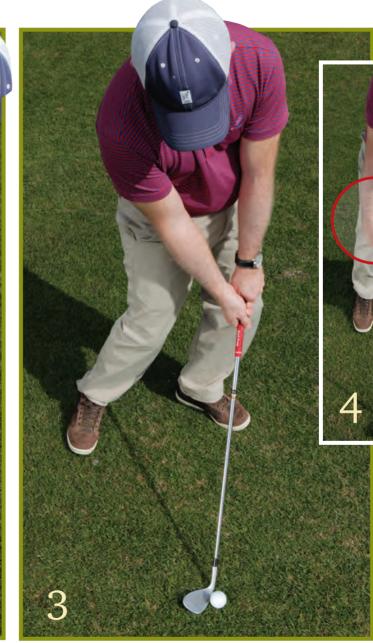
Leigh Notley, PGA Head Golf Professional at Gardiner's Bay Country Club.



**Address:** When setting up, keep your weight forward and make sure to have an open stance. The handle of the club should be forward and the ball positioned in the center of the heels.



**Backswing:** To help get the ball up in the air quickly, hinge your wrists along the body alignment very early in the backswing.



**Impact:** On impact, keep all your weight forward and remember to keep the handle forward as well.

Don't: The most common mistake in this type of shot is releasing the trailing wrist before impact. Don't do it! This puts the club-head in front of the handle and leads to a ground first strike which won't help get the ball in the air, or worse, a skulled shot across the green.



hat comes to mind when you hear someone mention Pebble Beach? Perhaps it is five U.S. Opens, the annual AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, or the waves crashing on the cliffs. But what about the other world-class courses there, the dining experiences, the spa and more? And now there is even a newly designed Golf Academy.

#### **GOLF**

- Pebble Beach Golf Links Watson's chip. Nicklaus hitting the flagstick. Tiger's record-setting performance. A test of golf that is so good that it will host the U.S. Open twice this decade (2010 and 2019). Pebble Beach offers the golfer a significant test on its
- most beautiful setting. It's the course that is at the top of most golf bucket lists, and with good reason.
- Spyglass Hill Golf Course One of Robert Trent Jones Sr.'s
  most famous courses. Tall pines, sand dunes and ocean
  views combined with a world-class test of golf. Enjoy a
  beautiful challenge that tests the game's best annually

- during the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.
- The Links at Spanish Bay A true links course that connects land and sea, Spanish Bay offers a different experience than Pebble Beach or Spyglass by allowing you to try out your ground game. Play late and listen for the daily bagpiper as he helps to close the course for the day.

#### **LODGING & DINING**

 Where to stay, eat, etc. The decisions don't end on the golf course, and are endless. Like the golf, The Lodge at Pebble Beach offers a variety of top-ranked offerings for lodging and dining. Do you want the elegance and opulence of The Inn at Spanish Bay (with those wonderful fire pits right on the Pacific), or the charm and location of The Lodge at Pebble Beach? You can't go wrong with either, and both feature multiple world-class dining options. Whatever you do, leave time for a leisurely drive along famous 17-Mile Drive – and take your eyes off all the great golf courses for a moment to enjoy the spectacular Pacific Coast scenery.

#### **OTHER**

 Pebble Beach Golf Academy & Practice Facility – the newly completed Academy spans over 3,000 sq. feet and offers golfers an expansive array of features. 25 PGA Professionals are on hand to help you with your game. And new this year, check out their new robotic swing trainer. Step into the trainer and experience what it feels like to make a perfect swing.

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