

# The Met Golfer

# EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG

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*This page: The USGA's extensive history with Winged Foot Golf Club continued this month with the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship. For more on the event that crowned the first national champion of the season, see page 6.*



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**Metropolitan Golf Association**  
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523 •  
914-347-4653 www.mgagolf.org •  
mgagolf@mgagolf.org

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**Special Consultants:** Jeanne McCooley, Gene Westmoreland

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2600 Philmont Avenue, Suite 325  
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**CEO & Publisher:** Richard K. Summers

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**Advertising:** For information, please contact: Tom Ott at 914-347-4653, ext. 321, or Nick Fischer at 914-347-4653, ext. 345, or Brian Folino at 623-337-5802 (office) or 661-312-6412 (cell)

**Executive Director, Travel & Real Estate:** Mike Agee

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# Growth through GOLFWORKS



Four fourth-year GOLFWORKS interns, who collectively have interned at Baltusrol GC, Essex County CC, and Canoe Brook CC, attended the MGA Foundation Day of Golf to express their thanks for the opportunities they've received through the program. Foundation Board members Valerie Reardon and George Zahringer III and Chairman Steve Boyd joined the interns at Ridgewood.

MGA FOUNDATION



The MGA Foundation held its 22nd annual Day of Golf at Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, N.J., on May 17. This fundraiser supports the Foundation's cornerstone student intern program, GOLFWORKS. It allowed more than 100 Foundation supporters to hear first-hand the benefits from the GOLFWORKS program from one of its interns, Dhalia Tejada (pictured above).

"I gained independence and was able to carry myself in a mature manner where I was not afraid to speak up and lead others," remarked Tejada. "The skills that I acquired while working during summers through the MGA program helped me throughout my high school career. I just completed my freshman year at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and will continue to use the skills I've learned throughout my college career as well. I want to thank Bob LeBlein for helping me find this program and MGA for giving me the opportunity to become an independent, mature, and confident young woman."

Each year, 250 students just like Dhalia are employed at more than 80 MGA member clubs. GOLFWORKS has been able to provide great opportunities for young people in the Met Area thanks to the generous support of MGA Member Clubs, Foundation donors, and the official supporter of the MGA Foundation, MetLife.

## INSTRUCTION

# FLIGHT *Control*

**BY DEAN MILLER, PGA** | Dean Miller is an assistant professional at Essex County Country Club in West Orange, N.J., site of the 2016 Ike Championship.

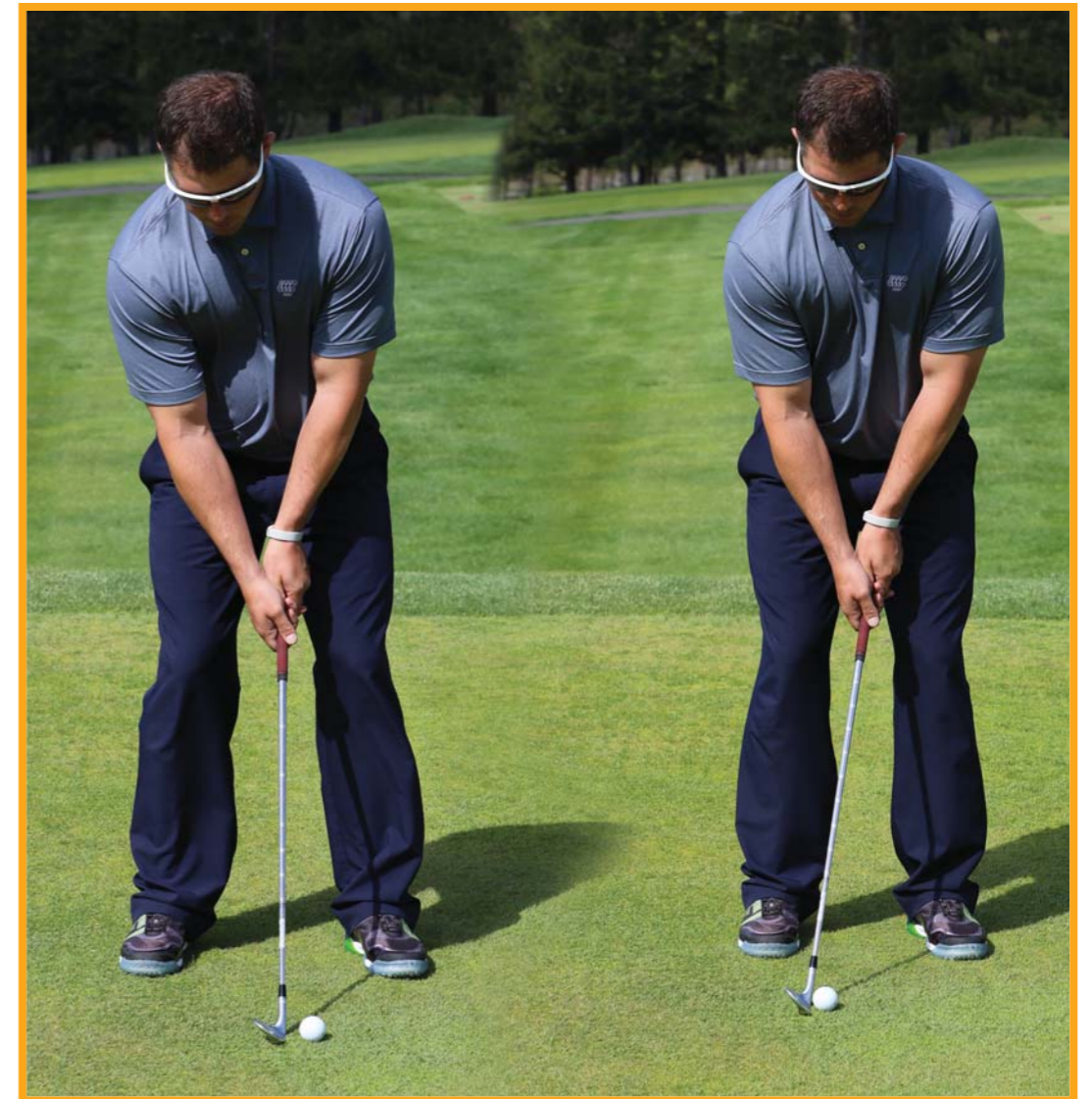
## Grip position for distance control



Do you have more control holding a pencil near the eraser or the point? Now think similarly for a golf club: the more you grip down, the more control you have over the clubhead. Gripping down also shortens the club's length, which decreases distance. Practice using different grip positions (*at the top of the grip, the middle, and near the bottom*) with your wedges to dial in your distances.

One way to quickly shave strokes off your score is by taking control of your wedge game. Your wedges are truly your scoring clubs—tools you can use to develop shot making skills instead of just hitting the ball. Just by using these simple variations, you can sharpen your wedge game and take command of your golf ball.

## Ball position for height control



In comprehending height control, think of your body's position—more importantly, your trail shoulder—during the swing and at impact. Similar to throwing a ball, a lower trail shoulder promotes a high trajectory, while more parallel shoulders will produce a more piercing trajectory.

Control your trail shoulder position by altering the ball's position in your stance. Position the ball more forward in your stance to promote a higher flight. Conversely, position the ball back in your stance to produce a lower flight.

# US Am Four-Ball

Historic Winged Foot Golf Club had the honor of hosting its 12th USGA championship, May 21-25 with the 2nd U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship. Take a look at some more numbers revolving around this year's Four-Ball:

**2,432**

Team entries accepted by the USGA for the 2016 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship

**51**

Sites at which 18-hole sectional qualifying was conducted, including three in the Met Area.

**32.24**

Average age of the field

**13**

Number of teams that have competed in each of the first two Four-Ball Championships

**128**

Starting field size (in teams)

**62**

Low score posted during stroke play, once by Andrew Whalen (Ephrata, Wash.) and Dylan Wu (Medford, Ore.), and once by Matthew Finger (Woolwich Township, N.J.) and Michael Korcuba (Sicklerville, N.J.), both on the East Course

**38**

Number of states represented

**6,728**

Yards at which Winged Foot Golf Club's East Course was set up for the Championship, as a par 70

**11**

Met Area players who competed: Jason Bataille, Sam Bernstein, Max Christiana, Luke Feehan, Matthew Finger, William Handley, Zachary Plutzik, Greg Shuman, Ben Wescoe, Brian Whitman, and Cameron Young.

**5**

Number of countries represented



# PRICEY PUTTERS

BY SCOTT KRAMER

**Y**our home course's greens are about in prime condition this time of year. Meaning you're probably itching to get out and roll some putts. Sure you can tackle the task with any putter, but maybe it's time to treat yourself to a premium model that looks like fine jewelry and feels heavenly as you stroke the ball. High-end, well-made putters have been around for years. "This was started by guys like T.P. Mills and Karsten Solheim, and I'm just carrying on that torch," says Scotty Cameron, Titleist's renowned putter designer whose offerings are among the most expensive today. "My goal is to do it right. There's no cutting corners."

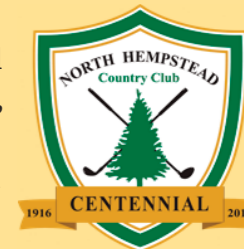
Several 2016 models stand out. Cameron's Select Newport 2 Notchback blade (\$410) sports a notched flange plus a sole-to-topline aircraft-grade aluminum face inlay that's bonded to the stainless steel body to dampen vibration and enhance impact sound. Toulon Design's sleek San Diego (\$399) has an L-neck hosel, long blade length, thin top line, and crisp, linear edges that are milled and then hand-polished for a sultry look. Bettinardi's soft-feeling Inovai 3.0 (\$300) is comprised of a lightweight aluminum body bearing heavier stainless-steel weights that act to maximize both stability and feel.



# Here's to 100



Using a "Great Gatsby" theme, the NHCC membership eagerly began their centennial season celebrations with an elaborate evening gala.



The membership of North Hempstead Country Club in Port Washington, N.Y., kicked off its historic 100th year in style with an elegant Centennial Gala on May 14th. The event—which was planned for well over a year—was attended by more than 400 people and is believed to be the largest member gathering in club history. Members paid respect to the past and celebrated the present with a glamorous evening full of fun that is sure to be talked about for years to come.

Food, live music and dance all played a role in the enjoyable evening, and a series of recognitions allowed the club to honor important parts of its history. In addition to club champions and NHCC presidents (pictured below), acknowledgements went to several long-time members (all of more than 45 years) and families with multi-generation members.

"The event was successful beyond our wildest expectations," remarked current president Robert Wepler. "It was attended by 50-plus year members as well as members who were accepted just three weeks earlier. What impressed me the most was that our newest members, who knew very little of our traditions, wanted to be at this celebration. I believe this bodes well for our future."

The gala kicked off what will be a year full of centennial-themed celebrations for the club, including the highly anticipated Centennial Family Day that will lead into the club's traditional Labor Day Weekend Clambake.

Look for more on Met Area clubs celebrating their historic 100th year in 2016 in the June/July issue of *The Met Golfer*.



L-R: Mario Leonetti (6x men's, 12x senior), Sara Tasnady (6x women's), Stella Stovall-Benesatto (3x women's and 57-year member), and Hunter Semels (11x men's, including 10 consecutive, and a 4th generation member).



Presidents: Eight past NHCC presidents and current president Robert Wepler (far right).

# What to Know About TIOs

By Maddi Vetrano

There's nothing better than golf's championship season, especially when it's on the biggest of stages. Grandstands are filled with roaring spectators, competitors hit plenty of thrilling shots, and there's all-day television coverage to follow from home. As much as we enjoy watching the drama that unfolds, the infrastructure needed for today's big championships bring their own set of Rules of Golf situations that could be confusing. The MGA's Managing Director of Rules, Competitions and GHIN Services Brian R. Mahoney is here to explain how the Rules Committee handles situations brought on by the excitement of the championship season, specifically Temporary Immovable Obstructions.

Scaffolding was erected at key locations on Winged Foot Golf Club's East Course to assist television coverage for the 2nd U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship.



# LAYOVER Denver

BY TIM HARTIN

Denver's location at the eastern base of the Rockies helps boost its economy and business, while also making it a gateway for recreational sports. World-class skiing may be of first thought, but its golf options are equally impressive. Diverse landscapes provide an array of golf styles around the Mile High City, all of which are pleasing to the eye.

## COURSES:

**1 Arrowhead Golf Club** – Large bunkers and elevation changes can prove challenging, but remaining focused on golf during your round at Arrowhead may be the toughest task of all. The Robert Trent Jones Jr. design is highlighted by striking views of jagged sandstone formations from every hole, while wildlife sightings are a frequent occurrence. All combine to ensure a scenic and enjoyable round of golf.

*Nearby:* Arrowhead is located southwest of Denver in Littleton. If you can't get enough of Arrowhead's views, there are plenty more in the nearly 4000 acres of adjacent Roxborough State Park.

**2 The Ridge** – Rolling fairways are the guide through this sprawling Tom Weiskopf layout that features panoramic vistas. An open front nine lets you get loose before taking on the tighter back nine, carved among giant oaks and pines. Rock outcroppings make some shots appear imposing, but The Ridge provides a fun and fair test of golf.

*Nearby:* South of Denver in Castle Pines, The Ridge is located less than 10 miles from major shopping centers and convention centers in Centennial.

**3 Green Valley Ranch Golf Club** – Clever bunkering, wetlands, and several forced carries will test your skills, but relatively spacious fairways and large green complexes are pleasing to the eye. Holes 16-18 provide a memorable closing stretch, while the Par 3 Course and an outstanding practice facility allow plenty of options for play at Green Valley Ranch.

*Nearby:* With Green Valley's convenient location between Denver's city center and Denver International Airport, play can easily be squeezed in no matter the schedule while also having all the conveniences of the city.

Arrowhead Golf Club provides one of the most scenic playing environments one could imagine.



# Balutsrol Battles: 1988 MET OPEN



Arthur P. Weber, MGA President from 1987-88, congratulates Heins on his Met Open victory at Baltusrol.

From its first majors in the early 1900s all the way to the 2005 PGA Championship, Baltusrol has had a knack for producing dramatic finishes—and we’re hoping for the same come July with the 2016 PGA Championship. The Met Open even has its own chapter in the storied championship history at the club.

Bobby Heins of Old Oaks entered the final round of the 1988 Met Open three strokes behind sentimental favorite Tom Joyce of Glen Oaks, who had come so close to claiming the Met Open in previous years. While Heins caught Joyce early in the round thanks to birdies on the 6th and 8th holes, Joyce’s advantage once again stood at three following his own birdie on the par-3 12th. However, Joyce dropped a shot at the 13th, just before Heins began making his move over the closing stretch—all while playing a group ahead of Joyce.

Heins rolled in a 20-footer for birdie on the 16th, and it looked as if he’d pull even with a short four-foot birdie putt on the par-5 17th, but the near kick-in didn’t fall. Facing a 25-foot, downhill putt at the 18th was Heins’ last chance to close the gap. The “desperation” putt tracked the hole the entire distance, even while taking several feet of break. The ball appeared to halt just short of the hole, but just as Heins began to lament the ball’s shortcoming, it dropped for a final round 68. Now he had to wait for Joyce, who clung to even-par for the championship by holing testing par putts on the previous four holes.

On the 18th, Joyce’s third—a tricky, downhill pitch—came up short in the greenside rough, while the following chip sped 10 feet past the hole. The par putt didn’t fall, and Heins claimed his first of two straight Met Open titles.

## 54 Hole Summary

	210 HEINS	211 JOYCE Tom	212 [unclear]	213 VERSHURE	214 MESKELL MADDERA
215 FOXX DOTTAVIO ANDREWS MIELKE BURKE WHITMAN	216 TAYLOR HUGHES OOSTERHUIS KUDYSCH	217 CATALINA KIEFER ZAHNINGER YOUNG HOUSEN KING		219 CAMBRIDGE WALLACE MADALL	220 ROSS GLEETON
221 GOSIEWSKI DeFRANCESCO WORTHINGTON LOESCH BOHR	222 McGOVERN SHEPHERD BUSBY TORRES BAKER G...				

Heins finished as the only player not over par in the championship.