

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG

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October 2013

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This page: Fall foliage is out in full force at MGA member clubs. A.W. Tillinghast gem Somerset Hills Country Club (hole No. 3) looks particularly vibrant. Photo by Russell Kirk.



Mission: Possible

Photo and text by Jeff Day

Twelve years after breaking ground, Trump Links at Ferry Point has finally completed construction. The New York City owned course celebrated on October 16 with a ribbon cutting ceremony, where New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was joined by the course's architect, Jack Nicklaus, as well as Donald Trump, whose organization will be managing the facility.

Sitting at the base of the Whitestone Bridge in the Bronx, the 192-acre former landfill has been transformed into a spectacular links, with captivating views of the Manhattan skyline on every hole.

The course, which can be stretched to more than 7,300 yards, and a 12,000 square foot clubhouse, will officially open to the public in the spring of 2015. In addition to championship golf, it will provide more than 50 full-time jobs as well as free youth golf instruction to both the City Parks Foundation and The First Tee Metropolitan New York.



STAR POWER

EXTRA Point

Levittown, N.Y.'s Annie Park (with coach Andrea Gaston and Steve Morikawa, Assistant Vice President of American Honda) receives THE Collegiate Women Sports Awards's 2013 Honda Sports Award during halftime of the USC - Arizona State football game. In June, Park added the Honda Sports Award (for best golfer in the nation) to her extensive accolade collection. For the past 37 years, THE CWSA has presented the Honda Sports Award to top women student-athletes in 12 NCAA-sanctioned sports.

Photo courtesy USC Athletics

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INSTRUCTION

Rolling Rocks

BY JAMES ONDO

The Met Area is notorious for its very fast and undulating greens. To be a good player in this region, you must be a proficient putter. Learning to control your speed and accurately judge the break is vital to becoming successful on the greens. Practice these drills to help you excel where it matters most.

- Find a mid-length putt (20-40 feet) with a decent amount of break in it. Place two tees about 4"–6" apart (*main photo*) where you believe the apex of the putt will be. Focusing on the line and speed, practice rolling putts through the tees, with the balls coming to a stop near the hole.
- Place balls along the same line every five feet (*side photo*) going out to 35–40 feet. Place a flagstick behind the hole (about 36 inches). The goal here is not so much to make the putt, but to focus on the correct speed. Once you get all of the balls either in the hole or short of the flagstick behind the hole, move onto another putt. If you leave a putt short of the hole, or run one into the flagstick, you must start over!
- Training your eyes to match what your body is doing is a great way to develop feel and distance control. Try hitting putts while looking at the hole, in an effort to match the length of your stroke to what your eyes see.

James Ondo is the PGA Head Professional at The Apawamis Club in Rye, N.Y.



Frank's Red Hot

BY DAVID GORDON

Photo by Alex Stamoutsos/NJPGA

Ever-popular Brooklake Country Club head professional Frank Esposito Jr. has made winning a habit throughout his long golf career. But it was this past season that could've been his best yet. The 50-year-old Florham Park, N.J., resident completed the rare Garden State trifecta by winning the New Jersey State Open, New Jersey PGA Section Championship, and NJ Senior PGA Championship – the last coming at the comfort of his home course.

“I have been working hard on my game this year and it has been fun to see the results,” he said. “There are a ton of good players in our section and I just feel fortunate to have won three big events this year.”

His exceptional play earned him a spot in the 2013 Senior PGA National Club Professional Championship (originally scheduled for Oct. 10, but was postponed due to weather) and propelled him to his fourth NJPGA Player of the Year Award in the past seven years.

The always suave Esposito (in his signature shades) chats up Natalie Gulbis during a recent charity outing at Shackamaxon.



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Photos courtesy of the Web.com Tour

Following the final round of the Web.com Tour Championship, three of the Tour's 50 graduates – John Peterson, Chesson Hadley, and Michael Putnam – along with Web.com CEO David Brown, made their way to Wall Street to put an official cap on the season by ringing the closing bell.

2008 Ike champion Kevin Foley of Somerville, N.J., (below) and two-time MGA major winner Andrew Svoboda of Larchmont, N.Y., also finished in the top 50. Foley won the Tour's first event last February at the Panama Claro Championship and coasted the rest of the way, finishing at No. 34 on the money list. Svoboda captured two of the final seven events to finish at No. 6, thus retaining his PGA Tour card.



What Happens Next?

BY BRIAN R. MAHONEY

Photo courtesy of USGA

Since no two golf courses are the same, it's not uncommon for some clubs to establish site specific Rules. Establishing Local Rules is a responsibility of the committee at the club or for a tournament. For example: Pictured is USA Walker Cup team member Michael Weaver removing a stone from behind his ball in the bunker. Though this action is not permitted in the Rules of Golf, Michael was able to do so because the Walker Cup Committee had adopted the Local Rule which deemed stones in bunkers to be 'moveable obstructions' (Rule 24-1).

Local Rules (LR) can range from "preferred lies" to permitting distance measuring devices, so it's a good idea to get in the habit of reading the LR before you play. As a convenience, many clubs publish their LR on the reverse side of the scorecard so you can refer to them throughout the round. Knowing the LR might save you a few strokes or even be helpful in avoiding dangerous situations on the course.

Think of it this way, you don't head to the course without checking the weather. In the same respect, you shouldn't take a swing on the first tee without reviewing the Local Rules!

(For more information about Local Rules, please see Rule 33 and App I-B in the Rules of Golf.)



Playing With the Pros

BY JEFF DAY

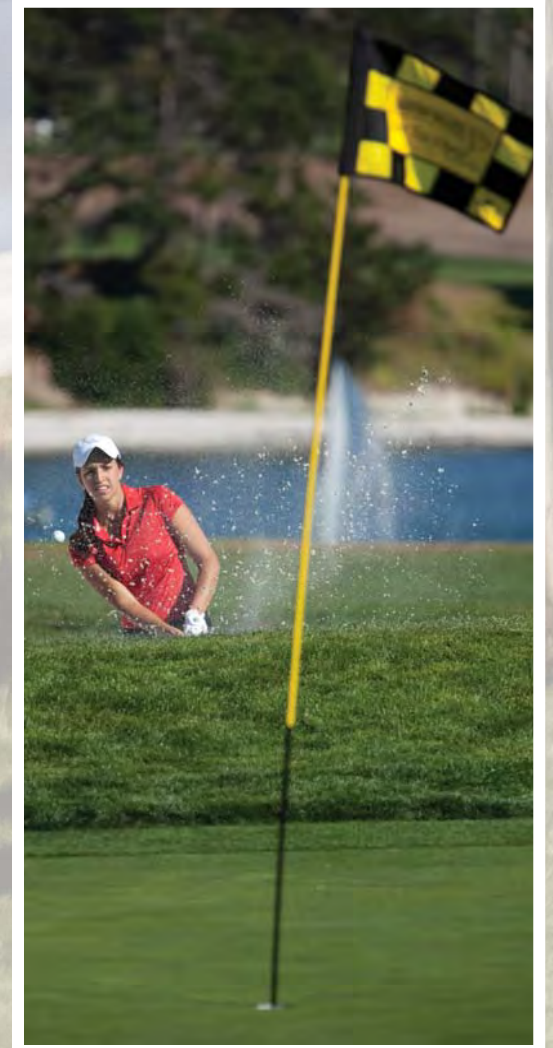
Photos courtesy of The First Tee

Brittany Ferrante of Huntington Station, N.Y. (left) and Casey Durant of New Hyde Park, N.Y., (below) represented The First Tee of Metropolitan New York as they competed in the 2013 Nature Valley First Tee Open at Pebble Beach, an official Champions Tour event held September 27-29 in Carmel, Calif. Both Durant and Ferrante partake in First Tee programming at

Eisenhower Park on Long Island and were chosen to compete by a national panel of judges, with selection criteria based on an essay, playing ability, as well as comprehension of the life skills and character education learned through their involvement with The First Tee.

Walking the fairways of both Delmonte Golf Course and the world famous Pebble Beach Golf Links, Durant was paired with Scott Hoch and placed 13th in the Pro/Junior tournament, while Ferrante missed the cut with her partner, Rocco Mediate.

"I savored every moment I spent on gorgeous Pebble Beach, and by the end of the week, I didn't want to leave!" Durant said.



54 Holes in... Williamsburg, Virginia

BY CHRISTOPHER POWERS

Photo courtesy Williamsburg National GC, Golf Shots Unlimited

A trip to Colonial Williamsburg is generally booked to explore the area's rich antiquity and historic downtown. Visitors getting caught up in the revolutionary city may not realize that reserving a tee time at one of their fantastic nearby courses is an absolute must...

COURSES

- **Williamsburg National, Jamestown Course.** Founded in 1995 and designed by Jack Nicklaus, the Jamestown Course is one of two beauties on the Williamsburg National Golf Club property. Measuring nearly 7,000 yards from the back tees, this par 72 can challenge the low handicapper, but can still be enjoyed by all skill levels.
- **Williamsburg National, Yorktown Course.** Designed by Tom Clark just six years ago, the second course at WNGC complements the Jamestown Course perfectly. It certainly isn't any shorter, but its traditional design will leave you in awe of its beauty.
- **Colonial Heritage Golf Club.** Just eight miles from WNGC, Colonial Heritage is just as immaculate as the tracks mentioned above. Strategically placed water and bunkers and undulating fairways make it extremely demanding. But the bright-colored trees and Virginia landscape can make you quickly forget about that second straight bogey.

LODGING

- **Williamsburg Inn.** Book a few nights at this Inn and be treated like royalty. The elegant guest rooms average 500-square-feet and come equipped with marble bathrooms and English-style furnishings.

OFF-COURSE

- **Declaration of Independence at Capitol Circle.** Breakout the top hat and join the citizens of Colonial Williamsburg for a reading of the Declaration of Independence. (Don't worry kids, its only 15 minutes.)

The 17th green on the Yorktown Course



PGA Painted Black

PARTING SHOT

Photos by Getty Images

PGA of America President Ted Bishop (standing at left) and CEO Pete Bevacqua (seated) present Governor Andrew Cuomo with major championship gear.

Following months of speculation, the PGA of America made official what New Yorkers and golf fans around the country were so eager to hear; the famed Bethpage Black Course will host both the 2019 PGA Championship and 2024 Ryder Cup. Not only will it mark the first time ever that the Ryder Cup will be played in the Met Area, it also gives locals three consecutive major championships in their own backyard ('18 U.S. Open at Shinnecock, '19 PGA at Bethpage and '20 U.S. Open at Winged Foot).

“The Ryder Cup has become the Super Bowl of golf and has become one of the most exciting events in all of sports,” Bishop said. “This venue, this course, this city will take the Ryder Cup to a place it’s never seen before.”



Jonesin'

BY SCOTT KRAMER

At its true roots, golf is a walker's game. It's the reason why lightweight stand and carry bags are perpetually so popular among the throngs of golfers.

Despite the glut of loud-colored models with cushioned double-strap systems and familiar company icons blaring from the side pockets, one remarkably simple and elegant bag stands out. The Original Jones carry bag (\$140), a product originally unveiled as a canvas model from Oregon-based Jones Sports Company back in 1971, has been reintroduced. It has a single shoulder strap and accommodates all 14 clubs.

These days, the 3.5-pound throwback is made with tough ballistic nylon and vinyl. Three zippered pouches—including a full-length outerwear pocket—provide ample storage for your basics. There's no stand or visible logo. Just hit your shot, sling the bag over your shoulder, and carry on. It's golf at its most basic, pleasant and vintage form.



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