

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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October 2016

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This page: The fall colors were on full display at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, Conn., during the 18th French-American Challenge Matches. For more on the biennial competition between the MGA/WMGA and the Ligue de Golf de Paris, see page 2.

Photo: Barry Sloan.



Allez, MGA/WMGA!

Though the Ligue de Golf de Paris claimed victory at the 18th French American Challenge Matches, the outcome at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, Conn., wasn't decided until late in the afternoon thanks to impressive singles performances from MGA/WMGA competitors.

Kelly Sim of Alpine provided a spark for the hosts after Ligue de Paris earned the first two points. The 16-year old tallied an eagle and three birdies—including one on the 18th—to win her match 1-up. Tara Fleming of New Jersey National won Nos. 15-16 en route to a 1-up win, while Brian Komline of Black Oak and Paul Pastore of Griff Harris continued the rally with convincing 5-and-3 and 4-and-3 victories, respectively.

Trevor Randolph of Arcola stormed back in an important match, erasing a three-hole deficit with wins on Nos. 14-15 and 17 and clinched half a point thanks to a 10-foot birdie on the 18th. Though the Ligue de Paris secured retention of FRED's Cup shortly after, Ethan Ng of Fiddler's Elbow continued to close out an impressive (and unlikely) comeback, having damaged his putter on the fifth hole and relying on a hybrid and wedge on Stanwich's testing greens. He was four holes down through six, but won No. 9 and recorded four birdies over the next eight holes to win by a 2-and-1 margin.

Ligue de Paris may have taken the title once again—the 10.5 to 9.5 margin being the closest since a tie in 2004—but with first-time competitors performing strongly and nine of the 20 matches playing to the 18th hole, promise remains for more closely contested matches with our friends from France.

View our photo galleries to see more of the action from The Stanwich Club.



Captain Al Small, seen congratulating Kelly Sim and Ethan Ng on their performances, was participating in his final MGA event before moving south.

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Volume 4, Number 10 • October 2016

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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

Published for the Metropolitan Golf Association by:

Great Golf Resorts of the World, Inc.
2600 Philmont Avenue, Suite 325
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
Phone: (215) 914-2071

CEO & Publisher: Richard K. Summers

COO & Art Director: Peter J. Sansone

Executive Vice President: Brian Folino

General Manager, Operations: Patrick Cherry

Production/Pre-Press: Frederick Yantz

Design: Jim Gerhard, Matt Hulnick, Steve Higgins, Marina Kohls

Advertising Production Manager: Julie Yuen

General Manager, Digital Operations: Matt Frey, PGA

Operations: Tom Gauss, Katelyn Leer

Accounting: George Kotlyar, Mary Beth Bidwell, Larisa Kotlyar

Advertising: For information, please contact: Tom Ott at 914-347-4653, ext. 321, or Tim McGovern 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

Regional Advertising Managers: Howard Derkay, Scott Miller

WALKER CUP Commemoration



For Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale, N.Y., the 2016 season has been filled with celebrations of their rich history. The latest event honored the Club's hosting of the Walker Cup in 1997.

"We thought as part of an ongoing yearlong celebration, it would be good to have this Walker Cup Reunion event," said Club President Marc Friedman. The two-day gathering, hosted October 4-5, featured a dinner with 150 attendees and golf in Walker Cup formats. Past Walker Cup competitors—including the Met Area's Steve Scott, Dick Siderowf, and George Zahringer III—former captains, and Walker Cup host club representatives were in attendance.

"We're very proud to have hosted the Walker Cup, and also wanted to spark member interest for the Curtis Cup," remarked Friedman. In 2018, Quaker Ridge will become just the third U.S. venue to have hosted both the Curtis Cup and the Walker Cup.

In addition to a special logo and centennial elements to its annual golf events, Quaker Ridge will have plenty of special memories from the 2016 season. The year was also commemorated with a centennial book, a hickory tournament, and a black tie member gala that was attended by more than 400 members and guests.

Look for more from Quaker Ridge's Walker Cup Reunion in the Nov/Dec issue of *The Met Golfer*.



Steve Scott (right) and 1997 Walker Cup Captain Downing Gray helped the U.S. to victory at Quaker Ridge, 18-6.



HYBRIDS FOR EVERYONE

They've been popular for more than a decade now, but hybrids are still the one club type that many golfers believe they're too good to play. Are these utility wonders really only for higher handicaps and seniors? Absolutely not – even PGA Tour pros use them these days. They're a great cross between hard-to-hit fairway woods and even tougher-to-maneuver long irons. Swing them like you would a 6-iron and they will take your shots to places you've only dreamed about. And the latest models are easier to hit than ever before. If budget is an issue, consider Tour Edge's forgiving Hot Launch 2 (\$110) that combines two forms of steel and a variable-thickness clubface for distance. There are some solid higher-priced models available, as well. Callaway's Steelhead XR (\$219) aims to offer assistance in getting shots airborne quickly, thanks to the way it's weighted. Plus its large clubface's edges flex in at impact before springing back and catapulting the ball forward with velocity. Srixon's Z H65 (\$230) for mid-to-low handicaps generates ball speed via a maraging steel (a steel alloy) clubface, crown channel and lightweight shaft. Honma's 128cc Tour World TW737 UT (\$250) is for better players seeking more of a fairway wood look.

BY SCOTT KRAMER



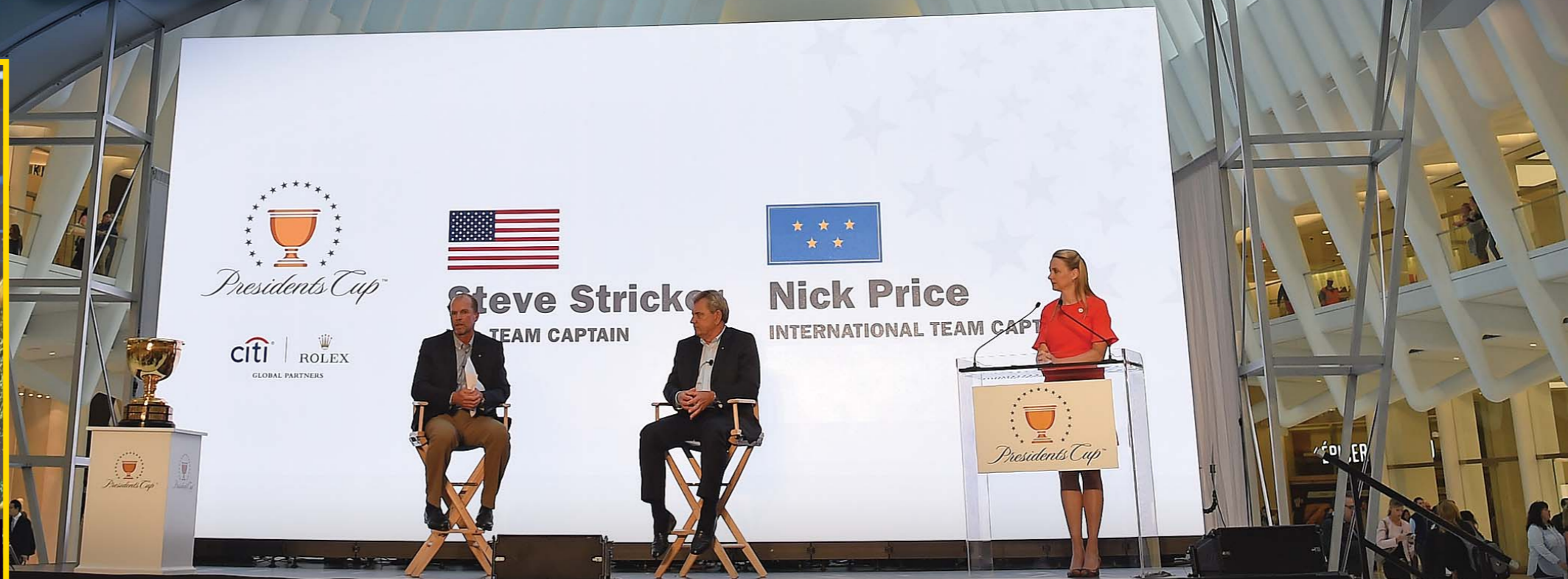
COUNTDOWN TO THE CUP



Fifteen-year old Cameron Dawkins, a five-year participant in The First Tee of Essex County, delivered the Presidents Cup to the stage on Captains' Day.



The Presidents Cup Fan Experience will inhabit the Oculus at the World Trade Center, Tuesday through Sunday the week of the event.



The countdown is officially on. On October 5, Captains' Day launched the one-year countdown to the 2017 Presidents Cup as captains Steve Stricker and Nick Price made several stops in the New York metropolitan area including a press conference at the Oculus, the World Trade Center Transportation Hub.

Why such a location, you may ask? Captains' Day revealed plans for the Presidents Cup Fan Experience, which will overtake the Oculus and place the global celebration of the matches on full display. With no ticket required, fans will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of interactive activities: a 44 Million Yard Challenge to collectively drive a golf ball around the world, a 4D Dome Experience to view iconic area locations, a Global Tasting

Adventure to experience fares from the competitors' countries, and much more in terms of active programming in conjunction with the event.

Captains' Day announcements also publicized captains' assistants for both sides, sponsorships, and the debut of the Junior Presidents Cup to be played at Plainfield Country Club—the site of next summer's 100th Met Junior Championship.

The Presidents Cup—which will bring professional team match play competition in golf to the region for the first time since 1935 when the Ryder Cup was played at The Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, N.J.—will square off the U.S. and International teams at Liberty National Golf Course in Jersey City, N.J., September 27 – October 1, but its reach will extend across the globe.

Competitive Camaraderie



Every fall since 2009, as the tournament schedule slows and the golf season begins to wind down, MGA staff takes off their administrator hats to become competitors, squaring off against USGA staff in the Directors' Cup.

The event was conceived in 2008 at the French-American Challenge at Metropolis. A USGA staff member was on hand spectating and talks began to arrange for a Ryder Cup style tournament between the two associations. Soon after, the Directors' Cup—named to honor the longtime friendship between MGA Executive Director Jay Mottola and former USGA Executive Director David Fay—was born. The purpose

was to foster sportsmanship and friendship between two of the oldest organizations in sports, while also celebrating the season's completion. The inaugural match was played in 2009 at The Tuxedo Club in Tuxedo Park, N.Y., where Mottola and Fay developed their passion for the game—first as caddies and members of the grounds crew and later as members.

What started as a fun side game between a few friends has grown into a legitimate competition between the two organizations. While the USGA claimed its second straight victory in the event this month as play returned to The Tuxedo Club, the MGA owns a 5-3 edge overall and is setting its sights on redemption in 2017.

LAYOVER AUSTIN

BY TIM HARTIN

The downhill par-3 12th hole at Wolfdancer perfectly displays the scenery that is captured throughout the course.

Austin, Texas has been one of the fastest growing cities in the United States in recent years, with its business environment welcoming innovation in the technology, manufacturing, and healthcare fields while also helping it become a prime location for corporate headquarters. Its vibrant collection of live music, restaurants, and sports and recreation options make it no surprise why it's a popular destination.

COURSES:

1 Wolfdancer Golf Club – This Arthur Hills design just east of Austin seamlessly melds with the Texas countryside, offering a variety of play across rolling meadows and wooded ridges, and alongside the Colorado River to finish. Well-placed bunkers and undulating greens provide a quality combination of challenge and character to the round, while native grasses and wildlife add to the experience. Varying hole length, elevation changes, and doglegs call for every shot in your repertoire.

2 Omni Barton Creek Resort – Located west of Austin in the Texas Hill Country, Barton Creek features four distinct courses. Fazio Canyons is often considered best in the state thanks to its combination of challenge and scenery, while Fazio Foothills offers another top-rated experience featuring waterfalls and cliff-lined fairways. The Coore Crenshaw course is a more forgiving option, albeit with large, challenging green complexes. Palmer Lakeside (25 miles west of the resort) is a more secluded experience highlighted by changes in elevation.

3 Falconhead Golf Club – Located west of Austin in the Texas Hill Country, Falconhead flows through a residential area yet provides a serene setting for golf with its gently rolling topography and surrounding views. Bunkers may not be plentiful in number, but their placement and typically long, slender style make them stand out. The par-3 eighth is the signature hole, its green built upon a limestone ledge and framed by a flowing stream.

WINNING

FAMILY TIES

BY TIM HARTIN



Randolph's sons were thrilled to have their dad bring back the Westmoreland Cup for a second straight year.

Following a successful title defense at the MGA Mid-Amateur Championship, Trevor Randolph expressed excitement in returning the Westmoreland Cup to his home once again—especially since it would please his three boys. The 43-year old Randolph has collected several trophies over the past year, but his sons—Hunter (7), Austin (5), and Landon (3)—took particular interest in the Westmoreland Cup. They're now assured at least another year of admiring the unique figures and faces that adorn the trophy.

Randolph came to enjoy golf while playing alongside his father and is now passing on his love of the game in the same manner. Though it admittedly takes bribery at times—including golf cart rides, candy, or milkshakes—his sons' interest has been peaked by golf and spending time with their dad at Arcola. With Hunter just beginning to tackle the course, Austin participating in golf camps, and Landon starting to take his own swings as well, all three are jumping in at their own pace. It probably won't be long until they have their own trophies to admire.

BIDDING FAREWELL

to BOBBY

An accomplished competitor. A tremendous teacher. A respected mentor. For 35 years, Bobby Heins has been all of this (and much more) as the head professional at Old Oaks, and at the end of the season the consummate “pro’s pro” will retire—certainly having left an incredible legacy.

After competing on the PGA TOUR in the mid-70s, Heins began his career as a professional at Winged Foot under the legendary Tom Nieporte. He learned from one of the best and developed a prominent career himself, excelling in all areas of the profession. Heins won on the course, helped countless golfers with their own game, guided rising club professionals to success, and provided remarkable leadership and service to his club—there’s no wonder why he was a 2010 inductee to the Met PGA Hall of Fame.

Above all, Heins has been a close friend to many and a true ambassador to the game not only for Old Oaks but for the entire Met Area. In late September upwards of 250 people gathered at Old Oaks to celebrate Heins’ exceptional career, sharing stories and laughs to honor Heins and his lasting impact on golf.



Heins is the only player who has won consecutive titles in both the Met Open (1988-89) and the MGA Senior Open (2008-09).



Bobby Heins joined by Nick Maselli (*left*), who will succeed Heins at Old Oaks, and Johnson Wagner (*right*), who Heins has instructed since 2001.