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This page: He may not be from the Met Area, but Jon Cavalier feels right at home capturing stunning images of clubs in the region—like this one of Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, host of the 2018 U.S. Open Championship. Find out more about Cavalier on page 11.



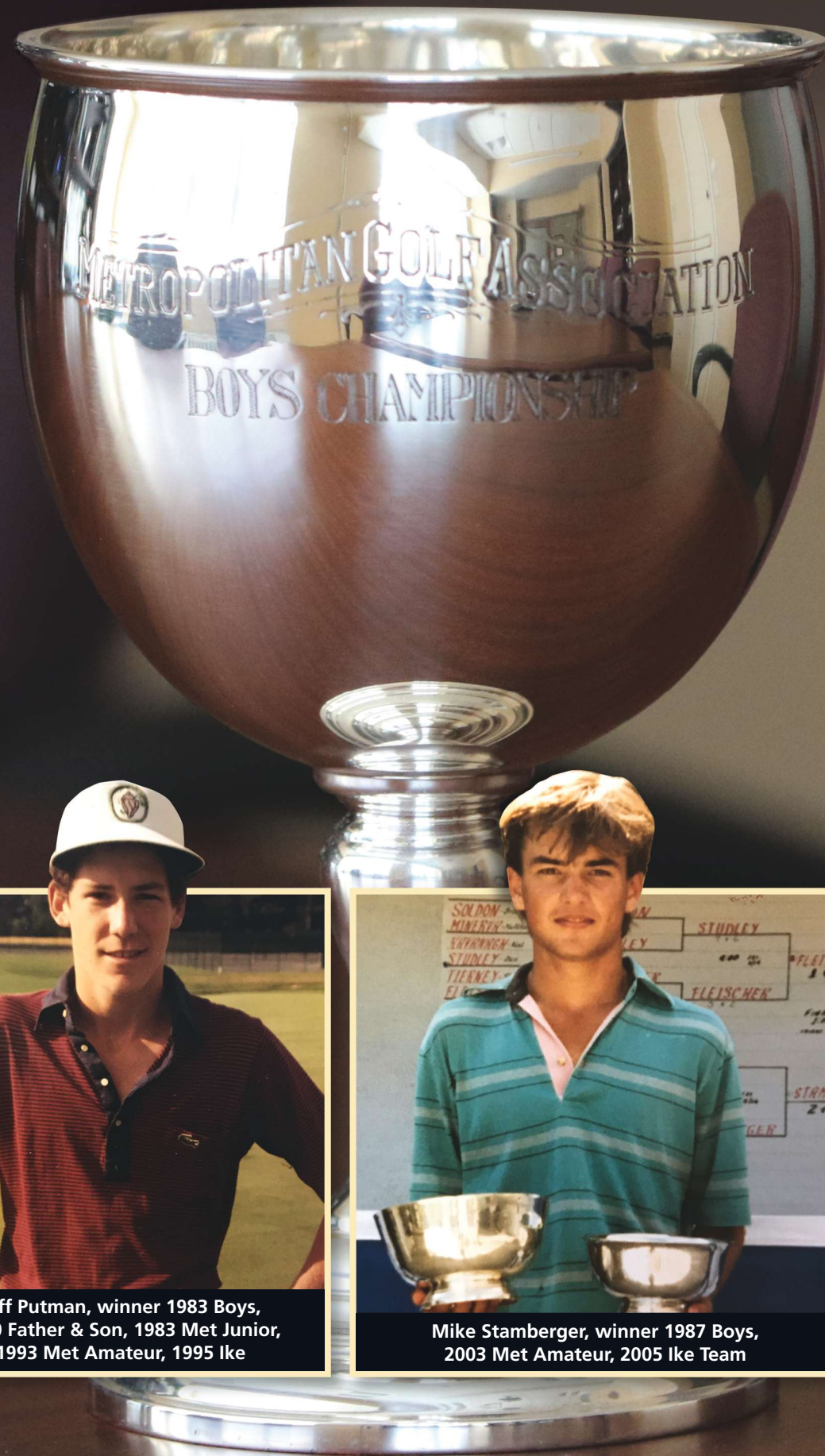
BOYS MEETS MILESTONE

The MGA/MetLife Boys Championship celebrates its 50th playing in 2018 and since its inception in 1969 has served as a launching pad for many Met Area standouts. Consider this: of the previous 49 champions, 16 winners have combined to win 29 additional MGA titles—including 12 MGA majors. Some, like 2009 PGA Championship low club professional Greg Bisconti and 2011 Met Open champion Tyler Hall, have even made their career in golf.

The feeling of success following the first-ever Boys Championship, as described in the 1969 MGA Annual Report, remains true today: “The maturity of these young players and their zeal for the game affirmed the Junior Committee’s feeling that a separate Boys event is indeed an essential part of our [junior] program, and we look forward to its continued growth.”

Each year, new competitors take part in the 16-player match play event—gaining entry through qualifiers ran concurrently for both the Boys and Junior championships—and take their game to a new level of competition. Just last year, for example, all 16 competitors made their first start in the event and many experienced match play for the very first time.

The 50th MGA/MetLife Boys Championship takes place August 9-10 at Gardiner’s Bay Country Club—who along with Bedford Golf and Tennis Club and Rumson Country Club have predominantly hosted the championship on a rotating basis since 1984.



Peter Kim, winner 2008 Boys, 2015 Met Amateur



Cameron Wilson, winner 2006 Boys, 2009 Carter Cup and Met Amateur, Ike in 2012 and 2013



Jeff Putman, winner 1983 Boys, 1980 Father & Son, 1983 Met Junior, 1993 Met Amateur, 1995 Ike



Mike Stamberger, winner 1987 Boys, 2003 Met Amateur, 2005 Ike Team

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Likewise, we are offering other amazing homes located in the hamlets of East Quogue and Hampton Bays. These homes are conveniently located closer to Shinnecock and offer privacy and seclusion on the outskirts of Southampton. These towns also offer excellent activities, Five-star dining and luxury shopping.

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23 Head Of Lots. East Quogue, NY



413 Mill Rd. Westhampton, NY



52 Exchange Pl. Westhampton Beach, NY



22 Raynor Dr. Westhampton, NY



21 Quantuck Bay Ln. Westhampton Beach, NY



36 Blackwatch Ct. Southampton, NY



4 Eaglewood Rd. Westhampton, NY

Curtis Cup Draws Near

The par-three 5th at Quaker Ridge Golf Club, whose highly regarded layout is sure to provide an outstanding setting for the match play format of the Curtis Cup.

By the time Quaker Ridge Golf Club welcomes the 40th Curtis Cup Match, June 8-10, the club's planning efforts will be nearly four years in the making, having begun in July of 2014 when the USGA announced the club as host of the biennial team competition between women's amateurs representing the United States, and Great Britain and Ireland.

According to co-chair Beth Post of Quaker Ridge, the earliest initiatives included appointing co-chairs, hiring a match director, and even having several members travel to the 2014 Match in St. Louis, Mo. After the added first-hand experience, fundraising began and the MGA Foundation was established as the charitable partner for the event. Plans for a logo, host hotel and publisher for the Match program all quickly followed. Now, as the event quickly approaches, the final pieces are coming together.

"Our most important effort at this time is recruiting volunteers and raising awareness of the match," says Post, who also noted that plans for busing and parking, menus, clubhouse usage, and television staging for Fox Sports have all been finalized. She estimates that 150 volunteers are needed to fill roles such as marshal, forecaddie, walking scorer, standard bearer and more.

Quaker Ridge has also benefited from its past hosting experience, as they will become just the third venue in the U.S. to have welcomed both the Walker Cup (1997) and Curtis Cup. "We feel it distinguishes our golf course and club in a major way," Post says. "The USGA had the confidence in our performance in 1997 to select our club again."

In the end, all those at the club highly anticipate the product of their preparation. "Quaker Ridge is looking forward to showing golf enthusiasts a Tillinghast gem while watching 16 of the most talented female amateur golfers show their skills," says Post, also ensuring that the spectator experience will be second-to-none and allow for up-close viewing. "We have done a lot of planning to make sure everyone who comes will enjoy his or her time at Quaker Ridge."

Learn how to register as a volunteer and read more about Quaker Ridge Golf Club's preparations for the 40th Curtis Cup Match in a full Q&A with Beth Post.



Quaker Ridge Golf Club looks forward to completing the pomp and circumstance for opening and closing ceremonies for the Curtis Cup, as it did for the Walker Cup in 1997.

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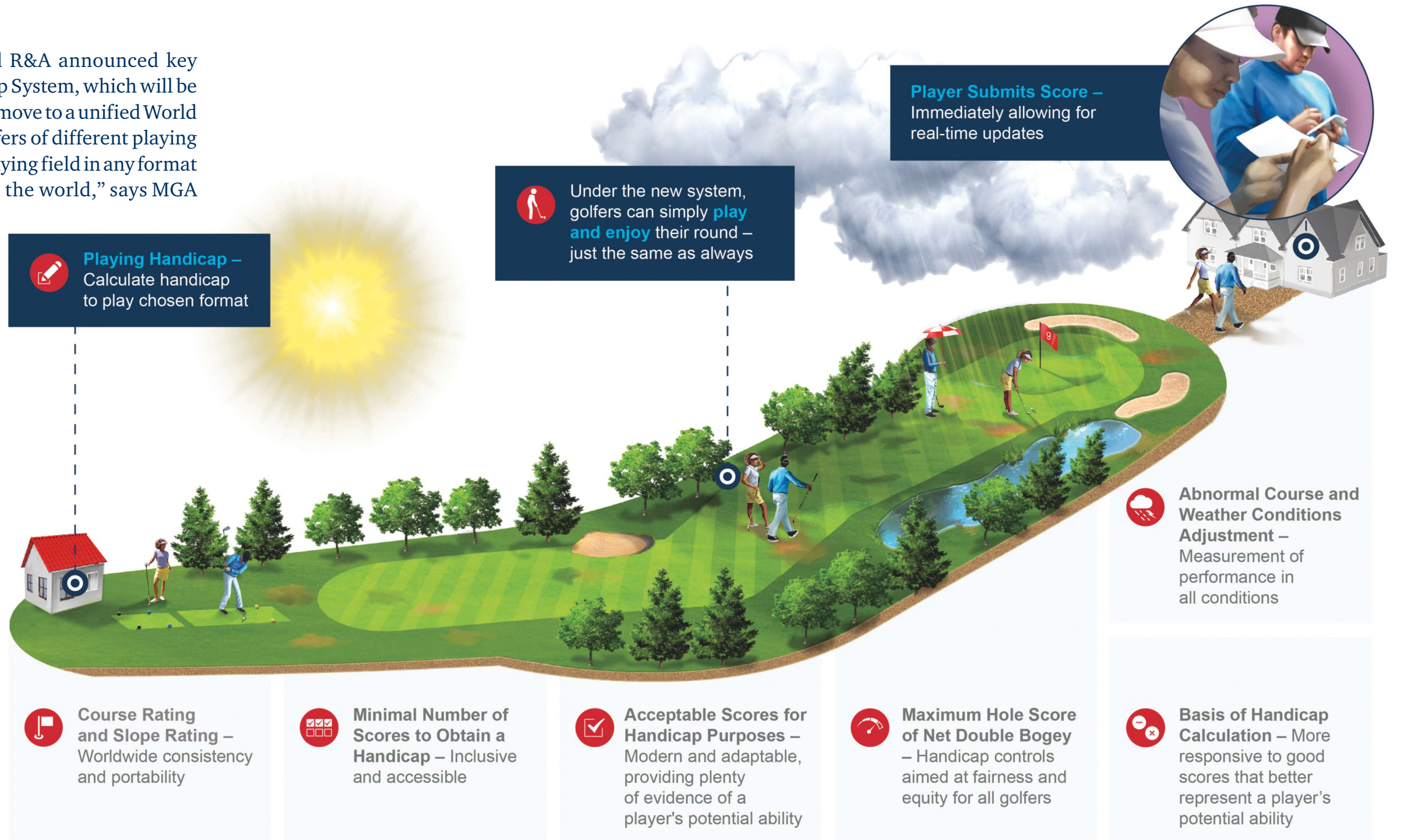


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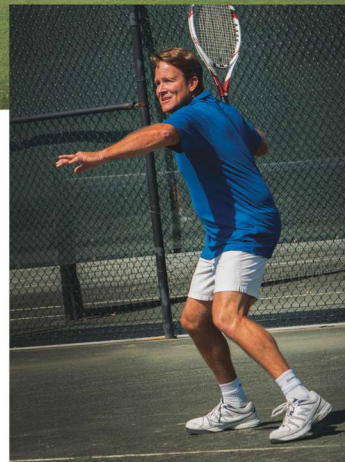
HANDICAPPING **for the** WORLD

In February, the USGA and R&A announced key features of a World Handicap System, which will be implemented in 2020. “The move to a unified World Handicap System will allow golfers of different playing abilities to compete on a level playing field in any format and on any course anywhere in the world,” says MGA Director, Member Services Kevin Kline. “Ultimately, the goal of the WHS is to encourage and make it easier for more golfers to obtain and maintain a handicap, in turn making golf easier to understand and more approachable and enjoyable for all players.”

The MGA looks forward to communicating additional details to all members as they come available. These items will be discussed at the MGA’s annual Handicap and Rules seminars during March and April. Read the full release about the WHS and find links to additional information on mgagolf.org.



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Nestled among the natural beauty and rolling terrain of the nature preserves, the Fazio and the Hills courses at Old Trail provide a pure golf experience. This golfer's paradise presents a true test for players up to the challenge. The Fazio has been described as one of Tom Fazio's best designs and is revered as Jonathan's Landing's true championship course. The Hills, designed by Arthur Hills, is a shot maker's dream. This course lends itself to the pristine, natural surroundings and is known for requiring accuracy more than power.

The Village location, just a few miles east in the heart of Jupiter, is home to the JL Village course, designed by Tom Fazio. Meandering around the neighborhoods of the gated community and Intracoastal waters, this course features a one-of-a-kind ferry boat ride over the scenic waterway at the signature 17th hole. Whether you're a beginner or an avid

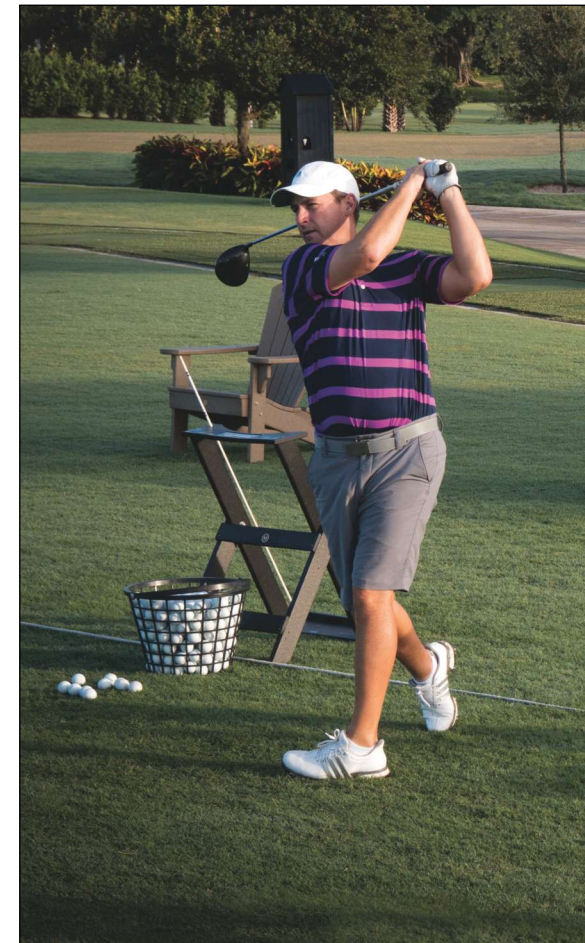


golfer, these three courses will test your skills and provide you with the variety of play every golfer searches for.

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Behind the Lens:

A Q&A

with

PHOTOGRAPHER

Jon Cavalier



Jon and his dog Gracie, who he calls an excellent golf companion.

If you are active on Instagram and Twitter, you likely (and if you aren't, should) follow Jon Cavalier, also known as @linksgems. His stunning golf photos have attracted more than 12,000 dedicated followers. Though Jon is a Philly guy, he admits he's in the Met Area "so often it almost feels like home." Learn more about the man who has captured stunning scenes of many MGA Member Clubs:

Extra: How were you introduced to golf?

Jon: I wasn't introduced to golf until I was in college. I'd always played the more traditional sports growing up - baseball, basketball and football. My first real round of golf was at Hartefeld National in 1999. I shot 126 and enjoyed every stroke, and have been completely and helplessly hooked ever since.

E: How did you get your start in golf photography?

J: Photography had always been a minor interest of mine, but was never anything serious until I started shooting golf courses. Oddly, I had never been much of a landscape photographer, but I've found that the elements of golf, and the way in which it combines the natural with the manmade, mesh so well with what I like to do as a photographer.

E: This is more of a passion or hobby for you, opposed to a career, correct? What's your "day job" and how do you squeeze in the photography?

J: Golf photography (like golf itself) is certainly a passion of mine, and at this point, it's more than a hobby but less than a career. I'm a practicing lawyer specializing in employment law and civil litigation, which pays the bills and supports the golf habit. Since I play a lot of golf anyway, and a good percentage of my photos are taken during the round while I play, it's not difficult to squeeze in the photography.

E: The golf community is very passionate about the game—what does it mean to have such an enthusiastic following on both online forums and social media?

J: It means everything to me. I've been very fortunate in that I've been able to build a base of followers on Twitter and Instagram that is very passionate about the game of golf, golf course architecture and golf photography. I enjoy interacting with my followers, and their input and discussion has made me a better photographer.

The work of golf architect C.B. Macdonald, designer of National Golf Links of America, led to Jon's greater appreciation for architecture and its impact on shot making.

Read Jon's full Q&A, which includes expanded answers to these questions, plus details on his fascination with golf architecture, what he shoots with, and tips on capturing your own photos.

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BY SCOTT KRAMER

EMPTY INSIDE

Last month's PGA Merchandise Show served as a launch event for thousands of golf products. Among the latest trends catching the eyes of attendees: A whole new lot of forgiving, hollow-body irons – premium clubs geared to hit shots long with sustainable carry and amazingly solid feel.


Callaway's XForged UT (\$250 apiece) is a utility iron available in five lofts. Use it on the tee or from the fairway – especially when your landing area is tight. It generates a low, penetrating and straight flight.

PING claims the G700 (\$175/graphite shaft, \$160/steel) is its longest iron, bar none. Offered in individual clubs or as an entire set, its stainless steel head positions weight away from the thin, maraging steel face – for high, mighty shots that still stop nicely on the green.

Cleveland's Launcher HB (\$114/graphite, \$100/steel) aims to hit high shots that land softly. The strong, ultra-thin steel face flexes at impact for distance, while internal ribs enhance feel and sound.

TourEdge's HotLaunch HL3 Iron-Wood (\$90/graphite, \$80/steel) sports a thin forged steel face with variable thickness that provides trampoline effect and distance. A heavy sole positions more weight below the ball, for higher flight.



A black and white photograph of golfer Stewart Cink in the middle of a golf swing. He is wearing a TaylorMade cap and a dark long-sleeved shirt with "Sen-Hogan PERFORMANCE" on the sleeve. The background is a blurred golf course. A large green diagonal graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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LAYOVER ▶ SCOTTSDALE

BY TIM HARTIN

The dramatic desert landscapes of the Scottsdale region provide some of the most scenically pleasing golf layouts in the country—not to mention that the often sunshine-filled forecast makes it an ideal location for a winter getaway.

One of the most awe-striking formations at The Boulders lies behind the green of the par-five 5th hole of the South Course.

COURSES:

1 The Boulders Club – This resort certainly lives up to its name, with imposing boulder formations piling high throughout the sprawling 1,300-acre desert property and its pair of courses designed by Jay Morrish. The scenery on the South Course especially stands out as striking boulders frame a number of its winding fairways and subtly contouring greens. The North Course, the original layout, plays longer but also provides wider, more generous fairways.

2 Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club – A 2014 renovation to this desert, links-land style course widened fairways, reduced bunkers, and improved routing. It's no pushover, however, with small, undulating green complexes and high-faced bunkers. Though it can stretch to more than 7,500 yards, it typically plays firm and fast. No houses border the property, providing somewhat of an escape compared to many area courses.

3 Talking Stick Golf Club – Two Coore and Crenshaw designs with contrasting characteristics provide markedly different styles of play. The Piipaash Course is more straightforward, featuring tree-lined fairways and raised greens. The O'odham Course, with its relatively flat fairways and open fronts to crowned greens, can provide more strategic options.

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WINTER GOLF: IT'S FOR THE BIRDS



Bill Macaulay clears snow at the front of sixth hole's temporary green in his semifinal match against Dave Agnew, who shovels behind the green.

Snow marks the end of the golf season for most, but for a group of members at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, N.Y., such elements are enjoyed, and even preferred. The Siwanoy Snobirds do not let winter weather deter devotion to the game, but instead carry on tradition that has seen a champion crowned all but two years since 1909.

Around 30 Snobirds took part in qualifying rounds in the latest playing, which decided a champion in December—as it has since 2000. After four qualifying rounds, eight competitors advanced to match play, from which Bill Macaulay endured challenging conditions and held off fellow enthusiasts to claim his third title. “Participation in this event has given me access to the camaraderie of a subset of the membership who are true golf fanatics,” said Macaulay, a Snobird competitor every year since joining the club in 2007. “Several of these robust souls have played and won the event dating back 30-plus years.”

So, when any “normal” golf lover is praying for a bonus golf day late in the calendar year, Snobirds are eager to dig out their colorful golf balls, bundle up in multiple layers, carry a shovel or broom as one of their 14 clubs, and play to temporary greens—in whatever weather awaits.

A 1922 *American Golfer* story reports on the Snobirds' earliest years, including one player scoring 81 on “one single, solitary soul-wracking hole.”

