

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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100TH Met Junior



1912 2017



100TH Met



1912

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July 2017

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This page: Jake Mayer of Scotch Plains, N.J., rose to the occasion and won the historic 100th Met Junior Championship Sponsored by MetLife at Plainfield Country Club—his home club. Read more about the 100th Met Junior Championship on pages 7 and 12.

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Volume 5, Number 7 • July 2017

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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

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A NIGHT OF HONORS

The 66th Metropolitan Golf Writers Association National Awards Dinner Presented by Mastercard, held June 26 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, N.Y., was another unforgettable night that celebrated golf and honored those who have made an impact on and through the game.

Upon accepting the Gold Tee Award for his career achievements and outstanding representation of golf, Mark O'Meara shared his appreciation to be included among past recipients. He continued by recounting his journey in golf, sharing special stories of playing alongside Fuzzy Zoeller in the 1980 Masters, winning the 1984 Greater Milwaukee Open for his first tournament title, and competing in the Pebble Beach Pro-Am multiple times with his father.

Tom Watson accepted the Winne Palmer Award for his hand in creating and supporting The Bruce Edwards Foundation for ALS Research, named in honor of his longtime friend and caddie Bruce Edwards who passed from the disease in 2004. "It is with bittersweet feelings that I'm here tonight," Watson said, recalling his promise to Edwards that he'd help find a cure for the disease. "I will carry that faith with me until we find a cure for this damned disease," said Watson. "It will happen."

The evening's honorees also included Jaime Diaz (Linc Werden Golf Journalism Award), American Century (Bing Crosby Tournament Sponsor Award) and Hackensack Golf Club (Club of the Year Award).



John Feinstein, who authored Caddy for Life: The Bruce Edwards Story, presents Tom Watson with the Winnie Palmer Award.



Jimmy Roberts presents Mark O'Meara with the Gold Tee Award.

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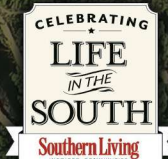
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JERSEY GIRL

Sung Hyun Park (*inset*) redeemed herself from a disappointing finish in last year's U.S. Women's Open Championship by claiming her first major victory in this year's playing at Trump National Bedminster, but New Jersey's very own Marina Alex gathered a fair amount of spotlight as well.

Alex, 26 of Wayne, finished at 4-under 284 for the championship, recording her highest-ever finish in the U.S. Women's Open (T11) and claiming low American honors for the week. Though Alex had a tough start to her third round and fell back to 2-over par, she quickly set a goal for the remainder of the round. "I just wanted to get back to red numbers by the end of the day," Alex said to the USGA. "If I did that, that would have been exceptional and I did. From there, I just kind of kept pushing just as far as I could go."

Alex carried the momentum into Sunday, playing her final 30 holes in 6-under with a bogey-free final round. "It was a tremendous week and I played some really really great golf," said Alex, also admitting that her steady play down the stretch bred confidence she hopes will one day translate into a title of her own.



USGA 72ND U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

START	LEADERS	HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4			
9	FENG	PAR	5																								
8	CHOI H J																				9	9	6	66	70	71	75
8	YANG																				8	8	8	69	69	70	71
6	PARK S H																				7	7	7	73	70	67	75
4	CIGANDA																				6	6	6	69	71	72	70
3	HUR																				7	7	7	71	72	70	68
5	LEE JE 6																				6	6	6	69	69	73	71
5	RYU																				4	4	4	71	70	73	70
2	ALEX																				4	4	4	71	70	73	70
2	KIM S Y																				5	5	5	69	73	72	69

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A special celebratory dinner preceded the 100th Met Junior Championship Sponsored by MetLife at Plainfield Country Club. The evening honored past winners and the rich history of the championship, which Plainfield first hosted from 1912-1914 thanks to the efforts of member Leighton Calkins.

More than 125 attendees—including past champions, this year's competitors, special guests, friends, and family—joined to celebrate the remarkable occasion, as the MGA became the only golf association to have its Open, Amateur, and Junior championships reach the century mark. A commemorative video reviewed the more than 100-year history of the event and featured insight from past winners of the Mandeville Trophy.



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN



Eric Gleacher poses with a copy of the newspaper article reporting his 1957 victory.



Video by Madelyn Vetrano



PHOTOS: BARRY SLOAN

Past champions in attendance: *Front, left to right:* Mark Costanza ('07), Martin Catalioto ('00), James McHugh ('15), Alan Gilison ('56), Pat Fillian ('04), Jeff Putman ('83), Rich Jeremiah ('92). *Back, left to right:* Randy Rogers ('80), Tom Patri ('76), Eric Gleacher ('57), Bill Olin ('93).

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BY SCOTT KRAMER

FAIRWAY WONDERS

As if there already weren't enough great fairway wood choices on the market. In early July, both Callaway and Ping debuted even more options for you that serve as wonderful mid-season replacements — that is, should you find yourself constantly laying up with mid-irons to make sure your get shots airborne. These new woods are both constructed to help the ball soar high and far, perhaps improving your chances to score pars and birdies.

Callaway's Steelhead XR (\$230 each) features a compact, pear-shaped head with a re-contoured sole, more camber and a deep clubface that collectively boost versatility and clean turf interaction from any lie. A lightweight composite crown and forged Hyper Speed Face Cup help ease the ball up with plenty of velocity.

Meanwhile, Ping's loft-adjustable G400 (\$287.50 apiece) is part of a full line of new like-named clubs that have already infiltrated their way onto the PGA Tour since last month's U.S. Open. It combines a stainless steel body, maraging steel clubface, and aluminum/thermoplastic adjustable hosel.

Aside from the usual assortment of available lofts, these are each offered additionally in a 9-wood for higher shots and a lower-lofted 3-wood designed to give you some extra distance pop.



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"We love to eat good food, drink great wine and play a fabulous golf course, so the CuisinArt Resort was the perfect place for us to relax and unwind! The resort is beautiful...and the staff is wonderful."

—Michele Greenfield, WMGA, and Member, Glen Oaks Country Club

"This is hands down one of the best culinary events, bringing together some of the most talented chefs from around the world. Having the first night dinner cooked by Master Chef Christophe Muller from the 3 Star Michelin restaurant honoring Paul Bocuse was one for the bucket list. Food all four nights was amazing! The wines from Marchesi Antinori were stunning, well balanced and beautiful. Bravo to Met Golfer, CuisinArt Resort and Antinori Wines for the epic four days in paradise."

—Chef Scott Pikey, Executive Chef, Mayacama Country Club

"Joan and I had a great time on the trip. The food was fantastic and the other participants were great. We made a bunch of new friends on this trip and look forward to joining you for a third trip in the future."

—Glenn Carlson, PGA Head Professional, Torrington Country Club



Please visit epicureagolf.com for information or reservations, or call 610-442-5718.



Past, Present Collide at 100th Met Junior

The Met Junior Championship Sponsored by MetLife returned to Plainfield Country Club in Edison, N.J., for its 100th playing in honor of the event's founding history at the club, but by championship's end Plainfield's present was on full display.

Jake Mayer, a Plainfield member from Scotch Plains, N.J., produced quality performances all weeklong, capped off by a 7-and-6 victory over Will O'Neill of Morristown, N.J., in the championship match. Even with the added pressure of competing at home, Mayer rose to the occasion, surviving temperatures exceeding 90 degrees all three days of the championship and outdueling the Met Area's top junior competitors to hoist the Mandeville Trophy.

Mayer even made the finish memorable, as he stuck a seven-iron within two feet at the par-three 12th, where his third birdie of the match (*inset*) secured the well-earned victory.

"It's all I've been focusing on for the last couple of months," said Mayer. "So, to win it is honestly surreal, and to do it at Plainfield, it doesn't get any better than that."



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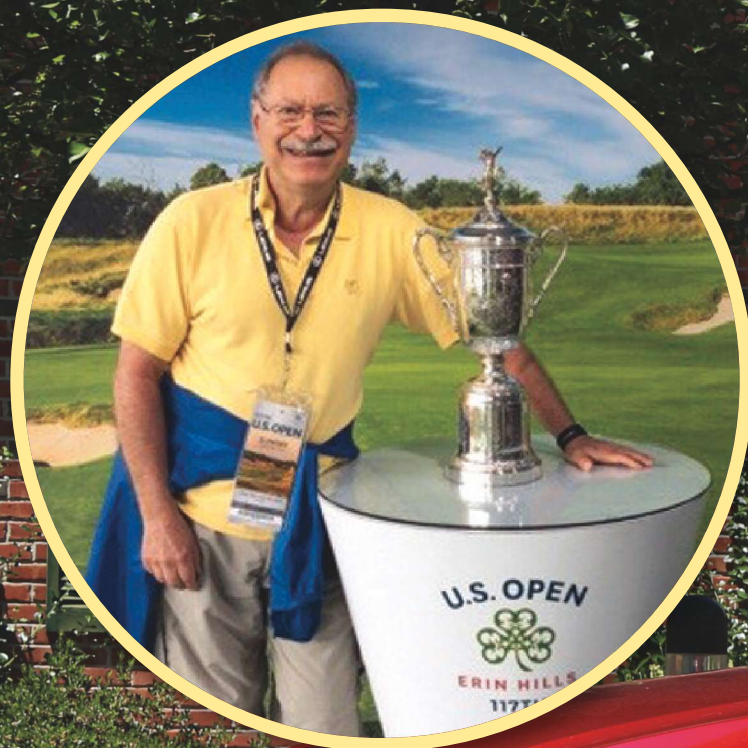
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The Perfect Drive to the U.S. Open

“On a scale of 1-10, it was about a 15,” said Ken Goldstein of Larchmont, N.Y., describing his experience as this year’s winner of the Lexus Perfect Drive to the U.S. Open Sweepstakes. In the sweepstakes open to MGA members, Goldstein and a guest received airfare, a two-night stay, transportation, and access to Lexus hospitality

at the 117th U.S. Open Championship at Erin Hills, in Erin, Wisc.

“Everything that Lexus did in advance to get it set up and ready for me to go was done to perfection,” continued Goldstein, who took full advantage of his opportunity to experience the U.S. Open. “I was there bright and early and stayed each day until the last group reached the

18th green,” said Goldstein. After walking the entire course on Saturday, Goldstein picked a couple spots from which he could sit back and watch the world’s best players on Sunday. The Lexus hospitality tent was one of many highlights for Goldstein, as he could enjoy the luxurious setting and still keep his eye on golf alongside Erin Hills’ closing par-five 18th hole.

LAYOVER ► JACKSONVILLE

BY TIM HARTIN

Picturesque marshes and oaks draped with Spanish moss are just part of the scenic splendor of Amelia Island.

Jacksonville's prime location and easy accessibility by air, land, and sea have helped the city's growth in the sense of both business and tourism. In addition to entertaining historic and cultural attractions, as with most Florida destinations, quality golf options abound in every direction.

COURSES:

1 Amelia Island Plantation Resort – A trip 35 miles northeast of the city is well worth the time to enjoy the stunning natural surrounds of Amelia Island. Its Pete Dye-designed Oak Marsh Course has 14 holes featuring water hazards, while five incredible oceanfront holes highlight the Bobby Weed-designed Ocean Links Course. The Amelia Island Club members' Long Point Course is also an option for resort guests.

2 TPC Sawgrass – What golf fan wouldn't want to try their luck on THE PLAYERS Stadium Course? TPC Sawgrass lies just 25 miles southeast of Jacksonville and there's no better time to try the famed Pete Dye track following its major renovation in 2016. Its new look features rebuilt greens and several redesigned holes. Those looking for a slightly simpler round may look toward the Dye's Valley Course at TPC Sawgrass right next door.

3 World Golf Village – The King & Bear mixes styles with a links-style layout to begin and a more traditional Florida design to close. Meanwhile, the Slammer & Squire embraces the natural setting and incorporates wooded areas and wetlands. Playing golf isn't the only attraction at World Golf Village, though, as a visit to the World Golf Hall of Fame is a must-do.



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Grand Finale FIREWORKS

Fireworks lit up the sky at Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Scarborough, N.Y., on the Fourth of July, capping off what was a fun-filled day of celebration. In addition to a busy day of golf, the club also hosted its annual evening picnic, which featured fun for the entire family with a DJ, carnival games, and face painting for kids. More than 900 people attended the festivities, which concluded with the spectacular fireworks show on the first hole of the club's lower course.