

# The Met Golfer

# EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOC

MGAGOLF.ORG

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*This page:* Supporters of the MGA Foundation enjoyed the spectacular Bayonne Golf Club for the 23rd Day of Golf, which supports the Foundation's cornerstone student-intern program, GOLFWORKS. Read more about the day in "On the Range" in the June/July issue of The Met Golfer.



# The Met Golfer EXTRA

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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# A LOCK WITH THE IRISH



Trevor Randolph, MGA Executive Committee member (and caddie) Dennis Lynch, and Brian Komline read a putt during their Foursomes match.

GUIPAT CASHMAN



Stewart Hagestad hits his drive during the first day of action at the 14th Carey Cup.

GUIPAT CASHMAN

**T**eam MGA set off for Ireland with sights on its second straight win on foreign soil in the Governor Hugh L. Carey Challenge Cup, but both the MGA and Golfing Union of Ireland had to settle for a tie after finishing deadlocked, 6-6, at the scenic Galway Bay Golf Resort. The two sides proved evenly matched throughout, trading 2-1 advantages in

Foursomes and Four-Ball on the first day, then splitting singles matches 3-3 with the Cup on the line. The tie is just the second in the event's history. Though the GUI holds an 8-4 edge in wins, the series record is all-square at 2-2-2 since 2007. Thanks to its 2015 win at Metedeconk National, the GUI will hang on to the Carey Cup until 2019, when the matches return to the U.S.

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# Mr. Trammell Goes to Washington

The Met Open Championship's Walker L. Trammell Trophy recently took a special road trip to the nation's capital, joining 2009 titlist Andrew Giuliani (*left*) and reigning champion Mark Brown (*right*) at the White House.

The occasion? President Donald J. Trump extended an invitation to the 35 PGA Professionals competing in the Senior PGA Championship at Trump National Golf Club in Potomac Falls, Va. With Giuliani—now associate director for the White House Office of Public Liaison—helping organize the visit, he also looped in the MGA, and former tournament director and current senior consultant Gene Westmoreland (*center*) delivered the trophy for a reunion of sorts.

“The President requested that we do something for the club professionals this week,” said Giuliani about the visit as he provided the tour. Brown, his fellow competitors, and their guests toured the East Wing of the White House, seeing nearly a dozen rooms including the Library, East Room, and State Dining Room before taking a group photo with the Senior PGA Championship's Alfred S. Bourne Trophy.



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# Swingin' on the Square

**T**he First Tee of Metropolitan New York's Young Benefactors once again hosted a successful and enjoyable evening with its 8th Annual 19th Hole on the Square event, April 27 at Golf & Body NYC.

More than 250 supporters attended the evening to raise funds for The First Tee's Path to College Program, which helps high schoolers navigate the college application process. Participants prepare their path by attending educational seminars and workshops, while also making college visits and receiving one-on-one tutorials. In 2016, over 150 youth benefitted from the program.

Attendees had the opportunity to bid on a variety of silent auction items, enjoy cocktails, and take some swings on Golf & Body's simulators—even competing in a longest drive competition.

Several presentations to distinguished guests served as one of the evening's highlights. First Tee participant Sally-Jane Lombardo-Kaiser was presented with a scholarship, while Chelsea Hanse and Matt Ricks were recognized with the Kate Keller Young Benefactors Founder Award—an honor named for Young Benefactor co-founder (and the MGA's very own) Kate Keller, which recognizes exemplary service to TFTMNY's Young Benefactors organization.





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# The Perfect Pitch

BY KYLE BAEHLER

I often see players use too much wrist around the greens, leading to inconsistent strikes and either chunking the ball short of the green or blading the ball over the green. For more consistent pitch shots inside 50 yards, try to create a wider arc with the clubhead. This allows the bottom of the swing to become wider and produces a consistent strike for pitch shots.



Kyle Baehler is an assistant professional at Willow Ridge Country Club in Harrison, N.Y.



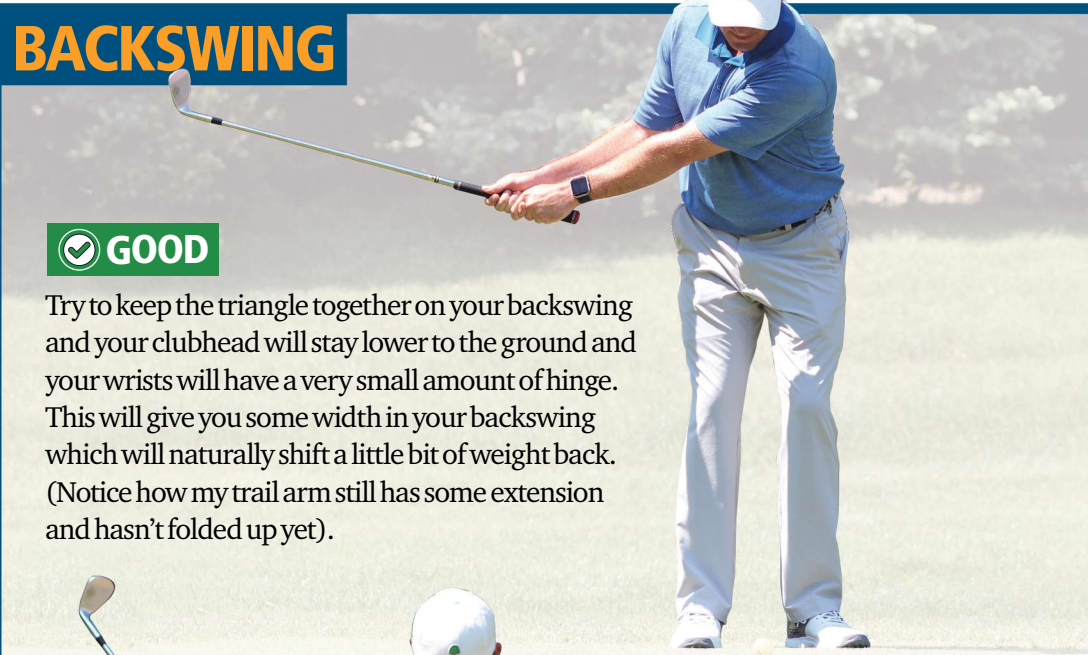
## SETUP

Set up with a nice narrow stance and just a little bit of weight favoring your front leg. Hands should be just a touch forward of the ball. Your arms should form a nice triangle shape.

## BACKSWING

### GOOD

Try to keep the triangle together on your backswing and your clubhead will stay lower to the ground and your wrists will have a very small amount of hinge. This will give you some width in your backswing which will naturally shift a little bit of weight back. (Notice how my trail arm still has some extension and hasn't folded up yet).



### BAD

With too much wrist hinge in pitch shots, the club gets too high off the ground and it creates a sharper bottom to the swing. This could lead to digging the club into the ground and chunking the ball, or not hitting the ground at all and blading the ball.

## FOLLOW THROUGH

### GOOD

If you have the intention of widening your follow through, you will get the club to slide through the turf perfectly. Let your weight pivot onto the front leg and your chest to turn towards the target. My width was maintained here because the club is parallel to the ground and my arms have extended.



### BAD

With this finish, the follow through gets narrow with the arms and the grip stops while the club is flipped up. This again creates a narrow arc and leads to inconsistency.







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Daniel Island Park is the island's golf neighborhood, home to choice residences and the private Daniel Island Club. Homes here are situated amongst some of the community's most spectacular natural scenery and two private golf courses, designed by Tom Fazio and Rees Jones. Life in this special neighborhood centers around the Club's recreational offerings, including golf, tennis, swimming, fitness, dining and a diverse range of social events that take place throughout the year.

Gracious homes, townhomes and condominiums in Daniel Island Park honor the finest architectural traditions of the region. The neighborhood is nearing completion, but the island's developer has saved the most breathtaking golf neighborhood homesites for



last. Set against a backdrop of the Ralston Creek course, tidal creek waterways and saltwater marsh vistas, this collection of properties is one of the most diverse in views, settings and pricing Daniel Island has offered in years – if ever. Homesites in Daniel Island Park have historically been very popular and have sold quickly. For additional information, visit [www.danielisland.com](http://www.danielisland.com) or call (800) 958-5635.



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—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



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BY SCOTT KRAMER

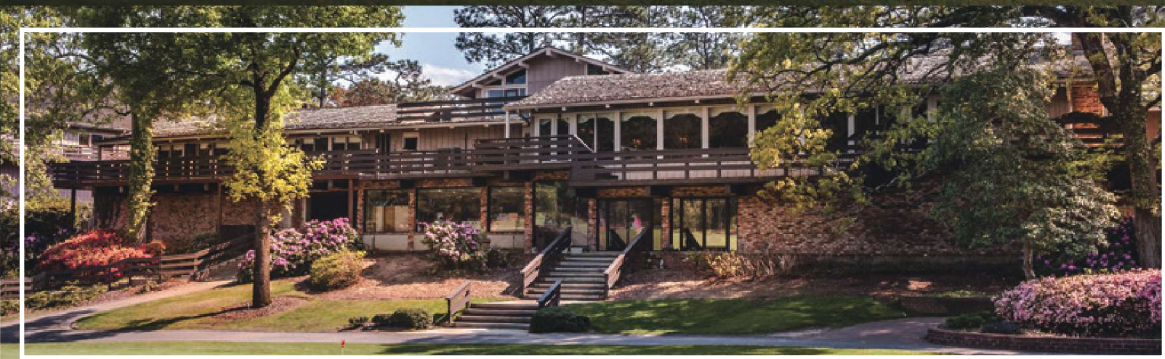
# CUSTOMIZING ON AN EPIC LEVEL

**I**t wasn't too long ago that we were wowed by personalizing our golf shoe color schemes through FootJoy's website. Now the same can be done with clubs on Callaway Golf's website. Since the fall, Callaway has let golfers special-order its MD3 wedge with color weight ports and accent lines via the "Callaway Customs" program. Now the company has added color personalizing to its popular GBB Epic and GBB Epic Sub Zero drivers. You can pick from black, gold, green, white, blue, orange, pink and red – to design the crown, sole ribbon and rails – at a cost of \$50 over the normal \$500 price. "More people want to customize the colors of their driver," says Dave Neville, senior global brand director of metalwoods and wedges, who adds that each custom driver comes in a unique box with a Callaway Customs headcover. You can now also coordinate the aesthetics and stampings on the Mack Daddy Forged wedge for an extra \$15 to \$45 over the regular \$150 price. This isn't the first time a brand has sold clubs in multiple colors. For several years, Cobra Golf has offered its woods in various hues. And TaylorMade has also offered some of its drivers in both black or white versions.



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# An Eye to the Sky



**W**hile spotting an owl may not be a frequent occurrence on the golf course, sometimes you just need to know where to look. At Bethpage State Park, part-time staffer Jim Jones has studied the nests of great horned owls for nearly 20 years, tracking data on the number of eggs, chicks, and those that fledge for each nest.

Jones begins his observations during the winter and visits once or twice a week through the spring, using a cherry picker to gain a better vantage point of the nests. This year, Yael Weiss—who's in her second year as park ecologist at Bethpage—joined Jones during several viewings of a nest located on the Black Course's seventh hole. Weiss helped document by capturing photos of the owlets at approximately three-and-a-half weeks (*inset*) and six weeks old—right before they began to leave the nest at around seven-and-a-half weeks old.

Through the summer, Jones continues to monitor this nest and others belonging to red-tail hawks. He is always on the look out while playing golf—making it a certainty that he's looking for birds both on his scorecard and in the air.

*Have some great bird or wildlife photos from the course? Share them with us to help build a season-long gallery of sightings.*

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# LAYOVER SALT LAKE CITY

BY TIM HARTIN

Despite not having an extended golf season, the Salt Lake City area owns a healthy offering of outstanding golf courses with practically every venue offering picturesque views of surrounding mountains.

## COURSES:

**1 Canyons Golf Course** – Carved from dramatic topography, Canyons Golf Course in Park City delivers a unique and challenging golf experience. The layout, which opened in 2015, features spectacular views of the Wasatch and Uinta mountains with several holes traversing skiable terrain. Elevation changes, narrow fairways, and undulating greens place a premium on accuracy and keep golfers engaged throughout the entire round.

**2 Stonebridge Golf Club** – This Johnny Miller design boasts 27 holes with an open design likened to links-style golf. Located in West Valley City—and just several miles from the Salt Lake airport—the scenic layout offers generous fairways, though water on 20 holes and 93 bunkers can quickly penalize a wayward shot.

**3 Old Mill Golf Club** – At the base of Mount Olympus lies perhaps the most popular of Salt Lake County’s seven high quality public courses. The first nine is rather open and forgiving before the challenge increases on the inward nine. Its closing four holes are considered the toughest, featuring tree-lined fairways and a pair of slight doglegs.

Canyons Golf Course includes seven par-threes, all featuring stunning views like this from behind the sixth green.



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# FRAMING A PASSION

**A**s a 12-year old, Skip Rooney had the unique experience of joining a great aunt and uncle on a trip to Europe. While he admits it wasn't a dream situation for a young boy, something stuck as he visited the world's greatest museums and cathedrals in Spain, France, and Italy. Little did he know, the slight appreciation he developed for art during that trip would one day lead to his future as an entrepreneur.

Rooney began Golf-Art in 1986, after several years of teaching in Harlem, N.Y., and working at a family-owned auto dealership. He saw an opportunity to enter the art business as corporations established headquarters in Fairfield County, Conn., at the time, leaning upon his passion for art and experience as a salesman. "I wasn't afraid to just walk in a door and say, 'Hi, this is what I do and this is what I have for sale,' so I started selling small art prints," says Rooney. When an area club's general manager came in Rooney's first studio looking for golf-specific pieces, something clicked. With his new idea, Rooney traveled to art shows and expos seeking any piece of golf-related art he could find. His niche developed and he began to expand—first outsourcing custom framing, then buying his own equipment to do the work himself. "There's a special relationship between golf and art," Rooney says. "Unlike other sports, in golf every course is different and has its own beauty."

Through the years, Rooney has met some of the game's greats—Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player—having several as clients. His customers span the country, though he conducts the majority of his business in his own backyard here in the Met Area, recalling work on casement displays at Winged Foot Golf Club as one of his favorite projects. His artist's eye, passion, and experience have helped Rooney develop a strong network for acquiring client's sought-after pieces. He has also continued to expand his business, lately becoming a top supplier of tournament awards and gifts including crystal, pewter, or silver, complete with engravings, along with special promotional items. "I think a large part of my success has been always ensuring my customers are satisfied," Rooney says.

Rooney had plenty of naysayers in his early years, yet his business, born from a summer trip to Europe and bred from passion and opportunity, has grown to fill his 3,600 square-foot showroom in Ridgefield, Conn.



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**A** new practice facility featuring 5,000-square feet of synthetic turf is sure to help sharpen the skills of The First Tee of Metropolitan New York's approximately 150 participants at the Game on Golf Center in White Plains, N.Y.

The facility, completed by Home Green Advantage of Armonk, N.Y., features specialized turf for the green, collar, approach area, and bunker surrounds. The green itself has eight holes, rolls around nine on the Stimpmeter, and has one major undulation that provides a left-to-right or right-to-left breaking putt depending on which side of the green a player stands. "This facility allows us to have a dedicated space for The First Tee, improves the quality of instruction and lets us reach more youth in Westchester," says TFTMNY executive director Ed Brockner.

Located beyond the driving range at the Game on Golf Center,

the area also features a 70-foot tee line from which juniors can hit in either direction. "The amount of shots and variety are enormous," says HGA President Michael Lehrer. "They can hit drivers in one direction toward the range, or turn around and hit sand wedges to the green. They can play from the sand trap and there's always other areas from where they can chip to the green."

For Lehrer, whose company designs and installs both residential and commercial projects, assisting The First Tee is always a special opportunity. "Working with The First Tee is very gratifying," Lehrer says. "There are so many golf courses [in the area], yet there aren't very many places where kids can go and practice, so this will accomplish that." Brockner has similar insight on the project, saying, "The kids at this site now have a place to call their own."