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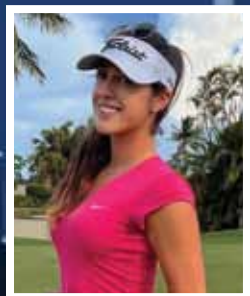
# ENERGIZ

# ING

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## ING Fall Forum Heads to Sebring, FL



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Sensation  
Sabrina Andolpho  
Heads Up Social  
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Q4 / 2022

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## ING FALL FORUM

# *Social Phenomenon*

From College Golfer To Social Media Star,  
Sabrina Andolpho Will Share Her Story  
At ING Fall Forum In Sebring, Florida



Six months ago, Sabrina Andolpho was a senior at Barry University, having just completed her final season as a full-scholarship player on the Division 2 women's golf team.

Today, she is a Social Media star,

having accumulated 190,000 followers on Instagram and TikTok since graduating from the South Florida university in May.

How did she do it?

Andolpho will share her secrets at

the ING Fall Forum Nov. 28-Dec. 1 in Sebring, FL. The International Network of Golf will conduct a gathering of golf media and business executives for the purpose of networking, product introduction,

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education, information sharing, golf and general memory making.

The Inn On The Lakes, a charming boutique hotel in the heart of Sebring, FL, will host the event.

Andolpho will lead a seminar about Building A Social Media Audience. Andolpho enjoyed a solid golf career at Barry before graduating with a degree in marketing. During her college days she began working for a golf company called Fore2feet as the event coordinator/ marketing manager. Fore2feet makes custom golf, tennis, and therapeutic orthotics, and hosts foot wellness events at prestigious country clubs. She still works there today.

But Social Media has joined with golf as two of her main passions.

“Once I graduated and ended my competitive golf career I decided I wanted to do something else with my golf skills,” said Andolpho. “I began working on growing my social media presence with my niche being golf. On TikTok and Instagram combined I organically accumulated 190k followers in four months. My content revolves around short-form videos, reels, and TikToks.”

The quick success has led to a reframing of her future plans. She is opening her own social media marketing business, utilizing her marketing degree and her social media expertise.

“I love golf and I am so grateful for the opportunities it’s given me,” she said. “I will continue to grow these social media platforms.

Andolpho will share with the ING audience how she grew her audience so quickly, offer tips on creating engaging content, and give views on future trends for social media.

A unique element to the ING Fall Forum will be attendees’ participation in the Pro-Am for the annual Citrus Golf Trail Open, a Minor League Golf Tour event at Sun ‘N Lake Golf Club with a \$20,000 first



prize to the winning professional. The Tuesday morning Pro-Am field will be limited to the first 30 ING attendees to register.

The remainder of the schedule will consist of more golf, marketing seminars, product presentations and networking, plus some excellent dining. The Durland Cup Scramble, named after longtime ING Board Member and golf committee chair Larry Durland, will be conducted on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Sebring Golf Club.

Entry fee is \$150

for working media, and \$295 for business executives and golf company representatives.

Companies can also reserve a press conference slot, during which they will present information about their company and products to the attendees. Those are \$450, or \$695 as a complete conference package. There are only two remaining.

Inn On The Lakes, a beautiful hotel in which all rooms are unique, is offering a special rate of \$109 per room per night, which includes breakfast each morning.





# ING Fall Forum

Nov. 28-Dec. 1, 2022

Inn On The Lakes

Sebring, FL

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

TIME	EVENT	WHERE
<b>MONDAY, Nov. 28</b>		
2 pm -6 pm	Forum Check-In	Inn On The Lakes Meeting Room
6:30 pm	Welcome Reception	Cowpokes Watering Hole
8:30 pm	<i>ClubING</i>	Inn On The Lakes Bar
<b>TUESDAY</b>		
7 am-7:45 am	Breakfast	Delivered To Your Room
7 am-7:45 am	Forum Check-In	Inn On The Lakes Meeting Room
8:30 am	CGT Open Pro-Am	Sun 'N Lake CC
1 pm	Awards Lunch	Sun 'N Lakes CC
3:30 pm-4:15 pm	Roundtable: Media/Marketing	Inn On The Lakes Meeting Room
4:30 pm	Press Conferences: <i>Makefield Putters, Zero Friction</i>	Inn On The Lakes Meeting Room
6:30 pm	Dinner	Inn On The Lakes
8:30 pm	<i>ClubING</i>	Inn On The Lakes Bar
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		
7:30 am-8:15 am	Breakfast	Inn On The Lakes Meeting Room
8:30 am	Social Media Marketing: Presenter: <i>Sabrina Andolpho</i>	Inn On The Lakes Meeting Room
9:15 am	Press Conferences: <i>Bucket Golf, Proud 90</i> Lunch On Your Own	Inn On The Lakes Meeting Room
1 pm	Durland Cup Golf Tournament	Sebring Golf Club
6 pm	Golf Awards Dinner	Sebring Golf Club-Çaddyshack
8 pm	<i>ClubING</i>	Inn On The Lakes Bar
<b>THURSDAY (Checkout Day)</b>		
7 am-9 am	Breakfast	Delivered To Your Room
Optional	Golf On Your Own	TBD

# Are You In?

Join Us and Other Golf Industry Leaders at the

**2022 ING Fall Forum**



**Inn On The Lakes • Sebring, FL**  
**Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, 2022**





*(Reprinted with permission from  
Chicago District Golfer)*

# GOLF'S GOVERNING BODIES LOOK TO RESTRICT DISTANCE



# BALL FLIGHT FOR TOUR PROS AND WEEKEND HACKERS COULD BE THROTTLED

BY ED SHERMAN

**T**here is a big golf story flying a bit under the radar for now, but it won't be for long. Get ready, because the United States Golf Association (USGA) and The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (The R&A) are reviewing the Rules of Golf related to equipment standards that could impact golfers, from Tiger Woods to the 20-handicapper at the local muni.

The USGA and The R&A are looking at ways to curb the huge distance increases that have dramatically changed the game in the last 25-30 years. They believe measures are vital to preserving the long-term future of golf, as courses will not have the available land and resources to continually stretch out their layouts to keep up with the gains in distance. Indeed, many courses are already at that threshold.



The governing bodies have come out with a notification to golf's equipment manufacturers with research topics that it terms "Areas of Interest." They are examining measures that could reduce the flight of the golf ball, and in the case of high-level competition, offer tournament officials the option of having players use special drivers with reduced spring-like effect and forgiveness during their events (see side-bars).

Equipment companies have until Sept. 2 to provide their comments about the proposed "Areas of Interest" topics and can submit research and comments through early September. Equipment companies declined comment for this story, preferring to wait until their perspectives are

Golf Association, also believes the distance issue needs to be addressed.

"It isn't just the top players who hit the ball 320 yards," Markionni said. "The average (recreational) player has benefited from the distance. Everybody hits the ball farther. I tend to agree that if something isn't done, what is golf going to be like in another 20-25 years when longer courses are required (to keep up with the distance gains)?"

Indeed, technology in clubs and balls have contributed to increased hitting distances since the days of persimmon woods; improved fitness, coaching, launch monitors and course conditioning also are factors. In the last 25 years, the average driving distance on the PGA

If the distance explosion continues, it seems that sooner or later the Masters, the U.S. Open and many PGA Tour events are going to be played on 8,000-yard courses, rendering even more classic courses obsolete for big events. Whan says it is incumbent on the USGA to prevent that from happening.

"It's been since 2004 that we've taken a look at things, and as a result, almost 20 years later, there's an adjustment that needs to be made," Whan said.

The distance trend isn't just about the elite players. According to data in the USGA's distance report, recreational players have seen their average drives go from 200 yards in 1996 to 216 yards in 2019. The technology in drivers and balls has players in their 50s

**"If the current (increase) from the last 50 years of distance is the same as the next 50 years, we're going to be adding a significant burden on golf courses and communities." - USGA CEO Mike Whan**

published in September.

USGA CEO Mike Whan, who was born in Chicago Heights and grew up in Naperville, says the association is thinking of the big picture.

"If the current (increase) from the last 50 years of distance is the same as the next 50 years, we're going to be adding a significant burden on golf courses and communities," Whan said. "Will every course have to go through redesigns so fairway bunkers are actually fairway bunkers, and add different tee boxes? The game won't be sustainable (for golf course operators)."

Robert Markionni, executive director of the Chicago District

Tour has jumped nearly 30 yards, from 267.3 yards in 1997 to 296.2 yards in 2021. As a result, courses have had to be stretched out to handle the big hitters like Bryson DeChambeau, whose "average" drive was 323.7 yards last year.

For example, Augusta National played to 6,925 yards in 1997 when Tiger Woods blitzed the course in winning his first Masters. Club officials have since responded with a series of "Tiger-Proofing" distance increases that extended Augusta to 7,510 yards for this year's Masters. Earlier this year, Augusta National Chairman Fred Ridley said he is in support of any proposals to curtail distance.

driving as long, and perhaps even longer, than they were 25 years ago.

Markionni says increased driving distances can be seen in a higher volume of golfers playing from longer tees at their local courses.

"It used to be if you had a 7,000 yard (tee box), it was like oh my gosh, nobody plays from there," Markionni said. "That's a status tee from back there. Well, it's not that way anymore."

Rick Jacobson is already seeing these developments play out in real time. The Libertyville-based architect has overseen numerous golf course redesigns and updates in recent years. They all have a



common theme.

“Our firm has not prepared one master plan for a course where added length was not one of the top priorities,” Jacobson said.

Jacobson seeks for golfers to “use every club in the bag” on his courses. However, with the distance gains, he says it has become a challenge to get many single-digit handicap players to reach for a long iron.

“They don’t use a long iron into a green unless they are reaching a par 5 in two shots,” Jacobson said. “Therefore, we intentionally design a long par 3 on our courses to force this club into their hand.”

If recreational players continue those same distance gains over the next 20 to 30 years, Markionni and Jacobson say it will be difficult for operators to adjust so that their courses play as originally intended by their architects. Moreover, many of these layouts already are limited by existing land and can’t be stretched out any further. And, even if there were more land, more land equates to more maintained acres, and more maintained acres equates to more cost to the facility, and more cost to the facility means higher rates for golfers to enjoy outdoor recreation. It is a non-sustainable cycle.

“The big thing about the distance is more about the average golf course and how it affects that course, such as where the bunkers are placed so they are still in play,” Markionni said. “While the distance is good for the players, there is this whole underlying aspect for the golf course operators. What do they do? How do they adjust for the distance? That to me is just as big of a story, if not more so, than just talking about what is

happening on Tour.”

The issues are likely to spur intense debate. Whan said he is looking forward to receiving the input from the equipment companies. They definitely will have their views on how the areas of interest topics will impact golfers at all levels.

Whan says he realizes “change is hard.” However, he is more worried about the consequences of not making any changes.

“I’m not going to be Chicken

Little and say golf is gone in 50 years if we don’t do this now, but I think we are adding a burden to the game that none of us can really argue about,” Whan said. “We’ve got to make sure we understand our responsibilities as a governing body. We don’t want golf to be waning 50 years from now because 50 years ago we didn’t take our responsibility seriously.



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**SCAN ME**

# Green AND GETTING Greener

*(Reprinted with permission  
from MET Golfer)*

The revolution in maintenance practices is good for  
golf, the golf business, and the environment all at once.

BY JOHN PAUL NEWPORT

PHOTO BY TIM HARTIN





Once upon a time – say, thirty years ago – golf courses had a not-totally-undeserved reputation as environmental villains. They were viewed as the ecological equivalent of a bejeweled lapdog, a sign of conspicuous consumption and heedless luxury. Many green-keeping crews were still spreading – or spraying! – insecticides and fungicides in careless, willy-nilly fashion wherever they saw green. The active ingredients in those products were far more toxic and long-lived than they needed to be. Courses were mowed and maintained wall-to-wall, even in areas where few golfers ventured. Streams and ponds were hazards in more ways than one.

In some quarters, golf's bad environmental reputation lingers. One recent headline, from the UK magazine *Prospect*: "The planet is burning. Why do golf courses still exist?" But the reality on the ground is that this stereotype is as outmoded as the image of all golfers being plutocrats in loud plaid pants.

Golf courses in recent years have become much better environmentally – "light years better," in the words of Frank Rossi, a Cornell University turf grass expert who has advised numerous clubs in the Met Area. The sea change began in the 1990s and has been accelerating ever since.

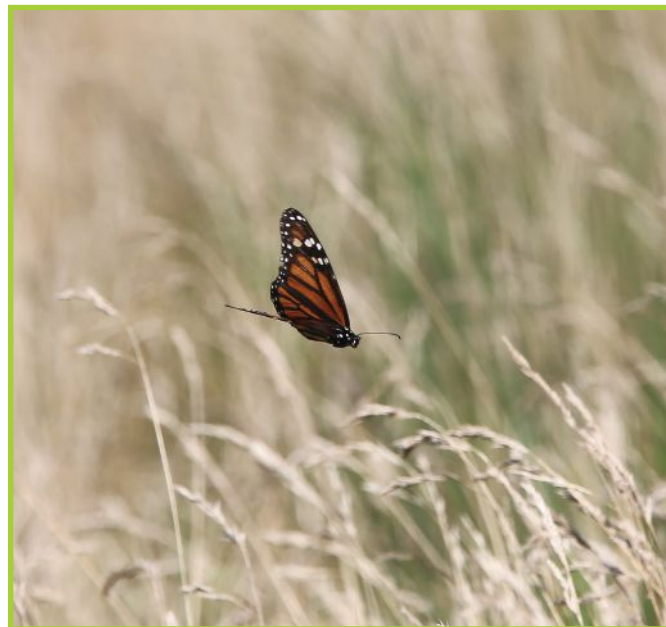
Ten years ago, for example, Dr. Rossi started working with golf superintendents in New York to develop a "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) template designed for the state's particular environmental conditions. These guidelines, among the first state-specific golf maintenance BMPs in the nation, were published in 2014 and have been updated frequently since. Although a number of Met Area clubs had been embracing environmentally sustainable practices long before that – Ridgewood, Brae Burn, Fairview, Bedford, and Glen Arbor among them – codifying the best practices made it easier for superintendents across the Met Area to buy in. "The conditions Met Area supers are able to produce at their clubs these days, while doing the right thing environmentally, is monumental," said Michael McCall, executive director of the Met Golf Course Superintendents Association.

For every club the challenge is unique. Maintaining healthy turf on the mostly treeless sandy-soiled courses on Eastern Long Island is very different from doing the same on the hilly, rocky, heavy-soiled terrain of Westchester County. Budgets and member expectations differ, too. Meeting those needs in sustainable fashion, even when guided by BMPs, is a complicated long-term process that supers must figure out on the fly.

Take, for example, the decade-long evolution at the Rockville Links Club on Long Island, winner this year of the MGA's Arthur P. Weber Environmental Leaders in Golf Award. When Luke Knutson took over as Rockville's superintendent in 2012, the club had just begun restoring the course with Jim Urbina's guidance back to the look, design, and feel of the 1924 Devereux Emmet original. That involved, before anything else, taking down a lot of trees. "This place was completely overgrown. Playing down each hole was more like bowling than golf," Knutson said. Where trees were removed they were often replaced by areas of native fescue – but Knutson made sure to spare the trees where red-tailed hawks habitually nested. A decade later those hawks are prospering, in part by feasting on the critters that now populate the high fescue.

Another of Knutson's early initiatives was to remove the beds of annual flowers near each tee. The look wasn't consistent with the course's design, and planting and tending the beds was an annual \$38,000 budget item. To compensate for the aesthetic

Fescue and native grasses are found throughout the golf course at Southward Ho Country Club.



From the various species of birds at Ballyowen to the butterflies at Laurel Links, courses in the Met Area are home to abundant wildlife.

loss, he seeded low-maintenance perennial flowers around the clubhouse; over the years, in out-of-play locations on the course, 12 acres of natural area has gradually grown in, now teeming with wildflowers and pollinators. All in all, since 2012 forty of the Rockville course's 104 acres have been converted to high fescue and natural areas, which are pleasing not only to the eye but also to the earth and to the club's budget. The fescue areas require no water, no fertilization, no regular mowing, and minimal weed control. The natural areas require even less tending.

Rockville also has five beehives, in two locations. The honey from the hives is used in the club's kitchen and in a specially brewed honey ale served in cans with the Rockville Links logo. The beehives have a subsidiary purpose: Through annual pollen catch studies, scientists can determine

which potentially harmful toxins the bees have encountered in their daily journeys. They've found almost none from the golf course, but plenty from the backyards of houses in surrounding neighborhoods.

"When I hear people argue that golf courses aren't good for the community," Knutson said, "I ask them, 'If not a golf course, what should be here? More condos? More concrete and asphalt?' We're surrounded by development, and the green space this course provides is incredibly valuable."

.....

No matter how many birdhouses, beehives, and natural areas golf courses install, the most critical way for them to be good neighbors is by carefully controlling inputs: water, fertilizer, pesticides, and fungicides. "Since the 1990s, the biggest advance has been improvements in the products golf

uses," said Kimberly Erusha, a private consultant who spent 28 years with the USGA's Green Section, including a nine-year stint as its managing director that ended in 2019. Today's insecticides and fungicides contain a fraction of the active ingredients they did 30 years ago, and they're more effective, shorter-lived, and less toxic. Focused research in the last two decades has shown exactly how much product is required to maintain healthy turf—and it's a lot less than grounds crews used to think.

Application is also more precise these days. Best practices call for grounds crews to carefully scout for insects and fungus before applying any product, to use as little as possible and only when and where absolutely necessary—ideally, in the case of fungicides, in preventive formulations before outbreaks are likely to occur based on information from prior years. About 20 percent of Met Area courses at present have invested in GPS-equipped sprayers, a high-tech way to reduce the amount of chemicals applied. Each nozzle on these pull-behind sprayers is individually controlled using satellite location sensors so that the product is applied exactly to the shape of, say, an oval tee box or a free-form green, the borders of which have been carefully mapped out by grounds crews.

Golf's change in environmental direction can be traced back to 1996, when a rump committee affiliated with the USGA published a report called "Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States." The report's main focus was water—keeping it clean and using less—and water

### The MGA Arthur P. Weber Environmental Award

The award, presented annually at the MGA's Green Chair Seminar to a club with a distinguished record in environmental leadership, is named after the former MGA president who wrote an Environmental Code of Conduct for golf course maintenance at his home club of Old Westbury. Weber's code is still followed today, nearly two decades later.

2007 Trump National GC-Bedminster	2015 Neshanic Valley Golf Course
2008 Sebonack Golf Club	2016 Whippoorwill Club
2009 Westchester Country Club	2017 Newton Country Club
2010 GlenArbor Golf Club	2018 Bethpage State Park
2011 Round Hill Club	2019 Fairview Country Club
2012 Rockland Country Club	2020 The Stanwich Club
2013 Wee Burn Country Club	2021 Pelham Country Club
2014 Manhattan Woods Golf Club	2022 Rockville Links Club





Above: A beehive at Rockville Links provides the honey for the club's custom Honey Ale. Below right: Expanded wetlands at Pelham have greatly reduced flooding on the course.

remains a lightning rod issue even here in the northeast where it is more plentiful than in many parts of the country.

A dozen years ago, when the Maidstone Club on eastern Long Island proposed a new irrigation system to water its fairways for the first time in club history, opposition was fearsome – from members and from the surrounding village. The members worried that the irrigation would be used to make Maidstone's fairways lush and green; links courses are designed to play firm and fast, with crispy brown tints to the turf in summer, and members wanted to keep it that way. The club assured them its purpose was to keep the fairway grass healthy and to have better control over maintenance practices.

"When you lose a bit of turf and throw down some seed that needs to germinate, or when you put down certain applications that require watering in, it's a challenge to rely only on Mother Nature," said John Genovesi, Maidstone's superintendent. "I hate to throw weathermen under the bus, but they're not right very often." If the forecast quarter-inch of rain falls as predicted immediately after fertilization, great; if instead the storm dumps two inches of rain on the course, the fertilizer is lost and some of it may wash into surrounding bodies of water.

It took several years for Maidstone to get its new irrigation system approved by the

East Hampton Village Zoning Board of Appeals. At numerous open meetings, residents disputed the club's "dubious assumptions" about the system, which would include a new pond and a third well. They claimed it would flush toxins into nearby wetlands and Hook Pond, which borders the course; deplete ground water in the summer when residents need it the most; have a negative impact on birds and amphibians; and increase noise pollution from a new pump house at the pond. The Board ultimately commissioned a full-scale environmental impact study to resolve the controversies. Among other findings, that study concluded that animal waste and septic systems from nearby residences were

the main causes of Hook Pond's pollution, not the club's maintenance activities. The irrigation system was approved.

Genovesi is philosophical. "People who take the time to look into the science are often surprised to learn the lengths that golf courses go to be sustainable," he said. "At the end of the day, it's unfortunate that it cost the club more time and resources than it should have, but if it put everyone's mind at ease, it was worth the vetting."

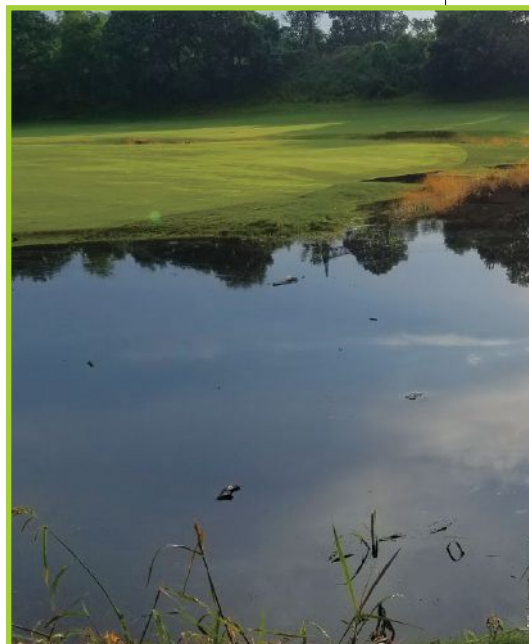
Judicious watering is among the highest priorities for every superintendent in the Met Area, especially in mid-summer when supplies can run low. Technology is helping: some advanced clubs use moisture meters to determine precisely where water is needed at any given moment and where it isn't, and deliver that water through sprinkler heads that can be individually controlled by computer from a central location. Single lines of sprinkler heads down the middle of a fairway that all go on and off at the same time are mostly a thing of the past.

Smart watering is closely tied to the challenge of keeping water resources chemical-free. High vegetative buffer zones around water features are *de rigueur* at most courses; the zones protect against careless application and also absorb nutrients or chemicals that may wash down from maintained areas of the course after overwatering or unusually heavy rainfall.

Contrary to what skeptics believe, golf course turf is actually a terrific biological filter. "I don't know of a single course where the water leaving the property isn't cleaner than when it enters," said Dave Oatis, who spent thirty years as regional director of the USGA's Green Section in the northeast and

is now an agronomic consultant to the MGA and Met Area clubs. Scientific research clearly backs up this claim: The water that arrives at golf courses in streams or as storm runoff after traveling through city streets, gutters, and storm drains is often highly polluted. Healthy golf turf filters this water when it's pumped from collection ponds onto the course, sometimes more than once when that water winds up back in the pond and is reused, as happens at many courses. At responsible courses, ground crews regularly test water quality both in ponds and at places where water exits the course, and make corrections if things are out of balance. Studies have also determined that when properly applied, the active ingredients in today's golf course fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides do not penetrate deeply enough to contaminate ground water. And superintendents make sure that these products are properly applied, both because not doing so would put their state certification at risk and because they tend to be environmentalists to begin with. "The love of nature, of being outdoors – that's why most supers go into this business," Oatis said.

Another step to protect water quality that many clubs are making – including Stanwich in Connecticut, the 2020 Weber Award winner – is big-dollar investments in environmentally friendly maintenance sheds. The inputs used on golf courses are handled and loaded in maintenance areas, making those areas potentially toxic. Sophisticated wash pads, where mowers







Above: The par-three 15th.  
Below: The Main Clubhouse and Tuxedo Lake.

father's designs but Tuxedo was special, he said. "When I was younger, I remember my father's excitement when he was given the opportunity to design the golf course for The Tuxedo Club. Dad knew that he had a wonderful site from which to work. The setting and flow of the holes were ideal for the creation of a golf course that would stand the test of time."

Outside of re-doing the ninth hole and adding a short game practice area, the main thrust of the work focused on the surrounds – improving the bunkers and repositioning the fairway bunkers for the modern game. Several drainage problems were also addressed, all under the watchful eye of Casey Klossner, the club's director of agronomy.

The result is a very playable but deceptively difficult golf course that continues to provide a stiff test for the best players at 6807 yards from the tips.

"People love the variety of the golf course. They never get tired of playing day after day," said former

MGA executive director Jay Mottola, a member since 1980 and the 1981 and 1990 club champ. "And it's a great championship test. If you look at some of the black tees, it's difficult. The Met Open was at Tuxedo, Bethpage Black, and Winged Foot in nearly consecutive years (1999-2002) and roughly the same score won at all three places. Only a few guys broke par."

Mottola began caddying at Tuxedo when he was 14 years old along with his childhood friend David Fay. Fay, who went on to become executive director of the USGA, began looping at Tuxedo at age 11; Mottola and Fay both worked on the grounds crew when they were teenagers.

"Having help run championships for so long, the greens complexes are in my mind what sets courses apart," Mottola said. "At Tuxedo there are multiple positions on virtually every green that provide great hole locations. You can make it very simple or you can make it very challenging without being unfair. The golf course is really, really good."

Tuxedo currently has 452 total members. Uniquely, both golf and racquets members are full-time members even though they don't always overlap. That makes for a less-congested golf course. The club has a caddie program but also provides pull carts. In general, the rules are more relaxed than at other country clubs.

St. John has been at Tuxedo since 2018 after several previous stops, and he says he's found a home.

"This other stuff is great... we have a great golf course and unique racquet sports," he said. "But if you don't have nice members, it's a long day. Life's too short, you don't want to be around jerks. There's a nice mix of people here and that's what makes the difference." ■



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# Listen And Learn

**World-Class Architect  
Ron Garl Knows What  
Owners Want, Need In A  
Golf Course Design**



**By Bill Doyle**

*(Reprinted with permission from New England Golf)*

Over the past 50 years, Ron Garl has designed or remodeled close to 300 golf courses worldwide with emphasis on worldwide.

He's worked on courses in China, Thailand, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, the Czech Republic and Nigeria.

He's also designed or remodeled courses in Puerto

Rico and 18 states in the U.S., including more than 100 in his home state of Florida, second most in the Sunshine State to Tom Fazio.

Mohegan Sun Golf Club, however, is the first course he's remodeled or designed in New England.

Garl met Mohegan Sun GC vice president and general manager Philip Krick Jr. 20 years ago in Costa Rica when Krick was a golf pro in that country.

A handful of years ago, Krick approached Garl about building an additional nine holes at Mohegan



Sun GC. That project hasn't happened yet, but Krick recommended Garl to remodel the existing 18 holes.

"Obviously," Krick said, "Ron is one of the most reputable golf course architects in the world. What impressed me with Ron is his approach to projects. He truly wants to understand the ownership's interests and goals. It's not about Ron's ego. It's really about the success of a project and development. He understands the big picture."

Unlike the case with some other well known golf course architects, there is no typical Garl design. Each design is different and fits the landscape.

"Mother Nature is the best architect there is," he said.

He believes that a golf course should "sit softly on the land." He doesn't try to bulldoze everything.

"Once in a while I get a great site and I do my best not to mess it up," he said.

Garl also believes in environmentally friendly projects that maximize and enhance the land's natural characteristics. Due to his environmental work, in 1995 the Indian River Club in Vero Beach, Fla., was the first course to receive Audubon

International's highest award, the Audubon Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Status.

Garl understands the goals of golf course owners because he owns two golf courses and owned six at one time. He's also a passionate golfer.

Garl was once a scratch golfer who won a number of local events in Florida when he was young. His brother, Richard, became a club pro in Florida, but he preferred working on the grounds crew. He grew up close to a golf course and he mowed greens as a teenager and fell in love with it. Then he got into design.

Maybe most important of all, Garl listens to his customers.

"We listen a lot," he said. "Unfortunately, most people in the golf business don't listen enough. Let's listen to what the players want."

Garl meets with men's groups and women's groups at clubs to learn which improvements they'd prefer. He makes golf courses more enjoyable and fun to play because market studies have shown that's what most golfers want.

"Long, hard and mean," Garl said. "That was the Pete Dye era, but that is dead and gone."

This will be the second winter that Garl will renovate Mohegan Sun GC, which is located about a 20-minute drive from the casino and hosts 26,000 rounds a year. He's removing some fairway bunkers that penalized only high handicappers and some other bunkers from in front of greens to make them more accessible for the average players. He's raising some bunkers that were too deep and renovating every bunker on the course.

"We've made it so that people play faster, make it more enjoyable and people will want to come back," he said. "That's what golf is really about today."

This winter he plans to build new, less sloped greens on the third and 12th holes. Garl was at Mohegan Sun GC this week and he expects to finish his work by the spring of

2024.

At the University of Florida, he received a Bachelor of Science degree with a specialization in turf grass and in 2003 he received the university's Distinguished Alumnus Award. He earned the first full-ride college scholarship from the Florida State Golf Association and went on to serve as the association's youngest president in 1979.

In addition to his design work, Garl has been a longtime visiting professor at the University of Florida and he's also taught in Costa Rica, Colombia and China.

"I love teaching," he said, "because you get to share your experience. Most people learn out of a book and most teachers don't have real world experience."

Tiger Woods earned his first international victory





in 1998 in the Johnnie Walker Classic on a course Garl built from scratch in Thailand, the Alpine Golf and Sports Club. Woods played in the event in part because his mother, Kultida, was born and raised in Thailand.

When it was suggested that Woods owes his success to him, Garl laughed and replied, “He had a little bit of talent.”

This year, two prestigious events were held at courses Garl designed in Fort Myers, Fla. In February, the LPGA Tour held a tournament at Crown Colony Golf and CC and last month the U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur was contested at Fiddlesticks CC.

Garl is proud that the PGA Tour, LPGA Tour, PGA Tour Champions and PGA Tour Canada have held events on 36 of his golf courses.

In the first year after he renovated the Links Course

at Longboat Key Resort Club near Sarasota, Fla., in 2015, 155 new members signed up and each paid a \$100,000 initiation fee. That amounted to \$15.5 million for the club before annual dues were even paid.

His successful career has enabled him to afford his own airplane. One night in the 1980s he flew over Grenelefe Golf and Tennis Resort in Haines City, Fla., and he radioed a friend who shined his car lights onto the driving range so he could land on it.

“The next day when I went back and looked at it, I said, ‘I’ll never do that again,’” he said with a laugh.

Pautipaug CC was designed by Geoffrey Cornish and opened in 1960. Mohegan Sun Casino bought it in 2008 and renovations by Robert McNeil were completed by 2011. Garl is the first to remodel the course since.





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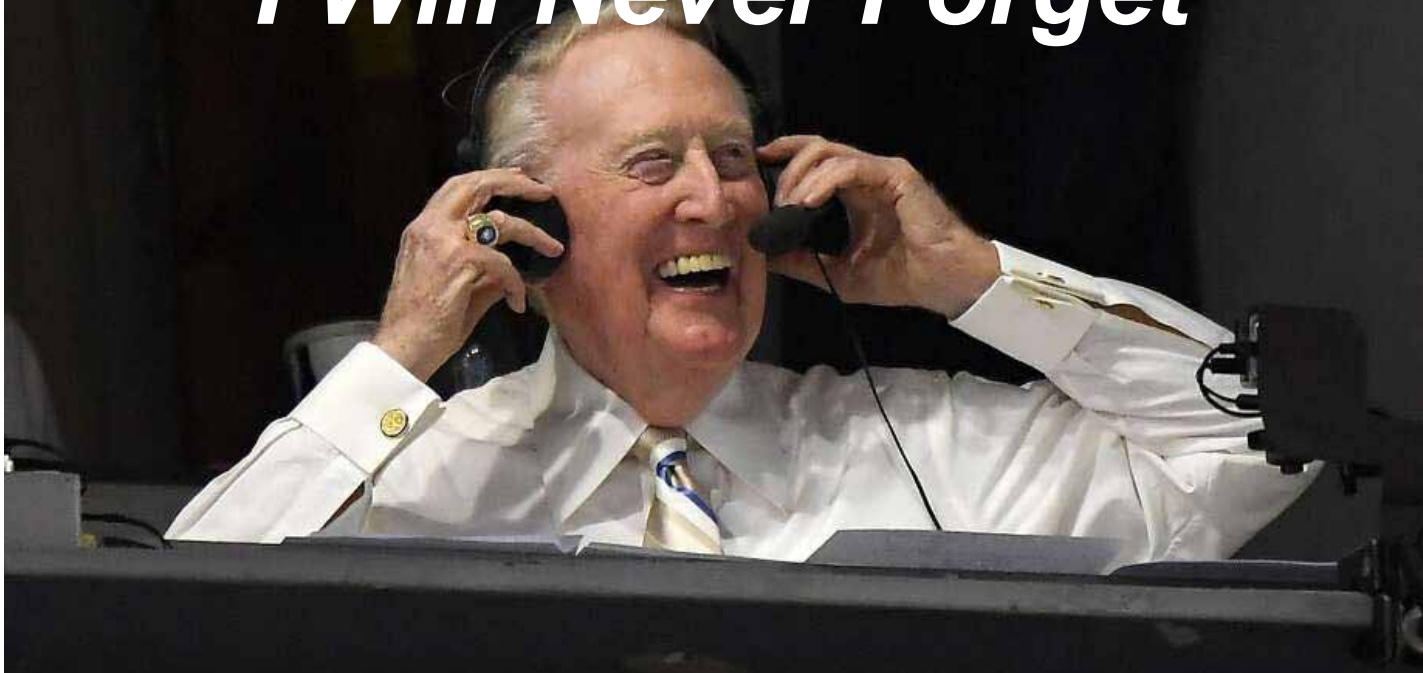
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# A Christmas Phone Call I Will Never Forget



**By Adam Schupak**

*(Reprinted from Golfweek/USA Today)*

Vin Scully called me on Christmas.

Sure, I had sent him an email interview request hours earlier on Christmas Eve, but it never crossed my mind that he would phone me during the biggest day of the NBA season.

Hearing the sad news that Scully died Tuesday at age 94 made me think back (and dig up our interview transcript) to an occasion that to me said so much about the person he was. Scully may have been synonymous with baseball and the Los Angeles Dodgers, but he broadcast professional golf, too, first for CBS – including the Masters eight times from 1975-1982 – and then with NBC from 1983-1989, where he partnered in the 18th-hole tower with Lee Trevino.

As much as I would have loved to listen to him speak for hours on baseball, it was his time in golf that I was asking him to reminisce about. I had forgotten about this until I did an email search, but the person who shared with me Scully's contact information (and shall remain nameless) gave it to me on Aug. 13, or more than four months before Christmas. No phone number but an email address – I guess at this point I'm not revealing too much by saying his email started red@ – and a fax number. Who still had a fax? Apparently, Vin did! I never faxed

him but now that I think of it, I wish I had just to say I did.

This was some quality procrastination from mid-August to late December, even for me, but sounds about right – have a direct line to the man, the myth, the legend Vin Scully and wait until most of the Catholic world was at a midnight mass service to bother writing him for an interview.

Santa could not have given me a better gift than a call from Vin had jolly Saint Nick landed his sleigh on the roof of my downtown Orlando condo and dumped out a bag of toys. The year was 2013, and while the specifics are a bit vague, I think I had seen a movie earlier that day and was watching the NBA in the late afternoon before dinner with my parents when I answered the phone and heard his unmistakable voice.

I may have procrastinated on writing him, but I had prepped several questions and I scrambled to pull them up on my laptop and fumbled to find my digital recorder. Again, who calls a total stranger on Christmas and sits for a lengthy phone interview? Vin Scully, that's who!

I'm not going to post the full transcript of the interview, but here are a few things he said about Trevino, a partner he considered a true friend, that stuck out:

"Most people think of Lee Trevino they think of a talkative, outgoing, happy-go-lucky type of guy. He's like so many people, he's misunderstood," Scully said. "He's

an intelligent, sensitive human being. Very bright. We'd sit on the tower and talk about the world events. He had a delightful laugh that everybody loved, but he's far more than that delightful jokester.

"I marveled at a few things about him. Lee told me one time that he never had a cavity. As someone who has what I call Irish teeth, he had beautiful teeth," Scully continued. "His eyesight was remarkable. I don't know what it would be if he read the charts but we would in the tower on a par 5, so it's a long hole, and then we would be 20 yards away from the green, and he would watch somebody hit off the tee and he'd say he blocked the shot. He had the eyesight of Chuck Yeager. It was incredible."

"Once in a while I had the pleasure of playing with him," he told me. "I never asked him anything. At my best, I was a 12 handicap. I'm left-handed. So occasionally we'd be on the range and we'd be facing each other and I'd just marvel at him. He might say something like, 'Vinny, you're choking the club to death. Relax.' Then I'd start hitting a few balls very well and he'd say, 'OK, let's go.' We'd walk 100 yards to the tee and I'd go right back to being what I am, which is hopeless. It was a great privilege to watch him shape shots. Remarkable."

I asked him to describe how Trevino prepped for a broadcast, and his response was telling about how he went about doing his job and what made him so great. "Technically, in any sport, I always assumed I was the reporter answering the question who, what, where and when but the how – that key word – that belonged to the analyst. I would talk about score, where they are today, the shot, the club, the distance and then get out of the way to allow Lee to give the analysis. I would sit at his feet almost like a child and listen to his explanation of why these things occurred."

I could go on but this final anecdote he shared is arguably my favorite, because it combined golf and baseball and two athletes that captured the attention of the sporting public.

"There was a wonderful golf writer in England named Bernard Darwin," Scully began. "He talked about a player that was out of sight in a tournament and then won. He referred to the fact that the golfer had come from the back of beyond. I thought that was such a remarkable phrasing. I used it with Fernando Valenzuela, the Mexican left-hander, who really came from the back of beyond to become more than a hero. I felt that Lee was the same. He came from the back of beyond. He came from hitting golf balls with branches in the cemetery."

At this point we had talked for 25 minutes and I had exhausted my questions and he had told one gem of a story after another. However, I didn't really want to hang up. I had the great Vin on the line and I didn't want this moment to end. I had a pretty good idea that this was go-



ing to be a one-and-done for me. But before I could start vamping, he said, "I hope that helps a little bit, Adam. I've got family here and I did want to do it before I got overwhelmed."

I suddenly felt like the worst person in the world. It's Christmas Day, Vin's family is over and I'm keeping him from having a glass of eggnog with his wife and kids to do the most-non-deadline of non-deadline interviews you can imagine.

I wished him happy holidays, and that was the extent of my dealings with him, but it left a lasting impression that someone as famous as he would drop everything – even on Christmas Day – to do an interview for a sport he hadn't covered in over 20 years.

To me, it spoke to Scully's character and was just a small reason he was such a beloved figure in sports. I loved listening to him call a game before, but after our Christmas Day interview he had secured a permanent space in the upper tier of my sports broadcasting firmament. Vin Scully was pure class in my book, and I can't help but think of him every year on Christmas Day.

# Nevada Golfer Crowned World Champion In Myrtle Beach World Am

Terry Ream (Reno, Nev.) shot a net 71 (gross 74) to win the Flight Winners' Playoff at the 39th Annual PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Handicap Championship in September at TPC Myrtle Beach.

Ream finished one shot ahead of Chris Hebert (Picayune, Miss.), who carded net 72. Hebert fired a gross 82.

David Hunt (Orlando, Fla.) fired a 74 to best Danny Oh (Lewisville, Texas) and win the Men's Gross Division title in an 18-hole playoff.

Steve Crossland (Houston, Texas) shot a 288 to beat Russell Burnham (Dallas, Texas) by eight shots en route to victory in the Men's Senior Gross Division.

Mike Bivins (Boynton Beach, Fla.) finished three shots ahead of Charles Wilson (Cartersville, Ga.) to capture the Men's Mid-Senior Gross Division crown.

Alexis Bennett (Santee, S.C.) finished with a four-round total of 297, six strokes better than second-place Jill Pilkington (Lincoln, Neb.) to win the Women's Gross Division title.

Keener and Matt Thurman (Rocky Mount, Va.) combined to win the Casa de Campo Pairs Competition. By virtue of winning, the pair received a 4-day, 3-night stay at luxurious Casa de Campo with unlimited golf.

Entry into the event, which included at least four rounds of golf, nightly admission to the World's Largest 19th Hole and a gift bag, was \$699.

The World Am placed players into 11 divisions – men 49 and under, senior men (50-59), mid-senior men (60-69), super senior men (70-79), seasoned seniors (80+), women 59 and under, senior women (60+), the gross division, senior (50+) gross division, mid-senior (60+) gross division, and women's gross division. There is also a "Just For Fun" flight, created for players who want to enjoy the World Am experi-



ence without the pressure of competition.

After four days of play, all flight winners and ties advanced to the World Championship Playoff at TPC Myrtle Beach, an 18-hole shootout that crowns the event's winner. A Tom Fazio/Lanny Wadkins design, TPC Myrtle Beach has long been ranked among the best public courses in all of the golf-rich Palmetto State.

While the competition is initially what lures players to the tournament, it's only part of what keeps them coming back. At the heart of the World Am's appeal is the camaraderie among its participants and much of that kinship is fostered at the World's Largest 19th Hole.

Each night of the event, the 19th Hole overtakes all 120,000 square feet of the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, providing participants with free food and drinks, live entertainment, celebrity guest appearances, a golf expo and more.



# ING At The World Am



# Blue Tees Golf's Player Pack: 4 Products, 1 Package

The Blue Tees Golf team has won awards creating individual, value-laden golf accessories. Now they have turned their creativity toward the packaging, combining several of the products into the Player Pack.

Built for value and ideal for gifting, The Player Pack is a limited-edition box set containing four of the brand's most popular products: Series 3 Max rangefinder; Player magnetic speaker; Magnetic hub; 6-in-1 divot tool

"In The Player Pack, we've bundled our flagship distance measuring device, Series 3 Max, with our recently launched Player speaker and two of our most popular accessories, creating the perfect holiday gift and bringing unmatched value to our customers," said Blue Tees Golf CEO Chris Markham.

The Series 3 Max laser rangefinder features an adaptive slope switch, built-in magnet, Auto-Ambient Display, advanced flag lock and pulse vibration, 900-yard range, and a weatherproof case.

The Player magnetic speaker delivers superior sound, dual pairing, 100 ft Bluetooth range, IPX-7 waterproof durability, and a power bank — and can be used on or off

the course with indoor and outdoor modes.

The MagHub, the central hub for all Blue Tees' magnetic products, is engineered to slide onto the golf bag and connects the Series 3 Max rangefinder and Player speaker quickly and easily. The MagHub is designed with the company's classic lined grip encasing and heavy-duty steel plate.

The 6-in-1 divot repair tool is a premium divot tool that comes equipped with a ball marker, groove cleaner, club tee, and bottle opener.

The limited-edition Player Pack will be available at [www.blueteesgolf.com](http://www.blueteesgolf.com), Dick's Sports Goods / Golf Galaxy, PGA Tour Superstore, and over 1,000 green grass locations this fall through the holiday season.



## Zero Friction's B-52 Provides Distance, Value

Like the great B-52 bomber plane, golfers can now experience the explosive power of the Zero Friction B-52 Distance Golf Ball.

Zero Friction, the company known for delivering cutting edge products to golf enthusiasts of all skill levels, designed the B-52 designed with a 392 dimple pattern to create less spin and dispersion than a traditional 496 dimple ball. This 20% reduction in dimple pattern generates greater ball velocity and reduces spin resulting in longer drives.

"The goal was to build a high-quality distance ball in a value pack so we made this 15-ball package," said Zero



Friction Founder & CEO, John Iacono. "To sum it up -- more distance and more balls for a reasonable price."

Combined with the Zero Friction 3-prong tee, which reduces 66% tee surface coverage, distance and accuracy will be your weapon. The 392 dimple

pattern also rolls smoother on the green for more accurate putts. The B-52 Bomber's 2-piece construction travels up to five yards longer 85 compression outer core shallow 392 dimple pattern allows for less friction in the air and on the green. [www.zerofriction.com](http://www.zerofriction.com).



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# Proud 90 Is Not Your Father's Golf Polo



The “Official Apparel Company” of the upcoming ING Fall Forum in Sebring is not exactly your traditional golf clothing company. But with bright colors, exciting designs and quality material, Proud 90 is making its mark on the golf industry.

From the company: “Like blowing out an ever-growing number of candles on your birthday cake, we’ve come to realize that the tally after 18 is just a number. We’re dedicated to the good times it takes to accumulate that number and what follows afterwards.

“No matter what your handicap, we take pride in making the most comfortable and best-fitting polos on the market. Match that quality of construction with eye-catching designs and you’ll never feel pigeonholed by the number on your scorecard again.”



## Tour Edge Introduces New Hot Launch Series Of Clubs

Tour Edge recently introduced the new Hot Launch 523 Series of golf clubs.

The 523 Series offers two distinct ranges, the E523 and C523. They are designed to cover both ends of the Super-Game-Improvement and Game-Improvement club categories in separate driver, fairway, hybrid, iron, and wedge designs.

Both the Extreme (E) and Competition (C) ranges are designed to produce different playing characteristics targeting a specific player looking for game-enhancing qualities.

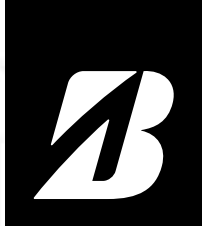
The E range are Extreme Spec Super-Game-Improvement clubs that boast an extremely low Center of Gravity (CG), super-shallow faces, and offset designs designed to get the ball launching in the air with ease.

The C range features premium Competition Spec

Game-Improvement designs with a higher Moment of Inertia (MOI) in classically shaped clubs that sit square at address, while providing the ability to launch the ball with added forgiveness and power.

The 523 series is the 7th iteration of the best-selling Hot Launch line. Each iteration has raised the standard of excellence for mid-tier price point golf clubs in the golf industry.

“One of the biggest reasons Hot Launch has been such a successful endeavor for us has been our ability to simplify and take custom fitting to the mainstream,” said Tour Edge founder and President David Glod. “Hot Launch custom fitting has increased 700% over the years and I feel we have created a space that did not exist before for budget-minded golfers to consider the custom fit process.”

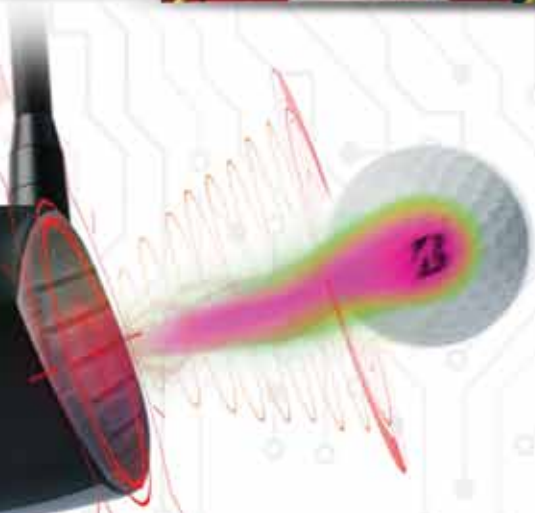


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**- TIGER WOODS**



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# A Game Divided

Digging golf out of one of its trickiest holes.

**T**hese are grave times in golf. The world is divided with passionate opinions on both sides of a very serious and complicated issue.

The divot rule.

What did you think I was talking about?

The original 13 Rules of Golf were drafted in 1744 by The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers. I have tried my hardest — admittedly, I'm not the sharpest tool in the shed — but nowhere in those 338 words do I find an instruction that if you hit the ball into a man-made crater in the fairway, you should be compelled to “play it as it lies.”

Just about everybody I've played with ignores the rule, rolls it out of fairway divots, then turns in their score with a clear conscience.

Is everybody cheating? I don't think so. If a piece of the course falls into a state of disrepair, there's a provision in the rules that it can be marked as “ground under repair” and free relief granted. In other words, if a mower goes rogue and gouges the short stuff into oblivion, it's ok (if the blemish is acknowledged) to give the player who lands in it a drop ... but if that same player just misses the sprinkler line and ends up in a crater from Uncle Cyrus's L wedge, he's out of luck?

**“I don't like a golfer being penalized after a good shot.”**

—Jack Nicklaus

Seems kind of arbitrary to me. No, let me take that back. Seems kind of stupid.

No less a figure than Jack Nicklaus agrees. “There are only a couple of rules in the game of golf that I have questioned,” he told me, “and one would be hitting a tee shot in the fairway, having it land in a sand-filled divot, and not getting relief. I don't like a golfer being penalized after a good shot. At my Florida home club, The Bear's Club, we allow players to take a free drop out of sand-filled divots in the fairway. It's the fair thing to do.”

Golf has evolved to the point where we can fix spike and ball marks on the green, and that's not all. “You can take rocks out of a bunker, you can ground your club in a hazard now. When you consider all those things, you'd have to wonder why not divots in the fairway next?” says my friend Jeff Holzschuh, who's a member of the MGA board and who loves the game as much as anyone I know.

Funny thing, though, is that as much as all us golf-obsessed hobbyists might like to do away with the rule, the people for whom the game is a livelihood generally feel the other way.

“If you hit it in the rough, there's no guarantee you're going to get a bad lie,” says Stephen Cox, senior tournament director for the PGA Tour and a Rules official since 1997, “and if you hit it in the fairway, there's no guarantee you're going to get a good lie. Golf is a game about dealing with adversity. Things were never meant to be ‘perfect.’”

“Landing in a divot,” says David Feherty, “that's just golf. I think the more skilled players would be universally in agreement: play it as it lies. It gives them an advantage.”

Exhibit A: At this year's Travelers Championship in Hartford, Sahith Theegala was tied for the lead when he hit his drive straight down the middle of the 17th fairway ... and into a divot. Theegala then gouged the ball onto the green, made birdie, and took the lead. Summoning the extraordinary skill to play the hole successfully separated Theegala from the field — at least until he double-bogeyed the next hole to lose by two.

Maybe the answer is the dreaded “B” word: bifurcation. One set of rules for the pros, and another set for us *provolones*?

I don't know what the answer is, but maybe in my lifetime, or that of my kids, the two sides will come together on the issue. I hope so. Life is complicated; golf shouldn't be.

I mean, can you imagine? Something in *golf* that divides us like this?

It'll never happen. ■



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### ING CONNECTION

**Tony Leodora**, Traveling Golfer founder and show host, and **Jeff Gilder**, an industry veteran in digital media, communications and marketing, have joined forces on the award-winning TV show, with Gilder coming aboard as a managing partner. His company, Zeus Digital Marketing, is based in Myrtle Beach and has been an industry leader since 2006.

In addition, Jeff's son, Dustin Gilder, has increased his role with the Traveling Golfer team. Dustin has been producing many episodes of the show in recent years, and now he takes over as Executive Producer and will handle a vast majority of production duties for the show.

"This new partnership was made in heaven," said Leodora. "I have known Jeff for many years. We have worked together as members of the International Network of Golf and on its Advisory Board. We have a very similar view of how to bring our viewers to the world's most amazing golf destinations, through the magic of television."

**The PGA Show**, celebrating its 70th year when it returns to Orlando, Jan. 24-27, 2023, is attracting renewed participation to golf's largest global business gathering

and is offering new innovations and technology to build on the event enhancements introduced at the 2022 PGA Show.

A strong response from returning and new companies has driven participation comparisons to near pre-pandemic levels with exhibitors securing premium Show floor locations early and creating fresh brand activations to facilitate sourcing, education and valuable relationship-building with PGA Professionals and buyers during the 2023 PGA Show.

In 2023, the PGA of America and PGA Golf Exhibitions are building upon previous enhancements by introducing:

- The return of the biennial PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit, introduction of a golf industry career fair and an industry-collaborative launch of a golf leadership summit.
- Technology driven exhibitor tools to provide data-driven performance insights, buyer incentives, sales leads and greater brand visibility.
- Technology driven attendee resources to impact product discovery, testing and purchasing, educational access, registration, and planning/logistics.
- Additional Show Floor improvements including enhancements to the Equipment Test Center, an expanded Golf Travel pavilion, additional golf

fitness programming and the introduction of a new Club Amenities pavilion.

It was a winning weekend in mid-October for **Bridgestone Golf**, as both Fred Couples and Lexi Thompson came up with impressive victories playing the TOUR B golf balls that fit their game.

In Couple's case it was the TOUR B RXS that got the job done at the SAS Championship at Prestonwood CC. He finished with a 12-under-par 60 for a 20-under-par total.

Thompson played the TOUR B RX in winning the ARAMCO Team Series event in New York with an 11-under-par finish. Each player took advantage of Bridgestone Golf's innovative technologies to get fit for their respective model.

Congratulations to Ally McDonald Ewing on her final round 65 to claim her third LPGA title recently at the Kroger Queen City Championship.

**Putting Arc** co-inventor VJ Trolie and short game teacher Tim Yelverton have been her instructors at Old Waverly throughout her high school, college and pro careers. Five of the top seven finishers at the Kroger are present or past Putting Arc users.

## REMEMBERING A FRIEND

By **MIKE KERN**

He's a good guy.

It's a phrase we all toss around a lot, maybe too much. Yet it's used with the best of intentions, to describe someone who just seems to do things the right way and makes the world around him seem a little bit better simply for him being there.

That's Bob Oliver, who we lost in early August at the age of 70 following a battle with cancer. And yes, I've been forced to say goodbye to way too many good people this year, many of them with ties to the ING. Maybe it's the price you pay for

getting older, as the late great Temple coach John Chaney always used to tell me.

Our paths first crossed some four decades ago when Bob worked at the Bucks County Courier and I was starting

out at the Philly Daily News. Then his career path changed and we lost touch for a while. That changed when I went to my first ING Spring Conference, in 1999 in Daytona Beach, and he was there too, as President of ING. It felt good to reconnect. We shared some memories and made some new ones. And it became an annual thing that I very much looked forward to at subsequent ING's, most notably several at Pinehurst, where we were part of a house not far from the clubhouse at Mid Pines that can only be described as something that John Belushi would have appreciated.

I never remember being around Bob when we didn't have a good

time. He was always fun to play with, even if he was usually a lot better than his handicap might indicate. One year, at the GWAA tournament in Myrtle Beach, Bob and I somehow managed to tie for the low net first prize. Neither of us knew where we stood when we walked off the last green. When they told us we had to have a playoff, we looked at each other and said no way. There was going to be co-champs that year. I think we both somehow felt better that we had tied than if one of us had won by himself.

Over the years we played in the same scramble group at the media day for the LPGA's Shop-Rite Classic at Seaview outside Atlantic City. By request. And we had a blast. It wasn't about the competition. It was about catching up all over again. And it never got old.

Of course there were other ING's. The one in AC, I even stayed at his house in beautiful downtown Strathmere. And who can forget the one in Utah, where he and Teddy Raymond and Eddie Caiazzo (among others) saved one of our nights by keeping the music and alcohol flowing. It was an all-timer that we didn't want to ever end.

Last year, I found out his wife Ellen had the onset of dementia. We played a round of golf together at the Jersey Shore and he brought her to ride around with him. Then came the news that Bob had his own health issues. You try to find the right words to say, but there really

I got to know Bob Oliver through the International Network of Golf. He was a loyal and productive member of ING, for which he served as president in the mid-90s. He was a multi-talented human being, succeeding in a variety of business endeavors, and often spoke of enjoying the time he shared with his son Liam in the hockey arena.

A fond personal memory came on July 4th in 1995, when Bob and I were caught in a thunderstorm at Alaqua Country Club in Lake Mary. We rode it out for about 45 minutes in a rest area after the old fifth hole there, sharing stories and learning more about each other. When the skies cleared, my next swing turned into my only hole-in-one ever. Bob was as thrilled as I was.

Bob was a wonderful guy. Prayers to him and his family.

— *Mike Jamison*

are none. That's the hardest part for friends. But this spring, I got to play with him for, as it would turn out, one last time. His son Liam, who lives in California but had come home to help care for his parents, had driven him up from Virginia. Bob was using a cane. He couldn't hit shots but he could still putt. He said it was the first time he'd even walked on a course for some time. At one point he told me his friend Steve, whom I knew, had recently passed away suddenly. And we both cried. Bob had to give the eulogy. Then he told me how much it meant for him to be there. And we made plans to do it again a few months later at an annual media event at Forsgate in central Jersey. I even brought him a shirt with his second-place gift certificate, since he'd left early and missed lunch. But I never got the chance to give it to him. He never made it to Forsgate, and was taken from us not long after. The shirt will always have a place in my closet, as an enduring reminder of someone who can't be replaced.

I hope he's in a better place. I'm confident that wherever that is, he will make it better. Good guy? Nah, he was more than that. Which will only make me miss him more. I know I will not be alone.







# PARTING SHOT



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