



NYSGA NEWS

The Newsletter of the New York State Golf Association

Spring 2007

President's Message

As I enter my second year as president of the NYSGA, I am pleased with the efforts we have put forth to reach out to all golfers in New York State. From improvements in electronic communications on the web, to new and diverse methods of offering handicaps to all players, to tweaking the formats and procedures of the various tournaments, we are at your service. Spearheading these efforts is Bill Moore, Executive Director, who constantly evaluates what is in place and searches for new ways to improve your tournaments.



We have a solid staff of volunteer officials possessing knowledge of the rules as well as the game, always ready to assist you. They are the strength of our association. I look forward to working along side them at our championships this year.

Sadly, we recently lost two important committee people. First, we lost Rhea Archer Hagen, co-chair of the Women's Senior event for many years. Days later Dick Downing passed. Dick was a strong force in Syracuse District, NYSGA and USGA events. He was the president of the State Association when I came on board. He was a mentor to me and will be missed by all. There are further remembrances of them in this issue.

Finally, I urge all of you to get involved in New York State golf, whether as a player or a volunteer or possibly as a new committee member. As always, your input is important. Tune in to the web site or call 888-NYSGA-23.

I'll see you at the golf course.

Robert Biviano

President, NYSGA

NYSGA SCHOLARSHIPS

The following are letters of thanks sent to the NYSGA from scholarship recipients:

Dear Mr. Moore,

I wanted to extend my thanks to you for selecting me for the NYSGA Scholarship for the 2006-2007 school year. This is a great honor to be chosen by your organization. My scholarship will be put to use as I continue through the Professional Golf Management program here at Penn State. Once again, thank you for your selection, have a wonderful year at the NYSGA.

Sincerely, *Timothy Barnard*

Dear Mr. Fust and the NYSGA Scholarship Committee,

Thank you very much for awarding me with the 2006-2007 NYSGA Scholarship. The money will be a great help during my time at college. The scholarship will help me achieve my college degree requirements.

Sincerely, *Sean Coleman*

Dear Mr. Moore,

My name is John Quigley and I am writing this letter to thank you and the New York State Golf Association for granting me the 2006-2007 scholarship. This scholarship means very much to me because it is from an organization that I respect and hope to be involved with in the future. The scholarship also helps financially as it goes toward buying required texts and tuition costs. I am entering the second semester of my junior year at SUNY Delhi and plan to graduate in May of 2008 with a Bachelors in Business Administration; Golf Course Management, Superintendent concentration. The NYSGA has helped me achieve these goals that I have held since my High School career. Again, I would like to thank you, and the NYSGA for providing the support to individuals who are passionate about futures in the golf industry.

Thank you, *John M. Quigley*

Dear Mr. Fust,

Thank you again for the NYSGA scholarship. This scholarship is really helpful for my college career at Methodist University. Methodist has a really enjoyable atmosphere, and I am learning a lot at school. Methodist has continued to provide me with the skills to become a professional in the golfing industry. After my first internship this summer, I learned valuable experience about running a golf course. The internship was my first job at a golf facility. The employment showed me what the real world is like and how to act professionally as a PGA student.

Thank you for choosing me as a recipient of your scholarship. I will continue to study hard until I finish my career at Methodist University.

Sincerely, *Tom Cooper*

The NYSGA awards scholarships to qualified New York State residents matriculated in a two year or four year college or university, studying a specific golf related academic program such as Agronomy, Turfgrass Management or Professional Golf Management. Scholarship information and applications are available on the NYSGA website at <http://www.nysga.org>. For additional information concerning the scholarship program, please contact **Mr. William Moore**, Executive Director, or **Mr. Henry W. Fust**, Scholarship Chairman, NYSGA, P.O. Box 15333, Syracuse, NY, 13215-0333, or by calling toll free at 888-NYSGA-23.

Executive Director's Report

Golf is a rare game where friendships are formed among people of very different ages. Many of my friends in golf are considerably older than I am, and a growing group is much younger. That is the nature of our game...it is rare to find another where age means so little.

In this newsletter, you will read about **Rhea Hagen** and **Dick Downing**, two long time committee members of the NYSGA who passed away this winter. Rhea was a chairwoman for the Senior Women's Championship and a long time committee person in Rochester. Dick was a past president of the NYSGA, SDGA, and ran numerous USGA qualifiers over the years. Dick was involved with golf long before the first NYSGA state championship I played in, the 1990 NYS Junior. Over the years he became a friend and a mentor, and is someone I will miss greatly.

Finally I would like to mention **Len Lasinsky**, the 1983 NYSGA Junior Champion and the 1991 NYSGA Men's Amateur Champion. Len passed away this year at the age of 39, a young man whose life was cut far too short because of lifelong kidney problems that made playing golf tremendously difficult. Probably no one in NYSGA history was so successful while having to overcome so much.

Rhea, Dick, and Len, you will be missed.

Sincerely,



Bill Moore, *Executive Director, NYSGA*



Become a New York State Golf Associate!

Since 1923, the New York State Golf Association has been committed to promoting the game of golf in New York State and to preserving the integrity and true spirit of the game. Today, the NYSGA provides a variety of services to golfers and golf courses, while conducting nine state amateur championships.

You can help the NYSGA by joining as an associate member!

Each Associate will receive:

- An official NYSGA Associate Bag Tag.
- A yearly subscription to the NYSGA News, the official newsletter of the New York State Golf Association. The NYSGA News is a great source for information on amateur golf, tournament information, and tournament schedules.
- Copy of the latest Rules of Golf Booklet.
- The right to play in any of our 9 events, even if you are not a member at one of the 400 NYSGA member clubs!

All for only \$25 – you can help the NYSGA preserve and improve amateur golf in New York State!

Complete and return with check.

Membership Level (Check One)

- Single Membership (\$25)
 Family Membership (\$40)

NYSGA Associates Program

P.O. Box 333 • Syracuse, NY 13215-0333

Make checks payable to:

NYSGA Associates Program

(Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery)

Name: _____

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Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Other Names: _____



NYSGA NEWS

This is the official newsletter of the New York State Golf Association. We welcome your comments, questions, articles and photographs. Please send them to:
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Director's Report - Handicapping/Club Services

By Mark Conradt

This winter sure fooled us with the way it started. I was beginning to think we'd never see snow. Now

I've had my fill of it. As I write this there are signs that spring is just around the corner.

I know some of you spend the winters in areas much warmer than upstate New York. For those of you who belong to golf clubs in those areas as well as in New York and for any of you who belong to more than one club up north, too, my "Golf Handicapping" column this time revolves around correctly managing your USGA Handicap Index in these situations. I hope it is informative.

Our GHIN Handicap Service continues to grow in popularity. At this writing, we have added 16 more Clubs around the state to the

ever growing number using the NYSGA's GHIN Handicap Service. I expect there may be even more by the time the season starts. These clubs are excited about all the things that GHIN can do for them such as, GHIN's national network, national member lookup, eRevisions, eClubhouse, ghin.com and ghinclub.net to name just a few. Another thing I hear from these new clubs is that they are glad to support the NYSGA and thus support golf in New York State by using our service instead of that of some out-of-state software vendor.

This year we are hoping continue to expand our series of regional, one-day, stroke-play tournaments called NYSGA State Days. These events will be open to Men and Women players of all ability levels who belong to clubs who use the GHIN handicap service. They will be flighted and there will be Gross, Net & Skins prizes

awarded in each flight. Please check our Web Site (www.nysga.org) for more information on these exciting events.

In conjunction with the State Days, we are looking into establishing a number of Internet Golf Clubs around the state. These will qualify as Type III clubs under the USGA's new classifications. These clubs will enable players who do not belong to conventional golf clubs to establish a USGA Handicap Index. There are some very strict rules regarding these clubs, which we will honor. Again, please check our Website (www.nysga.org) for more details as they become available.

With everything the NYSGA is doing, 2007 promises to be a very exciting year. If there is any way I can be of assistance to any of you, please don't hesitate to contact me.



New York Alumnus Promoted at Pinehurst

Pinehurst Resort and Country Club recently recognized the extraordinary talents and ability of **Scott Ellender**, a Webster, NY native, when they officially

promoted him to Director of Golf. It is "official" because he had been serving in this capacity since last summer. His responsibilities are extensive including the day to day management of golf operations for eight courses, overseeing all professional staff members, tournament operations and many other administrative duties.

Scott was given the job based on his record of service which was a big reason that, prior to the U.S. Open in 2005, Scott was promoted to Head PGA Professional for Courses 1 through 6. Years ago, in an interview around Open time, Scott gave a great deal of credit to his mentor, PGA Professional Jim Hungerford from Ontario Golf Club near his home town just outside of Rochester. In those early years as an assistant he felt he learned the most about service and customer relations. Many of Jim's assistants have gone on to Head Pro jobs and Ellender says he keeps in touch. Scott is also a product of Methodist University and their famed Professional Golf Management program. He honed his talents working at Kingsmill in Virginia, Medinah Country Club and the Country Club of North Carolina. He was head professional at the Country Club of Hilton Head before taking the Pinehurst 1-6 job.

With their emphasis on customer service and elevating the golf experience for the members, Pinehurst has obviously made a great choice in New York's own Scott Ellender.

2006 Medallion Winners

Last year the NYSGA introduced a new event open to both men and women and including both net and gross champions. The competitions are held at the convenience of the home club and all champions receive an engraved medallion to celebrate their win.

The NYSGA would like to congratulate the following winners of the State Medallion in 2006 at their home club. All NYSGA Member Clubs are eligible to hold these events and information can be found at www.nysga.org or by contacting **Bill Moore** at the NYSGA Office.

<p>Elmira Country Club Tom Reidy Jack Williams Sam Kutchukian Bill McElveney</p> <p>Hoosick Falls Country Club George Smith Art Nash, Jr Celia McEvoy Peg Crossman</p> <p>Saratoga Lake Golf Club Mark Sabatino, Jr. David Coolman</p>	<p>Western Turnpike GC John Reagan Larry Winslow Elaine Neiss Lynne Flanagan</p> <p>Shorewood Country Club Pat Lancor Larry Lundin Sue Marsh Anita Lancor</p> <p>Cazenovia Golf Club Dan Sadowski Fred Mosca, Jr.</p>
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THE MAVEN'S CORNER

NYSGA FLASHBACKS

By John Blain, NYSGA Historian

40 Years Ago...Rochester's **Don Allen** helped the U.S. Walker Cup team to a 13-7 triumph over Great Britain and Ireland at Royal St. George's in Sandwich, England...**John Baldwin** defeated **Peter Bostwick** 3 and 1 at Nassau C.C. to win the 45th NYS Men's Amateur Championship.



Don Allen

30 Years Ago...Troy's **Rich Serian** overcame a four stroke deficit with nine holes to play and nipped **Charles Murphy, Jr.** of Wolfert's Roost C.C. by a shot to win the Men's State Amateur at Albany Country Club...In a rare feat, the **Lawrence** sisters of Canton both captured NYSGA titles with **Mary** winning the Women's Am while younger sister **Kathy** captured the Junior Girls.

20 Years Ago...Oak Hill's **Bob Hoff** won his third NYS Senior Amateur title, a year after being low amateur at the U.S. Senior Open at Scioto C.C. in Columbus, Ohio...Don Allen won his second NYS Mid Am at The Country Club of Rochester.

15 Years Ago...1986 State Junior Champ **Tom Scherrer** advanced to the finals of the U.S. Amateur before losing to **Justin Leonard** 8 and 7 at Muirfield Village G.C. in Dublin, Ohio. In addition to Scherrer, 1984 State Am champ **George Zahringer** advanced to the quarterfinals while Watertown's **Robert Hughes** made the round of 16. 1991 State Am champ **Lenny Lasinsky** of Syracuse and Saratoga Springs' **Cliff Earle** also made it to match play with both losing in the first round...After twenty two years of 72 hole stroke play competition the Men's Amateur returned to match play. 36 holes of stroke play qualifying determined the low 32 for match play. In a battle of former NCAA Division III golfers, Foxfire's **Todd Dischinger** who played at Oswego State defeated former Allegheny College All-American **Matt Clarke** of Canandaigua 5 and 3 at Drumlins East G.C. in Syracuse.



Bob Hughes



Gail Flanagan

10 Years Ago...**Gail Flanagan** of Westchester C.C. successfully defended her NYS Women's Amateur at River Oaks C.C. in Buffalo...Elmira Country Club's **Mike Valicenti** added to his '96 State Am crown by winning the Mid Am on his home course...**Christy Rittenhouse** of Caledonia won her second straight Junior Girls title...Don Allen captured his third NYS Senior Championship. It was his 11th NYSGA Championship.

5 Years Ago...2002 was the year of "Defending The Crown" as **Nick Park** (Boys), **Jim Roy** (Mid Am) and **Lancy Smith** (Senior Women) all successfully defended their respective championships while **Nannette Hill** captured her third straight Junior Girls Championship.



Lancy Smith

RAMBLINGS...FROM THE MAVEN

By John Blain, NYSGA Historian

Congratulations to 2006 State Amateur quarterfinalist **Stephen Goodridge** on capturing the 2006 NCAA Division III individual championship. The Stafford C.C. member and University of Rochester golfer becomes the third upstate New York player to capture the championship following Watertown's **Jim Quinn** ('78 Oswego State) and Troy's **Matt Clarke** ('83 Allegheny College). All three were NCAA Division III First Team All-Americans



Stephen Goodridge

Two-time State Junior champ **David May** of Auburn continues his fine play as a stalwart of the nationally ranked Clemson University golf team. David has had some terrific finishes included at T9 at the 2006 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship which included a 7-under par 65 in the second round.

2006 NYS Schoolboy champion and U.S. Amateur qualifier **Andrew Kay** of Pittsford will attend the University of Maryland on a golf scholarship while Rondout's **Chris DeForest** who won the prestigious Carter Cup at Baltusrol GC last summer is heading to Illinois on a full golf scholarship this fall.



Andrew DiBitteto

2006 State Amateur champ **Andrew DiBitteto** continues his fine play at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. DiBitteto has been a mainstay on the nationally ranked 49er golf team while 2006 runner-up **Jeff Wolniewicz** and semifinalist **Zach Vinal** continue their fine play at Binghamton University.



Meaghan Francella

Congratulations to **Meaghan Francella** of Rye on her first win on the LPGA tour. The former two-time Junior Girls Champ and University of North Carolina standout did it in style by defeating **Annika Sorenstam** in a sudden death playoff at the Mastercard Classic in Mexico City.



Matt Clarke

Congrats are also in order for 2005 State Mid Am champ **Matt Clarke** who qualified for the U.S. Mid Amateur for a fifth time Unfortunately Matt didn't qualify for match play – the first time in which he failed to do so.....Niagara Falls' **Fred Silver** has the record for qualifying for the most Mid Ams for upstate players – six. The best finish by an upstate player in that championship was in 1999 when Matt Clarke advanced to the round of 16 at Old Warson C.C. in St. Louis.

2006 saw several players qualify for USGA Championships. Oak Hill's **Andrew Kay** and State Am champ **Andrew DiBitteto** qualified for the U.S. Amateur while the aforementioned **Matt Clarke** and **Joe McCoy** of Wolfert's Roost C.C. in Albany made the U.S. Mid Am and **Chris DeForest** made the U.S. Junior. Meanwhile, Park Club's **Mike Fetter** and Niagara Falls CC member **Fred Silver** made the U.S. Senior Amateur joining Bellevue's **Alan Foster** who was exempt from his 2005 semi-final finish which also exempted him into the 2006 Senior Open.



Alan Foster





Do You Remember the Gutta Percha Ball?

By Joseph Nestor

If you need a topic to dissect, with furor, after your game of golf these days, one of the first to come into play is Tiger Woods versus Jack Nicklaus. Who is the greatest?

Unfortunately, when discussing just two persons the correct word is “greater”, because “greatest” encompasses all persons who could be considered.

Everyone, at the appropriate moment, chides one gently by saying, “You can’t have your cake and eat it too.” However, the original and correct quip is that you can’t eat your cake and have it too. Time warp, apparently.

Since we are now in the age of instant communication and information, it seems eerie that so much of it is inaccurate or with malice aforethought, twisted to fit the perceived need for hype.

Ben Hogan died ten years ago, in July of 1997. His passing was reported and his career was reflected in the print media well beyond the usual outlets, and included an article by NY Times writer Dave Anderson, which appeared in the August 1, 1997 issue of *Golf World*.

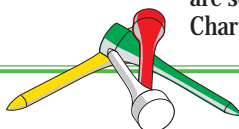
In that article Mr. Anderson compares Hogan’s record in majors which he computes at eight of eleven (six of them captured after his nearly fatal auto accident on February 2, 1949), which is better than those of Palmer (5/11), Nicklaus (4/10), Trevino (3/6), Watson (4/9) and Bobby Jones (13/27 including 10 Amateurs).

Of course, Tiger Woods was just undertaking his magnificent journey into golf greatness, but what was the conclusion that the article reaches?

Here it is:

Hardly a man is now around who could compare to Jones, Hogan and Nicklaus at their best, but before the 1997 U.S. Open at Southern Hills, I asked Tommy Bolt, who had received a special exemption for having won the 1958 U. S. Open there, to compare Nicklaus with Hogan. He thought a moment, and then cast his vote. “All I know is,” he said in his Texas twang, I’ve seen Nicklaus watch Hogan practice. I’ve never seen Hogan watch Nicklaus practice.” (*Golf World, Aug. 1, 1997*)

Many eras, many great players. All of them dominate their own era to some extent. Jones, Hogan, Nelson, Snead, Palmer, Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. But it’s important that they ALL be remembered and treasured. That’s part of the ineffable rapture that almost compels those who play the game to love it to such distraction.



How is the Playing Difficulty of a Golf Course Determined?

By Al Stockholm, NYSGA Director of Course Rating

A USGA Course Rating, conducted by the New York State Golf Association, produces two primary numerical evaluators for measuring a course’s playing difficulty. The Course Rating, expressed as strokes taken to one decimal place, indicates the scratch player’s scoring standard under normal conditions. The Slope Rating is a formula derived, computer generated, three digit value that relates the above (Scratch) Course Rating to the course rating for the Bogey player. Thus “Slope” is a measurement of the relative difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch players and it is used for handicapping players of different scoring abilities so they can equally compete. Therefore, when a NYSGA Course Rating Team visits a golf course they are actually examining the playing difficulty of that golf course for Bogey as well as for the Scratch player.

The major factor of a course rating is the **Effective Playing Length** of the golf course as the Scratch and Bogey golfer would play the course with their respective abilities. This means that the measured course yardage is adjusted by the rating team’s determined effect of **Roll, Elevation changes, Doglegs/Lay-ups**, and for a few New York courses- prevailing **Wind** and **Altitude** above 3000 feet. Additionally, the rating team measures the presence of obstacles and their proximity to the line-of-play and the shot landing zones for both Scratch and Bogey. **Obstacles**, on each hole, are carefully noted and evaluated at Scratch and at Bogey’s landing zones and they are the: lie and stance **Topography** along with the approach shot elevation; **Fairway** landing area; **Green Target** size and each player’s approach shot distance; **Recoverability and Rough** surrounding the landing areas; fairway and greenside **Bunkers; Out of Bounds** and **Extreme Rough; Water Hazards; Trees; Green Surface** contours and speed; and possible **Psychological** effect of numerous and severe obstacles on a hole. Average rough height and green speed are always measured for inclusion in the calculation of obstacle influence. Obstacle evaluation is essentially a matter of determining the likeliness of it influencing play and the recoverability from it.

The USGA Handicap Licensing Program, stipulating that a golf course must be rated every ten years (a new course every third year for the first ten years) for eligibility to issue USGA Handicaps, generates several requests each year for a USGA-NYSGA Course Rating. In addition, requests are received from clubs with recent physical changes occurring on their courses. The Course Rating and Measuring Department of the NYSGA’s Club Services Division arranges a rating date with the golf club and the rating team members. The day of the rating normally involves a morning spent measuring, pacing, evaluating, and recording data and an afternoon devoted to hitting shots from different positions on the course to verify actual shot lengths with roll and confirm obstacle influences. A rating team consisting of 3-6 NYSGA trained volunteer raters, size depending on the number of tees to be rated and the complexity of the course, is organized to rate each tee on each hole with the raters working from the tee, along the line-of-play, to each Scratch and each Bogey landing zone and finally up to the green. Recording the measurements, discussing the influence of various obstacles, and sometimes, arguing where the ball will actually come to rest on a shot are all part of the “action” for the members of a NYSGA Course Rating Team. The final rating values, recorded on USGA Form 1’s are turned into the NYSGA Office for entry into the USGA Computer Course Rating System. Results are reviewed and approved by NYSGA Club Services officials and finally the Course Rating Certifications are sent to the rated golf club along with Handicap Conversion Charts and a Pace-of-Play Table.



2007 Junior & Boy's Qualifying Sites

Section	Site	Date	Chairperson(s)
Albany	Pinehaven CC 1151 Silver Rd. Guilderland, NY 12084 (518) 456-7111	7/11/07	Matthew Clarke (518) 720-8888 ext.115
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 45 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Binghamton	Binghamton Country Club 1401 Robinson Hill Road Endwell, NY 13760 (607) 797-5828	6/25/07	Tim Schum (607) 748-0132
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 36 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Buffalo	Arrowhead GC 12292 Clarence Center Rd. Akron, NY 14001 (716) 542-4653	7/11/07	Paul Foley (716) 634-4012
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 70 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Finger Lakes	Soaring Eagles GC 201 Middle Road Horseheads, NY 14845 (607) 796-5059	6/25/07	Richard Stone (607) 739-8656 NOTE: Combined Qualifier with Men's Amateur
Long Island	TBA	TBA	Call (888) NYSGA-23 for information
Mid-Hudson	Beekman CC 11 Country Club Rd. Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 (845) 226-7700	6/27/07	Phil Chase (845) 856-8767
Rochester	Crooked Pines CC 1148 Wayneport Rd. Macedon, NY 14502 (315) 986-4455	7/5/07	Jack Donovan (888) NYSGA-23
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 42 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Syracuse	Radisson Greens GC 8055 Potter Rd. Baldwinsville, NY 13027 (315) 635-7992	7/13/07	Jim Coleman (315) 668-8741
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 48 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Utica/Rome	Seven Oaks Golf Club East Lake Road Hamilton, NY 13346 (315) 824-1432	7/9/07	John Blain (315) 824-2500

85th Men's Amateur Qualifying Sites

Section	Site	Date	Chairperson(s)
Albany	Glens Falls CC 211 Round Pond Rd. Queensbury, NY 12804 (518) 792-1186	6/25/07	Patrick Reidy (518) 581-2757
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 99 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Binghamton	Links at Hiawatha Landing 2350 Marshland Rd. Apalachin, NY 13732 (607) 687-6952	6/18/07	Sherry M. Heath (607) 723-1982
Buffalo	Shorewood CC 4958 West Lake Rd. Dunkirk, NY 14048 (716) 366-1880	6/21/07	Edwin S. Kaczor (716) 649-8958
Finger-Lakes	Soaring Eagles GC 201 Middle Road Horseheads, NY 14845 (607) 796-5059	6/25/07	Richard Stone (607) 739-8656
Long Island	Pine Ridge Golf Club 2 Golf Course Drive Coram, NY 11727 (631) 331-7930	6/26/07	Doug & Sheila Vergith (631) 751-1417 NOTE: 1:00PM Starting Time
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 48 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Mid-Hudson	Links at Union Vale 153 N. Parlman Road LaGrangeville, NY 12540 (845) 223-1000	6/25/07	Harold Girdlestone (845) 889-4102
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 75 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Rochester	Clifton Springs CC 2721 Hopewell Junction Rd. Clifton Springs, NY 14432 (315) 462-9885	6/23/07	Bob Biviano (315) 524-8790
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 72 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Syracuse	Seven Oaks GC East Lake Road Hamilton, NY 13346 (315) 824-1432	6/18/07	John Bartholomew (315) 824-1542
Utica/Rome	Yahundasis GC 8639 Seneca Turnpike New Hartford, NY 13413 (315) 732-3950	6/8/07	Ed Koslick (315) 737-5975
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 72 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Watertown	Ives Hill CC 435 Flower Ave. W. Watertown, NY 13601 (315) 782-1771	6/21/07	Dave Van Eenenaam, MD (315) 788-8340

24th Annual Mid-Amateur Qualifying Sites

Section	Site	Date	Chairperson(s)
Albany	The Sycamore CC Tompkins Road, Rt. 143 Ravena, NY 12143 (518) 756-9555	8/20/07	Richard W. Dorgan, Jr. (518) 869-8573
Binghamton	Traditions at the Glen 4301 Watson Blvd. Johnson City, NY 13790 (607) 797-2381	8/13/07	Sherry M. Heath (607) 723-1982
Buffalo	Crag Burn GC 1231 N. Davis Rd. East Aurora, NY 14052 (716) 655-0000	8/23/07	Bill Moore-NYSGA (888) NYSGA-23
Long Island	St. George's G&CC 134 Lower Sheep Pasture Rd. Setauket, NY 11733 (631) 751-0585	8/16/07	Doug & Sheila Vergith (631) 751-1417 NOTE: 1:00PM Start Time
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 51 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Mid-Hudson	Apple Greens GC 161 South St. Highland, NY 12528 (914) 883-5500	8/20/07	Ray Caddy (845) 331-5221
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 75 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Rochester	Ridgemont CC 3717 Ridge Road West Rochester, NY 14626 (585) 225-1370	8/20/07	Bill Moore (888) NYSGA-23
NOTE: Field will be limited to the first 72 entries received. All entries received after qualifying limit has been reached will be given the option to transfer to the qualifying site of their choice, be added to the wait list, or receive a full refund.			
Syracuse	Lake Shore Yacht & CC 6777 Lakeshore Rd. Cicero, NY 13039 (315) 699-5118	8/24/07	Tom Michaels (315) 468-0244
Utica/Rome	Seven Oaks GC East Lake Road Hamilton, NY 13346 (315) 824-1432	8/17/07	John P. Blain (315) 824-2500

2007 NYSGA Championship Schedule

Event Name	Entries Close	Qualifying Dates	Event Dates	Event Site
WOMEN'S AMATEUR	Monday June 25	None	Tuesday, July 10 thru Thursday, July 12	Oneida Community GC Oneida, NY
MEN'S AMATEUR	Monday June 4	Friday, June 8 thru Tuesday, July 26	Tuesday, July 17 thru Saturday, July 21	Yahnundasis GC New Hartford, NY
JUNIOR GIRLS	Monday July 23	None	Tuesday, August 7 thru Wednesday, August 8	Mark Twain GC Elmira, NY
JUNIOR BOYS	Monday June 18	Monday, June 25 thru Friday, July 13	Tuesday, August 7 thru Wednesday, August 8	Mark Twain GC Elmira, NY
WOMEN'S SENIOR	Tuesday July 31	None	Tuesday, August 21 thru Wednesday, August 22	Whiteface Inn GC Lake Placid, NY
MEN'S SENIOR & SUPER SENIOR	Monday August 27	None	Wednesday, September, 12 thru Friday, September, 14	Powerlton Club Newburg, NY
MEN'S MID-AMATEUR	Wednesday August 1	Monday, August 13 thru Friday, Aug. 24	Friday, September 21 thru Sunday, Sepember 23	Dutchess G&CC Poughkeepsie, NY

John Blain is the new NYSGA Historian, succeeding Frederick W. Box. The Newsletter welcomes John to the staff and we look forward to regular contributions from "The Maven"

THE MAVEN'S CORNER

By John Blain NYSGA Historian

This July the historic Yahnundasis Golf Club in New Hartford will play host to a record sixth Men's New York State Amateur Championship and if history is any guide, defending champion **Andrew DiBitteto** of Rochester has to like his chances of defending the championship he won one year ago at The Country Club of Troy. Amazingly, all five players who won a State Amateur crown at the Walter J. Travis designed Yahnundasis G.C. had already won a NYSGA championship.

The first State Amateur the club hosted was in 1946 and **Tommy Goodwin** of Winged Foot Golf Club, one the great players in the history of the Metropolitan Golf Association, captured his third State Am crown by overwhelming six time champion **Ray Billows** of Dutchess Golf and Country Club by a score of 8 and 6 in a scheduled 36-hole final. Billows had won four of the previous six State Ams and would eventually win a record seven titles but proved to be no match in the final for his fellow rival from metropolitan New York.

Yahnundasis hosted again in 1953 and once again Winged Foot's Tommy Goodwin proved he was invincible on the New Hartford layout by beating **Billy Shields** of Wolfert's Roost CC, Albany by a 2-up margin in what was a brilliantly played final. Shields was going for a record three straight crowns but Goodwin held on to win what would be his fourth and ultimately last State Am crown.

The 36th playing of the NYS Men's Amateur Championship came back to Yahnundasis GC and one of the great players in the history



Andrew DiBitteto

of the NYSGA won his first of what would turn out to be a record three straight crowns. **John Konsek** of Brookfield CC in Buffalo and the reigning NYS Junior Amateur Champion defeated **John Ward** of Syracuse 4 and 3 in the final. It was third time in the previous ten years that Ward would lose in the finals. He would later go on to become the President of the NYSGA and had one of the great careers in the history of central New York golf but would never win the title he most coveted.



John Konsek



Bill Tryon

A decade after Konsek began his three year run of titles, **Bill Tryon** of Elmira CC captured his third and final State Am crown at Yahnundasis in 1968. After defeating Rochester's **Don Allen** to win his two previous championships, Tryon downed Schenectady's **Ed O'Keefe** by a margin of 7 and 5. Tryon, who had previously won at Glens Falls CC in 1962 and Lancaster CC in 1965, never trailed in the final against O'Keefe, who had also lost to Allen in the finals at Leatherstocking GC in 1964.

In 1988 **Tim Straub** of Crag Burn GC and Wake Forest University kept the "streak" alive when he successfully defended the State Am title he won the year before at Oak Hill CC. Straub's 72 hole total of 290, six over par, tied him with Long Island and Florida Southern University star **Ralph Howe III** who was also runner-up to Straub the previous year. Straub won the title on the first extra hole. Ironically, both Straub and Howe had won USGA Championships before they tangled in the playoff. Straub had won the 1983 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship at Saucon Valley CC in Bethlehem, Pa. and Howe had just come off winning the 1988 U.S. Public Links Championship at Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



Tim Straub

Most recently Yahnundasis hosted the 1998 NYS Mid Amateur Championship which is conducted at 54 hole stroke play. Host club member **Luke Hobika** overcame a faltering **Jim Roy** down the stretch to win his first state title with a score of 221. Long Island's **Casey Alexander** and **David Pugh** tied for second.



2007 SITE PREVIEW

By John Blain, NYSGA Historian

In addition to Yahnundasis Golf Club hosting the Men's Amateur, five other Championships conducted by the NYSGA will take place in all different parts of New York State.

The Women's Amateur will return to Central New York and be hosted by Oneida Community Golf Club in Oneida. The club has been host to many Men's and Junior qualifiers over the years and will be hosting its first championship proper in many years.

The Junior, Boys' and Girls' Championship will head to the southern tier when Mark Twain Golf Club in Elmira will host the Championship, which for the first time will be conducted at 36-hole stroke play. Mark Twain GC, owned by the city of Elmira, was designed by legendary architect **Donald Ross** in 1937. It is the first time a NYSGA Championship will be conducted at this widely respected public golf course that has a reputation for its undulated, original Ross greens. P.S. Why Mark Twain? After all his world travels, he died and was buried in Elmira.

The Senior Women's Amateur heads to idyllic Lake Placid and The Whiteface Inn and Golf Club. The site of numerous NYSGA Championships including the Men's Amateur many years

ago it was designed by John Van Kleeck in 1935 and will be a good test for the Senior Women this August. **Maggie Kril** of Spencerport will be going for her third straight title

Both the Mid Amateur and Senior Men's Am will head to the Hudson Valley. The Mid Am will take place at Dutchess Golf and Country Club, a club that has hosted every one of the six NYSGA Championships. The Mid Am was played there in 1990 and host club member **Steve Nosonowitz** defeated a former (**John Baldwin '67**) and future (**John Gaffney '99**) State Amateur champ on the first hole of sudden death.

The Powelton Club in Newburgh will host the Senior Men's Amateur for the second time in five years. It was 2002 when former State Amateur (175) and Mid Amateur champ ('92, '95) **Alan Foster** of Syracuse finally won the Senior Amateur. In so doing he became just the third player in NYSGA history, joining **Don Allen** and **John Baldwin**, to have won the Men's, Mid Am, and Senior Am.



Maggie Kril



GOLF HANDICAPPING: “Is more than 14 Clubs illegal?”

By Mark Conrad, NYSGA Director; Handicapping/Club Services



The sub-title of my column this issue may sound ridiculous in terms of belonging to more than one Golf Club, but it isn't unheard of. I actually heard from one of my counterparts in another Golf Association that someone once asked if belonging to more than 14 Golf Clubs was not allowed by the USGA. Hmmm—The answer to that is definitely NO. But, it does beg the question of how to handle a USGA Handicap Index from all of those clubs.

With the proliferation of non-real estate and internet golf clubs, it is becoming more and more common for players to belong to more than one Golf Club. Let's see if I can give some guidance on doing the right thing with your USGA Handicap Index in this situation.

First of all, a player who belongs to more than one Golf Club that uses a handicap computational service capable of merging scoring records should request that he or she become merged. The NYSGA's GHIN Handicap Service, for example, can do this readily. Example: Jane belongs to a Club in New York State as well as a Club in Florida and both Clubs use GHIN. Either of those Clubs' handicap administrators can request that the local golf association, from whom that Club get its GHIN service, merge Jane's two scoring records. This way, Jane has only one scoring record and her New York scores will automatically be a part of her scoring record at the Florida Club. Jane's Handicap Index will also be the same north and south. Obviously, in the spring the reverse happens. I must add that

not all areas use the same revision schedule, so it is possible that it could take as much as a week or two for Jane's Index to be revised after her move each spring and fall.

There is another interesting situation that can happen with the above procedure and there is a Decision (6-5/2) in the USGA Handicap System to cover it. Let's say Jim has an Index of 16.8 up north when the season ends. He goes down south for a couple months, gets into a major league slump and his Index goes up to 19.1. The Rules say Jim should always use the lower of his two Indexes, right? But, the 16.8 is not indicative of his most recent 20 scores. In this case, the above mentioned Decision allows Jim to use the higher Handicap Index.

Now, what happens if Jim or Jane belongs to clubs that use different handicap computational services, thus not allowing their scoring records to be merged? In this case, all acceptable scores must be posted at both Clubs. In the case of northern/southern clubs, they would only need to post their last 20 scores just prior to moving.

Let's go back to the case of the person belonging to more than 14 Clubs. It would be pretty inconvenient for that player to post all their scores at every one of their clubs. Now what do we do? Again, there is a Decision (6-5/1) to cover that situation. The player can designate one Club to issue their Handicap Index. This Club should be the one where the player plays the most and scores from all rounds played anywhere must be posted at or routed to this Club. Furthermore, all other Clubs must delete that player from their handicap rosters and cease issuing a Handicap Index to that player.

There are many more details and Decisions regarding this situation, but I will leave it up to you to look those up in the USGA Handicap System Manual. Happy golfing and have a good summer.

Director's Report Course Rating

By Al Stockholm

The year 2007 looks like another busy year for the NYSGA Course Raters. The Team Leaders: **Ed Evans**, Utica-Rome Region; **Bob Folley**, North Albany Region; **Al Stockholm**, Central Region; and **Warren Winslow**, South Albany Region will expectedly direct about 25-30 ratings.

The 2006 course rating season included 32 course ratings: 18 new NYSGA rates and 14 re-rates. In addition, we also conducted six Temporary and Re-calculated Ratings for clubs. This activity involved 125 different sets of tees.

The United States Golf Association's Program requires that a golf course be rated every ten years (a new course every three years) to be able to issue USGA Handicaps. As a result more and more clubs are requesting a rating of their course to meet these requirements. This is the second of a two-year United States Golf Association Course Rating System (CRS) and then, in 2008, the CRS will be on the same calendar as the USGA Handicap System with revisions every four years.

Is your Club struggling with:

- Unfair & Inequitable Handicaps?
- Non-USGA Compliant Handicap System?
- Un-timely Handicap Reports?
- Handicap Stickers not available?
- Not updated ratings for other area courses?
- Or do you just want the best Handicap System available?

If you answered YES to any of the above, then your club needs **GHIN** and the **NYSGA!**

For more information call:

Mark Conrad, Director of Handicapping

888-NYSGA23 or 585-737-5681

E-mail: clubservices@nysga.org





This is another chapter in a series from Frederick W. Box's manuscript, "The 20th Century NYSGA".

Mr. Box of Elmira is the New York State Golf Association's Historian Emeritus.

NYSGA History: Chapter 5

under par. Billows had a 74, while Stevenson, now an Air Force private, shot 79 in his defending try. The Bayside golfer claimed the medal in a playoff.

The four-time champion, playing superbly, had an easy time in reaching the finals:

7-5 over Stan Mack, Syracuse; 3-2 over Joe Biasone, Syracuse; 6-5 over James T. Smith, Baldwin, LI; and 6-5 over William Szustak, a Buffalo policeman. An example of his dominance, against Szustak he was out in 34 and was five under at 13.

Joe Ruzsas, 25, an Albany machinist, was the victim in the finals, losing a respectable 2 and 1. Billows was 1up at nine when both shot 37's but Joe tied it at 18, shooting 35 to 36 for Billows, who took a 1up lead at 27. Ruzsas evened the score at 31 but Ray birdied 33 and 35 for the win.

Despite the war-time restrictions, 96 made it to Lake Placid in 1944 where Joe Ruzsas proved his 1943 showing was no exception. He proceeded to set the record for margin of victory.

Galletta and Ladislav repeated as medalists, each shooting par 72's.

On his way to the title Ruzsas defeated: Vin Muriany, Buffalo, 4-3; J.A. Nicholson, Plandome, 20 holes; Stan Podalak, Syracuse, 4-2; Ralph Strafaci, Plandome, 1up and Steve Doctor, Buffalo, 13 and 11.

The lanky Albany golfer had an 8up lead at 18 when he shot 36-36-72 to 79 for Doctor and then ended it quickly in the afternoon with five wins in seven holes.

With the war in Europe at a close, 132 players were attracted to Oak Hill CC, Rochester, in 1945. Billows resumed play, coming over on leave from his Army assignment near Utica, to claim his sixth title.

Peter Ladislav of Bayside, LI won the medal for the third straight year, this time with a 73. Dan Gormley, Schenectady, a former Junior champ, and Billows had 74's. Ruzsas had a lackluster 79.

Billows took this route to the title: def. Ted Sepanski, Utica, 4-3; Bill Chapin, Rochester, 1up and Harry Bill of Rochester, 4-2.

Officials called the weather conditions the worst for a final to date and the final nine was played in a torrential downpour. Despite the rain, Billows shot a par 72 to Bill's 75 in the morning to go 4up. The Cornell and Finger Lakes Champion made a comeback in the afternoon, winning three holes by 27. After Ray surged Back to win three of the next four holes, play was halted for an hour when the players putted with 4 and 5 irons on the puddled greens.

After the greens were cleared during the delay, Billows parred the next three holes to claim the victory.

The 1940's
Ray Billows dominated this decade with five titles and two runners-up. He started the run at Onondaga CC in Syracuse in 1940 with probably his most satisfying victory over former U.S. Amateur winner Willie Turnesa of Elmsford by a lopsided 8 and 6.

The Poughkeepsie printing salesman came into the tournament after being the runner-up in the 1939 U.S. Amateur where he lost to Marvin Ward 7 and 5 at North Shore, Ill.

Turnesa led the 129 in the field with a three under par 69 to win the medal at the 6,531 yard, par 72 course with a 77 needed to make the championship flight. Billows and Larry Pevik of the host club had 71's and Tommy Goodwin was in the middle of the field with a 76.

In sweltering heat, Billows and Turnesa won their way into the finals which was watched by a gallery reaching 2,500 at times. Billows' record was: defeated Jack Hendry of Syracuse, 6 and 5; James Quinn, Albany, 6 and 5; Arnold Zimmerman, Hornell and Princeton, the Eastern Interscholastic Champion, 1up; Alex Banazek, Syracuse, 1up and Turnesa, 8 and 6. Willie gained the final over Fred Allen of Rochester 3 and 2.

The "Cinderella Man", a name given Billows after his first victory in 1935, played what one writer called "sensational golf, one of the greatest exhibitions of perfect play" in shooting nine under par for the 30 holes.

The Poughkeepsie player took the lead at the third hole, was 2up at the time, 3up at 18 and 6up at 27 and was two under par for the last three holes. Turnesa won only two holes in the morning 18, both with birdies, and only one hole while losing four in the afternoon nine. Only his putting kept Willie from further humiliation, having 27 in the morning to 30 by Billows.

This tournament initiated the Senior Men's Championship that was played along with the Amateur for 50-year-olds and up. Leroy C. Crim of Vestal Hills CC, Binghamton, defeated Russ Christian of Onondaga 2 and 1 for the title.

Billows claimed his fourth championship on July 24, 1941, at the Troy CC in a field cut by pre-war gasoline rationing. He had to come from behind to edge Tommy Pierce of Troy, 22 and four times Vermont champion and former Eastern Interscholastic titlist.

Arthur Atkinson Jr. of Winged Foot, the 1939 runner-up, was medalist with a 70, followed by Neil White of Port Chester, 72; Joe Ruzsas of Albany and Doug Ford of Green Valley at 73 and always-present Tommy Goodwin at 77. It took a 79 to enter the championship.

Billows advanced: over Charles Martin, Troy, 5-4; Jack Creavy, Tuckahoe, 3-1; T Colwell Thomas, Troy, 1up; Goodwin, 1up and Pierce, 1up.

Bill Stark of Syracuse knocked out Ford, twice state junior victor and future pro great, 2 and 1. Pierce gained the final by defeating Mid O'Hare of Syracuse 2 and 1. Billows had another struggle with Goodwin with both shooting 35 on the front nine, each winning two holes. Ray regained the lead at 16, lost 17 to a birdie and won when Tommy took a six on the home hole.

Both finalists shot 35 on the morning nine but Pierce took the lead at 18 and led through 27 where he was three up. He faded on the fourth nine losing three of the next seven holes for the tie. Billows won 34 with a great recovery shot from the rough and a par. They halved the last two holes. Pierce had 73 in the morning to 74 for Billows, who recorded a 75 to 77 in the afternoon.

The 1942 championship turned out to be another Cinderella story with Billows the victim this time. Alex Stevenson, a Niagara Falls chemical plant clerk, called a 5 to 1 shot, won his bout with Billows in the finals 5 and 4.

The four-time champion set a course record with a 67, medal, three under par, for the rebuilt Niagara Falls CC, 6,500 yard, par 70 layout. Walter Andzel of Buffalo followed with 71, Doug Ford of Harrison and Pierce Russell of Troy at 73. Stevenson had a 74.

The eventual victor advanced over H.C. Smith, Niagara Falls, 7 and 6; Ed Janiak, Syracuse, 3 and 1; had to come from behind to edge Andzel in 20 after being four down at 7; and Russell 2 and 1 from two down at the turn.

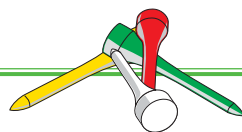
Meanwhile Billows ousted Joe Biasone, Syracuse, 7-5; Vincent Muriany, Niagara Falls, 4-3 and had four birdies against Ford, 20, 7 and 5.

Stevenson completed his upset victory by leading from the start and was 1up at 18 despite Billows' 34 coming home. Alex moved to 2up at 27 and roared home with three consecutive birdies, a 2 at 30, a 3 at 31 and a conceded bird at 32 when Billows' tee shot went out of bounds.

The World War II years cancelled USGA tournaments but NYSGA continued play by holding both men's and women's amateurs during the same week at the Lake Placid Club with the Men's Seniors again as part of the Amateur.

Billows came out on top again and reached the finals for the seventh time in nine years, winning five times.

Mal Galletta of St. Albans and peter Ladislav of Bayside tied for the medal with 71's, one



REJECTING THE ROBOT THEORY

An opinion by Joseph L. Nestor, Committeeperson,
NYSGA General Counsel 1968-2002

At its winter meeting, the NYSGA renewed its ban of cell phones and distance measuring technology. A lively discussion preceded the vote, which was not unanimous. This writer voted for the ban, for a panoply of reasons, and this commentary is my opinion and mine alone.



Unfortunately, very few readers will recall the "Algonquin Round Table", a famous gathering spot for some of the most distinguished writers of the twenties, among them Robert Benchley, Franklin P. Adams, Dorothy Parker, George S. Kaufman, Heywood Broun, Alexander Woollcott and Ring Lardner.

When Dorothy Parker first attended one of these meetings, she listened politely for a few minutes and then quipped to her host, "There's less here than meets the eye." That wonderful comment reflected the tendency of the members of the group, none of whom lacked self-confidence, to overestimate their own importance and to pontificate at great lengths on any subject.

Although seventy-five years have passed since Mrs. Parker's insightful remark, its validity is a most useful method of measuring the prophecies of the skills who promise, nay, guarantee lower scores for those who purchase the golf product they are shilling for...payments as low as \$49.95 per month plus S&H. Query one: Why no total price or number of payments? Query number two: Why aren't the skills identified as to the compensation amount (or lack thereof) which they are receiving for the endorsement, either in dollars, percentage of profits or the like?

The Sky Caddie is a perfect example of that sell and the promise of lower scores. Great technology! But what does it mean for the average golfer, for that person who doesn't break eighty, ninety or one hundred (over 90%)?

There are three reasons I voted against the use of such devices.

Firstly, not all golfers can run out and pay \$159.95 or twice or three times that much for such devices. This is the reason the NYSGA immediately rejected adoption of the USGA "One Ball Rule". After all, all amateurs don't have the resources of a Frank Stranahan. They are just amateurs who love to play the game and who usually make small or large sacrifices to do so.

Secondly, although it is not mentioned,

distance is not of significant importance in selecting a club. Who says so? Will you accept the word of the late Ben Hogan? At a news conference, Mr. Hogan was asked why he hadn't invented the yardage book that Jack Nicklaus made famous (Mr. Nicklaus got the concept from Dean Beaman when they played as amateurs). Mr. Hogan astounded and flabbergasted the young golf and news persons when he replied that distance of shot was overrated and, in fact, was only the FIFTH most significant factor in selecting the club. Disbelief prompted one rather cocky writer to challenge Mr. Hogan to name the four factors more important than distance. He promptly answered that the lie was most important. Secondly the weather (atmosphere and wind conditions) must be considered. Then the player must assess the trouble confronting him—water short or out of bounds long greatly influences shot selection. Fourth, Hogan said that sometimes the feel of the shot dictated to him a mid iron (now a #2 iron which numbering system was created by Bobby Jones) even though he knew the shot was only 150 yards. Finally, distance was a factor. Witness the long hitter who hits both his driver and his wedge 300 yards.

My third reason for voting for the ban on distance measuring devices is this fact. No matter what distance the shot, whether the player EXECUTES the shot to the best of his ability (and mental preparation) is the ONLY DETERMINING FACTOR. That execution rests SOLELY WITH THE INDIVIDUAL. Only he or she can conclude the proper shot to choose. And if you think that's not compelling, consider this fact. There is no sighted player in the world who does not automatically know the length of a three foot putt. Yet, at this writing, Tiger Woods, Boo Weekley, Camilo Villegas and Heath Slocum have all missed putts of that length with disastrous and conclusive results. In short, the players' knowledge, experience and mental attitude are not and never will be replaced by a piece of technology.

And if you think it should be, then you should lobby your golf superintendent to line the fairways in the manner that they mark football fields. It would be cheaper and just as effective.

Joseph L. Nestor

(If you feel strongly in favor or, especially in opposition to this opinion, please feel free to communicate in writing to me at: 1400 Broad Street, Endicott, NY, 13760.)



In Memoriam

Rhea Archer Hagen

Remembered by Martha Clute

The first time I met Rhea was at Deerfield Country Club in 1986. She and her husband Bob were working on the Women's Senior Amateur Tournament. Bob was the one who got her involved in the NYSGA. She worked on all the Women's Seniors until 2001. Elmira was her last tournament that she co-chaired. Her health started failing after that and she ended up selling her family home on Elmwood Avenue, the home she had lived in all her life. After that she went to a retirement home on Long Pond Road and seemed to enjoy that. She played bridge there and went over to Ridgmont for some games once in a while.

Rhea loved to play golf at Ridgmont and also played in several tournaments in the Rochester area, so was pretty well known in those circles. I know she played in the Rochester District and other local tournaments.

Rhea enjoyed traveling and had been to Spain, Australia, New Zealand, and Italy and went on a golf trip to the Hawaiian Islands and Bermuda. She always wished she could have played in Scotland.

**Rhea teamed up with Martha Clute to successfully conduct over 15 Senior Women's Championships. Rhea once said, "I have met some very fine people and made some lasting friendships".*



Dick Downing

Committeeman Nonpareil

The success of any golf association rests upon the work ethic of its volunteers. There was none better than Dick Downing. He was a leader, advisor, administrator, rules person and a friend to all. Dick and his wife Dot were a great team. The players knew them and respected them.

Dick was always Mr. Downing to the players. He was President of the New York State Golf Association, the Syracuse District Golf Association, Onondaga Golf & Country Club (his favorite golf course) and local USGA Committeeman for Regional Affairs.

Dick was a great advertisement for the game of golf. He was very good with people. His fellow committee members admired him and sought his counsel.

I looked forward every spring to resumption of play and traveling the tournament trail with him.

Golf was a significant part of Dick and Dot's life. His presence will be sorely missed by our volunteers and staff. I will miss him dearly. He was a great friend.

John Sherlock



Photo by John Bartholomew





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