

The CSGA functions as an extension of the USGA and provides stewardship for amateur golf in Connecticut. Founded in 1899, it is the country's oldest state golf association and conducts more than 70 championships, qualifiers and One Day tournaments throughout the year, in addition to serving more than 50,000 members and 181 member clubs. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the CSGA supports a variety of golf organizations within Connecticut, including the Connecticut Women's Golf Association, the Southern New England Women's Golf Association, the LPGA Amateur Golf Association, the First Tee of Connecticut, the Connecticut Section PGA, the Connecticut Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Widdy Neale Scholarship Fund.

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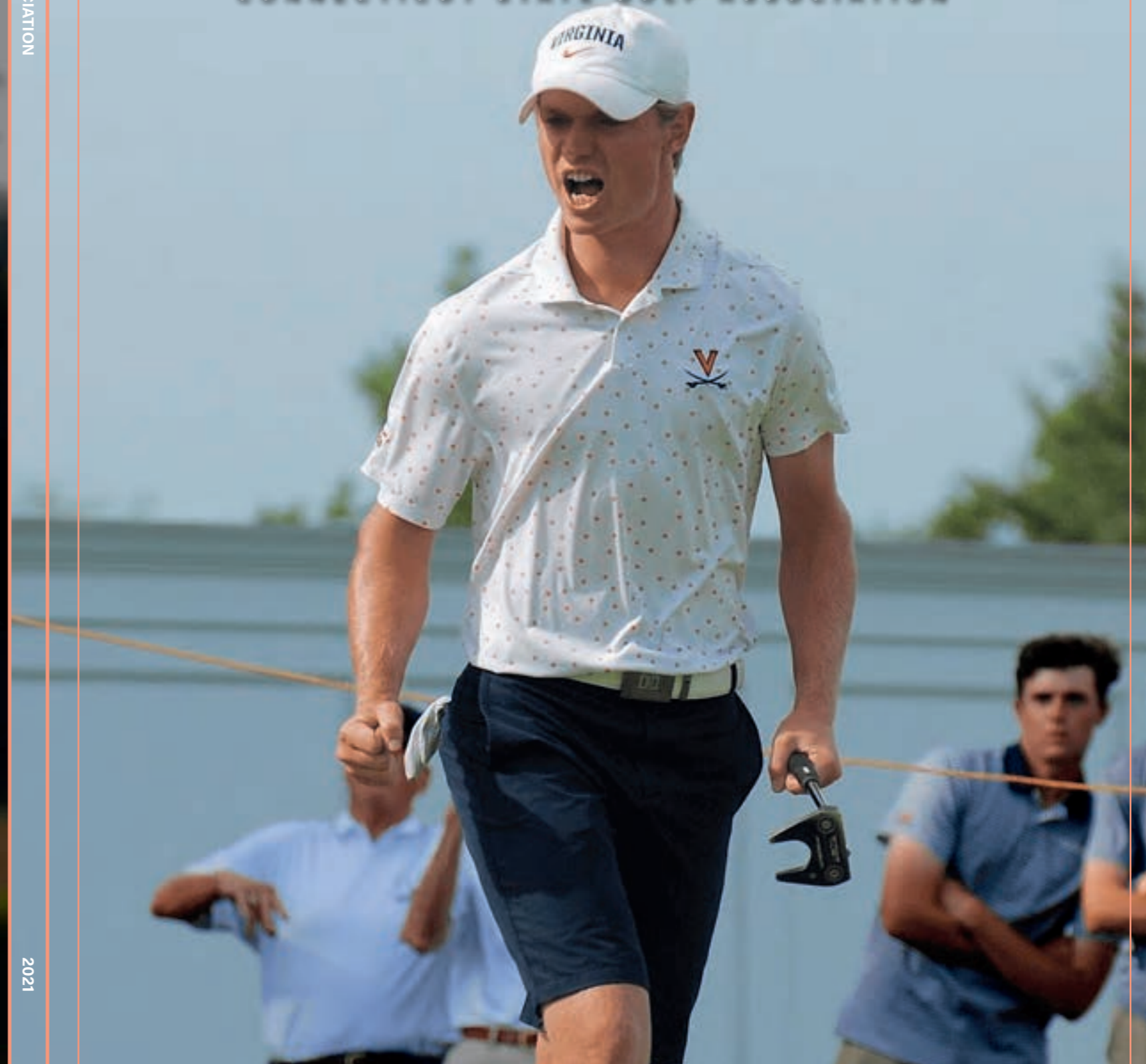
CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

2021

2021 CHAMPIONSHIP ANNUAL

CSGA

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2021 ANNUAL

A review of the 2021 season and the championships conducted by the Connecticut State Golf Association

Peter Ballo tees off on the 14th hole at CC of Darien in the final round of the Connecticut Open
Cover Photo: Chris Fosdick reacts to the winning putt at the 119th Connecticut Amateur



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DEAR FELLOW GOLFERS



It is a pleasure to welcome you all to the ninth edition of the 2021 CSGA Championship Annual.

As the song says it was “a very good year.” Participation was up across the board not just in CSGA competitions but in number of rounds played throughout the state. The growth of the game that occurred in 2020 continued into 2021.

I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee for all their support and the CSGA staff, under the direction of Mike Moraghan, for their dedication and efforts in planning and running the 2021 events. I also want to thank all the volunteers who give their time and talents in support of the CSGA, the host clubs who are willing to allow their courses to be the site for our events and the players who brought us some great golf over the past season.

Please join me in congratulating all our 2021 Golf Champions, Volunteer of the Year Eric Besman, Distinguished Club of the Year Tashua Knolls Golf Course, and our Hall of Fame inductees Suzy Whaley, Jim Becker, and Mike Ballo, Sr.

As we look forward to 2022, our focus is to continue to strive for excellence in the presentation of all our events and in support of golf in Connecticut.

“Keep the ball in the air and in front of you.”

Sincerely,

Bill Cremins
President, Connecticut State Golf Association



CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

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A MESSAGE FROM CSGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MIKE MORAGHAN

For folks in the business of running golf tournaments, days typically begin before sunrise and sometimes end after dark. From the smallest event to the largest there are tasks to fulfill and problems to solve. It is satisfying work, even on days when you are drenched in sweat or soaked by rain. We do this for the players and for the host clubs, to give them great experiences and memories that will remain long after a trophy is handed to the champion. And like so many of our tournament players, we strive to improve in every facet of our game.

Participation in CSGA events is at an all time high, and much credit should be given to our outstanding staff, and to our strong group of volunteers. 2021 was a very good year for golf in Connecticut. We'll be looking to make 2022 even better.



Manager of Competitions Michael Sebetic and Team Captain Roger Everin wait out the rain at the Senior Amateur (above). From left to right Director of Member Services Bill Bigler, Director of Communications Sam Dostaler, and Director of Tournament Operations & Women's Golf Marsha Rupp take a break to smile for the camera.



Above Executive Director Mike Moraghan has a laugh with Rules Official and former CSGA President John Marion. Administrative Associate Lynn Robsky and Rupp (below left) wave to the players at the Al Acker One Day Championship.



Director of Operations, Rules & Competitions Ryan Hoffman and CSGA President Bill Cremins (top right) stand on the first tee at the 87th Connecticut Open. Media Intern Jarrett Soltis (above left) tracks down his next shot while USGA P.J. Boatwright Interns Gabby Martin and Trevor Jones (above right) take scores at the Connecticut Amateur.

THE OPEN

Like Father, Like Son

History was made at the Country Club of Darien when Peter Ballo joined his father Mike Ballo, Sr. as a Connecticut Open champion making the Ballos the first father-son duo to capture the title.





After Peter Ballo three-putted for bogey on the opening hole of the final round of the 87th Connecticut Open presented by The Reby Financial Advisory Teams of Wealth Enhancement Group to fall three shots back it didn't feel like his day. A few holes later after 36-hole leader Ben Carpenter birdied the par-5 4th hole to reach 10-under Ballo was once again three back and it didn't feel like his day.

"A little bit," Ballo said when asked about the uncomfortable start. However, that feeling didn't last long. Ultimately Ballo would storm from behind flipping a three-shot deficit into a five-shot win over Ben James. Ballo fired a final round 5-under 66 at the Country Club of Darien to post 12-under for the week.

With the victory Ballo joins his father Mike Ballo Sr., the 1969 and 1978 champion, on the list of Connecticut Open winners. The victory marked the first time in tournament history that a father and son have won the event.

"I still haven't quite gathered what this means," Ballo said of etching his name on the same trophy as his father. "[Earlier this

year] I was able to win the Westchester PGA Match Play which my father won so now to do it twice in a year it is special. I am sure at some point it will hit me but right now it hasn't hit me."

The momentum began to swing on the difficult par-4 7th. Leading by three shots Carpenter, playing on his home course, drove it into the left rough finding a buried lie while Ballo split the fairway. With his second shot Carpenter found more trouble pulling it left into the front greenside bunker. Ballo took advantage knocking his approach to five-feet setting up his second birdie of the round. When Carpenter bogeyed the hole it was all of a sudden a one-shot difference with Carpenter at 9-under and Ballo at 8-under.

"That swing I had [with my approach shot on] No. 7 really brought me to a different area with my mind and comfort level," said Ballo. "I felt fine prior but hitting that shot kind of gave me a different mojo and kick started that birdie barrage."

Ben James, one of the top junior players in the nation, and the third member of the final group finally made some noise on the par-4 8th. Even-par through seven holes

and with the tees moved up to 298 yards James drove it just through the green leaving himself 15-feet above the hole. A chip and a putt later he was to 8-under.

Ballo, the assistant professional at Silvermine GC, drove the green as well but faced a sloping 70-foot eagle try. The putt missed but it settled six-feet away leading to a second straight birdie that tied Ballo for the lead at 9-under.

On the par-4 9th Carpenter and Ballo parred while James fell off the pace with a double-bogey. He hit his second shot into a greenside bunker and barely got his third shot out. By the time James (Great River GC) finished the hole he had fallen to 6-under and three shots back. He would finish the day 7-under earning second place and low amateur honors.

"I was pretty excited about my performance. It was awesome [to have the crowds watching]. They were the biggest crowd I have played in front of. I was nervous but I think I handled it well," James said of his week.



The victory for Peter Ballo (far left) was an emotional one. With tears of joy in his eyes Ballo embraced his brother Mike Ballo, Jr. as mom Page looked on. One of the top junior players in the country Ben James (near left) birdied three of the last four holes to finish second and earn low amateur honors. Defending champion Max Theodorakis (above) closed with a 3-under 68 to move up the leaderboard into fourth place.

HOME COURSE ADVANTAGE

Playing on his home course Ben Carpenter, a member of the Yale golf team, nearly became the first amateur to win the Connecticut Open since Jeff Hedden in 2018. Carpenter (left) held the lead heading into the final round and still had a chance at the title on the final nine.

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It was now a two player race between Ballo and Carpenter. With the crowds swelling to roughly 200 spectators the two headed for the second nine tied at 9-under. Both players parred the par-4 10th keeping things tight with eight holes to play.

On the downhill par-3 11th the tide began to fully swing in Ballo's favor. His tee shot found the green while Carpenter was plugged in the lip of



Blake Morris (above) earned a top-five finish for a fifth consecutive year. 2019 champion Rasmey Kong (below left) finished T9 while Mike Ballo, Jr. (below right) was 7th.

the left greenside bunker. With no play Carpenter blasted the ball into the rough and ended up with a bogey. Ballo two-putted for par and the lead.

With shouts of "Let's go Petey" ringing from the crowd Ballo jarred a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-4 13th to push his lead to two. One hole later he saved par from eight-feet to pick up another stroke after Carpenter put his tee shot in the water and made bogey.

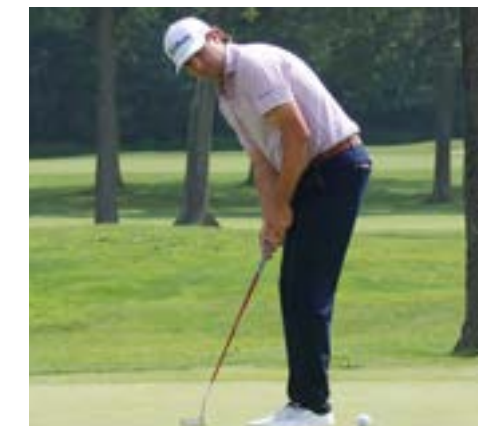
"Only positives out of the week," Carpenter said despite a disappointing final round. "Unfortunately I couldn't pull through. I just had a couple of loose swings that really killed me and I couldn't catch any momentum. But the first two days of golf I played here were outstanding and I can only take positives out of that."

Ballo was now comfortably in front sitting at 10-under with four holes

remaining. Still looking to extend his lead Ballo kept pushing birdieing the par-5 15th. He then eliminated any doubt on the par-3 16th by stuffing his tee shot to six inches.

The birdie on No. 16 capped a three birdie in four-hole sprint that moved Ballo to 12-under and six shots ahead.

"I just think I was ready to win," said Ballo, last year's runner-up. "I have been close in the past but it is a learning experience. I just think mentally I was ready to win this year."



87th Connecticut Open presented by The Reby Financial Advisory Teams of Wealth Enhancement Group
Country Club of Darien - Darien, Conn. - Par 71 / 6,700 yards - Entries: 466
July 26-28, 2021

1 Peter Ballo, Silvermine G.C.	65-70-66-201	T5 Blake Morris, C.C. of Waterbury	72-68-70-210
2 Ben James (a), Great River G.C.	70-65-71-206	7 Mike Ballo Jr., Stamford, CT	67-73-71-211
3 Ben Carpenter (a), C.C. of Darien	66-67-74-207	8 Christopher Fosdick (a), Wallingford C.C.	68-73-72-213
4 Max Theodorakis, Ridgewood C.C.	72-69-68-209	T9 Rasmey Kong, West Haven, CT	70-72-72-214
T5 Paul Pastore, Fairview C.C.	71-71-68-210	T9 Casey Pyne, The Stanwich Club	72-68-74-214

AMATEURS

The 2021 amateur season was full of dramatic finishes. It saw repeat champions, new champions, and history making champions. Beginning in April at the Two Man Championship the 2021 season was nothing short of thrilling.



FOSDICK MAKES A STATEMENT

Despite trailing heading into the final 18 Chris Fosdick was able to find some **late round magic to rally at the Country Club of Waterbury.**

Chris Fosdick started the final round of the 18th Russell C. Palmer Cup presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop four shots off the lead and for much of the day it looked like he would have to settle for a top-five finish. Final round co-leader and defending champion Rick Dowling was making seemingly easy work of a difficult Country Club of Waterbury layout on a sunny but windy day.

Recently back home after completing his freshman season at the University of Virginia Fosdick was able to find something in his iron game during the final round. "At the NCAA Regional Championship in Nashville [the week before] my iron game wasn't there at all, and now to have this final round I felt like I put my game together and it feels really good," said Fosdick of the win.

Dowling (EClub of Connecticut) began the final round tied for the lead with Austin Cilley (Lake of Isles GC) at 1-under and after a front nine 2-under 33 Dowling jumped to 3-under and opened up a five shot advantage. Dowling's front nine play was highlighted by a kick in birdie on the short par-3 8th.

However, on the back nine Dowling, the co-leader after each of the first two rounds began to lose some steam. One year after blitzing the back nine with a flawless 4-under 30 in the final round Dowling



Chris Fosdick (left) won just days after returning from his freshman season at the University of Virginia. With his father Rick on the bag Rick Dowling (above) nearly went back-to-back before finding trouble down the stretch.

"I went out and hit a confident drive on the first hole of the final round, hit a decent wedge and made a putt for birdie and at that point my game felt better than it had the previous two rounds."

— Chris Fosdick

stumbled with bogeys on the 10th and 11th holes to open the door for Fosdick playing in the group ahead.

"I had a great front nine and I was really locked in," Dowling said. "But on the back nine all the little things that were going well I just didn't execute them on the back. I hung in there although I was kind of faltering a little bit."

Following a level-par start to the final round through the first eight holes Fosdick began to find his groove. He birdied the short par-5 9th to move to 2-over at the turn. On the back nine his flat stick began

**18th Russell C. Palmer Cup presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop
Country Club of Waterbury- Par 69/ 6,591 yards - Entries: 178
May 24-25, 2021**

1 Christopher Fosdick, Wallingford C.C. 71-70-67-208	5 Thomas McCarthy, EClub of Conn.	72-73-69-214
2 Austin Cilley, Lake of Isles G.C. 66-71-72-209	T6 Jackson Fretty, Greenwich C.C.	71-71-73-215
3 Richard Dowling, EClub of Conn. 66-71-73-210	T6 Arthur Ouimet, EClub of Conn.	72-71-72-215
4 Brian Ahern, Wampanoag C.C. 69-70-72-211	T6 Simon Trebon, EClub of Conn.	73-68-74-215

to heat up. He rolled in a birdie putt on the par-3 12th from 20-feet then rammed home another bomb from 40-feet on the 14th for birdie. In a blink the reigning Connecticut Amateur champion was even-par and one back.

"I went out and hit a confident drive on the first hole of the final round, hit a decent wedge shot and made a good putt for birdie and at that point my game felt better than the previous two rounds. I knew if I kept playing like that I could maybe win this thing," said Fosdick.

Meanwhile in the group behind, Dowling continued to struggle and after a bogey on the 15th he and Fosdick were tied. While Dowling slid backwards and Fosdick (Wallingford CC) surged into the lead the forgotten man Austin Cilley forced himself back into the picture. Following a 3-over 38 on the front nine Cilley, the co-leader at the start of the final round, drifted back to 2-over and for a time was six shots off the pace.

Early on the back nine Cilley was able to right the ship with four consecutive pars before stuffing it to a foot on the 225-yard par-3 14th to get to 1-over and one back. Cilley was briefly in a three-way tie for the lead with Fosdick and Dowling but following a bogey on the 17th hole he settled for a 2-over second place finish.

"There are definitely a lot of positives I can take from the week but just some stupid mental mistakes cost me," said



Cilley. "I didn't hit the ball really well during the final day. I was scrambling and in the end I was one shot short."

Fosdick's charge sputtered a bit with a bogey on the 16th but two pars on the closing two holes saw him post a final round 2-under 67, the low round of the

36-hole day, to finish 1-over.

Dowling tried to regain his form after bogeys on Nos. 15 and 16 with a par on the 17th but his tee shot on the 18th took the wind completely out of his sails. Sitting at 1-over and tied for the lead Dowling pushed his drive out of bounds to seal his



Hole-in-ones helped propel Austin Cilley (above right) to a second place finish and 2018 champion Brian Ahern (above left) to a fourth place showing. Jackson Fretty (below left) started his impressive summer with a T6 finish. Fosdick (right) holds the Russell C. Palmer Cup trophy.

fate. After an extensive search for his tee shot Dowling played a provisional ball and finished with a disappointing double-bogey that left him at 3-over in third. As Dowling made his way up the 54th hole Fosdick stood watching above the green and when Dowling's approach shot didn't fall the Palmer Cup was his.



FOSDICK REPEATS

In a rematch of the epic 2020 Connecticut Amateur final Chris Fosdick once again got the best of Cody Paladino in another duel that went the distance.



In a rematch that lived up to the billing Chris Fosdick defeated Cody Paladino to repeat as the Connecticut Amateur champion. In the 119th edition of the event Fosdick became the first player to successfully defend the title since Will Strickler went back-to-back in 2007 and 2008. It was also the first time since 1920 and 1921 that the same two competitors met in the final.

Just like a year ago the match went the distance. On the 36th hole Paladino missed the fairway in the right rough while Fosdick split the fairway. Blocked out by a tree and hitting off a root, Paladino's approach barely held the green coming to rest 60-feet from the hole. Fosdick played next hitting a towering shot 20-feet past the flagstick.

Putting first Paladino hit a wonderful putt to inches for a tap-in par. With a large crowd surrounding the green it felt like the match was headed to extra holes. Fosdick however had other ideas. Roughly 24 hours after hitting a long birdie putt on the same hole to send his semifinal match to a playoff he drilled his birdie putt and erupted in celebration. For the second consecutive year Chris Fosdick was the Connecticut Amateur champion, this time in walk-off fashion.

"There was this dark spot about the size of a cup probably two cups out right and I liked that line. I felt good about it," said Fosdick. "It was awesome to finish it like that. I felt really good about the putt even before I hit it."

On a bright sunny day at Hartford Golf Club Fosdick jumped out to a quick start winning two of the first three holes with birdies during the morning round to take a 2 up lead and then added to the advantage with a victory on the par-4 5th. Paladino won his first hole of the match with a par on the par-3 8th only to bogey the ensuing hole allowing Fosdick to

Cody Paladino (above) battled his way through the bracket to reach the title match. Paladino defeated top mid-amateur Jamie Sheltman, medalist Brad Tilley and two-time champion Rick Dowling.



restore his lead to 3 up.

During the first nine holes Fosdick consistently gave himself looks at birdies often settling for par while Paladino struggled around the greens as he fell behind. Early on the second nine it was much of the same. Fosdick put his third shot close on the par-5 10th and rolled in the short birdie putt to extend his lead to 4 up. The lead would move to 5 up when the Virginia sophomore won the par-4 13th with a birdie.

"I felt good about the start," Fosdick said. "Everyday here I start playing good out of the gates. In both the stroke play rounds and the morning matches I played like that too and felt pretty good."

However, on No. 14 Fosdick went long with his second shot opening the door for Paladino to win the hole with a par. One hole later Paladino trickled in his first birdie putt of the day to pull within 3 down. The 17th was tied with pars as Fosdick stopped the bleeding for a moment. Playing the closing hole of the first round Paladino drilled one down the

middle while Fosdick missed the fairway. Paladino came up short with his second shot but hit a perfect lag putt that resulted in a conceded par. Fosdick was left with a tester for a par that missed and with that it was the defending champion leading 2 up at the break.

"When I was 5 down I just kept thinking about Chris being 5 down last year," said Paladino. "I went into the shack out by 13 and once I had a moment with myself I was able to start playing better."

The afternoon eighteen began just like the morning with Fosdick winning the par-4 1st, this time with a par moving his lead back to 3 up. The lead remained there until Fosdick pushed his second shot on the par-5 5th out of bounds allowing Paladino to cautiously play for a par that won the hole. Paladino, the 2013 winner, was now 2 down with 13 holes to play. He moved within 1 down with a birdie to win the par-4 7th and then a par on the par-3 8th tied the match for the first time. For the second straight year a player had overcome a 5 down deficit in the title match.



27-seed Drew Brennan (left) came out of nowhere to make a run to the semifinals and nearly the finals falling to Fosdick in 21 holes in the semis. Chris Ayers (above) made another strong run in the Connecticut Amateur reaching the Round of 16. Fierce competitors Fosdick and Paladino (below) took a moment to acknowledge the stellar golf that they displayed during the championship match at the Hartford Golf Club.





For the second straight year Brad Tilley medaled and earned the top-seed only to fall early in match play.

On the par-4 9th Paladino, who had made a number of clutch par saving putts throughout the match couldn't convert as Fosdick regained a 1 up lead with a par. With the crowd swelling to roughly 200 spectators Fosdick birdied the 10th moving his lead to 2 up with eight holes remaining. As the match continued the level of play continued to elevate and by the time the players reached the par-4 12th it felt like the legendary duel the two had in 2020 at Shorehaven Golf Club. Needing to make a move Paladino stuffed his approach to the par-4 12th to five-feet and rolled in the birdie to move once again to 1 down.

On the ensuing hole both players put on an exceptional display of iron play stiffing approach shots to three feet or less. Paladino was first to play knocking his second shot to inside the leather of the putter. Fosdick working quickly answered putting his shot to three feet. Paladino's birdie was conceded while Fosdick converted his little more than a gimme. By now the crowd was fully engaged and locked in. On the par-4 14th both players found the fairway. Fosdick missed the green just to the left with his approach, cracking the door for Paladino who safely played to the

middle of the green. Paladino had a chance to win the hole with a birdie only to come up a few spins short. Fosdick, facing a downhill eight-footer for par drilled it. Fosdick was 1 up with four to play. Pars tied the par-4 15th leaving just three holes for Paladino to make up the deficit. It would only take him one. With the second shots from the fairway finding the green, the 16th became a putting contest. Fosdick sent his long downhill birdie try racing by. Paladino nestled his to inches and he was in with par. Fosdick, trying to maintain his lead watched as his putt lipped out. All tied



Throughout the week Hartford Golf Club rolled out the red carpet. Nearly 70 club volunteers (below) assisted throughout the tournament and for the first time in club history holes from all three nines were used for a tournament creating a brand new layout that challenged the field. During the championship match large crowds followed the action (above).

with two holes remaining. Matching pars on the 17th moved the match to the 18th still tied. "It is awesome to be able to win the Palmer Cup and then this, it is awesome. Winning back-to-back Connecticut Amateurs is awesome," said Fosdick. "I know it doesn't happen very often and to be able to put myself in that position and fighting all the way till the end it felt really good to clutch up at the end."





Two-time champion Rick Dowling (left) lost in a dramatic 20 hole quarterfinal match against Paladino. Jackson Fretty (above) put together a strong week reaching the quarterfinals. With a large crowd following the title match Fosdick (below) watches an approach shot.



Walker Lohrey's (above right) magical run fizzled in the quarterfinals. Adam Friedman (above) reached the semifinals after he defeated Peter Tomlinson (above left) in the quarterfinals.



119TH CONNECTICUT AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Hartford Golf Club ~ West Hartford, Conn. ~ Par 70 / 6,771 yards ~ Entries: 291

June 14-18, 2021





A COMEBACK VICTORY

Nick Waddington rallied from behind in the final round to join his father Derek as a Connecticut Public Links champion.

At 2-under-par, he won the Public Links at H. Smith Richardson GC by two shots.

The 36th Connecticut Public Links hung in the balance. Laying two Nick Waddington stood just off the right side of the par-5 18th hole fairway clinging to a two-shot advantage.

Facing water on the left and woods to the right Waddington pured a 6-iron that hit in the middle of the green and bounded onto the back fringe. From there all he needed was bogey but he did one better saving par to finish 2-under and as the champion by two shots over 2019 winner Peter Tomlinson (Orange Hills CC) and four shots clear of first round leader Jamie Sheltman (Alling Memorial GC).

With the victory Waddington (Manchester CC) joined his father Derek, who was his caddy during the final round, as a Connecticut Public Links champion making them the first Father-Son duo to capture the title. Derek won his title in 1999 at Richter Park Golf Course.

“It is amazing to win the same tournament as my Dad,” Waddington said as he looked at his Dad and smiled. “Ever since I was a kid I wanted to be like my Dad because he wins all the golf tournaments. He wins the Club Championship, he wins state events, he plays on the Tri-State team and I did [it] and it is really amazing.”

Tied with Sheltman (above) late in the final round Waddington birdied the par-4 15th to move in front.

“When I first looked at [the birdie putt on No. 15] I said, ‘Dad maybe a little right edge?’ He kind of looks at me funny and goes, ‘No this is a left to right putt so I looked at it again and he was right as usual.’”

Waddington trusted his Dad’s read and drained the birdie putt to move back to 2-under and into the lead for good.



DOWLING'S REDEMPTION

Rick Dowling was poised to repeat at the Russell C. Palmer Cup in May however he stumbled down the stretch. Three months later Dowling held steady during the final round at The Farms Country Club to win his first Connecticut Mid-Amateur title.



CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION
MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

1984 - David Beardslee	1993 - Jim Detala
1985 - James DeDrigo	1994 - David Simons
1986 - William Bernasconi	1995 - James Gentile
1987 - William Bernasconi	1996 - Kevin Taylor
1988 - William Bernasconi	1997 - William Jordan
1989 - William Bernasconi	1998 - Thomas Evans
1990 - William Bernasconi	1999 - William Bernasconi
1991 - Jim Detala	



Rick Dowling (far left) took the lead in round two and then held off a number of challengers in the final round. John Abbott (bottom far left) set the first round pace with an opening 5-under 67. Cody Paladino (left) made a late charge but ran a birdie attempt by on the final hole and missed out on a playoff by one shot. Eric Bleile (above) was part of the early story.

For a moment on the back nine during the final round of the 34th Connecticut Mid-Amateur hosted by The Farms Country Club it looked like Rick Dowling had cracked the door open to the rest of the field. On the par-5 12th he hit his second shot long and out of bounds. He played a provisional and ended up making a tester for bogey to drop to 4-under for the tournament.

The next hole was the uphill 182-yard par-3 13th. Playing more like 200 yards with the wind into the player's face a stoic

Dowling hit the shot of the day knocking his 5-iron to inches. A few minutes later he tapped in the birdie putt to return to 5-under. That birdie and the subsequent five pars proved to be enough to crown Rick Dowling (EClub of Connecticut) the 2021 Connecticut Mid-Amateur champion.

With the win Dowling became the third player in Connecticut golf history to win the Connecticut Amateur, Russell C. Palmer Cup, and Connecticut Mid-Amateur joining Brian Ahern and

Connecticut Golf Hall of Famer William Hadden III.

"I didn't know that and my friend Brian [Ahern] is one of those guys and it is cool to be in the company of players like him and William," Dowling said of the illustrious company he joined. "This tournament is special because all the guys are 25 and older and I am friends with them and it is cool that they are all around. So to come out on top means a lot."

Dowling began the 36-hole final day 3-under and two shots off the pace set by overnight leader John Abbott (Indian Hill CC). In the second round he moved into a tie for the lead with a 1-under 71. Beginning his second round on No. 10 Dowling bogeyed his first two holes before righting the ship with an eagle on the 12th and then a birdie on the 13th. It would be all pars for the remainder of the round for Dowling and he would begin the afternoon 4-under in a tie for first with Peter Tomlinson (Orange Hills CC).



Birdie Birdie Finish

Jamie Sheltman doesn't show much emotion when he plays but he did fist pump after draining a birdie on the closing hole to post 4-under. Sheltman finished birdie-birdie but came up one stroke short and settled for a T2 finish.

In the final round, Dowling took the lead early with a birdie on the par-4 2nd and never relinquished at least a share of the lead. He birdied the par-5 7th to get as low as 6-under and opened up a two-shot lead before giving a stroke back on the 9th to make the turn one clear of the field at 5-under.

A number of challengers made a charge at Dowling throughout the final round. Among the most persistent were Jamie Sheltman (Alling Memorial GC), “This tournament is special because all the guys are 25 and older,” Dowling said. “I am friends with them and it is cool that they are all around. So to come out on top means a lot.”

Cody Paladino (Wampanoag CC), and Tomlinson.

Even-par to begin the final day of play Sheltman thrust himself into the picture with a 3-under 69 in the second round and then fired a 1-under 71 in the final round. Two shots back with one hole remaining Sheltman gave himself a chance at a playoff by rolling in an eight-footer for birdie on the closing par-5 18th to post 4-under.

“I felt like I definitely needed to make birdie maybe to put a little pressure on Rick,” said Sheltman. “But hats off to Rick he is just so steady, such a great player and he is a good friend of mine so I am really happy for him.”

Paladino, the runner-up at the Mid-Amateur last year, saved his best for last firing a 3-under 69 in the final round to finish 4-under alongside Sheltman in a tie for second. Tied for the lead early in the final round Paladino faded for a brief time before putting together a sprint to the finish. He eagled No. 12 to jump from 2-under to 4-under and one shot off the pace before two bogeys pushed him back to 2-under with just three holes remaining.

Needing to put his foot on the accelerator down the stretch the 2021 New



Dan Murphy (above) fired two subpar rounds to finish T5 while defending champion Ben Conroy (right) closed in 4-under 68 to move up the leaderboard into a tie for 10th. For portions of the final round it looked like Peter Tomlinson (above far right) would pick off the biggest win of his CSGA career while Tim Murphy (bottom right) got some good advice from Dennis Mpanda on his way to a T14 showing.

England Amateur winner birdied Nos. 16 and 17 to return to 4-under. Needing one more birdie on the final hole his birdie putt just missed low of the hole.

Second round co-leader Peter Tomlinson



battled his way through an up and down final round. Despite a triple-bogey on the par-3 4th, Tomlinson was just one stroke back after a birdie on No. 11 but two bogeys late did him in. Tomlinson, the 2019 Connecticut Public Links winner, ended up two shots off the pace at 3-under and in fourth place.



**34th Connecticut Mid-Amateur
The Farms Country Club - Wallingford, CT - Par 72/ 6,810 yards - Entries: 265
August 9-10, 2021**

1 Richard Dowling, EClub of Conn.	69-71-71-211	4 Peter Tomlinson, Orange Hills C.C.	69-71-73-213
T2 James Sheltman, Alling Memorial G.C.	72-69-71-212	T5 Daniel Murphy, H. Smith Richardson G.C.	69-75-71-215
T2 Cody Paladino, Wampanoag C.C.	71-72-69-212	T5 John Abbott, Indian Hill C.C.	67-74-74-215



BACK-TO-BACK CODY

Cody Paladino earned his fourth Dick Tettelbach Player of the Year award and became the first player to win the award in consecutive years since Jeff Hedden won the award three-times in a row from 2008-2010. “Winning Player of the Year is something that I am extremely proud of,” Paladino said.

Paladino won his first stroke play event since his 2015 Connecticut Open victory when he won the New England Amateur at Great River Golf Club by one-stroke. “It was pretty emotional when I won. I think there are some pictures out there where you can see some tears and I wasn’t necessarily expecting that emotion. I didn’t know what that moment was going to be like and I didn’t have much time to think about it because I knew it was going to be pretty close coming down the wire.”

In CSGA events Paladino once again had a number of near misses earning a runner-up finish at the Connecticut Amateur in June and then a T2 finish in August at the Connecticut Mid-Amateur. Paladino capped his impressive season by competing in the 40th U.S. Mid-Amateur where he reached the Round of 64. It was his first USGA appearance since 2010.

“It was an unbelievable experience to be at another USGA event. Being a part of that was very special. I was very proud to be a part of that field because there are over 5,000 players trying to qualify for the U.S. Mid-Amateur in an average year. I’m not afraid to say my overall goal is to win the U.S. Mid-Amateur in the next five years.”



WOMEN

Sophia Sarrazin watches as she stripes one at the 22nd Connecticut Women's Amateur. 2021 saw the return of the Connecticut Women's Open after a one-year hiatus due to Covid-19, a familiar champion at the Connecticut Women's Amateur, and the rise of some young talent.

COX WINS FOR SECOND TIME

Kyra Cox stormed out of the gates in the first round with a 4-under 68 then held on to win by **two shots at Race Brook Country Club.**

It wasn't an easy day for Kyra Cox but when she knocked in her par putt on the 18th green at Race Brook Country Club all she could do was smile. For the second time in her career she had won the Connecticut Women's Amateur and for the first time ever her mom was on hand to watch her win a golf tournament.

"It meant the world [to have my mom watching]. She doesn't come out to watch me play much because she has her hands full with my two younger sisters. This was an awesome opportunity to have her come out and watch me and it made it so special for her to see me win for the first time," Cox said.

At 3-under-par, Cox (EClub of Connecticut) began the final round of the 56th Connecticut Women's Amateur ahead by three shots, and quickly extended the advantage to five. However, the path to the finish wasn't an easy one as Cox had to overcome a final round 6-over 77 to finish 3-over just two shots in front of Kaitlyn Lee (+5).

Despite trailing by a sizeable margin for much of the final round, Lee hung tough until the very end. Playing with Cox in the final group the Yale junior birdied the par-5 10th and then ran off a series of pars to stay within shouting distance.

As Lee was surging Cox was faltering bogeying the 10th and 11th holes and as a result tightening the gap eventually to two. The difference remained two strokes with Cox at 1-over and Lee at 3-over when the horn sounded stopping play for a thunderstorm with five holes remaining.

When play resumed an hour later Lee continued her pursuit of Cox pulling within one shot following a bogey by the Furman senior on the 16th hole. For the first time all day it felt like it was game



Mia Grzywinski (above) finished in the top-4 for the second consecutive year.

on.

"Today was tough. I didn't play very good golf," Cox said. "Off the tee I was a lot better in the first round and especially on this course you have to stay in the fairway and to not have that today made me lose some strokes but I tried to just stay calm and stay positive and keep a good head on my shoulders."

Playing first on the par-4 17th Lee pushed her drive right into the rough and behind a row of trees. Cox, despite her earlier struggles, followed with a drive down the middle of the fairway.

Lee, who tied for fifth at the

Connecticut Women's Open in June, was forced to punch out into the middle of the fairway thus opening the door for Cox who took advantage hitting her approach shot to 20-feet. Moments later Cox walked off the green with a par and Lee a bogey moving the difference back to two shots heading to the final hole.

"I am pretty happy with how I played," Lee said. "I left every putt short and didn't really give myself a chance for birdie. I had a lot of those opportunities but I didn't really take advantage of them but other than that I am really happy with my game right now."





Cox missed the fairway on the par-4 18th and put her second shot in the right greenside bunker, however a stellar third shot resulted in a short par putt and a second victory in the Connecticut Women's Amateur. "It means a lot to win this a second time especially after the year that we had last year to come back and be able to do it again it feels really good," said Cox.

Other division winners included Charlotte Wagner (CC of Fairfield) in the Junior Division, Cox in the Mid-Amateur Division, Jen Holland (Lyman Orchards GC) in the Senior Division, and Jo Rasmussen (Great River GC) in the Super Senior Division.

Kaitlyn Lee (left) tried to track down Cox (right) in the final round. Jen Holland (below) won the senior title.



**56th Women's Amateur Championship
Race Brook Country Club - Orange, Conn.
Par 71 / 5,754 yards Entries 53
July 20-21, 2021**

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Kyra Cox, EClub of Conn. | 68-77-145 |
| 2 | Kaitlyn Lee, EClub of Conn. | 74-73-147 |
| 3 | Tracy Lee, EClub of Conn. | 75-74-149 |
| 4 | Mia Grzywinski, C.C. of Farmington | 75-76-151 |
| T5 | Liz Garfield, Tashua Knolls G.C. | 74-79-153 |
| T5 | Charlotte Wagner, C.C. of Fairfield | 71-82-153 |
| 7 | Sophia Sarrazin, Patterson Club | 77-80-157 |
| T8 | Jen Holland, Lyman Orchards G.C. | 81-78-159 |
| T8 | Kate Hong, Greenwich C.C. | 81-78-159 |
| T8 | Catarina Petrovic, EClub of Conn. | 79-80-159 |



SIVITER HOLDS STEADY

The 30-year-old grinded out her first professional victory and held off an all-time great in the process **as the Connecticut Women's Open returned to the CSGA schedule following a Covid-19 hiatus.**

It could have been a day of what ifs for Melissa Siviter. Instead, it was a day of triumph as the 30-year-old battled her way to her first professional win at the 22nd Connecticut Women's Open hosted by Black Hall Club.

"This win means a lot to me. It has been a long time coming. I have been close a number of times and just haven't gotten it done so to get it done really means a lot," Siviter said. "You never know if you can do it until you get over the edge so I am just super happy right now."

Siviter (GC of Georgia) opened with an even-par 72 on day one and entered the final round tied for the lead with amateurs Angela Garvin and Kaitlyn Lee. In the final round Siviter missed some opportunities early but she was able to do just enough to sign for a 2-over 74 to finish as the four shot winner over four-time champion Liz Caron, Yale's Ami Gianchandani, and 2020 Connecticut Women's Amateur winner Sophia Sarrazin.

The day got off to a quick start for Siviter as she birdied the opening hole to move to 1-under and remained there until the 4th when a string of near misses began to plague her. She missed the green to the left and hit a wonderful chip to four feet only to miss the par putt. The bogey was the first of three in four holes that dropped Siviter to 2-over.

On the par-5 8th Siviter looked as if she was set to turn her day around in a big way. After finding the middle of the fairway off the tee she knocked her second shot to 10-feet setting up an eagle try. Instead Siviter, who plays on the Women's All Pro Tour, three-putted and walked off the green shaking her head with a par. Following a par on the 9th Siviter made



Four-time Connecticut Women's Open champion Liz Caron finished in a tie for second place.

the turn at 2-over and one off the pace set by first round co-leader Kaitlyn Lee.

Lee (Westchester CC) played a steady front nine to move into the lead alone. Lee, a junior at Yale, birdied the opening hole to jump into red figures at 1-under. She stumbled with three bogeys during the middle portion of the opening nine but was able to two-putt for birdie on the 8th to reach 1-over and the top of the leaderboard with nine holes remaining.

"My putting and chipping saved me a lot again today but I think the biggest difference between the first round and the final round were that my shots off

the tee weren't as consistent. I was able to scramble and get up and down on the front but I guess I kind of ran out of gas on the back," Lee said. "But I am pretty happy with how I played besides the last five holes. I think I play well under pressure despite what the scorecard said today and I'm excited to see how I play in the next few events."

By the time play reached the back nine the tournament had turned into a two player race between Siviter and Lee. However, it soon became clear that the veteran Siviter wasn't going to melt under the pressure of a tight race. Siviter held



serve with pars on Nos. 10-14 while Lee struggled dropping shots on 11 and 14 to fall one behind.

"I knew par was going to be my friend today so I didn't try and pull off any crazy shots," Siviter said. "I just kept hitting one shot at a time until I got to the 18th. I didn't really know where I stood so I just kept telling myself par is my friend."

Once she was in front Siviter was not going to let this opportunity slide by. Siviter did bogey the 15th hole but she extended her lead to two shots when Lee double-bogeyed. One hole later she

Siviter (left) wedged her second shot on No. 16 to 15-feet and then made the birdie to seal the deal. 2011 winner Jordan Lintz (right) finished T9.

applied the knock out punch. Siviter split the fairway with her tee shot on the par-4 16th and with a wedge in hand she knocked her approach shot to 15-feet. Facing a downhill putt for birdie Siviter curled it in, gave a fist pump, and walked to the 17th tee 2-over and in command.

"When that putt went in I thought I really had a chance. But the par-3 17th isn't an easy shot with the water on the left and I stuck it to 15-feet and that kind of settled the nerves," said Siviter.



Amateurs Sophia Sarrazin (below left) and Ami Gianchandani (below right) shared second place and low amateur honors.

**22nd Connecticut Women's Open
Black Hall Club - Old Lyme, Conn.
Par 72 / 5,790 yards Entries 65
June 7-8, 2021**

1	Melissa Siviter, G.C. of Georgia	72-74-146
T2	Liz Caron, Mill River Club	76-74-150
T2	Ami Gianchandani (a), Watchung Valley G.C.	75-75-150
T2	Sophia Sarrazin (a), Patterson Club	74-76-150
T5	Jean Bartholomew, Engineers C.C.	77-74-151
T5	Kyra Cox (a), Centennial G.C.	73-78-151
T5	Kaitlyn Lee (a), Westchester C.C.	72-79-151
T8	Samantha Morrell, Wee Burn C.C.	79-74-153
T8	Lisa Grimes, LPGA Class A	77-76-153
T8	Alexis Florio (a), Columbia Univ./Alpine C.C.	74-79-153
T8	Jordan Lintz, Oronoque C.C.	74-79-153



MIA BREAKS STREAK

Call it a changing of the guard. For the first time in five years a new player has won the Liz Janangelo Caron Women's Player of the Year award. That player is Quinnipiac junior Mia Grzywinski.

"It means a ton to be Player of the Year," said Grzywinski. "It hasn't exactly been a super easy last couple of years of my golf journey especially once I got to Quinnipiac my freshman year. My game changed a lot and not completely for the good. I had to do a lot of swing work, I had to do a lot of short game, and putting work so it took a lot to get here. It is just very rewarding to see that all the hours I have put in paid off. It was fun to have a great summer."

The native of Farmington won the Hartford Women's Open in June and then nearly won the New England Women's Amateur a few weeks later finishing in second place. The 20-year-old made a run for a second consecutive year at the Connecticut Women's Amateur earning a fourth place finish.

"I think the mindset for the most part heading into the summer was that I have done all the preparation I need and now it is time to see the payoff," Grzywinski said. "I felt like at any point things were going to click and my game was going to be exactly where I wanted it to be. And that is what happened. Perfect timing."





GREAT ESCAPES



Steve Gettings (above right) flexes to escape the hay while Chris Ayers (below right) hacks out at Hartford. Even Player of the Year Cody Paladino (below) sometimes finds trouble. Above it's "Woodchopper's Ball!"





Whether at Hartford GC during the Amateur (below), or at Skungamaug River GC during a One Day (above right), "Penalty Areas" previously known as "Water Hazards" are still plenty wet. Then there are times, like at the Four-Ball, when not even a shot down the middle of the fairway can save you from a drenching (above left). Clothing be damned.



Nobody likes a long bunker shot or a plugged ball, but Ellie Large (above) and Alexander Gu (right) found buried treasure with a pair of sand saves.





At the Women's Open (above) it wasn't hard to get caught between a rock and a hard place. However, there is no better feeling than pulling off a great escape and walking away with a par. Connor Goode (below left) and Billy Street (below right) fist pump a clutch save. Other times all you can do is smile in relief like Jason Morrow (right).



2021 JUNIOR COMPETITION



JUNIORS

Surprise champions and home course advantage were the themes of the 2021 junior golf season. At the Junior Amateur Connor Goode took down defending champion Matt Doyle in the title match while at the Borck Junior Alex Elia and Mia Holbrook both won titles on their home track.

GOODE WALKS THE TIGHTROPE

Connor Goode survived a playoff just to make it into match play and then from there methodically worked his way through the bracket on the way to the **biggest win of his career.**

For Connor Goode (Glastonbury Hills CC) it was worth the wait. With the championship match of the 80th Connecticut Junior Amateur postponed two weeks from its original date due to heavy rain Goode captured the title with an emphatic 4&2 win over defending champion Matt Doyle (Madison CC).

Goode won the par-4 3rd hole with a par to take the lead and never looked back. He extended his lead to 2 up with a five-foot birdie putt on the par-5 7th and then further extended his advantage to 3 up at the turn with a hole-winning par on



“Winning the Connecticut Junior means everything to me.”

— Connor Goode

the par-3 9th.

“I was the 31-seed, I was just playing golf,” said Goode who survived a 3-for-2 playoff to reach match play. “I had nothing to lose. I was just thinking about posting a score. It didn’t really matter who I was playing. I just tried to play good golf.”

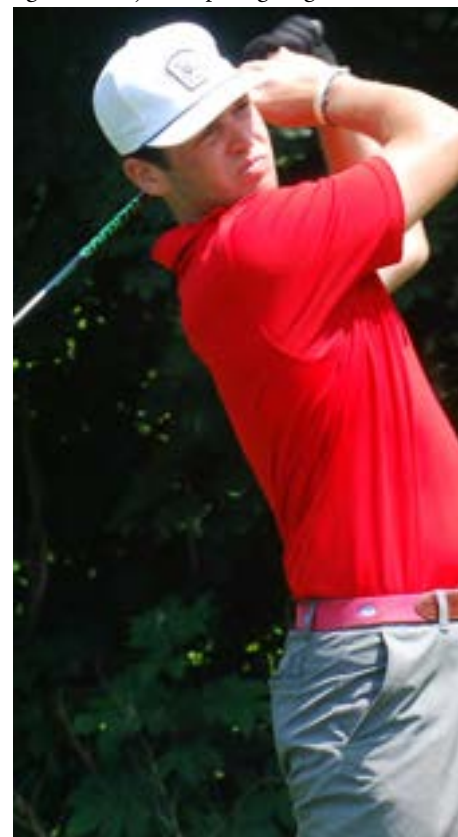
It looked like Doyle was going to chip into the deficit on the par-4 10th but Goode converted a gutsy uphill five-footer for par to maintain his lead. On the par-4 11th again it looked like Doyle would be able to inch closer. Goode took an aggressive line off the tee only to clip a tree leaving his ball just past the tee box. Doyle played next and blasted his drive into the left rough leaving only 100 yards into the green.

Goode’s second shot was lofted over the trees along the right side of the fairway to about 100 yards out and his third shot finished 20-feet from the pin. Doyle,

Connor Goode (far right) survived a playoff to reach match play. Vasily Konachenkov (left) and Bennett Ostern (near right) both made a run to the semifinals at Watertown Golf Club.

about a month removed from joining the Elon University golf team as a freshman, came up short with his second shot then hit a wonderful chip to three-feet resulting in a par. However, Goode had an answer rolling in the long-distance uphill par putt to keep his lead 3 up.

On the next hole, Goode would all but put the match away taking the par-4 12th with a par. “Obviously not the finish that I wanted but if there was someone else I wanted to win besides me it was Connor,” a disappointed Doyle said. “Taking a two-week break from when it started is very tough but he was putting well the entire day and it was the same thing two weeks ago and he just kept it going. I didn’t have





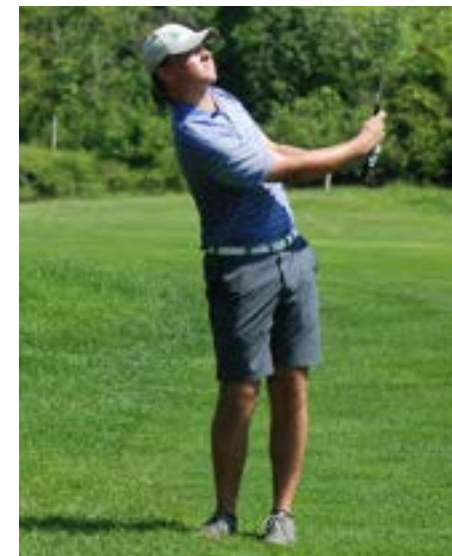
my best today but it is what it is.”

Doyle would keep the match alive with a win on the par-4 13th and then survived a championship winning putt on the short par-3 15th sending the match to the par-5 16th with Goode still 3 up.

Goode, a senior at Glastonbury High School, lost his drive out to the left while Doyle found the right rough. Standing 235 yards out and partially blocked out by a tree Goode hit the shot of a day knocking a punched hybrid to eight feet. Doyle made things interesting chipping in for birdie but all it did was force Goode to attempt his eagle try.

Just over two weeks earlier Goode won his Round of 32 match with an eagle on the 19th hole, then 16 days later he clinched the title with an eagle.

“Winning the Connecticut Junior Amateur means everything to me,” said Goode after his 4&2 win. “I think it opens up a lot of doors and opportunities in the future for playing college golf.”



Matt Doyle (far left) came up one win short in his quest to repeat as Junior Amateur champion. Goode (above) poses with the trophy. Jackson Roman (left) reached the quarterfinals while Christian Yanovitch (right) shared medalist honors.



**80th Connecticut Junior Amateur
Watertown Golf Club 6,400 yards
July 6-8 and 23rd, 2021 Entries: 90**

Connor Goode’s (Glastonbury Hills C.C) path to the William A. Salvatore Trophy

Stroke Play Qualifier: 77 (+6), seeded 31st

Round of 32: Defeated #2 Jack Bosworth (EClub of Connecticut), 19 holes

Round of 16: Defeated #18 Christopher Pieper (TPC River Highlands), 1 up

Quarterfinals: Defeated #10 Elias Kennon (Golf Performance Center), 2&1

Semifinals: Defeated #30 Bennett Ostern (Hop Meadow C.C.), 3&2

Finals: Defeated #4 Matt Doyle (Madison C.C.), 4&2

HOME COURSE ADVANTAGE

Alex Elia and Mia Holbrook shined at their home course and won the **2021 Borck Junior Tournament at Silver Spring Country Club.**



Home course advantage proved to be a difference maker at the 52nd Borck Junior hosted by Silver Spring Country Club. Both winners, Alex Elia and Mia Holbrook call the club home and made certain that they defended their home turf.

In the Boys Division, co-medalist Alex Elia began the final day with a 4&3 semifinal win over Sebastian Beaver (EClub of Connecticut). Elia won four of the first seven holes to take control of the match and advance to the finals where he faced Charlie Stuhr (Redding CC).

Stuhr won the first three holes of the title match to take a 3 up lead. However, Elia was not fazed. He won Nos. 4 and 5 to draw within 1 down and then the 8th and 9th holes to move in front.

"I just thought to myself it is just the first three holes and there are still 15 to play," Elia said of the early deficit. "My goal was to get at least to even heading into the back and I was able to do one better and go 1 up."

Once in front, Elia didn't look back. On the 165-yard downhill par-3 10th he stuffed his 8-iron tee shot to inches for a conceded birdie to move his advantage to 2 up. Following a series of ties he won the par-3 15th with a par to go 3 up and then closed out the championship one hole later.

"It is special to win an event on my home course," Elia said of his 3&2 triumph. "Just to win an event period [is exciting]. I have been so close to winning the last four years and to finally get it done it feels really good."

In the Girls Division Mia Holbrook bested Jordan Levitt 2&1 to earn the



Mia Holbrook knows her winning putt is going to find the bottom of the cup even before it drops.

"It's special to win on my home course. Just to win an event period [is exciting]."

- Alex Elia

title. "It is the best, this is the best feeling," Holbrook said. "Winning any tournament is great but I think being at my home course, this is so cool, this is the best experience I could have asked for."

Holbrook, the medalist, reached the championship match following a hard-fought 21 hole victory over Lydia Welborn (Golf Performance Center) in the semifinals.

Levitt, who has only been playing golf since March of 2020, got off to a good start winning the opening hole but her lead didn't last long as Holbrook tied the match on No. 3 and then took the lead for good with a victory on the par-3 8th hole. Her victory on No. 8 was the

first of three straight wins to push her advantage to 3 up with eight holes remaining.

However, Levitt wouldn't go away quietly trimming the deficit to 1 down with two holes left. Levitt found the fairway on No. 17 while Holbrook ended up on a slope above a fairway bunker. Faced with a difficult shot Holbrook played possibly the shot of the day landing her approach shot just short of the green and then watched as it ran onto the back portion of the putting surface.

Both players left their third shots short leaving them with testers to save par. Levitt played first and burned the edge giving Holbrook a chance to seal the deal. Facing a four-foot downhill par putt she did just that. Moments after the ball left her putter she raised her arms in celebration and watched as the putt slammed into the bottom of the cup.

SENIORS

The 2021 Senior season was highlighted by two first time winners. First Craig Platt won the Senior Match Play in June and then at the Senior Amateur in September Donal Reilly captured the crown.

SZEW CZUL DEFENDS TITLE

Few players have won as often as Dave Szewczul has throughout his golf career but that doesn't mean victories still aren't special. **"Winning is not easy and it just makes it that much more gratifying when you do."**

Throughout his round Dave Szewczul looked like he was going to cruise to a comfortable victory at the 25th Super Senior Championship contested at Longshore Golf Course. However, Szewczul would have to battle bogey woes late and then grind out a playoff against Terry Ruzzo.

Szewczul would find himself as low as 3-under for his round after holing out from the bunker on the 13th. Back-to-back bogeys on 14 and 15 would make things interesting as the leader started back towards the clubhouse.

Playing ahead of Szewczul two-time Super Senior champion Terry Ruzzo became the first player to post a number in red figures signing for a 1-under 68. Ruzzo's day included two birdies and one bogey.

Szewczul had a chance to win in regulation but pars on the final three holes resulted in a 1-under 68 tally that matched Ruzzo. Now it was a waiting game as both players waited to see if they would be bested or if a playoff would ensue.

Just before 5 o'clock, the expected became reality as Ruzzo and Szewczul would battle it out in a playoff.

Returning to the first tee both players pulled drives down the left side with



Terry Ruzzo (above) made a strong bid at a third Super Senior title before he moved to Arizona.

"You still have those competitive juices like everyone else does."

—Dave Szewczul

Ruzzo finding himself in a slightly more difficult situation dealing with the rough.

Szewczul would have better luck as

he found the fairway. Szewczul was then able to play it to the center of the green and two-putt for par to become the Super Senior champion for a second consecutive year.

"To be able to still compete at this stage is a lot of fun," Szewczul said. "You still have those competitive juices like everyone else does. Winning is not easy and it just makes it that much more gratifying when you do."

25th Super Senior Championship Longshore Golf Course Westport, Conn. August 16, 2021

Par 69/ 5,900 yards - Entries: 85

1 Dave Szewczul, TPC River Highlands *	68	T4 Tom Yellin, The Stanwich Club	72
2 Terry Ruzzo, Tallwood C.C.	68	T4 Wynne Bohannon, Longshore Mens G.C.	72
3 Arthur Haddad, Richter Park G.C.	69	T7 Bob Gorman, H. Smith Richardson G.C.	73
T4 Jim Curtis, Clinton C.C.	72	T7 Bill Dober, Brooklawn C.C.	73

*** Won in Playoff**





CROSS HANDED IRISHMAN LOSES WEDGE, WINS SENIOR

After the second of two weather delays Donal Reilly birdied three holes in a five hole stretch to take command of the tournament. **“I’ve been banging balls for 48 years and it all came to fruition today!”**

Late in the front nine it looked like as many as 10 players had a chance to win the 76th Connecticut Senior Amateur. By the time the players reached the midway point of the back nine it had turned into the Donal Reilly show.

“I’ve been banging balls for 48 years and it all came to fruition today,” said Reilly, a first-time CSGA winner. “It is a great and a wonderful experience all around.”

Originally from Ballymahon, Ireland, a town an hour west of Dublin, Reilly began playing golf when he was 10-years-old hitting balls into his neighbor’s farm field. Reilly, who plays cross-handed, continued to play the game while in boarding school at a nearby par-3 course but it wasn’t until after he moved stateside in 1987 that he started to take his game to the next level.

“It isn’t unusual for guys from Ireland to have a cross-handed grip,” explained Reilly. “We play a game called hurling which is similar to field hockey and you have to be able to swing the stick in both directions. I didn’t play a lot of hurling but a lot of guys swing cross-handed so it isn’t as unique over there as it is here. I’ve been doing it for the best part of 40 years and it’s too late to change now.”

For parts of the final round it felt like Reilly was playing a round back home in Ireland. The skies were gray and the rain fell on and off forcing delays on two separate occasions.

“I play in the rain so it feels like home to some degree,” said Reilly (H. Smith Richardson GC). “I can’t say that it really affects me at all. It is just part of what we do when we play so quite honestly I was

relaxed about the whole thing and I felt good all day so it really isn’t that big of an issue for me.”

4-over for the tournament and leading by one when he returned to the course for the final eight holes of a challenging day at The Patterson Club, Reilly found another gear. On the par-4 10th Reilly knocked his approach shot from 120-yards out to 10-feet and then trickled in the downhill birdie putt. Once that putt fell the 58-year-old moved to 3-over and was off to the races.

Two solid pars followed, including a nifty up-and-down on the par-3 12th after his tee shot came to rest just feet from the water to the left of the green. Now leading by two shots Reilly continued to extend his advantage. First, he chipped in for birdie from 15-feet on the par-4 13th.

“I lost my sand wedge somewhere on the golf course today,” said Reilly when talking about his chip-in birdie. “So I used my 60-degree wedge for the shot which I normally wouldn’t use for that shot but it worked out pretty well.”

Then on the par-5 14th Reilly drained a difficult downhill 12-footer for birdie to all but put the tournament away. Reilly bogeyed No. 15 but a pair of pars on his final two holes sealed the deal as he signed for a final round 1-under 70 to card the only under-par round of the tournament and finish 2-over overall.

Reilly began the final round 3-over and two shots off the pace and played steady golf early in the round. Beginning the shotgun start final round on the par-4 17th hole Reilly played his first nine holes in 1-over par to keep himself firmly in the mix throughout the start and stop early portions of the round.



Bart Weissman led after the first round before finishing tied for 7th.

“I had a good day and enjoyed it. I played with two good guys. I love the camaraderie of the senior guys and I have received a lot of congratulations on my phone,” a smiling Reilly said. “It is blowing up here as I speak but all in all it was a great day.”

Eric Ashworth (EClub of Connecticut) finished second four shots off the pace at 6-over, Tom Hagel (The Patterson Club) and Michael Hooper (Brooklawn CC) shared third at 7-over while Bill Hermanson (Black Hall Club) and Glen Boggini (Manchester CC) tied for fifth at 8-over.

PLATT STORMS TO TITLE

A lack of experience in CSGA events was of little matter for Craig Platt as he captured his **first title in impressive fashion.**

In a tense title match that saw 11 holes tied and neither player lead by more than one hole it was Craig Platt (Mill River CC), who pulled out a 1 up victory over Bob Murphy, Jr. (Brownson CC) to claim the 15th Senior Match Play title.

“This is great. This is my first CSGA win, this is awesome,” said Platt who was playing in only his third CSGA senior event. “I was excited to come out and play. I just kind of proved to myself that I can hang with these guys.”

On a cloudy, chilly morning at Torrington Country Club Platt and Murphy came to the final hole tied. Both players put themselves in a good position off the tee. Platt played his approach shot into the uphill closing par-4 first and hit a wedge to the center of the green. Murphy took a more aggressive line firing at the flagstick tucked behind the front right bunker. The shot looked good until the ball bounced high off the face of the deep bunker and nestled along the back edge.

Barely away, Platt, played first and hit potentially his putt of the week. Facing a 40-foot hard swinging left to right putt Platt nearly holed it coming up inches short and earning a conceded par.

“That was one of the hardest putts I have ever had but it just came off the putter perfect,” Platt said. “My putter was my strength all week, I made a lot of really good putts.”

Murphy, with his ball close to the back edge of the bunker, had an opportunity to get up and down to force extra holes however his shot flew over the green. A few moments later Murphy was congratulating Platt on a hard fought victory.

“Today was a great match. We both played some really good golf,” Murphy



Bob Murphy, Jr. (above) made a valiant run at the title at Torrington Country Club.

said. “But my hats off to Craig he really played great. He hit some quality shots down the stretch but anytime you have a match like this that goes down to the last hole it is always a good match. We have been friends for a long time so I was happy for him.”

Murphy took a 1 up lead with a birdie on the par-5 2nd. The lead was short lived as Platt won the 4th and 5th holes to take his first lead of the match. One hole later Murphy squared the tilt with a par to capture the par-3 6th hole.

Matching pars on the next four holes sent the match to the par-3 11th still tied. Murphy found the green with his tee shot and was able to two-putt for par. After missing the green right and sending his second shot long Platt needed to chip in to tie the hole but came up short allowing Murphy to regain the lead at 1 up.

Murphy maintained his advantage until

the par-5 16th where Platt had closed out his semifinal match the day before. Platt went for the green in two leaving himself a chip from the left side of the green while Murphy was forced to lay up and then came up short with his third shot.

Seeing his chance to tie the match Platt lofted a gorgeous pitch shot to inches and was rewarded with a conceded birdie. When Murphy’s birdie chip raced by the match was tied with two holes to play. The par-3 17th was tied with pars setting the stage for the final hole.





Peter Davison (left) got up and down for par on No. 18 to win his quarterfinal match. Platt played with fire and emotion all week long. Above Platt celebrates his semifinal winning birdie putt while below Platt was poised to unleash a vicious fist pump on the final hole of the title match only to watch his long birdie putt hang on the edge. However, par ended up being enough.

**15th Senior Match Play
Torrington Country Club - Goshen Conn.
Par 72 / 6,651 yards Entries: 123
June 22-25, 2021**

Craig Platt's (Mill River C.C.) path to Victory

Stroke Play Qualifier: 74 (+2), seeded 5th
Round of 32: Defeated #28 Gregg Tortora (Candlewood Valley C.C.), 1 up
Round of 16: Defeated #12 Mark Vassalotti (Sterling Farms Mens G.C.), 1 up
Quarterfinals: Defeated #13 Paul Stancs (Litchfield C.C.), 2&1
Semifinals: Defeated #17 Peter Davison (Rockledge C.C.), 3&2
Finals: Defeated #3 Bob Murphy, Jr. (Brownson C.C.), 1 up

BANNER SEASON FOR JONES

Stellar, steady golf all added up to the first Dick Siderowf Senior Player of the Year award for Dave Jones. “I don’t think I have really processed what winning the award means yet,” said Jones. “It is never one of my goals at the beginning of the year. I just want to try to improve every year and try to really enjoy the game.”

The 59-year-old set the stage for his career year with his early season success in the One Day Tournament Series presented by Chris Cote’s Golf Shop winning five events including three before the end of May. In championship play Jones, a member at Mohegan Sun Golf Club since 1997, reached the quarterfinals of the Senior Match Play, finished second at the Senior Four-Ball, and tied for second at the New England Senior Amateur.

However, for Jones the highlight of the year was competing in the Tri-State Matches at Cape Cod National Golf Club. “Without a doubt playing for Captain Roger Everin was the highlight of the year. Being part of that team and getting to know all the guys was an amazing experience and a memory I will cherish,” Jones said.

Winning Dick Siderowf Senior Player of the Year will be a memory Jones will cherish for a long time as well!

Mother Nature threw a little bit of everything at the players in the 2021 team events. The season started in the cold wind of April at the Two Man Championship and ended in the fall chill of October at the Mixed Team Championship. In between their was a lot of rain before the schedule closed in mid-October.

NICE SHOT
PARTNER!



2021 PARTNERS

FATHER-SON TEAMWORK

Sometimes playing with someone who knows your game brings out the best in you. **That was certainly the case for the Zimmermans and Careys.**

It is always special to win a golf tournament. It is even more special to win a tournament playing alongside your Dad. In May at the 2nd Parent Child Championship the father-son tandem of Les and Brett Zimmerman (left) captured the title for the second straight season.

Beginning on the 5th hole at Clinton Country Club the Zimmermans started their day with a disappointing three-putt bogey before settling into their round. Despite the slow start the Zimmermans were able to recover playing the rest of the round in even-par to sign for a victorious 1-over 73.

“We have played together a lot during our lifetime in our men’s club and our city championships and so forth,” Les said. “We have been runner-up three-times in the Father Son so we enjoy playing together for sure.”

Speaking of the Father Son Championship the title this year was claimed by Frank and Mike Carey (below). The Careys had played in the Father Son somewhere between 10-14 times but didn’t hoist the trophy until they fired at 3-under 69 on a hot and humid day at The Alliance Club at Oxford Greens.

According to father Frank, “We did nothing extraordinary. We just kept it in play and only made one bogey.”

Their round was highlighted by short birdies on Nos. 8 and 17 converted by father Frank after son Mike chipped it close. “Dad never misses those,” said the confident son.

A round with Dad never misses. Especially when you head home with a trophy at the end of the day.



WINNING AS A TEAM

Newcomers and veterans alike had success in **team competitions this season.**

Playing together for the first time Corey Jones and Jessica Hewitt (right) carded a 1-over 71 to capture the 84th Mixed Team Championship at Mill River Country Club. “It was a team effort,” Corey Jones said of the victory. “We both ham and egged it pretty well and it worked.”

Competing in the Chapman format and battling windy conditions the duo began the shotgun start tournament on the 1st hole and opened with the seven consecutive pars before dropping a stroke on No. 8.

Unfazed by the bogey Jones and Hewitt, both former club champions at Shennecossett GC, birdied the next two holes to move into the red and give themselves enough of a cushion. Off the tee on Nos. 9 and 10 Hewitt, playing in her first CSGA event, set the team up with perfect drives and Jones produced, knocking both approach shots close to set up the birdies.

They did drop strokes on Nos. 13 and 14 to fall back to 1-over but a run of pars on the way to the house righted the ship and secured the victory.

“I am very excited to win. I came in with no expectations,” Hewitt said. “I just wanted to feel it out and find out what it was like to be out here. I wanted to get my comfort and it was nice to have Corey out there with me. So definitely excited to get out there again next year.”

At the Senior Four-Ball at Norwich Golf Club David Zeid (below left) and Dick Stevens (below right) fired a 5-under 66 to win by a stroke.

Zeid, a winner for the first time in a CSGA event, rolled in the winning birdie on the par-4 17th. “I’ve come close before and I was very pleased to finally win one,” said Zeid. “It is also really great to win an event with such a strong field.”





BATTLING THE ELEMENTS

The Four-Ball at Wallingford Country Club saw David Flint and Tim Bickford utilize home course knowledge to survive pouring rain while at the Two Man Championship **Rick Dowling and Nick Taylor proved to be unbeatable.**

Some players are horses for courses. That seems to be the case for Rick Dowling and Nick Taylor at the Two Man Championship hosted by Black Hall Club. In late April on a chilly breezy day Dowling and Taylor birdied two of the last four holes to finish the 36-hole day 1-over.

The day for Dowling and Taylor began on the 13th hole with a round of four-ball. They combined for an opening round even-par 71 to solidify their spot near the top of the leaderboard heading into the

afternoon foursomes.

As the temperatures dropped Dowling and Taylor battled their way to a 1-over 72 tally that included four birdies and five bogeys to finish the day at 1-over and one shot better than Cody Paladino and Kevin Josephson.

At the Four-Ball Championship at Wallingford Country Club David Flint (above left) and Tim Bickford (above right) battled driving rain from Hurricane Ida and a soaked course to earn the title on their home track.

Tied with the group behind them and needing birdie on the last hole Bickford converted a 30-foot birdie putt to win the title.

“To do it at home is great,” Bickford said. “The group behind us was 9-under and we knew it so we knew we needed a birdie to win and we definitely let the emotions go when it dropped in.”

Nick Taylor (left) and Rick Dowling (right) earned their third Two Man Championship in the last four years.



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2021 CONNECTICUT TEAM COMPETITION

FOURPEAT FOR THE CSGA

With another complete team effort the CSGA continued its string of recent success **against the PGA Connecticut Section.**



The CSGA team led by captain Roger Everin won the Julius Boros Challenge Cup once again.

Call it a fourpeat. For the first time in the 50 year history of the Julius Boros Challenge Cup the Connecticut State Golf Association team of amateurs has won four-times in a row. On a sun splashed but windy day at New Haven Country Club the CSGA once again dominated the PGA Connecticut Section winning comfortably 47.5-24.5.

"We are really excited about the whole thing," said fifth-year captain Roger Everin. "I am really excited for the players. I never really talked to them about [winning four in a row] or pushed that but they all knew about it and it is just a great feeling to know that the CSGA as a group has won four in a row. I can't say enough about the players and I

am ecstatic that they came through."

The CSGA rode a quick start from their lead groups to the record setting victory. Beginning on the 1st hole Ben Conroy and Ben Day, both New Haven CC members, got the CSGA off to a good start winning 5.5 of a possible 9 points.

Leading off on the 10th tee for the CSGA was the senior duo of Dick Stevens (EClub of Connecticut) and Bob Murphy, Jr. (Brownson CC). Led by the play of Stevens, the 2020 Senior Amateur winner, the tandem accrued 5.5 points to help boost the CSGA out to an early 11-7 advantage.

As the early scores trickled in it looked like the final result would be razor thin, that is until Cody Paladino (Wampanoag CC) and Nick Cook (Tashua Knolls GC)

posted an 8-1 victory that began to create the separation.

A few groups later the CSGA emphatically sealed the deal when the anchor match featuring Rick Dowling (Golf Performance Center) and Dan Murphy (H. Smith Richardson GC) came in having earned all 9 of their points. Dowling and Murphy combined for an 8-under 62 in four-ball while also sweeping their singles matches.

"We say it every year it is about golf in Connecticut. You have the professionals that are on the side of operations and teaching and helping the industry and then you have the amateurs that are feeding that. I look at it as if we are all working together," said Everin.

JAMES MAKES HISTORY

The remarkable junior career of Ben James continued this season at both the **regional and national level.**



Team Connecticut put together a strong showing at Val Halla Golf Course in Maine.

The remarkable junior career of Ben James continued at the New England Junior Amateur Championship hosted by Val Halla Golf Course. With rounds of 67-66-66 James finished 14-under-par and for a third consecutive time earned New England Junior Boys Individual honors. James became the first player in tournament history to win the event three times in a row.

“That achievement means so much to me,” James a member of the 2021 U.S. Junior Ryder Cup team said.

James recorded 17 birdies, an eagle, and just six bogeys over the course of his 54-holes to finish five shots clear of Colin Spencer (MA).

“It’s been a battle every year with me and the other competitors,” James said. “It’s just been awesome to kind of get it all together three consecutive times. I’ve played pretty well in all of them and I’m just happy to win my last one.”

In the team competition the

Connecticut Boys team finished in second place thanks in part to four members of the team finishing inside the top-15. In addition to James Connecticut was paced by 2020 Connecticut Junior Amateur champion Matt Doyle (T4), 2021 Connecticut Junior Amateur winner Connor Goode (6th), and 2020 Borck Junior champion Jackson Roman (T13). Rounding out the Boys roster were Alex Elia, Kyle St. Pierre, and Will Lodge.

The Girls team finished fifth with all three players finishing in the top-15. Kate Hong (10th) led the way with Charlotte Wagner (11th), and Leslie Li (15th) just behind.



Ben James, here with the NEJA individual trophy, also won three American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) events in 2021.

TRI-STATES RETURN

After being canceled last year the the Tri-State Matches returned with the annual matches being held at **Cape Cod National Golf Club.**



The 2021 Connecticut Tri-State team was captained by Roger Everin.

After a one year hiatus the Tri-State Matches returned in 2021. “Last year was a tough year,” said Team Captain Roger Everin. “We kept rescheduling and rescheduling and then we finally had a date and it rained. But we were excited to play again this year.”

16 of the best players from Connecticut competed against the top players from Massachusetts and Rhode Island for two days at Cape Cod National Golf Club to determine the winner of the 87th Tri-State Matches.

In search of their second victory in their last three tries, Connecticut got off to a slow start in the morning foursomes on day one of competition. Connecticut then spent the rest of the week trying to play catch up. However, the early deficit proved to be to big to overcome.

Led by a team best 14.5 points from Bob Murphy, Jr. Connecticut did make a valient effort finishing second in the

final two sessions but it wasn’t enough. Massachusetts earned 111 points to win the matches for the 16th time in the last 17 events while Rhode Island was second with 91.5 points and Connecticut was third at 85.5 points.

2021 also saw the return of the Women’s Tri-State Matches contested at Wyantenuck Country Club in Massachusetts.

Connecticut played stellar golf besting Massachusetts and Rhode Island to earn their first victory since 2013.

“Everybody who came out to play did a great job,” said Team Captain Joyce Curran. “We had great team spirit, we love each other, and to come out with a win after that is nice.

It is difficult to beat Massachusetts so it feels pretty good [to win].”



Victorious Team Connecticut celebrating their Women’s Tri-State win.



2021 CHRIS COTE'S GOLF SHOP ONE DAY SERIES

TOP VENUES LEAD ONE DAY SERIES TO NEW HEIGHTS

A record number of players competed this year in the **One Day Series**.

In 2020, the Chris Cote One Day Series served a much different purpose than a place to flex one's competitive muscles against the field. It is remembered for the first return to normalcy after the virus shutdown, for the gratitude expressed just to play the game.

With vaccinations available, enthusiasm for the 2021 Chris Cote One Day Series did not wane, but rather increased with even more popularity. Participation in the 14 tournaments exceeded 1,800 for the first time, with an average number of 129 players per event. With golf carts occasionally in sporadic supply, the CSGA introduced additional walking blocks of tee times at several venues, allowing for even more players. It all added up to more new players enjoying the One Day experience than ever before.

"The One-Day Tournaments are such great events for local amateur golfers and we're happy to be a part of it," series sponsor Chris Cote said. "Thank you to the CSGA for another great year!"

Of the 12 Tettelbach Gross Individual competitions, there were eight winners and two multiple winners in Eric Bleile and Patrick Griffin. The lowest rounds of the year belonged to Seth Jainchill and Justin Beal who both shot 69 at Tumble Brook and Mill River respectively. In the four-ball action, the team of Tim Guiliano and Shawn Hilario won by six shots with an impressive 12-under 60 at Manchester.

The Tettelbach Net competitions were won by 14 different players, with a low score of 65 at Wampanoag from Carlos Medina and a low team score of 63 turned in by Luis Datil and Wallie Feliciano at the Skungamaug River Four-Ball.

On the senior side in the Siderowf Division, gross play was dominated by Dave Jones who won an extraordinary five times and two multiple winners, Bill Hermanson and Richard Stevens. Hermanson pocketed the low round of the year with a 66 at Mill River and the team of Tom Brett and Peter Davison claimed the low team score of 67 at Skungamaug River.

Our Siderowf Net competition saw one multiple winner in Blase Sanzone and ten other individual winners, with a low score of 66 shot by Sanzone at Mill River and by Henry Wrotniak at the Country Club of Farmington. Skungamaug River was the site of the low team score of 62 fired by Domenic Maselli and Scott Marshall.

"It was rewarding to see the Chris Cote One Day Series continue to flourish in 2021," said CSGA Director Marsha Rupp who leads the team of CSGA staff and volunteers that run the series. "We are so thankful for the gracious support of all of our host clubs in 2021 and the CSGA is incredibly proud to be affiliated with a phenomenal sponsor like Chris Cote's Golf Shop whose dedication to growing the game through our partnership and community engagement is unparalleled."



TETTELBACH GROSS DIVISION

#1

CHRIS MAXWELL played in 10 events this season winning one time at Glastonbury Hills C.C. Maxwell earned three other runner-up finishes to go along with five additional top-10 finishes. Overall Maxwell earned nine top-10 showings.



TETTELBACH NET DIVISION

#1

MARIO ARGENTINO played in a full slate of One Day events earning a victory at the C.C. of Farmington. Argentino also earned three T3 finishes and a pair of T4 showings.



SIDEROWF GROSS DIVISION

#1

DAVE JONES had a banner season winning five times and never finishing outside the top-10. Jones picked up victories at Simsbury Farms G.C., Indian Hill C.C., Stonington C.C., Glastonbury Hills C.C., and Hop Meadow C.C.



SIDEROWF NET DIVISION

#1

SCOTT HARGER played in 13 events only finishing outside the top-20 on two occasions. He won the Wampanoag C.C. One Day on his way to racking up seven top-11 finishes.



CHRISTOPHER DELUCIA

April

Wethersfield Country Club

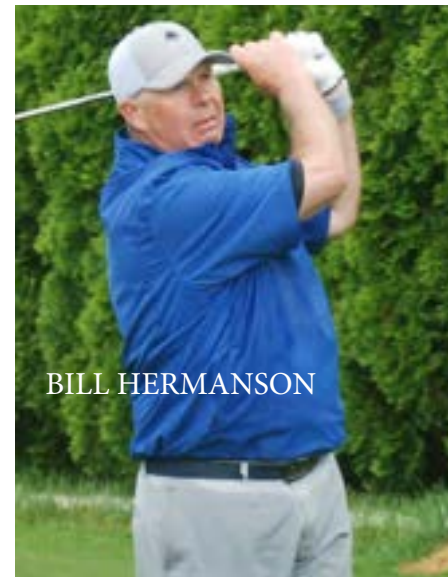
April 5
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: John Sawka (73)
 Net: Vin Capece (71)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Tony Susi (72)
 Net: Stephen Johnson (69)

Stonington Country Club

April 12
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Chrstopher Delucia (72)
 Gross: Jim Zirotti (72)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Dave Jones (67)
 Net: Stan McFarland (71)

Glastonbury Hills Country Club

April 19
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Chris Maxwell (71)
 Net: Branden Strileckis (70)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Dave Jones (71)
 Net: Eric Besman (73)



BILL HERMANSON

July

Simsbury Farms Golf Course

July 5
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Rammi Hazzaa (71)
 Net: Matthew Calabrese (68)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Dave Jones (72)
 Net: Michael Byrne (69)

Mill River Country Club

July 19
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Justin Beal (69)
 Net: Alex Gambordella (67)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Bill Hermanson (66)
 Net: Blase Sanzone (66)



DAVE JONES

May

Country Club of Farmington

May 3
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Steve Wagner (73)
 Net: Mario Argentino (66)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Gary Mattesen (73)
 Net: Henry Wrotniak (66)

Indian Hill Country Club

May 18
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Eric Bleile (70)
 Net: Joe Weber (68)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Dave Jones (68)
 Net: Rich Kowal (70)



PATRICK GRIFFIN

August

Wampanoag Country Club

August 10
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Shawn Hilario (70)
 Net: Carlos Medina (65)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Rick Malafrente (72)
 Net: Scott Harger (67)

Hop Meadow Country Club

August 30
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Patrick Griffin (70)
 Net: Jason Morrow (68)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Richard Stevens (71)
 Net: Blase Sanzone (68)



SETH JAINCHILL

June

Tumble Brook Country Club

June 2
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Seth Jainchill (69)
 Net: Glen Pelt, Jr. (68)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Richard Stevens (69)
 Net: Robert Barnes (71)

Skungamaug River Golf Club

June 21
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Chet Hrostek & Jason Goshdigian (66)
 Net: Luis Datil & Wallie Feliciano (63)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Tom Brett & Peter Davison (67)
 Net: Dominic Maselli & Scott Marshall (62)

Redding Country Club

June 29
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Eric Bleile (72)
 Net: David Kennedy (71)

Siderowf Division
 Gross: Bart Weissman (74)
 Net: John Higgins (69)



TIM GIULIANO & SHAWN HILARIO

September

Manchester Country Club

September 13
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Tim Giuliano & Shawn Hilario (60)
 Net: David Kramer & Keith Salamon (65)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Glen Boggini & Dan Ekstrom (68)
 Net: Tim Stilson & Peter Defazio (64)

Ellington Ridge Country Club

September 20
Tettelbach Division
 Gross: Patrick Griffin (70)
 Net: Rob Tedoldi, Jr. (68)
Siderowf Division
 Gross: Bill Hermanson (70)
 Net: Michael O'Neill (67)

GOSHDIGIAN, ROMANIELLO TAKE HOME AL ACKER ONE DAY TITLES

The rain stopped and the sun came out just in time for the playing of the 20th Al Acker One Day Championship Invitational **presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop.**

In the Tettelbach Open Division Jason Goshdigian stole the show firing a 1-under 70 at Shennecossett Golf Course to claim the top spot by one-stroke over a trio of players tied for second at level-par. The group included Tettelbach Open Division Player of the Year Chris Maxwell, Chris Flowers, and 2020 Al Acker winner Anthony Salvador. John Sawka rounded out the top-five with a 1-over 72 to place fifth.

"The honor that it is to win a tournament with Mr. Acker's name on it I can't even begin to tell you [how much that means]," Goshdigian said. "He was such a huge part of my junior golf and as I grew up he and my Dad were very close so to me it is very special to be holding this trophy with his name on it."

Goshdigian began the shotgun format tournament on the par-4 1st hole and began his round with four consecutive pars before rolling in his first birdie on the par-5 5th and then his second on the par-5 8th to turn in 2-under 34. On a day where scoring proved to be difficult Goshdigian played a solid back nine penciling in eight pars and his lone bogey of the day on the par-4 14th.

"I was hitting it really good all day. I grinded it out coming in. I hit it inside 10-feet on the last four holes and gave it as good of a try as I could," Goshdigian said of his round.

Maxwell, may have come up one shot short in the season finale, but his T2 showing allowed him to capture Tettelbach Open Division Player of the Year honors. Maxwell played in 10 tournaments this year earning a win at the Glastonbury Hills Country Club event while also recording three runner-up finishes along with five other top-five showings.

"It feels nice to be able to play and be consistent. I like to play in the One Days rather than most of the other events. I feel like I am a better One Day player than some of the other events." Chris Maxwell said. "It is more casual, it is a little more fun, and I get to play with a bunch of my buddies. It is nice, I have been playing well this year."

Leading the way in the Siderowf Gross Division was Jim Romaniello who fired a 1-under 70 to beat some of the best senior players in the state including Glen Boggini and Bill Hermanson who tied for second at even-par. Dave Szewczul was fourth at 1-over while Tom Brett was 2-over to earn a fifth-place finish.

Beginning his round on the par-5 18th Romaniello got his round started in style with a birdie on his opening hole. A run of pars followed until he bogeyed No. 6 only to bounce back with birdies on Nos. 7 and 11 to reach 2-under. "I putted pretty well today. I hit the ball okay," said Romaniello, a past Al Acker Siderowf Gross Division winner.

Looking to post a number Romaniello played an up-and-down final six holes bogeying twice but offsetting those missteps with what proved to be the winning birdie on the par-4 16th.

"I am always excited to win of course but I want to send a special thanks out to Dick Stevens. He has helped me out. We have been meeting at the driving range and he has been helping me out with the nine ball flights," said 2014 New England Senior Amateur winner Jim Romaniello. "He is very intelligent and very kind. And also Bill Hermanson. He reached out a couple of weeks ago and helped me so I just want to thank the guys and those two men especially."

In the Tettelbach Net Division David Paquette finished 5-under to take home the victory. Branden Strileckis (-2) was second while Maxwell, Sawka, and Salvador shared third at 1-under.

Finishing in the top spot of the Siderowf Net Division on Tuesday was Ed Ligi at 2-under. He was one shot better than Randy Black, Peter Czuchra, and Romaniello all of whom were 1-under in a tie for second. Boggini, John Higgins, Mark Toscano, and Rich Kowal shared fifth at even-par.



Left to right Net Winners David Paquette (Tettelbach) and Ed Ligi (Siderowf)



16TH TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Bull's Bridge Golf Club

Tettelbach Division
Winner

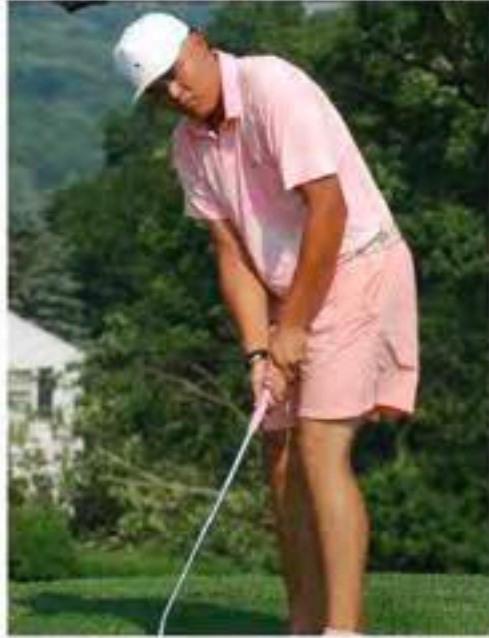
Cody Paladino (-2)



Siderowf Division Winner

Bill Hermanson (-2)





121st U.S. Open Local Qualifier

May 10 - Shuttle Meadow Country Club

- 1. Christopher Pieper (a) -4 (67)
- 2. Benjamin James (a) -2 (69)
- T3 Patrick Griffin (a) -1 (70)
- T3 Cody Paladino (a) -1 (70)

Chase Barbe (a) E (71) - 1st Alternate
James Giampaolo - E (71) - 2nd Alternate



66th U.S. Senior Amateur Qualifier

July 22 - Connecticut National Golf Club

- 1. Dean Godek -2 (69)
- 2. Michael Hooper -1 (70)

Bill Hermanson -1 (70) - 1st Alternate
Daniel Russo E (71) - 2nd Alternate



73rd U.S. Junior Amateur Qualifier

June 28 - Quinnetis Country Club

- 1. Jackson Roman -4 (68)
- 2. Colin Spencer -3 (69)
- 3. John Broderick -1 (71)

Ryan Downes -1 (71) - 1st Alternate
Patrick Kilcoyne -1 (71) - 2nd Alternate



40th U.S. Mid-Amateur Qualifier

August 31 - Indian Hill Country Club

- 1. John Hayes -6 (66)
- 2. Arthur Zelmati -5 (67)
- T3 James Pleat -3 (69)
- T3 Joseph Harney -3 (69)
- 5. Eric Bleile -2 (70)

Brendan Hester -1 (71) - 1st Alternate
Joe Alvarez -1 (71) - 2nd Alternate



121st U.S. Amateur Qualifier

July 19 - Wampanoag Country Club

- 1. James Imai -8 (65-71)
- 2. Chris Dejohn -8 (70-66)

Cody Paladino -6 (69-69) - 1st Alternate
Peter Tomlinson -5 (69-70) - 2nd Alternate



7th U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier

September 22 - Ellington Ridge Country Club

- 1. Bradley Sawka & Jack Snyder -6 (66)
- 2. Mike Walker & Brandon Gillis -5 (67)

1st Alternate
Ben Day & Daniel Day -5 (67)

2nd Alternate
Frankie Sanborn & Maxwell Major -4 (68)

7th U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier

- 1. Claire Lu & Grace Lu -1 (71)
- 1st Alternate
Kate Bennett & Nitisha Manikandesh E (72)
- 2nd Alternate
Megan Grehan & Courtney Tincher +5 (77)



2021 HONOREES



WHALEY TAKES CENTER STAGE

Suzy Whaley's career in golf found a home in Connecticut. She earned her PGA of America Class A card, became a head pro, played on the PGA Tour, **and she became the first female President of the PGA of America.**

In late July Suzy Whaley became the 96th member of the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame.

"When you get an honor like this, it's a dream come true," Whaley said. "It's incredibly humbling and also makes you reflect on some of the things that you had the opportunity to do and afforded you the opportunity to make a difference. Why it's so special is that it's a culmination of

everything, not just one thing."

Whaley played college golf at the University of North Carolina and on the LPGA Tour in 1990 and 1993 before spending some time at home following the birth of her oldest daughter Jennifer. In 1996 she began working for renowned golf instructor Jim Flick at Ibis Country Club in West Palm Beach, Florida, where her husband

Bill was the Director of Golf. One year later in May of 1997, her youngest daughter Kelly was born and then on July 4th, the family was off to Connecticut when Bill was assigned to TPC River Highlands.

After taking time to settle into her new home Whaley visited five Hartford area golf courses in early 1998 in search of a job and by the time she returned home

she had five offers waiting for her. The best came from Tumble Brook Country Club so she accepted and became a teaching pro at the club while also teaching once a week at Blue Fox Run Golf Course, TPC River Highlands and Torza's Driving Range in Cromwell while working towards her PGA of America Class A card. Once she earned her card a new opportunity presented itself and in February of 2002, she became the head professional at Blue Fox Run.

2002 was also the year that Whaley achieved national recognition when she became the first woman to capture a PGA individual tournament. Her victory at the 2002 PGA Connecticut Section Championship earned her a spot in the 2003 Greater Hartford Open, making her the first woman to qualify for a PGA Tour event since Babe Zaharias in 1945.

During the 2002 season, Whaley also won the second of her three consecutive Connecticut Women's Open championships.

"Playing in the GHO gave me a platform for the growth of women everywhere. I'm as competitive as anyone, but it wasn't about being first or making the cut. It was so much more than that. It gave me a door to walk through and a lot more to do," Whaley said.

Whaley's career led her to the PGA of America Board of Directors where in 2014 she became the first female to hold a position when she was elected as Secretary. Whaley also became the first member of the PGA Connecticut Section to be elected to a national board position.

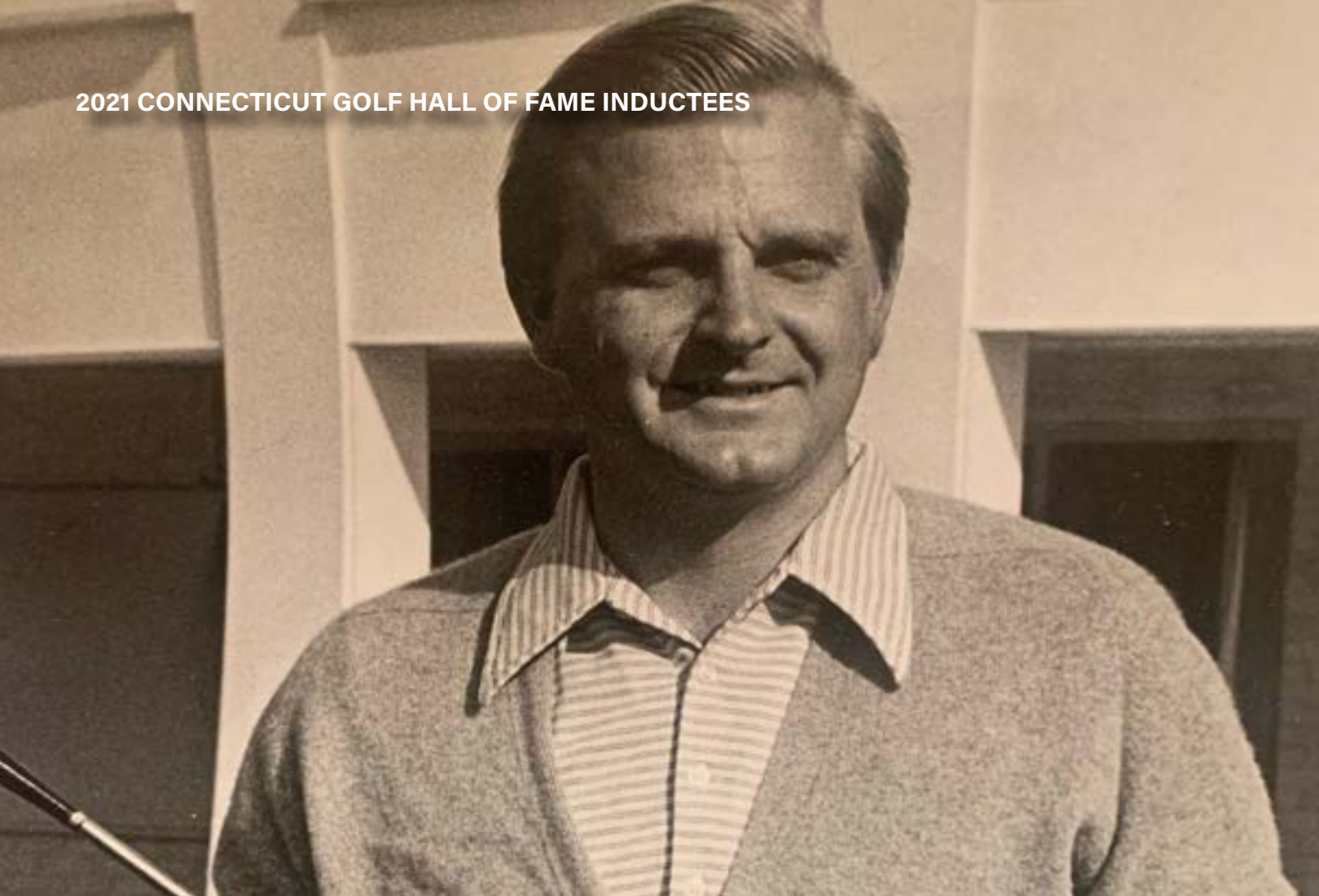
Her election as Secretary put Whaley on the path to becoming the first female

President of the PGA of America from 2018-2020.

Whaley's career in golf didn't begin in Connecticut but it is where her career took full flight. Her career path took her to the top of the sport and because of that and so much more, she will forever be Connecticut's Suzy Whaley.

"When you get an honor like this, it's a dream come true.

— Suzy Whaley



A SALUTE TO A LIFE IN GOLF

Mike Ballo, Sr. began his career in golf in 1947 as a seven-year-old caddy at Woodway Country Club in Darien. Little did he know at the time that early childhood experience would set the wheels in motion for a lifetime in golf punctuated by his **induction into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame.**

Once Mike Ballo, Sr. arrived at Woodway CC he never left, except for the four years he spent in the Persian Gulf while in the Navy. After returning from the Navy in 1964 Ballo, Sr. took the assistant professional job at the club and then assumed head professional duties in 1971. “It means everything,” Ballo said of the honor. “I was born and raised in Stamford and made my home in Connecticut my whole life, 80 years now. To be recognized by the CSGA and inducted into the Hall of Fame is an incredible honor and something I will

never forget.” Ballo served as the head professional at Woodway CC until 2003 and along the way he made his mark in nearly every aspect of the game. He taught the game, he served the members, he groomed assistant professionals into future head professionals, and he played the game at an extremely high level. Ballo won two Connecticut Opens, first in 1969 and again in 1978 while also winning three PGA Westchester Classics. The local success for Ballo also translated to success at the national level. Throughout his career he

teed it up in three U.S. Opens, three PGA Championships, the 1995 U.S. Senior Open where he made the cut, and the 1988 PGA Tour’s Manufacturers Hanover Westchester Classic. “It is always such an honor to be recognized by anyone in this industry,” said Ballo who along with his wife Page and sons Mike Jr. and Peter were honored as the 2021 Metropolitan Golf Writers Association Family of the Year. “The family does not take it for granted and these honors are things we will always cherish.”



JAMES A. BECKER ACHIEVES GOAL

After his win at the 2020 Connecticut Senior Open Becker said that he hoped the victory would help get him into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame. One year later the answer is clear. **Yes it did!**

James A. Becker has won the Connecticut Open twice and the Connecticut Senior Open three times. He was an All-American at the University of Georgia, played on the PGA Tour, and spent nine seasons competing on the South African Tour. Now James A. Becker is a member of the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame. “I am just humbled and honored to get inducted,” said Becker who has won more than 60 times in his career. “I have dreamt about being inducted for quite a while. It is definitely the highlight of my career.” When Becker, currently the head

professional at Blue Fox Run Golf Course, was four his older brother by eight years Michael made him his first set of golf clubs. “My brother was very instrumental in me playing golf,” Becker said. It wasn’t long before Becker graduated from hitting the ball around the yard to playing his first nine hole round at the old Millbrook Golf Course in Windsor. By the time Becker reached his freshman year at Windsor High School his game had begun to flourish. Then after his sophomore year his family moved to Marietta, Georgia where his game really took off leading Becker to the University

of Georgia golf team where he had an All-American career. Following college Becker turned professional in 1977 and traveled the globe competing. “I just love competing,” said Becker who credits current Champions Tour player Fran Quinn and regular New England travel companion Mike Caporale for much of his golf success. “I love the thrill of competition and I still think I can win tournaments and that is a great mindset to have.”

A COURSE FOR ALL

Tashua Knolls Golf Course earns the **2021 Distinguished Club Award.**

It was just after 8:30 a.m. on a chilly late October morning. A nor'easter had just finished rolling through the state the day before and it was just cold enough and late enough in the season that you might think the number of players teeing it up on a Thursday morning would be dwindling. The dedicated players of Tashua Knolls Golf Course in Trumbull had very different ideas. In fact nobody standing on the first tee seemed to be concerned with the weather.

"This place just has a pulse," said 17-year PGA Director of Golf Bobby Brown. Of course Brown was correct. Despite the lateness of the season the course was buzzing with activity.

The pro shop staff was checking in golfers and preparing carts for excited players, the grounds crew was working hard to blow those pesky late fall leaves off the course, players awaiting their tee times were populating the driving range and the putting green. The pulse and vibrant energy of the 2021 Distinguished Club Award recipient was on full display.

"It is a great honor," said Brown of the award. "It means a tremendous amount. The honor itself considering who else is out there in Connecticut is a great tribute to Tashua Knolls, our CSGA volunteers and players, all the growth of the game initiatives that we provide. It is just a great honor."

Built by Al Zikorus and opened in 1976, the par-72 gem is situated on land once populated by the Tamtashua tribe and later the Mallet family. Framed in many spots by stone walls built by early settlers to the region the course meanders up and down rolling hills offering players impressive views throughout their round.

However, what makes Tashua Knolls tick is the welcoming atmosphere. Everyone is welcome from the zero handicapper to the beginner, to families with juniors just picking up the sport. The list of playing opportunities feels endless. There is a Men's Club, a Senior Men's Club, a Women's 18 Hole and Nine Hole Club all with their own board and bylaws. In addition, each year roughly 600 junior players participate in any number of programs offered largely on the clubs par-33 executive course Tashua Glen.

Beyond the day-to-day offerings there is a strong desire to give back to the Connecticut golf community at large. The club regularly hosts CSGA events including the 2017 Connecticut Amateur when it became the first public course to welcome the championship while also hosting SNEWGA events, LPGA Amateur Golf Association events, and CIAC high school championships.

As early morning turns into late morning one thing becomes clear, nobody at Tashua Knolls GC is ever satisfied. "Everybody involved with Tashua is always trying to make it better," a smiling Brown said with a look of determination in his eyes as he thought about what the future could bring for the course that embraces everyone with open arms.

A WELL-ROUNDED VOLUNTEER

2021 Volunteer of the Year Eric Besman grew up loving the game of golf. In retirement he sees volunteering for the CSGA as a way to give back to a game that has **given him so much throughout his life.**

In 2016 Eric Besman retired from a 30-year career as an actuary at The Hartford. He had talked over the decision with his wife Lisa of nearly 30-years and they agreed it was time. However, there was one catch that Besman had to navigate.

“My wife told me, ‘I 100% support you retiring but you have to have a plan. You aren’t going to sit around the house all day and drive yourself crazy.’ I said that would be a good strategy because I am very good at sitting around and doing nothing,” Besman said.

During his career at The Hartford Besman worked with long-time CSGA volunteer Steve Basson and the wife of another long-time CSGA volunteer Jim Webb. All three told him volunteering with the organization might be something that he would be interested in once he retired.

“They explained what volunteering for the CSGA is like to me and I thought this would be an excellent thing to get into after I retire,” explained Besman.

Born in New Jersey, Besman moved to suburban Chicago when he was three-years-old, and fell in love with golf from the moment he was introduced to the game at the age of 10-years-old as a way to spend more time with his Dad.

“I just love golf and I feel like volunteering for the CSGA is a way for me to give back to the game because I have gotten so much out of it myself,” said Besman who moved to Connecticut after he graduated from the University of Illinois to work at The Hartford.

Besman, a member at Glastonbury



Hills Country Club since 1996, began volunteering with the CSGA in 2017 first as an on-course spotter and then eventually expanding his role to rules official and also course rater.

“Eric is an outstanding contributor to our volunteer team,” said Director of Member Services Bill Bigler. “In addition to being a great rules official, Eric has continued to improve his knowledge and skills as a course rater becoming a valued team leader.”

However, for Besman volunteering isn’t about the recognition it’s about giving back. In fact when Besman isn’t working at CSGA events or traveling with his wife Lisa, he is volunteering his time with other organizations throughout the state including at Protector of Animals, an animal shelter in East Hartford and

with FISH, an organization that provides transportation for people who can’t drive to doctor appointments.

That desire to simply give back is why when Besman learned that he had been named the 2021 CSGA Volunteer of the Year he was shocked.

“It actually is a humbling experience to know that there are some people out there that appreciate the time that I put into it and the work that I do. It is always good to be told you are doing a good job,” said Besman. “It feels really good and renews your enthusiasm for the activities. I’ve met a lot of volunteers since I have been out here that are really good guys and they are probably more deserving of this honor than I am. But it was definitely very heart warming.”

Congratulations Ben James!

- #1 Ranked Boys' Junior Player
- Junior Golf Scoreboard
- Golfweek Junior Rankings

THOSE WE REMEMBER



Commemorating Those We Lost



Terry Calabrese
1921-2021

Terry's remarkable career with The Connecticut State Golf Association spanned more than 40 years. Her title was Assistant to the Executive Director, Widdy Neale, but to the thousands who participated in CSGA events during her time she was the driving force behind the organization, a fixture at all CSGA tournaments who was beloved by all. "Terry was a wonderful person," recalled current CSGA Executive Director, Mike Moraghan, "she had a kind and encouraging word for everyone, and she and Widdy were a great team. While Widdy tended to be quite serious, Terry was always enthusiastic, energetic and joyful."

Terry was a championship golfer, having won club tournaments at Wallingford Country Club, The Farms Country Club and the Golf Course at Yale. In 1981 she was named the first female member of the CSGA Executive Committee, and in 1994 was inducted into The Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame. She was an Honorary Member of the CSGA Board of Directors up until her death. She was also active with the Connecticut Women's Golf Association (CWGA) serving on various committees, and a member of the USGA. Terry lived in Wallingford for 90 years, and passed away two weeks after celebrating her 100th birthday.



Jeff Swanson
1966-2021

A Cromwell native, Jeff Swanson began his golf career in his hometown at Edgewood Country Club. After getting a taste of the golf business he followed his mentor, Rich Crowe to Rockledge Golf Course in West Hartford where Jeff earned his PGA certification. He spent several winters working at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida before establishing himself as the Head Golf Professional at Cedar Knob Golf Course in Somers where he worked for the next 25 years. At "The Knob," he taught golfers of all ages the fundamentals of the game. He was deeply committed to the CKGC men's and women's leagues, bringing professionalism and enthusiasm to all of their events. Jeff fostered an environment where everyone felt comfortable and excited to play. He was a gifted teacher and mentor to countless aspiring golfers.

Jeff's passion for the game was evident to all, whether he was helping a beginner holding a club for the first time, or working with a PGA Tour player. He caddied hundreds of rounds for two-time Connecticut Open champion Jeff Curl who credited him for much of his success. Said Curl, "Jeff Swanson was a great man, and one of my closest friends. Just being around him made everyone's life a little better."



Bill Brew
1936-2020

An exceptional athlete and coach, Bill Brew starred in both soccer and golf. He was one of the top players in New England in both sports while starring at the University of Bridgeport. He went on to coach both soccer and golf at Quinnipiac University and was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1985. Playing out of Wethersfield Country Club, Bill was one of a small group of outstanding golfers whose success earned the club the reputation as "The Club of Champions." Bill won the 1971 Connecticut Amateur and was runner-up in the 1966 Canadian Amateur. He advanced to Sectional Qualifying three times in the U.S. Open, and twice qualified for the U.S. Amateur. He partnered frequently with Fred Kask in Four Ball tournaments and the pair was considered among the strongest teams in the northeast.

Mark Fries of Race Brook, who played for Bill at Quinnipiac fondly recalled of his coach, "His competitive spirit was unwavering. He generously shared his athletic skills and sincerely cared about your wellbeing and personal development. He had a heart of gold and will live on in the memories of those fortunate enough to have known him."

James Baronowski
1947 – 2021

A Norwich native and a resident of Colchester for more than forty years, James Baronowski was a devoted volunteer for the Connecticut State Golf Association, giving many hours of his time to the administration of tournaments throughout the state. As a young man he enlisted and served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War, then earned two Masters Degrees before embarking on a long and successful career as a General Foreman for Colt Manufacturing.


"He was just a good guy," said Bill Bigler, CSGA Director of Member Services, "instantly likeable, thoroughly reliable and always willing to do more." Known for his helpful and generous nature, James enjoyed hundreds of rounds of golf at the Windham Club in Willimantic paired with buddies affectionately known as the Grumpy Old Men Club.



Joe Parrillo
1948-2021

A longtime member of Watertown Golf Club, Joe Parrillo was a man of many talents, skills, abilities and occupations. His diverse careers throughout his life included schoolteacher, homebuilder, computer programmer, business owner, golf administrator, and most recently, Connecticut State Marshal. Joe's passion for golf led him to work for the CSGA for many years as Director of Member Services, and his gregarious personality endeared him to golf professionals throughout the state.

Ed Evers, the head pro at Litchfield for more than 40 years recalled, "Joe had great people skills. He made friends easily, and we always looked forward to his visits." For over twenty years Joe was the owner-operator of the Cheshire Academy of Golf driving range, a family-run business that was a favorite destination for both serious and recreational golfers.



2022 SITES

Two Man Championship
Russell C. Palmer Cup
Connecticut Senior Match Play
Connecticut Women's Open
Connecticut Amateur
Connecticut Women's Amateur
Junior Amateur Championship
Connecticut Open
Parent Child Championship
Senior Four-Ball
Connecticut Public Links
Four-Ball Championship
Super Senior Championship
Mixed Team Championship
Connecticut Mid-Amateur
Father Son Championship
Tournament of Champions
Connecticut Senior Amateur

Black Hall Club
Wampanoag C.C.
Madison C.C.
Hop Meadow C.C.
Ridgewood C.C.
Tashua Knolls G.C.
Watertown G.C.
New Haven C.C.
Indian Hill C.C.
Simsbury Farms G.C.
Blackledge C.C.
Wallingford C.C.
Longshore G.C.
Watertown G.C.
C.C. of New Canaan
Torrington C.C.
Bull's Bridge G.C.
C.C. of Waterbury

*Visit csgalinks.org in February for the complete 2022 schedule