

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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**Printing**  
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CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

2022 CHAMPIONSHIP ANNUAL

# CSGA

CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION



2022



# 2022 ANNUAL

A review of the 2022 season and the championships conducted by the Connecticut State Golf Association

At New Haven Country Club Peter Ballo won his second consecutive Connecticut Open.

Cover Photo: Cody Paladino earned Dick Tettelbach Player of the Year honors for the third straight year.

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# DEAR FELLOW GOLFERS



Welcome to the tenth edition of the CSGA Championship Annual.

2022 saw continued growth in the game for the third straight year. Not only did participation increase in CSGA championship competitions, the One Day events exceeded 2,000 rounds!

Without the tireless efforts of the members of the Executive Committee and the CSGA staff under the direction of Mike Moraghan, this would not have been possible. The CSGA staff has earned a round of applause for their efforts in planning and running over 20 championships and 19 One Day Series events in 2022.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time, the host clubs who allowed the CSGA the use of their courses and the players who showed sportsmanship and skill in these competitions.

Join me in congratulating all our 2022 champions, our Volunteer of the Year David Blakeslee, our Walter 'Bud' Smith Club of the Year Wallingford Country Club and our Hall of Fame inductees Andy Bessette and Bruce Edwards.

As Bing Crosby would sing, may all your drives in 2023, "be straight down the middle far away."

Sincerely,

Fred Fawcett  
President, Connecticut State Golf Association



## CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

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# Who Do You Want on Your Team?

## Nice people finish first.

**R**oger Everin, Bradley Sawka and Yvette O'Brien are not what you would call Leo Durocher disciples.

Durocher, the combative ex-major leaguer and manager who was once suspended for a year due to his "accumulation of unpleasant incidents" is credited with coining the phrase "Nice Guys Finish Last." Cutthroat competitors have used Durocher's pithy pronouncement over the years to justify all manner of bad behavior in the pursuit of winning even the smallest of games.

It was "Leo the Lip" as he was known, not Earl Weaver or Billy Martin who first kicked dirt on an umpire's shoes, although with Leo as their example, the volatile Earl and the combustible Billy mastered the art, as well as that of screaming, and bat and helmet throwing from the dugout.

Golf, for the most part, has escaped the melodrama and the ugliness made famous by Durocher and his ilk, and which rears its ugly head from time to time in baseball and other sports while being a constant presence in politics and society at large.

Hard to imagine even a malcontent like Patrick Reed kicking sand at a rules official, but you never know. Sergio Garcia, whose occasional flirtation with the boundaries of etiquette has earned him consideration as a pain in the bum, mumbled an innocuous "I can't wait to leave this tour," and it was considered gigantic news in a game known for decorum and the acknowledgment of good fortune.

As a sport we do seem at times to be stumbling toward obnoxiousness. Examples abound with insults lobbed by major champions professing allegiance to the established tour, or to the upstart. Not a pretty sight this grudge holding and greed from what was once considered the highest level of the game. When your motto is "Golf, but Louder" are you really trying

to "grow the game" or are you just shouting so people will notice you?

Despite occasional blips on the courtesy spectrum we always seem to find our way back to what is great about golf, and what the CSGA does its best to promote – respect for people, respect for the environment, and the creation of playing opportunities for new golfers and nascent competitors. It's a wonderful game we have, full of life lessons and the best of human emotions.

Just look at the joy expressed by Yvette O'Brien (opposite below), winner in 2022 of the CSGA's first ever Connecticut Girls' Junior.

Yvette and others including CSGA Team Captain, Roger Everin stand in stark contrast to golf's bullies who too often dominate the headlines. Long before and well after he won the Connecticut Amateur in 1989, Roger has been a focused and intense competitor. Nobody wants to win more than Roger, but he's far more close-talker than loud-talker, and he is always, always respectful of everyone, even opponents he wants to beat like a drum.

And there's Bradley Sawka, and a whole lot of other nice people no one ever hears about who win at golf and at life and who serve as better examples than the abrasive, the insulting, and the unappreciative.

Representing Connecticut and the CSGA at the 2022 New England Junior Invitational, Bradley Sawka was calm and respectful throughout, even as he produced a rollercoaster of exceptional and not so exceptional golf. Aside from his mostly stellar play that helped Connecticut win the team title, one small but significant incident stood out. A moment that embodied everything you need to know about Bradley Sawka, and everything that's good about golf.

Paired with a boy from New Hampshire



**CSGA Executive Director Mike Moraghan**

and another from Maine, Bradley and the group were playing the par-4 15th at Vermont's Manchester Country Club when the boy from New Hampshire made a real mess of the hole.

Executing a downhill second shot, the kid flew both the green and apparently also the back bunker, as the ensuing three-minute search in the fescue beyond the sand yielded no ball with a Granite State logo. As the boy trudged the 160 or so yards back to where he'd badly over-clubbed, Bradley and the Maine boy putted out, then stood to the side to await their fellow competitor.

Choosing one club less when he should have chosen two, the boy again flew the green, but this time not as badly, coming up short of the fescue but still in a terrible place after his ball thumped into the sand.

Facing a back hole location and a severe downslope, the kid plowed his bunker shot 50 feet past the hole. And that's when Bradley Sawka did a really nice thing. With the disconsolate New Hampshire boy shuffling from the bunker and facing a likely triple bogey or worse, Bradley picked up the rake and said simply, "I'll get that for you," and proceeded to restore the sand to its previously smooth finish.

It wasn't done out of self-interest to save time. The group was going to wait on the next hole, a par 3, regardless. Bradley could have just left the kid to suffer the indignity of cleaning up the wreck he'd made of both the bunker and the entire hole. But better instincts took over and Bradley did something the Leo Durochers of the world never do – extend some kindness to an opponent you are trying to beat.

"I'll get that for you."

It was a reminder about how golf is different from other sports, and very different than life in general beyond the OB stakes. As road rage seems ever expanding, and insults are hurled and punches thrown with increased frequency at everything from Board of Ed meetings to Little League baseball games, golf holds on as a bastion of decency and good behavior.

The vast majority of golfers, like Yvette and Roger and Bradley, are really good people who disprove Durocher's "Nice Guys Finish Last" credo every time they win, as Yvette did this summer, as Brad-

ley has done in AJGA and high school tournaments, as both did as members of Connecticut's New England Junior Teams, and as Roger did throughout his playing career, and now continues to do as CSGA Captain.

Principles such as respecting other players, caring for the golf course and abiding by the Rules of Golf are still mostly sacrosanct. And golfers police their own. Loudmouth violators of golf etiquette are shunned only slightly less than outright cheaters. If you act like a jerk, hardly anyone wants to play with you. If you cheat, you're a complete pariah.

The truth is we need more people like Yvette O'Brien, Roger Everin and Bradley Sawka, on and off the golf course. And it's worth paying attention to this, to educate and welcome new and good people into our game. It's a simple choice, like selecting someone to represent your state and your golf association. Who do you want on your team, a Leo Durocher, a Billy Martin and an Earl Weaver?

Or a Roger Everin, a Bradley Sawka and



**Team Captain Roger Everin has led the CSGA to five consecutive Julius Boros Challenge Cup victories.**

an Yvette O'Brien? I'll take Roger, Bradley and Yvette to complete my foursome every time. And we'll win!



**Bradley Sawka (left) represents Connecticut at the 2022 New England Junior Invitational while Yvette O'Brien (above) celebrates her victory at the 2022 Connecticut Girls' Junior with her father Dan.**



# THE OPEN

## Peter Ballo Repeats

At the site where Mike Ballo, Sr. won his first of two Connecticut Open titles and just months after his passing, his son, Peter Ballo repeated as champion.



**T**he final round of the 88th Connecticut Open was déjà vu all over again. Almost exactly one year after rallying to win the 2021 Connecticut Open Peter Ballo did it again firing a bogey-free 4-under 66 in the final round at New Haven Country Club to finish 7-under and earn his second consecutive title. Ballo became the first repeat champion since Nick Cook in 2005 and 2006.

Last year Ballo made history with the victory as he joined his father Mike Ballo, Sr. as a champion marking the first time that a father and son had won the Connecticut Open. Now with a victory on the same course Ballo, Sr. won his first title in 1969, Peter Ballo's name will join his father on the list of multiple time winners.

"[Winning this year] means a lot more than I can explain right now," an emotional Ballo said. "With these two wins in the last year, the way it has been with the passing of my father [in April] and the struggles that I have had so far this year playing to be able to gather myself this week which has probably been the hardest week since April, to be able to do this just [leaves me] speechless."

Ballo struggled with his driver and putter

throughout the first two rounds but as the sun was setting late in the second round he was able to roll in a long birdie putt on the par-5 18th to pull within one shot of the 36-hole lead shared by Brett Stegmaier (New Haven CC), Max Theodorakis (Ridgewood CC), and Cody Paladino (Hartford GC) at 4-under.

"The birdie on No. 18 to end the second round was huge," Ballo said. "It was the longest putt I made all week."

Playing in the second to last group Ballo was sharp from the get go in the final round and for the first time all week, he felt comfortable with the putter thanks to a tip from his mom Page following the second round. Four consecutive pars began Ballo's final round before he converted his first birdie on the par-4 fifth to move to 4-under and remain one off the lead.

Still trailing by one as he made the turn Ballo (Connecticut GC) began to take control of the tournament on the 507 yard par-5 10th. Ballo had only hit one fairway on a par-5 all week but with his game locked in he found the short grass with his tee shot giving himself a green light to attack the pin. With just a 9-iron in hand for his second

shot Ballo lofted a gorgeous shot high into the air that landed 10 feet from the pin. Moments later he rolled in the eagle putt and jumped from second place to the top of the leaderboard at 6-under. Ballo would never trail again.

Stegmaier, a former PGA Tour pro and member at New Haven CC since he was 8-years-old, tied Ballo briefly at 6-under with a birdie on No. 10 but he gave that shot back right away with a bogey on the challenging par-4 11th. At nearly the same time Stegmaier was bogeying, Ballo was knocking his approach shot stiff on the par-4 13th leading to a tap-in birdie that moved him to 7-under.

Playing with the lead for the first time all week Ballo made a number of gutsy pars down the stretch to maintain his advantage. On the par-4 16th he missed the green with his second shot but managed to roll in an 8 footer to save par and then on the ensuing par-3 he rolled in a par putt from the same distance after he found the front right green-side bunker.



It was an emotional week for Peter Ballo (above) playing at the site of his father's first Connecticut Open victory. In the final round Ballo (opposite) played a stellar round of golf holding off a number of chasers including Jason Thresher (above left), Matt Shublely (middle), and Brett Stegmaier (below left) all of whom tied for second place three shots off the pace.

### THE VICTORY WAS EMOTIONAL FOR BALLO

"[Winning this year] means a lot more than I can explain right now. With these two wins in the last year, the way it has been with the passing of my father [in April] and the struggles that I have had so far this year playing to be able to gather myself this week, which has probably been the hardest week since April, to be able to do this just [leaves me] speechless."

# GOLF SHOP ONE STOP SHOP

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Once Ballo got off the tee on the 54th hole he was able to enjoy his walk down the final fairway. However, at the beginning of the week Ballo wasn't sure how the tournament would play out.

"I'm not the most spiritual person on planet earth but this week I kind of relied on it. The first day [I went over to the poster of my dad along championship row] and spoke to him after the front nine as I came off the 18th. After that I did it two to three times before I teed off each of the last two days and I think that played a huge part [in how I

**Past champions Cody Paladino (above), Max Theodorakis (below left) and Adam Rainaud (below right) all were in the mix during the final round.**

played] because after that front nine on Monday there was a calming feeling this week that I didn't think was possible."

The final round began with 13 players within four shots of the lead and throughout the final round a number of players held at least a share of the lead. Among those who held the lead for parts of the final round were Stegmaier, Jason Thresher, 2020 winner Max Theodorakis (Ridgewood CC), and 2016 champion Adam Rainaud (CC of New Canaan).

Rainaud came out of the gates clicking on all cylinders playing his first 13 holes in 3-under-par to get as low as 5-under only to falter down the stretch and settle for a 2-under, tied for seventh finish. Thresher began the round 2-under and after birdies on Nos. 9 and 10 to reach 4-under he was in the hunt however those would be his final birdies of the day as he parred his way

to the house. Thresher would finish in a tie for second with Stegmaier and Matt Shubley (Great River GC).

Theodorakis, who had a chance to take control of the tournament in the second round, reached 5-under with a birdie on the par-4 eighth before falling back a couple of shots to 3-under where he finished the week in a tie for fifth. Joining Theodorakis in fifth was low amateur and 2015 champion Cody Paladino (Hartford GC).



## 88th Connecticut Open New Haven Country Club - Hamden, Conn. - Par 70 / 6,550 yards - Entries: 423 July 25-27, 2022

<b>1</b> Peter Ballo, Connecticut G.C.	<b>70-67-66-203</b>	<b>T5</b> Max Theodorakis, Ridgewood C.C.	65-71-71-207
<b>T2</b> Jason Thresher, West Suffield, CT	72-66-68-206	<b>T7</b> Adam Rainaud, C.C. of New Canaan	71-67-70-208
<b>T2</b> Matt Shubley, Great River G.C.	68-69-69-206	<b>T7</b> Blake Morris, C.C. of Waterbury	69-69-70-208
<b>T2</b> Brett Stegmaier, New Haven C.C.	70-66-70-206	<b>9</b> Chris Wiatr, C.C. of Waterbury	71-67-71-209
<b>T5</b> Cody Paladino (a), Hartford G.C.	67-69-71-207		





# AMATEURS

The 2022 amateur season featured another epic Connecticut Amateur final, the return to the winners circle for one of the best players in the state, a repeat champion at the Mid-Amateur, and a brand new winner at the Public Links.



# PALADINO RETURNS TO WINNERS CIRCLE

Cody Paladino won his first CSGA major since regaining his amateur status in 2020 and he did it in **dominant fashion**.

**A**t the start of 2022 CSGA season no player was hotter in the state of Connecticut than Cody Paladino.

He went two for two in back-to-back One Days at Stonington and Topstone respectively where he was a combined 7-under par. He earned medalist honors in U.S. Open Local Qualifying at Oxford Greens, then partnered with Nick Cook to go a perfect 9-0 in the Julius Boros Challenge Cup Matches at New Haven.

That was all a tune-up for the 54-hole Russell C. Palmer Cup presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop at Wampanoag Country Club. Considered Connecticut's stroke play championship, the Palmer Cup brings together the state's best amateur golfers through a qualifier that attracts over 130 entrants, and another 40 or so players who have earned exemptions based upon their past performance.

Against this exceptionally strong field Cody Paladino shot 10-under par and won by eight strokes.

A pedestrian opening round 72 put Paladino, who plays out of Hartford Golf Club, in a tie for ninth, unfamiliar ground for the 2021 New England Amateur champion whose past victories include the Connecticut Open, Connecticut Amateur, Connecticut Public Links, and the 2013 Palmer Cup. An "ok round" in Paladino's estimation, and well inside the 39-and-ties cut line that came at 3-over par 75.



**Cody Paladino (left) hoisted the Russell C. Palmer Cup trophy for the second time in his career while Chris Ayers (above) put together three impressive rounds to finish in second place and earn his best career finish in the event.**

"I just kept hitting solid shots and hit a ton of greens in regulation."

— Cody Paladino

With the final day set for 36 holes, first round co-leader, Arthur Ouimet followed up his opening 69 with a 71, but found himself at lunchtime trailing Paladino by one after the eventual champion carved out a bogey-free 67 in the morning eighteen.

"I just kept hitting solid shots and hit a ton of greens in regulation," said Paladino,

who noted that the wind didn't really start blowing, howling really, until after their first nine holes.

"It was the best round of golf I've ever witnessed," said Steve Wagner of the CC of Farmington who was paired with Paladino. "And if not for a couple of lip-outs it could have been even better. Thirteen pars and five birdies in that wind. Incredible."

Paladino described the 30 footer he buried on the first hole of the day as, "the spark that I needed, and I just kept telling myself to make more birdies."

And so he did. Eleven birdies in his first

**19th Russell C. Palmer Cup presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop  
Wampanoag Country Club - West Hartford, Conn. - Par 72/ 6,600 yards - Entries: 168  
May 16-17, 2022**

<b>1 Cody Paladino, Hartford G.C.</b>	<b>72-67-67-206</b>	T4 Arthur Ouimet, C.C. of Waterbury	69-71-76-216
2 Christopher Ayers, Goodwin G.C.	74-68-72-214	T7 Walker Lohrey, Tumble Brook C.C.	70-74-74-218
3 James Sheltman, Wallingford C.C.	75-71-69-215	T7 Anthony Guerrero, C.C. of Waterbury	72-74-72-218
T4 Tommy Dallahan, Hartford G.C.	70-72-74-216	T7 Eric Bleile, EClub of Connecticut	70-73-75-218
T4 Richard Dowling, Golf Performance Ctr.	70-72-74-216	10 Rick Hayes, Silver Spring C.C.	74-70-75-219

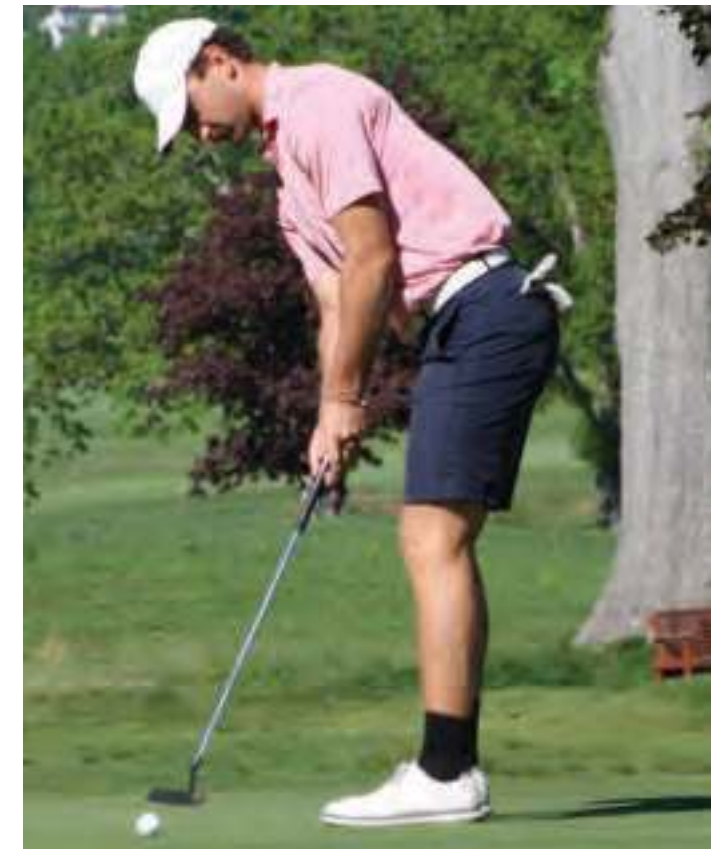
29 holes, and not a single bogey until his 31st hole of the day, by which time he had opened up a comfortable six-shot lead that he wasn't about to relinquish.

Chris Ayers, the Wethersfield native and recent Old Dominion graduate who plays out of Goodwin Park, claimed runner-up honors at 2-under par 214 after shooting 74-68-72. Wallingford Country Club's Jamie Sheltman finished alone in third going 75-71-69 for 215. No one else broke par for the 54-hole championship as Ouimet, Tommy Dallahan, and 2020 Palmer Cup champion, Rick Dowling shared fourth place at even-par 216.

While others may have noticed his early season dominance, Paladino seemed content to enjoy the moment with a nod to an exciting future. "I think what's awesome about the beginning of the year is there's just so much on the horizon, so many more tournaments ahead, a lot to look forward to. I'm thrilled and looking forward to what comes next."



**UConn standout Tommy Dallahan (above) along with 2020 champion Rick Dowling (below right) and first round co-leader Arthur Ouimet (below far right) finished in a tie for fourth. Jamie Sheltman (above right) closed in 3-under 69 to finish alone in third while Walker Lohrey (below) was among a group that tied for seventh.**



# CARPENTER WINS IN EXTRA HOLES

36-holes wasn't enough for Ben Carpenter and Rick Dowling to determine a winner at Ridgewood Country Club. A few months after their battle the pair reflected on that memorable June day.



1995 J.J. HENRY	2004 STEVE VELARIS	2013 CODY BALABINO
1996 KEVIN GAI	2005 TIM KANE	2014 ZACH ZABACK
1997 BRIAN HEDSTROM	2006 TOMMY McDONAGH	2015 EVAN GREENE
1998 J.J. HENRY	2007 WILL STRUCKLER	2016 ZACH ZABACK
1999 BRIAN AHERN	2008 WILL STRUCKLER	2017 RICHARD DOWLING III
2000 BRIAN HEDSTROM	2009 B.J. ZELENKA	2018 BEN COSROY
2001 MARK FARRELL	2010 BERNDI D'AMATO	2019 RICHARD DOWLING III
2002 JEFF REDDEN	2011 TOMMY McDONAGH	2020 CHRIS FOSDYCK
2003 JUSTIN GOODRUE	2012 MATT SMITH	2021 CHRIS ZABACK

**T**he 120th Connecticut Amateur championship match between Ben Carpenter and Rick Dowling was one to remember. Still tied after 36-holes at Ridgewood Country Club the title match went to a playoff for the first time since 2006. On the first extra hole Ben Carpenter's par finally sealed the deal. A few months after the epic title match Carpenter and Dowling recalled their memories from the 2022 Connecticut Amateur.

**CSGA: Heading into the week what were you thinking and what was the state of your game?**

*Ben Carpenter:* Heading into that week I had taken two weeks off after a long spring season and beginning to the summer season. I was just hoping for a good ball-striking week. A week to build positives on. My goal for the tournament was to make match play and to make it as far as I could. Obviously, it isn't completely up to me how far I make it, my opponent is a big factor too but I just wanted to play my best.

*Rick Dowling:* I think it was similar where I had taken a little bit of a break. I knew Ridgewood was going to be playing tougher than people thought so I was trying to go in rested. I wanted to get through stroke play as best as I could to get a good draw. Really just taking it one day at a time.

**CSGA: Rick you are a two-time Connecticut Amateur champion. How do you approach the stroke play portion of the week?**

*RD:* I think I usually try to figure out how the course is going to play which gives you some sort of moving target but you never know with golf. I think in my experiences when I did play well in match play I did have a higher seed but something tells me it is luck of the draw and it is how people are playing. When I have gone far I have had a better seed.

**CSGA: Ben how do you approach stroke play?**

*BC:* For me, stroke play is just survive and

advance. Anything can happen in match play. Like Rick said, being a higher seed gives you a much better draw which definitely benefited me in the first few matches. After day one of stroke play, I didn't have a great day and I was right on the cut line for match play and in the second round I played pretty flawless golf and was able to make my way back to the top of the leaderboard. Then I was able to piece together some good rounds in my first couple of matches and get some momentum going.

**CSGA: Ben what do you remember about your early round matches?**

*BC:* Coming off the second round of stroke play I had a great ball striking day and I was putting well. I remember the first round of match play, the Round of 32, it was foggy, rainy, a little chilly and I was thinking in my head that everyone probably wasn't too happy with the weather but I can't let that affect me. I am just going to play my game. I don't think I made a bogey in my first round, made a few birdies, and won pretty handily. Same with the second round. It was pretty stress-free until day two of matches.

As I got deeper into the event I felt more comfortable and it helped to see the course, at least the first 15 holes. I played the course pretty aggressively all week. Especially in match play. I hit driver on most of the holes that were questionable lay-up holes. I felt confident in my tee shots to have a wedge in hand and stick it close.

**CSGA: Rick you handled your first couple of matches fairly easily but had to rally late to defeat 32-seed Jackson Roman in the semifinals. What do you remember about that match?**

*RD:* I think that is the cool thing about the amateur. If you get through stroke play anything can happen but then you start to get comfortable and the amount of detail you know about your game just heightens as the week goes. The Jackson match was interesting. He played really solid. I didn't have my best stuff for sure and I thought a door was closing on me late. But I did know that he was in a position that he had never been in before and that might force him to

do some things uncharacteristically coming down the stretch the last few holes so I just tried to play smart.

Believe it or not, playing second off the tee worked a little bit to my advantage, knowing where he was. Then the closing birdie was pretty big. It was just kind of like a see what happens. I have to take my hat off to him if he beats me but I am going to give him my best shots the last couple of holes.

**CSGA: Rick you have played in the championship match three times. Do you have a routine for preparing for the 36-hole title match?**

*RD:* I try to do the same thing each night. Eat well, get some good sleep, get up early, and start the engine. When it comes to the golf just stretch a lot, warm up, and drink a lot of water. Get the speed of the greens and take the first six holes as just getting ready and seeing how the course will play for the day. I think Ben and I took the first 18-holes to see how we were doing!

But the first 18, even the first 24 are really just that old train game that you see at the baseball stadiums. It is up and down and back and forth but nobody is usually pulling away so then it comes down to the last 12-14 holes.

**CSGA: For you Ben this was your first Connecticut Amateur final. How did you prepare the night before? And you had some adversity of sorts to overcome when you got to the course and realized you had forgotten your golf shoes?**

*BC:* I knew it was going to be a hot day and I knew we were going to be on the course for 10 hours so I made sure to hydrate the night before and have a good meal. I just tried to keep my head clear and not fill it with anything that didn't need to be there.

Forgetting the shoes was one of the more stressful parts of the morning. I got to the course, opened my trunk, and was getting my push cart ready. And my caddie looks at my shoes and said, 'Are those new golf shoes?' I looked down and immediately knew that I didn't bring golf shoes. I had



**Ben Day (left) earned the two-seed but was upset in the Round of 16. Patrick Casey (above) won his opening round match. One of the most impressive feats of the week was turned in by Bill Hermanson (below). The 1991 champion and Connecticut Golf Hall of Famer survived a playoff to earn the 28-seed at 66-years-old. Hermanson was defeated by Rick Dowling in the Round of 32.**





**Rick Dowling (above left) forces a playoff with a nifty up and down on the final hole of regulation while Ben Carpenter (above right) pumps his first following a clutch birdie on the par-5 15th to keep the match tied with three holes remaining.**



to buy some in the pro shop and my dad raced home to get mine. The first few holes I hit a few bad shots and got myself out of position and then I got my golf shoes back and started playing a little better.

Overall the morning round was stressful but fun and I knew the second round would be much more entertaining.

**CSGA: Did either of you make any adjustments going into the afternoon round?**

*RD:* I think we were both just a little off. I don't remember being erratic or anything I was just a little sloppy. I had some opportunities and Ben would probably admit that I played a little better than him in the morning but I didn't really pull away. I think we were both relieved to take a break and reset which I think then turned on the jets.

*BC:* I definitely hit some poor golf shots in the morning round which I wasn't thrilled about so after the round I went to the range and hit some balls to try to sort a few things out. I felt much better going into the second round and got off to a quick start. Then Rick bounced back with a few birdies and that is where the match really began.

**CSGA: Ben you took a quick 3 up lead**

**in the second round with birdies on Nos. 3 and 4. What were you thinking in that moment?**

*BC:* I felt like I was taking control of the match at that point. Those birdies were pretty seamless and I thought okay here is the run I need. Then I made a few mediocre shots and next you thing you know we were tied again.

**CSGA: Rick it didn't take long for you to respond birdieing Nos. 5-7 to tie the match. Take me through that stretch of holes.**

*RD:* I needed to get it back to something manageable at the turn. Ben played the first four holes of the second round pretty well but then I was just marginally in a better position the next three or four holes and I actually threw away a hole on No. 8. We both made birdies on No. 9 and it was really fun actually and that is when I realized this is going to be a really special finish.

He started playing really solid and throwing in some darts for birdies and I started as well so that was cool.

**CSGA: Was there a moment where you looked at each other or talked during the**

**match and said this is a fun match to be a part of?**

*RD:* To my recollection on No. 11 we had just fought back and forth on the front. I gave him a little scare from 40 feet on the 10th and then we basically both hit the same shot into the 11th green. He was probably six inches out and he drained his putt and then I made it. Then it is a long walk to the 12th tee and we both said, 'that was cool.' But I think obviously still all business.

**CSGA: Jumping ahead to the par-5 15th the match is still tied and Ben you caught maybe the break of the match. Your second shot into the green hit off the cart path and rather than bouncing out of bounds it hit a fence post and stayed in play.**

*BC:* That is probably the hardest tee shot for me as a cut player but I hit a great tee shot. Right after I hit the tee shot I was thinking okay another hard shot coming up don't mess it up which you should not be thinking about. I didn't have good thoughts in my head over that ball and I hit a bad shot. I ended up three feet left of the cart path

and I drew a decent lie and hit a good shot from there.

**CSGA: Ben ended up getting up and down for birdie. Now it was on Rick to respond after seemingly being in the driver's seat on the hole.**

*RD:* In match play, you take the information as it comes. If you start to hope or expect the ball of your opponent to go awry you are going to be disappointed more often than not. So I was going to have to make that two-putt birdie whether he was in or out of the hole so I think honestly it just adds to the story. He had to make a great up and down from over there and I put pressure on him and he did it.

**CSGA: You were still tied as you teed off the closing par-5. Take me through the hole.**

*RD:* I think with that hole you really have to play it you versus the hole. I didn't think either of us were going to get home in two with the way the wind was. My priority was either center of the fairway or left. I saw too many people hit it right and that second shot is one of the toughest on the course. So I just threaded it so from there it is a birdie hole.

*BC:* My goal was to set myself up for the best chance to make birdie. On my drive I got the ball a little too high on the club face with a little too much cut spin and it sailed off right. I left myself with a really tricky shot around the tree. It was either layup around the tree and leave myself either 200 or 210 or hit a hook and get myself to a wedge distance. I tried to hit the hook, I pull hooked it, and ended up in a flower bed. I ended up with a drop and had a tricky 156 yards to the pin over a rock for my third shot. At first, I thought it was a 52-degree wedge but my caddie, my former high school teammate, thought I should hit the 56-degree wedge and I hit the full swing 56. I hit a great shot. For me the harder I swing it from the rough the more confidence I have and honestly that might have been my best shot of the tournament under that pressure.

*RD:* Funny story about my third shot. I had 112 yards but my caddie told me I had 108

yards because he knew I was going to hit it further than I did and I still hit it over the green. Like Ben was saying under the circumstances that pressure is real. There was a gallery there and there was an end in sight. I had a chance but I hit it right over the stick.

**CSGA: You both ended up parring the hole and for the first time since 2006 the title match of the Connecticut Amateur went to a playoff hole. What were you thinking as the playoff began?**

*BC:* I was definitely filled with adrenaline when the playoff began. On that hole, I had hit driver every round. A few rounds I had hit it poorly but I knew if I hit it well enough and got past the trees on the right even though the fairway narrows up I knew I would be fine. Even if I ended up in the rough, I would rather be in the rough 60 yards away than the fairway 120 out. I ripped driver and I ended up being in a great spot for a left pin.

*RD:* I just tugged my drive a little bit in the playoff off the tee on No. 1 and that fairway canters left and I ran into a tree so that was an opening for sure.

**CSGA: Rick unfortunately the playoff didn't go how you would have liked but since 2017 you have won the Connecticut Amateur twice and also have been a finalist. What has your success in the Connecticut Amateur meant to your golf career?**

*RD:* The first one was really cool because it made me realize that I still have something to pursue. It really opened a lot of friendships and relationships and even strengthened my love for the game. It opened competitive doors for me. I look forward to the amateur every year. I look forward to getting back into match play and then trying to play my best golf and getting through. So I really enjoyed being in the finals and playing with Ben. He is a worthy champion. I have a really fond memory of this year's final.

**CSGA: Ben you ended up with two putts on the first playoff hole to win the championship. After all the back and forth throughout the day how did you compose yourself for that moment?**

*BC:* On the playoff hole I think I had 8 feet for birdie and I needed two putts to win. I wanted to make it but I knew I couldn't hit it too far by.

*RD:* Yeah after I missed my par putt I think I saw a little bit of a smile.

**CSGA: What has the win meant to you Ben?**

*BC:* It was incredible. It was definitely a huge jump in my career. Before the tournament, I wasn't expecting to win. I just wanted to have a good week myself. I didn't really care about the results because I was coming off a long break. The win was great and I am really excited to defend on my home turf, the Country Club of Darien in 2023.

**CSGA: Now that you have had a few months to reflect on the title match, how do you remember getting to play in such a special match?**

*RD:* There isn't a much better feeling than being the last two standing so there is an accomplishment just making it to the finals. You have gotten yourself all the way to where you wanted to be and you can't really expect to win but you want to win. Then to have such an epic duel with such a great player on such a great golf course, to be the last two out playing ourselves and tossing some birdies and playing really good golf in front of people, our friends, and family, it is one of my favorite memories.

*BC:* It was incredible. In the heat of the moment I was just trying to win but looking back it was a crazy day beginning with leaving my golf shoes at home 40 minutes away. It was a long 11 hours in the sun. I remember my face was so sun-beaten and red. I remember thinking I'm going to have to stay out of the sun for a week. But it was a really fun week looking back on it. It is always fun to think about and reflect about with my caddie and really good friend Thomas.



Chris Ayers (left) made another deep run before falling in the quarterfinals. Playing on his home course Jack Woods (above) earned medalist honors. Jantzen Vargas (below) upset Ben Day in the Round of 16 before running out of steam in the quarterfinals falling to Ben Carpenter 1 up.



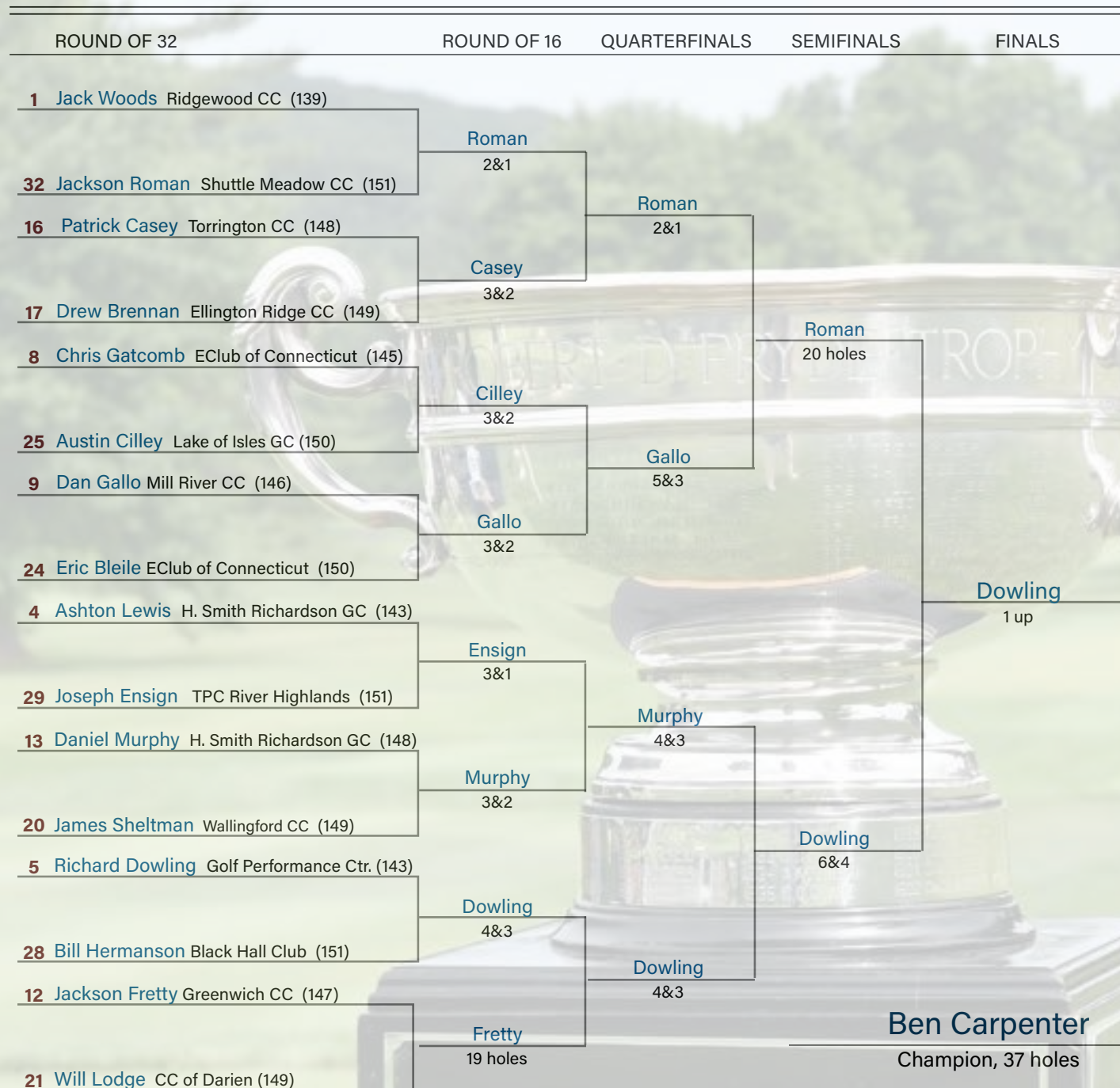
2018 winner Ben Conroy (top left) made a run to the semifinals while Dan Murphy (top right) reached the quarterfinals. In a memorable quarterfinal match 32-seed Jackson Roman (above right) outlasted Dan Gallo (above left) in 20 holes.



# 120<sup>TH</sup> CONNECTICUT AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Ridgewood Country Club ~ Danbury, Conn. ~ Par 71 / 6,750 yards ~ Entries: 261

June 20-24, 2022







37<sup>TH</sup> CONNECTICUT PUBLIC LINKS

# HOME COURSE TRIUMPH

Mark Eells has been playing golf at Blackledge Country Club for years. **He tells us in his own words what the Public Links title meant to him.**

**I** remember when I first heard that the 2022 Connecticut Public Links was going to be held at Blackledge Country Club, feeling excited about the opportunity to play on my home course! I grew up down the road from the course, I worked there for seven years, played it as my high school home course, and continue to play there as a member.

As I played there throughout the year knowing the tournament was coming up later in the summer, I was able to develop a game plan of how I wanted to maneuver each hole. Of course, during the tournament, it seemed like I ended up hitting the ball in places I have never been in my 10+ years of playing the course. My plan was to be more aggressive off the tee to give myself as many birdie opportunities as possible, especially on the par 4s.

Round one was full of highs and lows although the scorecard may not reflect that. I struggled off the tee early but seemed to make putt after putt just to hold on. An eagle on the par-5 fourth highlighted my front nine. I had roughly 225 yards into the blind green. Hitting my target, I walked over the crest of the hill to see my ball about 12 feet from the hole and I was then able to roll in the putt. This got me to 1-under which is where I would remain through the first 12 holes.

From there we had a rain delay for about an hour which gave me a good opportunity to refocus. Going back out, I proceeded to birdie Nos. 14, 15, and 17 to finish the day at 4-under and with a one shot lead.

I remember not knowing how I'd feel the next day and if there would be nerves. However, once I got to the course I felt really calm with a clear mind which I attribute to the amount of time I've spent there. My mindset was to shoot the best score I could and not worry about what anyone else was doing.

I birdied holes two and three right away to get to 6-under. But the shot of the day for me came on the par-4 fifth hole. I had 80 yards in and hit my wedge just short of the flag, the ball hopped past the flag, and spun it back into the cup for an eagle! I enjoyed it for a moment but quickly had to let it go as I knew there was still a lot of golf left.

I made the turn at 8-under for the tournament and was joined by a few friends from the Blackledge men's club to follow the back nine. There were some tough par putts I was able to roll in, along with a chip in on No. 14 that they were able to get hyped about which set the atmosphere coming down the stretch.

I told myself ahead of time I wasn't going to check live scores and just stick to my game plan. Still not knowing where the field stood on 18, I hit it behind a tree with my tee shot. Walking up the fairway I asked my buddy if I was ok to play for bogey. In a joking manner he told me I could make a nine and be fine so at that point it started to sink in. Moments later I rolled in one final par putt on 18 to secure the victory!

I was able to come back to my longtime clubhouse surrounded by my friends and people I've worked and golfed with over the years, including club pros John and Kevin. It meant a lot to be able to celebrate this win with them all.

Winning a CSGA tournament was a goal of mine this year and doing it at Blackledge CC was an experience I'll never forget.

# DOWLING DEFENDS

A relentless Rick Dowling went wire-to-wire at the Country Club of New Canaan to repeat as Mid-Amateur champion.



CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP	
1988 - David Smith	1991 - Joe Deane
1989 - James DeGrupe	1992 - David Yoncoski
1990 - William Sarason	1993 - James Gault
1991 - William Sarason	1994 - Ryan Linn
1992 - William Sarason	1995 - William Sabin
1993 - William Sarason	1996 - Thomas Frazee
1994 - Joe Deane	1997 - William Sarason



Rick Dowling (opposite) was in command of his game from the start while Steven Ferraro (left) finished third after three impressive rounds. Chris Flowers (above) closed with rounds of 68-69 to finish sixth and Tim Bickford (opposite below) played three steady rounds to finish T8.

**W**ith four holes remaining in the 35th Connecticut Mid-Amateur at the Country Club of New Canaan Rick Dowling and Cody Paladino were in a dead heat. Dowling had held a narrow lead all day long over Paladino but with a birdie on the par-5 11th the two-time reigning Dick Tettelbach Player of the Year finally tracked down Dowling. The two remained tied at 6-under until the par-4 15th.

Dowling (Golf Performance Center)

split the fairway with his drive and was left with just 106 yards into the green. Meanwhile, Paladino found the left side fairway bunker and faced with an awkward stance could only lay up. Paladino found the green with his third shot but he was still outside of Dowling who knocked his second shot to 8 feet. In a blink, the key moment of the tournament had presented itself.

Paladino putted first for par but the putt slid by resulting in a bogey that dropped the 2022 Russell C. Palmer Cup

winner to 5-under. Moments later and after receiving a read from Ben Day, the third member of the group, Dowling stepped into his birdie putt and rolled it in. Dowling, the leader after each of the first two rounds, was now 7-under and ahead by two with three holes to play.

After regaining the lead Dowling, “tried to keep the peddle down,” and he did just that. On the 555 yard par-5 16th Dowling laid up with his second shot leaving himself 120 yards to the pin. With a great angle into the green Dowling sent his pitching wedge soaring through the air and watched as it danced around the hole coming to rest a foot away. The result was a tap in birdie that moved Dowling to 8-under and the lead by three.

On the ensuing hole, the downhill 343 yard par-4 17th, Dowling again found the center of the fairway and was once again in a prime position to attack the pin. Selecting a sand wedge from 87 yards out Dowling sent another brilliant wedge shot towards the pin. When the ball came



### Final Round Charge

Cody Paladino made a final round charge and was tied with Dowling with four holes remaining as he made a bid for his second CSGA major title of the year.

to rest he had just 5 feet left for another birdie. A short time later when Dowling brushed in the putt he was suddenly 9-under and the owner of a four-shot advantage with one hole to play.

“My mentality down the stretch was finish strong and stay aggressive,” said Dowling, the general manager at Junior Golf Hub. “If you put yourself in a good position on this course you will have a lot of wedges and I just happened to hit a handful of good ones coming in and converted the putts.”

“It feels great to defend my title. I will always remember coming down the stretch with Cody [Paladino] and Ben [Day] and playing the last five holes the way I did.”

**-Rick Dowling**

Now in command Dowling was able to enjoy the final hole and when he two-putted for par in front of a large crowd of family, friends, and fellow competitors he had earned his second consecutive Connecticut Mid-Amateur title. With the wire-to-wire victory, Dowling became the first repeat winner since 2005-2006 when Jeff Hedden accomplished the feat.

“It feels great to defend my title,” Dowling said. “I will always remember coming down the stretch with Cody [Paladino] and Ben [Day] and playing the last five holes the way I did. Then to win at the CC of New Canaan knowing [head professional] Adam Rainaud pretty well, it is cool to win a tournament on his course.”

Following a bogey-free 5-under 65 in the first round, Dowling began the final day with a three shot advantage over Paladino (Hartford GC), 2019 Connecticut Mid-Amateur winner Ben Day (New Haven CC), and Steven Ferraro (Quinnatisset CC). Shortly after the second round began it quickly became clear that the winner was going to come out of the final group which included Dowling, Paladino, and Day.

Throughout the second and third rounds both Paladino and Day made



**Ben Day (above) had a chance at the title until late settling for a fourth place finish, Dan Gallo (right) closed with a pair of subpar rounds to record a top-five showing, Peter Tomlinson (opposite above) after missing much of the season with an injury was in fine form taking seventh place, while Drew Brennan (below) finished T8.**

charges at Dowling but every time they moved within striking distance Dowling had an answer. In the end, Dowling finished 9-under thanks to rounds of 65-68-68 and five shots clear of Paladino (-4), the runner-up for a second straight year.



Ferraro hung tough throughout the day finishing in third place at 2-under, Day at 1-under and in fourth place was the only other player to finish under-par while Dan Gallo (Mill River CC) finished even-par to round out the top-five.



**35th Connecticut Mid-Amateur  
Country Club of New Canaan - New Canaan, Conn. - Par 70/ 6,350 yards - Entries: 223  
August 23-24, 2022**

- |   |                     |   |              |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------|
| <b>1 Richard Dowling, Golf Perf. Ctr.</b> | <b>65-68-68-201</b> | 4 Benjamin Day, New Haven C.C.            | 68-67-74-209 |
| 2 Cody Paladino, Hartford G.C.            | 68-66-72-206        | 5 Dan Gallo, Mill River C.C.              | 74-68-68-210 |
| 3 Steven Ferraro, Quinnatisset C.C.       | 68-69-71-208        | 6 Chris Flowers, H. Smith Richardson G.C. | 74-68-69-211 |

# A CODY THREE-PEAT

As the saying goes the more things change the more they stay the same. On the golf course for Cody Paladino that couldn't be more true. In 2022 Paladino put together another stellar season on his way to winning his third consecutive and fifth overall Dick Tettelbach Player of the Year award.

In May Paladino won his first CSGA major since regaining his amateur status in 2020 when he captured the Russell C. Palmer Cup presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop at Wampanoag Country Club.

At the end of July Paladino was part of the final group at the Connecticut Open before finishing tied for fifth. He capped his CSGA season with a runner-up showing at the Connecticut Mid-Amateur. Mixed in were two early season victories in One Day events.

"The CSGA events are a huge part of my golf life," Paladino said. "It matters a great deal having been born and raised in Connecticut and playing CSGA events. They are what really inspired me to play golf and pursue it at a high level."

The success for the 33-year-old wasn't limited to CSGA events. In his title defense at the New England Amateur he tied for 12th and on the national stage he medaled at U.S. Open Local Qualifying, made the cut at the Northeast Amateur and then qualified for his second consecutive U.S. Mid-Amateur.



A woman in a blue tank top and black skirt is captured in the middle of a golf swing on a green field. She is wearing a grey cap and white shoes. The background is a vast, rolling green landscape under a clear sky. The text 'WOMEN' is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, white, serif font.

# WOMEN

*At the Connecticut Women's Open an amateur stole the show while at the Connecticut Women's Amateur a former winner overcame injury to hoist the trophy for a second time.*

# MITCHELL CAPTURES SECOND WOMEN'S AMATEUR

After battling a back injury for over a year Meghan Mitchell earned the title with some gritty play down the stretch. In her own words Mitchell tells us **what the victory meant.**

**I**f you were to tell me summer of 2021 that in a year I would win my second Connecticut Women's Amateur title, I wouldn't have believed you.

In the spring of 2021 I returned home from my sophomore year of college playing golf at Appalachian State. Towards the end of the season, and upon my return home to Connecticut I was experiencing a lot of discomfort in my back. I had sharp shooting pain, muscle spasms, and complete tightness. I knew something was wrong.

Upon seeing my family doctor, she expressed a lot of concern such as disk issues and even a possible fracture. I set up an appointment shortly after with a back doctor and he ordered an MRI.

The results were surprising, I learned that my L3 and L4 disks were bulging and could herniate if I didn't do something. I was told that I would have to do intense physical therapy and stop golfing for around three weeks. Three weeks turned into six weeks, and even though I felt I was getting stronger, I was still having a hard time hitting a ball for more than 20 minutes. I went back to the doctor, and he suggested epidural injections, however I opted out of injections and to continue with physical therapy.

I returned to Boone, North Carolina in the fall of 2021 for the start of my junior year. My plan was to take it slow and compete. It didn't take long before I realized, I wasn't ready. I went to our local range alone and couldn't get through half of my large bucket. The sharp shooting pain was back. I was utterly confused. Shouldn't I feel better after all these months in physical therapy?

My athletic trainer at App State wanted me to get another opinion. I saw another



**Mia Grzywinski (above) finished in second place and in the top-four for the third straight year at the Connecticut Women's Amateur.**

doctor in Boone, who mentioned that he noticed facet joint impingement. This meant, that through my many years of playing golf, the muscle between my joints designed for rotation were withering away.

Shortly after, I was on a flight home back to Connecticut to meet with Jason Gromelski of Nola Physical Therapy. In our first session he stretched and twisted me like a pretzel. None of the stretching was giving me that sharp pain I was experiencing, and this is when he told me my bulging disks weren't the problem, it was the facet joints. He also mentioned that

the physical therapy I had been doing all summer made this issue worse.

You can't put it into words how frustrating all of this was to hear. All that hard work and time throughout the summer to get back by the fall was wasted, as well as an entire fall golf season trying to figure out what was wrong. Although it was all frustrating, I was glad I finally had answers.

I returned to Connecticut for winter break and worked with Jason multiple times a week. By the end of the break, the sharp shooting pain went away in the middle of my back swing. Although tight-





ness and discomfort still existed, I knew I was strong enough to play through it.

Finally, in the spring of 2022 although it was difficult I returned to competition. This season of golf was by far the hardest in my life. Not only was I having a hard time physically, I struggled mentally. I had a hard time trusting my back while standing over the ball. It made me question myself as a golfer and if I would ever get back to the player I used to be.

At the start of summer 2022, I took a few weeks off, which was great for me mentally, however my back without physical therapy or golf tightened up. I pulled out of the Connecticut Women's Open and started physical therapy again. As my back loosened, I started getting back into

the swing of things. I played evening golf at the Country Club of New Canaan with friends almost every night. Through this period of time, I made it a priority to fall back in love with golf again.

Soon enough, it was July, and the Connecticut Women's Amateur was right around the corner. I was apprehensive about the tournament. My swing coach and mother, Roxanne, told me to go out there with my dad and just enjoy it and to not set any sort of expectations for myself. Little did I know that that was the best possible thing I could have heard before heading in to the first round.

That first round at Tashua Knolls Golf Course was so much fun. I wasn't stressed, I was just happy to be out there with my

dad Steve on the bag. I was striking the ball well, but I had no idea where I stood, it wasn't even a thought that I could be leading. After walking off 18, I looked over at my dad smiling and he claimed he knew by the 15th hole.

Going into day two was nerve-wracking. When I won in 2019, I came from four strokes behind, where this year I was leading by only a few. It was harder mentally, but I focused on one shot at a time. My dad did a great job of easing the tension crawling through my body. It was a relief to finally finish that last 18 holes and get it done.

Through this entire experience, I have learned so much about myself and what resilience truly means!



2021 Borck Junior winner Mia Holbrook (left) tied for fourth, Violet Robbins (above) was part of the final group and earned a T4 finish while 2008 winner Jen Holland (below) made a final round charge before finishing third.

**57th Women's Amateur Championship**  
**Tashua Knolls Golf Course - Trumbull, Conn.**  
**Par 72 / 5,720 yards Entries 48**  
**July 6-7, 2022**

- 1 Meghan Mitchell, C.C. of New Canaan 73-78-151**
- 2 Mia Grzywinski, C.C. of Farmington 77-76-153**
- 3 Jen Holland, Lyman Orchards G.C. 81-73-154**
- T4 Mia Holbrook, Silver Spring C.C. 79-77-156**
- T4 Violet Robbins, EClub of Conn. 75-81-156**
- T6 Elizabeth Barnes, Stamford Women's Golf Assn. 78-79-157**
- T6 Maggie Kennedy, Rockledge C.C. 76-81-157**
- T8 Kate Hong, Greenwich C.C. 77-82-159**
- T8 Sydney Nethercott, EClub of Conn. 77-82-159**
- 10 Caroline McShea, Griffith E. Harris G.C. 82-79-161**





# LAPPLE WINS IN PLAYOFF

17-year-old amateur Alexandra Lapple had a chance to win in regulation before emerging victorious in one of the most **entertaining tournaments of the season.**

**A**lexandra Lapple won the 23rd Connecticut Women's Open presented by Crescent Point Private Wealth but it wasn't easy. With the victory Lapple became the first amateur to win the Connecticut Women's Open since Megan Khang's victory in 2015.

Lapple began the final round two shots clear of the field following a first round 3-under 69, however in the final round the 17-year-old struggled right out of the gate playing the first four holes at Hop Meadow Country Club in 3-over to fall back to even-par for the tournament.

Lapple's round started with a bogey on No. 1 and despite her lone birdie of the day on the par-5 second the struggles continued with a double-bogey on the par-3 third and a bogey on the fourth.

Meanwhile, as Lapple slid back towards the field, Millbrook Club First Assistant Golf Professional Samantha Morrell made a charge. After starting the day four shots back Morrell got off to a quick start.

Playing two groups in front of the final group Morrell started her round with a bang as she rolled in a birdie from 20-feet on the first. Following a string of pars Morrell got up and down from the bunker for a birdie on the short par-5 fifth. Two holes later on the par-3 eighth Morrell moved into a tie for the lead with a sweeping 12-foot birdie putt. Morrell did bogey the downhill par-3 ninth but she was still able to head for the back in 2-under 34 and at 1-over for the tournament.

"I went into today with no expectations and I think that was the key to the round," Morrell said. "I wouldn't say that I wasn't expecting to be in contention because anything can happen out there but it wasn't really the focus out there. I thought I could just play a little looser than someone who had slept on the lead."

As Morrell surged Lapple steadied herself. "I think the key to my round was settling down after the first four holes. I struggled through the [first four holes] but I was able to stay consistent and loose."



**In the final round Samantha Morrell rolled in four birdies as she overcame a six shot deficit to earn a spot in the playoff.**

Lapple, who moved from Connecticut to Pinehurst, North Carolina after eighth grade, recorded a much needed par on the par-4 fifth and with it she began to settle into her round. Pars on the next four holes kept Lapple at even-par as she made the turn with a one-shot lead over Morrell.

With the winds picking up the back nine became a battle of attrition between Lapple and Morrell with the lead changing hands multiple times. Following a bogey by Lapple on No. 10, Morrell moved in front thanks to a kick-in birdie on the par-3 12th.

"On the 12th I got the yardage and I felt that the wind was with us and I just said to my playing partners, 'Hey guys do you mind if I go?' I knew that I had made my decision and that I was ready to go," said Morrell a two-time competitor in the KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

One hole later Morrell made a nifty par to maintain her lead, however two bogeys on the way to the house dropped her back to 2-over for the tournament. Morrell had shot the round of the day, a 1-under 71, but with her work done she was one shot behind Lapple and it now became a waiting game.

"I didn't know where I was all day," Morrell said. "Sometimes I feel it is better not to know."

With Morrell's round complete all eyes shifted to Lapple. The Notre Dame commit had a solid par save on No. 16 and then saved par again from a greenside bunker one hole later. Lapple now had one hole left to navigate.

On the closing par-5 a good drive led to a good lay-up which led to a third shot that came to rest 30 feet below the hole. Despite her earlier struggles all that Lapple



needed now was a two-putt par. That proved to be easier said than done. Her first putt came up well short and when the 10 foot par putt slid by it was onto a playoff with Morrell.

"I was a bit frustrated with my round but I love pressure situations so I knew I would have fun in the playoff no matter what," said Lapple who signed for a 5-over 77 in the final round.

Playing the par-4 first hole in the play-off Lapple had all the fun. She blasted her drive 240 yards and only had 127 yards into the green. Her approach shot came to rest on the fringe 40 feet below the hole.

**Alexsandra Lapple (left) saved par out of the bunker on the 17th hole and carried a one shot lead to the last.**

Meanwhile, Morrell was struggling. She was fortunate to find her drive and then was fortunate again when her second shot clanked off of a bunker rake and stayed in the rough behind the green rather than rolling into a bunker.

The first playoff hole was now a short game contest. Lapple played first and left herself three feet for par. Now it was Morrell's turn and she hit a deft chip that came to rest five feet from the cup. It looked as if play would be heading for a second extra hole.

Then the inexplicable happened when



Morrell missed her sharp breaking par putt. Lapple now had a putt for the victory for the second time in twenty minutes. This time she didn't miss as she rolled in the short par putt to secure the title.

"It was a really good win just because I am back in Connecticut and it was my

first win in a while," Lapple said. "I had fun seeing all my friends, family, and [Director, Women's Golf, Competitions & Development] Marsha [Rupp] so it meant a lot to be back in my home state and to win."

**2011 champion Jordan Lintz (above) made another run at the title while defending champion Melissa Siviter (below) battled but came up just short.**

**23rd Connecticut Women's Open  
presented by Crescent Point Private Wealth  
Hop Meadow Country Club - Simsbury, Conn.  
Par 72 / 5,800 yards Entries 53  
June 6-7, 2022**

- 1** **Alexsandra Lapple (a), Ridgewood C.C.\* 69-77-146**
  - 2** Samantha Morrell, Millbrook Club 75-71-146
  - T3** Jordan Lintz, Oronoque C.C. 76-73-149
  - T3** Melissa Siviter, G.C. of Georgia 75-74-149
  - T3** Sydney Nethercott (a), MGA EClub - Conn. 71-78-149
  - 6** Samantha Perrotta (a), Philmont C.C. 75-75-150
  - T7** Kyle Fraser (a), Shady Oaks C.C. 79-73-152
  - T7** Alexis Hios, Woodway C.C. 77-75-152
  - T7** Chelsea Dantonio, Crag Burn G.C. 76-76-152
  - 10** Angela Garvin (a), The Ranch G.C. 74-79-153
- \* Won in a playoff**



# JEN'S BACK ON TOP

2022 LIZ JANANGELO CARON PLAYER OF THE YEAR: JEN HOLLAND

It was another banner year for Jen Holland, the now five-time winner of the Liz Janangelo Caron Women's Player of the Year award.

"I was kind of surprised [that I won the award this year]," said Jen Holland. "When last I had looked at the standings in the middle of the August I was tied. I was happily surprised."

Once again Holland, a physical education and health teacher at John Lyman Elementary in Middlefield for 27 years, put together a strong season both within the state and in national competition.

In CSGA play she won the Women's One Day at Keney Park Golf Course and in July at 59-years-old she nearly came from behind on the final day to win her second Connecticut Women's Amateur title.

"I am just competitive," said Holland who fired a final round best 1-over 73 and won the Senior Division at the Connecticut Women's Amateur. "It doesn't matter if I am playing against somebody my age or somebody younger I like to compete."

That desire to compete and compete at a high level led Holland to a pair of Southern New England Women's Golf Association victories. First she won the SNEWGA Individual title in July and then she followed that up with victory in the SNEWGA Senior Amateur. Sandwiched in between was a trip to Alaska for the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur and the first USGA championship held in the state.

"This was my sixth U.S. Senior Women's Amateur. Being able to go to Alaska with a couple of other friends was fantastic."



# SAND PEOPLE



Rick Dowling plays out of the sand at the Connecticut Mid-Amateur



In the season opening One Day Tournament at Stonington Country Club Anthony Salvador (above) got a face full of sand. At the Senior Match Play Championship Bob Murphy, Jr. (below) muscles up. At the Connecticut Women's Amateur Meghan Mitchell (opposite above) blasted her way to the title, while at the Borck Junior Robby Rosati (opposite below) enjoyed a day at the beach.





Steven Ferraro (above left) plows his way out at CC New Canaan in the Connecticut Mid-Amateur. At Woodway in the Borck Junior, Kate Hong (above right) clips it perfectly. For righties and lefties alike, Woodway's bunkers (hole No. 13 below) proved a steep challenge.

Mike Martin (above) is forced to play away from the flagstick at New Haven Country Club during the Connecticut Open. Dan Gallo (right) attempts a desperation bunker shot at the Connecticut Amateur. At the Senior Match Play Championship, Richard Shildneck (below) displays some touch on his way to qualifying for match play.



2022 JUNIOR COMPETITION

# JUNIORS

New names emerged as champions during the 2022 junior season. Will Lodge and Elias Kennon battled in a heavy weight title match at the Junior Amateur, Cameron Besaw and Laniah Moffett emerged at the Borck Junior while Yvette O'Brien won the inaugural Connecticut Girls' Junior.



# LODGE RUNS THE TABLE

Will Lodge began his week by earning medalist honors and then never looked back as he ran the table to **win his first ever tournament.**

**T**he championship match of the 81st Connecticut Junior Amateur hosted by Water-town Golf Club was all Will Lodge. Following a pair of ties on the first two holes Lodge won the par-4 third to take the lead and never looked back as he defeated Elias Kennon 4&3 to capture the title.

“It means a lot to win this event,” said Lodge who had never won a tournament before. “This is definitely a good event to have your name on the trophy. I feel like I have always been a pretty solid player but I have never been able to seal the deal so this was a good one to get the monkey off the back to finally get a win. It really means a lot.”



“This is definitely a good event to have your name on the trophy.”

– Will Lodge

Leading 1-up Lodge (CC of Darien) extended his lead with a par on No. 5 and then pushed his advantage to 3 up with a tap in birdie two holes later. Lodge, a freshman on the Yale Golf team, split the fairway with his drive on the 542-yard par-5 seventh and was left with 255 yards into an elevated green. Looking to apply the pressure Lodge smoked a 3 wood to the front of the green. A gorgeous lag putt set up his birdie and 3 up advantage.

With all the momentum on his side Lodge won the next hole to take a commanding 4 up lead with 10 holes to play.

Kennon (Golf Performance Center) tried to make a move on the back nine but he could never wrestle back the momentum. The University of Louisville commit had a birdie try on the par-4 11th that slid by and he birdied the par-4 12th but each time Lodge matched Kennon and maintained his 4 up lead.

“This week I think I saw glimpses of some pretty good golf for me,” Kennon said. “Today I pretty much gave away any hole he wanted to get. I didn’t really have any parts of my game but I think I am closer to getting a win and now I just have to trust my game instead of just continuing to shift around different swing thoughts.”

Following six consecutive ties the match

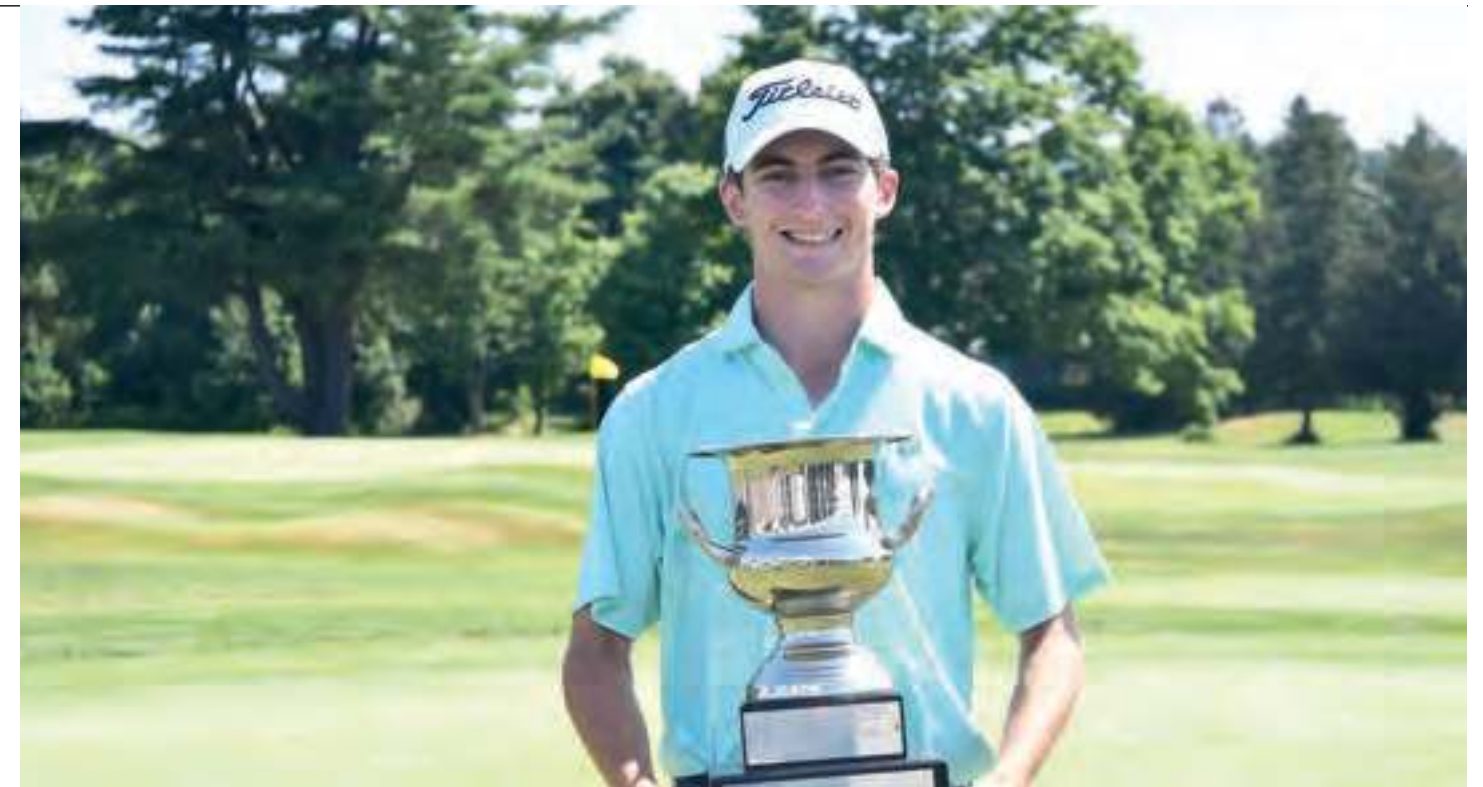
**Will Lodge (opposite) won his semifinal match with a clutch putt on the final hole. Will Gregware (left) and Robby Rosati (right) reached the semifinals.**

arrived at the par-3 15th dormie. Lodge played first and just missed the green to the right while Kennon hit the green but left himself with a long birdie putt. Lodge chipped his second shot close and was conceded the par. Looking to keep the match alive Kennon’s birdie attempt missed and with that Lodge was the 2022 Connecticut Junior Amateur champion.

“I felt pretty good with my game all week,” said Lodge who also earned medalist honors. “I didn’t really practice all that much coming into the week, I just took it easy. I felt like my game has been solid recently and I felt like I needed to find the right time to apply it. I felt good all week.”







Elias Kennon (opposite) fought his way through the bracket to reach the title match. 2020 runner-up Kyle St. Pierre (left) playing in his final Connecticut Junior Amateur reached the quarterfinals before falling to Kennon in 19 holes. Austin Perkins (right) reached the quarterfinals after earning the second seed in qualifying. Will Lodge (above) is all smiles as he holds the trophy.



**81st Connecticut Junior Amateur  
Watertown Golf Club - Watertown, Conn.  
Par 71/6,400 yards Entries: 100  
July 11-15, 2022**

**Will Lodge (C.C. of Darien) path to the William A. Salvatore Trophy**  
Stroke Play Qualifier: 67 (-4), seeded 1st  
Round of 32: Defeated #32 Andrew Lewis (Farmington Woods G.C.), 3&1  
Round of 16: Defeated #17 Scott Petrosky (Pequabuck G.C.), 6&5  
Quarterfinals: Defeated #24 Ethan Cramer (Hop Meadow C.C.), 3&2  
Semifinals: Defeated #13 Will Gregware (Farmington Woods G.C.), 1 up  
Finals: Defeated #3 Elias Kennon (Golf Performance Center), 4&3

## O'BRIEN IMPRESSIVE IN WIN

Yvette O'Brien conquered two courses on her way to winning the **inaugural Connecticut Girls' Junior**.

**A** late birdie and eagle helped Yvette O'Brien pull away at the 1st Connecticut Girls' Junior and win the title in wire-to-wire fashion.

Leading by one shot as she made the turn at the Country Club of Waterbury, O'Brien (Greenwich CC) found another gear. Playing the course for the first time O'Brien began the final round with a one-shot lead and despite a disappointing 4-over 40 on the front nine she still held the same advantage as she headed for home.

"I didn't do as well as I would have liked to on the front nine so I was just trying to keep my cool and stay calm and focus on my end goal," said O'Brien who opened the tournament with a 5-over 77 at Watertown Golf Club. "I think I really did that today after a rocky start."

For a moment it looked as if her rocky start would carry over to the back nine as she bogeyed Nos. 10 and 11 to fall all the way back to 11-over. However, a par on No. 12 steadied O'Brien and set her up for a sprint to the finish as she turned a tight race into a runaway.

O'Brien, a rising junior at Greenwich Academy, started to create separation with a short birdie putt on No. 13 and then following a par on the par-3 14th she took control of the tournament for good when she rolled in a 15-foot eagle putt on the par-5 15th.

"I really didn't look at the scores but I knew I could do better after the front nine so I really just picked it up and kept focused and tried to finish strong," O'Brien said.

O'Brien did double-bogey the par-4 16th but by then her lead was insurmountable. Still comfortably in front



CC Kaplan (above) put together a pair of strong rounds to finish in second place.

"The win means a lot. It is great for my self confidence."

- Yvette O'Brien

O'Brien converted a nifty up and down for par after missing the green long on No. 17 and then concluded her week with a tap-in birdie on the par-5 18th to finish 9-over and the winner by four strokes. The birdie on the closing hole was O'Brien's fourth of the day as she played the last seven holes in 2-under to sign for a final round 4-over 76.

"The win means a lot," said O'Brien. "It is great for my self confidence. I haven't won a lot in a little bit of time so it is nice to get that back and get that confidence in me so I can go with a steady mindset and a positive attitude for my next tournament."

CC Kaplan (Burning Tree CC) had the best chance at catching O'Brien and was

just one back with nine holes to play but ultimately settled for a 13-over second place finish. Last year's Borck Junior Girls winner Mia Holbrook (Silver Spring CC) was 14-over in third while a trio of players shared fourth at 18-over. The group included Kenna Roman (Shuttle Meadow CC), Shawna Aurora (Lyman Orchards GC), and Morgan Peterson (EClub of Connecticut).



## MOFFETT, BESAW WINNERS AT BORCK JUNIOR

Laniah Moffett was the last player to qualify for match play, Cameron Besaw went the distance in each of his first two matches **on his way to the title.**

**T**he titles at the 53rd Borck Junior hosted by Woodway Country Club were captured by Cameron Besaw and Laniah Moffett.

In the championship match of the Boys Division Besaw squared off against Robby Rosati (Great River GC). Early on, the match was a back and forth affair and it was tied as the players made the turn.

On the back nine Besaw (EClub of Connecticut) began to make his move. He birdied the par-4 10th to take a 1 up lead and he still held the same advantage as the players made their way to the par-4 13th.

Besaw, a senior at the online Laurel Springs School so he can compete in Florida during the winter, blasted his drive on the 13th hole leaving himself just 45 yards into the elevated green. With a wedge in hand, Besaw knocked his second shot to five feet setting up a birdie that increased his lead to 2 up. The lead swelled to 3 up when Rosati, a 7&6 winner in the semifinals over Andrew Beauton (Pine Orchard CC), found trouble on the long par-5 14th.

"I think the biggest key for me was never getting down so I never really felt like I had to do something crazy to win a hole or multiple holes to get back in the match," said Cameron Besaw who won the 2022 Metropolitan Golf Association's Carter Cup at Baltusrol Golf Club.

With a comfortable lead Besaw, a 3&2 winner over Charles Schrohe (Burning Tree CC) in the semifinals, didn't waste any extra time in closing out the match. Sitting in the middle of the fairway on the par-4 15th the New Canaan resident struck his approach shot from 77 yards just right, and watched as it landed softly three feet from the pin. A few moments later he brushed in the birdie putt to win his third straight hole and earn a 4&3 victory.

"It is a great win. It is always hard to win a tournament that is multiple days," said Besaw. "You have to beat a lot of people. You have to be in the top 16 in



Laniah Moffett (left) and Cameron Besaw (above) survived a number of challengers.

stroke play and then you have to win four matches. It is definitely hard but it is really fun to know that I can beat all those kids."

In the Girls Division Laniah Moffett, experiencing match play for the first time in her career didn't lead until she won the par-4 17th hole but once she had the lead she didn't relinquish it.

"I didn't think I was even going to make the cut this week and I did just barely and it kind of surprised me."

- Laniah Moffett

Leading 1 up in a thrilling match against Kate Hong and standing on the tee of the par-4 18th hole Moffett unleashed one of her best drives of the day splitting the fairway and only leaving herself 123 yards into the green.

Seeing an opportunity to close out a seesaw match in which only two holes were tied Moffett knocked her approach shot to 15 feet giving herself a look at birdie. Needing two putts to close out the match Moffett (EClub of Connecticut) only took one rolling in the birdie putt and in the process picking up the biggest win of her career.

"I have never won anything this big

so this win means so much," said Laniah Moffett who emotionally embraced her father Kenny behind the 18th green.

"My parents [Touch and Kenny] are so supportive and I love them so much. They are out here every single day walking the course, looking for golf balls, and waking up at 5 a.m. to be out here. It means so much that they are there for me."

Hong (Greenwich CC), a 6&4 victor over Isabella Hassan (Rolling Hills CC) in the semifinals, took an early lead in the match winning three of the first four holes to take a 3 up advantage.

Unfazed, Moffett a 5&4 winner in the semifinals over defending champion Mia Holbrook, battled back squaring the match by the eighth hole. From then on both players traded holes, with Hong on four occasions taking a 1 up lead only to have Moffett tie the match each time on the ensuing hole. Hong, a freshman at Holy Cross, took her final lead on the par-4 15th hole before Moffett rattled off victories on each of the last three holes to take the match 2 up.

"I didn't think I was even going to make the cut this week and I did just barely and it kind of surprised me," Moffett said. "I had to work so hard to be here. It just means so much that I can come out and play a course I have never played before that is so challenging and for me to play well means so much."

# SENIORS

Wind. Cold. Rain. The 2022 senior season was a battle of attrition with Dave Jones breaking through at the Connecticut Senior Match Play and Dave Szewczul persevering at the Connecticut Senior Amateur.

# GEIGER CAPTURES SUPER SENIOR IN PLAYOFF

Two years ago Frank Geiger lost a playoff at the Tournament of Champions. This year at the Super Senior Championship he was able to **avenge that defeat.**

**O**n a fantastic day at the Longshore Golf Course, Frank Geiger beat out Richard Stevens in a playoff to win the 26th Super Senior Championship.

After 18-holes of play, both Geiger and Stevens sat at 1-under 68 setting up a playoff for the championship. Geiger was able to capture the win after two playoff holes going par-par.

Beginning the shotgun style tournament on the second hole Geiger sunk a long par putt on the third hole to settle into the round. He then went on to birdie the eighth and ninth holes to take an early lead in the championship.

Geiger highlighted his long birdie putt on the par-3 11th hole as being a key shot that helped him to the victory. He also attributed solid and consistent ball striking throughout the round to his success. His only blemish of the round was a double-bogey on the 18th hole.

Stevens, a two-time Connecticut Senior Amateur winner, would finish second after coming up short on the final playoff hole but he turned in a great round nonetheless. Stevens would record five birdies on the day as he went



**Richard Stevens (above) rolled in five birdies as he made his way around Longshore Golf Course.**

on to shoot a 1-under 68.

Third place honors were shared by Bill Hermanson and Terry Ruzzo as they both played solidly to post an even-par 69. Hermanson rolled in three birdies and Ruzzo had two birdies. The top five was rounded out by four players

at 2-over 71 including Rick Lawrence, Dave Szewczul, Tim Dailey, and Gary Mattesen.

**26th Super Senior Championship Longshore Golf Club Westport, Conn. August 15, 2022  
Par 69/ 5,900 yards - Entries: 78**

<b>1</b> Frank Geiger, Sterling Farms Men's G.C. * <b>68</b>	<b>T5</b> Rick Lawrence, Ridgewood C.C.	71
<b>2</b> Richard Stevens, EClub of Connecticut 68	<b>T5</b> Dave Szewczul, TPC River Highlands	71
<b>T3</b> Bill Hermanson, Black Hall Club 69	<b>T5</b> Tim Dailey, H. Smith Richardson G.C.	71
<b>T3</b> Terry Ruzzo, Tallwood C.C. 69	<b>T5</b> Gary Mattesen, Cedar Knob G.C.	71
	<b>* Won in a playoff</b>	



# HERMANSON IS SUPER

The name Bill Hermanson has been synonymous with golf success in Connecticut for decades. Hermanson won the Dick Tettelbach Player of the Year award in 1991, in 2015 he was the Dick Siderowf Senior Player of the Year, and now he has won the Super Senior Player of the Year award.

“It is nice, it is fun,” Bill Hermanson said when asked what it means to have won all three player of the year awards. “It does mean that I have been able to stay competitive [for a long time]. Longevity is important in this game. The game itself allows you to play for a long time, unlike some other sports. The beauty of our game is that you can play into your later years but it doesn’t mean it is easy to stay competitive.”

So far for the 66-year-old longtime member of the Black Hall Club staying competitive hasn’t been a problem. This year Hermanson made the cut at the Russell C. Palmer Cup, the Connecticut Amateur, and the Connecticut Mid-Amateur. He also won three One Day titles including the Siderowf Division at the Al Acker One Day Championship while also finishing tied for second at the Connecticut Senior Amateur, third at the Super Senior Championship, and tied for 12th at the New England Senior Amateur.

“I just like to compete. I enjoy the camaraderie, I enjoy the friendships that I have been able to make over the years,” Hermanson said. “You feel like you get to know these guys at a pretty high level, especially the senior guys. It is just fun. It gets you up in the morning, it makes you practice, and I love the adrenaline rush when you are in contention. That is what we play for.”





77TH SENIOR AMATEUR

# DAVE SZEWCZUL PERSEVERERS ON AND OFF THE COURSE

For two consecutive days the field battled brutal conditions at the Country Club of Waterbury. **“Playing in the conditions we faced is a mindset,” Szewczul said.**

**M**other Nature threw everything she had at the field of the 77th Connecticut Senior Amateur. Across two days at the Country Club of Waterbury the field battled its way through the relentless cold, wind, and on the final day rain.

At the end of the day, just one man was left standing. Connecticut Golf Hall of Famer and now four-time Senior Amateur winner Dave Szewczul.

For Szewczul (TPC River Highlands) every win is special but this one meant just a little bit more. In early January he contracted an infection following a procedure and was bedridden until the middle of April. If the infection wasn't bad enough Szewczul was also diagnosed with prostate cancer during the same time period. However, he couldn't start treatment for prostate cancer until the infection had receded.

Once the infection was gone it was off to New York for prostate cancer treatment. Day after day Szewczul battled until he was finally cleared to return to golf at the beginning of July.

“This Senior Amateur victory is pretty special given what I have experienced in the last six months or so,” Dave Szewczul said. “It has been pretty trying not only on me but on my family as well. To be here and in this position and to accomplish this against the field that we had and the weather and the elements, I can't put into words what it means. I didn't know if I would be able to play golf again, let alone lead a quality life but I have been blessed and hopefully, it keeps on going.”

Szewczul began the day 8-over-par and three shots off the overnight lead held by 2022 Connecticut Senior Match Play winner Dave Jones (Mohegan Sun GC) and he quickly tightened the gap. Follow-

ing a bogey on the opening hole, Szewczul carded rare back-to-back birdies on the second and third holes.

Meanwhile, a few groups back, Jones lost his opening tee ball setting up a double-bogey, bogey, bogey start that opened the door to the rest of the field.

“The birdies on Nos. 2 and 3 were a really big stepping stone,” Szewczul said. “I missed a short putt for par on the first hole and when you are playing from behind you don't want to make mistakes right off the jump and put yourself even further behind. Converting those birdies and getting off to a good start was a good confidence boost.”

Szewczul might have got his round off to a strong start but there were numerous players who had a chance at the title. As the winds gusted and the rain fell the race for the title remained tight and as play headed for the back nine eight players were within two shots of the lead.

In the end, it was the steady hand of Szewczul that carried the day. With double-bogeys seemingly looming around every turn Szewczul managed to avoid any big numbers and then dug deep late paring the last four holes.

Tied for the lead with two holes remaining Szewczul had a 12-foot putt for birdie on the par-4 17th. That putt came up short resulting in a par. On the ensuing hole, Szewczul left his approach shot into the closing par-4 short and was faced with a difficult up and down. With the wind whipping Szewczul hit a wonderful chip to two feet to cap his round with a tricky par save. Szewczul would sign for a final round 5-over 74 and a 13-over two-day tally.

Jones, playing in the final group was tied for the lead with two holes remaining but a bogey on No. 17 and a double-bogey on the 18th ended his quest to



**2015 winner Bill Hermanson finished in a tie for second place.**

become the first player to sweep the senior majors since 2015.

“Playing in the conditions we faced today is a mindset,” Szewczul said. “You have to realize you can't control the weather. It is the same for everyone who is playing so you just have to go out there and just really play a mind game. Everyone is going to make a bogey and hit a shot they aren't happy with but you have to go on and persevere.”

Persevering has been the theme of the year for Szewczul. His perseverance not only led him back to the golf course but back into the winner's circle where he has so often found himself before.

Two-time champion Richard Stevens (EClub of Connecticut) and 2015 winner Bill Hermanson (Black Hall Club) finished in a tie for second place at 15-over while John Herbert (Rockledge CC) and Jones shared fourth at 16-over.

# DAVE JONES GETS HIS TITLE

For years Dave Jones has been knocking on the door but until this year at Madison Country Club he had never been able to **hoist a CSGA major trophy.**

**D**ave Jones has been the Dick Siderowf Senior Player of the Year, he has played on CSGA state teams, he has won team events, he has won One Day Tournaments, but at Madison Country Club he accomplished something he had never done in his career. He won a CSGA major title.

On a cloudy and at times wet final day at the 16th Senior Match Play Championship presented by Middlesex Health Jones played steady golf to defeat Hugh Duffy 3&2 to capture the elusive CSGA individual title.

“Before you play tournaments you don’t think about winning them you just want to play well,” Jones said. “Now that I have won I haven’t really processed what it means. I am very proud to have won it. I have played in CSGA events for a long time and to actually win one with the strength of the field that we have is very, very special.”

Jones, a late addition to the field because of vertigo problems prior to the tournament, took control early and then never relinquished his stranglehold on the match. Jones and Duffy went back and forth on the first two holes however once Jones (Mohegan Sun GC) took the lead with a par on No. 4 he wouldn’t look back.

The victory on No. 4 was the first in a string of three consecutive for Jones who in a blink extended his lead to 3 up. Duffy, playing on his home course, did win the par-4 seventh with a nifty up and down from the greenside bunker but that would be the final hole he won.

On the par-4 eighth, Duffy missed the green left and would need to try and scramble for par while Jones found the center of the green. When Duffy couldn’t save par Jones was able to win another hole with a par and restore his lead to 3 up.

“Going into the round I was hoping to get off to a good start and to build a lead,”



**Hugh Duffy (above) made a strong run to the finals on his home course.**

said Jones. “Once you build a little bit of a lead you have the honor off the tee and you are able to hit fairways and greens. I was able to do that today. I just kept going middle of the fairway, middle of the green and taking my two putts. If you do that you put a lot of pressure on your opponent.”

Duffy hung tough on the second nine and had chances to chip into the deficit but he could never break through. His best chance came on the difficult par-4 12th. After missing the fairway to the left Duffy hit a wonderful approach shot to 15 feet while Jones found a greenside bunker.

However, when Duffy missed the birdie putt Jones, who saved par, was able to escape with a tie and his 3 up advantage intact.

“It is bittersweet. It was a great week,” Duffy said after the match. “I enjoyed it thoroughly and playing here at my home club was a lot of fun. I have not been on this stage before and it kind of showed on the front nine but on the back nine I came to life. There will be other CSGA events so I am looking forward to it.”

The lead was still 3 up as the match continued to the par-4 16th. Jones piped a drive down the middle leaving himself 139 yards into the green. Duffy’s drive went short and left into the rough. It appeared as if Jones was in the driver’s seat. Out of an extremely difficult lie however, Duffy played a brilliant approach shot to 20 feet while Jones pulled his approach shot long and left.

Once again Jones needed to scramble. Taking his 60-degree wedge and opening it as much as he could Jones produced a brilliant flop shot that came to rest 10 feet from the hole. Playing next Duffy missed his birdie try giving Jones a chance to end the match.







Dave Jones (left) was flushing it all week long. Rick Nappi (top) advanced to the semifinals thanks to some hard fought victories. Rick Malafronte (above) played spectacular golf during his run to the semifinals.

**16th Senior Match Play presented by Middlesex Health**

**Madison Country Club - Madison, Conn.**

**Par 70 / 6,406 yards Entries: 120**

**May 31-June 3, 2022**

**Dave Jones (Mohegan Sun G.C.) path to Victory**

Stroke Play Qualifier: 73 (+3), seeded 13th

Round of 32: Defeated #20 Tom Brett (Rockledge C.C.), 4&2

Round of 16: Defeated #4 Rich Quinn (Madison C.C.), 6&5

Quarterfinals: Defeated #21 Patrick McGuinness (Keney G.C.), 1 up

Semifinals: Defeated #24 Rick Nappi (Timberlin G.C.), 5&4

Finals: Defeated #31 Hugh Duffy (Madison C.C.), 3&2

# JONES DOES IT AGAIN

On a cloudy, cool early June day Dave Jones stood over a 10 foot putt for par on the 16th hole at Madison Country Club. It was a putt Jones had faced countless times but this one was different. 40 years after playing in his first Connecticut Amateur as a 19-year-old, Jones was one putt away from winning his first Connecticut State Golf Association major title. Jones calmly swung the putter back and struck it pure, the ball never wavered from its line and disappeared into the bottom of the cup.

Jones, never one to show much emotion on the course pumped his fist, and smiled. He had won the 16th Senior Match Play Championship presented by Middlesex Health title and for the first time in his long and successful career, he was a CSGA major winner. The stage had also been set for another banner season that resulted in Jones winning his second consecutive Dick Siderowf Senior Player of the Year award.

“The Senior Match Play was such a great experience,” Dave Jones said. “The night before I was really nervous and I was thinking, ‘alright this is my chance to win a CSGA major.’ But once I got to the course it was business as usual, it was just another tournament. I happened to play one of my best rounds of the year in the final.”

In 2022 Jones not only won the Senior Match Play title but also played on the CSGA’s Julius Boros Challenge Cup and Tri-State teams, qualified for his first U.S. Senior Amateur while also capturing five One Day titles on his way to winning the Siderowf Gross Division One Day Player of the Year honors for a second straight season.



A number of close finishes highlighted partner play in 2022. Two events went to extra holes while a number of others came down to the wire.

# PLAYING TOGETHER





2022 PARTNERS

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

Some clutch performances helped the Ferraros and Dunns pull out narrow victories. In the process **life-long family memories were made.**

**W**inning a golf tournament with a family member by your side is a unique, special feeling. This year at the 3rd Parent Child Championship and at the 86th Father & Son Championship the teams of Paul and Steven Ferraro (left) and Matt and Andrew Dunn got to experience that joy.

At Indian Hill Country Club the Ferraros (Quinnatisset CC) rode a hot putter to four birdies and a one shot victory in the Parent Child Championship.

“Playing in these types of events with my son has always been something we look forward to,” said Paul. “We play golf a lot together. It is a family thing, it is what we like to do and it is fun.”

The Dunns (Shuttle Meadow CC) earned their victory at the Father & Son Championship in a dramatic playoff over Jay and Ben Conroy. Both teams fired 2-under 70s at Torrington Country Club sending the proceedings to extra holes.

On the first playoff hole 15-year-old Andrew Dunn executed a difficult chip leaving 4 feet for par while the Conroys had 15 feet remaining for par. Ben Conroy, a Connecticut Amateur and Mid-Amateur winner putted first and his putt lipped out. With a chance to secure the championship Matt Dunn converted the par putt and embraced his son (below) in celebration.

“This was so much fun,” Matt Dunn said. “The last time I played in this tournament was with my Dad.”



2022 PARTNERS

# PICKING EACH OTHER UP

Teamwork led to some impressive victories in **team competition this year.**

**R**ichard Shildneck and Mark Powers (right) went out early at the 41st Connecticut Senior Four-Ball at Simsbury Farms Golf Course and they posted a number nobody could top.

Teeing off at 7:40 a.m. in the second group of the day they birdied the first hole and never looked back on their way to shooting a bogey-free 6-under 66 that was good enough for a one-stroke victory over three other teams.

“We started off with a birdie right off the bat and we kept going,” said Mark Powers who rolled in the birdie on the opening par-4.

Turning in 4-under 32 the stellar golf continued with Shildneck pouring in two more birdies on the 13th and 14th holes.

“We were both in the holes [all day long] which was nice,” said Richard Shildneck. “Both of us being in holes was important. It was a fun round of golf.”

At the 85th Mixed Team Championship hosted by Watertown Golf Club Brett Franklin and Annie Desanto (below) turned in a splendid 1-under 70 to capture the title.

“It means a lot to win,” Brett Franklin said. “It is nice to win anything. It is nice that we fed off of each other. When one person hit a bad shot we picked each other up.”

Competing in the event for the first time and beginning on the par-4 second hole Franklin and Desanto were 2-over after three holes before hitting their stride beginning with a birdie on the challenging par-4 eighth. That birdie would be their first of four in a five hole stretch and five overall.

Mixed in were two stellar birdies from off the green. Desanto, a member of the Hall High School golf team, jarred one from the greenside rough while Franklin playing from the fringe clanked one off the flagstick for a birdie.

“We putted really well today,” said Franklin the head boys golf coach at Conard High School. “We scrambled and we putted pretty decently today which was a big key.”





## BREAK THROUGH VICTORIES

At the Two Man Championship Dan Murphy and Jamie Sheltman outbattled the elements and field while at the Four-Ball Championship Matt Fuller and Brett Shulick finally **broke into the winners circle.**

**A**s the weather deteriorated steadily throughout a wet and raw day at the 2022 Two Man Championship hosted by the Black Hall Club it was the consistent play of Dan Murphy (above right) and Jamie Sheltman (above left) that carried the day. Murphy (H. Smith Richardson) and Sheltman (Wallingford CC) were the only team to finish under-par at 1-under (68-73) as they finished two shots clear of two teams in a tie for second.

“It was nice to win outright because in 2020 when we shared the title we wanted to have a playoff [but it was too dark] so it was nice to finally get it done,” Dan

Murphy said.

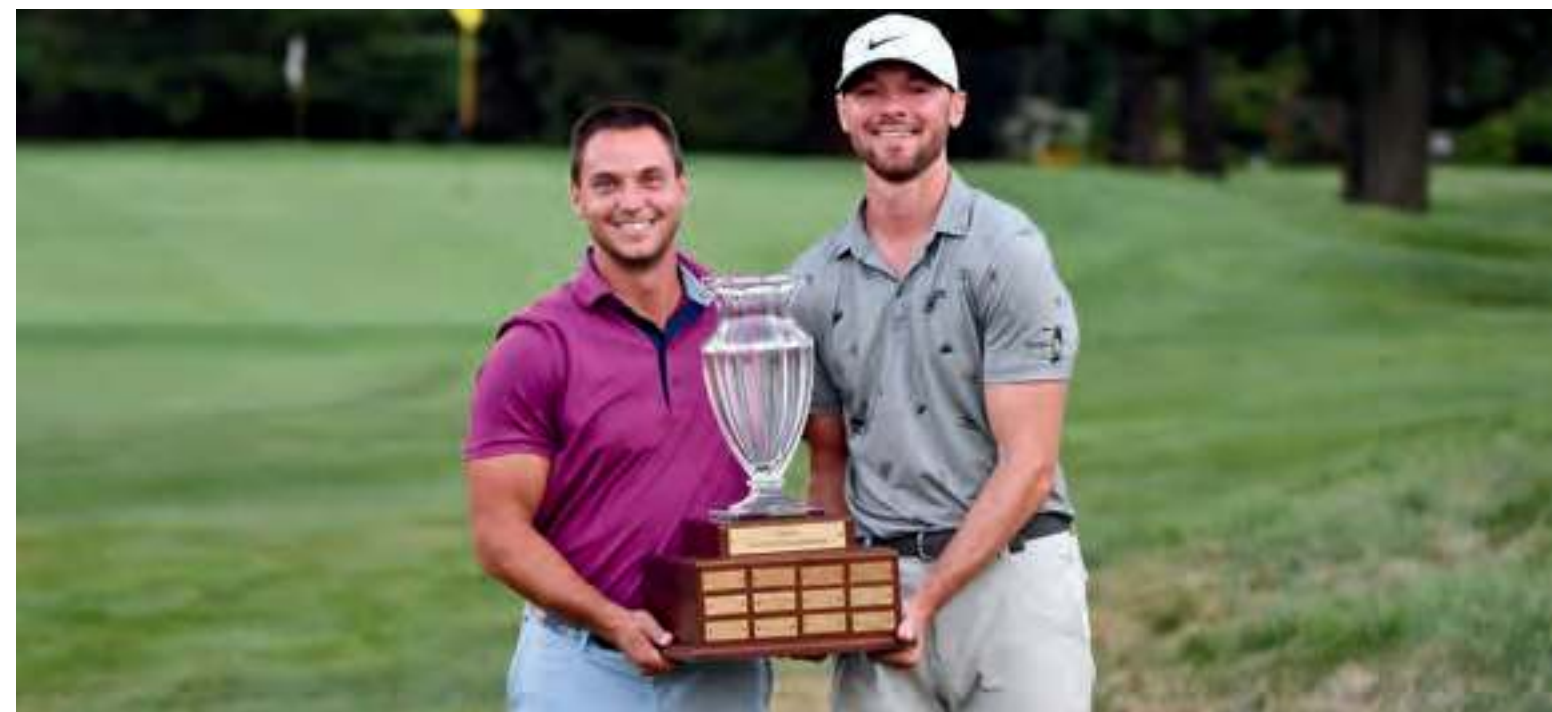
Beginning on the 10th hole in the morning four-ball Murphy and Sheltman were 1-over after four holes before turning their day around beginning with a birdie by Murphy on No. 14. A hole-out par from the bunker by Sheltman followed on the par-4 15th and from that moment on the duo was in complete control.

“We are a good duo because we know each other’s games so well,” Sheltman said. “On the greens, we don’t even have to ask each other what the read is going to be because we look at putts exactly the same.”

On the second playoff hole of the 82nd Four-Ball Championship at Wallingford

Country Club and with darkness falling Brett Shulick stood over an 8 foot birdie putt to win. 15 minutes earlier Shulick had a similar opportunity from 15 feet but the putt slid by the hole on the low side, this time it was a different story. Shulick struck the putt firmly and even before it fell into the bottom of the cup he was striding over to teammate Matt Fuller to celebrate.

“It definitely means a lot,” Brett Shulick said of the victory. “We have come close so many times, we have almost won the Four-Ball and the Two Man Championship as well. We play a lot of golf together and we push each other and fortunately it was our day.”



**Jamie Sheltman and Dan Murphy (opposite above) battled the elements (top) on their way to winning the Two Man Championship. Brett Shulick and Matt Fuller (above) both earned their first career CSGA victory at the Four-Ball Championship.**

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[MiddlesexHealth.org/golf](https://MiddlesexHealth.org/golf)

## 2022 CONNECTICUT TEAM COMPETITION

# FIVE IN A ROW

The CSGA continued its remarkable run over the last half decade at the **Julius Boros Challenge Cup**.



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

**O**n a glorious spring day at New Haven Country Club the Connecticut State Golf Association won the Julius Boros Challenge Cup for a record fifth consecutive year. In the 51st playing of the annual matches the CSGA was able to edge out the Connecticut Section PGA by a tally of 40.5-31.5. The necessary separation was created in large part because of the stellar play out of the groups of Cody Paladino/Nick Cook, Patrick Griffin/James Sheltman, Dave Jones/Bill Hermanson, and Ben Conroy/Rick Hayes.

Paladino and Cook led the CSGA in points earning all nine potential points while Griffin and Sheltman earned 7.5 points. The tandems of Jones and Hermanson, Conroy and Hayes tallied 5.5 points.

For Jones and Hermanson both of their

matches came down to the wire with the duo birdieing the ninth and 18th holes to swing tied matches in their favor.

Hermanson birdied No. 9 to secure the victory and on No. 18 Jones jarred a 40 foot putt for birdie to win the match.

The Connecticut Section PGA were led by 7.5 points from Fran Marrello and Mike Martin. Marrello and Martin's day was highlighted by a hole out eagle from 110 yards by Marrello on the par-5 18th. The Connecticut Section PGA also received an impressive performance from Bob Mucha and Kevin Mahaffy who earned six points.

However, the Julius Boros Challenge Cup isn't all about who wins or loses. It is about bringing together the Connecticut golf community.

"When you see all the guys it is great," said Dave Jones. "Everyone is together

and it is a lot of fun. It is just special to be part of these events and I think everyone agrees with that."

Those feelings were echoed by Everin. "Fran Marrello brought pictures from the past and you make these relationships. A lot of these guys right now won't know for another 10-20 years the pros they played against. Guys from both sides will be Connecticut Golf Hall of Famers and they will look back and say I played against those guys."

The remainder of the CSGA scoring was rounded out by Brian Ahern/Eric Bleile with four points, Rick Dowling/Ben Day with four points, Nick Waddington/Brett Shulick with three points, and Dick Stevens/Donal Reilly with two points.

## Team Connecticut Sweeps at New England Junior

At the 2022 New England Junior Amateur Team Connecticut **flexed some muscle and made some history.**



**Team Connecticut celebrates their victories at Manchester Country Club in Vermont.**

**T**eam Connecticut captured the boys' and girls' division titles at the New England Junior Amateur hosted by Manchester Country Club in Vermont, with the boys' team riding a day one lead to an overall win and the girls' team fending off a final round challenge. Connecticut also swept the individual titles, won by Will Lodge and Arabella Lopez. The team finished with a 27-stroke advantage in the Boys Division and a 10-stroke advantage in the Girls Division to secure Connecticut's 19th and 20th divisional titles at the New England Junior Amateur.

Coming into the final round with an advantage of more than 30 strokes, Connecticut cruised to a Boys Division win with a 1-over third round score. The team was able to count two below-par scores: a 6-under 66 from Elias Kennon, which included a hole-in-one, and a 1-under 71 from eventual champion Lodge. Bradley Sawka and Alex Elia both contributed

2-over 74s.

The Connecticut girls' team entered the day with an 11-stroke advantage but found themselves in a battle to hold their lead after Team Massachusetts challenged them on the front nine. With at or below-par scores from Massachusetts' Morgan Smith and Annie Dai on the front nine, the two teams made the turn with just a five-stroke difference between them in favor of Connecticut. However, Connecticut took control on the back nine to rebuild their lead and come away with the win. Yvette O'Brien led the Connecticut girls with an even-par 72, while Lopez shot a 2-over 74.

In the individual competition, both Lodge and Lopez battled through a multiple-hole playoff to come out on top. Smith and Lopez both went to a playoff in the girls' competition after an eagle by Lopez on 17 tied them heading into hole 18, which they also tied to finish at 1-under for the championship. Lopez defeated

Smith on their second playoff hole. Lodge defeated Maine's Elliot Spaulding in multiple holes to take home the boys' title.

Team Massachusetts finished in second place in both divisions, with both the girls' and boys' teams from the Bay State shooting the lowest final round scores in their respective divisions. Team Maine took third in the Boys Division, while Team Rhode Island rounded out the top three in the Girls Division.

Connecticut's Lodge, Kennon, and Sawka, as well as Maine's Spaulding and Rhode Island's Max Jackson rounded out the top five finishers in the Boys Division. In the Girls Division, the top five consisted of Lopez, Smith, O'Brien, Rhode Island's Olivia Williams and Rhode Island's Kylie Eaton.

## CONNECTICUT FINISHES SECOND AT TRI-STATES

Team Connecticut tried to rally on the final day but their late run came up just short at **The Aquidneck Club in Rhode Island.**



**Team Connecticut had a roster that featured eight rookies.**

**T**eam Connecticut tried to rally on the final day of the 88th Tri-State Matches at The Aquidneck Club but their deficit was too big to overcome. Connecticut did win the final day four-ball matches however they weren't able to overtake Massachusetts and had to settle for a second place finish.

Massachusetts with a total of 81 points won their third consecutive Tri-State title and 17th in the last 18 matches. Connecticut earned 62.5 points with the hosts Rhode Island finishing third with 48.5 points.

Led by six points from the team of Rick Dowling and Ben Day Connecticut got off to a solid start in the opening session foursomes tallying 21.5 points. The teams of Bill Hermanson/Patrick McGuinness and Jamie Sheltman/Anthony Guerrero

also contributed in a big way earning 5.5 and 4.5 points.

In a good position after the first session, it was the afternoon singles matches that ultimately created too big of a deficit. Connecticut tallied just 13 points allowing Massachusetts to open a sizable gap heading into day two.

The final of two beautiful fall days along the Rhode Island coast saw Connecticut play their best golf of the week as they won the closing four-ball session with 28 points. It was the second most points earned in a session only behind Massachusetts' 32 in foursomes.

Connecticut was led in the four-ball matches by Anthony Guerrero/Arthur Ouimet (6 points), Dan Gallo/Chris Ayers (5.5 points), and Dave Jones/Bill Hermanson (5 points).

Overall Connecticut was paced by

rookie Anthony Guerrero and veteran Bill Hermanson both of whom earned 12 points while Rick Dowling and Patrick McGuinness tallied 9.5 points.

The 2023 Tri-State Matches will be contested in Connecticut.





## ANOTHER BANNER YEAR

For the first time the One Day Series exceeded **over 2,000 rounds.**

The CSGA's One Day Series sponsored by Chris Cote's Golf Shop had its most successful year yet. With 18 regular season tournaments, four more than in 2021, the total number of rounds crept over the 2,000 mark for the first time. The 2022 season marked several other significant firsts for the One Day Series. With demand for the tournaments continuing at record highs, players enjoyed an enhanced registration system with simplifications for single golfers, a new lottery for two lucky foursomes, and a streamlined wait list process. Players were also treated to two unique tournaments for their own division, Tettelbach, under 55 or Siderowf, ages 55 and over. And, for the first time women golfers played in two events with a large amount of enthusiasm for the format and camaraderie with new friends. The season wrapped up with 100 top performers competing in a reinvigorated Al Acker One Day Championship at Wethersfield C.C.

In the 15 Tettelbach Gross Individual events there were 14 winners, and just one outright multiple time champion, Cody Paladino. Cody got off to a fast start taking the first two events at Stonington and Topstone. He also fired the low round of the season at Stonington C.C. with a fantastic 66, followed by Ashton Lewis' 69 at Tumble Brook C.C. In Four-Ball action, the team of Jason Longo and Eric Bleile won by three shots with a blazing score of 60 (-12) at Manchester C.C. Chris Maxwell, who won at Clinton C.C., tied for first at Shennecossett and played in nine other One Day events, was once again the Tettelbach Gross Division One Day Player of the Year.

The Siderowf Gross tournaments were dominated by none other than 2021 Siderowf One Day Player of the Year, Dave Jones. Dave repeated that feat in 2022 with four individual wins (Clinton, Tumble Brook, Shennecossett, T1 at Suffield) and a Four-Ball victory at Manchester C.C. alongside partner Tony Susi. Dave's 66 at Shennecossett was the low senior round of the year. A two-time winner last year, Bill Hermanson made it three in 2022 with early wins in April at Stonington and Topstone, and with a beautiful 69 at Wethersfield C.C. in October Bill also claimed the Al Acker One Day Championship. Eight other players won Siderowf Gross Individual titles.

In the Tettelbach Net One Day competitions, there were 12 individual winners with a low score of 64 from Mario Argentino at Redding C.C. Glenn Pelt, Jr., a multiple time winner along with Adam Pogorzelski, won the Tettelbach Net Division at the Al Acker One Day Championship on his way to becoming the Tettelbach Net One Day Player of the Year. The team of Keith Salamon and David Kramer combined for a net 60 and a win at the Manchester C.C. Four-Ball.

15 champions won Siderowf Net One Day tournaments with Scott Harger and Bob Detrick tying for the low score of 63 at Litchfield C.C. and C.C. of Waterbury respectively. Nick Snyder won twice and tied for first once, bringing home the Siderowf One Day Net Player of the Year title. At the Manchester C.C. Four-Ball, Mike Lazzara and Peter Czuchra rallied for a 63 to win the Siderowf Net team honors.

"It was an extraordinary year, with record participation, a slate of fabulous venues, and a wonderful spirit of fun and friendship among the players. We remain grateful to all of our host clubs who make these events possible and to our dedicated sponsor," said CSGA Director, Marsha Rupp.



*TETTELBACH GROSS  
DIVISION*

**#1**

**CHRIS MAXWELL** played in 10 events this season winning twice. Maxwell, the Tettelbach One Day Player of the Year for a second consecutive season won at Clinton C.C. and tied for the top spot at Shennecossett G.C. In his 10 events Maxwell only finished outside the top-10 once.



*TETTELBACH NET  
DIVISION*

**#1**

**GLENN PELZ, JR.** competed in nine events winning four times including at the Al Acker One Day Championship. His additional wins came at Ellington Ridge C.C. and at Shennecossett G.C. and Stonington C.C. where he shared the titles.



*SIDEROWF GROSS DIVISION*

**#1**

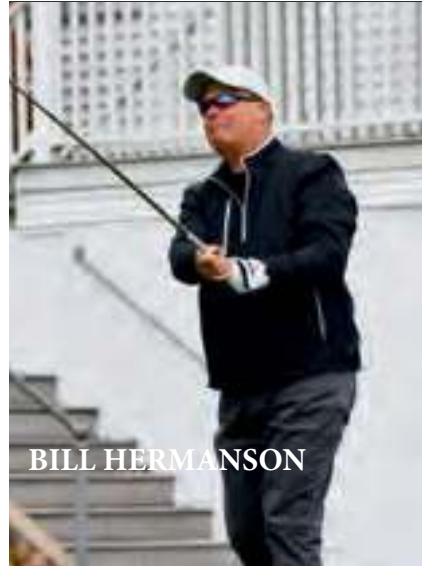
**DAVE JONES** played in nine events and won five of them as he earned his second consecutive Siderowf One Day Player of the Year honor. His wins came at Clinton C.C., Shennecossett G.C., Manchester C.C., Tumble Brook C.C., and Suffield C.C. where he tied for the top spot.



*SIDEROWF NET DIVISION*

**#1**

**NICK SNYDER** played in 11 events winning three times. Snyder tied for first at Stonington C.C., the opening event of the season, and then picked up wins at Tumble Brook C.C. and Clinton C.C.



BILL HERMANSON

# April

## Stonington Country Club

April 11  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Cody Paladino (66)  
 Net: Glenn Pelt, Jr. (71)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Bill Hermanson (74)  
 Net: Bill Wininger (72)

## Topstone Golf Course

April 25  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Cody Paladino (70)  
 Net: Chris Maxwell (72)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Bill Hermanson (72)  
 Net: Stuart Goldstein (73)



JAMES LAWLER

# July

## Litchfield Country Club

July 7  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: James Lawler (69)  
 Net: Scott Harger (63)

## Ellington Ridge Country Club

July 18  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Keith Salamon (73)  
 Net: Glenn Pelt, Jr. (67)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Glen Boggini (70)  
 Net: Stephen Holcomb (70)



LISA FERN-BOROS

## Country Club of Farmington

May 2  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Anthony Salvador (72)  
 Net: Ryan Wessendorf (67)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Mark Toscano (74)  
 Net: William McCormack (68)

# May

## Chippanee Country Club

May 10  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Justin Beal (70)  
 Net: Rudy Hermstadt (66)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Randy Rizy (73)  
 Net: Blase Sanzone (68)

## Indian Hill Country Club

May 17  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Jeff Delucia (72)  
 Net: Shaun Sullivan (72)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Tom Brett (72)  
 Net: Mark Durand (70)

## Lyman Orchards Golf Course - Jones Course

May 23  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Brian Ferney (76)  
 Net: Will Burruss (73)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Rick Lawrence (74)  
 Net: Tom Hurd (67)

## Glastonbury Hills Country Club

May 31  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: James Sheltman (73)  
 Net: Keith Salamon (74)  
*Women's Division*  
 Gross: Lisa Fern-Boros (84)  
 Net: Carole Oat (80)



CRAIG PLATT

# August

## Country Club of Waterbury

August 1  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Chris Lombardo (72)  
 Net: Ryan Luby (67)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Craig Platt (70)  
 Net: Bob Detrick (63)

## Redding Country Club

August 15  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Patrick Griffin (71)  
 Net: Mario Argentino (64)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Pete Davison (76)  
 Net: Tim Stilson (70)



ASHTON LEWIS

# June

## Clinton Country Club

June 13  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Chris Maxwell (73)  
 Net: Adam Pogorzelski (69)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Dave Jones (70)  
 Net: Nick Snyder (65)

## Tumble Brook Country Club

June 27  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Ashton Lewis (69)  
 Net: Adam Pogorzelski (69)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Dave Jones (68)  
 Net: Nick Snyder (66)



CHRIS FLOWERS

# September

## Suffield Country Club

September 1  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Dave Jones (71)  
 Net: Tom Frechette (70)

## Shennecossett Golf Course

September 12  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Dillon Grant (70)  
 Net: Elvin Lorenzo (65)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Dave Jones (66)  
 Net: Ray Underwood (68)

## Manchester Country Club (Four-Ball)

September 19  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Jason Longo & Eric Bleile (60)  
 Net: Keith Salamon & David Kramer (60)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Dave Jones & Tony Susi (65)  
 Net: Mike Lazzara & Peter Czuchra (63)

## Keney Park Golf Course

September 20  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Chris Flowers (70)  
 Net: Mark Brooks (68)  
*Women's Division*  
 Gross: Jen Holland (71)  
 Net: Cecily Vasington (66)

## Cedar Knob Golf Course

September 26  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Kyle Nolin (73)  
 Net: Adam Pogorzelski (66)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Gary Mattesen (72)  
 Net: Paul Zagozewski (69)

# SULLIVAN, HERMANSON WINNERS AT AL ACKER ONE DAY CHAMPIONSHIP

The field battled cold, gray, and at times rainy conditions at the 21st Al Acker One Day Championship **presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop.**

**S**haun Sullivan claimed the Tettebach Open Division with a 1-over 72 to finish one shot in front of Eastern Connecticut State University standout Ashton Lewis (+2). Chris Flowers, Justin Beal, David LeRoy, and Glenn Pelt, Jr. shared third at 3-over.

Starting the shotgun style tournament on the par-5 14th Sullivan (opposite far right) hit his third shot to three feet and rolled in the birdie putt. The opening hole birdie set the tone for the day as Sullivan converted three additional birdies to help him overcome two bogeys and a double-bogey.

"I hit the ball really well," the 52-year-old Sullivan said. "I think I may have had two bad swings all day. I hit it really, really well."

Sullivan was a prominent player in the 1990s competing at the state and national levels. In 1996, the year Tiger Woods won his third U.S. Amateur title, Sullivan was part of the field. However, once he had kids competitive golf took a back seat. Now with his kids older and more time on his hands Sullivan is looking forward to competing more.

"The win means a lot to me. I haven't played in state events in probably 15-20 years. I used to play a lot," Sullivan said. "Then I had my kids and coaching and all of that took up a lot of time and I stopped playing in state events because I couldn't get days off from work. Now I work for the state so I can start playing more and now my kids are older."

In the Siderowf Gross Division, Bill Hermanson (opposite middle right) turned in the only under-par round of the day with a 2-under 69. Beginning on the first hole, Hermanson hit his approach shots on Nos. 1-3 all inside of 10 feet but he couldn't convert the birdie tries and for a while it looked like it was going to be one of those days.

All of that changed on the par-4 fourth when Hermanson rolled in a 5 footer for his first birdie of the day. A second birdie dropped on the par-5 sixth and then following his only blemish on the par-4 11th Hermanson bounced back with a birdie on the ensuing par-4.

With a nifty bunker save mixed in on the par-3 17th Hermanson then parred his way to the house.

"This is a nice way to wrap up the season," Bill Hermanson said. "I had a good pairing and that is always fun. And then anytime you win it is good. It is hard to win and it gives me something to keep me motivated for the winter."

Peter Davison finished second at 1-over, Randy Rizey, and Vin Capece tied for third at 3-over, while Rick Malafronte and Gary Mattesen shared fifth at 5-over.

The Tettebach Net Division was claimed by Glenn Pelt, Jr. (opposite middle left) at 6-under, Dave LeRoy and Sullivan shared second at 3-under, PJ Gehris was fourth at 1-under, with Mario Argentino, Erin Kinney, and Elvin Lorenzo all finishing 1-over to tie for fifth.

In the Siderowf Net Division race Hermanson won at 2-under, Carl Musante (opposite far left) was second at 1-under but went home with the trophy after Hermanson won the top spot in the gross division, Tom Hurd at even-par was third while Michael Byrne, Capece, and Mattesen were 1-over in fourth.



**Ed Day hits a shot with vibrant fall colors illuminating him.**



# 17TH TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Siderowf Division Winner  
Silver Spring Country Club  
Ken Parisi (+1)



\*Due to rain the Tettelbach Division was not contested in 2022



MANNY DASILVA

### 122nd U.S. Open Local Qualifier

May 9 - The Golf Club at Oxford Greens

- 1. Cody Paladino (a) +1 (73)
- T2. Caleb Manuel (a) +2 (74)
- T2. Nicholas Cummings (a) +2 (74)
- 4. Walker Lohrey (a) +3 (75)

Eric Dietrich +3 (75) - 1st Alternate  
David Lane (a) +3 (75) - 2nd Alternate



### 60th U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Qualifier

June 27 - The Club at River Oaks

- 1. Jen Holland +3 (75)
- 2. Jo Rasmussen +4 (76)

### 67th U.S. Senior Amateur Qualifier

July 18 - Black Hall Club

- 1. David Jones -1 (70)
- 2. Eric Ashworth E (71)
- 3. Robert Moriarty +1 (72)

1st Alternate  
Richard Stevens +2 (73)

2nd Alternate  
James Abbott +2 (73)



### 73rd U.S. Girls' Junior Qualifier

June 27 - The Club at River Oaks

- T1. Valeria Ramirez +1 (73)
- T1. Aoife Devaney +1 (73)

1st Alternate  
Alexandra Lapple +2 (74)

2nd Alternate  
Yvette O'Brien +2 (74)

### 74th U.S. Junior Amateur Qualifier

- T1. Maxwell Jackson -2 (70)
- T1. Ian Davis -2 (70)
- 3. Jack Chung +1 (73)

1st Alternate  
Will Huntington +1 (73)

2nd Alternate  
Josiah Hakala +2 (74)



### 41st U.S. Mid-Amateur Qualifier

August 4 - Keney Park Golf Course

- 1. Jason Longo -3 (67)
- 2. Harvin Groft -2 (68)
- 3. Seth Jainchill -1 (69)

Benjamin Day -1 (69) - 1st Alternate  
Tyler Cooke -1 (69) - 2nd Alternate



### 122nd U.S. Amateur Qualifier

June 29 - Connecticut National Golf Club

- 1. Jared Nelson -9 (66-67)
- 2. Robert Leopold -5 (68-69)

Benjamin Day -5 (71-66) - 1st Alternate  
Matthew Naumec -4 (70-68) - 2nd Alternate



### 8th U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier

September 26 - Shuttle Meadow Country Club

- 1. Robert Leopold & Tyler Cooke -10 (61)
- 2. Tim Bickford & Christopher Sica -9 (62)

1st Alternate  
Eric Grimes & Nicholas Solimene -9 (62)

2nd Alternate  
Brian Bilodeau & Jeffrey Cole -8 (63)

### 8th U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier

- 1. Haley Davis & Avery McCreary -5 (66)
- 2. Alexis Kim & Sophie Simon -4 (67)

1st Alternate  
Sarah Ingram & Valeria Mendizabal -1 (70)

2nd Alternate  
Catherine McEvoy & Jacqueline Setas E (71)

A wide-angle photograph of a golf course during a tournament. In the foreground, a golfer in a light blue shirt and khaki pants is captured mid-swing on a tee box. A crowd of spectators, including men, women, and children, is gathered around the tee box and on a nearby path. A silver golf cart is parked on the left side of the path. The background features a large, leafy tree on the left, a field of tall, golden-brown grasses, and rolling green hills under a clear sky. The text "2022 HONOREES" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font on the right side of the image.

# 2022 HONOREES



## ANDY BESSETTE ENTERS HALL OF FAME

There are few people more important to Connecticut golf than **Andy Besette**.

For months, Connecticut's PGA Tour stop was off the 2007 schedule. The tournament that began in 1952 and boasted a list of champions such as Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer, Billy Casper, and Nick Price was seemingly nearing its end. That is when Travelers stepped in and became the title sponsor. Fast forward 16-plus years and the Travelers Championship is one of the top stops on the PGA Tour. The person behind that relentless pursuit of excellence? Andy Besette, the Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Travelers.

"I am very proud and very appreciative of the Connecticut State Golf Association's consideration and thankful for their support," Besette said of the honor. "It is a great honor for me, and also for Alan Schnitzer, our Chairman and CEO; Tournament Director Nathan Grube; and everyone else at Travelers and the Travelers Championship who has been involved with the tournament. Everyone is a part of this and I am really humbled that the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame would feel that I am worthy of this recognition."

Besette is the lead contact between

Travelers and the PGA Tour, managing two contractual relationships for the company. In addition to being the title sponsor of the Travelers Championship, Travelers is the Official Property Casualty Insurance Provider of the PGA Tour.

"When the opportunity came up in 2005 or 2006, Jay Fishman, our Chairman and CEO at the time, said to me, 'Let's put together the deal and figure the rest of this out.' So I put together the contract with the PGA Tour and we announced it in early 2006, over a year before we took over," Besette said. "[After the announcement]

I went to Jay's office with three names of people who could oversee our title sponsorship of the Travelers Championship and he looked at me and said, 'You are so close to it right now, why don't you do it for the first year?' So I did it for that first year."

Besette continued to present Fishman with a list of names each year. After the third Travelers Championship, Fishman said, "You just handle it forever." Besette has never looked back.

To this day, Besette is grateful that Fishman provided him with the chance to serve as the company's lead for the Travelers Championship. "It was really fortunate that he gave me the opportunity. That is what is important about what we do at Travelers. We give people the opportunity to grow their careers with us in the insurance industry. You can only give a person an opportunity. They then have to seize it and embrace it."

Besette has been seizing his opportunities with Travelers since he was presented with his first in 1980, working in the mail and supply room. With the door cracked open, Besette began to climb the ladder and found success at each rung.

Those successes directly correlate with how Besette operates in his role at the company supporting the Travelers Championship. Besette is one of the few PGA Tour title sponsor representatives who travels to events to interact with players and hear from them about how the tournament can be improved.

"Before we started in 2007, somebody said, 'If you want to be different from every other title sponsor, be as involved as Travelers is in everything else that it does.' And now almost 17 years later I still abide by that," said Besette. "We are probably the most involved title sponsor on the PGA Tour."

Besette grew up in Rhode Island but came to Connecticut for college, earning his undergraduate degree at the University of Connecticut, where he was an All-American hammer thrower. With a few exceptions, Besette, who was a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team, has never left the state. Because of how long Besette has lived in Connecticut, he understands just how much this event means to the state and its residents.

"People still stop me on the street and thank Travelers for saving the tournament," Besette said. "The one word that I use to describe what this has done for the state of Connecticut is pride. It is going to get bigger and it is going to get better. The pride is always going to be as strong as it has been."

That pride is felt throughout the state because of the unrelenting pursuit of excellence by Andy Besette.





## BRUCE EDWARDS CARRIED HIS WAY INTO THE HALL OF FAME

After graduating from high school in 1973 Bruce Edwards knew what he wanted to do. He knew he wanted to be a caddy on the PGA Tour. Less than two months later he was on the bag of Tom Watson and the **rest is history.**

**B**orn in 1954, Bruce Edwards grew up in the shadow of Wethersfield Country Club where his parents were members. At that time Wethersfield was the host of the Insurance City Open, now the Travelers Championship, and it was through that event that Edwards fell in love with caddying.

Edwards' first loop in the tournament came as a 13-year-old, and by the time he graduated from high school he knew he wanted to be a PGA Tour caddy. His parents, University of Pennsylvania graduates, thought he would last a couple of years and

then return home and go to college. That never happened. Edwards was meant to be a caddy and he was one of the best for more than three decades.

"He was the Arnold Palmer of caddies," Jim Mackay told Edwards' biographer John Feinstein.

After graduating high school in 1973 from Marianapolis Prep in Thompson, Edwards, the only member of his 39-person class not to go to college, set off to find his place on the PGA Tour. He began by caddying for David Graham at the Kemper Open in Charlotte, North Carolina but

it was six weeks later when the break of a lifetime came.

Standing outside the locker room at the St. Louis Children's Hospital Golf Classic Edwards asked Tom Watson (above right) if he could caddy for him. Watson agreed to a one-week tryout. The rest is history. Edwards and Watson not only became a dynamic caddy-player duo but they became lifelong friends.

Edwards was on Watson's bag for 35 PGA Tour victories. The partnership lasted until 1989 when Watson, who was cutting back on his schedule, encouraged

Edwards to accept an offer from then No. 1 Greg Norman. Edwards would caddy for Norman for three years only to return to Watson in 1992 and remain on his bag until 2003 when Edwards was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

"Bruce truly loved what he was doing from his first day on Tour to the very end," said Bruce's 92-year-old father Jay Edwards. "Thank God Bruce was always the kind of kid who stuck to his guns. Those first few years, we kept waiting for him to say 'enough' and come home and go to college. Who knows, if he hadn't ended up with Tom, maybe he would have come home, but I'm not sure. Bruce loved the life out there. He made lots of friends, good friends, and he really found a niche doing what he was doing. I'm really proud of what he became."

Following his diagnosis in February of 2003 Edwards kept caddying for Watson as long as he could. He caddied much of the 2003 season including a magical Thursday at the U.S. Open when Watson turned back the clock firing a 5-under 65 to share

the first round lead.

"The golf gods again were looking down on us," Edwards said following the remarkable round. "Knowing [Tom] he would do it for me. I am just very proud to have been with him in my life."

Ten months later as Watson was preparing for the first round of the 2004 Masters Edwards passed away. He was 49-years-old. Watson played that day with tears in his eyes.

"Bruce Edwards, my caddy and good friend, didn't have a mean bone in his body," Watson said to the media after his round. "He was respected, admired, and loved by many. His glass was always half full, never half empty. He did his job right, with an enthusiasm that was infectious to a lot of other caddies who became the core looper group on the PGA Tour. We always laughed at the life we both led, gypsies following the dream, me playing the PGA Tour and him carrying my bag. And indeed what a great life we shared together."

After three decades of having his bag carried by Edwards, Watson has spent the last

nearly 20 years carrying forward the legacy of Edwards. During his press conference the day Edwards died Watson promised to do everything he could "to kill this damn disease" including the creation of The Bruce Edwards Foundation.

"He was proud of himself, not in any overbearing or smug way, but because he defied expectations and succeeded because of the work he put into the job," Edwards sister Gwyn Dieterle said. "He made caddying professional and respected because of his dedication to the work, and he reaped success because of that."



# WELCOME TO THE TEE

Wallingford Country Club earns the **2022 Walter 'Bud' Smith Distinguished Club Award.**

One of the longest days on the Connecticut State Golf Association calendar is the Four-Ball Championship held at Wallingford Country Club. Tee times begin at 7:30 a.m. and stretch until nearly 3 p.m. Among the first players out was Wallingford CC member Ed Day, a longtime member of the club. For most the highlight of an event is playing golf, for Day the highlight seems to be holding court as the groups behind him come off the course and report their scores.

His playing partner for the tournament long gone, Day will stand on the porch outside the pro shop for hours swapping stories and sharing a laugh with the players as they come off the course. This is a scene that is repeated each year at the Four-Ball Championship and the Russell C. Palmer Cup qualifier that has been held at the club for nearly 20 years. It is a scene that epitomizes 2022 Walter 'Bud' Smith Distinguished Club award winner Wallingford Country Club.

"The personality of the club is that it is a friendly club," said 21-year head professional Stephen Birkmeyer. "It is a really welcoming place to play. If you don't have a game it is easy to find somebody to play with."

Always in pristine condition, Wallingford CC opened in 1898 and is one of the oldest courses in the state. From the opening tee shot that looks towards the mountains in the distance players are taken on a classic New England golf journey that meanders through tree lined fairways and past stone walls.

"The course is always in tremendous shape," Birkmeyer said. "The greens are always fast. We try to keep our rough at a challenging height."

Dating back to when Wallingford CC co-hosted the 1967 Connecticut Senior Amateur the club has regularly welcomed CSGA events. Over the years numerous championships have been hosted at Wallingford CC including the Connecticut Mid-Amateur, the Connecticut Women's Amateur, and in 1998 to celebrate the course's 100th Anniversary the Connecticut Amateur which was won by future PGA Tour winner J.J. Henry.

"Winning this award is important because we feel like we do as much as we can for amateur golf. We try to host as many events as we can for the state and we try to encourage our players to play in state events and we have quite a few that do," Birkmeyer said.

In addition, to providing a stiff test of golf to the state's best players the club has also produced a number of talented players that perform well at the state and national levels.

"When someone asks me where I play out of and I respond with 'Wallingford CC' I'm proud because Wallingford CC not only helped turn me into the player that I am today, but it has also helped form relationships that I'll have for a lifetime with people that keep me motivated and people who have helped my golf game over the years," said two-time Connecticut Amateur winner and Wallingford CC member Chris Fosdick.

The success of Wallingford CC players at the state and national levels is a source of pride for the membership. However, the sign of a good course is one that is welcoming and fun for everyone who steps onto the first tee.

"Here at Wallingford we try to engage the players as much as we can," Birkmeyer said. "We know that normally helps with retention. So, if players get involved in group play and play in tournaments at the club they usually remain a member of the club for years."

As the Four-Ball Championship winds down groups of members that followed the competition to the tee begin to make their way off the course following a quick trip around the front nine. One member stops by the scoring area. As he idly chats he mentions how much he has loved the club since recently joining.

The feeling of belonging whether you are a new member, a long-time member, or a tournament player persists throughout Wallingford CC. It is a feeling that brings golfers back to the club time and time again.



2022 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: DAVID BLAKESLEE

## DAVID BLAKESLEE RARELY MISSES A SHOT

2022 Volunteer of the Year David Blakeslee has grown up around golf and now it is his time to **give back to the game that has given him so much.**

**I**t is early October on a cold, rainy, and wind-swept day at the Country Club of Waterbury. Tee times on the final day of the 77th Connecticut Senior Amateur began at 7:55 a.m. which means David Blakeslee has been at his post along the left side of the first fairway since roughly 10 minutes before the start of play. Every ten minutes when a new group begins their round Blakeslee emerges from his cart bundled in what more closely resembles a skiing outfit and lifts his binoculars to the sky to track the path of each incoming tee shot. Blakeslee does this for the next three hours. Once the final group passes through instead of heading for the warmth of the clubhouse Blakeslee pushes further out into the course to see where else he can be of assistance.

The sunlight is beginning to fade on day one of the Connecticut Junior Amateur and Connecticut Girls' Junior at Watertown Golf Club. All day long Blakeslee has been scanning the skies for golf balls while enduring the hot July sun. Finally, the last group passes his spot on the eighth hole and Blakeslee begins to make his way toward the clubhouse. While on his way in he finds out that he is the only volunteer remaining on the course until the players reach the other side of the road that runs through Watertown GC. Without hesitation Blakeslee wheels his cart around to go rove Nos. 9-12 until the players cross the street.

Those are just two of the many instances that define the dedication and commitment of David Blakeslee the 2022 Connecticut State Golf Association's Volunteer of the Year.

"I was shocked when my name was announced because each year prior to this the person who won the award had been here a longtime," Blakeslee said as he sat in his golf cart at the Tournament of Champions on a misty late October



morning. "But it is quite an honor."

However, Blakeslee shouldn't have been shocked. Since joining the volunteer ranks of the CSGA in 2018 at the urging of fellow volunteer and New Haven Country Club member John Walsh, Blakeslee has increased his role each year to the point where he hardly misses an event.

"There is a running joke that after you win an award you stop doing events. But as a matter of fact, each year I am doing more and getting more involved," Blakeslee said. "I think the CSGA is a great organization and I enjoy working with the people who are involved with it including the administration and the volunteers."

For Blakeslee volunteering with the CSGA was a logical move for the retired landscaper of 30 years. He is a third generation member of New Haven CC and golf has always played an important role in his life. His grandfather, M. Grant Blakeslee, served as the president of New Haven CC from 1948-1951 while his father, Miles Grant Blakeslee, Jr. served on numerous boards at the club most notably

the Greens Committee.

In addition, New Haven CC still holds the Clarence Blakeslee Tournament each year while at Race Brook Country Club where his grandfather and father were members the annual member-member is named the Blakeslee Memorial.

"Golf has been in my family forever and I know my father would have been very happy for me to give back to the game. I don't really play the game that well but I enjoy the game and every facet of it," explained Blakeslee who also volunteers for New England Golf Association events.

It is that enjoyment at the end of the day that brings Blakeslee back to the course week after week throughout the CSGA season.

"When John Walsh got me involved in the CSGA he said David, 'your parents might have passed away but you are being adopted by the CSGA. It is a brotherhood so don't worry about a thing. You are going to have a lot of fun.' I have found that to be definitely true."

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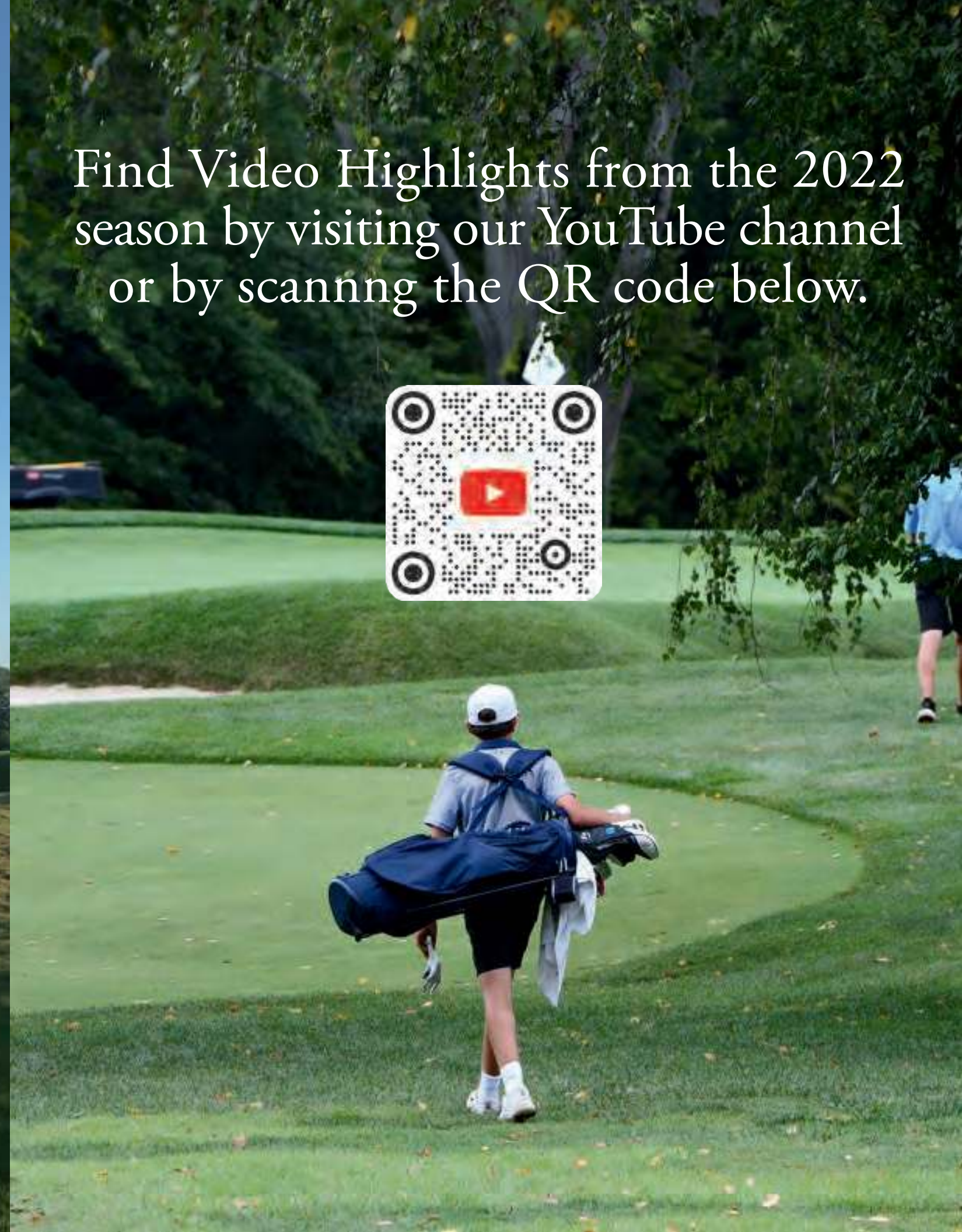
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# THOSE WE REMEMBER



# Commemorating Those We Lost



**Mike Ballo, Sr.**  
1942 - 2022

An outstanding player and professional, Mike Ballo dedicated 55 years to Woodway Country Club in Darien, beginning as a caddie at age seven until he retired as Head Golf Professional. His tutelage and mentorship touched countless individuals, and over the course of his career every first assistant mentored by Mike went on to become a head professional. “Working for Mike Ballo you knew you were going to be a head golf professional,” recalled Stuart Waack, head pro at Silvermine Golf Club, “He was unselfish with his time and support. His focus was never on him, it was always on others.”

As a player, the Stamford native ranks as one of Connecticut’s all-time greatest golfers. He won the Connecticut Open twice, and the Met PGA Westchester Open three times. He played in four U.S. Opens and three PGA Championships, and set numerous course records throughout the state. For both his extraordinary playing accomplishments and his service to advancing the game, Mike was inducted into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame in 2021.

**David Lindsay**  
1947 - 2022

An extraordinary and avid outdoorsman, Greenwich native and longtime Norwalk resident Dave Lindsay was a passionate skier, sailor, fisherman, hunter and golfer. His sailing career brought him all over the world; in 1968 alone he logged more than 27,000 miles while winning every major ocean race in the Atlantic. A man for all seasons, Dave’s steady persona and career in the insurance business complemented the adventurous spirit of a true sportsman.

In his many years at Silvermine Golf Club, Dave volunteered for the Connecticut State Golf Association as an on-course official, course rater and regional representative. In 2003 he was named CSGA Volunteer of the Year. Dedicated to a number of causes, and with a wide range of interests, the CSGA was among several organizations that Dave supported with his energy and his time. Community foundations, Ducks Unlimited, Open Door Shelter, and Person to Person all benefited from Dave’s generosity and enthusiasm.



**John J. Murphy**  
1943 - 2022

Born in Newport, Rhode Island, John Murphy began his storied career in golf as a caddie at Newport Country Club. After attending the Seminary at Providence College, John enrolled in the PGA Business School in 1963 before working as an assistant professional at Hartford Golf Club and at The Breakers Hotel in Florida. In 1967 John became the Head Golf Professional at the Country Club of Farmington, a position he would hold with distinction for the next 40 years.

Often described as the “Pro’s Pro,” John set a standard of excellence among club professionals that was widely recognized. He inspired and helped countless people in the golf industry over the course of his career, and as a student of the swing he loved teaching the game. John had the uncanny ability of never forgetting a face or a name, and he was a master at the art of relationships. Among many deserved recognitions, John was awarded the Hartford Archdiocese’s Medal of Appreciation, and was inducted into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame class of 2000 for Distinguished Service.



**Paul Ramee**  
1968 - 2022

Head professional at Bull’s Bridge Golf Club in Kent, Paul Ramee worked at some of the nation’s most prestigious clubs, including Oakmont Country Club, The Park Club in Buffalo, and Canoe Brook in Summit, New Jersey before arriving in Connecticut some 20 years ago. During his time at Bull’s Bridge, Paul received numerous awards including the Horton Smith Award in 2014, the Patriot Golf Award in 2015, and Teacher of the Year in 2016. Golf Digest continually recognized Paul as one of the top instructors in Connecticut, and he was named a Golf Channel Academy Instructor, PGA Magazine Ambassador, and Contributing Writer for Proponent Golf.

Such was Paul’s passion for teaching that he opened “Golf on the Green” in New Milford to provide indoor instruction during the winter months when northwest Connecticut was covered in snow. A consummate professional, Paul was one of the most respected individuals in Connecticut’s golf industry, a PGA quarter century member and a CTPGA Board Member from 2006-2014. Whether hosting the CSGA’s annual Tournament of Champions, USGA qualifiers, PGA events, or member tournaments, Paul made everyone feel welcome at Bull’s Bridge.

**Walter “Bud” Smith**  
1924 - 2022

Born in New Haven, Bud Smith was a US Army veteran who enlisted as an 18 year-old and fought in World War II. Following the war he earned a B.S. in Engineering from the University of Connecticut and then began a lifelong business endeavor with his father in what would become Orange Hills Country Club. With a group of six men, a bulldozer, and his handy crowbar, Bud cleared and built the back 9 holes at the golf course over seven years. During the golf season he was a constant presence at the course, whether picking rocks in the fairway, setting up golf matches, or socializing with golfers in the clubhouse.

Bud had a way of making golfers and employees alike feel like family, and he remained passionate for and actively involved in the family business up until the last days of his life. In 2022, the CSGA renamed their Club of the Year Award to the Walter ‘Bud’ Smith Distinguished Club Award in honor of Bud, a 2000 Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame inductee, and life Member of the Connecticut Golf Course Superintendents Association.



**Reg Zurinskas**  
1937 - 2022

A native of Danbury who fell in love with golf as a young caddie at Ridgewood Country Club, Reg Zurinskas devoted countless hours to the game as both a competitor and a volunteer. He was a talented player with a flair for the dramatic, once setting the course record at Ridgewood by shooting 66, and once qualifying for the Connecticut Open by making a hole-in-one on his final hole of the round.

A 37-year career as a regional sales manager with General Electric supplemented Reg’s passion for his family and the game. He became a dedicated Rules Official for the Connecticut State Golf Association and served for many years as a Regional Vice President of the CSGA. He won numerous championships at his home course, Simsbury Farms and was instrumental in bringing a number of statewide championships to Simsbury including the 2020 Connecticut Public Links Championship, and the 2022 Senior Four Ball. A most likeable man with a seemingly permanent smile, Reg was inducted into both the Danbury Athletic Hall of Fame and the Simsbury Farms Men’s Club Hall of Fame.



# 2023 SITES

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

Black Hall Club  
C.C. of Waterbury  
Rolling Hills C.C.  
C.C. of Darien  
Black Hall Club  
Watertown G.C.  
Fairview Farm G.C.  
Fairview Farm G.C.  
Tashua Knolls G.C.  
Goodwin Park G.C.  
Shuttle Meadow C.C.  
Patterson Club  
Race Brook C.C.  
Keney Park G.C.  
Longshore G.C.  
G.C. at Oxford Greens  
Wallingford C.C.  
C.C. of Farmington  
Bull's Bridge G.C.  
Silver Spring C.C.

\*Visit [csgalinks.org](http://csgalinks.org) for the complete 2023 schedule