TATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

The CSGA functions as an extension of the USGA and provides stewardship for amateur golf in Connecticut. Founded in 1899, the CSGA is the country's oldest state golf association and, as an Allied Golf Association of the USGA, provides stewardship for amateur golf in Connecticut. In addition to administering handicaps for over 40,000 members at 181 member clubs, the CSGA conducts more than 85 days of competition throughout the year for golfers of all ages, genders, and skill levels. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the CSGA supports a variety of golf organizations within Connecticut, including the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, Connecticut Section PGA, Connecticut Women's Golf Association, CSGA Scholarship Fund in honor of Widdy Neale, LPGA-Amateur Golf Association, Southern New England Women's Golf Association, and The First Tee of Connecticut.

CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

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### STEGMALER 15 **2023 ANNUAL**

A review of the 2023 season and the championships conducted by the Connecticut State Golf Association

THR

At Shuttle Meadow Country Club Brett Stegmaier rallied to win the Connecticut Open. Cover Photo: Rick Dowling had his game dialed in once again in 2023.

## 2024 SITES

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

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\*Visit csgalinks.org for the complete 2024 schedule



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## DEAR FELLOW GOLFERS

Hello and welcome to the eleventh edition of the Connecticut State Golf Association Championship Annual. 2023 was indeed a successful year.

This year saw a continued growth in the CSGA events. Unfortunately, two of the One Day events were canceled, if not for this, participation in the CSGA events would have increased for a fourth straight year.

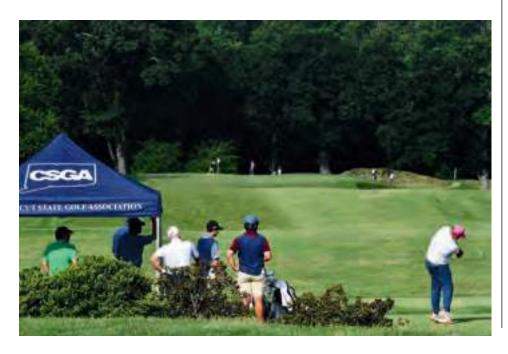
This success is due in large part to the dedication and effort of the Executive Committee. I am grateful for their guidance. A resounding round of applause goes to Mike Moraghan and his staff for another successful championship season and One Day tournaments. Without their dedication and hard work this season would not be the success it has been.

A large thank you to all the volunteers who gave hours and hours of their time, the host clubs who allowed the CSGA the use of their courses, and all the players who exhibited good sportsmanship and skill in these competitions.

Join me in extending congratulations to all our 2023 champions, our Volunteer of the Year Del Weston, our Walter 'Bud' Smith Distinguished Club Award winner Shuttle Meadow Country Club, Distinguished Service Award recipient Dave Seaman, and our Hall of Fame inductee Elizabeth Janangelo Caron.

Sincerely,

Fred Fawcett President, Connecticut State Golf Association



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#### CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

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#### Dear Golfers,

For a number of years we thought about creating a "Director of Agronomy" position at the CSGA, an expert who could provide a consulting service for our clubs and superintendents similar to the USGA's Green Section consulting service. The USGA service, while excellent, isn't cheap. Not a problem for our wealthier clubs, but an extra expense that might give pause to others.

There were always important considerations. Should the CSGA be competing with a program offered by the USGA? And if yes, how would we find exactly the right person? We'd need someone with a wealth of experience and credibility, like a recently retired superintendent with a solid reputation and a real understanding of Connecticut's unique environment. Not an easy person to find. We had a guy in mind a couple of years ago, but he retired down south so he could relax outdoors in the wintertime. Not all the way to Florida, just far enough that he wouldn't have to mow the dormant Bermuda in his front yard. But too far from Connecticut to be our resident expert.

With this idea always in the back of my mind, I had something of an epiphany back in November when I heard Robb Schulze, CEO of the Northern Ohio Golf Association describe how they support a handful of their member courses simply by subsidizing a portion of the USGA's Course Consulting Service. Brilliant!

Thank you, Robb Schulze. You gave flight to an idea that I was never able to get off the ground, and it's such a good idea that it took no time at all to convince our Executive Committee that this would be money well spent in Connecticut.

So in 2024 the CSGA is committing \$25,000 to assist Connecticut facilities that wish to use the USGA Course Consulting Service. We'll be providing (10) golf courses with grants in the amount of \$2,500 each. This in addition to the \$5,000 grant we provide annually to our friends at the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents (CAGCS).

We think of it as another small way we can lend support to our golf courses and especially to our superintendents, that group we call "golf's unsung heroes." And we're excited and happy to do it.

All the best,

Mike





89<sup>™</sup> CONNECTICUT OPEN PRESENTED BY GSB

# THE OPEN

## Brett Stegmaier Goes Low In Final Round

A final round birdie barage lifted Brett Stegmaier to victory at Shuttle Meadow Country Club.

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#### 89<sup>™</sup> CONNECTICUT OPEN PRESENTED BY GSB



Rett Stegmaier has traveled all over the world playing golf. He has nearly won a PGA Tour event and in 2023 he made the cut twice on the PGA Tour. On a hot and steamy day at Shuttle Meadow Country Club Stegmaier's golf journey came full circle as he captured the 89th Connecticut Open presented by GSB.

"I have been trying to win the Connecticut Open for quite a while," said Brett Stegmaier. "I played in this a lot when I was a kid. I lost in a playoff in 2004 to Kyle Gallo who I played with in the final round this year and I was close in 2005. It is definitely nice to win a golf tournament, it has been a while since I won one and it was good to win my state Open."

Stegmaier (New Haven CC) began the final round at 8-under and two shots off the pace set by 36-hole leaders David Pastore and two-time defending champion Peter Ballo. However, by the time he stepped onto the final green he had flipped that deficit into a three-shot lead and he was just one par save away from securing the title.

With a large crowd that included his parents surrounding the closing par-5, Stegmaier faced a difficult chip from below the right side of the green for his third shot. Playing conservatively the chip ran through the green. Forced to chip again Stegmaier displayed deft touch nestling his ball to within five feet. Moments later Stegmaier brushed in the par putt, pumped his fist, and smiled as the realization that he had won the Connecticut Open began to set in.

Early in the final round, it looked like the stage was set for a battle between Ballo (Connecticut GC) and Pastore (Fairview CC). Ballo jumped out to an early advantage with a birdie on the opening par-4 to move to 11-under. Two holes later Pastore answered with a birdie of his own on the par-5 third to reach 11-under.

After Ballo bogeyed the par-4 fifth Pastore, who played Nos. 3-7 in 10-under-par for the week, moved into the lead by himself. Once in front, Pastore went to work extending his advantage. First, he birdied the downhill par-3 sixth, and then after eagling the par-5 seventh each of the first two days, he continued his success on the hole with a birdie to move to 13-under.

Meanwhile in the group ahead as Pastore was surging so was Stegmaier thanks to the

flatstick. Following a 20-foot birdie putt on the par-5 third Stegmaier hit what might have been his shot of the day. Sitting 235 yards out with a poor lie and a tree blocking out the green on the par-5 seventh Stegmaier took a mighty lash with a 4-iron hooking it around the tree and watching as the ball came to rest 12 feet from the hole. When Stegmaier rolled in the eagle putt to jump to 11-under he had officially announced to the field that he was ready to make a charge. And charge he did.

"I just tried to stay patient and give myself chances," Stegmaier said. "I knew with the way I was rolling it I would have a good chance and that is what I did."

A 15-foot birdie putt dropped on No. 8 moving the 1999 Connecticut Junior Amateur champion within one shot of the lead. On the ensuing hole, the par-3 ninth Stegmaier found the green with his tee shot and then rolled in his 25-foot birdie putt to tie for the lead as he made the turn in 5-under 32 and at 13-under for the tournament.









Brett Stegmaier (far left) played a masterful final round while 36-hole co-leader David Pastore (left) couldn't find his stroke on the final day. Peter Ballo (center) in search of a three-peat shared the lead heading into the final round before settling for a T4 finish with among others Casey Pyne (bottom). Blake Morris (above) who retired from full-time professional golf in 2022 was a major part of the story all week long.

### A victory that was a longtime in the making

"I have been trying to win the Connecticut Open for quite a while. I played in this a lot when I was a kid. I lost in a playoff in 2004 to Kyle Gallo who I played with this year in the final round and I was close in 2005. It is definitely nice to win a golf tournament, it has been a while since I won one and it was good to win my state Open."

- Brett Stegmaier



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On the back nine Stegmaier simply kept pushing forward. He moved into the lead alone with a 20-foot birdie on the par-3 11th and then reached 15-under with his fifth birdie of the day on the par-3 13th, this one from eight feet.

In the meantime, Ballo was fading and Pastore was stuck in neutral. Pastore, the winner of the 2023 Massachusetts Open a month earlier, simply was not able to get anything going after his birdie on No. 7 playing the remainder of his round in even par with just a bogey and a birdie on the final hole



Jason Thresher (above) once again made a bid at the Connecticut Open title while past champions Max Theodorakis (below left) and Cody Paladino (below right) were in the mix.

appearing on his scorecard.

Slowed by a back injury early in the year, there would be nothing slowing down Stegmaier on this day. Despite a bogey after a miss club on the par-3 15th Stegmaier could not be stopped.

Leading by two shots with two holes remaining Stegmaier closed the door in emphatic fashion on the uphill par-4 17th converting another long birdie putt to once again reach 15-under-par and open up a comfortable three-shot lead heading into the final hole.

"It put me at ease today knowing that I have played in big spots (on the PGA Tour) not too long ago," explained Stegmaier who closed in 7-under 64. "I hadn't played in the Connecticut Open since 2005 until last year when I played at my home course (New Haven Country Club). It was disappointing not to win there. I probably put too much pressure on myself. I came here this year with a little less pressure, I tried to stay a little more patient. I played really well the last two days and I made a bunch of putts."

Pastore ended up in solo second place at 13-under, Jason Thresher (Suffield) finished 12-under to take third place while Cody Paladino (Hartford GC), Casey Pyne (The Stanwich Club), and Ballo tied for fourth at 10-under.

Paladino earned low amateur honors for a second consecutive year after shooting a 7-under 64 in the final round.

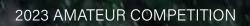


#### 89th Connecticut Open presented by GSB

#### Shuttle Meadow Country Club - Kensington, Conn. - Par 71 / 6,500 yards - Entries: 430 July 24-26, 2023

Brett Stegmaier, New Haven C.C.
 David Pastore, Fairview C.C.
 Jason Thresher, West Suffield, Conn.
 T4 Cody Paladino (a), Hartford G.C.
 T4 Casey Pyne, The Stanwich Club

98	T4 Peter Ballo, Connecticut G.C.	65-67-71-203	
00		68-68-68-204	
01	T7 Blake Morris, C.C. of Waterbury	65-68-71-204	
)3	9 Arthur Ouimet (a), C.C. of Waterbury	70-67-68-205	
)3	T10 Chris Wiatr, C.C. of Waterbury	68-68-70-206	
	T10 Christopher Pieper, TPC River Highlands	72-70-64-206	





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# AMATEURS

2023 was highlighted by a pair of Rick Dowling and Cody Paladino duels. The year also saw a number of younger players establish themselves among the best players in the state.



## ANTHONY GUERRERA BREAKS THROUGH

Clutch play late in the final round helped Anthony Guerrera capture the biggest victory of his career.

here is a moment in every sporting event where the victor must rise to the occasion. For Anthony Guerrera, that moment came when he stepped onto the tee of the 180-yard par-3 12th in the final round of the 20th Russell C. Palmer Cup presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop.

Minutes before Guerrera (Watertown GC) climbed up the hill to the elevated tee box, Ben Carpenter (CC of Darien) playing in the group ahead birdied the hole and unleashed a fist pump as he moved within one stroke of the lead. However, Guerrera, who didn't look at a scoreboard all day including during a brief break in between the second and final rounds on the 36-hole final day at the Country Club of Waterbury was unfazed.

Following a brief discussion with his caddie, Guerrera selected an 8 iron and after going through his pre-shot routine launched a towering shot high into the brilliantly blue sky. As Guerrera and the crowd of supporters watched someone yelled, "be good." It was. The ball settled six feet past the pin.

Now presented the opportunity to take control of the tournament the 24-year-old graduate of Watertown High School and Post University rolled in the birdie putt to return to 2-under and restore his lead to two shots.

Guerrera did bogey the long and difficult 234-yard par-3 14th after leaving his tee shot in the bunker short right of the green but Carpenter had dropped a shot on the



Anthony Guerrera (left) was the only player to finish under-par at the Country Club of Waterbury as he held off among others 2022 Connecticut Amateur winner Ben Carpenter (above).

"This win means everything."

#### - Anthony Guerrera

same hole keeping the lead at two. Steady pars followed on Nos. 15 and 16 before the former CC of Waterbury member put the tournament away on the par-4 17th.

Following his best drive of the day Guerrera flipped a wedge from 60 yards out to 12 feet setting up his final birdie of the day and what proved to be the proverbial nail in the coffin. A short time later and with a large crowd gathered above the green on the par-4 closing hole Guerrera buried a par putt and clinched his first CSGA individual tournament title. Guerrera put together rounds of 67-68-70 to finish 2-under and as the three-stroke winner.

"This win means everything," said Guerrera. "I have been competing in CSGA events the last five years so to be able to see the progression and finally break into the winner's circle feels great."

The breakthrough was thanks in large part to an increased dedication to his game. Last August he left his accounting job and began caddying at Bull's Bridge Golf

#### 20th Russell C. Palmer Cup presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop Country Club of Waterbury - Waterbury, Conn. - Par 69/ 6,621 yards - Entries: 176 May 15-16, 2023

1 Anthony Guerrera, Watertown G.C.	67-68-70-205	T5 Bradley Sawka, Ellington Ridge C.C.	67-75-71-213		
2 Ben Carpenter, C.C. of Darien	67-70-71-208	T7 Will Gregware, Farmington Woods G.C.	72-69-73-214		
3 Tommy Dallahan, Hartford G.C.	69-70-72-211	T7 Will Lodge, C.C. of Darien	72-72-70-214		
4 Peter Tomlinson, Orange Hills C.C.	69-70-73-212	T7 Connor Goode, Glastonbury Hills C.C.	67-71-76-214		
T5 Michael Hanratty, Farmington Woods G.C. 72-71-70-213					

Club. With more time to play golf his game quickly improved. His improvement continued over the winter months after he moved to Florida and took a job working on the bag staff at Gulf Stream Golf Club in Delray Beach. Since returning to Connecticut his improvement has been on full display.

Guerrera, the winner the week before at the Two Man Championship, began the final round 3-under-par and as the leader by two shots over Carpenter but three bogeys in the first eight holes cracked the door open for a number of players. The most notable runs were made by Carpenter and Tommy Dallahan (Hartford GC).

With Guerrera moving backwards, Dallahan a senior at UConn, jumped up the leaderboard with back-to-back birdies on Nos. 9 and 10 to reach 1-over and move within one of Guerrera's even-par lead. With a chance to continue applying pressure Dallahan faltered and ended up finishing 4-over and in third place. Dallahan has now finished in the top five in the Russell C. Palmer Cup each of the last two years. Carpenter, one of four first round co-leaders, sustained his run deep into the final round but once his birdie putt missed on No. 16 his chances were all but dashed and he settled for a 1-over second place finish.

Guerrera began the 36-hole final day in a tie for the lead and despite a sputtering 2-over start he caught fire with three birdies in the final four holes of the second round to surge into the lead. Once in the lead alone Guerrera would never relinquish the advantage again.

"Me and my caddie and hats off to him he kept me focused for a long 36-holes," explained Guerrera. "It felt like we were out here from dusk to dawn. All we cared about was execution. Hitting our right spots and missing in the right the spots and giving ourselves the best look we can."



Peter Tomlinson (above) was in the mix all week long, Connor Goode (below) and Bradley Sawka (opposite) were part of a large group of players tied for the first round lead. Tommy Dallahan (opposite above) played steady golf throughout the week while Michael Hanratty (opposite far right) improved with every round.









1995 J.J. HENRY 1996 KEVIN GAI 1997 BRIAN BEDSTROM 1998 J.J. HENRY 1999 BRIAN AHERN 2000 BRIAN HEISTROM 2001 MARK FARRILL 2002 JEJY HEIDEN 2003 JUSTIN GOODHUE

2004 STEVE VELARD 2005 TIM KANE 2005 TIM KANE 2006 TOMNY MEDONAGH 2007 WILL STRICKLER 2009 WILL STRICKLER 2009 WILL STRICKLER 2009 BERNE D'AMATO 2010 DERNE D'AMATO 2010 TOMMY MEDONAGH 2012 MATT SMITH

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2013 CODY PALADNO 2014 ZACH ZABACK 2015 EVAN GRENIS 2016 ZACH ZABACK 2016 ZACH ZABACK 2016 BEN GONRAY 2016 BEN GONRAY 2016 BEN GONRAY 2019 RELEAS DOVLING IN 2020 CHESS POSTACK 2020 CHESS FOSTACK

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121st CONNECTICUT AMATEUR

## RICK DOWLING WINS THIRD CONNECTICUT AMATEUR

Rick Dowling outlasted Cody Paladino in a heavyweight battle between two of the top players in the state.

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#### 121st CONNECTICUT AMATEUR

n a clash between two of the top players in the state Rick Dowling outlasted Cody Paladino 2&1 to capture the 121st Connecticut Amateur hosted by the Country Club of Darien.

"It is really cool just to win the tournament. It is a marathon week," said Dowling who became the 10th player to win at least three Connecticut Amateur titles. "I wasn't really feeling great about my game earlier in the year. So, to get a little momentum going and play some good golf this week (was great). I was able to sneak through some matches early and then I found my stride. I can't believe I won. It is awesome."

Dowling (Golf Performance Center) wasted no time jumping out in front in the championship match. On the opening par-4, he stuffed his first approach shot of the day to seven feet and rolled in the birdie putt to take a 1-up lead. Dowling would never relinquish the lead for the remainder of the day.

Following three consecutive ties Dowling (below) once again went pin seeking on the par-4 fifth. After splitting the fairway with his drive Dowling dropped his approach shot to eight feet and converted his second birdie of the round to take a 2-up advantage. The win on No. 5 was the first of three straight victories that saw Dowling extend his lead to 4 up.

Still leading 4 up as the match headed for the back nine Dowling made his first mistake of the day sending his tee shot on No. 10 into the parking lot. With the door cracked open Paladino (Hartford GC) won his first hole of the match with a conceded birdie. Dowling would win the next hole but the momentum was beginning to shift.

On the par-4 12th Paladino, the 2013 winner and a finalist in 2020 and

2021, lofted a brilliant approach shot high into the air and watched it land five feet short of the hole setting up his second birdie in three holes. Once again the Dowling lead was trimmed to 3 up. Paladino would creep even closer with victories on Nos. 13 and 16 to move within 1 down.

However, as he would all day long Dowling had an answer. The 2017 and 2019 champion split the fairway with his drive on the closing 508-yard par-5. Electing to play aggressively and with a 3 wood in hand Dowling came up just short of the green with his second shot. Meanwhile, Paladino laid up with his second shot and his third came to rest past the pin on the fringe. With the advantage on the hole Dowling pitched it close for a conceded birdie and when Paladino's attempt to answer slipped by the cup the lead was 2 up after the morning 18.

In the afternoon it was deja vu all over again as Dowling won the par-4 first with a birdie to increase his lead to 3 up.

"You don't expect to win the first hole so to get the first one you feel like you have some momentum to start the round," explained Dowling who lost in the finals in 2022.

Six consecutive pars followed before Paladino won the 308-yard par-4 eighth with a birdie to cut into the deficit. The players tied the par-4 ninth and with nine holes remaining Dowling held a 2-up lead.

It was a lead Dowling would have to sit on for nearly two hours. As the players were preparing for a pair of birdie putts on the par-4 10th the horn blew and the rain began falling resulting in a stoppage of play.

When play resumed Paladino lined up his 25-foot birdie putt and drained it. Moments later when Dowling couldn't respond his lead was cut to 1 up. The surge by Paladino was short lived however as on the ensuing hole Dowling pushed his lead back to 2 up with a par.

"Playing someone like Cody you have to remember to focus on every shot," said Dowling. "If you get a couple holes you want to keep that lead the best that you can."

After matching pars on Nos. 12 and 13 Paladino had another chance to cut into the deficit. Going pin seeking on the 174-yard par-3 14th Paladino flew the green and ended up on the downslope of the fringe. Looking to make something happen Paladino nearly created the spark he needed but his chip burned the edge of the cup resulting in a par that tied the hole.

With holes running out Dowling and Paladino made their way to the 548yard par-5 15th. Dowling's drive found the fairway while Paladino missed the fairway right. Both players elected to lay up setting up a wedge contest. Playing first from 135 yards out Dowling stuck his approach shot to five feet. Paladino played next and knocked his approach to 15 feet.

Faced with a near must make putt Paladino couldn't get his birdie bid to fall and when Dowling dropped in his left-toright birdie try the lead swelled to 3 up with three holes to play. On No. 16 Paladino staved off elimination for one more hole but on this day Dowling was too much to overcome.

On the next hole, the par-4 17th, both players found the green with their second shots. Paladino faced with a must make birdie attempt was away but ran his putt by the hole. Now only needing to two-putt Dowling cozied his putt close to the hole and when Paladino conceded the par putt it was once again Rick Dowling who was left hoisting the trophy.



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Rick Dowling (left) displayed a stellar short game throughout the week. Connor Goode (above) reached the Round of 16. Cody Paladino (below) nearly chipped in on the par-3 14th as he tried to rally in the championship match. On day three at the Country Club of Darien (next page) play was interrupted by rain but the reward was a gorgeous rainbow above the 18th green.







#### 121st CONNECTICUT AMATEUR



UConn's Tommy Dallahan (above left) had some dramatic moments during his run to the semifinals while AJ Ouimet (above right) also reached the semifinals. Playing on his home course Will Lodge (above) reached the quarterfinals.





Rick Hayes (left) reached the quarterfinals while Ben Carpenter (above) playing on his home course and trying to defend the title he won in 2022, fell in the Round of 16. Chris Fosdick (below), the 2020 and 2021 champion, bested Cody Paladino in both finals however this time Paladino got the better of the top-seed knocking him out in the Round of 16.



#### 121st CONNECTICUT AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Country Club of Darien ~ Darien, Conn. ~ Par 71 / 6,900 yards ~ Entries: 324

June 12-16, 2023





FINALS	SEMIFINALS	QUARTERFINALS	ROUND OF 16		ROUND OF 32	2
				Arthur Ouimet	CC of Waterbury (143)	2
		Ouimet	Ouimet 4&3	Jake Bennett	Madison CC (156)	31
		4&2		Adam Friedman	Great River GC (152)	15
			Friedman 2&1	Peter Tomlinson	Orange Hills CC (152)	10
	Ouimet 7&5			Will Lodge	CC of Darien (149)	
	THE STAN		Lodge 7&5			
	ALL CONTRACT	Lodge	- Print -	Harrison Browne	Great River GC (154)	26
		2&1		Alex Elia	Silver Spring CC (150)	10
			Elia 6&4			
Dowling				Matthew Chorches	Hartford GC (154)	
3&2			D	Richard Dowling Golf	f Performance Ctr. (143)	3
		2	Dowling 4&2	Anthony Hrenko	Indian Hill CC (156)	30
	2	Dowling 3&2		Benjamin Conroy	New Haven CC (151)	
1	-		Fretty			
	Derline		1 up	Jackson Fretty	Greenwich CC (152)	19
	Dowling 19 holes	T TIME I		Benjamin Day	New Haven CC (148)	6
		-	Day 3&2	_		
		St. Pierre			PC River Highlands (155)	
		21 holes		Kyle St. Pierre	Newtown CC (150)	11
			St. Pierre 4&2	Andrew Flynn	Patterson Club (153)	21





## TOMLINSON WINS SECOND CONNECTICUT PUBLIC LINKS TITLE

In the final CSGA event of the season Peter Tomlinson hit good shot after good shot on the way to winning the title at **Keney Park Golf Course.** 

Republic Links Championship at Keney Park Golf Course tied for the lead with Dave Jones at 1-under, but after a birdie on the first from six feet Tomlinson had an advantage he would never relinquish. From the opening tee shot to the final putt Tomlinson rarely missed his target finishing the tournament 4-under to win his second Connecticut Public Links title by an impressive five shots.

"The birdie on the opening hole definitely settled me down a little bit," Tomlinson said of his start. "I took the risk of hitting driver and fortunately I got up and down and that helped me settle into the round."

Often in prime position off the tee Tomlinson (Orange Hills CC) played a selectively aggressive style of golf resulting in six birdies throughout his stellar final round 3-under 67. "I think I did a really good with strategy today and knowing when to pick my spots to be aggressive," said Tomlinson.

Already 2-under on his round and 3-under for the tournament, Tomlinson stepped onto the tee of the 142-yard par-3 sixth with a chance for an early knockout blow. With a 9 iron in hand and a green light pin location Tomlinson lofted his shot high into the air and watched as it landed with a feathery softness coming to rest just a foot from the hole. Moments later Tomlinson tapped in the birdie try to move to 4-under and push his lead to four strokes.

"With the pin location on No. 6 that was one where I knew I could be aggressive," Tomlinson explained. "With it only being a 9 iron for me I knew that as long as I hit it somewhat on line with there being a little bowl around the pin [I knew I could stick it close]."

From that moment on for Tomlinson it was about maintaining focus for the remainder of the round. "It sounds cliché but I really took it one hole at a time and no matter what my score to par was mentally I was always even-par. I was looking at each hole as a blank slate where you can make birdie but you also have to keep in mind that you have to play smart enough that you don't make a mistake. Just treating every hole as its own little tournament was able to keep me sharp for the entire day," said Tomlinson.

Despite the growing lead Tomlinson never relented converting a birdie on the par-5 10th and then after a double-bogey on the long downhill par-3 11th that cracked the door slightly open he responded with birdies on Nos. 13 and 14.

In the driver's seat, the exclamation point came on the 397-yard par-4 16th. Tomlinson, a full-time caddie at The Stanwich Club in the summer, left his third shot short of the elevated green and then he was too aggressive with his pitch shot sending it 30 feet past the hole. Staring a bogey in the face Tomlinson rolled in the long par putt from just off the green and as it slammed into the bottom of the cup he unleashed a vicious fist pump. It was with that stroke that any potential late drama was removed from the proceedings.

"Winning for a second time is really an honor," said Tomlinson who also won in 2019. "Winning once is great but winning twice is just a little bit sweeter. I am really proud of the way I played today and I am really proud to represent Orange Hills Country Club. I would like to dedicate this win to the late Bud Smith at Orange Hills CC. The Smith family has been great to me over the years and I grew up learning the game and playing the game my whole life at Orange Hills so I think about Bud quite a lot. He had such a positive influence in my life and in my golf game and I had a feeling he was looking down on me today. So I am really happy to close it out for him and the guys at Orange Hills."

On a day where Tomlinson was never challenged Kyle Bilodeau (Blackledge CC) finished second at 1-over while Mike Kennedy (Tashua Knolls GC), Chris Maxwell (Blue Fox Run GC), and Dave Jones (Mohegan Sun GC) finished in a tie for third at 3-over.

#### 36th CONNECTICUT MID-AMATEUR

## DOWLING THREE-PEATS

In a memorable duel with Cody Paladino it was Rick Dowling who once again won the Connecticut Mid-Amateur.

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#### 36th CONNECTICUT MID-AMATEUR



ick Dowling set the tone for the 36-hole final day of the 36th Connecticut Mid-Amateur with his very first swing. Standing on the tee of the 290-yard par-4 opening hole at the Country Club of Farmington Dowling elected to play aggressively.

On a hole where the majority of players hit an iron or hybrid off the tee, Dowling pulled driver and sent his very first shot of the day hurtling towards a green surrounded by trouble. The decision paid off as Dowling's ball found the green and resulted in a 25-foot eagle try that was converted turning a one-shot deficit to first round leader Cody Paladino into a one-shot advantage.

"I can't think of a better way to start the day," said Rick Dowling (Golf Performance Center).

Once in the lead, Dowling would never trail again as he played unshakable golf on his way to winning a third consecutive Connecticut Mid-Amateur.

"It feels great to have won three in a row," Dowling said. "To win any tournament is awesome. Coming down the stretch of this one was a grind so it means a lot to come out on top." Following the eagle on No. 1 Dowling was off and running as he played a nearly flawless second round. With on-andoff rain falling throughout the round, Dowling went to work picking apart the Devereux Emmet design on his way to a 5-under 66 that moved him to 9-under and four shots in front of Paladino who carded an even-par 71 in the second round to remain at 5-under.

With the sun breaking through and a picture-perfect afternoon on tap the stage was once again set for a final round duel between Dowling and Paladino. The two had battled in the final round of the Connecticut Mid-Amateur one year ago and then again in June in the finals of the Connecticut Amateur.

Early in the final round it looked like Dowling would be able to maintain a comfortable lead. Despite some chances for Paladino (Hartford GC) he remained three back after eight holes.

However, Paladino who owns the CC of Farmington course record at 62 had other ideas. On the 587-yard par-5 ninth Paladino was able to get up and down for birdie while Dowling had to settle for par. All of a sudden the lead was only two as

Dowling made the turn at 8-under and Paladino at 6-under.

On the ensuing hole, Paladino found the green of the 525-yard par-5 in two setting up a second consecutive birdie. Meanwhile Dowling hit his second shot through the green and faced a tricky chip for his third. Needing a birdie to hold off the charging Paladino the three-time Connecticut Amateur winner nipped it perfectly setting up a tap-in birdie that returned Dowling to 9-under and kept the lead at two shots.

"I knew (Cody) was going to come on strong (in the final round) so I tried to come out aggressive and follow my game plan," Dowling said. "But in (the final round) I really just wasn't making the putts that I was making earlier in the tournament."

During this stretch, the final member of the last group, Shane Bacon (Brooklawn CC), was making a move as well. After beginning the final round at 3-under Bacon fell to 2-under before birdieing Nos. 6, 9, and 10 to reach 5-under and enter the fray. Bacon, who had a hole-in-one on the par-3 12th in the first round and was fresh off a U.S. Amateur appearance, would





Rick Dowling (opposite) was as tough as nails down the stretch. Well known media personality Shane Bacon (left) aced the par-3 12th in the first round on his way to a third place finish. Justin Beal (above) finished in sixth place. Cody Paladino (below) was once again in the mix until the very end.



### **Final Round Charge**

Cody Paladino made a final round charge and had a putt to tie for the lead late in the final round however in the end he had to settle for a fourth consecutive second place finish in the Connecticut Mid-Amateur. birdie No. 17 but ultimately he would settle for a 4-under third-place finish.

As Bacon and the rest of the field tried to keep pace Dowling and Paladino continued to trade blows. Paladino hit the flagstick with his tee shot on No. 12 setting up a birdie that moved him within one shot. On the next hole, the 403-yard par-4 13th, Dowling answered right back with a 20-foot birdie of his own to once again restore his two-shot lead.

"I stole one on No. 13. I had 134 yards (to the pin) and I knew it was going to jump and I didn't want to come up short but you are also in a tough spot if you go long," Dowling explained. "I hit a wedge and it landed hole high and came to rest on the back fringe."

Dowling would give that stroke right back with a bogey on No. 14 as Paladino made a good par save and with four holes remaining the difference was one. The difference remained the same as both players made matching pars on Nos. 15 and 16.

"It certainly felt like a match play situation coming down the stretch," Dowling said of the battle. "Shane (Bacon) was playing great too and making his way up the leaderboard but it definitely felt back and forth between Cody and I."

On the 401-yard par-4 17th Dowling and Paladino took different approaches. Paladino playing first elected to challenge the water that juts into the fairway taking driver off the tee. He struck a perfect tee ball and had a wedge into the green. Dowling playing more conservatively found the fairway but was farther back.

Facing a shot into an elevated green Dowling was first to play from the fairway and sent his second shot long and into the fringe. With an opening Paladino, who eagled the hole in the first round and birdied it in the second round, knocked his approach shot to within eight feet.

Dowling, looking to ease his birdie putt close, put too much steam on the putt running it past the hole just inside Paladino's marker. With a large crowd gathered behind the green the moment of the tournament had come. After fighting and clawing all day long Paladino finally had a chance to tie Dowling. After a lengthy look at the uphill birdie putt, Paladino struck the putt and watched in dismay as

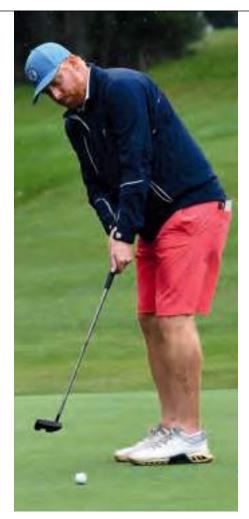


Kyle Bilodeau (above) notched an eighth place finish while 2017 winner Mike Kennedy (above right) earned a T4 finish. Rick Hayes (opposite above) came on strong in the final two rounds and once again 2019 champion Ben Day (opposite below) put together a strong performance on his way to a seventh place showing.

it slid by the cup. Paladino would have to settle for a disappointing par.

All eyes now turned to Dowling. Putting on nearly the same line as Paladino Dowling wouldn't miss as he struck his putt pure and poured it into the bottom of the cup for a par. Dowling would head to the last with a one-shot lead.

The final hole at the CC of Farmington is a diabolical downhill par-3 that measures 209 yards. If players miss short, right, left, or long they can find trouble. With honors Paladino played first and missed the green to the right. Knowing



that par would now likely be good enough Dowling landed his tee shot just onto the fringe 30 feet past the cup. Needing to work some magic with his second shot Paladino came up short on his birdie chip and when Dowling two-putted for par the trophy was once again his.

"I felt a little weird coming out of the winter but I think that is normal for us northeast golfers," said Dowling who in 2024 will be looking to match Bill Hermanson's (1990-1993) record of four Connecticut Mid-Amateur titles in a row. "But for some reason this year it lasted a little longer than usual but I got back into it and winning the Connecticut Amateur was huge. I had a great summer and had a great opportunity to play in a couple of big events and then just to come back here and defend and come out on top is amazing."



### **36th Connecticut Mid-Amateur** Country Club of Farmington - Farmington, Conn. - Par 71 / 6,580 yards - Entries: 259 August 29-30, 2023

1 Richard Dowling, Golf Perf. Ctr.	67-66-71-204	T4 Michael Kennedy, Tashua Knolls G.C.	68-73-69-210
2 Cody Paladino, Hartford G.C.	66-71-69-206	6 Justin Beal, Timberlin G.C.	69-74-71-214
3 Shane Bacon, Brooklawn C.C.	69-70-70-209	7 Benjamin Day, New Haven C.C.	70-69-76-215
T4 Rick Hayes, Silver Spring C.C.	74-66-70-210	8 Kyle Bilodeau, Blackledge C.C.	69-75-72-216

## FOUR IN A ROW FOR PALADINO

For the fourth straight year and the sixth time in his career, Cody Paladino has won the Dick Tettelbach Player of the Year award.

"It is something that I am incredibly proud of," Cody Paladino said. "The CSGA is such an important part of my life. I think as I am getting older I am realizing how important the CSGA is to me. So, for me to be someone that carries that title is very rewarding but also makes me appreciate being a part of the CSGA."

On the course Paladino once again shined in CSGA events reaching the finals of the Connecticut Amateur, finishing second at the Connecticut Mid-Amateur while also finishing as the low amateur at the Connecticut Open. On the national stage, Paladino returned to the U.S. Amateur for the first time since 2009 while also medaling at U.S. Open Local Qualifying and earning a spot in his third straight U.S. Mid-Amateur.

What made those moments and all of his on-course success in 2023 even more memorable was what happened off the course. In early November 2022 Paladino and his wife Anna welcomed their first child, Carter, and with it all the wonderful life-changing experiences.

"[Sharing these moments with Carter] is kind of surreal, to be honest," Paladino expressed as he looked back on another season of memorable moments both on and off the course.

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### 2023 DICK TETTELBACH PLAYER OF THE YEAR: CODY PALADINO

iii.



# WOMEN

At the Connecticut Women's Open Samantha Morrell got her redemption while at the Connecticut Women's Amateur Arabella Lopez made Connecticut golf history.

## ARABELLA LOPEZ RALLIES TO WIN WOMEN'S AMATEUR

Arabella Lopez dug deep and emerged with a **historic victory at Tashua Knolls Golf Club.** 

espite a two-hour rain delay and variable weather conditions, Arabella Lopez, the youngest player to ever win the tournament since it began in 1966, secured her first Connecticut Women's Amateur title at Tashua Knolls Golf Club.

Lopez, who had been knocking on victories door as of late, played confidently and patiently.

"I've worked really hard for these events, and I'm really happy to finally hold the trophy," said the 2022 New England Girls' Junior Amateur champion and winner of the AJGA event held at Bethpage early in the year.

In the final round her steady play, ball striking off the tee, and timely putting led her to victory. After an even par-72 in the first round, Lopez kept her foot on the gas shooting a 1-under 71 for a two-day total of 143 (-1).

Lopez (Redding CC) maintained composure in her pursuit of victory throughout the entirety of the 36-hole tournament. She stayed focused and didn't let the difficult playing conditions affect her mentality.

Annie Dai (CT PGA Junior Golf Association) held a two-shot lead over Arabella Lopez and Mia Grzywinski (CC of Farmington) at the start of the final round. Right out of the gates a two-shot swing thanks to a birdie by Lopez and a bogey by Dai set the tone for the day.

"I really tried to not think about what she was doing," Lopez said. "It didn't matter at that point. There was so much golf left to play."

Dai maintained control over her game as she went on to birdie Nos. 2, 7, and 9 and she made the turn at 4-under-par and ahead by five over Lopez and Gryzwinski.



Arabella Lopez (right) picked up one of the biggest victories of her young career while Annie Dai (above) nearly won both the Connecticut Girls' Junior and Connecticut Women's Amateur in back-to-back weeks.

The lead group made the turn just after a two-hour rain delay and once play resumed Lopez adjusted to the wet conditions well as she continued her steady play into the evening.

After an errant tee shot by Dai, Lopez found herself tied for first going into the par-5 16th. A clutch birdie putt gave her a two-shot advantage with two holes to play. She parred the 17th and played the eighteenth perfectly.

"I pulled my tee shot on 18 into the rough so I was kind of nervous. My caddie, Mike Argentine (Redding CC head golf professional) did a great job calming me down. I was really just trying to get it onto the green and have a putter in my hand."

Her patience and ability to persevere paid off when she tapped in for par and prevailed against a strong field.

Annie Dai, winner of the 2nd Girls' Junior, played a solid tournament. She was the only player to finish under par in the first round and in the final round she played the opening nine holes in 2-under under 34. After struggling on the back nine Dai settled for a second place finish at 1-over.



### 58th CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S AMATEUR



Sydney Nethercott (EClub of Connecticut) made a strong push in the final round to put herself into the top three. After a 3-over 75 in the first round, Nethercott shot 1-under 71 to finish solo third and won the Mid-Amateur Division outright.

Jen Holland (Lyman Orchards Golf Club), the winner of the 2008 Connecticut Women's Amateur, won the Senior Division with a two-day total of 161.

Debbie Johnson, the 2022 Senior Amateur winner at the Connecticut Women's Open, won the Super Senior Division with a 152 total.





Aoife Devaney (opposite) played steady golf all week. Fairfield standout Sydney Nethercott (above left) tried to rally on the final day before settling for third place while Mia Gryzwinski (above) finished in the top-four for a fourth straight year. 2008 winner Jen Holland (below) won the Senior Division.

#### 58th Women's Amateur Championship Tashua Knolls Golf Course – Trumbull, Conn. Par 72 / 5,670 yards Entries: 68 July 17-18, 2023

Arabella Lopez, Redding C.C.	72-71-143
Annie Dai, CT PGA Jr. Golf Assoc.	70-75-145
Sydney Nethercott, EClub of Connecticut	75-71-146
Mia Grzywinski, C.C. of Farmington	72-75-147
Aoife Devaney, C.C. of Waterbury	77-73-150
Charlotte Daughan, EClub of Connecticut	76-74-150
Morgan Peterson, EClub of Connecticut	72-78-150
Debbie Johnson, Blackhawk C.C.	76-76-152
Cindy Cao, USGA/CSGA GC	73-79-152
Laniah Moffett, EClub of Connecticut	76-78-154
	Annie Dai, CT PGA Jr. Golf Assoc. Sydney Nethercott, EClub of Connecticut Mia Grzywinski, C.C. of Farmington Aoife Devaney, C.C. of Waterbury Charlotte Daughan, EClub of Connecticut Morgan Peterson, EClub of Connecticut Debbie Johnson, Blackhawk C.C. Cindy Cao, USGA/CSGA GC





### 24th CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S OPEN PRESENTED BY CRESCENT POINT PRIVATE WEALTH

## **MORRELL GETS REDEMPTION**

One year after losing the Connecticut Women's Open in a playoff Samantha Morrell gets **her revenge at Rolling Hills Country Club.** 

ne year after losing the Connecticut Women's Open presented by Crescent Point Private Wealth in a playoff Samantha Morrell got her redemption. Entering the final round of the 24th Connecticut Women's Open at Rolling Hills Country Club Morrell held a two-shot lead but after falling one shot behind with nine holes to play she dug deep to pull out the victory.

"It took a little while for the win to sink in," Morrell said after her round. "I think I was so focused and in tournament mode that I really didn't (let it sink in for a little while). I kept telling myself to not get too ahead of myself and to just grind it out until the last minute. It didn't really immediately hit me."

Following a 2-over 37 front nine that dropped the Warwick Country Club assistant professional back to level par Morrell began to turn her day around with an up-and-down birdie from the greenside bunker on the par-5 10th. The birdie moved Morrell back into a tie for the lead with 2021 champion Melissa Siviter (GC of Georgia) at 1-under.

Siviter, playing in the final group alongside Morrell and 13-year-old Arabella Lopez (Redding CC), opened the final round at even-par before quickly moving to 1-under with a birdie on the 465-yard par-5 first. That is where she remained for the next 10 holes and as they made the turn she was in the lead alone.

However, after Siviter bogeyed the short par-4 12th and Morrell rolled in a twisting 30-foot birdie putt on the ensuing downhill par-3 to return to 2-under the lead ballooned back to two shots. Bogeys were traded on the par-4 14th hole keeping the difference at two shots when play was suspended due to lightning in the area with four holes remaining.

"I told myself not to peak at the leaderboard (during the delay)," explained Morrell who to her surprise with the victory earned an exemption into the 2023 Epson Tour stop at Great River Golf Club. "It



Samantha Morrell (left) is all smiles as she holds the trophy. 2021 champion Melissa Siviter (above) tried to stare down the lead but fell short of title number two.

was very tempting to look at the leaderboard, especially with the downtime. I got lunch which was very important. I got to relax a little and I didn't look at the leaderboard and I told myself it doesn't matter, I can't change anything and to go back out like I haven't had the chance to look at it."

When play resumed Morrell and Siviter once again traded bogeys on the par-3 15th. Those would be the last blemishes on either scorecard as both players tightened the screws down the stretch. Matching pars on No. 16 sent the competitors and former collegiate rivals turned friends to the penultimate hole separated by two shots. Morrell was even-par and just ahead of the 2-over Siviter.

On the par-4 17th it looked as if Siviter might have a chance to make up some ground. Off the tee, Morrell lost her drive to the right and was forced to punch out around a tree leaving herself a 36-yard pitch shot. Morrell had been short on pitch shots all day long but with the tournament hanging in the balance she wouldn't make the same mistake again telling herself in the middle of the swing not to leave it short. She didn't as she almost holed the chip for birdie. Moments later she cleaned up the five-footer for par and carried the lead into the final hole.

As Morrell and Siviter were duking it out Angela Garvin (Myrtlewood GC) nearly swooped in and stole the tournament. Fresh off her senior year at the University of Maryland Garvin birdied the par-4 16th to move within two shots and then moved within a stroke with a birdie on the par-5 last. Her birdie on the final hole capped an impressive 2-under 71 final round which matched the low score

### 24th CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S OPEN PRESENTED BY CRESCENT POINT PRIVATE WEALTH



of the day. With Garvin's work complete all she could do was watch.

Morrell began the par-5 18th with a drive that missed the fairway left but after a good recovery shot she found herself just short of the green in two. Meanwhile, Siviter played aggressively finding the green with her second shot. Morrell played first and hit her third shot long setting up a tricky downhill birdie putt.

Siviter played next and despite missing her eagle putt she was able to tap in for birdie to finish 1-over and in a tie with Garvin. Forced to get down in two in

### Samantha Morrell (left) celebrates her winning putt. Angela Garvin (right) made a final round charge.

order to avoid a playoff Morrell lagged her birdie putt close and then brushed in one final par putt that sealed the title.

"I have been very close to winning this tournament numerous times and that seemed to be a trend for me in college as well," explained Morrell who played in her third KPMG Women's PGA Championship in 2023. "I always felt that I was in the top-five or second place. I called it always a bridesmaid and never a bride and it happened last year but not this year. I am very happy to have pulled off a win in this event."



Morrell finished the 36-hole tournament even-par with rounds of 71-75 and she was able to hold off Siviter and Garvin both of whom finished in a tie for second at 1-over. 2011 winner Jordan Lintz (Blackhawk CC) made an early charge before settling for a 3-over fourth-place finish. Fifth place was shared by Chelsea Dantonio (Crag Burn GC), four-time winner Liz Caron (Mill River Club), and Alexis Hios (Woodway CC) at 4-over.

Four-time champion Liz Caron (below) once again had a strong showing at the Connecticut Women's Open.

#### 24th Connecticut Women's Open presented by Crescent Point Private Wealth Rolling Hills Country Club - Wilton, Conn. Par 73 / 5,750 yards Entries: 59 June 5-6, 2023

1	Samantha Morrell, Warwick C.C.	71-75-146
T2	Angela Garvin (a), Myrtlewood G.C.	75-72-147
T2	Melissa Siviter, G.C. of Georgia	73-74-147
4	Jordan Lintz, Blackhawk C.C.	76-73-149
Τ5	Chelsea Dantonio, Crag Burn G.C.	79-71-150
Т5	Liz Caron, Mill River Club	75-75-150
Т5	Alexis Hios, Woodway C.C.	75-75-150
T8	Susie Cavanagh, Ledgemont C.C.	77-74-151
T8	Arabella Lopez (a), Redding C.C.	74-77-151
T1	0 Charlotte Daughan (a), EClub of Conn.	80-74-154
T1	0 Ju Hee Bae, 1757 G.C.	78-76-154



### 2023 LIZ JANANGELO CARON WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR: ARABELLA LOPEZ

## A STAR SHINES BRIGHT

In July Arabella Lopez stood on the green of the par-5 16th at Tashua Knolls Golf Course looking over a 10-foot birdie putt that would give her control of the 58th Connecticut Women's Amateur with just two holes remaining in the final round. It wasn't long before that Lopez had trailed by as many as five strokes but now she controlled her own destiny.

After surveying the putt from all angles Lopez stood over the putt, struck it pure, and when it slammed into the bottom of the cup moments later Lopez not only was primed to win the Connecticut Women's Amateur but had also signed, sealed, and delivered the signature moment of her 2023 Liz Janangelo Caron Women's Player of the Year award campaign.

"Winning the Liz Janangelo Caron Women's Player of the Year award is pretty cool," said the 14-year-old Arabella Lopez who became the youngest player to win the award. "I think it shows how hard I have worked over the course of the year, I think it is a good stepping stone and a cool thing to add to my resume and I am super excited about it."

Lopez set the stage for her 2023 season with a strong 2022 season that included an individual victory at the New England Girls' Junior Amateur. Feeding off of that momentum in 2023 Lopez captured the AJGA Preview at Bethpage Black in May, she then finished T8 at the Connecticut Women's Open in June, third at the Connecticut Girls' Junior in July, finished T5 in her title defense at the New England Girls' Junior in August and along the way became the youngest player to ever win the Connecticut Women's Amateur.

"Winning drives me to improve but also I really like being able to go out there and be confident in my ability," explained Lopez. "I've always liked the competition and I like that you can always challenge yourself and there is always room to improve. There are always ways you can get better and it is just fun to work hard at getting better and when you finally see results it is pretty cool."

# A GAME OF INCHES



Chris Fosdick reacts as his putt in the Round of 16 at the Connecticut Amateur burns the edge.



Jim Abbott (above) can't believe his bunker shot at the 17th Senior Match Play Championship didn't drop. Meanwhile 2021 Connecticut Women's Open winner Melissa Siviter (top right) reacts in disbelief to a putt on the final green at Rolling Hills Country Club. A running start was necessary at the Russell C. Palmer Cup as Finn McHugh (below) watched his putt slide by. Meanwhile also at the Russell C. Palmer Cup Sam Spector (opposite below) steps back in shock after his attempt missed.









At the Connecticut Open (above left) Casey Pyne buckled at the knees when his putt didn't fall while at the Connecticut Mid-Amateur Ben Day (above right) pleads with his ball to go a different direction. Despite winning the Connecticut Amateur Rick Dowling (below left) grits his teeth at the Country Club of Darien in frustration while at the Borck Junior all Harrison Browne (below right) can do is look to the skies.



# MyLifeProtected

MyLifeProtected understands that you want to protect the people and things in your life that matter the most but have little time to spend researching all the options available to you in the insurance marketplace. To make this process easy, MyLifeProtected is excited to introduce a new Connecticut State Golf Association member benefit!



CSGA

2023 JUNIOR COMPETITION

# UNIORS

Clutch play was the theme throughout the summer with a number of new players rising to the occasion and picking up victories.



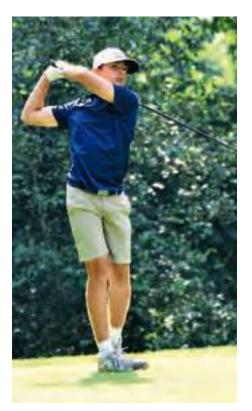
### **GREGWARE BATTLES HIS WAY TO THE TOP**

Will Gregware survived a number of nip and tuck matches to emerge.

fter a grueling four days of wet and then brutally hot conditions at Fairview Farm Golf Course Will Gregware (Farmington Woods GC) prevailed 5&4 in the championship match to win the 82nd Connecticut Junior Amateur and earn his first career CSGA title.

"It feels amazing. This is always a tournament that I have circled on the calendar all year round. I look forward to it," said Will Gregware who was a member of the 2019 PGA Junior League Fairview Farm GC team. "I had a really good run last year reaching the semifinals but I came up just short and that was in the back of my mind this week. I'm really, really happy to get it done."

Gregware, a winner in the semifinals against Charles Schrohe (Burning Tree CC) with a miraculous walk-off chip-in birdie on the par-5 18th, dropped the opening hole of the championship match against Gavin Kvadus (Glastonbury Hills



"This is always a tournament that I have circled on the calendar all year round."

### – Will Gregware

CC) but once the match was tied the Maryland commit stepped on the accelerator.

Kvadus, a 3&2 winner over Robby Rosati (Great River GC) in the semifinals, won the par-4 first with a par and held a 1 up lead through the first three holes but after finding trouble on the downhill par-3 fourth resulting in a bogey the door was open for Gregware to win the hole with a par.

Two holes later on the par-5 sixth Gregware took his first lead of the match. It was a lead he would never relinquish. Gregware missed the fairway left and pulled his second shot left as well but he got a fortunate kick off the cart path that catapulted his ball through the bunker and to the back of the green. From there a two-putt birdie resulted in a 1-up advantage.

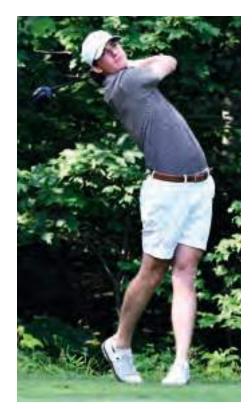
The advantage was extended to 2 up with a birdie on No. 8 however a short missed par putt on No. 9 by Gregware allowed Kvadus to make the turn just 1 down.

Looking to make his move Kvadus, a survivor of a 10-for-2 stroke play qualifying playoff just to get into match play, hit what looked like a good shot into the dramatically downhill par-3 10th but his tee shot came up short allowing Gregware to win the hole with a bogey and restore his 2 up lead.

Once 2 up for a second time Gregware

For the second straight year Robby Rosati (left) reached the semifinals. He was joined in the final four by rising Lehigh freshman Charles Schrohe (right). found another gear. He made a clutch 12-footer for par to tie No. 11 and then won the par-3 12th after more trouble off the tee for Kvadus. Leading 3 up with six holes remaining Gregware just kept coming. On No. 14 he rammed home a 25-footer for birdie and then on the ensuing hole he clinched the title with a 12-footer for yet another birdie unleashing a ferocious fist pump as the putt slammed into the bottom of the cup. It was his third consecutive birdie and fifth of the match.

"I was struggling with my putting for most of my tournament and just stuck with it and kept digging and eventually putts started falling and that felt really good. I think when I saw the 12-footer for par drop on No. 11 it flipped a little switch in my mind and I felt a little better after that," Gregware said. "This win means everything to me. It was a really special one. I'll remember this one for a long time."











Runner-up Gavin Kvadus (opposite) survived a playoff just to qualify for match play. Maryland committ Will Gregware (above) holds the trophy. AJ Depaolo (left) was impressive on his way to the quarterfinals. Medalist Austin Perkins (right) eagled the last to sign for a nearly flawless 7-under 65 stroke play qualifying score.



### 82nd Connecticut Junior Amateur Fairview Farm Golf Course - Harwinton, Conn. Par 72/6,600 yards Entries: 96 July 10-13, 2023

Will Gregware (Farmington Woods G.C.) path to the William A. Salvatore Trophy Stroke Play Qualifier: 73 (+1), seeded 17th
Round of 32: Defeated #16 Harrison Browne (Great River G.C.), 1 up Round of 16: Defeated #1 Austin Perkins (Hartford G.C.), 1 up Quarterfinals: Defeated #25 AJ Depaolo, (Farms C.C.), 6&5 Semifinals: Defeated #20 Charles Schrohe (Burning Tree C.C.), 1 up Finals: Defeated #31 Gavin Kvadus (Glastonbury Hills C.C.), 5&4



## ANNIE DAI GOES WIRE-TO-WIRE

Annie Dai won the title on the course where she was a member of the **2019 PGA** Junior League team.

nnie Dai began the final round of the 2nd Connecticut Girls' Junior hosted by Fairview Farm Golf Course with a two-shot lead. By the time she walked off the green on the second hole the lead was five and Dai was well on her way.

Following a par on the opening hole Dai found the fairway on the par-4 second hole leaving herself only 110 yards into the elevated green. With a green light to attack the pin, Dai stuffed her second shot to a foot and a half resulting in a birdie that opened up a lead nobody could catch.

"I am really excited to have won," said Annie Dai who was a member of the 2019 PGA Junior League Fairview Farm GC team. "It is such an honor to win the 2nd Connecticut Girls' Junior. It was a really exciting two days for me."

Dai (CT PGA Junior Golf Association) opened with a first round 3-under 69 to carry a lead into the final round over Aoife Devaney (CC of Waterbury) who began her week with a 1-under 71. Devaney struggled early in the final round before making a late move up the leaderboard with three birdies in the last five holes including one on the closing par-5 18th.

However, the late charge wouldn't be enough to track down Dai. "My irons were the better part of my game today. I had some good ups and downs and my putting under five feet was also solid," Dai said.

After turning in even-par 36 Dai continued her steady golf and after holing a 15-foot birdie putt on No. 14 she was 3-under with four holes remaining and



Aoife Devaney (above) finished in second place at Fairview Farm GC.

"It is such an honor to win the 2nd Connecticut Girls' Junior. It was a really exciting two days for me."

- Annie Dai

comfortably in the lead. It was an advatage Dai would end up needing.

Standing on the tee of the short par-4 17th she pumped her drive out of bounds. After taking a drop Dai sent her next shot into a hazard. Following a two-putt she walked off the penultimate green with a triple-bogey seven but still held a three-shot lead. Despite the unexpected triple bogey, Dai eliminated any potential drama from the final hole when she found the fairway with her tee shot. Moments later when Dai, who finished the tournament even-par, tapped in for par she had finished off a wire-to-wire victory.

Devaney took second place at 2-over, Arabella Lopez (Redding CC) finished third at 4-over, Laniah Moffett (EClub of Connecticut) was fourth at 11-over while Cindy Cao (USGA/CSGA GC) and Zorah Williams (Stonington CC) shared fifth at 13-over.



### **GRAHAM, THOMAS WINNERS AT THE BORCK**

Two new winners boosted their junior careers and hoisted the trophy after three days at **The Patterson Club.** 

he week at the 54th Borck Junior Tournament came to a close on a gorgeous day at The Patterson Club with Henry Graham and Isabella Thomas hoisting the trophy.

"I'm just so happy," said Henry Graham a sophomore at the Brunswick School. "I haven't won in a really long time so I am super happy to get it done. It was definitely a grind with 36 holes back-to-back days. I am almost in disbelief. There were some times where I thought I had lost it but I got it done."

Graham (Greenwich CC) faced Harrison Browne (Great River GC) in the title match and got off to a quick start winning the first two holes to take a lead he would never relinquish.

Browne, a 4&3 winner in the semifinals over Andrew Beauton (Pine Orchard CC), did cut into the deficit with a victory on the par-3 third but throughout the match, he could never pull any closer.

Still leading 1 up after six holes Graham, who defeated Cameron St. Pierre (Newton CC) in a 19 hole semifinal match, extended his lead to 3 up at the turn with hole winning pars on Nos. 7 and 9. However, Browne would hang tough. The senior at Staples High School steadied himself with a tie on the par-4 10th and then won Nos. 11 and 12 to claw his way back into the match.

Graham won the 13th to re-establish a 2-up lead only to have Browne win the ensuing hole. Pars tied the next two holes sending the match to the par-4 17th with Graham clinging to a 1-up advantage.

With a chance to close out the match on the penultimate hole, Graham did just that. He found the fairway off the tee and then hit the green with his second shot. Meanwhile, Browne was in trouble after finding the bunker off the tee and would end up double-bogeying the hole. Graham, now with some wiggle room eased his par putt towards the hole leading to a tap-in bogey and a 2&1 victory.

"This win is definitely a huge confi-



Henry Graham (left) and Isabella Thomas (above) conquered the field at The Patterson Club.

dence booster going into the rest of my junior golf career," said Graham. "Just to be able to break through and get the win I am so excited and I know now that I can get it done and compete in these big moments."

In the girls' division Isabella Thomas, playing in one of her final junior events, faced Lila Reiling (CC of Fairfield) in

"I haven't always been the best so anytime I get a chance to prove myself and to improve and see my score drop and feel good about myself on the course it makes me feel so good about sticking with my gut and continuing to play golf."

### - Isabella Thomas

the title match and thanks to wins on the opening two holes snagged an early 2-up advantage. Thomas (Tashua Knolls GC), a winner in the semifinals 2&1 over Shawna Aurora (EClub of Connecticut), would see her lead trimmed to 1 up on three different occasions but Reiling was never able to pull even in the match.

With Thomas 2 up at the turn following a birdie on No. 8 Reiling, who bested Isabella Hassan (Rolling Hills CC) 4&2 in the semifinals, needed to make a move and she did so early on the back nine winning the par-4 10th hole with a par to bring herself within 1 down. With eight holes remaining, it appeared as if the match would come down to the wire. Thomas however had other ideas. A par won No. 11 and a bogey won the par-3 12th to push the University of New Haven freshman's lead to 3 up with just six holes remaining.

Reiling did win No. 14 but Thomas would answer right back draining a 15-footer for par to win the par-3 15th. With control of the match firmly in her grip, Thomas closed out the match 3&1 two holes later on the par-4 17th.

"It really means a lot to me to get this win," an emotional Thomas said. "I haven't always been the best so anytime I get a chance to prove myself and to improve and see my score drop and feel good about myself on the course it makes me feel so good about sticking with my gut and continuing to play golf because I was shooting high 80s last year and this year I am shooting lows 80s and the scores really show. It helps me push through. This one was really something special." 2023 SENIOR COMPETITION

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# SENIORS

Break through winners at the Senior Match Play Championship and the Connecticut Senior Amateur highlighted 2023.

### SZEWCZUL WINS AGAIN

It might be a new year but Dave Szewczul continues to find ways to **win golf tournaments.** 

n a gorgeous late summer day along the shore Dave Szewczul fired a 2-under 67 to win the 27th Connecticut Super Senior Championship.

Beginning his round on the par-3 15th hole at Longshore Golf Course Szewczul got off to a nondescript start and after his first eight holes was 1-over.

For Szewczul, a three-time Super Senior Championship winner, the momentum began to change on the 304-yard par-4 fifth. Still, in search of his first birdie of the day, Szewczul converted his birdie putt on what was his ninth hole of the round to return to even par. On the ensuing 417-yard par-4 Szewczul went flag hunting with his second shot stuffing his approach from 165 yards to two feet setting up a second consecutive birdie.

"I was just hitting shots pretty close, I was driving it well and I was getting my irons more dialed in and I was giving myself some short putts," 2022 Connecticut Senior Amateur winner Dave Szewczul said. "(After I reached) 1-under (with the birdie on No. 6) I felt a little momentum and I started to settle down as far as shot-making goes."

Birdies on Nos. 9 and 10 moved Szewczul to 3-under before he gave a shot back with a bogey on No. 11. With just three holes remaining Szewczul parred his way to the house and into the winners circle once again.

"There are a number of wonderful players out here and anytime you can win against the fellows you have been



Rick Lawrence (above) birdied four times on his way to a second place finish at Longshore Golf Course.

playing with for years and years you are fortunate," said Szewczul. "I am just fortunate to play and after what I have been through to keep plugging along and to feel like I still have some game left makes me want to keep at it."

Rick Lawrence (Ridgewood CC) on the strength of four birdies was the only other player to finish in the red signing for a 1-under 68 to finish second, two-time Connecticut Senior Amateur winner Richard Stevens (EClub of Connecticut) finished third at even-par, Jim Romaniello (Shorehaven GC) was 1-over in fourth while Bruce Kraczkowsky (Rockledge CC) and Tom Yellin (The Stanwich Club) finished tied for fifth at 2-over.

In the Net Division Jon Ahlquist (Indian Hill CC) finished 5-under to capture the title, Bill Wininger (Tallwood CC) was second at 4-under while Charles Miller (Wheeler Park GC) and Lawrence shared third at 3-under.

### 27th Super Senior Championship Longshore Golf Course Westport, Conn. August 28, 2023 Par 69/ 5,900 yards - Entries: 91

1	Dave Szewczul, TPC River Highlands	67	T7 Charles Miller, Wheeler Park G.C.	72
2	Rick Lawrence, Ridgewood C.C.	68	T7 Tom Fox, Sterling Farms G.C.	72
3	Richard Stevens, EClub of Connecticut	69	T7 Kevin Quarantello, Silver Spring C.C.	72
4	Jim Romaniello, Shorehaven G.C.	70	T7 Steve Gersh, Rolling Hills C.C.	72
T5	5 Tom Yellin, The Stanwich Club	71	T7 Robert Moriarty, C.C. of Fairfield	72
T5	Bruce Kraczkowsky, Rockledge C.C.	71	T7 Jonathan Groveman, Aspetuck Valley C.C.	72



2023 SUPER SENIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: BILL HERMANSON

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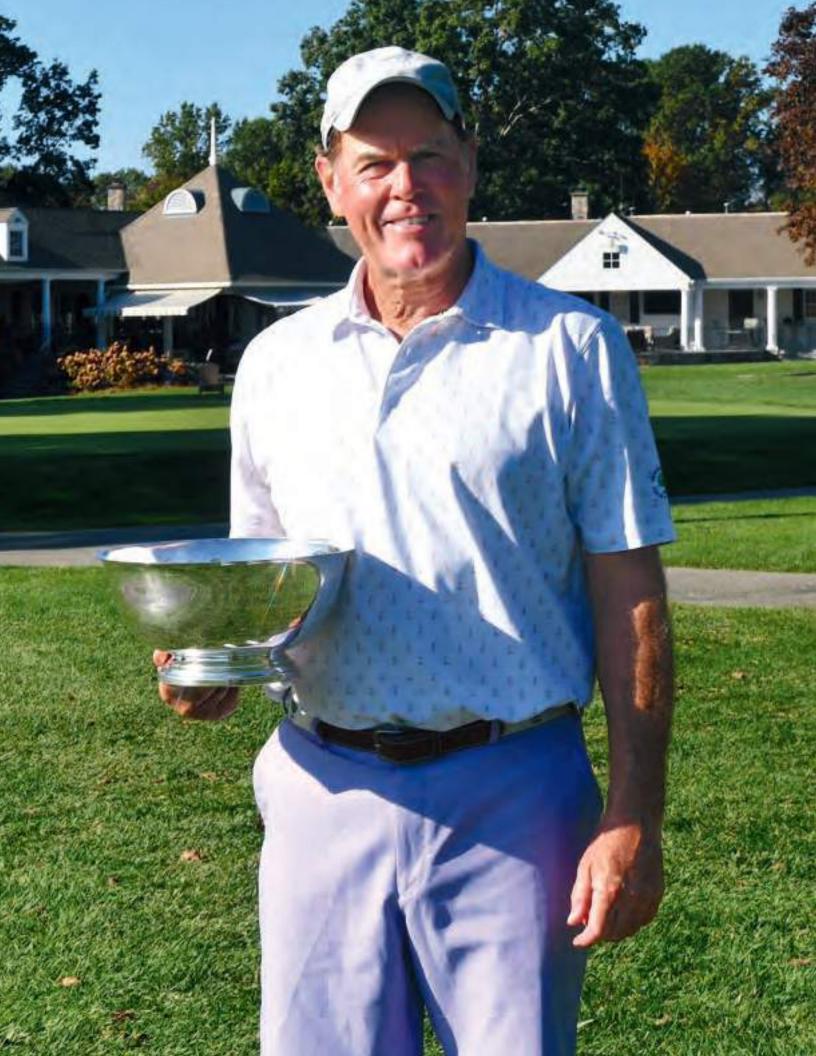
# HERMANSON IS SUPER AGAIN

The Super Senior Player of the Year award was established in 2022. So far the list of winners includes just one name, Bill Hermanson. A member of the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame, Hermanson at the age of 67 put together another memorable campaign that was highlighted by a Siderowf Division victory at the Tournament of Champions.

"It is certainly an honor to win Super Senior Player of the Year," said Bill Hermanson who has won the Tournament of Champions three times including twice as a member of the Siderowf Division. "There are a bunch of good super senior players throughout the state. I guess we are all getting up there in age and have been around for a while but longevity is important in this game and it is still satisfying to win a tournament or an award like this."

In addition, to his impressive performance at Bull's Bridge Golf Club, Hermanson was a member of the final group at the Connecticut Senior Open, won the One Day Tournament at the Country Club of Farmington, reached the Round of 16 at the Senior Match Play Championship presented by Middlesex Health at Black Hall Club, his home course, and qualified for the victorious Tri-State and Julius Boros Challenge Cup teams. For Hermanson this year marked the 38th time he qualified for the Julius Boros Challenge Cup team and his 36th appearance on the Tri-State team.

"I don't know how I continue to have the success I've been having. There are a lot of guys that have been playing well," said Hermanson who became a grandfather for the first time late in 2022. "I just love to compete and I love the camaraderie. I still enjoy it after all these years."



## **BOB MURPHY BREAKS THROUGH AT SENIOR AMATEUR**

It was a long time coming for Bob Murphy who put together two days of impressive golf at Silver Spring Country Club to **win his first CSGA major title.** 

ob Murphy played stellar golf across two days at the 78th Connecticut Senior Amateur hosted by Silver Spring Country Club. One year earlier Murphy was a late withdrawal from the Connecticut Senior Amateur so that he could assist with the cleanup in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. While in Florida helping with the cleanup Murphy tore both of his rotator cuffs and was sidelined for 10 months. Fast forward 365 days and Murphy was holding the 78th Connecticut Senior Amateur trophy and celebrating his first career CSGA individual major title.

"This win is definitely validation," Bob Murphy said at the time. "I've had a couple of heartbreaking losses. The match play final two years ago was tough but I just didn't let it get me down. I just said if it is meant to be it is going to happen and that I am just going to keep playing my game."

A short time after his impressive threeshot victory over Patrick McGuiness and Ken Parisi, Murphy shared his thoughts on his performance:

Here I sit, looking back at the 78th Senior Amateur and I still can't believe the outcome. After I won I stayed up at night replaying the drives, the approach shots, and mostly the putts. I have been playing in CSGA events for years and I still can't believe after so many close calls that I was finally able to break through and win my first individual major title.

Starting the final day, I was sure the winner would come from our group. Four great scores on the opening day paired us together. The weather for the final round was spectacular and in my opinion, the course was too hard for anybody to go low and catch us from behind. The greens were just too fast, the rough was too high and those hidden fairway bunkers were everywhere. The conditions and the setup at Silver Spring Country Club were perfect.

I felt pretty good the morning of the final round. So much so, that I pulled my opening 4-wood into the fescue on the left and proceeded to make bogey. "Nice going knucklehead," I said to myself. However, I found a second gear quickly and proceeded to get back on track completing the front nine in even-par 35. With nine holes to play still anybody in our group could win.

For most of the day I honestly never thought once about my position or their scores until I saw one of my playing partners, Pat McGuiness looking at the scores on the 16th hole.

I remember saying to Pat, "I don't want to know where we all stand," but then I changed my mind on the 17th tee.

"You are up by one on Ken Parisi and two on me," Pat said. I'm not sure if that made me more nervous or more comfortable but my driver cooperated and I pounded two of the best drives of the day, leaving sand wedges into both 17 and 18 that set up pars that got the job done.

When I got off the course I was numb and saying to myself, "Did this really just happen?"

After tearing both of my rotator cuffs in 2022 I'm very fortunate to be healthy and to be able to compete with such great guys. The win means the world to me. Winning a CSGA individual major is an exclusive club that I'm proud to be a member of.



In 2022 Ken Parisi won the Tournament of Champions Siderowf Division at Silver Spring Country Club. In 2023 he nearly won again at Silver Spring CC settling for a T2 finish. 17th SENIOR MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY MIDDLESEX HEALTH

#### **GLEN BOGGINI HOLDS ON** In a title match between longtime friends Glen Boggini outlasted Dave Olender in extra holes at **Black Hall Club**.

n a memorable battle that saw numerous shifts in momentum Glen Boggini (Manchester CC) defeated Dave Olender (Ellington Ridge CC) in 19 holes to capture the 17th Connecticut Senior Match Play Championship presented by Middlesex Health.

With Boggini leading 1 up following a victory on the par-3 17th the match headed to the long closing par-4 where Boggini would have a chance to earn his first CSGA major title since he won the 2014 Connecticut Public Links. Playing with honors Boggini pulled his drive left and out of bounds immediately opening the door for Olender.

A door Olender walked right through. His drive did find the bunkers guarding the right side of the fairway but he hit a gorgeous second shot to eight feet leading to a conceded birdie and a tied match.

Spinning back around to the par-4 first hole for the playoff both players split the fairway with their drives. Barely away Boggini was the first to play his second shot and with a gap wedge from 118 yards in hand he knocked his approach shot to five feet. Perhaps feeling the pressure to respond Olender left his approach shot well short and in the front right bunker.

Needing to get up and down to force Boggini to make his birdie putt Olender took two tries to get out of the bunker. With his fate sealed Olender removed his hat, conceded the birdie putt, and congratulated his longtime friend on his hard fought victory.

"It is always hard to play with your friends but in the senior events there is a lot more camaraderie," Glen Boggini said. "It isn't quite as cut throat and you know win or lose they are going to be your buddies. It was a pleasure to play with (Dave), he is a gentleman, and if it went the other way I would have been happy for him."

Boggini took the early lead in the match and after five holes he led 1 up. However, Olender had a response. He tied the match with 15-foot right to left birdie



Dave Olender (above) forced extra holes but came up short in the title match.

putt on No. 6 and then took his first lead of the match with another birdie on the downhill par-3 seventh.

The next four holes were tied before Olender, who turned 55-years-old just days before the tournament to become eligible, won the difficult par-4 12th with a par to take a 2 up lead with six holes remaining.

With time running out Boggini quickly went to work and cut into the deficit with a two-putt par from across the green on the par-3 13th. He then was able to tie the match despite a poor drive with a victory on No. 16. On the ensuing hole, the par-3 17th, and with momentum squarely in his corner, Boggini stepped up and hit a brilliant 9-iron to 10 feet. After Olender found the water off the tee he nearly chipped in to save his par as the shot clanged off the flag pole but once his attempt stayed out he conceded the hole allowing Boggini to take his first lead since the fifth.

"This win is special because they are so few and far between because when you are a golfer success is a very low percentage," Boggini said. "When you happen to run into one it is really special and when it happens at a place like this it is even more gratifying."



#### 17th SENIOR MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY MIDDLESEX HEALTH





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Friends Glen Boggini and Dave Olender shake hands following the title match (above left). Timothy Murray (below left) reached the semifinals where he fell to Olender. 2020 runner-up Mark Vassalotti (top) made a run to the semifinals after defeating defending champion Dave Jones (above) in the quarterfinals.

17th Senior Match Play presented by Middlesex Health

#### Black Hall Club - Old Lyme, Conn. Par 71 / 6,265 yards Entries: 131 June 26-29, 2023

Glen Boggini (Manchester C.C.) path to Victory Stroke Play Qualifier: 75 (+4), seeded 13th Round of 32: Defeated #20 Richard Stevens (EClub of Connecticut), 5&3 Round of 16: Defeated #29 Bill Hermanson (Black Hall Club), 3&1 Quarterfinals: Defeated #12 Jim Abbott (Timberlin G.C.), 2 up Semifinals: Defeated #17 Mark Vassalotti (Sterling Farms Mens G.C.), 1 up Finals: Defeated #3 Dave Olender (Ellington Ridge C.C.), 19 holes

#### 2023 DICK SIDEROWF SENIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: GLEN BOGGINI

# BOGGINI HAS BANNER YEAR

In golf, the mental game is almost as important as the on course game. For Glen Boggini, the 2023 Dick Siderowf Senior Player of the Year winner, that held true. For the last five years Boggini's wife, Heidi, has been battling Alzheimer's. Boggini has been there every step of the way caring for his wife while still co-managing his family's business, the Charles Boggini Company, alongside his brother David.

In between it all, Boggini has been present on the golf course but at the same time removed. His thoughts understandably wandered elsewhere. This past April, Boggini realized it was time for some help. Seeking assistance Boggini found much needed aid when Joyce, a caregiver, moved in to his Tolland home to help with Heidi.

"When Joyce arrived at my home she changed everything," Glen Boggini said. "I found a place after Joyce arrived to go to the golf course and care about golf, but not care about it. We all try and find that and I found that place for a certain amount of time this summer where you care about golf but you don't. I was playing free and not worrying about every shot. I had good perspectives. If I did good, great, if I didn't then no big deal."

For Boggini on the golf course in 2023, it was often the latter. "The reason that I was good this year was because my mind was good. If I didn't have the at-home support of Joyce, I wouldn't be playing good golf because what my wife is going through is bigger than golf."

Boggini, who has been playing in CSGA events for more than 30 years, had the signature moment of his season in June when he won the 17th Senior Match Play Championship to go along with a pair of One Day Tournament victories. His stellar play also led to a spot on the victorious Tri-State team in October.

"It is a tremendous honor because when you look at the guys who have won this award, it is the who's who of Connecticut golf," Boggini expressed. "So, to join that list I am extremely grateful. The players on that list are great and to join them is special."



# IT TAKES TWO TO MAKE A TEAM

If you wanted to win a team event in 2023 you had to go low and many teams did!





2023 PARTNERS

## **FAMILY TIES**

A late clutch putt propels the Sawkas at Watertown Golf Club while at the Parent Child the Quinns **used a birdie run to earn the victory.** 

eading by one as John and Bradley Sawka (Ellington Ridge CC) played the closing par-4 18th the duo needed a par to close out the 87th Father & Son Championship at Watertown Golf Club. A solid second shot left them 30 feet for birdie however when the first putt came up short John needed to convert a six footer to seal the deal. After John and Bradley (left) looked over the putt from nearly every angle he rolled the putt in dead center and shared a hug with his son.

"I felt good over the putt," John said. "Fortunately, I wasn't in control of Golf Genius so I had no idea what was happening. I didn't know if we had a three-shot lead or a one-shot lead so I was pretty calm, cool, and collected over the putt. Once the putt dropped Bradley gave me a big hug after and said, 'Dad I think we won.' It was really good stuff."

At the 4th Parent Child Championship at Goodwin Park Golf Course the duo of Rich and Conner Quinn (Madison CC) got off to a slow start but a birdie barrage lifted them to victory.

After starting on No. 16 the Quinns played Nos. 1-5 in 3-under recording four birdies against one bogey. With steady play the rest of the way the pair played their final 12 holes bogey-free to finish with a 4-under par 66 that was good enough for a three-shot victory.

The Quinns (below) attributed the strong finish to their game plan. "We just tried to keep making birdies," said Rich. "We didn't know where everyone else was at."



#### 2023 PARTNERS **PLAYING TOGETHER** The key to winning as a team is playing

as a team. That ability was **on display** 

#### all season long.

n impressive bogey-free 9-under 63 earned Matt Damico and Bob Murphy (right) the 42nd Connecticut Senior Four-Ball Championship at The Golf Club at Oxford Greens.

"We just hit it good all day," Matt Damico (Mill River CC) said. "Bob hit 18 greens in regulation so that helps. We just hit it good. We kept balls in play, put balls on the green, took advantage of the par-5s, made some putts, and didn't make any mistakes. It was as stress-free as it could be."

Murphy, playing in his first CSGA round of the season after recovering from two torn rotator cuff injuries sustained in the fall of 2022 assisting in Hurricane Ian clean up, wasted no time moving the team into the red as he rolled in his 17-foot birdie putt on the opening par-4.

The birdie on No. 1 was the first of nine birdies on the day for the longtime friends who have played competitively together for 40 years

"We didn't make any big numbers and you have to have two balls in play," Bob Murphy (Brownson CC) stated. "As many times as you can keep two balls in each hole it is key. There were some tough pins out there and if you had only one ball you are sweating."

At the 86th Mixed Team Championship the team of Jason Denker and Jordan Levitt (Rockrimmon CC) fired a 5-under 66 at Race Brook Country Club to win by three shots.

Playing in the Chapman Format and beginning on the par-4 opening hole Denker and Levitt (below) got off to a lightning quick start with four birdies in their first five holes. A fifth birdie on the 169-yard par-3 ninth saw the tandem turn in a bogey-free 5-under 31.

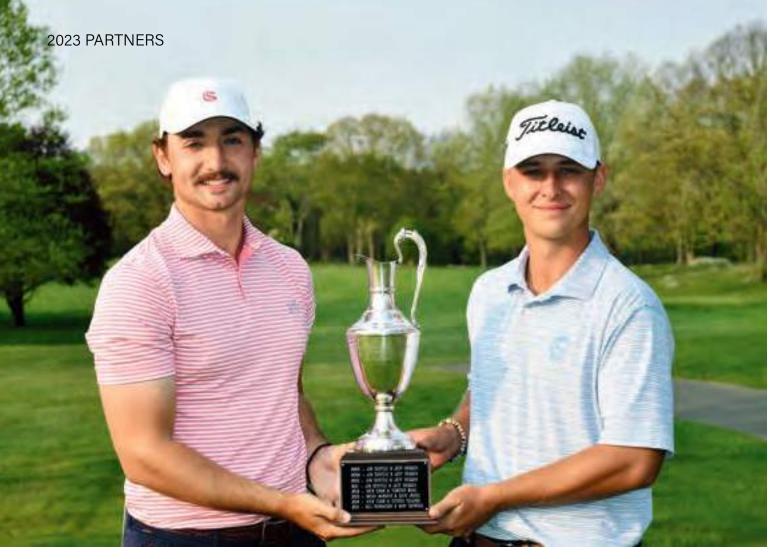
The stellar play continued on the back nine with additional birdies falling on Nos. 10 and 13.

"We excelled as a team," explained Jason Denker. "It was great to complement each other's games. Jordan gave me a lot of good looks (for birdie). That is the beauty of this format. If I hit a nice drive and then she is so good with her irons and she puts me on the green we are going to have a lot of good looks. It was almost stress-free for the entire day."









## LOW SCORES REIGN SUPREME

The young guns shined at Black Hall Club while at Wallingford Country Club **home course advantage boosted the victors.** 

n a dominant performance the team of Anthony Guerrera and AJ Ouimet ran away with the title at the 2023 Two Man Championship hosted by Black Hall Club. Guerrerra and Ouimet fired a stellar 10-under 61 in the morning four-ball to take a six-stroke lead and never looked back finishing 9-under and the winners by five strokes.

"It is a great feeling to break through and get a win," said Guerrera who played college golf at Post University. "We have been out here the last six or seven years competing and haven't been able to have many high finishes so it feels really good. A win feels amazing."

Beginning on the par-3 17th hole Guerrera (Watertown GC) stuffed his first shot of the day to three feet and moments later when he rolled in the birdie putt the tone for the day had been set.

"It takes a lot to win," AJ Ouimet (CC of Waterbury) said. "But winning validates the work that we put in together over the winter. I think there is a lot of chemistry between us and in four-ball it really shows. We feed off each other. Breaking through is the feeling that you need to start making a run. Both of us I think have professional ambitions and winning now is great."

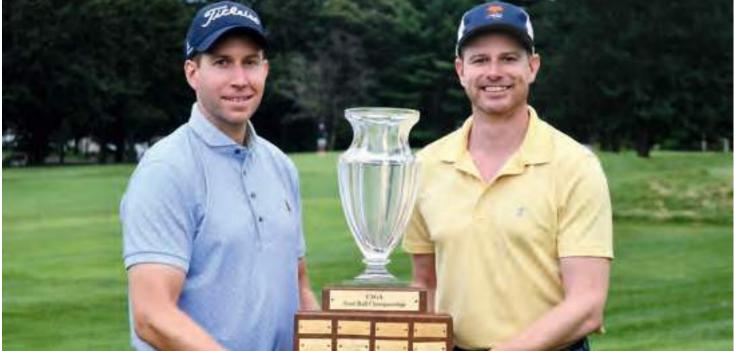
At the 83rd Connecticut Four-Ball Championship at Wallingford Country Club Anthony Hrenko (Indian Hill CC) and Christopher Sica (Wallingford CC) fired a flawless 9-under 62 to capture the title for a second time.

Needing a birdie on the last both players put their drives in play on the 417-yard

par-4 18th hole and then found the green with their second shots setting up a pair of 25-foot birdie putts from the right of the hole. With two chances to put an exclamation point on their round it was Hrenko who made what proved to be the winning birdie. After the tandem gave the putt a lengthy look Hrenko struck it pure and drained the long-distance birdie putt.

"We are really excited to win the Four-Ball title again," said Christopher Sica who was playing on his home course. "The first time it was awesome but this time it was really gratifying to back it up."





The 24 year old tandem of AJ Ouimet (above opposite left) and Anthony Guerrerra (above opposite right) ran away from the field at the Two Man Championship as they worked in concert to conquer Black Hall Club. Christopher Sica (above left) and Anthony Hrenko (above right) played flawless golf on their way to the title at Wallingford Country Club.

## **Ranked one of America's**

# **100 Best HOSPITALS**4 years in a row.



For the fourth consecutive year, Middlesex Health is the only Connecticut hospital to be recognized as a top 2% hospital in the nation by Healthgrades<sup>®</sup> for 2023. We take great pride in consistently setting this benchmark for superior clinical performance with our exceptional patient outcomes and highest quality of care.

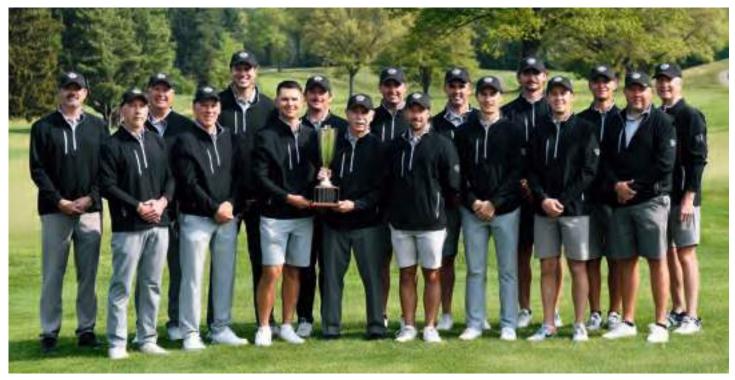
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### CSGA WINS RECORD SIXTH STRAIGHT JULIUS BOROS CHALLENGE CUP

At New Haven Country Club the CSGA won their sixth consecutive **Julius Boros Challenge Cup in impressive fashion.** 



The CSGA team (above) led by captain Roger Everin won the Julius Boros Challenge Cup once again. One of the keys to victory was the boost provided by the longtime duo of Dave Szewczul (below left) and Bill Hermanson (below right).

n dominant fashion the CSGA defeated the Connecticut Section PGA in the 52nd Julius Boros Challenge Cup 49.5-22.5. The victory at New Haven Country Club was the CSGA's record setting sixth straight win in the annual matches.

"It is very exciting," seventh-year team captain Roger Everin said. "I'm really proud of the players and happy for them. I take a lot of pride in being part of this whole thing. It is a great celebration of the best players in the state playing against each other."

The CSGA was led on a picture perfect mid-May day by the tandem of Anthony Guerrera (Watertown GC) and AJ Ouimet (EClub of Connecticut). Just days after winning the Two Man Championship the duo continued their strong play winning a team best 8.5 points highlighted by Ouimet sweeping his matches.

"They are the youngest players here and rookies on the team," Everin said of the 24-year-olds. "It is nice to see a new crop of players come in. However, we still have our seniors and they did well. We have a very talented group of players."

Of course, the seniors Everin was referring to were Dave Szewczul (TPC River Highlands) who was competing in the matches for a 47th time and Bill Hermanson (Black Hall Club) making his 38th appearance. The longtime friends and teammates earned an impressive 5.5 points.

Among the additional CSGA teams to have big days were Cody Paladino (Hartford GC) and Brad Tilley (Brooklawn CC) with seven points while New Haven CC members Ben Day and Ben Conroy contributed 6.5 points.



2023 CONNECTICUT TEAM COMPETITION

## **CONNECTICUT COMPETES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

An impressive Luke Stennett won the boys' individual title at the **Mount Washing**ton Golf Club in northern New Hampshire.



#### The 2023 Connecticut New England Junior Amateur team.

niversity of Rhode Island commit Luke Stennett put together rounds of 66-67-71 to finish 12-under and win the boys' individual title at the 2023 New England Junior Amateur.

"Winning the New England Junior Amateur means a lot to me," Stennett said. "Coming off a poor performance in this tournament last year I wanted to redeem myself. Entering the tournament all I was focusing on was to just play golf and let whatever happened happen. I've been struggling a little in tournaments this year and to win this tournament the way I did really showed me that all the practice and hard work is paying off while at the same time it shows me that I am able to compete with the best."

Battling wind, rain, and a soaking wet Mount Washington Golf Club, Stennett finished the 36-hole first day 11-under and the leader by two strokes. Beginning the final round on the par-5 11th hole Stennett immediately extended his advantage with a birdie and after additional birdies on Nos. 13 and 15 he had reached 14-under for the tournament. Eventually, thanks to birdies on Nos. 6 and 7 Stennett would reach 15-under before giving a few shots back down the stretch. In the end, Stennett held on for a one-shot victory over two others.

Overall, the boys' team finished 13-under and in second place behind the Massachusetts team that posted an impressive 33-under tally. The rest of the Connecticut lineup was rounded out by Alex Elia (-2, T8), Will Gregware (E, T11), Robby Rosati (E, T11), Bradley Sawka (+2, 14th), AJ Depaolo (+9, T22), and Gavin Kvadus (+15, T34).

In the girls' division team Connecticut (+11) finished in second place behind champion Rhode Island (+5). All three Connecticut players finished inside the top eight with Aoife Devaney leading the way thanks to her third-place showing.

Devaney put together rounds of 75-72-72 to finish the tournament 3-over. In the final round, Devaney recorded three birdies, with two coming on consecutive holes, Nos. 3 and 4. However, the way in which she closed out her second round is what stood out. "Moments stand out like Aoife finishing birdie-birdie in the second round to shoot even-par 72," said CSGA executive director Mike Moraghan. "Just fantastic for her to do that on the 35th and 36th holes of a really long, really challenging day. As a coach, that's the kind of performance you always remember, a kid who can maintain focus and keep battling for a full 36 holes. Just so impressive."

Defending champion Arabella Lopez put together a strong showing in her title defense finishing 8-over in a tie for fifth while Laniah Moffett was 14-over in a tie for eighth.

"The conditions were brutal at times," Moraghan said. "Wind, rain, and a soaking wet golf course, but all 10 of our players displayed great attitudes throughout the championship. Mature beyond their years every one of them. We could not have asked for 10 better representatives of Connecticut and the CSGA."

## **CONNECTICUT WINS TRI-STATE MATCHES AT HOME**

Team Connecticut trailed heading into the final day but each team earned at least two points to pull away at **Wampanoag Country Club.** 



#### Team Connecticut is all smiles after rallying to victory on the final day.

or the first time since 2018 and the 41st time overall Connecticut has won the Tri-State Matches. After beginning the last day one point behind Massachusetts, winners of 17 of the last 18 Tri-State Matches, Connecticut put together a stellar final day to earn an 84-68 victory over Massachusetts while Rhode Island finished in third place with 40 points.

"I am so proud of the team," seventh-year captain Roger Everin said. "This is the best team we have had so far. It is a tough test but they really came through. This tournament was very similar to the last time we won in 2018 and I told the players, 'Don't think about winning but focus on the things that got you on the team. All of them have been in tight matches before and that they should believe in themselves and in each other.' "

Trailing Massachusetts, winners of three straight matches, 49-48 entering the final day four-ball at Wampanoag Country Club team Connecticut got off to a hot start and didn't look back as they only lost eight out of 48 matches. For team Connecticut, most of their damage was done during the front nine matches winning the session 14.5-1.5. Of the 16 front nine matches Connecticut won 13 and tied three.

"I think we got some of the matchups that we wanted," said Everin when talking about the keys to victory. "At the team dinner before the event started, all the players strategized how we wanted to attack the golf course and I think the guys stuck to that plan and it worked out. I am really excited for them and I am happy for not only the CSGA but also the state of Connecticut."

On the final day, Connecticut was led by four teams who earned all six available points. Leading the way for Connecticut were the tandems of Ben Day (New Haven CC) and Jamie Sheltman (Wallingford CC); Adam Friedman (Great River GC) who played his first seven holes in 6-under and Peter Tomlinson (Orange Hills CC); Cody Paladino (Hartford GC) and Rick Hayes (Silver Spring CC); Bob Murphy (Brownson CC) and Glen Boggini (Manchester CC). Connecticut also earned 4.5 points from Rick Dowling (Golf Performance Center) and Ben Conroy (New Haven CC), 3 points from Dave Jones (Mohegan Sun GC) and Bill Hermanson (Black Hall Club) playing in his 36th Tri-State Matches, 2.5 points from Rick Malafronte (New Haven CC) and Patrick McGuiness (Keney GC), and 2 points from AJ Ouimet (EClub of Connecticut) and Anthony Guerrera (Watertown GC).

In total Connecticut earned 36 points on the final day while Massachusetts earned 19 and Rhode Island tallied 17.





2023 CHRIS COTE'S GOLF SHOP ONE DAY SERIES

## THOUSANDS COMPETE IN THE ONE DAY SERIES

Only some rain slowed down the role of the One Day Series presented by **Chris Cote's Golf Shop.** 

he CSGA's One Day Series sponsored by Chris Cote's Golf Shop experienced another monumental season of fabulous play with 16 regular season tournaments, and three divisional tournaments. The number of rounds fell just under the 2,000 mark attained in 2022 due to two cancelations related to that persistent summer rain!

Looking back at the 14 Tettelbach Gross Individual competitions, there were 11 one-time winners, and one multiple time champion, three-time winner/co-winner Jamie Sheltman. Jamie's victories in the One Day series began at Mill River in mid-August where he shot a series low 66, followed by a 71 at Orange Hills and 68 at Shennecossett, where he tied for first at both events with Jason Longo and Dillon Grant respectively. These three events plus a T6 at Ellington Ridge and T8 at Stonington narrowly gave Jamie the Tettelbach One Day Player of the Year award finishing just 1.74 points above runner-up, Uttdom Sowinkong in the season long contest. At the annual Four-Ball tournament at Manchester, the team of Mike Whitmore and Mark Eells posted a fine 67 to take the honors. The talent in the Tettelbach division continues to amaze every year! Other winning scores ranged from a 68, shot by David Lane at Norwich and a 69 at Stonington from Cody Paladino, to a brilliant 75 from Scott Johnson on a cold October day at Lake of Isles' North Course to cap off the Al Acker One Day Championship. Eight other champions won the Tettelbach Gross Individual titles with scores of 71 to 74.

The Siderowf Gross tournaments were dominated by another three-time champion, Rick Lawrence who won individually in April at Wethersfield and at Hunter in August where he shot his age of 72, not once but twice! His other victory was teamed with Jim Romaniello at the Four-Ball tournament at Manchester where the duo managed a terrific 68. The low senior round of the year belonged to Frank Geiger who cruised to a career low 64 at Shennecossett in September, interestingly enough after a morning 18 competing in the New England Senior Amateur. Five more scores in the 60s brought Dave Jones (66), Donal Reilly (66), two-time winners Mark Vasington (68 & 69) and Glen Boggini (69 & 74) to the winners circle. The Siderowf Gross Individual title was captured by four other One Day champions with scores from 71 to 74, and tennis legend Ivan Lendl who was victorious shooting 70 at Orange Hills. The season came to a close with an emotional win for 80 year old Shawn McLoughlin at the Al Acker One Day Championship at Lake of Isles. Shawn strategically navigated the lengthy yardage and several forced carries to beat the entire senior field of players 55 and over, with an incredible 73!

In the Tettelbach Net One Day competitions, there were 13 individual winners with a low score of 64 from Robert Detrick at Orange Hills CC. Glenn Pelt, Jr. was a multiple time winner capturing the Al Acker One Day Championship (net 70) and with teammate Tim Roy at the Manchester Four-Ball (net 62). Rammi Hazzaa, also a two-time winner who tied for gross honors at Hunter in August, earned the net title there and at Indian Hill earlier in May. However, it was Walter Keuchkerian II with a lone victory at the final tournament in late September who earned the Tettelbach Net One Day Player of the Year award. Walter played in 13 events and placed in the top ten eight times, edging out second place finisher Adam Pogorzelski, a winner at Wethersfield, by just 4 points in the Tettelbach Net Player of the Year race.

The low score in the Siderowf Net One Day division was posted by Greg Pansa, a net 63 at Shennecossett in mid-September. Fourteen champions won Siderowf Net One Day tournaments with two multiple winners, Kevin Pasternack who was victorious at Stonington (net 72) and at Farmington (net 70), in April and May and Scott Harger who excelled in September and October. Harger tied for first net at Norwich, our last regular season event (net 70 with Dave Jones) and also won the net title with a 67 at the Al Acker One Day Championship. Scott played in 10 tournaments and finished in the top ten four times bringing home the Siderowf Net One Day Player of the Year title. At the Manchester Four-Ball tournament, Paul Aronson and Jeffrey Russell rallied for a net 64 to win the Siderowf Net team competition.

"The One Day Series flourished once again in 2023, due to our incredible host venues, and our enthusiastic, talented players who share an amazing camaraderie. They are competitors and friends, loyal to the One Day series, and don't want to miss a single event! We wouldn't enjoy the success we have without our fantastic sponsor, Chris Cote's Golf Shop, who bring unwavering financial and community support to the program" said CSGA Director, Marsha Rupp who managed the team of One Day staff and volunteers.

#### 2023 CHRIS COTE'S GOLF SHOP ONE DAY SERIES - PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



#### TETTELBACH GROSS DIVISION



JAMIE SHELTMAN played in five events this season winning three times. His victories came at Mill River CC, Shennecossett GC, and Orange Hills CC.



#### SIDEROWF GROSS DIVISION



**RICK LAWRENCE** put together an impressive season winning three times in his 12 events. He earned his victories at Manchester CC (Four-Ball), Wethersfield CC, and Hunter GC. Lawrence only finished outside the top-10 on two occasions.



#### TETTELBACH NET DIVISION



WALTER KEUCHKERIAN II competed in 13 events and finished inside the top-10 eight times. His season was highlighted by a win at Norwich GC, a runner-up showing, and two T3 finishes.

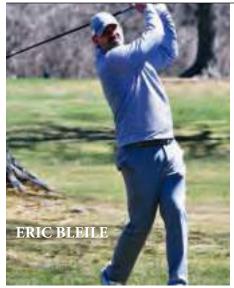


#### SIDEROWF NET DIVISION



**SCOTT HARGER** played in 10 events as he earned Siderowf Net Division Player of the Year honors for the second time in three years. Harger picked up wins at the Al Acker One Day Championship and at Norwich GC. Overall, Harger finished in the top-10 four-times.

#### 2023 CHRIS COTE'S GOLF SHOP ONE DAY SERIES

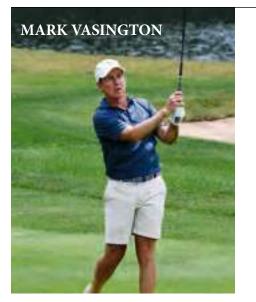


#### **Stonington Country Club**

April 10 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: Cody Paladino (69) Net: Marc Ashby (69) *Siderowf Division* Gross: Glen Boggini (74) Net: Kevin Pasternack (72)

#### Wethersfield Country Club

April 17 Tettelbach Division Gross: Eric Bleile (71) Net: Adam Pogorzelski (70) Siderowf Division Gross: Rick Lawrence (72) Net: Erin Kinney (66)



#### Country Club of Farmington May 1 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: Shawn Hilario (73) Net: Sam Vannalith (65) *Siderowf Division*

Siderowf Division Gross: Bill Hermanson (73) Net: Kevin Pasternack (70)

#### Indian Hill Country Club

May 16 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: Rich Marino (71) Net: Rammi Hazzaa (71) *Siderowf Division* Gross: Mark Vasington (68) Net: Steve Robinson (68)



April

#### Torrington Country Club May 8 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: Brent Silano (72) Net: Donny Annicelle (72) *Siderowf Division* Gross: Erik Litke (74) Net: Stephen Johnson (72)

#### Ellington Ridge Country Club

May 30 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: Ben Day (72) Net: Luis Saca (67) *Siderowf Division* Gross: Todd Schaller (71) Net: Blase Sanzone (67)



#### Blackhawk Country Club June 20 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: Jason Morrow (74) Net: Matthew Peel (70) *Women's Division* Gross: Lisa Fern-Boros (77) Net: Christen D'Andrea (68)



#### Lake Waramaug Country Club

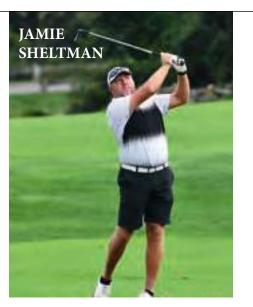
June 29 Siderowf Division Gross: Steve Mais (73) Net: David Stilson (66)



## July

#### Manchester Country Club (Four-Ball)

July 31 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: Mike Whitmore & Mark Eells (67) Net: Glenn Pelt, Jr. & Tim Roy (62) *Siderowf Division* Gross: Rick Lawrence & Jim Romaniello (68) Net: Paul Aronson & Jeffrey Russell (64)



Mill River Country Club August 14 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: Jamie Sheltman (66) Net: John Swaney (69) *Siderowf Division* Gross: Donal Reilly (66) Net: Brian Divito (67)

#### Hop Meadow Country Club

August 28 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: Ryan Wessendorf (71) Net: Chuck Judd (66) *Siderowf Division* Gross: Glen Boggini (69) Net: John Herbert (68)



#### Hunter Golf Club August 22 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: Kevin Klepacki (74) Net: Rammi Hazzaa (71) *Siderowf Division* Gross: Rick Lawrence (72) Net: Larry Jardine (67)

#### Keney Park Golf Course

August 31 *Siderowf Division* Gross: Mark Vasington (69) Net: Mike O'Neill (66)



## Orange Hills Country Club

September 5 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: Jamie Sheltman (71) Net: Robert Detrick (64) *Siderowf Division* Gross: Ivan Lendl (70) Net: Michael Lazzara (67) Norwich Golf Course September 28 *Tettelbach Division* Gross: David Lane (68) Net: Walter Keuchkerian II (71) *Siderowf Division* Gross: Dave Jones (66) Net: Scott Harger (70)

#### Shennecossett Golf Course

September 11 Tettelbach Division Gross: Jamie Sheltman (68) Net: Dillon Grant (66) Siderowf Division Gross: Frank Geiger (64) Net: Greg Pansa (63)



## JOHNSON, MCLOUGHLIN WINNERS AT AL ACKER ONE DAY CHAMPIONSHIP

Lake of Isles presented a stiff challenge for the field of the 22nd Al Acker One Day Championship **presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop.** 

n a crisp fall day at the 22nd Al Acker One Day Championship presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop Scott Johnson and Shawn McLoughlin captured the titles.

Scott Johnson, with a 3-over 75 at Lake of Isles, won the Tettelbach Open Division by one shot over Uttdom Sowinkong and Lance Gillett both of whom tied for second at 4-over.

Beginning his round on the 357-yard par-4 fourth hole Johnson got his day off to a quick start with a 15-footer for birdie to quickly move into the red. For much of the remainder of the round Johnson played solid golf while also keeping the big numbers off his scorecard.

Johnson, an industrial hygienist, did bogey five times but by mixing in his birdie on No. 4 and a second birdie from six feet on the 334-yard par 4 12th he was able to pull out the victory.

"It is a first for me. I've come close before but to come in first place means a lot," Scott Johnson said. "I think the best finish I've had in a CSGA event was tied for ninth at the Public Links and then I finished in a tie for third at the Tournament of Champions one year so [this win ranks up there for me]."

Rounding out the top five of the Tettelbach Open Division were Steve Tamagni (+5) and Greg Dubois (+6).

Leading the way in the Siderowf Gross Division was Shawn McLoughlin. One month after turning 80-yearsold McLoughlin fired a 1-over 73 to win the title by two shots over four players tied for second at 3-over. The

group included Brian Geary, David Boggini, Stuart Goldstein, and John Herbert.

"I played good," Shawn McLoughlin said. "I was kind of surprised because I haven't been playing a lot of golf. I came here with the attitude that if I can just make it in the top five or top 10 then it would be a good deal for me."

McLoughlin, who almost didn't play due to the course length, began his round on No. 16 and despite an early birdie on No. 17, it was a seesaw day. The birdie on the par-4 17th was the first of five throughout the round but those were offset by two double-bogeys and two bogeys.

Of the five birdies, McLoughlin highlighted his 30-footer on the 457-yard par-5 fifth as a key moment in his round. His birdie on No. 5 was the back end of consecutive birdies that for a stretch moved him to 1-under-par.



80-year-old Shawn McLoughlin turned back the clock at Lake of Isles.

Two additional birdies fell for the 2001 Connecticut Senior

Amateur winner on Nos. 11 and 14 as he did just enough to fend off his pursuers. "I love to compete," said McLoughlin. "It makes me feel younger. I don't hit the ball as far but if I get some roll

I can still get it out there. I was pleased with the way I played."

In the Tettelbach Net Division Glenn Pelt, Jr. (-2) finished two shots in front of runner-up Scott Johnson (E). Greg Dubois and Timothy Roy (+1) shared third while Sowinkong (+2) finished fifth.

Scott Harger (-5) led the way in the Siderowf Net Division finishing three shots in front of Shawn McLoughlin (-2). Third place was shared by David Boggini, Blase Sanzone, Stuart Goldstein, and John Herbert at 2-over.

## **18TH TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS**

Tettelbach Division Winner Bull's Bridge Golf Club Anthony Guerrera (E)



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Siderowf Division Winner Bull's Bridge Golf Club Bill Hermanson (E)

#### 2023 USGA QUALIFIERS



#### 123rd U.S. Open Local Qualifier

April 24 - Shorehaven Golf Club

1. Cody Paladino (a) -2 (69) T2. Nick Maccario (a) -1 (70) T2. Gregory Bisconti -1 (70) T2. Raymond Floyd (a) -1 (70) 5. Bradford Tilley (a) E (71)

James Giampaolo E (71) - 1st Alternate Walker Lohrey (a) E (71) - 2nd Alternate



#### 74th U.S. Girls' Junior Qualifier

#### 75th U.S. Junior Amateur Qualifier

June 20 - The Club at River Oaks

1. Molly Smith +1 (73) 2. Emma Abramson +2 (74)

1st Alternate Cailyn Rogers +2 (74)

2nd Alternate Juyeon Paek +3 (75) 1. Emile Lebrun -1 (71) T2. Luke Stennett E (72) T2. Connor Allard E (72) T2. Sam Fuentes E (72)

1st Alternate Robby Rosati E (72)

2nd Alternate AJ Depaolo E (72)

#### 123rd U.S. Amateur Qualifier

July 17 - Golf Club of Avon

T1. Chris Vandette -7 (65-70) T1. Cody Paladino -7 (66-69)

Chase Gullikson -7 (66-69) - 1st Alternate Jordan Warnock -6 (68-68) - 2nd Alternate



#### 42nd U.S. Mid-Amateur Qualifier

July 31 - Madison Country Club

T1. Conor O'Brien -1 (69) T1. Antonio Grillo -1 (69) T3. Nicholas Solimene E (70) T3. Benjamin Conroy E (70)

Dr. Matt Burroughs E (70) - 1st Alternate Henry Hall E (70) - 2nd Alternate



#### 68th U.S. Senior Amateur Qualifier

August 9 - Timberlin Golf Club

1. Keith Salamon -1 (71) 2. John Hadges E (72) 3. Garry Singer +1 (73)

Todd Ezold +1 (73) - 1st Alternate Alberto Agrest +1 (73) - 2nd Alternate



#### 9th U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier

9th U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier

September 18 - Torrington Country Club

T1. Graham & Jack Boatwright -9 (63) T1. Benjamin Peacock & Brett Tomfohrde -9 (63)

1st Alternate Bradford Tilley & Pat Wilson -8 (64)

2nd Alternate Matthew French & John Steinberg -8 (64) 1. Angelina Kim & Kennedy Swedick -6 (66)

1st Alternate Lia Huang & Renna Chang -3 (69)

2nd Alternate Isabel Brozena & Lucy Wang -2 (70)



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## 2023 CONNECTICUT GOLF HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE: ELIZABETH JANANGELO CARON

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## ELIZABETH JANANGELO CARON ENTERS HALL OF FAME

The stage for a career and a lifetime in golf was set on golf courses throughout the **state of Connecticut.** 

Izabeth Janangelo Caron has done a little bit of everything in golf. She has won at the junior level, the local amateur level, the elite amateur level, and the professional level. She has represented her country and traveled the world playing golf, and now she works in the game that has given her so much.

Her lifetime of excellence and achievements in golf has led to her induction into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame.

"It is such an honor to have my name with the golf greats in Connecticut," said Caron. "When I was 13 I went to my first annual meeting and I just idolized everyone who was inducted into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame, so to now be in that position is really special and I am so appreciative of the honor."

Growing up in West Hartford, Caron began playing golf when she was just three years old thanks to her older brother John. Quickly hooked on the game, it wasn't long before the two spent their summers at Rockledge Golf Club playing 36 holes a day with just a slice of pizza at the turn to hold them over.

"I was a tomboy so anything he did I wanted to do," Caron said. "He enjoyed golf and I enjoyed being around him. He was my everything, everyone looks up to their big brother and I wanted to be with him and I was lucky to be able to look up to him as a role model. I must not have been too annoying because he would drag me around and we would play inter clubs at Rockledge when I got a little bit older."

Success from a young age quickly led Caron to some of the biggest stages in the state. In 1997 at 13 years old Caron became at the time the youngest player to win the Connecticut Women's Amateur. Playing at Simsbury Farms Golf Course, Caron held the lead after the second round and went to bed, "so nervous." However, when Caron woke up the next morning everyone in the house was yelling, 'You won, you won, they canceled the tournament,' because it got rained out that day so all of a sudden I had won the golf tournament. So, we ran over to Simsbury Farms and the room was filled with people and it was an unbelievable experience," explained Caron.

The victory at the 1997 Connecticut Women's Amateur was the first of five in a row, a run that was capped by a 21-shot victory in 2001 at Hunter Golf Club. Included in her run was a 1999 victory at her home course of Rockledge GC.

Her dominance at the state level paved the way for her success at the national level. By the time Caron had won the 2001 Connecticut Women's Amateur following her junior year at Conard High School she had already committed to Duke University and was the top-ranked junior player in the country.

In addition to her stellar record in Connecticut Caron entered college with eight American Junior Golf Association wins under her belt including two majors – the 2001 Betsy Rawls Junior Girls Championship, and the 2001 Polo Junior Classic. She also played in the 2000 U.S. Women's Open and reached the semifinals and quarterfinals of the U.S. Girls' Junior. For her spectacular play she won numerous awards including being named a two-time Polo Golf First Team All-American, and the 2001 Polo Golf Girls Junior Player of the Year.

Liz Janangelo Caron's enormous success didn't stop when she arrived in Durham, North Carolina in the fall of 2002. She won seven individual titles as a Blue Devil, which still ranks second on Duke's all-time career wins list, and was part of the 2005 and 2006 National Championship winning teams. As a sophomore she was named ACC Player of the Year, and in her junior year she set an NCAA scoring record with a 9-under 62 at the ACC/SEC Challenge.

"Playing at Duke was probably the pinnacle of my golf career," Caron stated. "I was very proud to be a part of a university that was so exceptional academically and to be part of the golf team that was always number one. It was definitely the highlight of my golf career."

During that same time frame back in Connecticut Caron won four consecutive

Connecticut Women's Open titles beginning with a win in 2003 at Fox Hopyard Golf Club and ending in 2006 with a victory at Greenwich Country Club. The same year Caron won her first Connecticut Women's Open, she made the cut at the U.S. Women's Open, and the following year she teamed with future U.S. Women's Open winners Paula Creamer, Brittany Lang, and Michelle Wie in leading the United States to victory in the 2004 Curtis Cup.

Immediately eligible to play on the Futures Tour following her graduation from Duke in 2006, Caron turned professional and quickly had success. She played in seven events making the cut six times while also qualifying for her third of five U.S. Women's Open appearances. In 2007 Caron was even better winning twice, first at the Greater Tampa Duramed FUTURES Classic, and then at the Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City Championship.

Caron then capped her 2007 season by making her way through LPGA Tour qualifying school and earning her card for the 2008 season. Two years later Caron would once again make her way through LPGA Tour qualifying school and earn her card for the 2010 season.

Beginning in 2010 Caron also began to transition to life after professional golf as she took a job as a teaching instructor at Rockrimmon Country Club in Stamford. Eventually her path led to the The Mill River Club on Long Island where her husband Jason Caron is the head professional. It is there that they work and live along with their two daughters, Caroline and Julia.

Through it all Caron, who still plays in the Connecticut Women's Open each year never forgot how her journey in golf began.

"Connecticut golf set the foundation for everything in my golf career," Caron said. "If it wasn't for the Connecticut Women's Open and having that platform to play on I wouldn't have had the career that I had because that sort of set everything off and I skyrocketed from there. That really helped to elevate my career."

### 2023 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: DAVE SEAMAN

DAVE

CSGA

CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

2023 DETENDATEMED SERVICE AWARD

DAVE SEAMAN

## DAVE SEAMAN HONORED WITH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Dave Seaman spent 42 years working for or volunteering for the **Connecticut State Golf Association.** 

ave Seaman began his journey with the Connecticut State Golf Association 42 years ago. That journey culminated at the 2023 CSGA Annual Awards Dinner at TPC River Highlands when Seaman was honored with the Distinguished Service Award.

Seaman first began working with the CSGA when as a member of the board and later as the president of New Haven Country Club he collaborated with the organization. Gradually over time, his involvement with the CSGA increased. In 1981 Seaman began volunteering for the CSGA and then in 2000, he joined the staff as controller, a position he would hold for 23 years.

"I was very happy when I found out I was being honored with the Distinguished Service Award," Dave Seaman said. "I was aware this award wasn't given every year, just once in a while. When I became aware I was very pleased and happy. I have spent many years associated with the CSGA on a volunteer basis and as the controller and I was very appreciative of the award."

In life, proximity is often everything. Seaman grew up in Hamden and by chance his childhood home was located only a mile from New Haven CC. Growing up Seaman wasn't a member of the club but eventually, he learned that you could make some money at the club as a caddie.

"I started working as a caddie on a regular basis," Seaman explained. "I would get there by walking or hitchhiking to the club. At that point, I became interested in golf and worked there for many years on a regular basis and earned some money and became interested in the sport."

After graduating high school Seaman attended Providence College graduating in 1960 with a degree in accounting. Following college Seaman returned to Hamden and began working as a CPA for the T. M. Byxbee Company in 1961, a company he worked for full-time until 2000 when reduced his hours while still retaining a small group of longtime clients.

A short time after Seaman began working at the T. M. Byxbee Company he became a member of the club that had introduced him to the game of golf. After joining New Haven CC Seaman became involved in the club, joining the board and eventually becoming president in 1985. As a member of the board, Seaman met then CSGA tournament director Martin J. Moraghan, the father of current executive director Mike Moraghan. Those interactions led to Seaman volunteering with the CSGA and eventually when the opportunity presented itself to the staff in 2000 when the controller position became available.

All the while as Seaman was working for the T. M. Byxbee Company and eventually the CSGA and the First Tee of Connecticut in the same position he and his wife Betsy were raising their children David, Jr. and Libby and traveling the world. Seaman's travels brought him to 220 different golf clubs across the globe and it also led to his membership with the R&A.

"My wife and I would make trips around the world every year and at some point we went to St. Andrews, Scotland and there was an old-time Connecticut lawyer who was the U.S. representative for the R&A," said Seaman. "He was the guy in charge of the applications to get into the R&A and at certain point I became aware of him and I put my application in."

The application was accepted in the early 1980s and Seaman would go over every year to compete in the annual meeting competition. The competition would go on for 2-3 weeks and it would include both team and singles matches. Always a memorable trip one year stands out amongst the rest, that was the year that Seaman got the better of James Bond in a singles match. "Every year you would play your singles matches and one year I faced Sean Connery who was also a member of the R&A and he was Sir Sean Connery because he had been knighted," Seaman reminisced.

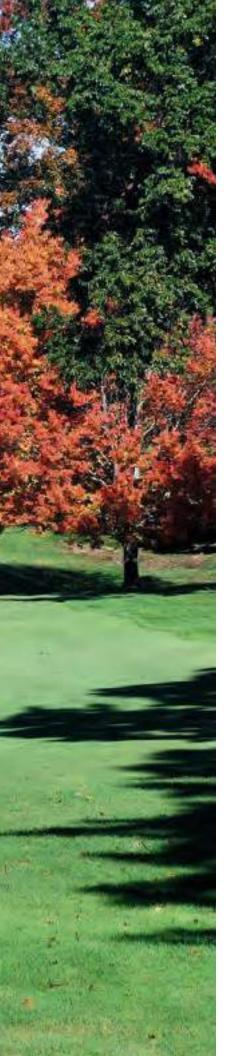
Through the first 16 holes, Connery was in control leading 2 up. However, the tides turned on the infamous Road Hole at the Old Course. Needing to work some late magic Seaman caught fire with the putter rolling in putts on Nos. 17 and 18 to tie the match and then again on No. 1 to win the match on the first extra hole.

"I out-putted him the last three holes and it was just one of those things," said Seaman. "After the match we went in and I bought him a drink and then he left to go out to dinner with his wife and his pal who had been waiting for us to finish because he had to play the extra hole match with me."

For Seaman, a golf lifer, his match with Sir Sean Connery, his two career hole-inones including one on the downhill par-3 ninth at New Haven CC, and his time with the CSGA are just a few of the many chapters of his story with many chapters still to follow.

"Everything in general is fine with me as far as my health," said Seaman. "I just keep rolling along. Both of my children live fairly close so I visit them on a regular basis and I have seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild so I spend a lot of time keeping track of them."

## 2023 WALTER 'BUD' SMITH DISTINGUISHED CLUB AWARD: SHUTTLE MEADOW COUNTRY CLUB



#### 2023 WALTER 'BUD' SMITH DISTINGUISHED CLUB AWARD

# A RED CARPET ROLL OUT

Shuttle Meadow Country Club earns the **2023 Walter 'Bud'** Smith Distinguished Club Award.

B rett Stegmaier stood behind the sun splashed 18th green at Shuttle Meadow Country Club holding the 2023 Connecticut Open trophy above his head. Sprawled out in front of him were hundreds of fans applauding not only his victory but the red carpet treatment that Shuttle Meadow Country Club had just put on display across three July days. Nestled in a quiet unassuming neighborhood in Kensington, Shuttle Meadow Country Club has been hosting Connecticut State Golf Association events since 1919 when it welcomed the first of its seven Connecticut Amateurs. It is because of that dedication to Connecticut golf for over 100 years that Shuttle Meadow Country Club has been named the 2023 Walter 'Bud' Smith Distinguished Club of the Year.

"I think this award for Shuttle Meadow CC is all about our members and all about the work they have done," said head professional Ian Marshall. "It is about them believing in their club's history. It is about them believing in their members past and present. It is the whole collective piece that over 100 years ago somebody said, hey let's get Shuttle Meadow CC on the map and got involved. Now here we are in 2023 hosting the Connecticut Open, knowing that we have embraced that for a long time, but to be noticed on that is special for the club."

Founded in 1899 and designed by Willie Park, Jr., Shuttle Meadow CC is one of the oldest clubs in the state, with a rich history that dates back to the earliest days of Connecticut golf. After being founded in 1899 the 1916 layout that is beloved today was the first complete Willie Park, Jr. design in the United States.

"The story of our club and Willie Park, Jr. is a big part of our history," Marshall said. "What it really comes down to is that it's a Willie Park, Jr. golf course. The golf course is his. It wasn't that he designed five holes and then someone else added the rest. The design is his."

It is that design that Bobby Jones played with Chick Evans on September 19, 1918 when Jones said to Evans on the tee of the par-4 14th hole, "this hole is one of the 18 most beautiful I've ever played." The same design that the only players to ever win the U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur in the same year played is the same course that hosted the 2023 Connecticut Open and is the same course that the dedicated membership plays every day.

"Everybody at Shuttle Meadow CC loves golf," Marshall said. "They are all here to have a lot of fun and they really enjoy doing it at their golf course."

The love for golf and the appreciation for golf history played a major role in Shuttle Meadow CC's decision to host CSGA events on a regular basis. And in addition to hosting the 2023 Connecticut Open, the club will host its eighth Connecticut Amateur in 2025. And in recent years the club has hosted various USGA qualifiers while in 2019 they hosted the Connecticut Mid-Amateur.

Each time the club opens its doors to the Connecticut golfing community the red carpet gets rolled out. At the 2023 Connecticut Open no less than 65 club volunteers were on site for the final round.

However, it is the day to day operations that make Shuttle Meadow CC truly shine bright. Whether it is on the golf course for the beginners or experienced players, on the tennis courts, or in the pool rolling out the red carpet is a daily occurrence for anyone, member or guest, that walks through the clubhouse doors.

"When someone leaves the club at the end of the day we want them to have had a great experience from start to finish," said Marshall of the lasting impact the club has on members and guests. "When somebody leaves we want them to remember that special moment they had. Whether that is grabbing something with the Shuttle Meadow CC logo on it or remembering that shot you hit. You might come back tomorrow or you might not come back for a few years but we want you excited to come back. We have people who come back for member guest events every year and they will say that they are so excited to be back and can't wait to get out onto the course. I think that is what we want and we want to send them home with that good feeling."

Shuttle Meadow Country Club has been sending people home with that good feeling since 1899. That isn't going to change anytime soon.



# DEL WESTON HAS AN EAGLE EYE ON THE COURSE

2023 Volunteer of the Year Del Weston takes great pride in his work with **the CSGA course rating team.** 

el Weston stood on the 10th green of the Anderson Glen Course at Blackledge Country Club alternating between taking readings with his stimpmeter and diligently taking notes. Weston, a member of Hunter Golf Club, was fully engaged on leading his course rating group around the picturesque Hebron layout.

"Del is an important member of our course rating team," said CSGA Director of Member Services Bill Bigler. "He spends a significant amount of time helping with our pre-rating preparation by measuring tees utilizing Google Maps and determining mid-season course conditions. His efforts facilitate the rating process by providing better data up front allowing the course raters to capture more detail on site which leads to more accurate ratings."

It is because of that above and beyond dedication to the course rating process and his willingness to do anything to assist the team, including the mentoring of new team members, that Del Weston has been named the 2023 Connecticut State Golf Association Volunteer of the Year.

"Winning this award is very much an honor," said Del Weston who also volunteers as a delivery driver for the Our Lady Queen of Angels Church food pantry. "It is probably the biggest honor I could think of in the last 20 years of my life. It is great. It is nice to join the list of golf course rating legends like Mike Flis who have been honored."

Weston came to the CSGA four years ago after retiring in 2019 from a 25 year career in education that included time as a high school math teacher in East Haven, as a computer teacher in the Cromwell elementary schools before concluding as a paraprofessional special education teacher at Cromwell Middle School.



"After I retired in 2019 and when my wife and I talked about what I would do after I retired this was kind of the top thing in my mind," said Weston who had some background on the course rating process thanks to his time on the handicap committee at Hunter GC. "When I sent Bill [Bigler] an email saying I was interested in doing this, and at the time I didn't know Bill at all, but he responded back right away and said come give it a try and it went from there."

Weston's journey in golf started as a 10 year old in the backyard of his home outside of Seattle when his mom put a club in his hand and he began hitting plastic balls into the barn in his backyard. A short time later he was hitting golf balls into the 200 yard long field in his yard before eventually graduating to the golf course when he was 12 years old.

In the town Weston grew up in golf was a fall high school sport so until his sophomore year the sport remained a hobby. However, after his freshman year of high school when Weston realized his estimated 5'2" 110 pound frame wasn't cut out for football he made the switch to golf as his primary sport. Following two years on the JV team Weston broke through as a senior turning himself into one of the top performers on the varsity team.

Weston often found himself on the golf course until he moved to Connecticut from Arizona in August of 1979. Shortly after marrying his wife Cheryl, originally from New Britain, the newly weds first moved to Kensington before settling in Meriden in 1985. Almost immediately after moving to Connecticut the Westons welcomed their first baby into the fold and it wasn't long after that, the decision was made to get rid of the golf clubs.

"I decided I had neither the time nor the money for golf [at that time in my life] so I gave the golf clubs away in 1980," said Weston. That would not be the end of Weston's golf journey. Fast forward to, "1997 when my wife gave me a set of used clubs and she thought it was time for me to start golfing again. I have been more addicted ever since."

In 2000 Weston set the goal of playing every public course in the state. Ten years later in 2010 he accomplished that goal.

It was with that knowledge of a number of the states golf courses that Weston, a decade later, joined the CSGA course rating team and has been a valuable member ever since.





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# THOSE WE REMEMBER



## **Commemorating Those We Lost**



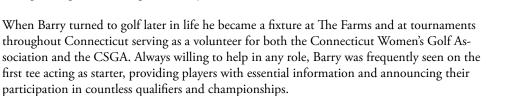
#### Valerie Bulkeley 1935 - 2023

A resident of Fenwick and Essex, Valerie was a longtime member of Hartford Golf Club where she was elected to the Board of Directors, and in 1996, on Hartford GC's 100th year anniversary, became its first ever woman to be named President of the Club. A stone bridge on the third hole was dedicated in her honor to mark the occasion.

Valerie also served on the Board at Black Hall Club in Old Lyme. When she and her husband, Peter lived in Florida, Valerie served a term as President of the Ibis Women's Golf Association. In 2022, the Fenwick Women's Golf Championship was renamed in her honor. In the collection of CSGA permanent trophies, one of the most coveted is the Valerie W. Bulkeley trophy, a silver, claret jug upon whose base competitors in the annual Connecticut Women's Open Championship aspire to have their name engraved in perpetuity.

#### Barry Burke 1941 - 2023

A member of The Farms Country Club in Wallingford for 36-years, Barry was a Norwalk native and a dedicated golfer whose athleticism sprung from his early success in multiple sports including baseball, hockey, and football. He achieved the dream of every young ballplayer as a member of the 1952 Norwalk, Connecticut team that won the Little League World Series championship in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.







#### Art Dekko 1941 - 2023

One of Connecticut's most colorful golf professionals, Art was a font of new ideas and innovative thinking. Growing up as a caddie at Race Brook Country Club, Art's professional career began in 1965 as first assistant at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton, MA. His mentor was the late host professional and PGA Tour player, Paul Harney. Following several years at Pleasant Valley, Art ran the Golf Academy and Executive Golf Club in East Falmouth, MA for Mr. Harney.

In 1974 Art was named head professional at Brooklawn Country Club where he remained for 14 years. During his Brooklawn tenure, Art served on the Board of the CT Section PGA for seven years, and received numerous awards including the Club Professional of the Year Award. Following Brooklawn, Art started his own company creating and directing corporate and charity golf events in New England. He was a 50 year life member of the PGA of America.

#### THOSE WE REMEMBER



#### Marcia Dolan 1940 - 2023

One of Connecticut's greatest golfers, Marcia won ten Connecticut Women's Golf Association titles, three Connecticut Women's Amateur Championships, three New England Women's Amateur Championships, two International Four-Ball Championships, the Women's North and South, the Florida Women's Amateur, three Endicott Crowns, and the Ridgewood Country Club Women's Club Championship 13 times.

In 1962, Marcia qualified for the U.S. Amateur and won two matches. In 1977, as Golf Digest's #4 ranked amateur in the country, she qualified for the U.S. Women's Open. In 1978, she was named an alternate to the U.S. Curtis Cup team.

Following an extraordinary amateur career, Marcia joined the LPGA Teaching Division and for many years taught in Southington, at the Country Club of Farmington, and at Connecticut Golf Center in New Milford which she owned with her husband, Bernie. Marcia was inducted into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame in 1976, and in 1987 she received the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance's highest honor, the Gold Key.

#### **Duane Haley** 1930 - 2023

Known as a fierce competitor, Duane excelled in his early years in football and basketball, and throughout his life in golf. As a youngster he was the preferred caddie among the best players at Fairchild Wheeler including the great Gene Sarazen. From his earnings as a caddie, Duane acquired his first set of golf clubs from Julius Boros.

A beloved teammate, Duane was a key member of multiple teams over the course of his life including the Marine Corp Golf Team, the North Texas State College Golf Team, and numerous Connecticut Tri-State and Challenge Cup teams. In 1969 and again in 1972, Duane qualified for the U.S. Amateur Championship. He also won the 1984 Connecticut Senior Open, the 1989 Connecticut Senior Amateur, and thirteen club championships at Hop Meadow Country Club. A longtime Bloomfield resident, Duane was part of the original building committee for Wintonbury Hills Golf Course, and for many years served as a volunteer with the CSGA Course Rating Team.





#### Ron Henry 1948 - 2023

Ron was an outstanding amateur golfer who won multiple club championship titles at The Patterson Club in his hometown of Fairfield. Throughout the 1960's, 70's and 80's he was known as one of Connecticut's best golfers, as a regular in state, regional and national tournaments. His career achievements included competing in two United States Amateur championships and six British Amateurs.

He attended the University of Florida and graduated from Fordham University in 1970 before joining the Ronald J. Henry Real Estate and Insurance Company founded by his father Ronald J. Henry, Sr. Together with his wife of more than 50 years, Nancy, Ron instilled a love of golf into their two sons, Kevin, the 1996 winner of the Connecticut Junior Amateur, and J.J., the longtime PGA Tour professional whose career highlights include three tour victories and selection to the United States Ryder Cup Team.

#### 2023 NECROLOGY



#### David Ladd 1943 - 2023

David's dedication to improving the lives of many people was perhaps most noticeable in his commitment to the First Tee of Connecticut, where in addition to offering his work as a volunteer golf coach and mentor at Alling Memorial Golf Course, he also served as a member of the First Tee Board of Directors for 16 years. His passion for charity extended to many causes including the American Heart Association, an organization that named him "Man of the Year" in 1986.

During his longtime membership at New Haven Country Club, David served as a board member and President of the Board of Governors. He was a very good player who won many tournaments including the 1995 club championship. David was also a tournament volunteer for the CSGA, a club representative, and a valued member of the CSGA Course Rating Team.

## Tom Lane 1932 - 2023

Tom served as president of the CSGA in 1993-94, and in 2004 he served as president of the New England Golf Association. He was a tireless volunteer working as a Rules Official for both organizations, and a dedicated lifelong member of his beloved club, Race Brook where he also served a term as president. In 2007, he became a half-century member of Race Brook, and in 2010 he was named an Honorary Member.

Growing up across the street from Race Brook's third green, Tom began working there as a caddie. He became an accomplished player who won multiple tournaments at Race Brook including the club championship. In 1965 he qualified for the U.S. Amateur at Southern Hills. For his prowess as a golfer and a hockey player, Tom was inducted into the Hillhouse High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010. For his service to golf throughout New England and in Connecticut in particular, Tom was inducted into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame in 2012.





#### Ralph Tremaglio 1955 - 2023

A Waterbury native, Ralph grew up caddying and working at the Country Club of Waterbury along with his brothers Donald and John. That introduction to golf began a lifelong love affair with the game as Ralph would go on to caddie in what was then the Greater Hartford Open before becoming a PGA Professional and a much sought after instructor.

A talented player in his own right, Ralph worked at Western Hills Golf Course in Waterbury for more than 45 years, conducting tournaments including the annual Bobby Bonds Memorial Golf Tournament, and giving lessons to hundreds of golfers of all ages. His quick wit, engaging smile and sharp mind made Ralph one of Connecticut's favorite personalities and teachers of the game.

