

CHAMPIONSHIP CHATTER

Official Newsletter of the MGA Rules and Competitions Committee

November 2019

CHAMPIONS OF SUMMER



104th Met Open Championship Presented by Callaway Piping Rock Club August 20-22, 2019

Coming into the final round four shots off the lead, a bogey free and second consecutive 5-under 66 propelled Matt Dobyms of Meadow Brook to claim the 2019 Met Open Championship Presented by Callaway at Piping Rock Club. Allowing him to hoist the prestigious Walker L. Trammell trophy for the first time.

Results

1st - Matt Dobyms, Meadow Brook Club - 200
2nd - Michael Graboyes, Watchung Valley Golf Club - 202
T3 - Ben Polland, Deepdale Golf Club - 203
T3 - Ryan McCormick, Suburban Golf Club - 203



Save The Date

December 4th	MGA Annual Meeting @ Westchester Country Club <i>Make sure to RSVP!</i>
January 10-13th	Winter 2020 PGA/USGA Rules of Golf Workshop @ Liberty Corner, NJ Click here to Register
April 23rd	2020 MGA Tournament Officials Seminar @ Glen Head Country Club

117th Met Amateur Championship Hudson National Golf Club August 1-4, 2019

Christopher Gotterup of Rumson Country Club finished off his weekend with strong and consistent play during the 117th Met Amateur Championship at Hudson National Golf Club by defeating defending champion Ryan Davis of New Jersey National, 7-and-5 to claim the MGA's oldest Championship.



Finals

Christopher Gotterup, Rumson Country Club def. Ryan Davis, New Jersey National Golf Club, 7 & 5.

Semifinals

Ryan Davis, New Jersey National Golf Club def. Dawson Jones, Eagle Oaks Golf Club, 3 & 1
Christopher Gotterup, Rumson Country Club def. Adam Xiao, Old Westbury Golf & Country Club, 2 & 1



MGA CHAMPIONSHIP DEPARTMENT NOTICES

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: MEL KALMAN



Resident of: Islip, N.Y.
Club: No Affiliation
Occupation: Retired Physical Education Teacher
What prompted you to join the R&C Committee? I was always interested in the Rules of golf and the application of the Rules in tournament play.
When did you first join? : I have been a member of the R&C Committee since 2012.
Most memorable golf moment? Playing the Mid-Ocean Club in Bermuda, a Seth Raynor Course, with my wife who is a direct descendant of Seth Raynor.
Favorite course: Fishers Island Club

DIRECTORS DESK



Hello All! After a short hiatus we welcome back the quarterly newsletter and there's a lot to update you on as we move towards 2020. It was a great year for golf in 2019 with superb course conditions and perfect weather for much of the second half of the summer. The season provided so many memorable moments and deserving Champions, from Dawson Jones at the Ike to Matt Dobyms at the Met Open, the best players truly made their mark on the season. Additionally, we saw Chris Gotterup break through with his first and second MGA wins with the latter coming at the Met Amateur (Father & Son Championship was his first) and he has continued that dominance during the fall season at Rutgers. The end of the season provided plenty of excitement as we saw Brad Tilley dominate the fall schedule with 4 wins and a runner-up finish in 5 events while also leading the MGA Carey Cup team to victory over the Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI). The GUI came into the Ryder Cup style event with 3 Walker Cup players and 3 other amateurs ranked within the top 250 in the world. The MGA team ultimately staged a major comeback victory on the final day at Arcola as the MGA's top 3 players; James Nicholas, Thomas La Morte and Brad Tilley all won their matches against their Walker Cup opponents.

2019 R&C Leadership Top 5 in Points (as of 10.1.19)

- 1) Charles Weisman - 75 points
- 2) Bob Conyers - 72 Points
- 3) Mike Schlein - 70 Points
- 4) Bill Glass - 61 Points
- 5) Mel Kalman - 58 Points

MGA STAFF PROFILE: TOM RODEN



Hometown: Holbrook, N.Y.
Title: P.J. Boatwright Intern
Date Started: March, 2019
College: St. Josephs College
Favorite Golf Course: Bethpage Black in terms of playing, but from a viewing standpoint, Winged Foot.
Memorable golf moment? First and only hole in one on a 300 yard Par 4 at Bethpage Yellow.
Favorite Tour Player: Tiger Woods
Dream Foursome: Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus, and Arnold Palmer
Favorite Thing to do Outside of Golf: Relaxing at home playing my Playstation 4.
Something Unique About Yourself: I have always enjoyed making people laugh. Finding humor in any situation and keeping things upbeat has helped me through out my career.

2019 also brought new challenges with the roll out of the USGA's New Rules. I'm happy to say that our staff and R&C Committee came into the year well prepared and it ultimately led to a successful season. The need for great Rules minds will always be there but there's no doubt that our on-course jobs were simplified with these changes. Most recently, the relaxed Rules in Penalty Areas removed a lot of potential issues and questions at the Carey Cup as players found themselves in PA's multiple times but able to play the ball. A much easier, albeit uneventful, outcome for the Referees.

As we move into 2020 I'm happy to report that Nick Roden has taken on the newly minted role of Championship Coordinator. Nick has become an integral part of the Championship team and we're excited to have him operating in the new position in 2020!

I hope to see you all at the MGA Annual Meeting on December 4th.

All the best,

Chris



TEST YOUR 2019 RULES KNOWLEDGE!

In stroke play, Player A's ball lies off the putting green on the fringe, further away from the hole than Player B's ball which lies on the putting green. Player B plays out of turn just as Player A makes his stroke. Both balls are in motion and collide on the putting green, but nowhere near the hole. How should the players proceed?

- A. Player A must play his ball from where it came to rest; Player B must cancel his stroke and replay; No penalty to either player.
- B. Player A must play his ball from where it came to rest; Player B must cancel his stroke and replay; Player A is not penalized; Player B is penalized two strokes.
- C. Both players must cancel and replay their strokes; No penalty to either player.
- D. Player A must play his ball from where it came to rest; Player B must cancel his stroke and replay; Player A is not penalized; Player B is penalized four strokes.

USGA RULES ARTICLE:

I Accidentally Moved My Ball - What Do I Do Now? Jamie Wallace, USGA Rules Department.

Summary - Accidental movement of your golf ball during a round is one of the many areas in the Rules that underwent a lot of player-friendly change in the new 2019 Rules. Still players may be confused when there is a penalty, when there is not, when the ball must be replaced, or when the ball should be played from its new location. It is still important to know that there is still the general principle in the Rules that your ball should be played as it lies and take caution around your ball. Here are some of the situations that can arise when your out on the course, each resulting in different outcomes.

- 1) Searching for your ball
- 2) Player allowed to Lift Ball or Accidental Movement while Applying a Rule
- 3) Accidental Movement on the Putting Green
- 4) Accidental Movement Anywhere Other Than on the Putting Green
- 5) Ball moved by Opponent or Outside Influence
- 6) Movement by Natural Forces

To read more and dive into each situation, click [here](#).



ALLIED GOLF ASSOCIATIONS

WESTCHESTER GOLF ASSOCIATION

The 100th Amateur Championship

July 9-11, Winged Foot Golf Club

Consistent Play throughout the 36-hole Championship match gave Christian Cavaliere of Mahopac an 8-and-6 victory to claim the three-peat in the 100th Westchester Amateur at Winged Foot. Cavaliere stated “every time you drive through those gates it’s a special feeling. There’s a lot of history and so much has happened here, and I am kind of thinking ahead to the U.S. Open next year.” “If I can get the chance to play sectionals and make it through, that would just be a dream come true.



LONG ISLAND GOLF ASSOCIATION

95th Long Island Open Championship

June 4-6, Hempstead Golf & Country Club

Andy Svoboda of Engineers Country Club successfully defended his title by defeating Nick Beddow of Nassau Country Club in a playoff. Down by a shot on the 18th hole, Svoboda drained a 33-foot birdie to tie things up. To add to this clutch putt, he then nailed an unbelievable 72-foot shot for an eagle on the first playoff hole to quickly take a two-shot lead. He would close out the playoff with an aggregate victory of a score of 9 to 12 and his second consecutive LI Open title.



In Memory of Robert J. Bluestone

Over many years, Rob a long-time member and former club President of Rockrimmon Country Club in Stamford, Connecticut and Portmarnock in Ireland, has given tirelessly back to the Game through his volunteer work with the MGA, the WGA, and the Westchester Caddie Scholarship Fund.

Rob was a longtime member of the MGA Executive Committee and MGA Foundation’s Board of Directors. As a volunteer leader, Rob was instrumental in guiding many of the Association’s initiatives and core programs. In addition, he was the Chairman of the MGA’s Rules and Competitions Committee, and led the Player of the Year and Met Open Pro-Am Committees for the past seven years. Working on-site at a high number of MGA qualifiers and championships each season, Rob built strong relationships with competitors, other volunteers, club leadership and MGA staff, and was always a spectacular representative of the MGA. Rob was most recently honored with the Jerry Mahoney Award (JMA) in recognition of his service to the Rules & Competitions Committee.

He also served as a WGA Executive Committee member from 2003 to 2017 and as president of the WGA from 2009 to 2010. In addition, Rob served on the Westchester Caddie Scholarship Fund’s Board of Directors for 15 years and served as their President from 2011 to 2012. As President, Rob worked to increase the number and value of the scholarships, built strong relationships with member clubs, and worked to create programs that would positively impact area caddie scholars.

Through all of his volunteer work for the good of the Game, Rob promoted, advanced, and supported the traditions and values that golf has historically stood for. Rob was a great friend to the MGA and WGA and will be dearly missed.