

The Met Golfer

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

EXTRA



MGAGOLF.ORG



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This page: Winged Foot on April 14, 1923. The picture is titled 'Laying the Cornerstone,' from the *Winged Foot Story: The Golf, the People, the Friendly Trees* by Douglas LaRue Smith. This August, the 100th Met Open will be played at Winged Foot. It will be an MGA record seventh time the club has hosted the championship. Click on 'Championships' to read more."

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Metropolitan Golf Association
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523 •
914-347-4653 www.mgagolf.org •
mgagolf@mgagolf.org

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Great Golf Resorts of the World, Inc.
2600 Philmont Avenue, Suite 325
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
Phone: (215) 914-2071 • Fax: (215) 914-2076

CEO & Publisher: Richard K. Summers

COO & Art Director: Peter J. Sansone

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Design: Jim Gerhard, Matt Hulnick,
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Operations: Mike DiMeglio, Tom Gauss

Accounting: George Kotlyar

Advertising: For information, please contact:
Zack Long at 914-347-4653, ext. 321, or
Brian Folino at 623-337-5802 (office) or
661-312-6412 (cell)

National Sales Manager: Jim Kahn

Regional Advertising Managers:
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LENDING A HAND

BY CHRISTOPHER POWERS

Dave Stevenson, head pro at Lake Isle Country Club, has been canoeing on the Rio Grande since 1983. Two years ago during one of his trips he came across a Mexican man galloping on a horse. The man ran into the river and started playing an imaginary guitar in the hopes of receiving a tip. "That got my attention, and that's what made me explore the history of Boquillas, Mexico," Stevenson said. Fast forward two years later and



Stevenson has found himself in this desolate desert town, six hours away from the next town over, teaching young Mexican kids the game of golf with equipment that found its way there. Helping others has become second nature to Stevenson, who was the 2006 recipient of the MGWA Mary Bea Porter Award thanks to his extraordinary effort in helping rebuild a devastated Mississippi community after Hurricane Katrina.

After learning more about this family town that doesn't even have electricity, Stevenson spoke to the town Matriarch Lilia Falcon, and they came up with an idea. "I told her how much I loved hitting balls when I was 12 years old," he said. Stevenson made it clear he wasn't trying to be the pushy New Yorker here to "save anybody", rather just teach kids a game he loved that they may never have access to. "All our children have here is futbol," Falcon said. "They would love golf." This past December Stevenson gave 27 kids and 9 adults a clinic for an afternoon; he then returned the next day to an eager group who had already been infected with the golf bug. Stevenson's weekend in Boquillas was filled with smiles thanks to the discovery of this new game. He plans on returning in February. "This amazing little town, forgotten in time, has golf before electricity," he said.

54 Holes in Bermuda

By Maddi Vetrano

Now that the holidays are over, there's hardly a reason for anyone to stick around for the bitter cold that the Metropolitan winter is offering. Instead, take a look at these dreamy Bermuda golf courses that resemble that computer screensaver you've longingly been staring at since the fall of that first snowflake.

COURSES

- 1 **Tucker's Point Club** – If you're looking for a premier golf experience combined with picturesque scenes, then look no further than Tucker's Point Club. This challenging course features elevated tees and greens composed of the innovative Bermuda-grass hybrid TifEagle, forcing the need to compliment the changing wind patterns and match the quick greens. The clubhouse sits on a magnificent hilltop that provides the quintessential image of all that is Bermuda.
- 2 **The Mid Ocean Club** – This club offers a peaceful getaway for all members to call their second home. Boasting an international appeal, its members are drawn from all over the world to behold its stunning views of the scenic and world-renowned Tucker's Town. It has also played host to distinguished political meetings, including private meetings between President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Winston Churchill.
- 3 **Port Royal Golf Course** – Bermuda's longest course should be on any golfer's bucket list. It's ranked among the world's best public golf courses by Golf Digest, and named Bermuda's finest by The New York Times. Recently it played host to Rory McIlroy's incredible left-handed shot during this year's Grand Slam of Golf, which has since been voted by PGA.com as the video of the year.

LODGING

- **Rosewood at Tucker's Point** – Not only does the resort exemplify sophistication, it offers guests the opportunity to experience a unique "hidden gem" tour of the surrounding environments, guided by an ecological expert. Such tours include, the Coffee Chine, a hidden cave entrance that now serves as a natural garden, views of the rare and endangered Yellowwood forest at the golf course's highest point, and snorkeling in the island's crystal blue waters.

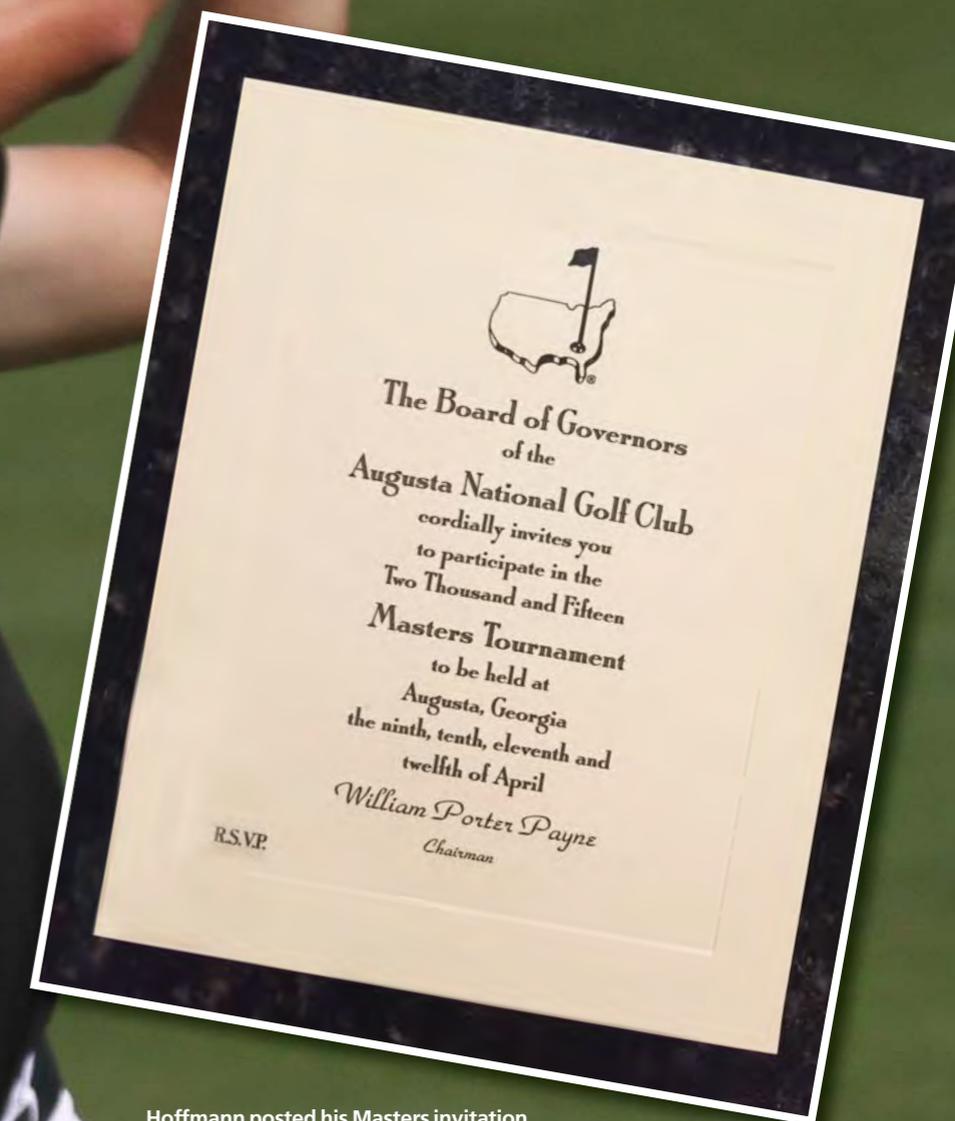
OFF-COURSE

- Expand your horizons and take advantage of the exciting and unique environment that Bermuda offers. Journey into the depths of the island inside the Crystal and Fantasy Cave and explore its rare stalagmite and stalactite formations alongside flawless pools of water.

MAJOR MAIL

BY CHRISTOPHER POWERS

When 2005 Carter Cup Champion Morgan Hoffmann of Franklin Lakes, N.J. takes to the first tee this April at Augusta, it will be his fourth appearance in a major championship in his young career. The previous three all came at U.S. Opens, with his best finish (T-29) coming in 2012 at The Olympic Club. Therefore, the elusive Masters invitation he received this year, thanks to his appearance in the TOUR Championship, marks a new major tournament he will play in, with the PGA Championship and Open Championship left to check off the list. The 25-year-old is ready to live the dream he has had since he was a little kid. “I remember being on the putting green with my dad and my friends saying, ‘This putt is to win the Masters,’” Hoffmann said. “Now that chance is a reality, I’m ecstatic to be playing at Augusta, but now it’s time to bear down and start preparing. I am going to enjoy every minute of it no matter what happens.”



Hoffmann posted his Masters invitation on his Instagram page earlier this month. He hopes it is the first of many.

MET OPEN MAGIC



This year, in August, the MGA marks a major milestone with the 100th playing of The Met Open Championship. Winged Foot Golf Club, a perfect partner for our centennial celebration, will host the event for a record seventh time; with the recently renovated East Course making its debut as a Met Open venue. To pay homage to the country's third oldest open championship, once a major stop on the PGA Tour, the MGA is going deep into our archives to share with our readers some of the photos, fun facts, and Met Open records that have made up the great history of this event.

To kick things off we found this classic photo from the 1982 Met Open at Montclair Golf Club in West Orange, NJ. The pairing for the final round of that championship – (right to left) Darrell Kestner, Jim Albus, and George Zahringer would prove to be prophetic as well as historic, as one of the three would win the next four Met Opens. Kestner would win at Montclair and then go on to defend his title at Old Westbury in 1983. Next up was Albus who would claim his second Met Open title in 1984 at Old Oaks (fourteen years after his first win), followed by George Zahringer who would make history in 1985 winning the title as an amateur at Mountain Ridge. Having won the Met Amateur title two weeks prior, Zahringer became the first player in history to score the “Met Double” and would go on to become perhaps the most accomplished amateur in MGA history. Albus enjoyed a stellar career on the PGA Senior Tour and Kestner, from Deepdale GC, lost the moustache but not the talent, and would win a third time in 1995 and remains one of America's top playing and teaching professionals. Talk about a power pairing! Look for more great moments in Met Open history on our website www.mgagolf.org, in *The Met Golfer*, or right here in EXTRA.

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A Lifetime of Contribution

Former MGA President Paul Dillon of Larchmont, N.Y. received the Met Golf Course Superintendent Association's highest award this month, the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented to Dillon at the Met GCSA's winter seminar at Westchester Country Club. It is given to an individual who has dedicated his life to the game of golf, and promotes the science and art of golf course management and the professional image of the golf course superintendent. This puts Dillon on a list of past winners that include the likes of Jim Nantz, Ken Venturi, Frank Hannigan, and Arthur Weber.

Pictured: Dillon (center), Stanwich Superintendent Scott Niven (left), and newly appointed Met GCSA president Glen Dube (right)



BY SCOTT KRAMER

When two of the world's top putter makers introduce new models, golfers pay attention. And that's the case this month, as both PING and Odyssey just debuted their latest.

PING's Cadence TR putters, ranging in price from \$185 to \$235, are out to confirm that stroke tempo is key to consistency and holing more putts. To fit their stroke tempo for more accuracy, golfers can choose from models that are standard weight or those that are 25 grams heavier. "Heavier putters typically benefit golfers with slower tempos and can improve short putting," says Pete Samuels, PING's director of communications. Face grooves vary in width and depth, which enhances distance control. The putters are available in various head shapes, and PING suggests specific models based on straight, slight arc, or strong arc stroke paths.

Odyssey's Works putters, which run between \$179 and \$219, feature some of the brand's popular head shapes, as well as the high-contrast Versa alignment silver-and-black coloring system. The Fusion RX face insert is the brand's popular White Hot insert, but with an added ultra-thin stainless steel mesh for friction plus a Metal-X roll pattern. Officials claim this combination results in a near-immediate pure roll with reduced skidding. The putters are available with both standard-sized grips, as well as Superstroke oversized handles.

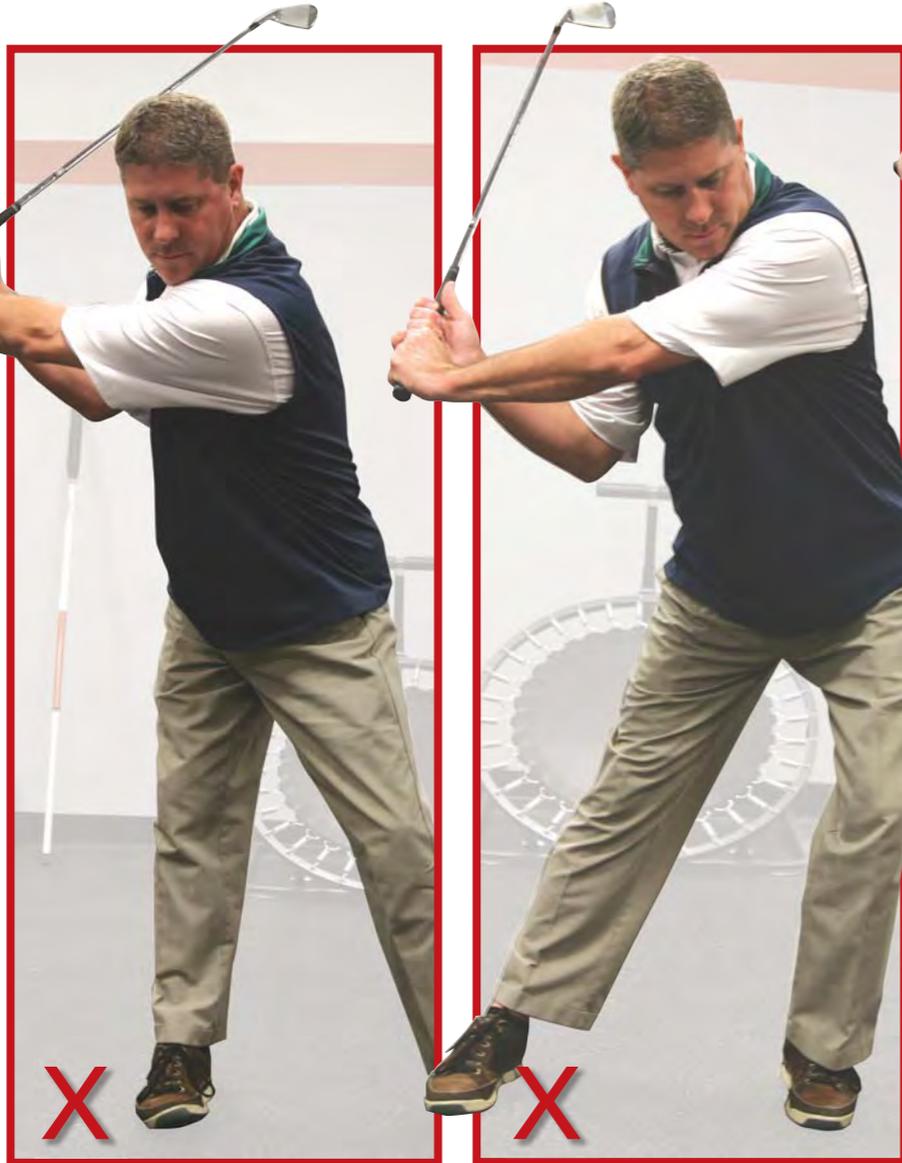


Swing Basics

BY: JIM BEADLE AND SCOTT RIEHL

If you read our November issue, and you hate the thought of braving the current frigid temperatures, hopefully you have been perfecting your posture indoors. This month Jim and Scott are back to give you a new drill to work on now that the doom of February is approaching. So grab your 7-iron, find some space in the house, and get back to the golf swing basics. And if you break anything, make sure not to blame it on us.

Jim Beadle (*pictured*) is a golf professional at the Essex Golf Center in Roseland, N.J. He works with Scott Riehl, who has been working with professional golfers on the TOUR Fitness Trailers for the past 14 years.



Sway at the top

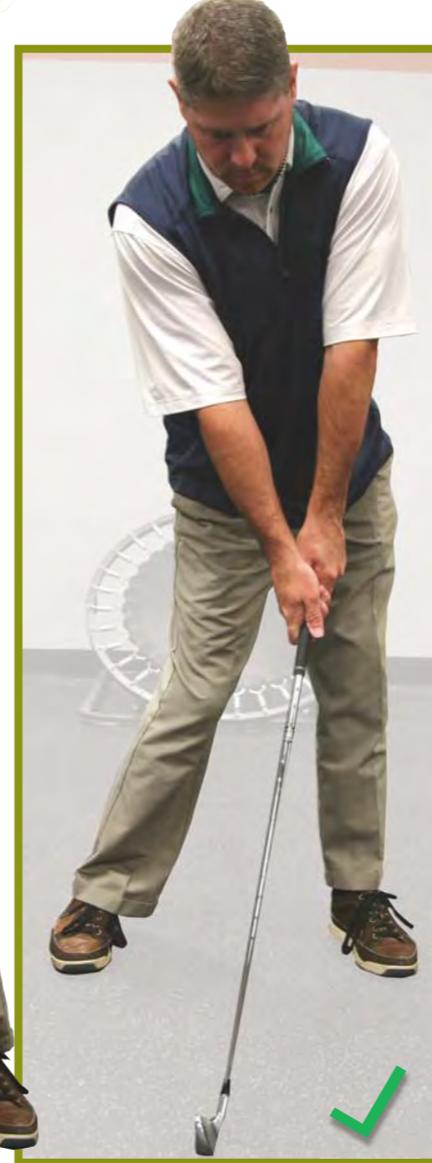
The golf swing is a rotational athletic movement and too many players have a lateral movement (sway or slide), which decreases efficiency and increases inconsistency. In these two pictures you see an improper takeaway as well as an improper start to the down swing. This amount of lateral sway or slide creates upper body dominance in the attempt to get the club in the correct position through impact. This is a huge power loss in the swing due to a lack of lower body engagement.

Slide in transition



Balanced at the top

As we can see in these pictures with proper rotational mechanics and a stable lower body we create a proper turn of the upper body leading to a more powerful and consistent golf swing. By understanding the importance of the lower body we can create more power and speed from the ground up. With proper rotational mechanics you can achieve good impact position with weight forward and forward shaft lean.



Perfect Impact, Perfect Rotation



Lateral Stability Drill

As you can see in the following drills the player is focusing on engaging the lower body and creating proper rotational mechanics into each hip joint. If the drill is done incorrectly the player will either sway or slide thus creating lateral imbalance and the result would be falling over. Possible progressions for the advanced player would be performing the exercise on an unstable surface such as an Aerex Pad, Dynadisc or Bosu Ball.



HISTORY IN THE MAKING



The last two times the Met Open was played at Winged Foot it was Johnson Wagner winning in 2002 (left), and Jim McGovern as an amateur in 1987 (right).

The 4th hole on Winged Foot's East Course, where the 100th Met Open will be played.

This year marks a very special occasion here at the MGA, the 100th playing of the Met Open. It will be played at Winged Foot Golf Club for an MGA record seventh time this August, so we plan to look back in history in the months leading up to the big one. Whether it is through our website, *The Met Golfer*, or right here in EXTRA, we are going deep into our archives to share photos, fun facts, and Met Open records to pay homage to the country's third oldest open championship. This month, as you saw on the cover of this issue, we plan to tie in Winged Foot and the Met Open's history together. Let's take a look at some of the numbers:

3 – Number of amateurs who have won the Met Open at Winged Foot. Of the seven amateurs that have won the Met Open in its long history, nearly half of those amateur victories have come at Winged Foot. Chet Sanok (1952), Jerry Courville Sr. (1967), whom the MGA Player of the Year Award is named after, and the now White Beeches head pro Jim McGovern (1987). Since 2005 no amateur has been able to break through again, but maybe some Winged Foot magic will bring a young rising star back to the top.

5 – Number of consecutive MGA major victories for now 3-time PGA TOUR Champion Johnson Wagner in the years 2001-2002. He started it off with wins as an amateur at the 2001 Met Amateur, 2001 Met Open, 2002 Ike Championship, 2002 Met Amateur, and then his 2002 Met Open win – his first victory as a pro, which came at Winged Foot.

2nd to 1st – Only eight players in Met Open history have finished runner up only to go on to win the very next year. The third man to do it was Wes Ellis, when in 1960 he finished runner-up at Ridgewood, and followed it up with the 1961 Met Open victory at, drumroll please..., Winged Foot.

Follow along with our celebrations of this milestone in *The Met Golfer*, *Met Golfer Extra* and on www.mgagolf.org.