

INSIDE GOLF NEWSPAPER

Royal Links: Las Vegas course offers up a British Open feeling

Looking for a change of pace when you tee it up on a road trip? Check out Royal Links in Las Vegas. Royal Links features 18 holes that are modeled after holes at some of the top courses that have hosted the British Open. The 10th hole even resembled St. Andrews famous Road Hole with a tee shot having to be hit over a large scoreboard. See Page 2 for more on Royal Links.



WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF

If it's winter time, it must be time to pause posting

As you may know, Washington Golf and the Oregon Golf Association both observe an inactive score posting season during which rounds played in the area are never acceptable for handicap computational purposes. Most of the golf associations in the Northern areas of the U.S. are seasonal golf associations like WA Golf and the OGA and also observe an inactive score posting period. For WA Golf and the OGA, the inactive score posting period runs from November 15th to the last day of February.

Scores posted on the computer at the home club are never transmitted to GHIN and are automatically deleted by GHIN on March 1 every year. The automatic deletion by GHIN happens to Home Scores only. Other types of scores, Away, Internet, Tournament, Penalty or Combined posted during the inactive score posting period are not automatically deleted by GHIN.

Should a club wish to allow their members to continue to post home scores during the inactive season, the WA Golf staff informs the club, before activating the inactive season posting option at GHIN for the club, that the club should monitor all scores posted during the inactive season and should they find unacceptable scores in a members file, the scores must be deleted by the clubs.

Professionals take care of business at Hudson Cup

The professionals and senior professionals both took care of business beating the amateurs at the Hudson Cup at Oswego Lake Country Club.

The matches ended with the Professionals winning with a two day point total of 10 ½ to 9 ½ points in the 73rd Hudson Cup Matches. In the 30th edition of the Senior Hudson Cup, the Professionals won the Matches with a two day point total of 11 to 9.

The Charles Congdon Award went to Nathan Cogswell (voted on by the professional team) and the Larry Lamberger Award was presented to Austin Hurt (voted on by the amateur team).

In the Senior Matches, The Bill Eggers Award was presented to Mike Swingle (voted on by the senior professional team) while Mark Knowles was bestowed the Bob McKendrick Award (voted on by the senior amateur team). Austin Hurt, Mark Knowles and Mike Swingle are the only three who were undefeated in all of his matches this year.

Rules Quiz

A player's ball comes to rest on the putting green. A puddle of water (temporary water) is directly on her "line of play" to the hole. After looking over the situation it turns out the "nearest point of complete relief" not nearer the hole that avoids the water is off of the putting green a couple feet in the rough. What would you advise her? See answer on Page 2 of this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.

Aerification: Golfers might not like it but it keeps the grass healthy, green

Golfers might not like it, but aerification is an important part of golf courses keeping their grass healthy and green. It happens twice a year - once in the fall and once in the spring. The greens and fairways might be tough to play on when they are punched and sanded through aerification, but the process is vital.

Greens that have been aerated are known as punched greens because the aeration process involves using a machine that punches down into the putting surface and pulls up a small core of the earth, leaving behind a small hole about a quarter-inch to a half-inch across. The process helps circulate air down to the grass roots, keeping it full and healthy all season long.

Greens that have just been punched will have hundreds of these small holes, typically spaced from one to two inches apart. Such greens are often referred to as "punched greens," and while many golfers can and do play on punched greens, some golfers prefer to avoid the putting surface during the punching period.

See aerification, Page 3



Border courses looking for more play



Golf courses near the U.S.-Canadian border, like North Bellingham (pictured above), are hoping for some added business now that the border is open. The border was shut down for more than a year, affecting golf at most border courses. For more, see inside this section.

USGA along with Royal and Ancient make new ruling on length of a club

The USGA and The R&A have announced that a new Model Local Rule (MLR G-10) will be available beginning on January 1, 2022 to provide those running professional or elite amateur golf competitions the option of limiting the maximum length of a golf club (excluding putters) to 46 inches.

The proposal was announced in February 2021, which opened a notice-and-comment period to allow the industry the opportunity to provide feedback as part of the equipment rule making procedures. The comments received from the golf industry, including players, professional tours and equipment manufacturers, were carefully considered before the decision to proceed with the new MLR was reached.

The USGA and The R&A issued an Area of Interest notice in 2014 indicating that research was being conducted into the impact of club lengths of more than 48 inches on hitting distance and whether that limit remained appropriate. A proposed change to the limit was subsequently put forward in 2016 but was put on hold in 2017 when the Distance Insights project got underway.

The proposals submitted in February for changes to the testing method for golf balls and the testing tolerance for spring-like effect are still under consideration. The governing bodies plan to consider feedback on these proposals in line with the responses to the broader Area of Interest – Research Topics notification, which were due by November 2.

Riverbend shows off its newly remodeled driving range project

Riverbend Golf Course has made some changes to its driving ranges - and the project is opened for business. The City of Kent, which operates the golf course, opened the range with changes that included new hitting stalls, heaters, glass windows and new hitting targets as well as a grass infield. For more on the project, please see inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.



Royal Links: Las Vegas course makes you feel like you are at the Open Championship

As you take a look at the scorecard, you see the names like St. Andrews, Royal Troon, Royal Lytham, Prestwick, Muirfield and Turnberry. These are some of the best courses in the world. And they are all courses that have hosted the British Open and the course is a nod to those courses in Scotland, Ireland and Britain.

And these are all courses that have made an appearance on American soil - at the Royal Links Golf Club in Las Vegas.

If you are a fan of British Open golf and what the links courses all provide, then you will love what the Royal Links has to offer. This is a place with 18 holes that are all modeled after holes of courses which have hosted British Opens.

OK, as not to offend those from across the pond, let's call it the Open Championship.

Sometimes courses don't live up to their names. But the Royal Links lives up to its name and then some. There are 18 holes all that look like they came over from British Open courses. There are mounds, there are large deep bunkers, there are contoured greens and there are wide fairways.

And of course, there are other things. The St. Andrews Road Hole is well represented on the Royal Links 10th hole when you make the turn. Instead of hitting your tee shot over a hotel, you hit your tee shot over a large scoreboard. If you take the right line you will find the fairway. But it's a blind shot and just like at St. Andrews.

If you remember Open Championships (see I am getting it right now), Royal Troon has a hole called the "Postage Stamp." Same thing at the Royal Links with its duplicate hole. Small target, elevated and trouble left.

But just to make sure that you are still in Las Vegas, the opening hole is a 368-yard par-4 modeled after the 10th at Royal Lytham, but also offers a terrific view of the Vegas Strip. Two golf worlds rolled into one.

There are 11 Open Championship courses represented at the Royal Links. Some you might remember from television coverage, others might



be something new. The course can play as long as over 7,000 yards but also to a more friendly 5,864 yards from the middle tees. There is plenty to like at the Royal Links. And if you are a fan of Open Championship golf, then this is your kind of place.

Steve Turcotte is editor of Inside Golf Newspaper. He can be reached at sturturcotte@comcast.net.



The St. Andrews Road Hole is a challenge.



The Royal Links in Las Vegas is a layout with holes modeled after British Open holes plus a terrific clubhouse.



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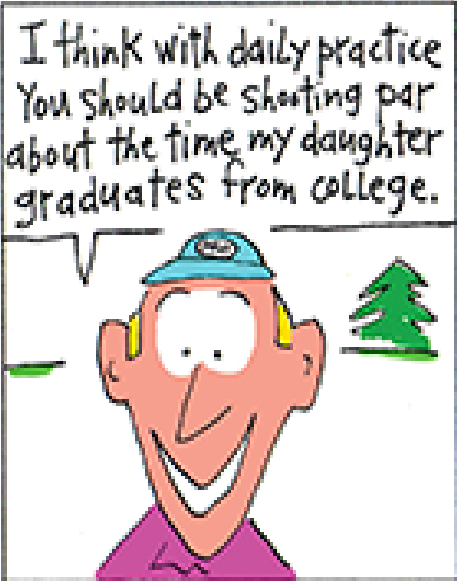
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Double Bogey



Harold Bluestein PGA



Rules Answer

Answer: Place the original ball or another ball at the "nearest point of complete relief" off of the putting green. Rule 16.1d. Even though the ball is now off of the green the ball is placed not dropped.

• Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for his rules questions each month.

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Oregon Duck coach Casey Martin has his leg amputated

Former PGA Tour players and current University of Oregon men’s golf coach Casey Martin is recovering at a Rochester, Minnesota, hospital after undergoing an amputation of his right leg.

Martin had the surgery, a three-and-a-half-hour procedure that amputated the leg just above the knee, at Mayo Clinic. The 49-year-old Martin has had issues with the leg since birth, specifically dealing with a type of circulatory disorder called Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber Syndrome, which makes walking difficult. A standout player, having won a national team title at Stanford and later on the Nike Tour (now called the Korn Ferry Tour), Martin famously sued the PGA Tour – and won – for the right to use a cart because of his disability, a case that made its way to the Supreme Court.

Martin, who has served as Oregon’s head coach since 2006 and won an NCAA title in 2016 at Eugene Country Club, had been coaching the past two years in a cast after breaking his right tibia in October 2019 after road construction outside of his home caused him to step wrong off a curb while bringing in his trash cans at night.

Jeff Quinney, a former PGA Tour player and current Oregon assistant, will fill in for Martin during his recovery.



University of Oregon Coach Casey Martin.

Portland’s Jacobs falls in Mid-Am semis

After winning her morning quarterfinal match, the run for Portland’s Amanda Jacobs at the U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur championship came to an end on Wednesday afternoon after she was defeated by Aliea Clark of New York, N.Y. in the semifinals.

Jacobs squared off against defending U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur champion Ina Kim-Schaad in the morning quarterfinal match. Jacobs took her first lead in the match on the third hole and never relinquished it, winning the tightly contested match by a score of 1 up.

In the afternoon semifinal match, Jacobs got off to a slow start, but managed to tie things up by the eighth hole. Her opponent, Aliea Clark, then caught fire on the

back nine winning four holes to coast to a 4&2 victory.

Jacobs was the lone player from the Northwest remaining in the championship. She is a three-time PNGA Women’s Mid-Amateur Player of the Year (2015-17) and this summer she won the PNGA Women’s Mid-Amateur Championship for the fourth time.

Bend’s Tetherow is an award winner

Tetherow Resort has been named a top-five resort in *Condé Nast Traveler’s* 2021 Readers’ Choice Awards, retaining its position as No.5 on the list of Top 20 Resorts in the Pacific Northwest & West following a months-long national public vote. Last year Tetherow ranked No.5 in the Top 40 Resorts in The Midwest and West category and previously held a No.7 ranking in the Top 10 Resorts in Alaska and The Pacific Northwest category of the magazine’s 2019 Readers’

Choice Awards. In describing Tetherow in its resort overview, *Condé Nast Traveler* noted, “If you’re in the Bend area and a fan of the outdoors, this is the spot to go. Activities and wellness are the names of the game here, but there are plenty of ways to let off some steam and enjoy the epic mountain views.

Kelly claims Twin Lakes Amateur title

Ryan Kelly of Tacoma Country and Golf Club shot as second round 63 to win the Twin Lakes Amateur Presented by Southgate Electric at Twin Lakes Golf and Country Club in Federal Way. Kelly put together a two-round total of 133 - 11 under par to win the tournament by seven shots over Darin Robb, who shot a second-round 68.

Kelly is the brother of former PGA Tour player and University of Washington player Troy Kelly. He opened with a 2-under-par 70 before going low in the second round to win the tournament.

McGraw wins Gig Harbor Amateur

Jeff McGraw of Bellevue Golf Course shot a two-round total of 137 to win the Gig Harbor City Amateur at Madrona Links. McGraw had rounds of 68-69 to finish at 5 under par for the tournament.

Mark Strickand of Everett Golf and Country Club was second at 138 (70-68) while Ryan Kelly of Madrona Links was third at 140. Chris Bae of Tacoma Country and Golf Club finished fourth at 141 while Grady Girard of Gig Harbor Golf and Country Club rounded out the top five at 144.

USGA continues support of First Tee

The United States Golf Association (USGA) has distributed \$200,000 in grants across 20 First Tee chapters through the inaugural IDEA grant program – a dedicated effort to directly empower inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility efforts at the local golf level.

The program was created this year to address the barriers that underserved and underrepresented youths

face in their potential introduction to and participation in golf and First Tee’s character-building programs. Grants range from \$20,000 to \$7,500 and support initiatives.

“We have a commitment as an organization to be an impactful partner to those in the industry who share our vision for what we want golf’s future to look like,” said Mike Whan, CEO of the USGA. “Both the USGA and First Tee believe that golf is a better game now and in the future when it’s accessible and representative of everyone, and it starts at the junior level.”

Riverbend will host winter series

Riverbend Golf Course is also the home of a popular winter series of tournaments. First up is the 4th annual Four-Player scramble on Nov. 27 followed by the 24th Annual Two-Person Better Ball on Dec. 18. The 24th Annual Two-Man Scramble will take place on Jan. 15 before the series wraps up with the 26th Annual Ball Buster on Feb. 12, which will feature a Two-Player format.

Aerification: Needed to keep the grass healthy

Continued from Page 1

What’s the point of punching the greens? The short answer is that aerification enriches the soil and allows the grass to “breathe,” which makes for lusher, thicker putting greens that can be trimmed down perfectly to provide a smooth surface for short-range putts. Punching the green (also called “coring” the green) counters the tendency of the soil on putting greens to compact over time and circulates air down into the soil and to the grass roots, helping keep the turfgrass healthy.

There are many different names used for punched greens, so if you are venturing to a new area and listening for announcements about the conditions of the course, you should look out for the phrases aerated greens, aerified greens, cored greens and plugged greens.



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Riverbend Golf Course shows off its newly remodeled range

Riverbend Golf Course in Kent has re-opened its driving range, which has taken on a new look after a re-model project. Riverbend is one of the most popular golf courses in the Pacific Northwest and its driving range is always busy. The re-model project added space and size to the range. The project included 13 new driving range stalls, new restrooms and a remodeled interior for the pro shop building. The new stalls will soon be outfitted with heaters and computer ball flight technology. Riverbend now has a total of 45 hitting stations as well as six learning stalls.

The project also expanded the parking area around the driving range and removed the mini putt course. The area for the range was expanded and new targets were placed in the grass infield for golfers to work on their short games. The entire ball washing system has now been thoroughly updated with the addition of a new soaking tub, new ball washer and new high pressure blower system that feeds the balls into the dispenser. The new stalls also include windows which can open and close. Riverbend Golf Course is also the home of a popular winter series of tournaments. First up is the 4th annual Four-Player scramble on Nov. 27 followed by the 24th Annual Two-Person Better Ball on Dec. 18. The 24th Annual Two-Man Scramble will take place on Jan. 15 before the series wraps up with the 26th Annual Ball Buster on Feb. 12, which will feature a Two-Player format.

Riverbend Golf Course is annually one of the busiest golf courses in the Pacific Northwest. It also has one of the largest Men's Clubs in the Northwest as well. The 18-hole course opened in 1989 and was designed by John Steidel. The course plays over 6,600 yards from the back tees. For info call 253.854.3673.



Riverbend Golf Course in Kent opened its newly remodeled driving range with plenty new to show off.



Glendoveer Golf Course in Portland provides golfers with two championship courses to choose from.

Portland's Glendoveer offers a 36-hole golfing experience

The city of Portland has some terrific golf to offer, but none more so than at Glendoveer Golf & Tennis in east Portland, home of two championship golf courses.

There is plenty to like about Glendoveer with its two courses and challenging layout.

The 18-hole East at Glendoveer opened in 1923. Designed by John Junor, East at Glendoveer Golf Course measures 6,295 yards from the longest tees and has a slope rating of 123 and a 68.5 USGA rating. The course features three sets of tees for different skill levels.

The 18-hole West at Glendoveer opened in 1928. Designed by Frank Stenzel, West at Glendoveer Golf Course measures 5,922 yards from the longest tees and has a slope rating of 115 and a 67.2 USGA rating. Like the East course, the West course features three sets of tees to choose from.

But there is much more than golf at Glendoveer - and the fall months are a perfect time to see what the facility has in store for golfers, walkers and anyone else who enjoys the outdoors.

There is a two-mile nature trail which rings the outside of the golf course, making a perfect walk any time of the day.

There are four indoor tennis courts on site making it perfect all-season destination.

Anytime is a terrific time for activities at Glendoveer, but in the fall with the different colors and various things to do, this might just be the perfect time to see what Glendoveer has to offer on and off the golf course.

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Koepka, DeChambeau will face off in new TV's version of 'The Match'

Turner Sports will present the next installment of Capital One's The Match, the Sports Emmy-nominated premier live golf event series, which will bring together two of golf's most intense and competitive rivals – Bryson DeChambeau and Brooks Koepka – in a head-to-head showdown.

TNT will exclusively televise the 12-hole event, to be held the day after Thanksgiving — Friday, Nov. 26 — with live coverage beginning at 1 p.m. from Wynn Las Vegas, home of top-ranked Wynn Golf Course, the only golf course on the Las Vegas strip. TNT's presentation of Capital One's The Match will also be simulcast on TBS, truTV and HLN.

DeChambeau won in his first time competing in Capital One's The Match – pairing with Aaron Rodgers – this past July, when they topped Phil Mickelson and Tom Brady. Winner of the 2020 U.S. Open and an eight-time winner on the PGA Tour overall, DeChambeau is currently the No. 7-ranked player in the World.

This will be Koepka's first appearance as a competitor in Capital One's The Match, though through his foundation he donated \$100,000 to COVID-19 relief efforts during Capital One's The Match: Champions for Charity in May 2020 in connection with a memorable front-nine birdie from Brady. Koepka also owns eight PGA Tour titles, including four Major Championship

victories over a three-year span.

Live coverage of the match play event will once again feature unprecedented access with players having open mics throughout the entire competition, including the capability to communicate directly with their competitor and the broadcast commentators.

Prugh, Hatley win Pro-Am title

PGA Professional Corey Prugh of Community Colleges of Spokane with his amateur Reid Hatley (2013 Team Champions) won the Pacific Golf & Turf Pro-Amateur Championship at Palouse Ridge Golf Club in Pullman, Wash.

The pair fired rounds of 61-61 for a 122 total, 22-under par for the Four-Ball competition to win the tournament by two shots.

PGA Professional Craig Crandall of Rock Creek CC and his amateur Hunter Westcott (also of Rock Creek CC) placed second, two strokes back.

Jeff Gove of Sandpoint, Idaho and his amateur partner Darren Slackman of The Creek at Qualchan finished third at 125 while the teams of Carl Hetterle (Tacoma Country and Golf Club) and Jeff Bishop, Loren Jeglum (Palouse Ridge) and Eric Johnson and Jeff Gustafson (Vanco Driving Range) and Matt Newcombe tied for fourth place in the tournament at 126.

Did you know....

- Scores from rounds played in Washington Golf territory between November 15th and the last day of February are never to be posted for handicap purposes. However, if you play a round during the WA Golf Inactive Score Posting Season in an area (California, Arizona, Hawaii, etc.) that is still accepting scores, you must post that score as soon as practicable. During the



Inactive Score Posting Season, handicap indexes will continue to be updated daily, provided an acceptable score is posted the day prior.

- The PNGA established its Hall of Fame in 1978, and it currently has 69 amateur golfers as members. The association inducts new honorees into the Hall of Fame on a biennial basis, and its newest inductees will be honored at a ceremony in the spring of 2022. To view a complete list of inductees and a full list of their accomplishments, visit the PNGA.org.



Orrin Vincent, the founder of OB Sports Golf Management passed away

The world of golf has lost an industry icon, as Orrin Vincent, founder of OB Sports Golf Management, passed away October 25, 2021 at his home in La Quinta, Calif. Vincent was one of the true visionaries and leaders in the field of golf course management. Since 1972, he had been involved in the management and development of some of the nation's finest facilities and built OB Sports into one of the industry's most highly respected and innovative management firms. In 2019, OB Sports was acquired by Troon and is now fully integrated into Troon's management team and portfolio of courses.

"On behalf of the entire team at OB Sports and Troon, we are so grateful for the time that we all had with this amazing friend and mentor," said C.A. Roberts and Phil Green, Orrin's longtime partners at OB Sports. "Words cannot appropriately capture the charisma, enthusiasm, motivational spirit, and genuine compassion

for others that Orrin provided to everyone he touched, both in and out of the golf industry."

Vincent was instrumental in too many golf projects to name, but some of his most notable fingerprints can be found at Edgewood Tahoe, Angel Park, Langdon Farms, Washington National, Gamble Sands and the recently opened Dumbarnie Links in Scotland.

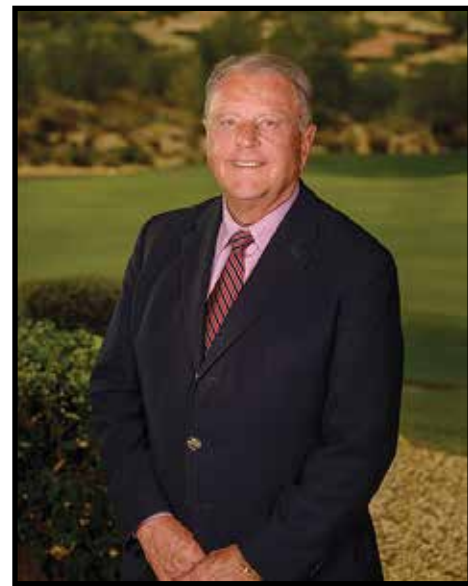
In addition to his accomplishments with OB Sports, Vincent's impressive background and specialties included playing on the PGA TOUR; coaching and mentoring numerous aspiring junior, collegiate, and professional golfers; golf course design; golf course construction; premium facility maintenance; innovative marketing and brand development; retail sales; and growing every component of the great game and business he loved.

Vincent has received numerous personal awards for his expertise in golf. He was twice

named the PGA Professional of the Year, seven-time PGA Merchandiser of the Year, "Bill Strausbaugh Award" winner and the prestigious "Presidents Plaque." He was a seven-time SN-PGA Player of the Year and was also inducted in the Seattle University Hall of Fame.

Vincent always had a keen interest in Junior Golf serving as a U.S. Junior World Cup Team Captain and was a founding board member for the American Junior Golf Association. He was awarded the AJGA's "Digger Smith Award" for his lifetime achievements and support of junior golf. This past summer, he co-founded Coachella Youth Golf and was focused on promoting the game in the Coachella Valley and his beloved Pacific Northwest.

Orrin Vincent leaves behind his wife Barbara, his three children O.D., Sheridan and Jenifer, and six beautiful grandchildren. Vincent was 76 years old, born March 2, 1945.



Orrin Vincent - 3/2/1945 - 10/25/2021

Tour Players With Northwest ties

PGA Tour (2022)

- Kevin Chappell • Kirkland • No events
- Ben Crane • Portland • No events
- Joel Dahmen, Clarkston • 99th on the list with \$79,184
- Cameron Davis • Australia (Member at Sahalee) • No events
- Robert Garrigus • Gresham • No events
- Scott Harrington • Portland • No events
- Ryan Moore • Puyallup • 134th on the list with \$28,350
- Cheng Tsung Pan • Ex-UW • 27th on the list with \$403,500
- Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 44th on the list with \$246,022
- Kyle Stanley • Gig Harbor • 120th on the list with \$50,092
- Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • 128th on the list with \$33,048
- Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • 15th on the list with \$601,469

Korn Ferry Tour

- Alistar Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • 323rd on the list with \$2,514
- Robert Garrigus • Gresham • 190th on the list with \$25,016
- Andres Gonzales • Olympia • 176th on the list with \$35,880
- Alex Prugh • Spokane • Finished 145th on the list with \$57,497
- Dylan Wu • Medford • 36th on the list with \$159,000

Champions Tour

- Fred Couples • Seattle • 20th on the list with \$1,481,922
- Peter Jacobsen • Portland • 209th on the list with \$4,416
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 36th on the list with \$811,653

Forme Tour

- Corey Pereira • Ex-UW • no events yet
- Andrew Yun • Tacoma • 1st on the list with 4 points

LPGA Tour

- Carolyn Inglis • Eugene • 137th on the list with \$46,721
- Jing Yan • Ex-UW • 117th on the list with \$85,632

LPGA Symetra Tour

- Olivia Benzin • Tacoma • 159th on the list with \$2,189
- Jamie Huo • Kent • No cuts made
- Erynne Lee • Silverdale • 146th on the list with \$2,982
- Kathleen Scavo • Ex-Oregon • 169th on the list with \$1,494
- Gigi Stoll • Tigard • 39th on the list with \$36,814



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Nile Shrine Golf Course offers a complete golfing experience

The Nile Shrine Golf Course has been providing golfers of all ages and ability a challenging place to play quality golf without driving a long ways. The entire golf course is part of the Shiners Fraternal Lodge.

The Shriners are known for their philanthropic work with their Shriners Hospitals for Children® that provide life-changing care to children. Shriners have had a long love affair with golf and continues to this day, as evident with the PGA Tour’s Shriners Hospital for Children Open.

The Nile not a long course but it’s a fun course with a lot of character. No two holes are alike and long ball hitters will need exceptional control, as many of the fair-ways are narrow with trouble on either side. The popular course is just 15 minutes north of Seattle off I-5 near the Edmonds/Kingston Ferry exit in Mountlake Terrace. The Nile has proven that it doesn’t have to be long to be a

challenging test of golf. At slightly over 5,000 yards, accuracy is premium over distance. Like the third hole: A dog leg left, about 210 yards to the corner, with OB left and water on the right side all the way down.

The course has some outstanding par 3’s like the 13th that is 182 yards from an elevated tee where club selection is difficult and the wind can be a big factor during your round of golf at the course.

“I’ve now worked at Nile Shrine Golf Course for 16 years and am excited to work for them for another 16. It’s a great organization to work for,” said Joe Korn the head golf professional.

The course is very affordable with rates for juniors, seniors and various advertised discounts.

For tee times or more information please refer to www.nileshriners.org or call the pro shop at: (425) 774-9611 ext. 512.



Nile Shrine Golf Course just north of Seattle may not be long, but offers plenty of character along the way.



RV2Tee is a new way to drive and play some golf.

RV2Tee: New way to tour with your RV and tee it up

If you are an RV owner who likes to take your rig to the golf course or a snowbird traveling between destinations, then you will be interested in this new service called RV2Tee.

So, what is RV2Tee?

It is a membership program and community that allows anyone with an RV to stay overnight for free at host golf courses. Host courses benefit from the added support, and RVers are able to have access to courses that provide overnight parking for free. The only requirement for RV owners is they must have a self-contained RV that allows them to dry camp during their stay at the course. They will also be required to maintain proof of liability insurance on their vehicle. Membership fee for RV2Tee is \$99 per year.

All arrangements are made between the member and the host course.

Local business men came up with an app (and service) that allows golfers with RVs to access “stay

Local business men come up with an app (and service) that allows golfers with RVs to access “stay and play” at courses across the Northwest.

and play” at courses across the Northwest.

Mike Simpson, founder of RV2Tee.golf is a local businessman that owns multiple businesses in Arlington, Washington and has a degree in Golf Operations and Management. He is a past general manager of Arlington Golf Course, plus a full-time RVer making him uniquely in tune with golf and RV travel around the area.

Simpson came up with the idea for RV2tee while on a golf trip in the summer of 2020 and enlisted his childhood friend Kevin Phillips to join him and develop the concept to fruition. Phillips has been servicing clients as an Edward Jones financial advisor and account manager with Colonial Life, where servicing clients

has been of utmost importance.

While the service is new, Simpson said he expects to have the service nationwide by next year. He wanted to point out that all members will have access to the new host courses as they are added.

“As an RV owner, I know the pure joy of finding new and unique places to stay while traveling. RV2Tee gives RVers a way to combine their travel and golf passion into unforgettable experiences,” Simpson said.

As for host courses, the service is free, and they will have total control over the program while gaining free marketing.

For more details or to like them on social media, visit their website: RV2Tee.golf.

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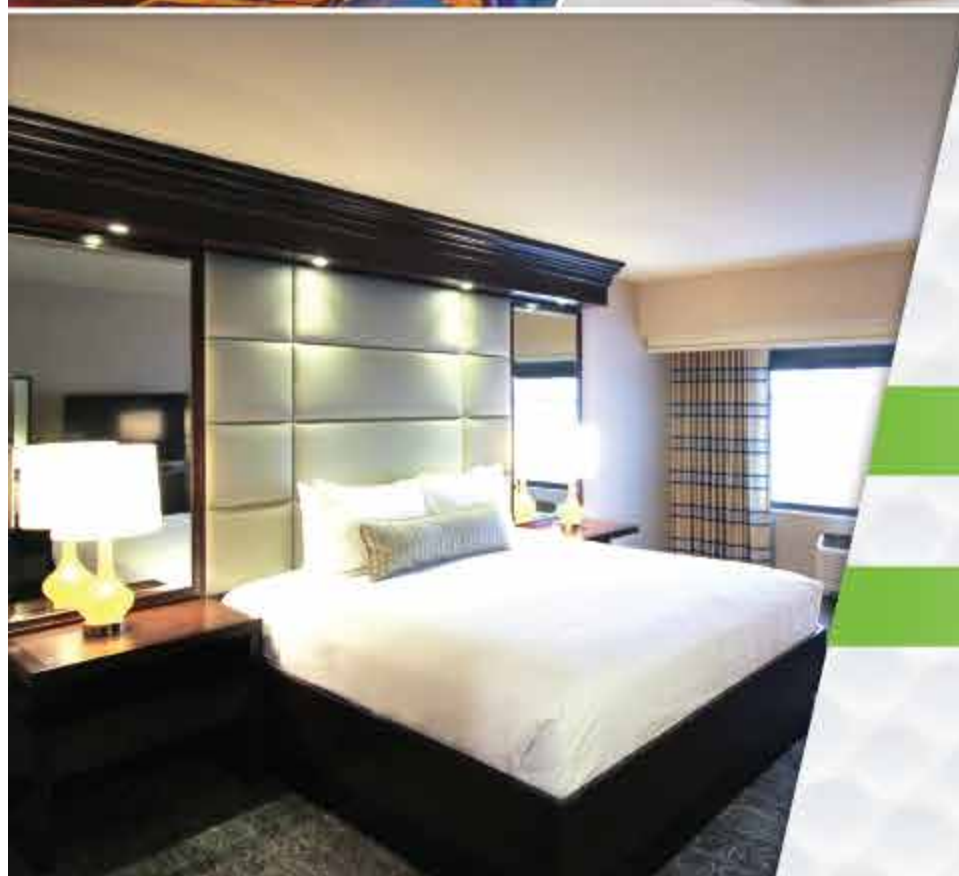
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Border opening will hopefully bring additional rounds to U.S. golf courses

By Bob Marlatt, Inside Golf Publisher

It is redundant to say that things have changed since the onset of the pandemic.

Like everything else, golf has also been affected. Washington golfers remember when the courses were forced to close on March 23, 2020 for over a month. And, remember too the changes to the game, like flags not allowed to be removed, and the Styrofoam pads in the holes to keep the ball from going to the bottom of the hole. It was weird but it was better than no golf at all.

Meanwhile, Idaho and Oregon were among the states that allowed golf courses to remain open. All golf courses had initially taken a hit from early 2020 restrictions, fortunately most saw a resurgence of play later in the year when more people—many new to the game—started coming out. Courses near the border with Canada have had a different set of challenges.

North of the border sits 5.1 million people and some of them routinely cross the border taking advantage of cheaper products and services and some even have second homes in the state. Annual border crossings are estimated at 14 million with most of those being Canadians. That all ended on March 21, 2020 when the border was closed.

Some of the golf courses near the border, having had to deal with a significant loss of revenue, are anxious if not desperate to see the Canadian traffic return. While hopes are placed on the reopening of the border, Laurie Truman, director of Border Policy Research Institute at Western Washington University speculates that the rebound will be slow. Not good news.

The U.S. said they would open the border in August of 2021. When that didn't happen, they said the date would be in September. That didn't happen either. Last month the U.S. said that it will reopen its land borders to nonessential travel in early November (at this time, Nov. 8 is the target date), ending a 19-month freeze due to the COVID-19 pandemic as the country moves to require all international visitors to be vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Not all border courses are affected the same way: Nathan Vickers, the Head Golf Professional at North Bellingham, said they were expecting a big drop in play but in fact had a 30% increase in rounds from a resurgence

in play. On the flip side, Robert Pace of Shuksan stated that Canadians make up about 60% of there business and while new players have helped, it hasn't made up the loss of Canadian traffic. Their rounds are down about 50% from pre pandemic numbers.

When asked if he thought the Canadians might change there buying habits after the long closure, Vickers thought they would come back because the courses across the border are so full, that it's hard to get a tee times there. He did say he thought the re-entry requirements might stop many Canadians from coming across for golf. At this time, re-entry into Canada by all travelers, including Canadians must show proof of a full series of approved COVID-19 vaccination and show a negative molecular (COVID) test within 14 days. The U.S. recently announced that it will open its doors to Canadians who are fully vaccinated on Nov. 8, but it's still unclear if Canada will follow suit, so travelers heading into Canada should be prepared to take a COVID test as well as show proof of vaccination.

Homestead Farms in Bellingham has had about the same experience as Shuksan. Evan Rossmiller at Homestead said they get about 60% of their play from Canadians and have put more efforts into increasing tournament play and golf camps to offset the loss. They have also had more local play, which has helped, but hasn't made up the loss.

Other courses that we contacted in the Bellingham area had similar stories of lost traffic. Even Avalon Golf Links, with 27 holes, located in Burlington, about an hour south of the border, said they experienced a loss of about 10% from Canadian play. However, Ron Hass, the General Manager, said their overall play was up and credits it to more families coming out to play.

Undoubtably the hardest hit from the border closing has been Bald Eagle Golf Club at Point Roberts, which was forced to completely close down until the Canadians are allowed back in.

No matter if the border opens in November, it will be an immediate boon to most businesses, but the impact on golf courses will not be realized until the spring of 2022 when the golf season starts to ramp up.

All hopes are that the border opening will be a sign that we are finally starting to turn the corner on the pandemic.



Golf courses in the near the Canadian border like Shuksan (top) and Bald Eagle should see increased rounds.



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The Lesson Tee: Calm those nerves if you are having some troubles around the greens

I have many golfers come to me struggling with their pitching and chipping. Sometimes they even have the yips around the green. After a while these poor images abort their short game and become difficult to overcome.

Step one:

Create a reactive routine that take the conscious mind out of the equation.

If every golfer made "the game of golf" more reactive; took less time and incorporated a subconscious flowing routine on EVERY shot most would not only play better but have more fun!

In your routine: Waggle looking at the target, spend more focus on the target and less time standing and thinking while looking at the ball. I like to imagine Steph Curry shooting a basketball. Let it go! Keep moving! Less thought. Less energy. Less time.

Step two:

Practice landing the ball where you want.

Place a shaft or even a hula hoop on the green and get better at landing the ball where you want. Forget the hole, practice landing the ball where you want.

Step three:

If every golfer leaned more left at address with chest and nose on top of the golf ball, and finished turning on your left hip/leg, all would hit their pitches more solid.

Take out the ROOTS of the grass not just the tops of the blades of the grass. Thump the roots as you turn. (photo 1 and 2)

Step four:

Big key here. Most poor to average pitchers of the golf ball create too many angles with their elbows folding and wrists hinging.

Imagine you have casts on your arms: (photo 1 and 2) and just turn your triangle of your two arms and chest back and through. Remember always



In your routine: Waggle looking at the target, spend more focus on the target and less time standing and thinking while looking at the ball. I like to imagine Steph Curry shooting a basketball. Let it go! Keep moving! Less thought. Less energy. Less time.

start left and finish left. Its like your chest is the hub of the wagon wheel and your arms are the spokes. Keep it moving. Less hinge, less folding of your arms.

Jeff Coston is a member of the Pacific Northwest PGA Hall of Fame. Jeff can be reached at Semiahmoo for appointment by calling 360-201-4590. See jeffcoston.com.



Photo #1



Photo #2

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Rules of the Game: With fall and winter season upon us, you surely get relief from sod seams and aeration holes, right?

The fall and winter season in the Pacific Northwest is a great time for golf courses to work on both regular maintenance and renovation projects. The end result is seeing your well hit drive now resting on an aeration hole or snuggled into a sod seam. What are your options?

Well, barring the introduction of a Model Local Rule, you have to choose between playing your ball as it lies or taking penalty relief for an unplayable ball under Rule 19 and dropping in a relief area for a one stroke penalty. In many cases these are unhappy choices, so let's look at the Model Local Rules that a committee may choose to implement.

These Model Local Rules are similar so it is appropriate to examine them together. Both situations arise due to maintenance activities and each are temporary conditions.

Aeration holes are covered by Model Local Rule E-4 and sod seams by Model Local Rule F-7. Both Local Rules allow free relief for the lie of the ball and area of intended swing, but NOT for stance. In other words, if your feet are on a sod seam or an aeration hole, you don't get free relief. As with other free relief situations for an Abnormal Course Condition in the general area (think Ground Under Repair) the player is entitled to determine the nearest point of complete relief and then use a relief area of one club length as per Rule 16.1b. Drop the ball from knee height and play on. Pretty straightforward in the general area.

They differ somewhat on the putting green, specifically: For sod seams on the putting green the player is entitled to select the nearest point of complete relief from the sod seams, including relief for interference on the line of intended play in addition to relief for interference for the lie of the ball and the area of intended swing. Again, no free relief for stance. Determine the nearest point of relief which may be either on the putting green



or in the general area....oops, didn't see that one coming, did you?.... and place the ball at that point as per Rule 16.1d.

For aeration holes, line of play is NOT included in the interference scenario (there are usually too many, makes sense, right?). So, again, determine the nearest point of complete relief from the aeration hole that is interfering with the lie of your ball or the area of your intended swing, remembering that it may be on the green or in the general area. Place the ball at that relief position and watch it wobble across the other aeration holes on its way to the hole.

Under both Model Local Rules, for a ball on the putting green, if you cannot find a point of complete relief, you may find the point of maximum available relief, which may be either on the putting green or in the general area and proceed from there.

With both aeration holes and sod seams the committee should remove the Model Local Rule as soon as the ground has healed sufficiently to resume standard play conditions.

For more interesting Model Local Rules check them out at usga.org.

Happy fall golf!



Make sure to know when to take relief when you are on sod seams and aeration holes during your round.

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