



# RIGA NEWS

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Golf Association

## 1992 SEASON IN FULL SWING

The RIGA kicked off its 1992 season at Pawtucket Country Club on April 20-21 with the first of 26 weekly invitationals. Despite the cold weather Jack Durnin of Quiddnessett posted a 78 with a 16 handicap to take top honors in the Allie Chatterton Memorial. Winter-like conditions continued at subsequent weeklies — At Quiddnessett there was a frost delay. At Metacomet the wind gusted to 30 mph with temperatures in the 50's. Instead of hearing the usual "How'd you play?" the more common sentiment was "I can't feel my hands!" or "When are we going to get some warm weather?" But golfers are a hearty breed and press onward they did. It may have been cold on those first few Mondays and Tuesdays but at least it didn't rain... At least not until Monday, June 1st when not only the weekly invitational at Alpine was scheduled but the State Amateur pre-qualifying had 143 golfers trying to qualify at Ledgemont and Green Valley. Play at Alpine was cancelled due to more than two and a half inches of rain which fell overnight. Green Valley, qualifying site for the unaffiliated players, had a one hour rain delay. Play finally commenced at 9:00 a.m. with players starting off both the 1st and 10th tees. Six players qualified from the field of 47 with medalist honors going to Kevin Almeida who shot an 80 in some very adverse conditions.

The situation didn't look too promising at Ledgemont but by the scheduled 8:00 a.m. tee time the rain had tapered to a drizzle and the course was deemed playable. But the drizzle continued throughout the day which made



Ready for a new year: Tom Theriault, Bob Allen, Gene Blair, and Steve Walsh of Cranston Country Club just before teeing off in first group of RIGA Invitational at Pawtucket Country Club.

for wet grips, wet golfers and a long playing course. Just finishing the round was an accomplishment for most. The bad conditions did yield a few good scores however. Among them was medalist Bob Bigonette of Kirkbrae who shot an impressive 72. The Bryant College standout didn't seem to be affected by the conditions at all. "In college you're always playing golf during the 'off' seasons, so the weather was no big deal," offered Bigonette after his round. I guess not! And not to be forgotten is Chris Hurd of Warwick Country Club. After eleven lackluster holes Hurd stepped up to the 12th tee and, you guessed it, sank his four iron from 186 yards for his first career hole-in-one! With that shot of adrenalin Hurd went on to shoot 79 and easily make the cut.

After all was said and done (and dried off) at Ledgemont, 49 players had

shot 84 or better to qualify for the tournament proper.

The following day at Warwick Country Club proved to be quite a contrast. With the sun shining and temperatures in the 70's, the conditions were ideal. 98 more players gave it their best with 57 players advancing. The cut fell at 82 with medalist honors going to Bill Campbell of Wanumetonomy who shot an even par 70. All totaled, 132 players qualified for the State Amateur which begins on July 6th at Crestwood Country Club. Included in the field is 1991 champion Paul Quigley along with eight other past champions. After 36 holes of medal play the field will be cut to the low 32 for match play with the finals being decided over 36 holes on July 10th.

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## — EVELYN — "THE LADY BEHIND THE VOICE"



Evelyn Cottam: Secretary extraordinaire!

Have you called the RIGA office recently? Some people have been doing it for years, especially those who call to get tee times in the weekly invitationals. Well the lady on the other end of the phone is RIGA office secretary, Evelyn Cottam. Always friendly and helpful to anyone calling, Evelyn is truly the unsung hero of the RIGA.

Beginning her fifth year working for the RIGA, Evelyn previously worked for Uniroyal, Inc. in Providence, manufacturer of the old Royal golf balls and clubs. Her dedication and efficiency have made for a smooth running office even on the busiest of days. "It's a fun job," relates Evelyn. "Sometimes it's hectic but it's enjoyable to be around golf."

So next time you call the office and someone answers, "Good morning, Rhode Island Golf, this is Evelyn," you'll know the lady behind the voice is hard at work making all your tournaments more enjoyable.

## A NOTE FROM JOE SPRAGUE, Executive Director



So far I have been pleasantly surprised on how things have been going. Our 1992 membership is running ahead of last year which was a banner year for the Association. Our first nine weekly invitationals have been well attended and entries to both the State Amateur (263 — a record) and Stroke Play (144) have been very encouraging.

With good golfing weather finally with us and the interest in golf still on the rise, we're looking forward to another exciting season.

If you get the chance, come out to one of our tournaments. Better yet — try one, I'm sure you'll enjoy yourself.

Rhode Island Golf Association  
Ten Orms Street, Suite 326  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Anthony Ventetuolo  
1992 RIGA President

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to a new golf season. 1992 should prove to be another great year for the Rhode Island Golf Association and its members. Serving as president of the RIGA is an honor and it

is my goal to commit myself to maintaining its history of excellence.

One of the duties of the president is to attend seminars which serve to better the game of golf, not only for Rhode Island golfers, but golfers everywhere. Last January I had the opportunity to attend a Slope Seminar in West Palm Beach, Florida sponsored by the United States Golf Association. Representatives from throughout the U.S. met with delegates from around the world who reported on sloping efforts in their countries. Slope rating of golf courses is clearly an international activity and one that is here to stay.

During the seminar USGA instructors grouped participants in teams of five and assigned each team six holes on the golf course to slope. Selected holes were chosen to confront the team with a wide variety of conditions and challenges. The same six holes were also sloped by a team of USGA officials,

and the results then compared. The results were extremely close which can be directly attributed to the universal use of a new USGA Slope instruction manual which puts everyone on the same "wave length" and proves that sloping is having a worldwide impact.

On a local level it is important for golfers playing in the RIGA weekly invitationals to know their club handicap index. Your own club handicap is not used when playing another course. The handicap index is what allows you to obtain an adjusted slope handicap.

The RIGA has its usual full complement of tournaments this summer. The next few months will indeed be busy. And for those not competing in any of the state championship tournaments, I invite you to come out to watch and support our local players. You will surely see some great golf on some fine courses. I wish everyone an enjoyable golf season.

## RULES CORNER

**Q:** If a player pops up his tee shot and it comes down and embeds on the tee from which he is playing, is he entitled to a drop under the embedded ball rule?

**A:** No. Relief for a ball embedded in its own pitch mark only provides relief when the ball lies "through the green." By definition, "through the green" is the whole area of the course except:

- a.) Teeing ground and putting green of the hole being played.
- b.) All hazards on the course.

**Q:** When is a player said to have addressed the ball?

**A:** A player has "addressed the ball" when he has taken his stance and has also grounded his club, except that in a hazard a player has addressed the ball when he has taken his stance.

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The RIGA also conducted local qualifying for the USGA Open on May 18th at Valley Country Club. 39 players competed for three spots in the sectional qualifying round. Bruce Murphy, a pro from Massachusetts, was medalist with a 36 hole score of 145. Ed Kirby of Kirkbrae and the Ben Hogan Tour was second at 146 and Wanumetonomy head pro, John Frizzell, rounded out the top three with a 147 total. It was Frizzell's first time advancing beyond the local qualifying round for the Open.

As we go to press the weather is finally becoming more seasonable and more to the liking of RI golfers which is definitely good news. The RIGA schedule for June and July is a busy one. In addition to the State Amateur in July, the Stroke Play Championship and Northeast Amateur will be played in back-to-back weeks beginning June 16th. The week following the State Amateur will see the Junior Amateur, Fourball Championship, New England Amateur, Father/Son, and Mixed Foursomes rounding out the month of July. And let's not forget the weeklies which will also continue. So keep swinging and we'll see you at the course.

## GOLF CLUB NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

**AGAWAM** — Completing watering system; laser-measured yardage tags installed on sprinkler caps. Slope and course rating to be done.

**ALPINE** — New drainage and watering systems working well. Clubhouse renovations are spectacular!

**NEW ENGLAND** — Joins RIGA for 1992; formed inner-club with a growing membership.

**CRESTWOOD** — Full renovation of clubhouse; men's and ladies' locker rooms updated. New mixed grill, new 19th hole with kitchen and bar on first floor. Course in good condition, making final preparations for State Amateur.

**GREEN VALLEY** — New pond on hole #5; green at #5 to be closer to tee by Fall. Renovations complete at #13 tee and left of #14 green.

**KIRKBRAE** — #14 tee was completely rebuilt and re-sodded; four greens have had sprinkler systems updated. Two year drainage project completed this past winter. After three years of putting out blue bird houses, there is finally a pair nesting to the right of #16 green!

**LEDGEMONT** — 1st tee re-sodded; extended #9 tee; extensive tree planting program.

**LINCOLN** — Reconstruction of #5 tee (enlarging and re-sodding); work on #8 tee including re-sodding.

**MONTAUP** — Automatic sprinkler system completed on back nine; pond on hole #4 expanded to ensure more water supply; trees replaced which were destroyed by last Fall's Hurricane Bob.

**NEWPORT** — Preparations continuing for 1995 USGA Amateur.

**POINT JUDITH** — Three complete tee sets in design tradition of Donald Ross with attendant stone cart paths built on holes #5, #7 and #8; Red tee enlarged on #3; complete renovation of both grill rooms and men's locker room; new shingled cart barn.

**QUIDNESSETT** — Many new trees, plants and shrubbery; renovated mixed grill not only provides more efficient service but provides better clubhouse view of Narragansett Bay.

**TRIGGS** — Purchased new computer system for handicaps; tee time lottery system for inner club members, 7:00 each Monday and Tuesday evening for Saturday and Sunday tee times.

**VALLEY** — Hosted local trials for USGA Open on May 18th; central air conditioning in 19th hole grill room, men's locker room and pro shop; beginning construction of new practice range; new assistant pro for '92, Michael Moore, from the Kittanset Club.

**WANNAMOISSETT** — Traps renovated to original Donald Ross design on holes #3, #11, and #16 — others to be done in the Fall.

**WARWICK** — New head pro, Larry Demers, from the Black Hall Club in Old Lyme, Connecticut. Hosting New England Amateur Championship, July 21-23.

**WEST WARWICK** — Economy isn't affecting applications for membership — there's a long waiting list.

**WINNAPAUG** — Improvements behind #6 green (sodding and plantings), new 7th tee.