

**JULES COHEN –  
“MR. GHIN”**



If Reggie Jackson is “Mr. October” and Al Geiberger is “Mr. 59” then our own Jules Cohen’s nom de plume should be “Mr. GHIN.” Since 1991 Jules has been the RIGA’s Handicap Consultant. He’s in charge of over-seeing all member clubs who utilize the U.S.G.A.’s Golf Handicap Information Network (GHIN). Currently 17 of the RIGA’s 30 member clubs are on GHIN.

Formerly in private business, Jules has just completed his eighth year as Asst. Professor of Management Information Systems in the Economics Dept. at Rhode Island College. That sounds like a mouthful but simply translated, it means Jules is the perfect man to navigate the sometimes rocky waters of the GHIN computer network. If a club has a problem, Jules is often in contact with them the same day. If he can’t solve the problem himself, he is on the line with GHIN headquarters to make sure the club is up and running as quickly as possible.

A member of Potowomut Golf Club, when Jules is not in the classroom or on the golf course he is often tending to his extensive garden. Working with many different handicap chairpersons and pro shop personnel is not always the easiest job. But with his extreme thoroughness and attention to detail, Jules goes about his business with the alacrity of a seasoned professional.

The RIGA and every golfer with a GHIN handicap owes Jules a tip of the visor for his tireless, “behind the scenes” work in helping make all our golfing more enjoyable.

**RIGA  
FLASHBACK**



Bob Byman (left) receives the 1976 Northeast Amateur winner’s trophy from Bob Kosten, then tournament chairman. Byman went on to become a multiple winner on the PGA Tour. Bob Kosten, now residing in North Carolina, is a three-time RI State Amateur champion.



Rhode Island Golf Association  
Ten Orms Street, Suite 326  
Providence, Rhode Island 02904  
(401) 272-1350



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**RIGA NEWS**

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Golf Association

**A.T. CROSS COMPANY TO SPONSOR 1993 STATE OPEN**



Russell “Ron” Boss (left) and Brad Boss, standing in front of painting of their father W. Russell Boss, Jr.

Last year Dana Quigley won the RI Open and collected \$2,500. This year the winner will pocket \$4,000 and be the first player to win the RIGA-A.T. Cross Open. That’s right – same event, new name. Because of the A.T. Cross Company’s generous commitment to the tournament, it was voted by the RIGA Executive Committee that they share the billing. The company is in its second year of sponsoring the tournament which will be contested this year at Valley Country Club on August 2-3.

Brothers Brad Boss (Chairman of the Board) and Ron Boss (President & CEO) of A.T. Cross have had a long-running tenure as supporters of the game of golf. Beginning with their father, the late W. Russell Boss, Jr., the company has been a generous supporter of the John P. Burke Memorial Fund. They’re also an annual sponsor of the Northeast Amateur Invitational. “Our dad introduced us to the game at a time when we were just interested in sailing,” recalls Brad. And it’s a sure bet they’re glad he did.

As the A.T. Cross slogan says, makers of “fine writing instruments since 1846,” this is a company steeped in tradition

with a commitment to excellence. With the game of golf being synonymous with tradition, it seems a perfect match for Cross to team up with the Rhode Island Golf Association. As for other sponsorships which the company pursues, Brad Boss relates “Our love of golf transcends Rhode Island. We also sponsor Brad Faxon on the PGA Tour.” Which is not to say golf is the only focus of the Boss brothers’ interests – “we’ve also had a long association with the Big Brothers of Rhode Island,” Ron is quick to add.

From its humble beginnings the RI Open has grown steadily over the years. In the early 1950’s the tournament was a 36 hole, one-day event. In 1956 it increased to 54 holes played over two days. That year it was won by Charlie Sifford, one of the first black touring professionals. In 1970 the purse jumped from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Throughout this period there was no outside sponsor putting up prize money. The purse came from entry fees and the RIGA itself.

The first big increase in the purse came in 1977 when Bill Considine and the Miller Brewing Company-Wayne Distributing helped up the purse to \$6,500. In 1981 Ernie Corner and the Corner/Lada Company took over for eight years helping to increase the purse to \$8,000 then

\$10,000. 1988 marked the year Jack Kilmartin and his International Packaging Company began a four year sponsorship, increasing the purse again to \$12,500. When A.T. Cross took over in 1992 the tournament was already among the most popular for top area pros and amateurs.

There have been many notable past champions-some of them, by now, local legends. When Dana Quigley won last year, it was his third victory in as many decades (1973, 1981, 1992). The last amateur to win was Marc St. Martin in 1990. Before that one had to look back to 1975 and ’76 when Norm Lutz and Ronnie Quinn took first place. Brad Faxon (1985) and Billy Andrade (1987) both won while en route to their much storied success on the PGA Tour. Other local notables like Ed Kirby (1989) and Jim Hallet (1984) have also copped the winner’s check.

The RIGA and A.T. Cross plan to work together to make the 1993 Open as exciting as ever. With more money on the line, players’ nerves may be a little more frayed down the stretch. Three footers will lengthen into infinite gut-wrenchers. A usual walk in the park will turn into a battle of wills. So mark your calendar: Valley Country Club, August 2-3. The RIGA-A.T. Cross Open has arrived.



6th Hole at Valley Country Club, host of the 1993 RIGA-A.T. Cross Open Championship.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Timothy J. Harrington

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the RIGA Member Clubs for allowing us to extend the Tee Off times on Mondays of our Weekly Tournaments.

These weekly events are extremely popular and the extension to 2:30 P.M. on Monday has enabled us to have 40% more players participate than last year.

Recently, I sent a letter to the Presidents of the RIGA Clubs, regarding the issue of reciprocity. The request was made that if one of our thirty member clubs was hosting a Major Tournament, that club should be allowed to send two foursomes to play at other Member Courses for each day the Tournament is being contested. The responses are beginning to come in and we are encouraged that the golf professionals can coordinate this effort, and accept the various requests in the spirit of cooperation and golfing tradition.

## JOHN P. BURKE – 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Most people who are familiar with the RIGA are also familiar with the John P. Burke Memorial Fund. Since 1946 the Burke Fund has awarded scholarships towards college for deserving caddies. What many people don't know is how the Burke Fund got its name.

1993 marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Johnny Burke. At age 26 he was killed in action during World War II. Before his untimely death he was touted by many as the best golfer ever to come out of Rhode Island.

Beginning his career as a caddy at Wanumetonomy Golf Club, Johnny Burke eventually rose to local prominence by first winning the State Caddy and Schoolboy Crowns. In 1934 he won his first of three successive State Amateur Championships. In fact, had he not been disqualified for missing his tee time in 1937 he may have won it five years in a row. After capturing the 1936 title, George Gordon, dean of the local club professionals, likened Burke to none other than Bobby Jones. "That boy will be an internationally famous golfer," Gordon said at the time. "There has never been anyone like him in Rhode Island. He may even become a second Jones." Pretty strong.

Gordon knew what he was talking about. Johnny Burke competed successfully against the professionals as well by winning the RI Open in 1936 and 1938. As it turned out 1938 proved to be his



best year. Besides winning the State Open and State Amateur, he won the NCAA individual championship as a sophomore at Georgetown University. He qualified for the U.S. Amateur and reached the semi-finals in the Western Amateur. In 1941, the year before he enlisted in the service he missed taking the qualifying medal in the U.S. Amateur by a single stroke.

Johnny Burke's untimely death prevented any of us from ever knowing what might have been. Members of the RIGA Executive Committee, at the conclusion of WW II, voted to keep his memory alive by instituting a caddy scholarship in his name. Burke scholars past and present can be proud of their scholarships' namesake. Not many Rhode Islanders who have stuck a tee in the ground can claim to have taken their game to such a high level.

## SUMMER PREVIEW '93



Tiger Woods

Another busy and exciting summer of golf is about to commence for the tournament player and club player alike. On June 15 & 16 Dr. Paul Barber and Jeff Giguere of Potowomut will defend their title in the Fourball Championship... Eleven of the country's top fourteen ranked amateurs from 1992 are scheduled to compete in the 32nd playing of the Northeast Amateur Invitational. Danny Yates, 1992 USGA Mid-Amateur champ and Warren Schutte, 1992 USGA Amateur Public Links champion have both committed to play. It's a teenager, however, who's bound to create the biggest buzz among local media and golf fans. Eldrick "Tiger" Woods, the number one junior player in the nation and two-time defending U.S. Junior champ, is scheduled to play. The seventeen year old from Cypress, CA who

has already played in PGA Tour events will tee it up with the top amateurs at Wannamoisett Country Club on June 24-27. And, of course, Jay Sigel, three-time Northeast champion, will be in the field. Jim Stallman (Rhode Island Country Club) and Marilyn Picerelli (Metacomet) did something last year in the Mixed Foursomes which Curtis Strange couldn't do in the U.S. Open – a three-peat. This year they'll try to make it four in a row at Agawam on July 9-11... The State Amateur rolls into Wanumetonomy on July 12-16. 1992 champion, Rodney Butcher

has turned pro but the talent is still deep and the competition sure to be fierce in the 88th playing of the tournament... Not to be forgotten, the ever-popular Weekly Invitationals. The winter was long. The early spring was cold and wet but somehow the weather turned nice in May – especially on Mondays and Tuesdays – which has made for many enjoyable rounds during the first leg of the Weeklies. There are plenty more chances for you, our members, to play the many fine courses on our schedule. Hope to see you there.



3rd Hole at Wannamoisett Country Club – site of the Northeast Amateur Invitational.

## RULES CORNER

### The Biggest Myths About the Rules of Golf

By Clyde Luther  
VSGA Rules Chairman

Far too often we are reminded of the many myths or misconceptions in the Rules of Golf, and it certainly doesn't help when we hear our favorite golf commentators incorrectly use certain terms during a telecast. Let's run through these 'Big Ones' and see if we can improve our use or understanding of certain terms.

■ **Equity** is a decision made when a point is not covered by the rules. **IT IS NOT** an adjustment made just because someone deems a situation to be unfair.

■ There is no such thing as **ROUGH**. There are four parts to a golf course – the teeing ground of the hole being played, the green of the hole being played, all hazards on the course and "through the green," which is the entire course other than the aforementioned. Therefore, the so-called "rough" and "fairway" are really "through the green" and are all one and the same.

■ The player who is many holes **DOWN** as remain to be played in a match isn't **DORMIE**. His opponent is. A Player is **DORMIE** when he is as many holes **UP** as remain to be played.

■ It's a **FLAGSTICK**, not a pin... it's a **BUNKER**, not a trap... it's a **HOLE**, not a cup.

■ A ball **CANNOT BE DECLARED LOST**. A ball can be deemed lost only after searching for it for five minutes, or the player has played a provisional ball from the place where the original ball is likely to be or from a point nearer the hole than that place.

Well, there they are. Let's start the new year off right by learning the Rules of Golf.

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## Little Known Golf Facts

We're all familiar with the Titleist name. The New Bedford, MA company has been at the forefront of golf ball technology and merchandise for most of the modern era. What you're probably not familiar with is how the famous Titleist logo came into being.

When they were producing the first Titleist ball in 1935, company executives were trying to come up with a logo. They remembered that the handwriting of a particular office secretary was very nice. They gave her a sheet of paper and asked her to write the word "Titleist". The way she wrote the word on the page is exactly how it appears today.

Eben Byers, playing out of The Misquamicut Club, won the first RI Amateur Championship in 1902. The son of the founder of one of the world's largest steel corporations, Byers utilized his family's considerable wealth to play golf the world over and live the life of a playboy.

The same year he won the RI Amateur, Byers was also runner-up in the U.S. Amateur. He eventually won the national Amateur in 1906 at the age of 26. In 1916 he lost his first round match to Bobby Jones at Merion Golf Club. Byers held memberships at a number of prestigious clubs including the famed St. Andrews Club in Scotland.

Many Japanese golfers begin a round with a prayer to Kannon the Golf Goddess. Kannon is enshrined outside a 430-year-old Zen Buddhist temple in Annaka, 60 miles north of Tokyo. The statue is a Buddha look-alike with a halo of golf clubs. Millions of Japanese golfers have visited the shrine leaving golf related offerings and practicing their swings. Wonder what the Dalai Lama would think?

