

Fleet

Open Set For August 16 & 17

Many of New England's best club professionals along with defending champion Kirk Hanefeld will be on hand at Wanumetonomy Golf & Country Club for the Fleet Open this August 16-17.

Fleet Bank is proud to be the sponsor of Rhode Island's oldest professional golf championship. Past champions of this event include Dana Quigley (six times), Brad Faxon, Billy Andrade and P. H. Horgan III.

The winner's share of the \$25,000 purse will be \$5,000. The tournament will also feature many of our top Rhode Island Amateur players including '99 State amateur Champion Mike Soucy and college standout Mike Capone. Two-time Rhode Island Amateur Champion Joey Iacofano will make his first appearance in the Open as a professional, and '98 runner-up Brad Adamonis of Cumberland is also scheduled to compete.

Wanumetonomy is a great site for this championship, so come out and watch some of the best golf that Rhode Island has to offer all year.

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

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 267
PROVIDENCE, RI



SUMMER 1999



RIGA NEWS

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Golf Association

A Great Friendship, Many Championships

by Joe Sprague, Jr.

Like most kids who learned to play golf in the 1930's, Angelo Santilli and Alfred Campanelli were introduced to the game as caddies. Angie caddied at Potowomut where he could play golf every morning Monday through Friday provided that he helped weed the greens. Fred caddied at Rhode Island Country Club where, like most clubs, caddies were only allowed to play on Mondays. But because he lived across the street from the 14th hole, Fred could usually be found roaming the fairways at dusk hitting golf shots until it was too dark to see.

Both Angie and Fred experienced golfing success early. Fred led his Barrington High golf team to two state championships in the late 1930's, and he also captured two RIGA Caddy Championships while also leading his RICC team to three straight team titles. Angie, four years younger than Fred, also won a State Caddy Championship, captured medalist honors in the RI Juniors and led his West Warwick High golf team to a state championship. Angie also excelled at West Warwick in baseball as a consistent hitter and in basketball as the team's best shooter, once scoring 42 points in a game. As the team's center and captain, Angie had one of the highest scoring averages in the state in 1942.

But it was golf that captured the imaginations of Angie and Fred. Both men eventually joined local clubs - Angie at Potowomut and Fred at Metacomet - and began to compete seriously in state tournaments. In those days there were only two big tournaments a year - the State Amateur and the Four-Ball. Other than that players were limited to playing at the club level unless they wanted to venture outside

of Rhode Island. Ironically, Angie and Fred never crossed paths while playing in Rhode Island. It wasn't until the 1948 New England Amateur in Waterbury, CT that the two met for the first time. They became fast friends and played in the inaugural RIGA Four-Ball Championship as a team in 1950. No one knew it then, but the most successful Rhode Island Four-Ball team had just landed on the scene.

Over the next 25 years Angie Santilli and Fred Campanelli would win five Four-Ball Championships and reach the finals eight times. That translates into a trip to the finals one out of every three times that they teed it up - a remarkable record given the fierce competition with teams like Bill and Fred Newman, Bobby Allen and Don Carner, Al Faenza and Brad Oxnard to name but a few. And each year that either Angie or Fred won the State Amateur, they also won the Four-Ball during the same year. For the record, Angie and Fred won the Four-Ball in 1955, '61, '63, '64 and '67.

Individual Exploits

No team could possibly dominate if each player was not exceptionally skilled in his own right. This was certainly the case with Angie Santilli and Fred Campanelli. Each compiled a stellar individual record that would be the envy of any Rhode Island golfer.

Fred won the first of his two State Amateurs in 1948 at Wannamoisett by defeating John Mallaghan of Triggs in the finals. He lost to Bob Kosten in the finals in 1952, but won again in 1964 by beating a young Stan Abrams in the final match. In fact, 1964 proved to be a clean sweep for Fred. Not only did he win his second State Amateur and fourth Four-Ball, but he and partner Betty June (Bobel) Stapleton



Fred Campanelli (L) and Angie Santilli in 1967 winning their first Four-Ball.

(continued on page 5)

NANCY LOPEZ FIRST TO PLAY PAWTUCKET COUNTRY CLUB'S NEW THIRD GREEN



Pawtucket Country Club has had its share of problems with its 3rd green in recent years. Having rebuilt the green twice with less than satisfactory results, the green was redesigned again in the fall of 1998 by New York golf course architect Steve Esposito. The back of the green was lowered and the entire green was re-contoured to better match the architecture of Pawtucket's other 17 greens.

It seems like the third time will be a charm. The first person to play the green was none other than LPGA Hall of Famer Nancy Lopez. Playing in a charity event sponsored by Bayer, Lopez hit her approach shot 12 feet from the hole and canned the putt for birdie. "This is a very fair green," Nancy commented to Pawtucket member Ben Martin (pictured above with Lopez). "Your members will enjoy playing it."

Many of the state's top players will have their first try at the new green on September 20-21 when Pawtucket CC hosts the RIGA Mid-Amateur Championship.

In other Pawtucket CC news, the club has agreed to host the 2002 RI State Amateur Championship as part of its centennial celebration. Pawtucket Country Club and the Rhode Island Golf Association both will be celebrating 100 years in 2002.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Henry L. Richard, Sr.

I hope that you're all enjoying your '99 golf season. There's been plenty of good golf weather, but we could sure use some rain. Our golf course superintendents and their crews must all be a little ragged at this point in the season. I know we all appreciate how hard they work to keep our golf courses in such good condition.

The Rhode Island Golf Association is having another banner year. As Joe, Jr. alluded to his report, the weather was not too agreeable in the early part of our tournament season, but we made it through and all our events have been a success.

Slow play is still a problem that we need to monitor and improve upon. During the pre-qualifying rounds for the State Amateur, rounds took more than five hours by the end of the day at each site, and in some cases close to six hours. This is unacceptable. Four single-digit handicap players should not take upwards of 5 1/2 hours to play a round of golf. The RIGA will certainly bear some responsibility, too. Joe and I have discussed the situation and the RIGA will do its part to correct the problem next year by assigning threesomes for the pre-qualifier, but we need the cooperation from the players, too.

We had a wonderful State Amateur Championship at Ledgement Country Club. Congratulations to Mike Soucy and Mike Capone for making it to the finals, and a hearty congratulations to Mike Soucy on a great win. Also, on behalf of the RIGA, I want to thank everyone at Ledgement - Board of Governors, members, Golf Course Superintendent Bill Sherman and his crew, Club Manager Al Lepore and Club Professional Chuck Antonuccio and their staffs - for making the '99 State Amateur such a great success.

The Rhode Island Golf Association continues to work hard to make its tournaments better for the players and to provide the best services to its member clubs and individual members. I wish everyone the best for the remainder of this golf season.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Well, this was supposed to be the spring issue, but the spring was a very busy time for the RIGA and the newsletter got put on the back burner. Then it was going to be a spring/summer issue, but since we've endured three heat waves so far, I think it's safe to just call it the summer issue of RIGA News.

Clearly, the spring of '99 was the RIGA's busiest yet in terms of the number of events conducted. By June 2nd we had run three major tournaments, three pre-qualifiers and U.S. Open qualifying, not to mention eight Weekly Invitational tournaments. The inaugural John P. Burke Memorial was a great success, and people are still getting mileage out of all the bad weather jokes I heard over those two days. If you were there you know what I'm talking about. If you weren't then you've probably heard some of the stories about the horrendous wind, rain and cold that I made

the players endure. Most of the guys are still talking to me, too!

This trend of having many of the big tournaments either early or late in the season is likely to continue. With the game's popularity soaring there are so many more demands on a golf course's time throughout the year, and especially through the prime summer months. This necessitates a little flexibility on the part of the RIGA and a little understanding by the players who compete in the events.

My first year as Executive Director is going well so far, and I appreciate all the support that so many of you have shown me. I guess you could say that the season's in full swing. I hope that everyone's got that one swing thought that's working just right.

-Joe Sprague, Jr.

Burke Tournament Raises \$9,000 for Scholarship Fund

The 120 players who signed up were all looking forward to playing Newport CC and Wanumetonomy Golf & CC. The weatherman was predicting two warm and sunny spring days for May 3-4, but those who participated in the inaugural John P. Burke Memorial Tournament know better. Play was suspended once each day. Strong winds blew the rain sideways. No one is still sure exactly how cold the wind chill might have been.

Despite the horrific conditions, there was still some terrific golf played. But the real winner was the John P. Burke Memorial Fund, the scholarship fund that awards college aid to young men and women who caddy, work in the shop or on the grounds crew at RIGA member courses. The tournament raised \$9,051 for the Fund which has been awarding scholarships since

1947 in memory of Johnny Burke, the R.I. golfing great from Newport who was killed in World War II.

Johnny Burke's twin brother and longtime Newport CC head pro, Joe Burke, was on hand to watch some of the action, but as the weather worsened he (smartly) opted for the comfort of his living room instead.

Mike Soucy of Valley and Metacomet was unflappable in the severe conditions, shooting two amazing rounds of 73-74 to win his first RIGA title. Almost as impressive were Kirkbrae's John Auclair and Cranston's Jonathan Drumm who tied for second at 149. In the net division, Dr. Mike Smith of Kirkbrae turned in a

pair of 75's to win by four. And in the team division, Paul Quigley of Metacomet and John Cicerchia of Triggs combined for better-ball net rounds of 67-68 to win by one.



The Four-Ball Championship at Metacomet on May 24-26 had its share of weather problems, too. Heavy rain

plagued the qualifying round, causing play to be suspended three times and then finally once more due to lightning (not to mention the impending darkness). Players came back Tuesday to complete qualifying and then a play-off ensued for the final match play spots. The matches finally got under way and the tournament got back on track. There were many exciting matches over the next two days with the



Burke Fund President Leon Boghassian (L) congratulates Burke Champion Mike Soucy

Barber brothers, Paul and John of Potowomut, edging John Auclair and Mike Soucy in the five-hole play-off to capture the crown.

Greg Richard of Wannamoisett executed golf's rarest feat during the Four-Ball. Greg and partner Mark Krieger were playing their second round match against Nick Cioe and Tom Acciardo who had won the first hole. Tom was first to play from the fairway at Metacomet's 2nd hole, and he hit his shot about 15 feet from the hole leaving himself an eagle putt. Greg promptly stepped up to his second shot from 248 yards out and struck a three-wood into the hole for his first career double eagle.

Course & Slope Ratings

by M. Peter Erickson, Chairman, RIGA Course Rating Committee

As most of you know, the Rhode Island Golf Association's Course Rating Team re-rated all of its member clubs during 1998 and early 1999. The USGA requires that a state or regional golf association re-rate its courses once every ten years, and 1988 had been the last time that the RIGA rated its courses.

Most courses experienced some type of change in either their USGA Course or Slope Rating. In several cases, the changes were dramatic. Without boring you with too much detail let me just simply say that a lot has changed in ten years with respect to course rating. For starters, the USGA's procedure for rating the obstacle values on each hole has become much more objective. This fact alone is the main reason that many of you saw some big changes at your courses. And from our committee's review, I believe that we came up with very accurate ratings and slopes.

Another very important thing to keep in mind is that the USGA Slope Rating is not a reference number used when analyzing the difficulty of a set of tees or when comparing different courses. Instead, it is the measurement of the relative difficulty of a course for bogey golfers compared to the difficulty of a course for scratch golfers. The assessment of difficulty of a particular set of tees relies on both the USGA Course and Slope Ratings. In fact, it is the Course Rating that ultimately has the greater effect on the number used in calculating a golfer's USGA Handicap Index.

Course Name	Tees	Course Ratings	Slope Ratings	Course Name	Tees	Course Ratings	Slope Ratings
Agawam Hunt	Red	71.4	126	Pawtucket CC cont.	Gold	69.3	123
	Ladies White	72.8	129		White	70.1	125
	White	68.6	124		Blue	71.2	126
	Blue	70.5	128	Point Judith CC	Red	72.1	119
Alpine CC	Red	73.0	117	Ladies White	75.9	127	
	Ladies White	75.8	123	Yellow	69.4	119	
	White	71.0	126	White	70.9	123	
	Blue	72.4	129	Blue	72.5	125	
Cranston CC	Front	71.9	120	Potowomut GC	Front	73.1	119
	Middle	69.2	122		Middle	69.0	124
	Back	71.4	126		Back	70.6	128
* Crestwood CC	Red	72.3	121	Quidnessett CC	Red	73.3	126
	Ladies White	76.0	129		Ladies White	76.8	133
	White	70.8	120		White	71.1	127
	Blue	71.7	123		Blue	73.4	128
Foster CC	Front	70.0	112	RICC	Red	73.4	124
	Middle	69.6	115		White	69.1	122
	Back	70.6	117		Blue	70.8	125
Foxwoods G & CC at Boulder Hills	Front	70.9	125		Ladies Black	73.7	130
	Middle	67.7	126		Black	72.8	127
	Back	69.1	131	Sakonnet GC	Red	71.5	119
Glocester CC	Front	72.4	119	Ladies White	73.4	123	
	Middle	67.6	121	White	67.9	118	
	Back	67.6	121	Blue	69.7	122	
Green Valley CC	Front	71.3	117	Seaview	Front	66.8	117
	Middle	71.8	125		Mixed	64.4	109
	Back	72.6	128		Middle	64.0	108
Kirkbrae CC	Front	72.8	119		Back	67.1	119
	Middle	71.0	129	Triggs Memorial GC	Front	73.1	123
	Back	72.5	131		Middle	70.5	126
Laurel Lane GC	Front	70.8	115		Back	71.5	129
	Front/Front	66.2	113	Valley CC	Red	72.3	121
	Middle	67.6	120		Ladies White	75.8	128
Ledgemont CC	Front	73.7	124		White	71.1	128
	Middle	71.4	131		Blue	72.1	129
	Back	72.5	133	Wannamoissett CC	Red	74.0	128
Lincoln CC	Front	69.8	120		Ladies White	76.2	132
	Mixed	68.0	126		White	70.9	131
	Middle	67.2	124		Blue	72.1	133
	Back	68.7	127	Wanumetonomy G&CC	Red	72.2	115
Metacomet	Front	73.4	127		Ladies White	75.2	121
	Back	71.7	129		White	70.7	122
The Misquamicut Club	Front	70.6	118		Blue	70.6	124
	Middle	68.4	117	Warwick CC	Red	73.5	121
	Back	70.3	124		Ladies White	76.0	126
Montaup CC	Front	71.5	120		White	70.3	125
	Middle	69.6	123		Blue	71.2	127
	Back	71.7	126	West Warwick CC	Front	69.1	119
* New England CC	Middle	67.2	125		Mixed	68.8	122
	Back	71.1	129		Middle	68.8	122
Newport CC	Blue	72.6	122	Winnapaug CC	Back	68.8	122
	Ladies White	75.6	128		Front	69.2	118
	White	69.6	125		Middle	68.6	119
	Red	71.3	130		Back	70.6	124
	Black	72.7	129	Woodland Greens GC	Front	69.2	126
	North Kingstown CC	Middle	67.8		121	Mixed	68.5
Back		69.3	123		Middle	68.3	124
Pawtucket CC	Front	73.4	120		Back	69.2	126
	Ladies White	75.6	125				

* Denotes MGA

won their sixth Mixed Foursomes Championship. Between 1955 and 1969, Fred and Betty June won the Mixed Foursomes a total of nine times, a record that will probably never be broken.

Because of his phenomenal record on the golf course in 1964, Fred was named Athlete of the Year by Words Unlimited at its Annual Awards Banquet. Fred's other notable achievements on the course include his playing on the RI Tri-State Team more than 20 times and winning the Metacomet club championship a record 11 times.

Angie made it to the State Amateur finals in 1947 at age 22, but he was so nervous that he didn't really stand a chance against the defending champion Stan Kozlowski. Though he didn't win, Angie proved to himself that he could play with the big boys. Perhaps what Angie is best known for, though, is nothing that took place on any golf course in Rhode Island, but what transpired in Oklahoma City in September 1953 and Augusta, Georgia in April 1954.

When Angie qualified for the U.S. Amateur and trekked off to Oklahoma City in 1953, he was a 31 year-old unknown golfer from Rhode Island. By week's end he had beaten Sam Urzetta, 1950 champion and Walker Cup team member, and marched all the way to the quarter-finals before losing a heartbreaking match in 20 holes to Dale Morey, the eventual runner-up to Gene Littler.

Although he was disappointed to lose such a close match, Angie was obviously thrilled with one of the perks afforded U.S. Amateur quarter-finalists - an invitation to play in The Masters in 1954. Angie practiced all fall and winter at Potowomut, playing and hitting balls in all kinds of weather to prepare for that special week in April.

Angie checked in at Augusta National G.C. eight days before the start of the tournament. Only one player had arrived earlier - Ben Hogan. Hogan was the defending champion and yet he had pulled into Augusta a month before The Masters to prepare for his title defense. Angie played the course by himself and later saw Hogan on the practice range.

Ben Hogan and Angie Santilli were the only two players on the practice range and Angie knew to keep his distance. As he was hitting balls, Angie noticed that Hogan was hitting shots from the practice bunker. Angie crept closer and closer to Hogan who was at the end of the range and saw that he was practicing bunker shots from buried lies. Hogan noticed Angie and turned around quickly. "Son, is this the same sand as out on the golf course?" Hogan asked. Angie told him it seemed a lit-

tle softer out on the course. Hogan then went on to tell Angie how different the playing conditions would be come tournament time, especially on the greens.

There were 15 amateurs in The Masters field in 1954, and Bobby Jones hosted a dinner for them prior to the tournament. Jones spoke to the small gathering of amateurs and offered them words of encouragement. He told them that he thought it was possible for an amateur to win that year. Alas, that was not to be as Sam Snead beat Hogan in an 18-hole play-off after the two were tied after 72 holes.

Angie was thrilled with the week and returned to Rhode Island with even more confidence in his golfing ability. After a conversation with Ben Hogan and a pep talk from Bobby Jones it would have been difficult not to be inspired. The remainder of his 1954 season was probably a bit of a letdown after playing in The Masters, but Angie came out firing the next year.

In 1955 Angie won his first State Amateur and Four-Ball Championships. As defending champion in 1956 he was beaten in the finals by

Ronnie Quinn in 38 holes after having beaten the state's two best players, Bob Kosten and Bobby Allen, in the quarters and semis. Angie shot the lowest score in qualifying for the 1961 State Amateur, and went on to disprove the "medalist jinx" by capturing his second title, and like Fred, he won his club championship a record 11 times at Potowomut including nine in a row. Angie also played on the RI Tri-State Team for 25 consecutive years.

Still Great Friends

At age 76 and 80 (soon to be 77 and 81), both Angie and Fred still play a lot of golf. They don't see each other as often as they used to, but when they get together it's just like old times. Both men possess encyclopedia-like memories when it comes to Rhode Island golf, and both can recall specific golf shots from any major match they ever played. They probably even remember what they ate for breakfast before each match!

Both Angie and Fred still have the same love and enthusiasm for golf just like the two kids from West Warwick and Barrington who used to weed the greens and sneak on the course at night. They are both great champions who forged a life-long friendship because of golf. It would be hard to ask much more from the game.



Fred and Angie today.