Highlights from the Pro-Pro Match Play Championship

2015 NEPGA Award Winners

Beach Wins Conrad Rehling Award
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FRONT COVER: 2015 NEPGA Pro-Pro Match Play Champions Jeff Martin, PGA & Troy Pare, PGA

NEWSLETTER TIP: To click on any of the links included in this newsletter, hover over the hyperlinked text and select the Link button.

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Do you want greater job satisfaction? Do you want to be recognized for your efforts? Do you want the ability to make more money for yourself and your facility? Do you want a better work/life balance? Do you want the ability to influence decisions at your club? Call me at 802-558-0756 and I will show you a few examples of what the NEPGA is doing to help with all of the above questions.

I was having dinner with Mike Higgins tonight at DJ’s Restaurant & Oak Lounge in Ludlow, VT and he was wondering how many people even read what we write in our monthly newsletter magazine. He said he rarely hears anything from our almost 1200 members regarding much of anything. I started to wonder if the silence means we are doing well as a collective group or people are just too busy to respond to what we are saying or doing. I mentioned that maybe our members are happy with the agenda we are pushing forward?

Today we finished up our spring meeting run with the last Chapter meeting in Rutland, VT. For the most part, the attendance at all our meetings has been very good. Today with 80 plus temperatures we had a full house for the meeting and the golf that followed was lots of fun. Jim Remy, PGA spoke about the importance of playing more than you have over the last few years. He mentioned that most golf professionals think that playing is VERY important yet only about 25% of our members play in tournaments. If there is one thing that I want to emphasize it is that our members and golfers expect that we play golf on a regular basis. It is up to all of us to get out and play a little more than before. It does not have to be in an ultra-competitive event or championship. It can be at your own course with a few members or you can ride the course and play a hole or two with some different groups on your course. The impact you have and goodwill you build is hard to measure but I know that it is powerful and the rapport you build with your members will help you in all that you do at your club.

Lastly, I encourage you to do or try something new at your facility this year. It could be starting a Junior Golf League, Drive, Chip, & Putt clinics, Couples golf night, Play with the Pro, or just adding a new twist to your member guest tournament. When we ask what matters most to our members the overwhelming response is always EMPLOYMENT. Please remember that no one ever loses their job or gets fired for trying something new and promoting positive change.

I want to hear from you so let me know what you think.

Larry Kelley, PGA
President
New England PGA
Change. If you were one of the 200 New England PGA Professionals who attended the Section Spring meeting at Andover CC on April 14th you heard that word mentioned quite a bit. Change can be a very personal thing and viewed in many different ways. It can be welcomed or feared. It can make you jump out of bed in the morning or pull the covers over your head. Or in a less dramatic sense it can simply be something different.

“A season of Change.” This was the theme of the Spring Meeting and we heard in the Officer Reports how change has been quite evident in the New England Section. President Kelley spoke on the importance of change in our own jobs to show our value to owners and board of directors. He applauded the Section membership that overwhelmingly embraced change by voting to amend our constitution and allow for Officer Elections to take place at Chapter Meetings. Every member has a voice, and it can now be heard through this amendment. We could experience this change for the first time at the 2015 fall elections.

Vice President Bond applauded the Board of Directors and Section Staff for their efforts over the last four years to dramatically “change” the financial position of the New England Section. Proper management of expenses along with new sponsors and increased revenue has positioned the New England Section to be in one of the healthiest positions in our 99 year history. Diligent planning will hopefully continue this change well into our next 100 years!

Secretary Bibeau stressed the importance of viewing the changes in our industry and embracing those changes in our Section. The Section and our Chapters are conducting business in a different manner than our founding fathers did, and ten years from now we will most likely continue to evolve. The Section for the first time in our history has three leaders that are not the traditional green grass PGA Professionals. All three served many years in that capacity, but career “changes” created new opportunities for PGA members, and in this case it certainly has aided the New England PGA.

For what it’s worth: it’s never too late or too early to change and be whoever you want to be. There’s no time limit on growth or education, simply stop whenever you want, but I am not sure why you ever would. There are no rules on changing and we can either do so, or stay the same. We can make the best or the worst of change, but I hope you make the best of it. And I hope you see changes that challenge you, inspire you, startle you and even impress you. I hope change allows you to feel things you never felt before. I hope it allows you to meet people with a different point of view. I hope change allows you to live a life and experience a career that you are proud of. If you find that you’re not, I hope you have the courage to change and even start all over again.

I look forward to connect with many of you at the end of this year and see if 2015 was a “Season of Change” for you.

Have a great May and a successful 2015 season!

Respectfully,

Michael Higgins
Executive Director
New England PGA

“Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.

- Rumi
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In the relatively brief yet storied history of the New England PGA Pro-Pro Match Play, there have been 24 different teams to capture the title. Within those 24 teams, there have been 14 Professionals who have won multiple Pro-Pro Match Play titles. There are four Professionals who have won the event four times; Paul Parajeckas ('89, '94, '98, '04), Frank Dully ('98, '03, '06, '14), and the team of Troy Pare & Jeff Martin ('07, '10, '12, '15). And today’s victory for Pare and Martin is just a bit sweeter, as they become the first duo in the 30 year history of the event to capture the trophy four times together.

After securing the 1 seed after a qualifying round 9-under par 63 that bested the field by three shots, Pare and Martin were given Monday afternoon off to rest. They certainly used that rest to their advantage, as they started Match Play with a Tuesday morning showdown with 9 seed Greg Yeomans, PGA & John Paesani, PGA of The Bay Club. The group featured some big time TOUR experience, with Pare, Martin and Paesani having played in a combined 8 Major Championships, and Yeomans a former qualifier for the GHO, now the Traveler’s Championship to go along with his Cape Cod Chapter dominance for the much of the last decade. Pare and Martin proved to be too much, defeating Yeomans & Paesani 6 & 5 and get some additional rest before their afternoon match began.

They would certainly need it, as their afternoon match went the distance with the powerful duo of Shawn Warren, PGA of Falmouth & Rich Berberian, PGA of Windham. Our past two Section Champions and reigning 2x Wogan Player of the Year formed a formidable team on paper, and were as advertised in person. The group crushed towering drives and iron shots throughout the day, but eventually showed their touch with the flagstick down the stretch. Pare, Berberian and Martin all made putts over 30’ on holes 16-18 to win holes, with Martin’s on 18 the deciding factor in a great match that could have gone either way.

On the other side of the bracket, RJ Austin, PGA of Sugarbush & David Jankowski, PGA of Stowe Mountain Club were plodding their way through their opponents. Also the recipients of a first round bye, our farthest traveled team utilized the rest to their advantage as well. On Tuesday morning they dispatched of 11 seed Bob Tramonti, PGA of Triggs & Brian Owens, PGA of North Kingstown by a score of 3 & 2. In the afternoon match they took on two former Pro-Pro Match Play Champions in Kirk Hanefeld, PGA of Stow Acres & Bill Andrews, PGA of Portsmouth.
In another close match, Austin & Jankowski took advantage of a timely eagle 2 by Jankowski on the drivable 17th to close out their opponents 2 & 1, setting up a finals showdown with Pare & Martin.

The finals started out with balmy conditions and hardly a cloud in the sky, a drastic change compared to the prior two days. After the first two holes were won with pars, the 1st by Martin & Pare, the 2nd by Austin & Jankowski, the two teams went bogey free for the rest of regulation. After being behind for most of the front side, Austin & Jankowski birdied the 7th and 9th holes to take a 1 Up lead to the back nine.

As Champions always do, Martin & Pare stayed calm and promptly rattled off three birdies in a row to start the back nine, capped by a near ace on the drivable 12th hole by Jeff Martin. All players actually thought the ball went in from the tee leading to a celebration, only to realize the ball had nestled behind a ridge 10’ from the hole. Not to be outdone, Austin & Jankowski matched their birdie to remain 1 down with six to play. After a Martin & Pare birdie on the par 5 15th, Austin & Jankowski had their backs against the wall.

After a drive in to the fairway bunker by Austin on 16, and Martin & Pare in good shape off the tee, Austin knocked his approach from the sand to within two feet, and after Martin & Pare were unable to convert for birdie, Austin’s birdie was conceded, giving life to the duo from Vermont. After a wayward drive into the rough off the tee, it was Austin who once again made some fireworks. With only Martin on the green in two, the advantage looked to be in the hands of the 3x Champions. Austin was 50’ from the flag, just off the front of the green. With some ridges and spines in the green to navigate, he chose his putter and hit a perfect shot that found the cup for a birdie three! After Martin failed to make his birdie putt, the two teams extended and already long week.

With overcast skies and chilling winds rolling in once again, the players played down the first hole, their 19th of the day. Tired swings seemed to overcome all of the Professionals, with all but Austin missing the fairway, and only Pare finding the putting surface in two. All others chipped on in three, leaving lengthy par putts. Pare cozied his birdie putt up within a foot of the hole, just missing on the low side of the undulating green. Austin was left with a 10’ par putt to extend the match and delay history for one more hole, but his putt burned the edge on the right, and gave Pare & Martin their historic 4th Pro-Pro Match Play title.

A special Thank You to our event sponsors GolfMax, TomTom, 2UNDR and PGA TOUR for supplementing the purse and providing tee gifts, as well as Sterling Cut Glass for providing the winners trophies. Also thank you to Frank Will and Tom Rooney, PGA of LeBaron Hills Country Club for hosting our first Major of the season once again, it was another special week at Lebaron! Click here to view the event results.
What’s In The Bag
A Look at Our Latest NEPGA Event
Winner’s Equipment
presented by

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Norton Country Club & The Preserve at Boulder Hills

2015 New England PGA Pro-Pro Match Play Champions

Victory: NEPGA Pro Pro Match Play
Location: Lebarron Hills CC
Score: Champion
In Martin’s bag...

Driver: 9.5 SLDR 70x Aldila Rogue
Fairway: 15 SLDR - Matrik Ozik 80x
Hybrid: 2i TaylorMade UDI
Irons: 4-PW TaylorMade RSi TP
Wedges: 52, 56, 60 TaylorMade R-Series
Putter: TaylorMade itsy bitsy Spider Prototype
Golf Ball: TaylorMade Tour Preferred X
Fav. Song: “Interstate Love Song” - STP

Victory: NEPGA Pro Pro Match Play
Location: Lebarron Hills CC
Score: Champion
In Pare’s bag...

Driver: TaylorMade Aeroburner 9.5 deg X
Fairway: TaylorMade Aeroburner 14deg X
Hybrid: TaylorMade 19 & 22 Degree X
Irons: 5-PW TaylorMade w. KBS Tour C-Taper
Wedges: 50 R Series, KBS C-Taper
Wedges: 54 & 60 TaylorMade ATV, KBS C-Taper
Putter: Scotty Cameron Studio Newport 2, 35”
Golf Ball: TaylorMade Tour Preferred X
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NOTE: As we transition from our old monthly newsletter format to a more dynamic publication the “NEPGA News Magazine” we will be using this section to keep you current with what is coming up on this month’s schedule while providing recaps and results from last months events in a separate section.

After a winter that seemed like it wasn’t going to be too bad, then quickly became a nightmare that you couldn’t wake up from...ah, the heck with it, here we go, it’s time to play some golf.

I speak for everyone on the NEPGA Staff when I say we hope you can find the time to come out and play some golf this year. We know how busy everybody is these days and we truly appreciate your support of our tournament program and the sponsors who enhance it.

Entries are available at nepga.com for all events on the 2015 NEPGA Schedule.

Also, keep yours eyes open for notifications from PGA of America with deadlines for entering the New England Section Professional Championship, New England Section Senior Professional Championship and New England Section Assistant Championship. Filing your entry on time is critical for these events, do it sooner rather than later to avoid missing out.

As we move in to May, we continue to hope Mother Nature shows her kinder, warmer, gentler side. If all goes according to plan on Monday, May 4, the Portsmouth Country Club will continue its longstanding tradition of hosting a NEPGA Pro-Am. This event always fills up fast and Portsmouth always provides a great early season test of everyone’s game. We have to say thanks one more time to PCC for co-hosting the 2014 New England Section Professional Championship. The members and staff at Portsmouth have always been generous with their support of the NEPGA and its tournament programs and it is much appreciated.

Check out the following May events and as we move down the road this season we will have many more playing opportunities to offer you.

To stay current with all the important dates, formats, etc. we ask you to keep reading the weekly section emails as well as checking us out on Facebook and Twitter.

See you down the road.

Greenie
rgreen@pgahq.com

The five event NEPGA Stroke Play Series is back and our first stop is at Renaissance Country Club on Monday, May 11, as always a blind draw Pro-Pro competition is included in the entry fee for each event.

NOTE: The separate tee Senior Division has been discontinued in 2015. Seniors will still have the option of entering a separate Senior Division competition, but all players regardless of age will play from the same teeing ground.

The NEPGA Tournament Committee has instructed the field staff to adjust the course set-up to accommodate this change. The overall course yardage will be reduced to make the competition equitable for all Professionals participating regardless of age.

The NEPGA Stroke play series will also serve as part of the qualifying component for a new late season event, The Avidia Cup. Think of it as the NEPGA’s version of the PGA Tour’s Tour Championship.

Points earned from the Stroke Play Series, Chapter Championships, New England Section Professional Championship and the New England Open will be combined to determine the elite field. More detailed information will be forthcoming as the final tweaks to the points and qualifying procedures are completed.

The Weston Golf Club will host the inaugural Avidia Cup on Monday, October 5.

Registration is now closed
Congratulations to Matt Baran, PGA of Oyster Harbors Club, our 2015 Hudson Cup Champion! Matt birdied the first playoff hole to edge Aaron Ungvarsky, PGA of Big Sticks Golf Academy. Matt now holds the two Assistant Professional "Major" titles after winning the 2014 Assistants Championship last fall. Way to go, Matt!

Just a few days later on Monday, May 18, the NEPGA Acushnet Pro-Assistant Championship takes place at the Bay Club Mattapoisett.

We realize you are all busy getting your shops up and running, but please try and make the time to come out and play some golf with your staff and peers.

Register on NEPGA.com

Finally, the NEPGA National Car Rental Pro-Am Championship is back at The Pinehills on Tuesday, May 26. Team up with one of your best amateur players for thirty-six (36) holes of golf on two superb courses.

Register on NEPGA.com
Volunteer Inside the Ropes with the DBC Blue Crew
Share this opportunity with the members at your club!

Join us today to become a member of the 2015 Deutsche Bank Championship Blue Crew. The DBC is New England’s premier PGA TOUR Playoff event held over Labor Day weekend at the TPC Boston in Norton, MA. Since its inception, the DBC has generated over $26 million for the Tiger Woods Foundation and local New England-area charities.

Volunteering at the Deutsche Bank Championship is a great way to give back to the community while having a good time! To register to volunteer, please click here or visit our website www.dbchampionship.com. The volunteer package costs $90 but is valued at $400 and includes the following:
- One (1) Official Championship Nike Golf Shirt
- One (1) Official Championship Nike Outerwear Piece
- One (1) Baseball Cap or Visor
- Continental Breakfast on the days that you work as a volunteer
- Complimentary Lunch Voucher on the days that you work as a volunteer
- Two (2) Championship Grounds Good Any Day Tickets
- Complimentary Parking for all 6 days of the Championship
- Invitation to the Volunteer Appreciation Party

Whether you enjoy working close to the players, behind the scenes or out of the sun, we have committees for everyone ranging from Premium Access to Cart Services and Hole Marshals. Volunteers are asked to volunteer for a minimum of 24 hours. If you have any questions, please contact us at bluecrew@tigerwoodsfoundation.org or 508.285.8333. We look forward to seeing you this Labor Day weekend!

Sign Up for Direct Deposit of Tournament Winnings

If you are a NEPGA member or apprentice who plays in Chapter and/or Section events, please consider going green by receiving your tournament winnings through an ACH transfer to your checking or savings account.

Every year there are instances of paper checks getting lost in the mail. When this happens, we have to notify our bank to stop payment on the lost check (and there is a fee involved) and have a new check re-issued. This process can delay your payment for about two weeks!

The section has paid the stop payment fee in the past but this fee is now passed on to the professional.

To avoid this happening to you, please click here to download the ACH Form from PGALinks.com; it is very easy to fill out. All you need to do is to send it to the office (P O Box 743, Boylston, MA 01505) along with a voided check.

New England PGA Sponsor and Travel Partner Celtic Golf will be running their 20th Annual Father-Son Championship in June of 2015. Click the link below to read more about this tremendous opportunity to visit one of the finest pieces of property in the world, Old Head Golf Links!
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NEPGA Announces the 2015 Award Winners and Hall of Fame Inductees

With 200 PGA Professionals in attendance, the 2015 NEPGA Award Winners and Hall of Fame Inductees were announced at the Section Spring Meeting at Andover Country Club on Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

Allan Belden, PGA

Head Professional at Worcester Country Club has been named the recipient of the prestigious 2015 Golf Professional of the Year.

“My initial reaction when Larry called me was one of a bit of disbelief,” said Belden. “My first response was one of being totally humbled. To be in a section with so many great professionals and be recognized by your peers is truly an honor. There are so many deserving golf professionals whom I deeply respect, that I cannot properly express in words how honored I am to be the recipient of this award.”

The Hall of Fame Inductees for 2015 are Donnie Lyons, PGA and Jim Sheerin, PGA.

Donnie Lyons, PGA

is the General Manager of Reedy Meadow Golf Course, the Head Professional at Settlers Crossing Golf Course and also District One Director of The PGA of America.

“I was surprised and honored to hear that I was elected into the Hall of Fame when Larry Kelley, NEPGA President, called me to share this wonderful news,” said Lyons. “The only two PGA Professionals that I worked for are also Hall of Fame Members and I am so touched to have now joined them in our Hall. I worked for Bill Barclay at Salem Country Club from 1974 to 1980 and then worked for Bill Flynn at both Thomson Country Club and George Wright Golf Course from 1981 to 1999. It is astonishing that I am now joining my good friends Jim Remy, Jack Neville, Steve Napoli, and Tom Tetrault in the Hall along with all of the other outstanding Hall of Fame Members.”

Jim Sheerin, PGA

is the Director of Golf at The Abenaqui Club.

“I was in the car driving Pam to a class, my cell phone rang and Larry proceeded to tell me that Donnie Lyons and I were nominated to the NEPGA Hall of Fame,” said Sheerin while reflecting on hearing the news. “I felt overwhelmed with joy and personally honored. As we approached our destination I stopped and said a prayer of thanks. I thought of John Boda Sr. who I worked for as a young apprentice at the Andover Country Club. I believe Mr. Boda is one of the first NEPGA Professionals inducted into the Hall.”

The additional 2015 Award Winners are as follows:

The Youth Player Development Award is given to Jim Salinetti, PGA Head Professional at Winchester Country Club. Graham Cunningham, PGA Head Professional at Framingham Country Club is the NEPGA Teacher of the Year. The Bill Strausbaugh Award is awarded to Joanne Flynn, PGA Head Professional from Windham Country Club. Rob Jarvis, PGA Assistant Professional from Bangor Municipal Golf Course is the recipient of the Horton Smith Award. The Assistant Golf Professional of the Year is Mark Aldrich, PGA Assistant Professional from Worcester Country Club. The Merchandiser of the Year at a public facility is John Tuffin, PGA Head Professional at Pinehills Golf Club. Mark Gammons, PGA Head Professional at Black Rock Country Club is the Merchandiser of the Year Award Winner for a private facility. R.J. Austin, PGA Director of Golf at Sugarbush Golf Club is the recipient of the Merchandiser of the Year Award for a resort facility. The recipient of the Player Development Award is Brian Bickford, PGA Director of Golf at Val Halla Golf and Recreation Center.

Bob Giusti, PGA Head Professional at the Country Club of Halifax is the recipient of the NEPGA Patriot Award. Ray Lajoie, PGA Life Member Century is the first recipient of the NEPGA Deacon Palmer Award which is a new Award named in honor of the father of Arnold Palmer.

The 2015 Award Winners and Hall of Fame Inductees will be celebrated at the Annual NEPGA Awards Dinner this fall. The date and venue will be announced shortly.
Bob Beach Wins 2014 Conrad Rehling Award

Bob Beach, the PGA Head Professional at Braintree Municipal Golf Course in Braintree, Massachusetts, is the recipient of the 2014 Conrad Rehling Award for his contributions to Special Olympics Golf.

Beach, 61, was presented the award Tuesday at the New England PGA Spring Meeting at Andover (Massachusetts) Country Club. Beach, the recipient of the 2013 national Patriot Award, was introduced to Special Olympics in 1990. It ignited a career that featured multiple initiatives touching the lives of countless athletes and their families.

"Bob Beach’s limitless passion for the Special Olympics athlete has been an amazing record of service over the past two decades,” said Mary Beth McMahon, President and CEO of Special Olympics Massachusetts. “Bob combines his creativity for providing the best golf experiences possible along with coaching and teaching aspiring professionals to make Special Olympics a significant part of their own careers. It is with great pride that Special Olympics Massachusetts celebrates Bob Beach, a most deserving recipient of the Conrad Rehling Award.”

Born in Watertown, Massachusetts, Beach attended Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. Beach turned professional and assisted at Braintree Municipal Golf Course through 1979. He was elected to PGA membership in 1985. In 1991, he became the PGA Head Professional at Braintree Municipal.

Beach remains one of the most sought-after New England golf instructors for individuals with disabilities. Since 1999, Beach has conducted a seminar on “Adapting the Golf Swing to Golfers with Special Challenges.” For the past six years, he has served as a volunteer head basketball coach at Cardinal Cushing School in Hanover, Massachusetts, guiding a team of Special Olympic athletes.

Beach served from 2009-12 on the PGA National Disabled Golf Committee, and is a member of the PGA National Player Development Committee.

His New England PGA honors include: the 1996 PGA Junior Golf Leader Award; the 2005 Section Teacher of the Year; 2008 Section Golf Professional of the Year; 2009, ‘11 and ‘12 Section Horton Smith Award for contributions to PGA education; and the 2012 New England PGA Patriot Award.

Currently, 50 U.S. Special Olympic Programs offer golf training and competition, and nearly 23,000 athletes participate in golf competitions in Special Olympics North America. The program is offered in more than 80 countries worldwide.

Special Olympics International reports that there are more than 4.4 million Special Olympics athletes – ages 8 and older—representing more than 170 countries. Golf is one of 32 Olympic-style summer and winter sports offered by Special Olympics. For more information about Special Olympics Golf, visit specialolympics.org/golf

First presented in 2005, the Conrad Rehling Award honors the late PGA Master Professional, who followed a successful collegiate coaching career at Florida and Alabama by transforming his retirement into inspiring PGA Professionals to give back to the physically challenged. Rehling, who died in 2007 at age 87, was the founding father of the Special Olympics Golf movement in 1988, leading the PGA of America’s efforts to introduce golf to Special Olympics.
In my last article in the April Newsletter, I described ways that the Drive, Chip and Putt (DCP) can help generate revenue for our NEPGA Professionals. I’d like to bring to light that the DCP is a great “Segway” into PGA Junior League Golf. DCP participants range from those who are already familiar with golf to the majority that have little or no golf knowledge or competition experience and is a great feeder system into PGA Junior League Golf.

PGA Jr League Golf is designed to better socialize the game for boys and girls, ages 13 and under. PGA JLG features team vs. team competitions in structured leagues that provide a popular, less stressful scramble format as opposed to stroke-play competition. This is a great way to get kids (and parents) involved in the game.

“The best part of PGA Jr. League Golf is that junior golfers of all abilities can participate,” says Jim Salinetti, Head Golf Professional at Winchester Country Club. “The unique scramble format allows new golfers the comfort to learn the game while competing with those with my experience.”

As the above statement mentions, PGA Junior League golf competes in a team setting; but also they practice as a team and dress as a team as PGA Junior League provides team uniforms. PGA Junior League Golf prepares juniors for competition in a team setting, but don’t forget the friendships, the camaraderie, and intangible “fun feeling” about golf, which is vital for their interest in the future.

NEPGA Professionals who captain a team have a lot of fun with their juniors and families. But they also find it rewarding for their player development programs (revenue generator). NEPGA Professionals can increase revenue not only by captaining a team, but setting up team practice sessions & instructional clinics. The PGA Professional can get creative with the program. For example, you can charge $175 per person for a program that consists of five matches and five practices. The national PGA JLG office will take $75 per player, but the other $100 goes directly to the PGA Professional and/or facility. That’s an additional $1,200 in revenue per team.

“The revenue streams are endless,” adds Salinetti. “The PGA Professional and the facility will enjoy increased lesson income, golf shop sales, and F & B revenue. Plus, it gets kids and parents to the golf course. And they will want to come back more and more even after the PGA Jr. League Golf season is over!”

PGA Jr. League Golf is a great way to continue the camaraderie of a team, help juniors better their game, while at the same time helping NEPGA Professionals grow their player development programs.

Learn More About PGA Junior League Golf
Watch the video and visit www.pgajrleaguegolf.com
Get Involved! Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

As a result of some clinics that Bob Beach, PGA did for the ARC of the South Shore last year at Braintree Municipal GC, he is offering a clinic on Friday, May 15th. The putting green at MGA links in Norton has artificial turf which means it is wheelchair accessible, a perfect fit for this special group. The clinic for the ARC of the South Shore will be Friday, May 15th from 10:00am to 1:00pm at MGA Links in Norton, MA.

There will also be a clinic for the Perkins School for the Blind on Tuesday, May 19th from 10:00am until 1:00pm. PGA golf professionals and assistant professionals are needed to give free instruction.

PGA members who volunteer will earn 1 Growth of the Game MSR credit per hour volunteered in the Total category.

For more information on volunteering at these events, please contact Bob Beach PGA at 781-843-6513 or bbeach@braintreema.gov.

Visit NEPGA.com’s Community Outreach page to view all volunteer opportunities as well as pictures from recent clinics.

Member Announcements

Berberian, Jr. Sets New Course Record

Rich Berberian Jr. of Windham C.C. tied the Hoodkroft Course Record with a 10 under par 62 on Wednesday April 29. He now shares the record at his former club, with his father, Rich Berberian Sr and Hoodkroft Assistant Professional, Eric Soderman who was playing with Rich.

Also in the foursome was Tony Zdunko, current Hoodkroft Head Professional, and Hoodkroft member, Ryan Curtin. Rich’s round included 9 birdies, one bogey and an eagle on the 18th hole.

Welcome, Baby Blomquist

Congratulations to Allie Blomquist, PGA on the birth of her son, John Paul Blomquist on March 29th. Allie is the Assistant Professional at Pine Brook Country Club in Weston, MA.

Send your announcements to Joan Stuart at jstuart@pgahq.com
PING Play Your Best Seminar Series
Date/Time: Wednesday, May 20 2015 | 10 am—2 pm
Location: Granite Links Golf Club, Quincy, MA
Details: Click here to view seminar details
Cost: $25 (includes lunch)
MSR Hours: 2 PGA Required Education MSR Credits
Deadline: Monday, May 18th

PING Play Your Best Seminar Series
Date/Time: Tuesday, June 2, 2015 | 10 am—2 pm
Location: Renaissance Golf Club, Haverhill, MA
Details: Click here to view seminar details
Cost: $25 (includes lunch)
MSR Hours: 2 PGA Required Education MSR Credits
Deadline: Sunday, May 31st

Rules of Golf Workshop sponsored by the VGA, VSWGGA & Vermont PGA Chapter
Date/Time: Friday, May 8, 2015 | 8:30 am—3:30 pm
Location: Montague Golf Club & Three Stallion Inn
Details: Click here to view seminar details
Cost: Free
MSR Hours: 6 PGA Required Education MSR Credits

What’s Coming Up in our June issue...
2015 Scholarship Winners
Championship Results
2015 Award Winner Highlights
Section Championship Entry

Please make note of the below registration opening dates for the 2015 Section Championships. Registration will be available on PGA.org, in addition to entry information.

- **NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIP**
  Concord CC & Nashawtuc CC
  August 17-19, 2015
  Registration Opens May 27, 2015

- **NEW ENGLAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP**
  Woodstock CC
  August 5-6, 2015
  Registration Opens June 3, 2015

- **NATIONAL CAR RENTAL ASSISTANT CHAMPIONSHIP**
  Framingham CC
  August 26-27, 2015
  Registration Opens June 10, 2015

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Post Your Own MSR Credits

This is a reminder to take advantage of this feature allows you to SELF POST selected MSR activities via PGALinks. Access the MSR Self Post in the "Welcome" area or through Membership/Education/MSR. Form #108 includes a link to the self-posting screen for the following predetermined activities: Service to the Industry Box #3, Golf Coach Box #6 and Media Related Articles Box #7. All rules currently in place regarding the number of credits awarded and maximum credits that can be awarded have been built into this process.

**Now Available - New Videos**

The 2015 Member Center Business videos are now available on PGALinks.com/PGA.org. Along with the ten (10) videos from the 2014 PGA Merchandise Show Member Business Center Theatre that are currently available for viewing and earning up to 19 PGA Required credits; provided the assessments are passed at 70%, an additional nine (9) videos from the 2015 Merchandise Show Member Business Center have been uploaded. These additional nine 9 videos are each worth two (2) PGA Required credits; provided the assessments are passed at 70%. [Click here](#) to access the video collection.

**Pay Your Association Dues**

It’s that time of year! Your PGA dues billing invoice for 2015 is now available on PGALinks.com/PGA.org. Once you log in, you will see an active dues billing link displaying your balance that will take you to a secure website to view, print and/or pay your annual dues.

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**ARE YOU ON TARGET WITH YOUR MARKET?**

PGA ANNUAL OPERATIONS STUDY

[TAKE SURVEY]

**Earn 2 MSR credits for submitting this valuable information by June 10, 2015!**
CAPE COD & RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER NEWS
Submitted by Mickey Herron, PGA, Cape Cod & Rhode Island Chapter Tournament Manager

CONGRATULATIONS
Both the Rhode Island & Cape Cod Chapters of the NEPGA presented annual awards at their respective Spring Meetings in early April.


L to R: Greg Yeomans, PGA The Bay Club – Wessner POY (sponsored by 15thgolfclub.com), Joe Ferreira V, The Ridge Club – Chapter Champion, Dave Moynihan, PGA Titleist – Partner of Year, Matt Baran, PGA Oyster Harbors – Assistant of Year, Jill Philips, PGA Woods Hole – Teacher of Year, Jesse Schechtman, PGA Hyannis GC – Chapter President.

MORE CONGRATS to John Tuffin, PGA Pinehills who was honored as the NEPGA Merchandiser of Year (public) and Bob Giusti, PGA Halifax earning the prestigious Patriot Award from the Section.
ON THE HORIZON
May 13th – Callaway Pro-Pro Series I at the venerable Newport CC – Register on Rhode Island BlueGolf
May 14th – Kent Wool & Spinal Tech Pro-3Am at The Ridge Club – Register on Cape Cod BlueGolf
May 21st – Cleveland/Srixon Pro-1 Am Championship at The Wianno Club - Register on Cape Cod BlueGolf
June 3rd - Cape Air Pro-3Am at Miacomet GC on the isle of Nantucket – Register on Cape Cod BlueGolf
June 17th – Callaway Pro-Pro Series II at Hyannisport GC! - Register on Cape Cod BlueGolf

Kirkbrae will be the site of the Ping fitting seminar - May 5th (10 AM thru Noon)

Oyster Harbors PGA Leaders: Matt Baran (left) and PGA HP Sean Edmonds (right) pictured at the Cape Spring Meeting.

The Cape Cod Spring Meeting was sponsored by Jeff DiBona, representing Bobby Jones and pictured left with The Bay Club’s Tracy Djerf, PGA, one of nearly 60 golf professionals in attendance.

Prior to the Rhode Island Spring Meeting at Kirkbrae CC, PGA Host Mike Bradshaw welcomed a large contingent of golf professionals to still another of his successful run of seminars this off-season.
Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, May 12**
Pro Am Biddeford Saco CC

**Tuesday, May 19**
Pro Am Prouts Neck CC- Sponsored by Peter Gambardella, Callaway Golf

**Tuesday, May 26**
Pro Am Purpoodock Club- Sponsored by Ollie Hallett, Devant Towels, Greg Ludes, Titleist and Bryan Saylor, FootJoy

**Sunday, May 31**
Family Golf Day

**Sunday, May 31**
Drive, Chip, and Putt Qualifier (Val Halla GC)

**Tuesday, June 2**
Senior Championship – Sponsored by Titleist, FootJoy

**Tuesday & Wednesday, June 2-3**
Chapter Championship- Sponsored by Titleist, FootJoy, PGA Tour, Tournament Solutions, and Avidia Bank

The 2015 Chapter Spring Meeting was held at The Woodlands Club in Falmouth, ME on April 15th. Thank you to all the Chapter members that took time out from their busy schedules to spend the morning with us. The Chapter Board and Section Staff were on hand to present a lot of important information. A special thank you to our sponsors that were in attendance. Larry Kelley, Section President from Five Star Golf Cars, Greg Ludes from Titleist, Jim Lynch from Prize Possessions, Jason Gregory from Caddy X, Conrad Ayotte from JS McCarthy Printers, and Sylvan Roy from Dead Perfect Golf and 2Under, who also entertained the crowd with the Joey Pouch.

Some of the important information that was discussed revolved around change. Change if embraced is good! The Tournament Committee voted to change our Pro Am formats for 2015. All non-Championship Pro Ams will be a 2 best ball of 4 (1 gross & 1 net) formats. Also, we are bringing back the Blind Draw Pro- Pro for all Pro Ams. Senior Amateurs that have age and handicap exceeding 85 can play from a forward set of tees. All decisions were made to help enhance the level of participation for our Chapter events. The tournament schedule is filled with several great venues. Thank you to all the host professionals for allowing us the use of your golf courses for the day. Let’s all get out and play a few more events than you did the previous year!!!

Congratulations...

to all the 2015 Chapter Award Winners:

Golf Professional of the Year- Jim Fairbanks (Dunegrass GC)
Assistant Professional of the Year- Jim Ouellette (Prouts Neck CC)
Teacher of the Year- Scott Mayer (Nonesuch GC)
Player Development Award- Brian Bickford (Val Halla GC)
Youth Player Development Award- Ron Bibeau (First Tee of Maine)
Merchandiser of the Year- Private- Chris Twombly (Prouts Neck CC)
Merchandiser of the Year- Resort- Gary Soule (Samoset Resort)
Horton Smith Award- Ron Bibeau (First Tee of Maine)
Bill Strausbaugh Award- Rob Jarvis (Bangor Municipal GC)

Two of Our Chapter Award winners are also Section Awards recipients. Congratulations to Brian Bickford for being named the Section Player Development Award winner and to Rob Jarvis for being named the Section Horton Smith Award winner. Well deserved for two outstanding golf professionals!
The Massachusetts Chapter kicked off the season last week with its Spring Meeting at Cyprian Keyes Golf Club in Boylston, MA. The meeting was led by Chapter President Mark Aldrich, PGA who discussed Section initiatives and adopting to change at the Chapter level. Vice President Chris Young, PGA touched on this year’s Chapter sponsorships consisting of PGA Tour, Polar Beverages, Sunice, Avidia Bank, and Prize Possessions. The morning was highlighted by newly inducted members of the Chapter who were presented with welcome plaques from Jim Lynch of Prize Possessions.

Thanks to Scott Hickey, PGA and his staff at Cyprian, the Chapter was also fortunate to have its customary Pro-Pro tournament following the meeting. 12 players took to the tee despite cooler temps and howling winds. The team from Marlborough Country Club of Greg Farland, PGA and Peter Hulbert, PGA earned first place finish after turning in a four under par (68). While, Jeff Murphy, PGA of Leo J. Martin Golf Club and Jeff Viola, PGA of ISG A/S Trackman came in second with an even par (72). The rest of the tournament results can be found on BlueGolf.
The New Hampshire Chapter finally got the 2015 tournament season underway with a pro-am at Green Meadow Golf Club in Hudson. The first two events of the year were cancelled due to the prolonged effect on golf courses in the state from the harsh winter. Low professional for the day was Todd Rollins, head pro at Laconia CC who shot a 2 under par round of 68. He was followed by Rich Berberian, Jr., Windham CC, Matthew Bradbury, Crotched Mountain GC and Mitch Jefferson, Ridgewood CC who shot even par rounds of 70. Rollins’ team of Bill Duggan, Jim Moodie and Jeremy Baron won first place in the best ball of foursome division with a 61. Tied at 13-under par (57) in the net division were teams led by host pro Brian Doyle and Bradbury of Crotched Mountain.

After one event, Todd Rollins, Laconia head professional, jumped to the top of the NHC Player of the Year Standings with 20 points based on his finish as low professional at Green meadow. He is closely followed by last year’s player of the year Rich Berberian, Jr., Matthew Bradbury and Mitch Jefferson, all with 15 points. Ray Smith, Nashua CC assistant is next with 11 and Dan Wilkins, Laconia CC is at 10 points.

Upcoming events in May will feature pro-ams at Wentworth By The Sea on May 11, Concord CC on May 18 and Scottish Highlands on May 26.
On April 17th, the Vermont Chapter NEPGA Section and our allied associates sponsored a meet and greet with the Vermont legislature at the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier. The House of Representatives officially proclaimed the day Golf in Vermont Day. Vermont PGA members attending the breakfast and providing lessons were Dave Soucy, Doug Ruttle, Barry Churchill, Dave Pfannenstein, Matt Havers, and Dave Christy. We also set up our Chapter hitting net on the statehouse lawn and gave mini lessons to our legislators, state house employees, and legislator staff.

Matt Havers, PGA, Burlington CC conducted a meeting on April 20th for all the Vermont PGA Professionals involved in setting up our PGA Junior League for 2015.

The Vermont Chapter held a seminar at Neshobe GC on April 21st covering Growth of the Game incentives and a round table discussion with various topics including rules, BlueGolf navigation, our new website, etc. Thirteen Chapter members attended the seminar.

Most of the Vermont courses will be opening for the season in the next week or so. Reports from around the state are reporting great conditions with no serious winter damage.

The Vermont Chapter Spring Meeting was recently held at Rutland Country Club on May 4th.
The 2015 Season opened on April 24th with a Pro Pro at Middleton Golf Course after the Seniors' Association Spring Meeting. The Association would like to thank Chris Costa, PGA and Middleton Golf Course for hosting this event and meeting.

New England Sr Association Pro Pro Results
Middleton GC | April 24, 2015 | Par 54

Individual Pro Gross
57 Joe Carr, PGA Bedrock GC
58 Scott Allen, PGA George Wright GC
60 Dan Gillis, PGA Nabnasset Lake CC

Individual Pro Net
55 Andy Froude, PGA Stone Meadow DR
57 Jack Neville, PGA Life Member
58 Jim Remy, PGA Okemo Valley GC

Team Gross
52 Jim Remy, PGA; Scott Allen, PGA; Andy Froude, PGA; Jack Neville, PGA

Team Net
48 Chris Costa, PGA, Jim Lane, PGA, Steve Clayton, PGA, Mike Mullavey, PGA

The next stop on the Schedule is a Pro – 3 Am at Gannon Municipal Golf Course on May 13th. Following that, the Association visits Milton Hoosic Club on May 28th for another Pro – 3 Am event.

Membership Dues are $25 and the Senior Association is open to any PGA Professional in good standing who will turn 50 years of age in 2015. For more information, please contact Joe Carr, PGA 508.873.7768 or Dennis Selvitella, PGA 508.410.4984.
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NEW APPRENTICES

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<td>Joshua A Slieff</td>
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EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

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FIRST TIME TRANSFERS INTO SECTION

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<td>Arthur J. Wilson, PGA</td>
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CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

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