



Off The Course



For BJGA members and their families

Nov/Dec 2009 volume 3



Important Golf Dates



December 5th

Belmont Hills – Monthly medal

December 12th

Senior/Junior Turkey Shoot - Belmont

December 20th – 23rd

Port Royal - Aon Fecchio Cup

Remember to sign up by 8pm each Wednesday.

The Aon Fecchio Cup is the first major of the season. Age groups are 12 & Under (9 holes red tees), 13 – 14 (white tees) and 15 & Over (blue tees). Players are expected to have sound knowledge of the basic rules of golf and be able to maintain pace of play (there are no maximum strokes per hole).



Rules and Etiquette



Common rules you **MUST** know. Look them up if you are not sure!!

Out of bounds – white stakes/lines on a golf course mark out of bounds.

You hit your shot left past some white stakes. You only have one option under Rule 27 – the dreaded stroke and distance penalty. Add a stroke and drop a ball as close as possible to where you last played. To keep play moving when your ball may be OB, play a provisional ball under Rule 27-2.

Lost ball – you hit a drive left of the fairway in the deep rough; you look for, but can't find the ball so declare it lost. After hitting you find the original ball. If you declared a lost ball and hit a second ball the provisions of Rule 27 apply. Once the ball is declared lost and another ball is played you cannot play the original ball.

Water hazards – marked on the course by yellow stakes or lines. Lateral water hazards are marked by red stakes or lines. Look up and learn the difference. You have four options if you hit a ball in the water

a) play a ball as near as possible to the spot from which the original ball was played

b) play the ball as it lies in the water hazard

c) drop a ball behind the water hazard, keeping the point at which the ball entered the water's edge, directly between the hole and the spot where the ball is dropped. There is no limit to how far back the ball may be dropped as long as the point of crossing lies between the drop and the hole

d) if your ball is in a lateral water hazard, drop a ball away from the hazard, but within two club lengths of the point from which the ball last crossed the water. However, the ball can't come to rest any closer to the hole than the point at which the first ball crossed the hazard.

Ask your golf coach to show you the correct procedure for taking relief when your ball or stance is on the cart path.



Fun Stuff



This one will drive you crazy.....

<http://www.matchpractice.com/game/>



Fun facts of the month

Oldest person to get a hole-in-one?

Eileen McLean was 102

Youngest player to get a hole-in-one?

Jake Paine was just 3

Odds of getting a hole-in-one?

Average player 1 in 12,750

How many hole-in-ones does Tiger have?

18

In 1990, 74 year old Margaret Waldron got a hole in one, she did it again the next day with the same ball.....she was legally blind!!!!!!

Who is the only US President to have one?

Richard Nixon

Who has the most and how many?

Norman Manley has 59 and no-one has ever heard of him!!!!!!!



Question of the month



What is a "condor"?

Answer next month.

Did you get last month's question right?

What is a "tight lie"?

A tight lie is any lie where your ball is sitting on bare dirt or very short grass.



Parents' Page

A Guide to Buying Junior Golf Clubs

It is fine to get a young child started with a cut down 7-iron and putter, but as kids get older, they need a set of golf clubs that are made with their bodies in mind.

Length: It is OK for the junior to choke down or grip down on the club but no more than 1 ½ to 2 inches. Choking down more than 2 inches can change their whole swing, requiring them to manipulate the swing to get the club around their body. A set of clubs whose length requires them to choke down only one inch allows them to make a normal swing at the ball.

Shaft flex: The main problem with cut down clubs for juniors is the stiffness of the shaft. When you take 4 or 5 inches off a golf club, you make the shaft extremely stiff which means the junior is unable to get any height on their shots. Using light-weight steel and graphite have made junior clubs more playable, so make sure the child's set of clubs has a nice, flexible shaft.

Weight: The weight of the golf club is also very important to junior golfers. If the club is overly heavy, the child will struggle to take the club to the top of the backswing, in turn causing a manipulation of the swing which results in inconsistency. A lighter club will help the junior get the club in the correct position at the top of the swing, and lead to an easily repeatable swing.

Grip size: Make sure the clubs you buy are fitted with junior grips.

As adults, we realize how tough golf can be some days and how much the right equipment can help our games. By keeping these considerations in mind when buying junior golf clubs, you can help your junior play better golf, and more importantly, have a better time on the golf course.



Golf Shopping Cart



For sale

Have something in good condition for sale? (Golf-related only)

Send us your name, how you can be contacted, item and price.

Many children grow out of their junior clubs before the clubs wear out. Why not sell them to someone who is just starting out or needs the next size up?

If you have anything to give away we can feature that too.



In The News



MERIT TESTING – in January the BJGA intends to re-introduce the Merit Testing program. This was once a cornerstone of the BJGA as it played a vital role in the development of all its Junior players. Merit Testing is a fun way to help assess a player's strengths and weaknesses and gives immediate feedback on which areas of the game a player needs to practice in order to improve. Another important function of merit testing is that it will assist in a player being considered for promotion or overseas selection.

For all those who took part in the fun skills challenge, you now know what you need to work on and have a guideline of how to do it.

Send us your news to feature in coming months.



Golfing Profile



Dr. Robert Vallis is quite probably Bermuda's most successful amateur golfer. He has proved you can have a successful career AND excel in golf without turning pro. Dr. Vallis graduated from Dundee University in Scotland in 1977 and returned to Bermuda to practice medicine in 1987. Since then he has dominated the local amateur golf scene winning amongst other, the Bermuda Amateur Match Play 5 times and the Stroke Play 6 times, most recently in 2008. Last month he teamed up with Jarryd Dillas to win the Bermuda Men's Four Ball Championship.

Have you played in many tournaments overseas? **Junior Worlds San Diego 1970, British Youths 1971 & 1972, US Mid Am 1994 Hazeltine, British Senior Am 2008 & 2009. Scottish Seniors 2009, US Senior Am 2009, Eisenhower Trophy 1990 New Zealand, 1992 Canada, 2006 South Africa, 1994 Australian Amateur and associated international event in Sydney. Several major invitational's in the US over the last 20 years. I will usually play 5 or 6 invitational events and national championships overseas each year, in addition to a number of club competitions overseas. Most of my competitive golf I now play overseas.**

What is your most "high profile" win? **Winning the 2009 British Seniors Open Amateur in Prestwick, Scotland.**

Did you play junior golf in Bermuda? **Yes, but at the time there was no Junior Golf Association. We had a few lessons at Belmont in the summer and then played the Bermuda Junior Championship (won 1969) and also the Colonel Clark Trophy at Mid Ocean for under 22's (won twice). I played mostly with adults at Riddell's Bay as there were hardly any junior golfers on the Island during the school year. I went away to school in Scotland at 17.**

Did you ever consider turning Pro? No! I learned very early on at the Junior Worlds that I was not in the same league as my peers from the USA and UK. I chose to go to school in the UK (A- levels) and then University. Perhaps if I had gone to the US and played college golf who knows!! I did play golf at university, was captain of my university team and was selected to represent the Scottish Universities team on one occasion. I also played for Fife County side while at university. However, I have absolutely no regrets. I am certain that my golfing career as an amateur could not have been any more enjoyable or rewarding than it has been - and hopefully will be in the future!!

What is your most memorable moment in golf? I suppose the most recent memorable moment would be the moment that I realized I had won the British Seniors. It was hard to comprehend at the time.

What do you feel you have gained from golf over the years? Golf has impacted my life in many ways. I think first and foremost it has allowed me to meet and develop friendships with many people and this forms a great part of my social network. It has afforded me the opportunity to travel to compete in events around the world. Even in my work it has opened doors for me that otherwise may have been difficult to open.

What advice would you give to today's Juniors? I think the most important advice that I can give to juniors has nothing to do with golf.

I believe that obtaining the best possible education is the most important thing one can do - even if there is a consideration to play professional golf. I would not wish to put anyone off chasing their dreams, however, one needs to be realistic and honest about one's abilities. I often have the impression that young golfers feel that the only goal of playing golf is to become a PGA tour golfer. But simply by being proficient at golf and playing the game for its own sake will add a great deal to one's life. For those interested in competitive golf, a career in amateur golf can be extremely rewarding.