



The Golf Chronicles

The story of golf at Reading Country Club and in Berks County

Number 18 • September 8, 2015

Revised September 5, 2018



A snow-covered golf course was considered unplayable in 1925. Not so in 2015.

S'no Use Playing

The 1925 championship was the first played on the 18-hole course. **Ray Dengler** led the medal round with a score of 91. The low 16 from a field of 24 qualified. **Clifford Lyons** was last in the championship flight with a score of 111.

The 36-hole final was contested on Tuesday, November 3, having been postponed from Sunday, November 1 because the greens committee deemed the snow-covered links unsuitable for golf. **Harry Mauer**, the 1924 runner-up, defeated Dengler, 8 and 7.

The Guy Who Gets Pointed At

Winning a club championship is a golfer's dream. Whether the championship is won at an old-line club such as Baltusrol, Merion or Canterbury or the local muni that is lovingly referred to as Goat Hills or The Rock, a club championship means something.

At the very least, the winner's name is engraved on a plaque that adorns the clubhouse wall. If you don't think that's cool, visit Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown Square, Pa. Look at the club championship plaque. Count the number of times **Jay Segal** won. That's cool. At some clubs, the champ gets a reserved parking space. That's so cool, it's cold.

The club champion is the guy who gets pointed at. You're on the range with your brother-in-law, who is something of an ass but to keep peace in the family, you invite him to play in the member-guest. Unfortunately, you can't find a suitable partner, so he's yours for the weekend. You espy a slender youth at the end of the range, striking pure shot after pure shot with a 3-iron. You turn to Fred, point to the splendid splinter and say, "See that guy down there? He's the club champion."

Who wouldn't want to be that guy down there? And who wouldn't want to be the guy to win a golf club's first championship?

At Reading Country Club, that guy was Ernest J. Poole, who won RCC's first diadem by defeating Harry Mauer in 1924 on the 9-hole course. The detail of that first event has not been found, but in that era, most club championships were played over 36 holes of match play.

The Standard. Match play was the standard at RCC from 1924 to 1978. **Chip Lutz** won the first stroke play event in 1979 with a score of 216 for 54 holes. The stroke play format was used through 2005, with the tournament alternating between 36 and 54 holes. With the exception of 2010, the championship has been decided by match play since 2007.

The record of RCC's club champions has been created based largely on reports in the *Reading Eagle*. Articles for some years have not been found and the detail (who finished second and the final match score) for some years has not been found.

Name Game. A May 1, 2006, *Reading Eagle* article on 94-year-old **Byron Nelson** reports that **Tom Morgan**, RCC's director of golf, met Lord Byron at the Byron Nelson 11 Straight Tournament held at the TPC at Las Colinas in Irving, Texas. The tournament honored Nelson's record 11 consecutive PGA tournament wins in 1945, a year in which he won 18 times. Beginning in 1995, a number of RCC members traveled to Texas annually for the event. In 2003, the year before the 11 Straight Tournament was disbanded, Morgan spoke with Nelson about naming the RCC championship in his honor.

Jimmy Ward won the first Nelson Cup in 2004 with a successful title defense.

Guy McKeone, winner in 2007, became the first Nelson Cup champion in RCC's public-course era.

Continue reading for the names of the guys who get pointed at.



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Here are Reading Country Club's champion golfers. The match detail is reported unless it was not reported in the newspaper or available elsewhere.

- 1924** Ernest J. Poole, Jr. defeated Harry Maurer (detail not found)
- 1925** Harry Maurer defeated Ray Dengler, 8 and 7 (36 holes – first championship played on the 18-hole course)
- 1926** Not found
- 1927** Not found
- 1928** Billy Bair (details not found)
- 1929** Not found
- 1930** Fred Krug (detail not found)
- 1931** John Rader, Jr. (detail not found)
- 1932** John Rader, Jr. defeated Dick Hoffer, 4 and 3
- 1933** Fred Krug defeated Howard Kachel, 8 and 6 (36 holes)
- 1934** Dick Hoffer defeated Barney Ollivierre, 10 and 9 (36 holes)
- 1935** Billy Eben (age 16) defeated Larry O'Connor, 1 up (36 holes)
- 1936** Billy Bair defeated Earle Biehl, 2 and 1 (36 holes)
- 1937** Larry O'Connor defeated Billy Eben, Jr., 4 and 2 (36 holes)
- 1938** Marshal Palmer defeated Gordon Rainey, 2 and 1 (36 holes)
- 1939** Charley Wentzel defeated Gordon Williams, 5 and 4 (36 holes)
- 1940** Gordon Rainey defeated Billy Eben, 1-up (36 holes)
- 1941** Billy Eben defeated Gordon Rainey, 8 and 7 (36 holes)
- 1942** Gordon Williams defeated Dick Hoffer, 10 and 9 (36 holes)
- 1943** Not found (may have been cancelled because of WW2)
- 1944** Not found (may have been cancelled because of WW2)
- 1945** David Hafer (detail not found)
- 1946** Wilmer Faber (detail not found)
- 1947** Billy Eben (detail not found)
- 1948** Buddy Lutz (detail not found)
- 1949** Buddy Lutz defeated Billy Eben, 6 and 5 (36 holes)
- 1950** George Smith defeated Billy Eben, 4 and 3 (18 holes)
- 1951** Buddy Lutz defeated Fred Leese, 8 and 7
- 1952** George Smith defeated Clarence Ulmer, 5 and 4
- 1953** Nick Shestok defeated Mickey Norton, 4 and 3 (18 holes)
- 1954** Corky Lott defeated Bill Ciabattoni, 1-up (36 holes)
- 1955** Nick Shestok defeated Sam Coccodrilli, 2 and 1
- 1956** Paul Hill defeated Buddy Lutz, 39 holes (36 holes)



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- 1956** Paul Hill defeated Buddy Lutz, 39 holes (36 holes)
- 1957** Buddy Lutz defeated Jay Gibney, 10 and 9 (36 holes)
- 1958** Buddy Lutz defeated Corky Lott, 4 and 2 (36 holes)
- 1959** Buddy Lutz defeated Bill Ciabattoni, 3 and 2 (36 holes)
- 1960** Corky Lott defeated Earl Janaskie, 5 and 3 (36 holes)
- 1961** Corky Lott defeated Bill Ciabattoni, 2 and 1 (36 holes)
- 1962** Corky Lott defeated George Smith, 8 and 7 (36 holes)
- 1963** Earl Chrusciel defeated Glen Biesenbach, 5 and 4 (36 holes)
- 1964** Buddy Lutz defeated Bill Ciabattoni, 38 holes (36 holes)
- 1965** Gil Gilbert defeated Sam Codi, 1 up (36 holes)
- 1966** Buddy Lutz defeated Steve Norton, 7 and 6 (36 holes)
- 1967** Steve Norton defeated Don Sowers, 4 and 3 (36 holes)
- 1968** Leroy Oudinot defeated Fred Tyler 6 and 5 (36 holes)
- 1969** Sam Codi defeated Dick Bausher, 4 and 3 (36 holes)
- 1970** Joe Mullarkey defeated Sam Codi, 2 and 1 (36 holes)
- 1971** Danny Vespico (details not found)
- 1972** Joe Mullarkey defeated Dick Kauffman, 1-up (36 holes)
- 1973** Joe Mullarkey 209; Herman Fry 221; Don Sowers 221 (54 holes)
- 1974** Nick Meter defeated Jim Rutter, 2 and 1 (18 holes)
- 1975** Mike Heller defeated Hugh McCullough, 3 and 2 (18 holes)
- 1976** Fred Tyler defeated Dick Kaufman, 3 and 2 (18 holes)
- 1977** Dick Arms defeated Chip Lutz, 1-up (18 holes)
- 1978** Hugh McCullough defeated Fred Borchers, 1-up (18 holes)
- 1979** Chip Lutz 216; Hugh McCullough 219; Mike Heller 223; Jack Murphy 225; Fred Tyler 226 (54 holes)
- 1980** Hugh McCullough 220; Chip Lutz 221; Dick Bausher 228; Mike Heller 229 (54 holes)
- 1981** Mike Heller 141; Charley Faber 152; Bruce Balthaser 153; Dwayne Hudson and Fred Tyler 155 (36 holes)
- 1982** Dick Hasson 144; Craig Hawk 148; Don Sowers 150; Herman Fry 151; Mike Heller 151 (36 holes)
- 1983** Fred Tyler 146; Dick Hasson 149; Don Sowers 150 (36 holes)
- 1984** Herman Fry 144; Craig Hawk 146; Mike Heller 147; John Franco 158 (36 holes)
- 1985** Herman Fry 206; Mike Heller 215; Fred Tyler 216; Dick Arms 217; John Franco 219 (54 holes)
- 1986** John Franco 218; Mike Heller 224 (54 holes)
- 1987** Mike Heller 223; Steve Mittl, Jr. 224; Fred Tyler 226; Ed Kroener 226; Dave Lindbom 230; Greg Gottschal 232; Ken Thomason 237; Corky Lott 238; Jim Rutter 240; Gene Shurr 248 (54 holes)



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- 1988** John Franco 226; Dave Lindbom 227; Mike Heller 228; Ed Kroener 230; Fred Tyler 231 (54 holes)
- 1989** Dave Lindbom 221; Joe Klemmer 222; Fred Tyler 223; Joe Cala 229; Putter Lutz 229;
Craig Hawk 231; Bruce Kline 232 (54 holes)
- 1990** Chip Lutz 210; Dave Lindbom 214; Scott Orr 220; Mike Heller 223; Bruce Kline 227;
Dick Arms 227 (54 holes)
- 1991** Fred Tyler 222; Greg Gottshall 225; Bruce Kline 227; Craig Hawk 228; Mike Heller 228 (54 holes)
- 1992** Fred Tyler 217; Scott Orr 224; Bruce Kline 224; Craig Hawk 228; Greg Gottshall 228 (54 holes)
- 1993** Putter Lutz 219; Fred Tyler 221; Mike Heller 221; Rich Rotharpt 228; Bill Norris 229 (54 holes)
- 1994** Fred Tyler 216; Putter Lutz 231; Chris Butler 233
- 1995** Putter Lutz 220; Fred Tyler 221; George Grafton 230; John McKeon 232;
Bill Norris 232 (54 holes)
- 1996** Brian Psota 218; Brent Wiley 219; Putter Lutz 221; Gary Romig 221 (54 holes)
- 1997** Dave Speece 219; Mike Heller 224; Fred Tyler 225; Bill Norris 226; Bruce Kline 226;
Gary Buck 229; Chris Lucci 231; Greg Gottshall 232; George Grafton 232;
Jack McKeon 243 (54 holes)
- 1998** Mike Heller 218; Bruce Kline 224; George Grafton 230; Fred Tyler 231 (54 holes)
- 1999** George Grafton 218; Pete Betz 235; Chris Lucci 238 (54 holes)
- 2000** Bill Norris 221; Mike Heller 223; Fred Tyler 226; George Grafton 231; John Golaston 232 (54 holes)
- 2001** George Grafton 222; Pete Betz 228; Mike Heller 228; Fred Tyler 229; Greg Gottshall 229 (54 holes)
- 2002** Chris Lucci 149; Fred Tyler 150; George Griffaton 151; Greg Gottshall 154 (36 holes)
- 2003** Jimmy Ward 218; Pete Betz 226; Mike Heller 228; Rich Gaynor 228; Fred Tyler 229;
John McKeon 233; Greg Geiger 234; Craig Mauer 238 (54 holes)
- 2004** Jimmy Ward 136; Pete Betz 143; Fred Tyler 149; Mike Heller 154; Rich Gaynor 156;
Greg Gottshall 156; Marty Krynock 157; Greg Geiger 158; Barry Unger 163;
Scott Gabel 170 (36 holes)
- 2005** Pete Betz 228; Greg Gottschall 233; Bill Norris 237; Ron Tindall 238; Greg Geiger 240;
Fred Tyler 244; Ed McKeaney 247; Frank De Hapt 248 (54 holes)
- 2006** No tournament.
- 2007** Guy McKeone defeated Blayne Hoffert, 1 up (18 holes)
- 2008** Greg Galtere defeated Denny Hess, 5 and 4 (18 holes)
- 2009** Greg Galtere defeated Bill Goad, 3 and 2 (18 holes)
- 2010** Greg Galtere 227; Tom Walker 239; Guy McKeone 241; Dave Seelig 241; Tim Daley 251;
Vinnie Franckowiak 254; Ron Woodring 259 (54 holes)
- 2011** Dave Seelig defeated Dave Seidel, 2 up (18 holes)

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Byron Nelson
RCC Pro
1937-39



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- 2012** Byron Whitman defeated Guy McKeone, 5 and 4 (18 holes)
- 2013** Matt Hadley defeated Greg Galtere, 3 and 2 (18 holes)
- 2014** Jon Dutcher defeated Bill Norris, 3 and 1 (18 holes)
- 2015** Greg Kleinert defeated Matt Hadley, 1 up (18 holes)
- 2016** James Furness defeated Guy McKeone, 2 and 1 (18 holes)
- 2017** Guy McKeone defeated Jim Christiana, 6 and 5 (18 holes)
- 2018** Alex Seelig defeated Guy McKeone, 5 and 4 (18 holes)