

GOLFNOTES

February 2025



At age 83, Allan Grim went off his rocker and took the 2024 Grim Open

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Notes

from the bench on No. 6 Tee

Time to unsave the shaved

The PGA and USGA are fascinated, okay, maybe obsessed, with shaved areas around greens. Although these areas with grass a cut above green height have always been around, now they're everywhere. Many of the new shaved areas used to be rough. These esteemed golf groups do favor the shaved areas where there is a large drop-off, usually a steep bank. They've overdone them there and elsewhere and it's time to shave their numbers and let their grassy beards grow. Eliminate them? No, just fewer.

A shaved area is unique by creating a special dilemma for the golfer. Should he try a delicate high pitch approach, a low-running, low-number iron, a chip that rises above a low-runner but below a delicate pitch, or a long, uphill, putt over slightly taller





grass than the green's? They of course make a long approach to the green tougher. Shaved slopes thrust an errant shot farther away from the green than rough would. Shaved areas give virtually certain good lies each time, or much better than those in the rough. Yes, golfers also occasionally have decent lies in the rough. Mostly they face more uncertainty with odd lies among foliage thicker than on a fairway. They will usually deploy one of their wedges for a shot from rough, unlike the array of clubs and shots they must consider in shaved areas.

Despite their value, golf courses have too many shaved areas. Reduce many of those created in the last several years. Rough is

rougher for the golfer's anxiety. Make him sweat and deal with the variety of encounters a golf course should present.

Where are the long par 3's and the long par 5's?

The USGA and PGA have lost their creativity, if they even had any. Today's elite golfers are so much longer than a few decades ago. I remember in the 1960's the US Open competitors would hit their average drives around 256 yards or so. A par 5 was usually a hole that's minimum length was 471 yards. A par 3 stopped at around 250 yards. With increases in golfers' strength and physical conditioning, along with steady improvements to the ball and the clubs, total yardages have soared.

The governing groups have responded by lengthening many

par 4's to the limit of something in the low 500's. They never seem to disclose where the top line is for a par 4 before a par 5 begins. I recall when a loose standard maximum length for a par 4 was 470 yards.

They fail to provide the full variety of length that the other two

kept up with the challenge that increased length presents.

Some of why they won't lengthen them is that they don't have the room to expand behind the existing longest tee. Okay, maybe a long par 4 exists on another part of the course and it could be lengthened considerably. Make that a par 5 and the one they can't do much with a long par 4.

Maybe some other adjustments must be made in bunkering or other aspects from the original design for that



pars could have and should have. Yes, a few par 5's are listed as reaching 600 yards. But not many and none more than around 620 yards. A par 5 is supposed to be a three-shot hole. It separates it from a par 4. Yes, it's always sporting to have one par 5 reachable in two by powerful golfers. When a golfer can average 300 or so yards off the tee and 270 yards or so with their 3-wood, a hole that isn't at least 570 yards isn't much of a challenge if they're all that distance or lesser. That's the case for most tournament holes. Yes, a 3-wood is likely to be used on a par 5 second shot and a long iron or hybrid on a long par 4.

That is one of the differences in the challenge in the lengths between a par 4 and par 5. Unless they are willing to lengthen several more par 5's, they've not

kind of hole. Go ahead and do them. Hopefully, they won't wind up with two par 5's in a row. That should be considered too and avoided. In the end, on a championship course, we should have at least most of the four typical par 5's with lengths beyond 600 yards. And most of them well in excess.

The same principle applies to par 3's. There have been a few par 3's around 240 yards. But how many have you seen between that and 300 yards. Somehow these two golf authorities enjoy making short par 4's reachable with even less than a driver with their lengths around 300 yards. They've even had par 3's that are close to the 100-yard mark, which is absurd for an elite golfer. But they seem to justify them by having especially hard green areas. I



haven't seen much of the green itself as overly tough for any of these golfers.

I have no problem with one of these tiny holes appearing here and there, mostly there. But I would like to see a corresponding increase in the length of some par 3's over 240 yards. It would be interesting to see them create one at, say, 305 yards and call it a par 3, not a par 4. What would the golfers' response be? Would it change their approach? It shouldn't, but I think there would be some kind of outcry, maybe

more so from the shorter hitters. But the length wouldn't be different from the short par's 4. They don't complain there. Par is just a number. Yes, long hitters will hit their shots longer than short hitters. But, shouldn't all golfers be using their same club no matter the par? Okay, the trouble in front of the green or the green width may affect the club choice and their approach. But that's what they always face, no matter the par. With the absurd lengths of today's elite golfers, it's time to provide variety and add some length to a long par 3.

Letter to the Editor

Allan,

I just read every question and answer you presented to your brother Jim. Very interesting. You had a great family.

Ralph Kramer, Cherry Hill, N.J.

Golfer's dilemma

Bud knocks his ball into the woods. His friendly rival Sal gets there much earlier and, after a bit, emerges saying he could not find it. Bud enters himself. After his own search, a ball comes flying out of the woods onto the green near the hole. Sal wonders to himself, Should I show that cheating bastard the ball I have in my pocket?



2024, where I related her story that I supposedly made fun of my classmate's old Brownie camera in 7th grade. She held it against me for 70 years and told me recently what had occurred. She said I got the story correct in GolfNotes. She added a new twist to her long-ago but lingering trauma. She said before the incident she had a crush on me. Uh-oh. After, nah. We're now good friends. Yes, her current camera is an Apple iPhone.

Swiss Diss

A Swiss Army Knife? I didn't know they had an Army. I thought they had none and refused to fight anyone or with anyone else. They promoted themselves as a neutral country. As they did in WWII, where they remained neutral, except for letting their banks take the money of any person or country in secret numbered accounts. This included the warmongers Germany and Italy. I know this picturesque and mountainous country has the Swiss Guards for the Pope at the Vatican. *See some of them in the photo, right.* This is their exception and is defensive. I guess those Swiss mountains are their undrafted but powerful army.

CRUSHED

A follow-up to that Bench Note in GolfNotes May



CHRISTIANITY is better than advertised. It has given us additional words to exclaim when we are upset or having an orgasm. It also can add dignity to a funeral, make late December the most festive time of the year, and give you, in the spring, one more reason to eat candy.

The USGA says golfers are poor at knowing how far they hit each club. It says there is one club for which they are the most reliably accurate to guess their average distance. Which one is it? (Answer at end of next piece on Moselem Springs on page 8)

This last presidential election forced us to become shoddy **scheisters**. We strained for rational arguments on behalf of two mostly indefensible clients while barely masking our true opinions of them. ●



As Moselem Springs CC turns sixty, member Bob Grim has proof he was there at the creation

Last fall Moselem Springs Country Club, near Fleetwood, Pa., celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Club's founding. Bob Grim, 80, and third oldest of the Kutztown Grim brothers, has been a member for many years. He informed them that he had played a round there the year it opened, 1964. Hawley Quier, then owner of the local papers *Reading Eagle* and *Reading Times*, organized the Club using his estate as the property for the layout and the new clubhouse. Quier invited Bob's father to play before it opened. He had known Judge Allan K. Grim, from the jurist's prior practice as an attorney in Reading and the Berks County area. Judge Grim, an avid golfer, had retired from golf by then from health issues. He easily found a foursome, though. Bob, a recently retired attorney, adduced evidence from the 1964 round he played with his brothers Jim, George, and Allan. Bob didn't join Moselem in 1964, as he had just finished his sophomore year at Lafayette College. At this fall 2024 ceremony, Moselem took a picture of Bob holding the original scorecard. *See him above.*

Below on the next page is the outside of the card. Brother golf archivist Allan had kept the card these sixty years. Moselem has a lot more trees now.

After a half century of practice, Bob recently retired as a Berks County attorney. Bob also just finished his term as President of the Board of Trustees of Kutztown University. Ironically, his father, Judge Grim, had held the same position sixty years ago when it was Kutztown State College.

The course was designed by a former PGA pro named George Fazio. If you know your golf history, that name is part of a three-name answer to: Who were the three golfers who tied for the 1950 US Open at Merion? And then, who won in the playoff? Of course you would remember the winner, Ben Hogan, with a remarkable feat beyond winning the US Open. He was still recovering from a serious accident between his car and a bus in the prior year and had trouble walking. In those days the final 36 holes were played all in one agonizing day. Also in the knotted threesome was Lloyd Mangrum, with mustache, winner of the 1946 Open. The final player of the answer: George Fazio, with only modest renown as a pro golfer, but a fair amount as a golf course designer.

Moselem has a special claim to national fame. It hosted the US Women's Open, an unusual choice of site. Why? It occurred in 1968, only four years after not-fully-mature Moselem had opened. The youngest Kutztown Grim brother George, 17, caddied in that Open. The golfer whose bag he carried is a less famous golfer than George— Sharon Miller. The winner was Susie Maxwell Berning at five over par. Second, probably the greatest woman golfer of her era, Mickey Wright. The Grim Open was played there three times: 1972, 1976, and 1978, with George capturing the first two with disparate scores of 81 and 95. The first was played by the original contestants in the early years of the Open, the four Kutztown Grim Brothers.

It was the day before Allan's wedding on August 12, 1972. Except for George's superb 81, the scores were pre-wedding-jittery. Man Jim, who Oklahoma City, wasn't at his best post that turning with his



terrible. Best had come from his home as a doctor, off the course either. He nailed a supported the snack bar's roof overhand motor cart after the Ninth Hole.

Okay, some more grim Grim fallout. The many strokes the foursome took, and the course's toughness made them late for the rehearsal dinner in Reading, the locale of the wedding itself the next day. The 1978 Grim Open featured a different format because Bob was unable to come to Capon Springs. The medalist at Capon would play Bob at Moselem in match play. That medalist was George, who came home and lost to Bob in a stirring match, 2 and 1. ●

(Answer—7-iron)

More of Allan's Lists



Allan's Down-to-Earth Course Descriptions for Students

The college's course manual is typically too dense with technical or hazy jargon to comprehend. I also don't ever recall a high school teacher or a professor telling me the first day what on earth the course is really about. Here for these teen-age hopefuls is my try at reducing it to their pathetic level and patting their young, uninformed backs with some guidance for what they really face. They now shouldn't seem so daunting,



1. Chemistry. The study of what happens when two substances, called elements or compounds, combine into a new substance, like a marriage. There are mainly two ways these new forms will then change—the degree of temperature— from blast furnace to arctic icecap, or the amount of water— from drought dry to hurricane flood. Most times these will affect how the substance acts in your life and for the rest of humanity. For example, if you

drive a golf ball it will rise more and go farther when the air temperature is warmer. When the air turns colder, it will fly shorter too. And when there is more moisture in the air, the ball will fly shorter too. And even in marriage, when the heat becomes unbearable, the partners may completely dissolve it. Or, at least the husband will stay the heck out of the kitchen.

2. Physical Science. Studying real objects and measuring their impact on each other and our lives so that we can live with them and use them to better our lives, such as our thumbs against a button on our remotes. They improved it. Now, no click sound or sensation needed. And then thinking that pressing them harder will make the channels change.

3. Physics. The study of what happens when two objects clash that don't really want to hook up because they don't like each other or just have nothing in common, like a Liberal and a Conservative, where both reasons usually apply. Or your poor car and a freight train where you tried to sneak ahead of the blinking red lights and the frantic train woooo so you could get home several seconds sooner.

4. Biology. The study of live things and why they exist and how they move on their own and grow bigger and livelier until they wither and eventually die, unless they are a tortoise or Mel Brooks.

5.History. The study of groups and their leaders and how they gained control over people inside a region or country, and then, with control, using that group to gain control of other groups by force. With one notable exception for the last 2000 years ago from one individual who by persuasion changed this approach by urging people to get along and give credit to their ultimate creator. Then the people who believed in his approach formed their own group on his behalf (because he allowed himself to be killed for speaking out, well before free speech arose), and tried to make others outside their group become part of it by any means necessary, some of which he would not have okayed.

6.Psychology. The study of who people are and what they really think of



themselves and how and why they often treat other people so poorly as a result, such as Donald Trump or your teenager.

7.Philosophy. The study of smart men's theories about why we're here and what we should do about it. (No smart women stepped forward or there were none. But we must go easy on them for that, since the smart men did what they do and kept them in their place, until recently. But where are the women philosophers today? Joy Behar? Suzie Essman?)

8.Mathematics. The study of ten symbols, now called numbers, somebody created from who-knows- where. Their purpose is mostly to determine and remember how many things we have and how many we're going to need. Some of these people also believe, with scanty evidence, that this course helps you

learn how to think logically so you can make good judgments about most things. All no doubt had taken Mathematics.

9.Religion. The study of guessing who got us here (from many ancient people, who were fond of myths to explain things and didn't have much to go on, although they claimed they did) and what thanks and respect we should give that person, or whatever it might be, for doing that and what they want us to do while we're here, especially filling the dead time between CBS's "Sunday Morning" and the NFL football games in the afternoon.

10.English. The study of effective and interesting ways we can communicate with each other about the items in Nos 1-9, with the added enjoyment of reading stories because of No. 6. Special emphasis on why the scourge of emojis should be eliminated.



**Good Luck,
young adults!**

**See you in the
Rat Race!**

**Allan's
names for
the nine
holes
at Capon
Springs**



Douglas Grim teeing off No. 3 hole

It's time. Who says? Allan says. Why now? Hey, for fun. And of course, since he's retired, he has plenty of time, as they say. Who is they? I don't know, but they all must be young. And it's winter, so no golf. Not many courses have names for their holes. Just boring numbers. Capon has names, including the entrenched and adored classic, *The Postage Stamp*. So, you want to give new hole names for one of the few courses that already has names for them? Yes. Absurd. I know; isn't it great? A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do. Brreeep! Bring the wagon!

Here are Allan's names to replace the long-time traditional ones for each hole. Two have a single suggestion. His work is done; selection is in for them. He had trouble picking the winner of the other seven, he says. Can you guess which ones for each hole he finally selected? Which ones would you pick? You are welcome to submit any of your answers. You may even create your own for the No. 3 and No. 9 holes. If you consent, we will print your guesses for which ones Allan chose. Also, you may submit your own names, if you make any. At the end are Allan's final, winning selections for each hole. End of discussion. Okay, maybe not. Let the debate begin. Here are his nominees:



1. Parthenon, Monte Cassino
2. Three Trees, Portside Evergreens, Trouble Trees, Treesome
3. Abandoned Bowling Alley (*No need for any more*)

4. Mug of Beer, Bearded Cake, Sandbox, Icing to Cake, Beach Explosion, Beyond the Beach, Flyover Beach, Flat Santa (*Below right, Photo of No. 4 from behind green*)



5. Scenic Slant, Bad Grades, Hooked on Slope, Vasta Vista, Sloped Scenery, Slanted View

6. Dogleg Tree, Treeway, Corner Tree, Tree in the Way, Tree at the Turn, Treeage, Fairway Tree



(Next page. Photo of No. 6 hole from behind green. Tree at corner is in center of photo. See also the hole from behind the tree toward the green in the article later in this issue about the second round, first page.)

7. Fairway to Heaven, Rug to the Stage, Home on the Range, Slog to the Stove, Hike to the Washer



8. Downhill Chaser, Long Downhiller, Faraway Flag, Distant Drop, Distant Decline

9. The Impossible Green
(Done. No more needed.)

Allan's choices: 1-Parthenon, 2-Treesome, 3- Abandoned Bowling Alley 4-Mug of Beer, 5-Slanted View, 6-Tree in the Way, 7-Fairway to Heaven, 8-Faraway Flag, 9-The Impossible Green



Allan's Five Funniest People From Yesteryear

1. Mark Twain
2. Oscar Wilde
3. Dorothy Parker, *Shown left*
4. Mort Sahl
5. Sid Caesar

Allan's Five Funniest People Today

1. Jim Gaffigan
2. Yakov Smirnoff, *Photo right.*
3. Larry the Cable Guy
4. Jim Jefferies
5. Larry David



CAPON THE GOLF COURSE

Cowland, and some Pastureland,



then Linksland, and, finally, Parkland

Capitalism has thrived in America with entrepreneurs taking bold, often risky, steps to start a business. Lou Austin bought the moribund Capon resort at a Sheriff Sale for taxes in 1932. A perilous move as the Great Depression raged. Cars progressed apace yet far from today's steady refinements and affordable costs. And no mass expressways yet either. Vacations and travel itself plunged. The mammoth main hotel here (room for 500, dining for 600), built in Mid-19th Century, had been destroyed in a mysterious 1911

fire. That began a descent for the trendy vacation spot. The fascination with springs water as a curative ebbed too. As part of his revival, Austin began building the golf course in 1934 and finished in 1936. The land above and behind the present Main House, there since 1888, was primarily used as a cattle pasture for the resort. Today's Holes 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were all part of that cleared pasture. A large barn sat almost on the same spot where Sunset Lodge is located today. *(See photo at top of prior page from mid-1930's with*

the barn left and tiny golf clubhouse in the low middle. The famed tree stands alone on the middle right.) Some vegetables had also been grown near the barn. Otherwise, the rest of the produce came from other locations on the vast Capon property of about 5,000 acres, or from nearby farms. On the cleared area

Vacationers from around the US sought relief and health benefits from resorts with springs during the muggy summer months. A common belief was that many diseases stemmed from foul air. In the late 19th century more than 600 of these summer havens with springs pumped their drinking and bathing waters to welcome guests. (See photo left of the

old hotel sometime in the early 1900's. Note its size with another wing extending back right to form a large right angle engineer's square..)

In a surprise finding, the *Philadelphia Times* reported in 1898 that "an excellent golf course has been laid off at Capon this season and the game promises to be very popular here." The papers continued to mention the "golf links" for the next five years and then never again. A prior

course at Capon? Apparently so, says Pete Budnyk, longtime Capon Golf Supervisor, now virtually retired and living in nearby Winchester, Virginia. He also graciously and diligently supplied much of the background and photos of this and the next piece. He is married to Carolyn, a granddaughter of Lou Austin. He wrote by email recently, "I have never heard about a previous golf course and have not found anyone else around here that knew of its existence. My guess, and only a guess, is that a 'primitive' course was laid out up in the cleared pasture area since there is no other logical place for it to be found." ●

between the 6th and the 7th fairway in the 19th Century baseball games were regularly played between Capon guests and nearby springs resorts as well as local residents. Lou Austin used the existing pastureland to build the first six holes. After that, the existing forest was cleared to create the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Holes. Local workers using manual labor, along with mules, constructed the course. The mighty Oak watched with anxious anticipation. So were some of those other now massive trees that hinder golfers constantly, especially the one front and right of the 1st green, the Oaks guarding the dogleg at the 9th hole, and the one behind the 8th green.

Capon was one of the popular springs resorts in the 19th century.



THE MONSTER'S TREE

Frankenstein has now left the laboratory. Why aren't they looking for him?

When Capon Springs savior Lou Austin began creating his now tree-filled golf course in the mid-1930's his canvas was a pasture lying above a brief resort's Main House. stood the vast George Eastern West Virginia. stood a sole bulging large even then, attention than its before, its leafy removed when the land farming. Its stature "No, you will not touch The acclaim it craved, make it the center of see it from anywhere on



but steep hill behind the Around the open land Washington Forest of In the middle of the field White Oak tree. It was growing and seeking more isolated spot gave it. Years brethren had been was cleared for resort growled this message: me. I'm in charge here." it finally got. Austin would his new layout. You could the course. It easily

became the cynosure of that new course with its massive height and special role on what would become the course's most infamous hole. *Top, photo of Allan Grim teeing off at No. 7 with the mighty Oak staring him down on the right. This is from 1981, twenty-two years before its eventual fate.*

Imagine its presence in 2003. You don't need to. Here is a photo believed to be taken in summer 2003.



For amateur golfers the slice is their most common driver stroke off the tee. We do it 87% of the time. With diabolical delight, where Austin laid out the hole boosted the tree to a major obstacle for golfers fearing their slice on his par 5 No. 7 hole. This unique menace loomed around 200 yards out there just right of the fairway. No matter where you were on the course, this majestic Oak edifice stood as the Eiffel Tower, and the clock tower at Kutztown University.

From a wide but shallow depression (called “the Saucer” in the middle of the fairway), the green carpet began a gradual rise to an oblong birthday cake green, whose back sloped downward toward a sheer front bank repelling any short or low approach shot. Just behind the green stood another bank up against a hill that rose further across a maintenance road lined with a few tall evergreens, then to the No. 2 green elevated from the banks and sloping of the No. 7 green. With the banks in front and behind, when you approach the green, you are looking at a giant stove top.

Gventually, with its towering height and broad branches, the tree began to encroach left to the right side of that fairway. Its growth swelled to solidify its infamy for hapless golfers. Allan Grim wrote about it in GolfNotes issue of February 2011 (*go to Allan’s website for the issue under menu item MY GOLFNOTES ISSUES*) Grim called the tree itself Frankenstein, the name of book and film’s monster’s science doctor- creator in his lab. For Capon the entire hole’s traits, capped by the tree itself, earned it the notorious name The Monster. It appears on the hole’s signboard shown on the prior page. We may then debate what to call Lou Austin, the worldly course and hole’s creator. And then Mother Nature, and whoever is higher, the ultimate creators of the tree itself. With an otherwise mostly blank canvas, Austin planted

numerous trees lining every hole, with the course's periphery already well-endowed with woods. Capon's holes are now dense with mature

trees to threaten straying golfers everywhere. The only hole with no woods nearby is No. 7, except for a short span left of the tee, and No. 8. Yet lines of trees stand guard like soldiers in spiffy garb lined up on both of these two holes from their tees to their greens and behind too.

If you've been on the No. 7 hole in recent years, you have noticed that this huge tree is gone. The unmistakable, unavoidable, and purposeful life of this dignified ogre ended by trauma. A riot of wind and rain severed its stalwart but fading trunk during Hurricane Isabel in September 2003. It couldn't be salvaged and was removed. Frankenstein, there at the creation, has now left this laboratory. And no one called the authorities to find him. Allan still mourns the loss. "Yes, I do," he confesses. "We golfers have a love-hate relationship with trees. I still can't get over the loss of that magnificent tree."



Allan's hurt and embedded recall has been salvaged a bit. A few years ago, a guest family had a marker installed near the site of the lamented tree. More



useful, another family had a replacement Red Oak tree planted several yards closer to the tee around 1990. It has become a worthy, young understudy. *Here is a photo of No. 7 from 2024. Note the new tree's steady prominence. Go back to the photo from 1981 showing the old tree. Also, the 2024 photo was taken several yards more distant behind the tee. This makes the new tree appear smaller. As these*

trees and the woods along the holes grow bigger and closer, they've been an ominous presence for the Allan Grim, Sr. family vacationing at Capon since 1954. Yet the trees have never notably affected an outcome in the sixty-two years that the Grim Open has been played there. In the 2024 edition this would change dramatically. •

Allan Grim took the 2024 Grim Open title that no one seemed to want



The Players

Almost everyone wanted to play

by Martin Povzer



he tournament had nine golfers competing for the 65th title. It also preserved a streak of Opens at Capon Springs. Since 1980 it has been played every year at



Capon except for two years, 1987 and 1988. Before 1980 it was held at various sites, including Capon. Only five of



the nine players could be deemed serious contenders. Three other golfers must be mentioned as possible entrants. But they belong to the category of DNP. Two could have played but didn't. Two were there; one wasn't. George Grim, one of the original four Grim brothers that began the tourney in the 1960's. Now 77, the retired

School Psychologist from Allentown, had last captured the crown in 2021. However, now with painful and disabling Shingles disease on top of a new hip in July 2024, he could only watch. He could afford it. He has won it 40 times. **Photo left shows grandfather George behind his grandson George with little George's father, Ryan, right.** Douglas Grim, 46, son of Allan and Ruth Grim, was also present but declined to play in the tournament citing vague devotion to family reasons, not physical health, which would've been no issue. He had declined to play last year too, for the same reason. This upset his father Allan and his cousin Ryan, who both threatened not to play themselves unless he played too. Neither followed

through with their threats. Douglas was a crack golfer in his teens, when he played for both his Pennridge High School golf team and during the summer in the Junior PGA. After high school he shunned any more formal play as he pursued a career in business at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. After a few finance graduate degrees, he has continued a career since 2000 as a Senior Investment Strategist at Vanguard Investments in suburban Malvern, Pa. **Photo of Douglas and youngest daughter Lauren at their Capon cabin in the woods near No. 1 green.**

The third scratch was Gregory Grim, who lives in lower West Virginia, and is George's youngest son at age 42. He had hoped to come and compete but his job and current schooling in the **Greg in tee shirt appears in photo** medical field prevented that. He would've been a definite threat. He contended in the last few.



Opens and won the title in 2021 and 2005.

Not a Chance

Although four others played with earnestness, they lacked experience and skills to contend. Douglas's two daughters, Elaina, 19, and Lauren, 17, both neophyte golfers, showed up with their own clubs and bags. They each played the last round and posted scores. Elaina is a Sophomore at Penn State University headed into bio-psycho-social medicine. Lauren is a senior at Boyertown High School, where she is both a member of its field hockey team and



the club indoor floor hockey Swoop team at nationally-acclaimed facility and program in Linfield, Pa. called The Training Center. They live with Douglas and

Mom Kelly in Gilbertsville, Pa., a Montgomery County area east of Boyertown. Elaina and Lauren also joined as spectators for the first round, while also taking some occasional practice shots among the serious golfers. **Photo above, left, Douglas, Elaina and Lauren on Capon's No. 1 tee**

Photo above, Lauren following through on No. 4 tee.

Then there was Jack Grim, fka Jack Walton. Kelsy Grim, George's daughter with wife Melissa, recently married Jack Walton, 32, who became officially Jack Grim by court proceedings. The couple resides in Erie, Colorado, where he is a Senior Software Engineer for Garner Health. He builds software that supports a doctor-ranking algorithm. People can access this ranking of doctors by a phone application. He also works on software for their financial claims reimbursement system.

Kelsy works at Colorado Law School in the student affairs office. She helps students apply for the Law Bar and certifies them to take it. She also works with the student organizations and coordinates several events, including Orientation and Commencement. She's on paid leave until May 19 and Jack returns to work on February 2. Kelsy and Jack had their wedding ceremony without family in Colorado at the Department of Motor Vehicles on August 17, 2023. They

celebrated by hosting twelve friends in a big cabin in Silverthorne, Colorado, over a long weekend in September 2023. They then celebrated their marriage with their families in the summer of 2024. The first was a gathering of Jack's family at the home of his grandmother, Grace, who lives above Allentown. Father George gave her away in a mock creation of a football handoff. Her sister Olivia played the violin. The second was at Capon Springs with a gathering of Kelsy's family. George handed Kelsy off once more outdoors at the Capon gazebo as a gentle rain fell. Olivia played violin again. Kelsy's nephew George, youngest son of her Uncle Ryan, was ringbearer and nieces Iris and Virginia were flower girls. Douglas held flowers from wife Kelly's garden. Flower man?

Jack has taken up golf seriously only in the last two years, knowing he is now part of a golfing family. With stellar athletic ability, he vainly tried playing the first round with scanty background in this tough sport that constantly pummels your patience. He lost *his* early on at Hole No. 3, and suspended play. He then regained some desire and confidence, played the whole last round and registered a formal score. Kelsy was a spectator for each round, as was her Mother Melissa, who found a new role as cart caddie for Ryan. Kelsy arrived at Capon with another companion. She was

expecting a baby girl to be born in December. That did happen on December 4,



2024. It was a girl with Jack's long dark curls named Arlo Conti Grim, healthy and weighing in at nine pounds, three ounces. Conti comes from Jack's grandmother, Grace Conti **Photo below, Jack, left, on bench with Mark Grim.**

The Fifth Grim Golfer

Gini Grim, sister of Allan and George, declined to play in the first round. She played the second and reported a score. She is a long-time leisure golfer, who has been in and out of the family Open over the years. She enjoys an occasional

round while absorbing the social and health aspects of the game. She also plays decently and confirms that all five Grimms of Kutztown siblings play golf. Her four brothers are professionals (two lawyers, a doctor, and a psychologist, all retired). As she neared age 30, Gini was inspired to go pro herself when she began working in the field of audiology in the late 1970's. **Photo closeup of Gini at Capon** She and husband Archie lived in Kansas, where he was an oil entrepreneur. They stayed for twelve years before returning to Kutztown. She became certified as an Audiologist and opened her office in their Kutztown home in 1986. She continues her services today at age 72.

In the last round appeared as a spectator



Courtney Grim, daughter of Archie and Gini Grim. She owns a condo in the Bronx,

NYC, but has recently bought a condo in Harlem. This will bring her closer to her work as Director of Creative Arts Therapy at Harlem Hospital. She had never been seen near the Capon Course except for the lunches and dinners at Sunset Lodge next to the first fairway. Even more, she grabbed a club and hit some practice drives. She also got involved in the Open itself by Allan handing her his iPhone so she could video his last moments on the fifth green where he finished the tournament. Everyone else was occupied playing golf. Besides his final winning putt, she captured Allan's deflating missed putts just before and also his terrific, tricky first putt down the hill to near the hole. See these later herein. **Photo above, Courtney sitting in cart with her father Archie**



Also, another rare spectator was George's wife Melissa, who appeared on the first tee of the first round and stayed around for a while to view the play. She is not a golfer and didn't hit a practice ball. So that kept it from being everyone. She works as a teacher's assistant in the Parkland School District near her home above Allentown. Her daughter Olivia also appeared with her. She is a student at Lehigh Carbon Community College. **Photo below, Melissa sitting with daughter Olivia** She then appeared at the

second round and drove Ryan's cart.

Carolina at Capon

Among the serious participants, Mark and Sherry Grim arrived in mid-week to enjoy Capon and play in the Open. Mark captured his first Open crown in 2020 after competing in it for many years. The couple resides at a community with golf in Wilmington, North Carolina. Although Sherry hasn't realistically thought she could defeat her family men as champion, she has played with worthy results over the years. Mark, 73, is the first

cousin to Allan and George through their brother fathers Allan, Sr, and Mark, Sr. He is a retired attorney and history buff and character impressionist with special interest in the American Civil War. The couple last lived in Gettysburg, Pa. before retiring a few years ago. He has also long been in the Marine Corps and is now a retired Colonel. Missing this year after attending most of recent years are golfing son Tyler and daughter Kyleigh. Tyler and his wife Alex now reside in Japan, where he is in charge of computers for the

US Navy on an aircraft carrier. **Sherry photo below left**

Defending Champ defends

One of the three serious contenders left was Archie



Follweiler, husband of Gini, and the Grim Open champion last year, his first ever after competing in the tournament since 1981. That year he became the first person outside the original Grim brothers allowed to compete. Archie is a local real estate mogul in Kutztown and a versatile athlete, now playing mostly casual, sometimes organized, sports like tennis, bowling, softball, and golf. Both Gini and Archie have been involved in Democrat politics for many years, including stints on Kutztown's Borough Council. Archie had also run for public office (Pa. State Rep.) a few years ago, losing to Carl Mantz, a lawyer also from Kutztown. He was a classmate of the oldest Grim brother Jim, who, along with Allan, were childhood playmates,

especially sports like baseball, football, basketball and golf.

Below left, Archie in photo driving from the yellow tee on No.3 hole,

Another serious player was Ryan Grim, 46, oldest son of George Grim, a few months older than Allan's son Douglas. Ryan is a distinguished analyst of politics and the national scene through a variety of media. A brief summary would slight his many achievements. To learn more about him, google your way through the pile of information. He lives in Washington, DC with wife Elizan and kids Iris, Virginia, Sidney, and George. All were at Capon. ***Above Left, photo of Ryan on first tee bench, with Virginia close to him, George behind them, and Sidney standing with boot from stress-fractured left foot.*** Although Ryan has a Grim Open championship in his pocket, it's stale, occurring in 1998 at age 20. He was the youngest threat to win this year but was hampered by having no recent practice rounds except for brief ones at Capon the week of the Open, with his large family to

occupy much of his time and with a resort that gluts them with activities.

Ryan has a solid natural swing and a deft touch around and on the greens. He also is blessed and cursed with the deadly duo of extreme length but wide breadth with any shot. The latter persists, refusing to leave. He grips it (the club) and rips it (that cringing ball) without a pause (a decent one). Although he intends to launch the tiny orb toward the flag on the green, it too often heads for the American one on the moon. Ryan's age and youth combo was relative at the Open. Despite his late age of 46 for a prime-years golfer, the next youngest worthy contender was Archie at age 71.

Allan gets off his rocker

The remaining entrant with a real chance was Allan Grim, age 83, retired attorney and sometime professional handwriting analyst and my demanding boss as Editor and Publisher of this magazine. (I wrote everything in this issue. He formatted it.



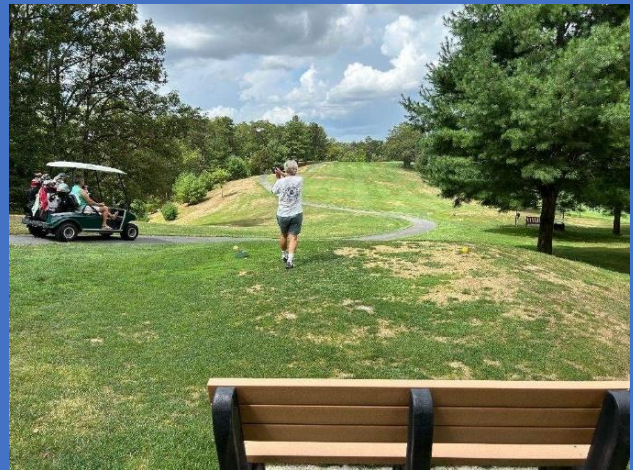
He says he had the tougher job.) One of the four original Grim brothers who launched the tournament in 1960, Allan had won the title seven times, the last time in 2010. It was a triumph on cold paper months after a field of hot battle. What? Four golfers claimed the title (George, Ryan, Greg, and Allan) in a controversial and convoluted set of circumstances that took a judicial decision by a respected jurist, me, Martin Povser, to determine the winner by judicial order and opinion of twelve detailed, well-reasoned pages. ***Above, Allan in golf cart with granddaughter Elaina, and Archie behind them. Below, most of the Grim family members discussed in this article.***



YELLOW (GOLD) IS THE NEW WHITE (BLUE)

Before the tournament began, Archie approached the Committee asserting that, since he was 72, he should be allowed to drive from the yellow tees.

After all, he contended, Allan, 83, has been using them for a few years now. Capon has a rule for its Pot Luck, aka Scramble, tournament that if you have reached the age of 70, you may use the yellow tees, which are usually several yards closer to the hole than the typical white tees used by the rest of the competitors. Ladies are allowed to use the even shorter red tees. As chairman of the competition committee, Allan countered that the Capon rule shouldn't necessarily be applied to our Grim Open. But more importantly, Archie has suffered no decline in strength off the tee or elsewhere. He is still able to hit drives and other shots much longer than Allan at 83 and weight of 127 pounds. His age is no hindrance to his current abilities. Allan also pointed out that he gets no advantage on distance for every single stroke after the drive until he reaches the green. Archie's overall length carries forward to all his other shots after the initial drive. *Above photo of Archie teeing off on the No. 3 yellow tee, which is well below the elevated tee and well forward of the whites.*



Round 1

Ryan in charge till he finds trees

Under blazing sun and muggy air the Grim Open began on Thursday morning August 1. It was less stifling for early August at Capon that Momma Nature usually



serves. With sparse rain lately, the course was marred with unsightly blotches. The typically slow but true greens groaned with thirst and grimaced with shame for their own scars. Hot with humid are the prime reason that, for many years, both nine-hole rounds are played in the morning. With less sultry conditions last year, the final occurred in the afternoon.

The initial group to tee off was Archie, Mark, Sherry, and Allan. On the

very first hole and both from the yellow tees, Archie and Allan faded their drives rightward where the hard ground slopes further right. They both ended up under a single tree a hundred or so yards uphill to the mounted green. Archie's ball was stuck between large roots blocked by the tree from a direct line up to the green. Allan's was to the left side of the tree and next to a root but with a clear path to the green. Archie griped about his tree status and the root. Allan informed

Archie that the Grim rule was a free lift to avoid roots, which can easily break wrists. Their often hidden near the ground surface Both took free lifts of a few inches. Archie was still blocked by the tree trunk. And they still faced a bunker in front of the green and a huge Oak tree just to the right front.

Photo of Douglas from right side of No. 1 green with that large White Oak tree, left. It stands guard to snatch slices from approaches up the steep fairway hill.

Hacking their way up the hill

Allan also had a ball well above his feet. He chose a safe short iron that wouldn't reach the green and he plunked his approach well short and right of the green. His pitch shot strayed behind the large tree. He he could only flop a short pitch to the front of the green away from the back right pin. His long putt lagged to four feet left of the hole. He notched his sliding downhiller for his double-bogey 6. Archie could only punch away from the tree into the fairway. His wedge was puny, leaving a modest pitch. He dumped it on to about 15 feet short of the hole. His bogey effort was to tap-in range of two feet. But he missed it for his own bogey 6. Mark smacked a straight drive, saw what Archie and Allan were doing and botched his own arrival. His second shot plopped into the front

bunker. He took two swings to escape and just on the carpet fringe. He then putted a few before missing a two-footer for a snowman 8. In fairness, he had arrived the day before and had no practice rounds. His next three holes continued his bumbling. He doubled the second and third holes and was now eight over par. He regained some splendor with a deuce on the par 3 Stamp 4th hole from 20 feet.

Allan was on the second tee when cartmate and granddaughter Elaina and he saw a golfer walking near the front bunker of that par 3. Elaina said it was Ryan. Allan said no, he was playing the first hole. Holy crab claw! It turned out to be Ryan, who had crushed his progressive left ball that far radical right teeing off No. 1 behind them. Was this a symbolic act away from the political turmoil? Although the abused ball was past the green, it was close to a hundred yards from the plateaued green. No problem for this dodging rambler kind of guy. Avoiding that massive oak tree now left of the green, he sailed his approach onto the elevated green and two-putted for his par. Already a two-shot lead. ***Photo below of back of No. 1 green with guardian Oak tree right and green for No. 2 in background. This green in the foreground is the spot Ryan had to***

reach with only his second shot on this par 4. He plopped that tough second shot onto the green, avoiding that grabby tree. Jack Grim appeared in his second Open. Last year he competed in the Open a few weeks before marrying George's daughter Kelsy. He was Jack Walton then. He had adopted the Grim name through legal procedures because of his Walton family issues.



Although his serious interest in golf is recent, he is an athlete and seeks to be a good golfer, not just a casual hacker. He began the Open badly and withdrew on the third hole after slicing his tee shot into the sharp slope and down to oblivion on the adjoining fifth fairway.

On the yellow tee 117-yard second hole Allan's weak 7-iron plunked in the front bunker. He thumped out only to the front brief hill of the green far short of a pin that was center left. Disdaining a chip up and over the thicker grass, his putt down a slight hill to the flag stopped five

feet short, where he missed a tentative bogey putt. **Right, photo of the par 3 No. 2 hole with Gini teeing off and daughter Courtney on bench** Archie pushed his 9-iron well right and clobbered a tree that saved it from rolling down the sharp incline away from the green. His approach up the hill to the green was short and he pitched his next well short, and two-putted from there for a double bogey.

That wretched, wiggly Third hole

Ahead of Ryan, on No. 3 Archie and Allan had both walloped superb drives. On this hole superb must be virtually perfect, especially where the turf is dry and hard from the rain shortage at Capon. Both landed in the right center, then rolled right on this right-sloping, narrow fairway into the rough at the tree line that blocked direct approaches to the green. Archie was well behind a tree. Allan was blocked by the large branches overhanging the right side of the tree line all the way to near the green where a large evergreen will reject any fading, short right approaches. Archie hit his safe shot to the fairway and pitched his third shot onto the green, two-putting for bogey 5.

With no direct line to the flag in the middle back, Allan chose a 6-iron and launched his own safe shot left that caught the green's tall left bank and rolled down under a tree in the thick



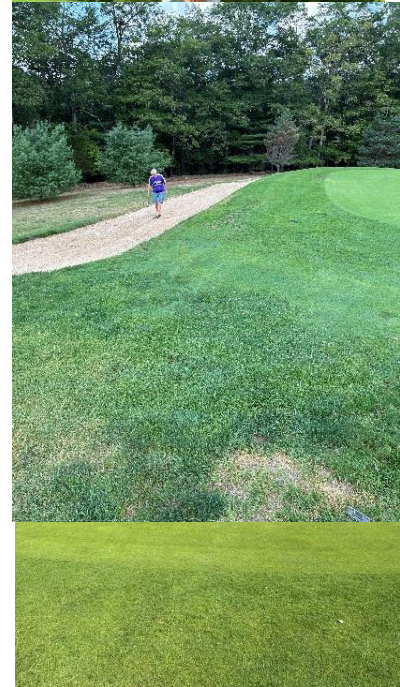
rough left of the green. He had a restricted but doable swing and pitched this third shot short over the left bank and onto the green. **Below, No. 3 hole from behind green** With a 25-footer left for par, he lagged his straight putt, but it died at four feet. He missed again from this



makeable range for a bogey 5.

Ryan remained steady with a par on the second hole. He belted a long slice into the 5th fairway on the tight, wavy third hole. He had a shot to the green that was guarded by

a small right bunker and a few small trees. His wedge wasn't long enough up the steep incline to the green. His ball landed, then returned down the hill toward him. He knocked the next one on the green and two-putted for



bogey 5. He was thus only one over par after three holes. It seemed that Allan, Mark, and Archie were caving to the Open pressure, while Ryan with his hip-shooting style kept butterflies from his belly. Allan was now faced with three straight holes thrusting him to five over par now on the tee of the short but tricky, downhill, tiny-everything fourth hole. His 9-iron flew awkwardly low and right but

snatched the green middle right. The flag was front left on this rectangular green called The Postage Stamp. He redeemed himself by draining a straight but 31-foot putt for his tweeter 2 (He walked it off, people).

Again, Ryan appears out of nowhere

Last year's Champion Archie continued his despair on No. 4. Although he slung a short iron long enough, it caught the left bank and bounded into the left bunker. After leaving his first try still on the beach, he overshot his next and it flew beyond the back right side of the green.

Photo, left, Archie in left bunker. Photos, left, Mark and, right, Allan,



both on No. 4 green.
He pitched back on the green

and two-putted for a triple-bogey 6. Mark plopped his tee shot on The Stamp and from the back right sank his tweeter 2.

As Archie's group left the 4th tee suddenly appeared Ryan. He told Allan that Jack had quit on the third hole and he would like to join their group, bringing his young entourage with him. Ryan's children George, Sidney, and Virginia had begun with him as he played with green but gamely golfer Jack Grim.

Left, Allan driving on No.

5 The kids all wanted to hit balls too and tried here and there. It got a bit out of hand. Affable and nice Archie, stuck in a poor start, finally couldn't abide the chaotic invasion and barked out, "361 (sic) days in the year and they had to play today." Okay, his year is shorter than ours. But he made his point.

Ryan dumped his tee shot on The Stamp in the front trap and got on but 3-putted for a double bogey. After four holes he led Allan by one, Mark by four and Archie by five. **Right, with Sidney by his side, Ryan floomps from the sprawling beach in front of No. 4 green**

The three hapless Ryanchasers persisted with their dismal play on the left-slanting 5th hole with double bogey 6's. However, Ryan redeemed himself on the par 4 No. 5 with a stellar birdie from only six feet of nasty green— from any distance.

With the wild swings of scores on individual holes, this contest was becoming a roller coaster ride of survival.

Ryan gets out his tree iron

Ryan's



steadiness faltered on No. 6, the dogleg par 4, a short hole of around 315 yards (ignore the scorecard) with a small rectangular green. He sailed his drive rightward into the 7th fairway. From there, he tried to zoom over the several trees in the way. He caught the top of one of them. His ball dropped near the trunk so close on its right side that he chose a left-handed stroke to go for the green. **Below left, Ryan lines up his lefty stroke next to the tree.** He yanked his shot right and it caromed off another tree to the right ending up under another tree about 40 yards right and just beyond the green. **See the photo next page left.**

Attempting a low runner from a bare lie to the trapped and banked green, he whiffed. Then he deftly glided the next



I loved my chip shot. It was headed for the exact spot on the green I had aimed for. Then it struck the very top of a tree, a solo branch sticking up and it plunked down basically unplayable, which led to a whiff and two different left-handed shots.” Allan says, “I don’t know about a second left-handed shot. He had the room to hit right-handed from that last position before finding the green.” As for the end for Ryan. Stay tuned. It was hardly over yet, especially with twelve holes left for the entire contest.

one on and two-putted for an unsavory 7.

Meantime on No. 6 Archie and Allan had pars after missing birdie putts and Mark finally had only a bogey around his one birdie after six holes of otherwise misery. I asked Ryan weeks later about that dreadful 6th hole, knowing he probably hadn’t forgotten the litany of shots. He responded, “Number 6 was the beginning of the end

On the par 5 monster uphill 7th hole, Ryan exploded a titanic drive to beyond what golfers call “the Saucer” that sits in the middle of the fairway. You reach this rounded dent with a great drive. “That was the longest drive I’ve ever seen on this hole,” remarked Allan. His ball had soared straight and



the chance to play a lot. “I do wish I had more time to play, and Greg and I are probably ***Above, photo of Ryan from under the last tree finally pitching to 6th green*** wasting the Dad-given talent passed down to us. Sometimes I wish I could loan that to a guy who plays all the time but just isn’t any good. Then again, if I played a lot

maybe I’d get in my head and would stink.” His talent is remarkable because it covers all areas of the game. He can’t rely on it every time. But that is from lack of practice and playing on a course too. Although he is much younger than all his competitors this year, he himself is out of typical prime golf years at age 46. Still, golf is a sport where you can maintain a good level of ability over the later years, unlike most other sports.



over 300 yards, with only about 160 yards left to the birthday cake green. I asked him last fall about that special shot. His response: “Drive felt good, must have been some of the number 6 frustration

for me. I had a long tee shot over by the 7th and had just about sixty yards to the green.

channeled into that swing. I posed to him also how great a golfer he might be if he had

The tree at No. 7 behind the Grim Family stone bench was an enormous White Pine. It was old and so weak that it was removed before the 2024 season. Below is a photo of Douglas

examining the stump remains.

Another trees tease for Ryan

Erratic, that curse of all golfers with paltry practice behind them, returned on his next stroke. Or was it just

Right middle, Ryan winding up for his titanic drive on No. 7 that green monster The Law of

Averages? Trying to zoom an iron to the uphill stove-top green, Ryan jerked his mid-iron left. It veered through the trees lining the left side and hid under a small evergreen of the mostly evergreens lining the 7th and 8th holes. Despite finding the little scoundrel, Ryan had prickly branches preventing a full swing. He debated his club selection. Blocked from

any direct path to the green, he also needed a low ball under branches to return to his 7th fairway. He chose his ancient putter from the early 1960's. It sneaked low and long enough to safety on the fairway. He plunked his short pitch onto this green and two-putted downhill to a front, left pin for his par 5. Ryan, the midday, maddening scrambler, struck again.

Heavens to Betsy, George, and Ryan

Where did Ryan get that old putter and why would he use it? For its provenance, check with his father George. In the early 1960's Ryan's paternal Grandfather Allan Grim, Sr. went to Hess's in Allentown and paid \$3.99 for a putter for his early teen-ager son George born in January 1947. George is Ryan's father. Although George hadn't asked for it, his golfing father wanted to encourage his son to develop more of an interest in golf. Baseball filled much of George's warm weather, not the difficult, frustrating, time-consuming, pricey game of golf. George used it for years and even gave it a name, Betsy.

(George enjoyed giving names to property he owned, especially his cars.) He recalls now that he maintained a love-hate relationship with her. In 1963 at age 16. he had lost the Grim Open by only one shot over 27 holes at one Capon Springs Golf Course, tying brother Allan at 124 to brother Bob's winning 123. Brother Jim was tied up with med school. Betsy gave him early success with his first Grim title at age 18 in 1965 at Rich Maiden. The next year at Wedgewood she was on hand to help sink the final putt, a 20-footer, for George to win his second title by one stroke over brother Bob, 79 to 80. *Above right, On No. 7, George putting with Betsy, circa 1973.*



His trusty female companion was light of head and blade of shape. She was also odd with ridges and green color. As his game flourished, George kept her by his side. He and others were inspired by Arnold Palmer's blade putter as he exploded onto the golfing world of the late 1950s and early 1960's. Just like Palmer, and other prominent golfers, George's stroke was wristy. Reflecting on it now, George thinks that, with its light head, his stroke with Betsy was too "feely." Still, his uneasy marriage to Betsy lasted for decades. He never sought any separation or divorce, or worse. They clicked like a clock, gathering a bushel basket of Grim Opens. Finally, in the 1990's, with golfers stiffening their putter strokes and thickening their putterheads, he sought a putter with a heavier head for a firmer, less-wristy stroke that most golfers now employed. He bought one from the clearance rack at K-Mart for a comparable price as the one thirty years or so prior for Betsy. He named his new putter Bucky.

Did George heave this now-discarded, cheap-but-cherished club into the heaping-but-fragrant mass of Grim nostalgia? No. Sometime in that 1990's he handed her off to his son Ryan, born in 1978, to foster his oldest son's golf game. Betsy had survived as a family heirloom passed on to another generation. And Ryan has kept her ever since. Why does Ryan stay with this ageing lady? "I like the feel of it," he observed recently. With this Hess Brothers wonder woman he captured his sole Grim Open in 1998, in a stunning 73 strokes. This was only one better Betsy putt short of the Grim Open record of 72 for eighteen holes. That record is held jointly by his father George, and Matthew Grim, Ryan's first cousin son of Jim Grim, the oldest sibling of George, Allan, Robert, and Virginia. Query: Will Ryan save golden oldie for his George, age 8? ●



Continuing solid play, on No. 7, Archie struck three strong shots and nailed his par 5 on this steadily uphill three-shotter. Allan socked one of his steady and straight but modest drives, then pulled his 3-wood into the 8th fairway a few open yards from the bordering tree line Ryan had just assaulted. However, the mature evergreens hindered his 60-yard approach. He tried to soar over them, catching the treetops but enough to succeed. But his ball stopped short of the steep bank in

front and the pin close by. Allan now says, "I had never seen a pin on that hole front left and close to the front bank." He pitched his fourth shot extra hard to avoid that dreaded steep bank. His effort was strong by about 20 feet, leaving a downhill, left-breaking putt. He eased his putt too much and he was left with another delicate downhill from six feet just for bogey. He curled it in for his bogey 6. Mark continued his troubles with a double-bogey 7. Ryan still led Allan by two and Archie by five.

Photo above, wife Gini stands behind No. 7 green while she, Sherry and Mark watch her husband Archie putt

Allan says, "Trees? No problem."



On the long par 3 8th hole everyone seems okay with a bogey partly from its extreme length, treelines, and its green's unusual downhill-from-the-fairway slant with every putt a smiley face. Its hole name "Easy Bogey" is justified. Mark recovered briefly with a stellar drive to 15 feet on the front and left of the downhill hole that was roughly center-front of the green. Although he missed a tweety, he got his par 3. Archie drilled a solid tee shot from his 193-yard yellow tee but pulled it slightly into the small bunker left and short of the also-small green. He adroitly pitched out to the green and two-putted for his easy bogey.

Allan chose driver for his yellow tee shot. He says now he swung too easily and that opened his clubface, resulting in a dismal low slice into the right tree line. He

had only a small escape route, branches above him and to his right with a path only to the left side of the green. He hit a low running 5-iron, his flattest non-putter iron, that reached the downhill

fairway, veered right and scurried onto the downhill green, ran close to the pin, but picked up the downhill and halted. He had a 15-footer uphill for par. Putting right to left, he was online but left it a few inches short. A bad then great start to the hole ending with an uneasy bogey. George, with a sling around his right shoulder, and stuck with chronic shingles pain, was following the players. He viewed Allan's second shot up close in his plight among the trees with no direct line or room above them to the hole. He then called it "the shot of the tournament." Although a bit early for that kind of comment, Allan said he would've chosen Ryan's drive on No. 7 if he had eagled or birdied the hole. But his next shot into the trees devalued it though his plight ended with a worthy par.

Sherry shows up the men

Ryan resumed his fickle ways. He scuffled on No. 8, with a double-bogey 5, losing a stroke to Archie and Allan. Mark and Sherry hadn't played much golf before Capon either. They live at a golf community in Wilmington, North Carolina. They had spent much time travelling around various places for purposes other than golf. Sherry's play was impressive with several long drives and some of her best Open play ever. When Ryan launched his boomer from the pad on No. 7 in Round 1, her own drive, from the red tees of course, was nearby on the left side of the fairway. She also declared for the Crass Open after her flawed first round 53 and won it easily over Gini with her best nine-hole round in a long time at Capon with 43 to Gini's 52. She also made history as the first female winner of that infamous side tournament during the Grim Open. Not to mention that her final round score's beat all the men's final rounds. In addition, her total

score of 96 was her best score for 18 holes in the Grim Open. That 52 of Gini's was special as her finest nine-hole round in the Grim Open. She often doesn't keep score, or doesn't finish a round, or may skip one of the two rounds in the Grim Open, as she did this year.

Photo left, Sherry with Mark awaiting Archie's putt on No. 6 green. Photo above right, Mark pitches from in front of No. 8 green while wife Sherry observes from the right.

Ryan himself with his media work and his new venture in media and his sixsome of a family, etc, said he had played only one round of golf before Capon and it was in March. "It was the Janney Elementary Better Ball, held at Bretton Woods outside DC. It raises money for our

kids' school. I played poorly," said Ryan. Between then and now he could easily have practiced his bunker play. He flew to Doha, the capital of oil-rich Qatar in the turbulent but sandy Middle East. He found the weather very hot but the place "super cool." Are the streets paved in gold? No, says Ryan. But they are marble. Why did he go? He's a political reporter. In July 2024 with two friends they started a new organization called Drop Site News. "We tell it like it is. It's a subscriber based non-profit but the work is all free," he says.



crossing maintenance road. He had only a wedge left. Allan pushed his approach to the right front bank of this downhill, left-sloping green. He putted over the bank and it rolled down with a sweeping right-to-left break toward the back left pin and ended up only four feet away. Archie's approach from 90 or



Ryan finds woods

On No. 9, the final hole of round 1, Allan belted a sturdy drive that caught the slight hill at the corner of this long, dogleg par 4 hole, and it tumbled forward. He was left with only a 6-iron. Archie outdid Allan's drive with a pinpoint boomer about ten yards short of the



so yards was long and right and settled in the fringe at the back right of the green. Few golfers ever go there, and with good reason. Because of the hole's length, most golfers pull up short of the green. Where Archie lay left a huge drop downhill to the hole. "I've never seen a section of a green like that one with more slope on it from any area," remarked Allan. He trickled a marvelous tough-and-touchy putt from its perch at thirty feet to about three feet. He sank his par putt with his logo style of facing the hole. He bends over facing the hole and holding the putter in front of him but sideways with hands separated, his backstroke toward himself. Allan also sank his par putt.

Mark couldn't sustain any comeback from his par on No. 8 as he triple-bogeyed this testing finishing hole. Allan has called it not only his favorite finishing hole but his favorite hole period. And he has created a new name for it from the prior one of Twin Oaks, from the mighty trees that were lost to old age a few years ago. His name? The Impossible Green. ***Below, the scenic No. 9 tee from behind with Doug driving for fun as a DNP***

While Allan and Archie conquered the 9th, Ryan began with a shudder, bombing his drive long but well right and into the 8th fairway. Wrong direction to miss. The hole itself is a dogleg left. From there he

soared a decent second shot over the two tree lines of both fairways sixty yards short of the green but on the right side of the fairway. His wedge to the back left flag was clobbered too strong and disappeared soaring well over the green where only trouble exists close to the back edge. First, a steep bank that drops to a dirt-and-stones maintenance road. Behind that is a wooded hill falling sharply down to the parking lot next to Capon's Main House.

When he and his father George arrived at the scene, they found the ball under some small logs among the trees on the hill below the maintenance road. Grim Rules penalized Ryan a stroke but he was allowed to drop his ball at the top edge of the bank behind the green before it descends to the road. He had a short pitch over a small rise to the green and a flag only 18 feet from the back edge of the green. He dinked his pitch short of the green still on the back edge. Then his chip was too strong down the right-breaking slope and it rambled toward the front of the green. With 25 feet back to the hole, he was left with a big right-to-left putt. That effort was deft but short by three feet, where he drained his putt. Ryan with a head-snapping 8, the dreaded Snowman. ***Above, the menacing woods close behind the 9th green where Ryan's ball wound up are shown in this photo from 1984, with***

Jim watching as his brother George putts using his faithful Betsy flatstick.

Big comeback by Archie and Allan

On the ninth tee Ryan had a one-shot lead on Allan. He now trailed him by three with his 45 to Allan's 42 after the first round. Archie matched Ryan, picking up four strokes himself on that last hole to tie Ryan for second at 45.

After playing the first five holes in ten over par, Archie had played the last four in one over. Mark had



two marvelous holes with his tweeter on the Stamp and his drive to fifteen feet on No. 8 for a par on Easy Bogey. Otherwise, disaster struck this Grim Open champion from 2022 with an opening 49. Allan was just less terrible than Mark and Archie and Ryan. He had his lengthy birdie on No. 4 and parred No. 6 and almost parred No. 8 and did par the hardest hole, No. 9. Ryan played his usual fitful game with satellite-threatening drives

and his occasional smooth touch around and on the greens. But his drives too often ascended into Neverland, and his short game would occasionally start your noggin naggin'. And today he further faced tree visits and a no-no, oh-no, whiff.

You now wondered how the three golfers behind Allan's three-shot lead would

fare for the finale with his numerous practice rounds before Capon resulting in a few age-matching 83's. Archie had played a few rounds prior to Capon and some rounds before breakfast at Capon. Ryan got in only meager practice at Capon with his wife Elizan and family of four active children and Capon's other delights to enjoy. Mark was

also limited in his time with non-golf activities where duty calls in the weeks before Capon. Arriving the day before the tournament also left him and wife Sherry with no real time for preparation. Down by seven shots to Allan, and only nine holes to go, his thoughts could only drift toward a wistful visit to his 2021 Grim Open title.

Round 2

The Casual golfers have more fun



he second round faced another hot and sunny, but not stifling, August Saturday morning at Capon. The sky soon glided to an omen of somber cloudy. On the turf, the Open's start stalled at the teeing ground because Capon doesn't have tee times. (The Open skips a day after Thursday starts to Saturday as Friday morning is taken up by Capon's Pot Luck contest.) The Grims always stir a fuss at Capon for their

tournament because, with no tee times at Capon, the Grims have a pesty pile of golfers playing together in separate foursomes, with family spectators or more.

On this late morning, the pile grew. More Grim family members not competing desired to both watch and either play in the championship or hit some balls among the serious golfers. With only nine holes, appealing as they are and enhanced by stunning scenery, Capon has other guests that also want to play golf there. With some of those on the tee, the genial starter, (who has replaced longtime golf course Super and sometime Starter, but now

mostly retired, Pete Budnyk), conferred with Archie and suggested his group (Archie, Gini, Allan, Mark, and Sherry) begin on No. 6. He said that the tee should be clear and behind that tee is the Meeker group that Archie quickly replied he could deal with.

Gini, above chipping from the trap on No. 4 with Archie behind her

Allan grumbled but yielded to reality and expediency while declaring, 'We're all playing in the sunlight, but we'll be in the dark on our scores playing so far apart on holes.' Prior finishes had groups directly behind each other, as in any typical tourney. Allan said he was happy just to get things



moving *somewhere* after waiting for other non-Grim groups to tee off. The urgency of the move to No. 6 hole was bolstered, he said, when he also spied others coming off the ninth green to play No. 1 and the same nine holes.

With the okay, Allan's group carted to No. 6. Smooth sailing? No, more turmoil. A group of golfers was out on the sixth fairway and another group was trudging onto No. 5 green. It was not the Meeker group, nor were they on the sixth fairway. Archie ambled over to the group on No. 5 and informed them of his group's presence. No problem from them. They quit at that hole for unknown reasons but fine with the Grims. Although Archie and Allan's group had to wait for the group already on No. 6 fairway, that group moved on swiftly and never held them up.

Gini and Jack give good whacks

Despite no play in Round 1, Gini competed in

Round 2 with a complete and good score of 52. After exiting from poor play early in Round 1, Jack was persuaded to play the Crass and shot a 59, sixteen shots from Sherry's winning total. But he has been playing golf with serious intent only briefly, spurred or shamed into it by



joining the Grim family last year as Kelsy's husband. Doug and Kelly's daughters Lauren and Elaina came along and had hit balls here and there in Round 1. In Round 2 they actually played the holes and wrote down numbers on the scorecard. Lauren kept her score for the whole round and shot 63 with some liberal adjustments. Elaina was earnest in playing but said she felt rushed for most of her shots. She kept her score liberally too, avoiding her tally for her start at 1 and 2 and her giant score on The Monster No. 7. Mamma Kelly appeared briefly but couldn't continue, although she wished to be with family.

Virginia doing what Virginia does

Virginia (10), Sidney (10), and George (8) all joined the first round, hitting some balls here and there. A while after the round, Ryan

amusingly explained their presence at the family Open as more than frisky spectators: "They were not specifically assigned to distract the other competitors, but it definitely worked out that way. Virginia still gets teased by her siblings for her golf faux pas of walking right in front of the first tee

looking for a water fountain when the players were going to tee off. She hadn't realized she had literally tripped over the actual water fountain on the way there. She's lucky she didn't get hit. They play softball and baseball and wander the neighborhood a lot."

Courtney a golf club in hand, and Kelsy a baby at hand

Wife Elizan and sister Iris did not join their siblings. Although they enjoy Capon, they are not fond of that sport played up that steep hill. And Ryan this year had double duty of fatherhood and his manhood tested playing the Open on Capon's golf course with the three other children joining him and trying out their golf skills. All good. Kelsy, with a child due in December, came along for both rounds but without her duties as Allan's official photographer for the Grim Open. She also walked along with her novice golfer husband Jack, who was valiantly trying to learn and perform well among his new family of golfnicks.

A rare citing of Courtney occurred in Round 2 when she joined her father

Archie's group, who were joined by wife Gini for round two. She even hit some balls from the tee. Ryan's daughter Sidney, hampered by a fractured ankle with boot, joined Ryan's group in Round 2. See her with Ryan on page 31. Old George, on the IR

from golf by shingles and a recent new hip, joined Archie's group for Round 1. **Courtney on No. 5 tee** He followed his son Ryan's group in round 2. And Ryan and he had linked up with Archie in Round 1 when Jack had quit at the No. 3 hole. "It was great

to see so many of our young family members on the course. I had no idea this was going to happen. It was cat-herding chaos. I thought I would have trouble focusing. But I didn't. We all survived," said Allan after the end of Round 1.



Virginia doing what Virginia does during the Moonlight on the Terrace dance at Capon as exhausted dancer Lauren sprawls behind her.



The par 4 Fifth Hole where it all ended

Why there?

Round 2 The Serious Golfers

*Men in carts
playing badly*

Starting on the short par 4 6th hole, Allan's drive faded to fairway right. It sat down directly behind the lone tree at the corner of this tree-lined dogleg hole called "Lonesome Tree."



Prior page, Photo of No. 6 hole from left rough looking toward green, with that single tree on right corner of fairway just beyond cart on left.

He ably skied his approach 7-iron over the tree, but it landed left of the green. With a short pitch left, he flopped it to 18 feet whence he two-putted for his bogey 5. Then he made par on the Monster 7th with a deft long, lagged downhill birdie putt from the back right fringe and draining an uphill four-footer. His play on the long



par-3 8th hole was a lot different from Round 1. With driver from 193 yards at the yellow tee, he struck it true and it dropped just in front of the green and rolled to just four feet in front of the hole in the middle of the green. His downhill, right-sliding birdie putt dropped in for a 2 on this “Easy Bogey” hole.

This is the very same hole where, in Round 1, Allan had grounded his ball from under trees onto the green and had a 15-footer for par. You could argue these are the two most dazzling shots of the tournament. And then which shot was the better one for shot of the tournament. Allan now says, “It’s a close call because, although the one in Round 2 resulted in a birdie, the putt itself was much shorter than the putt I almost made from much farther.” Ryan’s drive on No. 7 is also a contender, but a next-shot pull into the trees dropped it to third place for SOT, says Allan. After a great drive and an approach to the front bank of No. 9, Allan pitched to eight feet short of the now middle hole but missed the big downhill, right-to-left putt for a bogey 5. An excellent start of four holes at only one-over par. **Allan, right, driving off No. 7 yellow tee**

Archie’s final round start from No. 6 to No. 9 was a gyrating mix of scores. Although he parred the monster and drained a 9-footer for a stellar birdie on the tough No. 9, he bogeyed No. 6 and triple-bogeyed the par 3 8th hole for 3-over par, losing two more shots to Allan, retreating expanding him to a five-shot deficit. Behind leader Allan by seven, Mark couldn’t recover any ground either with three bogeys and a double bogey 5 on No. 8. **Left, Ryan approaching the uphill green on No. 5 hole from**

the rain-deprived, sun-drenched fairway

Allan’s major threat left was nephew Ryan, 37 years younger, playing in his own group from the blue-white tees with Jack, Elaina, and Lauren. He doubled No. 1 and bogeyed the second through fourth holes. This added two more strokes to the three he was behind Allan after round one. Thus, Archie and Ryan were both down to Allan by five shots with five holes to go in the calamitous climax of the 24 Open. Except Allan didn’t know it and neither did they.

Allan goes low and lousy

After a solid long and straight drive up the Olympian first hole hill toward the Parthenon green, Allan had his 49-degree wedge to a front middle pin just behind that fiendish front bunker. “Overconfident,” as he called



it, Allan rolled his approach into the bunker, expecting a high, soft shot. "I couldn't remember the last time I rolled a short wedge to a green. Of course it had to have a trap in front of it," Allan moans now. It was to be his worst iron shot in two rounds of mostly good ones. Despite a good lie in the sand, he tried to glide and pitch his sand shots with brief follow-throughs and got out only after the third one. Even that merely reached the front bank, leaving about 25 feet to the sunken can. Shunning a chip, he putted up and over the rise and got to only four feet left and above the hole. Staring at a dreaded Snowman 8, he made the putt for a less dreadful hockey-stick, a 7 on this short but elevated par 4.

Darkness while the sun shines

On the par 3 second hole Allan flew a solid but short 7-iron onto the green about 25 feet away in front to a middle right flag. His birdie try was four feet short, but he canned it for his par. Archie himself faltered on No. 1 with a



double-bogey 6 and a bogey of the par 3 No. 2 hole. Distant from his main competitors, on the sloping No. 5 Mountain Goat hole, Ryan continued his errant ways with a triple-bogey 7 after slinging his drive down the ski slope into the left rough. He ended that mayhem with a par 4 on the dogleg No. 6 hole. Thus, between the oscillating play of all three golfers, Archie and Ryan both still lagged behind Allan by the same five strokes with three holes to go. Did desperate Mark sneak closer during those times? No. After Allan's puny 7 on No. 1, Mark still was nine shots back. All the while as never occurred in 65 Grim Opens, the shining sun shone played hide- and-seek with the players as they remained in the dark of the feats and the flops each was having in groups far from each other.

Right, photo of Gini teeing off short women's tee on tight and tipsy No. 3 hole

With three holes to go and ahead by an unknowing five shots, Allan used his trusty driver on the tunnel-tight No. 3 hole. Allan has hit driver on No. 3 for a few years, because he's confident with it. It's helped that he's hit from the



Yellows, down and forward of the elevated white (blue) tee.

This hole baffles all golfers. What club should I hit from the tee? Not only is the target area narrow; a slope left into woods, and a tree line and right tilt protects the right all the way to the green. Although ominous trouble, they are only part of what the nervous golfers face. **Left, Mark and Sherry stuck down the giant slope on No. 5 hole** If you hit your ball close to either side of the fairway, the ground begins to cant away from it and eventually, as you reach the woods and the trees, the ground betrays you further with greater slope to ultimate ruin— to the left, more trees with a steep drop down into the woods. An incline on the right starts on the fairway

and runs past the trees and down into the adjoining 5th fairway. About that other fairway, Allan frets, “A ball that fades even a bit toward the right edge of the fairway will usually wave to the tree line and pick up speed and bound down across that 5th fairway.” The farther it rolls, the steeper the incline away. Being stopped by a tree in the line is usually an act of mercy. “This is one of the toughest driving holes I have ever faced. Top five. Only its length impairs its toughness,” adds Allan

Allan drilled a sparkling drive down the left side of the fairway, he thought, near to where the cart path runs and the fairway meets thick rough and a slant toward the woods below. It rolled over the parallel cart path and stopped a few inches left of the path in that rough. Capon thickens the rough there to help save your ball from the wooded slope with tall trees. With about 90 yards left and his ball well above his feet, a brief rise kept him from seeing the green. Allan hacked his 90-yard 9-iron straight to the green. Thwacking from the dense rough hindered his distance and his ball finished still twenty yards short of the green. With a tiny wedge left to a back middle flag, Allan dumped his wedge woefully short and right about 30 feet from the hole. He two-putted for bogey 5. Archie could only match bogey, but Mark nailed his second par in a row. Meantime, Ryan had to

confront “The Monster” 7th and the two other tough finishing holes already played by Allan and his group. He tamed “The Monster” with a par 5, same as Round 1.

On the Postage Stamp 4th hole Allan flew his 9-iron onto the tiny green, sticking his ball in the front middle to a middle right flag about 20 some feet away.

His birdie try chirped too much and left him five feet back for par. He missed it and tapped in for bogey 4. Archie continued to hack with a double-bogey 5. Now on the 8th hole, Ryan could only match Archie’s double-bogey on this par 3. Both had lost another stroke to Allan. With one hole left for all, Allan now had a six-shot lead on Ryan in the 65th Grim Open. And of course, neither Allan nor Ryan knew it. Only Allan’s playing partner Archie knew he was six strokes from Allan.

Here came the man with the story

As Allan’s group prepared to tee off from their final tee, out on the 5th fairway at the tree line cart

path was a lone figure trudging toward them. It was brother George, who had been following Ryan’s group. Allan yelled to him asking how Ryan was doing. George offered only a brief shrug and ambiguous words emitting to all there that Ryan was scuffling. This is just after

“I have never seen a golf fairway that slopes so severely. Of course I’ve been playing golf for only about 68 years.”

Allan commenting about the No. 5 hole at Capon Springs

Allan with driver laced a stellar tee shot down the fairway. It caught the deep left slope and tumbled down the hill into light rough. He had now another approach facing him with the ball again well above his feet. He caught it fat and it strayed well right into the tree line. The flag was in the middle. A large bunker and a tree were between Allan and the pin. With his 8-iron he chipped left safely to the fairway a few yards from the bank in front of the uphill green. With his 56-degree wedge Allan hit it too solid and it flew about 25 feet beyond the hole.

He had a sweeping, right-breaking downhill putt on this diabolical green, where golfers dread any putt. It slid delicately, rolling downhill to a gentle stop

about 15 or so inches, still above the hole. Others had sizeable putts left. Archie blurted to Allan, "Putt it out." George, now joined with them, chimed in, "No. He's going to win the Grim Open. The player who is going to win is supposed to wait till everyone else has finished so that he can finish by himself as champion."

George was right and antique golfer Allan said nothing, knowing the custom. He marked his tiny

He pulled it and it missed even the left edge of the cup. It slid four feet down the hill. That was reckless since he now lay 6 and didn't know Ryan's score. "Every putt on this green is hard. I expected a left-to-right break and a fast one downhill, even from that distance," he later reflected. It was now a right-to-left uphill putt. He struck it and it got inches beyond the hole, not breaking enough. Finally, he tapped in. He looked up in disbelief but said nothing. A Snowman

8 for the old man with an 8 as the first number in his age. He seemed to emit an aching shrug that countered any comfort from final victory. That was understandable. With that score, he didn't know if he actually won.

In photo left, on the verge of victory, Allan starts his first putt and fifth shot from back of No. 5 green. It has a big left-to-right break and a steep slope to run down. Photo below shows that it stopped about 15 inches above the hole. Sherry watches from back of the green.

A true champion doesn't win a tournament with an 8 on the last hole. Bad enough here. But more important, you're also supposed to know how you're doing versus the other players. Yes, it can happen, and does even with elite tournaments usually with many players that finish well before others and must wait for their final scores. That happens mostly where they have shot a spectacular score



putt, and waited for all to finish. The rest is not history; it is hysteria. For the record, on that same devious, now last, No. 5 green, Sherry and Gini both sank their uphill putts from about seven curving feet each.

Allan then replaced his ball and quickly putted. It's over—Champion! No.





from well back in the pack. Yes, there are scoreboards here and there. (I've often wondered in this age of smart phones why a caddy can't call someone watching the TV coverage or find a golf app that is covering the tournament itself or ask a spectator that is plugged into something with the info. Maybe they aren't allowed smartphones.)

Here the players knew they would finish roughly at the same time but



Above, Allan addresses is 15-incher to win. He will miss it and have four feet back up the hill, as shown here below left. On the right below, Allan finally taps in from a few inches for the title after missing the four-footer. Top, from left, are playing partners Gini and Archie, then George to Allan's right, and Sherry and Mark far right.

several hundred yards apart on the 5th green and the 9th greens. What was Allan to do? George, who had been

with Ryan, carried the fuzzy message that Ryan didn't blaze home and Allan had miscued enough to



win. That was buttressed by his remark about Allan not putting out from 15 inches. What did Allan do? He couldn't exult; he only thought he *probably* won.

Allan drove his cart back to the 9th hole at the clubhouse (as he was going to do anyway) to see what Ryan had done. When he arrived, he saw that Ryan's group had finished and had left the

green area for the clubhouse. Allan looked for anyone who had followed Ryan's group. He first spied his son Douglas, leaving the premises. He happened to have the scorecard of Ryan's group. It showed Ryan's total of 44, same as Allan's. Archie had a 46 final round; Mark, with some solace, was better than anyone with a 42 that matched Allan's first round score as the low score for the tourney. With a total of 86 Allan had won by three over Ryan's 89 and five over Archie and Mark with matching 91's. For Sherry, read on.

How did Ryan play overall? Since this tale was prepared well after the tournament, eyewitnesses to Ryan's final round George and Douglas had trouble with recall. I did connect somewhat with Ryan about it in the fall. At best his last round was uneven. Superb holes, then blowups. Just like Round 1. I asked Ryan when he thought he had probably lost. He replied, "I figured I was out of it with a double on one and especially after a triple on five. But then I got hot and parred 6 and 7 and could have parred 8 but 3-putted. Finished with a par, playing well at the end."

Seesaws all around for the Serious golfers. Even the victor Allan at No. 1 and No. 5 flared to a humbling triple and a quad.

As for competing blind on the scores, Allan remarked, "That lack of info on how everyone is doing is something I've never experienced before. I guess I should've been more careful at the end. I was playing as though I likely was leading by at least a few strokes all the way through. I never felt pressure. But Ryan did finish the three difficult last holes in one-over par. And I blew up on the last hole. I shudder to think, what if I needed that little 15 incher on the last green to win or tie?"

How does Allan sum it all up? "We all played up and down and in both rounds. It looks like I was just less erratic than the rest of us. And I'm still upset with my 8 on the last hole. That old saw about not winning with a quadruple bogey on the last hole? Actually, I think it applies to any hole. Losers get an 8. Winners avoid that fate."

Allan at least avoided a dubious Grim Open. His 86 was one shot less than the record high score for the winning score in an 18-hole

Capon Springs Open. In 2018 Capon perennial titleholder George won with an 87.

Archie had triple-bogeyed his last hole, the par 4 No. 5, for a 46 and a grand total of 91. He had also tripled the par 3 8th. Yet he birdied the toughest hole, par 4 No. 9 and parred it in Round 1. He cites the Postage Stamp 4th. "It licked me. Tee shot didn't stick and it blew my score away, he regrets.

Mark and Sherry were the stars of the last round. They achieved rough redemption and justice after no practice rounds and Mark's poor 49 start. Sherry's 53 was fair as a start for her. Mark finished with the low final nine at 42. With her 43 she was behind her husband by only one stroke. But even better, in that final nine, she had bested all three men in the top three of the tournament. Overall, though, Mark had beaten her by five, 91 to 96. ●

Note: The photos of Allan's trials on the last green were made from a superb video shot by his niece Courtney, daughter of Gini and Archie.

Give THEM a trophy

A special thanks to Kelly and Lauren for their work on the Grim Open trophy. Lauren polished it for the second straight year and she and Kelly worked hard to fulfill the knotty task of crafting and fitting the simple wording **Allan Grim 2024** onto apt spots on this metallic, curved, elegant symbol of victory. It was also tough, as the decorative emblem, the best spot, is small. Several items and ways and their features didn't work. The resourceful ladies finally arrived at the excellent presentation shown here.



AN ALLAN AUTOPSY

By the sole survivor of the SeeSaw Open

Introduction

A brief time after his Open triumph, I wanted to catch Allan while it was all fresh in his mind. We sat down for an interview about his experiences at Capon and his golf skills at age 83. I also asked him about his odd behavior at the Grim Open trophy presentation. He now wishes for a do-over and tells what he should've said. It's a lot different. He expounds in an engaging, amusing, and humbling message to his Grim Open competitors and no shows.



IN THE LAST ROUND

Allan had hit driver on seven holes, including the 193-yard, par 3 8th where he lashed his tee shot to four feet from the cup.

Each of his drives was straight and long for him, (counting the one described before in my narrative of the Open) on No. 3 that hit on the fairway, then actually strayed left into the rough on this rumped-bedsheet-on-a-cot fairway.

I begin with, "Have you hit seven drivers like that before here?", I asked him. "No, and that's because I hadn't been hitting driver on the 8th hole from the yellow tee. I don't even normally hit a driver as far as 193 yards [the yellow distance], so it was a great shot for me." On the two shorter par 3's, he had stuck the landing on both greens at 2 and 4, and stuck it to five feet on the long one at 8.

Capon has three par 3's and thus six holes or one-third of the tournament's eighteen holes. You might say his victory came from his driving and the short holes. He played them in one over par. "Whatever happened to your chronic fading drives? You now hit mostly straight drives," I tossed at him. "Yeah, but they didn't go far in the air and fades don't roll much. Now I am straight but still short of where I would like to be."

Well, everyone wants to be longer. And "mostly straight" is a golfer's devout desire.

"How did you modify your swing to get to this?" I want to know.

"I realized I was whipping the clubhead as I started the downswing. I now keep my wrists stiff and just come through with just enough follow through. It never seems to be full like the pros, especially the ladies."

I tell him that he is neglecting what all the pros do when they follow through all the way. "And I don't know who keeps their wrists stiff," I add.

"Well, I think DeChambeau is stiff, but the rest, I don't know that I have noticed any. But I was overdoing the loose wrists, and it was enough to throw the forward motion off, open my clubface, I think."

"All the pros follow through completely," I emphasize. "The ladies seem to make sure of it with that repetitive motion at the end of their follow through. Not sure why they do that."

"I know. I fight it with an abbreviated swing. I don't naturally follow through. Arnold Palmer didn't either. And a few others. And with a short follow-through I've run the risk of leaving the club face open, leading to a fade or worse, a slice. That's part of the problems I've confronted with the fading. Now I somehow follow through enough to avoid the slice. I think I might be doing it by having my ~~clubhead~~club head a bit closed at impact, which counteracts it. I tend to hit my drives not that high. And I suppose I lose distance too."

"How about your putting?"

"It was solid and it's been solid this summer. Very few bad putts. I never worry about my putting. Somehow, I develop a different style each year. Not on purpose. I seem to forget over the winter what my style

was. My hands and body say, try this. Odd, I know. And I then do it and stay with it."

"Not good. Continuity is important but if the change comes over the winter, not so bad, I suppose."

"Here's something else important to me. I've found that we have a rhythm, if that's the word, about our pre-putt moments. For me, once you are lined up to putt, you should take the same number of seconds to hit each time. It's amazing how often I miss when I hit too soon, especially short putts. Or take too long, where bad thoughts seep into your head."

So, how many seconds is it for you?"

"That's interesting. I don't even know.

My body and head somehow let me know. It begins at address though. You can take the time to line up and gauge the break, etc. before that."

"What's with the yellow balls? You played the whole week with them at Capon?"

"Not just. When I find a yellow ball somewhere, and

especially where white balls are known to be, it is very likely my ball. I like that I can know instantly about 90 per cent of the time it's mine. I started the yellow from the beginning of -2024."

Few golfers use them. Capon, he points out, is a special place for them. There are too many occasions where balls stray into parallel holes where often two foursomes of balls could be lying. "The 3rd and 5th holes are close and the slope propels balls from 3 to 5 all the time," he says. He adds, "Many of the golfers who hit the wrong ball are novices. They at least know white from yellow without having to check the logo up close."

When Allan was handed the Grim Open trophy, Archie asked him to say a few words. Allan began, "I can't believe I missed that last putt!"

Allan's Pot Luck team won the Tuesday version of Capon's golf week with a four-under score. Allan said he recalls that the last time he won the Grim Open in 2010 his team won the Pot Luck tournament. "Otherwise, I hardly ever win the Scramble. And I tell them not to make me captain. But they insist."

Allan has been hitting from the yellow tees for a few years now. Although he is now 83, he didn't begin at age 70. Capon allows those reaching 70 to hit from the yellows in the Pot Luck. Why didn't he take advantage of it?



"Well, it's a privilege in the Capon Pot Luck, not the Grim Open. We tussle about using it. It's never been automatic."

"How did it start with you?"

"It wasn't my idea. George suggested it about five or six years ago and no one opposed it. I wasn't winning or threatening the title around then either. I had won only in 2010 at age, let's see, 69, I think, when I wouldn't have qualified for using the yellow anyway."

"Did you say okay, I will do it?"

"Well, I was driving shorter for, I don't know, how many years. But, no, I was initially opposed to it. I thought it would be cheating. When I began, I felt guilty for a while."

"How did you resolve your hesitation?"

"Well, I said okay, if you insist. Yeah, now I'm mostly over it. Time made me even older and drives got shorter too. With my age I acquired some ailments and needed surgeries. I've never been that long as it is. My weight hasn't gone above 127 in recent years, even after I've lifted two 20-pound dumbbells for a several years now."

Until this year, only his cousin Mark wanted to use the yellow tees. That occurred two years ago when he just declared he was doing it without seeking the okay from the Committee. That esteemed group is basically George (sidelined by hip surgery and shingles) and Allan. If Jim or Bob appeared at Capon, Allan says they would be deemed members of the Committee, and the original four brothers who began the tournament 64 years ago. Although Allan and George were blind-sided by Mark's position, they approved it. Mark was into his 70's and his driving length had actually declined. However, he had been playing decently and more over the years at his golf community in Wilmington, North Carolina. He proved it with his triumph in the Grim Open in 2022, his first.

Allan's triumph in 2024 was his eighth in the Grim Open. His first was only 62 years ago in 1962, when he won over his three brothers in the longest Grim Open ever at 63 holes with a score of 300, beating Bob by four, George by ten and Jim by twelve. It was the family's first Open at Capon although they had been attending since 1954. It's been fourteen years since Allan's last. He won in 2010 at age 69 in the controversial tournament where the outcome was in doubt because of flagrant Grim Rules violations. It's complicated, but four players, yes, not a typo, thought they had won. Allan was one of them.

The outcome of the battle was not resolved on the playing fields of Capon. That happened in the legal mind of Allan, you also read this one right, who was appointed to determine the winner two months after the end of the competition. Who appointed him? He did. Also not a typo or a joke. He found the

winner to be...Allan. Another non-typo. No one filed an appeal from his decision or otherwise contested it. The last six Grim Opens have now had six different champions. In 2024 Allan at 83 became the oldest Grim Open champion since George's victory in 2022 when he was 75. For him, Allan has had a pleasing year in golf. After Capon in August, he shot his current age twice with an 83 at Raven's Claw Golf Club, a difficult layout located just east of Pottstown, Pa. The other one was at PineCrest Golf Club in Montgomeryville, Pa., a few miles west of Doylestown, Pa.

Allan says he's not slowing down with golf as he may be with other activities and sports. "They used to say, take up golf. It's something you can do when you can't do anything else," he reflects. As for getting older, he also reflects about age-shooting: "The only thing good about getting to 84 this year is that it makes shooting my age again a bit easier. Cross fingers for my constant battles with my health."

At the Capon lunch right after the end of competition, last year's champion Archie presented to Allan the Grim Open plaque with all 64 champions listed. He also handed him the silver trophy inscribed with 2023 and his name as the last champion. It had been polished and engraved by the appointment of Allan's granddaughter Lauren, age 17. When Allan was asked to address the family, he blurted, "I can't believe I missed that last putt." He added with no semblance of decency, "I want to lift the trophy and kiss it. This is how you do it." He then lifted it and mimicked on it a European country's vulgar kiss. After a brief pause for effect, he lifted it again and did the usual victory smile and planted a proper, winning, gentle smooch on it.

In a later moment of serious reflection, Allan mused that he really wanted to say something closer to this declaration of reality:

"Thanks to my fellow competitors for stinking and allowing me to just stink less enough to win.

"And to my son Douglas, I plant this slap upside your silly head for not playing. Your devotion to family is commendable. You could have played and included family in practice and playing. They joined us in both rounds, as did you, for which I thank you all.

And to George, forgive me, but I thank the disease called shingles and your right hip for telling you that you are not going to play. You probably would have won. If not, maybe Douglas would have. And, anyway, George, you didn't need it because you have 40 titles in your pocket. And no more room because your pockets aren't deep."

"And dear Greg, sorry about duty calling you to education and work. You could've faced worse reasons to stay home. But I salute you for the ones that kept you. And I think Las Vegas would've made you the favorite."

"And finally, believe it or not, I missed the competition with all you DNP's. In recent years you've all gotten older too. So we never know how you will play. Neither do you. Sometimes you will flash your brilliance from prior years and humiliate us. George and Greg did win in the last few years. With old age in golf comes more unpredictability."

His age hasn't dimmed his thoughts craving to bolt from his brain and land at anyone within earshot. He wasn't done.

"And special thanks to Brookside Country Club for being only two minutes from my home and having a great practice area that I was able to use often."

"And to Pat Buckley, my son's wife's father, who supplied me with competition each week. Okay, maybe not that much, as you rarely beat me. But I enjoy our contests because we both play hard and try valiantly to beat each other in friendly competition. I know our battles are savage because I get embarrassed and

distressed when I lose to you. I remember them readily because they were few.”

“And in general, thanks to you all for making my triumph possible and mostly enjoyable, except for that awful

Frosty on the last hole. Despite winning, that did not make me dance around as ‘a jolly, happy soul.’ But, I’ve been smoking a corncob pipe ever since in my mind, savoring my achievement. Woooo!” ●



Another year and no official Capon Springs Talent Show. Four years straight with none. So, the Grim Family again had its own. It's always open to anyone at the resort who wants to perform. This year no one else signed up. Maybe because no one even bothered to spread any notice around the resort seeking performers. Probably just as well. Between the prior few and the chronic many reluctants, the dam burst and the blissful

mass of Grims flooded the theater stage with fifteen performances. The rookies shocked everyone because they mostly never hinted of talent or casual interest enough to sing anywhere, let alone mount the stage and sing to a cluster of stern amateur critics. *Above is a shot of the Meeting House, where the theater is located. Photo left, George singing as described in No. 6 in list of performers.*



*“Everyone wahntz tah get inta dee act!”**

Before the talent show, in the Capon gazebo, as a peaceful rain blessed its massive roof, her athlete father George gave Kelsy away, mimicking a football handoff, to Jack. This was a Grim family re-do of their weddings saga explained further in the Grim Open articles. *Here right is a photo of Jack, George, and Kelsy and the ring-bearer George, son of George's oldest son Ryan and wife Elizan. Sidney and Iris were flower girls. Doug carried flowers from wife Kelly's garden. Kelsy's sister Olivia played the violin.* At the show, Allan, a constant performer since 2010, was set to do a few of his new tribute songs. This time he didn't. He declared that, with the many performers taking stage, he would pass, thus fulfilling his annual wish for family to perform too. He added, “Last year a few of us got up there. This year, I was just thrilled to see the family fill the stage, and with skill, energy and enthusiasm. Next year I would like to see some of us break out of the group and sing or do some other individual talent.”



** Jimmy Durante's famous line*

As outlined, here is the list of Grim performers:

1. *The Humpty Dance*
(Digital Underground) —
Courtney

2. *Honesty* (Billy
Joel) — Olivia



3. *You'll Be Back* (Hamilton the Musical)— Jack

4. *My Favorite Things* (Sound of Music, Capon Edition) — Gini and friends Jan Zimmeck, Toni Pepe, and Jocelyn Kenner. They also sang Chapel of Love, a girl group song from 1964 by The Dixie Cups. These Capon veterans did it in honor of Jack and Kelsy's wedding vows re-do at the Capon gazebo.



5. *Summer Nights* (Grease) — Ryan and Doug, with much help, from left, Ryan, Iris, little George, Lauren, Elaina, Doug, and little Virginia *All above, and, below, Iris watching Ryan and Doug*



6. *Sunday Morning Coming Down* (Kris Kristofferson) — older George Grim *See photo of old George on second prior page 52*

7. *Anti-Hero* (Taylor Swift) — Kelsy and little Virginia *Photo below right*

8. *Aaron Burr, Sir* (Hamilton the Musical) — Lauren, Virginia, Jack. *Photo, top right on first page of performers, with Iris observing*

9. *Have You Ever Seen the Rain*

(Creedance Clearwater Revival) — Olivia

10. *Made at Capon* (composed by Capon guest Michael Gallaway and allegedly jointly inspired with old George) — Kelsy, Ryan, old George, Jack



11. *Giants in the Sky* (Into the Woods, Broadway Musical) — Lauren and Doug

12. *End of Beginning* (Joe Keery) — Iris and little George

13. *I Can Do It With A Broken Heart* (Taylor Swift) — little Virginia



14. *Astronaut in the Ocean* (Masked Wolf) — little George

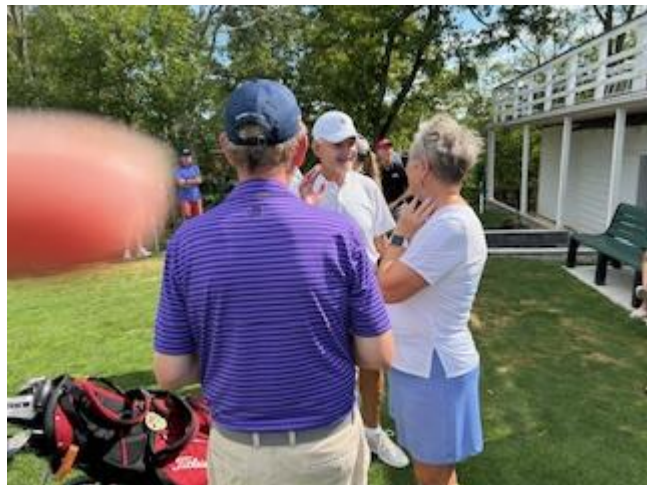
15. *Shallow* by Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper (A Star is Born) — Ryan and Iris •

Little George whooping his way through his solo of Masked Wolf—No. 14

The Grim Family at Capon Springs 2024

Note: To identify people in the photos, go to the last page with Grim family group photo, or view photos with identifying captions in Grim Open articles











Bottom row, from left: Iris, Elaina, with little Virginia in front, Sidney, Douglas with little George in front, Lauren, (Stowaway), Ian Walters, a friend of the family
Second Row, from left: Mark, Sherry, Archie, Gini, George, Melissa, Allan
Top Row, standing: Kelsy, Kelly, Ryan, Jack, Elizan, Olivia, Courtney