

7th Women's Metropolitan Amateur Championship

St. George's Golf and Country Club – June 3

Fifty-one golfers took up the challenge set by the St. George's Golf and Country Club on East Setauket, Long Island and were treated to a day of spectacular views, pristine course conditions and punishing pin placements. Their skills were definitely tested by the end of the 18 holes. Barbara Israel, Century, was crowned Champion with a low Gross score of 74. Lois Kim, Harbor Links, and Daria Cummings, Tashua Knolls, followed with scores of 77 and 79 respectively. Helen Bernstein won the low Net prize with a score of 76 in a match of cards with two St. George's players, Sarah Guarascio and Sandra Heeter who made their club proud with their fine play.

When asked by Tee Talk to discuss her tournament experience, Barbara Israel provided a vivid description which is included here. It is almost as if we were on the course with her!

"I had never seen St. George's before but knew it was an old one (Devereux Emmett) and, as my playing partner Cheryl Brayman told me, one that we were very lucky to get for the tournament. I met the course head on as I drove it left on the first hole and was totally blocked by a huge, old tree. Nice start, double bogey."

"Cheryl and I were in a cart together and that was a lucky break as she knew the course and was very helpful pointing out where the greens were and where the next hole was. I was hitting the ball well for the most part and I remember getting on one of the par 5's in two and also getting a really friendly kick from a tree that saved me on one hole. Evidently, and I was to find out most of this later, the real crunch time began on the par 3 15th hole. It was around 155 yds. or so, downhill to a pin placement that was very much on the right. Cheryl hit it safely left into the heart of the green and my shot went toward the pin and settled about 5 ft. past the pin. I watched Cheryl hit a very nice conservative putt that kept rolling and rolling and when it got to the hole went diving, and I mean diving, off the edge of the world and the green. At this point I decided that anything past the pin was utter death and that I shouldn't go for the birdie putt. So I lagged it cautiously and came away with a par 3. Cheryl and I agreed that it was a crazy pin placement. Little did I know that I would later hear that I was the only competitor to have had a par on that hole that day."

"The real surprise, however, was that the next two holes also had extraordinarily difficult pin placements, both placed at the edge of huge false fronts. I managed a par on the 16th (Cheryl pointed out that if my second putt hadn't gone in it would have been 30 ft. off the green). And, by the time we reached the 17th, I was so shell-shocked that I was laughing at the seventy foot false front with the pin perched at its edge. I managed a bogey on that hole after putting with totally



Barbara Israel and Kathy Dennis, WMGA President

shaking hands. The 18th hole was normal and I got a little back by finishing with a birdie. As I had been standing waiting to putt on 18, I witnessed one of the best Met area players on that same 15th hole putting off the green INTO the bunker and hitting shot after shot that rolled back into the bunker. It began to dawn on me how thinly I'd escaped disaster there. I can't remember ever seeing three consecutive pin placements to equal those."

A special thanks to Barbara Israel for her insights on her winning round. Devereux Emmett's design continues to challenge the area's best golfers and much applause goes to the staff at St. George's for staging such a superb tournament.

New Membership Eligibility

The WMGA Board voted to raise the membership eligibility USGA Handicap Index to 21.0 effective immediately. We are pleased to offer more women the opportunity to join the WMGA and to participate in our individual and family tournaments, and also in our spring team matches. Tell your fellow club members to call their Met Rep or Beth Lange, Membership Service Chair (631-968-9248) for more information about our great association.