

## 20th Century NYSGA". Mr. Box of Elmira is the

in 1968 in a field that did not include John Baldwin, the defending champion, who had a military commitment with the Air National Guard. Also absent was Allen of Rochester, also a three-time winner in the 60's, who was playing a national tournament.

Nick Raasch and Neil Spitalny, of Colonie, the 1967 junior winner, highlighted the competition and both won in early rounds. Raasch, 19, and a Penn State sophomore, had won this title in 1966.

Bill Galloway of Binghamton had the lowest qualifying score of 68 while Gerry Dimmick, also of Binghamton, had a 69.

Dr. Edward O'Keefe of Mohawk GC in Schenectady, the 1964 runner-up, won his way to the finals by defeating Raasch 1 up in the quarterfinals and George Dillon of Briarcliff Manor 2 up in the semi-finals.

Among Tryon's victories were Mike Slipko of Niagara Falls 6 and 5, Ron Ryan of Hamilton 4 and 3, John Licciardi from Rochester 3 and 1, Robert Hoff of Rochester, 2 and 1, Don Bailey from Ontario 5 and 3, Fritz Gambetta of Utica, 3 and 1, and O'Keefe, 7 and 5, in the finals.

Bill lost the first hole in the finals to a par, birdied 5 and 6 to take the lead, but finished the morning front nine all even. He took control coming home, winning 12 with a bogey, 13, 14 and 16 with pars, and halved 17 and 18 for a 4 up lead.

O'Keefe won 19 with a par but Tryon birdied 20 and won 23, 26 and 27 with pars to go 7 up. Ed won 30 with a birdie, but conceded Bill's 12 footer for the match at 31 when he hit a bunker on the par 3 and took a bogey on the 144-yard hole. That gave Tryon a chance to defend on his home course in 1969.

Tryon, Allen and Raasch, all past champions, headlined the 1969 entries at the Elmira Country Club's 6,470-yard, par-70 course, but it was Terry Diehl, 19, of Rochester, who stole the show and the title.

Both Tryon and Allen went out in the third round. Tryon lost to Tom Cleary of Ithaca 4 and 3, while Rick Spears of Port Jervis ousted Allen 3 and 2. Dan O'Neil from Jamestown edged Raasch 1 up in the fourth round.

Diehl came into the tournament as the runner-up in the NCAA event as a member of the University of Florida golf team. He

also had won the State-Boys' title in 1964, the State-Junior title in 1966 and several Rochester District tourneys.

After squeaking by Ed Bass of Harbor Hills in 19 holes, Diehl had easier wins over John Govern from Binghamton 3 and 2, Dennis Conrad of Buffalo 3 and 2, Dick Baldwin of Binghamton 4 and 2, Spears, 3 and 2, Greg Zorilla from Briarcliff Manor, and Cleary, 2 up.

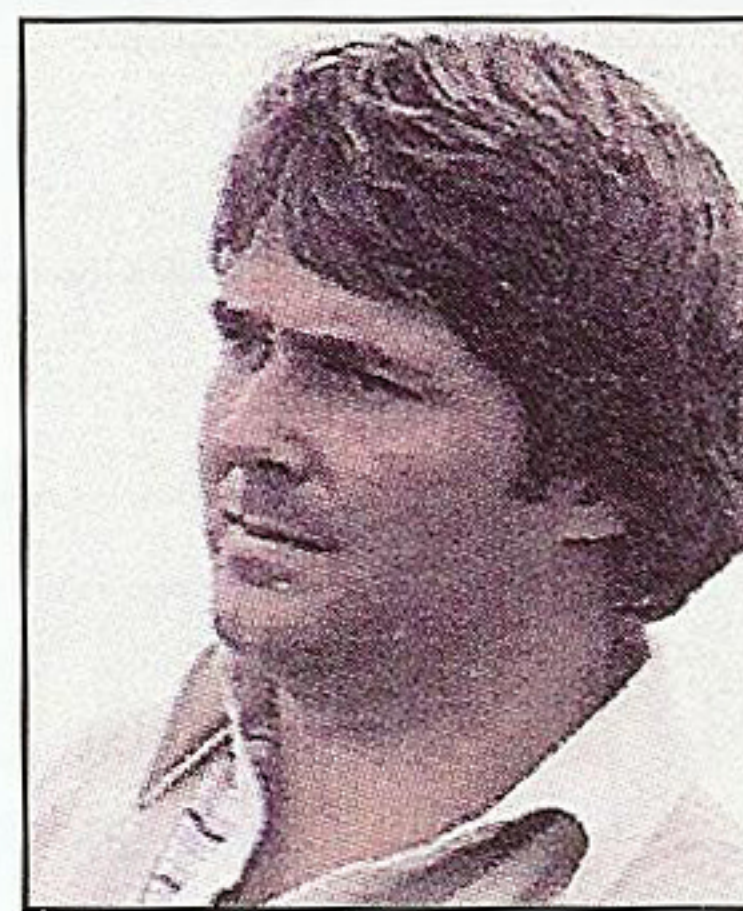
Cleary, 25, former Cornell golf team captain, reached the final by defeating Jay Haight, Jr. of Syracuse, 4 and 3.

It was a tight match in the final. A Cleary birdie evened the match at 28, but Terry took the lead again with a 15-foot birdie putt at 29, before losing that advantage by going OB on 30. After halving 31 and 32, Diehl birdied the short 33rd par four, and they halved the next two holes. At the 36th hole, a par-3 of 170 yards, both hit tee shots on the hillside above the green with Cleary away after hitting a spectator. Tom's chip shot left him a 30-foot putt, while Terry was 9 feet away. When Cleary two-putted, Diehl drained his putt to gain the 2 up margin.

The 1960's marked the end of 47 years of match play as players and officials voted for a 72-hole medal tournament to start in 1970. Sectional qualifying continued with 144 positions available minus the eight semi-finalists of the previous tournament, the five previous champions, the junior and senior winners, and Walker Cup selections. Three-time champions were awarded lifetime exemptions.

As the field was cut after 36 holes to the low 70 and ties, this format gave the host club a chance to keep regular weekend play and some play during the third and fourth days of the competition.

Entries to all tournaments continued to climb under the administrations of John Ward of Syracuse, 1960-61, David Harden from McConnellsville, 1962-63, Ronald Brownell of Utica, 1964-65, Gerald Dimmick from Binghamton, 1966-67 and Allen Short of Jamestown, 1968-69.



Terry Diehl

## Tournament Format Changes Beginning This Season

A number of changes are in store at our Championships in 2009, and those changes are noted below. Every year as a Committee we take a close look at our Championships to evaluate what is working, and what isn't. We hope that you will give these changes a chance to take root and we also hope that, in time, they will have the desired effect of making our Championships the very best competitions you play in all year.

### 1) Women's Amateur

There are 3 major changes to this Championship, and we hope that these changes will greatly increase participation in its 80th year.

a. We have added a new Championship, the *Women's Mid-Amateur Championship*, which will be held concurrently for players who have reached their 25th birthday before the Championship begins.

b. The format has been changed to completely stroke play, and will be contested over 54 holes. There will be a cut after 36 holes.

c. Carts will now be allowed at all stages of the Championship.

### 2) Men's Amateur

a. The Championship will be contested over 72 holes of stroke play.

b. All players will play 18 holes on both Tuesday & Wednesday of the Championship, and we will cut the field to the low 40 players & ties, as well as anyone within 10 shots of the lead. On Thursday, all remaining competitors will play 36 holes.

### 3) Senior & Super Senior Men's Amateur

a. The starting field will now be 132 players, down from 164 players. This will allow us to conduct play in three-somes throughout the week, alleviating the Pace of Play issues we have had over the years and giving us increased flexibility with weather issues. The cut after 36 holes will change slightly, and now the top 50% of the field and ties *in each Championship* will remain for Thursday's final round.

b. The entry fee will be increased from \$115 to \$200, but will include all cart fees for the Championship, including the practice round. This will make the process much simpler logistically for both the players and host facility, and will result in an overall cost savings for all participant.

