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COMMENTARY

Button Hole still available to young golfers

BY JOHN TAYLOR

A few weeks ago I read an incredible story about the first girl to win the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Golf Championship.

What was amazing to me was her ability to play this game at this level and compete against the boys to win the tournament. She expressed the determination to become a champion and play professionally in the future.

The evening television news carried her story along with a short clip of the champion swing. I was impressed with her near perfect form. All this was possible through the Button Hole Golf Program that operates in Providence.

Earlier this year as I was working on developing summer recreation programs, one of my ideas was to develop a golf program for

young interested golfers who wanted to learn the game. I spent some time driving to different golf ranges in our area talking to various people about starting a beginners golf program. I must say that I did not have any success in finding anyone who was interested in such an idea. I was told to find a college student who might be willing to conduct such a program.

My next stop was the Button Hole Golf Course. For anyone not familiar with the Button Hole program, it is a program solely for teaching and developing young golfers. The Button Hole program caters to all level of young golfers. They have the clubs for younger players, a driving range to learn the proper techniques of a swing, and a golf course right on their site. I don't think you can ask for anything better than that.

I met with the pro and the director of the program and was

able to work out a program for Barrington youth. Then I hit the wall at trying to put all the pieces together.

My biggest challenge was to find transportation to get this group to this program. Gas prices were on the rise and bus transportation was very costly. I considered renting a van that would take the 10 young golfers to the Button Hole program. When I put the all the costs together, I found that my budget could not support the transportation cost. But, for individuals who have an interest in such a program, there is still an opportunity for them to be part of the Button Hole program.

Maybe next year I can get this idea together when I have more time.

Mr. Taylor is interim director of the Barrington Recreation Department.