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## Veteran's travels lead to new home at Carnegie Abbey

Anyone who followed the start of last week's U.S. Senior Open might have wondered if there was a mistake on the tournament's first day.

Late in the day, after back-to-back birdies on the 10th and 11th holes, a guy named **Scott Spence** was tied for the lead. He was listed as being from Portsmouth, R.I.

Scott Spence? From Rhode Island?

He is now. Spence is one of the newest additions to the R.I. Chapter of the PGA. The new director of instruction at

Carnegie Abbey comes with an impressive background and an outgoing, upbeat personality.

"I played on the Asian Tour in 1982 and 1986 and I've played

mini tours galore," Spence related. "I've been to PGA Tour qualifying school 12 times, 13 if you count going to the Champions Tour School last fall. Twice, I missed getting my tour card by one shot."

Spence, who turned 50 in April, has seen much of the country and the world through golf. He grew up in Cooperstown, N.Y., played for the University of Arizona, took his first job as a club pro at **Arnold Palmer's** Ironwood Country Club in Palm Desert, Calif., and spent the last 15 years in Minnesota, where he won just about every award that section of the PGA offers.

He is in Rhode Island in part because he played so well at the national Club Pro Championship at Kiawah Island last fall. Spence finished third there, earning a spot on the United States team that went to Ireland to compete

against the Great Britain-Ireland team in the PGA Cup, the club-pro version of the Ryder Cup matches.

"The U.S. Senior Open this year was my fifth major," Spence said. "You could take all five I've played in and wrap them up and it still wouldn't equal the experiences on the PGA Cup team. When you're representing the United States everything is so different. It was fabulous, just a spectacular experience." Not even the fact that the United States team lost could ruin the experience in matches that were held at the K Club, where this year's Ryder Cup matches will be contested

One of Spence's teammates on the PGA Cup team was **Ron Philo**, who this summer won the national club-pro championship. Philo grew up in upstate New York with Spence. The two have been friends for many years.

Spence told Philo he was looking for a job change. Philo put Spence in touch with **Steve Demmer**, the head pro at Kitansett in Marion, Mass., because he had heard Demmer was looking for someone for his staff. It turned out that job had been filled, by former Warwick pro **Larry Demers**.

Demmer told Spence that Carnegie Abbey was looking to add a director of instruction to its staff, a job that would entail much teaching, but also allow time to compete in regional and national events representing the club. He thought Spence would be ideal for the job and told him so. Spence got the job.

"I've been given a great opportunity," Spence said. "What a great place this is. The golf course speaks for itself. And the facility is really special. I'm honored to be part of the Carnegie Abbey team."

**PAUL KENYON**  
ON THE LINKS

