



THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

SEPULVEDA MEN'S GOLF CLUB

April 2009

**Official publication
of the
Sepulveda Men's Golf Club**

**Visit our website
at
www.smgc.org**

Annual Thursday Shotgun April 23 at Robinson Ranch

Sign-ups will be coming soon for SMGC's annual Thursday shotgun. The tournament will be played at Robinson Ranch and is limited to 120 players. Here's what chairman Gene Vano has lined up: a partner's better ball shotgun start for \$65 and includes range balls, cart and closest to the pins.

If you like two-man partner's better ball, this is the place to be. Team up or Gene will set you up with a partner. Use the coupon on page 8, sign up online and pay by credit card at smgc.org or call **Gene Vano** at (818) 703-0749 if you want to play.

PLAY IN OUR ANNUAL MEMBER-GUEST TOURNAMENT!

Set your alarm clock early...our famous Member-Guest tournament is a 7 am shotgun at Encino on May 28!

This is our one-and-only tournament where a member can invite a friend to play as a partner and chow down to a sit-down lunch afterward. The format is Partner's Better Ball, and the tab is \$60 each. That includes greens fee, cart, sweeps, lunch and door prizes.

You can invite one guest or three (but not two...that would leave you one player short for your foursome. If you invite three, you can compete with each of them as separate teams.

Here are the flights:

- Member with a guest who has an established handicap.
- Member with a guest without a handicap.
- Member/member in flights based on the handicaps.

Check next month's Eagle or the web site for more information.

POST AT THE RANGE

There's a new posting computer at the Driving Range shop! It's convenient following a round at the new Balboa...and it's available until closing time at 10 pm!

Dated material -- Periodical

JOHN C. PALUMBO MEMORIAL River Ridge, Sunday, May 3

Make your plans now for this annual tournament named in honor of our own "**Mr. Sepulveda**" John C. Palumbo. This is considered a major tournament and you do have to qualify to enter. Qualification is as follows:

- 1) You must have been a SMGC member for at least 4 months, plus a minimum of 8 scores posted in the preceding 6 months.
- 2) You must have played in at least 4 SMGC sponsored events in the last 12 months (May 1, 2008 thru May 1, 2009).

This tournament will be an **individual** low net & low gross event using the low index of the last 12 months (as of 4/01/08). Players can only win (the higher prize of) low net or low gross - **not both**.

Starting times will be assigned by handicap (no exceptions) and will be posted on the web. Sign up online and pay by credit card at smgc.org or call **Gene Vano** at (818) 703-0749 if you want to play.

2009 SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The second major of the year will be held on May 16-17 at Balboa & Encino Golf Courses. The rule for major competitions is that all players must have played in a minimum of three tournaments or club competitions this year. There will be two flights, "A" and "B" and everyone will play from the white tees.

Cost for this "**always fun, not always pretty**" tournament will be \$85. Skins are optional and will be \$10 per category.

Sign up online and pay by credit card at smgc.org or call **Gene Vano** at (818) 703-0749 if you want to play.

2009 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Our annual Club Championship is one of the premier public golf championships in the San Fernando Valley. This year's opening round will be on Balboa on Saturday, June 20. The second round will be played on Encino, Sunday, June 21. Golfers who make the cut (low 50%) will enter the third phase on June 29 at Encino.

Course Manager Sandy Margolis, along with the Encino and Balboa Superintendents, promise the courses will be set up for tournament conditions.

The tournament committee will mark the courses, select pin locations and produce hole location sheets for all three rounds. The committee will also provide players with detailed local rules and information sheets for each round.

The tournament features four flights:

Championship (Gross), A, B and C (Net). As always, we will use a 12-month Low Index for handicapping. Blue tees are for 18 and under handicappers; the Whites are for 19 and above players. Pairings for the first 36 holes by 12-month Low Index. Players who play early the first day, will tee off later on the second. Pairings for the final round will be by order of position with flights. Any ties will be resolved by sudden death playoffs.

To enter, you must have been an SMGC member for at least 4 months, posted 8 scores in the previous 6 months, and participated in 4 or more Club competitions during the previous 12 months (not including the 2008 Championship).

There is also an optional separate championship for members of Sepulveda Eagles (SCGA affiliate club) at a cost of \$25 with participants eligible for both Championships, both prize funds, and both PLGA's Tournament of Champions later in the year.

The lowest Gross Score in the Championship flight will be SMGC's Club Champion, and will receive a trophy. Lowest Net Score overall among the three other flights will be SMGC's Net Champion and will also receive a trophy. Lowest Net Score among two remaining Net flights will be SMGC's Division Champions, and will also receive trophies. All winners will be eligible to compete in PLGA's Tournament of Champions.

Merchandise Certificates will be awarded to top finishes in all flights. Check next month's Eagle for more information.

Sepulveda Phone Numbers

Many players program the starter's window and cart shack numbers into their cell phones to cover possible **emergencies**. Here are the Encino/Balboa numbers:

Starter's window (818) 995-1170

Cart shed (818) 788-9793

Coffee Shop/Bar (818) 789-1919

Don't abuse them, keep them silent during your round!!

2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Board meets at 6:30pm on the first Thursday of each month.		

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Irv Chern, Editor (818) 348-7626 • e-mail: IrvChern@aol.com
Rich Nance, Publisher (818) 422-3748 • e-mail: rich@laproforms.com

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IT'S TIME TO ADD A LITTLE SOMETHING TO YOUR SPEED DIALING TECHNIQUE

In case you hadn't heard, beginning April 19, you must dial local 818 numbers from land-line phones using 1-818 followed by the phone number...even if the call is to your next-door neighbor!

The reason: the addition of the new 747 area code for all new Valley numbers. You'll have to dial 1-747 (followed by the number) for those calls.

There is one exception. If you're calling from a cell phone, you can drop the "1", but you'll still need to punch in the 818 or 747 codes.

If your home or office is hooked up to a burglar alarm system, you'll need to add the additional digits to those numbers as well.

MARCH SCORE BOARD

SUNDAY SIMI HILLS

TOURNAMENT MARCH 8th

Individual - Gross and Net

One team won the Honey Pot with a 62, Barrere/Johnston \$150 for the team.

"A" Flight Low Gross

73	Beeri Meza	\$70
76	Shawn Salter	\$40
80	Bill Brandel	\$25
80	Mark Michelini	\$25
82	Asher Kamiel	\$10
82	Paul Nance	\$10

Low Net

67	Wayne Johnston	\$70
71	Bruce Fortune	\$40
73	Paul Barrere	\$25
73	John Harbaugh	\$25
75	James Stafford	\$10
75	Bill Keanu	\$10
75	Leonard Zambito	\$10

Gross Skins \$200 each

1	Daniel Melillo	
9	Paul Nance	

Net Skins \$54 each

3	Roy Hay	
8	Wayne Johnston	
12	Sean Mac Donald	
14	Leonid Levin	
17	Alan Miller	

"B" Flight Low Net

70	Mike Teague	\$70
73	Leonid Levin	\$40
74	Roy Bernhardt	\$30
74	Sepehr Raafat	\$20
78	Jeffrey Field	\$10

Closest to the Pin \$60 each

	<i>Hole Winner</i>	<i>Prize</i>
4	John Harbaugh	11'0"
8	Mark Michelini	9'1"
15	Wayne Johnston	19'2"
17	Paul Barrere	4'3"

The Saturday Game

If you are a competitive golfer there is a Saturday afternoon game at Encino/Balboa. Call Rich Nance at (818) 422-3748 for more info.

Prize Money

All tournament place winnings are paid in gift certificates redeemable in the Encino/Balboa Pro Shop.

THURSDAY ST. PAT'S-ENCINO

TOURNAMENT MARCH 28th

1-2-3 Team Low Net

One team Abston/Greene had a 58 taking the whole Honey Pot \$170.

"A" Flight

125 \$35 each

Dan Crawford	Jeff Sable
Michael Radtke	Robert Stein
John Byrne	Marc Covert
Michael McKenna	Rich Nance

129 \$10 each

Hadi Morshed	Sanford Wilk
Stephen Dem	Stu Olster
Armen Mesropian	Bruce Fortune
Gene Vano	Paul Barrere

"B" Flight

118 \$45 each

Chris Getty	Danny Do
Harry Coddington	Irv Chernov

119 \$25 each

Dean Abston	Gary Pearson
Richard Greene	Sean Mac Donald

123 \$15 each

Bernie Rabins	Geoff Vanderstock
George Bryson	Robert Paciorek

"A" Flight Gross Skins \$66 each

2	Donald Pistotnik	
7	Donald Pistotnik	
11	Jeff Murphy	
13	Rich Nance	
18	Jeff Murphy	

"A" Flight Net Skins \$46 each

3	Roy Bernhardt	
7	Donald Pistotnik	
11	Jeff Murphy	
17	Gary Pearson	

"B" Flight Net Skins \$7 each

1	Chris Getty	
3	Richard Greene	
4	Chris Getty	
6	Bob Overland	
9	Chris Getty	
10	Chris Getty	
11	Danny Do	
15	Mike Teague	
16	Kenneth Carlson	

Low Net

64	Richard Greene	\$70
67	Jeff Murphy	\$50
68	Chris Getty	\$35
68	Geoff Vanderstock	\$35
69	Randy Hammock	\$15
69	Dan Crawford	\$15
69	George Bryson	\$15

Closest to the Pin \$55 each

	<i>Hole Winner</i>	<i>Prize</i>
3	Russell Schatz	10'2"
6	Marc Covert	6'3"
15	Randy Hammock	29'2"
17	Jeff Murphy	7'8"

MGA 2009

By Pete Heller

SEPULVEDA SMASHES WOODLEY LAKES SENIORS LOSE TO RANCHO Balboa Golf Course - March 19

The Zambito/Crawford juggernaut otherwise known as the Sepulveda MGA Golf Team marched methodically onward defeating Woodley Lakes twice 49-23 and 21-15. Sepulveda hoping for some help from the Senior Squad in their match with Rancho Park did not get it. Once again the Seniors acquitted themselves quite well in losing. Captain Ray Stuckert's net 61, the best round of his life, sadly went for only for an individual win as Rancho Park prevailed by the narrow margins of 38-34 and 20-16.

Hansen Dam, given the benefit of two Griffith Park no shows, could not fully take advantage as they split their matches 38-31 and 16-20.

Sepulveda Match Winners

Individual

Mike Schell, Tom Knickerbocker, Len Zambito, Derek Malmsten, Taira Kato, George Bryson, Larry Malmsten and Jeff Sable

Two Man:

Zambito/Malmsten Derek, Kato/Bryson, Radtke/Sable
Sepulveda Senior Match Winners

Individual

Mike Cornner, Dean Abston, Deron Jones, Lars Ferling, John Lanza, Ray Stuckert

Two Man:

Jones/Skinner, Ferling/Lanza, House/Stuckert

	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>Points</i>
Standings				
Rancho Park	6	0	0	6
Sepulveda	5	0	1	5 1/2
Hansen Dam	3	3	0	3
Griffith Park	2	4	0	2
Sepulveda Srs.	1	4	1	1 1/2
Woodley Lakes	0	6	0	0

Next: Woodley Lakes April 16

8:00 Hansen Dam vs Rancho Park
8:45 Sepulveda vs Griffith Park
9:35 Woodley vs Sepulveda Seniors

HANDICAP CHATTER

By STU OLSTER, *Handicap Chairman*

This column has appeared in The Sepulveda Eagle for more than eight years, during which time we've examined a wide variety of golf handicap issues. This month we will take another look at some of the basic concepts underlying the *USGA Golf Handicap System*. This should be a good review for ongoing Club members, and will hopefully be helpful to new members who may not have been exposed to this information before.

Perhaps you've noticed that golfers come in all shapes, sizes and skill levels. Shapes and sizes are the problem of the clothing manufacturers, but equalizing the golfing ability of the players so as to enable golfers of varied skill levels to compete with one another is the province of the *USGA Handicap System*.

Members of golf clubs such as ours are assigned a handicap index, based upon their demonstrated playing ability as reflected by scores they shoot under the *USGA Rules of Golf*. The member's *index* bears a relationship to his *handicap*, but they are not the same thing. Our *handicap indexes* consist of numbers expressed to the nearest tenth, e.g., 14.3. Each course posts a chart that translates the player's *index* into his course *handicap*, a round number, for that course from a specified set of tees. Always be sure to consult the course chart to determine your exact *handicap* for that day based on your current *handicap index*.

Your *handicap index* is not intended as a measure of your average or mean score. Instead, it seeks to measure your scoring potential by basing the calculation of the *index* on your best ten of your last twenty scores. Consequently, we golfers shouldn't expect to play to our *handicaps* more often than once out of four rounds.

The system allows for several kinds of adjustments to a member's *handicap index*. Some are made automatically by the service bureau's computer as it calculates the indexes; others are made by the Handicap Committee of the particular club as a means of 'fine tuning' and to assure that the members' indexes remain a reasonably accurate reflection of their ability to play golf. The rules give the Handicap Committee broad discretion to make such adjustments, and this allows the Committee to address any situation that calls for adjustment to a member's *index*, either downward or, occasionally, upward.

The *Committee in Charge of the Competition* is also authorized to condition a player's entry into the subject competition on his playing to a different (usually lower) handicap than his official one.

Whether or not the system operates as designed depends upon the degree to which golfers observe two basic requirements: that all scores for rounds played under conditions specified in the *Rules of Golf* be returned or posted, and that the player use his best effort to score well at all times. If the golfer fails to observe either or both of these requirements, the system breaks down and can't perform its intended equalization function.

In past columns, we have looked at some of the shortcomings of the *USGA Handicap System* and there are some serious ones. Nobody who understands how the system works would defend it as the perfect mechanism for creating a 'level playing field', but until a better one comes along, it's the one we will continue to use.

Questions or comments may be addressed to the author at slolster@yahoo.com

TEE/CUP Chips

By Irv Chernow
Eagle-Eyed Editor

The Case of LA vs Resident/Non-Resident Golfers

Last month, we discussed surprises that can knock you for a loop. Are you ready for another one?

As you know, our Rec & Parks Board of Commissioners approved (as of last June 18) a series of fee increases for the City's 13 golf courses (including a resident/non-resident fee differential).

The Department now proposes the following changes: elimination of the premium charged for non-resident reservation cards...and the immediate dumping of the res/non-res fee structure at Harbor Park's 9-hole, as well as Los Feliz, Rancho Park and Holmby Park Pitch and Putt golf courses. The reason being that the majority of players at these courses are non-residents (who mysteriously decided not to play very often, if at all, at their "local" courses).

However, for LA's seven 18-hole facilities as well as Roosevelt and Penmar 9-holes, the status will remain quo (how's that for coining a phrase?).

At this point, nothing has yet been openly discussed concerning the Friday fee increase that has driven a huge majority of senior golfers all the way to Ventura, Camarillo, Northridge, Pasadena, Arcadia and numerous other neighboring golf venues. Common sense tells us that LA's golf course concessionaires have to be feeling the Friday drought. Fewer golfers mean fewer meals served, fewer golf balls sold...you get the picture.

The City, the State, the Country—indeed the World—are all feeling the financial pinch. SMGC has lowered its membership and renewal fees. Now the Commissioners are cutting back non-resident fees. Hopefully, these "small" beginnings can lead to some bigger and better decisions for LA golfers.

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

At recent meetings of the Golf Advisory Committee and the Municipal Golf Association (MGA) Golf Manager James Ward issued a challenge to the City's men's, women's and seniors' golf clubs. He asked them to put their thinking caps on and come up with some creative ideas for growing their clubs, expanding their membership bases, reaching out to wider golfing audiences, and working in tandem with the City on getting back to growing the game and the population of those who play it.

Easier said than done, of course. But a "challenge" more than worth the effort; indeed, a "challenge" we absolutely must meet if we have any hope of beginning to reverse the game's 9-year descent.

I'm not only pleased that Mr. Ward issued the challenge, I'm proud of him for having the courage to do it. Implicit in his request is a certain disappointment with the clubs and their performance, and that's not an easy thing to convey, particularly at a moment when times are so hard and some of the powers that be downtown have not exactly been performing so well themselves.

The clubs haven't provided nearly the number of volunteers for City Championships and junior programs as in past years. Other than the Rancho Park Golf Club, the amount of junior golf and other charitable fundraising has been embarrassingly low. Again, other than the Rancho Park Golf Club, the clubs have been utterly complacent in the throes of steadily declining numbers, preferring the comforts of the status quo to the discomforts of new ideas, new tournaments, and new perspectives. Worse, the clubs have not always recognized the need to adjust their ways to the changing demographics of the game here in Los Angeles.

Okay, so that assessment is unduly harsh; the clubs have not exactly sat on their hands, and a couple of the new Seniors Clubs, including our own here at Sepulveda, have been doing a number of new and different things to stimulate interest. And the City has not exactly been particularly creative, bold or nurturing in coming forward with policies that might help the clubs get back in a growth mode. Unlike LA County, which has undertaken a slew of initiatives and policy changes to assist its clubs, our City has often been as addicted to the comforts of its own status quo thinking as the clubs have been stuck in an era in which clubs were viewed as anachronisms to be tolerated rather than organizations to be recognized for their disproportionate contributions to the bottom line.

But if we all worry about who is more stuck in the past, more culpable, and/or more stubbornly insistent upon the retention of old ways, we will surely "blow" our Golf Manager's invitation to coalesce around a new cooperative vision of shared prosperity.

Suffice it to say that the City will need to be willing to pursue policies and practices openly supportive of the needs of its clubs, and the clubs will need to be willing to stop acting as if their official city "recognition" is a right rather than a privilege.

Properly understood, the City's relationship with its clubs is one of reciprocal obligation. If both parties hew closely to that definition, there is no reason that our City cannot be every bit as effective in supporting its club base as the County has been in recent times, and there is no reason that the club base cannot adapt to changed circumstances.

The Golf Manager has extended his hand. Let's grab it with gusto!

Things Got Ya Down? Well Then, Consider This!

In a hospital's Intensive Care Unit, patients always died in the same bed, on Sunday morning, at about 11:00 am, regardless of their medical condition. This puzzled the doctors and some even thought it had something to do with the supernatural.

No one could solve the mystery as to why the deaths occurred around 11:00 am Sunday, so a worldwide team of experts was assembled to investigate the cause of the incidents. The next Sunday morning, a few minutes before 11:00 am all of the doctors and nurses nervously waited outside the ward to see for themselves what the terrible phenomenon was all about. Some were holding wooden crosses, prayer books, and other holy objects to ward off the evil spirits. Just when the clock struck 11:00, Pookie Johnson, the part-time Sunday sweeper, entered the ward and unplugged the life support system so he could use the vacuum cleaner.

Still Having a Bad Day????

The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez Oil spill in Alaska was \$80,000.00. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were being released back into the wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later, in full view, a killer whale ate them both.

Still think you are having a Bad Day????

A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen shaking frantically, almost in a dancing frenzy, with some kind of wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a handy plank of wood, breaking his arm in two places. Up to that moment, he had been happily listening to his Walkman.

What!?! STILL having a Bad Day????

Iraqi terrorist Khay Rahnajet didn't pay enough postage on a letter bomb. It came back with "Return to Sender" stamped on it. Forgetting it was the bomb, he opened it and was blown to bits. God is Good!

There now, Feeling Better?

FROM THE READY GOLF SHOP

(Country Club Service-Warehouse Prices)

By Mark Karge-Head Golf Professional

Now that the 2009 golf season is underway, it is the best time of year to re-grip your golf clubs.

But simply because your grips are no longer tacky does not necessarily mean you need to replace them. Cleaning your grips with a clean rag and warm soapy water is the simple work that most people need to do. If you don't want to do the work or you don't have the time, the shop will be more than happy to re-grip your clubs.

So, when do you actually need new grips? You know it is time to re-grip your clubs when your current grips are smooth to the touch, cracked or worn, don't fit your hands properly, cleaning does not bring back the tacky feel or you simply prefer to change to a different type of grip than the ones you currently have.

The shop has many different types of grips to choose from, and members receive 10% off the grip price. If you want custom grips we will get them for you. Re-grip your irons, woods, putter or wedges. Heck, we'll even re-grip your extension ball retriever!

We offer an overnight grip service. Bring in your clubs anytime, any day and pick them up the next morning. Thanks for your patronage.

AN ITALIAN BOY'S CONFESSION

This could only happen with a little Italian kid..

Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I have been with a loose girl.

The priest asks, Is that you, little Joey Pagano?

Yes, Father, it is.

And who was the girl you were with?

I can't tell you, Father; I don't want to ruin her reputation

Well, Joey, I'm sure to find out her name sooner or later so you may as well tell me now.

Was it Tina Minetti?

I cannot say.

Was it Teresa Mazzarelli?

I'll never tell.

Was it Nina Capelli?

I'm sorry, but I cannot name her.

Was it Cathy Piriano?

My lips are sealed.

Was it Rosa Di Angelo, then?

Please, Father, I cannot tell you.

The priest sighs in frustration. You're very tight lipped, Joey Pagano, and I admire that. But you've sinned and have to atone. You cannot be an altar boy now for 4 months. Now you go and behave yourself. Joey walks back to his pew, and his friend Franco slides over and whispers, What'd you get? *4 months vacation and five good leads.*

PAR FOR THE COURSE

by Peter Heller

OBAMAS TRILLIONS

What actually is a trillion? I thought I would put it into quasi golf terms to scare everybody to death. As we all know Tiger Woods is the most successful golfer of all time in terms of income as well as everything else. Some estimates have him at 50,000,000 a year including all endorsements. Well, at his present pace how long would it take him to make a trillion dollars? Are you ready?..... Twenty thousand years.

How many golf balls would it take if you put them in a line across our golf courses from Burbank to Victory Blvd. Approximately 36,000. How far could you go with a trillion balls? To the moon.....and back.....60 times.

If you played the Encino Course every day, what year would it be after a trillion plays. No problem. 27,397,260,270 A.D.

In terms of seconds.

One million seconds equals 11 days.

One billion seconds equals 33 years

One trillion seconds equals 33,000 years.

Thought you might want to know.

PUBLIC LINKS (PLGA)

UPCOMING GOLF TOURNAMENTS

As a member of SMGC you are eligible to play in all of the many tournaments put on by our parent golf association.

You can always get applications at www.plga.org or through the PLGA office – (800) 272-7542.

These tournaments are now taking applications:

NEVADA OPEN

May 4 & 5

Location: Primm Valley Resorts

Cost: \$255

Release Date: 4th Week of January

Closes: April 6, 2009

Format: Partner Better Ball

Max Field: 144 Teams

CORONADO CLASSIC

June 20 & 21

Location: Coronado G.C. – Coronado Island

Cost: \$TBD

Release Date: February 25, 2009

Closes: May 15, 2008

Format: Individual Low Gross & Low Net

Max Field: 144 golfers

The applications for the J.C. Cunningham Senior Championship, a two-day weekend tournament in late spring at Olivas Links and Buenaventura Golf Courses in Ventura, should be available by the time this April Eagle goes to press. Watch for them at www.plga.org.

BACKSPIN SHOTS

by The Gapwedge

Let's have a little golf fun. Everybody who plays this game knows golf is full of humor. A good thing too, or more of us would slit our wrists.

The Gapwedge has perused hundreds of golf jokes and quotes. Here are few that tickled The Gapwedge's funny bone:

On the Nature of Golf

If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf.

The Dentist

A couple of elderly gents were golfing when one said he was going to Dr. Taylor for a new set of dentures in the morning. His friend said that he had gone to the same dentist a few years before. "Is that so?" the first said. "Did he do a good job?" "Well, I was playing yesterday when the fellow on the ninth hole hooked a shot," he said. "The ball must have been going 200 mph when it hit me in the groin.... and that was the first time in two years my teeth didn't hurt."

Sounds of the Game

The most satisfying sound in golf is the "whoosh, whoosh, whoosh," of your opponent's club as he hurls it across the fairway.

Lady Luck

Lady Luck was seldom kind to Sam. Although Sam had a real zest for life he was always beset by bad luck. He loved poker but poker didn't love him; he played the stock market but always managed to buy high and sell low. His life seemed to be full of more downs than ups. His greatest delight was his golf game. Not that Sam was a great golfer; in fact, he never managed to break 100, but the odd shot that somehow ended up in the general area of his aim was enough to keep his hopes alive.

Sadly, Sam became ill and passed away. But just before he died, he asked that his remains be cremated and his ashes be scattered just off the fairway on the ninth hole of his home course.

Accordingly, a gathering assembled to carry out Sam's wishes. It was a bright sunny day and all was going well. Then, as the ashes were being strewn, a gust of wind came up and blew Sam out of bounds.

Giving Up

The minister drove his ball into a sand trap. He picked up his golf club and broke it but didn't say a word. Then he picked up the golf bag and tore it to shreds but didn't say anything. Then he took out all the golf balls and flung them into the woods but said nothing. Finally, he muttered, "I'm gonna have to give it up." "Golf?" asked the caddie. "No," he replied. "The ministry!"

Golf with Wives

An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman are all playing golf with their wives. The Englishman's wife steps up to the tee; and, as she bends over to place her ball, a gust of wind blows her skirt up and reveals her lack of underwear. "Good God, woman! Why aren't you wearing any knickers?" her husband demanded.

"Well, you don't give me enough housekeeping money to afford to buy any."

The Englishman immediately reaches into his pocket and says, "For the sake of decency here's \$50. Go and buy yourself some."

Next the Irishman's wife bends over to set her ball on the tee. Her skirt also blows up to show that she too is wearing no undies.

"Blessed Virgin Mary, woman! You've no knickers. Why not?"

She replies, "I can't afford any on the money you give me."

He reaches into his pocket and says, "For the sake of decency here's \$20. Go buy yourself some!"

Lastly, the Scotsman's wife bends over. The wind also takes her skirt over her head to reveal that she, too, is naked under it.

"Sweet mudder of Jesus, Aggie! Where the frig are yer drawers?"

She too explains, "You dinna give me enough money ta be able ta affarrd any."

The Scotsman reaches into his pocket and says, "Well, fer the love 'o Jasus, here's a comb, tidy yourself up."

Head Down

When you look up and hit an awful shot, you will always look down again at exactly the moment when you ought to look up and watch the ball if you ever want to see it again.

Therapeutic Golf

Two golfers join up at the first for a game and each explains to the other that he has a psychological problem and needs to play the game a little differently.

It appears they both have the same doctor who has prescribed golf using an imaginary golf ball as a means of reducing stress.

And so they hit off with their imaginary balls. After scoring eagles, pars, birdies and keeping their drives always down the middle they reach the 17th.

On the par 3 17th, the first one tees off with his imaginary ball.

"Look at that, a beautiful shot just on the edge of the green!" The second guy hits his imaginary ball and indicates that it has also landed on the edge close to the other ball.

The first guy lines up and putts. "You wouldn't believe it, my ball just rolled into the cup, I got birdie!" The second guy responds "You won't believe it either, you just hit my ball."

READY GOLF TIP

by Tom Pipitone

There are generally two schools of thought on ball position among tour pros and their instructors. One group believes in a constant ball position for all clubs in the bag, and the other believes in varying the ball position depending on the club being used. As many of us know, what we feel or think we are doing in our setup and swing is not always the same as what we are really doing.

With that in mind, if you look at pictures of tour pros from a face on view (and a proper angle) you will see that the ball position is in line with the front ear (with a driver it tends to be closer to the front shoulder), but you will not see the ball farther back (unless they are trying to hit a specialty shot). Having the upper spine slightly tilted away from the target (good posture) will help in achieving the desired forward ball position at setup.

If you have your ball positioned too far back, it can alter your posture, balance, takeaway and swing plane. A ball position too far back often encourages a steep takeaway, lateral movement (or sliding), and the arms and body losing sync (both in timing and direction) on the backswing. On the downswing, these players often slow or stall the upper body, loose posture, excessively slide the legs or hips, and weakly slap down on the ball using the arms.

Go to the following web link to see various pictures of tour pros with lines extended straight up from their golf balls. <http://img99.imageshack.us/img99/254/golfprosetupballposdg0.jpg>

If you have any questions about this article, or about your golf game, feel free to ask me anytime.

Tom Pipitone is the most recent golf pro to join the Ready Golf Sepulveda Driving Range Staff, and is certified by the United States Golf Teachers Federation. His rate is \$40 per half hour. He also offers A-Star digital lesson upon request.

COMING EVENTS

Apr 16	MGA Team Play - Woodley Lakes	
Apr 23	Thursday Tournament - Robinson Ranch Shotgun	\$65
May 3	Sunday Tournament - The Palumbo - River Ridge	
May 4-5	PLGA "Nevada Open" Primm Valley Resorts	
May 7	Board Meeting	
May 16	Saturday, SMGC Senior Championship - Balboa	
May 17	Sunday, SMGC Senior Championship - Encino	
May 21	MGA Team Play - Encino	
May 28	Thursday Tournament - Member/Guest - Encino	
June 4	Board Meeting	
June 11-14	LA City Men's Golf Championship	
Jun 18	MGA Team Play - Harding	
June 20-21	PLGA "George Collup" Coronado Classic Coronado G.C.	
June 20	Saturday - Club Championship - Balboa	
June 21	Sunday - Club Championship - Encino	
June 27	Saturday - Finals 50% Plus ties - Encino	
June 27-28	PLGA "JC Cunningham" Senior Championship Buenaventura & Olivas Links GC	
July 2	Board Meeting	
July 12	Sunday Tournament	TBA
Jul 16	MGA Team Play - Wilson	
July 23	Thursday Tournament - Rancho Park	\$35
July 25-26	PLGA "Central Coast Open" Marshallia Ranch La Purisima	
Aug 6	Board Meeting	
Aug	Sunday Tournament	TBA
Aug 15-16	LA/PLGA "Match Play Qualifying" Encino/Harding/Wilson	
Aug 17	PLGA "Pro-President" Los Serranos (North) CC	
Aug 20	MGA Team Play - Hansen Dam	
Aug 23-24	LA/PLGA "Match Play Finals" Rancho Park	
Aug 27	Thursday Tournament - Harding	\$35
Sept 3	Board Meeting	
Sept	Saturday Tournament	TBA
Sept 13,20,27	PLGA "Team Play"	
Sep 17	MGA Team Play - Encino	
Sept 24	Thursday Tournament - Pro/Member Shotgun - Encino	
Oct 3	Saturday Tournament - Goekner Qualifier	TBA
Oct 4	PLGA "Team Play" Semi-Finals	
Oct 1	Board Meeting	
Oct 11	PLGA "Team Play" Finals	
Oct 15	MGA Team Play - Woodley Lakes	
Oct 15-16	LA City Senior Men's Golf Championship	
Oct 22	Thursday Tournament - Wilson Elections and Dinner at home	

USGA RULE OF THE DAY

20/1 Club to Be Used in Measuring

Q: A player, taking relief under a Rule, uses his driver to measure the one club-length or two club-lengths pre-scribed in the relevant Rule. He drops a ball correctly and the ball rolls less than two driver-lengths, but more than two putter-lengths, from where the ball first struck a part of the course when dropped.

Under Rule 20-2c, a dropped ball must be re-dropped if it rolls more than two club-lengths. If the ball comes to rest in a poor lie, may the player opt to use his putter to measure the distance his ball has rolled, in which case he would re-drop under Rule 20-2c and escape the poor lie?
A: No. The player must continue to use the club he originally used for all measuring in a given situation.

Tournament Sign-Up Coupon

To sign up and pay for a future tournament, check the appropriate boxes and mail with a separate check (payable to the SMGC only) for each event to:

SMGC
P.O. Box 57373
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

Apr 23 Thursday Tournament - Robinson Ranch Shotgun \$65

Tournament chairman is Gene Vano (818) 703-0749