



THE SEPULVEDA **EAGLE**

SEPULVEDA MEN'S GOLF CLUB

May 2009

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

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

INVITE A PAL TO OUR MEMBER-GUEST TOURNAMENT!

Set your alarm clock early...our famous Member-Guest tournament is a 7 am start on Encino May 28! **It will not be a shotgun start as before.**

This is our one-and-only tournament where a member can invite a friend to play as a partner. The format is Partner's Better Ball, and the tab is \$45 each. That includes greens fee, sweeps, door prizes and a light lunch in the bar.

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.

Sign up online and pay by credit card at smgc.org, use the coupon on page 8 or call **Gene Vano** at **(818) 703-0749**.

2009 SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The second major of the year will be held on May 16-17 at Balboa & Encino. 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, use the coupon on page 8 or call **Gene Vano** at **(818) 703-0749**.

BOOK A TEE TIME

If you have a Los Angeles city reservation card you can now book a tee time online 24/7 for any of the 13 City of Los Angeles courses. Go to www.golf.lacity.org and try it out. Remember, you must have a golf reservation card to use this service.

Dated material -- Periodical

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.

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).

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.

AN ICY BLAST

from Dr. Warmth

The good and gentle doctor is mad as hell and it's about time I put my two "SENSE" in.

SENSE 1:

We begged and pleaded for a Driving Range contract for 12 years. The NEW contract was awarded in January of 2008.

SENSE 2:

We begged and pleaded at the Golf Advisory Meeting every month for 2 or 3 years ABOUT THE DANGEROUS CONDITION OF THE GOLF CARTS. It is only a matter of time before someone gets seriously hurt. The NEW contract was awarded in May of 2008.

The current operators of both concessions are on month-to-month agreements. They are putting no money in to refurbish or even repair, and as a businessman I don't blame them as the City can throw them out with no prior notice at all. The cart contract is on the desk in the Mayor's office and has been since May of 2008. The union doesn't like private operation so they stuck their 2 CENTS in and the Politicos and Bureaucraticos who roll over every time the union barks TABLED THE CONTRACT! Tabled might be too mild... They DEEP SIXED IT!!!!

In the meantime, the Great Unwashed (you and I) get it right in the poop deck as Ready Golf who won the contract for both concessions, doesn't want to move forward on the Driving Range until they know the outcome of the CART CONTRACT. The SCENTS that I'm getting is that something is rotten in Denmark and really PUTRID in LA.

Common sense tells me the only thing the Politicos fear more than the Special Interests they are in bed with is Public Opinion in the MEDIA. So if any of you agree with my take on these issues, or have your own take but are fed up too, please write the LA Times, the Daily News, and any radio and television people you think might want to investigate this. We need lots of letters and calls to your Councilpersons also.

Lets go at them on all fronts and get this done once and for all.

Thanx,
The good and gentle,
Dr Warmth

USGA RULE OF THE DAY

25/11 Grass Cuttings

Grass cuttings are ground under repair only if they have been piled for removal -- see Definition of "Ground Under Repair." If cuttings piled for removal interfere with a player's stance or swing, the player is entitled to relief under Rule 25-1b.

Grass cuttings are loose impediments (see Definition of "Loose Impediments"), whether or not they are piled for removal, and may be removed by the player -- Rule 23-1.

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

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92nd Annual LA City Men's Golf Championship JUNE 11th -14th

Championship Flight - Rancho Park Golf Course
All Four Days.

Handicap Flights - Wilson & Harding Golf Courses
June 13th & 14th Only.

Entry forms are available at the starters window of any city golf course, or at www.golf.lacity.org/gc_mens.htm

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Chuck Ruiz (818) 246-1764 or E-mail: chuck.ruiz@lacity.org

APRIL SCORE BOARD

SUNDAY TOURNAMENT CAMARILLO SPRINGS APRIL 5th

Individual - Gross and Net

One team won the Honey Pot with a 62 Beams/Michelini \$140 for the team.

"A" Flight Low Gross

77	Paul Nance	\$70
78	Mark Michelini	\$40
79	Phil Kapsimallis	\$20
79	Beeri Meza	\$20

Low Net

69	Russell Schatz	\$55
69	Dan Crawford	\$55
71	Frank Loporchio	\$25
72	Alan Stewart	\$15

Gross Skins \$200 each

1	Beeri Meza
9	Dan Crawford

Net Skins \$54 each

1	Beeri Meza
2	Perry Melillo
15	David Joslyn

Closest to the Pin \$60 each

Hole Winner	Prize
3	Douglas Rockford 9' 8"
6	Mark Michelini 17' 4"
8	Phil Kapsimallis 4' 3"
11	David Jochen 4' 11"
12	Asher Kamiel

We only had seven B players so we only paid scrip as if there was one flight.

POST AT THE RANGE

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

The Saturday Game

If you looking for a Saturday afternoon gross score game with guaranteed tee times at Encino or 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 TOURNAMENT ROBINSON RANCH APRIL 23rd

Team Better Ball

One team won the Honey Pot at 61 \$280 for the team. Wayne Johnston and Bruce Fortune.

"A" Flight

66 \$45 each

Taira Kato	Ted Johnson
Mark O'Keefe	Mark Michelini
George Bryson	John Platt

67 \$10 each

Neil Zaniboni	Paul Nance
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"B" Flight

61 \$70 each

Bruce Fortune	Wayne Johnston
---------------	----------------

63 \$40 each

Gary Patterson	George Svos
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66 \$15 each

Dean Abston	Richard Greene
David Jochen	George Correa

"A" Flight

Gross Skins \$58 each

5	Mark Michelini
7	Wayne Johnston
11	Dean Abston
12	Paul Nance
13	Neil Zaniboni

Net Skins \$46 each

4	John Platt
5	Mark Michelini
6	Perry Melillo
11	Dean Abston
13	Neil Zaniboni

"B" Flight

Net Skins \$16 each

1	Allen Weiss
4	Mike Teague
5	Jeff Sable
11	Rosalio Medina
15	Allen Weiss
17	Gary Patterson

Low Net

69	Dean Abston	\$75
71	Paul Nance	\$30
71	Wayne Johnston	\$30
71	George Bryson	\$30
72	Ted Johnson	\$20
72	David Carlson	\$20
72	Mark O'Keefe	\$20
72	Gary Patterson	\$20

Closest to the Pin \$60 each

Hole Winner	Prize
3	David Carlson 8' 6"
7	Randy Hammock 7' 3"
11	Eric Fromer 9' 9"
14	Mike Teague 5' 4"

MGA 2009

By Pete Heller

SEPULVEDA SPLITS SEIZES FIRST SENIORS WIN AND TIE TO KEEP PACE

Woodley Lakes - April 16

Despite some stellar performances, The Sepulveda MGA Team could only manage a 35-37 and 20-16 split with Griffith Park. Nevertheless, they pushed ahead of Rancho Park in the standings and now lead the league by half a point. An undesired dispute was avoided when Captains Len Zambito and Brendan Fehr amicably reached a fair agreement on some scoring discrepancies in a true test of good sportsmanship.

Hansen Dam hugely aided the Sepulveda cause by twice setting back Rancho Park 40-32 and 22-14. We are sorry to report that H.D. Captain Paul Andrews will probably have surgery on his injured wrist sometime this month and will be out indefinitely.

The Sepulveda Seniors picked up a point and a half in the overall standings with a 44-28 win and an 18-18 tie against Woodley Lakes. They would have had twin wins except for the odd ball anomaly that mysteriously appears from time to time. Ray Stuckert and Ken Carlson defeated their opponents 6-0 and 5-1, yet lost the two man 1-5, enabling the 18-18 tie.

Sepulveda Match Winners

Individual

Len Zambito, Dan Crawford,
Jeff Sable and Gene Vano

Two Man

Zambito/Malmsten, Carlson/Schell
Knickerbocker/Crawford, Vano/Sable

Individual

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

Sepulveda Match Winners

Individual

Dean Abston, Ken Oberg, Deron Jones,
Mike Cornner, Pete Prieto,
Ken Carlson and Ray Stuckert

Two Man

Abston/Lanza, Oberg/Cornner,
Skinner/Jones

Standings	W	L	T	Points
Sepulveda	6	1	1	6 1/2
Rancho Park	6	2	0	6
Hansen Dam	5	3	0	5
Sepulveda Srs.	2	4	2	3
Griffith Park	3	5	0	3
Woodley Lakes	0	7	1	1/2

Next: Woodley Lakes April 16

8:00 **Sepulveda Srs.** vs Hansen Dam
8:45 Rancho Park vs **Sepulveda**
9:35 Woodley Lakes vs Griffith Park

HANDICAP CHATTER

By STU OLSTER, Handicap Chairman

For the last several months our main posting computer has encountered problems that have occasionally prevented golfers from posting their scores. Last month, the driving range computer failed at the same time. The fix is to reinstall data from the update CD for the current month. Unfortunately, I can't always respond immediately and it may be a day or two before I hear about the problem and can get over to the course to reboot the program.

The folks in the pro shop tell me the reactions of the golfers range from disappointed resignation to near hysteria. This column attempts to instruct the reader on what to do until "the doctor gets there" and help him maintain that calm demeanor that is so essential to good golf.

Whether or not the computer is working at the moment, there is always a handicap index update printout posted on the bulletin board just outside the pro shop. So if you wanted to use the computer to look up your current index, that information is just a few steps away. Your playing record is always available on the Public Links website (www.plga.org). Our Club website can also link you to it.

Most of you want to use the computer to post your *adjusted gross score* for that day, and when the computer stops working properly, that isn't possible. But there are alternatives. Internet posting is always available all day every day. There are links on our Club's website (www.smgc.org) and on the Public Links website for Internet posting. If you haven't Internet posted before, you will need to establish a password but only for the first time. A little practice and you'll become very comfortable with this very convenient method of posting.

Many of you either don't have computers or have one but haven't progressed beyond forwarding silly jokes or bawdy pictures to your friends. If the computer isn't your thing, simply keep a written record of your *adjusted gross scores*, the dates, the names of the courses played, slopes and course ratings and the color tees. Then when you are next at the course of play you can post. Note that you cannot post "away" scores on the Sepulveda computer. They need to be posted where you played.

If you post later, be sure to adjust the date of your round when you use a posting computer. They default to the date of posting, so you will need to change it to your actual date of play by clicking the appropriate date on the calendar.

If all else fails, please feel free to contact me for help either by phone (818) 222-2516 or by email.

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

TEE/CUP Chips

By Irv Chernov
Eagle-Eyed Editor

Don't Make Me Laugh...Please!

I, like everyone else, always went along with that "laughter is the best medicine" line.

But that was before I slipped coming down my stairs and broke a rib. I'd never had a broken bone before.

Getting over my melanoma surgery and chemo treatments 12 years ago was a horrible experience...but living with a busted rib really slows you down. There are 14 steps in my staircase. I was halfway down when my left foot took a flyer...with me along with it.. Next thing I knew, I was crumpled up on the floor. The pain was so intense, I wasn't even sure where it was coming from.

I called my daughter, who came over and drove me to Kaiser. Within an hour, I had a morphine shot, several xrays and prescriptions for a couple of pain killers. The morphine kicked in quickly. I knew I still had pain, but I just didn't give a you-know-what! The doctor told me not to drive my car for two weeks, and not to partake in any kind of exercise for at least six weeks!

I hope nobody reading this ever has to go that long without playing golf. My rib broke March 29. I'm writing this column April 25. By the time its read, I'll be playing again. I've missed many great tournaments in both SMGC and SSGC, but in many respects, I'm lucky. Had I landing flush on my back, I could be facing the rest of my life without golf.

Needless to say, I've also had to give up my every-other-day 5K power walks. Last week, though, I walked around a couple of blocks (1 mile) at a slow pace.

What does all this have to do with laughter being the best medicine? Simply this: I've been off my meds for 2 weeks now...and I can cough, sneeze or hiccup with no pain whatsoever. Something as silly as laughing though, and I'm writhing in pain!

Avoid pain, guys, at all costs. It hurts!

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!!

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

It's practically impossible for me to be a pessimist at this moment less due to my nature than my experience.

I have been immersed in the public policy arena for a long time. That immersion has been far broader than the City of Los Angeles. As large as Los Angeles is, it is dwarfed by the rest of the local municipal golf world in the aggregate, and it is by no means the largest of the local municipal golf systems. That title goes to the County of Los Angeles, which with 13 regulation 18-hole courses, 3 regulation 9-hole courses, 1 executive course, and myriad "lesser" facilities, is roughly twice the size of the City system.

At this most difficult moment, with the State systemically insolvent and most city/county governments in fiscal free fall, the news for municipal golf should be all bad. But the opposite is the case – more so in the rest of the systems than the City of Los Angeles, but "opposite" nonetheless even here in our fair city.

Faced with a fiscal implosion exacerbated by over-reliance upon a port whose business has collapsed along with the world economy, the City of Long Beach has managed to apply a creative, painless, focused, publicly popular, temporary, and most importantly, miniscule surcharge mechanism to its golf program in an effort to generate the revenues necessary to keep its Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine afloat. The "mechanism" wasn't particularly "popular" with the American Golf Corporation, but the fact that Long Beach managed to secure that company's acquiescence speaks volumes about its commitment to avoiding what the Public Links Golf Association terms the temptation to always take the easy route and seek the same old tired permanent solutions to temporary problems.

Faced with a management contract that runs out June 30 at the very height of the steepest recession since the 1930's, the City of Ventura managed to develop an RFP document for its Olivas Links and Buenaventura golf courses that elicited proposals from nine (9) companies, including a number of heavyweights in the golf management industry. Not content to rest on that laurel, the City of Ventura convened a public meeting among the nine suitors in which all nine subjected themselves to unrehearsed questioning--a most bold and I might add successful experiment in open public processes, and one that sent a clear message to the private sector that the City of Ventura considers its golfing public both the focus and the beneficiary of its contracting processes.

As for that great behemoth, the County of Los Angeles, most of you likely know that on January 1 that system increased by a factor of 50% the amount of greens fee dollars its sets aside in its Capital Improvement Trust Funds, funds that run with the individual courses where they are raised and are literal trust funds that cannot be diverted to other purposes. Many of you may be aware that the County routinely uses State Bond Money and various Parks Propositions for its golf properties; over \$4 million in such bonded projects were completed just last year. Few of you are aware, because it is not yet publicly known, that the County is working on a veritable "paradigm shift" in the way in which plans for and funds the massive

infrastructure improvements that are the lifeblood of its and ALL golf facilities. A mere 50% accretion in capital fund set-asides isn't enough! The County will soon be adding new PUBLIC sources of sustainable infrastructure funding and recalibrating its fee setting process to remove it from the political process and thereby insulate it from the predations of its own Parks & Recreation Department's need for revenue – all while base-lining the new system to the retention of a fee structure that never exceeds 90% of the local municipal average.

I wish I could write about our fair City with as much enthusiasm, admiration and genuine appreciation as I write about Long Beach, Ventura and Los Angeles County. But while I cannot quite do that, I can still write in a positive vein.

Go to www.lacity.org and read the Mayor's 2009-2010 proposed city budget. It is a horror story of curtailed services, layoffs, furloughs, and increased fees – and that's if the unions agree to the Mayor's call for salary freezes, early retirements, and renegotiated agreements. Things get a whole lot worse absent labor's buy-in.

But if you look at the golf program, you'll notice a little belt tightening, but you won't see any layoffs or budget cuts. The Department of Recreation & Parks stands to lose as many as 130 permanent positions, but none of those are in the Golf Division. The Department stands to close some facilities and severely cut back services at others; however, golf does not participate in that orgy of decline. Nor does the budget call for increased revenues from golf. Indeed, it calls for \$0.5 million less than called for in the current fiscal year. That means no fee increases! Indeed, the process of "adjustment" that began just last month with the removal of non-resident fees at certain facilities can now continue in the realm of other fees that are not exactly proving their worth in the marketplace.

While none of the above presages the creativity and commitment exemplified by Long Beach, Ventura or Los Angeles County, it does mean that the Mayor's Office and the Department of Recreation & Parks are beginning to manage our venerable golf system with an eye toward something more than the next fiscal year's bottom line; they're beginning to acquire a glimpse of the understanding so well known to their municipal brethren that absent a firm commitment to the long run, the short run could be very short indeed!

None of this obviates the need to immediately begin the process of exploring serious structural reform, the need to immediately move toward the creation of a definable, transparent capital improvement trust fund akin to the inviolate mechanism employed by LA County, or the need to immediately begin reinvesting greens fee dollars into infrastructure before it literally begins to crumble around our feet.

The City golf program still faces a long and very much uphill journey. But I think it just took its first step.

We can choose a facile pessimism that focuses on an invidious comparison between the systems that have taken so many steps and our own system that has taken but one. Or we can choose a much tougher optimism that helps our city take its next steps. I have been choosing that much harder optimism for many years now. I hope you'll join me.

FROM THE READY GOLF SHOP

(Country Club Service-Warehouse Prices)

By Mark Karge-Head Golf Professional

Greetings from the Ready Golf Shop. Spring is here and so are the many great bargains in the golf shop if you come in and look around. We are always already lower priced than our competitors. And, it is guaranteed in writing on the big sign hanging above the front counter. As an example, golfers have been ecstatic about our pre-owned golf balls. You tourney players can get one dozen Pro V1 balls for \$19.99. And, if you're just looking for good practice balls, how about name brand balls at \$9.99 for TWO DOZEN!!!!

Coming up again this summer is our award winning Ready Golf Academy Junior Day Camp. The first of four camp sessions begins June 22 lasting two weeks each. For those of you with children or grandchildren, it is a fantastic opportunity to get the kids out of the house and learn the game of a lifetime. We have PGA pros to teach all the fundamentals including swing technique, chipping, putting, bunker play as well as etiquette and the rules of golf. It's a tremendous amount of fun and our return rate is very high. The life skills learned are priceless. Pick up a brochure in the pro shop, range shop or visit our website at www.readygolfcenters.com.

As a mention, Ready Golf was again recognized by the Departments of Recreation and Parks Commission with a letter of recognition and brass plaque for our contributions to junior golf in 2008. Our total donation is \$160,000 since we began operations at Sepulveda.

Enjoy the spring with new range mats at the driving range. *Thanks for your patronage!*

What every
office needs!



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:

JC Cunningham Senior Championship

36 Holes Individual Stroke Play
Saturday May 30 & Sunday May 31
Straight Start 9:00 a.m. both days
Buenaventura & Olivas Links Golf Courses
Entry Deadline: May 8
Entry Fee: \$150

Collup Coronado Classic

36 Holes Individual Stroke Play
Saturday June 20 & Sunday June 21
12:30 shotgun Saturday / 7:00 shotgun Sunday
Coronado Municipal Golf Course
Entry Deadline: May 22
Entry Fee: \$220

Central Coast Open

36 Holes Individual Stroke Play
Saturday July 25 & Sunday July 26
12:30 shotgun Saturday / 7:30 straight start Sunday
Marshallia Ranch & La Purisima Golf Courses
Entry Deadline: July 3
Entry Fee: \$160

All members in good standing of PLGA are eligible for the Coronado and Central Coast events; those members in good standing 50 years of age and older are eligible for the Senior Championship.

Applications are available by logging on to www.plga.org (Homepage access) or by phoning the PLGA office during business hours at either (800) 272-7542 or (714) 994-4747.

Acts 2:38

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled by an intruder. She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: "Stop! Acts 2:38!"

Repent and be Baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven. The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you. Scripture? replied the burglar. "She said she had an Ax and Two 38s!"

BACKSPIN SHOTS

by The Gapwedge

Once upon a time, many years ago when The Gapwedge's hair was darker and more abundant, the Sepulveda driving range and pro shop proprietor, Family Golf, went belly up and vacated the premises one night. To the rescue came Ready Golf, who has operated the facilities on a month-to-month basis since then.

Oh, there were efforts to find a permanent concessionaire in a cumbersome process called an RFP. The first effort (which unfolded in characteristic slow motion) was flawed and was thrown out by the City Council. The second effort resulted in an award of the "permanent contract" to Ready Golf, who plans to make long-awaited improvements to our driving range as soon as a contract is negotiated and signed.

Meanwhile, the award, approved by the Board of Commissioners of Recreation and Parks on February 6, 2008 hasn't moved forward is winding its way, again quite slowly, through a byzantine process where anywhere along the way it can be halted for reasons having nothing to do with Ready Golf's entrepreneurial competence or financial ability. That has apparently happened because when The Gapwedge has inquired on its progress, he is told "it's in the Mayor's office" or "the City Attorney is reviewing it." Such BS is an affront to The Gapwedge's modest intelligence.

The Gapwedge is told this is the longest time an RFP award has been held in limbo, and who suffers? It is the patrons of Sepulveda, especially the three golf clubs who call it home!

It's not that our Club hasn't pushed to get this done. We have made our voices heard the best we could, but they apparently don't matter to the political types who control the process. The real whys, wherefores and underlying purposes of the delay are as closely guarded as nuclear secrets.

Wait. There's more!

Those of you who rent powered golf carts know firsthand how dilapidated and unsafe they are and have been for years. The present proprietor not only hasn't maintained them properly or replaced them as needed, it has also suffered three cart barn fires during its tenure. Its contract expired 4+ years ago, and it, too, is on a month-to-month basis with money rolling in and no incentive to do brake jobs or other maintenance on its miserable fleet of carts.

Lo and behold, the City's Concessions Department put out an RFP and invited bidders to submit their proposals. At the same time, the City was contemplating running the cart concessions itself, and a study (subsequently revealed to have been flawed) was conducted into the feasibility of doing so.

Then even while the City was still contemplating self-operation, the same Ready Golf was selected as the cart concessionaire by the Concessions folks in the

spring of 2008, and the selection was approved by the Board of Commissioners on June 4, 2008. Why, you might ask, isn't Ready running the carts yet? A good question, and the answer is "It's in the Mayor's office" or "the City Attorney is reviewing it" or "the City still hasn't decided on self-operation."

We were promised quick action ("fast tracked" is the exact phrase in Cityspeak) on both concessions. True, everything is relative and Rome wasn't built in a day, but if GM can create a plan to restructure itself within 60 days, certainly these two concessions should have been up and running many months ago.

READY GOLF TIP

*by Mike Ciresi
aka - MAC*

This month's Pro Tip is devoted to rhythm and timing.

Rhythm is the speed of your total swing, back and thru. Watch any good ball striker and you will notice a good rhythm. To accomplish this, think in terms of your backswing and forward swing being the same speed. Find a speed that's comfortable which allows you to stay balanced, maintain your stance position and stay relaxed. Too fast a speed is just as bad as to slow. Pick something in the middle.

Timing is the interaction between your arms and body. When you swing, your body is shifting weight and turning. While these two elements are happening, your arms are swinging. Coordinating these actions is timing. Try to feel as though your arms and body are working together, almost as a single unit.

Tom Watson is an excellent example of great rhythm and timing. This is why his swing is easy to get back in the groove when it's a little off, and why he has been a superb ball striker for decades.

Positions, such as swing plane, position of club shaft and face and others are also important. Without rhythm and timing, it's like having a Rolls Royce without an engine. Looks good, but, won't take you anywhere. Good rhythm promotes Good timing.

Everyone needs a little help. Ready Golf's professional instructors are always available to help make your golfing experience more enjoyable. After all, that's why we play this challenging and greatest of sport.

Mac is our newest Ready Golf Staff Member. He was the PGA Head Golf Professional at Alhambra Golf course for ten years. Phone the Ready Golf Sepulveda Driving Range to inquire about lessons withMac.

Have Your Say and Win Some Golf Balls!

Got a gripe? A question? A comment about the game or the Club? The Players Forum on the SMGC website offers members the opportunity to get it out in the open for all to read and comment on. Only one problem: we haven't been using it to its full potential.

So, The Board has opted to resort to bribery in order to beef up usage of this valuable communications tool.

Every quarter, the writer of the Forum "message of the month" will win two sleeves of Pro V1s! Members of the Board of Directors will judge each month's entries, and present the winners with their Titleist prizes.

Can't think of a topic? How about rules, etiquette, pace of play, golf carts, course conditions... you get the idea. Just about everything and anything (within reason) that has to do with the game we all love. Click on the Forum page and put in your two cents worth!

SIGN UP COUPON MEMBER-GUEST

Member Name: _____

Phone # _____

Guest Name: _____ HdcP# _____

Guest Name: _____ HdcP# _____

Guest Name: _____ HdcP# _____

I will be playing member-member. My partner is:

Check payable to SMGC is enclosed for \$ _____
and mail to the address below

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

- May 16-17 Senior Championship - Balboa-Encino \$85
- May 28 Thursday Tournament - Member/Guest - Encino \$45

Tournament chairman is Gene Vano (818) 703-0749

COMING EVENTS

May 16-17	Senior Club Championship - Balboa and Encino	\$85
May 21	MGA Team Play - Encino	
May 28	Thursday Tournament - Member/Guest - Encino	\$45
June 4	Board Meeting	
June 11-14	LA City Men's Golf Championship	
June 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 - Goeckner 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	
Nov. 5	Board Meeting	
Nov.	Sunday Tournament	TBA
Nov. 7-8	PLGA "Partner's Better Ball" The Links at Summerly	
Nov. 19	MGA Team Play - Harding	
Nov. 27	Friday Tournament - Day after Thanksgiving - Balboa	

The Buffalo Theory

One afternoon at Cheers, Cliff Clavin was explaining the Buffalo Theory to his buddy Norm. Here's how it went:

"Well ya see, Norm, it's like this... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers."