



THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

SEPULVEDA MEN'S GOLF CLUB

August 2009

PRO-MEMBER SCRAMBLE

Thursday, Sept. 24 - 7 am Shotgun

Coming up in September is the annual Pro-Member Scramble, an opportunity to play with a Southern California PGA pro in a scramble format which has proven an annual club highlight. The Scramble replaces the regular monthly membership tournament. This is a 7 am shotgun on the Encino course and the tab is \$65 for the game, electric cart, team prizes and lunch in the banquet room. There will also be an individual amateur "closest to the pin" contest on all par 3's.

Here's how the scramble works: five-man teams consist of a pro and 4 players, one each with an A, B, C and D handicap. Everyone drives off the tee and the team selects the best ball. Everyone hits from that spot. Again the best ball is selected and everyone plays the next shot from that spot. Same thing on the green; everyone putts from the same spot. During the course of the round each team is required to use the drives of the A & B players (blue tees) at least three times and the C & D players twice (white tees).

Pairings for this tournament will be done by the computer based on the current September index. An effort will be made to adjust the pairings so that you may play with the members of your choice and still maintain the policy of an A, B, C and D player in each group, with approximately equal total handicaps in each group. (However, there is no guarantee!) Pros will be assigned by random drawing.

- **Check-in time: Thursday, 6 am.**
- **The September monthly membership meeting will follow the Pro-Member Scramble lunch. All club members are invited to the meeting whether they play or not. Non-golfers can have lunch for \$10. Check next month's Eagle for more information.**

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

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

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

THURSDAY TOURNAMENT

This month's Thursday tournament will be at Harding on August 27. Check the website at smgc.org to sign up and pay by credit card or use the coupon on page 8 and mail a check to our PO box. The price is \$40. Call **Gene Vano** if you want to play at **(818) 703-0749**.

The President's Cup

Tom Knickerbocker is this year's President's Cup chairman and he is trying a different format to kick it off. There will be two qualifying events played in medal play. The low 16 from each day will then be paired in the traditional ladder and seeded. There will be a playoff immediately that day should we have ties for the 16th spot. Then each match will have about 3 weeks from the 13th of August to arrange and play their first match. Should that not happen, the unplayed matches must be played on Saturday August 29 at home where we will have arranged tee times. This formula will then be repeated again on Saturday September 19th.

The tee times are early to beat the heat starting at 7am each day. The ultimate end... A 2009 Champion in 2009. Non qualifiers on August 9 may try again on August 13. The cost to play the Thursday qualifier on August 9 is \$54 and on Saturday August 13 it's \$44. Check the website to sign up and pay by credit card at smgc.org or call Tom Knickerbocker at (818) 752-7877 to sign up.

POST AT THE RANGE

There's a 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!

READY GOLF TIP

Good Ball Position for Consistent Hits By Kae Ko

For many golfers, the ball position seems to change with each club they swing. When they address the ball for a short iron such as the 9 iron or wedge, they position the ball towards the back foot. Then when addressing the ball for a long iron or the driver, they bring the ball forward towards their front foot.

However, proper golf fundamentals are the key to a solid and repeatable golf swing. Moving the ball position or the point where your club strikes the ball will generally create different swings for each club you have in your bag. If you are having problems with your ball-striking, it could be simply a flaw in your ball position.

When hitting a mid iron such as a 5 or 6 iron, align the ball between the center of your stance and your forward foot. Then when hitting a short iron, just shorten your stance by bringing your back foot closer to the ball. This will appear as if the ball is now positioned in the middle of your stance, but in reality you have only shortened your stance and you are still aligned at the same ball position. In addition, when you address the ball for a long iron or driver, simply widen your stance by moving your back foot away from the ball. Again, this will appear as if the ball has moved forward into your stance but in reality you have just widened your stance.

This will allow you to keep your alignment the same with each club and your shoulders to keep square with the target. Keeping the ball position constant and only moving your back foot to shorten or widen your stance should bring more consistency in your shots.

Kae Ko is a teaching professional at the Sepulveda Ready Golf Driving Range. He speaks the Korean language fluently. His rate for instruction is \$40 per half hour private lesson.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report former member Bob Petrillo has passed away suddenly from a heart attack. He was a great guy and one hell of a golfer.

2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

The Sepulveda Eagle (USPS 13-769) is the official publication of the Sepulveda Men's Golf Club and is published monthly.

Deadline for copy is the 3rd Friday of each month.

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Annual subscription is \$3.00.

The Club's office is located at
16821 Burbank Blvd, Encino CA 91436.

This August 2009 issue is Vol. 52, No. 8

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club
P.O. Box 57373, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413-2373

Periodicals rate postage paid at Van Nuys, CA

Internet site: www.smgc.org

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

Remember to keep them silent during your round!!

JULY SCORE BOARD

SUNDAY TOURNAMENT STERLING HILLS JULY 12th

Individual - Gross, Net and Honeypot

The Honey Pot had five winning teams. \$34 to each team.

Joslyn/Vano 58 Miller/Johnston 60
Miller/Vano 60 Johnston/Vano 60
Budhu/Vano 60

*The Honey Pot always has a target. This time it was 60 net. Every team that has 60 or lower shares in the pot.

"A" Flight Low Gross

Score	Winner	Prize
72	Marc Green	\$75
75	Mark Brown	\$30
76	Asher Kamiel	\$20
76	Paul Nance	\$20

Low Net

68	Michael Levy	\$75
70	Bill Brandel	\$30
71	Beeri Meza	\$20
72	Rich Nance	\$15

Gross Skins \$75 each

Hole	Winner
3	Mark Michelini
5	Mark Spicer
9	Beeri Meza
13	Asher Kamiel
15	Mark Spicer

"B" Flight Low Gross

Score	Winner	Prize
81	Alan Miller	\$75
82	Marc Cohen	\$30
83	Alfredo Piccolomini	\$25
85	Sean Mac Donald	\$15

Low Net

67	Roy Bernhardt	\$75
70	Gene Vano	\$25
70	Leonid Levin	\$25
71	Kian Nozari	\$15

Net Skins \$90 each

Hole	Winner
5	Mark Spicer
9	Beeri Meza
13	Asher Kamiel
14	Marc Cohen
16	David Joslyn

Closest to the Pin \$55 each

Hole	Winner	Distance
3	Mark Michelini	1'7"
8	Mark Brown	11'1"
11	Asher Kamiel	10"
15	James Jordan Jr.	5'9"

Prize Money

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

THURSDAY TOURNAMENT RANCHO PARK JULY 23rd

Team Better Ball

One team won the Honey Pot with a 58 Olteanu/Zambito \$210 to the team.

"A" Flight Team Low Gross

71	\$50 each	Marc Green	Mark Spicer
72	\$30 each	Jeff Murphy	Wayne Lura
75	\$10 each	Paul Nance	Blind Draw

Team Low Net

65	\$50 each	Donald Pistornik	James Jordan Jr.
67	\$30 each	Dan Crawford	Michael Radtke
68	\$40 each	Alan Miller	Roy Hay

"B" Flight Team Low Gross

75	\$50 each	Beeri Meza	Mike Teague
76	\$30 each	Al Scates	Michael Levy
78	\$20 each	Glen Omura	Taira Kato

Team Low Net

58	\$50 each	George Olteanu	Len Zambito
63	\$25 each	Pete Prieto	Victor Cervantes
63	\$25 each	Marc Covert	Rich Nance

Low Net

Score	Winner	Prize
66	Glen Omura	\$70
66	Leonard Zambito	\$70
67	Donald Pistornik	\$50
68	Richard Greene	\$35
68	Victor Cervantes	\$35
69	Michael Levy	\$25
70	Marc Covert	\$10
70	Cody Williams	\$10

Gross Skins \$67 each

Hole	Winner
3	Mark O'Keefe
7	Mark Spicer
9	Michael Levy
12	Paul Nance
13	Michael Levy
16	Beeri Meza
15	Alan Miller

Net Skins \$105 each

6	Glen Omura
9	Michael Levy
15	Alan Miller

Closest to the Pin \$70 each

Hole	Winner	Distance
3	Mark O'Keefe	10"
8	Mike Schell	13'
12	Dan Crawford	14'3"
16	Beeri Meza	6'

MGA 2009

By Pete Heller

SEPULVEDA STINGS SENIORS TWICE - MAINTAIN NARROW LEAD

Wilson - July 14

After the first foursome had reported, The Senior squad thought they had a chance. They lead in the Individuals 9-3 and in the Two Man 6-0. Then the onslaught began. The next 8 players could not win a match and it was over. In MGA League play the results are often determined by the final foursome. So when Seniors Ray Stuckert and John Lanza had defeated their opponents 18-0 they were on cloud 9. When they realized that there efforts went for naught, they deflated before my eyes like the proverbial balloon. Not a pretty sight. Final scores: Sepulveda wins 43-29 and 21-15.

Rancho Park remained a scant 1/2 point behind by defeating Griffith Park 44-28 and 21-15. Todd Wade's team has definitely served notice. They want their trophy back.

And finally, Paul Andrews' Hansen Dam dropped to 1 1/2 back by splitting with Woodley Lakes 37-35 and 13-23. But the Championship is still within their grasp if they can defeat Rancho Park and then win out.

Sepulveda Match Winners

Individual

Derek Malmsten, Hadi Morshed, Alfredo Piccolomini, Gene Vano, George Bryson, Mike Schell and Len Zambito

Two Man

Malmsten/Morshed, Piccolomini/Teague, Bryson/Vano, Schell/Zambito

Sepulveda Senior Match Winners

Individual

D. L. Harvey, Ray Stuckert, John Lanza

Two Man

Standings	W	L	T	Points
Sepulveda	10	3	1	10 1/2
Rancho Park	10	4	0	10
Hansen Dam	9	5	0	9
Griffith Park	6	8	0	6
Sepulveda Srs.	3	9	2	4
Woodley Lakes	2	11	1	2 1/2

Next: Hansen Dam August 20

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

HANDICAP CHATTER

By STU OLSTER, Handicap Chairman

The United States Golf Association (USGA) has promulgated, maintains and from time- to-time revises handicap rules that govern all amateur players in the United States. Local or regional associations, such as Public Links Golf Association (PLGA) and Southern California Golf Association (SCGA), administer the handicap rules for member clubs such as ours. The member clubs, in turn, have handicap chairmen and committees who administer the handicap rules within the club and help the club interface with the association to which it belongs.

Purpose of the Handicap Rules

The handicap rules exist, at least in principle, to enable players of diverse skills to compete against one another on a more-or-less even basis. In practice, the system works, albeit not perfectly, but well enough to allow the more numerous middle-to-high handicappers to compete with, and regularly prevail over, low handicap players in “net” tournament play. The rules encourage membership in golf clubs and participation in club events by giving each player, regardless of his skill level, a chance to win a competition on any given day.

How Handicaps are Established

In order to determine a player’s handicap for a given event, the player must have established a handicap index. The handicap index is a number expressed to the nearest tenth, e.g., 12.3. Each course maintains a chart that converts the handicap index to a round handicap number for the particular tees being used that day on that course. The player should always check especially when playing a new course.

A player’s handicap index is calculated by reference to scores he has posted. Here is a simplified model: when a score is posted, a differential is established, which is the difference between the number shot, say 82, and the course rating, for example, 71.5. In this hypothetical situation, the player’s differential is 10.5. The handicap index is determined by totaling the ten best differentials of the last 20 rounds, dividing by 10 and multiplying by .96.

What makes the Handicap System work

At best, the handicap system, as defined and maintained by the USGA, is a compromise. Once the paradigm of a match between players of absolutely equal abilities is departed from, there are too many variables involved for any administrable system to take into account with a high level of reliability. But the compromise is adequate to achieve the desired goals, provided the basic assumptions underlying the system are observed.

These assumptions are that the player will accurately record every round played, and that he will try his best to shoot the lowest score possible at all times. This may sound ridiculously simple, and it is. However, there are subtleties that come into play, some of which have been discussed in previous columns.

Posting Scores in the 21st Century

Not many years ago, all scores were hand posted and tabulated. One can only imagine the enormous effort which would have been necessary on the part of the handicap chairman to maintain handicaps for a golf club the size of ours (and our club had double its present membership just a few years ago). Enter the computer. Now, virtually all scores are posted on a computer system. The life of the handicap chairman became much easier. But time marches on, and the next generation of handicap maintenance is here.

At Sepulveda, we have posting computers both in the pro shop and at the driving range office. A few years back, our club was designated a test site for the new touch-screen computer system, which was refined and “debugged” before going into full-scale service. Now, these screens are in nearly universal use.

Each change makes the life of the handicap chairman a little more difficult, but in most cases only temporarily. Behind the convenience of one of the more noticeable changes, the touch-screen, lurk more substantial changes in programming designed to update the database more frequently and make tournament administration simpler.

Once the USGA approved Internet posting, our club opted for it. Now members routinely post their scores on line. You will note that when you internet post for the first time, you will be prompted to select a password. Entry of your password is not necessary on subsequent occasions.

A major change in handicap administration is about to happen. On January 1, 2010, all member clubs of the PLGA and SCGA will switch from the present handicap vendor to the USGA’s GHIN system. Some of the salient details of the GHIN system can be found in last month’s Eagle. Like all handicap system changes, this one will require a break-in period during which the Handicap Committee will need to adapt. We are assured, however, that once up and running, the GHIN system will be user friendly and considerably more flexible than the present one.

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

The Saturday Game

If you looking for a Saturday afternoon gross score game with guaranteed tee times on Encino or Balboa call Rich Nance at (818) 422-3748 for more info.

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

It took a year, but in early July the Mayor's Office finally moved the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' award of a long-term electric cart concession to Ready Golf Centers forward to the City Council for final approval.

On July 15 the City Council's Arts, Parks, Health & Aging Committee unanimously recommended to the full City Council that the award be ratified and executed.

By Labor Day we should know whether the full City Council finally resolves this matter, which has been languishing on a month-to-month holdover for more than six years.

Only two options are available to the Council ratification of the Parks Commission's award or nullification of the process that produced it.

That's right. It's either forward to new cart fleets, improved service, stability, and perhaps new wrinkles such as GPS, or it's backward to square one. The City Council does not have the legal authority to select another of the proposal entities, nor does it have the authority to command self operation of the service.

Yes, were the Council to vitiate the process with comments about its preference for city operation of the concession, that preference, unlike a preference for the incumbent operator (or the other spurned operators), would not require a complete do-over of the RFP process, which in the City of Los Angeles moves slower than most glaciers. However, it would require that someone appropriate the monies necessary to gin up a new line of business, and it would require that someone lift the hard hiring freeze in order to hire the personnel necessary to operate that new line of business. Given the city's financial condition, does anyone see that happening anytime soon?

Yes, if the powers that be had followed through on the commitments they made to transform the city golf program into an enterprise fund, a revolving fund, or the financial/accounting equivalent thereof, i.e., a businesslike operation capable of expending the monies and hiring the persons necessary to take advantage of a profitable line of business, the self operation option would indeed be viable, assuming, of course, that it would be more profitable than contracting out the service. However, that is a question that the city's CAO has answered in the negative, already having issued a formal finding that execution of the Commission's award would be more profitable than contracting-in.

Local 721 SEIU has taken issue with that CAO finding, and their "issue" is certainly more grounded than the issues the spurned operators have raised about the process. To the extent that comparing contracting out with contracting-in necessarily involves moving targets and shifting assumptions, it is fraught with methodological difficulties unknown to comparing private sector proposals with each other. Nonetheless, without the

capacity to secure financing and employees, what end would be served by reopening the CAO's analysis cum formal finding in this case?

Regarding the issues the spurned operators have raised to challenge the Commission's award, suffice it to say that the five-member panel composed of respected experts drawn entirely from outside the city family found the contest among the private sector proposals to be rather one sided, awarding 97 points out of a possible 100 to Ready Golf Centers and 88 points to the runner-up in the vetting process, the J.H. Kishi Company.

So, again, that is where the issue stands. It's either forward to stability, a modern cart fleet, upgraded services, and the reasonableness of high expectations. Or it's back to square one with the issuance of the umpteenth RFP for this service, while continuing to enjoy the status quo for God knows how long – instability, dilapidated carts, no new services, and the reasonableness of low expectations.

If that were all that were at stake here, that would be more than enough to capture attention. However, there is so much more that the average golfer is simply unaware of!

The driving range/golf shop concessions at Woodley Lakes and Hansen Dam are now on month-to-month holdover status and in the RFP queue. The driving range/golf shop concession at Griffith Park will go to RFP as soon as LADWP completes irrigation work in the Park. The food/beverage concessions are out to RFP at Rancho Park, Hansen Dam and Woodley Lakes. The food/beverage concession at Griffith Park will shortly follow.

If the Los Angeles City Council were to negate the process employed to make the electric cart concession award, it's hard to see how the Department of Recreation & Parks moves forward with all these golf RFP's. The Council will have created a veritable roadmap to vitiation. Simply challenge any one of the publicly debated, adopted and universally published evaluation criterion, and you too can have the whole process thrown out. If you're the incumbent operator, that's a very tempting course of action.

How it serves the interests of the golfing public or the Department is another matter. We'll soon know whether the City Council keeps its eyes firmly focused on that prize or gets lost in a maelstrom of meaningless statistics, artful obfuscations and false choices.

GOLF AT THE 19th HOLE

I was three over. One over a house, one over a patio, and one over a swimming pool. *-George Brett*

Actually, the only time I ever took out a one-iron was to kill a tarantula. And I took a 7 to do that. *-Jim Murray*

The only sure rule in golf is - he who has the fastest cart never has to play the bad lie. *-Mickey Mantle*

Sex and golf are the two things you can enjoy even if you're not good at them. *-Kevin Costner*

PUBLIC LINKS TEAM PLAY 2009

The only Match Play competition open to players of ALL playing abilities is about to get underway. SMGC has received the 2009 application forms from PLGA. Now we need to recruit Team Captains and team members.

Clubs are permitted to field as many teams in each designated flight as follows:

Championship	-	5.4
A	5.5	8.4
B	8.5	10.4
C	10.5	12.4
D	12.5	14.4
E	14.5	17.4
F	17.5	26.4

Teams consist of six (6) players. Flight eligibility is determined by Lowest Index of May, June, and July. Players must have a valid PLGA Handicap Index for May, June and July 2009 in the club for which they are competing. A player may play for one and only one team during the competition.

Matches are single elimination – one and done. All competitions consist of three (3) separate Four Ball Match Play Matches, with points awarded for the front nine, back nine and total play. Ties are decided by sudden death playoff.

The competition begins the weekend after Labor Day and concludes at Griffith Park the second Sunday of October.

Those interested in serving as Team Captains within any of these flights should contact Rich Nance, Gene Vano or Craig Kessler. Once the club has its captains in order and its application form into PLGA, we can begin recruiting team members more aggressively. However, anyone interested in participating doesn't have to wait. Contact us now. The entry deadline is this month.

SMGC GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

The SMGC Board of Directors established a standing "Grievance Committee" which will investigate and recommend resolutions of disputes arising within the Club.

The Grievance Committee will operate under procedures that assure the opportunity for a full hearing to any member bringing, or responding to, a grievance before it. When the Committee formulates its recommendations, and presents them to the Board, the Board will issue a decision in the matter, and that decision will be final.

We don't have many disputes in our Club that require the services of the Committee. But, having such a committee in place and ready to go will help assure that any disputes that do arise will be taken up and decided promptly and fairly.

FROM THE READY GOLF SHOP

(Country Club Service-Warehouse Prices)

By Mark Karge-Head Golf Professional

Summer Blowout!!!

Great news!! If you were pleased with Ready Golf's low price guarantee on Drivers and Hybrids, you are going to be ecstatic about our Summer Blowout Sale now in full swing. (No pun intended--OK, yes it was).

We have just drastically reduced our prices on Drivers and Hybrids well below that of the big box stores, even below our own prices! These are not old models from two or three years ago or even from 2008. These are the current 2009 lines from companies such as Callaway, Cleveland, Cobra and TaylorMade!!!

Make plans to get here quick (ah heck, just jump in the car now) because there is no way that these items are going to last long...and once they're gone, THEY'RE GONE!

While you're snapping up the great club deals, don't forget to check out our vast shoe and socks inventory. As always, we have the lowest prices on shoes and socks. Combine that with the fact that you might have scrip in the box, you can't lose. Speaking of the scrip box, it's getting heavier and heavier and the pro shop staffs backs are getting older and older.

Help us lighten the load by using your scrip on these great deals. We also just received a new collection of PING golf shirts that are very cool. Thank you for your patronage.

A little golf humor to start the day

It was a sunny morning, a little before 8:00 am, on the first Hole of a busy course, and I was beginning my pre-shot routine, visualizing my upcoming shot when a piercing voice came over the club house loud speaker, "Would the gentleman on the woman's tee back up to the men's tee please!"

I could feel every eye on the course looking at me. I was still deep in my routine, seemingly impervious to the interruption. Again the announcement, "Would the man on the woman's tee kindly back up to the men's tee." I simply ignored the guy and kept concentrating, when once more, the man yelled, "Would the man on the woman's tee back up to the men's tee, please!"

I finally stopped, turned, cupped my hands and shouted back "Would the A*** hole with the microphone please be quiet and let me play my second shot."

YOUR PUBLIC LINKS GOLF ASSOCIATION (PLGA)

Founded in 1931, the Public Links Golf Association of Southern California (PLGA) is comprised of 20,000+ individual members and 180 individual clubs. It is directly licensed by the United States Golf Association (USGA) to provide the basic infrastructure for public golf in the immediate region.

PLGA provides its members:

- The largest exclusively public USGA licensed golf association in the nation;
- The Electronic Handicapping System (EHS), a fully computerized handicapping service that provides monthly handicap reports, handicap verification by telephone, the ability to view members' handicap files through PLGA's Website – www.plga.org, and the ability to have your Handicap Index E-mailed to you 3 – 6 days prior to the 1st of each month;
- Monthly, computerized Handicap Indexes (USGA licensed) with stickers for affixing to distinctive hard plastic PLGA membership cards;
- Website "Forms / Reports" access – the ability to gain electronic access (in easily printable form) to all the monthly handicap reports mailed to club handicap chairmen and all the membership maintenance forms necessary to manage a club;
- Out-of-state computerized score posting through membership in the International Golf Network (IGN);
- Internet posting capacity through the PLGA Website;
- USGA sanctioned Course / Slope Ratings;
- Annual player performance "Report Cards" via the Website;
- The representation of the interests of member clubs and public golfers before the various public agencies that own or manage most public golf courses in the region;
- The advocacy of the principles of organized, accessible public golf in a political environment that often favors recreational interests hostile to the game;
- The provision of Handicap, Rules and Course Rating seminars throughout the year, including the USGA Handicap Certification accreditation now required for clubs to continue using the USGA Handicap System;
- The conduct of tournaments at more than 60 sites annually – tournaments that cater to the average "recreational" player as well as the championship caliber player;
- Annual Team Play Program;
- LA County / PLGA Partners Cup;
- Membership and connection to the California Alliance for Golf (CAG), the Southern California PGA Section (PLGA Executive Director on Advisory Board), the 1st Tee of Los Angeles

County, the LAJCC UrbanYouth Program, the Los Angeles City Golf Commission, the County of Los Angeles Golf Advisory Committee, and the Griffith Park Master Plan Board;

- Web based communications; and
- The PLGA Foundation, which underwrites PLGA's partnership with LA County to conduct the Annual LA County / Public Links Junior Golf Championship Series, sponsors the Annual Boys & Girls CIF Championships, underwrites the LAJCC Urban Youth Golf Programs in Pacoima (Van Nuys), makes annual grants to the First Tee of Los Angeles County and the First Tee of South Los Angeles, supports local municipal junior golf championships, puts on the Annual PLGA Junior Championships and provides \$5,000 annually in grants to junior golfers who might otherwise not be able to afford program and / or tournament fees.

TEE/CUP Chips

By Irv Cherno

Eagle-Eyed Editor

The Cure for Slow Play

Ever notice that everybody's always talking about slow play, but nobody ever does anything about it?

The closest any club came happened a few years back at Woodley Lakes. The men's club installed a clock on the 18th green. A clipboard and pencil were placed next to it. Each group, upon completion of their round, entered their actual starting time and their finish. If a group went over 4 1/2 hours, each member of the foursome was hit with a 1-stroke penalty.

But that didn't really help speed up the snail-pacers. Oh, they got chastised by their fellow competitors, and developed a reputation for slowing down the groups behind them, but they seemed to enjoy their celebrity as the guys who take their time.

Strange thing, though. The snails I've seen and played with hit as many poor shots as I do. And I like to play fast (or at least at a fairly fast, steady pace). If I walk a course, I walk briskly to my next shot. If I'm riding, and others walk, I scout their balls for them, pointing out where in the woods they went.

If I have a cart partner, I'll park halfway betwixt our balls, and we both walk to our balls. After our shots, we get back in the cart...not bagging our clubs again until we get to our next shot.

An LPGA pro told me several years back, If you're over 50, don't even bother taking practice swings (other than on the first tee). You'll waste time and wear yourself out. At that age, you should just trust your swing. Besides, seldom do your actual shots resemble your practice swings.

If everyone in a foursome would do that, they'd save at least a minute per player per shot. You do the math and figure how fast a round can be played!

Do's and Dont's of Divot Repair!

Divots on the green are the most crucial to repair. You'll generally see these on approach shots somewhere in the vicinity of your ball. Most likely, you'll also find more than just your divot on the green. This is a result of lazy golfers or golfers who just didn't find their divot. Hopefully, they couldn't find their own and repaired another.

The rule of thumb is to find your divot and repair it—and then repair one more. This will ensure that the putting surface stays in as good of shape as possible, and that it rolls as true as possible. It is our duty as golfers to help keep the course in as good of shape when we leave it as when we found it.

How to repair

Divots on the green are sensitive divots. They require a careful repair. Use a divot tool, which is designed to repair these depressions without damaging the turf. The No. 1 rule to remember is: **DO NOT TWIST**. Twisting the tool tears the grass roots and damages the turf, which further slows the healing process or causes turf to die. Depending on the shape of the divot, there are two repairing methods. The first is for divots that are small depressions with no turf removed. For these, insert the divot tool just outside the edge of the divot and lift gently, raising the ground to slightly above the putting surface. Then take your putter and tamp it back down so that it is level with the putting surface. This helps speed up the healing process and ensures that the green will still roll true.

The second type of divot is either oblong or fairly deep with the turf removed. Don't replace this turf as its roots have been separated from the ground. Do insert your divot tool just outside the edges of the divot, and press the surrounding ground toward the center of the divot, stretching the turf to fill it in. Go around the divot completely several times if you need to, repeating this process until you have the turf stretched to where the divot is filled in. From there, tap the turf down so that the putting surface is again level, ensuring a true roll.

Just a second

Are you done? No. Remember, now that you've repaired your divot, find one more and repair it. If we don't do our part to help maintain our courses, then they will degrade and become undesirable or unplayable. So do your part, and keep your courses in good shape.

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

August 27 Thursday Tournament - Harding

\$40

Tournament chairman is Gene Vano (818) 703-0749

COMING EVENTS

Aug. 15	Saturday Tournament - Olivias Links	\$75
<i>Aug 15-16</i>	<i>LA/PLGA "Match Play Qualifying" Encino/Harding/Wilson</i>	
<i>Aug. 17</i>	<i>PLGA "Pro-President" Los Serranos (North) CC</i>	
<i>Aug. 20</i>	<i>MGA Team Play - Hansen Dam</i>	
<i>Aug. 23-24</i>	<i>LA/PLGA "Match Play Finals" Rancho Park</i>	
Aug. 27	Thursday Tournament - Harding	\$40
<i>Sept. 3</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	
Sept.	Saturday Tournament	TBA
<i>Sept. 13,20,27</i>	<i>PLGA "Team Play"</i>	
<i>Sep. 17</i>	<i>MGA Team Play - Encino</i>	
Sept. 24	Thursday Tournament - Pro/Member Shotgun - Encino	
Oct. 3	Saturday Tournament - Goeckner Qualifier	TBA
<i>Oct. 4</i>	<i>PLGA "Team Play" Semi-Finals</i>	
<i>Oct. 1</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	
<i>Oct. 11</i>	<i>PLGA "Team Play" Finals</i>	
<i>Oct. 15</i>	<i>MGA Team Play - Woodley Lakes</i>	
<i>Oct. 15-16</i>	<i>LA City Senior Men's Golf Championship</i>	
Oct. 22	Thursday Tournament - Wilson Elections and Dinner at home	
<i>Nov. 5</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	
Nov.	Sunday Tournament	TBA
<i>Nov. 7-8</i>	<i>PLGA "Partner's Better Ball" The Links at Summerly</i>	
<i>Nov. 19</i>	<i>MGA Team Play - Harding</i>	
Nov. 27	Friday Tournament - Day after 5 Club - Balboa	
<i>Dec 3</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	
<i>Dec 5-6</i>	<i>PLGA "Ken Smith" Desert Classic Mountain Vista</i>	
Dec	Sunday Tournament	TBA
Dec 17	Thursday Tournament - Encino	

HOLES - IN-ONE

If you have knowledge of a hole-in-one by a member of the SMGC please contact **Leonard Zambito** by email at leonardzambito@hotmail.com or by phone at **(818) 761-3846**.

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 ProVIs! 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!