



THE SEPULVEDA **EAGLE**

SEPULVEDA MEN'S GOLF CLUB

October 2009

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

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

Annual Columbus Day Party & Club Election

Don't miss the first big event of your club's fall season. It's the fun-filled post Columbus Day bash, Thursday Oct. 22.

This year we will play at Wilson and later that night we'll meet at the Monterey banquet room and dine on very special Italian cuisine with complimentary beverage; door prizes will be awarded. Allen Weiss' "Sepulveda Sandbaggers" will provide musical entertainment.

The fee is \$45. You might make expenses and then some. Come to the party and stay for the election. Sign up on-line at smgc.org or call **Gene Vano at (818) 703-0749** if you want to play.

NOMINEES FOR THE 2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following club members are running for the 2009-2010 SMGC Board of Directors. The election will take place at the October 22th membership meeting and Columbus Day party. Come to the party and vote for your favorite candidates.

- **Dan Crawford**
- **Bruce Fortune**
- **Ted Johnson**
- **Craig Kessler**
- **Tom Knickerbocker**
- **Dan Melillo**
- **Alan Stewart**
- **Allen Weiss**

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

2010 SMGC Membership Dues

Your 2010 membership renewal dues are \$75 if postmarked no later than November 15th. If you are a current member and wonder why the 15th, it's the cut off date used by IDC, the company used for your handicap so it can be update the system by December 1st. The dues become \$85 if postmarked thereafter. You will be taken off the Public Links roster, your member number and handicap retired, and you will not be eligible for SMGC and Public Links tournaments and events after December 1st.

Don't let this happen to you. You can pay online and save the postage. Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Besides, we'd be happy to have you as a club member in the coming year. Please check your players page on the website and make sure all the information we have for you is current and up to date.

Along with your SMGC Public Links membership renewal, you have an added option this year; you may also become a member of the Sepulveda Eagles, an affiliate of the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA) for the year 2010 for \$30. Your SCGA membership will allow you to play in all SCGA tournaments except for the SCGA Team Play Program.

If you have an existing SCGA membership in the Sepulveda Eagles and want to continue as a member, the 2010 renewal fee is \$30. However, the deadline is December 15, 2009. After that date there will be a \$10 reinstatement fee charged by SCGA for renewals. As per club policy, no individual statements will be mailed.

READY GOLF TIP

Big Dog In Trouble

By Jeff Prey

I think we can all agree the driver is a very key club in our golf bag. Driving the ball with confidence, length and accuracy are goals of most golfers. Without rebuilding your swing or suffering through the learning curve of swing changes, I suggest you improve your address position and degree of body tension. With a few minor adjustments you can position yourself to drive for success.

- A. Tee the golf ball higher than normal, ready for launch. Unlike an iron, we are hitting up at the ball.
- B. Widen your stance slightly and shift your weight to the right side (60%). The hands and your head will be slightly behind the ball at address.
- C. Most important of all, we have to relax the body (hands, arms, chest and mind). A relaxed body will easily rotate, generating more torque on the backswing, thus producing a powerful accelerating downswing. Your results will be a more athletic tension-free finish.

Jeff Prey is a Teaching Professional at Ready Golf's Sepulveda Driving Range. You can also find Jeff in the shop several days a week. Jeff offers lessons with the A-Star digital swing analyzer upon request. His rate of instruction is \$35 per half hour private lesson.

President's Corner

By Rich Nance

A full year has gone by as President and wow did it fly. Our country has seen its share of the hard economic times but our club forges on. My upcoming Thanksgiving wish is to hopefully get more participation in our monthly tournaments. For those who have been I would personally like to thank each one of you. As for our new and renewing members who haven't played in a while I hope you will be able to join us in future events.

Our annual Columbus Day tournament is on October 22 at Wilson in Griffith Park. The Board elections are later that night at Monterey at Encino. You can come and have dinner even if you weren't able to play for only \$10. Enjoy a great dinner, meet some other members and make your voice heard by voting for next year's Board of Directors.



2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS	PHONE
Rich Nance, President	818-422-3748
Gene Vano, Vice President	818-703-0749
Craig Kessler, Secretary	310-941-4803
Dan Crawford, Treasurer	818-497-6617
DIRECTORS	
Dean Abston	818-439-4490
Marty Barkan	310-487-6565
Virgil Budhu	310-628-5548
Irv Chern	818-348-7626
Ed Cohn	818-363-8028
Tom Knickerbocker	818-752-7877
Dan Mellilo	917-363-9070
Mark Michelini	818-470-0196
Hadi Morshed	310-322-4400
Ken Oberg	818-763-3226
Stu Olster	818-222-2516
Allen Weiss	818-360-8448
Sandy Margolis, Ex officio	818-995-1172

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.

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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SEPTEMBER SCORE BOARD

THURSDAY TOURNAMENT
ENCINO SEPT 24th

Pro Member Scramble

1st Place - 60

Ahmad Keliddari	Arde Nozari
Hadi Morshed	<i>Ben Lee</i>
Alan Miller	Don Atkinson
Roy Hay	<i>Brad Lifzt</i>

2nd Place - 61

Donald Pistotnik	Harvey Gazin
Michael Levy	<i>Gary Sheppard</i>
Beeri Meza	Dean Abston
Irv Chernob	<i>Boris King</i>

Above are the first and second place teams. With a combination of card offs and coin flips they shared prizes worth over \$1000. The separate Pro Tourney was won by Andy Chong with a 70. Thank you all for playing it was a beautiful day.

Closest to the Pin \$45 each

Hole	Winner	Distance
3	Roy Hay	8"
6	Alan Miller	3'2"
15	Beeri Meza	15'2"
17	Neil Zaniboni	34"

The Saturday Game

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

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!!

Prize Money

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

MGA 2009

By Pete Heller

**SEPULVEDA SWEEPS
 GRIFFITH PARK
 SENIORS SPLIT AGAIN**
 Encino - September 17

The Crawford/Zambito Sepulveda Team "took care of business", as they say these days and defeated Griffith Park 42-30 and 21-15 to move within one half point of league leader Rancho Park.

Rancho and Hansen Dam in the match of the day, as if playing for all the marbles, battled to a split in the 95 degree Encino afternoon. Final Scores. Rancho 39/16, Hansen Dam 21/15.

Down in the second division, in a battle to avoid the cellar, the Sepulveda Seniors lost the individuals 36-33 while taking the two man from a game Woodley Lakes squad 21-15.

Next month in the season's final matches, Ray Stuckert's Seniors are in a position to help Sepulveda Mens defend their League Championship. To do so they must win one of two matches from Rancho Park. Of course, Sepulveda must again "take care of business" by twice defeating last place Woodley.

Sepulveda Match Winners Individual

Gene Vano, Paul Nance, Taira Kato,
 Mark Michelini, Bruce Fortune,
 Larry Malmsten, Mike Schell

Two Man:

Vano/Nance, Fortune/Malmsten
 Michelini/Knickerbocker, Zambito/Schell

Two Man

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

Sepulveda Senior Match Winners Individual

George Meinke, Lars Ferling, John Lanza,
 Ray Stuckert, Ron Abramson

Two Man

House/Abston, Meinke/Ferling, Stuckert/Lanza
Standings
Rancho Park W L T Points
Rancho Park 13 5 0 13
Sepulveda 12 4 1 12 1/2
Hansen Dam 11 7 0 11
Griffith Park 7 10 1 7 1/2
Sepulveda Srs. 5 11 2 6
Woodley Lakes 3 13 2 4

Next: Woodley Lakes October 15

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

TEE/CUP Chips

By Irv Chernob
 Eagle-Eyed Editor

Now's Your Chance!

Half of our Board of Directors' slots are up for grabs later this month, as we once again hold our annual Columbus Day Classic and Election Dinner.

This is your opportunity to participate with an official voice when it comes to planning and implementing SMGC's program for the coming year. As is our custom, the "new" board will vote for officers at its October meeting, and these new leaders will start running the show at the December meeting.

Why run for the Board? Prestige? Honor? Responsibility? Love of the game? Leadership ability?

All the above...and more! Everyone knows that in any organization it's always the few who are willing to roll up their sleeves and do all the work. The majority of members are satisfied just to sit back and let others call the shots. (And with that attitude, they're also in position to gripe and moan about those same shots).

So now it's your time to decide in which group you belong. Our directors meet the first Thursday of each month to run the business at hand. We're looking for a few good men. All it takes to be considered is a phone call to our Nominating Committee, chaired by Irv Chernob. Want in? Give him a call at (818) 348-7626.

FYI

The course superintendent will be aerating the greens on Balboa starting October 5 - 8, so plan your golf reservations around those dates.

Encino's greens are finished and healing, they were punched a few weeks ago.

FROM THE READY GOLF SHOP

(Country Club Service-Warehouse Prices)

By Michael Bernback

NEW PRICING POLICY

NOW HEAR THIS! NOW HEAR THIS!
READY GOLF PRO SHOP IS LAUNCHING A NEW
PRICE POLICY!

CLUB MEMBERS CAN SPECIAL ORDER ANY
DRIVER FOR COST PLUS \$50 OR ANY SET OF
IRONS FOR COST PLUS \$100!

YOU HEARD IT RIGHT! COME IN, TELL US WHAT
YOU WANT, PREPAY AND WE WILL OPEN OUR
WHOLESALE PRICE SHEET TO YOUR EYES ONLY
AND SELL TO YOU AT OUR COST PLUS \$50 FOR A
DRIVER OR OUR COST PLUS \$100 FOR A SET OF
IRONS. THERE IS A VERY SMALL SHIPPING FEE
OF \$7 DRIVER AND \$15 IRONS (ALSO OUR COST).

THIS PRICING ARRANGMENT IS ABSOLUTLY
SURE TO BE WAY, WAY, WAY BELOW ANYWHERE
ELSE YOU CAN BUY DRIVERS OR IRONS. IF THE
PROGRAM IS AS SUCCESSFUL AS WE KNOW IT
WILL BE, WE WILL CONTINUE WITH IT
INDEFINITELY. BUT DON'T WAIT...IF YOU ARE
THINKING ABOUT PULLING THE TRIGGER
BECAUSE THE POLICY COULD DISAPPEAR
OVERNIGHT!

We have asked one hundred times and now we ask again,
why keep your scrip on ice gaining you nothing when you
can own and use something that you enjoy.

Thank you for your patronage.

USGA Rule Reminder

Ball Stopped by Player's Foot Moves When Foot Removed

Q: A player making a stroke on the bank of a bunker hits the ball to the top of the bank. The ball then rolls down the bank and is accidentally stopped by the player's foot. The player removes his foot and the ball rolls into the footprint. What is the ruling?

A: The player incurs a penalty of one stroke (Rule 19-2) and must replace the ball on the spot at which it came to rest against his foot. A further penalty under Rule 18-2a (Ball at Rest Moved by Player) would not be appropriate in the circumstances provided the player replaces the ball. If the ball is not replaced before the player makes his next stroke, the failure to replace the ball is considered a separate act (see Decision 1-4/12) and he loses the hole in match play or incurs an additional penalty of two strokes in stroke play under Rule 18-2a, for a total penalty of three strokes.

CART FOOLERY

by Stu Olster, Member of the Board

Many SMGC members have read elsewhere that a recommendation of various City departments and individuals for the award of a long term contract for the operation of golf carts on the City's courses was disapproved by the City Council. This after the selection process that consumed two years and went through careful analysis by many departments, bodies and persons, and included ample opportunity for the public to have significant input.

Without belaboring the details of the thorough process employed, the result of it was the recommendation of the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners that the firm selected be confirmed. That recommendation was presented to the City Council for approval. Council approval should have been routine, since all the persons who participated in the selection process and knew the details of it approved the proposing firm.

To the surprise of many of us, the Council rejected the recommendation of the Commissioners. An analysis of the Council proceedings at its September 4 meeting suggests that some of the Councilpersons who voted against the recommendation were not fully up to speed on the details, or otherwise did not realize the thoroughness, of the process.

Absent an extraordinary effort, the negative vote of the Council means the process of selecting a cart operator must begin anew and we must wait another 18 or 24 months to have an operator selected and get new carts. This is unacceptable!

I felt I needed to do something, if only to express my frustration, so I wrote to the Board of Commissioners. I want to "open" the note and make it available to you and other readers of the Eagle. **It is printed on page 5 in its entirety.**

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.

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

I have been a public course golfer in Los Angeles for more than 50 years. I proudly serve on the Board of Directors of my golf club, the Sepulveda Men's Golf Club. I am a Board member of the Municipal Golf Association and represent that body as a member of the Golf Advisory Committee. I write to you to express my concern and dismay over a recent Council action that I believe negatively affects LA's golf program. I address you as a private citizen and not in any official capacity.

On September 4, 2009, the Los Angeles City Council, by a slim margin, disapproved the recommendation of your Board, the Recreation and Parks Concessions Department, the Golf Division, the Golf Advisory Committee, the CAO, the City Attorney, the Mayor's Office and a distinguished neutral panel of golf business and administration experts in selecting an operator for a long term contract to provide golf cart services on the City's golf courses.

During the slow progress of this RFP the public had numerous opportunities to comment and have an input, and it did. The concept of self operation was carefully vetted and the conclusion was that operation by a private concessionaire was more favorable to the City at this time than self operation.

I chair the RFP Subcommittee of the Golf Advisory Committee. My subcommittee and the full Golf Advisory Committee provided substantial and significant input into the creation of the subject RFP and carefully monitored it as it wound its way through an unusually lengthy process.

Among the input provided by the Advisory Committee was the development of a formula for weighting such factors as revenue to the City, service to the public, business plan, etc. It was our specific intent that service to the public be accorded greater weight in the process than other factors including percentage rent. Each bidder was aware of the weighting system employed in this particular RFP and I presume formulated its proposal accordingly.

Despite your Board's recommendation of the vendor selected by this lengthy and arduous process, and the approval all of all other departments and persons who reviewed the matter, the City Council disapproved the recommendation by a margin of a single vote.

By disapproving your recommendation, the Council ignored, and indeed disrespected, the multi-faceted process by which the proposed concessionaire was selected and the hundreds of man hours and the two years that went into getting the RFP before the Council.

As if this weren't bad enough, one Council member objected to your recommendation because in his view it didn't maximize revenue to the City (completely ignoring the weighting system discussed above if indeed he was even aware of it).

Other Council members made oral motions to reconsider self operation and to appoint the present operator who had come in a distant second. The latter oral motion, incidentally, was an attempt at an unauthorized act because the beginning and end of the Council's jurisdiction was to approve or disapprove your recommendation.

The end result is that we are going backwards in regard to providing the public course golfer with safe, well-maintained and attractive golf carts, in the process placing our courses at a further disadvantage compared with other golf opportunities in the area.

There is an arrogance inherent in the Council's action that I find truly disturbing. In disapproving the recommendation, it purported to disregard the findings, conclusions and recommendations of those who performed the detail work where the "rubber meets the road." Whether cronyism, personal animosities or other illegitimate factors were behind this, we may never know, but some of us have our suspicions.

I believe a majority of the Council, including some who cast a negative vote on this matter, are conscientious public servants who, given all the facts, would give greater respect to the work of the dozens of men and women whose efforts resulted in your Board's recommendation.

I encourage your body to send your recommendation back to the Council for reconsideration, accompanied by a detailed explanation of the process that supports it. Certainly, the Councilman who focused entirely on the percentage rent bid by an unsuccessful competitor (and wrote a letter to that effect to his colleagues), needs to be made aware that other factors outweighed rent.

I assure you there are a number of other persons who participated in this process or are otherwise knowledgeable about the details who feel as I do.

Thank you for your consideration of my remarks.

Respectfully,

*Stuart L. Olster
24005 Ventura Boulevard
Calabasas, CA 91302
(818) 222-2516*

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

I was in Northern California on September 29 at a meeting of the California Alliance for Golf (CAG). At that meeting was a fellow by the name of Tom Isaak, who is the CEO of a golf course management company called Courseco. Courseco manages fourteen (14) public properties in California, most of them municipal and all of them in Northern or Central California except for Green River in Orange County.

Courseco was one of the nine (9) firms that bid on the City of Ventura's Olivas Links and Buenaventura management contracts earlier this year. Kemper Sports Management won that contest and is now in the process of finalizing an agreement that should allow them to supplant the incumbent Eagle Golf Management Company and take over management and maintenance of the properties on January 1.

It is widely acknowledged that Courseco was the second place finisher in that process, a process that included the incumbent, a Texas based company that also manages Los Robles, Shandin Hills, Meadowlark among others in Southern California, as well as The Billy Casper Company, Touchstone Golf, Synergy, and other experienced firms. The American Golf Corporation for reasons known only to them decided to sit this one out.

Tom's only comment regarding the loss of a great opportunity for his company to better penetrate the Southern California municipal market: "We're disappointed because we were so close; in the final analysis Ventura opted for IBM over our mid size company."

Note what is missing from his comment. Note what is missing from his behavior and the behavior of the other frustrated suitors. No challenges to the process. No challenges to the scoring methodology. No appeals to the City Council. No threats of litigation. No standing in the way of Kemper moving in on January 1 to provide service to the golfers of Ventura (the golfers of the San Fernando Valley too; we love Ventura, particularly in the summer!). And that includes the incumbent company, which oversaw the rebuilding of both courses and has been in place for many years.

Contrast that to the way golf contracts are awarded, or more accurately not awarded, here in Los Angeles. Whether it's the most recent cart debacle or the numerous failed attempts to award and execute a Sepulveda driving range lease, to award, execute and complete range improvements at Rancho, or simply secure stability at some of these golf course restaurants, our system is completely broken. And it is the "system," not the persons executing it.

Recreation & Parks General Manager Jon Mukri made the cleaning up of his Administrative Services

Section a high priority when he assumed command. He brought in a whole new team, headed by Robert Morales. He instituted a number of reforms through the Board of Recreation & Park Commissioners, and he insisted that everything be done in the most public and transparent of manners.

The new rules and the new team have done an exemplary job. But the way the City Charter has structured the contracting process, no "rules" and no "teams" are able to overcome well-funded, focused opposition to the results of their efforts. It is simply too easy to blow things up at too many junctures of the incredibly long, drawn out process. And when there is real money involved, there is much incentive to do precisely that, particularly if you are the beneficiary of a month-to-month holdover ad infinitum. Does anyone remember Ron Weiner?

The public is the big loser in all of this. While the golfers of Ventura move from one solid management company to a new one after a 9-month process that peacefully vetted 9 solid suitors, the golfers of Los Angeles wallow in failed improvements and the poor service that necessarily flows from instability.

The County of Los Angeles has just released an ambitious RFP for the management, maintenance and improvement of its Marshall Canyon Golf Course in La Verne. I have little doubt that a solid company with a solid long-term plan will be firmly in place before any of the myriad outstanding contract issues are resolved here in our city.

Systemic failures call for systemic solutions. That doesn't mean that the City Charter need be amended before the "system" can function. But it does mean that our eyes need to be lifted from the failed process of the moment to something much higher the development of a system that contains the possibility of giving the Golf Division, the Recreation & Parks Department, and most importantly, the golfing public, just a bit of what everyone is able to take for granted stability, continuous service, reinvestment, and the capacity for change.

USGA Rule Meaning of "Handicap"

6-2b/0.5 Meaning of "Handicap" When Full Handicap Not Used

Q: It is the condition of a stroke-play competition (e.g., four-ball) that players will not receive their full handicap allowances. Under Rule 6-2b, what is the player responsible for recording on his score card?

A: He must record his full handicap. It is the Committee's responsibility to apply the condition of competition to adjust his handicap

Day After Thanksgiving Tournament

Tired of football, too much turkey, need to get away from the relatives? Sign up now for our annual day after Thanksgiving Day tournament with a guaranteed tee time on one of the busiest golf days of the year. The course is Balboa on Friday, November 27 and the format is **5 clubs only** individual play, so test your skills. The cost is \$45. Sign up online at smgc.org or call **Gene Vano at (818) 703-0749** if you want to play.

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!

Avoid Penalties Pay your 2010 dues.
Fill in ALL the blanks below and mail with your check payable to:

SMGC
P.O. Box 57373
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413-2373

NO INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS WILL BE MAILED
Please print legibly

Name: _____

Member Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Home: _____

Business: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail : _____

Note: Mandatory Public Links 2010 dues are \$75 if postmarked by Nov 15th; \$85 if postmarked thereafter.

Optional SCGA 2010 renewals or new SCGA Membership signups are \$30. SCGA renewal dues are \$40 after January 31, 2010. \$3 of your dues is for a one-year subscription to The Sepulveda Eagle.

PUBLIC LINKS GOLF ASSOCIATION

TOURNAMENTS

One of the Association's most popular tournaments is coming up December 12 (Saturday) – December 13 (Sunday) – **The Ken Smith Desert Classic** in Palm Desert. The details are as follows:

- Format – 4-man team competition that uses best two balls per team per hole;
- Site – The two Mountain Vista Courses in Sun City/Palm Desert;
- 8:00 AM Shotgun starts both days;
- \$200 per player includes course usage, carts, range balls and prize fund; and
- Deadline: November 13.

Applications are available at www.plga.org or through the PLGA office at (800) 272-7542.

The 2009 **Champion of Champions** will be played in January 2010 in an effort to accommodate so many of the clubs' late club championships and to avoid the Holidays. SMGC's Club Champion, Senior Champion, and Individual Flight Champions are eligible to play; however, because this is a club entered as opposed to an individual entered event like the Ken Smith Desert Classic above, these champions will have to secure their entries through the auspices of SMGC. Contact PLGA Delegate Stu Olster or a Board Officer if you are one of the champions. They'll coordinate your entry. The final round of the Championship will be played on Brookside # 1, one of the best public courses in the region.

GHIN

PLGA and its allied associations in Southern California are excited about the new and improved electronic handicapping era we are all about to embark upon, one that will be marked as much by improved service as by seamless cooperation among those associations in delivering the most basic of our collective core services – the electronic handicapping system.

USGA / GHIN's Ross Galerneault and PLGA Staff will be conducting a series of autumn training seminars at various locations throughout the PLGA realm. These sessions visit close to Sepulveda on October 21 at Griffith Park, October 23 at River Ridge (Oxnard), and November 12 at De Bell (Burbank). Those interested in attending can register by going to the www.plga.org (homepage) or by contacting SMGC Handicap Chairman Stu Olster.

Any Way You Slice It

Competitive golf is played mainly on a five-and-a-half-inch course, the space between your ears,

-Bobby Jones

AN ICY BLAST
from Dr. Warmth
 aka-Gene Vano

Fellow Golfers,

Below see a letter I published in the LA Daily News.

I sent it because The Councilman was the main spokesperson for the forces who defeated the Golf Cart Contract award for the third time after almost seven years of trying. It is only pure luck that no one has been seriously injured in these dilapidated carts. Please call your Councilman or send a letter saying enough is enough. The city's own staff unanimously approved the awarding of a contract. As did the Arts and Humanities Committee comprised of 3 Councilpersons.

And yet with not one shred of evidence supporting a rejection the remaining councilmembers voted to reject the contract and Alarcon was the lead dog. The People on that side of the argument are quite powerful. The "SEIU" Service Employees Union wants the city to self operate. They say they can do the job. They are going to first train them by looking for water main breaks.

Once they get their feet wet they will then have them fix all the broken toilets and drinking fountains at our courses. Who knows they may even be able to rake the bunkers that are always well trampled. The union plans to petition the USGA to have the well trampled bunker be the bunker of the future. I mean they are hazards... Who ever heard of a good looking hazard ?

If that doesn't work; their second idea is to have them add FOOTPRINTS to the "removing stones from bunkers" local rule. Once they are proficient at repairing or maintaining nothing they will be perfect for running the golf carts.

The other powerful force was the Kishi Family. They lost the bid and here let me say that our Men's Club took no sides... we did not endorse anyone.... We just wanted to get new CARTS ASAP.

Turns out that a Kishi family member is one of the most powerful political forces in the State of California. In addition the Kishis hired a very famous lobbyist. Between the two forces they had enough clout to get this contract rejected.

Let's be very clear! The City itself set up the "Request For Proposals" form of bidding within the City Charter to specifically avoid this kind politics having an influence.

Please raise your voices

Dear Editor:

Re: "Alarcon Responds" (Letters ^ September 17, 2009)

I thought Councilman Alarcon was a pretty good guy until he led a faction of his colleagues in defeating a 6-year effort to get new, safe golf carts without having a clue as to what he was talking about.

He claims that PLGA's Craig Kessler lied about requesting a meeting of his Office, but he doesn't understand that as far as the golfers of the San Fernando Valley are concerned, if Mr. Kessler says he requested a meeting, he requested that meeting. His reputation for integrity and credibility is second to none in the game of golf.

I too represent a lot of city golfers. And I (we) don't recall ever hearing from Mr. Alarcon or his Staff during our long 6-year effort to secure safe golf cart service. Just exactly who did he speak with before he decided to speak on behalf of all of us? Who did he consult before he trashed the decision unanimously reached at every stage of this award process that is before the lobbyists and influence peddlers got into the act? We golfers know who speaks for us, and it isn't Richard Alarcon.

Gene Vano

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**.

COMING EVENTS

Oct. 15-16	LA City Senior Men's Golf Championship	
Oct. 22	Thursday Tournament - Wilson	\$45
	Elections and Dinner at Monterey at Encino	
Nov. 5	Board Meeting	
Nov. 1	Sunday Tournament - Hansen Dan	\$40
Nov. 7-8	PLGA "Partner's Better Ball" The Links at Summerly	
Nov. 19	MGA Team Play - Harding	
Nov. 27	Friday Tournament - Day after 5 Club - Balboa	\$45
Dec. 3	Board Meeting	
Dec. 5-6	PLGA "Ken Smith" Desert Classic Mountain Vista	
Dec.	Sunday Tournament	TBA
Dec. 17	Thursday Tournament - Encino	\$40

We are currently working on next year's schedule and will publish the dates as soon as they are confirmed!