



## THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club  
Visit our website: [www.smgc.org](http://www.smgc.org)  
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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Evan Beren*

***We have some exciting announcements for you this month.***

Scrip is now redeemable for tournaments and membership fees. How does it work? Say you have \$50 in scrip, the tournament is \$60, turn in the scrip at check in and pay the balance of \$10 in cash, on the Square or with a check. Or say you have \$50 in scrip and the tournament is \$40, turn in the scrip and we will issue you a new scrip for the balance, in this example, \$10. Easy right? Now I know what you are thinking..."is this cleared with the USGA to not jeopardize my amateur status?" And the answer is yes. If you have any questions, you can always contact me at [ejberen@me.com](mailto:ejberen@me.com) or 818-438-0395.

Last month we were sad to tell you of Bobby Cavanaugh's transfer to Hansen Dam. This month we are pleased to tell you that Bobby has joined the Board of Directors as a full member. As I have mentioned in the past, no one has been a more passionate advocate for the SMGC and the courses at the Sepulveda Golf Complex than Bobby, as a member of the board, Bobby can continue to bring that passion to our club and home courses. At this time, Bobby is Co-Captaining the SGCA Saturday Team play team.

Half way through team play, SMGC has posted a record of 0-2-1. 3 matches to go and we are looking forward to a fast finish for our team. To be part of the team, contact Gary Patterson or Bobby Cavanaugh, their contact information is on the Officers page of our website.

The recent rains have greened up the hills and mountains that surround our valley, our courses at Sepulveda have started to dry out and are in improving shape, so get out and play some winter golf.

I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you at a tournament in 2017. We have an exciting year of tournament golf planned.

### THE NEXT TEE

*David Horwitch, Tournament Director*

Confession time, I happen to enjoy golfing in the conditions we've seen this last month. However, from the feedback I've gotten, I appear to be alone in this indulgence.

Perhaps in February the golf gods will bring us improved conditions. Our first shot is at Harding on Sunday the 12th. Following that, we play Woodley on Thursday the 23rd.

***Tournament questions and comments may be directed to [dhorwitch@gmail.com](mailto:dhorwitch@gmail.com)***

## CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

I am penning this column right after spending a day meeting with the California Department of Water Resources and its Landscape Stakeholders Advisory Group. We are meeting through the end of the year to recommend changes to the state's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and certain "green" Building Codes. The California golf industry has much at stake in the outcome.

But I'm not referencing it for that reason; I'm referencing it because of a particularly insightful comment issued at the meeting by the Conservation Manager for the City of Santa Monica – "insightful" because it was such an exquisite example of a hubris commonly found among certain "public servants." Luckily for the golf industry, it is a hubris NOT found anywhere in the Conservation Sections of Los Angeles' Water/Power and Sanitation/Public Works Departments; indeed, not found in most of the large public utilities with which I routinely interact in Southern California.

Okay; that's a big buildup to what by now you've figured out is more outrage than "insight." With a straight face, an eloquent voice, and complete sincerity this particular Santa Monica "public servant" opined that the members of this landscape advisory group ought to stop debating whether performance based regulation is preferable to the prescriptive variety by recognizing that the prescriptive variety is vastly superior precisely because it is easier to administer; it makes life simple for regulators, and that is the only real applicable test. Many think it; damn few have the cojones to say it. Add "boorish" to "insightful" to my description of this Santa Monica "public servant."

Certainly, some of you are thinking, what does this have to do with the LA City golf program? But others are thinking they see some of that same attitude in some of the folks who regulate, or if you prefer administer, our city golf courses. A minority to be sure, but not such a small minority to eliminate all concern.

Okay; hubris is a strong word. Let's go with something more like this: An indifference to the need to treat golfers as treasured customers with individual tastes and wants, as opposed to cattle to be run through hoops per a strictly construed set of policies. Or something even simpler: The belief that a service business can be successfully operated by strictly enforcing rules as opposed to providing service.

Luckily, far more persons in the Golf Division subscribe to the customer service model of service delivery than the bureaucratic command-and-control model. But there are a few who not only subscribe to the latter theory; they live by it as well. Well, here's a harsh truth. For the new Strategic Plan to have any chance at succeeding – it's a damn hard plan to execute – ALL of the Division's employees are going to have to get behind the customer service model. It's an unfortunate law of organizational nature that the bad drives out the good. Unless the Golf Division works hard to stamp out the bad, it will overtake the good just as sure as metastatic disease destroys once healthy bodies.

When I say, "bad," I don't mean bad people. I have yet to meet that variety of person in the Golf Division; they all mean well. I mean the "bad" thinking forged when the city's golf courses didn't have to do anything more than open their doors to fill their tee sheets. We all know that day is done, and with it so must some of yesterday's thoughts about how to run a successful municipal golf program.

## 2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

Evan Beren, President .....	(818) 438-0395
Tommaso Trinchieri, Vice-President .....	(949) 231-0097
Tommy Eunice, Secretary .....	(626) 278-0372
Dan Melillo, Treasurer .....	(917) 363-9070

### Directors

Evan Beren, Tournament Chairman .....	(818) 438-0395
Virgil Budhu, Membership .....	(310) 776-0156
Bobby Cavanaugh.....	(818) 606-5556
Bruce Fortune, Past President .....	(818) 535-4900
Everardo Gomez, Recording Secretary.....	(818) 429-4664
David Horwith, Tournament Director.....	(818) 486-2598
Craig Kessler, SGCA Dir. - Gov't Affairs .....	(310) 941-4803
Mike Levy, Trophies .....	(818) 761-7650
Dan Melillo, Asst. Tournament Director .....	(917) 363-9070
Mark Michelini, President's Cup/Goeckner ....	(818) 355-6492
Rich Nance, Eagle Publisher .....	(818) 422-3748
Gary Patterson, Entertainment Director .....	(310) 980-4427
Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap .....	(949) 231-0097

## Tournament Player of the Year Trophy in Memory of Ed Cohn "On the Other Hand"

Ben Raposas mainatins the lead at the top of the leader board. Armen stays at second. Let's hope the rain stays away during outtings.

Player	Winnings	Rank
Ben Raposas	445	1
Armen Mesropian	400	2
Virgil Budhu	375	3
Matt Soule	355	4
Erik Rogers	320	5
Danny Longmire Jr.	265	6
David Gilbreath	255	7
George Olteanu	245	8
Todd Mander	225	9
David Longmire	215	10
Craig Cacek	215	10
Dustin Watanabe	200	12
David Watanabe	200	12
David Horwitch	175	14
Patrick Warren	170	15
Mark Vaughan	170	15
Bruce Davies	165	17
Michael Levy	160	18
Justin Butler	160	18
Dan Crawford	145	20
Johnathan Fernandez	140	21
Mark Reed	135	22
Jason Petterson	135	22
Mark Kessler	130	24
Daniel Sniegowski	130	24
Dan Melillo	130	24
Sean Cavanaugh	125	27
Michael Radtke	120	28
Ryan Tumulad	115	29
Alan Miller	115	29

The complete standings can be found at [WWW.SMGC.ORG](http://WWW.SMGC.ORG)

**Sunday @ Wilson**

January 8, 2017

**Format – Low Gross / Low Net**

**“A” Flight Low Gross**

Score	Player	Prize
74	Danny Longmire Jr.	\$75
75	Dan Melillo	\$45
75	David Longmire	\$45
76	Dustin Watanabe	\$25

**“A” Flight Low Net**

70	Pablo Rojas	\$75
71	Dan Crawford	\$45
71	Rich Nance	\$45
73	Justin Butler	\$20
73	Everardo Gomez	\$20
73	Sam Schatz	\$20

**“B Flight” Low Gross**

87	Michael Radtke	\$75
88	Virgil Budhu	\$50
89	Bill Keanu	\$35
90	Steve Hansen	\$20
90	Chang Kim	\$20

**“B Flight” Low Net**

68	Daniel Sniegowski	\$75
69	David Watanabe	\$50
74	Patrick Warren	\$35
75	Gordon Seaberg	\$25

**Gross Skins \$132 each**

**Hole Player**

2	David Longmire
3	Dan Melillo
6	Dan Melillo
18	Dustin Watanabe.

**Net Skins \$132 each**

**Hole Player**

4	David Patterson
8	Everardo Gomez
9	James Hahn
13	Virgil Budhu
14	Bill Keanu

**Closest to the Pin \$100 each**

3	Duncan Brandel	10' 6"
11	James Hahn	10' 7"
15	Dan Melillo	3' 0"

**The Honey pot was \$480**

won by the team of  
Crawford & Radtke  
with a score of 64.

If you have knowledge of a hole-in-one by a member of the SMGC please contact Mike Levy by email at [mikelevy69@gmail.com](mailto:mikelevy69@gmail.com) or by phone at (818) 427-1925

**Thursday @ Rancho Park**

January 26, 2016

**Format – Low Gross / Low Net**

*Results coming soon!*

**Prize Money**  
*All tournament place winnings are paid in gift certificates.*

## HANDICAP CHATTER

by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman

### ***Most Improved Member in 2016***

The chances of making two holes-in-one in a round of golf are one in 67 million. We do not require any hole-in-ones to qualify for the Most Improved Member, but our members do need to post 20 rounds to qualify.

The United States Golf Association has a very simple formula for determining the most improved golfer for a specified period:

Add '12' to the player's Handicap Index at the start of the season. This is value A. Add '12' to the player's Handicap Index at the end of the season. This is value B. Divide value A by value B, calculating to three decimal places. This is the Improvement Factor. The player with the highest Improvement Factor would be the most improved player for 2016. For a member to be considered, he needs to have been a member of SMGC for the entire year, have an index on 1/1/16 and 1/1/17 and have played at least 20 rounds in 2016.

### ***Our 2016 SMGC Most Improved Player with an Improvement Factor of 1.216 is Martin Morano***

Congratulations Martin, your index improved from 13.3 on 1/1/16 to 8.8 on 1/1/17. And congrats to all 92 of our members that improved their index in 2016 (up from 86 last year) and we look forward to an even more successful 2017.

## BACKSPIN SHOTS

by *The Gapwedge*

Anybody who has ever lived can testify that unexpected stuff happens and must be dealt with. It's just part of life, and beside, that stuff is rarely a matter of life or death. So dealing with it should not be a major source of stress, but for some folks it is.

So it is with the good and great game of golf. Solid shots struck down the middle can end up in deep divots, and the difference between a fortuitous kick back into the fairway and a dastardly carom out of bounds can literally be a fraction of an inch.

Could those bored Scottish shepherds have purposely designed a game that is such a microcosm of life when first they swung staff at turd? Probably not, but that seems how it came out anyway.

Some people just can't take a setback of any kind with grace. They bitch and moan over their bad luck rather than addressing the problem, resolving it and moving on. So it is with golfers who, when confronted with a piece of misfortune, will rail against it and talk themselves out of a shot they may be fully capable of executing.

Those who do well in life because they keep setbacks in proportion and address them appropriately, probably do well on the course when the unexpected and unfortunate happens. They do the best they can, taking their medicine if necessary, and move on. They don't wallow in self-pity or let the incident affect the rest of their round and pollute the rounds of their playing companions.

Nobody is lucky or unlucky all the time. But some folks don't account for the good luck even as they keep meticulous tabs on the bad. We all know the golfer who, to hear him tell it, has never had a good break on the course in his life. Play a few rounds with this fellow and you'll see that, in reality, he is subject to one of the most fundamental laws of golf and nature—the breaks even out.

Life is can be taken too seriously, and you don't need Gapwedge to tell you that many of our fellow golfers take the game of golf way too seriously. When a positive and easygoing attitude can be taken out on the course, the golfer and his companions can experience the true pleasures of the game, and the universe can be in perfect harmony.