



**THE SEPULVEDA
EAGLE**
Sepulveda Men's Golf Club
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(818) 995-1170

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Editor: E.J. Beren (818) 438-0395
ejberen@me.com

Printer: Richie Nance (818) 422-3748
richie.nance15@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Evan Beren

We have a lot of new members so I thought that this month I would clue everyone in on tournament do's and don'ts.

You can sign up for all upcoming tournaments by following the links on the home page of our website, SMGC.ORG. Sign up early. Remember-we must reduce the number of spots we have reserved to pretty much match the number of players we expect to bring to the tournament. So when players wait until the last minute to sign up we may not have enough spots available.

When you sign up, put your comments in the comments section, such as, "early tee time", "late tee time" or "I would like to play with Santa if he signs up". If you sign up 2 or more players we will assume you want to play together. The tournament staff will try to accommodate all requests. But be warned, if you want to play early, you must keep up with the group in front of you.

On the day of the tournament, please arrive at the venue well before your tee time. Do not count of the course running behind.

You can pay all tournament fees with credit cards on line before you arrive at the venue, at the venue with a credit card, cash or check. You can also use SMGC scrip. ALL SIDE GAMES MUST BE PAID FOR IN CASH.

Please be advised that we follow all USGA Rules of Golf. Familiarize yourself with golf etiquette. Have ball markers and mark your golf ball so that you can identify it.

When your round is over, check with your playing partners to ensure that your scores have been recorded properly. Turn you completed scorecards in as soon as possible. Before going to your car, the bar or home. SMGC has a 2-stroke penalty for ALL members of any group that does not turn in their scorecards within 20 minutes of the group ahead of them.

Do not post, we will post for you.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me at ejberen@me.com or 818-438-0395.

THE NEXT TEE

By David Horwitch, Tournament Director

One month into the New Year and tournament golf is in full swing. It's time to kick the winter rust off your game and join us Sunday the 11th at Wilson.

The Thursday tournament takes us to Knollwood CC, a new course to the rotation this year. There will be only 40 spots available for this tournament, so please sign up early.

The 2018 full tournament schedule can now be viewed on the sidebar of the SMGC website.

Tournament questions and comments may be directed to dhorwitch@gmail.com

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

have been directly involved in organized golf for more than 30 years. I go far enough back to have known the giants whose names adorn the three great junior golf centers/academies in Los Angeles County (Marty Tregnan, Maggie Hathaway and Don Knabe). I go back far enough to have been directly involved in the privatization wars in the City of Los Angeles. I go back far enough to remember when times were so good that we could afford to be splintered and factionalized; we could sit in our silos and bicker over the smallest of matters.

Those days are long past, replaced by a day more characterized by Ben Franklin's admonition to hang together or surely hang separately than any of the admonitions that characterized the decades leading up to the Great Recession of 2007-2009. The good news is that many of the game's leadership organizations have gotten the message and are making common cause to meet challenges simply impossible to tackle on an individual basis.

As much as the news is good, the game needs to ramp up those collective efforts if it hopes to remain relevant at a time when it is under direct attack by much better organized and funded interests that are covetous of its land. Any activity that requires more than 100 acres of open space to satisfy the wants of a very small percentage of the population, particularly one that is caricatured as too rich and too white, is an activity that is going to have to defend its turf in the halls of public opinion and government.

Some, such as the SCGA, thoroughly understand the need to ramp it up. Those organizations are working even harder and more collaboratively to carry the game's load satisfied that the others will follow in their own time. As the SCGA's Director of Governmental Affairs I am smack in the middle of the effort and as such, keenly aware of the stakes.

That's why I am distressed that there are persons within the Golf Division and our clubs who fail to understand that we need each other as much if not more so than the game's big leadership organizations need each other. We too have to jettison our small differences in favor of a much larger common ground if we hope to fend off our external adversaries and keep the municipal game alive, well and whole in the City of Los Angeles. We too will hang together or hang separately.

I had hoped we learned that lesson in those 1990's privatization wars, when the workers and the golfers locked arms in defense of keeping public golf public in the city. But not many have been around as long as I. The club leaders of that day have been replaced multiple times, leaving today's leadership without memory of that era. It's the nature of human nature to forget and repeat the mistakes of the past.

And it's the nature of having been around for so long to remind everyone that we not only can do better; we have to do better. It's also the nature of having been around so long to recognize that admonitions and Jeremiads are never enough; action is required. So, this old fella is going to engage the MGA and the clubs (all of them – men, women, and senior at EVERY course) in an effort to sit down with Golf Division Staff and stay seated long enough to find the common ground necessary to make common cause. What divides us is minuscule compared to what unites us. If we let the dividers and nitpickers carry the day our day is over – both of our days.

2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Justin Lestrage recent win allows him to split the Watanabes for second place. Consistent winner Ben Raposas holds 4th. Still plenty of golf left for any of the top 20 to win.

Player	Winnings	Rank
Dustin Watanabe	415	1
Justin Lestrage	395	2
David Watanabe	350	3
Ben Raposas	275	4
Brian Nugent	260	5
Michael Melamed	260	5
Alfredo Picolomini	245	7
Gerard Sanders	230	8
Branden Augustus	220	9
Robert Cavanaugh	210	10
Steve Hansen	200	11
Bob McKibben	190	12
Leonid Levin	190	12
Bill Keanu	175	14
Johnathan Fernandez	170	15
Josh Eveland	170	15
Patrick Warren	155	17
Virgil Budhu	155	17
Todd Mander	145	19
Douglas Rockford	140	20
Marc Carter	140	20
Michael Radtke	140	20
Larry Staggs	135	23
Lupe Escobedo	135	23
Juan Lopez	130	25
Matt Soule	130	25
Sean Cavanaugh	130	25
Brandon Wahl	125	28
Craig Cacek	125	28
Jeff Prey	125	28
Michael Saghian	125	28
Behrouz Shafie	120	32
Richie Nance	120	32
Darrell Kato	110	34
David Horwitch	110	34
Ryan Tumulad	105	36

The complete standings can be found at WWW.SMGC.ORG

Sunday @ Harding

January 14, 2018

Format – Low Gross / Low Net**“A” Flight Low Gross**

Score	Player	Prize
73	Justin Lestrage	\$90
74	Sean Cavanaugh	\$60
76	Gerard Sanders	\$30
76	Dustin Watanabe	\$30
73	John Philipson	\$30
76	Jeff Prey	\$30

“A” Flight Low Net

68	Branden Augustus	\$90
69	Alfredo Picolomini	\$60
70	Ben Raposas	\$35
70	Richie Nance	\$35

“B” Flight Low Gross

81	Michael Radtke	\$90
85	Tommaso Trinchieri	\$50
85	Robert Glaessner	\$50
86	Brian Nugent	\$30

“B” Flight Low Net

67	Michael Melamed	\$90
72	Lupe Escobedo	\$50
72	Todd Mander	\$50
73	David Watanabe	\$25
73	Bill Anapolsky	\$25

Gross Skins \$210 each

4	Branden Augustus
7	Matt Soule
12	Ben Raposas

Net Skins \$86 each

Hole	Player
1	Ben Raposas
4	Bruce Davies
5	Michael Radtke
7	Matt Soule
8	Larry Wilson
10	Louie Rivera
14	Michael Melamed
15	Cruz Sanchez

Closest to the Pin \$95 each

4	Craig Cacek	2' 1"
13	Richie Nance	5' 5"
15	Dustin Watanabe	5' 10"

Thursday @ Woodley Lakes

January 25, 2018

Format – Low Gross / Low Net**“A” Flight Low Gross**

Score	Player	Prize
76	Bob McKibben	\$50
77	Ben Raposas	\$35
78	Richie Nance	\$25
79	Sam Weinstein	\$15
79	Ryan Tumulad	\$15

“A” Flight Low Net

66	Craig Cacek	\$50
67	Roger Horn	\$35
70	Chris Jaskiewicz	\$20
70	Sean MacDonald	\$20
70	Behrouz Shafie	\$20

“B” Flight Low Gross

76	Dan Crawford	\$50
85	Ted Johnson	\$35
86	Jeff Sable	\$20
86	Buzz Osborne	\$20

“B” Flight Low Net

68	Michael Melamed	\$45
68	Perry Melillo	\$45
68	Bruce Fortune	\$25
70	Armen Mesropian	\$15
70	Sepehr Raafat	\$15
70	Edward Licht	\$15
70	Irving Reitzenstein	\$15
70	David Watanabe	\$15
70	Paul Barrere	\$15

Gross Skins \$180 each

2	Ryan Tumulad
17	Bob McKibben

Net Skins \$94 each

Hole	Player
11	Edward Licht
13	Paul Barrere
15	Mark Vaughan
17	Bob McKibben
18	Larry Wilson

Closest to the Pin \$45 each

3	Irving Reitzenstein	7' 11"
7	Alfredo Picolomini	11' 0"
12	Sam Schatz	12' 0"
15	Laurence Silva	16' 2"

The Honey Pot was \$140

won by the teams of
Vaughan/Crawford
Crawford/Sable
and Crawford/Melamed

BACKSPIN SHOTS*by The Gapwedge*

Reading the Rules of Golf is a bit like reading the Internal Revenue Code—tough sledding and requiring a good night's sleep before and after. The Rules are a favorite of insomniacs because reading them puts them to sleep quicker than any pill.

Aside from facilitating sleep, the Rules should be studied by those who presume to play in golf competitions and don't particularly want to risk penalties that range from added strokes or loss of holes to the "death penalty," disqualification.

Some say it's not real golf unless you follow every rule to the letter. Others disregard clear rules or don't even attempt to learn them unless they run afoul of one in a competition and pay an expensive penalty, yet think of themselves as golfers and the game they play as "golf."

As members of a USGA-sanctioned golf club, we should always follow the rules as closely as possible, not because the Golf God could smite us (although it's believed to have happened), but because the handicap system needs to assume we're all playing the same game.

Having said all that, everybody knows that not every golfer joins a club and maintains an official USGA handicap. For them, the game can provide plenty of enjoyment even if they never compete in tournaments. So these folks can concoct their own rules which might bear scant resemblance to the USGA Rules of Golf. Is it wrong to refer to their activity as "golf?" Of course not!

Golf is a big tent. Within it one finds hackers, flailers, experts, rule followers, rule breakers, men, women, children, young, old, the serious, the casual, the obsessive, the athletic, couch potatoes and you-name-it. But in Gapwedge's humble opinion, the game we all play is indeed golf.

All golfers try to do the same thing: get the ball into the hole in the fewest strokes possible. That objective never changes no matter how many of golf's sacred rules might be broken in the process.

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

HANDICAP CHATTER

by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman

Most Improved Member in 2017

The highest golf course in the world is the Tactu Golf Club in Morococha, Peru , which sits 14,335 feet above sea level. We do not require our members to play in Peru to qualify for the Most Improved Member, but they do need to be a regular member and 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 2017. For a member to be considered, he needs to have been a member of SMGC for the entire year, have an index on 1/1/17 and 1/1/18 and have played at least 20 rounds in 2017.

Our 2017 SMGC Most Improved Player with an Improvement Factor of 1.338 is **Michael Collins**

Congratulations Michael, your index improved from 22.8 on 1/1/17 to 14.0 on 1/1/18. And congrats to all 65 of our members that improved their index in 2017 and played 20 or more rounds. We look forward to an even more successful 2018.