



**THE SEPULVEDA  
EAGLE**  
Sepulveda Men's Golf Club  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Evan Beren*

A new year is upon us, a chance for all of us to reflect on the highs and lows from the past year, and plan the new year. I plan to play more golf in 2018. I also plan to spend some time working on my game in hopes of bringing my bloated handicap down. SMGC will offer you plenty of opportunity to play tournament golf in 2018. As always, we will begin the year playing the City of Los Angeles's better golf courses. I am looking forward to playing at Griffith Park, which has a remodeled and updated proshop. January will also kick off 2018 team play. SCGA Saturday Team play will begin the 13th. Gary Patterson is the team captain and Bobby Cavanaugh is the co-captain so contact them to join the fun. They say an army travels on it's stomach, well, a golf club like ours travels on it's volunteers, sort of a tortured metaphor, sorry, but, it's true, every job in the club is handled by someone volunteering their time. We can always us more helping hands. Please contact me at [ejberen@me.com](mailto:ejberen@me.com) to find out more.

## THE NEXT TEE

*By David Horwitch, Tournament Director*

A New Year, a new tournament schedule. We will kick off the year in familiar territory at Harding on the 14th, and then Woodley on the 25th. The entire 2018 schedule will be up on the home page shortly. Some courses in the rotation we have not seen in a while: Tierra Rejada, Knollwood CC, Sterling Hills, and hopefully more!

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

## BACKSPIN SHOTS

*by The Gapwedge*

Is there anything quite as silly as a display of temper by a 25 handicapper after a missed shot? Intensity can be a good thing. If you don't believe that, recall a young Tiger Woods when he got that "look" in his eye.

But unlike "Mr. 25," PGA guys know how to channel their intensity to help them score, compete and win. Almost by definition, the "25" does not. At best, his display of frustration can momentarily amuse the rest of his foursome. At worst, it can distract them, and the game is pretty hard to play while distracted.

The great Ben Hogan once described golf as a game of misses. In fact, Ben claimed that he hit only one or two perfect shots in a round. What gives our "25" the notion he can expect something better?

Gapwedge is kind of old fashioned when it comes to emotional displays on the course. He doesn't care much for them. But the reality is that outward displays of emotion have crept into the game and have become a part of the landscape, like it or not. Yes, wide receivers and power forwards have left their mark on the game. The challenge is to not be distracted by the show.

If you've ever found yourself in an important golf match and felt your heart rate increase and your palms begin to perspire and if you've ever had to remind yourself to breathe as you address the ball, you can probably appreciate why staying calm might be a good way to manage the pressure.

At the higher echelons of golf, the player who can control his emotions in the heat of competition—or harness them to his advantage—gains an advantage over those of equal physical prowess who can't. In contrast, those who play a manic-depressive form of golf can be distinctly disadvantaged at crunch time.

From the Gapwedge family to yours, have a wonderful and healthy New Year including many birdies and, who knows, maybe an eagle or two.

## CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

If you're reading this column you're not part of the game's problem. You're what the industry calls an "avid" or "core" golfer. You're a member of a golf club that is part of a state or regional golf association that is a direct partner of the USGA. You play golf on a regular basis and spend roughly 75 cents of every dollar spent on the game in the United States. You buy equipment on a regular basis. You hit range balls. You take lessons from PGA Professionals. You even read golf publications – with any luck FORE magazine.

The "problem" is that there are just not as many of you as there used to be. There are still more than there were in 1980 but not as many as when the game hit its peak around 2004. Ask folks why, and you'll get a lot of answers.

Some will focus on culture. The game is too difficult, too dull, and too long for today's short attention spans and fast paced lifestyles. Some will focus on the economy. The game is much too expensive for a millennial generation burdened by student debt and limited job opportunities, and increasingly too expensive for existing golfers as operational costs continue to outpace the Consumer Price Index. Some will focus on demographics. The game's traditional adherents are waning while those not immersed in the game's traditions are waxing. Some will focus on correction. After 60 years of uninterrupted growth and success the game is recalibrating supply to meet demand. Some will focus on the computer, the centerpiece of modernity that has shifted everyone from outdoor pursuits to indoor pleasures at the expense not just of golf, but of myriad other recreational activities. Some will focus on, well, fill in the blank of whatever narrow perspective satisfies a particular prejudice.

I'm sure you have your own answer. I have mine. However, I'm sure you'll agree that there really is no one answer. All of the above has validity; all of the above has shortcomings.

But where does that leave us? Which "answer" informs us as to how to go about restoring some of the game's lost luster? Where to focus the effort? The game can't pursue all of the above, lest the effort collapse of its own unfocused weight. But it can't wallow in indecision as its fortunes continue to decline either.

I actually do have some rather focused thoughts on how to begin reversing the decline. I have spent the last year meeting regularly with representatives of the game's largest and most influential organizations in an effort called the "California Golf Industry Needs Assessment Task Force" where we are trying to do just that – assess not just what the game needs most but how to generate the resources necessary to fill those needs.

I don't have the space here to begin sharing the insights I have gained in this exercise, but I haven't gone down this road with you here just to leave you hanging. I do have one morsel to share with my fellow club members and "core" golfers, a morsel I hope the folks in the Golf Division will also take to heart.

There may be fewer of us, that's true. But that doesn't diminish our importance; it enhances it, and enhances it greatly. Golf will never regain its footing if it fails to nurture those of its adherents that spend those disproportionate dollars by playing come rain or shine, buying all that equipment, taking those lessons, and hitting all those range balls. Golf will never regain traction by ignoring its passionate adherents at the expense of its occasional adherents or diversionary activities. The game's solutions begin with its "core" players. We are the solution, not the problem.

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

Placements on the leaderboard remain largely unchanged at the top except for Brian Nugent moving up to fourth with a win at the West Coast Classic. Justin Lestrangle recent win and third place allows him to gain ground on the Watanabes but remain in third.

Player	Winnings	Rank
Dustin Watanabe	385	1
David Watanabe	310	2
Justin Lestrangle	305	3
Brian Nugent	230	4
Robert Cavanaugh	210	5
Ben Raposas	205	6
Gerard Sanders	200	7
Steve Hansen	200	7
Leonid Levin	190	9
Alfredo Piccolomini	185	10
Bill Keanu	175	11
Johnathan Fernandez	170	12
Josh Eveland	170	12
Patrick Warren	155	14
Virgil Budhu	155	14
Bob McKibben	140	16
Douglas Rockford	140	16
Marc W Carter	140	16
Larry Staggs	135	19
Branden Augustus	130	20
Juan Lopez	130	20
Matt Soule	130	20
Brandon Wahl	125	23
Michael Melamed	125	23
Michael Saghian	125	23
Darrell Kato	110	26
David Horwitch	110	26
Behrouz Shafie	100	28
George Olteanu	100	28
Mark Vaughan	100	28
Jeff Prey	95	31
Jim Thompson	95	31
Mark Kessler	95	31
Todd Mander	95	31

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

**Sunday @ Olivas Links**

December 3, 2017

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

Score	Player	Prize
75	Gerard Sanders	\$85
76	Paul Nance	\$55
77	Justin Lestrangle	\$35
78	Ben Raposas	\$25

**“A” Flight Low Net**

67	Larry Scott	\$85
70	David Horwitch	\$40
70	Pablo Rojas	\$40
70	Bob McKibben	\$40

**“A” Gross Skins \$41 each**

1	Brandon Wahl
13	Bob McKibben
14	Brandon Wahl
16	David Horwitch
17	Wayne Lura
18	David Horwitch

**“A” Net Skins \$33 each**

Hole	Player
1	Brandon Wahl
4	Keith Junior
11	Wayne Lura
13	Bob McKibben
14	Brandon Wahl
16	David Horwitch
17	Wayne Lura
18	David Horwitch

**“B” Flight Low Gross**

82	Brian Nugent	\$85
83	Buzz Osborne	\$55
84	Todd Mander	\$35
86	Dan Crawford	\$15
86	Leonid Levin	\$15
86	Lupe Escobedo	\$15
86	Larry Staggs	\$15

**“B” Flight Low Net**

67	Armen Mesropian	\$70
67	Gary Patterson	\$70
68	Gordon Seaberg	\$35
69	Paul Barrere	\$20
69	Rhoneil Santo Tomas	\$20

**“B” Gross Skins \$46 each**

1	David Patterson
2	Paul Barrere
5	Bruce Fortune
7	Michael Radtke
11	Chris Stronberg
17	Brian Nugent

**“B” Net Skins \$66 each**

2	Paul Barrere
5	Bruce Fortune
7	Michael Radtke
11	Chris Stronberg
13	Ted Johnson

**Closest to the Pin \$60 each**

5	Bruce Fortune	2' 10"
8	Ben Raposas	5' 6"
13	Ted Johnson	1' 7"
17	Bruce Fortune	4' 2"

**The Honey Pot was \$270**

won by the teams of Nichol/Santo Tomas,  
Patterson/Patterson and Horwitch/Buhdu  
with a score of 60.

**Thursday @ Encino**

December 21, 2017

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

Score	Player	Prize
71	Justin Lestrangle	\$50
76	George Villarreal	\$35
77	Ben Raposas	\$25
80	Brandon Wahl	\$15
80	Ryan Tumulad	\$15

**“A” Flight Low Net**

69	Jeff Prey	\$50
71	Richie Nance	\$30
71	Randy Hammock	\$30
72	Brent Harvey	\$15
72	Michael Lindberg	\$15

**“B” Flight Low Gross**

77	Chris Vane	\$50
82	Nick Hernandez	\$35
83	Ted Johnson	\$25
84	Tommaso Trinchieri	\$15
84	Todd Mander	\$15

**“B” Flight Low Net**

67	Steve Hansen	\$40
67	Sepehr Raafat	\$40
69	Jim Robison	\$25
70	David Watanabe	\$20

**Gross Skins \$54 each**

1	Cruz Sanchez
3	Justin Lestrangle
4	Ryan Tumulad
7	Dan Crawford
11	Paul Nance
12	Richie Nance
13	Justin Lestrangle

**Net Skins \$58 each**

Hole	Player
1	Cruz Sanchez
5	Michael Lindberg
6	Armen Mesropian
7	Dan Crawford
9	Steve Hansen
10	Paul Barrere
11	Paul Nance
12	Richie Nance

**Closest to the Pin \$50 each**

3	Brent Harvey	16' 10"
6	Armen Mesropian	4' 11"
15	Richie Nance	19' 2"
17	Sean Cavanaugh	7' 7"

**The Honey Pot was \$190**

won by the team of Crawford &  
Johnson with a score of 60.

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

# HANDICAP CHATTER

*by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman*

## Winter Rules

As the weather outside is frightful (or as close as we can get for Southern California), it is time to revisit “Winter Rules” again.

Winter rules, also known as “preferred lies,” is one of the most misunderstood concepts in golf. Winter rules refers to a practice that most recreational players take part in at some point, and that golf courses may encourage, but which few really understand. Here’s the most important thing we can tell you about winter rules, and it’s something that most golfers don’t know: Winter rules are not codified under any of the regular thirty-four Rules of Golf; instead, they are a local rule that has to be enacted before being in effect.

Nor are winter rules something that a player can declare in effect. It is something only a course, club or Committee in charge of the competition is authorized to declare. If one of those bodies has not issued a winter rules or preferred lies ruling, you may not use winter rules no matter how bad the conditions.

When winter rules are in effect, such notice should be specific. A simple and effective way of publishing such notice is a verbal or written statement, “Winter rules are in effect today according to Appendix I, ROG. One time - lift, clean and place within six inches.”

There are two principle changes in the 2004 edition of the Rules of Golf to the sample local rule:

First, there is a new requirement to mark the ball before lifting it. The penalty for failing to do so is one penalty stroke.

Prior to this rule change, players would indiscriminately move the ball around in any fashion that they wished, often referred to as “bumping the ball”. There were several problems with this practice. The player could inadvertently improve the lie of the area by such action; players often did not accurately gauge the proper distance to place the ball relative to the original location; and players were prone to bump the ball, change their mind, bump the ball to a different place, change their mind, and bump the ball to somewhere else before finally hitting the ball (contrary to the concept of placing the ball just once and having it in play).]

The requirement of marking the ball before lifting it helps eliminate these problems.

The second change relates to how the governing bodies treat the rule. Prior to 2004, the Appendix contained the strong admonition that the USGA and the R&A did not endorse “preferred lies” and “winter rules”; that such rules contravened the fundamental principle of playing the ball as it lies; and that the ruling bodies would ignore any requests for assistance in making rulings when “preferred lies” and “winter rules” were involved.

These statements have been removed as of the 2004 rules edition. Now, it is simply treated as another local rule, no different in status than any other local rule. While this detail may seem to be a very small side note, it reflects a significant change in attitude toward a practice that used to be one golf’s governing bodies thumbed their noses at.

Just remember, no golfer is required to play under winter rules. If you play a course or tournament with winter rules in effect, you could choose, rather, to play it under the Rules of Golf. If you play a round using winter rules, you must post that score - which will likely be lower than the score you would have shot without winter rules. Let it golf, let it golf, let it golf.