



March 2014

THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club
Visit our website: www.smgc.org
Encino / Balboa Starter's window
(818) 995-1170

Sepulveda Eagle is the official publication of Sepulveda Men's Golf Club and is published monthly. Copy deadline is the third Friday of each month. Send articles, comments, etc. to Editor Sepulveda Men's Golf Club, PO Box 57373, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413.

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

Printer: Rich Nance (818) 422-3748
richlaproforms@sbcglobal.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bruce Fortune

March Madness – and I'm not talking Hoops! We are getting rain, while not enough to minimize the severity of the Drought we are currently experiencing, it is still much needed relief! Keep doing those mini rain dances whenever you can – it's working. Speaking of water for the courses, Encino is finally on the mend, having gotten it's watering situation repaired. This past month's MGA event had us playing Hansen Dam on Encino, and with the exception of the very slow, furry greens, the fairways are returning to much more playable conditions. We'll continue to ask for GUR marking of the remaining bare dirt areas whenever we're playing one of our events.

Despite a fine 'Esprit de Corps' and great team management by Gary Patterson, Tommaso Trinchieri, and Evan Beren, SMGC never managed to brake through into the winner's circle in the 6 weeks of competition for the Winter SCGA Sat Team Play. Gary has asked me to give a shout out to the team's point leaders – Brian Czerniak and Sean MacDonald. Well done!

As for the SCGA Saturday Team members, thanks to everyone who participated in the lengthy drives to Miles Square, Lakewood and Los Verdes, along with turning out for the events here at home. That list includes, Evan Beren, Virgil Budhu, Bob Cavanaugh, Vinod Chhabra, Brian Czerniak, John Folsom, Everardo Gomez, Bruce Fortune, Steven Fox, Andy Levine, Phil Kapsimalis, Dan Longmire, Sean MacDonald, Bob McKibben, Dan Mellilo, Mike Nichol, Brian Nugent, John Overmeyer, Jeff Sable, Larry Scott, Alan Stewart, Mark Vaughan. We'll regroup and take it to them next year!

Mike Levy continues his quest to bring our Trophies up to date and we're now the proud and happy owners of updated Championship, President's Cup and Goeckner Trophies. Take a peek next time you're passing by the display case on the way to the Starters window.

Just a reminder – **POST YOUR SCORES** – Practice rounds, Skins Games, 9 Holes, whatever – In order to keep our Equitable Stroke Control / GHIN Handicaps honest and competitive, you must post your games. The club will continue to post your Tournament Scores – including SCGA Saturday Team Play but everything else is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. We do not take kindly to reports of players who are out there playing but failing to post.

THE NEXT TEE

Upcoming Tournament Notes from Evan Beren, Tournament Director

On Sunday, March 9th we play a course that we have not played lately, Mountain Meadows. First tee time is 10:00 AM. Tournament fee is \$75.00, includes carts and range balls. Room for just 60 players, this will sell out, so sign up today.

Our Thursday, March 27th tournament has us unofficially kicking off our Major Championship Season on Balboa Golf Course. This is a good chance to get in a practice round for the Senior Championship in April. First tee time is 8:00 AM, cost is \$40.00, carts and range balls are extra. Seniors pay the day of the event and save!

For information on any of our tournaments contact Evan Beren, ejberen@me.com or 818-438-0395

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

At long last the GBAS has arrived – the “Golf Business Analysis Section” that is. Regular readers of this column know what that means. For those of you with better things to do with your time than follow the slowly grinding wheels of the city bureaucracy, let me explain.

A few years ago the city retained a consultant to review city golf operations and issue recommendations about what might be done to improve things. To make an agonizingly long story mercifully short, that consultant suggested that while the city did certain things well – e.g., maintenance of the golf courses – it did not possess the skill or experience levels to perform certain tasks central to the success of modern municipal golf business operations, among them the following: Strategic planning; Long-term capital reinvestment strategies, marketing/advertising; revenue enhancement, information systems, and basic business planning/analysis.

After months of internal vetting, punctuated by both public and Golf Advisory Committee comment, the city resolved to cure these deficiencies by hiring another consultant – not just any consultant but a substantial firm capable of working with Golf Operations on an ongoing, hands-on basis for at least 3 years.

The firm selected was Global Golf Advisors (GGA). I know the company’s principals and can testify to their expertise in all phases of the golf business. I can also testify to their ability to work with people and institutions in tough situations. And when an outside group is asked to come aboard to “cure deficiencies,” this is by definition always a “tough situation.”

The Golf Advisory Committee has been asked to suggest which among the broad tasks in the scope of work ought to take priority, and it has been asked to recommend the most efficient way to incorporate its input as GGA moves through each of the envisaged job orders. Interestingly, the Advisory Meeting where this was all spelled out was attended by two representatives of the Mayor’s Office, which lent considerable credibility and heft to both the overall process in general and the incorporation of the Golf Advisory Committee’s participation in specific. There is no doubt that from the start of this process to what would now appear to be the finish, or at least the beginning of a successful end phase, the Golf Advisory Committee’s position in city golf has been considerably elevated. That is what happens when advisory bodies conduct themselves intelligently, patiently and productively. Need I add that the opposite result ensues when such bodies act otherwise.

And I forgot to mention that the city has decided to bring back the old red, white and blue flags to denote hole locations. We can’t always focus on the big matters; the small stuff matters too.

2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Bruce Fortune, President.....	(818) 535-4900
Evan Beren, Vice-President.....	(818) 438-0395
Tommy Eunice, Secretary.....	(626) 278-0372
Dan Crawford, Treasurer.....	(818) 497-6617

Directors

Evan Beren, Tournament Director.....	(818) 438-0395
Everardo Gomez.....	(818) 429-4664
Craig Kessler, SGCA Dir. - Gov’t Affairs.....	(310) 941-4803
Mike Levy, Trophies.....	(818) 761-7650
Mark Michelini, President’s Cup/Goeckner.....	(818) 355-6492
Rich Nance, Eagle Publisher.....	(818) 422-3748
Stu Olster, Handicap.....	(818) 222-2516
Gary Patterson, Entertainment Director.....	(310) 980-4427
Alan Stewart, Membership.....	(818) 633-3105
Tommaso Trinchieri.....	(949) 231-0097

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

Standings as of December 27, 2013

Runs through June 2014

We’ll be changing the OOH starting July 2014.

The new name will be “Ed Cohn Trophy” and the ranking will be based on a calculation similar to a Quarterback rating in the NFL.

This will allow players in as few as 5 tournaments to be competitive all year.

Player	Points	Ranking
Ben Raposas	725	1
Brain Nelson	520	2
Johnathan Fernandez	490	3
Andy Levine	490	3
Farhad Keliddari	480	5
Anthony Bermel	465	6
Armen Mesropian	465	6
Dan Crawford	455	8
Michael Melamed	450	9
Tranquilino Bangis	445	10
Gene Vano	445	10
Brad Marks	420	12
Jason Petterson	410	13
Dustin Watanabe	410	13
Brian Czerniak	400	15
Ryan Tumulad	395	16
Randy Hammock	390	17
Bob McKibben	380	18
Alan Stewart	370	19
Dennis Harmon	355	20
Vinay Chhabra	345	21
Laurence Silva	345	21
Butch Chase	325	23
Marc Carter	320	24
Victor Cervantes	315	25
Marc Cohen	310	26
Mike Levy	310	26
Jeff Sable	310	26
Roger Ikeda	305	29
Bill Anapolsky	295	30

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

Sunday - Harding

February 9, 2014

Format – Low Gross / Low Net

“A” Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
75	Dustin Watanabe	\$55
75	David Longmire	\$55
77	Bill Brandel	\$15
77	Gerard Sanders	\$15
77	Russel Kotzen	\$15
77	Beerli Meza	\$15

“A” Flight Low Net

70	Everardo Gomez	\$55
70	Martin Zaleya	\$55
72	Bob McKibben	\$30
74	Jay Baca	\$20

“B Flight” Low Gross

81	Vinod Chhabra	\$65
82	Sean MacDonald	\$45
84	Leonard Zambito	\$30
85	Alan Stewart	\$20

“B Flight” Low Net

69	David Horwitch	\$65
71	Ted Johnson	\$45
73	Hadi Morshed	\$30
75	Roger Ikeda	\$20

“C Flight” Low Gross

87	Bob Surbeck	\$55
87	Gurpreet Toor	\$55
90	Mark Vaughan	\$30
92	Virgil Budhu	\$15
92	Kenneth Gillespie	\$15
92	Armen Mesropian	\$15

“C Flight” Low Net

71	Tal Almquist	\$65
72	George Olteanu	\$35
72	Daniel Sniegowski	\$35
74	Sepehr Raafat	\$20

Gross Skins \$83 each

Hole	Player
2	Martin Zaleya
3	Dustin Watanabe
4	Bill Brandel
6	Kyle Bermel
7	Henry Hernandez
10	Marc Green
11	Bob McKibben
15	Michael Radtke

Net Skins \$128 each

Hole	Player
2	Martin Zaleya
3	Charles MacDonald
6	Kyle Bermel
8	Daniel Longmire
11	Bob McKibben
13	Gurpreet Toor

Closest to the Pin \$130 each

3	Dustin Watanabe	7' 6"
11	David Longmire	10' 10"
15	Mark Reed	11' 1"

The Honey Pot was \$600, won by the teams of Johnson/Snieganski, Melamed/Horwitch and Zambito/Morshed with 62s.

MGA Highlights

By Pete Heller

SEPULVEDA TURNS IT AROUND - RIPS HANSEN DAM TWICE SENIORS STEADY PLAY BESTS WOODLEY LAKES

The Sepulveda Mens Club won an amazing 10 out of 12 matches to smash Hansen Dam 51-21 and 26-10. It was good to see Len Zambito back out there leading his troops while picking up 12 points in the process.

John Lanza's Senior Club won two from Woodley Lakes with convincing wins of 41-31 and 21-15. Perhaps The Sepulveda Seniors win over Rancho Park last month was no fluke and they will be tough to beat all year.

Griffith Park smashed reeling Rancho 44-28 and 23-13. Hey, GP, It was a nice win, but you really don't want to make these guys mad.

Sepulveda Men's Match Winners

Individual:

George Bryson, Butch Chase, Len Zambito, Mike Levy, Alfred Picolomini, Pete Ruiz, Jason Peterson, Marc Green, Bruce Fortune and George Beams.

Two Man:

Peterson/Bryson, Zambito/Fortune, Green/Picolomini, Chase/Vano and Levy/Radtke

Sepulveda Senior's Match Winners

Individual:

Mo Hurley, Taira Kato, Alan Lipsky, Ron Abramson, Andy Levine and Ed Krojansky

Two Man:

Abramson/Krojansky, Hurley/Levine, Cornner/Lanza, Epstein/Kato

Standings	W	L	T	Points
SepulvedaSeniors	4	0	0	8
Griffith Park	4	0	0	8
Woodley Lakes	2	2	0	4
Sepulveda Mens	2	2	0	4
Hansen Dam	0	4	0	0
Rancho Park	0	4	0	0

Next Matches - February 20, 2014

Rancho Park vs Woodley Lakes
Sepulveda Seniors vs Sepulveda Mens
Griffith Park vs Hansen Dam

Thursday - Hansen Dam

February 28, 2014

Format – Low Gross / Low Net

Coming soon!

HANDICAP CHATTER

by Stu Olster, Handicap Chairman

Some golfers like to maintain a generous handicap and regard their club's handicap committee as a vigilante group always looking for ways to cut it. As our Club's very long-standing handicap chairman, I can tell you that is an utterly false view.

A golf club's handicap committee is where the rubber meets the road, and is the first recourse for club members with questions or problems concerning their handicaps. It is charged with carrying out the mandates of the SCGA and the USGA to assure, to the extent possible, that its members' USGA-sanctioned handicap indexes are reflective of their playing potential and that the proverbial playing field is as level as possible. Strict adherence to these organizations' guidelines makes our handicap indexes portable, meaning they are designed to be accepted in competitions everywhere, or so goes the theory.

It is true that our more controversial handicap decisions involve the reduction of a member's index, but we sometimes make index adjustments in the upward direction. The most common reasons for that are injury, rehab from surgery and the like. The committee monitors all modified indexes and can adjust them back immediately when the disability ceases to be a factor or other considerations so dictate.

The Committee bends over backward to be fair so before we implement handicap index reductions, we contact the members involved and offer them the opportunity, if they wish, to tell us why their indexes should not be changed. We have all the discretion we need to make any adjustments to carry out our duties, something I view as a saving grace of the system.

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

HOLE'S IN ONE CLUB

George Beams, playing at beautiful Woodley Lakes course, aced the 7th hole with a 5-iron.

Sam Shatz, with his trusty 3 iron, holed it out on the 15th hole at Encino in the Saturday skins game.

BACKSPIN SHOTS

by The Gapwedge

Gapwedge and his men recently followed assorted ducks, geese and mudhens around Woodley Lakes. As we hacked our way around the course, our feathered friends left their calling cards everywhere. Don't even bother to say, "Watch your step!" to your buddy; there's no way to avoid it completely. Just try not to slip on it and fall into it.

None of that stuff can really be blamed on the Rec and Parks Golf Division. If there were a way to do that, Gapwedge would! No, the bird droppings are artifacts of nature, well beyond the control of the Rec and Parks Golf Division and its maintenance staff. Anyway a hydrochloric acid bath is all your shoes need to dissolve and remove the gooey substance that has hardened into green concrete in and around your softspikes.

What we may be able to put at the Golf Division's doorstep is the unbelievably poor job of marshaling the course (and the fictional 6-minute tee time interval), both of which made for a 15 minute tee off delay plus a 5 ½ hour round at Woodley. As we stood on the 15th tee, we could see the vacant 17th and 18th fairways just as the next group finished the 16th. If there was a marshal on the course that day, he just may have been able to help close that gap, but alas, one rarely sees a marshal on our Valley courses lately.

All this concern about slow play seems a little absurd when our courses don't use marshals to do what marshals are supposed to do: mainly see to it that the course moves along. Oh, the 6-minute tee time interval? We'll talk about that fairy tale another time.