



THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club
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March 2016

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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Evan Beren

The first two months of the year are in the books, and we are still hoping for a little more rain. El Nino has been pretty much kept out of Southern California by a ridge of high pressure, which makes for nice weather, but we need the rain.

We are moving into the busiest time of the golfing season. The City of Los Angeles holds its Junior Championship March 19th through the 21st. Gene Vano heads up the volunteer team at Sepulveda and always needs a few more good men and women to help out; contact Gene at 818-703-0749 to get more information. The littlest guys and girls play at the Los Feliz Par 3 course. The "in-betweeners" play here at Sepulveda. The Championship flight plays at Wilson and Harding in Griffith Park. Contact Branden Augustus at 818-246-1699 to volunteer at Los Feliz or Wilson/Harding.

SMGC's major season starts in April with the Senior Championship. In May we move on to the John C. Palumbo Memorial Classic, which will be held at River Ridge's Victoria Lakes Golf Course (Oxnard) this year. We wrap up the 2015/2016 championship year in June with the big one – The Club Championship.

As always, a big thank you to the people that help with the tournaments. David Horwitch does most of the administration, and he always helps out on tournament days. Dan Crawford runs the check-in process at our Thursday events. Tommaso Trinchieri prints the scorecards. This month a special thank you to our Honorary Tournament Volunteer Paula Captol, who come in to collect the scorecards at Wilson on February 14. If you would like to help out at one of our tournaments and see what it looks like behind the curtain call or email me, the information is below.

For Questions or comments contact me at ejberen@me.com or 818-438-0395

THE NEXT TEE

David Horwitch, Tournament Director

A sure fire way to bring some rain? Play Hansen Dam in March, where we will be Sunday the 13th. For three straight years this tournament has brought us light showers. Last year we still played with close to a full field.

Our Thursday tournament, the 24th, will take us home to Encino for the first time this year. This tournament will also provide a great opportunity for our Seniors to prepare for their Championship in April.

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

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

Everyone knows that Los Angeles Water & Power has proposed a 5-year package of “healthy” water rate increases – at least everyone who lives in the city and gets their water from LADWP. What you may not know is that buried in that package is a whopping increase for parks, schools and other large publicly owned parcels. And by “whopping” I mean a 400% increase in the next 5 years.

The City of Los Angeles has been giving huge price breaks to publicly owned green spaces for some years. A municipally owned golf course, whether publicly managed as in the city or privately managed as in the county, is a “publicly owned green space” for the purpose of the price break. But under threat of a Proposition 218 lawsuit, LADWP has been forced to propose a 5-year phase out of the preference. By definition, a price break given one class of customer requires that other classes pay rates higher than their cost of service provision; such is the nature of a subsidy in a cost recovery system mandated by law to be just that – cost recovery and no more than cost recovery. But Proposition 218 defines as a tax any water rate that charges a class of customer more than it costs the provider to deliver it. Bye-bye parkland preference.

The good news for the city golf system is that by operation of that same Proposition 218 admonition against charging fees in excess of costs of service provision, the rates for recycled water must be lowered. Given that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the city golf system is now irrigated by recycled water, soon to be in excess of 80% once Harbor Park is hooked up in the next 18 months, the golf enterprise fund won't be much affected if affected at all. Chalk one up for the Department's prescience in focusing so much effort on securing recycled water access for our golf courses!

The same cannot be said for our Recreation and Parks Department. Unless the City Council makes provision therefore through the budget process, the Department that is home to our golf system will be under water. Excuse the pun, but the damage will be akin to a colossal flood. And that won't be good for the Department's golf system, no matter how financially separate it may be. And it won't be good for the quality of life for those of us who live, work and play in the nation's 2nd largest city either.

I'd like to offer that the Council would never permit such an outcome. But given what I've seen in recent years, I wouldn't count on that. As Los Angeles County begins preparing a huge park bond act for the 2018 ballot, a bond envisaged to include golf course projects, it would behoove the Department of Recreation and Parks and the vast array of groups and interests that make use of the Department's offerings and services to coalesce around a parallel city bond. Or perhaps emulate what library devotees did a few years ago and sponsor an initiative that would raise the percentage the Department receives from the city's annual property tax take from $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent to $\frac{1}{2}$ of one percent.

2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Results as of 2 March, 2016

Josh is still the lead. Hadi remains in second. Plenty of golf left for others to take some top spots.

Player	Points
Josh Eveland	505
Hadi Morshed	480
Brian Czerniak	455
Michael Melamed	390
Armen Mesropian	340
Sean Cavanaugh	330
Steven Fox	325
Ted Johnson	310
Bruce Davies	300
Robert Glaessner	300
Ben Raposas	275
Bob McKibben	190
Bruce Fortune	190
Gary Patterson	185
Roger Ikeda	185
Sean MacDonald	185
Dan Crawford	175
Dustin Watanabe	175
Michael Saghian	175
Brandon Wahl	170
Mark Vaughan	170
Tommaso Trinchieri	170
Justin Butler	165
Mark Galper	160
Brian Nugent	155
Gerard Sanders	155
Farhad Keliddari	150
David Horwitch	145
Gene Vano	145
Louie Rivera	145
George Olteanu	140
Matt Soule	140
Leonard Zambito	135
Ryan Tumulad	130

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

Valentine's Day Romp @ Wilson

Sunday, February 14, 2016

Format – Low Gross / Low Net

“A” Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
74	Gerard Sanders	\$80
76	Russel Kotzen	\$55
77	Sean Cavanaugh	\$35
83	Ben Raposas	\$25

“A” Flight Low Net

71	Michael Kawase	\$80
72	Leonard Zambito	\$55
73	Phil Kapsimallis	\$35
76	Behrouz Shafie	\$25

“B Flight” Low Gross

83	Michael Melamed	\$80
88	Tommaso Trinchieri	\$55
90	Buzz Osborne	\$35
91	Leonid Levin	\$20
91	Ray Hassanlou	\$20

“B Flight” Low Net

70	Louie Rivera	\$70
70	Mark Vaughan	\$70
74	Greg Zopko	\$35
76	Tal Almquist	\$25

Gross Skins \$156 each

Hole	Player
2	Michael Kawase
6	Sean Cavanaugh
17	Ben Raposas

Net Skins \$104 each

Hole	Player
2	Michael Kawase
4	Michael Melamed
9	Bryan Nichols
13	Ray Hassanlou
16	Gerard Sanders

Closest to the Pin \$85 each

3	Liam Cavanaugh	14' 11"
11	Dan Crawford	1' 10"
15	Mark Vaughan	3' 4"

The Honey pot was \$400, won by the teams of Melamed/Wahl and Melamed/Nugent with scores of 62.

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

BACKSPIN SHOTS

by The Gapwedge

Arnold Palmer's swing looked completely different than Jack Nicklaus' which looked much different than Craig Stadler's which looked very different than Steve Elkington's which looked way different than Chi Chi Rodriguez' which looked completely different than Tom Purtzer's, etc., and so on.

A long time ago a very enlightening article appeared in Golf Digest. It consisted of photo sequences of the swings of 27 touring pros, including the above-named. One could easily see the differences in their backswings, shoulder turn, follow-through, hip speed and other elements of their individual swings, BUT in that critical area from about a foot before contact, all of these accomplished pros were in exactly the same position—weight transferred to the front side, head behind the ball with eyes right on it, in perfect balance and the clubhead squaring up nicely.

Gapwedge can't swing like Ernie Els because he's much older and has a slightly different body type, but he can work to get into the correct position in the critical hitting zone. Golf Digest should repeat the article using the idiosyncratic swings of some of the young tour phenoms for the comparison. Interesting stuff!

MGA Results

Thursday - February 18, 2016

Sepulveda Men's Match Winners

Individual:

Len Zambito, George Bryson,
Al Picolomini, Gene Vano,
Bruce Fortune and Armen Mesropian

Two Man:

Zambito/Bryson,
Picolomini/Vano, Chhabra/Fox

Standings	W	L	T	Points
Hansen Dam	4	0	0	8
Rancho Park	3	1	0	6
Griffith Park	3	1	0	6
Sepulveda Mens	2	2	0	4
Sepulveda Seniors	0	4	0	0
Woodley Lakes	0	4	0	0

Next Matches: March 17, 2016

Woodley Lakes Leap

Thursday - February 25, 2016

Format – Low Gross / Low Net

“A” Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
73	Bobby Cavanaugh	\$40
75	Jason Petterson	\$25
75	Ryan Tumulad	\$25

“A” Flight Low Net

65	Brian Nugent	\$40
68	Ben Raposas	\$25
68	Farhad Keliddari	\$25

“B Flight” Low Gross

83	Michael Melamed	\$40
85	Bruce Fortune	\$30
87	Tommaso Trinchieri	\$20

“B Flight” Low Net

65	Daniel Sniegowski	\$40
66	Michael Teague	\$30
67	Sepehr Raafat	\$20

Gross Skins \$70 each

Hole	Player
10	Jason Petterson
11	Gurpreet Toor
17	Ben Raposas
18	Ryan Tumulad

Net Skins \$390 each

Hole	Player
2	Jeff Sable

Closest to the Pin \$47 each

3	Everardo Gomez	11' 1"
7	Joe Radford	7' 8"
12	Gene Vano	9' 0"
15	Michael Melamed	5' 1"

The Honey pot was \$260

won by the team of
Melamed/Sniegowski
with a score of 59



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.

HANDICAP CHATTER

by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman

Reprint from Handicap Chatter March 2011 by Stu Olster

If the USGA handicap system is to work as designed, we are required to try to shoot the best score possible every time out. This makes sense if the handicap system is to test the player's scoring potential, which is essentially what handicaps are supposed to do. But wait! How does this play out in real life?

Many golfers, myself included, post lots of scores made in informal match play. As experienced match players know, there are times when one must execute a low percentage shot to salvage a hole. Under those — do or die circumstances the player's score, should he fail, is irrelevant.

In stroke play it's rarely wise to attempt low percentage shots because, unlike match play, the player can shoot himself out of the competition on a single hole. So it appears that out on the course, a proper strategy in match play can come into conflict with the "best score" mandate.

Informal or casual rounds can be a testing ground for "creative" shots and experimentation. These challenges can increase the enjoyment of the game but rarely do they yield the best possible score.

These scenarios are to be distinguished from intentionally inflating scores to game the handicap system. That is flat out cheating.