



March 2017

# 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*

February has been about rain, rain, and more rain. Some of our courses have taken a real beating. Trees are down, fairways are soaked, and let's not even talk about the bunkers. But soon spring will be here, and the courses will certainly be a deep shade of green.

Remember, you can now use scrip to pay for your tournament fees. Just sign the back of the scrip, and write the name and date of the tournament. If you have a balance you can pay it with cash, a credit card or a check for you old-fashioned types. When your scrip has a balance, we will issue new scrip; it will be available at the next tournament.

As a member of the SMGC you are also a member of the SCGA, which allows you to play in their Member Outing Program. They offer the opportunity to play courses you might not ordinarily be able to play, such as Old Ranch Country Club, Valencia Country Club, Spanish Hills Country Club, and many others. Check out the offerings at [www.scga.org](http://www.scga.org).

April kicks off SMGC's Major Championship season with the Senior Championship, followed by the John C. Palumbo Memorial in May and finally the 62nd Annual Club Championship in June. Don't forget that you have to qualify to compete in these tournaments. You can find all the information you need on our website at [www.smgc.org](http://www.smgc.org).

## THE NEXT TEE

*David Horwitch, Tournament Director*

To open March, we bring a hundred players to Hansen Dam this Sunday. A hundred, some said it wasn't possible, but they don't know the power of the Cavanaugh name.

I expect slightly less than a hundred on Thursday the 23rd at Balboa, but maybe you'll surprise me.

For those that have noticed, the 2017 Tournament Schedule is now on the side bar of the website. There are still a few spots to fill, but the wheels are in motion. There is one date I want to note. Sunday, September 10th we will be playing the Ojai Valley Inn course for the first time. It's a beautiful and challenging course, and we will be able to play at a significant discount. If anyone is interested in staying at the hotel for an overnight trip, email me and we may be able to get a discounted rate.

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

## CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

I don't know about you, but I've been counting the days until I can phone in for a tee time on a city course and not have to endure that guy with the New "Joisy" accent. More specifically, I've been looking forward to the day when the City of Los Angeles has a modern Internet Reservation system that can act as a platform for the suite of services typical of the best modern municipal golf programs – e.g., dynamic pricing, E-mail offers, affinity programs, club information, ancillary services, and of course, the ability to seamlessly and quickly access all of the tee sheets on all of the city's golf courses.

Those of you who pay attention to these matters know that just such a modern system is one of the chief recommendations of the high priced consultants who wrote that massive Strategic Plan last year. It's the only way to perform many if not most of the marketing schemes suggested as central to driving the rounds and revenue necessary to generate enough dollars to finance the huge backlog of capital improvements also identified in the Strategic Plan. Indeed, if there is one overarching theme of that Plan it is the need to generate that liquidity; it is how the Strategic Plan defines sustainability. Merely covering operational expenses is not enough.

So what's the delay? Why hasn't the city moved to secure this modern system? Well, the Department has actually made multiple efforts to do just that, but it has been hampered by the usual suspect – politics. The effort to conduct an expedited internal process was thwarted by one of the companies that didn't receive the expedited nod last year, necessitating the issuance of an RFP. And that issuance was delayed by the City Attorney's determination that the current Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners could be construed as biased in favor one of the prospective proposers – an appearance of a conflict of interest if not an actual conflict of interest.

Thus, the matter was turned over to the Board of Referred Powers, a 5-member group of City Council Members appointed by and Chaired by City Council President Herb Wesson, which will now act in lieu of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners for the remainder of the process. Upon completion of the RFP evaluation process the Board of Referred Powers will consider the General Manager's recommended vendor and take whatever action it deems appropriate, which can mean ratification of that recommendation, the selection of another company, or the rejection of all proposals.

The good news is that the Board of Referred Powers has sanctioned the issuance of the RFP; the process has started. The bad news is that the process has already been highly politicized, and that can mean delay or even failure as the proposers fight it out using every tool at their disposal, including the retention of lobbyists. "Delay" is bad enough; we really need this new system! But "failure?" I don't want to contemplate that just now. Let's hope that the process is conducted as cleanly as it is smoothly and we get a good vendor in place well before we ring in 2018.

It's never easy in the City of Los Angeles.

## 2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Ben Raposas holds second place after Armen takes the top of the leader board. Places 2 through 6 are very close. Did we get enough rain to drown the gophers?

Player	Winnings	Rank
Armen Mesropian	525	1
Ben Raposas	445	2
Virgil Budhu	375	3
Matt Soule	355	4
Danny Longmire Jr.	345	5
Erik Rogers	320	6
George Olteanu	320	6
David Longmire	270	8
Craig Cacek	265	9
Dustin Watanabe	265	9
David Gilbreath	255	11
Todd Mander	245	12
David Horwitch	235	13
David Watanabe	215	14
Johnathan Fernandez	210	15
Mark Kessler	205	16
Patrick Warren	195	17
Ryan Tumalad	175	18
Mark Vaughan	170	19
Sean Cavanaugh	170	19
Bruce Davies	165	21
Daniel Sniegowski	165	21
Justin Butler	160	23
Michael Levy	160	23
Gerard Sanders	150	25
Dan Crawford	145	26
Tommaso Trinchieri	145	26
Larry Scott	140	28
Jason Petterson	135	29
Mark Reed	135	29
Dan Melillo	130	31

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

**Thursday @ Rancho Park**

January 26, 2017

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

Score	Player	Prize
71	Sean Cavanaugh	\$45
71	Danny Longmire Jr.	\$45
74	David Longmire	\$20
74	Dustin Watanabe	\$20

**“A” Flight Low Net**

70	Craig Cacek	\$50
71	Mike Nichol	\$30
71	Ryan Tumulad	\$30
74	Bobby Cavanaugh	\$20

**“B Flight” Low Gross**

83	Mitchell Weiner	\$50
88	Steve Hansen	\$35
93	Johnathan Fernandez	\$25
94	Damian O’Hare	\$20

**“B Flight” Low Net**

69	Armen Mesropian	\$50
73	Daniel Sniegowski	\$35
75	Greg Zopko	\$25
77	David Patterson	\$15
77	Allan Lipsky	\$15
77	David Watanabe	\$15

**Gross Skins \$75 each**

Hole	Player
3	Ryan Tumulad
5	Vinod Chhabra
7	Sean Cavanaugh
11	Ryan Tumulad

**Net Skins \$51 each**

Hole	Player
5	Vinod Chhabra
9	Mitchell Weiner
11	Ryan Tumulad
12	Armen Mesropian
13	Steve Hansen
16	David Watanabe
18	David Patterson

**Closest to the Pin \$40 each**

3	Sean Cavanaugh	11’ 4”
8	David Longmire	7’ 5”
12	Armen Mesropian	6’ 5”
16	Craig Cacek	2’ 3”

**The Honey pot was \$160**

Winners are Nichol/Chhabra and Zopko/Weiner with 64s

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

**Sunday @ Harding**

February 12, 2017

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

Score	Player	Prize
73	Gerard Sanders	\$80
75	Mark Kessler	\$55
76	Danny Longmire Jr.	\$35
76	David Longmire	\$35
77	Josh Eveland	\$20

**“A” Flight Low Net**

69	Larry Scott	\$75
69	Steven Fox	\$75
70	David Horwitch	\$40
71	Darrell Kato	\$30
72	Bob McKibben	\$20

**“B Flight” Low Gross**

85	Louie Rivera	\$80
89	Damian O’Hare	\$50
89	Tommaso Trinchieri	\$50
90	Patrick Warren	\$25
90	Mitchell Weiner	\$25

**“B Flight” Low Net**

73	George Olteanu	\$75
73	Armen Mesropian	\$75
74	Leonid Levin	\$40
75	James Hahn	\$25
75	Anthony Zaccaro	\$25

**Gross Skins \$213 each**

Hole	Player
4	Virgil Budhu
5	Alfredo Piccolomini
9	Gerard Sanders

**Net Skins \$146 each**

Hole	Player
4	Virgil Budhu
9	Gerard Sanders
10	Cruz Sanchez
12	Larry Scott
18	Gordon Seaberg

**Closest to the Pin \$110 each**

5	Mark Kessler	4’ 11”
13	Rhoneil Santo Tomas	4’ 10”
15	Bruce Fortune	3’ 6”

**The Honey pot was \$430**

won by the team of Lopez/Rojas with 63.

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

**Thursday @ Woodley**

February 23, 2017

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

Score	Player	Prize
76	Dustin Watanabe	\$45
78	Ryan Tumulad	\$30
82	Mark Kessler	\$20

**“A” Flight Low Net**

69	Bobby Cavanaugh	\$45
73	Bob McKibben	\$30
74	David Horwitch	\$20

**“B Flight” Low Gross**

83	Johnathan Fernandez	\$45
88	Jeff Sable	\$30
89	Todd Mander	\$20

**“B Flight” Low Net**

72	Henry Young	\$45
74	Gordon Seaberg	\$30
76	Joe Radford	\$15
76	Michael Melamed	\$15

**Gross Skins \$72 each**

Hole	Player
6	Matt Soule
7	Tony Curran
8	Dustin Watanabe
11	David Horwitch

**Net Skins \$90 each**

Hole	Player
6	Matt Soule
8	Dustin Watanabe
11	David Horwitch
16	Johnathan Fernandez

**Closest to the Pin \$35 each**

3	Dustin Watanabe	11’ 7”
7	Jeff Sable	4’ 0”
12	Todd Mander	9’ 0”
15	Todd Mander	16’ 6”

**The Honey pot was \$270**

won by the team of Cavanaugh & Seaberg with a 64.

## HANDICAP CHATTER

by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman

### Winter Rules

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. There is one practical drawback to winter rules. Section 7 of the USGA Handicap System Manual addresses winter rules, and stipulates that rounds played under winter rules shall be posted for handicap purposes. 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. You are therefore artificially lowering your handicap by using winter rules.

The choice is yours. It is not mandatory to take advantage of winter rules, or preferred lies, when the local rule is in effect. You are entitled to take advantage of the rule if it is in effect, but you are also entitled to play the ball as it lies, if you prefer playing the game in the traditional fashion. No golfer is required to play under winter rules. If you play a course with winter rules in effect, you could choose, rather, to play it under the Rules of Golf.

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## BACKSPIN SHOTS

by The Gapwedge

If you’ve played golf for more than a couple of months, you’re probably aware that golfers’ games run hot and cold. If timing is critical in real estate investment or stock trading, it’s everything in golf. Competing when your game is in high gear puts you in a position to win. Winning during a slump is as rare as hens’ teeth.

Confidence is a big part of playing well, but the confidence a guy gets from stringing together a few good rounds is so fragile, it can be shattered by a bad round or even a single blown shot. Who hasn’t experienced the feeling that, “Now I got it!” only to go out and thrash around like a fool? As one sage put it, “One never owns his golf game; he only rents it.”

That doesn’t mean the golfer can’t experience real improvement, but it takes a different magnitude of effort than most of us are accustomed to expending. But even if one achieves the next plateau, he can expect his game to have its ups and downs, albeit at a higher level and within a narrower range than before.

Gapwedge recalls that during his own periods of improvement, his expectations of his performance increased in a subtle, almost subconscious, way. The player who holds himself to a higher standard—for example hitting that part of the fairway that gives him the best angle to the flag, rather than just hitting the fairway—is on his way to mastering this very difficult and challenging game. On the other hand, low standards can make for mediocre golf and little improvement.

“But, Gapwedge,” you might say, “Don’t standards that are too high for one’s skill level only lead to frustration?” Sure they do. That’s why you need to be realistic in setting your standards and goals. Golf instructors, driving ranges and practice greens are always there for the guy who wants to elevate his standards and have a realistic chance of meeting them.