



THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club
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May 2014

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 Bruce Fortune

The merry, merry month of May starts off with our second Major, the John C Palumbo Memorial, Sunday, 5/4 at Robinson Ranch. We are sold out, with 80 players! We are going to make reservations for more players next year!

As with every tournament, PACE OF PLAY is everyone's responsibility. The ability to play at any golf course will only be afforded us if we are respectful of their desired POP. To that end, we are still enforcing the 20 Minute Rule – Your group must turn in their scorecards within 20 mins of the group in front of you – or suffer the 2-stroke penalty for all 4 players (added to your gross scores). At the Palumbo Practice Tournament, 4/24, we had several groups show up 45 mins. after the majority of the groups were in. We have been given a modified shotgun start, which means the Robinson Ranch members and the public tee off after us – slow play is simply not acceptable. Please review the Pace of Play suggestions available on the USGA website. We have done very well up until this point. Let's all work to get SMGC back on track. I should also remind you that we are an entirely VOLUNTEER organization. Evan Beren and his 'helpers' are there before you arrive and cannot leave until the last player is in. This is very nearly always a 7-8 hour day for them. Try to get to your ball, hit and THEN help look for errant shots. If all the players in the group watch all of the tee shots, you can USE the 'point of entry' rule for dropping a ball and playing on. It's very likely any ball not visible from the fairway, once found, won't be playable.

Looking back at April, we had the Seniors Championship. As our first Major Tournament of the 2014 Season, it was exciting to see Gerard Sanders repeat as A Flight Gross winner, with Roger Ikeda winning A Flight Net. Hadi Morshed won his third (3rd) Seniors trophy, this time in the B Flight Gross. For those of you not aware of this feat, Hadi has won a trophy in this event once every six years, starting in 2002. Rounding out the winners was Chris Stronberg, B Flight Net. Congratulations to all of you who played, we look forward to seeing you all next year!

A personal note of thanks to Evan Beren for putting together the first ever, Not The Seniors Championship Shamble, for those of you not eligible (read - old enough) to play in the Seniors event. Held on the final round Sunday of the Seniors event, this was such a success that Evan has promised to put it on our permanent schedule! Great work Evan (and crew)!

Also in April - the 64th Annual Los Angeles City Junior's Championship – held April 12th and 13th. SMGC would like to thank Gene Vano, perennial leader of the volunteers who man the Sepulveda Complex. Gene's dedication to the Jr's continues to be a source of SMGC pride. Thanks to all of you who helped out at Sepulveda, Woodley Lakes and Hansen Dam. The results for the event can be found at golf.lacity.org

THE NEXT TEE

Upcoming Tournament Notes from Evan Beren, Tournament Director

On Sunday, May 4th we head to Robinson Ranch to play the 19th Annual John C. Palumbo Memorial Championship on the Valley Course. This is a shotgun start at 8:00 AM. The cost is \$100 and includes carts and range balls.

Our Thursday, May 22nd tournament is on Encino Golf Course. This is a great chance to get in a practice round on one of our home courses before the Club Championship. We have space for 72 players; first tee time is 7:00 am. The tournament fee is \$40. Seniors pay the day of the event and save \$10! Carts and range balls are extra.

As a bonus tournament we have Brookside #1 on Sunday June 1st. First tee time is 10:15 am. We only have space for 60 players, so don't delay, sign up today! Cost is \$70, includes carts and range balls.

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

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

Okay; so I was wrong. Just when I started to whine about the City of Los Angeles being the master practitioner of the slow walk, the city moves with alacrity to set up the long awaited "Golf Business Analysis Section," known affectionately as the GBAS (pronounced gee-bass).

Recreation and Park Assistant General Manager Kevin Regan appeared at the April Golf Advisory Committee Meeting and gave a detailed report of just how much progress the Department had made in getting things moving. In addition, he gave a detailed rundown of the first set of projects the "Section" is expected to tackle, the first few of them (there are 12 in all) prioritized as follows:

- To analyze the current system/program in all of its aspects and determine how the GBAS can complete its substantive assignments in conjunction with Golf Division Staff, management of the Parks Department and the Golf Advisory Committee;
- To develop short-term and long-term strategic planning for the LA City golf system, including best practices related to golf reservation policies;
- To develop a strategic capital improvement plan, including funding mechanisms therefore;
- To develop a marketing plan, including a pricing analysis for each individual golf course; and
- To develop a comprehensive customer service program.

Among the 2nd and 3rd tier tasks are: food/beverage services; retail/merchandise service operations; revenue enhancement; review of advisory structures; and information system technology.

The scope is not only in perfect sync with the recommendations of the Golf Advisory Committee; it is ambitious to a fault. But that's a compliment. It's better to fall a little short of a high bar than to leap over a low one.

Regan genuinely excited the Advisory Committee with his presentation. I know he excited me. It is my firm belief that the Advisory Committee will rally around the GBAS in an effort to make the exercise a success. It is my firmer belief that this exercise needs to be a success. It is my firmest belief that if we all pull on the same side of the rope, this exercise in creative consulting will indeed be a success.

As all of this "success" unfolds, this column will try to keep you informed. Despite my obvious flair for whining, complaining and gnashing of teeth, I really do prefer to share success stories. I anticipate a flurry of such stories in the coming months.

And to be filed under, "when will the good news end?" the Rancho Driving Range had its formal grand opening April 17, and the bright blue flags denoting rear-hole locations are coming back. If you haven't seen it yet, stop by and hit a bucket of practice balls at Rancho; the new range is magnificent.

Do Higher Handicaps Win More Often?

Tournament Directors are often asked if higher handicappers win the net tournaments more often. Lower handicaps ask usually. Well, we studied it. It's not true. There is no relationship between handicap and winning a net tournament.

The studies looked at Sepulveda Men's Club Net tournaments over a three year period ending last month. Over that time 3,653 scores were analyzed. These were grouped into flights and run through a statistical analysis computer program. The statistical test for significance showed that there was no significant correlation between handicap and winning.

It is understandable when looking at player's handicaps to assume the higher handicaps will win more often, they get more strokes after all. But they don't play as well. The handicap system in use by the SCGA has been tested and monitored for many years. The system is very effective in leveling the playing field so we can all compete fairly. While certain individuals may play better at certain times, the system overall balances players handicaps out over time. Of course we have heard this many times and Mr. Olster has explained this clearly many times.

The numbers don't lie. Nobody actually wants a high handicap, but everyone wants to compete and the handicap system allows us all a chance to win.

BACKSPIN SHOTS

by The Gapwedge

The recent Masters was exciting and fascinating as most Masters are. The cream, as it usually does, rose to the top in the person of Bubba Watson who won his second green jacket (nice to have two in case one is at the cleaners).

The two players in the final pairing are both young and highly talented players but with one major difference: Bubba had been there before and had a major advantage in experience over young Jordan Spieth. Spieth handled himself admirably and at one point during the final round was in the lead, 2 shots up on Watson. Under the pressure of the final round of a major PGA tournament, though, he wilted just enough to allow Watson to take the lead and keep it. Still, he never gave up and played some very good shots down the stretch. It was a very impressive performance for a 20 year old!

If you have followed Backspin Shots over the years, you know Gapwedge puts lots of stock in experience, whether it's golf, baseball or whatever. The difference in how this particular Masters came out was a great illustration of the value of having been in the pressure cooker before. Watch young Spieth though; you may see some very good stuff down the road.

Senior Club Championship

April 5-6, 2014

Format – Low Gross / Low Net

“A” Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
146	Gerard Sanders	\$150
151	David Gilbreath	\$90
151	Russel Kotzen	\$90
152	Marc Green	\$50

“A” Flight Low Net

141	Roger Ikeda	\$150
142	Stu Olster	\$100
143	Mike Nichol	\$75
144	Mark Reed	\$50

“B Flight” Low Gross

153	Hadi Morshed	\$150
162	Ted Johnson	\$100
164	Bryan Nichols	\$75
168	Behrouz Shafie	\$50

“B Flight” Low Net

139	Chris Stronberg	\$150
141	Daniel Sniegowski	\$100
142	Virgil Budhu	\$75
146	Gene Vano	\$50

Balboa Gross Skins \$67 each

Hole	Player
2	Charles MacDonald
3	Dan Crawford
4	Arde Nozari
8	Behrouz Shafie
13	Bryan Nichols
15	Alfredo Picolomini
16	Larry Scott

Balboa Net Skins \$102 each

Hole	Player
2	Charles MacDonald
4	Randy Hammock
6	Hadi Morshed
15	Leonid Levin
16	Jeff Sable

Closest to the Pin \$70 each

4	Bryan Nichols	3”
13	Arde Nozari	13’ 0”
17	Rich Nance	8’ 2”

Encino Gross Skins \$92 each

Hole	Player
7	Sean MacDonald
9	Russel Kotzen
10	Larry Scott
11	David Gilbreath
17	Marc Green

Encino Net Skins \$98 each

Hole	Player
3	Mike Teague
5	Chris Stronberg
6	John Platt
7	Sean MacDonald
12	Virgil Budhu

Closest to the Pin \$70 each

3	Mike Teague	3’ 10”
6	Rich Nance	3’ 5”
15	Behrouz Shafie	7’ 0”
17	David Gilbreath	15’ 3”

MGA Highlights

By Pete Heller

SENIORS LOSE TWICE TO GRIFFITH PARK IN BATTLE FOR LEAGUE LEAD MENS CLUB EDGES WOODLEY, BUT LOSES BIG IN 4 BALL

The Sepulveda Mens’ Club showing signs of life split with Woodley Lakes edging their neighbors to the North 37-35 in the Individuals while dropping the best ball matches 23-13. This allowed them to hold their own on the season. I should point out “holding their own” is 4th place out of 6, 10 points back of the leaders.

The Seniors Club was disappointingly set back twice by now league leader Griffith Park 44-28 and 20-16. Whipped soundly in the individuals, the Seniors managed to win three of six matches in the best ball contests. Griffith Park, though, accounted for more points overall and won the match.

Rancho Park showing no recovery from their surprising anemia lost twice to 5th place, Hansen Dam by solid margins of 43-29 and 25-11. No gloating here friends. Let sleeping champions lie.

This accounts for only half the schedule, folks, and things can still change drastically as we’ve learned from past seasons. Will they turn it on again as they did last year? Time will tell.

Sepulveda Men’s Match Winners

Individual:

Len Zambito, Armen Mesropian, Mike Levy, Gene Vano and Alberto Picolomini

Two Man:

Zambito/Vano, Mesropian/Green and Picolomini/Fortune

Sepulveda Senior’s Match Winners

Individual:

Alan Lipsky, Dean Abston, Ray Stuckert and Steve Skinner

Two Man:

Abston/Skinner, Hurley/Lipsky, and Bernard/Stuckert

Standings	W	L	T	Points
Griffith Park	8	0	0	16
Sepulveda Seniors	6	2	0	12
Woodley Lakes	3	4	1	7
Sepulveda Mens	3	5	0	6
Hansen Dam	2	6	0	4
Rancho Park	1	6	1	3

Next Matches - May 15, 2014

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

Thursday @ Robinson Ranch

April 24, 2014

Format – Low Gross / Low Net

“A” Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
82	Russel Kotzen	\$60
84	Chris Halfon	\$40
88	Bob McKibben	\$25

“A” Flight Low Net

74	Jay Baca	\$60
76	George Beams	\$40
77	Sean MacDonald	\$20
77	Ted Johnson	\$20

“B Flight” Low Gross

91	Bruce Fortune	\$60
93	Jeff Sable	\$40
94	Buzz Osborne	\$25

“B Flight” Low Net

75	Farhad Keliddari	\$60
76	Patrick Warren	\$40
77	Said Jabbari	\$15
77	Robert Schultz	\$15
77	Gene Vano	\$15

Gross Skins \$52 each

Hole	Player
4	Chris Halfon
8	Tommaso Trinchieri
10	Buzz Osborne
14	Chris Halfon
17	Jay Baca

Net Skins \$96 each

Hole	Player
4	Ted Johnson
8	Tommaso Trinchieri
17	Jay Baca

Closest to the Pin \$30 each

3	David A. Carlson	7’ 2”
7	Timoteo Trafficante	6’ 5”
11	Farhad Keliddari	8’ 0”
14	Chris Halfon	12’ 7”

The Honey Pot was \$80

won by the teams of
Raafat/Keliddari and
Baca/Warren.

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

HANDICAP CHATTER

by *Stu Olster, Handicap Chairman*

Suppose a club member plays frequently but posts few scores. He might say he uses the course for practice, playing two or more balls and otherwise playing outside the rules of golf and therefore his rounds can't be posted.

He would be right if this kind of on-course practice occurred once in a great while. But what if the member never plays a round of golf (other than club events) that can be properly posted? That could spell trouble, especially if he is a regular winner in club competitions.

This is not an absurd hypothetical situation. It occurred in our club not too many years ago and the member was called to task. When his membership expired at the end of the year, he didn't renew and we learned that he did the same thing at another golf club.

The system relies upon the integrity of the individual to adjust and post his scores anytime he plays a round in the spirit of the rules of golf. To the extent he fails to do that, he undermines the handicap system and prevents it from achieving its field-leveling purpose.

Selective posting is another manipulation that can't be tolerated if the *raison d'être* for the system is to be realized. Recently, a member who has achieved considerable success in our events was quoted as saying he never posts his really good scores. This is cheating to the same degree as bumping the ball in the rough or "score shaving" and it's unfair to the field of competitors.

On a number of levels, the handicap system is a rough compromise, and that's if its requirements are strictly observed by golfers. When any kind of manipulation occurs, the system breaks down and becomes unreliable. When handicap manipulations are detected, the handicap committee has all the discretion it needs to redress the violations. The members of the club can help by reporting instances of manipulation they observe.

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



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

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

Standings as of April 20, 2014
Runs through June 2014

Mr. Raposas has run away with the trophy this year. We'll be changing the OOH starting July 2014. The new name will be "**Ed Cohn Trophy**" and the ranking will be based on \$\$ won. This will allow players in as few as 5 tournaments to be competitive

Player	Points	Ranking
Ben Raposas	1145	1
Andy Levine	685	2
Roger Ikeda	655	3
Brian Nelson	645	4
Len Zambito	645	4
Michael Melamed	635	6
Bob McKibben	610	7
Gene Vano	605	8
Randy Hammock	595	9
Tranquilino Bangis	545	10
Armen Mesropian	545	10
Charles MacDonald	530	12
Johnathan Fernandez	500	13
Farhad Keliddari	500	13
Dan Crawford	485	15
Ryan Tumulad	485	15
Dustin Watanabe	480	17
Jason Petterson	470	18
Anthony Bermel	465	19
Hadi Morshed	460	20
Alan Stewart	450	21
Ted Johnson	440	22
Laurence Silva	435	23
Brad Marks	420	24
Virgil Budhu	415	25
Alfredo Piccolomini	415	25
Brian Czerniak	400	27
Butch Chase	395	28
Daniel Sniegowski	390	29
Sean MacDonald	380	30

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