



# THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Evan Beren*

Happy Fall everyone! Like me, I'm sure you are enjoying the brisk autumn weather...okay, just kidding; so far fall has been every bit as hot as summer was. A good time for me to remind you to stay hydrated when out on the course. Getting over heated and having to leave the golf course before finishing all 18 holes is a real drag. So take care of yourselves.

Speaking of fall; fall means elections, which are being held at Woodley Lakes this year. Get all the details in the Next Tee, below. Elections are also a good time to remind everyone that we are an all-volunteer organization. It takes a lot of time to set up and run tournaments or organize team play events. If you have some time to help out contact me and we can put you to work.

Fall team play has begun. Sadly, the Championship, A Flight and B Flight teams fell in the first round. Even sadder, D Flight was unable to field a team due to lack of players. The good news, C Flight and E Flight have moved into the second round after first round byes.

Fall is also the time of year when we begin to talk about renewing membership for the next year. We usually kick the discounted membership for the next year off starting October 1st. This year however the SCGA is re-working the way they will be collecting membership fees, going from a calendar year to a rolling 12-month year. We don't have all the details, when we do, we will pass all the information on so we can get rolling on 2017.

We celebrated the 10th anniversary of Balboa's redesign with a tournament on September 17th. It was hot, which it always seems to be of late, however 92 hardy souls come out and played. There was a well-supported Junior Golf Fundraiser on the 13th hole. Thank you for all the players that took part in the fundraiser. Expect to see SMGC continue to support Junior Golf and Junior Golfers, it's up to us to keep this game, which we love, alive and growing.

## THE NEXT TEE

*David Horwitch, Tournament Director*

Partner up ! It's time for the Dick Goeckner Classic on the 16th. This is a great two man team event. For those confused about the format, you play your own ball and the team score is that of the lower scoring team member. Register as a team, or sign up as a single and we will pair you up. Plenty of singles have already signed up looking for a partner.

The month finishes with the annual Election tournament on the 27th. This is a shotgun with lunch provided after the round. Stick around and vote in the election, I cannot think of a more important vote taking place this year.

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

## CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

Later this month my "Governmental Affairs" column comes out in FORE magazine. The title of it: "Lessons from the Recent Drought." Among the lessons – the golf industry fared much better than anyone had anticipated. Among the reasons – government regulators were much more understanding of the needs of the golf industry than most had expected. Why better and more understanding than we thought? Because the knee jerk reaction of most is to assume the worst when the subject is government.

It is in many respects a reaction unsupported by evidence; indeed the recent drought provided evidence of a contrary nature. Given that our club's golf courses are owned by a government, that's a good thing. Given that the strategic plan we're so excited about is dependent for its execution on government employees, that's an even better thing.

Why the disconnect between perception and reality? That's a subject beyond the scope of this brief essay. Suffice it to say that one is never well served by false perceptions, whether those perceptions are of the much more common Pollyanna variety or of this particularly gloomy one. False is false, and if we listen to the practitioners of either variety of falsehood we are listening to false prophets.

The better course is to follow the evidence, and the evidence right here, right now in the city golf program is that we are on the cusp of sustained improvement. A system once Balkanized and disaggregated into three independent parts is now a unitary division. A program once leaderless is now managed by a single person. A program once a City Council appropriated function is now an independent enterprise fund. A program once dependent upon the kindness of others is now in control of its own destiny. A program once without vision is now in possession of a comprehensive strategic plan. A program once incapable of guaranteeing that the dollars it generated would be available for needed capital improvements is now quite capable of reinvesting its bounty into itself. A system once an afterthought is now the focus of Departmental and political support. And a program once encumbered by a fee structure as counterproductive as it was confusing is now productive, simple and amenable to the modern dynamic/flexible structures so successful elsewhere.

In short, we've come a long way. But we still have a long way to go. The difference between then and now is that we now have the tools in place to take the journey. Soon we'll have a new Golf Manager in place, a state-of-the-art Internet reservation system, a modern affinity/marketing program, a short-term capital projects program, a long term capital improvements program, and a modern dynamic/flexible pricing structure made possible by the new Internet reservation platform.

When those things are firmly in place the Los Angeles City municipal golf program will be on its way to recapturing the leadership position it held back in the 1960's and 1970's. And SMGC will be along for the joyous ride.

## 2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

Evan Beren, President ..... (818) 438-0395  
Tommaso Trinchieri, Vice-President ..... (949) 231-0097  
Tommy Eunice, Secretary ..... (626) 278-0372  
Dan Melillo, Treasurer ..... (917) 363-9070

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Evan Beren, Tournament Chairman ..... (818) 438-0395  
Virgil Budhu, Membership ..... (310) 776-0156  
Bruce Fortune, Past President ..... (818) 535-4900  
Everardo Gomez, Recording Secretary..... (818) 429-4664  
David Horwith, Tournament Director..... (818) 486-2598  
Craig Kessler, SGCA Dir. - Gov't Affairs ..... (310) 941-4803  
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Rich Nance, Eagle Publisher ..... (818) 422-3748  
Gary Patterson, Entertainment Director ..... (310) 980-4427  
Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap ..... (949) 231-0097

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

### Welcome to the New Tournament Season

Well done to the current leaders, Matt Soule, Membership Chairman Virgil Budhu, and Craig Cacek. It is a tight group at the top of the leader board so we can expect to see many lead changes throughout the year. Like the lottery, you gotta play to win.

Player	Winnings	Rank
Matt Soule	175	1
Virgil Budhu	165	2
Craig Cacek	145	3
Jason Petterson	135	4
Dustin Watanabe	130	5
David Gilbreath	120	6
Justin Butler	100	7
David Longmire	85	8
George Olteanu	85	8
Bill Brandel	80	10
Andy Levine	75	11
Todd Mander	75	11
Tommaso Trinchieri	75	11
Armen Mesropian	70	14
Patrick Warren	70	14
Stacey Shinnick	70	14
Romel Yordi	65	17
Johnathan Fernandez	60	18
Brandon Wahl	55	19
Bruce Fortune	55	19
Mark Reed	55	19
Sean Cavanaugh	55	19
Larry Scott	50	23
Mitchell Weiner	50	23
Phil Kapsimallis	50	23
Christopher Ames	45	26
Michael Radtke	45	26

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

## Sunday @ Balboa

September 12, 2016

### Format – Low Gross / Low Net

#### “A” Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
74	David Gilbreath	\$75
74	Ryan Tumulad	\$75
76	Liam Cavanaugh	\$25
76	John Philipson	\$25
76	Gerard Sanders	\$25

#### “A” Flight Low Net

67	Michael Levy	\$90
68	Allen Freiman	\$60
69	John Blake	\$40
71	Everardo Gomez	\$20
71	Ardeshir Nozari	\$20

#### “B Flight” Low Gross

83	Michael Melamed	\$90
84	Bruce Davies	\$60
86	Patrick Warren	\$20
86	Robert Glaessner	\$20
86	Alan Miller	\$20
86	Brent Harvey	\$20

#### “B Flight” Low Net

68	Mark Vaughan	\$90
70	Anthony Bermel	\$40
70	Larry Cloud	\$40
70	Paul Barrere	\$40
71	Khody Azari	\$15

#### Gross Skins \$148 each

Hole	Player
5	Dustin Watanabe
6	Liam Cavanaugh
9	Matt Soule
16	Mark Reed
17	Branden Augustus

#### Net Skins \$105 each

Hole	Player
1	Todd Mander
6	Liam Cavanaugh
7	Mark Vaughan
9	Matt Soule
10	Louie Rivera
11	Larry Cloud
16	Mark Reed
18	Tommaso Trinchieri

#### Closest to the Pin \$130 each

4	Todd Mander	8' 2"
13	Bob McKibben	1' 3"
17	Robert Glaessner	9' 8"

#### The Honey pot was \$650

won by the team of  
A. Bermel/Davies  
with a score of 61.

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

## GOLF: A GAME OF RULES

*Stu Olster, former Handicap Chair and Director*

Ours is said to be a society of laws. In the same sense, golf is a game of rules. The Rules of Golf and the Handicap Rules are much more than road maps on how to play the game, although they certainly are that. They are also codes of conduct, comportment and ethics.

The 34 Rules of Golf seek to assure that golfers everywhere are all playing the same game, and that no player has an advantage over any other player other than by reason of having greater skills. The Handicap Rules seek to level the playing field and allow competitors of varying skill levels to compete more or less evenly with one another. Sometimes this actually works in practice.

Players who violate or ignore the Rules of Golf play a different game than their more observant fellows. It seems to be an inherent flaw in human nature that some will not play by the rules, whether on and off the course, in order to try to gain an advantage. Handicap cheating, as we have previously observed, is as pernicious as cheating on the course simply because it undermines the raison d’etre of the USGA Handicap System: to equalize the competition.

The Board of Directors of a golf club, through its Handicap Committee, sits as an “ethics committee.” It has the right, indeed the duty, to rid the club of members whose conduct is inimical to the game of golf or interferes with the purposes for which golf clubs like ours exist. The exercise of this power obviously must be used with great discretion, and only after the accused has the opportunity to defend himself. But it’s important to observe that the golf club, like any other duly-constituted organization, needs the ability to protect itself from members whose conduct runs contrary to its principles. Intentional violation of the Rules of Golf or the Handicap Rules is grounds for exclusion of a member from the club.

The Rules of Golf, as essential as they are in defining how the game is to be played, seem to elude many who purport to play the game. True, they make for unexciting reading and can be difficult sledding, but for any golfer wishing to compete, it is essential to have a basic working understanding of how they operate and are organized, because a failure to observe them in competition can have disastrous consequences.

Our Club Championship provides a prime example. In that event, some years back, an experienced and competent member was disqualified for practicing on the course of play on the day of, and before, the competition, a clear violation of Rule 7-1 b. No doubt this member, a single digit handicapper, didn’t realize that he was in violation, or he wouldn’t have done what he did in plain sight of everybody. But in terms of penalties or disqualification from a competition, violations resulting from ignorance of the Rules are treated the same as intentional violations.

Do you have a current version of the Rules of Golf in your golf bag? You should. Many a penalty stroke and disqualifications have been avoided by the involved player having timely reference to the Rules during the competitive round to correctly resolve an unusual situation.

Playing golf by the rules is like living in a society according to its laws. Although the reason for a particular rule might occasionally elude the player or seem illogical, strict observance is an easy way to assure that a penalty won’t interrupt an otherwise enjoyable and uplifting experience, and that we’re all playing exactly the same game when we tee it up.

### 2016 PRESIDENT’S CUP

1st	Ben Raposas
2nd	Erik Rogers
3rd	Armen Mesropian
4th	David Horwitch



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

## **HANDICAP CHATTER**

*by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman*

### **Tournament Scores**

The concept of a tournament has differing connotations for different people. Some golfers get sweaty palms and jangled nerves, while others seem to rise to the top and excel.

The USGA Handicap System looks at scores identified with a “T”, for Tournament, to see if outstanding performance exists. As part of the calculation at each revision, Section 10-3, Reduction of Handicap Index Based on Exceptional Tournament Scores, is automatically checked for.

There is quite a bit of math involved, but SCGA members with at least two eligible tournament score Handicap Differentials (either made within the last 12 months or within the player’s current 20-score history) of at least 3.0 better than the normal Handicap Index calculation via Section 10-2 are subject to the procedure and its computation.

Lots of functions are called tournaments, so the USGA provides recommendations on what to identify as a Tournament Score for handicap purposes. Important events are the focus. Despite the USGA’s recommendation, many clubs and associations opt to designate all their events as “T” scores, diluting the importance of the true important events.

Any golfer who has been impacted by Section 10-3 will have an “R” designation next to their Handicap Index. This is part of the USGA’s formula, not some action taken by SMGC or the SCGA. A golfer with the “R” designation is not locked at this number for any certain time period, as a number of variables contribute to the calculation, including number of tournament scores (two exceptional tournament scores out of three is more likely to cause a reduction than two out of 15), the age of the tournament scores and the normal Handicap Index calculation.

Sometimes golfers impacted express the concern that at the time the score was posted it did not seem exceptional, but as a player’s normal calculation increased a score/differential may have become exceptional. This was purposely implemented as part of the formula, which is all about potential ability.

This formula was put into place a number of years ago in response to a grass roots concern expressed by golfers, golf clubs and golf associations that tournament performance is important in trying to correctly determine the potential ability of a golfer. Its math is targeted to impact slightly less than one-half of one percent of golfers with a Handicap Index.

So enjoy the competitive aspect of the game. Every golfer can expect to have one extremely successful round, but at the sign of a second such round, may see a change in the resulting Handicap Index.

## **BACKSPIN SHOTS**

*by The Gapwedge*

Having trouble sinking putts with your expensive milled putter? Do you think it’s because it may have been milled on an inferior milling machine?

Robert Bettinardi is a machinist who formerly did precision milling work for defense applications as well as for telecommunication and medical components. The close tolerances required for these applications required the kind of state-of-the-art milling equipment Robert used.

In 1961, he saw an ad for a putter milled on “old technology” equipment and he decided to use his know-how and cutting-edge machines to build premium putters.

Bettinardi putters have been well-received and are in use by a number of professional players, most notably Matt Kuchar. No parts of these putters are outsourced to China or anywhere else; they are milled from solid blocks of stainless steel by Bettinardi right here in the USA.

Garden variety Bettinardi putters can be had for as little as \$300, but if you have extra cash and want to take your putting to new levels while impressing your golf buddies, you can spend as much as \$1,500 for the New Tour Issue BB2 DASS. Gapwedge considered getting one of these bad boys but the top of that putter is nude, lacking an alignment line or stripe, and that was a deal breaker.