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THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club
Starter's Phone: (818) 995-1172
Visit our website at
www.smgc.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bruce Fortune

Spring is here – it's official. The daylight hours are long and late March rains have rendered the Encino and Balboa courses even better than they were beforehand – and that's saying a lot. Hearty congratulations to Sepulveda Operations and Maintenance Staff – and heartfelt thanks to them on behalf of the Club's 300 + members. We must be doing something right, or more accurately Gene Vano and his Tournament Committee must be doing something right. The golf business may be down, and the economy may just be getting restarted, not to mention the price structures of our courses, yet SMGC's tournaments continue to get an increasingly good turnout. Thanks to all of you for participating.

I feel a need to address the Pace of Play problems at our recent tournament at Los Robles Golf Course in Thousand Oaks. Granted, Los Robles is not the easiest of tracks, and it is not our home club. Okay, so those factors justify a somewhat slower round than a round at Encino or Balboa. But they are no excuse for some of the things I witnessed. Please remember the basics of cart golf – take three clubs to your ball while the other guy drives to his ball, the club you think you'll need, one higher and one lower. Please remember to watch others' shots, so that errant ones can be found more easily. And please remember that Rule 3-3 allows you to put a second ball into play whenever there is confusion regarding how to proceed under the Rules of Golf; endless arguments while your group falls behind are not necessary.

And above all else, remember that while there are valid and unavoidable reasons for falling out of position on the golf course, there are no valid reasons for failing to get back into position as quickly as possible. As long as you understand the imperative to get your group back into position, there are a number of things you can do to speed up play for the short period it takes to close a 1-hole gap. And yes, once it reaches 1 hole, that's the time to bring those techniques into play, not when the Marshal or Tournament Official informs you that the group in front of you is 2 holes ahead of you!

Pace of Play aside – there are a couple of guys who had EAGLES in the St. Patty's day tournament that I'd like to recognize – 87 years young, Pete Prieto had a natural Eagle on #18 – Driver, 3 Wood, 5 Wood; and Richard Whorton had his first Eagle in 13 years on #9. Way to go guys!!

Spring 2012 Aeration Schedule

Encino	April 23 - April 25
Balboa	April 9 - April 11
Woodley Lakes	April 16 - April 18
Hansen Dam	April 2 - April 4
Wilson	April 9 - April 11
Harding	April 23 - April 25
Rancho Park	April 9 - April 11

THE NEXT TEE

April 26 10:00 AM- Thursday at Simi Hills, Format: Team Better Ball at Simi Hills

It's a great warm-up for Our JC Palumbo Memorial which we play at Simi 9 days later. The Palumbo is our away MAJOR! Deadline: April 25, Maximum Number of Players: 60, \$55.00, Carts are included

May 6 (Sun) 8:48 AM- 17 Annual John C. Palumbo Memorial, Format: LowGross/LowNet at Simi Hills
This is our Away Major. Trophies are awarded and inscription on the permanent trophy in the Pro Shop Window.
Deadline: May 5, Maximum Number of Players: 80, \$85.00, The price includes Carts, Range Balls, and Prize Fund.

For information about our tournaments contact: Gene Vano

HANDICAP CHATTER, by Stu Olster, Handicap Chairman

There are dozens of ways to game the handicap system, some a tad more brazen than others. Returning accurate scores, like playing the game itself, is largely on the honor system. Being that it's so easy to post fictitious scores, selectively post or purposely throw away strokes, there is going to be a small percentage of golfers who will cheat in an effort to gain an advantage. It's human nature.

Last November, a gentleman joined our Club as a new member. A couple of months later, we learned that he has been, or is, a member of at least five other clubs under different names. When he applied for membership in our Club and others, he failed to reveal his previous club affiliations and GHIN number. Consequently, the SCGA issued him a new GHIN number each time. These multiple identities gave him the ability to enter competitions and use whatever name, GHIN number and handicap index suited his purposes.

Our friend is no longer a member of SMGC, but our obligation as a USGA-sanctioned golf club goes beyond just expelling culprits. We are obliged to take steps to protect the integrity of the system, so we've contacted a number of local clubs and have enlisted the valuable assistance of the SCGA to prevent this person from further abusing the system and his fellow golfers.

The USGA Handicap System is less than a perfect equalizing mechanism. It's a necessary compromise that, in practice, works well enough. Handicap manipulation such as this, and other of the many varieties, undermine its reliability and cannot be tolerated.

Each member of every golf club should promptly report suspected handicap manipulation to his or her club's handicap committee who will take it from there.

Comments or questions may be addressed to the author at stolster@yahoo.com

Dominguez Hills Golf Course - Goodbye Old Friend

By Gary Patterson

On a recent Saturday morning I drove down the 110 freeway to play the Dominguez Hills Par 3 Golf Course for one last time. I can honestly say that Dominguez was not in the rotation of courses that I regularly play, but the course does have sentimental value since it was where I played golf for the first time. Nestled somewhere in between a long gone drive-in movie theater, the lot where an NFL stadium was supposed to go and the 405 freeway, the course was just as I remembered when I finally arrived to play it one last time.

Looking back at those early days, I think that I was more concerned with which beer was mine and not my open stance, my bent left arm or keeping my head still - let alone keeping an accurate score. Long gone are those days with my garage sale clubs and the bright orange Top Flight X-Outs. Soon enough Dominguez will be long gone, too.

The Dominguez Hills Par 3 Golf Course is closing mid-April and being razed to make way for Porsche to build a massive "Experience Center" with an off-road course and a variety of simulated driving conditions. (I can only hope that that they offer a class to teach Porsche owners how to drive safely on our city streets.) I find it odd that a place that welcomed anybody, regardless of experience, to hit balls at their range or take a shot at playing 18 holes for the first time, has to make way for a playground for the privileged. But then again, if I add up the cost of every golf ball that I have lost over the last 20 years, I bet you that I could afford a Porsche with that money...albeit a 1986 Porsche 928 found on craigslist.com.

On Saturday, I spent my last moments at Dominguez with a couple of friends who joined me for a quick round. We reminisced about how little we knew about this game when we first started and wondered if we really know any better after all these years of playing golf. It was a pleasant morning to be with friends, yet a bittersweet one, too, knowing this golf course is breathing its last breaths.

As I packed up my clubs and pushcart, I silently bid a fond farewell to this little chunk of land. I say, "So long" to the Automated Driving Range that reminded me of a bowling ball return, which I once thought was a glimpse into the future and a vision of things to come. I say, "Goodbye" to the large Golfer Statue that ominously stands alongside the 405 freeway. May its ghost watch over us when we're stuck in rush-hour traffic. And to you, Dominguez Hills Golf Course..."Goodbye, old friend." Thank you for being there for me all those years ago. I'm so sorry to see you go.

CITY CORNER, By Craig Kessler

Sometime in late April or early May the Parks Department will submit its formal response to the 2011 golf consulting reports and the various stakeholder comments submitted thereon. That "response" will go to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners along with a recommended course of action.

The Department made a brief oral presentation on March 14 of what it expects to bring forward. Because of some rather negative responses from golfers who attended that presentation, the Department made a detour five days later through the Golf Advisory Committee to consider further input. While the Golf Advisory Committee had already submitted extensive written comments on those consulting reports in December, the Department decided to seek additional input from the GAC before finalizing the thoughts in that oral report and formally recommending a course of action to the Parks Board.

In other words, the Department decided to go the extra mile to ensure that the views of the city golf community were fully considered and at least partially incorporated in whatever final version of systemic reform it elects to pursue. Indeed, the Department's Executive Officer Regina Adams (# 2 person in Department) and Assistant General Manager Kevin Reagan (# 3) appeared personally; they addressed the Committee, answered the members' questions, and engaged the Committee in a vigorous exchange of ideas and viewpoints. There was a heartfelt and honest effort to seek common ground in an effort to move forward in unison. It was much appreciated by a GAC membership that has felt ignored in recent years. Here is my best guess of where everything will settle once the dust clears. Under a heading of following the "hybrid modified management" model recommended by the Golf Advisory Committee, the Department will suggest that significant outside consulting acumen be brought aboard to assist the Golf Division with those things that they openly acknowledge are not within the skill set of current management – concessions, strategic planning, marketing, and project management among others.

While the Golf Advisory Committee recommended a more expansive mechanism for implementing the "hybrid modified management" model, it did recommend this model; and Staff is following that basic recommendation. The golf community will respond by working hard to make its own recommendation work. I don't anticipate quibbling about slight differences in technique. Too much is at stake.

The open question is whether the common ground discovered by Staff and GAC will prove enough to cure the many deficiencies identified in all those consulting reports. Only time will tell on that. The closed question is that Staff and GAC have found the common ground necessary to have a solid shot at success. That is something over which Staff and GAC had complete control; both showed wisdom in exercising it.

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"On the Other Hand"

Trophy in Memory of Ed Cohn

Standings as of March 25, 2012

Contest runs through June 2012

Player	Points	Ranking
Fortune, Bruce	1240	1
Stewart, Alan	1135	2
McKibben, Bob	1080	3
Jordan Jr, James	1040	4
Levin, Leonid	1010	5
Pistotnik, Donald J.	945	6
Zambito, Leonard J.	840	7
MacDonald, Sean	830	8
Crawford, Dan T	800	9
Vano, Gene	755	10

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

Sunday at Los Robles
March 11, 2012

Flight – A Low Gross

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	George Bryson	77	60.00
2	Mataka Sichilima	78	30.00
2	Sean Cavanaugh	78	30.00
3	David Gilbreath	79	20.00
5	James Jordan Jr	81	10.00
5	Bill Brandel	81	10.00
5	Bill Sherwood	81	10.00
5	Clint Bridge	81	10.00

Flight-A Low Net

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	George L Beams	67	60.00
2	Bill Keanu	72	30.00
2	Hadi Morshed	72	30.00
2	Ardehir Nozari	72	30.00
5	Robert Paciorek	73	15.00

Flight B Low Gross

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Bryan Palbaum	85	60.00
2	R. M. Hammock	86	35.00
3	Ray Hassanlou	87	25.00
4	Perry Melillo	89	20.00
5	Everardo Gomez	88	15.00
5	Greg Petrovich	88	15.00

Flight B Low Net

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	James Hahn	63	60.00
2	Everardo Gomez	70	35.00
3	Paul Pavelka	72	25.00
3	Leonid Levin	72	25.00
5	G. Vanderstock	74	15.00

Gross Skins (Across- A & B)

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$Total
1 (7)	George Bryson	110.00	110.00
1 (10)	Sean Cavanaugh	110.00	110.00
1 (17)	Asher Kamiel	110.00	110.00
1 (16)	Daniel H. Longmire	110.00	110.00
1 (13)	Ardehir Nozari	110.00	110.00
1 (14)	Mark Spicer	110.00	110.00

Net Skins (Across- A B, HCPs capped at 18)

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$Total
1 (1)	Bill Keanu	131.00	131.00
1 (4)	James Heaps	131.00	131.00
1 (7)	George Bryson	131.00	131.00
1 (9)	Liam Cavanaugh	131.00	131.00
1 (10)	Sean Cavanaugh	131.00	131.00
1 (17)	Asher Kamiel	131.00	131.00

Closest-to-the-Pin (Across- A & B)

Hole	Winner	Notes	Prize
2	Clint Bridge	11'8"	80.00
6	Richard Whorton	8"	80.00
8	Mark Vaughan	18'10"	80.00
11	Michael Levy	1'	80.00
16	Ardehir Nozari	4'2"	80.00

Notes: Two teams won the Honey Pot with a 61... Morshed/G Petrovich & Patterson/Gomez 280.00 to each team....

St. Patrick's Day
March 22, 2012

Flight - A Low Gross

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	George Bryson	77	60.00
2	Marc Green	79	35.00
2	Rich Nance*	79	35.00
4	Mark O'Keefe	82	20.00

Flight –A Low Net

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	D. J. Pistotnik	72	50.00
1	D. H. Longmire	72	50.00
3	Richard Whorton	73	30.00
4	Stu Olster	74	20.00

Flight – B Low Gross

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Dan T Crawford	80	60.00
2	Bruce Fortune	83	40.00
3	A. O. Picolomini	84	25.00
3	R. Cavanaugh	84	25.00

Flight-B Low Net

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Jeff Sable	69	60.00
2	Russell Schatz	70	40.00
3	J. W. Radford	71	25.00
3	Pete R. Prieto**	71	25.00

Gross Skins (Across- A & B)

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$Total
1 (18)	R.Cavanaugh	68.00	68.00
1 (2)	Jeff Murphy	68.00	68.00
1 (17)	Erik Nordquist	68.00	68.00
1 (6)	Jeff Sable	68.00	68.00
1 (9)	Richard Whorton	68.00	68.00

Net Skins (Across- A B, HCPs capped at 18)

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$Total
1 (6)	Jeff Sable	96.00	96.00
1 (9)	Richard Whorton	96.00	96.00
1 (12)	Robert J Stein	96.00	96.00
1 (17)	Erik Nordquist	96.00	96.00
1 (18)	Pete R. Prieto**	96.00	96.00

Closest-to-the-Pin (Across- A & B)

Hole	Winner	Notes	Prize
3	Richard Whorton	13'	60.00
6	Jeff Sable	10'6"	60.00
15	Rich Nance*	12'8"	60.00
17	Edward Licht	4'7"	60.00

Notes: One team won the Honey pot. Cavanaugh/Whorton 340.00 to the team

A special note :: Rich Whorton had his first Eagle in 13 years on number 9. Congrats

And to top it all Pete Prieto at 87 years young had a natural EAGLE on 18 ..Driver , 3 Wood, 5 Wood..... Hat's off to PETE!!!!

SEPULVEDA WINS BOTH ENDS FROM WOODLEY SENIORS SPLIT WITH DEFENDING CHAMPS

Woodley Lakes Golf Course- March 15, 2012

The Sepulveda Mens' Club awakened at last and routed Woodley Lakes 50-22 and 22-7 to create a three way tie for fourth place in the log jammed MGA League. Only one day's play separates fourth from first.

The Seniors Club proved to be a tough customer for defending champion Griffith Park. The clubs split two closely contested matches 37-35 and 17-19. A putt here and a pitch there and the outcome might have been completely different.

Rancho Park, after starting the year poorly, edged high flying Hansen Dam 39-33 and 20-16 to grab first place and prove once more that they are a dangerous team, particularly when down.

SEPULVEDA MATCH WINNERS

Sepulveda Mens
 Individual: Dan Longmire, Andy Levine, George Beams, Armen Mesropian, Jeff Sable, Len Zambito, Mike Radtke, and Pete Ruiz.
 Two Man: Longmire/Sable, Levine/Beams, Ruiz/Mesropian and Radtke/Vano.

Sepulveda Seniors
 Individual: Marv Brown, Mike Corner, Dean Abston, Lars Ferling, Allen Lipsky and Steve Skinner.
 Two Man: Ferling/Brown, Stuckert/Abston and Lipsky/Bryson

STANDINGS

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

Next: Hansen Dam Golf Course - April 19, 2012

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

The President's Cup, Our Match Play Championship Will Be Starting Soon
\$20.00 Tournament Fee, Plus Green Fees For Each Round
Sign Up On Line Or Contact Mark Micheleni , 818-355-6492

BACKSPIN SHOTS by The Gapwedge

Forgive Gapwedge if he can't remember whether it's been 11 or 12 years since Ready Golf became the temporary range/pro shop proprietor at Sepulveda. Either way it's a very long time for a concessionaire to be kept on a month-to-month arrangement.

Finally, in February 2008, Ready was selected as the top bidder to run the shop and range on a long term basis. Although the selection was approved by all whose approval was required, the City stalled for several years on signing the actual contract with Ready. Reasons given for the delay were to say the least suspect.

During that same time frame, the City invited bidders to compete to run the cart concession at all the City courses. Again, it was Ready Golf who came out on top after an independent panel selected its bid over several others. Unlike the range concession, the selection failed to receive the required approval of the City Council, although such approval is ordinarily a foregone conclusion. Later, the City decided to self operate the carts.

Ready filed a lawsuit contending that the City is obliged to accept Ready as the range concessionaire for ten years and that it was also entitled to the cart concession. The City countered by trying to evict Ready.

Beware the ides of March! On March 15, the judge enjoined the City from evicting Ready until the main lawsuit is decided. In ordering the injunction, the judge was required to, and did, find that it was more probable than not that Ready would win its lawsuit. Of course that decision will be made by another judge or a jury after a full trial.

Litigation is not a very efficient means of resolving disputes and it will take some time to conclude the case. The end result of the case will naturally decide the dispute between Ready and the City. But what about the golfers who have waited the better part of a quarter century for the range to be fixed? As usual, we aren't part of either party's equation.

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