



May  
2012

THE SEPULVEDA  
**EAGLE**

*Sepulveda Men's Golf Club*  
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Visit our website at  
[www.smgc.org](http://www.smgc.org)

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**, By Bruce Fortune

With the wonderful weather and longer daylight hours I'm given to revisiting the many reasons I enjoy being a member and President of this great Club. Whether you've been an SMGC member for a quarter century or you just joined this year, please be aware that you've joined a golf club – not a Handicap drop or some other contrivance that you could just as easily have gotten at a retail golf outlet – but a community of persons attached to the Sepulveda Basin and the game of golf.

That's why your Club provides considerably more playing and competing opportunities than some of the other clubs in the Valley – not just monthly home tournaments and travel tournaments, but intra-city team play (MGA), inter-county team play (autumn), invitational events where you can bring friends from other clubs, a pro-am that is unique among the local municipal clubs, match play competitions, club/class championships, and of course, access to the outings and competitions of the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA).

Take a look at SMGC's comprehensive schedule; there's something in there for every type of golfer. If you're new to this club or to the club environment in general, don't be intimidated by the fact that you're not a great golfer. Neither am I; neither are many of the Club's other Officers. That's the whole point of the USGA Handicap System and the Handicap Index that your membership in SMGC provides – to make it possible for "recreational" golfers like us to compete, but above all else to enjoy ourselves by meeting new persons, striking up new friendships and playing lots of golf. Hope to see you on the links.

**HANDICAP CHATTER**, by STU OLSTER, Handicap Chairman

Recently, our courses were re-rated by the SCGA's rating committee in connection with the installation of new black and yellow tees. Take a look at the new Encino scorecards and compare the course rating and slope for the black tees with the same specs for the old blue tees. You will see that the blues had a course rating and slope of 70.9 and 114 respectively, while the blacks are rated 72.5 and 121.

The course from the black tees is only about 150 yards longer than from the old blue tees, an average of just over 8 yards per hole. One accustomed to playing the blue tees will hardly notice the difference.

What is the practical effect of changing these numbers? Plenty! Course rating and slope are prime determinants of the "differential," the difference between the player's score and the course rating as adjusted by the slope. Your handicap index is calculated by adding your ten best differentials and dividing by ten.

Suppose you shot 80 from the old Encino blue tees, your differential would be 9.1. From the new black tees, it would be only 7.4. As a result, your index would go down significantly over time and you could find yourself at a distinct disadvantage on other courses.

More than that, if you had to give strokes to your opponent, the increased slope for the Encino black tees could require you to give additional strokes (see the handicap conversion tables to see how this works).

Something seems haywire. I asked the SCGA to double check the new ratings, especially from the black tees, because they seem excessive given the very modest differences between the two sets of tees. The SCGA rating team did review the new numbers and pronounced them correct. Implicit in the new course rating/slope is that the previous numbers were too low. Questions or comments may be addressed to the author at [slolster@yahoo.com](mailto:slolster@yahoo.com)

**The Next Tee**

Thursday @ Encino

May 24 (Thu) 7:00 AM

Format: LowGross/LowNet at Encino (Sepulveda)

Good chance to practice before the Club Championship. Modified Shotgun Start!! 7 AM Tee Time - Out by Noon!!

Deadline: May 23, Maximum Number of Players: 100, \$45.00, Contact: Evan Beren

**The Sepulveda Men's Golf Club Championship**

June 23, 24 and 30<sup>th</sup> for the players that make the cut.

Details to be announced soon

The financial news for city golf is both good and not so good.

The good news: The results are in regarding the Golf Division's first year as a stand-alone enterprise fund. In fiscal year 2010-2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011), the Golf Division reported net revenues of \$2,642,329.00, \$500,000.00 of which was transferred to the Department's General Fund with the remainder \$2,142,329.00 transferred from the Golf Operation Account to the Golf Division's Capital Improvement Account – the latter transfer to begin chipping away at an identified need to spend at least \$20 million in the next decade on capital improvements.

More good news: This first fiscal year was marred by a record wet winter that caused severe interruptions in play at the three Sepulveda Basin golf courses and by a 6-month interruption in golf cart service. This year's drier weather and up-and-running golf cart operation, replete with the benefits of self-operation, presages much higher returns for fiscal year 2011-2012. In addition, the \$2.14 million capital improvement set aside represented roughly 9% of gross 2010-2011 revenues (not including extant concessions) – not nearly the 15% set aside accomplished by Los Angeles County but in the top 25% of all golf programs in the region; and again, a number that should be better in the current fiscal year if the Department doesn't instead divert the additional bounty to a higher general fund contribution as a function of the 2012-2013 budget, a high possibility given the additional cuts the Mayor's April 20 budget asks of the Recreation and Parks Department.

The best news: These numbers confirm what we knew all along; the golf program has been making net profits for years. Forced to report the revenue/expenditure flows accurately under the new enterprise fund paradigm and unable to hide other program expenses in golf operations, the Department has now published for the world to behold the reality of LA City golf.

The not so good news: These net profits were accomplished in part by reassigning 15 golf employees to other special funded functions and holding more than 10 golf positions vacant. This qualifies as "not so good" as opposed to bad, because it parallels the cost cutting measures common in the private sector at the moment. Given the draconian manner in which the city's Recreation and Parks Department has been savaged in recent years, there is always the strong possibility that the Department could elect to take a much bigger chunk out of next year's net profits and further dilute the city's ability to perform desperately needed capital projects. But that is a danger in any successful enterprise fund.

The worst of the not so good news: Unable to get a handle on what structurally ails the city's capacity to balance its fiscal books, the Mayor and Council continue to gut the Parks Department. Yes, the golf system is an independent enterprise fund, but it's hard for one part of a system to prosper when the system in which it operates fails. And it's simply too tempting to take money away from long term capital investment programs, no matter how badly needed, when the alternative is nowhere for the kids to swim this summer.

## 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### "On the Other Hand"

Trophy in Memory of Ed Cohn

Standings as of April 30, 2012  
Contest runs through June 2012

Player	Points	Ranking
McKibben, Bob	1255	1
Fortune, Bruce	1250	2
Stewart, Alan	1135	3
Jordan Jr, James	1040	4
Levin, Leonid	1010	5
Pistotnik, Donald J.	985	6
Zambito, Leonard J.	860	7
MacDonald, Sean	840	8
Crawford, Dan T	800	9
Bryson, George	765	10
Vano, Gene	765	10
Nozari, Ardeshir	760	12
Michelini, Mark I.	665	13
Licht, Edward	660	14
Raafat, Sepehr	655	15
Galletti, Richard	640	16
Longmire, Daniel H.	640	16
Galper, Mark	635	18
Nugent, Brian	625	19
Beams, George L	595	20
Bridge, Clint	595	20
Morshed, Hadi	575	22
Petrovich, Greg	550	23
Paciorek, Robert S.	545	24
Rogers, Erik	515	25
Thompson, Jim	515	25
O'Keefe, Mark	510	27

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

**Thursday at Simi Hills  
April 26, 2012**

MGA Highlights  
By Pete Heller

**Flight – Team A**

Place Winner	Score	Prize
1 Team 25 (Hadi Morshed, Matthew Borlenghi)	63	110.00
2 Team 14 (Bob McKibben, Brian Nugent)	64	60.00
3 Team 5 (Eric Smutko, Samuel Perez)	65	30.00
3 Team 11 (Chris Wertz, Jason Petterson)	65	30.00
3 Team 29 (George L. Beams, Mark A. Brown)	65	30.00

**Flight- B**

Place Winner	Score	Prize
1 Team 30 (George Bryson, Michael L. Teague)	61	110.00
2 Team 7 (Ahmad Keliddari, Farhad Keliddari)	63	40.00
2 Team 22 (Douglas McKeon, Joseph W. Radford)	63	40.00
2 Team 23 (Marc Covert, Mark Galper)	63	40.00
2 Team 24 (Erik Rogers, Everado Gomez)	63	40.00

Note: The payout is to the team to be divided by the players

**Individual Low Net (Across A &B)**

Place Winner	Score	Prize
1 Bob McKibben	66	90.00
2 David A. Carlson	67	50.00
2 Hadi Morshed	67	50.00
4 Michael L. Teague	68	30.00

**Gross Skins (Across- A & B)**

# Of Skins (Holes) Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$Total
2 (4,8) George L. Beams	55.00	110.00
1 (11) Sean MacDonald	55.00	55.00
2 (2, 16) Donald J. Pistotnik	55.00	110.00
1 (10) Chris Wertz	55.00	55.00

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

# Of Skins (Holes) Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$Total
1 (3) Sean MacDonald	110.00	110.00
1 (9) Mark Galper	110.00	110.00
1 (12) Bob McKibben	110.00	110.00
1 (13) David A. Carlson	110.00	110.00

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

Hole Winner	Notes	Prize
4 George L. Beams	10' 1"	55.00
8 George L. Beams	13' 5"	55.00
15 Michael L. Teague	12' 1"	55.00
17 Marc Green	10' 2"	55.00

**SEPULVEDA EDGES HANSEN DAM TWICE  
SENIORS LOSE TWO TO WOODLEY LAKES  
Hansen Dam Golf Course - April 19, 2012**

Len Zambito's Sepulveda Team leapfrogged over home team Hansen Dam (38-24 and 20-16) to move within a point of the MGA league lead for 2012. In a close race, the first five teams are within 3 points of each other which means there could be a complete reversal of the order after a single playing day. The Sepulveda Seniors were forced to the league bottom while losing two matches to long time cellar dweller, Woodley Lakes 54-14 and 28-8. Apparently Woodley, tired of bottom feeding has come up with some productive new talent that can give anyone a tough time.

Finally League Champion Griffith Park topped Rancho Park twice 41-31 and 20-16 and tumbled the former league leaders all the way down to fourth place. **Sepulveda Match Winners Individual** - George Beams, Jeff Sable, Len Zambito and Dan Crawford **Two Man** - Longmire/Beams, Zambito/Picolomini, and Crawford/Sable

**Sepulveda Seniors Match Winners  
Individual** - Jan Bernard, Ken Oberg  
**Two Man** - Oberg/House  
**Standings W L T Points**

Griffith Park 5 3 0 10  
Sepulveda Mens 4 3 1 9  
Woodley Lakes 4 3 1 9  
Rancho Park 4 4 0 8  
Hansen Dam 3 4 1 7  
Sepulveda Srs. 2 5 1 5

**Next: Balboa Golf Course - May 17, 2012**

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

**Major Time**

E.J. Beren, Eagle Editor

It's that time of the year when our most important tournaments are played. May sees the start of the President's Cup, our Match Play championship. Also played in May is The John C. Palumbo Tournament, our away major, this year played at Simi Hills Golf Course.

In June we have the Club Championship. 3 rounds played over 2 weekends; we crown a Club Champion from the Championship flight, and a Net Champion, the low player from the A and B flights.

In the fall we have the Geockner Team Match play tournament and the Senior Championship, for the 50 and over crowd.

Don't miss out on these great upcoming events.

**The President's Cup, Our Match Play Championship Will Be Starting May 15th  
\$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

The golf community is full of hackers who would cringe if made to watch a video of their swings. These poor souls put their wares on display every day on driving ranges across America. Just as it's a good idea not to stare into the sun, better not watch one of these butchers for too long or you might just catch what they've got, and you wouldn't want that!

"Old dogs," they say, "can't learn new tricks," but *Gapwedge* disagrees. Given enough patience on the parts of teacher and student, the oldest dogs can learn the newest tricks. *Gapwedge* has proven this out over the years with quite a few of his aging canines.

Aging golfers are not much different than old dogs when it comes to tricks. They can shed their bad habits and build a serviceable new swing given a dedicated teacher, a receptive mind and plenty of patience. Dedicated teachers are around, but unfortunately the other qualities required to pull off this caper are in chronic short supply.

The golfer who would make changes in the hope of improving his game must overcome whatever tendencies he has toward instant gratification. The path to improvement is long and the toll on that road is patience. For most of us, this means planting ourselves on the range for weeks despite the itch to take our new swing, swing thought, gimmick or golf epiphany right out onto the course.

Being a pretty old dog himself, *The Gapwedge* understands that the aging golfer might lack the patience he had as a younger person because he may feel he's running out of time. But that impatience is a trap that must be avoided if the older guy wants to ratchet up his game. Otherwise, he'll not only fail to improve, but his game will deteriorate under the inevitable weight of Father Time.

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