



THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

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

November
2011

EVALUATION OF OPERATING OPTIONS LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE SYSTEM

That's the official title of the consulting report everyone is talking about – a dry title for a report that packs a powerful punch.

Released to the public on October 5 and placed on the Department's web site for all to read and comment upon, the report's 100 pages contain reams of information, but its conclusions are really pretty simple:

- The quality of course maintenance is commendable;
- The public relations acumen of the starters and managers on site is solid;
- The management of the program is abysmal to the point of malfeasance;
- The system generates \$1.3 million less on an annual basis than is necessary for real sustainability, i.e., with sufficient capital improvement dollars to begin making a dent in the system's vast unmet project needs;
- The July 2010 greens fee schedule was a disaster, particularly the non-resident component, making it impossible to close that \$1.3 million gap by raising fees;
- The relationship between the system's concessionaires and the Department is dysfunctional;
- The relationship between the system's golf constituencies/institutions/clubs and Department management is toxic;
- The long-term leasing model employed by Los Angeles County, Pasadena and Long Beach does not make economic sense under current market conditions, as it would give up too much control in exchange for too little return – no more than the accomplishment of a mere sustainability that could be accomplished by other available means;
- The management agreement paradigm would accomplish \$3 million annual net proceeds over and above mere sustainability; and
- Local 721 SEIU, the union that represents the maintenance workers who comprise 90% of the employees in the system, is open to exploring creative and counterintuitive solutions to securing the business savvy acumen they too see as so desperately needed in the system.

That's pretty much the good, the bad and the ugly of the report – the "good" being the performance of the maintenance and operations workers in the field, the "bad" being the \$1.3 million gap that has to be bridged, and the "ugly" being the performance of management and the various relationships between that upper management and the system's stakeholders.

Somewhere in the report's 100 pages and the stakeholders' collective common senses is no doubt an "operating option" capable of keeping the "good," fixing the "bad" and performing radical surgery on the "ugly."

The Department has allowed for an extensive comments period regarding this report and invited not just the stakeholders but also the general public to weigh in with their opinions. You can go to the following URL and download copies of the report and a comments card:

http://www.golf.lacity.org/operating_options_evaluation_info.htm

Don't be shy about making your voice heard.

President's Cup Report

Neil Zaniboni defeats James Jordan, Jr.
Stephen Dem defeats Bob McKibben

Geockner Update

Nugent and Stewart defeat Andrews and Rogers, 14 club violation
Mesropian and Michelini defeat Stein and Vaughn, 2 and 1

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.

Editor: E.J. Beren (818) 438-0395

ejberen@sbcglobal.net

Publisher: Hadi Morshed (310) 487-2280
hadi.morshed@snakclub.com

THE NEXT TEE

Sunday November 13th- Ros Robles

9:30 am, \$70.00, Golf Carts, Range Balls and Prize Fund

Friday November 25th

The 5 Club- Our traditional day after Thanksgiving tournament
Any five clubs, but only five clubs in your bag
Details to be announced.

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

The long-awaited golf consulting report is out. On October 5 the Parks Department released it to the Parks Commissioners and put it up on the Department's web site for all to see, read and download.

The Department didn't release it with any comment, recommendation, or analysis, but rather in a manner more akin to the process used to certify Environmental Impact Reports – an open 90-day comments period followed by a Departmental analysis and recommendation based in part thereon.

The Golf Advisory Committee has been invited to submit formal written comments and has scheduled meetings in November to do just that. The SCGA will likely submit formal written comments as well. While I cannot tell you definitively exactly what will be in those comments, I can tell you definitively what will not be in those comments. The SCGA will not propose to cure what ails the city golf program by proposing the contracting out of the city's maintenance or operations personnel. Yes, the SCGA will advocate for significant changes and reforms, particularly as they relate to the system's acute need for experienced, professional business management, but the SCGA will not advocate for the "privatization" of the system. There are alternate routes to the additional \$1.3 million annual net revenues the report deems necessary to effectuate the system's full functionality – routes fully consistent with the city's values and fully capable of realization without relying upon fee increases of any kind whatsoever.

The public has been invited to make comments, and the Department has even created a protocol on its web site to facilitate them. Paste the following URL into your E-mail browser and up will come a PDF copy of the 100-page consultant report and that comments protocol:

http://www.golf.lacity.org/operating_options_evaluation_info.htm

What to make of the wide-open process employed to vet the report: That the Department and Commission want to see what consensus congeals from the disparate comments submitted; and move in that direction. I already see a consensus emerging from the conversations I've had with Golf Advisory Committee members, club officers, SEIU, SCGA, and other stakeholders. For that reason I am optimistic that our golf program can get to the level it needs to be to remain viable over time, particularly with respect to the elimination of a certain "us versus them" cancer that has been allowed to fester for far too long.

Comments or questions may be addressed to the author at craigkessler@aol.com

By E.J. Beren, Editor

Elections

On the evening of October 27, 2011 elections for the Board of Directors of the Sepulveda Men's Golf Club were held at the club house at the Sepulveda Golf Complex.

Re-elected to another term were Bruce Fortune, our President, Dan Crawford, Treasurer, Alan Stewart, Membership Chairman and Craig Kessler, our Director for Governmental affairs.

Choosing to not seek re-election were Ted Johnson who has been serving as our Trophy Chairmen and Allen Weiss, a Past President and one of our longest tenured members. We thank them for their service.

Newly Elected to the board are Jeff Sable and Gary Patterson

SCGA Team play

Now that SMGC is part of the SCGA after the PLGA's merger with the SCGA, we will be taking part for the first time in Saturday Team Play.

The matches kick off in January. An 18 man team, 16 players and 2 alternates will play home and home matches every Saturday for six weeks. The winners of the first round of matches will go on to the playoffs to be played in.

All club members are eligible to play provided you have 20 posted rounds in the last 12 months and a low index of 18.4 or less.

Contact Gene Vano, our team captain, 818-222-1226 Phone, genevano@hotmail.com, or myself, serving as assistant captain at 818-438-0395, ejberen@sbcglobal.com for more information. Comments or questions maybe directed to the author at ejberen@sbcglobal.net.

HANDICAP CHATTER

By Stu Olster, Handicap Chairman

A quick review of the Rules of Golf reveals vast differences between stroke and match play. In stroke play, every shot counts. In match play, while scores must be posted, they are irrelevant in determining the winner of the match.

In stroke play, the lowest net score wins. In match play he who wins the most holes wins. The strategy a golfer employs in these two distinct types of competitions is very different.

Our handicap indexes are based on the scores we make. Every shot counts, so it's fair to say our handicap indexes are determined by a system that is characteristic of stroke play.

There are many golfers whose scores don't accurately reflect their true abilities, particularly in a match play setting. This type of golfer would have a lower handicap index if he could eliminate those few double bogeys and dreaded others. Yet he brings his arguably inflated index to a match play event giving him a distinct advantage in my opinion. He loses only one hole no matter how many strokes he takes on that hole.

Not all golfers fit this profile. But my experience is that there are quite a few who are competitive on 14 or 15 holes, but lose their focus on 3 or 4 and make a high number. It is tough to give strokes to that kind of player because he can play you straight up for most of the round receiving strokes on some of those holes.

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

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Bruce Fortune, President..... (818) 535-4900
Gene Vano, Vice-President..... (818) 703-0749
Tommy Eunice, Secretary..... (626) 278-0372
Dan Crawford, Treasurer..... (818) 497-6617

Directors

Evan Beren...Editor..... (818) 438-0395
Virgil Budhu...Webmaster.....(310) 628-5548
Ted Johnson...Awards..... (818) 761-9988
Craig Kessler...GCA Dir- Gov't Affairs... (310) 941-4803
Mark Michelini...Sunday Tournaments.... (818) 470-0196
Hadi Morshed...Publisher..... (310) 487-2280
Rich Nance...Immediate Past President...(818) 422-3748
Stu Olster...Handicap..... (818) 222-2516
Alan Stewart...Membership..... (818) 633-3105
Allen Weiss...Entertainment..... (818) 360-8448

OOH Standings as of 10-24

Player	Points	Rank
Jordan Jr, James	860	1
Stewart, Alan	680	2
Mac Donald, Sean	670	3
Pistotnik, Donald J.	660	4
Levin, Leonid	655	5
Galletti, Richard	640	6
McKibben, Bob	600	7
Fortune, Bruce	495	8
Crawford, Dan T	465	9
Bridge, Clint	465	10
Budhu, Virgil	440	11
Meza, Beeri	420	12
Nozari, Ardeshir	395	13
Galper, Mark J.	390	14
Bryson, George	385	15
Nance, Rich (Pp)	360	16
Brumbaugh, Ian	345	17
Paciorek, Robert S.	345	17
Nugent, Brian	340	19
Levine, Andy	335	20
Vaughan, Mark	335	20
Johnson, Ted	330	22
Vano, Gene	325	23
Wilson, Larry E.	315	24
Zaniboni, Neil W.	310	25
Michelini, Mark I.	310	25

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

2011 Senior Championship

October 23, 2011.....Final Results

Flight - A

Player Low Gross

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Ardeshir Nozari	152	150.00
2	Bill Brandel	152	100.00
3	Daniel H. Longmire	157	75.00
4	George Bryson	159	60.00

Notes:

Arde and Bill had a sudden victory playoff. Arde birdied the first hole and wins the Gross Championship. Good battle all day guys.

Player Low Net

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Robert S. Paciorek	140	150.00
2	Alan Stewart	141	100.00
3	Mark Vaughan	143	60.00
3	Donald J. Pistotnik	143	60.00

Flight - B

Player Low Gross

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Leonid Levin	167	150.00
2	Ray M. Hassanlou	170	100.00
3	Mani Morshed	172	75.00
4	Armen Mesropian	175	50.00

Player Low Net

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Virgil Budhu	144	150.00
2	David Joslyn	146	90.00
2	Greg Petrovich	146	90.00
4	Khody Azari	152	50.00

Day 1 side games

Gross Skins (Across- A B)

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$ Skin Total
1 (7)	George L Beams	60.00	60.00
1 (9)	George Bryson	60.00	60.00
1 (8)	Daniel H. Longmire	60.00	60.00
1 (1)	Hadi Morshed	60.00	60.00
1 (3)	Donald J. Pistotnik	60.00	60.00
1 (10)	Bill Sherwood	60.00	60.00

Net Skins (Across- A B)

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$ Skin Total
1 (1)	Hadi Morshed	86.00	86.00
1 (3)	Donald J. Pistotnik	86.00	86.00
2 (4,5)	Evan Beren	86.00	172.00
1 (8)	Daniel H. Longmire	86.00	86.00

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

Hole	Winner	Notes	Prize
4	Joe Radford	7'	65.00
13	Steve Goldstein	8'6"	65.00
17	Bob McKibben	11'6"	65.00

Day 2 side games

Gross Skins (Across- A B)

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$ Skin Total
1 (13)	Bill Brandel	40.00	40.00
1 (1)	George Bryson	40.00	40.00
1 (5)	Ray M. Hassanlou	40.00	40.00
1 (17)	Ardeshir Nozari	40.00	40.00
2 (7,16)	Robert S. Paciorek	40.00	80.00
2 (2,11)	Bill Sherwood	40.00	80.00
1 (3)	Jim Thompson	40.00	40.00

Net Skins (Across- A B)

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$ Skin Total
1 (3)	Jim Thompson	82.00	82.00
2 (7,16)	Robert S. Paciorek	82.00	164.00
1 (11)	Bill Sherwood	82.00	82.00
1 (17)	Ardeshir Nozari	82.00	82.00

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

Hole	Winner	Notes	Prize
3	Ardeshir Nozari	10'9"	50.00
6	Ted Johnson	10'2"	50.00
15	George L Beams	8'11"	50.00
17	Bill Brandel	13'8"	50.00

Goeckner Classic

October 9, 2011 - Team Better Ball

Tournament Results:

Place	Winner	Score
1	Team 13 (Dan T Crawford, Jeff Sable)	60
2	Team 28 (Mark J. Galper, Ray Bishop)61	
3	Team 1 (Gene Vano, Larry W Scott)	62
3	Team 16 (James Jordan Jr, Michael Levy)	62
3	Team 20 (Ahmad Keliddari, Mani Morshed)	62
3	Team 21 (Said Jabbari, Sepehr Raafat)	62
7	Team 24 (Erik Rogers, Paul Andrews)	63
8	Team 26 (Alfredo Piccolomini, Roy Bernhardt)	64
8	Team 29 (Mark Vaughan, Robert J Stein)	64
8	Team 31 (Allen P. Weiss*, Leonid Levin)	64
8	Team 19 (Ardeshir Nozari, Hadi Morshed)	64
12	Team 14 (Clint Bridge, Paul Nance)	65
12	Team 15 (Armen Mesropian, Mark I. Michelini)	65
16	Team 5 (Sean Mac Donald, Stacey Shinnick)	66
16	Team 10 (Jeff Baker, Robert Schiele)	66
16	Team 12 (Alan Stewart, Brian Nugent) 66	

Notes: There is no prize money for this round. The top 16 move on. 17 teams finished at 66 or better. We had a sudden death playoff for the last three spots among the four teams who finished at 66. Unfortunately Chhabra/Longmire lost on the first playoff hole.

We will release the pairings for match play on Tuesday. The matches can be played anywhere but the default course is Balboa Blue Tees. The deadline is October 29th.

Flight - Gross Skins

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$ Skin Total
1 (12)	Mark A. Brown	76.00	76.00
1 (18)	Dan T Crawford	76.00	76.00
1 (7)	James Jordan Jr	76.00	76.00
1 (10)	Paul Nance	76.00	76.00
1 (1)	Larry W Scott	76.00	76.00

Net Skins

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$ Skin Total
1 (2)	Ray Bishop	125.00	125.00
1 (11)	Erik Rogers	125.00	125.00
1 (12)	Mark A. Brown	125.00	125.00
1 (14)	Mark Vaughan	125.00	125.00

Closest-to-the-Pin

Player	Closest-to-the-Pin	Hole	Winner	Notes	Prize
4	George Bryson			14'3"	75.00
13	Richard Whorton			7'11"	75.00
17	Ardeshir Nozari			12'6"	75.00

MGA Highlights

By Pete Heller

SEPULVEDA JUST MISSES IN SPLIT WITH GRIFFITH PARK SENIORS WHIP WOODLEY TWICE - FINISH ON A HIGH NOTE

Woodley Golf Course - October 20, 2011

Playing without a few regular players The Sepulveda MGA Team could manage only a split with repeating champion Griffith Park 39-33 and 17-19. Griffith's victory marks the first time in more than eighteen years that a champion other than Rancho Park has successfully defended it's title.

When Rancho Park lost twice to Hansen Dam 40-32 and 22-14 it resulted in a two way tie for second between Sepulveda and Rancho, only two games behind the champion. Hansen Dam ended up fourth, but only one game out of second in the closest finish in the history of the match play format.

Playing strictly for the fun of it, The Sepulveda Seniors topped home team Woodley Lakes 50-22 and 28-8 to finish the season on an up beat.

Many thanks to Captains Len Zambito, Dan Crawford and John Lanza for their efforts this year and a special tip of the hat to League Chairman Ray Stuckert for his unsung contributions throughout the year.

Sepulveda Match Winners Sepulveda Mens

Individual: Larry Scott, Alan Stewart, Len Zambito and George Bryson

Two Man: Scott/Piccolomini, Mesropian/Bryson

BACKSPIN SHOTS

By The Gapwedge

Somebody once said, "Rules are made to be broken." Chances are good that he was speaking of the Rules of Golf. Golf has rules, all right, and if one is to compete even in low-level tournaments, one should be more than noddingly familiar with them. The same obviously goes for the highest level competitions, where even the world's best players, aided by caddies and roving tournament officials, sometimes breach a rule and suffer penalty strokes or disqualification.

Some of golf's rules are byzantine and some are bizarre; some are archaic and some are seemingly unfair in their application. Nevertheless, the game of golf requires that we all play by the same rules.

We all should know that a ball hit out of bounds must be replayed from the same place on penalty of "stroke and distance." Yet every day, players hit drives out of bounds on holes 1 and 2 of Balboa and calmly march onto the adjoining holes of Encino to play their next shots. This is a clear and boldfaced violation of a basic rule that should be known to everybody who purports to play golf.

When two players are competing, even in a casual round, and one of them is picking and choosing which rules to follow, he assumes an unfair advantage over his more observant opponent. There is only one correct way to play golf, and that is to learn, understand and observe all of the rules of golf during every round. Even the most conscientious of us will occasionally make a mistake, but we owe it to our grand game and our fellow competitors to do our best to follow the rules.

Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

P.O. Box 57373

Phone: (818) 995-1172
Sepulveda Men's Golf Club

EAGLE
THE SEPULVEDA

