



# THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

SEPULVEDA MEN'S GOLF CLUB

March 2009

**Official publication  
of the  
Sepulveda Men's Golf Club**

**Visit our website  
at  
[www.smgc.org](http://www.smgc.org)**

## ***Golf, Corned Beef & Cabbage St. Pat's Party, March 26***

Come and get it! A whole day of golf and an evening of corned beef and cabbage, beer or soft drinks and prizes. Our entertainment chairman Allen Weiss promises to provide outstanding Irish entertainment. It's the first big social event on SMGC's 2009 Master Calendar and it's going to be laughs and gags non-stop....a humdinger you won't want to miss.

The tab for golf, sweeps and the best corned beef and cabbage this side of Dublin.....the works, is \$45, honest! Use the coupon on page 8, sign up online and pay by credit card at [smgc.org](http://smgc.org) or call **Gene Vano** at (818) 703-0749 if you want to play.



## ***JOHN C. PALUMBO MEMORIAL River Ridge, Sunday, May 3***

Make your plans now for this annual tournament named in honor of our own "Mr. Sepulveda" John C. Palumbo. This is considered a major tournament and you do have to qualify to enter. Qualification is as follows:

- 1) You must have been a SMGC member for at least 4 months, plus a minimum of 8 scores posted in the preceding 6 months.
- 2) You must have played in at least 4 SMGC sponsored events in the last 12 months (May 1, 2008 thru May 1, 2009).

This tournament will be an **individual** low net & low gross event using the low index of the last 12 months (as of 4/01/08). Players can only win (the higher prize of) low net or low gross - **not both**.

Starting times will be assigned by handicap (no exceptions) and will be posted on the web. Check next month's Eagle for sign-up information.

## ***Annual Thursday Shotgun - April 23 at Robinson Ranch***

Sign-ups will be coming soon for SMGC's annual Thursday shotgun. The tournament will be played at Robinson Ranch and is limited to 120 players. Here's what chairman Gene Vano has lined up: a partner's better ball shotgun start for \$65 and includes range balls, cart and closest to the pins.

If you like two-man partner's better ball, this is the place to be. Team up or Gene will set you up with a partner. Check next month's Eagle or the website for sign-up information.

### **CAN'T POST?**

Many club members have been deleted from the rolls because they failed to renew their memberships before the deadline. If you are unable to post your scores, chances are good that's the reason.

If you have paid your renewal dues, you will come back on line at the next update. Your Handicap Committee recommends that you preserve your scorecards and post your scores after your membership is reinstated.

**Dated material -- Periodical**



### **In Memoriam**

The SMGC Board of Directors along with its members extend deepest condolences to course manager Sandy Margolis and member Neil Zaniboni on the passing of their mothers.

### **Book a Tee Time**

If you have a Los Angeles city reservation card you can now book a tee time online 24/7 for any of the 13 City of Los Angeles courses. This is a new program the city is providing. Go to [www.golf.lacity.org](http://www.golf.lacity.org) and try it out.

Remember you must have a golf reservation card to use this service. You can also call any city course and make a same day tee time without a reservation card, this is based on availability.

## PUBLIC LINKS (PLGA) UPCOMING GOLF TOURNAMENTS

As a member of SMGC you are eligible to play in all of the many tournaments put on by our parent golf association.

You can always get applications at [www.plga.org](http://www.plga.org) or through the PLGA office – (800) 272-7542.

These tournaments are now taking applications:

### NEVADA OPEN

May 4 & 5

Location: Primm Valley Resorts

Cost: \$255

Release Date: 4th Week of January

Closes: April 6, 2009

Format: Partner Better Ball

Max Field: 144 Teams

### CORONADO CLASSIC

June 20 & 21

Location: Coronado G.C. – Coronado Island

Cost: \$TBD

Release Date: February 25, 2009

Closes: May 15, 2008

Format: Individual Low Gross & Low Net

Max Field: 144 golfers

The applications for the J.C. Cunningham Senior Championship, a two-day weekend tournament in late spring at Olivas Links and Buenaventura Golf Courses in Ventura, should be available by the time this March Eagle goes to press. Watch for them at [www.plga.org](http://www.plga.org).

## President's Corner

By Rich Nance

Spring is upon us and as the days get longer and warmer, the golf courses get busier. Encino and Balboa were jam packed last weekend and it wasn't really that hot. Although the economy is bad, somehow we seem to have enough put away for golf. As a weekend marshal my advice to all the members is to get the earliest tee time you can. The later you book, the longer your round will take.

The marshals try and move play along but it is not easy. All it takes is a lost ball in the rough and the group is behind half a hole. Hit it in there again with the sun in your eyes and all of a sudden it's a full hole and the guy behind you is yelling. Call the starter window and let us resolve any issues on the course. Remember to replace divots and fix your ball marks on the green. **FYI:** If you are a competitive golfer there is a Saturday afternoon game at Encino/Balboa. Call me at (818) 422-3748 for more info.



## 2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Board meets at 6:30pm on the first Tuesday of each month.		

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## USGA RULE OF THE DAY

**18-2a/3 Ball Lifted and Dropped Away from Boundary Stake Under Obstruction Rule**

**Q:** A player's swing is interfered with by a stake defining out of bounds. The player mistakenly considers the stake an obstruction and he lifts his ball and drops it in the manner prescribed in Rule 24-2b. What is the ruling?

**A:** The player incurs a penalty of one stroke under Rule 18-2a and he must replace his ball before playing his next stroke. Otherwise, he loses the hole in match play or he incurs a total penalty of two strokes in stroke play -- see penalty statement under Rule 18.

# FEBRUARY SCORE BOARD

**THURSDAY**                      **TOURNAMENT**  
**HANSEN DAM**                      **FEBRUARY 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Two man teams-Partners better ball*

**“A” Flight Gross Skins \$41 each**

- 2 Taira Kato
- 3 Peter Smith
- 6 Neil Zaniboni
- 9 Jeff Murphy
- 14 Bruce Fortune
- 17 Chuck Ruiz
- 18 Daniel Longmire

**“A” Flight Net Skin \$31 each**

- 1 Tim Haldeman
- 2 Taira Kato
- 9 Jeff Murphy
- 11 Jeff Murphy
- 16 Gene Vano

**“B” Flight Net Skins \$7 each**

- 1 Allen Weiss
- 2 Christopher Koseluk
- 3 Christopher Koseluk
- 5 Mike Teague
- 6 Marc Covert
- 11 Richard Greene
- 12 Kris Kapur
- 15 Don Atkinson
- 16 Frank Girona
- 18 Richard Greene

**Player Low Net**

<i>Score Winner</i>	<i>Prize</i>
67 Kris Kapur	\$75
69 Dean Abston	\$40
69 Jeff Sable	\$40
70 Don Atkinson	\$30
71 Gene Vano	\$10
71 Richard Greene	\$10
71 Edward Licht	\$10

**Closest to the Pin \$55 each**

<i>Hole Winner</i>	<i>Prize</i>
4 Mike Teague	21’6”
7 Sepehr Raafat	14’0”
15 Don Atkinson	2’10”
17 Chuck Ruiz	5’2”

**Prize Money**

All tournament place winnings are paid in gift certificates redeemable in the Encino/Balboa Pro Shop.

**“A” Flight - Low Net**

**64 \$35 each**

- Erik Nordquist                      Jeff Murphy
- Mark O’Keefe                      Tom Knickerbocker

**65 \$25 each**

- Alan Miller                                      Roy Hay

**66 \$5 each**

- Michael Radtke                      Perry Melillo
- Jeff Sable                                      Neil Zaniboni
- David Jochen                                      George Correa
- Chuck Ruiz                                      Rick Reinschmidt

**“B” Flight Low Net**

**60 \$35 each**

- Dean Abston                                      Richard Greene
- Donald Pistotnik                                      Kris Kapur

**63 \$25 each**

- Bernie Rabins                                      Victor Cervantes

**64 \$30 each**

- Allen Weiss                                      Michael Teague
- Don Atkinson                                      Edward Licht

**66 \$5 each**

- Ahmad Keliddari                                      Sepehr Raafat
- Pete Prieto                                      Don Atkinson

***Sepulveda Phone Numbers***

Many players program the starter’s window and cart shack numbers into their cell phones to cover possible *emergencies*. Here are the Encino/Balboa numbers:

**Starter’s window** (818) 995-1170

**Cart shed** (818) 788-9793

**Coffee Shop/Bar** (818) 789-1919

Don’t abuse them, keep them silent during your round!!

**POST AT THE RANGE**

There’s a new posting computer at the Driving Range shop! It’s convenient following a round at the new Balboa...and it’s available until closing time at 10 pm!

**“QUOTE OF THE WEEK”**

“I didn’t vote for Obama but he is remarkable. In less than three weeks in office he has collected more than \$150,000 in back taxes just from his cabinet appointments.

*Gov. Mark Sanford ...SC*

## MGA 2009

*By Pete Heller*

**SEPULVEDA ESCAPES WITH WIN AND TIE OVER SENIOR CLUB - WHEW!**

Hansen Dam-February 19

The Sepulveda Seniors gave the defending champions all they could handle in this twice a year battle for Encino/Balboa pride.

After three foursomes had reported, the Seniors led in the individual matches 31-5 and in the two-man 13-5. They needed only 6 more total points in each format from their 6 remaining players for a double win. But the Mens’ Club rallied. Sepulveda’s sharpshooters completely erased the 31-5 singles deficit to pull to a 36-36 tie, while whipping the Seniors soundly in the remaining two man matches 16-2 to win 21-15.

Rancho Park brought their “A” team Thursday and let everyone know they are not kidding around this year. 5 Rancho Park players shot “gross” rounds in the 70’s as they routed Griffith Park 48-24 and 30-6.

Hansen Dam, dusting off after a poor start last month, smashed Woodley Lakes 50-22 and 21-15 and made it apparent that they are not to be taken lightly.

**Sepulveda Match Winners**

***Individual:***

Derek Malmsten, Taira Kato, Dave Carlson, Larry Malmsten, Mike Radtke and Len Zambito  
 Two Man: Michelini/Malmsten, D Kato/Carlson, Malmsten L./Radtke, Zambito/Krieger

**Sepulveda Srs. - Individual:**

Pete Heller, Harry Coddington, Deron Jones, Ken Oberg, Lars Ferling

***Two Man:***

Heller/Coddington, Jones/Oberg

<i>Standings</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>Points</i>
Rancho Park	4	0	0	4
Sepulveda Mens’	3	0	1	3 1/2
Hansen Dam	2	2	0	2
Sepulveda Seniors	1	0	1	1 1/2
Griffith Park	1	3	0	1
Woodley Lakes	0	4	0	0

**Next Matches - Balboa, March 19**

8:00 Rancho Park vs Sepulveda Seniors  
 8:45 Griffith Park vs Hansen Dam  
 9:35 Sepulveda vs Woodley Lakes

## HANDICAP CHATTER

By *STU OLSTER, Handicap Chairman*

USGA Handicap Manual, section 9-4 specifies how handicap strokes are allocated in match play. Whether in singles or four-ball (partner better ball), the course handicaps are first determined. Then the lowest handicap player plays at scratch and the other player(s) reduce their course handicaps by the same number of strokes. So, if John and Ted have course handicaps of 4 and 8, respectively, John plays at scratch and Ted plays at 4.

The strokes are allocated to the holes with the lowest handicap numbers. In the previous example, Ted would get strokes on holes rated 1-4. These are not necessarily the most difficult holes; instead they are the holes on which the bogey golfer needs a stroke to most often halve the hole against a scratch player.

How do the holes get their handicap numbers? The golf club attached to the course establishes them. When Balboa was reconfigured into a par 72 course, your Board of Directors performed the function of re-rating the holes, two of which were brand new. The USGA recommends that actual statistical data be gathered over a period of time to determine the order in which the holes require a stroke to equalize the bogey and scratch golfer. Because of the press of time, your Board didn't have the luxury of gathering this empirical data, so we assigned the numbers using our long experience with the course and our intuition.

As actual numbers are accumulated, changes to hole handicap assignments can be made. If officially changing the hole handicaps is impractical (because there are 20,000 printed scorecards in inventory for instance), players are free to make their own assignments in casual play. In tournament play, the *Committee in Charge of the Competition* may specify different hole handicap assignments, provided advance published notice is given the competitors (Handicap Manual section 9-3 a).

Your Board was in the process of reviewing the hole assignments for Encino when, due to a communication snafu, new scorecards were printed before we were able to complete the task. We certainly would have changed the hole rating on the par-5 fourth hole, which has become the bane of the low handicappers' existence.

In four-ball stroke play, the format we use in the Goeckner Classic qualifier, the USGA recommends that the spread between partners' course handicaps be limited to 8 or less strokes because a larger spread gives an unfair advantage to that team.

*Questions or comments may be addressed to the author at [slolster@yahoo.com](mailto:slolster@yahoo.com)*

## CITY CORNER

By *Craig Kessler*

By now just about everyone has heard that Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed golf use tax was not part of the state budget adopted in late February. Those who haven't should check out the detailed story reprinted from the PLGA website elsewhere in this issue of the Eagle.

As someone who was intimately involved in the campaign against the tax, I know how difficult a fight this was and will continue to be. It's not over yet. Bad ideas have a way of coming back. I also know how much luck played a role in the successful outcome. Of course, what was it that Gary Player always said "the more I practice, the luckier I get?" And of course, hasn't many a wise man intoned, "I would rather be lucky than good?"

Notwithstanding the role that good fortune always plays in good outcomes, there is a lesson to be learned from the successful campaign. Come on admit it. When the tax proposal was unveiled November 6 how many of you thought its imposition was a forgone conclusion given the enormity of the \$42 billion shortfall and the pain of all the proposed cuts in education, mass transit, and programs for children?

Truth be known an awful lot of us in the "fight" had our doubts, often speaking privately of "soft landings" and mitigations.

The lesson?

No matter how difficult the circumstances, how daunting the odds, how overwhelming the opposition, or how meager the resources available, if the facts and the equities are with your cause, you have a chance – IF YOU HAVE THE WILL TO CARRY THE FIGHT!

At the February 23 Golf Advisory Committee, three of us who hail from SMGC, Gene Vano, Stu Olster and I joined four colleagues in sponsoring a Motion to task Advisory Committee Chair Ted Winship (Hansen Dam), with penning an entreaty to the Board of Recreation & Parks Commissioners indicating the full Committee's desire to seek massive structural reform in the way the City manages its golf courses. I won't bore you with the details of five (5) basic structures the Motion referenced. Suffice it to say that all of them are practiced and practiced successfully here in Southern California, and all of them would represent major change.

Do we expect a backlash? You bet! Challenges to the status quo always invite a bad reaction. But in the final analysis, the fate of our great municipal golf system is far more important than the avoidance of personal discomforts.

Will the challenge bear fruits? In the short run, I doubt it. Never underestimate the residual strength of the dead hand of the past. But there are more "facts and equities" with those carrying forth this fight than with those who carried forth the tax fight. If they have the will to simply hold their ground, reform will surely come. This is one status quo that cannot hold.

## **THE GOLF COMMUNITY'S VIGILANCE PAYS OFF--NO GOLF TAX . . . . FOR NOW**

February 19 . . . . . After a record 45 1/2 hour session, the longest in its 160-year history, the California State Senate joined the State Assembly and Governor in passing a Budget, an adjusted one for the remainder of the 2008-2009 fiscal year and a new one for 2009-2010. In the process, the State Legislature closed a gaping \$42 billion shortfall.

The proposed golf use tax was **NOT** part of the package. Neither was the proposed 12 cents per gallon gas tax.

The remainder of the details were as follows:

### **TAX HIKES**

- Vehicle license fee nearly doubles to 1.15%
- Sales tax rises 1%
- Income tax rises 0.25%
- Dependent tax credit is reduced by \$210

### **SPENDING CUTS**

- \$8 billion from public schools and community colleges
- \$567 million from grants to disabled and blind
- \$1.4 billion from state worker salaries and overtime
- \$787 million from state colleges and universities
- \$460 million from public transit
- \$185 million from programs for the developmentally disabled

### **TAX BREAKS**

- \$690 million for multistate/multinational companies
- \$200 million for small businesses hiring persons
- \$100 million for Hollywood production companies
- \$100 million in credits for persons buying new homes

### **VOTER APPROVAL NEEDED**

- Taking \$226 million intended for mental health programs
- Taking \$608 million from programs aimed at children 5 and under
- Cap to restrict future state spending
- Borrowing \$5 billion from future lottery proceeds
- Making technical changes to educational funding formulas

The golf and other targeted "use" taxes were left out of the package for a variety of reasons, but chief among them was the Legislative Analyst Office's (LAO) Report that Michigan, Massachusetts, and Florida had recently adopted such "use" taxes only to have to repeal them shortly thereafter. This "Report" underscored the golf community's chief objections to the imposition of the tax -- that it was capricious, i.e., applied in a discriminatory and unfair manner, that it was ill crafted, that it would cause disproportionate harm to one recreational activity to the benefit of similarly situated ones, and that it contained a whole host of undesirable and unintended

consequences, chief among them the demonstrable fact that local municipal golf programs like the City and County of Los Angeles would suffer 7-figure annual "hits" to their parks budgets.

Golfers can catch their breath. But that's about all. The State's fiscal ship is no longer sinking, but it is by no means completely through the present storm. Neither is the national economy. The issue will no doubt be revisited, probably sooner than later.

A Legislative Tax Reform Commission is expected to make a report in April. It is highly likely that use/service taxes will be part of that discussion, although in a comprehensive as opposed to a targeted fashion as was the Governor's November golf use tax proposal.

There is no guarantee that all or even any of the "Voter Approval Needed" items above will be passed by the voters the following two months, nor is there any guarantee that tax receipts won't decline even faster than already anticipated.

Of course, as a result of the efforts of the California Alliance for Golf (CAG), the state's golf organizations, and most particularly, the thousands of golfers who contacted their legislators and signed up through [www.forecalifornia.com](http://www.forecalifornia.com), round two of the battle should be a little bit easier. At least, the golf community will be organized and ready. But only IF golfers keep up their guards and remain committed to public engagement.

Besides, the coming "water wars" (rationing) could make the tax fight seem tame by comparison.

[Reprinted from the PLGA Web Site]

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## ***SMGC GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE***

The SMGC Board of Directors established a standing "Grievance Committee" which will investigate and recommend resolutions of disputes arising within the Club.

The Grievance Committee will operate under procedures that assure the opportunity for a full hearing to any member bringing, or responding to, a grievance before it. When the Committee formulates its recommendations, and presents them to the Board, the Board will issue a decision in the matter, and that decision will be final.

We don't have many disputes in our Club that require the services of the Committee. But, having such a committee in place and ready to go will help assure that any disputes that do arise will be taken up and decided promptly and fairly.

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## **HOLES- IN-ONE**

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](mailto:leonardzambito@hotmail.com) or by phone at (818) 761-3846.

## FROM THE READY GOLF SHOP

*(Country Club Service-Warehouse Prices)*

*By Mark Karge-Head Golf Professional*

### SPRING IS CLOSE...But not yet!

Although Spring is coming soon, it is not here just yet. As a reminder, the Ready Golf Pro Shop has in stock everything you need for foul weather including rain suits, fleece, wind shirts, beanies and hand warmers. And, at the best price anywhere to be found. For those of you who routinely check your scrip totals, now is the perfect time to use it. Really, we don't mind!

For that time when Spring does arrive, we have just received a new shipment of golf shirts including Tehama, Bolle, and Greg Norman. Come and get'em before they're gone. If you have a new or beginning golfer in your life, Spring is a great time to get them started. We carry a great starter set complete with hybrids. We also carry a great selection of sunglasses with 400 UV protection. That's 110% UV protection on those sunny Southern California days. Thank you for your patronage.

As a final note, Ready Golf extends its deepest condolences to Sandy Margolis on the passing of her mother. Our thoughts are with you Sandy.

## PLAY IN OUR ANNUAL MEMBER-GUEST TOURNAMENT!

Set your alarm clock early...our famous Member-Guest tournament is a 7 am shotgun at Encino on May 28!

This is our one-and-only tournament where a member can invite a friend to play as a partner and chow down to a sit-down lunch afterward. The format is Partner's Better Ball, and the tab is \$60 each. That includes greens fee, cart, sweeps, lunch and door prizes.

You can invite one guest or three (but not two...that would leave you one player short for your foursome. If you invite three, you can compete with each of them as separate teams.

### *Here are the flights:*

- Member with a guest who has an established handicap.
- Member with a guest without a handicap.
- Member/member in flights based on the handicaps.

Check next month's Eagle for more information.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress".

-- Will Rogers

## 2009 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Our annual Club Championship is one of the premier public golf championships in the San Fernando Valley. This year's opening round will be on Balboa on Saturday, June 20. The second round will be played on Encino, Sunday, June 21. Golfers who make the cut (low 50%) will enter the third phase on June 29 at Encino.

Course Manager, Sandy Margolis, along with the Encino and Balboa Superintendents, promise the courses will be set up for tournament conditions.

The tournament committee will mark the courses, select pin locations and produce hole location sheets for all three rounds. The committee will also provide players with detailed local rules and information sheets for each round.

The tournament features four flights: Championship (Gross), A, B and C (Net). As always, we will use a 12-month Low Index for handicapping. Blue tees are for 18 and under handicappers; the Whites are for 19 and above players. Pairings for the first 36 holes by 12-month Low Index. Players who play early the first day, will tee off later on the second. Pairings for the final round will be by order of position with flights. Any ties will be resolved by sudden death playoffs.

To enter, you must have been an SMGC member for at least 4 months, posted 8 scores in the previous 6 months, and participated in 4 or more Club competitions during the previous 12 months (not including the 2008 Championship).

There is also an optional separate championship for members of Sepulveda Eagles (SCGA affiliate club) at a cost of \$25 with participants eligible for both Championships, both prize funds, and both PLGA's Tournament of Champions later in the year.

The lowest Gross Score in the Championship flight will be SMGC's Club Champion, and will receive a trophy. Lowest Net Score overall among the three other flights will be SMGC's Net Champion and will also receive a trophy. Lowest Net Score among two remaining Net flights will be SMGC's Division Champions, and will also receive trophies. All winners will be eligible to compete in PLGA's Tournament of Champions.

Merchandise Certificates will be awarded to top finishes in all flights. Check next month's Eagle for more information.

## PLAYING BY THE RULES

When a ball hangs on the lip of the cup, players may not jump up and down or stomp on the ground in an effort to jar the ball into the hole. Players who do this will receive a one-stroke penalty and be required to place the ball back in its original position.

(According to USGA rule #1)

## **TEE/CUP Chips**

*By Irv Chernov*  
Eagle-Eyed Editor

Can you handle the shock when something pops up that has the ability to knock you for a loop? If your answer is a resounding YES, read on...this one's for you!

Your first step is to lug your golf bag into the kitchen. Next, remove all clubs, standing them on end, leaning against the sink. More on this later.

Now comes the potential for some shockeroos. This step involves the unzipping of each and every pocket of your golf bag. Remove all items. ALL items. Just place them on the kitchen floor. When you've emptied the pockets, categorize the items you've unloaded.

Golf balls in one area, used Kleenex in another, old score cards in yet another. By now, you're catching on and saying to yourself, "Why is this thing in my bag?" or "That isn't my head cover...whose is it?" or "So that's where my pencil sharpener disappeared to!"

Once you've gotten over the shock of how much junk you've been carrying around all these months (years?), it's time to dump all unwanted or unneeded items. Just toss 'em. Then replace the items you still want and need into their proper pockets in your bag.

Now for the clubs. So long as they're so close to the kitchen sink, grab an old toothbrush, turn on some warm water...and scrub every groove in your set. More shockeroo. You thought you've been adequately cleaning grooves with wet towels, tees, fingernails, etc. for many rounds. Just watch what happens when you scour those babies with a toothbrush!

When you're finished, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that your grooves can actually help your ball-striking. And here's an added bonus: your entire bag will weigh considerably less.

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### ***Have Your Say and Win Some Golf Balls!***

Got a gripe? A question? A comment about the game or the Club? The Players Forum on the SMGC website offers members the opportunity to get it out in the open for all to read and comment on. Only one problem: we haven't been using it to its full potential.

So, The Board has opted to resort to bribery in order to beef up usage of this valuable communications tool.

Every month, the writer of the Forum "message of the month" will win two sleeves of ProV1s! Members of the Board of Directors will judge each month's entries, and present the winners with their Titleist prizes.

Can't think of a topic? How about rules, etiquette, pace of play, golf carts, course conditions... you get the idea. Just about everything and anything (within reason) that has to do with the game we all love. Click on the Forum page and put in your two cents worth!

## **BACKSPIN SHOTS**

*by The Gapwedge*

Suppose you were a trucker with a shiny new 18-wheeler. Your new vehicle would be good and reliable, but if you ignored maintenance and necessary repairs for a period of time, your machine would become dilapidated and subject to frequent breakdowns.

What would happen if you raised your rates for shipping on your dilapidated truck? It wouldn't be long before your customers would find another company to haul its goods with better reliability and at lower prices. Who wants to pay more and get less?

What if your house deteriorated because you failed to maintain it and you put it on the market at a price higher than comparable homes for sale in your neighborhood that had been carefully maintained? Who in their right mind would pay your asking price when better homes are available for less?

Could a dairy farmer stay in business if he stopped feeding his cows? What about an airline that forgets to maintain its fleet?

Golf rates were raised here in our fair City in 2008 somewhere between a little and a lot depending on whether you're lucky enough to be an LA City resident or not. What prompted this was a shortage of money in City coffers and the Mayor's demand that revenue-producing activities (like golf) generate more dollars toward closing the budget gap. But the increased golf fees were not accompanied by provision for current or future repairs, maintenance or capital improvements. As a consequence, our golf community is asked to pay more and get less than with competing local golf opportunities.

Rec and Parks management would point out that the new fee structure has generated some increased revenue. But this marginal increase has come at the expense of a significantly reduced number of rounds. Some of these lost rounds are no doubt due to the effects of the economic recession, but it's likely that some of these are being played at well-maintained County and daily fee courses, where bargain prices are available.

Everybody associated with our LA golf system knows that infrastructure such as irrigation systems and clubhouses have reached, or are nearing, the end of their useful lives and that adequate funds have not been set aside to update or replace them. Our golf system, like the neglected big rig or home, is becoming uncompetitive and the situation is only likely to get worse before it gets better.

It occurs to The Gapwedge that decisions affecting golf by the Mayor's office and others outside the golf fraternity are going unchallenged by those who are responsible for running our courses. Inevitably not far down the road, the cash cow that is our golf system will stop giving dollars.

## READY GOLF TIP

By Kae Ko

### THREE THINGS THAT CAN CAUSE A SLICE

A slice can frustrate golfers tremendously. In general, a slice can be broken down into three main causes.

First, insufficient shoulder rotation. Not only can the lack of shoulder turn cause the slice, but the overcompensation made by the "arms only" backswing can be another culprit.

Second, a slice can result when the lower body leans too much towards the target. This leads to unstable body movement and weight shift during the downswing. You should try to imagine that the left side of your body is up against a wall at set up...and through your swing.

The third cause can be due to the left wrist still facing the target after impact. This is because the left wrist did not rotate or roll all the way through. This non-action will prevent the clubhead from releasing past our hands at impact. Most golfers suffer from this third reason.

A lot of these slice tendencies occur when you're trying to swing too fast. A simple remedy can be, the next time you hit a slice, try to relax your body and swing with about half the power.

Kae Ko is a teaching professional at the Sepulveda Ready Golf Driving Range. He speaks the Korean language fluently. His rate for instruction is \$40 per half hour private lesson

## COMING EVENTS

Mar 19	MGA Team Play - Balboa	
Mar 21-29	PLGA "Amateur Championship" Qualifier	
Mar 26	Thursday Tournament - Encino St Pat's-Dinner	\$45
Apr 4-5	PLGA "Amateur Championship" Finals	
Apr 4-6	LA City Junior Golf Championship	
Apr 2	Board Meeting	
Apr 5	Sunday Tournament	TBA
Apr 16	MGA Team Play - Woodley Lakes	
Apr 23	Thursday Tournament - Robinson Ranch Shotgun	\$65
May 3	Sunday Tournament - The Palumbo - River Ridge	
May 4-5	PLGA "Nevada Open" Primm Valley Resorts	
May 7	Board Meeting	
May 16	Saturday, SMGC Senior Championship - Balboa	
May 17	Sunday, SMGC Senior Championship - Encino	
May 21	MGA Team Play - Encino	
May 28	Thursday Tournament - Member/Guest - Encino	
June 4	Board Meeting	
June 11-14	LA City Men's Golf Championship	
June 18	MGA Team Play - Harding	
June 20-21	PLGA "George Collup" Coronado Classic Coronado G.C.	
June 20	Saturday - Club Championship - Balboa	
June 21	Sunday - Club Championship - Encino	
June 27	Saturday - Finals 50% Plus ties - Encino	
June 27-28	PLGA "JC Cunningham" Senior Championship Buenaventura & Olivas Links GC	
July 2	Board Meeting	
July 12	Sunday Tournament	TBA
Jul 16	MGA Team Play - Wilson	
July 23	Thursday Tournament - Rancho Park	\$35
July 25-26	PLGA "Central Coast Open" Marshallia Ranch La Purisima	
Aug 6	Board Meeting	
Aug	Sunday Tournament	TBA
Aug 15-16	LA/PLGA "Match Play Qualifying" Encino/Harding/Wilson	
Aug 17	PLGA "Pro-President" Los Serranos (North) CC	
Aug 20	MGA Team Play - Hansen Dam	

### Tournament Sign-Up Coupon

To sign up and pay for a future tournament, check the appropriate boxes and mail with a separate check (payable to the SMGC only) for each event to:

SMGC  
P.O. Box 57373  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

- Mar 26 Thursday Tournament - St. Pat's - Encino \$45
- Apr 23 Thursday Tournament - Robinson Ranch Shotgun \$65

Tournament chairman is Gene Vano (818) 703-0749

### USGA RULE OF THE DAY

#### 25-1b/17 Pine Needles Piled for Removal Interfere with Line of Play After Ball Dropped Away

**Q:** A player whose ball lies in pine needles piled for removal drops away under Rule 25-1b. The ball comes to rest in such a position that the pile of pine needles intervenes on his line of play. May the player remove the pine needles from his line of play?

**A:** Yes. Pine needles piled for removal are loose impediments or ground under repair. Initially, the player was entitled to remove the pine needles under Rule 23-1 (Loose Impediments) or drop away, as he did, under Rule 25-1b. After the player dropped away a new situation existed and he was no longer entitled to invoke Rule 25-1b. However, he was not prohibited from removing the pine needles under Rule 23-1.