



# THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

SEPULVEDA MEN'S GOLF CLUB

February / March 2010

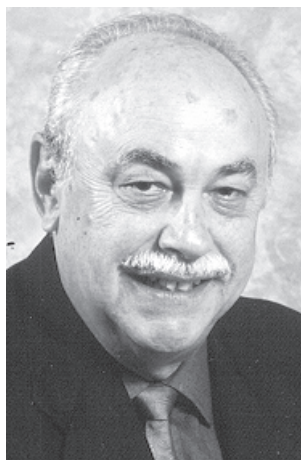
**Official publication  
of the  
Sepulveda Men's Golf Club**

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

Ed Cohn is gone.

He fought like the giant he was. He had most of the afflictions that we hear about every day. He had been fighting for years with never a "why me". He had lung cancer, he had angioplasty for blockages in his legs, he had a tumor on the top of his head. His kidneys were failing so he had dialysis 3 days a week for 3 hours at a time. Still he fought all that stuff to a standstill.

After dialysis at four in the morning he would come straight to the golf course and help with the tournaments and I mean really help. Last April he came every day for the three day Junior Championships and stayed from 7am til 5pm. He was an iron man. He brought his camera and took pictures of the kids and then in all our Sepulveda Championships he captured the winners photos. He carried a baggie with a million pills and it looked like a bag of M&Ms. Every color every size. Chugged em down and said "my wife makes me take em."



Ed was a proud member of the Marine Corps. He served on every committee in our club. He represented us at the Golf Advisory Committee. He was a past president of the Municipal Golf Association. He was our rep to the PLGA for many years. You name it he did it. In real life he was the executive director of the Southern California Tar (tire) Dealers Association. He was on a plane or in his car to Sacramento all the time fighting for his dealers on a moments notice. The guy never slept. Pneumonia finally got him last week but he battled right to the end.

Edwin J. Cohn was a truly marvelous human being. He was our Club President in 94-95 and if we didn't have term limits he would still be President. He brightened every room he ever walked into. I was privileged to have been in his foursome every Sunday for some 20 odd years. We all have great golf memories. Eddie Cohn is in most of mine. He was the funniest guy, he was a true friend, and he made all our lives a lot better. He was "Cohn Khan the Magnificent" to me and I will never forget him. If I ever get to where he is I hope he will have me in his foursome.

*Gene Vano*

**Dated material -- Periodical**

## ***Golf, Corned Beef & Cabbage St. Pat's Party, March 25***

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 2010 Master Calendar. We encourage all the new members to come and meet other members; you will not be disappointed.

The tab for golf, sweeps and the best corned beef and cabbage this side of Dublin.....the works, is \$45, honest! 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.

### **...and the winners are:**

Two of SMGC's biggest annual events produced some big winners. Here they are:

#### **2009 Goeckner Classic**

**1st place \$250 each**

Malik Basurto / George Olteanu

**2nd place \$150 each**

Ray Bishop / George Bryson

**3rd place (Tie) \$75 each**

Dan Crawford / Bill Brandel

Alan Stewart / Larry Zuckerman

#### **2009 President's Cup**

**1st place \$250**

Mark Michelini

**2nd place \$150**

Dan Crawford

**3rd (Tie) \$75 each**

Ahmad Keliddari, John Byrnes

## *It's Just A Par Three*



Forget pitch and putt - this tee-off point on top of a 1,410 ft. mountain in South Africa is the hardest golf shot in the world, and more than \$1 million awaits the player who can score a hole in one.

Players must take a helicopter to the top to play the longest and highest par three on the planet. Taking the shot also requires courage. A player needs to teeter terrifyingly close to the edge of the mammoth hillside.

Indeed, the Extreme 19th Hole is so high the ball takes almost 30 seconds to reach the ground.

The hole is based at the Legends Golf and Safari Resort, within the Entabeni Safari Conservancy in South Africa's Northeastern Limpopo Province. The other 18 holes were designed by world golfing legends including Trevor Immelman, Sergio Garcia, Padraig Harrington and Australia's Robert Allenby.

A round of golf - including a buggy and lunch - will set you back R450 (\$70).

The Extreme 19th cost is \$1060 per four ball, that includes helicopter ride, souvenir cap, glove and a DVD of you playing the hole.

So far, no one has even come close pocketing the million-dollar prize, but Harrington became the first golfer to conquer the hole within par. Harrington said, "This is the type of innovation and excitement we need to get more people playing golf. There aren't many new innovative ways to play the game but this is certainly one of the best.

"I think this hole is awesome. I love the whole experience, the helicopter, the views, the drama and having the green the shape of Africa. And now I've got bragging rights over all the other professionals who have played this hole and not managed to make a three. I love everything about it."

### 2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gene Vano, Vice President	818-703-0749
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The Board meets at 6:30pm on the first Thursday of each month.

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## *Simi Hills*

### *Thursday - April 22*

Sign ups will be coming soon for SMGC's annual Thursday. The tournament will limited to 100 players and here's what chairman Gene Vano has lined up: a partner best ball 11 o'clock straight start with carts and range balls, 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 the web site and the next month's Eagle for sign up information.

# JANUARY SCORE BOARD

## THURSDAY - TOURNAMENT WOODLEY LAKES JANUARY 28<sup>th</sup>

### 2 Man Best Ball "A" Flight Low Net

**65 \$40 each**

Mike McKenna Roscoe Anthony  
Paul Barrere Paul Nance

**66 \$30 each**

Jeff Sable Michael Radtke

**67 \$20 each**

Gene Vano George Beams

### "B" Flight Low Net

**61 \$45 each**

Irv Chernov Michael Melamed

**64 \$35 each**

Alfredo Picolomini Malik Basurto

**66 \$30 each**

Leo Levin Mike Teague

**67 \$20 each**

Pete Prieto Victor Cervantes

### Gross Skins \$36 each

- 2 Arde Nozari
- 4 Erik Nordquist
- 6 Stacey Shinnick
- 7 David Jochen
- 11 Paul Barrere
- 12 Mark Brown
- 16 Cody Williams
- 17 Arde Nozari

### Net Skins \$58 each

- 1 Gary Templeton
- 4 Erik Nordquist
- 7 David Jochen
- 13 Malik Basurto
- 16 Cody Williams
- 17 Arde Nozari
- 18 Malik Basurto

### Low Net

- 70 Michael Radtke \$55
- 70 Pete Prieto \$55
- 71 David Jochen \$30
- 71 Roscoe Anthony \$30
- 72 Dean Abston \$15
- 72 Robert Stein \$15

### Closest to the Pin \$50 each

Hole	Winner	Prize
3	Larry Zuckerman	13' 2"
7	Paul Barrere	5' 5"
12	Steve Bloom	11'
15	George Beams	21' 7"

## THURSDAY - TOURNAMENT HANSEN DAM FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup>

### Modified Stableford

- 27 Bruce Fortune \$75
- 25 Ahmad Keliddari \$60
- 24 Alan Stewart \$40
- 24 Thomas Moore \$40
- 22 Victor Cervantes \$30
- 22 Len Zambito \$30
- 21 Robert Stein \$25
- 18 Gene Vano \$20
- 18 Jeff Murphy \$20
- 17 Dan Crawford \$10
- 17 Tom Knickerbocker \$10

### Gross Skins \$27 each

- 1 Marc Green
- 6 Allan Miller
- 7 Marc Green
- 11 Roy Hay
- 12 Jeff Murphy
- 13 Bruce Fortune
- 14 Leonard Zambito
- 16 Alan Stewart

### Net Skins \$44 each

- 6 Alan Miller
- 10 Michael Radtke
- 11 Roy Hay
- 12 Jeff Murphy
- 13 Bruce Fortune
- 16 Alan Stewart
- 17 Robert Stein

### Closest to the Pin \$35 each

- 4 Jeff Murphy 10' 1"
- 7 Jeff Murphy 16' 2"
- 15 Rick Kopper 15' 10"
- 17 Ahmad Keliddari 5' 11"

### Low Net

- 65 Bruce Fortune \$50
- 67 Ahmad Keliddari \$35
- 68 Victor Cervantes \$25
- 68 Leonard Zambito \$25
- 69 Thomas Moore \$15
- 69 Robert Stein \$15

3 Teams won the Honey Pot \$65 to each team. Zambito/Fortune 57 Fortune/Vano 59 Zambito/Vano 59.

### The Saturday Game

If you are looking for a Saturday afternoon gross score skins game with guaranteed tee times on Encino or Balboa call Rich Nance at (818) 422-3748.

#### Prize Money

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

## MGA 2010

By Pete Heller

### SENIORS STUN SEPULVEDA TWICE - TAKE BOTH OPENERS Encino - February 18

After a nasty rainout in January, The MGA League finally got under way on a most pleasant day for golfing in February. Rookie Co-Captains John Lanza and Steve Skinner put together a competitive team that had to surprise 2009 runner-up Sepulveda by winning 37-35 and 20-16.

In a notable match, Senior Ed Krojansky lost the first 5 holes to Sepulveda Captain Len Zambito, won the next 4 and went on to win the contest 4-2. This was the key contribution in the narrow team victory.

Elsewhere, defending champion Rancho Park served notice that they are still the team to beat by twice defeating Woodley Lakes 40-32 and 19-17. In the final match always competitive, but always frustrated "wait 'til next year" Hansen Dam tore out of the gate and ripped Griffith Park 45-27 and 20-16.

#### Sepulveda Men's Match Winners Individual

Gene Vano, Mike Teague,  
Bruce Fortune, Tom Knickerbocker

#### Two Man

Vano/Barrere, Knickerbocker/Green  
**Sepulveda Seniors Match Winners**

#### Individual

Steve Skinner, John Lanza,  
Lars Ferling, Alan Stewart,  
Ed Krojansky, Jan Bernard

#### Two Man

Lanza/Ferling, Cornner/Skinner  
Krojansky/Bernard

STANDINGS	W	L	T	Pts
Sepulveda Seniors	2	0	0	2
Rancho Park	2	0	0	2
Hansen Dam	2	0	0	2
<b>Sepulveda</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Woodley Lakes	0	2	0	0
Griffith Park	0	2	0	0

**Next Matches: Woodley March 18**  
8:00 Sep. Srs. vs Griffith Park  
8:45 Sepulveda vs Woodley Lakes  
9:35 Hansen Dam vs Rancho Park

## HANDICAP CHATTER

By STU OLSTER, Handicap Chairman

It happens every year, so I shouldn't be surprised that it happened again this year. A large number of our members blew the deadline to pay their renewal dues and were eliminated from the roster. Until they are reinstated, they won't be able to post and their handicap indexes won't be updated.

This year our association, Public Links Golf Association, has contracted with a new entity, GHIN, to assist with handicap updates and related matters. Whether the reinstatement process will be more cumbersome due to this major change remains to be seen, but irrespective, reinstatement is extra work for the Board while we're trying to adapt to the new system.

Our Board, by articles published in The Eagle, email blasts, etc., seeks to alert the membership to important developments and extensively publicize the deadline for renewing memberships.

We try to make our excellent newsletter, The Sepulveda Eagle, interesting and informative. Invest a few minutes each month reading the Eagle and you'll keep current on such important matters as rules changes, amendments to the handicap protocols and, of course, deadlines for renewing your membership.

In addition to its printed version, The Eagle is published on our website each month and can be easily accessed by going to our site at [www.SMGC.org](http://www.SMGC.org). Simply click the link on the left column of the home page. And by the time this column reaches you, our webmaster will have completed an archive where one will be able to access past Eagle issues. New members may wish to avail themselves of that resource.

I want to extend to all the readers my personal best wishes for a very happy and healthy New Year. May 2010 find your golf games in good shape and improving.

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

## *River Ridge Sunday - April 11*

Sign up for SMGC's Sunday away event now. The tournament will be limited to 100 players and here's what chairman Gene Vano has lined up: a 10:30 start time, individual metal play with all the side games. Tee price is \$75 and includes cart.

The course is really challenging and should be in great shape. 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.

## FROM THE READY GOLF SHOP (Country Club Service-Warehouse Prices)

NOW HERE THIS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! "THE ANNUAL TENT SALE IN THE GOLF SHOP IS BACK"

You heard it correctly, tent sale in the shop. Every year we have to reduce prices even below our already lowest price and move out the old and make room for the new.

Beginning in early February when you come into the golf shop, you will see a tent erected. If an item is under that tent, the price has been slashed even further than ever before. We have shoes, woods and accessories just to name a few. And don't forget we have ladies' items too. How about a woman's pair of tennis or walking shoes from FootJoy for 20 bucks? FootJoy socks \$2 a pair. And, we got balls. We are moving everything out of the stock room and getting rid of it. Check us out; you never know what you will find.

Thanks for your patronage.

## *Golf Cart Changes*

Starting March 1, payment for the electric carts will be done at the starter's window. This is a new policy from the City and you will need to get to the course earlier in order to complete all the paperwork. Once complete you simply go to the cart area and pick up your cart.

## *President's Corner*

By Rich Nance

My friend, my adopted father and one of the nicest men I've ever met next to my own father has left us.

Ed Cohn was a man who never said a bad word to anyone. He was on another Board of Directors at the old Encino Glen bar that would hold meetings regularly with members like Rick M., Ronny, Gary, Van, Phil, Alex, Frankie, Dave and myself. Hector kept everyone in line when things would heat up. We would talk about any topic of the day. He would buy you a drink even if you didn't want one. I always looked forward to our meetings but Ed had to miss them because of his health battles.

I loved talking to him about his time in the military and we talked to Frankie, who was in the Battle of the Bulge, at great lengths. We always had fun but it was the camaraderie of getting together that made it so special. I will miss him greatly and will still hold regular meetings with him at my side.



## GHIN – THE NEW ELECTRONIC ERA CONTINUES TO UNFOLD

Your handicap information is available the 1st and 15th of every month for subscribers to the PLGA E-Links newsletter. To subscribe to this service, which provides your twice-monthly Handicap Index Revision and an Association newsletter in addition thereto, make sure that SMGC has your correct E-mail address.

The Southern California golfer database has now been fully downloaded to all posting computers. When you post as a guest you are now recognized by name, GHIN number and current Handicap Index. If you want to view your Course Handicap at the posting screen at the course, select the “Guest CRS HCP Lookup” icon from the left-hand menu; then select “HDCP Lookup” and enter the first few letters of your last name; it will display a list of all Southern California GHIN members with their club affiliation.

For those who have posted “Tournament Scores” during the last year, you may discover that your “Two Lowest Eligible Tournament Scores” display inaccurately. The Differentials are correct, but the corresponding Course Rating, Slope Rating and Adjusted Gross Score may not match the actual posted round. This information was not stored in the conversion process; thus, the data had to be recreated to match the correct Tournament Differential. However, since the Differential is the basis upon which any Reduced Index calculation would be based, you need not worry that your Handicap Index is anything other than 100% accurate per the USGA Handicap System.

### TPP TRAINING SEMINARS

In a couple of weeks PLGA, SCGA, and WSCGA will release a schedule of “Tournament Pairing Program” seminars – exercises jointly sponsored by the three associations and taught by the USGA. WSCGA will host seminars the 1st week of March; PLGA will host the week of March 22-26; and the SCGA will host the 4th week of April. Clubs are encouraged to attend the seminar most convenient schedule-wise and geographically. They are not restricted to their own Association’s seminars.

Sepulveda has been selected as the site of two (2) training seminars on Tuesday, March 23 – 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM sessions in the main banquet room.

“TPP” is the USGA’s own electronic tournament program. It is fully compatible with GHIN. It is used by the USGA to conduct its 13 Championships. PLGA has already begun using it for its own tournaments. It is available to PLGA’s member clubs at zero cost. Your club is likely to find it as one of the most enticing features of our new GHIN universe.

### RULES & HANDICAP SEMINARS

Please watch this newsletter and the PLGA Web Site Homepage for the 2010 schedule of Rules of Golf Seminars and Handicap Certification Seminars. Both of these popular programs were put on hiatus the last quarter of 2009 in order to focus greater attention upon the GHIN transition.

### UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

#### Amateur Championship Qualifying

#### (Championship Flight/Gross)

March 20-21 @ Wilson and Harding Golf Courses

March 27-28 @ Los Serranos South and North Courses

#### Coronado Classic

April 17-18 @ Coronado Municipal Golf Course

#### Nevada Open

May 24-25 @ Primm Valley Resorts

Go to [www.plga.org](http://www.plga.org) for applications and further information or phone PLGA office at (800) 272-5472

## READY GOLF TIP

### “Shorten Backswing on Putts for More Control”

by Gary Sheppard

If your backswing is longer than necessary for a putt, two negative things can happen. You may decelerate on the down stroke, resulting in poor distance control. Your stroke may become loose with the putter face opening or closing sending the ball offline.

To better regulate the length of your backswing, place a ball about three feet from the hole, marking its position to the side by sticking a tee in the ground. Place another tee in the ground about four inches behind the ball. Hit a few putts; if you swing the putter back too far it will hit the tee. Also, you will find that a more aggressive stroke through the ball is needed. You can then try some six-foot putts. This may require that you increase the distance from the ball to the tee by about three more inches.

You may have to vary the distance you place the tee behind the ball, depending on the speed and slope of the green.

*Gary Sheppard is a Golf professional with the Ready Golf Staff. He is a PGA Apprentice, and joins us from the very well revered Valencia Country Club where he was a first assistant golf professional. He is available most days for private lessons, video lessons, and playing lessons. His rate is \$35 per half hour lesson.*

## ***CITY CORNER***

By Craig Kessler

### **LA CITY SYSTEM TO BECOME ENTERPRISE FUND JULY 1**

As the City of Los Angeles stares down the barrel of fiscal insolvency, there is at least good news regarding its venerable golf program.

Mayor Villaraigosa is going to release a 2010-2011 budget on April 20 that transforms the city's golf program from its antiquated command-and-control bureaucratic structure to a modern enterprise fund structure.

What that means is that instead of being operated on the basis of budgeted appropriations, it will be operated as a stand-alone business enterprise, replete with control over the dollars it collects, the projects it chooses to tackle, the expenses it incurs, and the policies it implements to accomplish all of the above.

Real fiscal accountability will become the central organizing principle of the system, and with the financial transparency that always inevitably flows from that principle, the golf program will become insulated from the slashing, burning and cutting that has already begun for all "non-essential" city services – and will only accelerate in the next few years as the city comes to terms with the palpable fact that its fiscal situation is not sustainable.

Those of you who have been paying close attention to what their golf association does in the public arena will recognize immediately that PLGA has been advocating such a reformation for some time – all the way back to the 2003-2004 budget process to be precise. And we have been advocating it precisely because we understood that the current structure was a status quo that simply could not hold up under any kind of intense pressure. We thought the pressure would come in the form of an infrastructure neglected beyond the means of the current system to cope. And yes, that is something going on just beneath the surface, which will no doubt be the subject of much concern for the enterprise fund once it is up, running, and has a modicum of institutional stability. But the principle is the same. Outmoded systems don't meet modern challenges.

This does not mean that there won't be any cutting. Indeed, one of the many advantages of an enterprise fund structure is the ability to control expenses – and more importantly, a set of reinforcing incentives to do precisely that in a fashion that benefits as opposed to harms the enterprise. Think of some of the better local municipal courses that have long been contracted out to private management companies, and you can understand the principle. In this down market, maintenance quality has not been compromised at tracks like Santa Anita, Knollwood, or Olivas Links. But you better believe that costs have been cut, expenses controlled, etc.

This does not mean that this is going to be easy. Indeed, for all the years PLGA advocated precisely this move, we always proposed it as a full year (or more) process of putting all the disparate pieces together and getting all the ducks in a row.

This does mean that in order for the endeavor to be successful come July 1, all the stakeholders are going to have to resolve to work together like they have never worked before – the Department of Recreation & Parks, its Golf Division, The Mayor, the City Council, the unions, the golf clubs, and the golf associations.

This may require a huge cultural adjustment for some, particularly the Department of Recreation & Parks, which has been notably less inclusive and outreaching than most such Departments in recent years. But to the extent that everyone is in the same boat together and fully recognizes that everyone prospers or no one prospers, there should be some optimism about the outcome.

On the other hand – there's always another hand – the enterprise fund structure makes possible all sorts of hybrid arrangements, public-private partnerships, and quasi-privatized solutions that are simply not possible under the current structure but are easily implemented if the powers that be deem them necessary to prevent failure. And failure is not an option here.

### ***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

Remember to keep them silent during your round!!

### ***POST AT THE RANGE***

There's a new posting computer at the Driving Range shop! Don't forget to add a 9 in front of your number. It's convenient following a round at the Encino or Balboa and it's available until closing time at 10 pm!

### ***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. You can also make a tee time three days in advance online or by phone for a \$5 charge without a reservation card. 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.

## ***BACKSPIN SHOTS***

*by The Gapwedge*

Some stuffed shirt executive over at the Wells Fargo spread must have been in Trader Joe's and noticed the employees are friendly and chatty. Now when you call the Wells '800' number to find out if check No. 2365 cleared, the operator is sure to ask how your day is going or otherwise feign interest in your well-being.

Since you've been obliged to call the Wells '800' number in the first place, chances are good your day may not be going that well. As if pretending to be your friend isn't enough, the operators assume they can call you by your given name, though you're a complete stranger and are probably old enough to be their grandfather (maybe that familiarity is because their computer screens give them more information about you than even you can recall). But for those beautiful stagecoaches and teams, The Gapwedge would have quit Wells years ago.

Used to be that The Gapwedge got personal letters ("Dear Gapwedge...") signed by Arnold Palmer himself, asking The Gapwedge to affirm his love for the game by joining the USGA. Unlike the operators over at Wells Fargo, when Arnie greeted you by your first name and asked how things were going, he really meant it. If Arnie took the time to write a personal note, the least The Gapwedge could do was pay a few bucks to join the USGA—and he did!

Time moves on, and Arnie probably can't sign those millions of letters like he used to because of arthritis. Now the USGA letters look like any other of the dozens of solicitations we get each week. And because Arnie isn't as involved, the USGA has to bribe us with U.S. Open hats, rulebooks and other goodies. It was better when Arnie used to write and sign those "Dear Gapwedge" letters.

Maybe it's because Arnie was King when The Gapwedge took up the game, or maybe it's because he oozes sincerity right along with his charisma that The Gapwedge holds him in such high regard. These days others play awesome golf, but Arnie is still The Man!

Years ago, when the Champion's Tour was only the Senior Tour and they played the annual Ralph's tournament at Rancho Park, who should come shoulder to shoulder with The Gapwedge while waiting to putt on the 10th hole but Arnie himself. The Gapwedge is usually fairly unimpressed with celebrity, having lived practically all his life on the outskirts of Hollywood, but on this occasion The Gapwedge had goose bumps on his arms. He's never forgotten that fleeting moment standing cheek to jowl with a genuine icon.

## ***TEE/CUP Chips***

*By Irv Cherno*  
Eagle-Eyed Editor

### ***Slow...or Go?***

There's a never-ending challenge in golf: how the heck do we speed up play?

Some of the greatest minds in the golfing world have tried (and failed) to come up with a solution that actually works. Rocket scientists are either too busy to tackle the problem (or they have their heads in the clouds). The Einstein crowd is more interested in physical laws as applied to a clubface striking a dimpled ball.

So it's up to us practical minded folks who insist that playing at a steady, constantly moving pace can actually improve our scores to come up with some creative steps.

If you're a walker, don't dawdle. If you ride, park halfway between your ball and your cart-mate's...and both walk to your shots.

Now for some honest-to-goodness helpful hints that apply mainly to riders.

You can save a ton of time if, after hitting your shot, you return to your seat before replacing your head covers and bagging your club. Just sit and wait for your fellow competitor to hit his/her shot. While that's going on, you can replace your club.

Not sure which club you'll need? Take a couple or three with you as you walk to your ball. Going back and forth to the cart is a real time-killer.

Here's some ideas for walkers and riders: as you approach your ball, plan your shot before you reach it. Limit the number of your practice shots. Five or six are way too many. And if you're over 50, you shouldn't even be taking any! Save your energy while saving time.

Last resort: put all the slow players (and you know who you are) in the last group(s)!

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## ***2010 SMGC SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP***

The second major of the year will be held on May 15-16 at Balboa & Encino Golf Courses. The rule for major competitions is that all players must have played in a minimum of three tournaments or club competitions this year. There will be two flights, "A" and "B" and everyone will play from the white tees.

Cost for this "**always fun, not always pretty**" tournament will be \$85. Skins are optional and will be \$10 per category.

Check the Eagle for sign up information and also online coming soon.

## HANDICAP CHATTER

By STU OLSTER, Handicap Chairman

Many members of our Club were blindsided by the well-advertised change in the administration of our handicaps. I refer to the termination of our association's business relationship with Integrated Data Company who for many years did all our handicap calculations. Effective January 1, 2010, IDC was replaced by GHIN, a subsidiary of the USGA. GHIN brings a more effective system that can be tailored to meet the needs of the individual club and its leadership.

Many articles and news stories about this transition were published in The Eagle and on our website, so that members who are interested could stay abreast of this development and other significant news. Those who won't spend the time to keep themselves current will continue to be surprised by developments, some of which may be in the nature of rule changes that could, if not known, jump up and bite them during a competition.

Our GHIN system is only just completing its second month. As with any new complex system, there are bugs and these are being ably addressed as they arise. In general, however, the changeover went as smoothly as possible thanks to the herculean efforts of the PLGA, the SCGA and the GHIN staff.

Some of our members in good standing have found that they don't appear on the drop-down roster for our Club when trying to post on our course computer. Our Membership Chairman and our association, PLGA, are in the process of correcting the situation and making sure it won't happen again. Other members have had difficulty when posting on away computers because they didn't know that you must enter the program as a "guest" in order to post a score.

Soon, GHIN will make available to member clubs a tournament pairing program which is the same as that used for major USGA events such as the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Open. This should make the administration of our tournaments quicker and slicker and make life easier for our overworked Tournament Chairman.

If you aren't a regular reader of The Eagle but want to bring yourself current on the GHIN system and other important developments, you're in luck! You can access our archive by clicking on the appropriate link on the home page of our website. The archive now contains The Eagle going back to January 2009, but older issues are going to be added soon.

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

## COMING EVENTS

Mar 20	PLGA Amateur Championship – Champ. Flight Qualifying	
Mar 21	PLGA Amateur Championship – Champ. Flight Qualifying	
Mar 25	Thursday Tournament, St. Pat's-Encino	\$45
March 27-28	PLGA Amateur Championship Finals	
Apr 11	Sunday Tournament - River Ridge	\$75
April 17-18	PLGA "George Collup" Coronado Classic	
Apr 22	Thursday Tournament - Simi Hills	
May 2	Sunday Tournament - Simi Hills, The Palumbo	\$75
May 3-4	PLGA Nevada Open Primm Valley Resort	
May 15	Senior Club Championship Round 1 - Balboa	
May 16	Senior Club Championship Round 2 - Encino	
May 27	Thursday Tournament Member/Guest- Encino	
June 10-13	LA City Men's Championship - Rancho Park	
June 12-13	LA City Men's Handicap Wilson & Harding	
June 19	Club Championship Round 1 - Encino	
June 26	Club Championship Round 2 - Balboa	
June 27	Club Championship Finals - Encino	
June 26-27	PLGA "J.C. Cunningham" Senior Championship	

## HOLES - IN-ONE

If you have knowledge of a hole-in-one by a member of the SMGC please contact **Marty Barkan** by email at [mbarkan@firstproperty.com](mailto:mbarkan@firstproperty.com) or by phone at **(310) 487-6565**.

## JOHN C. PALUMBO MEMORIAL

*Simi Hills, Sunday, May 2*

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, 2009 thru May 1, 2010).

This tournament will be an **individual** low net & low gross event using the low index of the last 12 months (as of 4/01/09). 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. 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.