



THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

SEPULVEDA MEN'S GOLF CLUB

July 2009

PRO-MEMBER SCRAMBLE

Thursday, Sept. 24 - 7 am Shotgun

Coming up in September is the annual Pro-Member Scramble, an opportunity to play with a Southern California PGA pro in a scramble format which has proven to be quite enjoyable. The Scramble replaces the regular monthly membership tournament. This is a 7 am shotgun on the Encino course and the tab is \$65 for the game, electric cart, team prizes and lunch in the banquet room. There will also be an individual amateur "closest to the pin" contest on all par 3's. A \$5 entry fee covers all 4 holes.

Here's how the scramble works: five-man teams consist of a pro and 4 players, one each with an A, B, C and D handicap. Everyone drives off the tee and the team selects the best ball. Everyone hits from that spot. Again the best ball is selected and everyone plays the next shot from that spot. Same thing on the green; everyone putts from the same spot. During the course of the round each team is required to use the drives of the A & B players (blue tees) at least three times and the C & D players twice (white tees).

Pairings for this tournament will be done by the computer based on the current September index. An effort will be made to adjust the pairings so that you may play with the members of your choice and still maintain the policy of an A, B, C and D player in each group, with approximately equal total handicaps in each group. (However, there is no guarantee!) Pros will be assigned by random drawing.

- **Check-in time: Thursday, 6 am.**
- **The September monthly membership meeting will follow the Pro-Member Scramble lunch. All club members are invited to the meeting whether they play or not. Non-golfers can have lunch for \$10. Check next months Eagle for more information.**

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. Go to www.golf.lacity.org and try it out. Remember, you must have a golf reservation card to use this service.

Dated material -- Periodical

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

**Visit our website
at
www.smgc.org**

THURSDAY TOURNAMENT

This month's Thursday tournament will be at Rancho Park on July 23. Check the website at smgc.org to sign up and pay by credit card or use the coupon on page 8 and mail a check to our PO box. The price is \$40. Call **Gene Vano** if you want to play at **(818) 703-0749**.

SATURDAY TOURNAMENT

The August monthly away tournament will be at Olivias Links on Saturday, August 15. The price is \$75. Check the website at smgc.org to sign up and pay by credit card or call **Gene Vano** if you want to play at **(818) 703-0749**.

The Presidents Cup

Tom Knickerbocker is this year's President's Cup chairman and he is trying a different format to kick it off. There will be two qualifying events played in medal play. The low 16 from each day will then be paired in the traditional ladder and seeded. There will be a playoff immediately that day should we have ties for the 16th spot. Then each match will have about 3 weeks from the 9th of August to arrange and play their first match. Should that not happen the unplayed matches must be played on Saturday August 29 at home where we will have arranged tee times. This formula will then be repeated again on Saturday September 19th.

The tee times are early to beat the heat starting at 7am each day. The ultimate end... A 2009 Champion in **2009**. Non qualifiers on July 30 may try again on August 9 no discount. The cost to play the Thursday qualifier on July 30 is \$44 and on Saturday August 9 it's \$54. Check the website to sign up and pay by credit card at smgc.org or call Tom Knickerbocker at **(818) 752-7877** to sign up.

READY GOLF TIP

“How to play one of the hardest shots in golf: the 50-yard bunker shot”.

by Gary Sheppard

Bunker shots of any kind can be tough, however the 50-yard bunker shot is one that even professionals call one of the hardest shots in golf. It need not be that difficult to play though. This shot can be a lot easier by making a few adjustments to the way a typical greenside explosion shot is played

The main problem with this shot is getting enough distance from the sand. Trying to pick the ball cleanly from the sand is very risky as it can easily be hit thin. Taking a less lofted club and still aiming to hit the sand behind the ball is the safer option. The club selection, combined with taking less sand than a greenside shot, will give you enough distance to reach the hole. Allow for more roll as this shot will have less spin.

Follow these steps for success:

Step 1. A sand wedge is designed for hitting high, soft shots from the sand, not for getting the extra distance required here. Select a pitching wedge or 9 iron to give you less loft, less spin and more forward release.
Step 2. Set up with your stance and clubface slightly open, but not as far open as you would for a short greenside explosion shot.

Step 3. Position the ball close to your left heel.

Step 4. Take a full swing along the line of your feet, hitting the sand about an inch behind the ball and continuing through to a full finish.

Gary Sheppard is the most recent Golf professional to join 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.

POST AT THE RANGE

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

THE 19th HOLE

After all these years, it's still embarrassing for me to play on the American golf tour. Like the time I asked my caddie for a sand wedge and he came back ten minutes later with a ham on rye.

~ Chi Chi Rodriguez

2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS	PHONE
Rich Nance, President	818-422-3748
Gene Vano, Vice President	818-703-0749
Craig Kessler, Secretary	310-941-4803
Dan Crawford, Treasurer	818-497-6617

DIRECTORS

Dean Abston	818-439-4490
Marty Barkan	310-487-6565
Virgil Budhu	818-737-1919
Dave Carlson	818-996-1837
Irv Chern	818-348-7626
Ed Cohn	818-363-8028
Tom Knickerbocker	818-752-7877
Dan Mellilo	917-363-9070
Mark Michelini	818-470-0196
Hadi Morshed	310-322-4400
Ken Oberg	818-763-3226
Stu Olster	818-222-2516
Allen Weiss	818-360-8448
Sandy Margolis, Ex officio	818-995-1172

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

The Sepulveda Eagle (USPS 13-769) is the official publication of the Sepulveda Men's Golf Club and is published monthly.

Deadline for copy is the 3rd Friday of each month.

Irv Chern, Editor (818) 348-7626 • e-mail: IrvChern@aol.com

Rich Nance, Publisher (818) 422-3748 • e-mail: rich@laproforms.com

Annual subscription is \$3.00.

The Club's office is located at

16821 Burbank Blvd, Encino CA 91436.

This July 2009 issue is Vol. 52, No. 7

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club

P.O. Box 57373, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413-2373

Periodicals rate postage paid at Van Nuys, CA

Internet site: www.smgc.org

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!!

Club Championship Final Results

Club Champion		
226	Mike Schell	\$150 + Trophy
Handicap Champion		
205	David Baram	\$150 + Trophy

Championship Flight

Score	Winner	Prize
226	Shawn Salter	\$100*
228	Sid Youngers	\$80
230	Michael Levy	\$40
232	Daniel Melillo	\$40
232	Paul Nance	\$40
236	Mark Brown	\$20
"A" Flight Low Net		
209	Alfredo Picolomini	\$100*
215	Roy Hay	\$80
217	Eric Fromer	\$60
218	Tom Knickerbocker	\$40
219	David Carlson	\$30
220	Bruce Fortune	\$20
224	Alan Stewart	\$10
225	David Cox	\$10
227	Robert Marlow	\$10
231	Michael Persky	\$10
"B" Flight Low Net		
209	Michael Teague	\$150*
211	Ahmad Keliddari	\$100*
216	Leo Levin	\$80
217	Edward Licht	\$60
222	Robert Overland	\$25
222	Armen Mesropian	\$25
222	Gordon Seaberg	\$25
222	Gary Patterson	\$25
223	Kian Nozari	\$10
223	Virgil Budhu	\$10
224	Gene Vano	\$10
233	Pete Ruiz	\$10

* Trophy

The Saturday Game

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

Prize Money

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

Skins

Balboa - Saturday June 20

Gross Skins \$92 each

Hole Winner

1	Neil Zaniboni
2	Mike Schell
9	Shawn Salter
17	Asher Kamiel
18	Robert Marlow

Net Skins \$137 each

2	Mike Schell
14	Alfredo Picolomini
16	David Cox
17	Asher Kamiel

Closest to the Pin \$175 each

Score	Winner	Distance
4	Michael Persky	11'3"
13	Douglas Rockford	3'3"
17	Rich Nance	16'11"

Encino - Sunday June 21

Gross Skins \$156 each

6	Rich Nance
7	Shawn Salter
9	Alan Stewart

Net Skins \$280 each

7	Shawn Salter
9	Alan Stewart

Closest to the Pin \$130 each

3	Bill Brande	15'1"
6	David Baram	13'0"
15	Paul Barrere	5'3"
17	Marty Barkan	3'10"

Encino - Saturday June 27

Gross Skins \$42 each

1	Roy Hay
5	Mike Schell
6	Tom Knickerbocker
13	Roy Hay
18	Shawn Salter

Net Skins \$135 each

6	Tom Knickerbocker
9	Eric Fromer

Closest to the Pin \$65 each

3	Mike Schell	6'3"
6	David Cox	9'1"
15	Bruce Fortune	13'0"
17	Gary Patterson	25'7"

JUNE SCORE BOARD

MGA 2009

By Pete Heller

SEPULVEDA MENS AND SEPULVEDA SRS. SUFFER TWIN LOSSES

Harding - June 18

The Hansen Dam Golf Team caught defending champion Sepulveda napping and whipped them twice, soundly, 48-24 and 20-16. Sepulveda still holds the League Lead but only by a precarious 1/2 point.

The Sepulveda Seniors were also beaten up in both ends of their match. A relentless Griffith Park Squad dispatched them easily 53-19 and 21-15. At least the Seniors could blame it on the Griffith Park home course advantage.

Finally, Rancho Park also picked up double victories while driving Woodley Lakes further downtown 50-22 and 25-11. The twin wins left them in a second place tie with Hansen Dam only 1/2 point out of the overall MGA League lead.

Sepulveda Match Winners

Individual

Jeff Sable

Two Man

Vano/Morshed, Crawford/Sable

Sepulveda Seniors Match Winners

Individual

John Lanza, Gary Pearson

Two Man

Heller/Kopper, Jones/Pearson

Standings	W	L	T	Points
Sepulveda Mens	8	3	1	8 1/2
Rancho Park	8	4	0	8
Hansen Dam	8	4	0	8
Griffith Park	6	6	0	6
Sepulveda Srs.	3	7	2	4
Woodley Lakes	1	10	1	1 1/2

Next Matches: Wilson - July 16

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

HANDICAP CHATTER

By STU OLSTER, *Handicap Chairman*

Each month our handicap indexes are updated and other handicap-related matters are examined by computer software and reported back to the clubs. Most of the work is done by a service bureau hired by Public Links Golf Association (PLGA), Southern California Golf Association (SCGA), and a few other smaller associations in Southern California.

That service bureau is Integrated Data Company, known as IDC, which has served the hundreds of golf clubs affiliated with the aforementioned golf associations for many years.

Over the years, refinements have been made that help speed the process along and provide convenient information. Unfortunately, IDC has not been totally willing to tweak its software to provide some of the ancillary conveniences requested by the associations, or to share some of its output that could be useful to the associations and its member clubs.

During most of my 8 years as Handicap Chairman, I have found IDC's performance to be satisfactory and its system to operate largely as designed. That's not to say there weren't some simple improvements that could easily have been made to make handicap system administration better, and IDC could have been more accommodating by providing readily-available information on request. Its reluctance to do these things made the system a tad user-unfriendly.

One would think that PLGA and SCGA and their affiliated clubs would be a nice piece of business for IDC, and that it would do anything and everything necessary to satisfy its customer base. That seems not to have happened, as a result of which PLGA, SCGA and the smaller associations are switching to the GHIN (Golf Handicap Information Network) system, effective January 1, 2010.

GHIN is a handicap service provided by the USGA. All of the folks who designed and run the GHIN system are USGA employees. It was conceived in 1980 when a regional golf association, dissatisfied with its handicap service vendor, approached the USGA for help in obtaining the kind of handicap service it felt it needed. Work on the system began in 1981 and it came on line in 1982. In just over a century GHIN has become the world's largest handicap computation service, providing handicap support for nearly 2 million golfers!

Some of the advantages claimed for the GHIN Handicap Program over the current system are:

- *Enhanced peer review* via member lookup and score ticker features;
- *Automatic electronic transmissions* which are totally transparent to golfers;

- *Report library* supporting "Paperless" environments and a powerful report designer, which is flexible enough to design almost any report;
- Clubs can print their own reports, handicap listings, local number list, addresses, Handicap labels for membership cards, etc.;
- All score corrections, new member adds, name changes, addresses, etc., are reflected immediately; and
- Each update includes scores shot right up to the date of the update, not cut off the last week of the month as at present.

The GHIN handicap database can be routed to and from any club within the GHIN network. Away scores are re-routed to the home club. Each member club will have access to the USGA Handicap Indexes of all other golfers on GHIN across the country so every club will be able to verify the USGA Handicap Index of any visiting golfer on GHIN.

A key feature of the GHIN software is the extensive flexibility of the programming. The club sets the options that are most useful to that club rather than using a system designed for "one size fits all." Naturally, GHIN provides password protection for features that should be available only to certain individuals within the club.

Seminars will be held prior to adoption of the GHIN system so that the handicap committees of the various clubs can be up to speed when the switch occurs. Hopefully, our members will also prepare by doing some reading in this column and elsewhere (see the PLGA column in this Eagle), in order to make the transition as easy as possible.

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

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 quarter, 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!

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

The Recreation & Park Golf Advisory Committee (GAC) is an institution in deep trouble. Once dynamic, effective, significant, the focal point of systemic progress, it has devolved into a monthly “bitch” session. Once focused upon the practice of the art of the possible in pursuit of proactive change, it has become more about venting against the system’s shortcomings than rolling up its sleeves and getting down to the hard work of mitigating those shortcomings.

The GAC has moved from a progressive institution to a reactive one – a font of pessimism and cynicism instead of the traits that characterized it during most of the years of its existence: Shared purpose and the optimism born of a firm belief in the capacity to effect meaningful change.

You may ask, so what happened?

That is a good question, but only if it is raised not to point fingers of blame, but rather to figure out how to get the ship of GAC back on its old positive course.

An even better question is, so how can we get things back on that positive track, that course that produced an updated, modern tournament policy, a tiered electric cart fee structure, senior golf clubs, the Tregnan Junior Golf Academy, more realistic concession terms, the institutionalization of the public input process re golf, and most important of all – the very existence of a separate Golf Division with its own Golf Manager and headquarters to replace the old Balkanized structure that subordinated the golf courses to the parks and placed them in three different regions, administered separately by often very different sets of policies?

How soon we forget that the system we decry today is significantly better than the system it replaced, and how soon we forget that the Golf Advisory Committee was the animating factor behind so much of that positive change.

This is not a brief for resting on laurels. Indeed, it is quite the opposite. It is a brief for taking the steps necessary to get the GAC back on track, so that we can again begin effecting the many changes that will be necessary to keep the current system from collapsing under the weight of what are still serious structural deficiencies, the depredations caused by the state of the economy, and the city’s structural deficit – both of them, the short term revenue shortfall and the longer term unfunded pension obligations

So, what is step one? That’s simple: LEADERSHIP!

Instead of pointing fingers, assessing blame, and other such comfortably destructive acts, Golf Division Staff and the leaders of the GAC (Chair, Vice-Chair, Ombudsman, Past Chairs, and Subcommittee Chairs) are going to have to do whatever it takes to restore civility and mutual respect to the Advisory Committee’s proceedings. No more “bitch” sessions unfocused upon problem solving, no more personal attacks, no more innuendo, and no more cynical remarks about the City’s

dysfunction from GAC members. No more holding back of the information necessary to make informed recommendations and no more knee-jerk rejection of serious lines of policy/procedure inquiry from Staff. No more gnashing of teeth about the fact that there are politics in the affairs of the City. Politics will never be taken out of politics! No more luxuriating in what cannot be done at the expense of exploring what can be done. No more suggestion from any quarter that those assembled around the GAC table, both Staff and Members, are not equally committed to the same end – the best municipal golf system/program possible within the constraints posed by the system’s affordable/accessible mission, the City’s rules/regulations, and the many factors beyond our collective capacities’ to control.

The golfing public absolutely needs an energized, proactive, positive Golf Division. The Golf Division absolutely needs a set of advisors convinced of the system’s capacity for progressive change. To pretend otherwise, or worse, to act otherwise, is to curry failure.

I believe it was Ben Franklin who said, “We will hang together, or we will most assuredly hang separately.”

Let’s hang together.

FROM THE READY GOLF SHOP

(Country Club Service-Warehouse Prices)

By Mark Karge-Head Golf Professional

Wow! It took a while, but summer is finally here. Ready Golf’s junior camp is in full swing with a new crop of future men’s and ladies’ club members. These young golfers are working hard on their game and improving every day.

Speaking of improvement, the Ready Golf Driving Range is ready and waiting for you to experience the new mats that were recently put out. There is no better way to improve, than to PRACTICE. Let me rephrase that, PRACTICE and get help from knowledgeable pros like the ones we have here at Sepulveda. If you are looking to improve any part of your game, make your way down to the range and speak to one of the pros about getting a lesson or two.

With summer actually here, you need to make sure you are prepared for the heat during your round. Ready Golf carries a wide range of summer related items, such as wide brimmed hats, sunglasses, lip balm, sunscreen and even a \$5 lightweight umbrella for shade. For those of you in need of summer clothing, we have just received a new shipment of shorts, summer socks and Ping weather wicking shirts. Don’t wait too long or they will be gone.

As another reminder, many of you have accumulated a pretty hefty scrip total. You are allowed to use it for all you’re summer needs. It’s like getting free merchandise and FREE IS GOOD!! Thank you for your patronage

PUBLIC LINKS GOLF ASSOCIATION (PLGA)

GHIN IS COMING

Southern California's golf associations are in the process of supplying GHIN/USGA with all the technical information necessary to begin installing the region's golf courses with the new handicap software – a process that should be completed by mid month.

The switchover won't actually occur until January 1, 2010; however all of the elements of the new integrated system will be in place in the background ready to go well before that date.

This will give the associations and their member clubs ample opportunity to test things out in that "background" and perform the training necessary to enable the club to hit the ground running next New Year's Day.

PLGA will soon be notifying its clubs of these training/testing protocols.

The changeover will represent the biggest handicap service upgrade in recent memory – even bigger than the original move to on-course computerized posting in 1991 or its touch screen upgrade in 2001.

Its benefits will include but not be limited to the following:

- The extension of the revision period to the last day of each revision period, i.e., scores posted the last day of a month become part of the next day's handicap revision calculation;
- The capacity to revise Handicap Indexes twice per month on the 1st and the 15th at no added cost to the clubs;
- The capacity to add a member or perform any other membership maintenance function and see such additions or changes reflected the next day throughout the electronic system, i.e., join today and post tomorrow – NO MORE WAITING FOR THE NEXT REVISION;
- The full integration of the various posting and maintenance portals, i.e., on-course computers, online posting, home computers, etc.;
- The capacity to access TPP, the USGA's proprietary tournament program, designed by the conductors of the world's greatest championships to uniquely suit the needs of tournament chairs and be fully compatible with the GHIN national membership database;
- One size fits all services and platforms are identical for all GHIN associations, making seamless national access, connection and integration readily available to PLGA and its member clubs; and
- All of the above (and more) at lower costs than the current system.

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of us will be able to keep our current six-digit membership numbers and translate them into the GHIN seven-digit system by simply adding the number 9 in front thereof, the same opening integer used by the members of the Northern California Golf Association (NCGA). After years of separation, the Northern and Southern parts of the state will be reunited.

All SMGC members who have current GHIN numbers, whether in Northern California or somewhere else in the nation, need to notify the club so that the club can notify PLGA. They will be able to keep those numbers come January 1, 2009

CENTRAL COAST OPEN

36-hole Individual Stroke Play (96 players)

Saturday, July 25 @ Marshallia Ranch
(Vandenberg AFB) 12:30 p.m. Shotgun

Sunday, July 25 @ La Purisima (Lompoc)

7:30 a.m. Straight Start Entry Fee: \$160

(includes green fees, carts, range balls & prizefund)

Applications are available at www.plga.org or by phoning the PLGA office at (800) 272-7542 or (714) 994-4747. Application period closes Friday, July 3.

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.

FOR THOSE OF US WHO REMEMBER HOLLYWOOD SQUARES

Q. Paul, what is a good reason for pounding meat?

A. Paul Lynde (Fifteen seconds later): Loneliness!

Q. Which of your five senses tends to diminish as you get older?

A. Charley Weaver: My sense of decency.

Q. In Hawaiian, does it take more than three words to say "I Love You"?

A. Vincent Price: No, you can say it with a pineapple and a twenty.

YOUR PUBLIC LINKS GOLF ASSOCIATION (PLGA)

Founded in 1931, the Public Links Golf Association of Southern California (PLGA) is comprised of 20,000+ individual members and 180 individual clubs. It is directly licensed by the United States Golf Association (USGA) to provide the basic infrastructure for public golf in the immediate region.

PLGA provides its members:

- The largest exclusively public USGA licensed golf association in the nation;
- The Electronic Handicapping System (EHS), a fully computerized handicapping service that provides monthly handicap reports, handicap verification by telephone, the ability to view members' handicap files through PLGA's Website – www.plga.org. and the ability to have your Handicap Index E-mailed to you 3 – 6 days prior to the 1st of each month;
- Monthly, computerized Handicap Indexes (USGA licensed) with stickers for affixing to distinctive hard plastic PLGA membership cards;
- Website "Forms / Reports" access – the ability to gain electronic access (in easily printable form) to all the monthly handicap reports mailed to club handicap chairmen and all the membership maintenance forms necessary to manage a club;
- Out-of-state computerized score posting through membership in the International Golf Network (IGN);
- Internet posting capacity through the PLGA Website;
- USGA sanctioned Course / Slope Ratings;
- Annual player performance "Report Cards" via the Website;
- The representation of the interests of member clubs and public golfers before the various public agencies that own or manage most public golf courses in the region;
- The advocacy of the principles of organized, accessible public golf in a political environment that often favors recreational interests hostile to the game;
- The provision of Handicap, Rules and Course Rating seminars throughout the year, including the USGA Handicap Certification accreditation now required for clubs to continue using the USGA Handicap System;
- The conduct of tournaments at more than 60 sites annually – tournaments that cater to the average "recreational" player as well as the championship caliber player;
- Annual Team Play Program;
- LA County / PLGA Partners Cup;
- Membership and connection to the California Alliance for Golf (CAG), the Southern California PGA Section (PLGA Executive Director on

Advisory Board), the 1st Tee of Los Angeles County, the LAJCC Urban Youth Program, the Los Angeles City Golf Commission, the County of Los Angeles Golf Advisory Committee, and the Griffith Park Master Plan Board;

- Web based communications; and
- The PLGA Foundation, which underwrites PLGA's partnership with LA County to conduct the Annual LA County / Public Links Junior Golf Championship Series, sponsors the Annual Boys & Girls CIF Championships, underwrites the LAJCC Urban Youth Golf Programs in Pacoima (Van Nuys), makes annual grants to the First Tee of Los Angeles County and the First Tee of South Los Angeles, supports local municipal junior golf championships, puts on the Annual PLGA Junior Championships and provides \$5,000 annually in grants to junior golfers who might otherwise not be able to afford program and / or tournament fees.

TEE/CUP Chips

By Irv Cherno
Eagle-Eyed Editor

Aim for the shade!

As much as we moan and groan when our golf balls mysteriously head for the forbidden forests that line our beloved Encino and Balboa courses, there is a time of year when we welcome the relief offered up by branches and leaves. Gentlemen, that time is now...Summer.

And Summer in the Valley, as you well know, can be blistering!

Of course, no one is forcing us to play in 100-plus degree weather. We do it for love of the game. As a public service reminder, here are a few do,s and don,t,s to help us survive our rounds during July, August, September and even parts of October:

- Take plenty of water on the course with you and drink it all.
- Splash a lot of sunscreen on arms, legs, face (including ears and nose).
- Wear white shirts and hats (or as close to white as you can get)...it reflects the sun,s rays, while black, or darker colors, let those rays heat you up big-time.
- Try to avoid starting your round between noon and 4 pm...the hottest part of the day.
- Remember to use a deodorant...the rest of your foursome will appreciate it.

Above all, keep aiming for the shade...just don,t let your ball run too deeply into the rough. No sense in adding insult to injury. If it does wander in, though, think about chipping out onto the middle of the fairway. If you opt for a shot to the green, you,ll more than likely hit one of those shade trees and possibly lose your ball (along with your temper).

Play smart. Stay cool.

Do's and Dont's of Divot Repair!

Divots on the green are the most crucial to repair. You'll generally see these on approach shots somewhere in the vicinity of your ball. Most likely, you'll also find more than just your divot on the green. This is a result of lazy golfers or golfers who just didn't find their divot. Hopefully, they couldn't find their own and repaired another.

The rule of thumb is to find your divot and repair it—and then repair one more. This will ensure that the putting surface stays in as good of shape as possible, and that it rolls as true as possible. It is our duty as golfers to help keep the course in as good of shape when we leave it as when we found it.

How to repair

Divots on the green are sensitive divots. They require a careful repair. Use a divot tool, which is designed to repair these depressions without damaging the turf. The No. 1 rule to remember is: **DO NOT TWIST**. Twisting the tool tears the grass roots and damages the turf, which further slows the healing process or causes turf to die. Depending on the shape of the divot, there are two repairing methods. The first is for divots that are small depressions with no turf removed. For these, insert the divot tool just outside the edge of the divot and lift gently, raising the ground to slightly above the putting surface. Then take your putter and tamp it back down so that it is level with the putting surface. This helps speed up the healing process and ensures that the green will still roll true.

The second type of divot is either oblong or fairly deep with the turf removed. Don't replace this turf as its roots have been separated from the ground. Do insert your divot tool just outside the edges of the divot, and press the surrounding ground toward the center of the divot, stretching the turf to fill it in. Go around the divot completely several times if you need to, repeating this process until you have the turf stretched to where the divot is filled in. From there, tap the turf down so that the putting surface is again level, ensuring a true roll.

Just a second

Are you done? No. Remember, now that you've repaired your divot, find one more and repair it. If we don't do our part to help maintain our courses, then they will degrade and become undesirable or unplayable. So do your part, and keep your courses in good shape.

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

July 23 Thursday Tournament - Rancho Park \$40

Tournament chairman is Gene Vano (818) 703-0749

COMING EVENTS

July 23	Thursday Tournament - Rancho Park	\$40
July 25-26	PLGA "Central Coast Open" Marshallia Ranch La Purisima	
Aug. 6	Board Meeting	
Aug. 15	Saturday Tournament - Olivias Links	\$75
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	
Aug. 23-24	LA/PLGA "Match Play Finals" Rancho Park	
Aug. 27	Thursday Tournament - Harding	\$40
Sept. 3	Board Meeting	
Sept.	Saturday Tournament	TBA
Sept. 13,20,27	PLGA "Team Play"	
Sep. 17	MGA Team Play - Encino	
Sept. 24	Thursday Tournament - Pro/Member Shotgun - Encino	
Oct. 3	Saturday Tournament - Goeckner Qualifier	TBA
Oct. 4	PLGA "Team Play" Semi-Finals	
Oct. 1	Board Meeting	
Oct. 11	PLGA "Team Play" Finals	
Oct. 15	MGA Team Play - Woodley Lakes	
Oct. 15-16	LA City Senior Men's Golf Championship	
Oct. 22	Thursday Tournament - Wilson Elections and Dinner at home	
Nov. 5	Board Meeting	
Nov.	Sunday Tournament	TBA
Nov. 7-8	PLGA "Partner's Better Ball" The Links at Summerly	

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 or by phone at **(818) 761-3846**.

Bob and Steve noticed no one else was wearing a collar. Suddenly, they realized they were in a **stray** bar!

