



Sepulveda Eagle is the official publication of Sepulveda Men's Golf Club and is published monthly. Copy deadline is the third Friday of each month. Send articles, comments, etc. to Editor Sepulveda Men's Golf Club, PO Box 57373, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413.

Editor: E.J. Beren (818) 438-0395
ejberen@me.com

Publisher: Rich Nance (818) 422-3748
richlaproforms@sbcglobal.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bruce Fortune

Normally I promote the services this club provides its members on a routine basis in this column. I'll get back on that hobby horse next month. This month I'd like to tout the services this club provides the local golf community, starting with the Junior Golf programs.

Earlier this year we raised \$1,000.00 to outfit the kids in Gary Rand's Sepulveda Junior Golf Program with shirts and other team paraphernalia. We'll be cutting a \$1,000.00 check to that same program in the next few weeks to sponsor the Program's end-of-the summer banquet. We'll also be cutting a \$1,000.00 check to the First Tee of Los Angeles to help defray the costs associated with that program's commencement of programming at nearby Van Nuys Golf Course – the only First Tee penetration in the San Fernando Valley; currently, First Tee Chapters operate in East Los Angeles, South Los Angeles and Pasadena.

Now that the City's golf courses are part of the SCGA's Youth on Course program, SMGC is also raising and donating \$1,000.00 to that program. Kids enrolled in "Youth on Course" are able to access member courses for radically reduced greens fees; the juniors pay a dollar or two with the SCGA Foundation picking up the difference. The City is made whole, but kids who might otherwise not be able to play golf regularly are able to do so. Good for the City; good for the game; best of all for the kids who get immersed in this great game of a lifetime.

Not all the services SMGC provides are as clearly charitable as this, but they're services nonetheless. It is our club's membership in the SCGA – a membership we all pay for through our dues – that sustains the public's capacity to post scores when playing the Encino and Balboa golf courses. It is that same membership that enables the SCGA to measure and rate the courses on the ongoing basis necessary to sustain the courses' connection to the USGA Handicap System.

No clubs' members step up to the plate more diligently when it comes to providing volunteers for the City's various golf championships. Indeed, our own Gene Vano really runs the Divisions of the City Junior Championships that are at Sepulveda each year. I volunteer for many of the City Championship events and urge you to join me. You'll see some great golf being played along with sharing some great experiences.

Speaking of Gene Vano; he just stepped down as Chair of the LA City Golf Advisory Committee after two years at the helm. But that doesn't mean that SMGC no longer has presence in the leadership of that all volunteer organization; yours truly was just elected Vice-Chair, meaning that I'm likely looking at four years in the leadership.

SMGC couldn't raise and disburse these monies and/or perform any of these other acts of community service – we have more planned – without dedicated men of character stepping forward to serve in our own leadership positions. Board elections are just around the corner. We're starting to look for "men of character." Consider stepping forward. The rewards are great; indeed, I can testify from personal experience that as much as you give you receive back so much more. If you're interested please give me a call to chat about what the service entails; no hard sell, I promise – just the information you'll need to know whether to take the plunge.

Next month: Back to "touting" and information about Autumn Team Play, the Presidents Cup, the new "Member Appreciation Outing," and 2013 renewals.

THE NEXT TEE

Upcoming Tournament Notes from Evan Beren, Tournament Director

On Sunday, August 12, we will be playing The Vineyard Course at River Ridge. However hot it may be in the San Fernando Valley, you can count on it to be cooler up in Oxnard. The first tee time is 9:06; we have room for 60 players. The tournament fee is \$85, cart included. Cool weather and golf with a cart - how can you beat that? Format will be low gross and low net with the usual side games. Our August Thursday tournament will be at Rancho Park on the 30th. Stay tuned to the website (www.smgc.org) for more info. If you have any questions about our tournaments contact E.J. Beren at 818-438-0395 or ejberen@me.com

BACKSPIN SHOTS

by The Gapwedge

A tour icon, Tom Watson, recently remarked that amateurs would enjoy the game more if they played the set of tees that give him/her the same distances to the greens as a tour player. Except for the longest holes the pros play, they typically use 8-irons or shorter clubs for their approach shots.

In many cases, this would require an average player to play the “ladies’ tees” (if it’s still politically correct to use that gender-based designation) otherwise substitute “forward tees.”

Gapwedge concurs, especially where players of a more mature age are concerned. Ego and denial often conspire to prevent the older golfer from moving up one or two sets of tees. Certainly if the older lady or gentleman has to resort to fairway woods and hybrids for their approach shots on average length holes, it’s time to move up.

Gapwedge doesn’t deny the ravages of age nor does his ego prevent him from playing a shorter course. Problem is the guys in his regular foursome want to play from the “tips” and complain that the new black tees are barely longer than the old blue tees. Egad!

Gapwedge, despite his mature age, has enough length left to be able to hit all the greens on our courses in regulation—but sometimes just barely. The handwriting is on the wall though and Gapwedge has been practicing his chipping and pitching to prepare for the inevitable.

Golfers, young and old alike, would be well advised to play the set of tees that match his/her game. Not only would they enjoy the game more, as Tom noted, but it would speed up play and who doesn’t want that?

“The Truly Useful Golf Book”

- Chapter 1 - How to properly line up your fourth putt
- Chapter 2 - How to hit a Nike from the rough when you hit a Titleist from the tee
- Chapter 3 - How to avoid the water when you lie 8 in a bunker
- Chapter 4 - How to get more distance off the shank
- Chapter 5 - When to give the Marshal the finger
- Chapter 6 - Using your shadow on the greens to maximize earnings
- Chapter 7 - Crying and how to handle it
- Chapter 8 - Proper excuses for drinking beer before 10am
- Chapter 9 - How to rationalize a 6 hour round
- Chapter 10 - How to find that ball that everyone else saw go in the water
- Chapter 11 - Why your spouse doesn't care that you birdied the 5th
- Chapter 12 - How to let a foursome play through your twosome
- Chapter 13 - How to relax when you are hitting three off the tee
- Chapter 14 - When to suggest major swing corrections to your opponent
- Chapter 15 - God and the meaning of the birdie-to-bogey three putt
- Chapter 16 - When to regrip your ball retriever

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

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

Directors

Evan Beren	Tournament Director.....	(818) 438-0395
Virgil Budhu	Webmaster	(310) 628-5548
Craig Kessler	GCA Dir - Gov't Affairs.....	(310) 941-4803
Mark Michelini	Sunday Tournaments.....	(818) 355-6492
Hadi Morshed	(310) 487-2280
Rich Nance	Publisher.....	(818) 422-3748
Stu Olster	Handicap.....	(818) 222-2516
Alan Stewart	Membership.....	(818) 633-3105
Mike Levy	Trophies.....	(818) 761-7650
Jeff Sable	Mr. Golfsmith.....	(818) 548-7234
Gary Patterson	Entertainment Director.....	(310) 980-4427

SMGC NEW MEMBERSHIP

Here’s a great opportunity to get involved in your golf community today. Test your skills in competitions geared for your own skill level. Are you championship caliber? Great...we want you. Are you “just a beginner”? We want you too. Only interested in recreational golf, rather than organized tournaments? Come on in...the fairways are just fine. Walk the walks (or ride, if you prefer), in the footsteps of Duffy Waldorf and Corey Pavin...both began their careers here on our junior team. Best of all (according to what our own members say)...this is the place to make a clubful of new friends...guys who feel the same about this wonderful game as you. Go online at smgc.org to sign up.

New Members Fee: \$55 for the remainder of 2012!! SCGA affiliation included. Are you a past members who let your membership lapse? Renew for the remainder of 2012 for the same price. You can play immediately after you sign up!

Using your Blackberry messenger or a QR reader app in your smart phone, scan the code on the right for a direct link to our website!



You can call him Ace!

Alfredo Picolomini aced the 15th hole at the Harding Golf Course during SMGC’s Thursday tournament played on the 26th of July. The tree lined 15th hole is a Par 3 that was playing to 177 yards. This is Alfredo’s second Hole-in-one - he aced #3 on Encino last year - and his first Hole-in-one in tournament play. Congratulations Alfredo!

**Sunday @ Santa Anita
July 8, 2012**

"A" Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
73	James Jordan Jr	\$80
75	Sean Cavanaugh	\$60
78	Ian Brumbaugh	\$40
80	Mark Reed	\$25
80	Gerard Sanders	\$25
80	Mark Michellini	\$25
80	Thomas Ortiz	\$25

"A" Flight Low Net

Score	Player	Prize
71	Mark Davidson	\$70
71	Robert Paciorek	\$70
72	Bob McKibben	\$35
72	Bryan Palbaum	\$35
73	John Platt	\$20

"B" Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
81	Gary Patterson	\$80
84	Douglas Rockford	\$60
85	John Blake	\$35
85	Anthony Zaccaro	\$35
86	Randy Hammock	\$20
86	Douglas McKeon	\$20

"B" Flight Low Net

Score	Player	Prize
63	James Hahn	\$80
68	Perry Melillo	\$60
69	Erik Rogers	\$35
69	Wayne Curtis	\$35
71	Khody Azari	\$20

Gross Skins \$240 each

Hole	Player
2	Daniel Longmire
8	James Jordan Jr

Net Skins \$145 each

Hole	Player
9	Wayne Curtis
12	Evan Beren
13	Erik Rogers
15	James Hahn

Closest-to-the-Pin \$65 each

Hole	Player	Distance
4	Chris Stronberg	13'5"
8	Neil Zaniboni	6'5"
12	Evan Beren	1'0"
15	James Hahn	3'1"

The team of Davidson and Paciorek won the Honey Pot with a score of 60, \$270 to the team.

MGA Highlights

By Pete Heller

Rancho Park - July 19, 2012

**SEPULVEDA STOMPS SENIOR TEAM
TWICE HANSEN DAM STUNS
GRIFFITH PARK**

Len Zambito's Sepulveda Team won 2012 bragging rights over their perennial nemesis the Sepulveda Seniors and a whole lot more. The win, 44-25 and 27-9 drew them to within a point of MGA co-leaders Griffith Park and Hansen Dam.

Hansen Dam completely surprised Griffith Park, 38-34 and 24-12, and took charge of the 2012 Championship race. Although the two teams have an identical 18 points each, Hansen Dam now holds the tie breaker and would be the winner if the season ended today.

Meanwhile, Rancho Park, playing at home defeated Woodley Lakes 39-33 and 24-12 to move to within 2 points (A single win) of the league lead while adding to the huge traffic jam at the top.

Sepulveda Seniors Match Winners

Individual:

Bill House, Harvey Gazin and Allen Lipsky

Two Man:

Jackson/Lanza

Sepulveda Mens Club Match Winners

Individual:

Steve Fox, Armen Mesropian, Andy Levine, Bruce Fortune, Gene Vano, Dan Crawford and Mark Vaughan.

Two Man:

Crawford/Fox, Vaughan/Sable, Michellini/Levy, Zambito/Fortune and Mesropian/Levine

Standings	W	L	T	Points
Hansen Dam	8	4	2	18
Griffith Park	9	5	0	18
Sepulveda Mens	8	5	1	17
Rancho Park	8	6	0	16
Woodley Lakes	4	9	1	9
Sepulveda Seniors	2	10	2	6

Next - August 16, 2012 - Harding

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

**Thursday @ Harding
July 26, 2012**

"A" Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
74	Paul Nance	\$50
76	Chuck Ruiz	\$35
77	Evan Heaps	\$20
77	Leonard Zambito	\$20
77	Mark Spicer	\$20

"A" Flight Low Net

Score	Player	Prize
67	Jason Petterson	\$50
69	Donald Pistotnik	\$35
71	David Carlson	\$25
72	Alfredo Picolomini	\$15
72	Mark O'Keefe	\$15
72	Mike Nichol	\$15
72	George Bryson	\$15

"B" Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
83	Marc Cohen	\$45
83	Jeff Sable	\$45
85	Mark Vaughan	\$25
86	Ted Johnson	\$15
86	Perry Melillo	\$15
86	Rick Reinschmidt	\$15

"B" Flight Low Net

Score	Player	Prize
69	Farhad Keliddari	\$50
70	Rick Charls	\$30
70	Chris Getty	\$30
71	Gene Vano	\$15
71	Joe Radford	\$15

Gross Skins \$71 each

Hole	Player
1	George Bryson
4	Donald Pistotnik
8	Eric Smutko
9	George Bryson
14	David Carlson
15	Alfredo Picolomini

Net Skins \$51 each

Hole	Player
1	George Bryson
4	Armen Mesropian
8	Eric Smutko
10	Eric Smutko
11	Paul Nance
12	Marc Covert
13	Joe Radford
15	Alfredo Picolomini
16	Jason Petterson

Closest-to-the-Pin \$65 each

Hole	Player	Distance
5	George Beams	6'0"
13	Perry Melillo	7'1"
15	Alfredo Picolomini	Ace

The team of Vano and Michellini won the Honey Pot with a score of 60, \$270 to the team.

HANDICAP CHATTER

STU OLSTER, Handicap Chairman

The USGA Handicap System makes the handicap committee of a sanctioned golf club responsible for policing the handicaps of that club's membership. If the Committee is diligent in performing its duties, then one can expect the handicaps of the members will be as accurate a reflection of their playing potential as the system will allow.

Conversely, if the Committee doesn't perform its function well, the handicaps of members of that club can be unreliable. Our handicaps are supposed to be accepted everywhere and this "portability" feature is undermined if the Committee falls down on the job.

As regular readers of this column know, I shy away from using the pejorative term "sandbagger." As I've said often in this column, there are legitimate reasons why a player might exceed expectations in a given event or even a series of events. That, I believe, requires the Committee to give the player the benefit of the doubt but to monitor his future performance.

Suppose you are captain of a team in an inter-club team competition like the MGA League. In putting together your team, it would pay you to review your team members' handicap histories in selecting the "starters." Two team members may have the same handicap index, but that doesn't mean that they will have an equal chance of winning their matches. Invariably one will be playing better relative to his index than the other. If a team member's current index is also his low index for the year, he's a better bet than the player whose index has been static or rising. Comments or questions may be addressed to the author at slolster@yahoo.com

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

Change is the order of the day.

The City is creating a "Golf Business Analysis Section" to bring its municipal golf program into the 21st Century. The SCGA is putting the finishing touches on a "Strategic Plan" that calls for doing things that the golf association has not done in its first 113 years. Those who manage Southern California's municipal golf programs are putting together an association of peers to provide them the communication/education/information platform they've desperately needed for decades. SMGC is shifting focus in ways that few would have envisioned just a few short years ago. The conversation has begun about what may be required to revive the moribund Los Angeles Municipal Golf Association.

That's why it should come as no surprise that the City's Golf Advisory Committee has notified the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners of its desire to work with the Department and its new "Golf Business Analysis Section" on "taking an analytical look at the functionality of the Golf Advisory Committee with an eye toward ensuring that this intermediary institution of public input continue to remain positioned to assist the Golf Division, Parks Department and Your Honorable Board in pursuit of the more efficient, businesslike, and service oriented golf program that we all seek." [July 23, 2012 Communication from Golf Advisory Committee to Board of Recreation & Park Commissioners]

Again, quoting directly from that July 23 "Communication from the Golf Advisory Committee:"

"Just as difficult circumstances have presaged changes in the way the Department approaches the conduct of its golf program, those same circumstances presage changes in the way its citizens advisory component approaches the dispensation of its advice and recommendations."

That pretty much says it all, albeit in somewhat formal "government speak." Everything is fair game for reconsideration and reformulation in the game of golf at the moment. Indeed, those who would act as if the case were otherwise are not likely to be "acting" for very much longer. A leisure activity requiring considerable disposable income is a problematic proposition in a world permanently changed in the aftermath of the great financial panic of 2008.

The Golf Advisory Committee should be "acting for very much longer" – perhaps in different form and function, but continuing to act nonetheless. Its prescience in recognizing the "order of the day" invites it. Its function as the sole legitimate repository of public wisdom, consensus and input all but guarantees it.