



**THE SEPULVEDA
EAGLE**
Sepulveda Men's Golf Club
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Evan Beren

Another year is almost in the books. 2017 sure went by in a hurry. Let's try to remember some of the highlights.

In March we held our first ever Cavanaugh Classic. 95 players come out on a cold, rainy windy day at Hansen Dam. Our host, Bobby Cavanaugh, put on a great event. There was a putting contest, won by Josh Eveland and Justin Lestrage. Range balls, from the grass. It was a wonderful house warming party for Bobby at his new course.

The Senior Championship was held in April. David Gilbreath won A Flight Low Gross, making him Senior Champion and Club Champion at the same time. Andy Levine won A Flight Low Net. Hadi Morshed was B Flight Low Gross winner. Steve Hansen Took home the B Flight Low Net honors.

The 22nd Annual John C Palumbo Memorial was our next major championship, held in May at River Ridge. David Gilbreath made it 3 in a row winning A Flight Low Gross. Ben Raposas and Andrew Howard tied for the top spot in A Flight Low Net. Matt Soule won B Flight Low Gross. Reuben Valles won B Flight Low Net.

Our Crown Jewel, the 62nd Annual Club Championship was held in June to close out the 2016/2017 Tournament season. Steve Weible claimed the Club Championship Crown with a 3 total score of 224. Reuben Valles was the Net Handicap Champion. Your Tournament Director, David Horwitch was the A Flight Low Net Champion.

The President's Cup, our Match Play Major kicked off the 2017/2018 Tournament season. Sam Shatz was the Champion defeating Ted Johnson in the final.

Finally, The Dick Goeckner Classic, our 2-man team major was played at Hansen Dam in October. Bill Keanu and Leonid Levin were the championship team with a net score of 63.

A lot of members will be receiving emails from the SCGA to renew your membership for 2018, if you have not already received them. Be sure to renew promptly, so as to not lose you posting privileges.

THE NEXT TEE

By David Horwitch, Tournament Director

As always, the Five Club did not disappoint. I continue to be impressed with the scores our members put up in this tournament. One player broke par, and multiple others were close behind. Quick turn around this month. Olivas Links opens the month, and the year end holiday tournament on Encino the 21st.

The schedule for 2018 should be published later this month. If you are looking to plan ahead, our first tournament of 2018 will be at Harding on the 14th of January.

Tournament questions and comments may be directed to dhorwitch@gmail.com

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

“Mere parsimony is not economy. It requires no Providence, no sagacity, no powers of combination, no comparison, no judgment. Economy is a distributive virtue and consists not in saving but selection. Expense, and great expense, is an essential part.”

Edmund Burke – 1796

Who better than the Father of modern Anglo-American conservatism to explain that there is nothing “conservative” or “economical” about cutting expenses for the sake of cutting, failing to invest for the future, and rejecting all manner of debt assumption? Who better to explain that such is the foolish consistency that is indeed the hobgoblin of the small mind?

That’s why I quoted Burke and didn’t suggest the propositions myself. And I did so to introduce a subject that I think we need to face now that we have a solid strategic plan in place, a stable leadership team in tow, a capital reserve mechanism in place, and a state-of-the-art Internet reservation cum marketing platform on its way.

Simply put, like so many of its municipal brethren, the City of Los Angeles has been considerably more “parsimonious” than “economical” in the way it has neglected the infrastructure needs of its golf system. Sepulveda’s clubhouse is merely tired; the ones at Rancho and Griffith Park appear to be ready to collapse. Hansen Dam is more in the Sepulveda category, as are the structures at the city’s three (3) 9-hole courses. Restrooms everywhere, but nowhere more than Rancho, are in need of refurbishment. Speaking of Rancho, the city’s ostensible “premium” course, I trust everyone understands that it needs an irrigation system replacement in order to bring its fairways up to the standards of the so-called “lesser” courses.

There is no public money available to perform any of this. There is some money in the golf enterprise fund pot to finance some of the above, but nowhere near enough to fund all of the above. And while some of the above is being performed, needs continue to accumulate.

Golf courses are resource consumptive activities, and they are more resource consumptive today than at any time in the past. The resources necessary to begin effectively addressing these infrastructure needs are going to have to come from green fees, driving range revenues, cart rental revenues, and greater generation of food & beverage revenues – i.e., from the golfing public. I wish it were otherwise. No one is more firmly committed to affordable access than I, but life is all about choices. And the choice here is between viability and death – “death” if we allow a slavish commitment to affordable accessibility to starve the system of the resources necessary to keep it from literally falling apart; “viability” if we compromise that commitment by balancing it against the fee increases necessary to keep the system competitive over time.

I am opposed to generating one dollar more than actual needs dictate. I am equally opposed to generating one dollar less. I don’t know where the sweet spot here is, but I don’t think it means anything close to gentrifying the golf system – eroding some of that affordable accessibility ethic perhaps, but not fundamentally changing these golf courses into anything resembling playgrounds for the privileged or enclaves for the elite.

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Tournament Player of the Year Trophy in Memory of Ed Cohn “On the Other Hand”

Dustin Watanabe remains atop the leader and Robert Cavanaugh remains the highest ranking board member at fourth. Team Watanabe’s recent second place at the Goeckner puts them at one and two. Bill Keanu and Leonid Levin vault into the top ten with a win at the same tournament.

Player	Winnings	Rank
Dustin Watanabe	385	1
David Watanabe	290	2
Justin Lestrangle	220	3
Bobby Cavanaugh	210	4
Alfredo Picolomini	185	5
Bill Keanu	175	6
Leonid Levin	175	6
Johnathan Fernandez	170	8
Josh Eveland	170	8
Steve Hansen	160	10
Ben Raposas	155	11
Patrick Warren	155	11
Virgil Budhu	155	11
Brian Nugent	145	14
Douglas Rockford	140	15
Marc Carter	140	15
Branden Augustus	130	17
Juan Lopez	130	17
Matt Soule	130	17
Michael Melamed	125	20
Michael Saghian	125	20
Larry Staggs	120	22
Gerard Sanders	115	23
Brandon Wahl	110	24
Darrell Kato	110	24
Behrouz Shafie	100	26
Bob McKibben	100	26
George Olteanu	100	26
Mark Vaughan	100	26
Jim Thompson	95	30
Mark Kessler	95	30
David Hughes	80	32
Liam Cavanaugh	80	32

The complete standings can be found at WWW.SMG.C.ORG

Sunday @ Rio Hondo

November 5, 2017

Format – Low Gross / Low Net**“A” Flight Low Gross**

Score	Player	Prize
76	Branden Augustus	\$85
82	Hector Moreno	\$45
82	Jeff Prey	\$45

“A” Flight Low Net

73	Brandon Wahl	\$85
74	Marc Carter	\$55
76	Jay Baca	\$35

“B” Flight Low Gross

82	Johnathan Fernandez	\$85
87	Brian Nugent	\$55
88	Behrouz Shafie	\$35

“B” Flight Low Net

71	Larry Cloud	\$70
71	Michael Collins	\$70
72	Ray Hassanlou	\$35

Gross Skins \$72 each

8	Mark Vaughan
11	Juan Lopez
15	Dan Crawford
16	Mark Michelini

Net Skins \$61 each

Hole	Player
3	Johnathan Fernandez
8	Mark Vaughan
10	George Olteanu
11	Juan Lopez
15	Dan Crawford
17	George Olteanu

Closest to the Pin \$35 each

7	Hector Moreno	4' 3"
8	Mark Vaughan	18' 3"
10	Bobby Cavanaugh	7' 0"
14	Mark Michelini	25' 10"
17	Richie Nance	17' 4"

The Honey Pot was \$160

won by the team of
Fernandez/Tumalad with 63.

The Five Club @ Balboa

November 24, 2017

Format – Low Gross / Low Net**“A” Flight Low Gross**

Score	Player	Prize
70	Mark Kessler	\$80
72	Sean Cavanaugh	\$55
73	Steve Weible	\$40

74 Dustin Watanabe \$20

74 Michael Saghian \$20

“A” Flight Low Net

67	Bobby Cavanaugh	\$80
69	Bill Brandel	\$45
69	Laurence Silva	\$45
70	Bob McKibben	\$25

“B” Flight Low Gross

78	Darrell Kato	\$80
81	Alfredo Picolomini	\$55
83	Behrouz Shafie	\$40

84 Brian Nugent \$20

84 Mark Vaughan \$20

“B” Flight Low Net

69	David Hughes	\$80
70	David Watanabe	\$45
70	Anthony Bermel	\$45
71	Hadi Morshed	\$20
71	Virgil Budhu	\$20

Gross Skins \$108 each

2	Josh Eveland
3	Liam Cavanaugh
5	Steve Weible
8	Michael Lindberg
14	Richie Nance

Net Skins \$82 each

Hole	Player
1	Sam Weinstein
7	Hadi Morshed
8	Michael Lindberg
9	Gary Patterson
12	George Olteanu
14	Richie Nance
16	Mark Kessler

Closest to the Pin \$75 each

4	Armen Mesropian	11'
13	Tommaso Trinchieri	6'
17	Virgil Budhu	12'

The Honey Pot was \$310

won by the team of
Bermel & Davies with 61.

BACKSPIN SHOTS*by The Gapwedge***ANCHORS AWAY, MY BOYS,
ANCHORS AWAY!**

In 2013 the USGA announced its intention to ban anchored strokes. After comments were received, the ban went into effect in the 2016 rules revision as Rule 14-1b.

As Gapwedge reported in earlier columns, he's been approached by numerous golfers on the practice green and asked whether his long putter was legal. Not surprisingly, none of them use the long putter, so seemingly they didn't feel they needed to understand the rule.

They were wrong! Suppose you're on the 18th green in a match that is all square. Your opponent holes his birdie putt to apparently win the hole, but wait! You noticed he anchored his putter in making his stroke. You are obliged to call him for a breach of Rule 14-1b and he loses the hole and, in this case, the match.

Those using the long putter certainly need to understand the rule, which is why Gapwedge was so surprised recently to see a gentleman using his long putter in a tightly anchored position.

Too many golfers have an incomplete understanding of the rules which can cause serious consequences in competitive events. The USGA seeks to simplify the rules in its proposed 2019 rules revision by, among other things, reducing the number of rules from 34 to 24. The anchoring ban is carried over into the proposed 2019 revision as Rule 10.1 c.

Some of the proposed rules eliminate penalties that exist under current rules or allow actions that are otherwise favorable to the player. A lack of knowledge of those rules could prevent the player from taking advantage of these changes.

Prize Money
*All tournament place winnings
are paid in gift certificates.*

HANDICAP CHATTER

by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman

Why You Don't Usually Play to Your Index

Per the USGA Handicap System Manual, "two basic premises underlie the USGA Handicap System, namely that each player will try to make the best score at every hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and that the player will post every acceptable round for peer review."

Does it seem to you that you play a few strokes over your Course Handicap most of the time? Well, that's normal under the USGA Handicap System. Why?

The USGA Handicap System is based upon the potential ability of a player rather than the average of all of a player's scores. The USGA tells us that the average player is expected to play to his Course Handicap or better only about 25 percent of the time, average three strokes higher than his Course Handicap, and have a best score in 20, which is only two strokes better than his Course Handicap.

If you have a USGA Handicap Index of 12.3, for instance, it translates into a Course Handicap of 13 when you play from the black tees at Balboa with a Course Rating of 70.6, with a Slope Rating of 120. So a little addition ($70.6 + 13$) leads you to think that you will consistently shoot around 84. In reality, your score average is normally three strokes more than that, or an 87. The USGA has determined that your best score in 20 is normally only two strokes better than your Course Handicap, or an 82; the probability of your recording an 81 twice in 20 rounds is only one in 50.

A good way to think of the range of scores upon which your USGA Handicap Index is based is the old bell curve that school teachers refer to when discussing the range of scores on an exam. The scores of most players, when plotted out, are distributed on a bell curve from the high to low end of the scale. Thus, when you drop out the worst half of your scores, the average of the remaining 10 scores on the upper part of the bell curve reflect your potential ability.

The end result of all the mathematics is your USGA Handicap Index, for better or for worse. Don't worry if you never seem to play to it on a given day. Remember that all members are in the same boat as you, because USGA Handicap Indexes are based on a player's potential ability rather than the average of all scores.