



THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club
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June 2016

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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Evan Beren

June is here and we are already past the first Hot Dog Holiday, Memorial Day. So summer has unofficially begun and we head to the last tournament of the 2015/2016 SMGC golf season, the year ending with the 61st Annual Club Championship. This is a 3-day event, with a cut after 2 rounds, 50% and ties play the last day. Sean Cavanaugh is our defending Club Champion. Balboa Golf Course and Encino Golf Course are in great shape; this could be our greatest Club Championship ever.

At the end of June, we had a new twist to an old tournament; The President's Cup Qualifier, which will be held on June 26, a one day, stroke play tournament to finalize the 32 players who will fill out the match play bracket to compete for the President's Cup. Contact Mark Michelini for more information or sign up on line.

In May we held the 21st Annual John C. Palumbo Memorial Championship at River Ridge Lakes course. Liam Cavanaugh and Dustin Watanabe tied for Low Gross A-Flight. John Blake and Ryan Tumulad tied for Low Net A-Flight. Larry Wilson won Low Gross B-Flight. Tal Almquist was the Low Net B-Flight winner. Congratulations to all the winners. Thanks to David Horwitch, Dan Crawford and Dan Melillo for helping out at the tournament.

The Zero Tolerance policy of the 20 Minute Rule remains in effect for all tournaments. I am glad to say that we had no violations at either of our tournaments in May.

As we head into to the hotter summer months two things I would like to remind everyone about: sun screen, simply put, use it. The sun is our friend, gives us light, warms our planet, but, it can also kill us with melanoma and other types of unpleasant side effects, so slather the sun screen on. Don't forget to hydrate. Drink water or some type of sports drink. Remember, drinking large quantities of beer does not count.

For questions or comments about anything relating to our club, I can be contacted at ejberen@me.com.

THE NEXT TEE

David Horwitch, Tournament Director

Many golf terms conjure emotion, none more so than Pace of Play. The tournament committee feels that we are being generous with the twenty minute rule. As a matter of fact, the SCGA recommends a slow play penalty when a group comes in thirteen minutes behind. Twenty minutes allows for all skill levels to keep up, regardless of circumstance. Furthermore, slow play is disrespectful to the groups behind you as well as our volunteers who make these events run smoothly.

As Evan mentioned, we have not had the need to invoke the two stroke penalty for slow play in our May tournaments. Even more impressive is that we had one of our most difficult tournaments last month, The Palumbo at River Ridge. Everyone did a fantastic job of keeping pace with a large field on a difficult course.

As always, please feel free to email me regarding any tournament rule feedback you may have.

Let's have a great Championship month !

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

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

We're one month into the 1st phase of the new regime, and the results couldn't be better. Golfers are delighted with the new price structure. The new tee interval structure is speeding up rounds and keeping tees on time. Non LA City residents are again feeling like valued customers, not "outsiders." Policy wonks like me are thrilled that \$2.00 to \$2.50 of every greens fee is being deposited into separate accounts dedicated exclusively to capital improvements. We are doubly pleased that the Department is going to meet quarterly with local GAC and club representatives regarding the disposition of these new capital improvement dollars. And revenue is up.

Pretty good stuff! The public is happy, and the City is taking in more money, a portion of which is 100% dedicated to course improvements.

A cynic might remind me that we were headed down that road circa 2010 when a certain ex Department Head rejected the wisdom of his Golf Division in favor of a series of colossal blunders. But not being of a cynical nature, I choose to remain focused on the positive trajectory of the moment, one that promises to become even more positive when further recommendations of the "Golf Business Analysis Section" (GBAS) come before the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners later this year. As with this "1st phase," I know that the Golf Advisory Committee and the Southern California Golf Association will be at those Commission meetings in full throated support.

Let me add to the glow. Dynamic pricing schemes, flexible policies, capital improvement surcharges, more businesslike management – all of these things are good to be sure, but they're only good to the extent to which they are executed by persons who can pull them off. Sometimes in our fair City, we become so focused on effectuating the reforms we deem necessary to viability in an increasingly difficult market that we forget that indeed there are lots of persons in the city's Golf Division quite capable of executing all of these "good" things if given the chance to do so.

Over the Memorial Day weekend I invited our Immediate Past President Bruce Fortune to join me and a certain guest of mine at the Wilson Golf Course, that "certain guest" being the President of the San Francisco Public Golfers Alliance. During the round, he asked Bruce and me where the city's workers had developed their expertise in managing and maintaining golf courses, as what he witnessed at Griffith Park was head and shoulders above the standard on his own San Francisco municipal system. Ironically, on that day the Griffith Park Golf Club was conducting a tournament on our Balboa Golf Course, which gave Bruce and me great credibility when we informed our guest that what he witnessed at Wilson was for the most part "par" for the whole system; otherwise, the Griffith Park Club would have been playing here with us instead of Sepulveda's home track.

The moral of the Memorial Day Weekend story? In our zeal to make the city municipal system the best it can be we shouldn't forget that compared to many if not most, it is a damn good system. We shouldn't take for granted the whole region's tradition of municipal golf excellence. There are a number of superb and reasonably priced municipal golf courses throughout Los Angeles County, Ventura County too. The same cannot be said of other regions, a conclusion my job allows me to draw with some confidence. And we shouldn't forget to thank and appreciate the "persons" who pull this off for us every day of the year.

To each and every one of you, thank you for what you do.

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

Results as of 30 May, 2016

Josh maintains his commanding hold of first place. However, the purse for the Club Championship allows many in the field to break into the top ten for the year. Three rounds and one big prize until the final results are set.

Player	Points
Josh Eveland	655
Brian Czerniak	510
Hadi Morshed	480
Armen Mesropian	465
Ryan Tumalad	435
Ted Johnson	410
Michael Melamed	390
Mark Vaughan	385
Dustin Watanabe	355
Brian Nugent	340
Ben Raposas	330
Sean Cavanaugh	330
Steven Fox	325
Gordon Seaberg	325
George Olteanu	315
Bruce Davies	300
Robert Glaessner	300
Mark Galper	280
Sean MacDonald	240
Mark Reed	235
Steve Weible	235
Russel Kotzen	230
Dan Crawford	230
Gerard Sanders	225
David Horwitch	220
Tommaso Trinchieri	220
Louie Rivera	215
Rich Nance	210
Bob McKibben	210
Liam Cavanaugh	205
John Blake	205
Mark Michelini	195
Bruce Fortune	190

The complete standings can be found at WWW.SMGC.ORG

The Palumbo Memorial

May 15, 2016

Format – Low Gross / Low Net

“A” Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
74	Liam Cavanaugh	\$125
74	Dustin Watanabe	\$125
76	Paul Nance	\$60
76	Josh Eveland	\$60

“A” Flight Low Net

72	John Blake	\$125
72	Ryan Tumulad	\$125
73	Phil Kapsimallis	\$70
73	Sean MacDonald	\$40
74	Alfredo Picolomini	\$40
74	Vinod Chhabra	\$40

“B Flight” Low Gross

Player	Low Gross	Prize
84	Larry Wilson	\$150
86	Brian Nugent	\$100
87	Louie Rivera	\$70
88	Ted Johnson	\$45
88	Juan Lopez	\$45

“B Flight” Low Net

70	Tal Almqvist	\$150
73	Todd Mander	\$85
73	Bob Surbeck	\$85
74	Antonio Gonzales	\$50

Gross Skins \$118 each

Hole	Player
1	Sean MacDonald
5	Jack Barton
7	Phil Kapsimallis
8	Liam Cavanaugh
13	Ryan Tumulad

Net Skins \$123 each

Hole	Player
1	Sean MacDonald
3	Ted Johnson
4	Jack Barton
5	Jack Barton
8	Liam Cavanaugh
13	Ryan Tumulad

Closest to the Pin \$72 each

5	Gordon Seaberg	13' 9"
7	Rich Nance	6' 1"
11	Liam Cavanaugh	6" 0"
15	Paul Nance	6" 0"
17	Larry Zuckerman	4' 4"

Thursday @ Balboa

April 26, 2016

Format – Low Gross / Low Net

“A” Flight Low Gross

Score	Player	Prize
71	Ryan Tumulad	\$40
71	Russel Kotzen	\$40
73	Rory Posin	\$15
73	Brad Hartz	\$15

“A” Flight Low Net

64	Alfredo Picolomini	\$40
64	Greg Fowble	\$40
67	Craig Cacek	\$15
67	Sean MacDonald	\$15
67	Laurence Silva	\$15

“B Flight” Low Gross

78	Patrick Warren	\$45
83	Jeff Sable	\$25
83	Tony Sands	\$25

“B Flight” Low Net

64	Steve Hansen	\$45
68	Armen Mesropian	\$25
68	Daniel Sniegowski	\$25

Gross Skins \$96 each

Hole	Player
4	Alfredo Picolomini
7	Mike Nichol
14	Bob McKibben

Net Skins \$61 each

Hole	Player
2	Daniel Sniegowski
4	Alfredo Picolomini
11	Daniel Sniegowski
14	Bob McKibben
15	Jim Robison
18	Steve Hansen

Closest to the Pin \$60 each

4	Armen Mesropian	13' 9"
13	Russel Kotzen	3' 7"
17	Alfredo Picolomini	10' 0"

The Honey pot was \$80

winner are
Fowble/McKibben with a 60.

BACKSPIN SHOTS

by The Gapwedge

A friend recently took a golf lesson and the instructor recommended a change to his grip.

Friend, who is retired and loves the game, plays three or four times a week. He hates to miss a chance to play, so the next day he hit the course rather than the practice range as Gapwedge suggested. The result was predictably dismal.

Gapwedge once read that a golfer needs a couple of weeks of daily range practice when trying to change an important fundamental like his grip. If taken onto the course too soon, the change conflicts with established muscle memory and the usual result of the clash between mind and body is chaos.

Think about it. When you change one element of your swing, invariably you need to change several others that compensated for the faulty fundamental you are trying to change. There are no simple shortcuts or silver bullets in the game of golf.

When a tour player makes swing changes you can bet he spends untold hours on the range under the watchful eye of his swing coach before the next competition.

Good things come to those who wait, and that adage is never more true than when a golfer tries to make changes to his swing fundamentals. Sure, we all love instant gratification, but when one is trying to make swing changes to improve one's game, the price of it is too high.



If you have knowledge of a hole-in-one by a member of the SMGC please contact Mike Levy by email at mikelevy69@gmail.com or by phone at (818) 427-1925

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

HANDICAP CHATTER

by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman

The Unplayable Ball

One of the lesser known but useful rules in golf is the rule of the unplayable ball. This rule gives a player the option, at any time other than in a water hazard, to declare their ball unplayable. You are the only person who can say it is unplayable. If you choose to invoke this rule, you will receive a penalty stroke, but then you have the following options:

- A. You can play a ball from the spot your original ball was last played - this is referred to as 'stroke and distance.'
- B. You can drop a ball within two club lengths of where the ball lies, no closer to the hole. If the ball is in a bunker, it must remain in the bunker.
- C. You can draw a line between the flag and your ball, and drop a new ball as far back as you would like along an extension of that line away from the hole. Once again, if the ball is in the bunker, it must remain in the bunker.

Why is this a good rule? A few examples illustrate the point:

You are playing a course which is tight and wooded. On one of the back nine holes, your nerves finally get to you, your grip says 'adios' and you shank your ball deep into the woods; you find your ball next to a log behind several trees. It would take you at least 5 shots to get it back onto the fairway. Instead, you declare your ball unplayable, take a penalty stroke, and bring it back to the spot on the fairway from where you shanked it. You have just added two strokes to your score from the last time the ball was on this spot, but you once again have a clear shot to the green.

Alternatively, your approach shot fell just short into the sand trap guarding the front. But as you walk up the fairway, you notice that your ball has become wedged into the lip of the bunker. You can hit the ball, but there's a good chance that it will burrow further into the lip. If you're lucky it may come out and trickle down into the bunker. Is your only option to pray and swing? No, you may declare your ball unplayable.

Draw a line between the ball and the hole. Since it is a big bunker, you can step back a few paces along an extension of that line. You must remain in the bunker to drop your new ball, but you have now ensured that your ball has a good lie, ready to get up and down on your next two shots.

The final example may be unusual but illustrates the point well. Your ball is on the green, three feet above the hole. It would be an easy putt except for the treacherous downhill lie. You line up to putt, but hit the ball way too hard, and sadly watch it roll all the way off the green - the ball finally comes to a stop in the bunker at the front of the green. In a smart move, you declare your ball unplayable, take the one stroke penalty, and bring the ball back to the original spot - this time with more experience.

Why can you move the ball out of bunker? Because, the ball must stay in the bunker only in options B and C above, you can always choose option A and move the ball, whether it is in or out of the bunker, to where you hit it from last.

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### ***Bob Davis – Someone we could always depend on!***

There are always people to thank when it comes to Los Angeles City Golf courses, and this is to thank one of those who worked for 35 years (just a couple of months short of 36 years, actually) in the Rec and Park's Golf Division – Bob Davis. Starting in December 2015, Bob was promoted to Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Operations, working in Venice. He started out as a part time employee at Roosevelt Golf Course, promoting through the ranks. He worked all of golf's three geographic regions (Valley, Griffith and Pacific) both as a worker and as a supervisor/manager. Most recently he was Principal Grounds Maintenance Supervisor II, Citywide Golf, stepping in to act as Golf Division Manager as needed.

Bob was someone who we could turn to for major issues on our courses, often finding that he'd already begun taking steps to correct them before we were able to ask. Personally, I am grateful for the years of service he's given to us, the Los Angeles golfing community. So much of what we take for granted, work done 365 days a year – year in and year out - was done under his supervision.

Bob's position was filled by Laura Baurenfeind, whom we have the utmost faith will do a great job. Laura gets a big head start, having inherited a smoothly running operation provided by years of fine tuning.

I'm not sure why there isn't a system in place that makes public announcements and provides parties to celebrate 'Jobs well done' whenever someone like Bob Davis retires or is promoted into another position – but I'd like to say thanks for thousands of golfers like me who reaped the benefits of Bob's diligence and hard work. Thanks Bob!