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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Evan Beren*

Some notes on some different topics:

If any player picks up during tournament play and takes an X on any hole that player will be disqualified from the tournament. We had this happen at our Wilson tournament. A player did this at the suggestion of one of his partners. This was not done with malice, but out of good intentioned ignorance. The ball must be played into the hole on every hole.

Rules dispute? During the course of play at the Wilson tournament there was a rules dispute. A player should have taken a drop, lateral hazard; his playing partner said he was OB. What to do? Play 2 balls into the hole and discuss with the tournament chairman after your round. Just be sure to do all you can to keep up with the group in front of you.

Our sister course across the Los Angeles River, Woodley Lakes now has "Family Tees". Great for golfers of all ages. Woodley Lakes is holding a Family 9 Hole Golf Outing on Saturday, April 7th, contact the folks at Woodley for more information.

And finally: SCGA Saturday Team Play is over, at least for the SMGC Team, we finished 3rd in our division. Congratulations to Captain Gary Patterson and Co-Captain Bobby Cavanaugh on a great year. Gary and Bobby put a lot of time and effort into putting a team together each week for the length of the 6-week tournament. They have our heartiest thanks

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me at [ejberen@me.com](mailto:ejberen@me.com) or 818-438-0395.

## THE NEXT TEE

*By David Horwitch, Tournament Director*

How about that Knollwood tournament? Knollwood broke our seemingly endless streak of tournaments with net scores in the 60's. Personally, I like seeing the higher scores.

For as much as I enjoyed Knollwood. I didn't quite enjoy the nearly six hours it took us at the back to play our round. Remember, even in tournament play, ready golf is expected of every group.

This month we have another exciting course to play at Tierra Rejada on the 11th. Our Thursday tournament will be at Encino on the 22nd.

***Tournament questions and comments may be directed to [dhorwitch@gmail.com](mailto:dhorwitch@gmail.com)***

## CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

The Rancho Park Women's Golf Club spent most of 2017 conducting a statistical analysis of their clubs' pace of play. It was an extremely thorough analysis. The club timed every group for 29 weeks February through November. Average attendance for each event over the course of the year was 62 players. As with all club events and tournaments, they teed off in 8-minute intervals with no breaks or open times in between.

This is what they found. Over the course of the year the average finish time for the first group was 3 hours 50 minutes, and the average time for the final group was 4 hours 31 minutes. However, within those averages they did discover that there were weeks in which both first and last group played considerably faster than the average as well as considerably slower. Given that the club performed such a thorough analysis over a long period of time, they were able to determine which of their members played quickly and which played slowly. And that enabled them to begin structuring their start times so as to put the faster groups in front of the slower ones. Anyone who has ever played golf knows that a slow group in the lead will back everything up, and vice versa.

They also found that the 8-minute tee interval was unrealistic unless an entire field is composed of highly skilled players dedicated to playing very quickly. Of course, anyone who has ever played golf also knows that "highly skilled" players are often not dedicated to playing quickly. The USGA performed a pace of play study at Rancho in 2015 and determined that 8.5 minutes was the optimal interval for Rancho, which probably explains why the Rancho Women's Club is playing faster than the general public at Rancho. Now that the city has eliminated most of its marshaling function, the general public is left without anything to assist in moving things along, while the Women's Club has adopted a strict pace of play policy replete with penalties for failing to finish in sequence and benefits for playing with alacrity. This has enabled them to play with dispatch despite the abbreviated interval.

The Rancho Park Golf Club (formerly known as the "Men's Club") has performed an even more extensive study of its pace patterns and adopted a more draconian set of penalties for failing to play with dispatch. And their events average many more than the 62 players of the women's events. They are in the process of following suit with the Rancho women and putting their results in a formal written package. If they finish that package by March 12 both clubs will present their respective findings at the March 19 Golf Advisory Committee meeting. If they don't complete the package by that date, the women will present their data in March, and the "men's" club will present their data in May.

My hat is off to both clubs for expending the effort to ascertain the facts about their clubs' pace of play and then apply those facts to policies capable of bettering it. My hat is also off to them for putting to rest certain planted axioms about clubs and pace of play, unflattering axioms planted by anecdote, not credible metrics. My hope: The city's clubs can use what the Rancho clubs have done to improve their pace of play and thus their value propositions as clubs, and those who repeat unsubstantiated prejudices about clubs can take a hard look at the facts and begin to be guided thereby.

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

Ben Raposas' win at Knollwood moves him to further split the Watanabes for third place. Justin Lestrage tags in at second. Dustin clears room at the top with a 2nd at Valentines Day. Still plenty of golf left for any of the top 10 to win.

Player	Winnings	Rank
Dustin Watanabe	460	1
Justin Lestrage	395	2
Ben Raposas	385	3
David Watanabe	350	4
Brian Nugent	305	5
Michael Melamed	300	6
Alfredo Picolomini	245	7
Gerard Sanders	245	7
Branden Augustus	220	9
Robert Cavanaugh	210	10
Johnathan Fernandez	200	11
Steve Hansen	200	11
Virgil Budhu	195	13
Bob McKibben	190	14
Leonid Levin	190	14
Bill Keanu	175	16
Craig Cacek	170	17
Josh Eveland	170	17
Juan Lopez	160	19
Todd Mander	160	19
Patrick Warren	155	21
Brandon Wahl	140	22
David Horwith	140	22
Douglas Rockford	140	22
Marc Carter	140	22
Michael Radtke	140	22
Larry Staggs	135	27
Lupe Escobedo	135	27
Mark Vaughan	130	29
Matt Soule	130	29
Sean Cavanaugh	130	29
Jeff Prey	125	32
Michael Saghian	125	32
Behrouz Shafie	120	34
Richie Nance	120	34

The complete standings can be found at [WWW.SMG.C.ORG](http://WWW.SMG.C.ORG)

**Sunday @ Wilson**  
February 11, 2018  
**Format – Low Gross / Low Net**

**“A” Flight Low Gross**

Score	Player	Prize
72	David Gilbreath	\$65
77	Dustin Watanabe	\$45
80	Brandon Wahl	\$15
80	John Philipson	\$15
80	Gerard Sanders	\$15
80	Paul Nance	\$15
80	Robert Barroa	\$15

**“A” Flight Low Net**

72	Ben Raposas	\$65
73	Eric Ramirez	\$40
73	Logan Landers	\$40

**“B” Flight Low Gross**

83	Keith Junior	\$65
85	Brian Nugent	\$45
86	Juan Lopez	\$30

**“B” Flight Low Net**

71	Bryan Nichols	\$65
73	Dennis Bouch	\$45
75	Johnathan Fernandez	\$30

**“C” Flight Low Gross**

83	Michael Collins	\$65
86	David Patterson	\$45
87	Lupe Escobedo	\$30

**“C” Flight Low Net**

68	George Olteanu	\$55
68	Michael Melamed	\$55
70	James Hahn	\$30

**Gross Skins \$200 each**

3	Logan Landers
8	David Gilbreath
11	John Philipson

**Net Skins \$146 each**

Hole	Player
4	Roy Bernhardt
12	Michael Melamed
13	Patrick Warren
14	David Patterson
18	David Horwitch

**Closest to the Pin \$200 each**

3	Hector Moreno	11' 3"
11	Brian Nugent	33' 4"
15	David Gilbreath	1' 5"

**The Honey Pot was \$420**

won by the teams of  
Nichols & Cacek  
with a score of 62.

**Thursday @ Knollwood**  
February 22, 2018  
**Format – Low Gross / Low Net**

**“A” Flight Low Gross**

Score	Player	Prize
82	Ben Raposas	\$45
85	Eric Smutko	\$25
85	Michael Lindberg	\$25

**“A” Flight Low Net**

73	Craig Cacek	\$45
75	David Horwitch	\$30
78	Everardo Gomez	\$15
78	Samuel Perez	\$15
78	Laurence Silva	\$15

**“B” Flight Low Gross**

89	Dennis Bouch	\$45
94	Mark Vaughan	\$30
95	Todd Mander	\$15
95	Buzz Osborne	\$15

**“B” Flight Low Net**

77	Virgil Budhu	\$40
77	Michael Melamed	\$40
80	Jeff Sable	\$20

**Gross Skins \$33 each**

1	Alfredo Picolomini
7	Michael Melamed
8	Dan Crawford
10	Alfredo Picolomini
11	David Carlson
14	Ryan Tumulad
15	Eric Smutko
16	Mark Vaughan

**Net Skins \$33 each**

Hole	Player
1	Alfredo Picolomini
3	Tommaso Trinchieri
7	Michael Melamed
10	Alfredo Picolomini
11	David Carlson
13	Michael Melamed
14	Ryan Tumulad
15	Eric Smutko
16	Mark Vaughan
18	Michael Melamed

**Closest to the Pin \$40 each**

6	Craig Cacek	7' 2"
8	Dan Crawford	3' 11"
13	Samuel Perez	10' 5"
17	Ryan Tumulad	8' 9"

**The Honey Pot was \$70**

won by the teams of  
Gomez/Horwitch and  
Melamed/McKibben with 66.

**BACKSPIN SHOTS**

*by The Gapwedge*

Match play is the favorite form of competition of most golfers, particularly in casual rounds. And the nassau, played in a match play format, is the favorite of golfers who dare to put their money where their mouths are.

If you're playing in a stroke or medal play event, a quadruple bogey or a penalty or two can put you right out of contention. If it happens early on in the round, you struggle the rest of the round to catch up, incurring extra stress.

Penalties in match play are invariably loss of the hole on which the infraction occurred. Moreover, a sky-high score on a single hole only loses one hole which makes it easier to put that nasty bad hole out of your mind and remain competitive.

Nobody wants to simply go through the motions on the golf course. That 8 or 9 on the first hole in stroke play could spell a long day for you and your buddies in a casual round which translates to less fun for everybody.

Match and stroke play differ in a number of significant ways, especially as regards penalties for breaches of the rules. Because of these significant differences, the USGA recommends that the two formats not be combined in the same competition.

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

## HANDICAP CHATTER

*by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman*

### **Play the Ball as It Lies? Not Always.**

The most basic rule and principle of the Rules of Golf is to play the ball as it lies. Throughout the rest of the Rules of Golf, however, are all kinds of exceptions to that principle. For example, when a player has interference from an obstruction, he or she may take relief and play the ball from somewhere else. It is possible to get yourself into trouble under some of those rules, because they require you to drop and play the ball from a very specific new position. If you don't play the ball from where the rule requires, you have played from a wrong place and will incur a penalty.

Rule 20-7 states that a player has played from a wrong place, "If he makes a stroke at his ball in play (i) on a part of the course where the Rules do not permit a stroke to be made or a ball to be dropped or placed; or (ii) when the Rules require a dropped ball to be re-dropped or a moved ball to be replaced."

One important note about playing from a wrong place is that the penalty does not occur until a stroke is made from the improper location. There is no penalty for dropping or placing in a wrong place, and Rule 20-6 permits a player to lift a ball that has been improperly put into play and correct the mistake prior to playing the ball. The penalty only occurs once a stroke is made from that incorrect spot. In match play, the player loses the hole. In stroke play, the player incurs a two-stroke penalty under the applicable Rule.

The emphasis on "under the applicable Rule" is important because playing from a wrong place happens when OTHER rules are breached. From the two categories above, playing from a wrong place can be simplified to: (i) playing a ball from somewhere the rule you were proceeding under did not permit, e.g. two club-lengths from the nearest point of relief or from on a wrong putting green; and (ii) you did not re-drop or place a ball when Rule 20-2 required you to lift and re-drop or place. Category (ii) is governed by Rule 20-2 and category (i) is governed by everything else.

Recently on the PGA Tour, Seung-Yul Noh was penalized two strokes for playing from a wrong place in breach of Rule 25-3. His situation was not one where he dropped or placed a ball in the wrong place and then played, but rather he played the ball from a place the rules did not permit—a wrong putting green. Rule 25-3 requires a player to lift and drop the ball off the wrong putting green. Since Noh did not do so, he incurred a two-stroke penalty under Rule 25-3 for playing from a wrong place.

Just as frequently, players play from a wrong place under the second category because they do not re-drop a ball that the rules require to be re-dropped, or they decide to re-drop a ball when the rules did NOT require it. Rule 20-2 gives us the various situations that require a player to re-drop, including rolling more than two club-lengths from where the ball first struck the course, rolling into a hazard, rolling nearer the hole than the reference point for relief or rolling into a position that still has interference from the original condition.

Rory McIlroy played from a wrong place in this manner when he played a ball that Rule 20-2c required to be re-dropped. When he played the ball, his foot was still touching the line defining the ground under repair he was taking relief from. Because he failed to re-drop the ball, he incurred a two stroke penalty in breach of Rule 20-2c.

As always, it pays to know the rules.