



**THE SEPULVEDA
EAGLE**
Sepulveda Men's Golf Club
Visit our website: www.smgc.org
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(818) 995-1170

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Evan Beren

Another SMGC Senior Championship is in the books. Congratulations to David Gilbreath, our new Senior Club Champion. The tournament was closely contested in most categories making for an exciting finish. Special thanks to the volunteers who make this possible, Mark Vaughn, David Horwich, Tommy Eunice.

Quite often club tournaments are played from split tees, meaning A flight may be playing from Black tees and B flight might play from Blue tees. This can cause confusion especially in mixed groups of A and B flights. If a player does tee off from the wrong tee, he must tee off again from the correct tee and is assessed a 2 stroke penalty. The player's strokes are not counted until he plays from the correct tee as the ball is not yet in play.

The club has purchased a new posting computer with a touch screen that is now in the back of the Monterey restaurant. The screen occasionally goes to sleep, give the screen a light touch to wake it up. There is also an app from GHIN for your smart phone and a website (www.ghin.com) to records your scores. There are now fewer excuses for posting your scores after your round.

The 63rd Annual SMGC Club Championship is just under 2 months away and sign-up are open now. This event is 3 days of golf played over 2 weekends with a cut after the Sunday round and the final on Saturday June 30th. The first weekend is played on Encino and Balboa.

It's Spring and the temperatures are rising, so enjoy the warmer weather, hydrate, maybe take advantage of evening golf discounts.

If you have questions, comments or would like to volunteer to help, please contact me at 818-438-0395 or ejberen@me.com.

THE NEXT TEE

By David Horwitch, Tournament Director

The Cavanaugh Classic in April became the most attended event in SMGC history. Thank you to all the players for making it a great event, and thank you to those who organized and volunteered. Low score in the putting contest was shared by Bobby Cavanaugh, Tai Ide, Mark Vaughn, & Craig Cacek. The winners of the free driver fitting at Club Champion in West LA were Jack Spjut, Matt Soule, & James Hahn, thank you to Michael Caro of Club Champion for generously providing those fittings.

The Palumbo at River Ridge will be played on a Saturday this year, the 12th of May. We return to Wilson on Thursday the 24th.

The Presidents Cup is on the horizon, prepare for match play!

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

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

Slowly but surely key pieces of the city's Golf Strategic Plan are falling into place.

Arguably the biggest piece of the plan just fell into place with the City Council's final approval of the EZlinks contract to provide the city golf system with a state-of-the-art Internet reservation system capable of marketing the city's golf stock in ways sure to increase revenue without raising prices. In addition to enabling real time access to all of the city's tee sheets at all times of the day and night, the new system will allow the city to use the existing reservation card program to create standard reward/affinity programs that can also be used to add value to existing golf clubs like SMGC and allow for the seamless creation of additional groups and leagues capable of filling tee times that are currently going unused – not to mention the dynamic pricing capability central to the success of so many industries in the Internet era.

City Staff is working diligently to get the system operational as quickly as possible. My guess is that we can expect the first pieces to be in place by the beginning of summer. I say, "first pieces," because this new system is capable of so much more than the three (3) features I have highlighted here. This really does represent a breakthrough moment for the LA City "Community" golf program. We don't refer to "municipal" golf programs anymore; the new name is "community" golf programs. That's what these golf courses are – integral components of parks that exist to provide general recreation for urban dwellers who would otherwise have to be independently wealthy to enjoy their fruits in a place like Los Angeles.

Another piece of the Strategic Plan is falling into place right now as well. You may not be noticing it, because it involves junior golf programs. But it benefits all of us nonetheless. In an effort to free up operational resources better used to enhance a customer experience directly related to increased play and revenue, the city is devolving its direct responsibility for the conduct of junior programming to the non-profit organizations whose mission is to raise the monies necessary to provide it. The City is already working with the First Tee of Los Angeles to provide such and is in discussions with SCGA Junior Foundation to add more. Any hope we might have to build a more robust marshaling program is going to be dependent on similar devolutions of responsibility.

We're starting to see the benefits of one of the Strategic Plan's initial pillars to the degree to which the capital improvement funds created when the resident/nonresident rates were eliminated in favor of a unitary rate in between the two, are now filling up with measurable dollars. Many of the small projects now proliferating throughout the system are being funded by this new source, and the energy created thereby is allowing the Golf Division's to venture into expenditures that were previously considered too risky for a relatively new enterprise fund. There is a direct line between the resident/nonresident consolidation and the Golf Division's retention of its own plumber to handle the myriad plumbing problems that plague all community golf programs. The more the Golf Division can gain control over the delivery of its product without having to go through too many internal bureaucratic hoops to just get the simple things done, the more the Golf Division will be able to operate with many of the efficiencies that characterize private sector operations.

"Slowly but surely" probably frustrates those who focus on the "slowly" part. But it's the "surely" part that has my attention. It's that part that gives me cause for great confidence in the long-term viability of the Los Angeles Community golf system.

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

Suddenly it's a very close race for Leader Board places two through six. A top five finish is up for grabs for any of the players in the top 10. Dustin is vulnerable at the top with only a gap of \$65, less than a first place win in any tournament.

Player	Winnings	Rank
Dustin Watanabe	460	1
Craig Cacek	395	2
Justin LeStrange	395	2
Ben Raposas	385	4
David Gilbreath	385	4
Alfredo Picolomini	380	6
David Watanabe	350	7
Gerard Sanders	340	8
Bryan Nichols	320	9
Brian Nugent	305	10
Michael Melamed	300	11
Jeff Sable	290	12
Bob McKibben	250	13
Johnathan Fernandez	250	13
David Horwitch	235	15
Darrell Kato	225	16
John Philipson	225	16
Larry Staggs	225	16
Branden Augustus	220	19
Jeff Prey	220	19
Bobby Cavanaugh	210	21
Sean MacDonald	210	21
Alan Ruiz	200	23
Mark Michelini	200	23
Steve Hansen	200	23
Juan Lopez F	195	26
Virgil Budhu	195	26
Leonid Levin	190	28
Jim Thompson	185	29
Marc Carter	180	30
Bill Keanu	175	31
Brandon Wahl	170	32
Josh Eveland	170	32
Lupe Escobedo	170	32
Brent Harvey	165	35

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

Sunday @ Hansen Dam

April 15, 2018

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

Score	Player	Prize
72	Tai Ide	\$80
73	David Gilbreath	\$55
74	Liam Cavanaugh	\$35
74	John Philipson	\$35

“A” Flight Low Net

66	Tim Sower	\$80
68	Louie A. Rivera	\$55
69	Bradford Weinstein	\$40
70	Sam Weinstein	\$30

“B” Flight Low Gross

75	Brent Harvey	\$80
80	David Carlson	\$55
81	Marc Carter	\$40
83	Ray Lujan	\$30

“B” Flight Low Net

68	Sean MacDonald	\$80
71	Craig Cacek	\$50
71	Johnathan Fernandez	\$50
72	Christopher Ames	\$25
72	Larry Scott	\$25

“C” Flight Low Gross

82	Jeff Sable	\$82
84	Bryan Nichols	\$84
85	Tony Sands	\$85
87	Pablo Rojas	\$87

“C” Flight Low Net

68	Oscar Sandoval	\$80
70	David Patterson	\$55
71	George Olteanu	\$40
73	Buzz Osborne	\$25
73	Wayne Curtis	\$25

Gross Skins \$300 each

2	Dustin Watanabe
12	David Gilbreath
13	Jeff Sable

Net Skins \$168 each

Hole	Player
2	Dustin Watanabe
4	Straun Joseph
8	Brian Nugent
10	Hadi Morshed
13	Jeff Sable
15	Dennis Bouch

Closest to the Pin \$110 each

4	Alfredo Picolomini	7' 5"
7	Bob McKibben	10' 4"
15	Brent Harvey	3' 0"
17	Branden Augustus	2' 8"

The Honey Pot was \$630won by the team of
Sower & Horwitch with 61.**Senior Club Championship**

April 28-29, 2017

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

Score	Player	Prize
148	David Gilbreath	\$200
150	Gerard Sanders	\$95
150	Jeff Prey	\$95
150	John Philipson	\$95

“A” Flight Low Net

140	Mark Michelini	\$200
141	Sean MacDonald	\$110
141	Craig Cacek	\$110
142	Bob McKibben	\$60

“B Flight” Low Gross

160	Bryan Nichols	\$200
166	Alfredo Picolomini	\$135
169	Larry Staggs	\$90
172	Darrell Kato	\$50
172	Larry Scott	\$50

“B Flight” Low Net

138	Alan Ruiz	\$200
141	Jeff Sable	\$135
142	Jim Thompson	\$90
143	Gordon Seaberg	\$60

Saturday Balboa**Gross Skins \$235 each**

Hole	Player
8	Jeff Prey
9	Mark Michelini

Net Skins \$66 each

Hole	Player
1	Sean MacDonald
3	Joe Radford
4	David Carlson
5	George Olteanu
8	Jeff Prey
10	Jim Thompson
11	Jay Bianco
15	David Joslyn
18	David Joslyn

Closest to the Pin \$105 each

4	David Carlson	4' 1"
13	Marc Carter	5' 10"
17	Michael Melamed	7' 4"

Senior Club Championship**Encino Sunday****Gross Skins \$203 each**

Hole	Player
11	Sean MacDonald
12	Steve Weible
15	Sam Weinstein

Net Skins \$203 each

Hole	Player
3	Timothy Sprague
11	Sean MacDonald
14	Rhoneil Santo Tomas

Closest to the Pin \$75 each

3	Kevin West	8' 4"
6	Bob McKibben	12' 8"
15	Mark Michelini	11' 6"
17	Kevin West	12' 8"

<p align="center">Prize Money All tournament place winnings are paid in gift certificates.</p>

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.