



# THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club  
Starter's Phone: (818) 995-1172  
Visit our website at  
[www.smgc.org](http://www.smgc.org)

December  
2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bruce Fortune

The final month of 2011 is upon us. It has been an "eventful" year – Five (5) major championship "events" that is:

- The John Palumbo Memorial Classic in May, won by Beeri Meza (gross) and Mark O'Keefe (net);
- The President's Cup, our club's match play championship (down to the Semi-Final match)
- The Club Championship, our club's stroke play championship, taken this year by Clint Bridge (Championship Flight), Don Pistorik (A Flight), and Brian Nugent (B Flight);
- The Senior Club Championship, won by Ardi Nozari (gross) and Robert Paciorek (net); and
- The Goeckner Classic, our club's 4-ball championship, which should be completed in December.

We did 24 tournaments in total in 2011 – okay, so 22 club sanctioned events and two (2) Gene Vano Ojai Invitationals. A hearty thanks to the members who participated and the many volunteers who helped run them. A special thanks to Vice-President / Tournament Chairman Gene Vano and his Tournament Committee for putting the schedule together and making sure that every SMGC tournament was operated in a professional manner. There is sometimes no more thankless job in a golf club than Tournament Chairman; I hope we express our appreciation often enough.

This month's Eagle has the 2012 Sunday tournament schedule. Our full tournament schedule promises to be chock full of Thursday competitions at LA City Courses and Sunday competitions all over the region. We're actively looking for new and exciting sites for 2012 – and at some very competitive prices that have been made possible by the Great Recession. Look for us if you're playing at Sepulveda Saturday, December 10. We'll be out on course all day raising money for Gary Rand Senior Starter and his wonderful Sepulveda Junior Golf Program. If you're on course, please contribute. If you don't plan to be on course, please consider helping us out. Contact Evan Beran; he'll put you to work.

A hearty thanks to the members of the Board of Directors. I would list them all and list all they do for the club, but I don't have enough space in this column to do so. Suffice it to say that this club would not be running on all cylinders if it weren't for their hard work. Next time you see one of them at Sepulveda, take a moment to express a little appreciation. That's the only real "perk" they receive. Let me add a special thanks to long time club and board member, Stu Olster. Along with writing articles for the Eagle and handling our Handicap Chair duties, Stu headed up our Operations Manual Update Committee. This was an arduous task that was literally years in coming to fruition. At our November board meeting, Stu delivered the completed version to the board and the committee was disbanded. We are grateful for your diligence and devotion.

A final thanks to Course Manager Bobby Cavanaugh, Maintenance Supervisor Dan Ward, Encino Superintendent Dave Slavik, Balboa Superintendent Sergio Mijares, and food/beverage concessionaire Mike Begakis, and all of the employees at the Sepulveda courses. Despite all of the year's uncertainties and problems, you have performed magnificently.

Don't ever think for a moment that we don't appreciate it.

Have a great Holiday Season. See you on the course.

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Editor: E.J. Beren (818) 438-0395

[ejberen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ejberen@sbcglobal.net)

Publisher: Hadi Morshed (310) 487-2280  
[hadi.morshed@snakclub.com](mailto:hadi.morshed@snakclub.com)

## THE NEXT TEE

### Olivas Links

December 11 (Sunday) First tee time 9:07am \$60.00 Includes carts, Medal Play

Short daylight so book early only 44 spots

### Holiday Tournament

Encino Golf Course December 15th (Thursday)

First tee time 8:00 am \$40.00 Medal Play, Carts extra

## CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

Public comments upon the golf consulting report close December 13.

The Golf Advisory Committee has weighed in by suggesting the wisdom of a "Modified Management Model" solution that is really not the normative one, but rather a modification of the traditional modified management agreement. The traditional modified management scheme, practiced most notably by the City of San Francisco, involves the outsourcing of operations with the retention of maintenance. The Golf Advisory Committee has argued in favor of the retention of both with the addition of what it refers to as the "thin veneer" of professional business management expertise necessary to accomplish the "full sustainability" that, according to the consulting report, eludes the system now.

The Department's operations and maintenance workers ought to be gratified by that ringing endorsement of their efforts. Indeed, they should be gratified that it follows suit with the consulting report's analyses of those same efforts.

The City's overall management of the program didn't get that same "ringing endorsement" from either the Golf Advisory Committee or the golf consultant report. Whether the City chooses to heed the recommendation of the GAC, the unified City golf community and the consultants or chooses to allow stubbornness and ego to drive its actions, will largely determine whether the City golf program gets the change that it needs – that "change" being nothing more than the one element of a successful modern municipal golf program that the consultants have identified as so sorely lacking in the current system: The management, planning, positioning, and marketing savvy necessary to compete in very difficult times for the industry.

Change is the order of the municipal golf day. The outlying and/or small systems, such as Santa Barbara, Ventura, Burbank, Pico Rivera, and Huntington Beach, are looking at radical changes. The more central and/or mid-sized systems, such as Anaheim and Pasadena, are looking at more measured changes. Even the huge and largely successful systems like Los Angeles County and Long Beach are looking at different business and policy models at the moment.

The City of Los Angeles is hardly alone here. Let's hope that those charged with leading the system do just that. If they do, we'll get the small, albeit vital changes we need. If they succumb to ego, stubborn attachment to past performance, selfishness, ignorance and pettiness, we'll be in trouble.

I choose to be an optimist.

Comments or questions may be addressed to the author at [craigkessler@aol.com](mailto:craigkessler@aol.com)

# Where are you going to play?

**E.J. Beren, Editor**

## The Tentative schedule is out for 2012

- Jan** - Woodley Lakes Golf Course: a links style course, close to home.
- Feb** - Wilson Golf Course, one of the greats, dating back to the roaring 20's. This course was the site of the Los Angeles Open in the late 1930's.
- Mar** - Los Robles Golf Course: up the road in Thousand Oaks, this course has challenging greens and a lot of elevation changes.
- Apr** - SMGC Seniors Sepulveda Golf Complex: our senior major at our home course. April will also be the month we host the City of Los Angeles Junior Championships, volunteers will be needed.
- May** - John Palumbo Memorial at Simi Hills Golf Course: our away major on a course that is the home away from home for many of our members.
- Jun** - SMGC Club Championship, Sepulveda Golf Complex: the biggest tournament of the year, bring your "A" game.
- Jul** - Santa Anita Golf Course: always in great shape, this course has some greens that put a real premium on your iron play.
- Aug** - River Ridge, Victoria Lakes Golf Course: challenging course with lots of wind and water, this event has not yet been confirmed.
- Sep** - Los Angeles County Team Play will take up the Sundays this month. If you have not played in this event in the past try it in 2012.
- Oct** - Goeckner Team Match Play Qualifying, Sepulveda Golf Complex: the top teams will move onto the match play portion of this tournament.
- Nov** - Los Olivos Links: one of the better public golf courses in Ventura County.
- Dec** - River Ridge, Vineyard Golf Course: a fun course that has a little of everything, fast greens, wind, water, and an island green par 3 on the 18th hole.

Comments or questions maybe directed to the author at [ejberen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ejberen@sbcglobal.net).

## HANDICAP CHATTER

### By Stu Olster, Handicap Chairman

Several months ago, the Handicap Committee re-rated the holes on both courses. As of December 1, scorecards with the new ratings replaced the old.

Holes on courses are rated from 1 to 18. Those ratings determine where a player receives his strokes in match play. There are several USGA recommended criteria that we tried to observe during the re-rating process and but even so, the end product is far from perfect, but we think it is an improvement.

If any of the new hole ratings should prove to be unworkable, we'll have another crack at it in the near future. The SCGA rating team will soon be establishing course ratings and slope for black tees which will be installed. At that time, new cards will need to be printed and that's our chance to tweak the ratings as necessary.

In the meantime, the Committee would like some feedback on how the course plays using the new ratings. If you have observations that you think might help us do better next time, please send any comments you wish to make to me and they will be considered by the Committee.

Comments or questions may be addressed to the author at [stolster@yahoo.com](mailto:stolster@yahoo.com)

## 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bruce Fortune, President..... (818) 535-4900  
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Virgil Budhu...Webmaster.....(310) 628-5548  
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Craig Kessler...GCA Dir- Gov't Affairs... (310) 941-4803  
Mark Micheline...Sunday Tournaments.... (818) 470-0196  
Hadi Morshed...Publisher..... (310) 487-2280  
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Stu Olster...Handicap..... (818) 222-2516  
Alan Stewart...Membership..... (818) 633-3105  
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## It's Time to Renew!

**Renew Now! Don't Wait! Save \$10! Keep GHIN/SCGA number active. Uninterrupted ability to post scores. Uninterrupted valid handicap index. Uninterrupted ability to register for club events. Deadline to Renew is Noon On December 31st. Renew on Line. If you have a question or problem contact Membership Chairman Alan Stewart <mailto:SMGC@zerocut.com>**

## OOH Standings as of 11-14

**Player Points Rank**

### Standings of November 14, 2011

PLAYER	POINTS	RANK
Jordan Jr, James	890	1
Stewart, Alan	865	2
Levin, Leonid	675	3
Mac Donald, Sean	670	4
Pistotnik, Donald J.	670	4
Galletti, Richard	640	6
McKibben, Bob	620	7
Fortune, Bruce	595	8
Nozari, Ardeshir	570	9
Galper, Mark J.	470	10
Bridge, Clint	465	11
Crawford, Dan T	465	11
Budhu, Virgil	450	13
Meza, Beerli	450	13
Johnson, Ted	430	15
Zambito, Leonard J.	425	16
Bryson, George	385	17
Paciorek, Robert S.	385	17
Vano, Gene	385	17
Levine, Andy	375	20
Brandel, Bill	370	21
Nance, Rich (Pp)	360	22
Nordquist, Erik	360	22
Rogers, Erik	355	24
Mesropian, Armen	350	25
Nugent, Brian	350	25

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

## Five Club Day After Thanksgiving

November 25, 2011 - Other

### Flight - A

#### Player Low Gross

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Rich Nance	74	55.00
2	Daniel H. Longmire	78	40.00
3	Tyson Petrovich	80	30.00
4	Neil W. Zaniboni	81	10.00
4	Ardeshir Nozari	81	10.00

#### Player Low Net

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Bob McKibben	71	45.00
1	Ian Brumbaugh	71	45.00
3	Larry W Scott	74	30.00
4	Ron McCarthy	75	20.00

### Flight - B

#### Player Low Gross

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Leonard J Zambito	82	55.00
2	Robert Cavanaugh	86	40.00
3	Hadi Morshed	88	30.00
4	Richard Whorton	89	20.00

#### Player Low Net

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Jim Thompson	71	55.00
2	Wayne Johnston	74	40.00
3	Sepehr Raafat	75	30.00
4	Greg Petrovich	76	20.00

### Flight - Gross Skins (Across- A B)

#### Player Gross Skins

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$ Skin Total
1 (17)	Ray M. Hassanlou	90.00	90.00
1 (4)	James Jordan Jr.	90.00	90.00
1 (10)	Paul Nance	90.00	90.00
1 (1)	Roy Randolph	90.00	90.00
1 (13)	Jim Thompson	90.00	90.00

### Flight - Net Skins (Across- A B)

#### Player Net Skins (Handicaps capped at 18)

# Of Skins (Holes)	Winner	\$ Per Skin	\$ Skin Total
1 (8)	Paul Nance	81.00	81.00
2 (10,16)	Sepehr Raafat	81.00	162.00
1 (12)	Bob Cavanaugh	81.00	81.00
1 (17)	Ray Hassanlou	81.00	81.00
1 (18)	Greg Petrovich	81.00	81.00

### Flight - Closest-to-the-Pin (Across- A B)

#### Player Closest-to-the-Pin

Hole	Winner	Notes	Prize
4	James Jordan Jr	15'1"	80.00
13	Ardeshir Nozari	9'6"	80.00
17	Mark O'Keefe	42'7"	80.00

Notes: 3 teams share the Honey Pot with 64s.

Nozari/Raafat,  
Zambito/Mesropian  
Zambito/Johnston\

each team gets 140.00

## Goeckner Classic

In first round action Bishop/Galper defeat Jabbari/Raafat, Levin/Weiss defeat Baker Schiele, Keliddare/Morshed defeat Bernhardt/Picolomini, Crawford/Sable defeat Vano/Scott, MacDonald/Shinnick defeat Morshed/Nozari and Jordan Jr/Levy defeat Bridge /Nance.

In the Quarter Final round Nugent/Stewart defeated Keliddari/Morshed 2 and 1, Crawford/Sable defeat Mesropian/Michelini 1 up.

## The President's Cup Report

### Zaniboni Wins!

Neil Zaniboni defeated Stephen Dem 3 and 2 to set up the final match with Ted Johnson. In the final, contested at the Sepulveda Golf Complex Zaniboni defeated Johnson in overtime.

**Congratulations to our 2011 President's Cup Champion.**

## SCGA Saturday Team Play

**It's almost here! We are building our team now!**

**When:** Beginning January 14th.

**Format:** 6 weeks of matches, 3 home, 3 away, in the opening round. More matches to come when we make the playoffs. Single and four-ball match play. Our team will consist of about 25 members with 16 men and 2 alternates playing each week.

**Where:** Away matches will be played at Brookside Golf Course #1, Lakewood Country Club and El Dorado Golf Course.

**Who can play:** Any SMGC member with a Low Handicap Index of 18.4 or less and 20 posted scores in the last 12 months. Not all players will play every week. We will be trying to field the best team possible so we will be playing the guys that are playing the best as each week approaches. Team member does not have to be available all 6 weeks.

**Cost:** \$50.00 per match, includes golf and lunch. Carts and range balls will be extra. A practice round will be scheduled for our away matches on the Thursday or Friday before the match. That will be at the player's expense. Team Shirts will cost \$20.00.

**For more information or to sign up for the team contact Captain Gene Vano at 818-222-1226, [genevano@hotmail.com](mailto:genevano@hotmail.com) or Assistant Captain Evan Beren at 818-438-0395, [ejberen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ejberen@sbcglobal.net)**

## Did You Know?

When the last groups in our tournaments do not get to finish due to darkness, or other acts of nature, the holes that the last group did not finish are removed from the scores of the rest of the field. So if the last group only plays 16 holes, than 17 and 18 will not count for all players, this includes for the tournament and the side games as well.

# BACKSPIN SHOTS

By The Gapwedge

In 2005, Ted Winship, then President of the *Golf Advisory Committee*, proposed that the City conduct a “Fast Play” experiment as an initial step toward addressing the chronic problem of slow play on the City’s courses and most other courses. Now, 5 years later, slow play remains a serious problem and the subject of ongoing conversation throughout the golf world.

The proposal was roundly endorsed by the *Golf Advisory Committee* and was presented to the Golf Division for implementation. The Golf Manager at the time, John Mallon II, also embraced the idea, and it was scheduled to come on line during the spring of 2006. Balboa was designated as the first course to be used. Marshals were to have been specially trained to implement the program.

The idea was this: One or more City courses was to be designated a “fast play course” several weekday mornings during specified hours. Players on those courses, during those hours, were expected to maintain a pace of 4 or 4 ¼ hours. Participants would be required to agree in advance and in writing, that, if they were unable to maintain that pace after being warned, they could be required to leave the course.

Meanwhile, Mallon abruptly resigned as Golf Manager, and was replaced by James Ward who has been the Golf Manager ever since. In late July 2007, Gapwedge asked Ward about the progress of the program and when it would be implemented. He responded that he didn’t like the idea and that it would not proceed.

Ward never communicated his misgivings to the Advisory Committee which had enthusiastically supported the program. Had he done so, he might have obtained a better understanding of the program and the thinking behind it. The many hours spent by Winship and other GAC members went down the drain because, as Ward once put it :

“The Golf Advisory Committee is only advisory.”

Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

P.O. Box 57373

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