



THE SEPULVEDA
EAGLE

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club
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Visit our website at
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It's time for the clowns to send in the carts

(with apologies to Steven Sondheim)

It's usually a sign of rip-roarin' success when you turn away customers. Broadway producers love it when they can put that Standing Room Only sign next to the ticket window.

For golf courses, however, it's a different story. Walking Only signs don't quite make it. Many golfers prefer to ride in carts. Quite a few have to ride. But these days, it's "my way or the highway." The "my" being LA's golf division leaders.

Apparently, there was a contract dispute with Club Car, the cart manufacturer that won the bid to supply the city's golf carts. They bid too low is the story circulating around the courses. Another story surfaced: the city is now negotiating with Yamaha, the firm that came in second during the bidding competition. At last report, meetings with Club Car were still in the mix.

We, at Sepulveda, are fortunate. While the Parks (Griffith and Rancho) are turning away customers, our carts are well-cared for by a diligent staff headed up by the guy in charge of both courses, Bobby Cavanaugh. As soon as carts come in from Balboa and Encino, they're cleaned and plugged in for immediate recharging. Most make it out for additional rounds.

Meantime, the city is losing much needed revenue from golfers who are opting to spend their recreational bucks at Ventura and LA county courses as well as other neighboring daily fee venues. And these golfers are finding wallet-friendly greens fees as well.

Most of these courses offer fantastic promotions to bring in repeat business. LA offers discounts on same-day replays, which could mean you might ride on your first round, but would have to walk on the replay.

2011 Member Roster Is In The Works

Got a new phone number or email address? Have you recently moved? Get in touch with Membership Chair Alan Stewart ASAP so we can do right by you in our latest Member Roster. This booklet comes in handy when you're scraping up a foursome for your next round...plus, it's filled with tons of information about our Club. It will go to print this month, so act quickly. Rosters are distributed to members annually...free of charge

The Next Tee

Sunday, March 13

Los Robles Greens, Thousand Oaks
9 am start
\$60 includes cart, range balls, prize fund

Thursday, March 24

Annual St. Pat's Tournament
Encino
8 am start
\$50 includes golf..plus corned beef & cabbage dinner,
Entertainment and door prizes

Sunday, April 3

"The Babe" at Industry Hills
10:20 start
\$90 includes cart and range balls
The LPGA plays here a week before us!

Parking lot security to get beefed-up

Due to continuing auto break-ins at Sepulveda's parking lots, SMGC, the LA City Golf Division, LA Police, Council District 6, and the local neighborhood associations—such as Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council—are joining forces in an attempt to make the recreational area safer.

Aside from golfers, these lots are used extensively by joggers, bikers, hikers, car-poolers and others. Runners, in particular, are often victims...especially females who are a cinch to leave purses in cars. Hiding them in trunks does not make them hard to find for thieves.

Under discussion are additional security cameras and warning signs. These will be placed strategically throughout our area.

Meantime, do not leave valuables in cars when parked at Sepulveda or other recreational venues. That's why golf bags offer so many pockets!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bruce Fortune

Whether you've been an SMGC member for a quarter century or you just joined this year, it's important to point out that you've joined a golf club – not a Handicap drop that you could just as easily have gotten at a retail golf outlet – but a community of folks attached to the Sepulveda Basin and the game of golf.

We provide considerably more playing and competing opportunities than some of the other clubs in the Valley – not just monthly home and travel tournaments, but intra-city team play (MGA), inter-county team play (autumn), invitational events where you can bring friends from other clubs, a pro-am that is unique among the local municipal clubs, match play competitions, club/class championships, and of course, access to SCGA outings.

Check our website for SMGC's comprehensive schedule; there's something in there for every type of golfer. If you're new to this club or to the club environment in general, don't be intimidated by the fact that you're not a 'scratch' golfer. Neither am I; neither is the Club's Tournament Chairman. That's the whole point of the USGA Handicap System and the Handicap Index that your membership in SMGC provides – to make it possible for "recreational" golfers like us to compete, and to enjoy ourselves while meeting new people, striking up new friendships and playing lots of golf.

We also tackle issues such as parking lot security (moving forward), course improvements, junior golf fundraising, and the long-term health of the city golf system. Indeed, three of our members have served as Chair of the Recreation & Park Golf Advisory Committee in the last 12 years, and a similar number have served as President of LA's Municipal Golf Association during that span. We are an integral part of the Sepulveda Basin – here to stay and play, and with any luck, continue to make this great park complex in the heart of the Valley a better place for those who come after us.

HANDICAP CHATTER

By Stu Olster, Handicap Chairman

If the USGA handicap system is to work as designed, we are required to try to shoot the best score possible every time out. This makes sense if the handicap system is to test the player's scoring potential, which is essentially what handicaps are supposed to do. But wait! How does this play out in real life?

Many golfers, myself included, post lots of scores made in informal match play. As experienced match players know, there are times when one must execute a low percentage shot to salvage a hole. Under those "do or die" circumstances the player's score, should he fail, is irrelevant.

In stroke play it's rarely wise to attempt low percentage shots because, unlike match play, the player can shoot himself out of the competition on a single hole. So it appears that out on the course, a proper strategy in match play can come into conflict with the "best score" mandate.

Informal or casual rounds can be a testing ground for "creative" shots and experimentation. These challenges can increase the enjoyment of the game but rarely do they yield the best possible score.

These scenarios are to be distinguished from intentionally inflating scores to game the handicap system. That is flat out cheating. Comments or questions may be addressed to the author at slolster@yahoo.com.

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CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

The status quo cannot hold – not the 1st time someone has thrown that hackneyed phrase into the mix to attract attention. But that's how phrases get "hackneyed;" they describe things perfectly.

And folks, the LA city golf system is indeed a status quo that cannot hold.

As the consultants get down to their investigations, it won't take them long to figure out that the "studio accounting" used by the city to calculate the costs of its golf operations is going to yield a working number that simply makes the system's labor costs unsustainable by any measure. They won't find the size of the crews out of line with the private sector, and if you've played these golf courses in the last year you know that they won't find their work product out of line with the private sector either. The persons delivering the goods are delivering them quite well; comparable to any of the local privately managed municipal golf courses.

But alas, a system in dire need of so much infrastructure replacement cannot continue to operate indefinitely without making provision therefore, and it cannot make provision therefore while its receipts are so disproportionately dedicated to personnel costs. Remember, energy, water, materials, equipment, etc., also have to be paid out of those same receipts.

Now, if the city had not saddled itself with a greens fee structure that has managed to accomplish revenue neutrality at the cost of hemorrhaging 17% of an already rapidly declining market share, it could have employed fee increases to provide the needed liquidity. But that won't work now.

So, unless those with sufficient clout manage to convince the city's policymakers (Mayor, Council & CAO) to come up with a cost accounting system grounded in reality, the city's workforce is going to be sacrificed not on an altar of its own making, but rather the altar of "studio accounting."

Perhaps, as many have speculated, that is by design. But it sure isn't by the design of the city's workers or their unions. Why they are silent at a moment that so obviously demands the opposite is more than just curious. It's the stuff of folly.

Sunday Tournament

Wilson—February 13

A Flight Gross

1--77	Tyson Petrovitch	\$50
2--79	Michael Levy	35
2--79	Dan Longmire	35
4--81	Neil Zaniboni	15
4--81	Mark Michelini	15

A Flight Net

1--71	James Jordan	\$50
2--72	Craig Kessler	40
3--73	Mark O'Keefe	30
4--75	Robert Paciorek	15
4--75	Steven Fox	15

B Flight Gross

1--85	Alan Stewart	\$50
2--88	John Blake	35
2--88	Bruce Fortune	35
4--92	Randy Hammock	20
5--93	Sean MacDonald	10

B Flight Net

1--71	Gene Vano	\$45
1--71	Yolchi Fujiki	45
3--72	Larry Zuckerman	30
4--76	Virgil Budhu	20
5--77	Bob Surbeck	10

Gross Skins (\$85 each)

#3	Neil Zaniboni
#5	James Jordan
#6, 16	Paul Nance
#7	Michael Levy
#18	Asher Kamiel

Net Skins (\$193 each)

#7	Michael Levy
#9	John Blake
#16	Paul Nance

Closest to Pin (\$80 each)

#3	George Beams
#11	Beeri Meza
#15	Steve Goldstein

Thursday Tournament

Hansen Dam—February 24

Team Better Ball

A Flight Net

1--71	Robert Paciorek	\$45
2--72	Ahmad Kaliddari	25
3--73	Roscoe Anthony	15
3--73	Robert Schiele	15
3--73	Michael Radke	15
3--73	Victor Cervantes	15

A Flight Gross Skins

#5, 10	Paul Barrere	\$72
#15	Roy Hay	36
#8, 14	Michael Radtke	36

A Flight Net Skins

#7	Victor Cervantes	\$65
#8, 14	Michael Radtke	130
#15	Roy Hay	65

A Flight Team Low Net

1—65	Don Atkinson/Roscoe Anthony	\$70
1—65	George Bryson/Robert Paciorek	70
3—67	Dan Crawford/Michael Radtke	40
4—68	Pete Prieto/Victor Cervantes	20
4—68	Alan Miller/Roy Hay	20
4—68	Edward Licht/Michael Melamed	20

Honey Pot

Two teams won \$100 Bryson/Paciorek and Melamed/Vano

Closest to the Pin \$60 each

#13	Don Atkinson
#16	Alan Miller

(The committee messed up on the first two par 3s...We neglected to take the previous results out of the books we left on the front 9...no one beat the numbers that were left in. We know some players hit those greens, but we had no way to verify, so those holes are out. The pool is distributed to the winners of 13 and 16. Sorry.)

MGA Highlights

By Pete Heller

On a perfect day for golf in the mid-west, the blustery weather could not diminish the winning effort of the Sepulveda Men's Golf Club MGA team as they twice defeated Woodley Lakes, 44-28 and 24-12.

SMGC WINNERS

Individual: George Beams, Len Zambito, Dan Crawford and Bruce Fortune.

Two-Man: Beams/Zambito, Sable/Fortune.

Team	W	L	T	Pts
Hansen Dam	4	0	0	8
Rancho Park	3	1	0	6
Griffith Park	2	2	0	4
SMGC	2	2	0	4
SSGC	1	3	0	2
Woodley Lakes	0	2	0	0

Matches played February 17

Congratulations to

Virgil Budhu

For scoring a hole-in-1

Details:

Date:	2/27/2011
Course:	Westchester Golf Course
Hole:	Thirteen
Yardage:	142
Club Used:	7 Iron
Club Make:	Cobra SSI
Ball Used:	Titleist NXT

POST TIME

Sepulveda's posting computer is located in the area between the coffee shop and bar...toward the back. You can also post at the SMGC website, or via SCGA.

SEPULVEDA PHONE NUMBERS

Many players program the starter's window and cart shack phone numbers into the cell phones to cover possible emergencies. Here are Encino/Balboa numbers:

Starter's Window (818) 995-1170
Cart Shack (818) 788-9793
Coffee Shop/Bar (818) 789-1919

HEY, ACE!

If you make a hole-in-one in a club tournament, please contact Leonard Zambito at (818) 761-3846 or leonardzambito@hotmail.com.

Municipal Golf at it's finest

By: Evan Beren

Located in the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, about half way between Denver and Cheyenne, in the Northeast part of Colorado, Collindale is a championship golf course that is home to local United States Open qualifying.

A basically flat course, Collindale has lush tree lined fairways, ankle air rough and enough variety in the holes to always be interesting. Playing over 7100 yards from the tips, Collindale is a challenging course that claims to have the best and fastest greens in Colorado.

Best of all the golfers at Collindale treat each other with the greatest of courtesy, playing as a single, three groups waited for me to catch up and then invited me to play though, not something that I think would happen here in Los Angeles. My round took about 3 hours.

My favorite hole is the 18th, a long par four were I hit a 4 iron on to the two-tiered green from the rough left of the fairway. Of course, I three putted.

When you are done golfing, if you like to drink beer you are in the right place. Fort Collins is the microbrew capital of the United States. My favorites would be the New Belgium Brewery, were they brew Fat Tire, and Coppersmiths, a brew pup and restaurant in the old town section of Fort Collins. Bring a coat or sweater, as Fort Collins in not far from the Rockies and the weather can be a bit unpredictable.

Colorado is a great state with a lot of great golf courses and Collindale is high on the list.

