



THE SEPULVEDA EAGLE

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

October 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bruce Fortune

Los Angeles County recently invited Sepulveda to join the golf clubs at Altadena, Eaton Canyon, Lakewood and Los Verdes in a little team challenge match at the County's Chester Washington Golf Course in South Los Angeles. While a good time was had by all, a better time was had by the combined team of Altadena/Eaton Canyon/Los Verdes as they defeated the Lakewood/Sepulveda entry by a 53-43 score. We get our rematch in the spring.

I mention this, because Los Angeles County has graciously opened its doors and hearts to not just Sepulveda, but to all public golf clubs in Los Angeles County for its assumption of the old PLGA autumn Team Play format – a competition that will be adopted by the SCGA as well in 2012, when it will be known as "LA County/SCGA Sunday Team Play." I am told that the American Golf Corporation has stepped up to donate the permanent trophies and plaques for the competition; thus expect that name and logo to be found somewhere in the new branding mix as well.

And don't forget that now that Sepulveda is part of the SCGA family, we'll be participating in SCGA Thursday/Saturday Team Play come January. In other words, we're inundated with team play competitions right now. That's a good thing for the Club and a good thing for the health of organized golf. However, it's been a bit taxing for the Club's Board of Directors and yours truly, where I feel I wasn't able to do the best job this first year of all these new competitions. We will do even more in 2012; I promise you.

In the meantime best of luck to all the Sepulveda teams competing right now. Congratulations to Golf Starter Gary Rand and his band of juniors. They did it again – a 4th consecutive city junior team title. I'd like to say it has something to do with our Club's financial and in-kind support of their program; but it doesn't. It's all about the kids and Gary's personal commitment to the program – a genuine labor of love.

I hope everyone has noticed not just of all those new golf carts we have at Sepulveda, but at the customer friendly way they're being staged now that Golf Operations has assumed control. The credit goes to Course Manager Bob Cavanaugh and his staff, who have always put customer service first on their priority list. We'd also like to thank Penny Siebrandt, Golf Starter Supv. II, for her help in making this happen.

Last but certainly not least, a special thanks to the maintenance staffs at Encino and Balboa. Despite all the turmoil, rumor and controversy surrounding the imminent release of a massive consulting report sure to stimulate serious discussion of change, our two golf courses have never looked better.

General Meeting

Election Night for the Sepulveda Board
Thursday, 10-22-2011, 7:00 P.M.
The Coffee Shop At The Sepulveda Golf
Complex
Contact Evan Beren for nominations
818-438-0395 or ejberen@sbcglobal.net

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THE NEXT TEE

Sunday Oct 9, Balboa Golf Course

Qualifying Round for the Goeckner 2 man Better Ball Event
Pick a partner or we will assign you one. There can only be 8 stroke spread between partners. The higher handicap can play down. Our annual Partners Championship. Trophies to the Winners and inscription on the permanent trophy at the course. 50.00 covers green fees and prize fund per player. Sign up online or call Mark Michelini 818-355-5492

2011 Senior Championship

Saturday October 22, 8:00 AM- Round 1
Sunday October 23 8:00 AM- Round 2

Format: LowGross/LowNet This was postponed from the Spring due to the ravages of Mother Nature.

Deadline: October 20, Maximum Number of

Players: 64, \$100.00, Sign up on line or Contact: [Gene Vano](mailto:Gene.Vano)

Wilson Golf Course Thursday October 27th
Deadline: October 20th. 8:00 AM- Medal Play \$45.00

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

Recreation and Park Executive Officer Regina Adams has informed us of two (2) things: 1) That the Department will publicly release the Frost/Krekorian consulting report in October; and 2) that the Department and the Parks Commission will spend considerable time considering its implications and recommendations. The target October dates would be the 5th and the 19th, with the 5th most likely being a preliminary procedural discussion before the Park Commission's Concessions Task Force.

What does this all mean? My best guess would be the convening of a separate task force composed of key stakeholders, including representatives of public constituencies, to vet the report and issue recommendations. What does this not mean? My best guess would be a radical restructuring of the current system.

The golf program's ultimate destination is going to fall somewhere between the judgment of those myopic souls who believe that the status quo is tenable and those apocalyptic souls who believe that privatization is inevitable.

The bones of the city's golf system are sufficiently solid, local demand is sufficiently strong, and current on-site performance is sufficiently productive to enable the city to absorb admittedly high labor/benefit costs, to provide for long term capital investment needs through a separate capital improvement trust fund, and to kick back a small measure of revenue annually to the Parks Department. But only if managed dynamically, innovatively, and effectively – i.e., by professional business managers with proven track records in municipal golf operations.

This isn't rocket science. Nor is it anything to be afraid of. Stay tuned.

Comments or questions may be addressed to the author at craigkessler@aol.com

The Internet-more than just porn

By E.J. Beren, Editor

The SMGC's web site, which can be found at www.smgc.org, has a veritable cornucopia of information for our members.

The home page will bring members up to date on the upcoming tournaments and other important events.

Across the top are tabs that will provide detailed information about club news, both upcoming tournaments as well as recent events. The player page can help members connect with other members as well as check out their buddies' handicap index. The Board of Directors can be found under the Officers tab.

Along the left hand side are tabs that will take you to the OOH standings, tee times for the next tournament, results from the most recent tournaments, as well as a link to the "Electric" Eagle.

Also on the left side are club rules and by laws, information about our home courses history, a link to check up on the weather and other tabs that should be viewed.

On the bottom of the page you will find a link that will take members to a guide for Southern California golf courses.

There is a lot to look at on our web site, make a point to visit it soon. Comments or questions may be directed to the author at

ejberen@sbcglobal.net.

HANDICAP CHATTER

By Stu Olster, Handicap Chairman

Under the auspices of, and using the criteria put forth by, the USGA, certified golf associations such as the SCGA periodically rate the courses of their member clubs and determine the slope. Both the course rating and slope are used to determine "differentials" that go into the handicap calculation and convert the handicap index into the course handicap.

On the other hand, the hole ratings, the numbers that determine where a player gets strokes in match play, is the responsibility of the "committee," which in most instances means the club attached to the course.

When Balboa was reconfigured several years ago, our golf association's rating team came and rated the course, and while they were at it, re-rated Encino. At that time, since there were brand new holes on Balboa, our handicap committee revised the hole ratings. Now that we have some experience playing the new holes, 3 and 12, we can more accurately rate them and at the same time take a look at the whole scorecard to see where we might make the hole ratings better conform to guidelines recommended by the USGA.

The hole ratings on Encino were not revised at that time only because new cards were printed before we had the opportunity to do so. We are going to undertake that task now. While considerable discussion will precede the new ratings, I can assure you that hole #4 will receive a higher rating than it has now.

The object in setting the hole ratings is to allow handicap strokes where they equalize the giver and recipient of the stroke(s). In formulating the hole ratings, it is not the purpose to number the holes in accordance with their relative difficulty, although difficulty is certainly part of the calculus. Instead the purpose is to allow strokes on those holes where the less skilled player needs help to halve the hole against the stronger player.

If you consistently lose a hole on which you must give a stroke, perhaps that hole needs a higher rating.

Comments or questions may be addressed to the author at slolster@yahoo.com

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HANDICAPS WHEN MEN AND WOMEN COMPETE

By STACEY SHINNICK, SMGC Member

I am one of only two female members of SMGC and I play in our tournaments from the same tees as my male competitors.

I am often asked why I'm allowed a higher handicap in SMGC tournaments than my official handicap index would indicate. Some members have even claimed that it is unfair for me to be given "additional" strokes because some years back I was a long drive champion.

Others are of the opinion that I am somehow compromising the integrity of the tournaments by either doctoring my own handicap or getting improper help from the tournament organizers. Neither claim has any validity.

Practically all courses are more difficult for women than for men. My handicap index is under 4 when I play against women, but must be converted to compete with men in the manner provided for in the USGA Handicap Manual.

The Manual, Section 3-5b states: *b. Same Tees: Men vs. Women: Men and women playing from the same set of tees will have different ratings. Because the women's [USGA Course Rating](#) usually will be higher, women receive additional strokes equal to the difference between ratings, with .5 or greater rounded upward.*

Encino, as an example, has course ratings from the blue tees of 70.9 for men and 77.3 for women. The difference, 6.4 strokes, is rounded to the nearest whole number, 6. I therefore am entitled to add 6 strokes to my normal course handicap of 4, and play to a 10 when I play the blue tees along with the men.

Men competing directly with women is not a very common occurrence, so it's no surprise that many of my male competitors are confused about how my handicap is calculated. While I don't hit shots as long as I once did, I still hit it farther than most women but length off the tee has no more bearing on a woman's handicap than it does on a man's. It's still the scores that count.

Thursday at Harding

August 25, 2011 - Team Better Ball

Flight - A Player Low Net

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Sean Mac Donald	67	65.00
2	Dan T Crawford	68	30.00
2	Brent Harvey	68	30.00
3	Stacey Shinnick	69	15.00
3	Ted Johnson	69	15.00
3	George Bryson	69	15.00

Flight - Low Net (Across- Team A)

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Team 10 (Sean Mac Donald, Stacey Shinnick)	60	80.00
2	Team 17 (Dan T Crawford, Jim Thompson)	61	60.00
3	Team 15 (Alan Stewart, Brent Harvey)	63	50.00
4	Team 1 (Dean Abston, George Bryson)	65	30.00
4	Team 6 (Alan Miller, Roy Hay)	65	30.00
4	Team 22 (Bruce Fortune, Ted Johnson)	65	30.00
5	Team 23 (Frank Thomas, George L Beams)	66	20.00
5	Team 21 (Irving Reitzenstein, Paul Nance)	66	20.00

Flight - Gross Skins (Across- A)

# Hole (s)	Winner	Total \$ Skins
1 (15)	George L Beams	53.00
1 (5)	Robert Cavanaugh	53.00
1 (14)	Sean Mac Donald	53.00
1 (6)	Mark I. Michelini	53.00
1 (3)	Alfredo O. Picolomini	53.00
1 (2)	Alan Stewart	53.00

Flight - Closest-to-the-Pin

# Hole	Winner	Notes	Prize
5	Michael Levy	16'9"	60.00
13	Stacey Shinnick	16'	60.00
15	George Beams	10'8"	60.00

Flight - Net Skins (Across- A)

(Handicaps capped at 18)

# Hole (s)	Winner	Total \$ Skins
1 (3)	Alfredo O. Picolomini	61.00
1 (4)	Victor N Cervantes	61.00
1 (13)	Michael Levy	61.00
1 (14)	Sean Mac Donald	61.00
1 (15)	George L Beams	61.00
1 (18)	Erik Nordquist	61.00

The President's Cup Report

Ted Johnson moved into the finals by besting Michael Teague and awaits the winner from the left side of the bracket. James Jordan, Jr plays Neil Zaniboni and Bob Mckibbon plays Stephen Dem. The winners of those matches will square off to determine who makes it into the finals.

You can reach Mark at 818-355-6492.

Thursday at Encino

September 22, 2011

Flight - Low Gross (Across- A)

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Wayne Lura	79	50.00
2	Alan Stewart	80	40.00
3	Allan Lipsky	81	25.00
3	Daniel Longmire	81	25.00

Flight - Low Net (Across- A)

Place	Winner	Score	Prize
1	Yoichi Fujiki	70	50.00
2	Sean Mac Donald	71	30.00
2	Mark J. Galper	71	30.00
2	Gene Vano	71	30.00

Flight - Gross Skins (Across- A)

# Hole (s)	Winner	Total \$ Skins
1 (5)	Mark J. Galper	30.00
1 (10)	Daniel Longmire	30.00
2 (17,18)	Wayne Lura	60.00
1 (14)	Jeff Murphy	30.00
1 (3)	Irving Reitzenstein	30.00
1 (2)	Alan Stewart	30.00
1 (13)	Jim Thompson	30.00

Flight - Net Skins (Across- A)

(Handicaps capped at 18)

# Hole (s)	Winner	Total \$ Skins
1 (3)	Irving Reitzenstein	75.00
1 (5)	Mark J. Galper	75.00
1 (13)	Jim Thompson	75.00
1 (18)	Wayne Lura	75.00

Flight - Closest-to-the-Pin

# Hole (s)	Winner	Notes	Prize
3	Marc Green	9'10"	35.00
6	Jim Thompson	23'5"	35.00
15	Wayne Lura	48'	35.00
17	Wayne Lura	11'8"	35.00

One team won the Honey Pot with a 62 Stewart/Vano 220.00 for the team

MGA Highlights

By Pete Heller

SEPULVEDA WHIPS SENIOR TEAM TWICE WINS BRAGGING RIGHTS AND MORE

Harding Golf Course - Sept. 15, 2011

The Sepulveda Mens club whipped the Sepulveda Seniors team 53-19 and 27-9 to put themselves in the middle of a hot race for this years MGA Championship. Len Zambito's crew has won 6 straight matches and can tie Griffith Park, whom they play next, with twin victories in October. If they score 41 or more points in the individuals and 20 or more in the Two Man, they would actually move ahead of Griffith with tie breaker honors. Then, if Rancho Park somehow split with Hansen Dam, Sepulveda would tie them also. If this happened, Sepulveda who also holds the tiebreaker honors over Rancho would become Champion. A long, long shot but what ever happens, a season to be proud of.

Griffith Park set up these possibilities by smashing Rancho Park in their September matches 48-24 and 22-12.

In the final match, playing strictly for fun, Hansen Dam split with Woodley Lakes 33-27 and 12-24.

Sepulveda Match Winners

Sepulveda Mens

Individual: Zambito, Levy, Vano, Teague, Nance, Fortune, Mesropian, Crawford, Miller, Hay

Two Man: Nance/Fortune, Vano/Teague, Miller/Hay, Picolomini/Mesropian

Sepulveda Seniors

Individual: Art Schonfeld, Mike Cornner
Two Man: Schonfeld/Abston

Standings	W	L	T	Points
Griffith Park	13	5	0	26
Rancho Park	12	6	0	24
Sepulveda Mens	11	7	0	22
Hansen Dam	9	9	0	18
Sepulveda Seniors	5	12	1	11
Woodley Lakes	3	14	1	7

Next: Woodley Lakes, October 20, 2011

Sepulveda Seniors vs Woodley Lakes

Sepulveda Mens vs Griffith Park

Rancho Park vs Hansen Dam

On The Other Hand Trophy Standings

As of August 23, 2011

Player	Points	Ranking	Player	Points	Ranking
Jordan Jr, James	735	1	Brumbaugh, Ian	345	11
Galletti, Richard	640	2	Stewart, Alan	345	11
Mac Donald, Sean	535	3	Levine, Andy	335	13
McKibben, Bob	500	4	Nugent, Brian	330	14
Pistotnik, Donald J.	475	5	Wilson, Larry E.	315	15
Bridge, Clint	455	6	Zaniboni, Neil W.	310	16
Fortune, Bruce	455	6	Crawford, Dan T	290	17
Meza, Beeri	420	8	Bishop, Ray	275	18
Levin, Leonid	370	9	Zuckerman, Larry	275	18
Nance, Rich (Pp)	360	10			

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

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 is loathe 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 reliable shortcuts and no 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 he who waits, and never is that more true than when a golfer tries to make changes to his swing. Sure, we all love instant gratification, but when making swing changes the price of it is too high.

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