



**THE SEPULVEDA
EAGLE**

Sepulveda Men's Golf Club
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bruce Fortune

April showers, bring May flowers (we most seriously hope!). Wow. This is getting scary and I wish we could make it rain just by saying it should. We are most of the way though our traditional 'rainy season' and we have received about a third of the snowpack and rainfall we usually get (and desperately need). Keep those fingers crossed, folks, we're living on the edge out here in the desert. On the more positive side – LA City courses are now on 85% recycled water thanks to the connection up at Hansen Dam! We can also thank someone working behind the scenes for the better part of the past two decades - Craig Kessler, SCGA Governmental Affairs and Board Member Emeritus at Sepulveda. Among his many duties, Craig has been instrumental throughout the State of California in helping us secure water and form coalitions that enable the golf industry to survive the drought.

Congratulations to Russell Kotzen, with rounds of 73-72=145, Winner of the 2015 Seniors Championship! "A" Flight Net was won by Chris Stronberg, "B" Flight Gross Winner (2nd straight year!) Bill Keanu, and "B" Flight Net Winner, Virgil Budhu. Thank you all for the great participation and thanks to Evan Beren and his gang of volunteers, Dan Crawford, Tommy Eunice, Roger Ikeda, Mark Vaughan, Jeff Sable, Alan Stewart and myself. Evan and Dan also stepped up and ran the overlapping Not a Senior Shamble Classic, won by the team of Ben 'Dog' Navarrete and Louie Rivera. We're always grateful for any and all volunteers who are willing to stick around and collect scorecards, mark the courses, etc. Let Evan know if you have some time, it's a very rewarding experience!

Leonard Zambito's MGA bandits worked their magic and split with the Rancho Park Zuggernaut. This keeps us in 2nd place, tied with next month's opponent, Woodley Lakes. It's a tight race this early on and we'll keep chipping away at it. "This is a great place to demonstrate your Match Play Skills, which also translates to supporting your club. Get on the list by getting in touch with Leonard Zambito (leonardzambito@hotmail.com or 310.691.6625) and join us on the third Thursday of every month. You don't have to commit to every month, but the more the merrier.

Thanks go out to Gene Vano and those of you who volunteered this past weekend to help run the LA City Junior's Championship. Results weren't available at press time, but we will be sure to post them as soon as they come available. Volunteers make these events work! Thank you all.

Our next event is the Tax Day Classic at Rio Hondo Country Club, Sunday 4/12. Then we are up at Robinson Ranch for an event that this year is not club sponsored but we will provide tee times, the Practice Round for the Palumbo Classic, Thursday 4/23. Don't get left out. Reserve a spot before they're all gone.

THE NEXT TEE

Upcoming Tournament Notes from Evan Beren, Tournament Director

In April both of our events are a break from the things we have done in the past.

The Tax Day Classic @ Rio Hondo is a trip to a new course for us. April 12th, 8:12 am first tee time. \$85.00 includes cart. Rio Hondo is a highly regarded track just down the road in Downey. The course is in great shape. Sign ups close early for this event, April 2. After that day we will have a waiting list to try and squeeze latecomers in.

The Palumbo Practice Round is just that, just a practice round, there will be no prize fund for this event. Side games will be in full effect, Skins, net and gross, Closest to the pin and of course we will have a Honey Pot. April 23rd. 8:00 am shotgun start. \$72.00.

For more information on these or any of our tournaments contact Evan Beren, ejberen@me.com or 818-438-0395.

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

If you're reading this column you're not part of the problem. You're an avid golfer. You belong to a golf club that is a member of a USGA licensed state/regional golf association. You have a valid USGA Handicap Index, and while you may not be a competitive player in the sense of being a championship player, you enjoy handicapped competitions and a little side wagering game now and again. Okay, so you "enjoy" that side wagering game every time you tee it up with your golfing buddies, all of whom are probably members of SMGC or another local club and have valid USGA Handicap Indexes. How else to ensure that the bets are fair?

There are fewer of you every day, and that is the "problem." "Avid" or core golfers like you may not comprise the majority of the nation's golfers, but you are part of a small class of persons that spends 80 cents of every dollar that is spent on the game. That's why management companies, municipal programs, and tournament organizers dote on you. It's the money.

The ranks of golfers have been on the decline for at least 10 years. Despite all of the game's investment in junior programs, there are even fewer junior players today than there were 10 years ago. With the economy picking up steam the decline has leveled off, but the game had hoped for a better performance than "flat" at this stage of the business cycle. What goes up does go down again, and the worry is that after finally achieving stasis the game will again dip once the economy again dips, as it surely will at some point, albeit not with the same ferocity that it did in the "Great Recession" of 2008-2011.

Why a "problem" you may ask. Isn't it now easier to get a prime tee time? Isn't it now possible to play as a walk-on with an ease unheard of 20 years ago? Isn't the golf club easier to manage with so many fewer members? Aren't the public courses in better shape when they're not overstuffed with players around the clock? Aren't those online discounts that save me so much money being driven by too few golfers chasing too many golf courses? Aren't pace of play problems reduced when there are gaps on the first tee?

Never answer a single rhetorical question, let alone a fusillade of them!

These questions all miss one key point. Don't races to the bottom, no matter how enjoyable portions of the ride may be, particularly the early portions, take all who run them to the bottom? Okay, so that's a tautology, not a rhetorical question. But you get the drift; there's a substantial downside in any unabated slide downward. Decline breeds decline. Failure breeds failure. And in municipal golf "decline" and "failure" lead straight toward cannibalization of the infrastructure. Who wants a prime tee time at a great price for a 4-hour round of golf on a dog track?

Go ahead and answer that question; it's not rhetorical.

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Player of the Year Standings as of Valentines Day Tourney

Josh Eveland is still holding the lead. Stacey Shinnick is holding second but the gap is closing. The race to be in the top 5 is still very close. There is still time for anyone near the top to break through. We are using using "Official Winnings" known as scrip dollars in gross and net tournaments as the "Points" for Player of the Year. So it's money won in touneys. Because our "Majors" payout more than other tournaments, winners of those tournaments will be more likely to lead Player of the Year. Also there will be no points for just showing up as was the case with the previous system. And no points for skins, closest to the pin, or honey pot.

| Player | Points |
|--------------------|--------|
| Josh Eveland | 575 |
| Stacey Shinnick | 405 |
| Chris Stronberg | 395 |
| Dustin Watanabe | 385 |
| Joseph Rodriguez | 380 |
| Kyle Bermel | 330 |
| Ben Raposas | 320 |
| David Gilbreath | 320 |
| Alfredo Picolomini | 290 |
| Nick Hernandez | 290 |
| Scott Feldman | 290 |
| Buzz Osborne | 285 |
| Robert Bryan | 270 |
| Sean MacDonald | 265 |
| Dan Crawford | 255 |
| Jason Petterson | 235 |
| David Joslyn | 220 |
| Chris Halfon | 215 |
| Virgil Budhu | 210 |
| Everardo Gomez | 205 |
| Erik Rogers | 200 |
| Farhad Keliddari | 200 |
| Bill Keanu | 195 |
| Brandon Quezada | 195 |

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

Thursday @ Balboa

February 26, 2015

Format – Low Gross / Low Net

“A” Flight Low Gross

| Score | Player | Prize |
|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 69 | Jason Petterson | \$60 |
| 69 | Josh Eveland | \$60 |
| 71 | Russel Kotzen | \$30 |
| 74 | Ben Raposas | \$20 |

“A” Flight Low Net

| | | |
|----|-----------------|------|
| 65 | David Horwitch | \$70 |
| 67 | Kevin West | \$45 |
| 68 | Leonard Zambito | \$25 |
| 68 | Sean MacDonald | \$25 |

“B Flight” Low Gross

| | | |
|----|--------------------|------|
| 75 | George Bryson | \$70 |
| 82 | Frank Costello III | \$45 |
| 83 | Joseph Rodriguez | \$30 |
| 85 | Steve Hansen | \$15 |
| 85 | Farhad Keliddari | \$15 |
| 85 | Tommaso Trinchieri | \$15 |
| 85 | Ted Johnson | \$15 |

“B Flight” Low Net

| | | |
|----|-------------------|------|
| 65 | Jim Robison | \$70 |
| 67 | Michael Melamed | \$35 |
| 67 | Armen Mesropian | \$35 |
| 69 | Daniel Sniegowski | \$20 |

Gross Skins \$105 each

Hole Player

| | |
|----|---------------|
| 6 | Marc Cohen |
| 11 | Josh Eveland |
| 12 | Ben Raposas |
| 13 | George Bryson |

Net Skins \$71 each

| Hole | Player |
|------|------------------|
| 1 | George Bryson |
| 3 | Steve Hansen |
| 6 | Marc Cohen |
| 7 | Sean MacDonald |
| 9 | David Horwitch |
| 14 | Alan Stewart |
| 15 | Farhad Keliddari |
| 17 | Mark O'Keefe |

Closest to the Pin \$85 each

| | | |
|----|----------------|--------|
| 4 | Michael Teague | 3' 9" |
| 13 | Ben Raposas | 2' 11" |
| 17 | Russel Kotzen | 7' 0" |

“The Honey Pot was \$30,
Horwitch/Czerniak was the
winning team with a score of 65.

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

MGA Highlights

By Pete Heller

SEPULVEDA SPLITS WITH RANCHO WHILE HANDING THEM THEIR FIRST LOSS.

SENIORS WHIPPED TWICE BY GRIFFITH PARK.

Sometimes nice guys do win ball games. It seems Rancho Park had another event scheduled for the March play date and asked if Sepulveda Captain Len Zambito would arrange to play a day earlier. He said OK, against my stick to the schedule advice, and his team promptly went out and edged them 37-33 in the Individuals. The Two Man was another story as they lost 14-22. Good going anyway, guys.

The Seniors had their difficulties against defending champion Griffith Park and lost twice. Sadly, top player Mo Hurley passed away last month and I'm sure their enthusiasm was dampened somewhat by this loss. Final scores Griffith Park 43 and 22 - Sepulveda Seniors 29 and 14.

And finally, playing 10 men a side, Woodley Lakes edged Hansen Dam 30-29 and then beat them again in the best ball competition 18-12.

Sepulveda Men's Match Winners

Individual:

Bruce Fortune, Steve Fox, Roger Ikeda
and Gene Vano

Two Man:

Vano/Mesropian, Zambito/Fox

| Standings | W | L | T | Points |
|-------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| Rancho Park | 5 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| Sepulveda Mens | 4 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| Woodley Lakes | 4 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| Griffith Park | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Sepulveda Seniors | 2 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Hansen Dam | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |

Next Matches: April 16, 2015

Griffith Park vs Hansen Dam
Rancho Park vs Sepulveda Seniors
Sepulveda Mens vs Woodley Lakes



If you have knowledge of a
hole-in-one by a member of the
SMGC please contact
Leonard Zambito by email at
leonardzambito@hotmail.com
or by phone at (818) 761-3846.

Senior Club Championship

March 14-15, 2015

Format – Low Gross / Low Net

“A” Flight Low Gross

| Score | Player | Prize |
|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 145 | Russel Kotzen | \$150 |
| 147 | David Gilbreath | \$100 |
| 154 | Steve Weible | \$75 |
| 155 | Gerard Sanders | \$50 |

“A” Flight Low Net

| | | |
|-----|--------------------|-------|
| 140 | Chris Stronberg | \$150 |
| 142 | Alfredo Picolomini | \$100 |
| 143 | Larry Scott | \$60 |
| 143 | Marc Carter | \$60 |
| 143 | Mike Nichol | \$60 |

“B Flight” Low Gross

| | | |
|-----|---------------|-------|
| 155 | Bill Keanu | \$150 |
| 162 | Buzz Osborne | \$100 |
| 166 | Bryan Nichols | \$75 |
| 167 | Mark Vaughan | \$50 |

“B Flight” Low Net

| | | |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 135 | Virgil Budhu | \$150 |
| 138 | Bill Anapolsky | \$100 |
| 139 | Leonid Levin | \$75 |
| 145 | Joseph Rodriguez | \$50 |

Balboa Gross Skins \$120 each

| Hole | Player |
|------|----------------|
| 1 | Behrouz Shafie |
| 7 | Bill Keanu |
| 8 | Rich Nance |
| 14 | Roger Ikeda |

Balboa Net Skins \$98 each

| Hole | Player |
|------|-----------------|
| 2 | Michael Teague |
| 3 | Gene Vano |
| 4 | Larry Wilson |
| 7 | Bill Keanu |
| 10 | Chris Stronberg |
| 14 | Roger Ikeda |

Closest to the Pin \$95 each

| | | |
|----|---------------|---------|
| 4 | David Joslyn | 11' 4" |
| 13 | Larry Scott | 5' 7" |
| 17 | Russel Kotzen | 17' 10" |

Encino Gross Skins \$92 each

| Hole | Player |
|------|-----------------|
| 6 | Russel Kotzen |
| 11 | David Gilbreath |
| 12 | Peter Ruiz |
| 15 | Gene Vano |
| 16 | Peter Ruiz |

Encino Net Skins \$93 each

| Hole | Player |
|------|-----------------|
| 1 | Lupe Escobedo |
| 5 | Larry Scott |
| 10 | Jack Barton |
| 12 | Peter Ruiz |
| 15 | Gene Vano |
| 18 | Anthony Zaccaro |

Closest to the Pin \$70 each

| | | |
|----|---------------|---------|
| 3 | Mark Galper | 14' 5" |
| 6 | Bruce Fortune | 11' 11" |
| 15 | Paul Nance | 18' 4" |
| 17 | Jack Barton | 5' 5" |

BACKSPIN SHOTS

by The Gapwedge

If you've seen one you've seen a thousand articles on the pre-shot routine. Every golfer knows about them whether or not they make a conscious effort to employ them. Serious folks make sure to employ them and some of the more casual might stumble on them unconsciously.

Suppose the USGA and the Royal and Ancient went nuts one day and adopted a rule penalizing a player two strokes for performing a pre-shot routine during a competition.

Golfers who are also baseball players or students of the game know that pro baseball players, just like pro golfers, all have ingrained routines before they bat or pitch. They do it the same every time, which is the whole point, isn't it?

Like golf, the baseball business is preoccupied with the length of time it takes to play the game. MLB is concerned that the game's inherent lack of pace is hurting attendance and viewership. So the new Commissioner has made some changes, including a rule preventing the batter from completely leaving the batter's box between pitches (with limited exceptions).

Only one player, and a high profile one at that, has voiced serious opposition so far and the players appear to have accepted the change graciously and professionally. Gapwedge has watched his share of spring training games and it doesn't appear the batters are bothered by it. BTW, the game clearly moves along faster. Limit on practice swings, anyone?

Not a Senior Shamble Classic

March 15, 2015

Team Better Ball

58 \$75 each

Ben "Dog" Navarrete, Louie Rivera

59 \$50 each

Erik Rogers, Phil Kapsimallis

60 \$40 each

Farhad Keliddari, Tommy Eunice

60 \$40 each

Brian Czerniak, Blind Draw - Erik Rogers

Closest to the Pin \$25 each

| | | |
|----|--------------------|--------|
| 3 | Chris Halfon | 15' 2" |
| 6 | Tommaso Trinchieri | 18' 1" |
| 15 | George Villarreal | 14' 3" |
| 17 | Phil Kapsimallis | 15' 4" |

HANDICAP CHATTER

by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman

As most of you are aware by now, the Sepulveda courses have recently been re-rated. Course ratings and slope ratings are calculated for a course on the basis of a visit to the course by a USGA/SCGA rating team. Based on the information gleaned during the visit, the course rating and course slope will be calculated, certified by the appropriate overseeing golf associations and given to the club, which then posts the ratings on its scorecard and elsewhere.

Course rating used to be based almost solely on length. The longer the course, the higher the rating. Distance and obstacles now come into play (although length still plays a major role in the rating).

The rating team evaluates the course with an eye to how both scratch golfers and bogey golfers will play it. A scratch golfer is defined by the USGA as a male golfer who hits his drive 250 yards and can reach a 470-yard hole in two; or a female golfer who hits her drives 210 yards and can reach a 400-yard hole in two (and, of course, plays to scratch). A bogey golfer is a male golfer with a handicap index of 17.5 to 22.4, who hits his drives 200 yards and can reach a 370-yard hole in two; or a female golfer with a handicap index of 21.5 to 26.4, who hits her drives 150 yards and can reach a 280-yard hole in two.

So, for instance, on a 400-yard hole, the team will go 200 yards down the fairway to analyze the landing area for a bogey golfer; and 250 yards down the fairway to analyze the landing area for a scratch golfer. What obstacles were encountered along the way? What is the state of the fairway at each spot for each golfer? What angle is left to the green? What obstacles still away? How far is the approach shot for each? What is the height and reach of trees? And so on.

Taking into account length and obstacles, and experience gleaned from playing the course, the rating team will evaluate the overall difficulty of the course under normal playing conditions and issue the course rating for scratch golfers and a bogey rating for bogey golfers. The bogey rating is then used to calculate slope (number representing the relative difficulty of a course for bogey golfers compared to scratch golfers). The calculation that determines slope is this: bogey course rating minus USGA course rating x 5.381 for men or 4.24 for women.

The "effective playing length" and "obstacle stroke value" are the determining factors in course rating and bogey rating.

Effective playing length is how the course plays. Is there a downslope that will add yards? An upslope? Is the course at altitude which will produce more length? What's the height of the fairway grass which will affect roll? Are there forced lay-ups?

Obstacle stroke value is a numerical rating of the difficulty presented by obstacles on the course. The course is rated in 10 categories: topography; difficulty of hitting fairways; probability of hitting greens from the fairway landing area; difficulty of bunkers and probability of hitting into them; probability of hitting out of bounds; how much water will come into play; how trees affect play; speed and contouring of the greens; and the psychological effect of all these things.

The rating team will look at all these things for both scratch golfers and bogey golfers, and from every set of tees. And then follow the USGA's four formulas (male scratch golfer, female scratch golfer, male bogey golfer, and female bogey golfer), some adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing, and produce its numbers.