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THE IMPROVED LIE

Petaluma Golf & Country Club, April 2018



President's Message

By *Harry Pearson*

On behalf of the club members and the board, I would like to congratulate our Head Golf Professional and General Manager Christopher Gay on his promotion within the CourseCo Family! Unfortunately for us, he will be leaving and taking over Foxtail. It's a great opportunity for he and his family and we wish him nothing but the best.

I called a special board meeting for Thursday the 29th and requested that it be attended by a representative of CourseCo because I knew the board would have questions and concerns to be addressed and I wanted the answers so we could fully inform the membership. Tom Bugbee who is a Vice President with CourseCo came and addressed these concerns and questions. Here are some answers to our concerns:

He said there would be a thorough and complete search inside and outside of CourseCo. He said Chris would remain at PG&CC until a replacement was hired and that Chris, depending on the length of time until his replacement was hired, would overlap with the new hire to get him/her up to speed. This process could take anywhere from three weeks to ninety days. Since CourseCo leases Foxtail and they have a regional manager as well as department heads, they have the flexibility to keep Chris with us longer than if he were leaving for a different company. Tom said that before the new hire would get the green light, the board could meet and talk to this person and give their thumbs up/thumbs down. We had other concerns regarding the fact that we are a

**PG&CC
Board of
Directors**

President
Harry Pearson

Vice President
Larry Riis

Treasurer
Keith Brians

Secretary
Peter Barufkin

Director
Wayne Guptill

Director
Timo Rivetti

Director
Sue Berger

Director
Jeremy King

Director
Mike Johnson

private club and the interaction with the Pro/GM is different than at a public course because we are essentially all owners. There was certainly a learning curve for us, Chris and CourseCo in the beginning of our relationship. Tom acknowledged this and said because of, the at times rocky road, we've all learned a lot and we all are in a much better position to deal with this.

He said there still may be some bumps in the road but it won't be rocky. We talked about the programs we have such as the Food & Beverage, Social/Hospitality, and Jr. Golf that have been enhanced and grown over the years. We also said that though we want a well-rounded person, we want to err on the business side because prior to CourseCo coming in, that part of our club was in disarray. We were assured this would be addressed. The job will be posted tomorrow and the search will be on. The board felt very good about the meeting and that we will get the best candidate available. Let's just hope that the cost of living out here doesn't become too big of a sticking point. To that, we asked Tom to take a preliminary look into our 2018 budget to ascertain if there's any wiggle room in case we have to increase our offer. I'll keep everyone updated as I get new info.

On other matters, during March there were a few events such as The Annual Meeting with a wonderful spaghetti dinner prepared by Roy and Sandy King, March Madness, St. Patrick's Day which was well attended, The Sleep City Awards Dinner, another well attended event and the 'Last Friday Night' entertainment and raffle.

At the request of the Entertainment Committee, the board decided to make the big raffle prize a progressive cash prize. It will start at \$500 and \$100 will be added each month that it is not won. You must be present to win and there will also be a \$50 credit drawing. Sunday April 1st will be the Easter Brunch/Egg Hunt.

As I've stated in last month's article, member benevolence is a huge part of a club like ours. Thanks to all those who chair or are members of committees and volunteer their time. This month I would like to thank McKenzie Smith who refurbished six benches we have on the course. He took six old wood benches and rebuilt them with new hardware and a solid plastic material so that now all of our benches are made of this. They look great and will be much easier to maintain. The Green's Committee paid for the materials but McKenzie did all the work. Thank you McKenzie!

I want to welcome our newest members who have joined in March; Kevin & Jamie Potteroff, Ron & Marthe Smith and Alan, (A.J.) & Meredith Hennessy. Welcome to PG&CC.

PG&CC History – Part 1

By Keith Brians

This is the first of a series of articles about the club's history. Information about the club's early years is from digitized copies of the Petaluma Argus Courier available at the Petaluma Library using Newspapers.com. The Press Democrat and the Oakland

Tribune were also used. The club's own records before 1943 have apparently been lost to history. However, the club's minutes and other historical pieces from 1943 on remain.

Getting Started

Rumors of plans for a golf club in Petaluma were first reported in the Argus-Courier on February 9, 1922. An unnamed prominent local businessman, who we can reasonably assume was George P. McNear, had been enthusiastically promoting plans to organize a country club and establish a course near the city. With San Rafael, Santa Rosa, Ukiah and Sonoma already having golf clubs, the article lamented "a city without this acquisition is not on the map any longer, so popular has golf become."

On March 21, a preliminary meeting of several locals was held at the Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of forming a golf and country club. The organizers determined to secure the services of a golf architect to survey potential sites to determine what the cost might be.

William Locke, a golf architect who was then laying out the municipal golf course in Oakland and had constructed courses at San Francisco, Modesto, Eureka, Santa Rosa and other cities, arrived in town Wednesday, March 29. Mr. Locke spent the day with George P. McNear, H. C. Scrutton and L. V. Korbel inspecting several potential sites with easy access to the city.

Organizers met Friday, April 21, at the Argus-Courier office. Committees were appointed to deal with the permanent organization and finance of the club, membership, and bylaws. The most favorable site for the course was determined to be an 80 acre parcel south of town on May's hill owned by Mr. McNear. May's hill derived its name from Captain Hugh May who steamed on the Petaluma River between Petaluma and the San Francisco Bay in the early days and who had built a cabin and spent his holidays there.

The organizers met again on Tuesday, May 9, at the Chamber of Commerce's office and reported membership of over 100 and that the list would soon be closed. Another meeting for all members was scheduled for 8:00 pm on Wednesday, May 17, to establish the permanent organization of the club and elect a board of directors. A committee was also appointed to immediately contract for improvements to the road leading to the plateau on May's hill where the golf course and club house would be located.

Petaluma Golf & Country Club was formally organized on Wednesday evening, May 17, 1922 when more than 60 golf enthusiasts gathered at the Chamber of Commerce and named G. P. McNear as president, Dr. Thomas McClay as vice-president and Dolph Hill as treasurer. Dr. McClay explained the financial plan, which called for an expenditure of over \$40,000 to include improvement of the road to the top of May's hill, building a club house and grounds, a water system, the golf course, and furniture for the club house. McClay also announced that Mr. McNear had made a very liberal donation of his May's hill property consisting of 80 acres with a worth of \$9,000. With Mr. McNear's donation and the \$100 membership fees the club had property sufficient to secure about \$20,000 in bonds to finance construction of the course.

Fairway's and Green's Report

By Harry Pearson

Well better late than never. An old adage that describes the late rains we're getting to somewhat offset the lack of rain for January and February. The course is wet and the crew hasn't been able to get to the rough as of this writing on March 23rd. Good weather is forecast for the last week of March and should help to dry it out a little.

This will help with our green side irrigation project that is scheduled for the first week of April. We'll add four new sprinklers to each green and change the existing sprinklers to half circles which will water the surrounds. The newly added sprinklers will water the greens and we'll have the ability to control each sprinkler individually. It should be quite an improvement on getting the right amounts of water on the greens and the surrounds.

Aeration of the greens will take place on Monday, April 16th and the crew will use one half inch tines. This will affect the greens for a couple of weeks until they heal. We have to do it to promote better health and drainage to the greens. The course is usually closed the day of aeration so check with Chris or the counter to find out when the course will be open. The crew has sprayed an application of weed control and will spray another application when the weather gets better. They've also sprayed the greens for fungus. They are in the process of renovating the Men's fourth tee and will use the sod they stripped off it along with newly purchased sod to tighten up the fringes and areas around some of the bunkers where the grass is barren. They've seeded with rye grass the #3 fairway in front of the green, areas on #7 fairway and #9 fairway from the hill to the green. This is a continuation of the program we've been doing for the last three years in hopes that the rye grass which is stronger and less tolerant to fungus in warm weather will overtake the natural poa that stresses in heat. It's a very long and expensive process but you can definitely see the rye coming in, especially up the hill on #9.

A tree was cut down on #2 and another will be cut down on the left side of #4 fairway by the dirt cart path. Bill will be purchasing larger shovels to scoop more sand from the buckets on the par 3's and we're looking into buying or building some sand bottle holders to put out on the course so those riding in carts can refill their sand holders. As always, please fix ball marks, divots, keep carts on paths when the Supt. puts the sign up and contact me for any suggestions, complaints or comments. @ hp1852@yahoo.com



Men's Tournaments

By Nick Smith

Congratulations to our Spring Kick Off Shootout Winner: Mark Thomas who just edged out Barry Reeves in the Final!

Also – sign-up now for the Sleep City Cup! Our 2017 winner – Loren Warburg was properly award the Sleep City Cup at the kick-off dinner!

A speedy recovery for Loren as well as he had a surgery on Sunday for appendicitis.

Check out these upcoming events!

April 7th – Men's Medal

April 21st 1-Man Scramble

May 5th – Men's Medal!

Save the Date: The Vartnaw (Member – Member) NEW DATE – June 23rd

Save the Date: The Goat Hill Invitational (Member Guest) September 7, 8, & 9

Email Statements!

We can now send statements to multiple email addresses!!!

Sign-up for email statements by emailing: admin@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com or drop by the office and let Darcy know that you would like switch to paperless statements. You will still receive all printed flyers and calendars with your emailed statement.

Social Events

By Christopher Gay

Friday, April 13th – Movie Night – Lego Batman Movie (PG) 5:30pm Meet and Greet with Batman and Wonder Woman! Movie starts at 6:30pm.

Friday, April 23rd - Happy Hour and Special Drawing 5:30pm-7:30pm. Live Music with Lauren Hulbert!



Head Golf Professional / General Manager Report

By Christopher Gay

First, I want to thank the Members of PG&CC, the Board, and employees for a fantastic 4 ½ years. As Harry mentioned in his article, I am not going anywhere soon so please let me know if there is anything you need.

We are entering some prime golfing days and there are a lot of opportunities to come up and play in some fun tournaments and the Saturday events.

The Vartnaw, the Member-Member tournament of the year, is scheduled to be played on Sat June 23. This is the partner event and if you don't have a partner, just sign up and we will match you up. There is an optional Friday afternoon shoot out which is a lot of fun and a good time to meet some of your fellow members.

We do have a local competitive tournament that is a Sonoma County favorite. The Sonoma Amateur is played at Foxtail on May 19 and May 20. I also hope to see some of our competitive players at the Sonoma Amateur and at all of our events at PG&CC.

Also – we have new items in the shop coming soon! Ladies and Men's apparel from Bette and Court, Travis Mathew and Peter Millar – check the out!

I will see everyone on the links!



MOVIE NIGHT

APRIL 13TH @ 6:30PM

Superhero Meet & Greet with Batman and Wonder Woman: 5:30–6:30PM

Petaluma Golf & Country Club | 1500 Country Club Dr | Petaluma, CA



NCGA Tournament Club Qualifiers

Club will pay all regional and Championship fees

ZONE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Club Dates Qualifying Anytime between 3/3 to 3/16. \$10 Entry.
Regional Tournament: 4/9-4/10
Championship: 8/27-8/28

FOUR-BALL NET CHAMPIONSHIP

Club Dates Qualifying Anytime between 4/16 to 4/27. \$10 Entry.
Regional Tournament: 5/24
Championship: 6/18 and 6/19

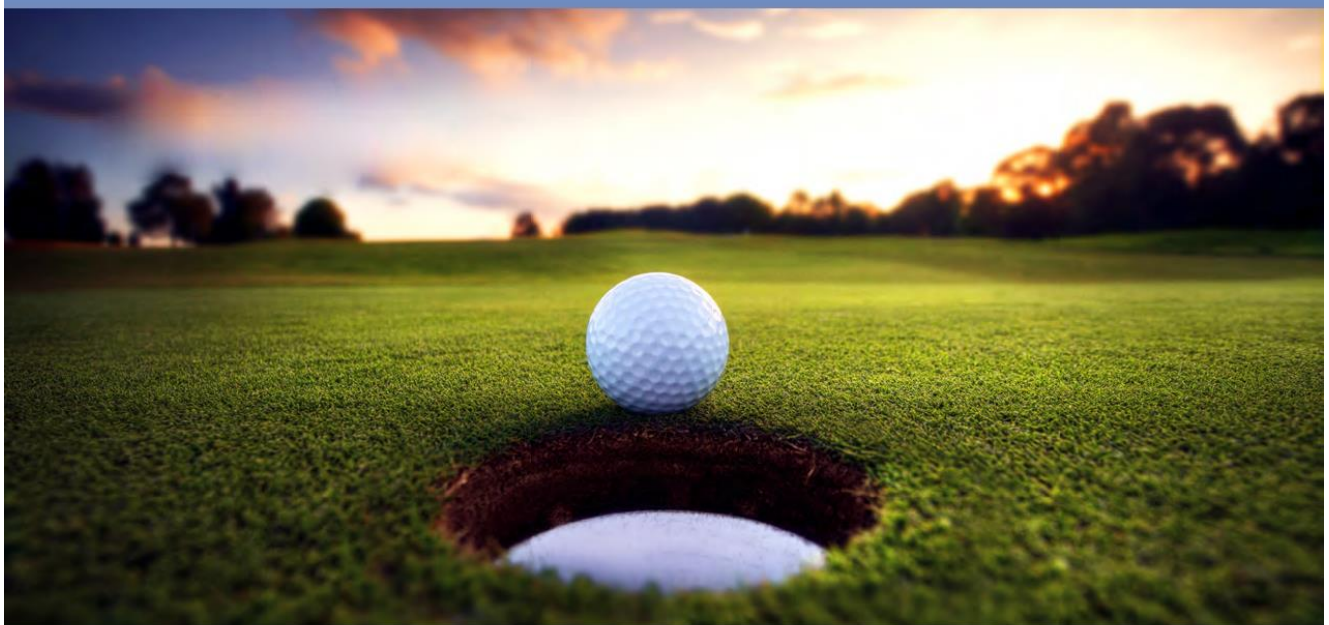
SENIOR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Club Dates Qualifying Anytime between 6/30 to 7/13. \$10 Entry.
Regional Tournament: 8/8
Championship: 9/10 to 9/11

NET AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Club Dates Qualifying Anytime between 8/4 to 8/17. \$10 Entry.
Regional Tournament: 9/13
Championship: 10/15 & 10/16

Please sign up by calling 707.762.7041 or by alerting the golf shop staff prior to teeing off.



1500 Country Club Dr | Petaluma, CA 94952 | www.petalumagolfandcountryclub.com

APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt 10:00am	2 High School Golf 12:00pm -5:00pm	3 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	4 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am Outside Event in Hall 4:00pm	5	6 Happy Hour 5:30pm- 7:30pm	7 Men's Medal
8	9 SIRS 8am – 2pm	10 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	11 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	12	13 MOVIE NIGHT Lego Batman 5:30pm Superheros 6:30pm - Movie	14
15	16 Green Aerification	17 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	18 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am <i>Board Meeting 6:00pm</i>	19	20 Happy Hour 5:30pm- 7:30pm	21 Men's 1-Man Scramble
22	23 SIRS 8am – 2pm	24 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	25 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	26	27 Happy Hour with Live Music 5:30pm- 7:30pm	28
29	30					

MAY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Ladies 9 Hole Golf – Opening Day 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	2 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	3	4 TPI Seminar – How to swing to prevent injury Happy Hour 5:30pm- 7:30pm	5 Men's Medal
6	7 SIRS 8am – 2pm	8 Ladies 9 Hole Golf – Opening Day 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	9 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	10	11 Happy Hour 5:30pm- 7:30pm	12 Event in Hall: Harris Memorial 12pm – 4pm
13 Mother's Day Brunch	14 SIRS 8am – 2pm	15 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	16 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am Board of Directors Meeting 6:00pm	17	18 St Patrick Dinner 5:00pm Cocktails 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Step Dancers	19
20	21	22 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	23 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	24	25 Happy Hour 5:30pm- 7:30pm	26
26	27	28 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	29 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	30	31 Happy Hour 5:30pm- 7:30pm LIVE MUSIC with Lauren Hulbert	