



Inside this Issue:

- President's Message
- PG&CC History
- Fairways and Greens
- Men's Tournament
- 9 Hole Ladies
- August Calendar
- September Calendar

THE IMPROVED LIE

Petaluma Golf & Country Club, August 2018



President's Message

By Harry Pearson

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

Well at least pencil it in until the event of the year is in stone. A few of us were having an adult libation and kicking different ideas around on having an event at the club, where members and their guests could come and have a good time. After some discussion, a couple of members who will remain anonymous for the time being, came up with an idea to have the event on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd to commemorate the end of 'Daylight Savings Time' and to be a fundraiser for our renowned Junior Golf Program. A perfect match. Stay tuned to your emails, Improved Lie, flyers, 6 o'clock news, etc for details as they unravel.

We have several employees who have done yeoman's work as the search for the Assist. Pro and Head Pro/GM jobs continue. Please give big thanks to Tiffany, Londyn, Cole, Darcy and Megan when you see them.

Thanks to Mark Smith and his House & Grounds Committee, Megan has got her air conditioner, so no more 110 degree days in the kitchen, also the area around the BBQ has been spruced up along with some painting and cleaning in and around the hall. Well done and thank you.

PG&CC Board of Directors

President

Harry Pearson

Vice President

Larry Riis

Treasurer

Keith Brians

Secretary

Michael Johnson

Director

Wayne Guphill

Director

Timo Rivetti

Director

Sue Berger

Director

Jeremy King

As of this writing, August 1st - CourseCo has interviewed some candidates for the Head Pro/GM job. Some have been eliminated and some are still in the mix. There are still more to be interviewed and when I find out something, I'll have Chris send out an email blast to keep the membership informed. They've also interviewed a candidate for the Assist. Pro job.

Chris, Matt and Lance have done an admirable job in running the show while the search continues. I heard the Friday night mixer was a big success. Around 100 people enjoyed the music, the buffet, each other and there were a lot of new members that attended. There wasn't a winner in the raffle, so it goes up to \$800 clams at the August mixer! More tournaments are coming up in August and September; The Senior/Super Senior Championships, The Goat Hill which is our Member/Guest Event, Sadie Hawkins, the Men's Club Championships along with the monthly medal's tournaments.

We've had a couple of complaints regarding loud music being played on the course. We realize that people playing music on the course is becoming more popular but there is a courtesy factor involved here. Please keep the sound level down to where you and your cart mate can enjoy it but not at a level that impacts other golfers on adjacent holes. If this becomes a problem, the board is going to have to act on this issue. All I'm really saying is be courteous and respectful of the other golfer's right to enjoy their experience as well as you enjoy yours.

I'd like to welcome our new members that joined in July; Teri & Neil Goldstein; and waiting list members; Brett Johnson and Dominic & Nelly Antonelli.

Welcome and enjoy your club.



PG&CC History – Part 4

By Keith Brians

The Golf Course

When the course opened on September 24, 1922, it had temporary tees and greens and fairways that closely resembled the pasture it had been for seven Clydesdale draft horses owned by the McNear Company that had previously resided there. In spite of the rough conditions, in October 1922, many prominent citizens were reported to be seen playing the course in the late afternoons with a large number of players on weekends. The rough conditions did not stop newly converted golf enthusiasts from extending lavish praise for the course and its views of the Petaluma River Valley and surrounding hills. English actor Norman Cope, who was appearing at the Hill Theater, found the course while strolling and stated he has never seen a more beautiful course or finer grounds. Mr. Cope's description of the view was "colossal."

The course was originally laid out as a par 36. The first hole, now played as the 3rd, has additional bunkers and tees, but is largely unchanged. Hole No. 2, now the 4th, originally played as a par 4 and was later changed to a par 3 when the tee was relocated closer to the green. The 530 yard par 5 No. 3 played from a tee located near the houses to the north-

west of the current 3rd green. The hole played over the top of the current 5th tee to a green at the top of the hill in the middle of the current 5th fairway. The No. 4 tee was just below the foundation of the Terry and Rose Collin's home played as a 360 yard par 4 running parallel to the current 5th fairway to a green across the canyon and up the hill. From the current 6th green and looking west across the valley toward Ray and Milly Nizibian's house, two sycamore trees mark the location of the No. 5 tee. At that time, a pair of sycamore trees were used to indicate tee locations. At 155 yards, the No. 5 par three played from the sycamore trees and across the valley to the green cut out of the hill below the Nizibian's house. The 370 yard No. 6's tee was in the grove of oak trees to the left side the cut-out green and played back over the steep hillside toward the current 5th green to a green in the middle of the current fifth fairway in the flat below the 150 yard mark. The current 6th hole was No. 7 and the current 7th hole was No. 8 and the current 9th was No. 9.

At the October 25, 1943 board meeting, a committee headed by H.C. Scrutton was appointed to make survey the membership regarding changing the line of the course. Scrutton, who had supervised the layout and construction of the course in 1922 and was its first club champion in 1925, provided a preliminary proposal, the Course Improvement Plan, to the board at the November 8th meeting. The Course Improvement Plan called for abandonment of original hole No.'s 4, 5 and 6 with their aggravating steep hills and deep gullies and construction of three new holes (now holes 1, 2 and 8, then No. 5, No. 4 and No. 8 respectively) and changes to No. 3 that moved its tee and green and increased its length. To finance the project, sale of the property on which the holes were located was proposed. The Course Improvement plan was discussed and refined at the following meeting and at the February, 14, 1944 meeting President James Crase announced the McNear family was agreeable to the plan. At the March 23, 1944 meeting a motion was passed to approve the Course Improvement Plan and authorized the special committee to proceed at once, with the caveat that the cost not exceed \$2,000.

Work began immediately on the three new holes (now 1, 2, and 8) without affecting play. In May, a call went out for volunteers to help water the new greens and tees. In July, 33.22 acres were sold to Rasmus and Tillie Rasmussen, owners of the adjoining Kastania Ranch, for \$65 an acre, raising \$2,160. On Sunday, October 8, 30 members postponed their play in the club championship and pitched in to get the new holes in shape. Using a turf cutter pulled by a tractor, they removed one foot wide by five feet long strips of sod from the original No. 3's green and approaches and placed them at the approaches to the new holes and rolled them with a heavy roller. A barbeque dinner for 70 golfers and their wives wrapped up the day. Volunteers helped again on Saturday, October 21st getting irrigation lines in place.

Having seeded the tees and greens earlier in the year, the new holes were now ready for club championship play to resume on October 22. Defending champion Eric Nisson shot a 76, but was eliminated in the semi-finals 3 and 2 by Walter Rossi who shot a 72. The 36-hole championship on October 29, began in the morning with rain and the first 18 holes found Rossi down by 1 to Frank Studdert. Skies cleared for the afternoon round, but not to the advantage of Rossi who ended up losing 8 and 6 as Studdert played the first 12 holes of the second round in two under for his second championship.

The course has had many minor changes over the ensuing years: additional bunkers, second tees, elimination of winter creeks that ran across it with drainage and substantial upgrades to the sprinkler system. Now in the best shape it's ever been, may it continue to improve.



Fairways and Greens Report

By *Harry Pearson*

As of July 17th, the last time I played the course, it was in very good condition. We're doing our summer watering program, with misters, hand moved sprinklers and hand watering.

If you were a member 3 or 4 yrs. ago, you may remember that we hired a golf course irrigation architect who designed our original irrigation system in 1989. He did an assessment of our system and made five recommendations, six really but the sixth was to redo the whole system at about \$500,000.

His recommendations were the following; put in new control boxes that were radio controlled and run by computer and finish installing 120 new model/ more efficient sprinklers to the approx. 400 we had installed over the previous 10 to 12 yrs. We did this about 3 yrs. ago at a cost of about \$100,000.

Another suggestion was to add 4 more sprinklers to each green to separate irrigation of the greens from the surrounds. The greens and surrounds were being watered together which is counterproductive because greens need more water than surrounds and we were wasting water and money. We did this this year at approx. \$40,000.

Another suggestion was to replace the 100 valves on the course at a cost of approx. \$70,000. We've decided to replace them as they leak or break. This is the only solution that fits with our CIDM budget.

The only other recommendation left is to individually wire each sprinkler for individual control. That would be about \$75,000. The way the system sets up now is each sprinkler is individually wired and runs to a valve. At the valve the individual wires are spliced together into groups of 2, 3 or 4 and then run to the control box and set onto a station. When the station comes on, depending on how many individual wires were spliced together, that's how many sprinklers come on. Not very efficient but back in 1989, it was a lot cheaper than running individual wires to the control box.

Since the new system has been in place, we have been monitoring the wet and dry spots. We will continue to do that this summer and at some point may try to change the worst areas into individual sprinklers. On August 8th & 9th, we will have a tree cutter come up and cut trees on #3 tee which will open up the tee shot, a tree behind #4 green and a tree on #7 fairway. They will be chipped but the stumps will remain.

The crew will also be working on softening the downside of the left bunker on #6. As constructed presently, it makes for a very difficult sand shot from a downhill lie to an elevated green. They will be adding sand to some bunkers including the green side bunker on #7. They'll be looking at some wet areas, most notably the right side and in front of #8 and the water seepage on the cart path next to the lady's # 5/14 tee.

Another area they will address is the fescue grass on top of the traps on the right of #6. We tried growing this fescue in several places because the edges of the traps were barren and we felt this might be a good idea to at least keep these areas with grass. The only place it took was on top of the traps on #6. We've asked Bill to try and trim it so at least it's playable. If this doesn't work, we'll figure out something else.

Please rake traps, fix divots and ball marks and park carts fully on the cart paths and not on the edges. If you need a blue or red flag, see Chris. There's way too many carts parked next to the green. As always, you can send me your comments, complaints, suggestions, etc. at; hp1852@yahoo.com. Hope the rest of your summer brings a lot of joy and golf.



Men's Tournaments

By Nick Smith

The Stroke Play Championship is set for August 25 & 26. This is a flighted event based on age so I expect to see everyone sign-up!

The final NCGA Qualifier starts August 4th. Remember – the club pays for your entry to the next qualifier and then to the championship , if you are lucky enough to make it to the final. For just \$10 entry. Try as often as you would like!

Congratulations to our July Winners:

3-Clubs and a Putter

Gross Winner – 31 Points Ron Fedrick

Net Winner – 39 Points John Candau

Great upcoming events:

August 18, 2-Man Better Ball 8:30am Shotgun

August 25 & 26 – Stroke Play Championship

September 1st – Men's Club Championship Starts (Brackets to be completed by 9/1 12:00pm)

1st Round Completed by 9/15 10:00am

2nd Round to be Completed by 9/22 10:00am

3rd Round Completed by 9/29

Final Round competed on 9/30 at 9:00am 36 Holes

September 8 & 9: The Goat Hill Invitational (Member Guest) Applications available online and in golf shop.



9-Hole Petaluma Chicks

By Lois Skarsten

June and July had two hot golfers! Sandra Messer (Golfer of the Month for May) and Dale O'Connor. Dale was Golfer of the Month for June and Brenda Roberts was Golfer of the Month for July. Hopefully we will have players back from the DL.

Socials

Live Music August 17th with Ruby Fradkin! 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Live Music and “The Bounty” drawing August 31st – 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Live music by Ronny Lee! The Bounty is \$800 this month as Jack King was not present to win in July ...

AUGUST 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Happy Hour 5:30pm-7:30pm	4 Men's Medal
5	SIRS 8am – 2pm	7 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	8 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	9 PGA and North Bay League End of Season Pool Party 12:00pm to 2:00pm	10 Happy Hour 5:30pm-7:30pm	11 Event in the Hall 5:00 Sponsoring member Mike Morgan
12	Lynn Barr 12 Players 7:00am	14 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	15 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am <i>Board Meeting 6:00pm</i>	16 Event in the Hall 5:00pm. Sponsoring member Mark Kvalheim	17 Happy Hour with LIVE MUSIC with Ruby Fradkin 5:30pm- 7:30pm	18 Men's Medal 2-Man Better Ball Event in the Hall 6:00pm. Sponsoring member Bill Brandt
19		21 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	22 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	23	24 Happy Hour 5:30pm to 7:30pm	25 Men's Stroke Play Championship Round 1 8:30am Start
26 Men's Stroke Play Championship Round 2 8:30am Start	27 SIRS 8am – 2pm	28 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	29 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am <i>Sadie Hawkins</i>	30	31 Happy Hour with LIVE MUSIC with Ronny Lee 5:30pm- 7:30pm	

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Men's Club Championship begins. Match Play. Seeding to be set today at 12:00pm
2	3	4 Ladies 9 Hole Golf – 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	5 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	6	7 Goat Hill Pre Tournament Party & Shootout 3pm – 9pm	8 Goat Hill Tournament Round 1 (Golf Course Closed from 7am to 6pm)
9 Goat Hill Tournament Round 2 (Golf Course Closed from 7am to 6pm)	10 Rotary Golf Tournament	11 Greens Aeration BEGIN Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	12 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	13	14 Happy Hour 5:30pm- 7:30pm	15 Men's Club Championship – Round 1 must be completed
16	17	18 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	19 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am Board of Directors Meeting 6:00pm	20	21	22 Men's Club Championship – Round 2 must be completed
23	24	25 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	26 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am Outside Event in Hall 6:00pm – 10:00pm	27	28 Happy Hour and Elaine Ryan LIVE MUSIC 5:30pm- 7:30pm	29 Men's Club Championship – Round 3 must be completed
30 Men's Club Championship – Final Round to be played at 9am						29