



# THE IMPROVED LIE

Petaluma Golf & Country Club, January 2018

## Voting Results are IN!

*By Christopher Gay*

Happy New Year!

The votes have been counted and the new members of the Board for 2018 will be: Sue Berger, Mike Johnson, and Jeremy King. Thank you to all of the members who voted and for those who ran for office!

These three new members will join Harry Pearson, Peter Barufkin, Larry Riis, Wayne Guptill, Keith Brians and Timo Rivetti.

At the first Board Meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> a new President will be elected by the new 2018 Board.

**PG&CC  
Board of  
Directors**

**President**  
Mike Candau

**Vice President**  
Harry Pearson

**Treasurer**  
Donna Beels

**Secretary**  
Peter Barufkin

**Director**  
Larry Riis

**Director**  
Patty Haynes

**Director**  
Wayne Guphill

**Director**  
Timo Rivetti

**Director**  
Keith Brians

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## **A Special Thank You**

*By Christopher Gay*

I would like to thank everyone at PG&CC for their wonderful support these last few weeks.

As you may not know – my mother passed away on December 28<sup>th</sup> after a year-long fight with cancer. Since the first week in December she lived with wife and I, and we transitioned to part-time caregivers.

The number of cards, flowers, calls, texts, emails, and hugs from the membership was unimaginable and we truly appreciate everyone's support.

On behalf of my entire family – Thank you!



# Fairways and Greens Report

By Harry Pearson

Well, Happy New Year to all and I hope everyone had a nice Christmas as well. If you've been up to the club in the last month and played golf, you've been treated to a course in very good condition with extremely fast greens. Quite rare for this time of year. Hopefully the rain is coming!

Bill Maeder and his crew have been working on several winter projects such as; resurfacing the women's 9<sup>th</sup> tee & the junior tees on #2, #3 & #9; planting of 2 oak trees on #9, donated through the 'Memorial Tree' program by Bill Brandt for his grandfather, and by friends in memory of Jim McDowell; a redwood tree on #1 in memory of Frank Haynes by Mark and Terese Thomas; cutting down & chipping a dead tree behind #2 tee; cutting up fallen trees on #9 & #3; patching pot holes on some cart paths; seeding fairways and applying lime base calcium to fairways so that they can be softened to absorb more water, and testing a program to treat the black layer on some of the greens that Bill thinks is because we're using small tines when aerating. The crew will also be installing 600 ft. of drainage on #5 just before the top of the hill, cleaning out drains in bunkers, replacing rotted steps on # 2 & 5 tees and many landscaping projects.

As mentioned in a previous article the committee decided to address the 9th green as a Fall 2018 project. Funny thing though, when telling this to several members who have complained about it in the past, they had a change of heart, citing several reasons but mostly, that the hole's defense is the green. Also, since it will be a high cost expenditure, it will have to be approved by the board if we end up doing it. We've since, talked about possibly expanding the green by cutting out some of the hill and Bill is consulting outside contractors to ascertain the feasibility of doing that.

However, our Spring 2018 project is on track and Bill is in the process of getting bids from outside contractors as well. In case you're not up to date on this, the Greens Committee has decided to install 4 additional sprinklers at each green. This will enable us to irrigate greens by themselves and the surrounds by themselves instead of both of them together like it is now. Prime examples are #7, where the green side bunker ends up getting too wet and the approach area in front of #3 green which also gets extremely wet. Greens are watered longer than surrounds and when we do the project it will give us the ability to put the necessary amount of water on the greens while lessening the amount of water on the surrounds. We'll also be able to set the timer through the main computer to do whatever afternoon irrigation is necessary to keep the greens from burning out during hot weather while not putting more water on the surrounds. This will free up the afternoon water person to focus on moving sprinklers on the course.

For Feb's. article, I will give a summary on what projects we did in 2017 along with an accounting of our CIDM expenditures.

On another note, I recently had a conversation with our Assistant Golf Pro, Stevan Peters and he was telling me about a recent experience he had which gave him a whole different perspective on what our maintenance people do, day in and day out. I thought it would be great to share it with the membership, (or whoever reads the Improved Lie) and I asked him to write an article about his experience and send it to me for the Green's article. Here it is:

*My Day with the Grounds Crew – By Stevan Peters*

*At work by 530am? Check. Donuts? Check. I start my day with Bill and his crew much earlier than I usually do, but there's no traffic so I guess it's not too bad. We are standing in the shed, going over the different jobs for the day. Someone needs to cut fairways, someone else greens. Someone is assigned to*

*cut the fallen tree on #2 into little bits. I'll be working with Al changing hole locations. Seems easy enough right? To even get to this point I made a deal with Bill. I get to pick some hole locations for Tuesday, in return I'll come up and do some work. Even trade right? As we head out to start our work Al helps me load the cart with everything I'll need. Hole cutter, hole cutter guide, a sharp knife, today's pin location sheet, white spray paint.*

*We head to Hole #2. It's pitch black. Despite my knowledge of the course and that green in particular I have trouble picking a spot. I know the general area where the hole needs to go, I know where the drop off is, I can even see a little bit since I'm wearing a headlamp. But it becomes clear to me very quickly that it is extremely difficult to choose a spot to cut. We can't cut where there are too many previously cut holes, so as I am choosing a new spot I am very careful to cut away from the slope. However I am much closer to it than I realize (something I won't notice until the sun is up, players are out and it's too late). The pressure is on to pick quickly since they cannot mow greens until holes have been cut. Finally I cut one. Cutting the new hole is actually pretty easy. Put the guide down (it looks like a big metal bath mat with a hole in it), cut a deep hole, put the cup in, paint the edges, put the flag in with the correct color on it. Boom! Done. Now the tricky part. To plug the old hole we add dirt, and the piece of green we just removed goes on top. How much dirt? It's kind of a guess, but as you gain experience I suppose you get better. It takes me a couple tries but I get it filled correctly, then I use my sharp knife to kind of stitch the green to the plug. I joke with Al that he might make a good field surgeon with all the knife work and grass stitching he does. We go through the rest of the holes and repeat the process. We also move tees and stakes around the course. All in all it takes about 2 hours to do everything. As we drive up #9 I notice the pin I set on #2. Right on the ridge, I know if I was working in the shop that day I'd hear about how unfair it is. How could I, an experienced tournament player with knowledge of these greens cut such an unfair pin?! Well I have news for you folks, it's a heck of a lot harder than you think. Changing holes in the dark is way more difficult than I thought it would be and I definitely have a whole new respect for what Bill and his crew do on a daily basis. So the next time you want to curse our grounds crew, cut em' a break! I know I will!*

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## **Email Statements!**

*By Christopher Gay*

Let's help keep costs down and save a tree at the same time!



Sign-up for email statements by emailing: [admin@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com](mailto: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*



Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – CRAB FEED 2:00pm Cocktails / 3:00pm Dinner

Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> – PG&CC Bridge Tournament

Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hour and Special Drawing 4:30pm-6:30pm

Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> – Prime Rib Night 6:00pm

Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Happy Hour and Special Drawing 4:30pm-6:30pm



# JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	3	4	5 <b>Happy Hour</b> 4:30pm- 6:30pm	6 Men's Medal
7 <b>CRAB FEED</b> 2pm Cocktails 3pm Dinner	8	9 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	10 <b>PG&amp;CC Bridge</b> <b>Tournament</b> Day 1	11	12 <b>Happy Hour</b> 4:30pm – 6:30pm	13 <b>Event in Hall</b> 6pm – 11pm: Sponsoring Member: C. Parratt
14 <b>Event in Hall</b> 12pm – 6pm: Irv Jensen Celebration of Life	15	16 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	17 <b>PG&amp;CC Bridge</b> <b>Tournament</b> Day 2  <b>Board of Directors</b> <b>Meeting 6:00pm</b>	18	19 <b>Happy Hour</b> 4:30pm – 6:30pm	20 <b>Event in Hall</b> 5pm – 10pm:
21 <b>Event in Hall</b> 3pm – 8pm: Sponsoring Member: A. Wolff	22	23 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	24 <b>PG&amp;CC Bridge</b> <b>Tournament</b> Day 3	25	26 <b>Member Happy</b> <b>Hour Social and</b> <b>BOUNTY</b> 5:00pm – 7:00pm  <b>LIVE MUSIC</b>	27
28 <b>Event in Hall</b> 1pm – 4pm: Sponsoring Member: C. Forcier	29	30 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	31			

# FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <b>Happy Hour 5:00pm- 7:00pm</b>	3 <b>Men's Medal</b>
4	5	6 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	7	8	9 <b>Prime Rib Night - 6:00pm – look for more details coming soon</b>	10
11	12	13 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	14	15	16 <b>Happy Hour 5:00pm- 7:00pm</b>	17
18	19	20 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	21 <b>Event in Hall 6:00pm</b> <b>Board of Directors Meeting 6:00pm</b>	22 <b>Event in Hall 6:00pm</b>	23 <b>Holiday Social – LIVE MUSIC with \$500 Drawing 5:00pm- 7:00pm</b>	24 <b>Event in Hall 5pm – 10pm: Sponsoring Member: C. Fillinger</b>
25	26	27 <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	28			