



**Inside this Issue:**

- **President's Report**
- **Green's Committee Report**
- **9 Hole Ladies Report**
- **Articles by Head Golf Professional / GM**
- **July Calendar**
- **August Calendar**

# THE IMPROVED LIE

Petaluma Golf & Country Club, July 2016

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By Mike Candau*

The board at Petaluma Golf & Country Club and CourseCo have negotiated a seven year agreement that will keep CourseCo as our management company. PGCC will save approximately \$60,000 over the next 2 years and continue to get the valuable services and savings for five more years. The business year for CourseCo starts July 1 and the management fee was due to go up to \$85,000 this year and adjust to \$95,000 in July of 2017. We will pay them \$60,000 annually (+ an annual CPI adjustment) through June 30, 2023.

I would like to personally thank Mike Sharp, President of CourseCo, and member Irv Piotrowski for working with us through the negotiation. Irv provided us needed insight and expertise throughout the process while Mike realized the relationship shared between the 2 parties.

The course remains in good shape, and the pool continues to improve. New furniture, no "toe-breaking" bricks and soon-to-be repaired bathrooms are part of the pool improvements. House and Grounds committee chair Mark Smith has brought his own crew to repair much of the bathrooms and Steve O'Connor will provide a new paint job when it is complete. Alan Holmberg will also install a new roof on the bathroom. Terese Thomas and board member Patty Haynes have been instrumental in getting the new furniture. Long time PGCC people know that, ultimately, it is our members that make the club a great place. All of the members mentioned above do this without fanfare or for profit. Please let them know we appreciate their services when you see them.

**PG&CC  
Board of  
Directors**

**President**  
Mike Candau

**Vice President**  
Donna Beels

**Treasurer**  
Flip Lamson

**Secretary**  
Peter Barufkin

**Director**  
Mike Morgan

**Director**  
Patty Haynes

**Director**  
Steve Lambert

**Director**  
Timo Rivetti

**Director**  
Harry Pearson

And sadly, as we think of the people who have helped PGCC through the years, we should remember past President Jim McCarter who recently passed away after a lengthy illness. He and his wife Cindy were 2 members who worked tirelessly for the club in many capacities. Hopefully, we will see Cindy up here in the future.

---

## **GREEN'S COMMITTEE REPORT**

*By Harry Pearson*

Today is Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> and I've just been informed that long time member, Jim McCarter passed away this morning. Jim was a native Petaluman and he and his wife Cindy, have been two of the best members of this club I have known. They have been involved in so many activities, I can't recount them all. They played golf several times a week and Jim was our official scorekeeper for skins games played on Tue., Wed. and Fridays. Cindy is a past Board Member and Jim was a Past President. He basically ran the Club for several months when Doug Booth, (former Head Pro/G.M.), was in Houston receiving treatments for cancer to which he eventually succumbed. On behalf of the Green's Committee; Keith Brians, Charly Freeman, Tom Isaak, Steve Lambert, Bill Maeder, Mark Nizibian, Larry Riis, Chris Gay, Chanaan Fasanello, Scott Wackowski and past member Bob Spurgeon and really all members of Petaluma Golf & Country Club, I would like to extend our heavy, heartfelt condolences to Cindy and Family and let them know that the Petaluma Country Club Family is here for them. May Jim rest in peace.

I was able to get down to PG&CC and play a round on Fri. the 24th. Still stuck in Tahoe. The course is in very good shape and the new tee on #8/17 is looking good and done within the budgeted \$3,000. In the past month the rough has been mowed down, part of the 9th fairway was sliced and seeded with rye grass and the 2nd application of fungicides were applied to #1, 3 & 9 fairways. We've hired an afternoon water person, so hopefully on those hot weekends the course won't burn out. We have a couple of trees donated through the 'Memorial Tree' program by Bill & Joan Brandt and Mark & Terese Thomas that will be planted in mutually agreed locations. We had some suggestions that will be dealt with, cleaning off ball washers will be done immediately and attended to regularly, and some complaints about lack of sand in traps. Those traps that have little sand in them such as #5 & #6 will be addressed. We are going to soften the lower part of the left green side trap on #6 so that balls that funnel to that area won't have to be played from the downhill. We will also trim the tree that hangs over the Men's 5th tee.

In last month's article I explained to the new members, what the Greens Committee does and how it is funded. I also wrote that I would give some insight into our projects that we plan for each year using a 5 year plan. Here's the breakdown of what we plan & pay for out of portion of CIDM funds. The budget is based on 249 dues paying members.

15% or \$41.25 of the monthly \$275 goes to CIDM. This generates approx. \$123,000 per year. 10% of that goes to a 'Reserve Fund'. The remainder funds Green's & House & Grounds projects.

**Purchasing maintenance equipment** @ \$37,000 this year & \$38,856 next year when we pay the full 12 months on the sprayer: This is a heavy burden on CIDM. We're paying close to \$40,000 a year on leases. In 2012 we took out a \$70,000 loan to buy 5 badly needed pieces of equipment. Four of the pieces were used or refurbished

and 1 piece, (greens aerator) was new. This was a 5 year loan that is coming off the books, (\$1,340 per mo. / \$16,080 yr.), in Spring of 2018.

A couple of years ago President Mike Johnson & the board members decided that when we purchase future equip, in most cases we will purchase new, rather than used/refurbished equip. This was a great decision for Bill Maeder and his crew. We also have a 3 year lease @ \$565 per month / \$6,780 year for 2 utility carts that will come off in February 2018. In Spring of 2019, the 5 year lease @ \$614 per mo./ \$7368 yr. for the greens mower will come off. We've just started paying in Apr. on a sprayer @ \$719 per mo./ \$8,628 yr. for 5yrs. Bill and the CourseCo guys are presently putting together an equip. replacement plan and it should be done by the end of June. I will be presenting this to the Board at our July mtg. along with discussing a plan put together by the Greens Committee to transition equipment leases from CIDM into Bill's Fairways budget. I'll keep everyone updated.

**Construction/maintenance of cart paths** to finish concreting #7,8 & 9 @ \$70,000-80,000: The conversion of the cart paths from asphalt to concrete was started approximately 15 years ago and quite frankly, was supposed to be finished by now. However; we've had to defer cart paths several times because we've had to redirect money into other priority projects that came up. Since I've been on the committee starting in October 2009, we've done 2 paths, the section leading up to and including the circle on #18 which was a very small project and cost around \$11,000 and the completion of #6 which was about half done and the path from #6 green to & including #7 circle. This cost was \$24,000. We know that finishing the cart paths are not a priority but it would be great to finish them. #7 path: We would soften the present turn, and re-route it under the 7th tee and then up the right side of #7, similar to how it is now. The present crossover path on #7 would be dug up and changed to grass. We would also do #8 turnaround and connect the path leaving #8 circle that bisects #9. Approximately: \$30, 000-35,000. This would leave #9 circle & path leading up to the concreted section at #10 tee. Approximately \$40,000-45,000.

**Irrigation** @ \$5,000-10,000 a year: In 2000, we started replacing sprinklers & control boxes that were originally installed in 1989. There were about 550 sprinklers on the course and 13 control boxes. 5 years ago we finished replacing the boxes and most of these were refurbished. For those who weren't members yet, in 2012/13, the Greens Committee put off all projects to renovate the 2 water pumps that service the course & clubhouse, update the electrical system and build housing for them so they aren't out in the open air like they used to be. This cost us \$45,000 out of our CIDM. Last year House & Grounds and Greens spent \$11,000 each to rework the water lines at the pumps which was the cause of the 10hp pump shutting off. The 10hp pump had been serving the clubhouse and some golf course irrigation lines while the 30hp pump serviced the course. Now all golf course irrigation lines are on the 30hp and the clubhouse is on the 10hp pump.

Last year we hired Russ Mitchell to assess our irrigation system. He was the original irrigation designer of the course that was done in 1989 and is a highly acclaimed expert in his field. It should be noted that the Board back then instructed Mr. Mitchell and the contractor who installed the system to cut some corners to save costs. Each member was assessed \$500 back then to do the project. After Mr. Mitchell surveyed the course, its sprinklers, controllers, and pumping/electrical stations, he reviewed the course mapping and records with Bill, he gave the following assessment:

1. Replace control system with a new computerized central control & radio linked satellite controllers @ \$92,700. *This has been completed and paid with the assessment last year*
2. Replace approximately 160 outdated sprinklers @ \$41,600 or \$74,100 if we replace the ones turned off due to drought. We had started this sprinkler replacement in 2000 and had 108 old ones left to replace that were still in use. We used \$21,500 of our 2016 CIDM money to buy 120 sprinklers through a great deal from Rainbird. We were paying them \$2,000 for a box of 8 which would have been \$30,000 for the needed 15 boxes. We had 108 of them installed for \$7,500 by Par Consultants, who also installed the control boxes. The sprinklers and installation totaled \$29,000.

3. Install new control wire for individual sprinkler control @ \$52,950. Sprinklers are presently wired in groups of 3 or 4 due to cutting corners in 1989. To save money, each sprinkler wire was run from the sprinkler to a valve, spliced with 2 or 3 other sprinkler wires, run to the control box and connected to a station, prompting the 3 or 4 sprinklers to come on together. If each sprinkler's wire would have been run all the way to the control box and then spliced, this would have made single sprinkler conversion easier and cheaper. To individually wire a sprinkler, the wires will have to be dug up at the valves, untangled and connected to the individual wire running from the sprinkler to the valve and then run to its own station at the control box. We will continuously assess dry/wet spots and individually wire where needed.
4. Add a sprinkler to each green to separate the irrigation of greens and surrounds @ \$17,500 . This would alleviate bunkers from being watered by sprinklers that are watering the greens. This will be partially addressed next year.
5. Replace existing valves, (100 valves), and main line saddles @ \$70,000. We will continue to replace as needed.
6. Option 6 was to totally replace the system at a cost of \$570,000. This would include replacing everything.

Russ Mitchell estimated that by doing #1 & #3, we could save 18-22% in normal water usage and improve the turf conditions. Due to what we could spend, we chose to complete #2, figuring that replacing the older less efficient sprinklers would serve better at this time and proceed as described in #3.

**Tree replacement & removal** @ \$6,000 per year: tree removal is expensive and we have a large amount of trees that are reaching their end. Tree replacement is also budgeted for and we also have the 'Memorial Tree' donation program.

**Landscaping** @ \$1,000 per year.

**Tee renovations** @ \$2,500 per year: This amount constitutes in-house tees and is time consuming. Our guys do a good job but they don't do it for a living. Contracting out is about 2-3x's more but more efficient.

**Bunker renovations** @ \$1,000 per year: this is in-house and we will budget for it next year.

**Drainage** @ \$500 per year: in-house and we need to do more between #1 & #9 at the beginning of next year.

**Misc.** @ \$1,000: for anything that may come up.

**Rollover:** This category is intended for money to be saved from one year and added to the next year or years to fund large expenditure projects. Even though H&G and us have not spent our share of CIDM in a particular year with intention of rolling over the unspent money, that unspent money ends up going into operating to help offset the operation deficit. We've never had a rollover.

For example, if we want to finish cart paths, renovate greens or ultimately individually wire all sprinklers, we will need to have the rollover to plan and fund these projects. The same for H&G, if they want to do some of the clubhouse renovations, they'll also need to be able to plan and fund it.

So if we budget in 2017:

\$38,850 for equip leases; \$10,000 for irrigation which includes replacing sprinklers, installing some sprinklers at greens, individual wiring of some areas where needed, valve replacement; \$1,000 for landscaping; \$500 for drainage; \$6,000 tree removal & replacement; \$1,000 for bunker renovations; \$3,000 for tee renovations; \$1,000 misc.; and \$17,500 for a rollover to be used with like amount in 2018 to do cart paths on #7 & 8, we

would need approximately \$78,000 for 2017. That would leave H&G with approx. \$45,000. Without equip. leases we would need approx. \$40,000.

Please e mail me at [hp1852@yahoo.com](mailto:hp1852@yahoo.com), if you have any suggestions, comments or complaints. Please fix your ball marks, divots and park carts fully on cart paths.

---

## 9-HOLE LADIES REPORT

*By Sandra Messer*



June was Busy Time for Petaluma Chicks. Between members sustaining injuries and/or traveling, we had a lot of us coming and going in June. For this reason, we've postponed our Captain's Cup contest of pairs from June to July. We replaced it with a couple of weeks of Putts, a skills contest favorite, with Ginny Pelton winning on June 21 with 13 putts and Kay Michalik besting all on June 28 with 15 putts. Cathy Lehmann came in a very close second in both contests. Our June Golfer of the Month is Sandra Messer who had a net 68 result from the two days of play. In other 9 hole Division news, we welcomed Judy Dardis back after being away due to a hand injury. We also said goodbye to Teddi DeCarli who resigned after many years with the Petaluma Chicks, and even more with the Club. We will miss her company on the course and her low key, relaxed play.

Looking ahead, August is National Golf Month and the Petaluma Chicks plan to have some fun with this quirky recognition.

---

## JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM

*By Christopher Gay*

We have one last Junior Camps for the season – August 1 to August 4. Each camp consists of learning the Fundamentals, Swing Mechanics, Putting, Rules, etiquette and on-course play. Includes entry into USKIDS Learning Program and Level 1 materials. Fee includes Hat, Bag Tag, Snacks and lunch each day. All Classes are from 8:00am-11:30am. Monday through Thursday. \$250 Optional Swimming opportunity at pool from 12:00pm to 2:00pm each day. \$50 additional fee.

Junior Development Program (Year-round). We meet every Saturday at 2:00pm for 60 minutes - Includes entry into USKIDS Learning Program and Level 1 materials. We learn skills, play games and provide assessment to earn USKIDS Learning Pins. There is no cost for members and \$45 per month for non-members.

---

## ETIQUETTE

*By Christopher Gay*

Dress Code: as a reminder to all members – the dress code for the golf course is a collared shirt and is required for men. Please inform your guests about this policy as T-Shirts will not be permitted on the golf course.

Our official dress code is as follows:

**DRESS CODE:** All members, their families, and their guests shall at all times dress in accordance with good taste and judgment. Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times outside the pool area.

- Men must wear collared shirts, or designer golf wear when playing golf.
- Shorts, dresses and skirts must have an out seam measurement of at least 15 inches.

**Clothing that is specifically prohibited on the course or in the clubhouse:**

- Jeans which are soiled or torn
- Tee Shirts with lettering in poor taste.
- Bathing suits and tank tops are prohibited on the course and in the clubhouse unless you are using the pool area and coming to the clubhouse for food or drinks, etc.
- Cutoffs.

### **Golf Course Etiquette**

Good etiquette dictates that players repair their ball mark and one other while on the greens. Also – replace your divots or use sand to repair. Please remind your playing partners. Thank you!

---

## **MEN'S TWILIGHT DINNERS**

*By Christopher Gay*



Our dinner season is underway and each week the chefs are trying to outdo each other! Dinners cost \$17.00 and starts at 6:00pm. The Golf Game is \$3.00 and format varies from week to week.

This is a great way to meet members and Tuesday Night is a tradition at our club. Please mark it on your calendar and attend as many as you can!

**WE NEED YOU** to volunteer! We are accepting sign-ups for dinner – get a group of friends together and cook a meal for your fellow members. Please call 707.762.7041 to sign-up now!

---

## **MEN'S TOURNAMENT RESULT**

*By Christopher Gay*

Congratulations to Joe Stern who joins in May and then wins the Petaluma Stableford Tournament on June 18 with a score of +42 – way to go!!!

Congratulations to Mike Candau, John Candau, Steve O'Connor and Ron Fedrick who will represent Team Petaluma at the CourseCo Championship in Pullman, Washington.

We had a slurry of Hole-In-Ones on #6 - Congratulation to Mark Thomas #6 on 6/1/16, Wayne Guptill #15 on 6/1/16, Roy King #6 on 6/11/16, and Cecy Mullins #6 on 6/29/16.

Next Men's Tournament July 9<sup>th</sup> – Men's Medal. The Goat Hill (Member Guest Tournament) applications will be mailed next week!

# JULY FRIDAY NIGHT MIXER June 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm – 7:30pm!

By Christopher Gay



## July Friday Night Mixer!

July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016

5:30pm to 7:30pm

Sunset Bar, Appetizers, Live Music by Don Trotta and, of course, our infamous \$500 Drawing!

## Junior Sunset Lessons

New for 2016 – we will have Junior Golf Lessons available from 5:30pm to 6:15pm AND 6:15pm to 7:00pm. These lessons will be \$12 per child for each 45 minutes. Limit to 8 kids per class. Classes will be July through August! Call 762.1057 to reserve your spot.

# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Sunset Bar & Junior Lessons 5:30-7:00	2
3	4 July 4 <sup>th</sup> Couples Tournament	5 9-Hole Ladies 9:00am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	6 18-Hole Ladies 8:15am	7	8 Sunset Bar & Junior Lessons 5:30-7:00	9 Men's Club Tournament Party in Hall 6pm – 11pm
10 Last Day Men's Club NCGA Senior Two Ball Qualifier	11 Family Fun Night 6:00pm	12 9-Hole Ladies 9:00am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	13 18-Hole Ladies 8:15am	14 Away Game to Northwoods	15 Sunset Bar & Junior Lessons 5:30-7:00	16 Party in Hall 4pm – 10pm
17	18 Family Fun Night 6:00pm	19 9-Hole Ladies 9:00am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	20 18-Hole Ladies 8:15am <i>Board Meeting 6pm</i>	21	22 Sunset Bar & Junior Lessons 5:30-7:00	23
24	25 SIRS 7:00am-1:30pm	26 9-Hole Ladies 9:00am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	27 18-Hole Ladies 8:15am	28	29 2 Man Scramble	30 <i>POOL PARTY 11-2</i>
31	Family Fun Night 6:00pm				Friday Night Mixer 5:30pm – 7:30pm  Sunset Junior Lessons 5:30-7:00	



# AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Men's Club NCGA Net Amateur Qualifier Family Fun Night 6:00pm	2 9-Hole Ladies 9:00am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	3 18-Hole Ladies 8:15am	4	5 Sunset Bar & Junior Lessons 5:30-7:00	6 Men's Medal Tournament 8:30am
7	8 Family Fun Night 6:00pm	9 9-Hole Ladies 9:00am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	10 18-Hole Ladies 8:15am	11	12 Sunset Bar & Junior Lessons 5:30-7:00	13
14 3 Clubs and 1 Putter Tournament Last Day for Men's Club NCGA Net Amateur Qualifier	15 Outside Tournament 7:00am – 9:00am Outside Tournament 10:00am – 3:00pm Family Fun Night 6:00pm	16 9-Hole Ladies 9:00am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	17 18-Hole Ladies 8:15am <i>Board Meeting 6pm</i>	18	19 Sunset Bar & Junior Lessons 5:30-7:00	20
21 Parent Child Tournament	22 SIRS 7:00am-1:30pm Family Fun Night 6:00pm	23 9-Hole Ladies 9:00am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	24 18-Hole Ladies 8:15am	25	26 2 Man Scramble Friday Night Mixer 5:30pm – 7:30pm Sunset Junior Lessons 5:30-7:00	27
28	29 Family Fun Night 6:00pm	30 9-Hole Ladies 9:00am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	31 18-Hole Ladies 8:15am			