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# THE IMPROVED LIE

Petaluma Golf & Country Club, March 2017

## President's Report

*By Mike Candau*

For those of you who attended the annual meeting on March 2, thank you for attending. The board would also like to thank Harry Pearson, Roy and Sandy King for providing the dinner before the meeting.

Our pro did a good job of presenting the key issues, especially the new water system and how it will benefit us going forward. There was certainly a "trial and error" period which we the staff has navigated. The pictures he presented between September of 2015 and 2016 showed everyone the progress we are making.

You will be receiving bylaw change in the mail this month. Bylaws CANNOT be changed unless the membership approves. You will be asked to vote for/against these changes. Feel free to call us if you have

**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 Guptill

**Director**  
Timo Rivetti

**Director**  
Keith Brians

questions regarding them. There are about 5 and most of them are just updating antiquated verbiage. That said, a board member or Chris can answer any questions. One of the questions that came up was 5-somes. Larry Riis informed the membership that through past studies in conjunction with the NCGA- our course should be played in 3 hours and 55 minutes. Fivesomes are allowed as long as they play in the timeframe but the must check in as such. That also means that twosomes or singles do not have the right to play through a group unless the lead group waves them through. We would hope all members keep up the pace of play and allow group through as necessary, BUT it is not required. Also, players ARE NOT allowed to start on hole number 3 unless they check in. They cannot start on the third hole if a group has teed off #2.

Chris and Stevan will continue to stay on top those situations and others that arise. They are also getting ready for spring-golf lessons and kid's lessons are available. The kid's program will have a kickoff meeting on March 12. This PGCC privilege is available to grandchildren as well. This program which has several components is our best recruiting tool for new members. Feel free to invite non-members (with children) to the meeting.

Last year, the board approved 20 clubhouse memberships at \$500 (which included pool privileges) as a means to recruit new members. That membership did allow us to buy new pool furniture but did not result in any new members. It is highly unlikely we will renew that membership.

We have 11 on the resignation list and one of our goals for 2017 is to turn the tables and have a wait list to get INTO the club - that would be a first in 10 years. Since the course is improving, as well as the amenities and the food and beverage program, the board will try and make this a reality.

Of course, all of us as members would benefit from this, AND, all of us can make this happen. We are the best recruiters. Whether a retiree wants to join for the golf or a young family wants to join for the privacy and amenities, it is up to US to identify these prospective members. Chris and Steven would be happy to host them.

See you up the hill.

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## **WANT TO EARN A FREE MONTH OF DUES?**

*By Christopher Gay*

Our biggest recruitment tool is our current members! Please use the guest passes you received to bring prospective members to the club! For each new member you sponsor you receive a \$295 credit. After 6 month – your sponsored member also receives \$295. It is a WIN-WIN-WIN!

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## **COURTESY REMINDER**

*By: Larry Riis*

As we kick off a new golfing season, this is a good time to remind everyone of our golfing policy. Our goal is to make your playing experience great for you and for all the other golfers on the course

Check in with the staff even if you are walking the course by yourself. We might get a call for you and not know that you are on the course.

Always start on the first hole unless clearing it with the staff. If there is a group coming onto the 9th green, they have the right to tee off before you. Again, it is a courtesy issue, how would you feel if someone rushed out in front of you and kept you waiting. If you aren't sure they are going on, it never hurts to ask, they might even want you to go in front of them

When using carts, they are intended for 2 riders only. Occasionally it makes sense for 3 if you sit together to catch up to the group in front, but please don't jump on the back and go racing by the clubhouse. It sets bad example.

Our speed of play is based on a foursome walking. The time for 18 holes is a maximum of 3 hours and 55 minutes. This doesn't mean you can't play faster but it sets the expectation for anyone following a foursome.

However, the best rule of thumb is to keep pace with the group in front of you and to let a faster group go thru if you have a hole open in front of you. Letting someone play thru is not required if you are keeping pace, but think of how you feel when you are playing behind a slower group

Fivesomes are not allowed unless approved by the staff. The reason for this is that there are groups that can keep the pace of play and there are groups that cannot. Again, it is an issue of what makes it fun for all the groups on the course

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## **MEN'S TOURNAMENT REPORT**

*By Stevan Peters*

With the Medal Play canceled on February 4<sup>th</sup> our hardy band of golfers were determined to play the Gin Fizz on February 18<sup>th</sup> regardless of the conditions. With the course set up to make every hole a par 3, and a scramble format we were able to complete the round (albeit a 9 hole round) and crown the team of Jason Sullivan, John Stave, and Rick Mossi Gin Fizz champs with a 3 under par 24!

Next up was our March 4<sup>th</sup> Medal Play with a Stapleford format. Mike Johnson braved the fog and drizzle to card a blistering low (or high with the stapleford format) 39!

Our next event is the 2 man better ball scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>. With a dry forecast ahead we hope to have a good crowd!

## Men's Tournament Schedule 2017

Feb 4<sup>th</sup> - Medal Stapleford Scoring  
(cancelled due to weather)

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> - Gin Fizz  
(Converted to 9 hole 4 man scramble)

Mar 4<sup>th</sup> - Medal Stapleford Scoring

March 18<sup>th</sup> - 2 Man Better Ball

April 1<sup>st</sup> - Medal Stapleford Scoring

April 22<sup>nd</sup> - 1 Man Modified Scramble - 1  
redo before the green 1 on the green for each  
hole!

April 29/30 - Petaluma Golf and Country  
Club Strokeplay Championship

May + June - 2-man Match Play  
(1 week to set up match)

May 6<sup>th</sup> - Medal Stapleford Scoring

May 20<sup>th</sup> - 3 or 4 man Scramble

May 29<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day Couples  
Tournament

June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Vartnaw (Friday)  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Vartnaw

June 17<sup>th</sup> - Medal Strokeplay

June 24<sup>th</sup> - Old v Young

July + August - Singles Match play  
(1 week to set up match)

July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Couples Tournament

July 8<sup>th</sup> - Medal Strokeplay

July 22<sup>nd</sup> - Petaluma Golf and Country Club  
Open - Recruitment Cup (anyone can play if  
singled in by member pay entry fee only)

Aug 5<sup>th</sup> - Medal Strokeplay

Aug 12<sup>th</sup> - 3 clubs and a putter

Aug 26<sup>th</sup> - Parent Child

Sept 1<sup>st</sup> - Medal Strokeplay

Sept 9/10 - 1st Round Club Championship

Sept 16/17 - 2nd Round Club Championship

Sept 23/24 - Club Championship

Sept 28-30<sup>th</sup> - Goat Hill

October 1<sup>st</sup> - Medal Stapleford Scoring

October 13/14 Ryder Cup

November 4<sup>th</sup> - Medal Stapleford Scoring

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> - Bricks Extreme

Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> - Turkey Thanksgiving Trot!

December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Medal Stapleford Scoring

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# FAIRWAY AND GREEN'S REPORT

*By Harry Pearson*

Not much is going on other than trying to catch up on course maintenance following the record rains we've had. For this reason, I thought I'd re-submit my article that I wrote for the Annual Mtg. which was Thur. March 2nd. This way, those who weren't there can see what we did in 2016 and what we are planning for 2017.

I'll give a review of what we spent our CIDM money on in 2016, which, I also did in the Feb. issue of the 'Improved Lie' and I'll lay out our plans for 2017.

I would say that last year we had the highest amount of positive comments from members re: the condition of the course since I've been on the committee, (2009). Personally, I can't remember the course being in the consistently very good to excellent condition that it was in 2016. Thank you to Bill and his crew for their hard work and Scott, (V.P. of Agronomy/CourseCo and Chanaan, Head Supt./ Foxtail), for their invaluable assistance in developing a sound agronomy plan to address our weaknesses, while strengthening our strengths. Their collective efforts are proof positive. We expect even better results in 2017. Unfortunately, it costs money to change the agronomy culture for the improvement we are seeing. I hope that the positive changes we are seeing, gives us, the members, the satisfaction that our money is being used responsibly.

In 2016, we used our CIDM funds to purchase 120 sprinklers and install 108 of them to conclude our project that was started in the early 2000's of replacing them to a more efficient model. This totaled \$29,059.20 for sprinklers and installation by an outside contractor. This also completed the #2 suggestion from the irrigation architect. We spent \$28,631.10 on equipment leases, \$3,200 on cutting down 3 trees to the right of #5 green, \$1,750 on sod for the #8/17 tee renovation, \$600 in sand and approximately \$1,000 in landscaping. We went over budget by \$3,997.

For 2017, the board agreed to move three equipment leases total approximately \$22,748 from our CIDM budget into the general operating budget. This will allow us to use this money for our projects instead of paying for equipment leases. This provides a tremendous help for our committee. On behalf of the committee, I want to thank the board for making this adjustment to allow us the extra money for projects. Unfortunately, this was the reason that dues were raised \$20. Again, I hope the members understand the reason for the increase and know that we will use the money responsibly.

In 2017, we will spend \$8,041 on the remaining equipment lease. House and Grounds will also pay \$8,041 for this lease which will expire in early 2018. We plan to spend, \$8,000 on tree/stump removal, \$2,500 on an in house tee renovation, (to be determined), \$2,000 to seal asphalt cart paths (long needed), \$1,000 in drainage, \$2,000 for in house renovating of the left green side bunker and \$1,500 in landscaping. This adds up to \$25,000. We had also planned to add 3 or 4 sprinklers to each green which would allow for separating the irrigation of greens and surrounds. This was the fourth suggestion by the irrigation architect. Presently, we irrigate both greens and surrounds together, which is not efficient and a waste of water. It makes some areas around the greens too wet. During hot weather, we have to have someone hand water the greens in the afternoons, so they won't dry out. This wastes time and labor.

With our new computer system and by separating the sprinklers, we will be able to handle this task in a matter of minutes as opposed to an hour or two. However, the \$20,000 we initially set aside, appears not to be enough. We are getting new bids as this will have to be done with outside labor due to, not only installation of

the sprinklers but running the wire to the control boxes. Once we get the amount, the committee will revisit this project. We were hoping to rollover \$15,000 into next year to do a cart path. We will figure it out.

We welcome all suggestions, criticisms and comments. My email is [hp1852@yahoo.com](mailto:hp1852@yahoo.com).

Finally, I'd like to thank my committee; Keith Brians, Charly Freeman, Tom Isaak, Steve Lambert, Mark Nizibian, Larry Riis, Bill Maeder, Scott Wackowski, Chanaan Fasanello and Chris Gay for their time, ideas, dedication and support. I'd also like to give a special thanks to Bob Spurgeon who was a long time committee member and resigned from the committee last year.

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## **JUNIOR GOLF REPORT**

*By Michael Morgan*

As you may know, our Junior Program has attracted significant interest, participation and a number of new families for membership in the club. We have been busy planning improvements and exciting additions for the new, upcoming season.

Our 2017 Jr. Golf Committee has been appointed and includes parents Eric Poehlmann, Cindy Reeves and Eric Van Der Meer; returning are grandparents Scott Tucker and Mike Morgan. Chris and the committee have planned some attractive and necessary changes for 2017. For example, in addition to the existing PGA Jr. League for ages 8-13 and the traditional instructional camps and offerings, we will form a Jr. League team for ages '16 & Under'. We'll also facilitate access and entry to the already established North Bay League for juniors who wish to compete in this format and wider range of area courses. Additionally, we're planning weekly US Kids golf clinics and an opportunity for seasoned and skilled juniors to mentor younger participants.

To get the season started and everyone fully informed about the various instructional programs, competitive play and family activities, we have scheduled an informational meeting for all members (and any guests who might be interested) on Sunday, March 12 in the clubhouse at 4pm.

Chris will present plans and details and we'll all be available for questions. Please bring your current and prospective junior golfers as well as anyone you know who may have an interest. We'll provide munchies, drinks for kids and as always, adult drinks are available from the bar.

See you then!

Mike Morgan  
Jr. Golf Committee Chair

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## **EMAIL STATEMENTS!**

*By Christopher Gay*

Do you want to receive your statement electronically? Sign-up for email statements by emailing: [admin@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com](mailto:admin@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com). You will still receive all printed flyers and calendars with your emailed statement.

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# SWING TIPS

By Stevan Peters

Why you're terrible at putting (and how to fix it)

I know your secret. The one you've hidden through self-deprecation back handed 3 footers, talking to your playing partners while you putt, and chugging vodka tonics on the golf course like it's going out of style. You're afraid to putt. If that doesn't sound like you, if you think how could Stevan possibly know how terrible people are on the greens if he's not standing there watching, then by all means stop reading. Got your attention now? Good! The key to putting is practice (that's right Allen Iverson, I'm talking about practice). How do I know you can't putt? Because so few people actually practice their putting! They talk on their phone and one hand a few putts on the practice green, 5 minutes before their tee time to get the "feel" for the greens. There are two basic concepts to putting that must be in tune for a player to have success. The first is speed, the second is line. The most important is speed (how hard you hit your putts) and it is not the same thing as "feel" (which is a term I despise, ask me sometime why). Speed dictates what path (line) the ball will take on its way to the hole. More speed equals less break on a putt and less speed equals more break on a putt. Line is the path that we think will give the ball the best chance to go into the hole. Our goal when hitting putts is to start the ball on the line we have chosen. To practice each we must give ourselves measurable ways to improve. The drills I've detailed below are similar to the one's you'll see players on the PGA Tour using and all can be completed using a few tees.

To improve speed:

Ladder Drill.

Place 1 tee in the ground every 3 feet working backwards from the hole until you get to approximately 30 feet. Place a tee 17 inches behind the hole. From each station putt 3 balls with the stipulation that each ball must at least reach the hole and go no further than 17 inches past. If you hit a ball too hard or too soft start over! With practice you'll be able to finish this drill in about 15 minutes.

Putt to the edges

Place tees at 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 feet from the collar of the green. Putt 3 balls from each tee. Your goal is to have the ball stop where it is just barely touching the fringe.

To improve line:

Gate Drill (Simple)

Find a straight 5 foot putt and place 2 tees about 1 putter width apart. Place a ball in between and hit putts without hitting the tee's with your putter. This ensures that your impact position is square.

Gate Drill (Legend Status)

Find a straight 5 foot putt, place 2 tees 1 putter width apart. Place a ball between the 2 tees. Place 2 more tees 1 putter width apart approximately 5 inches behind the front tees. Place 2 tees on the edges of the holes (decreasing its diameter from 4.5 to 3.5 inches). Practice hitting putts without your putter hitting any of the tees going back and without your ball hitting the tees in front of the hole.

If you spend 15 minutes per day working on these simple drills you will improve your putting and have more fun when your putt matters.

If you have any questions on how to complete the above drills just ask me! Next month I'll tell you why you're terrible at chipping (and how to fix it)

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# ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

**March 17<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm Cocktails 6:00pm Dinner**

*By Stevan Peters*

Join us for some Irish merriment! Cocktails at 5:00pm, Dinner at 6:00pm and LIVE music at 6:30pm courtesy of the Greenhouse Celtic band! Call 707-762-1057 to sign up today!



The poster features a dark green background with a white border. At the top, two green shamrocks are positioned on either side of the main title. The title 'St. Patricks Day Dinner' is written in a bold, orange and white font. Below the title, a green ribbon banner contains the date 'Friday March 17th'. The main text is centered and includes the event details: 'Join us for some Irish merriment', 'Petaluma Golf and Country Club', '5:00pm Cocktails / 6:00pm Dinner', and '6:30pm Live Music Greenhouse Celtic'. At the bottom left, there is an illustration of a golden pot of gold overflowing with coins, surrounded by small shamrocks. To the right of the pot, the pricing information is listed: '\$28.00 ADULTS', '\$8.00 KIDS (11-17)', and 'KIDS 10 AND UNDER FREE'. At the bottom left of the poster, there is a small text box with the contact information: 'SIGN UP REQUIRED - CALL 707.762.1057'.

**St. Patricks Day  
Dinner**

**Friday March 17th**

Join us for some Irish merriment  
**Petaluma Golf and Country Club**

5:00pm Cocktails / 6:00pm Dinner

**6:30pm Live Music  
Greenhouse Celtic**

SIGN UP REQUIRED -  
CALL 707.762.1057

\$28.00  
ADULTS

\$8.00  
KIDS (11-17)

KIDS 10 AND  
UNDER FREE



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## PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

*By Christopher Gay*

2017 will be the biggest year ever for junior golf at PG&CC. At this time – we want to gather all emails from parents and children/grandchildren. We will develop a Junior specific newsletter and email tree so that all junior golfers and their parents know what is happening at the club.

Please send an email to [cgay@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com](mailto:cgay@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com) with the emails that you want me to register into our system.

We are currently seeking:

- Juniors 9-13 for our PGA Junior League
- Junior 14-16 for our PGA Junior League 16u

All of our information will be posted soon. We will have our annual Junior Meeting to discuss 2017 Programs on Sunday, March 12 at 3:00pm. See you there!

Thank you!

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## SOCIAL EVENTS!

*By Christopher Gay*

We have several social events planned for the next few months. Be sure to mark on your calendars...

March 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick Dinner – Time TBD Live music by GreenHouse Celtic

March 31<sup>st</sup> – Live Music by the Incubators *Held in the Hall 5:00pm to 7:00pm*

April 16<sup>th</sup> - Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt 10:00am

May 14<sup>th</sup> – Mother's Day Brunch – *A Brunch Affair - Mimosa, Muffins and Mary's 11:00am*

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## ANNUAL REPORT

*By Christopher Gay*

If you were not in attendance of the annual meeting please click here to read the 2016 Annual Report:

[http://www.petalumagolfandcountryclub.com/images/2016\\_annual\\_report.pdf](http://www.petalumagolfandcountryclub.com/images/2016_annual_report.pdf)

# MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Women's 18-Hole Group 8:15am	2 Annual Membership Meeting 5:30pm	3 Sunset Bar 5:00pm- 7:00pm	4 Men's Medal 8:30am Shotgun
5	6	7 9 Hole Women's Section 9:00am  <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	8 Women's 18-Hole Group 8:15am	9	10 Sunset Bar 5:00pm- 7:00pm	11
12 Junior Golf Program Meeting 3:00pm  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	13	14 9 Hole Women's Section 9:00am  <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	15 Women's 18-Hole Group 8:15am  Board of Directors Meeting 6:00pm	16	17 ST. Patrick Dinner LIVE MUSIC TIME: 6:00 Dinner	18 2-Man Better Ball 8:30am
19	20	21 9 Hole Women's Section 9:00am  <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	22 Women's 18-Hole Group 8:15am	23	24 Sunset Bar 5:00pm- 7:00pm	25 Event in the Hall 5:00pm to 10:00pm
26	27	28 9 Hole Women's Section 9:00am  <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	29 Women's 18-Hole Group 8:15am	30	31 Mixer Sunset Bar LIVE MUSIC 5:00pm- 7:00pm	

# April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Men's Stableford Hall Event 11am- 3pm
2	3 Outside Golf Event 9am-230pm	4 9 Hole Women's Section 9:00am  <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	5 Women's 18-Hole Group 8:15am	6	7 Sunset Bar 5:00pm- 7:00pm	8
9	10 Tentative Aeration-Course Closed	11 9 Hole Women's Section 9:00am  <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	12 Women's 18-Hole Group 8:15am	13	14 Sunset Bar 5:00pm- 7:00pm	15 Hall Event 5-7pm
16 Easter Brunch Time 10:00am  Egg Hunt 11:30am	17	18 9 Hole Women's Section 9:00am  <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	19 Women's 18-Hole Group 8:15am  Board of Directors Meeting 6:00pm	20	21 Sunset Bar 5:00pm- 7:00pm	22 Men's 1 Man Scramble
23	24	25 9 Hole Women's Section 9:00am  <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	26 Women's 18-Hole Group 8:15am	27	28 Mixer 5:00pm- 7:00pm	29 Men's Stroke Play Championship