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THE IMPROVED LIE

Petaluma Golf & Country Club, March 2019



President's Message

By Mike Johnson

Good News/Bad News: It's been raining cats and dogs. We have been saving tons on our water bill, but the savings has not covered the lost revenue due to the lack of play (cart rentals, bar, merchandise). All the wet weather is great for the long term, but hurting us on the bottom line. I got the chance to play the last Sunday of February and the greens were terrific! The long range forecast looks good for the 2nd week of March. Keep your fingers crossed.

Our 2nd employee of the month award went to Alvaro Hernandez. He has been a long time employee on the grounds crew. Please help me wish him congratulations when you see him out on the course. He always wears a broad brimmed hard hat. Very nice to see you recognized for ALL of your hard work Alvaro!

The tournament schedule was finalized this past month and I am very excited about it. Our new pro Jeff Hwang has done an excellent job so far and I am really looking forward to all of the new events he has on the schedule. Remember to sign up IN ADVANCE! It costs the club more money when folks sign up last minute. Meg has had to run to Safeway for more food at some of the events because too many people signed up last minute. Common courtesy dictates RSVP in advance.

The board will be discussing going to all electronic correspondence at the next meeting. The cost of mailing, printing and stuffing envelopes has become prohibitive. Last year we spent \$3,637 on postage, \$2,065 on printing and many hours assembling/stuffing envelopes which also added to our labor costs. Now is the time to go ALL digital and send everything via email. If you disagree with this concept, show up to the Board meeting on 3/20 and tell us why.

The number of Hall bookings is up for 2019. Please consider your club as an option to hold your party (birthday, retirement, engagement, shower, graduation, etc.) I have spoken with several members who have had events up at the club this past year and they couldn't be happier with the service, venue or the food. Speak to Travis to go over the details and check for availability. I personally have had a birthday party, graduation party and an engagement party and just booked another birthday party for next year. It is a great member value that you should explore if you have not yet done so.

At the February board meeting, we approved a \$15 dues increase to begin 4/1/19. This increase should cover all of the increases in our Direct TV, PG & E, water, wages, etc. since our last dues increase 2 years ago. After a lot of pencil sharpening, the BOD approved a balanced budget for 2019. This was after 3 months of negotiating and full filling our fiduciary responsibility to the club. It takes a lot of people to run this million dollar operation properly. As always, your comments are welcomed and appreciated and everyone is encouraged to attend our board meetings. Open session for member comments is at the beginning of every board meeting which occurs the 3rd Wednesday of every month in the Main Hall.

The food minimum was also raised \$25 per quarter starting 4/1/19. For those of you that don't know what that means, please let me explain. Every member is required to purchase \$50 worth of food per quarter. This helps stabilize and improve the quality of the food that Meg puts out Thursday-Sunday. The sunset appetizers purchased on Friday nights also counts toward the minimum. The menu was just updated and I highly recommend ANY of Meg's specials that she occasionally has. Please come up and have lunch and see for yourself.

As always, we highly value member participation on the various committees. Please speak to Travis regarding the many openings if you are interested. I know there are openings on the Social Committee headed by Wayne Guptil. I look forward to great things from this committee in 2019!

Fairways and Greens,

Mike Johnson
docjohnswick@hotmail.com

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PG&CC History – Part 10

By Keith Brians

This is a part of a series of articles about the club's history. Information about the club's early years is derived 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. Most of 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.

Play Continues - 6

Forty Petaluma players traveled to Vallejo on Sunday, March 17, 1929, for a home-and-home match. A drizzly day led to a sound beating by the Vallejo team, but they were consoled by lunch in the club house followed by bridge in the afternoon. Next up was the first round of the 1929 County Championship in Healdsburg on Sunday, April 7. Petaluma got off to a good start in the three-way tournament finishing with a 10 stroke lead. The low gross score was 81 by Santa Rosa's Warren Richardson followed by Petaluma's Emmett Olmsted Jr.'s 82. The second round played the following week-end at Santa Rosa resulted in a narrow 3 stroke victory by Santa Rosa over Petaluma and 53 strokes over Healdsburg. The Santa Rosa team shot a total 699 to Petaluma's 702 and Healdsburg's 751. Gus Lee of Santa Rosa was the low scorer at 79 and Emmett Olmsted Jr. was the low man again for Petaluma with an 83. The third and final round was held on Sunday, April 29, at Petaluma Golf and Country Club. With excellent course conditions, the Petaluma team out played Santa Rosa by 9 strokes and Healdsburg by 76. Eric Nissen was Petaluma's low man with a 79. Low man for the third round was Santa Rosa's top player, Gus Lee, with a 79. Petaluma's Emmett Olmsted Jr., was the team's low man over the three rounds averaging 82 and earned a new set of irons donated by Dolph Hill. With a three round total of 2,076, Petaluma won the tournament's McNamara Cup by 9 strokes over Santa Rosa and 147 strokes over Healdsburg. Dr. Thomas Maclay, hosted the County Cup team with a round of golf and dinner at the Meadow Club on Thursday, May 2. The ladies team composed of Mesdames Stone, Hart, Kraus, Reed, Camm and Hyde and Misses Roberts and Ella Cavanaugh, was also active traveling, beating the Healdsburg ladies at Healdsburg on May 2. On Thursday, May 9, the ladies team hosted and beat Santa Rosa's team in the morning and as gracious hosts, served lunch after at the club.

Qualifying for the club championship was held on Sunday, May 19. Increasing interest in golf brought out the strongest field to date. Thirty-two golfers teed up to qualify for 16 slots, and all of the 16 qualifiers scored under 90 with Eric Nissen, the 1928 club champion, leading with a 75. One of the highlights of the round was E.A. Eyman's hole-in-one, the first on the 210 yard second hole (now the 4th). The first upset came when Jack Nissen defeated his brother Eric Nissen 1 up. William H. Thomas and Emmett Olmsted Jr. met in the finals on Sunday, June 23. After shooting 74 for the first 18 holes, Thomas was 3 up and went 4 up on the second hole of the second 18. Olmsted then mounted a charge winning the 3rd, 4th and 5th with pars to get back to one

down. Thomas responded by winning the 7th and 9th holes putting Olmsted 3 down again. After three halved holes, Thomas won 31st and 32nd holes to win 5 and 4.

Two caddies, Charles Good and Walt Rossi, were also making news, playing in the qualifying round of the Call newspaper's junior golf tournament in San Francisco. Hotel accommodations at the Golden State Hotel were arranged for them by the Petaluma Argus-Courier. Good qualified for the championship flight, shooting a 71 on the Lincoln Park course. He was paired in his first match against Edgar Lidnar of San Francisco, who had shot 69 in qualifying round, and lost 3 and 2. Good was however consoled by two trophies, one for the lowest gross score for an out of town contestant and the other for the youngest player to qualify for the championship flight. Walt Rossi, who had shot a 74 in the qualifying round and ended up in the third flight lost 7 and 6 in his first match. Good later joined the Army and won the 184th Infantry Golf Championship at the Moro Beach golf course, breaking the course record with a 39.

On Sunday, August 25, H.C. Scrutton, Petaluma's first club champion in 1925, played at the Meadow Club in the finals of the first Marin County Championship against George Ritchie, member of the Olympic and Belvedere clubs and known as being one of the Bay Area's best golfers. Scrutton made it a real contest, forcing play to the 38th hole after being three down with to five to go. Winning the 33rd, 34th, and 35th to tie the match, Scrutton nearly holed a long putt to win on the 36th, evening the match only to lose on the 38th hole.

The club started its winter social season with a dinner dance on Thursday, September 26. The event attracted a large crowd of members and out-of-town guests. The hall was beautifully decorated with displays of fall flowers including gladiolas and asters. Music was provided by the Le Roy Jewett orchestra. This was the first of a series of events planned for the winter season.

More than thirty-five members attended the annual meeting and supper Wednesday, November 14. Greens committee chairman Eric Nissen urged construction of grass tees and watering the approaches to the greens during summer months. Club captain Jack Cavanagh reported the most successful tournament season to date. During the supper and business meeting, George P. McNear, Thomas Maclay and Harry Benton spoke to other topics of interest to the membership.

The Blackburn Cup qualifying round, held on Sunday, November 17, set a new record for tournament entries. Thirty-nine players turned out shooting for one of 16 slots available in the first round of the match play event. George Burbank led the qualifiers with a net score of 65. The finals were played January 5, 1930 between Mayor "Bill" Farrell and George Burbank. Playing through a hail storm and rain, Mayor Bill had a 39 and two 40's to win 5 up with 4 to play.



Fairways and Greens Report

By Harry Pearson

The Greens Committee met in February. We hadn't had a meeting since November, as not much was going on in December or January, except a lot of rain. The course is holding up fairly well and has provided us with good intel on what areas we need to address in regards to more drainage work, like the incline that rises from the lower flat area below the tee of the 3rd hole, up to the upper flat area of the fairway. Of course there are other areas, like on #1, #5, & #9, where additional drainage would be helpful. We will assess these areas as well.

In my December Green's Article and January's President's Msg. for the 'Improved Lie' I discussed adding an Assist. Supt. to help Bill. This turned out to be cost prohibitive at this time, so we recommended to the board to bring the Fairway's Crew back to its' full strength number that we had a few years ago until a couple of our people

left to return home. Full strength is; our Head Supt., 4 full time crew members, a full time mechanic who goes out into the field when not working on equipment and during the summer, a couple of part time 'waterers'. We've been running with 3 full time crew members the last couple of years.

The Board approved the Greens Committee's recommendation to add another full time crew member beginning April 1st. CourseCo will post the position.

In December's issue of the 'Improved Lie', I explained about CIDM. We were able to save \$34,376 from 2018 and roll it over into 2019. This will be added to the approximate \$5,300 we receive each month from CIDM. We plan to do the following projects this year: \$10,000 in tree removal, (contracted out); \$2,000 in bunker renovations, (in-house); \$2,500 in tee renovations, (in-house)- tentatively schedule is moving the Women's #16 tee box; \$1,500 in landscaping; \$2,000 in drainage; \$2,500 for new sprinklers for a total of \$20,500.

We will be getting bids to do 2 plans for concreting the remaining asphalt cart paths. One plan will be for continuing and rerouting #7 along with a new turnaround on #8 and running the path to where it bisects with the #9 cart path. The other plan will be to do a new turnaround on #9 and concreting #9 tying it into the concreted path by the 10th tee. Each one of these projects will be costly and if we are able to do one, it will be done in late October.

Also, we have decided to put time lines on our projects with a beginning and end date. We don't want to have situations like the bunker on #6 which has been unfinished for some time and probably won't be finished until sometime in late March. The weather certainly isn't helping but we shouldn't have started it unless we were going to finish it in a timely manner. My apologies.

In the meantime, in between when the crew has opportunities to mow the course, they will be adding a drain line to #5, repairing the steps behind the clubhouse and on #14, spraying weeds when there will be some dry weather, some landscaping and working on bunkers when it's possible.

A suggestion was made to make the road along #3/12 out of bounds or a penalty area. With the new rules, on an out of bounds, you could re tee, hitting 3, you could go to where the ball crossed the O.B. line and bring the ball back to the closest point of the fairway, no nearer the hole, and drop it from the knee height, within 2 club lengths and you would be hitting 4. If it was a penalty area, you can play it as it lies at no penalty and now, actually ground your club, (except in a bunker), or do the same as what you would do for O.B., except you would be hitting 3 instead of 4.

Or we can just leave things the way they are and if you can't find it, you can invoke the new rule, by bringing it back to the fairway at an agreed upon point with your playing partners, hitting 4. Clear as mud? Let me know what you think.

When we finally get back to golf, I'm guessing it will be 'Cart Path Only' for a while. Please abide by this. I can be contacted at hp1852@yahoo.com

18-Hole Women's Section

By Eileen Ostroff



Pictured above: Eileen Ostroff, Sue Berger, Claudia Little, Lois Skarsten, Kelly Downey, Joan Johnson, Ruth Giacomini, Sandy King

March 6th begins our golfing year with our Kick Off. Due to course conditions we will be having a Rules Seminar, beginning at 10 AM, followed by lunch at noon. I'm certain we'll be drying out soon!

Don't forget that , as the season progresses, we will be teeing off at 8:30.

There are lots of changes being discussed in the Women's Section, as well as the golf club as a whole. We hope to keep you posted as these are solidified.

April Open Days: Half Moon Bay 4/9 Richmond 4/9 Berkley 4/11 Cold Springs 4/15 Peninsula 4/18 Woodbridge 4/18 El Macero His N Hers 4/25 Elkhorn 4/30. Moving into May Palo Alto Hills 5/2 Sequoyah 5/7 **Lake of the Pines** 5/8 Auburn Valley 5/9 Tierra Oaks 5/21 Yolo Fliers 5/21 Riverview 5/22 Pajaro Valley 5/28 Kings River 5/30 Serrano 5/30

Look for further information coming to you via TeamSnap.

Junior Golf

By Mike Morgan

Our new Golf Professional and Juniors "Cheerleader", Jeff Hwang is introducing new and exciting additions for the 2019 Junior Program. His summary information packet is available for distribution now; printed copies will be available at the Annual Member Dinner on Thursday, March 7 and the Program Orientation on Sunday, March 17.

With his 'focus on golf fun', Jeff brings innovative ideas to our already successful program from his 20+ years of teaching experience. New this year will be a Junior Club featuring twice weekly clinics for specific skills training, a golf beginners teaching system called SNAG, and an all-inclusive format for the Junior Club Championship at season end. Teaching programs have been designed in a flexible format for families and juniors. Our PGA Junior League and North Bay League competitive teams will continue.

Jeff will also host the annual Junior Program Orientation and Sign Up, this year scheduled on Sunday, March 17 from 1-3 pm. As in previous years, the event will provide program details and time for questions from parents and juniors. This year, a fun highlight of Orientation will be the active demonstration of our newly acquired teaching system SNAG, to be featured in all the summer weeklong golf camps.

Please plan to attend the March 17 meeting or stop by the club before for the 2019 Program Information Packet.

Mike Morgan

Men's Tournaments

By Alan Brownlie & Larry Riis

This year we will have a new format for men's events and a new category of tournaments called Club events.

For men's events, we will add on to what Nick Smith and Mark Thomas started with the Sleep City Cup by including more events. All a member has to do is play in events to qualify for season ending prizes. There is a small one-time fee of \$25 and all money will be spread out at the end of the season. The winner of the point's event will also be honored on The Sleep City Cup, won last year by Loren Warburg. We hope all the active men golfers will enjoy the friendly competition. Thanks to Nick for getting the Saturday sweeps going and for his ongoing involvement in promoting the new format. Also, thanks to Ross Leask for agreeing to help Jeff and Travis organize the monthly event. Please check out the schedule posted by Jeff.

The new category of Club events is designed to give all members; men, women and juniors, the opportunity to meet and play with other members. We will have 4 events this year, starting with a 2 person, blind draw. All members are encouraged to sign up to make these events more fun. In August, we will also play the net club championship under this format. There will be a men's, women's and juniors division with full handicaps, so no matter what your handicap is, you will have a chance to win. A special thanks goes to Brenda, Harry and Nick for working on this concept and for setting up the schedule of events with Jeff.

One last thing, your participation is what makes our club better. Please come up and play.

See you on the tee.

Socials

MARCH 8: Movie Night: Incredibles. Special Menu will be available starting at 5:00. Movie starts at 6:00pm

MARCH 16: St. Patrick's Dinner. 5:00 – 8:00pm

MARCH 17: Intro to the PGCC 2019 Jr. Program 1:00-3:00

MARCH 29: Spring Fling Member Social! 5:30pm to 7:30pm. With special menu.

APRIL 12: Movie Night: Ralph Breaks the Internet. Special Menu will be available at 5pm. Movie starts at 6pm

APRIL 21: Easter Brunch 11:00am

APRIL 26: Member Social 5:30pm to 7:30pm. With special menu.

PETALUMA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



THE INCREDIBLES

MOVIE NIGHT

MARCH 8 | STARTS AT 6:00PM

SPECIAL GUESTS: 5:00-6:00PM

SPECIAL MENU WILL BE AVAILABLE STARTING AT 5:00PM

st. patrick's day **DINNER**

Petaluma Golf & Country Club invites you
to join us for some Irish Merriment!



SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH

COCKTAILS AT 5PM | DINNER AT 6PM


Live
Irish Music

ADULTS: **\$32**

Kids under 10 eat free

1500 Country Club Dr, Petaluma, CA 94952 | (707) 762-7041 | petalumagolfandcountryclub.com

MARCH 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
					Event in the Hall 5:00 – 9:00 Sponsoring Member Phoebe Ellis	Men's Medal 8:30 Shotgun Event in the Hall 5:00 – 10:00 Sponsoring Member Eric Muran
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
	SIRS Event 8:30am Shotgun	Men's Twilight Dinner		Membership Annual Meeting 6:30pm	Movie Night: Incredibles 5:00-8:00pm  THE INCREDIBLES MOVIE NIGHT MARCH 8 STARTS AT 6:00PM	Event in the Hall 6:00 – 10:00 Sponsoring Member Benedetti
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
						Men's 2-Man 8:30am Shotgun St. Patrick's Day Dinner 5:00 Cocktails 6:00 Dinner 
		Men's Twilight Dinner	House and Grounds Meeting 5:30pm		Happy Hour 5:00pm- 7:00pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Intro to the PGCC 2019 Jr. Program 1:00-3:00	Event in the Hall 5:00 – 9:00 Sponsoring Member Weitzenberg	Men's Twilight Dinner	Greens and Fairways Meeting 5:00pm Board Meeting 6:00pm		Happy Hour 5:00pm- 7:00pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	PSIRS Event 9:00am Shotgun	Men's Twilight Dinner			Spring Fling Social Mixer 5:30 – 7:30pm	Egg Cup 1:30 Tee Times Petaluma HS vs Casa Grande vs St. Vincent