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THE IMPROVED LIE

Quarterly Newsletter – 2021 Spring Edition: April / May / June



President's Message

By Jon Banister

Greetings all!

What a ride we have had so far this year. As this edition of the Improved Lie goes to press, we are enjoying great weather and amazing conditions out on the golf course. Now that Sonoma County has moved into the orange tier, we are starting to see what looks like normalcy. We are now using the outside patio area for food and drinks and will continue to open more

services as the County allows.

Men's, Women's and all club competition have started back up after almost a full year of hiatus. We are looking forward to another great year of fun and games. We look forward to seeing you out there.

Travis and the entire CourseCo team have worked diligently at keeping us safe and I appreciate their effort. They will continue to monitor the situation and are doing their best to communicate changes as they occur. Please read the weekly emails as they can hold important information on changes as they happen. Additionally, we have some new faces around the clubhouse, so next time you are at the club be sure to say hello.

On a personal note, I would like to point out how hard your elected Board Members are working for you, the membership, in all aspects of the operations. Be it addressing long term financial security, golf course playability, food and beverage service or a litany of other issues that come up day after day. They continue to put the wellbeing

**2021 PG&CC
Board of
Directors**

President
Jon Banister

Vice President
Brenda Roberts

Treasurer
Kelsey Hatcher

Secretary
McKenzie Smith

Director
Harry Pearson

Director
Alan Brownlie

Director
Richard Marzo

Director
Tony Parmisano

Director
Brenda Roberts

of the entire membership at the top of the decision making process. So, if you get a chance to see a Board Member on the golf course, take the time to thank them for all they do.

Thank you,
Jon Banister



Fairways and Greens Report

By Harry Pearson

2021 is here and things are getting better. We had our first Zoom Greens mtg. of the year in

March. Not much is going on right now except that the course is in very good shape for this time of year, so I thought I would answer the below three questions that I have received recently

from some members.

1. Why are we putting off the aeration that was scheduled for Monday March 22nd? Initially we scheduled the aeration for April 19th. However, because of the lack of rain, our Head Supt. Bill Maeder was concerned that the greens were starting to get too compacted. He felt if we waited until April we would be too far behind and may never get them into good condition at all. That's why he recommended moving the aeration date up. Fortunately, we did receive some rain before the alternately scheduled aeration date of March 22nd. Then because of the water in the greens, the concern became that the plugs we extract would break apart and not come out whole. Last year we started using the large tines for Spring & Fall aerations because our greens respond better to them over the smaller tines. The larger holes allow more sand to promote more oxygen and better drainage. So now the aeration date is back to April 19th.

2. Why are we skinning the trees instead of taking them all the way down? Our Pine trees are between 70-90 yrs old. They're dying and we have a lot of them. In years past we have budgeted \$10,000 per year to take the trees down. Our tree company charges \$2,600 per visit and when taking the tree to the stump, usually can remove 2 per visit. Depending on the location and difficulties, it may be only one tree. This year we have budgeted \$20,000 for tree removal in an effort to catch up and keep pace. We have come to an agreement with the tree co. that we will have them come out one day per month @ \$2,400 per visit for at least 6 months. They in turn will send out a crew and one half and strip the trees. This will allow them to at least do 3 or 4 per visit. In locations where we need them to remove stumps, we will pay them \$75 per stump. Our crew will then take down the stripped trees when they have the time.

3. When will the #9 cart path be done? We had a price and date for last Fall to finish this project which started about 20yrs. ago. But as we all know too well, life got in the way. We are anticipating doing #9 along with areas that need repairing this Fall.

Tournaments have been given the 'green light', so I thought I'd refresh everyone's memory regarding 2 Local Rules we adopted in 2018 and one we adopted in 2019.

In April of 2018 we added an additional 4 sprinkler heads around the greens. This doubled the number of heads that were around the greens and gave us the abilities to irrigate the greens and surrounds separately. In August of 2018, Chris Gay, who was then our Head Pro/GM suggested we make a Local Rule that stated:

‘Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 24-2. In addition, if a ball lies in a CLOSELY MOWN AREA and an immovable obstruction on or within two club lengths of the putting green and within two club lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may take relief as follows; The ball must be lifted and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green.

THIS MEANS: that if you are in the rough and even if a sprinkler head is in your line to the hole and you want to putt it, YOU DO NOT GET RELIEF. You have to be in a ‘closely mown area’ such as a fringe or apron area.

The Committee has rescinded the other Local Rule we made in 2018 which was to get free relief from any tree , whether staked or not, that had fresh wood chips around that tree. Free relief under Rule 16.1-No Play Zone will be given for trees that are staked or have a black ribbed sleeve around them.

THIS MEANS: that if you are underneath a tree that has wood chips around its’ trunk but doesn’t have a stake attached to it or a black ribbed sleeve around the trunk, NO RELIEF. Play it as it lies.

THIS LOCAL RULE WILL TAKE EFFECT ON APRIL 15th, 2021.

Travis will send out this info in email blasts and it will be announced or written out and provided to tournament players by Patrick or Travis.

Just a reminder regarding the ‘Stroke & Distance Rule’ that took effect on 01/01/19, regarding a ‘Lost Ball or ‘Ball Out of Bounds/O.B.

In addition to the options of playing a ‘Provisional Ball’ or going back to the location of the original stroke, you can also play it as follows:

- (a). Determine where the ball went O.B. or where the ball is likely to be lost;
- (b). Find the nearest fairway edge, no closer to the hole;
- (c). Drop the ball from the knee within 2 club lengths of the nearest fairway edge, no nearer the hole at a 2 stroke penalty.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

As you know we close the course down on Monday mornings for maintenance. In an effort to help the ‘maintenance crew’ out, on Monday April 12th we are asking members and if they can, their families, to come to a ‘work day’. Bring your gardening tools. We will be helping with ‘cleanup projects’ such as the stairs, the flower areas around the 9th green, driving range and other areas that Bill and his crew can use the help with.

The hours will be: 10-noon and we will have someone on the bbq flipping some burgers for us when we’re done.

Besides all of the above, please replace divots and fix ball marks. Remember we have the ‘Memorial Tree’ Program which honors loved ones. Thank you to Conor and Jerry Thompson and Mike Candau for their recent donations to the program.



PG&CC History – Part 20

By Keith Brians

Play Continues 18

The 1938 season opened on Sunday, February 6, with the qualifying round for the club championship. Early favorites were Jim Crase who had a 73 for the low gross, former caddie and an 8 handicap Walt Rossi and the current champion, Frank Studdert, Jr., with a 5 handicap. All three advanced to the semi-finals. Rossi beat Roy Saunders, 2 and 1. Crase played well to beat Carl Ruff 7 and 5. Studdert's opponent Miles Murphy defaulted advancing Studdert to the semi-finals. In the semis, Studdert beat Crase 4 and 3 while Rossi defeated former club champion William Sorensen 7 and 5. On Sunday, February 27 Rossi and Studdert drew a large crowd for their championship match. After 28 holes, Studdert was 2 up. Rossi won the 29th, then the 31st to flat the match. On the 32nd, Rossi birdied after an approach shot to 20" of the cup to go one-up. Studdert brought the match back to even on the 33rd with a par four. Rossi held on and won on the 37th hole with a par.

On Wednesday, May 4, Mrs. Sue Hart defeated Mrs. Carl Behrens 3 and 1 to extend her reign as the women's club champion for the second consecutive year. Mrs. Hart had won the H. C. Scrutton women's championship cup four times previously and has been in the finals six times.

The spring barbeque was held on Sunday, May 9. Acclaimed barbeque master Gene Pedranti grilled lamb and spareribs accompanied by potato salad with crab. Valenti Mattei assisted in serving and club championship runner up, Frank Studdert Jr., did the carving. After lunch, the 16 qualifiers in the Maclay tournament were sold in a Calcutta auction generating a \$240 prize pool.

Harry Borg joined the club as the "pro" in September. The 33 year-old brought 15 years of experience and a high degree of enthusiasm. Borg committed to improving the facilities with club storage and a larger inventory of clubs and golf supplies. By October, Borg's improvements and attitude contributed to increased activity and participation at the club. Borg also demonstrated his golfing skills by winning the annual North Bay club pros' tournament with an even par 72 at the Sonoma Golf course on Monday, October 17.

Several hundred fans were anticipated for the finals of the Blackburn cup tournament featuring Jim Crase and Frank Greene on Sunday, October 23. New pro Harry Borg arranged for sandwiches and other treats for the crowd. Then came the rain, driving off even the most of the fans, but the play went on. In the morning round, Crase shot 75, Greene 76. While the players dried out and fueled up for the afternoon round, Borg served lunch to those hardy souls who had stayed to watch the contest. The rain broke for a bit at the start of the afternoon round, but returned midway through play. By the 27th hole, Crase led Greene 3 up. The struggle went on until Crase won 4 and 3 halving the 33rd hole.

The club held its formal fall dinner dance Saturday, October 29. The event was reported as the highlight of the fall season and one of the most successful affairs sponsored by the club. Jack-o'-lanterns and chrysanthemums were featured decorations for the Halloween-themed event. Dinner was served at 7:00 p.m. and dancing to Mel Hein's orchestra followed.

The club fell victim to stupid, senseless vandals who drove cars around in circles on three of the greens during the night of Saturday, November 5, doing significant damage.

December brought the club's first mixed-foursome championship tournament. Miss Gladys Roberts and Walter Rossi faced off against past women's club champion Miss Francis Bassett and Lyman Hopkins. The match was even after nine holes. Rossi and Roberts prevailed on the back nine and won the match 4 and 2.

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



2020 Most Improved Golfer (Claudia Little)

We elected to have the **Board of Directors** "roll over" into 2021 with a few exceptions

Captain: Claudia Little

Co-Captain: Gayle Sarlatte

Treasurer: Joan Johnson

Tournaments: Lois Skarsten & Dea Steigner

Handicap & Rules: Diane Tucker

Past Captain / WGANC Ambassador: Brenda Roberts

Open Days / Communications: Eileen Ostroff

??Lunch Reservations??: Laurie Leask

Egg Basket: Gayle Sarlatte

Sadie Hawkins: Claudia Little & Virginia Silacci (again!)

Thank you so much for your service

We Had our Kick Off and have started on our golf season. Remembering back to past years. Playing in the rain and fog, one could not ask for better golf weather. PS, I MUCH prefer this.

The WGANC has been busy on our behalf. To adhere to Covid restrictions they have a modified the Open Day schedule. . No shotgun starts and a limited number of participating clubs. The clubs that are exempt this year, ours included, will have an Open Day scheduled next year.

Remember to sign up on TeamSnap, not on TeamSnap, contact Claudia Little littleirvinec@gmail.com

For Wednesday golf sign up by noon on Monday.

For Saturday golf sign up by noon Thursday.

We are hoping to be able to schedule lunches on the premises soon.

Upcoming games for Wednesday

April 7 Best 9 (guest day)

April 14 Laurie's Tournament

April 21 Tees and Fairways

April 28 Criers

May 5 9 Hole Ecc (guest day)

May 12 Musser Point Par

May 19 Putts

May 26 Flag Day

June 2 3 Blind Mice (guest day)

June 9 Ostroff Ecc (1/3 weeks)

June 16 Ostroff Ecc (2/3 weeks)

June 23 Ostroff Ecc (3/3 weeks)

June 30 Cha, Cha, Cha

Upcoming games for Saturday

April 3 9 Hole Ecc

April 10 Best 9

April 17 Beauty and the Beast

April 24 Tees and Fairways

May 1 Criers

May 8 9 Hole Ecc

May 15 Mutt and Jeff

May 22 Putts

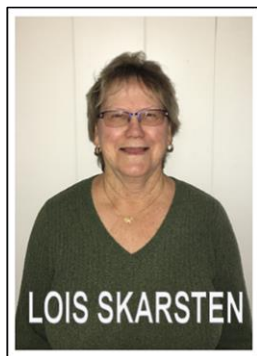
May 29 Flag Day

June 5 3 Blind Mice

June 12 3 Week Ecc (1/3)

June 19 3 Week Ecc (2/3)

June 26 3 Week Ecc (3/3)



9-Hole Petaluma Chicks

By Lois Skarsten

We are now in our second month of golf without our shot gun starts. Hopefully by the middle of this month we will be in the Orange tier and get back to regular tournaments. We also have been unable to have our once a month potluck lunches.

We have gained several new players to our group this season. Come out and join us on the links.

Men's Tournaments

By Nick Smith

April Medal Results (April 3rd):

NET Top 3

1 - Andy Schroeder – 66

T2 - John Ryan – 69 (Won Tie Breaker with NET 32 on Back 9)

T2 - Jason Sullivan – 69 (Won Tie Breaker with NET 35 on Back 9)

T2 - Robert Deering - 69

Top Gross - Jason Sullivan – 72

NEXT TOURNAMENT – One Person Scramble on Saturday April 17th



Junior Golf

By Diane R. Tucker

It's April, and this year the 2021 Junior Golf Season is beginning! As you'll remember, COVID 19 restrictions had hit hard last year at this time, and our Petaluma Golf & Country Club was completely closed--no golf play at all. But now it's a new year, COVID 19 restrictions are finally relaxing somewhat, and activities we have enjoyed in the past are beginning to re-emerge. Many kids are rediscovering sports like baseball, but because of our PGCC Junior Golf program, the juniors are also returning to golf.

During the pandemic, playing golf was one of the very few sports activities that our kids were able to access and play, and our PGCC junior golf program grew and kept these juniors interested and active. This year some kids are even choosing golf over other sports. It's important that we continue to provide a quality junior golf program to keep the juniors interested, challenged, and developing their golf skills. Our new PGA Professional, Patrick Steiner, will oversee our newly enhanced 2021 Junior Golf Program, which is summarized below.

Our 2021 PGCC Junior Golf Program launched on March 25th with a Zoom Webinar Orientation presented by our new Golf Pro, Patrick Steiner. There was a very good response to the Orientation, with a mix of returning and new juniors signing up. There are programs for all levels of junior golfers, from ages 6 to 17 yrs. of age. For those who missed the Orientation but are interested in enrolling your junior(s) in one or more of the junior golf programs offered, there is a pamphlet available to email or in hardcopy at the PGCC Pro's office that describes in detail each of the programs offered within our overall PGCC Junior Golf Program. **Deadline for League sign-ups is April 17th**, so please contact Patrick before then to enroll your junior.

Below is a summary of 2021 junior golf programs being offered:

- **Summer Camps:** For Beginning junior golfers, combines fun with introduction to basic golf skills, social interaction, and physical exercise—3 Camps are offered on either June 15-17; July 13-15; August 3-5.
- **Junior Practice Team:** For juniors with no competitive experience, will practice with competitive team players, are eligible for play and practice days, and any programming created for League teams.
- **Group and Private Lessons:** Contact [PGA Pro, Patrick Steiner](#), phone (707)239-8217 or email at psteiner@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com.

- **Junior Golf Clinics:** Offered weekly for League and Practice Teams, focusing on different aspects of golf each session.
- **PGA Junior League 13u** (Ages 9-13): For Intermediate junior golfers who have exhibited basic golf skills and may have some team competition experience. Involves team play in a PGA national junior program, with All-Star post-season play for those who qualify. (See pamphlet referenced above for detailed description.) Competitive League play begins in either late May or early June. Teams to play are: Windsor GC, Santa Rosa CC, Fountaingrove CC 1 & 2, and Mayacama GC. Detailed schedule to be determined.
- **North Bay Junior Golf League** (Ages 14-17, currently enrolled in Jr. High or High School): For advanced junior golfers, requires try-out to qualify for PGCC Team. Involves season Team Play competitive matches using 18-hole, individual stroke play format for best 4 out of 6 team scores. Culminates in end of season Team Championship play, followed by Individual Match Play Tournament for Individual Championship (bracketed). Team play begins June 7th @ Santa Rosa G&CC; then June 23rd @ Windsor GC; June 28th @ Fountaingrove GC; July 15th @ Bennett Valley GC; July 19th @ Home Petaluma G&CC; and August 4th end of season Team Championship, location TBD. Individual Match Championship Tournament begins Aug. 14th. More details will be furnished to NBJGL applicants.

Please contact [PGA Pro, Patrick Steiner](#), phone (707)239-8217 or email at psteiner@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com for any further junior golf information. Under the leadership of Golf Pro, Patrick, we are looking forward to a very fun, productive, and rewarding junior golf season for all our junior golfers. We count on the support and assistance of PG&CC parents and members (some of whom will be certified coaches for the PGJL), and we thank them for all that they do. The Junior Golf Development Committee stands ready to assist and assure the ongoing development of all our junior golfers and to continue to enhance the PG&CC Junior Golf Program in every way we can.

Diane R. Tucker
 Chair, PGCC Junior Golf Development Committee
regantucker@gmail.com

EVENTS

APRIL 17TH: ONE-PERSON SCRAMBLE (ALL CLUB)

APRIL 19TH: GOLF COURSE GREEN AERATION – COURSE CLOSED UNTIL 2PM

APRIL 20TH: ROAD TRIP TO FOXTAIL NORTH (ALL CLUB)

MAY 1ST: MAY MEDAL (MEN'S)

MAY 20TH: ROAD TRIP TO NORTHWOOD GOLF CLUB (ALL CLUB)

MAY 22ND: TWO PERSON BEST BALL SCRAMBLE (ALL CLUB)

JUNE 5TH: JUNE MEDAL (MEN'S)

JUNE 26TH: VARTNAW MEMBER-MEMBER (MEN'S)

JULY 3RD: JULY MEDAL (MEN'S)

JULY 4TH: RED, WHITE AND BLUE TOURNAMENT (ALL CLUB)

*REGISTRATION FOR ALL EVENT IN TOURNAMENT BINDER

**Email Patrick (psteiner@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com) or Travis (tberding@petalumagolfandcountryclub.com) if you have any questions



Petaluma Golf & Country Club

1 Person Scramble

Saturday April 17th. First Tee Time is 7:10 am

Format: This is an individual stroke play event. Each player essentially has a mulligan twice per hole; once from the tee box through the green, and one on the green itself. You can choose between the two balls and play from your best determined shot.

Scoring: Gross and net 18 hole scores will complete the player's tournament score.

Flights: Men's, Women's and Senior (70+)

When: Saturday April 17th. Tee Time from 7:10am to 8:20am.

Entry: \$15 includes prize payouts. Optional \$10 cash net and gross skins game available to anyone who plays. Signing up after deadline the entry fee is \$20

Note: This is a Tournament Players Club (formerly Sleep City Cup) qualifying event. If you are signed up for TPC you will receive 25 participation points along with points based on placement in the event.

****Deadline to sign is THURSDAY April 15th by 5:00pm****

Day of Tournament Notes

- Tee Time Format (no shotgun start).
- Players check-in at the pro shop.
- No congregating before or after the round.
- Arrive no more than 30 minutes before tee time.
- Maintain social distancing between golfers.
- Wear a mask when near the clubhouse.
- Tournament results will be posted and email out at the end of the day.

**Sign up for events in the golf shop tournament binder or call
707 - 762 - 7041**

1500 Country Club Dr | Petaluma, CA 94952 | www.petalumagolfandcountryclub.com



Petaluma Golf & Country Club

2021 Tournament Schedule

* All Tournaments are pending due to COVID-19 Restrictions*

Game Type	Date
1 Person Scramble (All Club)	Saturday, April 17th
2 Person Best Ball (All Club)	Saturday, May 22nd
Vartnaw Member-Member (Men's)	Saturday, June 26th
Red, White & Blue (All Club)	Sunday, July 4th
Stroke Play Championship (All Club)	Saturday, July 24th
3 Clubs and a Putter (All Club)	Saturday, August 21st
Start of Men's Match Play Club Championship	Monday, August 30th
Egg Basket Member - Guest (Women's)	Wednesday, September, 1st
Start of 18-Hole Women's Club Championship	Wednesday, September 15th
Goat Hill Invitational Member - Guest (Men's)	October 2nd & 3rd
Junior Championship	Sunday, October 10th
Sadie Hawkins Member-Member (Women's)	Wednesday, October 13th
Ryder Cup (Men's)	Saturday, October 16th
Spooky Halloween Tournament (All Club)	Saturday, October 30th
Turkey Shootout (All Club)	Thursday, November 25th
Ugly Holiday Sweater Tournament (All Club)	Sunday, December 4th

Start times & price per tournament will vary per event

Sign up for events in the golf shop tournament binder or call 707 - 762 - 7041

Men's Medal - Generally the first Saturday of every month, check below dates for exception.
4/3, 5/1, 6/5, 7/3, 8/7, 9/4, 10/9, 11/6 and 12/11.

Highlighted in red are events NOT on the first Saturday of the month.

18-Hole Women's

Play every Wednesday morning at 8:00 am with various games played per week and Saturday morning at 8:30 am for casual fun.

9-Hole Women's

Play every Tuesday morning at 9:00 am with various games played per week.