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THE IMPROVED LIE

Petaluma Golf & Country Club, September 2018



President's Message

By Harry Pearson

The Board, working with CourseCo, is in the final stages of the hiring process for the General Manager position. We expect to finalize everything in the next week to ten days and we will be making a separate announcement at that time.

IT'S ON! SAVE THE DATE and celebrate the end of Daylight Savings Time on Saturday, November 3rd while benefiting our vaunted Jr. Golf Program. This could be the last time California 'falls back' if voters approve a ballot measure this November to stay on D.S.T. permanently. The committee met and headed by the Marks', Thomas and Jennings, Barry Reeves and others, have started planning the event. It will tentatively be; appetizers, an hour of open bar, dinner and dancing to a band, (TBD). The price of tickets is (TBD), also, keep an eye out for future emails, flyers in the clubhouse and other forms of communication.

Many events are being held in September, The Goat Hill, (our member guest event) and The Men's Club Championship. Aeration will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 11th and will be done with small tines which shouldn't affect the greens to any great degree. This should produce great results for golf in October when the Women's 18 hole and 9 hole groups will hold their Club Championships. Also, in October 'The Ryder Cup' will be held. Signups are in a binder on the front counter.

**PG&CC Board
of Directors**

President
Harry Pearson

Vice President
Larry Riis

Treasurer
Keith Brians

Secretary
Michael Johnson

Director
Wayne Gupstill

Director
Timo Rivetti

Director
Sue Berger

Director
Jeremy King

Director
Brenda Roberts

I want to welcome new members: the Broadheads' and The Baxmans'.

The August 31st Friday Night Mixer was well attended and the music was great. Charles and Lee Stephens were not in attendance so no one won the \$800 cash prize so Sept. Friday Night Mixer goes to \$900! How can you afford not to show up!

We have a full membership which is great but don't stop trying to recruit new members.

I'm leaving for Italy on Sept. 2nd and will return at the end of Sept. My wife and I are celebrating our 40th Wedding Anniversary. The Club will be in the capable hands of Vice President Larry Riis and Secretary Mike Johnson while I'm eating pasta and gelato throughout Italy.

Ciao



PG&CC History – Part 5

By Keith Brians

Play Begins

The first competition was held at 9:00 am on Sunday, April 8, 1923. The entrance fee was 50 cents, 10% of the \$5.00 monthly dues. ¹ Poor weather reduced a large expected turn-out to 13 players. Emmett Olmsted Jr., son of Argus Courier editor

Emmett E. Olmsted, led the field with gross 84, followed by Miles Murphy with a 96. At the back of the back, George Ross had a 117. None of the permanent greens were in play so automatic two putts were used. At the second tournament the following Sunday, the No. 2 and 3 greens were put into play and reported scores were higher. Emmett Olmsted Jr. became a two-time winner with an 89. Handicaps were used in the following tournament based on performance in the first two competitions or were assigned by the pro, Tom Leucher. Dr. O.E. Jackson won the first handicap tournament with a net 73 with a 20 handicap. For the May 13 “blind bogey” tournament fairways were reported to be in beautiful condition. On Sunday, June 20, the new No. 5 and No. 9 greens were opened. Having to putt out on the permanent greens made play more difficult and raised scores. In addition, the temporary greens were all short of their permanent locations, adding significant yardage when they were put into play.

Over the summer, the second temporary green was reseeded, dressed and prepared for play to allow the second permanent green to be restored over the winter. On October, 1, teeing the ball up in the fairway was banned and playing the balls as it lies was implemented. Many of the players had relied in the fairway on the “Manhattan Tee,” a strip of rubber weighted at the back end with a depression at the front where the ball was placed. The rubber stayed in place after the ball was hit.

The first women's medal play competition was arranged by H.C. Scrutton and held on Sunday, October 7, 1923 with seven entrants. Miss Tess Sweed was the winner with a score of 62 for nine holes. The competition was played scratch as no handicaps had yet been established. The tournament was enjoyed by all and future events were anticipated.

On October 25, the pro, Tom Leuchars, shot a 35, one under par. Given that most of the fairways still showed their horse pasture heritage and generated erratic bounces, it was a well-played round. Even the caddies were improving their scores, one claiming he had shot a 42, just six over par.

On November 22, 1923, eighteen members of Jackass Club drove to the Marin Golf and Country Club to play 18 holes and had dinner in the evening as guests of Dr. Thomas Maclay, who had a hole-in-one on the fifth hole. The Marin course was described as "a snappy and interesting layout, the greens nicely rolled and the fairways a work of art."

By February 1924 the course was in splendid shape; the greens had continued to grow in over the winter and the rains had brought the fairways back to life. Play was still sporadic. Only ten golfers had participated in the February 17 event and only 20 of the club's 135 members were regular players. The lack of a club house was certainly a disadvantage. The final stakes for the club house were set, but work would not begin until April. On February 24, H.C. Scrutton had the first eagle made on the course with a 3 on the par 5 No. 9 during a one club event. Mr. Scrutton was on in the apron of the green in two and sank his mashie-niblick (7-iron equivalent) attempt. Next up was a mixed nine-hole event pairing a man and a women golfer in an alternate ball game. Unfortunately, bad weather blew in and keep the golfers off the course. There was, however, much hope that the substantial rains would drown every mole on the course who seemed to favor tunneling through the greens.



Fairways and Greens Report

By Harry Pearson

We had a very productive Green's meeting on August 15th. First off, I want to let the membership know that the Petaluma Water Department told Bill to over water the course during the week of August 6th because they were having a problem with their aqueduct system and would be limiting irrigation for the following week. That was one of the reasons the course had wet spots. As stated in my articles many times before, we have been monitoring dry and wet spots since we put in our new system a few years ago and will be looking at certain areas on #1, 5 and 9 to individually wire sprinklers that are causing the problems.

We presently have three water persons who share a forty hour week with one coming in at 9am and the other two coming in at 1pm. Their job entails hand watering and moving misters. We have asked Bill to increase their duties to tasks, such as; setting gopher traps to help combat the tremendous gopher problem we have.

One of our full time crew members resigned to take care of a family matter. This leaves us with Bill, Jorge and Alvaro as the only full timers on the crew so you can see that with days off, we are very understaffed. We also have a full time mechanic but during this time of the year he's busy with the equipment and has little or no time to be helping on the course. We've talked about looking for an Assistant Superintendent to be another set of eyes for Bill and also be on premise when Bill is not. There is a big cost factor associated with having an assistant that we just aren't budgeted for now. We will look at this very seriously for next year. In the meantime, we've asked CourseCo to supply one of their agronomists to assist Bill and also post a job opening for a full time crew member. Since we have about two more months of the season, we feel to get anything

substantially accomplished other than regular maintenance, we'll need to fill out the crew. Chris posted the job on August 16th.

As stated before, we've had a recurring problem with a fungus that permeates our greens and fairways during the warm weather. The present agronomy program has the crew applying fungicides four times a year at a cost of between \$800-\$1,200 per application. We've budgeted for this in our fungicides/fertilizer line items. We've been advised to increase applications to eight times a year and start in March instead of May. This will mandate an increase in our Operating Budget in 2019 but in the meantime, we'll have to bite the bullet and apply the fungicides. The greens have been a little sketchy and usually we'll verticut and sand them which really helps with smoothing them out. Unfortunately, we can't do this due to the fungus because all the verticutting will do is spread the fungus; therefore, we have to get the fungus under control first

As far as on course work, sand has been added to bunkers on #2, 6 & 7 with still more to be done. Spraying was done on #5 to combat clover. We had some tree work done on #3 tee and #7. We still have some tree limb trimming to be done on this tee.

Aerification is scheduled for Sept. 11th and small tines will be used which shouldn't really impact the greens. We decided to move the aeration up so that we would have great conditions in October when we have some of our best weather. Many courses are doing this. After the aerification, the crew will work on softening the left green side bunker on #6.

We had a suggestion re: making a 'local rule' when a sprinkler head around the green is in the line of your putt. In other words, if you wanted to putt a ball and a sprinkler head is in your line but doesn't affect your stance or swing, the suggestion was to be able to move, (drop), your ball at the nearest point of relief. We discussed this and acknowledge that since we've added four sprinkler heads this year to each green along with the four that were already there, this would come into play more than it has before. We recommended to the board under Rule 33-8 to make the 'local rule'. This was unanimously approved by the board.

It was also pointed out to us by an agronomist that several of our redwood trees are not doing well even with the watering that we're doing. He recommended that we wood chip the area around these trees to help retain the water content. We recommended to the board that by chipping the areas around these trees, we make a 'local rule' that any chipped area be allowed relief at no penalty regardless of being roped off or not. The board unanimously approved this 'local rule'. Chris will write up the verbiage for these 'local rules' and will decide when they go into effect.

The Women's Tees will be rerated on Monday Oct. 22nd by the NCGA. Recently a member emailed me a guide titled 'Green Committee Primer'. It deals with topics such as; the committee, the chairman, the purpose and responsibilities of the committee, pitfalls to avoid, meetings and insights on agronomy. I wish I would have seen this 8 years ago when I became chairman of the committee. Having read through this, I realize that we're doing many of the things that they subscribe to. This is a product of the guys who have served as chairmen and committee members and are still on the committee. They are; Tom Isaak, Larry Riis, Mark Nizibian, (all former chairmen), Keith Brians, Charley Freeman,(on the committee before me) and the rookie, Steve Lambert who took over for Bob Spurgeon. Thanks guys.

Please remember to; fix divots and ball marks, rake traps and bring anything to the attention of me or committee members. I think we've shown that we take the members suggestions, complaints, etc., seriously.



Men's Tournaments

By Nick Smith

The Club Championship is underway! Please swing by the course on September 30th and watch the thrilling final 36 hole match!

Congratulations to our August Winners:
August Medal Winner: Jeff Weitzenberg

Stroke Play Championship:

Gross Winner – 164 John Ryan

Net Winner – 142 Wayne Guptill

Senior Gross Winner: 152 Greg Plattner

Senior Net Winner: 134 Roy King

Great upcoming events:

Final Call for the September 8 & 9: The Goat Hill Invitational (Member Guest) Applications available online and in golf shop Please have your application in by end of day 9/5/18.

October 6 – Ryder Cup! 8:00am Shotgun. Pick Team USA or Team EURO! Another great tradition for Ryder Cup players is our Pairing Party on October 5th! Cost \$40 includes lunch and a beverage.



9-Hole Petaluma Chicks

By Lois Skarsten

9 Hole Ladies

Our Golfer of the Month for July was Brenda Roberts and the month of August is Cathy Lehmann.

The winners of the Corda EC were: Lois Skarsten, Sandra Messer and Sue Carson. Winners of the putts contest were: Lois, Sandra and Cathy. Low net for the month were: Lois, Sandra and Dale O'Connor. Sept. Is the last month for Golfer of the

Month with our Club Championship and Golfer of the Year scheduled for October.

Socials

SEPTEMBER 14: Scotch & Scottys 4:30pm to 6:00pm Try out a new Scotty Cameron putter and sip on some special Scotch!

SEPTEMBER 21: Movie Night! Tangled. Meet Rapunzel 5:30pm to 6:30pm Movie Starts at 6:30pm. Food will be available at 5:00pm

SEPTEMBER 28: Live Music and “The Bounty” of \$900! 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Special Appetizers

OCTOBER 19: Movie Night! COCO. Meet Mama Imelda and Hector from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Food available at 5:00pm

OCTOBER 26: Halloween Social! Costumes optional. Kid’s scavenger hunt at 7:00pm. 5:30pm to 8:30pm. With special menu. Don’t forget our BOUNTY drawing could be up to \$1,000.



PETALUMA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
SCOTCH & SCOTTYS
SEPTEMBER 14 | 4:30PM-6:00PM



Enjoy some Scotch while testing out the full line of Scotty Cameron Putters!



Disney's
Tangled

MOVIE NIGHT

SEPT 21 | MOVIE STARTS AT 6:30PM
SPECIAL GUEST: RAPUNZEL 5:30-6:30PM

Special Menu will be available starting at 5:00pm





MOVIE NIGHT

OCT 19 | STARTS AT 6:30PM

SPECIAL GUEST: HECTOR AND MAMA IMELDA 5:30-6:30PM

Special Menu will be available starting at 5:00pm

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Men's Club Championship begins. Match Play. Seeding to be set today at 12:00pm
2	3	4 Ladies 9 Hole Golf – 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	5 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	6	7 Goat Hill Pre Tournament Party & Shootout 3pm – 9pm	8 Goat Hill Tournament Round 1 (Golf Course Closed from 7am to 6pm)
9 Goat Hill Tournament Round 2 (Golf Course Closed from 7am to 6pm)	10 Rotary Golf Tournament	11 Greens Aeration BEGIN Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>FAMOUS FISH FRY</i> <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	12 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	13	14 Happy Hour 5:30pm- 7:30pm	15 Men's Club Championship – Round 1 must be completed
16	17	18 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	19 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am Board of Directors Meeting 6:00pm	20	21	22 Men's Club Championship – Round 2 must be completed
23	24 Willowbrook Golf Tournament	25 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	26 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am Outside Event in Hall 6:00pm – 10:00pm	27	28 Happy Hour and LIVE MUSIC 5:30pm- 7:30pm	29 Men's Club Championship – Round 3 must be completed
30 Men's Club Championship – Final Round to be played at 9am						30

OCTOBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Andy Isetta Golf Outing 12:00pm-5:00pm	2 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	3 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	4	5 Happy Hour 5:00pm-7:00pm	6 Men's RYDER CUP
7	8 Relators Tournament 1:30pm – 5:30pm	9 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	10 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	11	12 Happy Hour 5:00pm-7:00pm	13 Event in the Hall 5:00 Sponsoring member Dado
14	15 Exchange Bank Tournament 12:30pm to 5:30pm	16 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	17 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am <i>Board Meeting 6:00pm</i>	18	19 Movie Night: COCO 5:30pm- 8:30pm	20
21	22	23 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	24 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am	25	26 Halloween Social 5:30pm – 8:30pm	27
28	29 SIRS 8am – 2pm	30 Ladies 9 Hole Golf 9am <i>Men's Twilight Dinner</i>	31 Women 18 Hole Group 7:45am			