



January, 2011

From Jack McNevin, President

GREETINGS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! BE NICE IF WE COULD PLAY SOME GOLF! WHOEVER IS DOING THE RAIN DANCE, PLEASE STOP. SPEAKING OF DANCE, HAL, WITH BOARD APPROVAL, HAS AGREED TO COMPLETE THE TERM OF DICK LUTZ AS "HONARY PAST PRESIDENT". WE WELCOME HIS EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE WITH OUR CLUB. WE WILL NOT MAKE UP THE DECEMBER RAIN-OUT, BUT YOU DO HAVE TO SIGN UP TO USE YOUR RAIN-OUT CREDIT. ALAN, OUR NEW TC, WILL EXPAND ON THIS. STAY DRY. PLAY WELL.

From Paul Bauman, Vice-President

Just some thoughts about winter golf at los po. it's been wet lately and the rough is long and no roll on the fairways, but if you are like me who is supposed to walk everyday for exercise and gets bored easily, why not chase a little white ball around the golf course for at least nine holes. forget about wet feet or the score just enjoy the chance to get outside, exercise and enjoy the fresh air. oh and by the way once you do get to the greens they are still in beautiful shape.

From Alan Brooks, (the new) Tournament Chairman

The issue of pace of play came up at the last board meeting as it has, again, become a problem with our players. Several options for dealing with the problem were discussed, varying from the benign to the draconian. Our club has shown in the past that we can play at a good pace and I have no doubts we can do so in the future. Jeff deBenedetti and his staff treat us very well and deserve our cooperation in this matter.

First, let's bust the common myth that you should finish a hole within 15-minutes of the group in front of you. This is the time for NCGA tournaments where you will be penalized for being "out of position" (if you're behind pace). You should be finishing a hole at the same interval you started the round at. This, at Las Positas, is 7 or 8-minutes (7½ minutes on average) and you should be finishing every hole in that time interval behind the group in front of you. This pretty much means that as the group in front of you is walking off the green you should be hitting your approach shot. Just as you were doing on the first hole waiting for the group in front of you to clear the fairway. If you aren't you are probably out of position.

A four and a half hour round of golf assumes it takes 15-minutes to finish each hole. This is really more like 12-minutes for par 3's, 15-minutes for par 4's, and 18-minutes for par 5's. It is easy to know whether you are on pace. Our score cards are printed with the completion time for each hole at the bottom of the card. This is the time the flag stick goes in the hole after the last putt. This means that 7½ minutes after the group in front of you finishes, you should be finishing.

So what does it take to finish a round in four and a half hours? You can easily walk Las Positas without playing in an hour and a half, probably much less but for the sake of argument let's assume it's an hour and a half. This leaves 3 hours for shots and looking for balls. With four players scoring 90 that means that each player has 30-seconds to hit their shot, less if you have had to look for a ball. This means that when it's your turn to hit you have to be ready to hit, whether it's a tee shot, a shot from the fairway or rough, or a putt. The only player on a green that should be holding up finishing the hole is the first player to putt, assuming all four players walk up to the green at the same time. Every player after that should be ready to putt when it's their turn. This means that you start lining up your putt as soon as you get to the green, so that when it's your turn to putt you have already lined up your putt, gone through all but the last part of your pre-putt routine and are ready to putt. The only constraint is that you stop moving when another player is actually putting. Volunteer as a Walking Scorer for the Nationwide or LPGA tournaments when they come to town and you'll find you have a hard time keeping up with the players as they walk from shot to shot. They walk fast so that they have more time to line up their shots. You can't stroll casually up the fairway, take the amount of time lining up your shots you see the pro's take, and stay on pace. Even the pro's line up their putts while the other players are putting.

If you have to spend time looking for a ball, you have to make up that time in the way you play the rest of the hole. This means that "ready golf" becomes essential, rather than desirable. If you're not sure you will be able to find a shot, hit a provisional. It takes less than half a minute to hit a provisional and it will take several to come back and replay a shot. Look at it this way, a provisional is almost the only place where the Rules of Golf allow you to hit a practice shot. Take advantage of that. It will be easier to give up looking for a ball if you have another ball ready to play, rather than having to walk back to replay a shot. If you're still having trouble finishing a hole on time it may mean that when the first two players finish putting out they proceed to the next tee and tee off. If you're in golf carts then the two players from one cart putt out and proceed, while the two players in the other cart finish.

It is easy to stay on pace. All it takes is caring about whether you are, and making the effort to do so. We can do this by taking the high road and caring about the other players on the course, or we can take the draconian route and penalize players when they are late finishing. I

sincerely hope we can deal with this as conscientious golfers who care about those around us. Let's make the effort.

From Bob Mole, Secretary

Our club is starting the new year with 120 members, a healthy number. We welcome the following new members for 2011:

**Doug Baker
Andrew Boyd
Raymond Bump
John Liebenberg
John Melert
Lou Stamos
Randal Steenblik
David Yahiro**

From Jeff deBenedetti, Las Positas Head Pro

Rain, rain, go away, come again another day!

With all the rain we have had in the last month, majority of golf courses are going to have wet conditions. Playing in wet conditions can be a struggle for some, so here are a few things that can help you shoot lower scores and enjoy your round in the slop.

Equipment:

- Rain gear. Waterproof jacket and pants are very important. Include an umbrella to your gear just in case of more rain that day.
- Shoes. Waterproof golf shoes will keep your feet dry through out the round. New spikes on your shoes will help keep traction to the ground during golf shots.

Swing Thought:

- In wet conditions it is important to have a shallow attack to the golf ball. Play the ball about an inch forward in your stance. This will help the club shallow out through the hitting zone.