



February, 2010

From Jack McNevin, President

The Golf year is off to a good start. Our Course is holding up well considering all the rain. We will have a Match Play tournament this year. Paul Bauman will be in charge. We are also going to have a series of Senior Short Game Clinics, probably twice a month starting in April. Jeff and his staff will conduct the sessions. They will be 1 hour long, cover 2 skills, and cost \$10 per session. A signup sheet and schedule of events will be in the pro shop. It will be limited to 12 players for each session. Signup early !! So far we have one guest instructor lined up. Jack Pelze, illegitimate son of Dave, should be here in the second month. At the end of the Clinics, anyone who participated in two or more will be eligible for the Skills Challenge and the many \$\$\$ of prize money ! This should be a lot of fun, signup ! And-- keep those Letters to the Editor coming ! Be sure and include the \$10. Play well and enjoy this great game.

From Paul Bauman, Vice-President

SIGN UP FOR

THE LAS POSITAS SENIORS

MATCH PLAY TOURNAMENT

1. Sign up in the Pro Shop, by April 28th, or at one of the February, March or April Tournaments, schedule and play your first round by May 14th.
2. We need 32, 48 or 64 players and first round pairings with phone numbers will be posted on the Senior Bulletin board or on the Senior Web site by May 1
3. Once the first round is completed each additional round will be scheduled and played within the next two weeks with completion, depending on number of players in the Middle of July
4. You need to indicate tees (white or gold) and your handicap for the tournament being what it was at the beginning. You may not change tees.
5. If you haven't been playing from the gold tees you are encouraged to try it for this tournament.
6. If you have any questions contact me or Jack McNevin

From Alan Brooks, Green Committee Representative

I recently attended my first Green Committee meeting. I made the mistake of nominating my friend Mike Hasaka as Chairman (he was Vice Chairman) and he got even by nominating me as Vice Chairman, which I now am. The main item on this meeting's agenda was the discussion of, and recommendation to the City Council for rates for the coming year, to be in effect 1 April. Yes, the recommendation was to raise them, but not much. Most single round green fees and carts will go up \$1, monthly passes will go up \$5 (from \$120 to \$125), and the Player Reward Pass will go up \$10 (from \$160 to \$170).

In case you're wondering this year's total golf course revenues to date (July to December) are down about 3% from last year. Food and beverage is up significantly, lessons and driving range up slightly, and green fees, cart rentals, and pro shop merchandise down. Beeb's and green fees were down 8% and 11%, respectively, for December. Because of all the rain, green fees for January are expected to be even worse. But good weather is coming and we have the best greens in the area (by unanimous consent) so talk up Las Positas with your friends.

Each of the Committee members is asked to conduct a Quality Control Audit every month and report the results back to the Committee and the City Staff. This is an audit of the performance of the three contractors that manage our golf course. I entertain input from each of you regarding things you find below what you consider to be par with the course, the Pro Shop and Beeb's. And, no, I don't want to hear about how wet the course is. It was built on a flood plain and it will take massive amounts of funding to solve the drainage problems. The sump drains (big holes filled with rocks) that were put in last year have clearly helped, but a complete solution will require an extensive drainage system and a complete re-installation of the irrigation system and an associated re-contouring of the course. Which brings me to the other issue I will be asking for feedback on.

As many of you have commented on, the rains in January did a real number on the the bunkers. Again, this is an issue commensurate with the way the course was built. There is no drainage installed in the bunkers and some of the greens actually drain into the bunkers. There is discussion of installing sump drains, similar to what was installed in the fairways, in some of the bunkers. Accordingly, we are looking for input into which bunkers should be dealt with first. I'd say "fixed" but this probably isn't going to fix them, but it might help. So as you go around the course take note of which bunkers you would like to see problems addressed with first and I will be soliciting input later on your "top three".

And last, the status of the Jack London extension. Yes, it's still coming. No, we don't know when. But the good news, as Paul Bauman reported some time ago, it is part of the contract that play on the 18-hole course will not be interrupted. Additionally, Jeff Shafer, the Golf Course General Manager, is working hard to include some general improvements to the course, including replacing all of the cart paths (so that the paths on the "old" part of the course are commensurate with the paths on the new holes associated with the realignment of Jack London), and possibly some work on revamping some of the bunkers. The hope is that work on the "new" part of the course is complete in time to get the fairways and greens grown-in before winter arrives (and the grass stops growing). Unfortunately, a developer isn't going to be willing to delay construction while we wait for the grass to grow. Stay tuned on this one.

The Green Committee meets again on 25 March.

From Jeff deBenedetti, Las Positas Head Pro

Uneven Lies

Golf courses are rarely completely flat, so inevitably you're going to be faced with uneven lies. The ball might be above or below your feet, or even worse, in a combination of sidehill and either uphill or downhill. Whatever the situation, the solution is the same: Create, as much as

possible, a flat lie. In other words, keep your spine in the same relationship to the slope as you would a flat lie. If the ball is below your feet, bend forward more; if the ball is above your feet, lean back a little; if your left foot is lower than your right, tilt left; if your right foot is lower than your left, tilt right. That is how to beat slopes.

Once you get your stance, take it back and let it go. Trust your swing and enjoy the shot.

Recent Results:

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

FORMAT : 2M BB (BLD. DRAW)

Jan 10, 2010

FIRST FLT	SCORE	\$\$ EA
BROOKS-VANTINE	63	\$32
CHAN-M.SILVA	65	\$24
LUTZ-GALLAGER	65	\$24
TOLE-VRANESH	66	\$17
BAUMAN-MCNEVIN	67	\$12
		\$218

SECOND FLT	SCORE	\$\$ EA
O'CONNOR-J.HAYES	66	\$32
BROWN-SHUGARTS	67	\$26
HUNT-SHRYOCK	70	\$18
MOLE-MCGRUFF	70	\$18
		\$188

**TOTAL
PAYOUT** **\$406**