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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Evan Beren*

The official start of Summer is just around the corner. That means earlier starts and longer days for golfing. Summertime also signals the return of the Club Championship. There are some requirements for this three day tournament please read David's. We are always looking for club members to help with check-in and scoring, please contact David Horwich if interested [dhorwitch@gmail.com](mailto:dhorwitch@gmail.com).

It's that unique time of year when NHL Hockey, NBA Basketball, MLB Baseball, all are going on. And the World Cup is about to start. Our club's own match play tournament is starting soon so be prepared for one on one play and revisit match play rules and strategies.

Craig Kessler, the club's advocate, has been intimately involved with the changes at City Hall effecting the golfing community. Typically, Craig's articles are concerning these changes that impact all of us playing of City courses. For the most part these changes will be good for golf in the City of Los Angeles ensuring proper investments are made in the courses, facilities, and systems. However, this month, Craig regales us with a gem of an article about what the City does well.

As always, be careful in the heat, hydrate and rest as much as possible.

## THE NEXT TEE

*By David Horwitch, Tournament Director*

Congratulations to the winners of the first major of the year. River Ridge is a course where anything can happen, so a win there is well deserved.

Which brings us to an even bigger event, the Club Championship. The first two rounds of the Championship will be the weekend of the 23rd & 24th, with the final round the following weekend on Saturday the 30th. Please make a note for the Saturday final round for those who qualify.

As soon as the Championship concludes, the President's Cup begins. I strongly encourage all eligible players to sign up, match play is an absolute blast. All players set their own matches, there are no fixed dates you must play. The new format guarantees all players at least three matches, no more first round exits ! For more information on the format, please see the front page of the SMGC site.

***Tournament questions and comments may be directed to [dhorwitch@gmail.com](mailto:dhorwitch@gmail.com)***

## CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

It's easy to know one's problems. Even easier to obsess about them. It's easy to ignore one's advantages. Even easier to take them for granted. Such is human nature. It's also the nature of organizations and institutions. And it's especially true for those whose primary golf experience is at LA City courses in general and Encino-Balboa in specific.

I whine therefore I am – a description that describes many of us, yours truly in particular. So, today let me break form and examine some of the overlooked strengths of our Los Angeles City municipal golf system.

First off, the city takes revenue generation very seriously, but it doesn't worship it. It doesn't operate its golf program as if nothing else matters. If it did, the course in Pacoima (Hansen Dam) wouldn't be outfitted with new irrigation systems, cart paths, and ample short game practice facilities, while the course in Cheviot Hills (Rancho Park) continued to wait for all three. The dispersion of capital projects funds wouldn't be roughly equal throughout the system; monies would only be invested where a direct relationship between expenditure and financial return could be expected.

If money were the only object the city might be engaged in the increasingly common practice of closing "surplus" golf courses – in other words keeping open only those that generate net dollars. No one has ever dared suggest that Los Feliz or Tregnan or Roosevelt or Rancho 9 be closed, because the philosophy that continues to guide the city golf program values parkland golf courses for reasons beyond money. For those immersed in the system that may sound like common sense. These facilities are parks. Parks are for public enjoyment; why would anyone consider closing facilities that not only bring great pleasure to residents, but serve as the growth engines for the money-making golf courses? Never answer a rhetorical question!

Second, a publicly operated system certainly has issues with procurement, contracting and alacrity. We whine about that a lot. But we overlook the fact that when systems are operated by public employees, government owners tend to treat them and the whole system as integral parts of the same family. We humans are wired to treat our relatives better than we treat strangers. Concessionaires and lessees are "strangers" in contract systems. The result is often an adversarial relationship that sinks the comity necessary to function effectively. If you have only had experiences with the city system, you have no clue as to what I'm talking about; thus, my point about taking one's strengths for granted.

Third – I subscribe to the rule of threes – when we whine, at least in the city we have a potent Golf Advisory Committee where we can turn those whines into productive change. Because the LA Golf Advisory Committee reports to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners, it is secure no matter how stupid or crazy we act. And in the vein of today's human nature theme, who doesn't act a little stupid or crazy from time to time? We also act wise and all-knowing from time to time too. And that's what an effective and secure citizens advisory body can do – take advantage of those moments of wise clarity while ignoring those rare moments of vainglorious idiocy. By the way, the GAC usually operates on the wise clarity side of the ledger.

That was three. I always stick to the rules.

## 2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Tournament Player of the Year Trophy in Memory of Ed Cohn "On the Other Hand"

Alfredo zooms to the top of the leader board with a win at the Palumbo. The top 5 spots are up for grabs with Club Championship looking at the end of the month. Dustin, Justin, Craig Cacek, David Gilbreath and Gerard all have a shot at numero uno with gross or net win on our home courses. A close race is always exciting.

Player	Winnings	Rank
Alfredo Picolomini	530	1
Dustin Watanabe	460	2
David Gilbreath	430	3
Gerard Sanders	425	4
Craig Cacek	395	5
Justin Lestrage	395	5
Ben Raposas	385	7
David Watanabe	350	8
Michael Melamed	330	9
Bryan Nichols	320	10
John Philipson	310	11
Brian Nugent	305	12
Jeff Sable	290	13
Juan Lopez F	270	14
Larry W Scott	260	15
Bob McKibben	250	16
Johnathan Fernandez	250	16
David Horwith	235	18
Jim Thompson	235	18
Perry Melillo	235	18
Sean MacDonald	235	18
Tim Sower	230	22
Darrell Kato	225	23
Larry Staggs	225	23
Branden Augustus	220	25
Jeff Prey	220	25
Robert Cavanaugh	210	27
Eric Smutko	205	28
Alan Ruiz	200	29
Mark Michelini	200	29
Steve Hansen	200	29
Virgil Budhu	195	32
Behrouz Shafie	190	33
Leonid Levin	190	33
Marc Carter	180	35

The complete standings can be found at [WWW.SMGC.ORG](http://WWW.SMGC.ORG)

**John C Palumbo Memorial**

May 12, 2018

**Format – Low Gross / Low Net****“A” Flight Low Gross**

Score	Player	Prize
75	Eric Smutko	\$150
76	Gerard Sanders	\$85
76	John Philipson	\$85
77	David Gilbreath	\$45

**“A” Flight Low Net**

70	Tim Sower	\$150
71	Asher Kamiel	\$75
71	Juan Lopez F	\$75
71	Duncan Brandel	\$75

**“B Flight” Low Gross**

83	Alfredo Picolomini	\$150
84	Larry Scott	\$100
85	Behrouz Shafie	\$70
86	Matt Soule	\$40
86	Pablo Rojas	\$40

**“B Flight” Low Net**

72	Perry Melillo	\$150
73	Edward Licht	\$85
73	Chris Stronberg	\$85
74	Larry Wilson	\$45

**Gross Skins \$127 each**

Hole	Player
2	Duncan Brandel
7	Bob McKibben
9	Perry Melillo
13	Duncan Brandel

**Net Skins \$120 each**

Hole	Player
9	Perry Melillo
11	Gary Patterson
13	Duncan Brandel
14	Sam Schatz
17	Pablo Rojas

**Closest to the Pin \$55 each**

3	Chris Stronberg	4' 4"
7	Mark Reed	6' 10"
9	Perry Melillo	2' 7"
12	Larry Scott	8" 0"
18	Tim Sower	17' 0"

**Thursday @ Wilson**

May 24, 2018

**Format – Low Gross / Low Net****“A” Flight Low Gross**

Score	Player	Prize
76	Sam Schatz	\$50
76	Bradford Weinstein	\$35
81	Mark Kessler	\$20
81	Philip Boyd	\$20

**“A” Flight Low Net**

68	Ryan Tumulad	\$50
71	Phillip Sky	\$35
72	Sean MacDonald	\$25

**“B Flight” Low Gross**

82	Jim Thompson	\$50
88	Damian O'Hare	\$30
88	Chris Vane	\$30

**“B Flight” Low Net**

72	Chang Kim	\$50
74	Armen Mesropian	\$30
74	Michael Melamed	\$30

**Gross Skins \$48 each**

Hole	Player
1	Justin Lestrangle
3	Sam Schatz
8	Ryan Tumulad
13	Phillip Sky
14	Philip Boyd
18	Craig Cacek

**Net Skins \$68 each**

Hole	Player
2	Damian O'Hare
3	Sam Schatz
4	Armen Mesropian
8	Ryan Tumulad
18	Craig Cacek

**Closest to the Pin \$50 each**

3	Sam Schatz	3' 3"
11	Armen Mesropian	8' 7"
15	Sean MacDonald	6' 6"

**Prize Money**  
*All tournament place winnings  
 are paid in gift certificates.*

# HANDICAP CHATTER

*by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman*

## President's Cup Match Play Tournament

It's the most wonderful time of the year; time for the annual President's Cup! This year we have an exciting new format where everyone is guaranteed at least three matches. We will be mimicking the PGA with this year's contest starting with round robin with four-player groupings. "For those who have not played match play, it's a great format."

Match play differs from stroke play in many ways. The following will help you understand how to play your match.

### RULES

- Each hole is a separate competition. The player with the lowest net score on the hole wins that hole.
- Allowance: The higher-handicapped player receives the full difference in Course Handicap between the two players; the lower-handicapped player plays from scratch.
- The score of a match play match is rendered relationally. For example: you've won 5 holes and your opponent has won 4. The score is not shown as 5 to 4, but as 1 up for you or 1 down for your opponent.
- Essentially, match play scoring tells how many holes the player in the lead has won over their opponent. If the match is tied, it is said to be "all square".
- A match is won when one player has an insurmountable lead, i.e. 6 up with 5 holes left to play or 2 up with 1 hole remaining. A match is considered Dormie when one player is 6 up with 6 holes remaining, i.e. the opponent must win all the remaining holes to tie. If the match is tied at the end of 18 holes, it must continue until one player wins (during the Round Robin, the match will end All Square).
- If the match is won prior to 18 holes, you may continue to play the remaining holes so that you can post your individual scores. Net par is the most you can post for any hole once the match has ended. Scores for unplayed holes should be recorded as net par and the score should be posted.

### ETIQUETTE

- On the first tee, please agree on who will have honors (if undecided, the player with the lowest handicap will have the honors). From then on, the player who wins the hole has honors on the next hole. If the hole is tied, the player who won the previous hole will retain the honor.
- From the tee through the green, the farthest ball from the hole is played first. Be careful around the green as to order of play. Someone off the green but closer to the hole does not go ahead of someone on the green that is farther from the hole. If a ball is played out of turn, the opponent may require it to be replayed.
- Exceptions: You may go ahead of your opponents if they have given permission.
- A hole may be conceded anywhere from tee to green as long as the ball is at rest.
- A putt may be conceded anywhere on the green, however, it's most commonly done when close enough to be easily made.
- It's advisable that once you're on the green, you clarify what each player is lying, i.e. lying 3 on a par 4. Then you will know how to proceed with regard to strategy and conceding putts.