



Twin Oaks Men's Golf Club

February 2016

The Sound Board: Your board's first meeting of the year was January 19th. Major topics of conversation were:

- Dwindling membership and what we can do to improve membership and/or advertise our club,
- Finalization of the 2016 Tournament and regular play schedule,
- The SCGA recommended reduction in the number of Tournaments we play each year and the potential affect on our Club Championship qualification points system,
- The use of the new TPP scoring system and it's affect on handicap monitoring,
- Purchasing Tournament monument markers so that we are not moving the stones (the Golf Course doesn't like that), and
- Discussion on developing and maintaining a TOMGC website.

(Some of these items are presented in more detail in the "Did you know?" section below.)

This Month's Play: Scheduled play for this month is as follows:

Wed. 3rd - Nassau, 8:30 shot gun,

Wed. 10th - Stableford,

Wed. 17th - 2 Man Best Ball,

Sat. 20th - Flighted LG/LN,

Wed. 24th - Members Choice.

(Games and Locations are subject to change.)

Did you know?

- The TOMGC Senior League golf team dropped its opener at Coronado by the score of 16-2. However, providing some proof to the theory of home-field advantage, the team pounded Coronado here at home by the score of 12-6. The home match was highlighted by some stellar play from: Tom Rousseau – Net 60, Paul McGurgan – Net 66, Russ Friesen – Net 68, and Team Captain Scott McClellan – Net 69.

- On Jan. 29th, the team played the home match against El Camino with a tie score of 9-9. Believe it or not, I held this newsletter so that I could report the results of the away match with El Camino! In spite of some good play by our team, TO was spanked 18-0.

- The SCGA has advised us that, as a club, we have been playing/posting too many "Tournament" rounds. The additional rounds were actually having a negative influence on our handicaps when compared to other clubs. As such, the board decided to reduce the number of "Tournament" rounds we play each year. With this change, it is now important for us to understand the difference between a "Tournament" round and a "Subsidized Event". (Subsidized events are those events to which the club adds additional prize money.) You might say, "Well doesn't the club subsidize the "Tournaments"? And the answer would be yes, but only "Tournament" scores are posted as a "Tournament", while subsidized events are posted as regular play. Clear as mud, eh?

- Still looking at this reduction in the number of Tournament rounds we play, it is important for us to revisit the eligibility requirements for our club championships. Eligibility you might ask? Yes, not just any old Val, Russ, or Al can win our club championship, or the three net championships as someone did recently. In order to play in these championships you must meet eligibility requirements as pointed out in our club by-laws, Article XVI Section B. Eligibility is not difficult to attain, but it has been affected just slightly by the reduction in "tournament" rounds, and here is why. To qualify for the club championships, you must have attained 9 participation points. Points are obtained through club play as follows: 1 point for Wednesday play, 3 points for Wednesday/Saturday Tournament play, and 1 point for each match played with SCGA team and/or senior league play up to a total of 6 points.

- Our President - forgive the pause while I stand up and salute - has proposed that we develop and maintain a TOMGC Website. For me, that seems a daunting and overwhelming task, but for a computer savvy guy like Brian, no big deal. As a matter of fact, at this writing, he has already got the prototype up and running. As soon as I can, I'll send you more information.

Rules and Greens: At the end of last season, Russ Friesen had asked me a question with regards to playing from Ground Under Repair. Essentially, his question was, "are you allowed to play from ground under repair if you so choose? I was surprised at the answer, I mean it seemed only logical to me that the reason for designating ground under repair was to keep crazy men with golf clubs from going into and further damaging that ground that was in need of repair, eh? Well, with a 50/50 chance, 9 times out of 10 I'm going to be wrong; and such is the case here. I checked our local rules, and our score card, and the only reference to ground under repair is on the score card which advises that, "Flower beds and newly sodded areas are to be played as ground under repair." As it turns out, the Rules of Golf do not address ground under repair apart from the definition and as referenced in **Rule 20 – Lifting, Dropping and Placing; Playing from wrong place**. We actually find the answer to Russ's question under the definition of GUR with the following note: "The Committee may make a Local Rule prohibiting play from ground under repair or an environmentally sensitive area defined as ground under repair." So, until we are advised by the committee or the golf course that we are not to play from ground under repair, there appears to be no rule preventing us from doing so.

(Source: the Illustrated Rules of Golf, 2012-2015)