



Twin Oaks Men's Golf Club

May 2016

Sound Board: Your Board of Directors will reconvene on the first Wednesday of the month, May 4th. Look to the Website or next month's newsletter for highlights from that meeting.

This Month's Play:

- Wednesday May 4, will be a non-subsidized Match Play event, 8am shotgun start.
 - Wednesday May 11, will be a non-subsidized Stableford event, first tee 8am.
 - Wednesday May 18, will be a non-subsidized 4 man scramble, first tee 8am.
 - Saturday May 21, Scott McClellan will be hosting a subsidized Memorial Tournament, first tee 10am.
 - Wednesday May 25, Jack will be hosting the Wednesday subsidized Memorial Tournament, first tee 8am..
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Did you know?

The Senior League team apparently plays well in the rain. They proved this with their 11-7 victory over Morgan Run at Morgan Run. On May 15th, Twin Oaks played host to Morgan Run, and without the rain, could only draw even with the Morgan Run Team 9-9.

First place Balboa Park demonstrated their match prowess in both at home and away victories over Twin Oaks. Twin Oaks was defeated at Balboa Park on April 22nd, by the score of 14-4. Balboa Park then brought down the Twin Oaks team on its home course by a score of 12-6 on April 25th.

Rules and Greens: Something to think about while on the greens, eh?

Just awhile back, I happened to be watching the women's play on the LPGA Tour. I believe they were playing in San Francisco. All I know is that it was very windy where they were playing. Anyway, this young gal had putted her ball for birdie; the ball sort of curled around the hole and seemed to have come to rest just on the opposite side of the cup. The young lady seemed a little miffed that the ball had come to rest so close to the hole without going in. She paused for a few seconds in disgust, and then walked around to the other side of the hole to putt the ball in. As she stood there looking down at how close her ball was to going in, the ball suddenly rolled into the hole!

A similar thing happened on the European Tour. I believe it was a guy with the last name of Colsearts, or something like that. Anyway, this gentleman had taken a stroke at the ball and watched as it rolled some 15 feet or so to the hole, only to stop just on the left edge of the hole; the ball seemed to be teetering on the edge of the hole. The player looked for just a second in disbelief, and then moved to the hole to complete his play when, just as the player reached the ball and was about to knock it in, the ball dropped off the edge and into the hole. Now, the question is; were these balls considered to have been holed by the last stroke, or should the player be charged with an additional stroke as penalty?

RULE 16-2. Ball Overhanging Hole – When any part of the ball overhangs the lip of the hole, the player is allowed enough time to reach the hole without unreasonable delay and an additional ten seconds to determine whether the ball is at rest. If by then the ball has not fallen into the hole, it is deemed to be at rest. If the ball subsequently falls into the hole, the player is deemed to have holed out with his last stroke, and must add a *penalty stroke* to his score for the hole; otherwise, there is no penalty under this Rule. Since neither player in the examples above unreasonably delayed their trip to the hole, and had not exhausted the ten second time period, both putts were considered to have been holed with the previous stroke.

Ok, here is another item to ponder; and yes, these are the sorts of things that keep me awake at night, that is when it's not my aching back that is keeping me from my slumber, eh? Alright, let's just suppose that my ball has come to rest on the green. For me, this is usually after a driver, a couple of 3-woods, and some sort of chip or pitch to the green, and that is on the par 3's! So, my ball is finally on the green, and as all good golfers do, I walk up to mark the position of my ball with my favorite Jack Statz memorial ball-marker. Imagine my dismay, as I lean down to place my marker behind the ball, when I accidentally hit the ball with the marker and send it rolling forward a foot or so. Now what? I mean other than possibly being accused of testing the green, is there a penalty associated with such an act of bumbling?

Well, we know by definition that a ball "...is in play until it is holed or lifted as allowed under the rules." And we also know from Rule 18, that there is a penalty associated with moving a ball that is in play improperly. So, what happens when a ball is moved while I am attempting to lift it as I am allowed under the rules of golf? As it turns out, it appears that I am reprieved by Rule 20-1, which states in part: "If a ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved in the process of lifting the ball under a Rule or marking its position, the ball or ball-marker must be replaced. There is no penalty, provided the movement of the ball or ball-marker is directly attributable to the specific act of marking the position of or lifting the ball."

Ok, so what if the ball is moved in the act of removing the marker, eh? The definition of a ball in play also says that: "A ball that has been marked, lifted and replaced is back in play whether or not the ball-marker has been removed." So if I move the ball as I remove my ball-marker, haven't I just moved a ball that is in play? Well, as it turns out, the rules of golf are somewhat ambiguous with regards to this situation. And, as far as I can figure, this situation would fall in the category of the act of marking the ball, and as such, there would be no penalty associated with this act. But, let's not take this as gospel just yet. I'm still looking into this one, so if you know anything, please don't hesitate to tell me.

Now, if I haven't put you to sleep already, here is something that might keep you awake just a little longer. Consider this if you will. Now I've picked up my marker, but I've also move the ball, right? So now the rules say that I can't pick up a ball in play without first marking its position. So, where do I mark the ball? Do I mark the spot where I think it was before I moved it, or do I mark the spot where it is now at rest? Inquiring minds need to know. Stay tuned until next time. This is your sleepless leader signing off!

(Illustrated Rules of Golf, 2016)
