



Torrey Pines Men's Golf Club

Torrey Pines Men's Golf Club

Newsletter for March 2018



President Report

President's Corner by Roy Burchill, Club President

I'm honored to be selected as your club president for 2018. Congratulations also to Larry Prosi who is our vice president. We also had a couple of board vacancies with several good candidates interested in filling those positions. We are very pleased to welcome Johnnie Donnelly and Ruben Huerta to our board. They will be up for reelection at the end of this year.

I'm interested in serving on the board and, now as your President, because I love golfing at Torrey Pines, being able to call it my home course and being a part of this club. I know many of you share the same passion. I have time to give back to the club and I will do everything possible to ensure your TPMGC golf experience is second to none!

For many years, SCGA provided clubs with TPP software to run our tournaments. TPP was discontinued effective 12/31/17 so most clubs, including Torrey Pines, transitioned to Golf Genius late last year. We now use Golf Genius to manage our tournaments. Golf Genius is capable of doing much more than TPP such as tournament sign ups and many other features. We got ahead of ourselves at the end of 2017 attempting to use Golf Genius for weekend sign-ups. I know that created some confusion and it was a lesson learned. We will introduce other features of Golf Genius when we are sure our members have the proper information to navigate those features.

In January, we informed members that the ability of county members to play Torrey Pines and pay resident green fees was in question. That question has been answered but it is not the answer we hoped for. Starting in 2019, county members will no longer be able to pay the resident fee when they play in club tournaments. However, until December 31, 2018, county members will continue to be able to play in our tournaments and pay the same green fees as city residents.

Note that effective on January 1, 2019, all club members will be required to show their Resident Golf Card when playing in club tournaments at Torrey Pines. If you do not have a resident card, even if you are a City resident, you will pay the non-resident rate.

Unfortunately, this may cause many county members to leave the club next year and that is understandable. We hope many remain as members to play in away tournaments or occasionally in events at Torrey Pines. Please know that we did everything possible to prevent this outcome. We spent several thousand dollars to obtain legal advice from the same attorney who represented us 11 years ago when we secured the agreement that allowed county members to pay resident green fees. He advised us we have no legal basis to go to court to force the City to continue this practice. Please see related article in the newsletter for background regarding how county members were able to pay the resident fee when playing Torrey Pines.

Now that this issue has been resolved, I'm looking forward to a fun year of golf and competition!



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Weekend Report

Sign Up Process for Tournaments

The Weekend Group has returned to the previous sign up and cancellation method using the TPMGC website.

As a reminder, it is the member's responsibility for both weekend and weekday events to check whether they are in the event and their tee time. It is also assumed that the member who signs up a group notifies the others he is doing so.

The emails sent out with tee times and relevant info should be considered a courtesy to all participants and as such, should be viewed simply as a reminder. Responsibility still rests with the member to view their tee time and show up to participate.

Weekday Report

Weekday tournaments are available to our membership every week. With the weather warming up soon you will see we are scheduled to play many more tournaments on Torrey Pines South and North in the coming months. Every Torrey Pines weekday tournament has been oversubscribed, and will probably continue to be in the next few months. We do use our priority system to fairly allocate the tee times among all our members. If you do not get selected for a Torrey Tournament and stay on the wait list you will have the highest priority to be selected for the next Torrey Tournament, however, you must sign up for that tournament, in order to be selected.

Also please review our away schedule. We have some exciting venues for you to consider including Golf Club of California, Barona (limited tee times), and also some private courses Pauma Valley Country Club (limited tee times), Country Club of Rancho Bernardo, Fairbanks Ranch, and Vista Valley. Be sure and sign up for our annual Spring Fling on April 26th at Riverwalk Golf Course, which includes lunch and some great door prizes. If you haven't played in this 2 Best Balls of Four you need to put this on your calendar.

Coming up in the next few months will be tournaments which are qualifiers to advance to some SCGA tournaments. On May 3rd will be our SCGA Better Ball of Partners on Torrey North. May 31, Torrey North and June 7 Torrey South will be our Senior Championship.

We look forward to seeing you all out on the course.

TPMGC 2018 Board of Directors

Roy Burchill
President

Larry Prosi
Vice-President

Brian Dresser
Secretary

Ken Bien
Treasurer

Board Members

Steve Arkin

Michael Berg

Peter Born

Brian Cincotta

Johnnie Donnelly

John Hoffman

Bob Hood

Ruben Huerta

Gary Paluso

Bill Riordan

Steve Shushan

MEMBER HOLE IN ONE:

If you make a hole in one in a club tournament, a special award of \$100 will be added to your prize fund and your achievement will be recognized in our newsletter.

General Meeting May 22, 2018



It's all Free

***Drink, Eat, Party
Demos from Tay-
lormade, Titleist***



History Regarding Green Fees for County Members

For many years, Torrey Pines GC had a three-tier price structure. City residents paid the lowest rate; county residents paid a slightly higher rate and players from outside San Diego County paid a significantly higher amount to play at Torrey Pines.

In the mid-2000's when the US Open was coming to Torrey Pines, the City viewed the golf course as potentially a very lucrative source of income and they wanted to increase revenue by decreasing play of local golfers. As a result, they eliminated the county rate and took action to deny access to our club. In response to this action, TPMGC sued and prevailed. The outcome was a 10-year settlement agreement signed in 2007 that gave the club access to the course with a specified number of tournaments each year. Also included in that agreement was a clause which permitted all members to pay the same green fees as paid by city residents. This agreement expired last year. Because this agreement was tied to the resolution of a lawsuit, the club has no opportunity to renew it.

The Club's access to Torrey Pines Golf Course is also governed by a Special Use Permit (SUP). The Park and Recreation Department requires all groups that use recreational facilities under their oversight to sign a SUP. Among other things, the SUP includes information such as the number of tournaments the club can schedule each year at Torrey Pines, the number of tee times the club is allotted for each tournament, and our green fees.

The club's 2018 SUP will allow county members to continue to pay the same green fees as city residents, but the SUP's in 2019 and beyond will not.

Board Priorities

By: Roy Burchill

We have a hard-working board of 15 members. During my first board meeting as president, I shared with the board some of my goals for 2018 and I would like to share them with our members also.

Our club exists to run golf tournaments. You rely on us to run our tournaments smoothly and in most cases I hope you agree we do a great job. To be sure we continue to do a fine job, here are some priorities for our board to accomplish this year. Some are directly related to golf tournaments and others less so.

Write basic procedures and train a #2 for key functions. For example, if our Prize Chair suddenly became unavailable to us and our members were unable to access their prize money, this would be a big problem. We need to address this potential gap.

Update the newsletter. The newsletter you are reading right now looks a little different than previous newsletters and we will continue to tweak the look and content to keep it relevant.

Improve our two general meetings. I think those of you who attend enjoy them, but we think we can make them even better. Send me your suggestions!

Revise the by-laws. Raise your hand if you have actually read them! Not many hands are raised and there is little reason for you to read them. But they are the rules that govern our club and were last revised four years ago so its time to take another look at them. We updated the Code of Conduct last year.

Continue to introduce additional features of Golf Genius to run our tournaments if it makes sense for the Club. Last year, we moved a bit too fast in using it for weekend tournament sign ups. That was a lesson learned. We will be careful going forward as we introduce new features.

Our board is here to serve our members. Any time you have a suggestion, constructive criticism or just some feedback about anything to do with the club, please send me an email. We want your club experience to be the best it can be!

Handicap Report

Calendar of Up-coming Events

May 22, 2018

GENERAL

MEETING

Torrey Pines
Driving Range

Weekday

03/29/2018 **Sycuan**

Low Net

04/05/2018 **TP North**

Low Net

04/12/2018 **TP South**

Low net

04/19/2018 **Twin Oaks**
Better Ball Partners

04/26/2018 **Riverwalk**

B.B 2 of 4

05/03/2018 **TP North**

SCGA Qualifier Better
Ball of Partners

Weekend

04/08/2018 **TP South**

Better BALL

05/13/2018 **TP North**

2 Man Scramble

06/24/2018 **TP South**

Low Net

Handicap Committee

Michael Berg, Chair

Although we don't have many Handicap issues anymore due to the Tournament Committee posting of scores, there may be a time when you play outside of a TPMGC event and need a score posted or a posted score corrected. Feel free to contact me should you need any handicap help or have any questions in this regard.

Also, should you be fortunate enough to take that "trip of a lifetime" to St. Andrews, Carnoustie or other amazing site

where you are required to have handicap verification to play, we provide that for you. Let me know and I will have a letter prepared for you that you can send to the golf staff.



Rules and Conduct

Michael Berg, Chairman

Please, Good etiquette dictates that you turn off all electronic devices when playing.

Inevitably, golfers tend to break some rules more often than others simply because they play themselves into certain situations more frequently. Perhaps one of the most common rules violations we encounter is signing an incorrect scorecard. As you should be aware, once the card has been turned in, any player signing for a higher score on a hole has to accept that score for the tournament. If the player signs for an incorrect lower score, the player is disqualified. Simple math errors are not cause for disqualification, but be sure to carefully check your card before it is signed and turned in. No need to fall out of the money for careless score-keeping.

One of the issues TPMGC members face is not taking correct relief when finding a water hazard marked with yellow stakes. This most commonly occurs in our events on number 18, Torrey South where the pond in front of the green is marked by yellow stakes. For example, a golfer plays a ball over the water hazard - with yellow stakes - to the raised green. The golfer's ball clears the margin of the hazard but rolls back down the slope and into the water. Since the ball cleared the hazard, the golfer inevitably drops a ball on the 'green side' of the water.

In this instance, you are looking at a violation of Rule 26-1b, which states "drop a ball behind the water hazard, keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of the hazard directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the water hazard the ball may be dropped". In other words, your ball must be dropped from behind the water hazard, not in front of it.

At a recent weekday tournament, a situation arose wherein a member observed what he thought to be a rules violation in a foursome playing in front of him. The individual did not bring it up to the member at the time due to the fact that the individual was not in his flight thus he was not personally affected. The incident was reported to the tournament chairman 2 days after the event. I hate to state the obvious, but apparently I need to. Any observation of a potential rules violation by any player should be reported to the tournament committee immediately after your round if you are unable to resolve the issue on the course. Failure to do so because an "alleged offender" is not in your flight is simply exercising poor judgment.

Should you have any questions about rules violations, please feel free to reach out. Become familiar with the Rules of Golf. Don't find yourself penalized for a foolish mistake!

Pace of Play



Torrey Pines GC management has generally been pleased with our pace of play. You should know they do hold us to a higher pace of play standard than casual golfers at Torrey Pines. This is our home course and they believe we should know how to navigate it faster than golfers who rarely play it. Whether or not you agree, that is how they view us. So please continue focusing on your pace of play at Torrey and wherever you golf.

During our tournaments, all weekend and weekday groups should adhere to the following: the first player in a four-some to finish a hole is to head immediately to the following tee and get prepared to tee off. Practicing this along with playing ready golf will help the Club maintain a good pace of play and help make your round and your fellow members' round more enjoyable.

Here are some other helpful hints (courtesy of Golf Digest) about pace of play.

HIT FIRST, THEN SEARCH. If a member of your group slices one into the weeds, play your shot before you wander over to help. This isn't rude. He'll probably have found his ball by the time you've hit, anyway, and you won't be holding up the group behind you by joining the search.

HIT FIRST, THEN TALK. We've all played with golfers who save their jokes until it's their turn to tee off. They've got a captive audience because no one can move until they've hit, so they tee up a ball, then lean on their driver and unwind. Tell them to save it.

HEADCOVERS. Leave your driver's head cover in your car. Ten seconds a hole? Twenty seconds a hole? Painless and easy.

TIGHTEN YOUR PRE-SHOT ROUTINE. If you can't play without a practice swing, limit yourself to one. Pre-shot routines are important (supposedly), but they don't have to last forever.

BE READY TO PLAY. Frequently golfers stand until it's their turn, and only then do they begin to check their yardage, test the wind, pick a club, clean their grooves, put on their glove. Be ready!

PLAN AHEAD. Leave your clubs or golf cart in the right place between the green and the next tee. If (like many slow players) you dump your bag or park your cart in a random location—or, worse, directly in front the green—the players behind you can't hit until you've fully decamped.

Help Members with Pace of Play

There are several reasons pace of play should be at the top of every member's mind when playing in club tournaments. The primary reason is simply that golf is more fun when you don't have to wait to hit your shots! Also, in our Special Use Permit with the city, the golf course could move our starting times from morning to later in the day if we play too slow. To help keep up pace of play, we have club members who volunteer to help during tournaments.

Ruben Huerta is one of our new board members and the Club's Player Assistant Chairman. In that role, he coordinates player assistant volunteers who help at our events. Player assistants are TPMGC members who assist with the pace of play by helping players find their balls in the rough, making sure our members don't exceed 3-minute time limit allowed for looking for lost balls, and performing other time saving activities.

We would like to thank our player assistant volunteers who provided this service last year and for the events so far this year. We invite any member to sign up to be a player assistant. There are 2 shifts: the first shift goes from 8 am-11am and the second goes from 11am-2pm. Player assistants who work an event receive a priority assignment for one Torrey Pines event within 3 months of their service. Please contact Ruben Huerta at rphuerta@gmail.com for more information or to sign up as a volunteer.

COURSE ENHANCEMENTS

Being able to call Torrey Pines our home course has its advantages and disadvantages. Obviously, the advantage is we get to play regularly on two top-rated courses that have the attention of the golf world each year. The disadvantage is that to keep it in a condition that will allow it to continue to be top-rated, we occasionally have to deal with construction and maintenance.

Until about mid-May, the 4th green on south will be closed as the maintenance team figures out how to deal with a sink hole developing in the middle of the green. There is a temporary green about 50 yards short of the regular green. Until we have access to the actual green, take a net par on this hole when posting your score.

For about six months following the completion of the 2019 Farmers Insurance Open, there will be a lot of construction on Torrey Pines South. Most of the bunkers will be replaced and some relocated. We are advised there will be 18 holes to play at all times, but it will require the reconfiguration of some holes and perhaps the use of some temporary greens to make that happen. As we get more details about 2019, we will update you.

Prize Fund Report



Get Your Winnings from the Prize Fund

To request a prize certificate, you need to send an email to prizefund@tpmgc.org which includes your name, GHIN, amount requested and store. The list of authorized stores is on the website: <http://www.tpmgc.org/prizeFundStores> . I will make every effort to complete your request within 2 days. If you don't receive a confirming email within the 2 days, please contact me directly at: smslu-shan@sbcglobal.net .

Beginning on April 1, 2018, requests for prize certificates must be a minimum of \$50 or the balance in your account if it is less than \$50.

When requesting a prize certificate you should know that if you don't spend it all, the stores will give you a gift card for the balance or a credit that remains on file. It might be a good idea to request more money than your initial purchase, so you are ready for the next purchase without having to wait for a new prize certificate to be issued.

We are still allowing prize funds to be used for the purchase of \$500 VISA Gift Cards. The current shipping and other fees are \$15.90. So your account will be debited \$515.90. It usually takes 5 -7 business days for your card to be delivered after it is purchased.

Have fun spending your golf winnings. You earned it.

Stephen Shushan Prize Fund Chairman

Technology Committee

The Board's Technology Committee is working mostly behind the scenes to improve the tools we use to run the TPMGC. The most visible tool to most members is our website. This lets us share information on the club and tournaments. Other tools help us keep track of our membership roster, the prize fund, penalties and priority selection for tournaments. An external tool provided by the USGA is TM Club, also known as Golf Genius. This is the system that we use to build tournaments, prepare tee sheets and scorecards and enter results. Several of our technical challenges involve improving the interfaces and data transfer between the various tools.

Our website has served us well for a number of years thanks to the efforts of member Marshal Dhillon. Now, with several new systems in the mix, we are looking at making improvements to some functions and internal interfaces. Our intent is to make this process work while maintaining all the functions that members are accustomed to seeing and using. We'll let you know about the plan and progress over the next months.

Tournaments

Our club has Weekend and Weekday Tournament Committees that plan and execute most of our tournaments. We also meet periodically to address topics that cover all tournaments. Some examples of topics that we have discussed or will deal with soon are methods to promote faster pace of play, how to implement closest to the hole prizes, our Priority Selection System and how to implement TM Club/Golf Genius for our tournaments.

Our tournaments have continued to be oversubscribed. This means that we have many more members who sign up to play than can fit on the tee sheet. Our goal is to be as fair as possible in assigning members to the tee sheet with the remaining members placed on a wait list. If you are curious about how that process works, you can refer to the club website and read the "Player Selection System" article under "Tournament Policy" on the left side.

As you know, we have been experimenting with using Live Scoring for both weekend and weekday scoring. Although it remains optional, the results have been very positive. We know some members do not have the type of phone needed, but for those who do have found it easy and useful. I can also tell you that it is quite helpful for the tournament chair when they enter scores. For those not familiar, we will include a brief instruction on how to use the Golf Genius Mobile App to do Live Scoring during a tournament:

Mobile App Instructions

Go to your app store on your Android or iPhone. Search "Golf Genius". Download the app (orange icon).

When you receive your printed scorecard, open the mobile app on your phone. Enter the GGID found on the bottom right of your printed scorecard.

(Do not enter your email or any password) and click "SIGN IN" Click on your name. Enter the correct GROSS score for all of the players.

After scores are entered for a hole, click "Save Scores".

You will be directed to the next hole.

To view the leaderboard, click on "Leaderboard" on the top right.

To view your group's scorecard, click on the three lines on the top left.

Then click "Scorecard". You can use this to verify the actual scorecard.