

### President's Report by Roy Burchill



I know many of our members are not excited about playing Torrey South with two holes under construction. I was one of them. But now that I've played in a couple of South tournaments, I found it was a lot more fun than I expected. We are playing different formats during the construction. And it's kind of nice to finish playing in four hours. I've heard similar comments from other club members.

The 16 holes that remain open are still Tour-quality holes and in fine shape. The city is discounting their green fees and the club is discounting tournament fees while the construction is in progress. So, I encourage you to play in South tournaments during construction. I understand the construction project's estimated completion date of August 31 is on schedule.

We have a very hard-working Tournament Committee that not only runs each of our 60+ tournaments each year but also meet occasionally to discuss and decide on issues that affect how our tournaments are run. There are some important changes to be aware of so please read that article carefully.

One of the benefits of membership is our two general meetings. We have one coming soon on May 21 and another in November. We feed you, offer a putting contest with prizes and give you an opportunity connect with fellow members. It costs absolutely nothing to attend so we hope to see many of you at our upcoming meeting and even more in November.

Your board meets at 6:30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of most months at the Carmel Valley Community Center. We are here to serve you. Most of our

decisions are based on member feedback we receive through daily contact. Any member who wants to attend a board meeting is welcome to attend...no RSVP required!. If you have feedback about any aspect of your membership with the club, we can only do better if you share that feedback with me. Please email your criticism, compliments, random thoughts and questions to me at [royburchill@gmail.com](mailto:royburchill@gmail.com) and I guarantee you will receive a reply.

### Become a Volunteer

Player Assistants are needed to help monitor and assist with the pace of play in TPMGC tournaments held at Torrey Pines golf course. We need to expand the volunteer list to also provide coverage for the weekend events. This is a great way to be a volunteer for a club activity. One assistant is needed for the early shift 7:30-11:00 am and another for the later shift, 11:00 am – 2:30 pm. If you are interested in being a player assistant for our tournaments, please contact Ruben Huerta at [rphuerta@gmail.com](mailto:rphuerta@gmail.com).

## General Meeting

Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30

Torrey Pines Golf Range

Pizza, Refreshments, Putting Contest, and Demos from TaylorMade and Titleist

## Tournament Rules Update

Our Tournament Committee chaired by Steve Arkin meets occasionally to discuss and decide on tournament issues brought to us by members.

### Tee Color Assignments

Several years ago, TPMGC adopted a policy that the flight with the highest handicap golfers plays from tees that are one up from the regular tees. After some initial push back, the feedback from most members in this flight was that moving up made golf fun again. However, some members in that flight asked to not play from up tees and they were allowed to play back. The problem with that is there can be a large difference between the handicaps of those moving back and the others in their flight. The purpose of flighting is to have like handicaps compete with each other. **Going forward, members will play from the tees they are assigned to based on their course handicap and will not be allowed to change to another tee.**

Members with a course handicap of 20 or more will play from up tees. To determine which tee you play from you need to convert your index to a course handicap. For example, at Torrey North where the slope is 125 from the green tees, if your index is 17.6 or less, your course handicap is less than 20 and you will play from greens. If your index is 17.7 or higher, your course handicap is 20 or higher and you will play from gold tees.

### Flighting

Tournaments will have 2 to 4 flights depending on the number of players or teams. The tournament coordinator splits the field into evenly-sized flights and then ensures players with the same course handicap are in the same flight. Also, everyone playing from the up tees will be in the same flight. After these adjustments are made, flight sizes will most likely vary.

## Tournament Rules Update (continued)

### Tournament Prizes

The club uses a formula to allocate prize money. It distributes 100% of the tournament fees collected plus the tournament subsidy funded by the club to roughly the top 40% of golfers in that tournament. It also considers the size of your flight. Winners in larger flights receive more prize money than winners in smaller flights. Since they defeated more players, they deserve to earn slightly higher amounts. The minimum prize money awarded is \$15.

## Major Tournament Season

Our club has three majors: Club Championship, Senior Club Championship and Better Ball of Partners. The Better Ball of Partners weekend event already took place in March. Congratulations to weekend champs Roger Sodergren and Jose Marquez who will move on to the SCGA Qualifying tournament later this year.

Still to come is the weekday Better Ball qualifier on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Senior Club Championship weekday event takes place on June 6 and 13. The weekend event is in October. We also can look forward to the Club Championship which takes place on multiple weekends in August.

Since board tournaments carry greater importance, they have different eligibility requirements than regular tournaments. To be eligible to play, you must be an active member for 1 year on the date of the event and have played in at least three club tournaments at Torrey Pines during the prior 12 months. If a Board Tournament is oversubscribed, Board Members will have first preference. After that, the Priority Selection System will be used to select players randomly without regard to any prior play status.

## No Show and Late Cancellation Policy Change

TPMGC created a Penalty Criteria years ago because too many members were cancelling or not showing up. This was preventing other members from playing in these tournaments.

The Penalty Criteria is made up of two parts: a penalty fee and home tournament sit out requirement. Members must pay a \$25 penalty fee system if they cancel after the posted cancellation date. You can find the entire policy on the website:

<http://www.tpmgc.org/penaltyCriteria/>

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2019, cancellations received after noon the day before a tournament or a No Show will result in the member paying a \$50.00 penalty fee rather than \$25.00 while also sitting out for one tournament at Torrey Pines. The reason is other members could have been found if we had been notified earlier that the member wasn't going to play. It also leaves the hosting golf course with less revenue which can lead to the club being liable for that entry or possibly not being able to book a group again. With the long waiting lists we have for many tournaments at Torrey Pines, we must do everything possible to minimize these last-minute cancellations and no shows.

The required home tournament sit outs are handled automatically and deny the penalized member entry into any TPMGC events until payment is received and the sit out requirements have been met. When payment is received, the penalized members will be allowed to play away events only until their home tournament sit out requirement has been met.

Members penalized with valid explanations have the option of requesting an exemption by emailing the club president and explaining in detail the situation that caused them to be penalized. All exemption requests will be reviewed by committee. Remember that weather, minor illness, back pain, etc. are not valid reasons for exemptions. If you have any doubts about whether you are playing it is your responsibility to cancel within the appropriate time frame.

## Pace-of-Play Policy Update

The TPMGC board has voted to change our existing pace-of-play policy rules. The new rules mandate penalties for those who habitually violate pace policy. Who is an habitual slow player? A member who has three or more violations within the past 12-month period.

**NEW PENALTIES: Players with three violations within a one-year period will be fined \$25 and lose the privilege of playing in two tournaments scheduled to be played at Torrey Pines (one weekday and one weekend tournament). After three violations, each successive violation will carry the two-tournament suspension but the fine will increase to \$50.**

What is a pace-of-play violation? As stated in our pace-of-play policy published on our website, players are expected to complete tournament rounds at a **pace of 4:20** or better and if prevented by the field from doing so then must keep pace and finish **no more than 15 minutes** after the group ahead of them.

All club members began with a clean slate for the current golf season beginning in 2019. But just this year seven club players now have two pace violations. If these members earn their third violation they will be fined and incur a suspension.

Since January 1st most have adhered to our pace policy. For the 13 tournaments which time clocks have been used 29 groups have been warned about slow play. This is only 8% of the 353 groups playing in these tournaments but this is not good enough. An enjoyable round of golf for all is our goal for each outing. Equally important is maintaining good relations with course management. When our club has a slow day, we always hear about it from our hosts.

The board is hopeful fines and suspensions for slow play will not be required and all will be aware of their pace of play and do everything in their power to pick it up when required. Our pace-of-play policy statement has tips on how to play faster and more can be found on the Internet. Be aware, be smart, and know the rules.

## Awards for Special Achievements

There are some special achievements in golf worthy of more than just a monetary award and something you might want to celebrate for a long time.

Starting in 2018, if you get a hole-in-one during a club event at Torrey Pines North or South, you will receive a special plaque to commemorate that momentous occasion in addition to the \$100 already awarded for holes in one.

Starting in 2019, if you win one of the Club's major championships, you will receive a fancy trophy in addition to the prize money. Major tournaments are the Club Championship, Senior Club Championship and SCGA Better Ball of Partners.

## TPMGC Board of Directors

### Officers

Roy Burchill - *President*  
Larry Prosi - *Vice-President*  
Brian Dresser - *Secretary*  
Ken Bien - *Treasurer*

### Board Members

Steve Arkin - *Technology / Tournaments Lead*  
Michael Berg - *Handicap / Rules and Conduct*  
Ed Carter - *Pace of Play*  
Brian Cincotta - *Penalties*  
Marc Couillard - *Asst Weekend Tournaments*  
Johnnie Donnelly - *Asst Weekend Tournaments*  
John Hoffman - *Weekend Tournaments*  
Bob Hood - *Weekday Tournaments*  
Ruben Huerta - *Player Assistant*  
Gary Paluso - *Membership*  
Stephen Shushan - *Prize Fund*

