



# January 2021 Newsletter

## President's Report by Roy Burchill



Golf is booming! Many of you have experienced how its almost impossible to secure a tee time at Torrey Pines. That will only get worse during 2021

when Torrey North is shut down for many months for US Open preparations. Most of our tournaments at Torrey Pines are oversubscribed and even some of our away tournaments are also possibly facing that problem. To attempt to address this issue by controlling the size of our club, the board approved a change to our membership policy. For details, read that article in this newsletter.

The club implemented a COVID policy which is intended to keep all members safe. Please read the article in this newsletter to be sure you are knowledgeable of the policy.

Our new website is a significant investment in the future of our club. It allows us to better manage club activities. The public facing portion of the website displays the club we are proud to belong to in a much-improved manner compared to our former website. We appreciate your patience in getting used to new processes for tournament sign-ups and other functions. We are still in the process of completing full implementation so expect some additional changes.

If you have feedback about any aspect of your membership with the club, we can only improve 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.



## COVID-19 Policy

Golf has been accepted as a safe activity during COVID. Our club wants to be sure we don't jeopardize members' availability for golf. The Board approved this policy with the intent to stop the spread.

Any TPMGC member who either has tested positive for COVID-19, or believes they have come in contact with someone who has COVID-19, must follow this procedure:

- If you test positive and have recently played in a club tournament, you must notify the club immediately; contact our Vice President, Larry Prosi at [lprosi@san.rr.com](mailto:lprosi@san.rr.com). You must identify and notify anyone you may have come in contact with. The Club will assist in this process
- If you test positive you must follow the most current San Diego County Health Department Health Orders: [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sd\\_c/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/HealthOffice/OrderCOVID19.pdf](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sd_c/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/HealthOffice/OrderCOVID19.pdf)
- If you believe you have come in contact with someone that has COVID-19, you must follow the County Health Orders and advise the club immediately if you recently played in a club tournament.
- Whether you either have had a positive test, or have come in contact with someone that has, you then are ineligible to play in any club event until you have submitted a negative test result to the club.
- If you are signed up for an event, you will be removed upon your notification to the club. To avoid being penalized under the club's late cancellation or no-show club policy, you must present a negative test to be eligible to play

It is every member's responsibility to report exposure and/or positive test results if they have been in proximity with other club members. Failure to comply may subject the member to potential disciplinary action under our Code of Conduct

## New Club Website



Our new website launched on December 1. The site is intended to present our club and our home golf course in a positive light as well as provide the functions necessary to operate our club and our tournaments. The new site also has improved security and provides our members with much better feedback on tournament and financial transactions. As with any system launch, there were some bugs. We appreciate your patience as we resolve them. We have already corrected a good number of issues and we appreciate hearing from members who experience any problems.

You may be asking why we felt a new website was needed. Here's the story. The prior website was created almost ten years ago using technology that was current then. It was adequate for many years, but it also had some important deficiencies. For example, we could not adjust the tournament schedule once it was loaded and it was difficult to modify much of the information posted on the site. The site was too inflexible for our needs.

We realized at least three years ago that our club really needed an improved website. For a couple of years, we searched for low-cost options using members with skills to update our website. We did develop some good ideas for a new site, but these approaches never really got off the ground.

When COVID shut down golf last year, several board members used some of their idle time to assess our options. We decided to look into hiring a professional website developer. We investigated several companies and ultimately hired a local firm, Alden, to design and build our new website. They have golf experience as the Farmers Insurance Open is also a client.

The new website has three basic elements. The public portion is accessible to anyone and shares general information about our club and Torrey Pines in a much more appealing way.

The member portion is new and designed to meet our specific needs. It requires a login so the site can provide personalized information and transactions with more security. Instead of the Prize Fund we now have a Member Account. This has allowed us to operate our club without collecting cash during the COVID times. The new approach is working so well that we expect to continue using it even after COVID. The third element of the new website is the "back end". This is where we manage the tournaments, data and logic for our club functions. This is by far the most complicated portion of the site and the area where our Board Members spend a lot of time running the club systems and responding to member requests.

The site is functioning well but we are still fixing some issues and working on some improvements. We hope you are enjoying your new club website.



### Golf Genius is Your Official Scorecard

With COVID, Golf Genius replaced paper scorecards as the official record of your golf score. When COVID gets behind us, we will not be returning to paper scorecards. Golf Genius will remain the official record of your score.

The live leaderboard is a feature most clubs don't offer. 95%+ of our members post their scores after completing each hole, but until all members do this, it won't be as valuable. Let's have 100% participation this year!

When you finish your round, each member of the foursome should gather together to confirm the score on Golf Genius is accurate. Once you leave the golf course the scores entered on Golf Genius are the equivalent of scores you would have formerly signed for on a scorecard.

If you fail to enter a score for one or more holes, you will have the same consequence as if you failed to enter a score on a scorecard that you signed...you will be disqualified.

Don't be in a rush to leave the course after completing your round. Be absolutely sure the score on Golf Genius is accurate!

## New Membership Rules

Our club currently has over 1,200 members. As many of you know, it can be very difficult to get a spot in our tournaments. Most tournaments played at Torrey Pines GC are oversubscribed and recently some of our away tournaments have also been full.

In an attempt to slow our growth and ultimately make tournament access better for our members, the Board decided to take the following actions effective February 1, 2021:

- The new member fee is increasing from \$250 to \$300
- Members who fail to renew on time will have to rejoin the club and pay the new member fee

We will also be exploring other options that would require a change to our By-Laws.

## How We Determine Who Plays in Oversubscribed Tournaments

Frequently, our tournaments played at Torrey Pines GC are oversubscribed. So how do we decide who plays and who doesn't? Every member who signs up is in one of 4 categories: board member, volunteer (i.e., marshal), members who did not play in the last event at Torrey Pines, and members who did play in the prior event at Torrey. We use a special Excel program to manage this list. Typically, everyone in the first three categories makes it into each tournament. The 4<sup>th</sup> category (members who played in the prior event at TP) is sorted randomly by the Excel program so that there is no favoritism involved in determining who plays and who doesn't. We occasionally receive questions as to why someone who played in the prior tournament gets to play when his buddy doesn't. It's basically luck of the draw.

## We Need Marshals

If you want to guarantee entry into a tournament, then volunteer to be a marshal. Contact Ruben Huerta at [rphuerta@gmail.com](mailto:rphuerta@gmail.com) if interested.

## Qualifying for the Grand Torrey Cup Team



Ask any club member who has played in the first two Grand Torrey Cup matches whether it was worth qualifying for and most, if not all, will answer with a resounding Yes! This event is a match of 24

members of our club versus 24 members of the Grand Golf Club. The Grand is a private course located on the grounds of the 5-star Fairmont Grand Del Mar hotel just a few miles east of Torrey Pines GC.

The format is net better ball of partners match play. Unfortunately, our club has lost the first two matches in 2019 and 2020. This is our year to take back the Cup. Our home match will be on Torrey South on July 21 and the match at the Grand will most likely be on the following weekend.

Members have a chance to qualify during one of the following better ball of partner events. The first qualifying event will be at the Golf Club of California on February 18<sup>th</sup> where the team with the lowest net score in the entire event will qualify.

All other qualifying events will be playing on Torrey Pines South. The winners of each of the four flights on April 25<sup>th</sup> will qualify along with the flight winners on April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 27<sup>th</sup>.

John Hoffman will be our team captain and two other board members will round out the team.

## Ace Golfers

Members who get a hole-in-one during a club event have \$100 added to their member account. If the ace occurs at Torrey Pines GC, members also receive a special plaque commemorating the achievement. Since our last newsletter, these are our "ace" members:

**Steve Shushan, #8, Torrey North, 01/07/21**



With longer roughs on the Torrey North and South courses for the Farmers Open and upcoming US Open, it is of the utmost importance to maintain pace of play. Looking for lost balls in long rough is often futile and members must recognize when to “bite the bullet” and settle for a 2-stroke penalty. A maximum of 3 minutes for a search is within the rules but if your group is currently behind you should use good judgment to do what’s necessary to catch up to the group ahead of you.

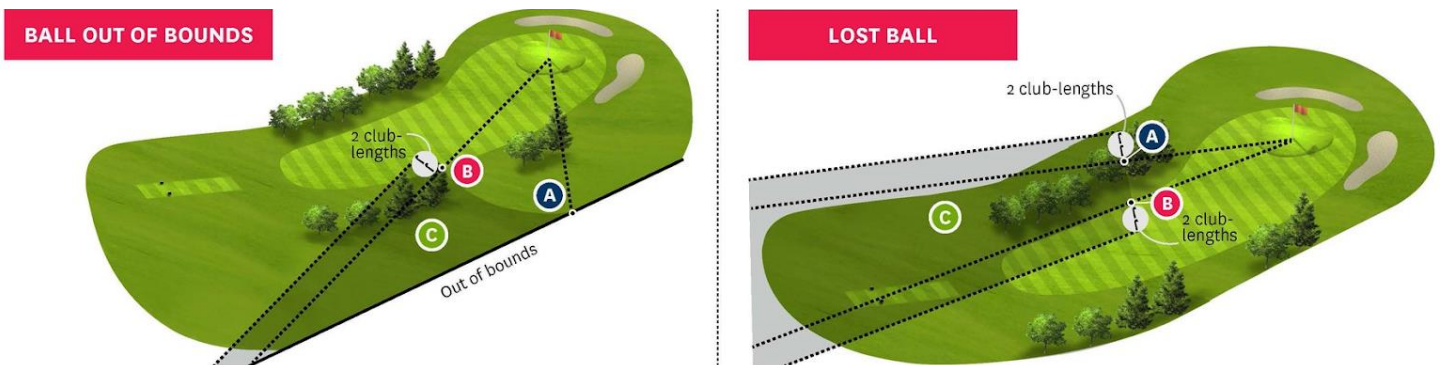
Our club adopted the rule made available by the USGA in 2019 to take a drop in the fairway when a ball is lost either out of bounds or lost in the rough. The below diagram illustrates the rule. It is each member’s responsibility to know this rule and use it to prevent their group from falling behind.

## 2020 Membership Stats

- 7** # cancelled events due to COVID-19
- 58** tournaments conducted during 2020
- 1236** year-end membership total
- 725** members playing in at least 1 event
- 511** members who did not play any events
- 198** # new members who joined in 2020
- \$169,500** total prize money
- \$1,581** top prize total any one member
- 48** most rounds by any one member
- 124** average tournament field size
- 162** most players in any one event
- 59** average member age
- 19** # of plus handicaps (indexes)
- +4.8** lowest index any member
- 12.14** average member index

## Club Rules for OB or LOST BALL

Local Rule used by club since January 1, 2019



If the Local Rule is in effect, you can still take stroke-and-distance relief, but you will now have the following additional option that comes with a penalty of two strokes:

**A** **DETERMINE SPOT** where your ball went out of bounds (left diagram) or is likely to be lost (right diagram).

**B** **FIND NEAREST FAIRWAY EDGE** no closer to the hole.

**C** **DROP YOUR BALL IN SHADED AREA** as defined on one side by a line from the hole through point A and on the other side by a line from the hole through point B, and not nearer the hole. The relief area is extended on both sides by two club-lengths.

This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur level competitions.



### – Tap Ins –

**Member Gift...** in the past few years, each member has been able to pick up a nice member gift at the pro shop. The club's financial situation was actually too strong and it was decided to find a way to use some of our excess funds to benefit members. Our finances are now more in line with where they should be so this year, we will not be offering a gift to our members.

**Thoughtful Wife...** just before Christmas we were contacted by Ms. Angela Thomasson asking if there was a way to surprise her husband with a club membership. We helped Angela keep it a surprise. We understand her husband, Roy, was pleased to find this gift under the tree on Christmas morning.

**Tee Assignment...** the tee color you are assigned to is based on your course handicap. All members must play from the tee color they are assigned to. If you play from a different colored tee, you will be disqualified.

**Holes in One...** Members who get an ace during a club event receive a \$100 award (added to their member account). If your ace happens at Torrey Pines GC you also receive a plaque to commemorate the achievement.

**Member Account for Departing Members...** Remember to request the balance of your member account when you leave the club. You have 90 days from the date your membership expires to use the funds or they will be forfeited. You earned it, so take it with you! Contact the Prize Fund Chair with any questions.

**Know the Rules...** Specific rules for each tournament format are now easily found on our website.

**Sprinklers...** Clubs have an option to implement a local rule that provides relief when a sprinkler head which is off the green lies between you and your target. Our club has chosen to not implement that rule. The only two situations in which relief is provided from sprinklers is when your ball actually lies on a sprinkler head or if the sprinkler head affects your stance.

**Maximum Handicap Differential in Non-Postable Partner Events...** When the club plays partner events with non-postable rounds such as scrambles, shambles, Pinehurst, etc., the maximum handicap differential for the two players is 8. When two players sign up with a larger differential, the higher handicap will be reduced so that it is 8 higher than the lower player's handicap.

### Champion Golfers of the Year



**Torrey Pines Men's Golf Club**

**Club Champions**

<b>Eric Sams</b>	Club Champion
<b>Roy Burchill</b>	Super Senior Gross Club Champ
<b>Bob Ross</b>	Super Senior Net Club Champ
<i>Weekday</i>	
<b>Jorge Pelayo</b>	SCGA Better Ball Champions
<b>Mike Sahd</b>	
<b>Peter Salmon</b>	Senior Gross Club Champion
<b>Colin Bennet</b>	Senior Net Club Champion
<i>Weekend</i>	
<b>Mark Griffiths</b>	SCGA Better Ball Champions
<b>Eric Sams</b>	
<b>Ken Kubis</b>	Senior Gross Club Champion
<b>Tim Keckeisen</b>	Senior Net Club Champion

1-1-21

(Defending champions of our "major" club tournaments over the past year)

## 2021 Board of Directors

### Officers

Roy Burchill - *President*  
Larry Prosi - *Vice-President*  
Brian Dresser - *Secretary*  
Marc Couillard - *Treasurer*

### Board Members

Al Allison - *Asst Membership/ Pace-of-Play*  
Steve Arkin - *Technology / Website Development*  
Michael Berg - *Conduct and Governance*  
Ed Carter - *Membership / Webmaster*  
Brian Cincotta - *Penalties*  
Johnnie Donnelly - *Weekend Tournaments*  
John Hoffman - *Rules*  
Bob Hood - *Weekday Tournaments*  
Ruben Huerta - *Player Assistant*  
Stephen Shushan - *Prize Fund*  
Marc Sorensen - *Handicap/Asst Tournaments*

Our Board election was conducted on-line last year as we could not have our annual member meeting due to the pandemic. Prior to the election, the Board Nominating Committee met virtually with each candidate to be sure they had the appropriate skills and time availability to be a productive board member. As a result, we had many excellent candidates running for board positions.

The following Board members were reelected to a two-year term: Ed Carter, Johnnie Donnelly, Ruben Huerta, Larry Prosi and Steve Shushan. We also welcome Marc Sorensen back to the Board. And congratulations to Al Allison on his election to the Board. Gary Paluso decided not to run again and we thank him for his service.

At our December Board meeting all four officers were reelected to serve another one-year term in their current position: Roy Burchill, President; Larry Prosi, Vice President; Brian Dresser, Secretary; and Marc Couillard, Treasurer.

The following Board members have new roles in 2021. In addition to being Membership Chair, Ed Carter is also the Webmaster. Al Allison is Pace of Play Chair and Assistant Membership Chair. Marc Sorensen is Handicap Chair. John Hoffman is Rules Chair and Michael Berg is Conduct and Governance Chair.

In addition to these roles most of our Board members are involved in running our 65 tournaments. This is a hard-working Board! Please thank your Board members when you see them.

### Ken Bien

Ken decided not to run for reelection this year. Ken was the club's treasurer for many years. He is also a Past President of the Southern California Golf Association. Much thanks to Ken to his contributions to the Board and to the Club.

## January (Zoom) Meeting of our 2021 Board

