



TPMGC

Stephen Lee's PRESIDENT'S LETTER

September 2026



--- Club Mission ---

"The Torrey Pines Men's Golf Club strives to provide well organized tournaments and support our community through volunteerism and stewardship of the Torrey Pines golf courses."

To all our TPMGC members-

Despite the hot and humid weather this summer, the membership still came out in full force to get plenty of golf rounds in. Here's to slightly cooler temperatures and less humidity, but of course, who can complain? We live in San Diego and play Torrey Pines Golf Course.

There is quite a bit of information in this newsletter. Many new decisions and policy changes have been made, particularly from the Tournament and Penalty Committees. Please read carefully.

Major Tournament Champions 2026

To start off, huge congratulations are in order for all our major tournament winners in 2026! Clearly, the cream of the crop came to the top. Some of these names are familiar, and many are new. Will your name be on this list next year? Get to the practice range!

Club Champion Gross: **Nik Neale**

Club Champion Net: **Jose Espinoza**

Senior Champion Gross: **Ken Kubis**

Senior Champion Net: **Duane Admire**

Super Senior Champion Gross: **Paul Albitz**

Super Senior Champion Net: **Arno Tuulik**

Weekday SCGA BB Qualifier: **Dan Hendrey, Matt Regan**

Weekend SCGA BB Qualifier: **Derek Peters, John Phillips**

Champion, Tournament of Champions: **Simon Lewis**



Grand Torrey Cup 2026

The annual Grand Torrey Cup was contested in July and concluded with a dramatic defense of our title by the good guys, TPMGC. Our 24-person team was comprised of the GTC qualifiers playing a four-ball Nassau format over two days with the first round on Torrey South followed by the second round at The Grand Del Mar. On our home course, we took a commanding 24.5 to 11.5 point lead. The team from GDM did not roll over though and came storming back with pride and vengeance the following day with 24 to 12 tally. The final point total though showed TPMGC on top, 36.5 vs 35.5. Phew! The festivities concluded with a delicious buffet dinner and celebratory drinks. We are looking forward to title defense #3 in 2027!



*The 2026 Grand Torrey Cup winning team
captained by Roy Burchill and Jamie Ogle*

Board elections for 2027-2028

The TPMGC Board is currently comprised of 14 members. With each term being two years, approximately half the board members come up for re-election every other year. For the 2027-2028 term, there are 8 board positions up for re-election.

The Board is always looking for qualified candidates to run in the Board election. Our primary responsibility is to run and manage the ~ 90 tournaments a year. This is no small feat in terms of time commitment. Additionally, there are numerous Committees in which the members are involved. Experience with Golf Genius is highly desired and at the minimum, excellent computer skills (e.g. Excel, comfort interacting between different platforms such as our website, Golf Genius, and Excel). Other important factors include a history of volunteerism in club activities, willingness to engage with members, and reasonable accessibility/responsiveness to Board activities/communications throughout the week. The Board typically meets once a month with additional committee meetings as needed.



If you are interested in running for the Board, please submit a statement of interest to me by October 1, 2026 that includes your reasons for wanting to be on the Board, background, specific skills that you bring to the Board (e.g. Golf Genius), and your history of volunteer activities within TPMGC. My email address is at the end of this newsletter. The Nominating Committee will then select those for interviews to take place in the first half of October. Membership voting will take place from mid-October to November 9, 2026. Election results will be announced at the membership meeting November 10, 2026.

Code of Conduct Committee, Chair Jamie Ogle

The CoC Committee investigated and adjudicated several issues since the last newsletter.

1. A member disabled the cart's GPS geofencing function. Two-month suspension. This has become a recurring issue. Changing the cart's programming functions is not allowed whatsoever.
2. A member used a range finder with the slope function turned on. Cleared. Using the slope function on your range finder is not allowed in our tournaments. See USGA rule 4.3 for details.
3. A member was dishonest in explaining a no show in the context of a history of excessive no shows. Member resigned from TPMGC. Honesty and integrity are at the core of how this club functions.

Volunteer Committee, Chair Sean Tucker

Overseeding for the North course is from Oct 6-8 and South course from Oct 27-29. There will be a big push by Torrey Pines for Divot Patrol volunteers (Oct-Dec) following overseeding in preparation for The Sentry Tournament at the end of January 2027. This is a great opportunity to earn volunteer priorities, make the golf course spectacular for the pros and make jealous TV viewers around the world that they do not live in San Diego.

Tournament Committee, Chair Roy Burchill

Definition of major tournament. Majors are defined as those tournaments with enhanced subsidies: Senior Championship, Club Championship, SCGA qualifiers, and Turkey Shoots.

Tournament flights. For individual tournaments of 60-64 players, TPMGC will utilize 3 flights with the goal of having flights of similar size. This means that a flight may have golfers playing from different tee colors. The World Handicap System not only allows for this, but also encourages players to compete from different tee colors within a flight. Flights will be separated by playing handicaps.



Tournament of Champions 2027. The 2027 TOC will be named in honor of Jim Lackritz, our friend and former Board member, who passed away earlier this year after losing his battle with cancer. Jim was instrumental in developing TPMGC's handicap analysis which is used to ensure all members' indexes are as accurate as possible (i.e., no sandbaggers!).

Jim loved this club which was clearly evident by those of us who knew him, played golf with him and worked with him. There are currently 150 players who have qualified which exceeds the number of slots available, and we still have more individual tournaments to play this year. The initial field, "Group 1" will include all those who won their flight in an individual tournament outright or by the SCGA tie-breaking rule. If you tied for first place, but lost the SCGA tiebreaker, you will be placed in "Group 2". Remaining opens slots not filled by Group 1 will be filled by those in Group 2 and chosen randomly.

New policy. Starting in 2027, major tournaments will require use of TWO volunteer priorities to guarantee entry. Priorities can be used to gain entry into either the Senior Championship or the Club Championship, but not both.

New policy. Effective October 29, 2026 (our next individual net/gross event), for all individual net/gross tournaments, we are eliminating the flight gross winner prizes (\$25) and instead designating a single overall gross winner (\$50) and adding a single overall net winner (\$50) prize. A player cannot win both the overall gross and overall net in the same tournament. In this particular scenario, the player wins the overall gross prize and the overall net prize goes to the next in line.

Penalty Committee, Chair Larry Prosi

Cancellations after the cancellation deadline but prior to 48 hours of the tournament are Tier 1. Within 48 hours of the tournament and NO shows are Tier 2... both unfortunately continue to be problematic. Our tournaments at Torrey are almost always oversubscribed. When a member cancels late or fails to show up, this means a member who wanted to play loses the opportunity to do so. Our club has a limited number of tee times at Torrey and by increasing the Tier fines, we hope to reduce or eliminate precious club tee times that go unused. Lastly, Tier 1 and Tier 2 cancellations lead to undue extra work for the TC (tee sheet, flighting, communication with TP staff).



New policy. Tier 1 fine goes to \$35 and Tier 2 fine goes to \$100. Effective October 29th.

New policy. Any player who has two or more Tier 2 penalties in the preceding 12 months of a particular major tournament or Grand Torrey Cup qualifier is ineligible to play in that tournament. This policy goes into effect for the upcoming Turkey Shoot tournaments this November 2026.

New policy. If you are within the Tier 2 period and realize that you cannot play, even if it is the night before the tournament, please let the tournament coordinator (TC) know. The TC will do whatever he can reasonably do to fill the spot from the waitlist. If you no-show, please send a note to the TC with an explanation for the no show.

Tidbits, reminders, and miscellaneous information

Check-in for tee time. The Torrey Pines Golf Course policy is that you need to check in at least 30 minutes before your tee time. If you do not, the course will give your spot away. There is nothing TPMGC can do about that.

Volunteer Priority. If you are using a volunteer priority, please remember that you still need to sign up for the tournament per the usual protocol. Entering a request to use a volunteer priority does not sign you up for the tournament.

Auto-renewal of TPMGC membership. If plan to continue being a member of TPMGC, I highly recommend that you set your SCGA/GHIN account for automatic renewal the next time your membership comes up for renewal (60 days before expiration). This renewal period is the only time you can select the auto-renewal option. This also automatically renews your SCGA/GHIN membership. If you do not do this and miss your renewal date, your cost to renew is substantially higher or in the worst-case scenario, you must re-join the club at the initial membership rate. Details are on our website under "Membership".

Biannual membership meeting. Our upcoming bi-annual membership meeting is on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at Alesmith. We will have a virtual golf par 3 contest, announce the Board election results, provide club updates, celebrate our major champions, and of course, raffle off exciting prizes. Entertainment guaranteed with Bob Hood as emcee. More details to come but block out your evening for fun and camaraderie!

As always, it is an honor for our Board to lead this club. We are constantly striving to make it the best club around for our membership to enjoy. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out.

Stephen H. Lee

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