



LINKSLETTER

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Lincoln Hills Men's Golf Club

FEBRUARY 2015

Check us out on the Web at www.lhmgc.org

President's Report



By Rodger Oswald


Recently I had a meeting with Ryan Patterson, Director of Golf, and Jason Koskela, the newly appointed Head Professional, to discuss a number of issues raised by past and current board members. It began with my statement that the majority of our membership sees this as “our course” and we want to be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem relating to a quality golfing experience. Both Ryan and Jason were appreciative of that and indicated that they, too, wanted our membership to have a quality experience at Lincoln Hills Golf Course. They were very receptive to some of the expressed concerns and have already begun to act on them. You will note that the chipping area has been cut down so that you no longer have to practice only hitting out of the rough. Another issue, streamlining payment of green fees on tournament days was addressed. Beginning with our March Tournament, you will be able to pay your green fees without waiting in line by placing a check in the basket on the counter. We need to ensure that the correct amount is on the check made out to LHGC. Summit members pay nothing, Gold Rush members pay \$35, Prospector members pay \$40 and Residents pay \$44.

Ryan also agreed to reinstate the Course Care Committee, so if you have issues you feel need to be raised with the Director of Golf or the Head Pro, please email me (rodgeroswald@gmail.com) so we may address those issues with Ryan and Jason in the CCC Meetings. Speaking of “course care”, it is no secret that our fairways bear too many unfilled divot holes and our greens bear too many unrepaired ball marks. We discussed the possibility of members “adopting a hole/green”, of having a “green-to-tee” sanding of divots as part of one of our tournaments, as well as having ball-mark repair tools at greens. As soon as the logistics regarding liability and necessary equipment are settled, we will get back to you as to how our club can be involved.


The bottom line is that the management of the course wants to cooperate with our men's club so that the course we play is as good as a public course can be. When you see Jason Koskela, you may want to congratulate him on his promotion.

Kudos, as well, to Gene Andrews – our rookie Tournament Chairman. He is learning “on-the-fly” and doing a great job.

Tee it high and let it fly!



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TOURNEY REPORT



By Gene Andrews

Our up coming touranments;

March 10	Lone Ranger Tourney
April 7	TBA
May 4 & 5	Club Championship



We got the new year off to a good start with 128 players in the Slosfest and the ABCD Scramble. You all kept up a pretty good pace in both tournaments with the Scramble finishing in 4-1/2 to 5 hours with a full field – quite an accomplishment.

We have the Lone Ranger coming up on March 10 consisting of 4-man teams with the Lone Ranger's ball counting and 2 other best balls on each hole. The lowest team score will win

in each flight. There will be multiple flights with the 1st Flight teeing off from the white tees and all other flights teeing off from the green tees. Sign up as a team or 1, 2 or 3 players and the Tournament Chairman will complete your team.

Please consider the following to help keep-up the pace of play:

1. Reduce the time to hit each shot by just 2 seconds.
2. One less practice swing, 1 less waggle.
3. When it is your turn to hit the shot, BE READY to hit the shot.
4. You must prepare to hit your shot while others are playing.
5. If you begin to fall behind, putt out and go on to the next tee to tee off. Don't wait for all the players in your group to finish before heading on to the next tee.

How to determine if you are behind:

1. If you arrive at the tee on a Par 3 and the green clear.
2. If you fail to clear the tee box on a Par 4 before the group in front of you clears the putting green.
3. If you are teeing off on a Par 5 and the group in front of you has already reached the putting green.

We will have a marshall in our future tournaments to help us keep up with the group in front of us.

HANDICAP

By David Jansen

Posting scores is the player's responsibility.

As the new Handicap Chairperson for our Club, I plan to provide our members, via the Linksletter, information relative to the importance of complying with the USGA Handicap System. I will focus on the handicap system only and not on the Rules of Golf. Of course, many of you may already know this information, but it doesn't hurt to get a refresher, because if our members' handicap indexes aren't correct, managed and posted correctly, we are all penalized when competing with each other. Also the USGA has established rules that I am expected to follow such as requiring adjusting scores and reviewing postings, as well as expecting us to monitor low scores ensuring that members post their scores every time they play a round of golf, even if it is just 9 holes.

The USGA states that it is the **Player's responsibility** to post acceptable scores and they must be posted for handicap posting purposes. The follow are some of what the USGA regards as acceptable:

Post scores when at least 7 holes are played (7-12 holes are posted as a 9 hole score; 13 or more are posted as an 18-hole score). Holes not played are posted as par plus any handicap strokes to which the player is entitled.

Note that when there is a Men's Club event and the format requires the scores be posted, the tournament committee will post your score. However, if you play on Tuesday "Sweeps" sponsored by Billy Casper Golf, **you are responsible to post** your own scores. Note that these scores will be audited by the Handicap Committee as is required by the USGA. Also, the Handicap Committee is expected to examine the results of competitions and take appropriate action if net scores appear out of line.

I am going to make every effort to communicate to the members via the Linksletter. I will say what the rules are on a monthly basis, so that you at least understand what the USGA expects and so that all members post scores accurately.

Finally, you should know that every 4 years each golf club in Northern California is required to be certified. They have spent a lot of time giving each club the tools to better organize the clubs' Handicap Committee and to administer the Handicap System. Special emphasis is placed on dealing with **golfers who abuse the system for their own benefit.**

...And I thought this job was going to be one of the easier ones; there is a whole manual dedicated to the Handicap System!

Dave Jansen, Handicap Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP

By Roger Cummings

The club had a great year and everyone who participated enjoyed the touranments and events. Membership is an ongoing activity and we would like to invite any new residents to join.

We have over 250 members.



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Sponsor Report


By Tuck Halsey

We would like all our Members to know that our Sponsors for this year have all come on board for 2015 and we ask you to support them by referring them to friends in helping to honor their vital commitment to our Men's Club in any way you can. They are truly a big, big part of our life blood and for the total body of LHMGC, they have our sincere thanks. This month the home page features Mercer Tyson and Craig Carolan. Just check out their websites to learn more about them as well as our other great Sponsors.



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CVS CENTRAL VALLEY SENIORS

By Karl Williams

The CVS Membership is full at this time. A reminder – the first tournament will be April 13 at Sierra View CC. John Engelmann, Last year's CVS Director, managed to schedule

the tournament at Lincoln Hills for early in the season, June, 2015, in hopes of getting more participation for both the morning and afternoon schedules.

It is my hope that we can continue to have our tournaments here for the next year in June. If we don't get enough players in the AM and PM Schedules, the management at Lincoln Hills Golf Course will not hold the course for us in the PM Schedule. So, we will be asking the members of CVS Lincoln Hills to sign up for the Lincoln Hills Tournament on June 1 for the PM only, allowing other courses' members to fill the AM. This will help to fill the allotted times so we don't lose them, not only for this year, but for the future, too. If the allotted times are not full, the CVS Board of Directors will move us to the end of next season, in September.



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Sunshine Alert

By Bob Emge

From time to time, someone in the Men's Golf Club or their spouse will have a serious illness or pass away. As head of the of the Sunshine Effort, I would like to be informed of these events so I can send the person or their family an appropriate card. Also, if the member agrees, this information will be publicized in our monthly Linksletter so all members will be aware.

If you know of someone in this situation, please contact Bob Emge: 916-434-671



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