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THE NUGGET

The quarterly newsletter of the Greenhorn Creek Men's Golf Club

March 2004

President's Corner (Bob Holston) : Spring is just around the corner, and with the improving weather, hopefully an improvement in our golf game. In spite of the periods of wet conditions, we have had great participation in the Wednesday sweeps, and with the coming of spring, I hope to see even more of you. Wednesday play is a great time to meet a new member, play with some of the guys that you don't usually get to play with, and support our Men's Club.

The Board has recently established a new policy which allows guests to participate in the Wednesday sweeps. Beginning in March, members may bring a guest to one of the "team" format play days (1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays of the month). The guest must have an active NCGA handicap and will play in the same foursome with the host member. Guest passes provided by Greenhorn management may be used for guest green fees. The guest (or host) will be required to pay the \$5.00 sweeps fee, and any guest winnings will be posted in the member account. We hope this new policy provides an opportunity to show off our course/community to friends, have a great day of golf and perhaps lead to some guests becoming residents and club members.

Return To TEE Times : Beginning March 1st, regular daily play will return to tee times. Wednesday sweeps will continue with shotgun starts throughout the year. The transition of first starting tee times at 8:00 AM during March, 7:30 AM during April and 7:00 AM from May 1st through the summer months.

Course Maintenance : Aeration and sanding will be performed on the following Mondays and Tuesdays:

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| March 22 nd and 23 rd : | Aeration and sanding of front and back nines. |
| May 17 th and 18 th : | Light Sanding front and back nines |
| July 19 th and 20 th : | Light Sanding front and back nines |
| September 20 th and 21 st : | Heavy sanding of front and back nines |

* ONLY NINE HOLES WILL BE OPEN FOR PLAY DURING PERFORMANCE OF THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES

GREENHORN CREEK GOLD RUSH INVITATIONAL: After a year's absence, the Greenhorn Creek Gold Rush Invitational Golf Tournament is back. With the return to the original format and some exciting additions (i.e., make a hole-in-one and win new car!), this year's member-guest tournament promises to be the best one yet. Sign-ups

for the June 3rd, 4th, and 5th tournament will begin in early March, with 2002 participants and those who committed to last year's event given priority. I expect the tournament to be a sell out (limited to 124 players). All members will be receiving their invitation in early March so select your partner and get your application in as soon as possible. Contact Mike White, head professional, for more details.

Help Prevent the Spread of Virus/Worms : There are numerous news reports of problems with unwanted e-mail (spam) and unintended spread of virus/worm infected files. Members who use computers are notified of tournaments and the NUGGET via an e-mail. Some ISP spam blockers reject messages sent to large numbers of addressees unless the sender is identified in the recipient's "white list". Those of us transmitting such information take precautions to minimize the risk of sending contaminated files/messages. Our general membership is encouraged to use similar discretion when sending or forwarding files/messages to a long list of fellow members.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR (Bob Henning): Our tournament in December was rained out. I heard that some of you were looking forward to the 2 best balls of the foursome format (white tees) for that day so it was included in the March 7 tournament.

60 participants played in our January 10th individual low net tournament. First place winners were: Jim Pisula, Blue Tees flight one, Larry Feldbrugge, Blue Tees flight two, and Val Kuykendall, White Tee flight.

Our February 21 tournament was weather scary but 62 members enjoyed a great breakfast and an individual point par tournament. First place winners were: Bob Timko, Blue Tees flight 1, J Shoop, Blue Tees flight 2, and Sal LoFranco, White Tee flight.

Coming Tournaments:

- March 7th : NCGA Zone Qualifier (4 Man) 2 Best Balls Net Tournament.
- April 24th : NCGA 4 Ball Net Qualifier (2 Man) 1 Best Ball Net Tournament
- May 16th : NCGA Net Amateur Qualifier, Medal Play, Low Net Tournament.

For those who do not wish to participate in these NCGA qualifiers, there will be a flight established for play from the white tees using the same format as that of the qualifier tournament. Details about the March 7th were sent via e-mail and a notice was posted on the temporary bulletin board (mirror by posting machine). Details on other events will be provided via similar methods as we get closer to the tournament date.

A list of all tournaments for the year was contained in the December NUGGET. A copy is also available in the Pro Shop and will be listed in the calendar section of our 2004 Greenhorn Creek Membership Roster.

12 Man Team Match Play : Details of qualifying were sent out by email and are posted on the temporary bulletin board (mirror by posting machine). Joe Panto will be our playing team captain and is taking sign ups and \$20 entry fee now. Qualifying dates are the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, beginning March 10th and continuing through May 26th. These six opportunities should be sufficient to ensure that those who wish to try out can record the minimum of two best scores to be used in selecting the team members.

Thought for the Month : Golf can be described as an endless series of tragedies obscured by the occasional miracle.

HANDICAP/RULES COMMITTEE (Rick Parker) : During the past three months it appears that Men's Club Handicaps are trending up. This is probably due to winter conditions and no driving range. If you are like me, it takes four or five holes to loosen up. However, some posting errors continue to occur. It's warm in the club house so we can't blame posting errors on winter conditions, although extensive camaraderie at the bar could be a factor. The errors are typically mistakes in addition, posting for the wrong tees, using the wrong handicap, or no posting of scores. Usually these errors are corrected by me and the corrected score is posted for the Wednesday play. Tournament scores are typically posted for you by me or the pro shop. I plan to continue monitoring Wednesday sweeps score cards, other organized play days where prizes are involved, and tournament scores.

The player is responsible for knowing their current NCGA/USGA handicap index and the handicap for any given USGA rated course and tees played. They should post their score immediately following the round at the course where the round is played and if that is not possible, post the score as soon as practicable (NCGA Handicap Manual Section 5). If you forget to post a score or make a mistake while posting, let me or the Pro Staff know and we can correct it.

What scores should be posted? If 13 or more holes are played (under the rules of golf), the player shall post an 18 hole score. If 7 to 12 holes are played, the player shall post a nine-hole score. For the holes not played, his score for that hole (for handicap purposes) shall be par plus any handicap strokes he is entitled to receive on the hole. For example, a player with an 18 handicap who completes 13 holes will score par plus one stroke for holes 14 through 18. (NCGA Handicap Manual Section 4)

Scores should not be posted when (NCGA Handicap Manual Section 5):

- fewer than 7 holes are played,
- the course played is in an "inactive season",
- the majority of holes are not played according to the rules of golf,
- a condition of competition requires less than 14 clubs or restricts the use of clubs,
- the course has no USGA rating, or
- non-conforming clubs, balls, or devices are used.

I have paraphrased the above text but I have the entire manual memorized, so if you need additional information or detail contact me.

I look forward to seeing you all on the course and lowering your handicaps in the next few months.

Member-at-Large (Chuck Tolerton): We would like to welcome the most recent new members of the GCMGC:

Dan ("Lipper") Lippstreu and his wife Luka moved from Pleasanton to their new house on 568 Springhouse Road (Ph.736-1955). We have seen them previously at various social events but Dan is now officially a member of Greenhorn Creek Men's

Club. He was a Small College All-American at Chico State (Golf) and has been inducted into their Hall of Fame. He still is the PGA Class A manager/pro at the Las Positas Golf Course in Livermore.

Jim Wagner and his wife Fran moved from Oakdale, and are currently residing in one of the cottages at Greenstone Drive while their house is being built right of the 7th tee on Miwuk Way (Ph.736-0054). We have not seen much of Jim at the weekly sweeps as he is still actively working in almond industry. Their orchards are in the Snelling area so he still has quite a commute.

Mike White (Head Professional) : The weather will soon get better and give everyone the incentive to go out and work on their game. We are looking forward to the April 1, 2004 opening of the new driving range. The two tee decks in the back (near the maintenance/office buildings) will only be used for teaching purposes. Members and the general public must have a scheduled appointment with either Mike or Darryl to use the teaching section. We ask that members respect this decision as the tee decks are not big enough for heavy use everyday. There will be a new short game practice area above the practice tee decks which will be available for member use.

The front of the range (nearest the club house) will be used in the same manner as in the past. Outside public play/practice will be able to use this part of the range. There will be a roped off section for members and their guests only. We are receiving a ball machine to be installed in the shed at the range. We will issue tokens in the Pro Shop to all players who want to use the range. As in the past, members will still receive free use of range balls. If you have any questions regarding the range, please see Mike White or Darryl Pief.

The golf course is playing great. We are working on the establishment of a program for maintaining similar conditions throughout the entire year. We believe with a lot of hard work and planning, we can have a great golf course with great conditions year round. We understand that there is much to do and a plan is being put together for course improvements. We are going to concentrate on irrigation and drainage issues then our bunkers! We are accepting everyone's input and encourage you to talk with us about your concerns. Please see either Mike White or Bert Sobon with your input.

The Golf Shop is going through some changes. I have taken over the buying of all merchandise in the shop. Unfortunately, I will not be able to bring in every line that might be wanted. However, I am working on bringing in lines that I think the majority of you will be happy with. My plan is to bring good quality items in while also lowering the prices. You should start seeing new product lines in the shop sometime in May. As we go through the year I encourage you to talk to me about what you want in the shop. Because we have an abundance of existing stock, we are going to have a "spring sale" on much of our merchandise. We are going to put Tommy Bahama and Brighton products on sale. They will start at 25% off, and the sale will begin in March. Ask the Pro Shop staff for more details.

We in the Pro Shop are looking forward to a fantastic 2004 season, and with your help we will make this entire facility a better place.

Keep swinging.