

ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

Volume 1, Issue 3

June 1, 2016

President's Message

It happened! RHGC, in conjunction with the Saudi Golf Federation, brought in a USGA course rater last week. Initial indications are that the course is close to the same rating and slope, but we will have to wait for the final report.

A big thanks to everyone who helped out with the President's Cup; special mention to Helen Boam for a great beverage delivery service, Tamara exceling at cat herding, and Jeff's hours at the Tournament Manager key-board. The tournament concluded as it should, with the President winning. Thankfully no mention was made of the alleged Day 2 free pass/ presidential pardon Lee and I may have received.

For those of you who need advance notice for their social calendar, planning is underway on the RHGC December Golf Ball, details coming soon.

And if you're wondering who Carl is, in the **Ask Carl** column later, google **Carl Spackler**.



Pro Shop Massive Clearance Sale!!

Time to make space for new arrivals, with massive discounts on a large amount of clothing, clubs and other items. Many items reduced to cost price or less. Hurry, to grab a bargain while stocks last. There is new clothing in stock from Crest Link, as well as push carts and cart bags from Fenix.

Ladies' Golf

Ladies golf at Rolling Hills is happy to report we have lots of new players starting to join us on Tuesday morning. On May 3rd, we held a "Buddy Day" and had 7 new players come out and try out the course and enjoy the day. We gave everyone a golf starter pack with golf balls, tees, and markers. Then, each new player was paired up with a current member. Good times were had by all.

On May 7th, approximately 20 members of Rolling Hills Golf Club went to Bahrain to participate in their Ladies Captain's Charity Event to benefit the Palm Association in Bahrain. This organization currently helps around 70 families a month who are living below a subsistence level. A fun scramble held and a delicious dinner was enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone who showed up and represented Rolling Hills Golf Club!!

As the summer temperatures soar, so do many of the golfers. We do not have anything organized until we meet back up in September, as most are out-of-Kingdom for part or all of the summer. Whether here or wherever, have a wonderful summer!

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Tournament Info	2
Ask Carl	2
Saudi Aramco Junior Open and Golf Day	2
Handicap News	3
Ground & Rules	3
From the Pro	4
2016 Aramco Junior Open	4



Upcoming Tournament Information

12th Anniversary Tournament

On June 4th the Anniversary Tournament will take place. This year it is a 3-2-1 Cha Cha Cha format. This is a 4 player team event, which can be mixed gender. Each player plays his own ball, recording a gross score for every hole.

One score card will be kept for each team. Each team will use the preprinted cards.

The strokes are to be taken in the order assigned on the score card. For example, a player with a 3 stroke handicap takes them on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd handicap holes.

Beginning on hole #1, the sum of the 3 best NET scores of the team will be used.

On hole #2 the sum of the 2 best NET scores of the team will be used.

One hole#3 the best NET score of the team will be recorded will be used.

Repeat the above process for the remainder of the holes, using the 3 best NET scores for hole #4, 2 best NET score for hole #5, the best NET score for hole #6 and so on until the round is completed. As there will be a shotgun start, a team's starting hole might not be a 3 best NET score hole. For example, a team starting on hole #15 would only record the best NET score.

Upon completion total the scores, the card must be signed by the scorer, attested by one player and dated to avoid disqualification.

The Tournament Committee will enter all gross scores and lowest team score by flight will be declared the winner.

There will be three flights A-B-C, 1st, 2nd, 3rd place team winners.

June Bi-Monthly Medal

The medal is an Open Play event for Friday June 10th or Saturday June 11th. Sign up online, then book your own tee times to play with whomever you wish. Bookings for the weekend open up online bookings open on Monday June 6th / Tuesday June 7th.

Eid Al Fitr Eclectic

This year's Eid Al Fitr Eclectic will occur during Tuesday, July 5th through to Saturday, July 9th. Golfers can play a maximum of 5 rounds. Golfers must declare to their playing partners before they begin the round that it will be a tournament round that will count towards the Eclectic Score. Golfers should have their player partner initial the round once the round is completed. The round must be recorded on the tournament scorecard. Each day will be represented on the card. You must record the score for that day in the appropriate location. For a round to count towards your eclectic score, you must complete at least 14 of 18 holes of the round.

June 4th — Anniversary Tournament

June 10th-11th — Bi-Monthly Medal

July 5th-9th — Eid Al Fitr Eclectic



Ask Carl

- Q: Who has priority on the turn if the last tee time off the front in the morning (7:50 am now) doesn't start on hole 10 before the back (10:10 am) tee time?
- A: The first group with all members of their tee time present and are ready to tee off have the priority. If both groups are present at the same time, and are ready to tee off, then the group making the turn would get the right to play first.
- Q: Do club sanctioned competitions (i.e. match play) have priority over social players?
- A: Tee times for match play events do not have any priority over social or casual play. If a match is tied after 18, players should move to hole 1 and politely talk to the group on the tee and see if they will let you tee off to complete your match in extra holes. They don't have to let you tee off, but most times you will find they have no objection.

If you would like Carl to answer a question, please email a Board member and they will make sure Carl gets it.

Handicap News

Reminder to post scores “as soon as practical” per USGA (sec 5-2-a)

Scores should be posted immediately after a round, or as soon as practical, per USGA Handicap Manual section 5-2-a. The expectation is that scores should be posted within one week of the date on which the round was played. So please enter your scores immediately after the round! If you need more information on how to post scores, see the April 2016 newsletter where there was an article on this topic.

Why is there an "R" after my Handicap Index?

If your Handicap Index has an 'R' next to it, the simple answer is that your Handicap Index has been automatically **reduced** due to exceptional tournament scores, which the USGA defines as two or more tournament scores posted within the past year that are at least 3 strokes better than your current Handicap Index. This reduction is an “automatic” calculation by the GHIN Handicap system.

You may then ask yourself, "If I haven't played in a tournament recently, this must be a mistake." In actuality, a tournament score will stay in your scoring record for at least one year or even longer, if they are still part of your 20 most-recent scores. If you have two exceptional tournament scores in your record at any given time, you may be eligible for an automatic reduction.

A Handicap Index intends to reflect potential playing ability, and this procedure enhances the likelihood. Please see section 10.3 of the USGA Handicap Manual for more details.

If you have a questions related to RHGC Handicap Policy and Program, please contact Handicap Director Stephen Vezendy at rhgc.handicap.dir@gmail.com or stephen.vezendyjr@aramco.com.

Ground & Rules

Update on New Course Rating

On May 25 the golf course was evaluated by a qualified USGA course rater from the UAE. This exercise took the day to complete and he is now back in Dubai. He will be crunching the numbers and the Board expect the results of the course rating and slope to be delivered to us shortly.

The USGA mandates that a new course be rated when it is opened and then after 5 years. After that, the course should be rated every 10 years or after major renovations. Our course was opened in June of 2004 and the initial rating took place in November of 2007. So we are a little past the 5 year date as recommended by the USGA but now it is done. The results and implications will be discussed in a future newsletter.

Know The Rules

A ball that is embedded under the lip of a bunker is **in the bunker** [Decision 13/4].

The situation is that you are in the bunker and thin your shot so that the ball rolls along the ground and plugs in the sand of the bunker beneath where the grass starts to grow. In this case you can use rule 28 (ball unplayable), but you must drop the ball in the bunker. If the ball would have elevated just a bit and the ball became embedded in the grass face of the bunker then the local rule permitting a drop for balls embedded in the bunker face could be used. To determine where the ball is embedded in the bunker, if it is in the grass bunker face the ball must be touching grass and roots of the grass growing there. If it is buried under the grass lip, and is only touching sand from the bunker or dirt that is under the grass growing on lip, it is deemed to be in the bunker.



From the Pro

Stuart will be running the next "Golf in a Week" class starting on June 19th and finishing on June 23rd. Class are an hour each day beginning at 7:00 pm. Each class will address a different aspect of the game. The cost is 600 SAR per person.

He will also be offering Junior Clinics in July. The clinics will cover the fundamentals and basics (putting, irons, chipping, and woods) of the game and swing.

The two Junior Clinics in July are:

- July 17th—21st
- July 24th—28th

Only children aged 8 – 16 are permitted to part in the Junior Clinics. Each class runs for one hour each day from 8:00 am —9:00 am. The cost is 400 SAR and needs to be paid in cash to Stuart.

To register, you may contact Stuart via email at:

stuart.hurstfield@aramco.com

June 19th — Golf in a Week

July 17th-21st — Junior Clinic

July 24th-28th — Junior Clinic

2016 Aramco Junior Open

The 2015-2016 Junior Golf season concluded with a very successful Saudi Aramco Junior Open Championship and Golf Day on May 14th. Over 30 junior golfers from RHGC, Ras Tanura, Abqaiq, and Udhailiyah came out to participate in the free clinic, putting & chipping contests, and rounds of golf. The 2016 Junior Open Champion was Jacob McGrath, who beat Nathan Kraynyk by a single stroke on the 20th hole of their exciting back and forth match.

The junior golf season goes from October through May with monthly tournaments. Each tournament has a competitive division for the more experienced golfers who want to test their skills and a fun division for those that are learning the game

and just want to have fun. In addition to playing on the course, some tournaments include free skills clinics and putting or chipping contests. The tournaments are open to all youth golfers between 8 – 18 years of age that are members of RHGC. Non-members can also play if they are taking lessons from the RHGC Pro Stuart Hurstfield.

The RHGC Junior Golf Program would like to thank all those that participated and volunteered to help out during this past season. There were almost 100 junior rounds played between October, 2015 and May, 2016. This would not have been possible without the continuous support of the RHGC Board, club members and the many volunteers who came out to marshal and play along with the juniors. We would also like to thank Stuart Hurstfield for his continuous support and promotion of junior golf.



To all of the youth golfers Have a great summer, keep practicing, and we will see you again in October!