

ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

Volume 1, Issue 6

October 2016

President's Message

Summer's over and golf is heating up. We have a packed October, but of note, I encourage everyone to check out the Xerox Challenge, sign up your twosome ASAP!

If you've been out on the course recently, you'll have noticed the rather healthy condition of the rough. We've been talking to course Superintendent, along with Gardening and Recreation. A lot of the issues are tied up with our friends at Saudi Oger and their unfortunate situation. No positive details to report at this time, but we're working on it.

And finally, elections are coming soon for Tournament Director, Vice President, and Secretary. Here's your chance to make a difference in the club by putting your name forward !



"Bummer, Big Shooter. Looks like you're in the rough."

From the Pro

Stuart will be running the next "Golf in a Week" class starting on October 23rd. Classes 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.

Also, the Junior Tour School will be commencing October 26th—lasting for 5 weeks. The clinic will cover the fundamentals and basics (putting, irons, chipping, and woods) of the game and swing. Only children aged 8 – 16 are permitted to part in a Junior Clinic. The class runs for one hour each Wednesday from 4:00 pm —5:00 pm. The cost is 400 SAR and needs to be paid in cash to Stuart.

A Ladies only class will be offered Thursday mornings from 9-10 AM starting on October 20th. All equipment will be supplied. Coffee on arrival. Ideal for complete beginner's and intermediate golfers covering all the skills to get you out on the course! The cost is 90 SAR per person per class.

To register, you may contact Stuart via email at:

stuart.hurstfield@aramco.com

October 26th — Lady's Classes
October 23rd - 27th — Golf in a Week
October 26th — Junior Clinic

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Upcoming Tournament Information

Ryder Cup

This year's Ryder Cup will take place on September 30th and October 1st. Team USA's Captain is Edward Devlin III while Team ROW's Captain is Michael Henry. Team ROW has won the past three Ryder Cups.

Four-Ball Match Play: Friday September 30th with 6:30 AM Shotgun Start

Foursome Match Play: (Alternating Shot) Friday, September 30th with 1:00pm Shotgun Start

Singles Match Play: Saturday, October 1st with 7:00 AM Shotgun Start

2016 Xerox Corporate Golf Challenge

RHGC will host a qualifying round for the Xerox Corporate Golf Challenge on October 8th. Please see the newsletter article in this issue for more details. Registration closes on October 3rd.

Junior Golf Day

RHGC will hold putting contest and a 9 hole Junior stroke-play golf tournament on the afternoon of Saturday October 8th. The flights and groupings will be made by the tournament committee and will incorporate experience gained from the previous junior tournaments. Registration is now open on ForeTees.

Bi-Monthly Stableford

The October Bi-Monthly Stableford tournament is on **October 15th**. Shotgun starts will be at 7:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Registration is now open on ForeTees.

2016 Club Championship

The 2016 Club Championship will be held on **October 21st and 22nd**. The qualifying rounds on the 21st will have shotgun starts at 6:30 AM and 12:00 PM. Registration is now open on ForeTees.

October Night Golf

On October 27th RHGC will host a night time 9 hole Texas scramble. Each player will get 1 Glow Night Flyer LED golf ball and a glow stick. Teams wearing costumes will be rewarded. We encourage everyone to be creative and decorate their carts. Remember, the goal of this tournament is to socialize and have FUN! Teams of 4 can sign up on ForeTees beginning October 6th. This event will be limited to 22 teams so sign up early.

September 30th & October 1st — Ryder Cup
 October 8th — 2016 Xerox Corporate Challenge
 October 8th — Junior Golf Day
 October 15th — Bi-Monthly Stableford
 October 21st & 22nd — 2016 Club Championship
 October 27th — October Night Golf



Ask Carl

Q: Why does the Club keep cutting trees down around the course?

A: Technically anything outside of the rough is not under the course and the course greens keepers but it is under Recreation. We are working on a new agreement with Recreation to have better control of this.

Q: Why does the driving range have matts sometimes and sometimes we get to hit off grass?

A: During the winter months, when grass is difficult to grow, matts are used at the driving range.

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

Ground & Rules

Know The Rules: Ball in a water hazard

There are lots of opportunities on the Rolling Hills course to hit a ball into a water hazard. However, if you cannot find your ball, is it in a water hazard? For a ball to be declared to be in a water hazard it must be "known or Virtually Certain." Decision 26-1/1 clarifies the meaning of "Known or Virtually Certain."

When a ball has been struck towards a water hazard and cannot be found, a player may not assume that his ball is in the water hazard simply because there is a possibility that the ball may be in the water hazard. In order to proceed under Rule 26-1, it must be "known or virtually certain" that the ball is in the water hazard. In the absence of "knowledge or virtual certainty" that it lies in a water hazard, a ball that cannot be found must be considered lost somewhere other than in a water hazard and the player must proceed under Rule 27-1.

When a player's ball cannot be found, "knowledge" may be gained that his ball is in a water hazard in a number of ways. The player or his caddie or other members of his match or group may actually observe the ball disappear into the water hazard. Evidence provided by other reliable witnesses may also establish that the ball is in the water hazard. Such evidence could come from a referee, an observer, spectators or other outside agencies. It is important that all readily accessible information be considered because, for example, the mere fact that a ball has splashed in a water hazard would not always provide "knowledge" that the ball is in the water hazard, as there are instances when a ball may skip out of, and come to rest outside, the hazard.

In the absence of "knowledge" that the ball is in the water hazard, Rule 26-1 requires there to be "virtual certainty" that the player's ball is in the water hazard in order to proceed under this Rule. Unlike "knowledge," "virtual certainty" implies some small degree of doubt about the actual location of a ball that has not been found. However, "virtual certainty" also means that, although the ball has not been found, when all readily available information is considered, the conclusion that there is nowhere that the ball could be except in the water hazard would be justified.

In determining whether "virtual certainty" exists, some of the relevant factors in the area of the water hazard to be considered include topography, turf conditions, grass heights, visibility, weather conditions and the proximity of trees, bushes and abnormal ground conditions.

The same principles would apply for a ball that may have been moved by an outside agency (Rule 18-1) or a ball that has not been found and may be in an obstruction (Rule 24-3) or an abnormal ground condition (Rule 25-1c).

In the context of our course at RHGC there are areas marked water hazards with long grass in them where a ball is difficult to find. If it is not "known" that the ball lies within the hazard and that determining "virtual certainty" is not possible as it is possible that the ball lies outside the hazard then the player should proceed under rule 27-1.

2016 Xerox Corporate Golf Challenge

The Rolling Hills Golf Club is very happy to welcome back the Xerox Corporate Golf Challenge. The Xerox Corporate Golf Challenge is the oldest corporate golf tournament in the Middle East. Throughout 2016, Xerox will host 16 qualifying tournaments at various courses in the Middle East. RHGC was lucky enough to be selected to host one of these qualifying rounds. The tournament will take place on Saturday October 8th. The format for the tournament is a two person better ball Stableford using $\frac{3}{4}$ of one's handicap index. The maximum handicaps for the tournament are men - 28 and ladies - 36.



All participants will receive a Xerox golf shirt, a sleeve of logoed golf balls, and will attend a free buffet lunch hosted by Xerox. There will also be 6 skill prizes up for grab during the qualifying tournament. In order to play in the qualifying tournament, you must be a Saudi Aramco employee, a contractor, or a retired employee that is now a business owner. Also, one does not need to be a member of the RHGC in order to play in the qualifying tournament. Registration will open soon through the official Website of the Challenge: <http://www.xeroxcgc.com/webXeroxCGC/site/home.php>

The entry fee for the tournament will be 350 SAR per player. Your registration will not be confirmed until payment is received at the RHGC Pro Shop. More information regarding the tournament will be sent out shortly.

The top two teams qualify to play in the Grand Final at the Jack Nicklaus designed Al Zorah Golf Club in Ajman, United Arab Emirates. The Grand Final will take place on December 17th and 18th so this means that qualifiers will have to miss some work in order to participate. The RHGC will subsidize the airline tickets and hotel for the qualifying teams and Xerox will provide airport transfers in UAE, 36-holes of golf, welcome reception and prize giving lunch.

This is not the first time that RHGC has hosted this qualifying event. The last time a qualifying round was held at Rolling Hills was 2013 and it was won by Troy Thompson and Mike Ferguson. This qualifying tournament RHGC will be allowed to send two teams to the Grand Final instead of just one.

Handicap Corner

Peer Review – it's everyone's responsibility!

The concept of Peer Review is an essential element the handicapping system. Two key areas underlie the USGA Handicap System. First, each player is expected to make the best score they can at each and every hole they play regardless of where the round is played. Second, the golfer is expected to post every "acceptable round" for peer review purposes. See last newsletter for what constitutes an acceptable round.

Uncovering the myth. Peer review is often misunderstood to mean it is the handicap committee's responsibility to monitor and review each club member's score file. Although that is a part of the committee responsibility, it is incumbent upon all fellow club members to participate in peer review.

What is Peer Review? Peer review is defined as "the ability of golfers to gain an understanding of a player's potential ability and form a reasonable basis for supporting or disputing a score that has been posted." There are two essential elements: 1. Members of a golf club must have a reasonable and regular opportunity to play together. 2. Access must be provided to scoring records, as well as to a Handicap Index list, for inspection by others, including, but not limited to, fellow club members. We do this.

Your Responsibility. So what does that mean to you as a member of your golf club? It is your responsibility, as you play with fellow club members to make sure each member posts correctly and accurately. Posting accurately includes posting the adjusted gross score using Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) maximums, including posting a par-plus for any holes not played o

r not played under The Rules of Golf and posting any most-likely scores for holes not completed.

If a fellow member is not posting or not posting accurate scores, it is your obligation to alert the Handicap Committee at rhgc.handicap.dir@gmail.com. The Committee can then take any steps necessary to ensure the golfer has an index which is representative of their playing ability. It also may uncover a lack of knowledge or misinterpretation about a policy or procedure, so this allows the situation to be addressed with the member.

Acting in Good Faith. The USGA Handicap Index is a mark accepted by golfers across the U.S. and abroad that tells of the player's ability. As was described in a USGA handicap article, think of the index as a letter of introduction — in essence, the golfer's club is vouching for its member's playing ability. The club knows this because they have a reasonable and regular opportunity to play golf with one another. Golfers are further basing this good faith acceptance on the reasonable assumption that a fellow player has posted all of his acceptable scores.

So remember, the next time you are out enjoying a round of golf, participate in peer review. It's good for the game and it's your responsibility! I hope this recap is informative, and I took it from several articles on topic I found online and the USGA Handicap Manual. If you have any questions on this topic, or the Handicap Policy and Program, please contact

Handicap Director, Stephen Vezendy.

Halloween Night Golf

If you are planning to play night golf, sign up online starting October 6th and then pay your team's 300 riyal registration at the clubhouse. Any teams that have not paid by October 20th will be replaced with teams on the waiting list.. If you would like to skip golf and just join us for dinner that night, you can sign up for just the dinner at a cost 75 SAR. Please contact Melanio.Rivera@aramco.com if you have any questions.

We are looking for folks to bring dessert treats to our October Night Golf on the 27th. If you would like to contribute, please contact our Dessert Boss, Janice, at janice@twosl.com or 878-8490.



18th Abqaiq Open

We are happy to announce that our sister SAGA Club, Ain Nakhl Golf Club, will be having their annual Abqaiq Open on Oct 28, 2016. On-line registration is now open thru www.abqaiqgolf.com. As in the past, there will be lots of giveaways and prizes to all participants.

RHGC has also secured a Saudi Aramco bus for transportation to/from Dhahran – Abqaiq. If you plan to go, please let Bruce Waldner know so that he can coordinate this with Recreation. This will be the 18th Abqaiq Open. Registration will close October 14, 2016. Entry fee is 350/player to be paid by October 21st. For more information, please visit the Abqaiq Open website. Thank you for your support.

Volunteers

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer for the many upcoming tournaments in October and November. Please consider how you can give back to your golf club by helping with check in, marshaling on the course, and setting up the clubhouse. Check out the list of upcoming events and contact Tamarah.Tahir@aramco.com to get information about how you can contribute.

2016 Golf Ball

The annual RHGC Golf Ball will be held Friday, December 9, 2016, 7 pm, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bahrain. The price is SR450 per person including a full buffet dinner including selected house beverages until 11 pm, as well as a full cash bar until the wee hours. The 7-member band Sure Thing will perform pop hits throughout the evening that are sure to get you boogying on the dance floor. Ticket holders will also be eligible for lucky draw raffle prizes. Non-RHGC members and friends are welcome to attend.

Discounted room rates are available for those who book and pre-pay directly with the hotel by November 15, 2016. Tickets are on sale at the RHGC Pro Shop. You can buy 10 tickets to purchase an entire table, or be assigned to an open table. Tickets and table assignments will be on a first come, first serve basis. For further information, please email rhgcgolfball@gmail.com.

For those wanting to golf prior to the event, a limited number of tee times will be available at the Royal Bahrain Golf Club. Sign-ups begin in the RHGC Pro Shop November 9th and close December 2nd. You can sign up as a single or register a group. The cost is SR500 per player, payable at the time of sign-up.

We hope to see you there!

The Golf Ball Committee

2016 Golf Ball



December 9, 2016

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Bahrain

7 p.m. to 2 a.m., Semi-formal attire, SR 450 per person

*Dinner, house drinks until 11 p.m., raffle prizes, live music and DJ
Ticket sales begin September 19th at the RHGC Pro-shop*

Crowne Plaza special rates, pre-pay by November 15
BD 50++ Standard room, BD 58++ Deluxe room, Breakfast available for BD 5++
www.cp-bahrain.com +973 175 31122

Rolling Hills @ The Royal!

18 holes of championship golf

BBQ lunch

Sleeve of Pro V1 golf balls

FREE Country Club access for WAGS!

Only SAR 500 per person

(Optional SAR 150 extra for unlimited drinks package)



Find us on



Date: **Sunday 13th November 2016**
Time: 9:00am shotgun start
Open to: All Rolling Hills Golf Club Members

To reserve your place, please see Mel.

