

ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

Volume 1, Issue 7

November 2016

President's Message

Congratulations to our 2016 RHGC Club Champions, Fahad Al Monsour and Rosie Daud! Make sure to check the RHGC website for a complete list of flight winners. Kudos all around!

Don't forget about the up coming RHGC election. There is still time to put your name forward for either Vice President, Secretary, or Tournament Director. All nominations must be submitted to the Elections Committee (Blair Stuewe or Tahir M Bukhari) on or before 4:00 pm on Saturday, November 5, 2016.

Great news, the maintenance staff have a new contract with Gardening. Most of the former Saudi Oger staff signed on with the new contractor. We've met with Gardening and the maintenance people, it sounds like their situation has really improved. They are hard at work to catch up, you'll have noticed the rough is getting beaten back into submission.

Oh, and time is almost up to get a spot at the Golf Ball in Bahrain. The music should be great as we have a couple of bands lined up to play: Surething and the Manic Street Teachers . Drop by the Pro Shop !



From the Pro

Stuart will be running the next "Golf in a Week" class starting on November 27th. Classes are an hour each day beginning at 7:00 pm. This is a 5 consecutive day course aimed at beginner's and intermediate golfers covering all aspects: Safety, Rules, Etiquette, Swing Method, and on course Texas scramble The cost is 600 SAR per person.

Also, the Junior Tour School commenced October 26th and will last 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 started on October 20th. The class is on Thursday mornings from 9-10 AM. All equipment will be supplied. Coffee on arrival. It is ideal for either complete beginner's or intermediate golfers as it covers all the skills to get one 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 20th — Lady's Classes
October 26th — Junior Clinic
Nov 27th - Dec 1 — Golf in a Week

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Upcoming Tournament Information

SAIT

Rolling Hills Golf Club is pleased to announce the 51st Anniversary of the Saudi Aramco Invitational Tournament, sponsored by the Saudi Aramco Golf Association (SAGA) and hosted by the Rolling Hills Golf Club of Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. This year's tournament will take place on November 4th & 5th.

Turkey Shoot

This year's annual Turkey Shoot event will be held on November 19th. Format is modified Par 3, where every hole is a Par 3. Adults: Natural Birdie gets a bird. Juniors: Natural Par gets a gift voucher to Johnny Rockets (or similar). Maximum one turkey/voucher will be awarded per player. Turkeys are being arranged for pick up after the round on Saturday at the Clubhouse. Registration is now open on ForeTees.

Bi-Monthly Medal

We are having our Bi-Monthly Medal on November 26th, 2016. Registration on ForeTees is already open for the 7:00 AM shotgun start and 12:00 PM shotgun start. The format will be STROKE play. Shawarmas will also be available for you to purchase at lunch time so bring your cash and an appetite.

November 3rd - 5th — SAIT
November 19th — Turkey Shoot
November 26th — Bi-Monthly Medal



Ask Carl

- Q: My ball rolled into a pile of leaves. My playing partner said I have to play it where it lies. Is he right?
- A: Well that depends. If the pile of leaves have been piled for removal, then the pile of leaves is considered ground under repair—you get relief without penalty. If your ball does not lie on the putting green, or in a hazard, you may remove leaves in the vicinity of your ball, provided you do not cause your ball to move. If you do cause your ball to move, you incur a one-stroke penalty and you must replace your ball, Rule 18-2. On the putting green, you may remove leaves on your line of putt provided you do not press anything down. Also on the putting green, if you accidentally move your ball in the process of removing leaves, there is no penalty provided the movement of the ball is directly attributable to the removal of the leaves. Just remember to replace your ball to where it was before you caused it to move, otherwise you will incur a loss of hole penalty in match play or a two-stroke penalty in stroke play. If your ball is in a hazard, you may not remove the leaves.
- Q: My playing partner adjusted his ball on the putting green with out marking it. When I called him on it he said he used his putter to mark it. Is that allowed?
- A: Rule states "When marking a ball before lifting it the player should use a small coin or other similar object as a ball-marker immediately and they should place it immediately behind the ball." Note the word "**should**." Whenever you see the word should in the Rules of Golf it is a merely a suggestion. There is no penalty if a player uses some other object to mark their ball (e.g. their putter head, a tee, or a loose impediment).

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: Nearest Point of Relief

The reason the nearest point of relief is so important is that you cannot play many rounds of golf without coming across one of these four circumstances that require dropping at the nearest point of relief.

- Interference to your stance, or area of swing by an immovable obstruction. Examples of immovable obstructions are artificial paths, fences, bridges, or fixed course furniture, like ball washers, benches or direction posts.
- Interference from an abnormal ground condition. Under the Rules there are three types of abnormal ground condition; areas of casual water, ground under repair as designated by a Committee, or a hole, cast or runway made by a burrowing animal, reptile or bird.
- When your ball lies on a wrong putting green, which is any putting green other than the one on the hole being played, including the practice putting green.
- When there is a Local Rule protecting young (staked) trees.

In the first two situations the player may take relief, without penalty, by dropping a ball within one club length of the nearest point of relief; relief from a wrong putting green is mandatory; and Local Rules affording relief from protected trees that are in the intended area of stance or swing are usually mandatory.

None point that most golfers get wrong is that there is only one physical point on the golf course that qualifies as the nearest point of relief. OK, so very occasionally there could be two equidistant points. That nearest point could be in deep rough, in the middle of a bush, behind a wall that is not in the intended area of swing, or even within the trunk of a tree. Yes, you did read that correctly, the nearest point of relief may be within the trunk of a tree. So, how do you measure the club-length in which you may drop your ball if that is the case? The answer to that is that you have to estimate the distance; so, if nearest point is in the center of the tree trunk and the radius of the tree is half a club-length, then you may drop within another half club-length from the edge of the tree, not nearer the hole.

The mistake that many players make is that they think that when they are taking relief in one of the above circumstances it means that they get relief from anything that makes their next stroke difficult and drop a ball where it suits them. This is wrong. It is always the nearest point of relief from interference from whatever the Rules permit (e.g. pathway, bench, casual water, wrong putting green) and nowhere else. The player may not choose the nicest point of relief; you may only drop within a club-length of the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole. For this reason you should always determine where the nearest point is before you lift your ball, in case it happens to be in a position that is even more unfavourable than your current lie.

Here is the definition of 'Nearest Point of Relief', with the most relevant part bolded;

"It is the reference point for taking relief without penalty from interference by an immovable obstruction (Rule 24-2), an abnormal ground condition (Rule 25-1) or a wrong putting green (Rule 25-3).

It is the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies:

- that is not nearer the hole, and
- where, if the ball were so positioned, **no interference by the condition from which relief is sought would exist for the stroke the player would have made from the original position if the condition were not there.**

Q. In proceeding under Rule 24-2b(i) or Rule 25-1b(i), the Definition of Nearest Point of Relief provides that to determine the nearest point of relief accurately, the player should use the club, address position, direction of play and swing (right or left-handed) that he would have used from the original position had the obstruction or condition not been there. What is the procedure if a player is unable physically to determine the nearest point of relief because, for example, that point is within the trunk of a tree or a boundary fence prevents the player from adopting the required address position?

A. The nearest point of relief in both cases must be estimated and the player must drop the ball within one club-length of the estimated point, not nearer the hole.

Decision 24-2b/3.7, clarifies the above point with the help of this diagram;

Diagram Illustrating Player Unable to Determine Nearest Point of Relief from the R&A publication, Decisions on the Rules of Golf 2010 – 2011 (Decision 24-2b/3.7)

"The diagram illustrates the point raised in Decision 24-2b/3.5 where a player may be unable to determine the nearest point of relief from an immovable obstruction and will need to estimate this point under Rule 24-2b.

B1 = position of ball on cart path

P1 = nearest point of relief (determined)

S1 = notional stance used to determine nearest point of relief at P1 – results in player's stance being out of bounds

B2 = position of ball on cart path

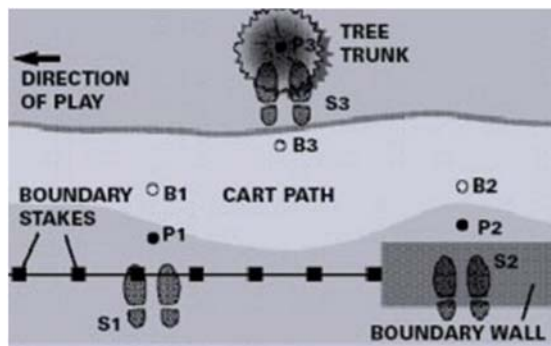
P2 = nearest point of relief (estimated)

S2 = notional stance used to determine nearest point of relief at P2 – unable to take this stance because of boundary wall

B3 = position of ball on cart path

P3 = nearest point of relief (estimated)

S3 = notional stance used to determine nearest point of relief at P3 – unable to take this stance because of tree trunk"



Junior Golf

The Junior Golf Season has Begun!

The 2016-2017 Junior Golf season is officially underway with monthly tournaments and golf days from October through May. The season kicked off on October 5th with 13 players in several divisions. Congratulations to Faris MohdGazali for winning the first tournament of the season. Some upcoming junior events include a Junior Golf Day on Saturday, November 12th and the Junior Club Championship on Saturday, December 3rd.

Junior golf tournaments are open to all RHGC members between 8 and 18 years of age. Non-members can also play if they have taken lessons from Stuart Hurstfield and he clears them to play. Juniors of all levels are invited and encouraged to participate. Younger and less experienced can play in the Fun Division where there is no scoring and it is all just about having fun playing golf. The Competitive Division is for those players that want to test their skills against other juniors while competing for medals. Junior golf days include skill contests for prizes and free group lessons.

For more information on the RHGC Junior Golf program, please contact Clint McGrath at clintmcgrath@gmail.com

Pro Shop News

New to the RHGC Pro Shop:

Galvin Green winter clothing for men and women.

EVNROLL Putters, just released and and in stock now. Check them out online at <https://evnroll.com/>

Holiday season coming up, grab your loved ones a RHGC item!

**THE SWEETEST
FACE IN GOLF**

Every putter
has a sweet spot.
Only an Evnroll
has a sweet face.

Precision CNC milled in Carlsbad, California



Handicap Corner

Handicap Manual Adjustments at RHGC

If you recall, in the October 2016 RHGC Newsletter, the concept of Peer Review is an essential element of the handicapping system and is everyone's responsibility (and if you didn't read that article, read it!). Well, the Handicap Committee also does periodic peer reviews of Member's Handicaps and Scoring Record. Here is a recap:

Reviews after Each RHGC Tournament.

As mentioned in the RHGC Handicap Policy, the Handicap Committee has agreed that any member scoring net 67 or lower in tournament (T) play will have their scoring record/history and trend immediately reviewed for a manual adjustment.

If a manual adjustment is warranted, the Handicap Index will be denoted in GHIN Handicap System and RHGC Handicap Listing with an "M", and the adjustment will be effective immediately for use in all RHGC official club matches, tournaments, etc.

Reviews at Each Handicap Revision on 1st and 15th

The Handicap Committee may also perform other Peer Reviews of member scoring record/history and trend on a periodic basis. For example, reviewing well-placed finishers in tournaments who shoot 68-72 (under par) more often than the USGA guidelines for how often a player should shoot their handicap. We'll have an article in December Newsletter on these USGA guidelines. Stay tuned. This review was done for the October Club Championship, for players that shot 68-72 in the tourney, and also had 5 or more scores in the last 20 at net par or better.

OR, if a member alerts the Handicap Committee about any concerns that would warrant a peer review. For example, as noted in the last Newsletter, if a fellow member is not posting or not posting accurate scores, it is your obligation to alert the Handicap Committee. 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.

If a manual adjustment is warranted, it will be timed (effective) with the bi-monthly (1st or 15th) Handicap Revisions.

How Long Do "M" Handicaps Last?

All M Handicaps in GHIN will be reviewed at each bi-monthly Handicap Revision to determine if the modification should be maintained or lifted.

To ensure there is enough scoring record to review after the adjustment, the Committee has agreed on the following guideline – at least 6 rounds (18 holes) must be played and posted, two of which must be RHGC Tournament (T) scores, before the Handicap Committee will potentially remove the M. The exception is if the player's trend index goes below the M index at any bi-monthly Handicap Revision, then the manual adjustment will be lifted.

If you have any questions about the RHGC Handicap Policy and Program, please contact the Handicap Director, Stephen Vezendy at rhgc.handicap.dir@gmail.com.

The Handicap Committee

Membership Drive

RollingHills Golf Club will be holding its 2017 Membership Drive for early membership renewals and new membership registration on December 2-3, 2016.

You will receive an e-mail notification from the RHGC Membership Director in early November with the appropriate Pre-Filled Membership & Cart Shed Forms including the Green Fees Form attached as applicable.

On December 2 & 3, you will be able to complete your RHGC membership and submit the Green Fees form to Recreation for salary deduction all at the same time.

Please note that all RHGC membership Fees and Cart Shed Fees must be **paid in cash** on the day of registration. If you miss the Annual Membership Drive, you can still go to the RHGC Pro Shop to register or renew your membership. Also, you will be able to submit your completed Green Fees Form for salary deduction to Recreation at the Sign-In booth, just behind the Pro Shop.

Ladies Golf

The Ladies Tuesday Morning Group is back in full swing following the summer break. The group held its first Stableford Monthly Medal of the new season and would like to congratulate the winners:

1) Yuko 31 pts 2) Eunice 30 pts (count-back) 3) Sonia 30pts.

The Group held its Tuesday morning fun tournament on the 25th of October. It was Sonia's last fun tournament with us after almost 13 years. So in her honour, the format was 'Sonia's sling-shot scramble send-off.' There was a great turnout of 16 players and good fun was had by all. Sonia has always being a valuable and consistent member of our Tuesday morning group. Everyone agrees that she is an absolute pleasure to play with regardless of your golfing ability. Sonia and her smooth swing will be greatly missed. We wish her all the best as she jets away from the sandbox to start the next chapter of her life.

Tee Times

Beginning November 1st, the winter starting tee times are as follows:

- 6:00 am on weekdays
- 6:30 am on weekends
- 7:00 am for shotgun tournaments starts

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

October Night Golf!

Decorated carts, golfers in costumes, 9 holes of golf in the dark, and a turkey dinner with homemade desserts made Halloween Night Golf pretty awesome. Thank you for all of the enthusiasm! The carts looked amazing, the costumes were impressive, and the desserts people brought were delicious.

We'll do it again in March—plan to wear green!



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.

