

Don't miss the activities planned for our women golfers

p4

Read a recap of the TNL winter season.

p5

See the winners from the March medal

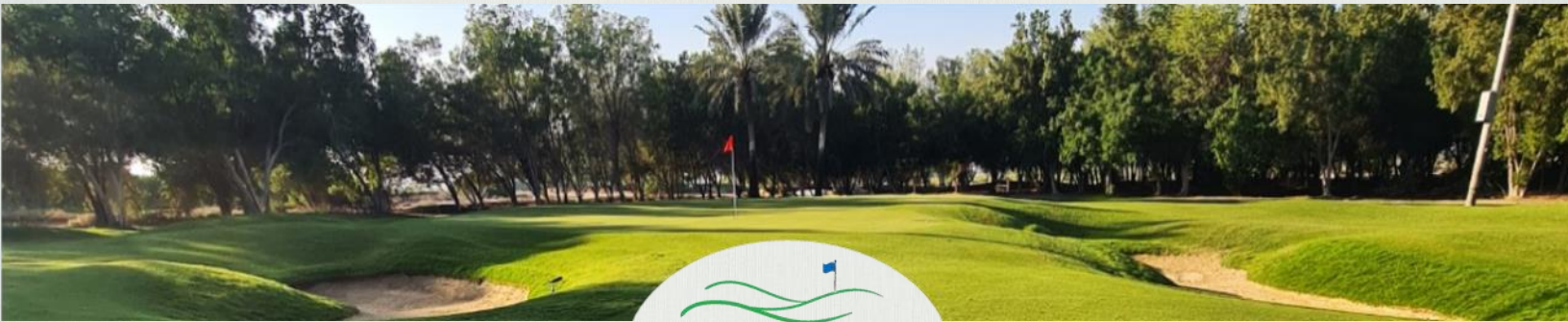
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ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB



DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



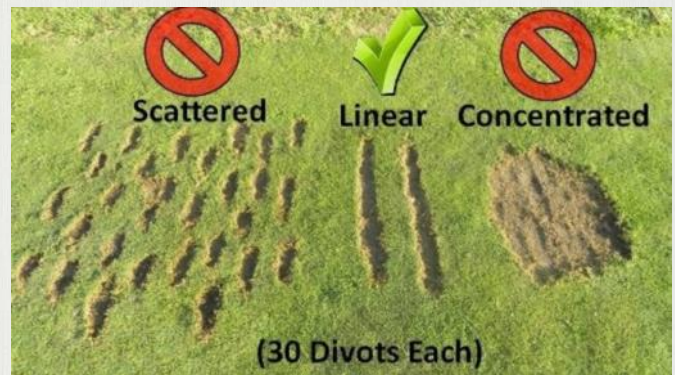
As we are in the holy month of Ramadan, I want to wish all our Muslim members and their families Ramadan Kareem! RHGC has worked with Recreation to keep the course open late so the golf is available after Isha prayer. The last tee time is now 10:00pm. If you are planning to be in-Kingdom during the Eid Holiday, be sure to sign up for the Eclectic tournament. See page 7 for details.

Ramadan Kareem

With April, the warmer weather always finds its way back to the Kingdom. The dormant grass does begin to grow again; with this comes the ability to hit off grass on the driving range. To ensure that the driving range grass is maintained properly and grows back quickly, players must follow the proper method for hitting golf balls when using the driving range (see below image).

Also, congratulations to Jeon Oh, Captain of Team ROW, for winning the Ryder Cup. Thanks to Steve Vezendy for being Captain of Team USA/Canada and for all the hours that he and Jeon spent organizing their teams. More about the Ryder Cup can be found on page 10.

See you on the course,
Bruce Waldner, RHGC President



Proper hitting method on the driving range

HANDICAP CORNER

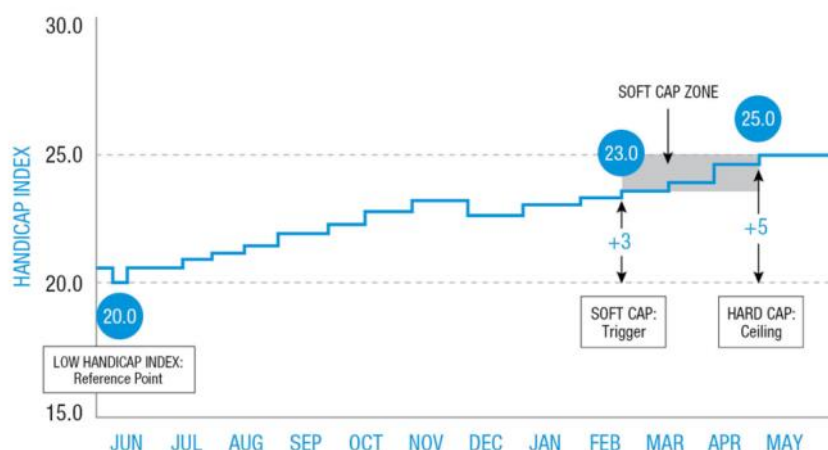
World Handicap System - Hard and Soft Cap

What you should know - In 150 words or less

Although all players have good and bad stretches, a player's underlying ability does not typically change significantly within a one-year period. As a result, the soft cap and hard cap are built into the Handicap Index calculation as a safeguard to prevent extreme upward movement.

- If your Handicap Index increases by 3.0 strokes within a year, the soft cap slows the rate of additional movement beyond 3.0 strokes by 50%.
- The hard cap sets a max increase of 5.0 total strokes within a year.

The illustration below demonstrates how the caps are tied to a player's Low Handicap Index - which is used as a reference point. *Note that a Low Handicap Index is not established until the player has 20 scores in their scoring record.*



Key Notes:

- The Handicap Committee at a player's golf club can override the caps if circumstances such as injury or illness exist.
- If the soft cap or hard cap is applied to your Handicap Index, it will be clearly identified within your scoring record.

Additional Resources:

- Video - ["On Course with the USGA Handicap Department - Soft Cap and Hard Cap"](#)
- Detailed Explainer - [Understanding the soft cap and hard cap](#)
- Poster - [Capping Excessive Increases in Handicap Index®](#)
- FAQ - [Is there a limit on how much my Handicap Index can increase?](#)
- FAQ - [What is my Low Handicap Index™ and why is it displayed in my scoring record?](#)

Read the Rules:

- See Rules 5.7 and 5.8 - [Rules of Handicapping](#)

If you have any questions please [contact Stephen Vezendy](#), Handicap Director.

Quote of the Day

"This is a game of misses. The guy who misses the best is going to win." -Ben Hogan



Monthly Medal April 8

Register now at
golfgenius.com

RHGC Hat & Shirt Drive

The hot weather will soon be upon us, and the gardening crew will still be out in the elements, taking care of our course and keeping it in good shape. It's been a few years since our last hat and shirt collection, so it's an opportune time to check your closets for new or lightly used items to be donated to this hard working team.

From March 23 through April 15, you can drop off your items in the donation box located near the starter window.



May 12 & 13, 2023

The President's Cup is a two-day event, with teams of two golfers. Day 1 is a qualifying day, with top 50% plus ties proceeding to Day 2 (President's Team proceeds to Day 2 regardless of placing).

Day 1:

- 75% handicap, Stableford, each golfer plays own ball
- Best ball of the two in the Team is counted each hole
- Skill prizes for Nearest to Pin on the Par-3s and Longest Drive for Men/Ladies, as well as closest to President's drive on 1

Day 2:

- 75% handicap of the average of the Team
- Stableford, Alternating Shot
- 1 Player will tee off the Odd tees and the other will tee off the Even tees, with alternating shots until the ball is holed



President's Cup Volunteers needed!

Contact [Tournament Co-Director Nabeel Haq](#) to find out more about volunteering at the President's Cup or for other volunteer opportunities throughout the year.



We had a great month of March. We had five events. Two of which were a morning and evening ladies scramble. Our schedule for April is as follows:

- April 4 & 8 - 9am Skills w/Stuart
- April 11 - LL AM Scramble & Social
- April 15 - LL Monthly Medal

Our next Nine & Dine will be May 24 (mark your calendar).

Cheers -
Angela Farley, Ladies' League Director



Tues AM Skills
at 9am



Sat AM Skills
at 9am



Morning
Scramble &
Social



LL Monthly
Medal

TUESDAY NIGHT LEAGUE

The 2023 Winter Season of Tuesday Night League (TNL) came to an end on March 21, and it was a nail-biting finish. Over the span of nine weeks, ten teams played a round robin, match play tournament using the Greensome format (for details on the format, please visit the TNL website [here](#)). As we started the final round, four teams were still vying for first place with only half a point separating them, but only one team had their fate in their own hands. **Congratulations go out to the team of Matthew Bateson & Gustav Gatzanis** who won their final match to give them an unassailable lead.



RHGC VP and TNL Coordinator, David Bedford (Center) with TNL Winter 2023 Winner, Matthew Bateson (Left) and Gustav Gatzanis (Right).

Fast finishing team Fahad Al-Mulaik/John Sinesi came outright second, finishing half a point behind the winners. Three teams tied for third, but thanks to a better head-to-head record, team Feng Lu/Manu Pillai were able to secure 3rd place. The other two tied teams could not be separated by the countback methodology, so the teams of Steve Farley/Steve Vezendy and Gertjan De Jong/Johannes Vaartjes shared the final podium placing in 4th.

The feedback from the league players was great, with everyone enjoying the team play format (good practice for the next Ryder Cup). A big thank you to all the subs who helped fill in several weeks when the primary players were unavailable—the league couldn't run smoothly without them. The next season will start after the hot summer months with registration opening up around September. I'm hoping to see more teams sign up and enjoy the competitive, weekly challenge that is Tuesday Night League.

Save the Date

**2023 ANNUAL
GOLF BALL
DECEMBER 8, 2023**

Mark your calendars for the 2023 Golf Ball Tournament in the morning at the Royal Golf Club in Bahrain, followed by the Golf Ball evening event at the Manama Crowne Plaza.

FROM THE Club Pro

Stuart Hurstfield, P.G.A. Member

Simple Tips To Better Golf: Awkward Lies

Unlike the driving range, we rarely experience a flat/consistent lie on the Rolling Hills Golf Course. One of the more difficult shots is a hanging or downhill lie.

Trust that the key to any shot in golf, is with the address position:

- Start by using a more lofted club as the down slope will deloft.
- Ball position is central or slightly back in the stance.
- Weight naturally favors the lower foot so inhibit weight shift anticipate the ball fading to the right.
- Most importantly, recreate a flat lie to get the shoulders perpendicular to the ground, promoting a ball, then turf contact.



Upcoming Activities

LADIES ROLL UP CLASS

Every Thursday, ladies are invited to join Thursday morning group sessions from 9 - 10 am for beginner and intermediate golfers. All equipment is supplied and instruction covers all the skills to get one out on the course! The cost is 90 SAR per person, per class and sign-up is at the ProShop.

GOLF IN A WEEK

The next Golf in a Week class starts on **Sunday, April 16**. Classes are from 7 - 8 pm and run for five consecutive days. These group sessions are ideal for beginner and intermediate golfers and covers all aspects of the game: safety, rules, etiquette, and swing technique. All equipment and range balls are supplied. The cost is 600 SAR. Sign up at the ProShop.

JUNIOR TOUR SCHOOL

The Junior Tour School commences on **Sunday, April 9** for ages 8+. It will run Sun - Thu from 6-7 pm. The classes cover rules, etiquette, and golf swing mechanics in a group setting. All equipment and range balls are supplied. The cost is 400 SAR. To register, please visit the ProShop.

INDIVIDUAL LESSONS

Individual lessons incorporating GASP video analysis can be taken at times convenient to suit your schedule. Junior pricing is 30 minutes/150 SAR and Adults is 50 minutes/200 SAR. Register at stuarthurstfield@gmail.com or WhatsApp +44 775 337 1547.

Golf club repairs and re-gripping service available. Contact Stuart for details.



EID ECLECTIC

There will be an Eid Eclectic Tournament from April 21 to 26.

Up to five rounds can be played and entered through Golf Genius, with best hole score being retained for the final 18-hole score. Players can book their own tee times in ForeTees (it will not be through Golf Genius). [Register here.](#)



2023 CEO Cup

May 26 - 27



The 2023 CEO Cup will be held at Rolling Hills Golf Course on Friday, **May 26 and Saturday, May 27, 2023**. This year's event will have two tee time slots: Friday 6:30 AM and Saturday 6:30 AM.

The CEO Cup Tournament Committee will be coordinating all aspects of the golf event with your designated representative. The event will utilize a Stableford scoring format applying 75% of each player's established handicap.

Eligibility

Any Saudi Aramco employee or dependent, 16 years of age and over, whom is a member in good standing at any of the SAGA golf clubs, holding a current handicap at one of the clubs.

Fees

There is no entry fee for 2023 CEO CUP and no green fees will be charged for this event.

Details & Registration

For more details and to register, [click here.](#)



RHGC is hosting a RHGC Junior Golf Event on **April 15**. Junior golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate.



- 10:00 – Driving/Putting Range (warmups)
- 10:20 – Pairings are announced
- 10:30 – Competitive Group heads to first tee, Fun groups to follow
- 12:30 – Golfers are free to go

Fun Division: For younger and less experienced juniors that just want to have fun playing a few holes of golf on the course.

Competitive Division: For the older and more experienced juniors that want to test their golf skills on the course and compete against other Juniors.

Who Can Play? RHGC and Aramco Community Club members ages 8-17 years old or those who have or are currently taking lessons from Stuart Hurstfield (RHGC Golf Pro)

The tournament is free for all Junior RHGC members! Junior golfers will need to supply their own golf clubs, golf balls, and tees.

Sign up for the Junior Golf Event is currently available via Tournament Manager, or via email to rhgcjuniorgolf@gmail.com. For more information, any questions, or to volunteer as a marshal, please contact: Jake Rosenthal: 054 774 4309 (WhatsApp) or email: rhgcjuniorgolf@gmail.com

CINCO de MAYO QUIZ NIGHT & TACO BAR

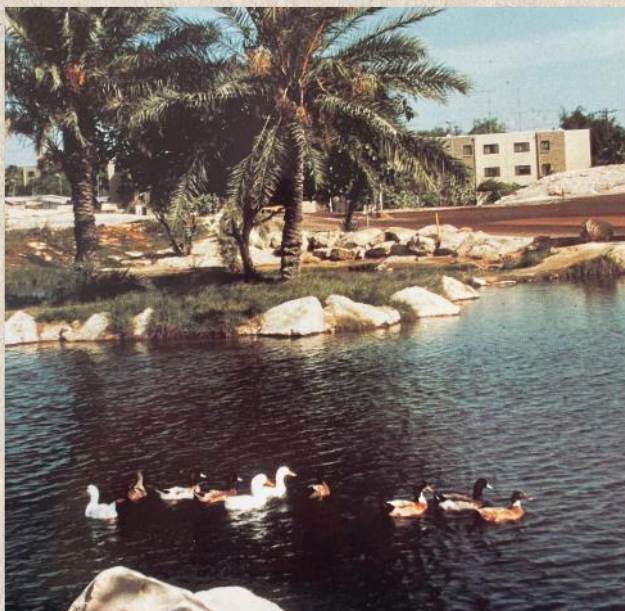
THURSDAY, MAY 4

Come test your knowledge at the Cinco de Mayo Quiz Night at the RHGC Clubhouse - complete with a taco bar! Register through Golf Genius. Cost is 100 SR per person, payable at the ProShop.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Rolling Hills Golf Course, 2000



10 Rules of Good Golf Etiquette

1. Don't be the slowest player
2. Keep your temper under control
3. Respect other people's time
4. Repair the ground you play on
5. Be a silent partner, know where to stand and when to keep quiet
6. Make your golf cart 'invisible'
7. Always look your best
8. Turn your cell phone on silent
9. Lend a hand when you can
10. Learn the little additional things, repairing other pitchmarks, let faster groups through, etc.

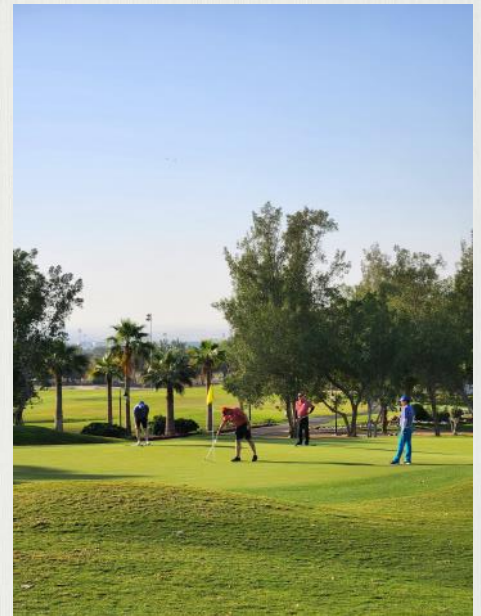


Congratulations to 2023 Ryder Cup Champions Team ROW, and their team captain, Jeon Oh

Team	T1	T2	T3	Points This Round	Total Points
ROW	13.50	9.00	31.50	31.50	54.00
USA/CANADA	11.50	7.00	14.50	14.50	33.00



[Click here to see the full results](#)



Spring RENOVATION

During the two weeks the golf course is closed for the spring renovations, the grounds team led by our superintendent, Jason Sexton, have been working very hard to execute some critical activities for the betterment of the course, as explained by Jason below:

Turf Management and the control of thatch which is a layer of organic material that accumulates at the soil surface: An excessive thatch layer has negative consequences resulting in the decrease of gas exchange in the soil, impacting water infiltration into the soil that creates excessive moisture at the soil surface promoting disease and scalping.

The main tools used to combat thatch are **Verticutting** and **Core Aeration**. These processes physically remove the organic material that is from the thatch layer. The photos below from these renovations illustrate just how much of this material was “choking out” the system.

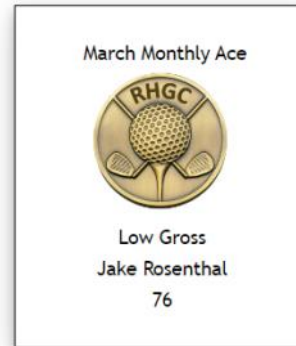
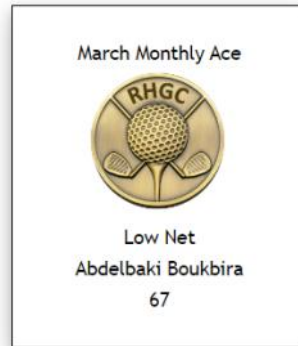


Core aeration has the added benefit of relieving soil compaction created by golf carts, maintenance equipment and foot traffic. Compacted soil decreases gas exchange and water infiltration in the turf making core aeration an essential part of the turf management process.

The frequency and timing of these practices is determined by soil type, turf type, amount of play, climate, available equipment, budgets, etc. Although this process can be disruptive, any inconvenience caused by these practices greatly improve course conditioning and protects it from disease—ensuring that any inconvenience is more than worth it.

MARCH MONTHLY MEDAL RESULTS

March 11, 2023



Flighted Winners

A Flight

Place	Flight	Name	Total
1	A	Syafron, Edward	72
2	A	Abang, Taib	75
3	A	Dolor, Gilroy	75

B Flight

Place	Flight	Name	Total
1	B	Tarihoran, Anton	68
2	B	Haq, Nabeel	69
3	B	Steenkamp, Christoffel	69

C Flight

Place	Flight	Name	Total
1	C	Pandiangan, Juni	69
2	C	Park, Junghyun	69
3	C	Siddiqui, Usama	70

D Flight

Place	Flight	Name	Total
1	D	Al-Khayyal, Abdulaziz	72
2	D	Abdul Razak, Mokhtarudin	72
3	D	Kemalawati, Rahmi	72

E Flight

Place	Flight	Name	Total
1	E	Okafor, John	70
2	E	Mahmood, Arslan	70
3	E	Ibrahim, Mohd	70

Closest to the Pin

Hole	Winner	Distance
4	Samilitin, Karisma	7' 8"
8	Steenkamp, Christoffel	0' 11"
11	Kim, Yong Song	5' 4"
14	Park, Junghyun	9' 3"

See full results [here](#)



Couples Golf Wraps First Season

Last September, Laila and Greg Gillam, and Vikki and David Bedford launched a new social group aimed at getting couples out on the course together. The group uses special formats and a unique scoring system to get past some of the complications that can arise when experts and beginners play together.

“When we were playing our first test scramble, we hoped we could pull together four or five couples,” Greg remembers. “We’re thrilled to end the first season with 24 couples on the leaderboard.”

Couples Golfers work together to create a supportive and celebratory atmosphere (complete with apres-golf potluck). The more established players, the “anchors,” leverage their investment in the game to help their partners, the “forwards,” experience the thrill of group competition while learning to play or while sharpening their game.

When asked about his own experience as a Couples Golf player, Greg lights up. “My wife, Laila, started out as a total beginner. Seeing her now, in spikes, hitting fairways and telling the ball where to go... that’s the biggest win of the season.”



Couples Golf 2022-23 Stats

- 24** couples
- 16** rounds played
- 765** holes scored
- 3,060** tee shots hit
- 170** potluck dishes consumed
- 686** Top Gun scenes re-enacted or quoted
- 5** months until season two begins

