

Club News October 2026



President: Randy Gilpin

We are entering the busy homestretch of 2026. The second round of the club championship competition is coming up on Thursday, October 15. Remember, this is also a stand-alone monthly tournament, so it is not necessary to have played in September to play in the October event.

In a few days you will receive an invitation to our year-end scramble tournament / business meeting / luncheon. This annual event is always a great day: an opportunity perhaps to make some new friends since you probably won't be playing with your usual foursome; lots more prize money than usual, presented in cash at the luncheon; an increased budget for door prizes this year (of course that may not mean additional prizes as much as additional cost!); a hearty Thanksgiving dinner catered by Nealie's Skillet; and presentation of Club Champion and Senior Cup awards. Links are provided in the invitation to RSVP for the luncheon, which is free, and/or the scramble tournament, which is the usual \$67 (\$72 for Super Senior).

During the business meeting portion of the day (which we keep as efficiently brief as possible!) you will be asked for two important ratification votes. At the close of the nomination window the Nomination Committee had received exactly eight applications, matching the number of positions on the Board of Directors. Therefore, no election was necessary but a ratification vote will be held at the luncheon. Most of the board will return but we welcome Rich Scholl replacing Risto Salo, who is retiring after years of dedicated service as Vista tournament chair.

You will also be asked to approve the various Bylaw revisions sent out previously.



Local Tournament Chairman: Risto Salo

Hello Fellow Golfers,

Congratulations to the September tournament winners. George Cruz and Scott Pedrick- A Flight with a net 59, Joe Medina - B Flight with a net 55! and Allen Bueltel- C Flight with a net 57.

The leaders for the Club Championship- Round 1
Championship (Gross) Scott Pedrick- 69, Rico Gobbi-68, Tony Shields- 70 and Rich Scholl- 71

A Flight- George Cruz- 59, Scott Pedrick- 59, Ed Hobleman- 62 and Greg Lewis- 62

B Flight -Joe Medina-55, Mark Vesowolski- 57, Tony Barrett- 62 and Don Bates/Cal Leuning- 63

C Flight- Allen Bueltel- 57, Lee Goldberg- 58, Charlie Cote/ John Tekach- 61

Our next home tournament is a Low Net and Second Round of the Club Championship tournament on October 15. If you are interested in playing, the entry deadline is Monday, October 5. Entry fee is \$67 Senior and \$72 Super Senior (75 or older)

Information for Vista tournaments only

If you sign up/ pay and then need to cancel before the deadline date, we can refund your payment.

If you need to cancel after the deadline, you will only get a refund if there is a player on the wait list willing to take your spot. If no one is on the wait list, you will forfeit your payment.

If you missed the deadline date and wish to play, contact me and I will add you to the wait list or if there is an open spot on the tee sheet, I may be able to work with the course to add you.

IMPORTANT- Sending in a Zelle payment is not the same as entering the tournament. You must entry and pay separately.

To enter a tournament:

- Electronic form on the website (under the “More” heading select “Vista Event)
- Manual entry form (under the “Events” heading and scroll to the bottom of the tournament schedule page), print and fill out. Place it in the box at the course or mail to my address.

To pay for a tournament:

- Checks should be placed in the box at the course or mailed to my address.
- Zelle payments go to VVSMGC@gmail.com

See you at the course,

Risto Salo
Vista Event Chairman
661-644-1209
ristosalo@ca.rr.com



Handicap Chairman & Web Master: Paul Collins

The Importance of Every Round: Why We Must Post All Scores to GHIN

As golfers, we love to celebrate our best days on the course and quickly forget the tough ones. However, when it comes to your GHIN (Golf Handicap Information Network) handicap, every single round matters. To maintain the integrity of the

game and ensure fair competition for everyone, it is vital that all members post every acceptable score.

Why Posting Every Score Matters

- **Accuracy:** Your handicap index is designed to measure your potential ability, not your average score. The system needs both your highs and lows to calculate an accurate reflection of your game.
- **Fairness:** Entering only your best scores artificially lowers your handicap (making competitions too difficult for you). Entering only your worst scores inflates it (which is unfair to your opponents).
- **USGA Compliance:** The Rules of Handicapping state that players must post all acceptable scores, whether played at your home course or away.

What Counts as an "Acceptable" Score?

You might be surprised by what should actually be entered into the system. You must post your score if:

- You play at least **7 holes** (for a 9-hole score) or **14 holes** (for an 18-hole score).
- The round is played on a course with an official **USGA Course Rating and Slope**.
- You play under the **Rules of Golf** (e.g., playing your own ball, not a scramble format).
- You play with at least **one other person** who can attest to your score.

Please make it a habit to log onto the GHIN Mobile App before you leave the course and post your score immediately following your round.

Having to double and triple check and send multiple reminder emails is not fun for me.

Thank you in advance.

Paul

Pmcd0583@gmail.com



Away Event Chairman: Bill Westcott

We will return to Olivas Links this month. Are you getting dizzy? We've been back and forth between Olivas and Buenaventura the last few months. For the September away tournament played at Buenaventura, we had four champions. Kevin La Sota (A flight) and Joe Medina (B flight) along with co-champions, Allen Bueltel and Gene Pepi in the C flight.

As mentioned, we will return to Olivas Links on October 22nd. The deadline for entering this away tournament is October 15th. Please enter by going to VVSMGC.com/away-event complete the form in its entirety. Click on 'submit'

and I will instantaneously receive it. If you have any questions regarding away tournaments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bill Westcott
Away Tournament Director
Wewestcott@gmail.com
(661) 478-7553



Membership Chairman: Gary Hallden

Our Blind Bogey Event is every Wednesday, each and every week. Remember that sign-ups begin every Wednesday morning at 6:30 am and the deadline to sign up for BB Wednesday remains Saturday night at 8pm. Always bring 1 \$5 bill and 2 \$1 dollar bills to Blind Bogey Events.

No “new” members joined our Club during the month of October. We currently have 146 total members assigned to our Golf Club. The majority simply joined our Club just to obtain an SCGA GHIN number. We continue to average 36-50 regular players for Blind Bogey Wednesday, as well as the Home and Away tournaments.

Happy Birthday to all our Senior Members born during the month of October! The following 8 members will officially become one year older during October: Russell Baingo (74), Anthony Barrett (61), Greg Brown (66), Randy Gilpin (74), Joe Lanni (68), Tom Oatway (84), Tom Robertson (86), and Rick Tompkins (62). Happy Birthday men! The average age of all these “Senior Birthday Boys” is 72 years young.

Most of our members continue to struggle with various medical issues, from minor injuries to serious forms of cancer. Let’s all continue to hope and pray for these members, hoping they recover quickly and can get back to playing this great game of ours again as soon as possible.

*Please always plan on arriving and “checking in” **first** at our “check-in” table, **at least 30 minutes prior to your actual tee time** at all tournaments (home, away, and Blind Bogey). Most of the time, our first foursome tees off early, 5 minutes **prior** to their assigned tee time. We are still getting players who walk into the clubhouse to our “check-in” table, at the last second, 5 minutes before their actual tee time, while their foursome is on the tee waiting for them. Please, plan ahead! Our tournaments are team events, not solo, individual rounds. Please don’t force other players to wait on you. Thank you, in advance.

Gary Hallden, Membership/Blind Bogey Chairman



Treasurer: Roger Jackson

I have a new rule for the VVSMGC to consider: **Whoopsies** or Inadvertent Ball. I think our Club would want to adopt this.

If at any time during the play of a hole a player finds that he has accidentally and inadvertently hit a ball that does not belong to him, he shall proceed as follows:

If he is satisfied with his lie and the shot he hit and his subsequent strokes on that hole, he shall continue, **without penalty**, to play the misappropriated ball as if it were his own, and he shall hole out with that ball, deferring until the teeing ground of the next hole the revelation of the unintentional misplay, which he shall then announce with an appropriate demonstration of distress over his error and relief that, due to the delay in its discovery, play on the hole was completed and thus he score he achieved may stand.

Regardless of the above, the VVSMGC books are in balance with the bank. The \$15 extra money added to the entry fees for the September tournament round goes toward the prize money and trophies for the Club Championship.

Remember to put the name of the golf course and play date on your checks and Zelle's!



Secretary: Cal Leuning

The Senior Tournament Mindset

Yesterday I was reading my phone and looked up an article in Golf Digest that had some tips from the amazing retired golfer, Gary Player on what he would advise an amateur golfer on how to approach a tournament. Here are a few of his mental notes about playing the game.

1. “I’m here to play my game—not somebody else’s.”

Don't worry about another player's distance, handicap, or score. Your job is to execute your own game.

2. Start with a conservative strategy.

On the first few holes, don't try to prove anything. Get the ball in play, find the fairway, and settle into the round. A bogey early isn't a disaster; a big number caused by forcing a shot can be.

3. Think one shot at a time.

Don't think “I need to shoot 85 today. Instead: **“What is the best shot I can hit right now?”** After the shot is over, it's over. Move on.

4. Have a “safe miss.”

Before every shot, know where you **don't** want the ball to go. This is particularly important for a **senior golfer** because avoiding trouble can save more strokes than trying to make spectacular shots.

5. Don't chase birdies. Chase good decisions.

A tournament round can be won—or lost—by avoiding doubles and triples. A par

is valuable. A bogey is acceptable. A double bogey should be treated as something to recover from, not something that ruins the round.

Your pre-shot routine: I'd use the same routine for **every tournament shot**:

- ① **Pick the target**
- ② **Pick the club**
- ③ **One practice swing/visualization**
- ④ **Step in**
- ⑤ **Look at target**
- ⑥ **Swing without thinking about mechanics**

Once you're over the ball, **no more analysis**.

The most important thought for a senior tournament golfer, I really like:
"Smooth tempo, solid contact, smart target."

And one more thing...The first tee is where nerves can get you. Before your opening tee shot, take a slow breath and tell yourself: "I don't have to play 18 holes. I only have to play this shot."

Then make your normal swing.

Your goal for the first 4–5 holes should be to get comfortable—not to build a huge score. Once you're settled in, you can become more aggressive when the situation calls for it.

I am going to read these statements a few more times before the next tournament. Enjoy the game.



Rules Chairman: Ken Rosso

Greetings all. Let's talk about "ready golf". I've met or played with most of you and I think we would all agree that everyone is interested in completing their round as quickly as possible and adhere to the mantra of playing "ready golf". I agree with this mantra whole heartedly. However, I would make a few suggestions to make sure that everyone in your foursome is in agreement to some "ready golf" actions. Here are just a few examples that may come up.

Teeing off out of order. Technically, the person who had the lowest score on the previous hole should tee off first. Then the second lowest score and so on. If two players had identical scores, then they go back to the lowest score before that. This is to determine "who has honors". In "ready golf", if you're ready to tee off, go for it. Just make sure the rest of your group is there to watch in case of a wayward shot. I suggest you all have agreement before playing this way in your round.

Hitting approach shots out of order. The general rule is the player who is furthest away from the hole should play first. Sometimes, that player may still be looking for their ball. In "ready golf", it's ok for another player to take their turn first so

they can help look for the other player's ball. Just make sure to do this safely and make sure you have a witness to your stroke. Again, I suggest everyone is in agreement before playing this way.

Putting out of order. Again, the general rule is the player furthest from the hole should play first, whether they are on the green or not. For example, if one player is in a bunker only fifteen feet from the hole and the other player is on the green about thirty feet away, the player on the green should play first. In "ready golf", whoever is ready to make their shot can go. This should be agreed upon between the two golfers beforehand. A simple "go ahead if you're ready" is all it takes.

Finishing out the hole. This is probably the biggest opportunity with "ready golf". If a player has a long putt that just misses the hole, he has the option to mark his ball or putt out (finish out the hole). I see a lot of players marking their tap in putt for fear they might step in another players line. In "ready golf", it's better to finish out the hole. I recently played a round where everyone agreed not to worry about stepping in someone's line and it really made the round go quicker. Yes, I did miss a short tap in putt, but that was my fault. It wasn't as easy as I thought. Again, please make sure everyone is in agreement beforehand.

Flag in or flag out. For years, I've preferred to take the flag out when I putt. That's how the pros did it so that's the way I learned. Since joining this club, I've noticed most players leave the flag in. At first, it annoyed me. But now, I'm used to it. Statistically, there have been studies that show there is very little difference between leaving the flag in or taking it out. Whatever way you choose is fine. One suggestion though, keeping "ready golf" in mind. Try to avoid "flag out, flag in, flag out, flag back in scenarios".

Our October away tournament will be a return to Olivas Links. Please refer to the back of their scorecard regarding the "native areas" throughout the course. Utilize this local rule wisely as it may save you a stroke or two.

As always, if you have any questions or need a rule clarification, feel free to contact me at kjrosso618@gmail.com.