

ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

Volume 4, Issue 56

June 2019

President's Message

Ramadan Kareem and Eid Mubarak!

As we approach the summer months, the course contractors will continue to clear the debris around the course. We are working closely with Gardening, Recreation, and the Environmental and Land Protection Unit to ensure that the roots are entirely re-moved and that the soil is properly fertilized in preparation for the tree planting. The planting of the new trees will most likely occur in the early fall 2019. The greens are still a little fuzzy but we are only a week removed from the full aeration. If any members have questions, please contact myself or Troy Thompson directly.

The Board, like most of our membership, will be in and out all summer long. Should you need anything from the Board please write myself or Les Hertlein as we have balanced our schedules to make sure at least one of us is here all summer long.

The June/July/August Monthly Medals, Eid Eclectic's, and the Anniversary Tournament will be played this summer. The heat has finally arrived, we encourage everyone to be careful, stay hydrated, and please report any cases where the water coolers are empty. For those going on vacation, have a safe trip and enjoy the time away.

Hit 'em Straight

-Ed Devlin

From the Pro

The next "Golf in a Week" class starts on June 23rd. Classes are an hour each day beginning at 7:00 pm and run for 5 consecutive days. Courses aimed at beginner and intermediate golfers. It covers all aspects of the game: Safety, Rules, Etiquette, Swing Method, and an on course Texas scramble. All equipment and range balls are supplied. The cost is 600 SAR. Please sign up in the Pro Shop.

Stuart offers a ladies' only class each Thursday morning from 9:00 -10:00. All equipment is supplied and there is free coffee on arrival. It is ideal for either the beginner or intermediate golfer as it covers all the skills to get one out on the course! The cost is 90 SAR per person per class.

Individual Lessons can be taken any day at times convenient — for more information on lesson prices, or to register, you June contact Stuart at:

stuart.hurstfield@aramco.com

June 6th — Ladies' Classes Continues

June 23rd — Golf in a Week

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Upcoming Tournament Information

Eid Al-Fitr Holiday Eclectic

This year's Eid Al Fitr Eclectic will occur from **June 4th** through to **June 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. Sign-up on [Tournament Manager](#).

The [2019 Tournament Calendar](#) is available on the RHGC's website.



Ask Carl

Q: What is this "World Handicap System" that I hear people talking about?

A: Presently there are 6 organizations around the world that calculate a person's handicap. The biggest are the USGA and the CONGU. However, there are problems of incompatibility and inconsistency for someone from the UK to calculate their course handicap on a USGA course and vice-versa. The six different governing handicap bodies got together and came up with the World Handicap System (WHS), scheduled to be adopted by all associations beginning in 2020. Not only does WHS unify the handicapping systems in use today, it also simplifies golf handicapping. RHGC will be sending more out about this in the coming months.

Q: What do I do if my ball lands in a hole where they are removing trees from?

A: There has been a lot of discussion around this. So much so that we have dedicated 3 pages of this newsletter to that very question. See pages 3-5 for the answer.

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

15th Anniversary Tournament

On **June 15th** the 15th 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.

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. On hole #3 the best NET score of the team rec-

orded 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.

Bi-Monthly Stableford

We are having our Bi-Monthly Stableford on **June 29th**. Registration is now open via [Tournament Manager](#)

June 4th-9th — Eid Al-Fitr Eclectic
June 15th — Anniversary Tournament
June 29th — Bi-Monthly Stableford

Rules

How to Play Your Ball from “Tamarisk Removal Areas”

Play your ball as it lies and the course as you find it. Under the regular Rules of Golf, Rule 16.1 ([link to USGA Rule](#)), relief may be taken from “grass cuttings, leaves and other materials that are piled for later removal” and also from “Any hole made by the Committee or the maintenance staff in maintaining the course ... such as a hole made in removing turf or a tree stump...”. This does NOT apply in a “Penalty Area”. Loose branches are loose impediments and covered by Rule 15.1 ([link to USGA Rule](#)). Please refer to the USGA or R&A website (or their Rules App) for a complete description. How to take relief under rule 16.1 is detailed below.

Questions on Rules Clarifications may be emailed to the Rules Committee at rhgcrules@gmail.com

See example pictures below of what can and cannot be considered for relief.

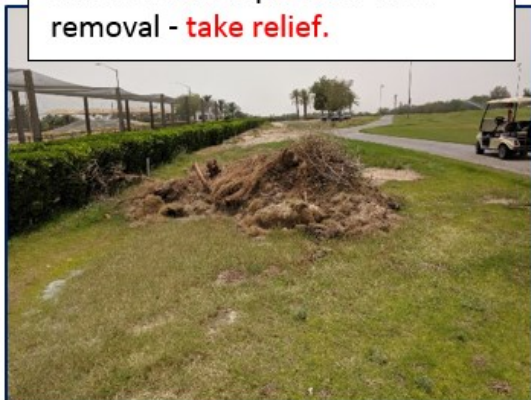
this hole from removing a tree stump is about 6 inches deep - **take relief.**



this hole from removing a tree stump is about 6 inches deep - **take relief.**



this material is piled for later removal - **take relief.**



this material is piled for later removal - **take relief.**



Rules Continued

these are loose impediments -
no relief, use Rule 15.1.



these are loose
impediments - no relief,
use Rule 15.1.



these are tire tracks and
a footprint in the desert
- no relief.



this is a natural
drainage ditch about 12
inches deep - no relief.



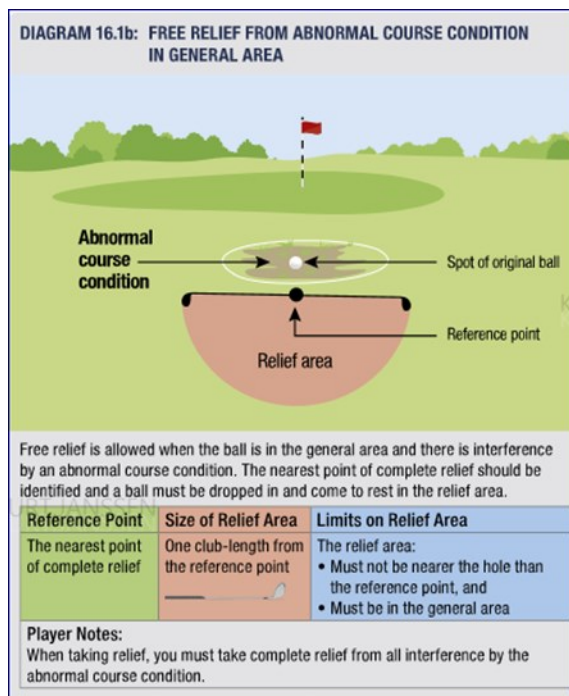
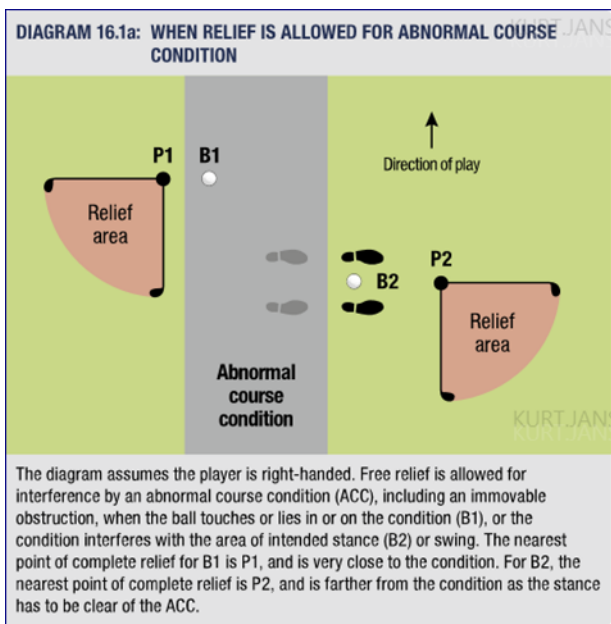
Rules Continued

Ground Under Repair

Any part of the course the Committee defines to be ground under repair (whether by marking it or otherwise).

Ground under repair also includes the following things, even if the Committee does not define them as such:

- Any hole made by the Committee or the maintenance staff in:
 - Setting up the course (such as a hole where a stake has been removed or the hole on a double green being used for the play of another hole), or
 - Maintaining the course (such as a hole made in removing turf or a tree stump or laying pipelines, but not including aeration holes).
- Grass cuttings, leaves and any other material piled for later removal. But:
 - Any natural materials that are piled for removal are also loose impediments, and
 - Any materials left on the course that are not intended to be removed are not ground under repair unless the Committee has defined them as such.
- Any animal habitat (such as a bird's nest) that is so near your ball that your stroke or stance might damage it, except when the habitat has been made by animals that are defined as loose impediments (such as worms or insects).



Ladies' Golf

Five ladies from Rolling Hills Golf Club participated the Bahrain Ladies Spring Cup, a regional tournament, in Bahrain on May 21st.

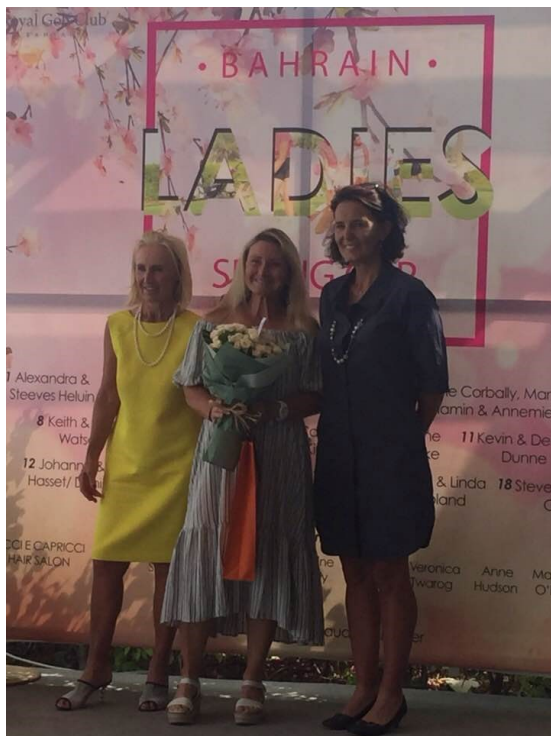
Our team placed first by accumulating the most Stableford points for the top five players from a team. We beat the lovely and gracious locals from the Royal Golf Club in Bahrain on their home course. The other competitors came from Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Janice Anderson was the superstar from our team winning first place in a countback scoring 43 Stableford points.

Kerri Wethington came in 3rd place winning also in a three way count back with 36 Stableford points.

Sue Hertlein came in 10th place scoring 33 Stableford points, followed by Meaza Gebrekristos with 28 points and Lucia Lince with 24 points.

We are looking forward to participating in next year's event and hope more of our amazing lady golfers from Rolling Hills will join us in the fun!!



Grounds

Now that the heat is on us and the grass is growing fast members need to continue to be vigilant on upkeep of the course. This past weekend saw heavy golf after the greens were aerated and it was a bit surprising to see so many greens riddled with pitch-marks (ball marks). Please do your best to repair pitch marks properly.

Step 1 in Fixing Ball Mark: Insert the Tool

The first step in repairing ball marks is to take your ball mark repair tool and insert the prongs into the turf at the edge of the depression. Note: Do not insert the prongs into the depression itself, but at the rim of the depression.

Step 2: Push Edges of the Ball Mark Toward the Center

The next step is to push the edge of the ball mark toward the center, using your ball mark repair tool in a "gentle twisting motion," in the words of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

This is the step where golfers who incorrectly "repair" ball marks usually mess up. Many golfers believe the way to "fix" a ball mark is to insert the tool at an angle, so the prongs are beneath the center of the crater, and then to use the tool as a lever to push the bottom of the ball mark back up even with the surface. Do not do this! Pushing the bottom of the depression upward only tears the roots and kills the grass.

So remember:

Wrong: Using the prongs as levers to push up the bottom of the depression.

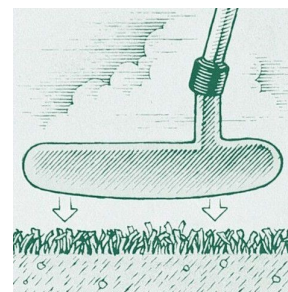
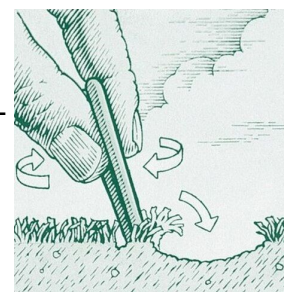
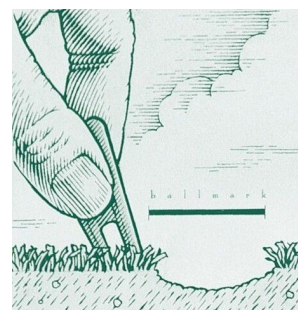
Right: Using the prongs to push grass at the edge of the depression toward the center.

Just use your ball mark repair tool to work around the rim of the crater, so to speak, pushing the grass at the edge toward the center of the depression. One way to envision this is to picture reaching down with your thumb and forefinger on opposite sides of the ball mark and "pinching" those sides together.

Last Step: Smooth Over and Admire Your Work

Once you've worked around the rim of the ball mark with your repair tool, pushing the grass toward the center, there's only one thing left to do: Gently tamp down the repaired ball mark with your putter or foot to smooth the putting surface.

Then admire your work and pat yourself on the back for helping to take care of the golf course.





The Golf Ball

**Friday, December 6
Crowne Plaza, Bahrain**

7:00pm

Semi-Formal Attire

Members - SR450 | Guests - SR500

Dinner, Door Prizes, & DJ
(House drinks until 11pm)

Ticket Sales begin September 30th at the RHGC ProShop
Crowne Plaza special rates

Standard Room - 52++, Deluxe Room - 57++

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