



# ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB



Volume 1, Issue 8

December 2016

## President's Message

2016 is almost in the books. We've survived the maintenance staff contract woes, the President won the President's Cup tournament, and lights are slowly being replaced. Who knows, 2017 might see lights on #9. A big thank you to our outgoing Board members Bill, Sunil and Mel, the incoming group have large shoes to fill. And thank you to the rest of the Board, for your tireless and too often unheralded work you do for the club. I'm useless but you guys get things done!



## From the Pro

Stuart will be running the next "Golf in a Week" class starting on January 22nd. 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, a Junior Tour School will commence on January 11th 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 take 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 runs each Thursday morning from 9-10 AM. All equipment is be supplied. Coffee on arrival. It is ideal for either beginner 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](mailto:stuart.hurstfield@aramco.com)

Thursdays — Ladies Classes  
January 11th — Junior Clinic  
January 22nd-26th — Golf in a Week

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## Upcoming Tournament Information

### Junior Club Championship

RHGC will hold a Junior stroke-play golf tournament on Saturday December 3rd. The flights and groupings will be made by the tournament committee and will incorporate experience gained from the previous junior tournaments. This tournament, like previous RHGC Junior tournaments, will only be open to RHGC Junior Members. Memberships can be obtained at the RHGC Pro Shop. Tournament participants will also be responsible for their green fees.

### Monthly Medal

The December Bi-Monthly Stableford tournament is on December 15th. It has been designated as "RHGC Maintenance Crew Appreciation Day." As part of our Bi-Monthly Stableford Tournament, we are asking everyone to contribute 50SR per player. This is completely optional. Money collected will be given to our 27 RHGC Crew member that maintains and care for our golf course. Shotgun starts will be at 7:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Registration is now open on ForeTees. Your participation and generosity are greatly appreciated. On behalf of the RHGC Board of Directors, thank you

December 3rd — Junior Club Championship  
December 17th — Bi-Monthly Stableford

### From the Pro Shop

**Massive End of Year Sale!!**

**Tournament Shirts from SR45**

**Tournament Hats from SR15**

**Need a gift for a loved one? Many items to choose from.**



### Ask Carl

**Q:** Why is hole #8 handicapped as the easiest hole on the course?

**A:** Many golfers make the mistake thinking that the handicap of holes on a golf course goes from 1 (the hardest) to 18 (the easiest). This is simply not true. The handicapping of holes is set up to maximize the number of halved holes during a match. One method used to determine the handicap of the holes is to compare the average scores on a hole between a really good group of golfers and a group of not so good golfers. The hole with the greatest spread between the two groups of golfers would be given the #1 handicap and the hole with the smallest spread would be given the #18 handicap. Also, the odd numbers are given to the front nine and even numbers to the back, unless the back nine is a lot more difficult—such as on our course.

So in the case of hole #8, it has the distinction of being given handicap 18 not because it's the easiest hole, but because both good and not so good players play it so poorly that it has the smallest differential between the two group's average score.

**Q:** What are winter rules?

**A:** While not an official term, the term winter rules is often used by many golf courses, it refers to a local rule allowing Preferred Lies. It is commonly applied in the winter months when fairway grass is not growing well and therefore a provision in the rule allows players to mark, lift, clean, and place a ball on any closely mowed area of the course. This does not include the rough. Additionally, once a ball has been placed, it cannot be lifted and replaced. Please note that winter rules are not in effect now. The Director of Grounds & Rules will send out a notification to all RHGC members when they are.

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

Ground & Rules

**Ball at Rest Moves**

Generally, when your ball is in play, if you accidentally cause it to move, or you lift it when not permitted, add a penalty stroke and replace your ball.

If someone other than you, your caddie, your partner or your partner's caddie moves your ball at rest, or it is moved by another ball, replace your ball without penalty.

If a ball at rest is moved by wind or it moves of its own accord, play the ball as it lies without penalty.



## Membership Drive

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

You will have received 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.

Please make sure to bring your Saudi Aramco ID with you to facilitate registration sign-up

## Ladies Golf

In the spirit of carrying on a friendly invitational competition, the Rolling Hills Golf Club Ladies League hosted the Ladies Golf Team from Dirab Golf and Country Club on November 7th & 8th. Monday saw the exciting "Swing for the Bling" 9 hole competition. Two Dirab ladies tied for longest drive and another Dirab lady win closest to the pin. The following day the 18 Hole Match Play Competition had 9 two ball teams in a closely fought competition with the Rolling Hills Golf Club winning by one match. There were 3 outright wins for RHGC and 2 for Dirab with 4 matches finishing in a even tie. This is as close of a competition as it can get!

The event was organized by Captain Kerri Wethington, with tremendous help from Angela Bryson. A particular thanks to Florence and Les Flintham for getting a sponsor, Loss Prevention, that provided prizes for the event. A sumptuous Gala Dinner and Awards Luncheon were hosted by Karla Manzano de Cox and Liz Wilder respectively.

The Dirab Ladies are looking forward to hosting the return match at the beginning of next year at Dirab Golf and Country Club.

We meet every Tuesday morning at 7:30am and welcome all levels. For more information contact Kerri Wethington at [bkwethington@yahoo.com](mailto:bkwethington@yahoo.com)



## Handicap Corner

### How Well Should You Play?

A lot of RHGC golfers seem to think they should play to their Handicap or lower, all the time. Well, here is some information from the USGA on this topic .... Happy reading! ...

Does it seem to you that you play a few strokes over your Course Handicap most of the time? Well, that's normal under the USGA Handicap System.

Why? The USGA Handicap System is based upon the potential ability of a player rather than the average of all his scores. The USGA's Handicap Research Team tells us that the average player is expected to play to his Course Handicap or better only about 25 percent of the time, average three strokes higher than his Course Handicap, and have a best score in 20, which is only two strokes better than his Course Handicap.

A few words and a little arithmetic may explain. A player's Handicap Index reflects his potential because it is based upon his best scores posted for a given number of rounds, ideally the best 10 of his last 20 rounds. Since the USGA has his worst 10 scores tossed out, his Handicap Index reflects his best days.

The arithmetic comes in when the golf club calculates a player's Differential for each score he posts. The Differential is the difference between a player's adjusted gross score and the USGA Course Rating of the course on which the score was made, multiplied by 113, and then the total is divided by the USGA Slope Rating from the tees played rounded off to one decimal place.

For example, if you post an 80 on a course with a Course Rating of 68.7 and a Slope Rating of 105, your Handicap Differential is 12.2. The next step entails averaging your best Handicap Differentials, which your golf club or association then will multiply by a 96-percent "bonus for excellence" factor that slightly favors the lower-handicap player. The next step is to delete all numbers after the first decimal digit, with no rounding off to the nearest tenth. Your club Handicap Committee then reviews your record, modifies it, if necessary and then issues your USGA Handicap Index.

**USGA Probability Table**

Net Differential	Player Course Handicap				
	0-5	6-12	13-21	22-30	Greater than 30
0	5	5	6	5	5
-1	10	10	10	8	7
-2	23	22	21	13	10
-3	57	51	43	23	15
-4	151	121	87	40	22
-5	379	276	174	72	35
-6	790	536	323	130	60
-7	2349	1200	552	229	101
-8	20111	4467	1138	382	185
-9	48219	27877	3577	695	359
-10	125000	84300	37000	1650	874

## Handicap Corner

If you have a USGA Handicap Index of 11.6, for instance, it translates into a Course Handicap of 14 when you play from the middle tees one day at a course with a Course Rating of 72.1, with a Slope Rating of 135. So a little addition ( $72.1 + 14$ ) leads you to think that you will consistently shoot around 86. In reality, your score average is normally three more strokes than that, or an 89. The USGA Handicap Research Team has determined that your best score in 20 is normally only two strokes better than your Course Handicap, or an 84; the probability of your recording an 83 twice in 20 rounds is only one in 50.

A good way to think of the range of scores upon which your USGA Handicap Index is based is the old bell curve that school teachers refer to when discussing the range of scores on an exam. The scores of most players, when plotted out, are distributed on a bell curve from the high to low end of the scale. Thus, when you drop out the worst half of your scores, the average of the remaining 10 scores on the upper part of the bell curve reflect your potential ability.

Now, once in a while you will hear about someone shooting an incredible tournament score, such as a net score of 59. What are the odds of shooting a score like that? These tables from the USGA's Handicap Research Team have figured the odds of one exceptional tournament score up to ten strokes better than the Course Handicap.

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](mailto:rhgc.handicap.dir@gmail.com).

The Handicap Committee

### **2016 Newsletter Articles – Handicap Recap**

Here are the articles from this year's RHGC newsletters related to handicaps. Happy reading!

- Apr: *Entering Scores*
- May: *Score Recording Analysis / Checking Handicap Information (Peer Review)*
- Jun: *Reminder to post scores "as soon as practical" per USGA (sec 5-2-a)*  
*/ Why is there an "R" after my Handicap Index?*
- July: *Handicap Policy Update*
- Aug: *Acceptable Scores / 17 Excuses for Not Turning in a Score*
- Oct: *Peer Review – It's everyone's responsibility!*
- Nov: *Handicap Manual Adjustments at RHGC*

## Junior Golf

RHGC 2016 Junior Club Championship – December 3, 2016

Junior golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate in the 2016 Junior Club Championship tournament. Golfers are invited to participate in one or both of the activities. Here is the schedule for the day:

10:00am to 10:30pm – Putting Contest (on the practice putting green next to the driving range)

This contest is for fun to see who can sink the longest putt and get a long putt closest to the hole. There will be prizes for the winners.

10:30am to 2:00pm – Round of golf on the course & lunch

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 over 9 holes on the course and compete for prizes

Trophy Flight – Competes for the trophy and title of 2016 Junior Club Champion

Medal Flight – Competes for medals – Gold, Silver and Bronze

\*\* Parents are always welcome to come along and watch their children play. We are also seeking volunteers to marshal the younger golfers as they play.

Here's some more information:

Who Can Play: RHGC Club members ages 8-18 years old

Location: Rolling Hills Golf Course (Playing on the front 9)

Times: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – see the breakdown above

Greens Fees: None - Free for all junior RHGC members!

Equipment Needed: Golf clubs, golf balls and tees. There will be a limited number of junior golf club sets available for use for free

Sign-Up: Sign up is currently available on the ForeTees website or via email

For more information or to volunteer as a marshal, please contact:

Clinton McGrath : 053 787-8480 or email at: [clintmcgrath@gmail.com](mailto:clintmcgrath@gmail.com)

## 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.

Tickets are on sale at the RHGC Pro Shop for SR450 until Wednesday night, November 30th, after which time the price increases to SR500/person. Tickets and table assignments will be on a first come, first serve basis. For further information, please email [rhgcgolfball@gmail.com](mailto: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-up at the RHGC Pro Shop until 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. Format and prizes to be determined later.

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](http://www.cp-bahrain.com) +973 175 31122**





## 31st Edition WAGR - Qatar Open Amateur Golf Championship

5th - 7th January 2017 at Doha Golf Club

"Winner will be invited to play in the European PGA Tour event,  
the 2017 Commercial Bank Qatar Masters"



#### Entry Fee :

DGC / QGA Members QR550 Non-Members QR700

#### Price Includes :

- 18 Hole practice round ( 4 January only ).
- Tournament Gifts, meals on all tournament days.

#### Tournament Format :

- 54-hole stroke play. Top 50 plus ties after 36 holes will advance to Round 3.
- Open to male amateur golfers.
- Handicap limit 9.
- In the event of oversubscription, priority goes to 120 players with lower handicap.
- Deadline for entry is on Sunday, 26 December 2016.

#### Official Hotel : InterContinental Doha

#### Special Rates for Standard Superior Rooms :

( Buffet Breakfast & In Room Internet included )

- Single Occupancy @ QR699 net per room per night.
- Double Occupancy @ QR849 net per room per night.

Tel. : +974 4484 4444 Fax : +974 4484 4999

Email : reservations.icdoha@ihg.com for visa processing of booking purposes.

#### Visitor Entry Online :

[www.dohagolfclub.com/qgaqataropen](http://www.dohagolfclub.com/qgaqataropen)