

# ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2017

## President's Message

First off, thank you for responding to our volunteer requests, we should be seeing some new faces on the Board this year. We begin the year with a show of promise, our maintenance people have a new contract, the Saudi Golf Federation is knocking at our door, and Gardening's new head greenskeeper is due to arrive in Kingdom soon. I've been in contact with him, he says he's just waiting for his visa to come through. What could possibly go wrong?

Our new (old) tournament director will be publishing our 2017 tournament schedule soon, but take note of January's Opening Day and monthly medal tournaments already on the calendar.

Happy new year to all!

-Dave

**Gee, I don't really have a handicap... It's more like a permanent disability.**



## 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 and intermediate golfers. It covers all aspects of the game: Safety, Rules, Etiquette, Swing Method, and an 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 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.

To register, you may contact Stuart via email at:

[stuart.hurstfield@aramco.com](mailto:stuart.hurstfield@aramco.com)

January 5th — Ladies Classes  
January 11th — Junior Tour School  
January 22nd — Golf in a Week

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## Upcoming Tournament Information

### Opening Day Florida Scramble

Rolling Hills Golf Club is pleased to announce the 2017 Opening Day Scramble on January 14th, 2017. This format for the scramble will be a Florida Scramble. You may pick your own four person team or join an existing one. There will be three mixed-gender flights. Please note: in order to play in the opening day scramble you must be a member in good standing of the Rolling Hills Golf Club for 2017 with 2017 membership fess paid. Registration on ForeTees is already open for the 7:00 AM shotgun start and 12:00 PM shotgun start.

### Bi-Monthly Medal

We are having our Bi-Monthly Medal on January 21st, 2017. Registration on ForeTees is already open for the 7:00 AM shotgun start and 12:00 PM shotgun start. The pairings will be determined by the tournament committee. The format will be STROKE play. You must be a member in good standing of the Rolling Hills Golf Club for 2017, with 2017 membership fess paid, in order to participate in this bi-monthly medal.

Shawarmas will also be available for you to purchase at lunch time so bring your cash and an appetite.

January 14th — Opening Day Scramble  
January 21st — Bi-Monthly Medal



### Ask Carl

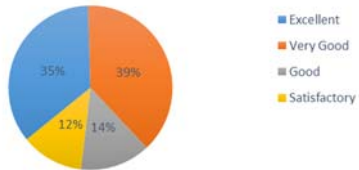
- Q:** How come the RHGC elections were just held but it was for only 3 positions? Aren't there like 15 Board members?
- A:** There are actually 14 Board members. There are the Board Executive members: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Tournament Director, Handicap Director, and Secretary. Each of the Executive Board members serve a 2 year term. The election for Board Executive positions are divided into groups in order to ensure a smooth transition between Board members. Board Executive members are not allowed to run for consecutive Board Executive positions. Apart from the Board Executive, there are 8 yearly appointed Board members: Membership Director, Youth Golf Director, Pro Shop Director, Grounds and Rules Director, Clubhouse Director, Ladies Golf Director, Social Director, and Media Director. Appointed Board members are selected each January by the RHGC Board Executive. If you are interested, please submit your name to our President Dave Minchau.
- Q:** How should I leave the rake when I'm done using it in a bunker?
- A:** First off, congratulations on knowing that one is supposed to rake a bunker after you are done hitting your ball out of it. We need more people like you playing our course. While there is no rule, there is a miscellaneous decision in both the USGA and R&A rule book (M-2/2). The decision states that it is recommended that rakes should be left outside bunkers in areas where they are least likely to affect the movement of the ball. Note the word recommended—it is not a rule but a suggestion. In the end, it is up to each club to decided where it wants rakes to be place. At RHGC, we just want rakes to be used.

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

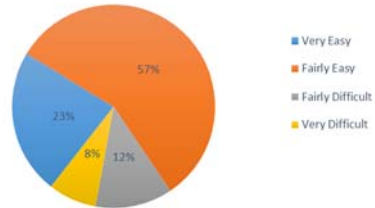
### Membership Survey

In November of 2016 the RHGC sent a survey to its membership. The following is a summary of the results of the survey.

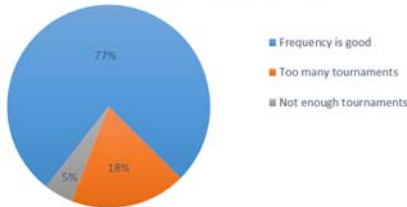
**To what extent do you feel you get value for money for your RHGC membership fees?**



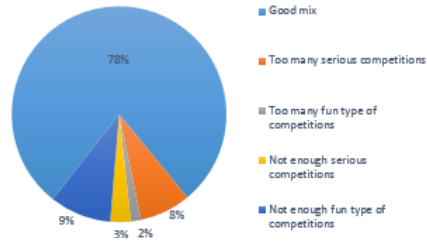
**How easy is it to book a tee time when you want one?**



**Please tell us what you think about the number of golf tournaments?**



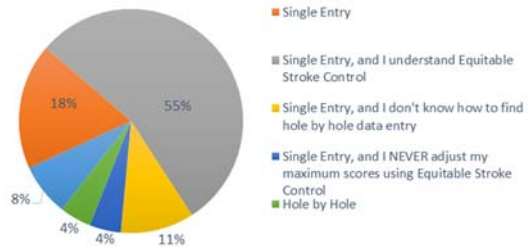
**Please tell us what you think about the type of golf tournaments?**



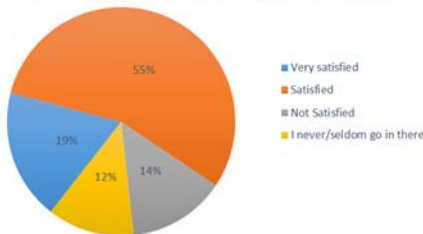
Care to provide comments or suggestions for improving golf tournaments?

- More fun and team type tournaments
- 9 hole tournaments
- A flight from Blue tees

**How do you enter scores for handicap purposes?**



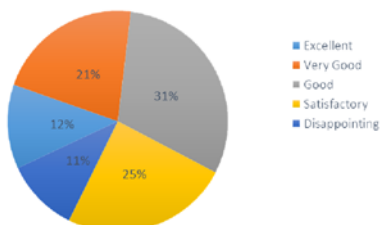
**How satisfied are you with the Proshop.**



Please provide comments and suggestions for improving the Golf Proshop.

- Not enough products, very expensive
- Doesn't carry larger sizes for shoes, gloves, etc.
- More left-handed equipment

**Please tell us what you think about the Club House and snack services.**

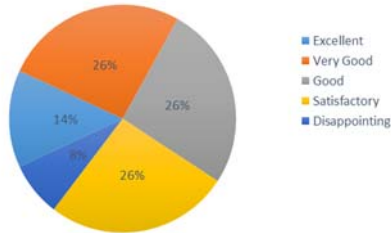


Please provide comments and suggestions for improving the Club House.

- More food selection
- Updated furniture

## Membership Survey Continued

Please tell us what you think about the club's social activities.



Please provide comments and suggestions for improving the social activities.

- What social events?
- Trivia Night
- Family events

What do you like best about RHGC?

- The great course
- Ability to play golf in the evenings
- The great friends that I have made through golfing

What is the number one thing you would change about the golf course?

- Harder fairways, softer greens
- The burnt out lights
- The thick rough—lose too many balls

What is the number one thing you would like the RHGC Board do?

- Educate people to take care of the course better: pitch marks, divots, rake bunkers
- Make improvements to the Club house
- Fix broken lights

If you have never volunteered, please tell us what is holding you back.

- Not enough time
- Club needs better communication about helping out

The Social Committee thought all of the suggestions with reference to the RHGC social activities were great. An idea to have a quiz night has already been discussed. Another event discussed for 2017 is to bring back a mini-putt putt course set up for an afternoon. The Club runs on volunteers - if you have an idea and would like help putting it into action, the Social Committee will support you! When you see events advertised, contact the Social Committee for opportunities to help out with those events.

The Pro Shop would love to carry more items. However, it is very expensive to carry inventory. As such, the Pro Shop tries to stock items that will turn over quickly.

The Club House committee would love to have some new furniture for the club house. The furniture that is there now is supplied by Recreation and is free. Any new furniture would have to be bought and paid for by the Club which could be expensive. The idea of having sofa and chair covers made for the present furniture will be passed along to the new Club House Director.

## Elections Results

Congratulations to the newly elected RHGC Board members.



Vice President:  
Les Hertlein



Secretary:  
Marc Elasmr



Tournament Director:  
Jeff Meisner

Elected Board members serve a two year term. If you are interested in helping out and becoming a Board member, there are also several yearly appointed Board members:

Membership Director  
Pro Shop Director  
Clubhouse Director  
Social Director

Youth Golf Director  
Grounds and Rules Director  
Ladies Golf Director  
Media Director

Appointed Board members will be selected in January by the RHGC Executive Board. If you are interested, please submit your name to our President Dave Minchau. Additionally, please consider volunteering as a committee member. Many of the roles above are run by committee and need your help (no experience necessary).

Special thanks to outgoing Board members Sunil Kokal, Bill Ghant, and Mel Rivera for their service over the past two years.



## Grounds & Rules

As of December 29th, 2016, there is a local rule in effect permitting preferred lies on the fairway until further notice.

This local 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.

## Cart Shed Update

In 2017, RHGC hopes to assign the 108 cart sheds that are currently under construction.

In order for current members to retain their position on the Golf Cart Shed Waiting List, or as a new member to be added, one must meet the following criteria:

- RHGC membership must be paid by January 31st, 2017
- Annual Green Fees must be arranged by January 31st, 2017

Please note that if current members on the Golf Cart Shed Waiting List fail to meet the above criteria, they will be removed from the list.

Current Golf Cart Shed holders must fulfill all of the following requirements to retain their cart shed status:

- RHGC membership must be paid by January 31st, 2017
- Annual Green Fees must be arranged by January 31st, 2017
- Golf Cart Shed Rental Fee must be paid by January 31st, 2017
- 2017 Golf Cart Shed Form must be completed and signed

Please note that failure to meet all of the above requirements will mean loss of your cart shed.





The annual RHGC Golf Ball was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Bahrain on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 members and guests enjoyed a festive program featuring prizes and awards, a scrumptious buffet dinner, two live bands, and dancing until the wee hours of the morning. A grand time was had by all!

