

ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2017

President's Message

Welcome to 2017! And a big welcome to our new Board, thank you for volunteering your time and talents for all of us in RHGC.

Our 2017 tournament calendar is taking shape. We have some new evening tournaments, an expanded President's Cup, group selection on selected monthly medals, and the Xerox Challenge is coming back, just to name a few. Don't forget we have the CEO Cup coming up this month, and check out the UDH Open, your chance to play the best sand course in the world.

The handicap committee has completed analysis of the new hole indexing, we'll see that with the publication of a new scorecard in the near future.

Still no updates on the new head greenskeeper, or (heavy) sigh, lights on #9.

-Dave

From the Pro

Stuart will be running the next "Golf in a Week" class starting on February 26th. 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 March 1st 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

February 2nd — Ladies Classes
February 26th — Golf in a Week
March 1st — Junior Tour School

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Upcoming Tournament Information

Valentine's Golf

Of the evening of February 9th, RHGC will be hosting the first of many evening social events. The first will have a Valentine's theme and will be geared towards couples. Sign up is now open on Foretees. Sign up now as the event is limited to 24 teams of two.

Please see page 6 of this newsletter for more information

Bi-Monthly Stableford

This month's Bi-Monthly Stableford tournament is on **February 11th**. Shotgun starts will be at 7:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Members are allowed to form their own foursome and register on Foretees.

Registration is now open on Foretees.

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

2017 CEO Cup

The CEO Cup will be held on **February 24th & 25th**. It will be an 18 hole Stableford tournament. There will be 3 Shotgun starts: February 24th at 7:00 AM and 12:00 PM and **February 25th** at 7:00 AM. Pairings will be by committee. Sign up is now open on Foretees.

See page 5 of this newsletter for more information on the CEO Cup.

February 9th — Valentine's Golf
 February 11th — Bi-Monthly Stableford
 February 24th & 25th — CEO Cup

Golf Ball 2017

The 2017 Golf Ball will be held on December 8th. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the planning committee, please contact Tamara.Tahir@aramco.com. We will need help with booking the venue and menu, selling tickets, buying prizes, and organizing the music.



Ask Carl

Q: What am I allowed to take into a hazard?

A: You may take anything into a hazard including multiple clubs, rakes (for sand) or even your entire golf bag as long as nothing you do with any of those things improves the lie of the ball or constitutes testing the surface of the hazard. If you carry in two clubs and lay one down and then later decide you want to use that club to play your shot, you may do so without penalty because the club was never grounded even though it probably did touch the ground. There is no need to remove any extra clubs, bag, rake, etc. before playing your shot. If, however the ball strikes your other equipment (rake excluded) in the course of playing your shot, then a penalty would apply under Rule 19-2 so just be careful where you put that extra stuff before you play your shot.

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

Appointed Board Members

Congratulations to the newly appointed RHGC Board members. Appointed Board members were selected in January by the RHGC Executive Board. They will serve for one year.



Membership
Patrick Antony



Pro Shop
Lee Kirk



Youth Golf
Coby Long



Rules & Grounds
Robert Cox



Social Director
Tamara Tahir



Clubhouse
Jeff Kotanchick



Ladies Golf
Keri Wethington



Media Director
Bruce Waldner

Special thanks to outgoing Board members Gary Lorentz, Clinton Mcgrath, and Mike Henry for their service to the Club.

Junior Golf

Golf is a great way to bring families together and to build bonds that will last a lifetime as well as life skills. Some of them are: patience, overcoming defeat, sportsmanship, focus, humility and drive to get better. Plus, it is a sport that can be played for many years. Lessons learned on the golf course can last a lifetime.

Come out and join us:

RHGC Junior Golf Day – February 18, 2017

Junior golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate in the February Junior Golf Day. Golfers are invited to participate in one or both of the activities. Here is the schedule for the day:

10:30am to 11:00am – **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.

11:00am to 1:30pm – **Round of golf on the course & lunch** (starting and finishing inside the Clubhouse)

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 for medals

**Parents are 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 8-17 years old or those who have or are currently taking lessons from Stuart Hurstfield (RHGC Golf Pro)

Location

Rolling Hills Golf Course (Meet at the putting green / playing on the front 9)

Time

10:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – see the breakdown above

Greens Fees

None - Free for all junior RHGC members!

Equipment Needed

Golf clubs, golf balls and tees. If needed, there will be a limited number of junior golf club sets available for use for free

Sign-Up

Sign up for the Golf Day is currently available on the ForeTees website, or via email if the player does not have a handicap

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

Coby Long : 054 838 0576 or email at: cobylong@gmail.com

2017 CEO Cup



The 2017 CEO Cup is scheduled to be played February 24th – 25th at the Rolling Hills Golf Course.

We hope that you are as excited as we are about this year's tournament and look forward to those of you who plan on playing in the event.

The event is open for registration via ForeTees or through your respective Saudi Aramco Golf Association (SAGA)-affiliated club President if you are not a resident in Dhahran. If you wish to participate, please make timely registration a priority as the **registration deadline of February 12th** is fast approaching.

Please allow me to convey a couple of important items regarding the tournament and the awards dinner to be held following Saturday's play at the Plaza Conference Center starting at 4 p.m.

- Only members in good standing with RHGC or your affiliated SAGA are eligible to participate in the tournament. If you do not possess a valid 2017 membership and a verifiable handicap, you cannot participate. Please do not register for the tournament if these two conditions have not been met. Not meeting these requirements will result in disqualification, as determined by the Tournament Committee.
- If a player plans on attending the February 25th awards dinner, you must purchase a ticket which are now available at the RHGC Pro Shop in advance of the dinner. The cost of a ticket is 150 SAR, which is refundable to each participant player at the dinner check-in upon presentation of the dinner ticket.
- If a player plans to bring a guest (one guest per player) to the awards dinner, a ticket must also be purchased for your guest at the RHGC Pro Shop. The cost of a guest ticket is 150 SAR and is non-refundable.
- Players from SAGA affiliated clubs (non-RHGC members) must indicate their intentions to attend the awards dinner event (including a guest, if optioned) at the time that their club President or Representative submits its player registrations to the 2017 CEO Cup Tournament Director. Tickets will be made available to these players on Friday, February 24th, at the RHGC Pro Shop, upon purchase.
- The RHGC Pro Shop will be open for advance purchase of tickets ... Ticket sales will close February 16th at 7 p.m.
- Only visiting SAGA players who have indicated their intentions to attend the awards dinner, but have not made purchase of tickets before February 16th may pick up/purchase their tickets Friday, February 24th.

Again, we anticipate lots of fun and friendly competition.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to the items cited above.

Cordially on behalf of the tournament organizing committee,



Welcome to the first of many Evening Golf and Social Events to be held at RHGC this year. Obviously this month's theme is Valentines and the event is geared towards couples but any twosome can play.

FORMAT: The Chapman System

"Chapman System" is the name of a 2-person team competition format for golfers that works like this:

- Both golfers hit drives;
- Each plays the other's ball for the second shots;
- The best of the second shots is selected, and from there the two partners play alternate shot into the hole;
- [Watch a short video in which two golfers play a hole Chapman-style.](#)

HANDICAPS:

The partner with the lower course handicap gets 60-percent of that number, the partner with the higher course handicap receives 40-percent. Combine the two results for the team's course handicap.

SIGNUP:

Signup online in teams of 2 at [Foretees](#) under the events tab. This event is limited to 24 Two Players Teams, so hurry up and get your team together and signup. Sign up is now open and will close on February 5th at 8:00pm.

COST AND CHECK-IN:

200 SAR per Team. Please pay in advance at the Clubhouse. Spots are limited. If your spouse doesn't play, no worries, they can join you for Dinner, 100 SAR for non-golfers. Payments need to be made by February 5th @ 8:00PM in the Clubhouse.

APRÈS GOLF: Buffet Dinner

Handicap Corner

RHGC Handicap Program

Participation in the Handicap Program is completely voluntary.
If you are not participating and would like to, you must contact the Handicap Director.
If you are participating and would like to stop, also please contact the Handicap Director.

The reason for the Club's Handicap Program is to provide USGA certified handicaps which will in turn provide a level playing field for all participants in all club-sponsored events. These handicaps will also enable members to play in any USGA sanctioned- event worldwide.

The responsibilities of all members using this service provided by the Club are:

1. If a member participates in the handicap system, he/she is expected and agrees to post all scores as appropriate – including rounds played at RHGC and at any other RCGA-USGA rated course. Note: Tournament scores are entered automatically, members should not post their own tournament scores.

Handicap Corner Continued

- When a member enters a gross score (other than Tournament Scores), he/she MUST take into account the maximum score that can be recorded per hole, known as Equitable Stroke Control (ESC). The table below lists the maximum strokes per hole based on your Course handicap.

EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL

COURSE HANDICAP	MAXIMUM NUMBER ON ANY HOLE
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 or more	10

Note: if you enter your gross scores hole-by-hole in GHIN, this ESC adjustment is done automatically by the system.

- Members who are not in the Handicap System – or do not have a USGA certified handicap from another source – will not be allowed to enter any tournaments, leagues, or other Club-sponsored events for which a certified handicap is required.
- Member's Handicaps and Recent Scores are posted after each handicap revision for Peer Review. Peer Review is essential in maintaining the integrity of the Handicap Program and is everyone's responsibility.
Effective January 1, 2016, Scores made while playing alone are no longer considered acceptable for handicap purposes. Peer Review is an essential element of the USGA Handicap System, and peer review isn't taking place when golfers play alone. Anyone accompanying a golfer during a round, including a caddie, positions a score for peer review and would be acceptable. If a player is playing alone and posting a score, then the Handicap Committee is in a position under Section 8 of the Handicap System to adjust or withdrawal the player's Handicap Index.
- A round of golf is a round of golf, whether a member personally chooses to designate it as just "playing for fun" or "practice" does not matter. Any round in which at least 13 holes are played should be posted as an 18-hole round for handicap purposes. Rounds of at least 7, but less than 13 holes played, should be posted as a 9-hole round. Un-played holes are entered as par plus any handicap strokes (i.e. net par).
- The Club's Handicap System has the capability to record 9-hole scores as well as 18-hole scores. The system will automatically combine 9 holes scores (and automatically queue a 9 hole score, so there is no need to enter 9 holes scores in pairs.)
- Match Play scores should be entered as well. For a conceded hole or putt, the "most likely" score should be posted. If you don't play a full 18 holes in your match, enter par plus any handicap strokes (i.e. net par) for the remaining holes.
- If a member wants an unofficial "personal" handicap based on whatever scores he/she wants to selectively track, they should use one of the various Internet available services.

The Board of Directors and the Handicap Committee are totally committed to helping make your golfing experience at RHGC an enjoyable one. At the same time, we ask all members who use the handicap system to be cognizant of their individual responsibilities for using the system and for maintaining the integrity of their individual handicaps in accordance with the USGA Handicap Manual and the Club's Handicap Program. For further information on the Club's Handicap Policy go to www.arabiangolf.com, and on the USGA Handicap Manual go to <http://www.usga.org/Handicapping.html>

Grounds & Rules

Some flagstick rules and decisions (Rule 17):

The player may ask the flagstick to be attended, removed or held up to indicate the position of the hole (hole #10 at Riffa comes to mind) BEFORE making a stroke from anywhere on the course. The flagstick must remain in that state while the player's ball is in motion (after the stroke is made). If the flagstick is not centered in the hole, the flagstick may be left at in its current position (i.e. at an angle) or centered in the hole but its angle cannot be changed to improve your chances of holing your shot if you choose to leave the flagstick in place.

If anyone is standing near the flagstick (close enough to touch it) while a stroke is being played, that person is considered to be attending the flagstick even if that person is not actually touching it. So if the player's ball strikes the flagstick, the person attending it or anything that person is carrying (17-3) even if playing from off the green whether the flagstick is attended, removed or held up, the player incurs a penalty; however, if a player makes a stroke from off the green and an opponent or fellow competitor attends the flagstick without the player's instruction or prior knowledge and the ball strikes the flagstick, person, etc., the player receives no penalty but the opponent or fellow competitor does. It is a good idea to ask someone standing near the hole to move away if it not your intention to have them attend the flagstick. If the flagstick has been removed and, in order to save time, you ask another player or caddie to put their putter in the hole to indicate your line, all the rules that apply to the flagstick also apply to the putter.

If an attended flagstick pulls the hole liner out of the hole and a ball played from the putting surface strikes it, the stroke is cancelled and must be replayed without penalty as the liner is an "outside agency". If the stroke was made from off the putting surface, the ball must be played from where it lies with no penalty.

If a player's ball comes to rest between the flagstick and the rim of the hole, the player or a person authorized by him may move or remove the flagstick. If the ball falls into the hole, it has been holed out with no penalty (unless there was one for striking the flagstick to begin with). If the player picks up the ball without it being holed out, he is penalized under rule 20-1 for not marking the ball beforehand. If the ball has not yet been holed and moves away from the cup while removing the flagstick and the player makes his stroke from the new location of the ball (rule 17-4), he is penalized under rule 20-7. The ball should have been placed on the lip of the cup. If the ball played from off the green is in the cup below the green surface, the ball has been holed out. If the flagstick is used to try to remove the ball and the ball comes out and lands on the green, no additional strokes or penalties would be applicable.

If the flagstick is lying near the hole (on or off the green) such that a stroke made on the putting surface may strike it, the flagstick must not be moved while the ball is in motion. Between 2008 and 2012 the rules did permit moving the flag without penalty as of January 2012, the flagstick lying on the ground is now treated as a moveable obstruction under rule 24-1. If you are playing in the group behind the group on the putting green and you hit onto the green and strike the flagstick which has been left on the ground, there is no penalty. Now if someone in the group in front decides to hit your ball out of anger whether your ball is on the putting green or not, that player should be assessed a penalty under rule 1-4. As far as where you play your next shot from, this is guided by rule 18-1 but, in general, the ball should be replaced without penalty.

2017 UDH Open Tournament

Friday, March 17, 2017

Shotgun start at 9:00 AM



- Tournament is open to all golfers with an established handicap.
- Sign up fee of 350 SAR includes: Lunch for player, Tournament Goody Bag, & Tournament Prizes.
- To sign up you must visit <http://www.udhgolf.com/> and click on the tournament sign up page. Deadline for sign up is March 3, 2017.
- For more info please contact Nadir Youssif @ 054-282-6899 or nadir.youssif@aramco.com.