

ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2017

President's Message

Well the CEO Cup is in the books, congrats to all, and big thank you to Les, Tamara, Jeff and the rest of the unsung volunteers who made it work. We have some interesting tournaments coming up, for you old(ish) guys, consider the Qatar Senior Open. We had a few RHGCer's participating last year, well worth the trip.

Check out the page 3 article, we welcome Jason Sexton (back) to Saudi Arabia, the new Gardening Greenskeeper.

Our new membership director is hard at work reviewing the cart shed lists, we should have updates online soon. And speaking of cart sheds, this news just in, our new cart shed building is scheduled to be completed June(ish) 2017!

Following up on my note regarding golf cart overnight parking, remember you can use slots behind the next building, just make sure you're not parking next to the building. And finally, all bulbs have been replaced, the course is ablaze in light. YEAH...

-Dave

From the Pro

Stuart will be running the next "Golf in a Week" class starting on March 19th. 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, there will be 2 Junior Tour School Spring Break Classes. These classes will commence on March 26th and April 2nd. These classes run for 5 days straight from 8:00 am — 9:00 am each day. 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 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

March 2nd — Ladies Classes
March 26th — Golf in a Week
March 18th & April 2nd — Junior Tour School

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Upcoming Tournament Information

Oasis Cup

Rolling Hills Golf Club will be hosting the OASIS Cup on **March 10th & 11th**. This is an annual event wherein our club competes with Dirab Golf Club in Ryder Cup format. The first day will be a Fourball Match Play competition and the second day is single Match Play. If you haven't had the opportunity to experience this annual event, you need to consider to be part of the team. There is a cost of 100 SAR to help off-set the tournament cost for this two day event. Sign up is now open on ForeTees.

St. Paddy's Golf

Of the evening of **March 16th**, RHGC will be hosting the second evening social event of the year. The March event will have a St. Paddy's Day theme. Sign up as a team of four. The course lights will be turned off and each team will be given glow balls to use. There is a cost of 100 SAR per person for this event. Additional dinner tickets may be purchased for 100 SAR per guest. Payments can be made from March 1st — 7th at the Clubhouse. Any team that has not paid by 7:00 PM on March 7th will be replaced by teams on the waiting list. Sign up is now open on ForeTees.

Bi-Monthly Medal

We are having our Bi-Monthly Medal on **March 18th**, 2017. The format will be STROKE play. Registration on ForeTees is already open for the 7:00 AM shotgun start and 12:00 PM shotgun start. Members are allowed to form their own foursome and register on ForeTees.

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

The updated 2017 Tournament Calendar is available on the RHGC Web site. Click here to [access](#).

March 10th & 11th — Oasis Cup
 March 16th — Evening Golf Event
 March 18th — Bi-Monthly Medal



Ask Carl

Q: Why were the trees cut down on hole #9?

A: A request was submitted to Gardening to trim the tops of the trees; supposedly improve the lighting distribution on the fairway. Gardening determined they did not have the appropriate equipment to trim the tree tops so they decided to cut the bottoms instead.

Q: I'm seeing a lot of people walking around the course when I'm golfing. I think this is very dangerous. What should I do when I see someone out on the course that is not a member?

A: You are correct, this is extremely dangerous. Please see the Safety on the Course section on Page 4 for more about what to do when you find someone walking around the course.

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

Meet Our New Greenskeeper

Rolling Hills' new greenskeeper has arrived in Kingdom. Jason Sexton is a GCSAA Class A Superintendent with 9 years of experience as a head Superintendent and over 15 years in total experience. He has extensive maintenance, renovation and construction experience in several climates, with several different types of grass. He started his career as an assistant at a top 100 private club in Naples, Florida. Jason comes to us from managing the Links at Lowell, which is located in Arkansas, USA, where he has worked for the past 7 years.



If you see Jason around the course, or around town, be sure to introduce yourself and say hi.

"As an Aramco Brat who grew up playing Rolling Hills, the opportunity to come back as the Superintendent is very special. I am very excited and honored to be here." - Jason Sexton

From the Pro Shop

New Arrival: Callaway Epic Drivers & Woods



Further discounts on last season's clubs. Come get a bargain now, while they last.

Safety on the Course

Admittedly, Rolling Hills provides a scenic and inviting landscape for losing yourself in green grass among the desert landscape. In fact, many people take up the game after joining Saudi Aramco for this very reason, but this is no place for a casual stroll on a cool evening or after indulging in one too many tacos at El Chico's. According to Golf Digest, "40,000 golfers are admitted to the emergency room every year from being injured at play, most come from errant golf balls and flying club heads." The full article on the impacts, forces generated, and golf related injuries can be found [here](#). There is a strict set of rules and etiquette golfers learn and follow to mitigate the potential for injuries. Non-golfers, and especially children, don't appreciate the risks and precautions and therefore are not allowed onto the golf course for any reason, including a seemingly innocent walk or to play in the sand bunkers. If you know someone who would like to experience the landscape and challenges of golf, invite them to take an introductory course with our teaching pro, Stuart!

The RHGC Board asks you to help us prevent this recurring safety hazard by taking pictures of unauthorized persons on the golf course. We will then submit reports into the Near Miss system to document this issue. Our aim is not to get individuals into trouble, but rather to raise awareness of the safety concern to all involved parties. If you can send the pictures along with the date, time, location, and number of people involved, it will help us keep RHGC safe and avoid any potentially damaging incidents.

CEO Cup Winners

Congratulations to all the CEO Cup Winners. Complete results are posted on our Web site.

Overall Ladies' Winner: Kyorye Lee

Overall Men's Winner: Mohd Azizi Ibrahim



Handicap Corner

Guidelines for Posting Tournament Scores

The USGA Handicap Index is supposed to represent a golfer's "potential" ability, not his actual, current or average ability. "Potential," for these purposes, is identified by an examination of a golfer's top 10 of their 20 most recent rounds, and, by a comparison of this best 10 of 20 calculation with the two best Tournament Scores ("T-scores") recorded within the past 12 months (longer for golfers who play fewer than 20 rounds per year). Specifically, it is the "gap" between the best 10 of 20 figure and two lowest "T-scores" that is examined. If the T-scores are sufficiently low, the calculations can call for an automatic reduction of the best 10 of 20 figure.

The USGA Handicap System has a very specific definition of what should be considered a T-score. See Sec 2, Definitions, Tournament Score: <http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/Handicapping/handicap-manual.html#!rule-14370>. Ideally, RHGC should only have 4 or 5 events a year, maximum, designated as a "T-score".

Designating too many events as "T-scores" dilutes the effectiveness of Section 10-3 automatic "R" reductions, and defeats the purpose of having this calculation- see Handicap Reduction Table in Section 10-3: <http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/Handicapping/handicap-manual.html#!rule-14389>

RHGC Policy 2017

In 2017, we have agreed that the following RHGC tournaments will be entered as "T-scores" for handicap purposes

CEO Cup

Club Championship

Monthly Medal - May

Monthly Medal - November

As in the past, do not enter any scores for RHGC tournaments that you play in. The Handicap Committee will still enter all RHGC tournament scores, using the official scorecards/results from the Tournament Committee. However, only these tournaments will be entered as "T-scores", the other tournaments will be entered as casual scores.

If you have any questions please contact the Handicap Director, Stephen Vezendy at stephen.vezendyjr@aramco.com or rhgc.handicap.dir@gmail.com

Grounds & Rules

RHGC Local Rules

1. OUT OF BOUNDS (Rule 27)

A ball is out of bounds if it comes to rest:

- 1) Beyond any boundary wall, fence, road or hedge.
- 2) Beyond the white posts marking the practice facility on holes #9 and #18
- 3) Within the fenced oil yards along the right side of hole #1

2. WATER HAZARDS (Rule 26-1)

Water hazards are defined by yellow stakes and lateral water hazards are defined by red stakes. Bridges over and paved paths through water hazards are considered immovable obstructions, but because the immovable obstruction is in a water hazard, no relief is given. The ball can be played from the bridge including grounding your club. If your ball lies on a bridge across a water hazard you also have the option to play under rule 26.

3. DROPPING ZONES

If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in the water hazard at hole 2 and 15, the player may:

- 1) Proceed under Rule 26; or
- 2) as additional option, drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke, in the dropping zone.

4. ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITIONS

If your ball becomes embedded in the grass face of a bunker, you may lift clean and drop (Rule 20-2) as close as possible to the point the ball was imbedded. The ball must be embedded as defined under Rule 25-2 (i.e. in its own pitch mark with a portion of the ball below the ground surface). A ball being below the level of the grass only is not considered as embedded. When dropping, if your ball rolls into the bunker, you must re-drop once. On the re-drop proceed under rule 20-2 at which time you can then place the ball at the point where the ball struck the grass on your last attempt. If you cannot place due to the severity of the slope you may go to the nearest point that the ball will remain at rest, no nearer the hole, and place. You may not drop and play from the hazard. This rule does not apply to a ball embedded in the lip of a bunker if any portion of the ball is in contact with the sand. In that event, there is no relief under this rule. If the ball is embedded in the lip but not touching the sand, then relief is given as the ball is not in the hazard.

5. IMMOVEABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 24-2)

- 1) Cart paths that are paved or bricked running through the course. Note: All other paths, maintenance paths or tracks and patches of bare ground are integral parts of the course.
- 2) All floodlights through the course. Note: Relief is not available for line of sight. If a ball strikes a lamp or a floodlight, it is a rub of the green. Rule 19-1 applies.
- 3) Sprinkler heads.
- 4) Protection of young trees identified by stakes, if such a tree interferes with a player's stance or area of his intended swing.
- 5) Brick distance markers on teeing grounds and in the center of the fairway at 150 and 200 yards.
- 6) All identification stakes & signs, except white stakes or boundary walls defining out of bounds.
- 7) Metal/wooden posts and chains/ropes restricting entry or guiding traffic that cannot be easily removed by hand.
- 8) All structures and equipment relating to watering or electrical distribution system (including black irrigation hoses).

6. MOVEABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 24-1)

Stones in bunkers and the 150/200 yardage marker signs located on the side of the fairway. Stakes and ropes regulating cart traffic are moveable obstructions.

Grounds & Rules Continued

7. INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE

All desert, rough and rocky wasteland, and unpaved maintenance paths or tracks within the course, the ball must be played as it lies or invoke Rule 28.

8. ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (Rule 25-1)

Cemeteries on holes #9 and #18 are to be treated as an environmentally sensitive area. They are marked with green and white stakes. Players are to treat this marked area as Ground Under Repair (GUR). Players are entitled to a free lift and drop one club-length from the nearest point of relief from where the ball crossed the margin of the ESA.

9. GROUND UNDER REPAIR (Rule 25-1)

Areas of Ground under Repair, GUR, are identified by an encircling white line and identified as GUR. Additionally, green mats utilized to protect the ground in high traffic areas are to be treated as GUR.

10. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICE

"For all play at RHGC," a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However, if, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used.

11. GOLF CARTS

Carts are not permitted on tees or greens and should not be driven between greens and greenside bunkers. No stroke penalty but possible loss of playing privileges may be imposed for violations.

12. BALL ON PUTTING GREEN MOVED ACCIDENTALLY OR FROM NATURAL CAUSE

Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1. This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental. Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

13. DISTANCE MARKERS

All distance markers are measured to the center of the green.

14. PIN POSITIONS

Color coded flags are used to identify the location of the hole on the green:

- Red – front
- Yellow – middle
- Blue – back

15. GENERAL

Sand must be carried at all time and players must fill in divots, players are responsible for repairing ball marks on the green. Cell phones should be on silent mode or off during all competitions. Penalties for breach of this rule will be up to the competition committee.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULES (unless otherwise indicated):

- Match play – LOSS OF HOLE
- Stroke play – TWO STROKES

A challenging Chapman Format scramble and a delicious steak dinner made for a wonderful Thursday evening at RHGC on February 9th.



The winners!



The next evening golf event is St. Paddy's Day Night Golf on March 16th. Find a team of four, sign up, and show up wearing green!



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.
- Bus transportation from Dhahran is being arranged. Please email Lee Kirk after you have registered

QATAR SENIOR OPEN 2017

at Doha Golf Club on 17th & 18th March

Age Category :
50 years old and above

Entry Fee :
DGC Member QR500
Non Member QR950

In the event of over subscription,
priority goes to lower handicap
players.

Price Includes :

- Gifts
- Continental Breakfast and Lunch on both days
- Practice round on Thursday 16th

List of Prizes : Division A - (0-12)

- First - Rolex + I Phone + Trophy
- Second - I Phone + QR1500 + Trophy
- Third - I Phone + QR1000 + Trophy
- Fourth - I Pad + QR500
- Fifth - I Pad + QR500

Division B - (13-18)

- First Net - I Phone + QR1500 + Trophy
- Second Net - I Phone + QR1000 + Trophy
- Third Net - I Pad + QR500 + Trophy
- Fourth Net - I Pad + QR500
- Fifth Net - I Pad + QR500



Visitor Entry Online at :

www.dohagolfclub.com/senioropen2017 *

* online payment available-service charge applies.

Max handicap limit 18.

