

Jan/Feb 2026

# CLUB NEWS

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[www.arabiangolf.net](http://www.arabiangolf.net)

Instagram: [rhgcoursedhahran](https://www.instagram.com/rhgcoursedhahran)

Facebook: [Rolling Hills Golf Course](https://www.facebook.com/RollingHillsGolfCourse)

## STARTER HUT OPENING HOURS

Sun	4pm - 9pm*
Mon - Sat	6am - 9pm*

## PRO SHOP OPENING HOURS

Sun	CLOSED
Mon - Thu	11am - 6pm
Fri - Sa	6am - 12pm

 013-862-1380

013-872-2692



*David Bedford, RHGC President*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we roll into February, I'd like to take a moment to look back at the close of our 2025 season and share a few highlights as we tee off for 2026.

We wrapped up 2025 with the Club Championships, and congratulations are in order for our champions — ***Pedro Castro***, Men's Club Champion, and ***Soonhae Kim***, Women's Club Champion. Well played to both, and to all of our flight winners as well. Full results can be found on page 4.

The new year also brings some changes to the Board. A warm welcome to our new Directors, and welcome back to those returning for another term. Thank you all for your willingness to serve the club. You'll find the full ***2026 RHGC Board*** listed on page 10.

The 2026 season officially kicked off with another successful ***Opening Day Tournament***, combined with the January Monthly Medal and Round 1 of the ***2026 Race to the Hills*** — our season-long competition. Congratulations to the winning Lone Ranger team of ***Jae Lee, Soonhae Kim, John Oh, and Kelly Seung***, posting an outstanding score of ***-12***.



With the **holy month of Ramadan** expected to begin on **February 18**, we would like to wish all observing members a peaceful and meaningful month. During Ramadan, evening tee times from Sunday through Thursday will be extended to 10:00pm.

Be sure to stay up to date with upcoming events on page 6 and please remember to register before the posted cut-off dates to secure your spot.

I know many of you have been eagerly awaiting the return of the Driving Range, and I'm happy to share that the range lighting installation is nearly complete. Thank you for your patience — the new lights will provide a brighter and safer practice environment for everyone.

Lastly, I continue to work diligently toward finalizing an agreement with a third-party provider to bring a Club Pro back to RHGC. I'm hopeful to have an update to share next month.

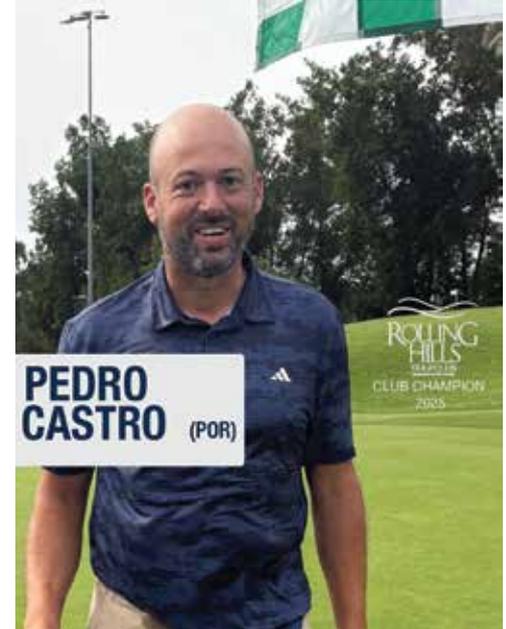
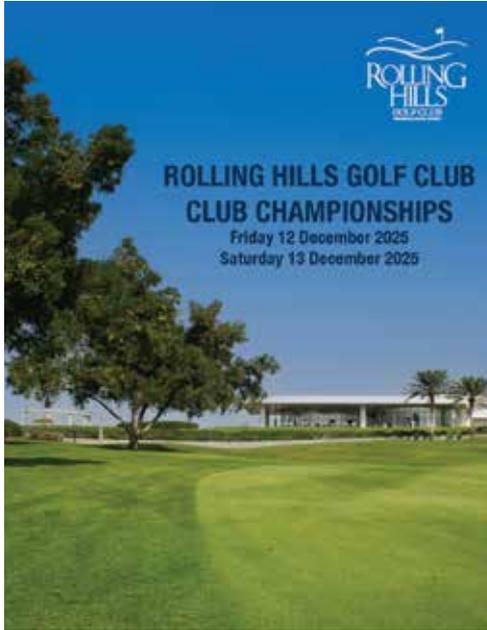
As always, thank you for being part of RHGC. Remember — golf is the only game where you can hit a perfect shot, feel like a pro for five seconds... and still write down a double bogey. Don't let it get you down, just move to the next hole and remember we're all amateurs. See you on the course!

David Bedford  
RHGC President

**During Ramadan, evening tee times from Sunday through Thursday will be extended to 10:00pm.**



## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 RESULTS



A huge congratulations from RHGC to our 2025 Club Championship winners, Soonhae Kim and Pedro Castro. An excellent performance—well deserved.

On behalf of everyone who competed across the two-day Championship, the RHGC Board extends a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers. Your time, effort, and community spirit helped make the event a true success—and we're genuinely grateful.

 FULL RESULTS AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

## RHGC AGM 2025 AWARDS

RHGC proudly congratulates the outstanding winners and devoted volunteers who were honored for their achievements and contributions at the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

### 2025 MATCH PLAY WINNERS

**SINGLES** - Yazeed Alghamdi

**TEAM** - Manu Pilai/Samir Sharma

### FLIGHTED WINNERS

A David Johnston

B Zaid Al-Amer

C Davan Byrne

RHGC proudly congratulates the **2025 RACE TO THE HILLS** winner and the **2025 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**. Both honors reflect an exceptional passion for the game and a steadfast commitment to the Club.

### 2025 RACE TO THE HILLS WINNER

Pedro Castro

### 2025 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Louise van der Merwe

### MOST IMPROVED PLAYERS

Golf is a sport that continually challenges us to improve. Over the past year, our members played thousands of rounds of golf, and three individuals stood out for their remarkable progress.

Eric Heinold (Junior) led the way, improving his handicap from 4.3 to 2.3 with an improvement factor of 1.14.

Johan van der Merwe (Male) recorded an impressive improvement factor of 1.405, lowering his handicap from 21.3 to 11.7.

Louise van der Merwe (Female) achieved an improvement factor of 1.316, reducing her handicap from 26.7 to 17.4.

Congratulations to our **2025 MOST IMPROVED PLAYERS OF THE YEAR!**

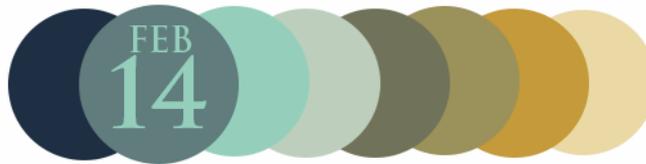


# UPCOMING EVENTS



10 FEBRUARY 2026  
11 FEBRUARY 2026

Tuesday Morning League  
9'n DINE



MONTHLY  
MEDAL RTTH2026  
RACE TO THE HILLS



**Rolling Hills Junior Golf**

## JUNIORS EVENT

### FEB 21ST

**WHO CAN PLAY?**

For Junior Golfers ages 8-17 of all skill levels!  
Free For Club Members or  
Pay 50 SAR per junior at the pro shop (receipt  
required before play)

**AGENDA**

10:00 AM Driving Range/Putting Warm up  
10:20 AM Pairings Announced  
10:30 AM Competitive groups head out to 1st Tee  
10:30 AM Fun groups shot gun start  
12:30 PM All groups back to clubhouse for lunch  
and prizes

**JOIN NOW!**

**DETAILS**

**Competitive Division:** For older/more experienced golfers who want to compete

**Fun Division:** For beginners/juniors who just want to have fun!  
All golfers must bring their own clubs, balls, and tees

A parent is requested to stay and supervise their kids for safety and logistics

**REGISTER:**  
Please respond by Feb 17th

Whatsapp  
+1 713 584 9889  
Alexander Hollander  
rhgcjuniorgolf@gmail.com

# HANDICAP CORNER

## Definition of Competition vs. Home vs. Away Score in GHIN

There have been a few members asking the board what counts as a Competition score in GHIN, especially since the RHGC Handicap & Tournament Committees are using Competition scores to calculate a player's Tournament Handicap for most of the RHGC events. GHIN separates scores based on how and where the round is played, mainly for transparency, committee reviews, and pattern spotting.

Here's the practical breakdown:

### COMPETITION SCORE

**Played in a formal, organized event**

Examples: club tournaments, monthly medals, championships, league rounds

*Conditions:*

*Committee oversight*

*Published tee times / start sheet*

*Rules of Golf strictly applied*

To determine a member's Tournament, or Competition Handicap, the last 8 of 20 competition scores are utilised (18 hole rounds only). **The committee will then use the lower of the competition and social handicap for the RHGC event.**

### HOME SCORE

**Played at your home club (the club where your GHIN is issued)**

Can be:

Casual rounds

Practice rounds

Non-tournament play

*Must still follow the Rules of Golf and be played over a rated course*

If there are member groups within RHGC that would like to create a committee to run formal, organized events, and you would like assistance with scoring those events (i.e. through Golf Genius), then please contact our Tournament Director ([RHGCTournaments@gmail.com](mailto:RHGCTournaments@gmail.com))

### AWAY SCORE

**Played at any course other than your home club**

Includes:

Casual rounds while traveling

Invitationals at other clubs

Resort or guest rounds (as long as the course is rated)

# HOLE-IN-ONE CLUB



On the 14th January 2026 (First for 2026 season), Johan aced Hole 11 with a 5-iron. Well done!



## HERTLEIN'S FAREWELL

The time for the Hertlein's in-kingdom now numbers hours. We've been asked to reflect on the RHGC and its impact during our time with Aramco.

For avid golfers like ourselves it's hard to imagine having stayed with Aramco for 13 years without the RHGC. Nowhere will you find a club that offers more competitive avenues at a most reasonable price than here at Rolling Hills.

We have enjoyed the Weekend Group, Couples Golf, Monthly medals/RTTHs, CEO Cup, Presidents Cup and so many other numerous events capped by our favorite, the annual Ryder Cup (Go CanAm!!). Sue started playing golf here in Dhahran with the TML League and has seen ladies golf and participation explode in the past couple of years. With weekend group opening it's doors to include the ladies that wish to play 18 holes has added a whole new dimension to the game. It's so important to make everyone feel welcome.

Days of the crusty old golfers are behind us. The RHGC doesn't exist or function without the successive group of Board Members who have given so much time and energy to making each competition, tournament, and celebration a success. Successive Boards have really brought the RHGC along very nicely to what is by far the best self-directed group on camp. We now have back nine lights and the excitement of professional tournaments which can include all that wish to volunteer their time. These are really fun and the level of golf is impressive as well. Could an LET event be in our future?!

A big thank you from the Hertlein's to all of the RHGC members for the good times, fun matches and competition. We wish all of you well during your stay with Saudi Aramco. Hit them long and straight!!

All the best,  
Les & Sue Hertlein



In My Hand I Hold A Ball,  
White And Dimpled, Rather Small.  
Oh, How Bland It Does Appear,  
This Harmless Looking Little Sphere.

By Its Size I Could Not Guess,  
The Awesome Strength It Does Possess.  
But Since I Fell Beneath Its Spell,  
I've Wandered Through The Fires Of Hell.

My Life Has Not Been Quite The Same,  
Since I Chose To Play This Stupid Game.  
It Rules My Mind For Hours On End,  
A Fortune It Has Made Me Spend.

It Has Made Me Yell, Curse And Cry,  
I loathe it, And Want To Die.  
It Promises A Thing Called Par,  
If I Can Hit It Straight And Far.

To Master Such A Tiny Ball,  
Should Not Be Very Hard At All.  
But My Desires The Ball Refuses,  
And Does Exactly As It Chooses.

It Hooks And Slices, Dribbles And Dies,  
And Even Disappears Before My Eyes..  
Often It Will Have A Whim,  
To Hit A Tree or Take A Swim.

With Miles Of Grass On Which To Land,  
It Finds A Tiny Patch Of Sand.  
Then Has Me Offering Up My Soul,  
If Only It Would Find The Hole.

It's Made Me Whimper Like A Pup,  
And Swear That I Will Give It Up.  
And Take To Drink To Ease My Sorrow,  
But The Ball Knows ... I'll Be Back  
tomorrow.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026



**PRESIDENT**  
David Bedford



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Jonathan D'Antoni



**SECRETARY**  
Matthew Aubert



**TREASURER**  
Hayden Ponsford



**CO-TOURNAMENT**  
Christoffel Steenkamp



**CO-TOURNAMENT**  
Edu Syafron



**PRO-SHOP**  
Kevin Capstick



**CO-MEMBERSHIP**  
John Sinesi



**CO-MEMBERSHIP**  
Eric Siver



**GROUND AND RULES**  
John Duffield



**FACILITIES**  
Doug Balzer



**JUNIOR GOLF**  
Alex Hollander



**HANDICAP**  
Thomas Heinold



**MEDIA**  
Louise van der Merwe



**FOOD & BEVERAGE**  
Pedro Castro



**SOCIAL**  
Vikki Bedford



**LADIES GOLF**  
Laura Moore