

# ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

Volume 2, Issue 10

November 2017

## President's Message

Congratulations to our 2017 RHGC Club Champions, John-Paul Scallon and Rosie Daud! Make sure to check the RHGC website for a complete list of flight winners. Kudos all around!

The SAIT is fast approaching. The format has changed this year, implementing a 2 day plate flight, so consider signing up. Not planning to play, well for all of you who have never volunteered before, NOW is your chance, the SAIT needs you! Please email SAITGolfTournament@gmail.com – page 5 for more details.

Don't forget about the upcoming RHGC election. There is still time to put your name forward for either President, Treasurer or Handicap Director. Nominations are submitted to the Elections Committee – page 3 for more details.

The club mass registration drive is coming up, scheduled for December 1st and 2nd. You will be receiving an email with your pre-filled 2018 registration form. Print it out and bring your Aramco ID to the clubhouse.

Recreation tells us cart sheds are still on schedule to be completed before year end. More details to follow.

Oh, and time is almost up to get a spot at the Golf Ball in Bahrain. You can also sign up to play in the Golf Ball golf tournament at Riffa —see pages 12 and 13 for more details!

See you on the course, Dave

## From the Pro

Stuart will be running the next "Golf in a Week" class starting on November 19<sup>th</sup>. 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.

A Junior Tour School will commence on November 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 Saturday from 9:00 am – 10:00 am. The cost is 400 SAR and needs to be paid prior to the class commencing.

A Ladies only class will continue on November 2nd and will run 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 and needs to be paid prior to the class commencing.

To register, you may contact Stuart via email at:

stuart.hurstfield@aramco.com

November 11th — Junior Golf

November 19th — Golf in a Week

Thursdays — Ladies Only Class

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## Upcoming Tournament Information

### Bi-Monthly Medal

We are having our Bi-Monthly Medal on November 11th. Registration on ForeTees is already open for the 7:00 AM shotgun start and 12:00 PM shotgun start. The format will be STROKE play. Shawarmas will also be available for you to purchase at lunch time so bring your cash and an appetite

### Turkey Shoot

This year's annual Turkey Shoot event will be held on November 18th. Format is modified Par 3, where every hole is a Par 3. Adults: Natural Birdie gets a bird. Juniors: Natural Par gets a gift voucher to Johnny Rockets (or similar). Maximum one turkey/voucher will be awarded per player. Turkeys are being arranged for pick up after the round on Saturday at the Clubhouse. Registration is now open on ForeTees.

### SAIT

Rolling Hills Golf Club is pleased to announce the 52nd Anniversary of the Saudi Aramco Invitational Tournament, sponsored by the Saudi Aramco Golf Association (SAGA) and hosted by the Rolling Hills Golf Club of Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. This year's tournament will take place on November 24th & 25th. See page 5 for more information.

November 11th — Bi-Monthly Medal

November 18th — Turkey Shoot

November 24th & 25th — SAIT



### Ask Carl

Q: Are the new golf cart sheds really going to be open on December 1st.

A: That is what we have been told by Recreation. We will be sending more information out as the date gets closer.

Q: What is the deal with the lights on the course?

A: Lights are not maintained by RHGC Board but through Recreation. We have been in contact with them to have them repaired. We are doing our best and this is a high priority for us.

Q: How many golf clubs can I carry in my bag?

A: The rules of golf allow you to carry fourteen clubs in your bag, so many golfers add another iron or a specialty wood to the traditional set.

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

## 2017 RHGC Elections

### NOMINATIONS FOR ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB BOARD

Nominations are requested from active members for the Rolling Hills Golf Club Board positions of:

- President,
- Treasurer
- Handicap Director

All nominations must be submitted to the Elections Committee Jim Platt (james.platt@aramco.com), Paul Titley (paul.titley@aramco.com) or Les Hertlein (les.hertlein@aramco.com) on or before 4:00 pm on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. All nominee names and their **bios and photographs** will be posted on the <http://www.arabiangolf.net> website as they are received. (Find them under Club Info/RHGC Board/2018 Board Elections)

**Please don't nominate someone without asking their permission.** Only members in good standing may submit nominations and all nominees must meet the following requirements:

- An active member of Rolling Hills Golf Club and a regular Saudi Aramco employee or their spouse
- Nominated by an active member of Rolling Hills Golf Club
- Able to serve for 2 year term starting January 1, 2018. Board meetings occur regularly on 1st Sunday of each month
- Willing to attend major Club events as well as spend personal time planning and organizing Club events
- Willing to uphold Club Constitution & Bylaws

All nominees will be contacted by a member of the Elections Committee and anyone wishing to withdraw his or her nomination may do so prior to time when the election ballot is completed i.e. prior to November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Timeline for the elections:

- **Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm** – Deadline for receipt of all nominations
- **Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm** – Deadline for receipt of all nominee bios (inclusive of photographs)
- **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**, Voting begins

Note: Elections may start earlier if all nominee information is received prior to November 19<sup>th</sup>

**Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**, at 4:00 pm – Voting ends

**Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>** - Election results announced at RHGC AGM

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**, at 4:00 pm – deadline for receipt of votes if run off is required

Voting will be done via an online tool called SurveyMonkey. All primary members will receive an email to their personal email mail account with a link to cast their ballot. To confirm that you have your personal email account registered you may contact Bruce Waldner (bruce.waldner@aramco.com).

## 2017 RHGC Elections Con't

### Incentives for 2018 RHGC Board participation:

To encourage more active participation in the operation of the club the following incentives have been approved for active Board members for 2018.

- 5 day advance tee time booking for weekday and weekend play
- Advanced table selection for the annual Golf Ball
- 10% discount in Pro Shop

### Recreation Manual Rules that impact our election.

Rule 4.3 *A spouse may not succeed his/her spouse as one of the group's primary board members. Husbands and wives cannot serve on the board of a Self-Directed Group in any two separate board positions at the same time.*

Rule 4.4 *When currently holding an office in one group, an officer must be within three months of completing the term before placing his/her name in nomination for office in another Self-Directed Group.*

Rule 4.5 *Officers of Self-Directed Groups must be Saudi Aramco employees or their spouses, and must work or have a mailbox location within the area of the Self-Directed Group main facility or meeting area. Officers of Quad-Area Organizations must work in the area of the Self-Directed Group main facility or meeting area. This qualification will not apply to coaches, officials or umpires.*

4.5.1 *An individual can be an officer of only one Self-Directed Group at any time.*

4.5.2 *No officer of a Self-Directed Group can become a coach/division coordinator of that Self-Directed Group due to conflict of interest.*

## Regards

Jim Platt, Paul Titley and Les Hertlein  
The RHGC Election Committee

SAIT

# 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Saudi Aramco Invitational Tournament (SAIT)

November 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

SAGA (Saudi Aramco Golf Association) and RHGC will be the host and host facility for the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual SAIT golf tournament.

Selected professional and amateur golfers will be considered for entry into the field. Playing handicaps will be limited to USGA Handicap Index of 12.4. Players in the USGA handicap index range from 6.1 and below will be competing in the Championship 2 day low gross competition exclusively. Players with a USGA handicap index of 6.2 and above will compete in the Plate 2 day low gross competition. A player with a USGA handicap index of 6.2 or above may opt to play in the Championship competition at the time of registration however, such player will compete for the Championship competition exclusively.

**Championship Competition:** 36-Hole: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> place gross

**Plate Competition:** 36-Hole: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place gross, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place low net.

**Skill Prizes:** Day 1 & 2: Longest Drive and Closest to Pin.

#### Entry fees

SAGA Golf Members SR 500

Non SAGA Members SR 750

For registration and additional information please visit the RHGC web site  
[www.arabiangolf.net](http://www.arabiangolf.net)

If your playing handicap prevents you from participating there are volunteer opportunities to assist in hosting the longest running golf competition in the entire GCC region. Please contact [SAITGOLFTournament@gmail.com](mailto:SAITGOLFTournament@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteer opportunities



## Junior Golf

October's Jr. Golf tournament had many new golfers and one took home the prize for winning the competitive group. Justin Baggett came in with an 8 stroke lead to take the win..



Our next event will be an open invitational on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Teams and players from the other Ar-amco camps will come to play with and against the Dhahran Jr Golfers.

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

[Coby Long](mailto:cobylong@gmail.com) : 054 838 0576 or email at: [cobylong@gmail.com](mailto:cobylong@gmail.com)

## Ladies Golf

### Rolling Hills Ladies League November Schedule

Nov. 7th - Open Play

Meet at the clubhouse between 7:30-8am and pair up. Record your skills!!

Nov. 14th — Fun Tournament

Meet at the clubhouse at **8am**. There will be a 9 hole scramble organized by Janice Anderson. We will have our potluck lunch hosted by Angela Farley at 528 Berri in the Hills at 12:30pm. Please let Janice know if you are playing and what you can contribute for the lunch. Janice@twosl.com

Nov. 21st - Open Play

Meet at the clubhouse between 7:30-8am and pair up. Record your skills.

Nov. 28th - Monthly Medal Stroke Play-

Meet at the clubhouse at **8am**. This is a 18 hole competition and you must have a valid handicap to play. Please let Janice know if you are attending.

Hit 'em straight, Kerri Wethington

## Handicap Corner

Wow, "**time flies when you are having fun**"! I can't believe it's been almost two years since I became RHGC Handicap Director, a job I have thoroughly enjoyed. I wanted to recap some important areas of the handicap program as we close out 2017. More details can be found on the RHGC website at <http://www.arabiagolf.net>.

### Handicap Program

The reason for RHGC's Handicap Program is to provide USGA handicap indexes to members. RHGC uses the GHIN Handicap System to maintain USGA handicap indexes. If a member requests to participate in the RHGC handicap program, the Handicap Director establishes a GHIN number and provides it to the member. These handicap indexes are updated and posted by the Handicap Director on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month and also exported to the Tournament Manager system used by the Tournament Director for use in RHGC tournaments. Some responsibilities of all members participating in the Handicap Program are:

1. He/she is expected and agrees to post acceptable scores within 1 week after the round is played. Rounds played at away courses should also be posted. You need the slope/rating of the away course, usually found on the scorecard. (Note: Tournament scores are entered in GHIN by the Handicap Director, members should not post their own tournament scores).
2. 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 responsibility of posting the correct score ultimately falls on the individual. The table below lists the maximum strokes per hole based on your Course handicap. Note: if you enter gross scores hole-by-hole in GHIN, the ESC adjustment is done automatically.

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

3. 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.
4. 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 System and is everyone's responsibility. Effective January 1, 2016, Scores made while playing alone are no longer considered acceptable for handicap purposes, as 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.
5. 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).
6. The 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)

## Handicap Corner Continued

7. 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.
8. 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.

Note: The Handicap Committee may post the score and/or post a penalty score for scores not posted by members, as per USGA Handicap Manual. If the score not posted was unusually low, the penalty score posted is equal to the lowest handicap differential in the player's scoring record. For an unusually high score, the penalty score posted is the reverse.

### **Handicap Manual Adjustments at RHGC**

The USGA handicapping system gives a Handicap Committee some leeway in maintaining handicaps in order to ensure handicaps are an accurate reflection of playing ability. The RHGC Handicap Committee has agreed on the following peer reviews:

Reviews after Each RHGC Tournament. The Handicap Committee has agreed that any member scoring net 67 or lower in RHGC tournaments will have their scoring record and trend immediately reviewed for a possible manual adjustment. If a manual adjustment is warranted, the Handicap Director (working with the Handicap Committee) will notify members and their Handicap will be denoted with an “M” the adjustment will be effective immediately for use in all RHGC official club matches, tournaments, etc. The Manual adjustment will be reviewed at each Handicap Revision to determine if the modification should be maintained or lifted. Note, this policy went into place July 2016 and replaced the prior policy of using “P” scores to affect an automatic 1 stroke reduction for net 67, 2 strokes for net 66, etc. which was not deemed acceptable.

Reviews at Each Handicap Revision on 1st and 15th The Handicap Committee may also perform other Peer Reviews of member scoring record and trend, as requested. If a manual adjustment is warranted, it will be timed (effective) with the bi-monthly (1st or 15th) Handicap Revisions.

How Long Do “M” Handicaps Last? All M Handicaps in GHIN will be reviewed at each bi-monthly Handicap Revision to determine if the modification should be maintained or lifted. To ensure there is enough scoring record to review after the adjustment, the Committee has agreed on the following “guideline” – at least 6 rounds (18 holes) played and posted, two of which should be RHGC Tournaments, before the Handicap Committee will potentially remove the M. The exception is if the player’s trend index goes below the M index at any bi-monthly Handicap Revision, then the manual adjustment will be lifted.

Handicapping is not an exact science. We try to make adjustments to handicaps that best reflect current playing ability, and be as equitably as possible to even out the playing field.

### **Peer Review – it’s everyone’s responsibility!**

The concept of Peer Review is an essential element the handicapping system. Two key areas underlie the USGA Handicap System. First, each player is expected to make the best score they can at each and every hole they play regardless of where the round is played. Second, the golfer is expected to post every “acceptable round” for peer review purposes. See October 2016 newsletter for what constitutes an acceptable round.



## Handicap Corner Continued

Uncovering the myth. Peer review is often misunderstood to mean it is the handicap committee's responsibility to monitor and review each club member's score file. Although that is a part of the committee responsibility, it is incumbent upon fellow club members to participate in peer review.

What is Peer Review? Peer review is defined as "the ability of golfers to gain an understanding of a player's potential ability and form a reasonable basis for supporting or disputing a score that has been posted." There are two essential elements: 1. Members of golf club must have a reasonable and regular opportunity to play together. 2. Access must be provided to scoring records, as well as to a Handicap Index list, for inspection by others.

Your Responsibility. So what does that mean to you as a member of your golf club? It is your responsibility, as you play with fellow club members to make sure each member posts correctly and accurately. Posting accurately includes posting the adjusted gross score using ESC maximums, including posting a par-plus for any holes not played or not played under The Rules of Golf and posting any most-likely scores for holes not completed. If a fellow member is not posting or not posting accurate scores, it is your obligation to alert the Handicap Director, who can then take any steps necessary to ensure the golfer has an index which is representative of their playing ability. It also may uncover a lack of knowledge or misinterpretation about a policy or procedure, so this allows the situation to be addressed with the member.

Acting in Good Faith. The USGA Handicap Index is a mark accepted by golfers across the U.S. and abroad that tells of the player's ability. As was described in a USGA handicap article, think of the index as a letter of introduction — in essence, the golfer's club is vouching for its member's playing ability. The club knows this because they have a reasonable and regular opportunity to play golf with one another. Golfers are further basing this good faith acceptance on the reasonable assumption that a fellow player has posted all of his acceptable scores.

So remember, the next time you are out enjoying a round of golf, participate in peer review. It's good for the game and it's your responsibility!

### **Other**

We determined that we were over-designating events as Tournaments ("T-scores") in prior years. The USGA Handicap System has a very specific definition of what should be considered a T-score. Ideally, a club should only have 4 or 5 events a year, maximum, designated as a T-score. In 2017 it was agreed to only designate the following 2017 tournaments as T-scores: CEO Cup Club Championship rounds, and May & November MM.

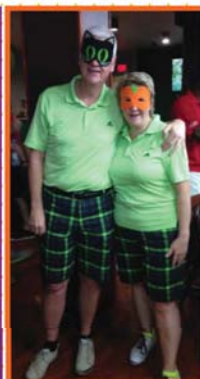
Also, early in 2017 we reviewed and finalized updated hole indexes for RHGC using USGA guidelines. The club is still working on procuring new scorecards with these new hole indexes. As soon as this is completed, the new hole indexes will be rolled out.

I hope this recap is informative. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Handicap Director at [stephen.vezendyjr@aramco.com](mailto:stephen.vezendyjr@aramco.com). You can also get more information at RHGC's new website <http://www.arabiangolf.net>. Thanks.

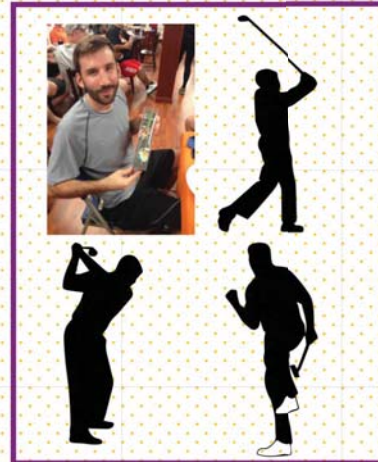
# Halloween Night Golf!

The costumes were amazing, the steak dinner delicious, the desserts a treat, the socializing fun, and even the golf wasn't too bad (for some folks!)! Our next lights out night golf will be in March, but between now and then, keep an eye out for other RHGC social events.

If you've got an idea for a social event, let Tamara.Tahir@aramco.com know. Based on members' suggestions, we're having a golf cart drive-in movie night in November, and we plan to host a golf equipment sale/swap in January.



# There were winners...and there were winners.



# 2017 Golf Ball

Please be sure to make your reservation with the Crown Plaza by November 15<sup>th</sup> to obtain the special room rate. The hotel will not guarantee room availability or our discounted rate after that date.

*December 8, 2017*

*Crowne Plaza Hotel, Bahrain*

*7 p.m. to 2 a.m., Semi-formal attire*

*SR 400 Members, SR 450 Guests*

*Dinner, house drinks until 11 p.m., door prizes, and a DJ*

Ticket sales begin September 18th 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

# 2017 RHGC Golf Ball Tournament

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-11:00am Tee Times

The Royal Golf Club , Bahrain

2-Best Ball Format

Registration Breakfast

Prizes and Hole Contests

Space is limited to the first 13 teams or  
(52 players)...

Sign up today at the RHGC Proshop!!

Cost will be 280 BD or 2800 SAR per team depending on the number of participants (includes breakfast, prizes, etc).

\*Must pay at time of registration.



Sign up on ForeTees and pay for tickets in the Clubhouse through Monday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>

**THURSDAY, NOV. 16<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00PM**

# GOLF CART DRIVE-IN MOVIE

*Featuring*

## **THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED**

Rated PG

SR 25 (per person) includes:

- ➡ Movie
- ➡ Hot dogs, popcorn, drinks, and ice cream

- All ages welcome
- Bring your golf carts, blankets, and lawn chairs
- Movie showing on the grass behind the clubhouse



### Clubhouse Menu

**SUN:** Grilled BBQ chicken/salad bar: 45 SAR



**MON:** Shawarma Night: 7 SAR each



**TUE:** Fried chicken wings (7 pieces) with fries: 20 SAR  
(also available WED and THU nights)



**WED:** Falafel Night

7 SAR each/25 SAR plate

12 SAR hummus and bread



**FRI/SAT:** Filipino Breakfast  
Chicken or beef with fried rice  
(tapsilog/tasilog): 30 SAR

Cheeseburger & fries: 20 SAR

