

ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2019

President's Message

2019 is off to a great start. As I write this, RHGC's own Othman Almulla is making his pro debut and the first ever PGA event held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I'm sure everyone will be cheering for him when he tees it up at the Saudi International at the Royal Greens.

Free balls at the driving range have been a big hit. It was such a success that we had to contact Recreation to have them collect the balls from the range a couple times a day so we don't run out.

The opening day tournament was a big success with over 150 golfers participating. Hopefully we won't be seeing any old pitch marks on the greens with the great new repair tool that all golfers received as a gift.

You will see some new faces on the Board in 2019. Both Jeff Kotanchick and Marc Elasmr have stepped down from their positions. I would like to thank them for their service over the past few years. James Platt will be taking over for Jeff as the Clubhouse Director while Edward Kim will become the Primary ProShop Director.

Hit em Straight
-Ed Devlin

From the Pro

The next "Golf in a Week" class starts on February 17th. Classes are an hour each day beginning at 7:00 pm and run for 5 consecutive days. Courses aimed at beginner and intermediate golfers. It covers all aspects of the game: Safety, Rules, Etiquette, Swing Method, and an on course Texas scramble. All equipment and range balls are supplied. The cost is 600 SAR. Please sign up in the Pro Shop.

Stuart offers a ladies' only class each Thursday morning from 9:00 -10:00. 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.

The Junior Tour School will return on Saturday February 9th and run each Saturday for 4 weeks. The classes are from 8:00am — 9:00. The schools will cover rules, etiquette, and golf swing mechanics. All equipment and range balls are supplied. The cost is 300SR.

Individual Lessons can be taken any day at times convenient — check out the website for more information on lesson prices www.arabiangolf.net.

To register, you may contact Stuart at:

stuart.hurstfield@aramco.com

February 7th — Ladies' Classes Continues

February 9th — Junior Tour School

February 17th — Golf in a Week

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Upcoming Tournament Information

Bi-Monthly Stableford

We are having our Bi-Monthly Stableford on **February 9th, 2018**. Sign-up is already open in [Tournament Manager](#) for the 7:00 AM shotgun start and 12:00 PM shotgun start. The pairings will be determined by the tournament committee. You must be a member in good standing of the Rolling Hills Golf Club for 2019, with 2019 membership fees paid, in order to participate in this bi-monthly Stableford.

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

Valentine's Golf

On the evening of **February 14th**, 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 already open in [Tournament Manager](#). Sign up with your spouse or a fellow golfer to play a Chapman-style scramble on February 14th. Sign up is open on Tournament Manager and is limited to 24 teams. Please see details on page 10 and make your payment in the Clubhouse by February 11th.

CEO Cup

The CEO Cup will be held on **February 22nd & 23rd**. It will be an 18 hole Stableford tournament. There will be 3 Shotgun starts: **February 22nd** at 7:00 AM and 12:00 PM and **February 23rd** at 7:00 AM. Pairings will be by committee. Registration is open on [Tournament Manager](#). See [page 3](#) for more details.

The [2019 Tournament Calendar](#) is available on the RHGC's website.

February 9th — Bi-Monthly Stableford
 February 14th — Valentine's Day Golf
 February 22nd & 23rd — CEO Cup



Ask Carl

Q: With the new Rules for 2019 I heard that I can ground my club in hazards. Is that correct?

A: Well technically there is no such thing as a hazard. What used to be called water hazards are now called penalty areas. In a penalty area it is permissible to ground your club. You might be thinking what about sand traps? These are defined in the rules as Bunkers (Rule 12). In a bunker you are still not allowed to ground your club. You can make incidental contact though.

Q: On holes #10 and #11, there are a bunch of solar panels and lights. How do I play them if my ball becomes blocked by them or my stance is hindered by them?

A: These would be classified as movable obstructions. If you find your ball lying close to or against a movable obstruction, you may remove the obstruction under Rule 24-1a. If your ball moves as you do this, you may replace it without penalty, providing the movement of the ball is directly attributable to the removal of the obstruction. Make sure to move the lights and/or solar panels back.

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

2019 CEO Cup



REMINDER: 2019 CEO Cup Registration Closes February 17th

Dear 2019 CEO Cup invitees,

The 2019 CEO Cup is scheduled to be played on February 22nd – 23rd at the Rolling Hills Golf Course.

The event is open for registration via Tournament Management (for RHGC Members). If you are not a member of RHGC, you may register through your respective Saudi Aramco Golf Association (SAGA)-affiliated club President.. If you wish to participate, please make timely registration a priority as the **registration deadline of February 17th** is fast approaching.

Please note the following new information regarding the tournament and awards dinner, which will be held following Saturday's play at the Plaza Conference Center starting at 4 p.m.

- Saudi Aramco's CEO graciously provided funding for an enhanced CEO Cup this year including a very generous set of goodie bag giveaways.
- Full breakfasts consisting of French toast, egg omelet, sausage, and some fruit will be available Friday and Saturday morning for the players and tournament volunteers.
- Safwa's famous, freshly made shawarmas will be available for the players and volunteers on Friday starting at 11:00 a.m. Lunch is not provided on Saturday but food may be purchased as usual from the RHGC clubhouse.
- Water and other drinks will be available throughout the tournament. Please be courteous to your fellow players and limit the drinks that you consume to the maximums that will be described on tournament day.
- The Dinner & Awards Banquet check-in commences at the Plaza Conference Center at 4:00 p.m. with the reception beginning at 4:30 p.m.
- Parking for private cars will be available at the Plaza Conference Center. No bus transport will be provided.
- **Attendance at the Dinner & Awards Banquet is mandatory for the winners in any category or closest to the Pin competition.** Should any winners fail to attend the Dinner & Awards Banquet without an excuse acceptable to the Tournament Committee, they will be disqualified as the winner in said category and playing privileges at their home club will be suspended for one month.
- This year's Dinner & Awards Banquet will include raffle drawings at the conclusion of the formal program. Prizes (subject to change) will include golf lessons, golf equipment and other golf paraphernalia. **You must be present at the Dinner & Awards Banquet in order to win.**

2019 CEO Cup Continued



Other items of note regarding the tournament and the awards dinner:

- 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 2019 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.
- Saudi Aramco's CEO has communicated to the committee that he has an expectation for the tournament participants to attend the Dinner & Awards Banquet. Please show your appreciation of the CEO's commitment to Saudi Aramco golfing experience and tournament by attending the Dinner & Awards Banquet.
- If a player plans on attending the February 23rd Dinner & Awards Banquet, you must purchase a ticket which are available at the RHGC Pro Shop starting January 21st. The cost of a ticket is 150 SAR, which is refundable to each participant player at the Dinner & Awards Banquet check-in upon presentation of the dinner ticket.
- If a player plans to bring a guest 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 applicable) at the time that their club President or Representative submits its player registrations to the 2019 CEO Cup Tournament Director. Tickets will be made available to these players on Friday, February 22nd, at the RHGC Pro Shop, after payment has been made.
- Dinner & Awards Banquet Ticket sales commence January 21st and will close **February 17th 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 17th, may pick up/purchase their tickets Friday, February 22nd.

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

Cordially on behalf of the tournament organizing committee,

Les

Les Hertlein

2019 CEO Cup Chairman

Handicap Corner

Please contact the [Handicap Director \(handicaps@arabiangolf.net\)](mailto:handicaps@arabiangolf.net) if you have any questions.

The HC Committee would like to thank all those that have already completed the HC Quiz (over 200 members so far) and remind everyone that if you want to play in tournaments you must complete the quiz.

Also as we begin a new year, a quick reminder to please post ALL acceptable scores to GHIN (as soon as possible after the round).

Acceptability of Scores

Fair handicapping depends upon full and accurate information regarding a player's potential scoring ability as reflected by a complete scoring record. Every player must be responsible for returning all acceptable scores, as defined in this section. For handicap purposes, all Section 4 adjustments, including Equitable Stroke Control, must be applied to all scores, including tournament scores

Q. What scores are acceptable for handicap posting purposes?

A. Almost all scores are acceptable because of the basic premise of the USGA Handicap System which states that every player will try to make the best score at each hole in every round, regardless of where the round is played, and that the player will post every acceptable round for peer review. Therefore, all of the following are acceptable scores:

- 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).
- Scores on all courses with a valid Course Rating and Slope Rating
- Scores in all forms of competition: match play, stroke play, and team competitions where each player play their own ball.
- Scores made under The Rules of Golf including scores played under the local rule of "preferred lies"
- Unfinished Holes and Conceded Strokes - A player who starts, but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke must record for handicap purposes the most likely score. The most likely score may not exceed the player's Equitable Stroke Control limit.
- Holes Not Played or Not Played Under The Rules of Golf - If a player does not play a hole or plays it other than under the Rules of Golf (except for preferred lies), the score recorded for that hole for handicap purposes must be par plus any handicap strokes the player is entitled to receive on that hole. (ie.net par)
- Equitable Stroke Control - All scores for handicap purposes, including tournament scores, are subject to the application of Equitable Stroke Control (ESC). This mandatory procedure reduces high hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential ability.

EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL

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

Q. What scores are NOT acceptable for handicap purposes?

- When fewer than seven holes are played
- When made on a golf course in an area in which an inactive season is in effect
- When, as a condition of the competition, the maximum number of clubs allowed is less than 14, or types of clubs are limited as, for example, in a competition that allows only iron clubs
- When scores are made on a course with no USGA Course Rating or Slope Rating
- When a player uses non-conforming clubs, non-conforming balls, or non-conforming tees; or when a player incurs a second breach of Rule 14-3
- When a player plays alone, however, anyone accompanying a golfer during a round, including a caddie, would make the score acceptable.
- When a player ignores one or more Rules of Golf and fails to post an adjusted hole score as required under Section 4-1 and 4-2, or fails to record the appropriate penalty for a breach of rule

Grounds Update

The Tamarisk removal is slowly moving forward and changes similar to hole #8 are quite dramatic. Please continue to show patience as we transition Rolling Hills back to the original course design. Jason Sexton (Superintendent), Maintenance Crew, Gardening, Recreation and Aramco Management are all on board as we strive to make Rolling Hills even more remarkable than what you see today.

Near-term Activity Pipeline

- Tamarisk removal ongoing
- Gardening continuing to plant ornamental trees as part of beautification
- Adopt-A-Hole continues moving forward; Barry Wethington will take organizational lead
- Jason agrees with the Board that a sharp demarcation between rough and desert is needed
- Plan to test marl, or coquina, mixed with clay for transition outside of rough; this will help prevent shrub growth and will be firm enough for carts to drive on and players making shots without tire ruts; something similar to Riffa or the Els Dubai courses
- Driving range grass to be leveled out
- Tee boxes leveled out
- Cart path bumps leveled out
- Contract approved for complete overhaul of machinery; commitment is to best in class brands and lots of new equipment to help with maintenance and enhancement
- Fairways reclaimed from rough creep
- Reshape bailout areas for many holes
- Rough needs major attention to improve playability

From the ProShop

The Pro Shop is saddened to share the news that our long-time Manager Beverly Ingram is leaving the Kingdom.

Beverly has worked tirelessly to help bring the Pro Shop to where it is today, including her support for all the tournaments and special events.

The Pro Shop staff and the RHGC Board thank her for her dedication and her commitment. We all wish her only the best for her new endeavors.

We are excited to introduce Dina Hancock and Janice Lim-Anderson as the new Pro Shop Managers.

This team will work with the Pro Shop Director to identify, plan and implement many improvements in the Pro Shop so stop by to provide your suggestions and give encouragements and your support for Dina and Janice.

Junior Golf

RHGC Jr Golf Invitational–February 16th, 2019

Junior golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate. Here is the schedule for the day:

9:00 am — **Driving/Putting Range (warmups)**

9:50 am — **Meeting in Clubhouse for pairings and rules**

10:15 am — **Competitive Group heads to #10 Tee**

10:15 am — **Fun Groups head to #1 Tee / back in Clubhouse by 1:00**

1:30 pm — **Competitive Group back in the Clubhouse for lunch and prizes**

2:00 pm — **Finish: Golfers are free to go**

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.

Who Can Play?

RHGC and Aramco Community Club members ages 8-17 years old or those who have or are currently taking lessons from Stuart Hurstfield (RHGC Golf Pro) or Community Club Pro.

Greens Fees

None - Free for all junior RHGC members!

75SR for non 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 January Golf Event 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 (WhatsApp) or

email at: cobylong@gmail.com

Junior Golf
DEVELOPING THE PLAYER, GROWING THE GAME™

Junior Golf Continued

Saturday was a great day for golf despite the cold. There were 7 golfers in the competitive group and they all kept the scores very close. Josh Thomas won with a score of 47 and coming in second was Justin Baggett. The fun group played a scramble format and had a great time competing to see who would have the best ball. We look forward to having many more golfers playing in the next round of Jr Golf Events.



2018 Hole in Ones

James Schultz



Gavin Long



Douglas Loudon



Udhailiyah Open

2019 UDHAILIYAH OPEN

MARCH 15, 2019

WADI AL SAEED GOLF CLUB

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP

AT WWW.UDHGOLF.COM

Movie Night

March Drive-In Movie Night

We had nearly 50 folks attend our January movie night, so if you see golfers trying a "Happy Gilmore" swing, it might be because they were inspired by the movie. Our next drive-in movie will be

"Raiders of the Lost Arc" showing March 21st.

We can always use help setting up/taking down the screen and other efforts necessary for the success of the night. If you'd like to help, contact Tamara.Tahir@aramco.com.



Social Event



Valentine's Day Scramble

February 14, 2019

Sign up on Tournament Manager with your spouse or a fellow golfer for this 2-person Chapman-style scramble.

Pay your 150 riyal/person entry fee at the Club House by February 11th.

Guest dinner tickets may be purchased for 125 riyals.

Soup and salad will be served 5:15 PM onward with Golf at 6:00 and a steak dinner to follow around 8:30 PM.

