

Carmichael Golf Club Newsletter

May 2007

Upcoming Events

Mather, Monday June 11 (9:00 A start) – by time this newsletter is received, we will have had to finalize our player count with the course. Being a Monday event and fairly inexpensive (carts not required as part of the payment package), we are going to maintain a few extra spots for members that may wish to play in this event who have not yet committed. Please feel free to contact us about playing in this event if you have not yet signed up. For those of you who have committed to this event but have not yet paid, please send in your payment now so we have it before the day of the event.

Castle Oaks, Saturday June 23 (10:00 A start) – historically, this is one of the favorite venues for CGC events. Generally, our events here are either early or late in the season – so this will be an opportunity to see the course in the dry season. A lot of home construction was beginning around the outskirts of the course when we played here in 2006, so it will be interesting to see what progress has been made and how the look of the course has changed. Entry forms are included with this newsletter and are available on our website (www.carmichaelgolfclub.com).

Central Coast trip, August 2- 4 – 26 players (23 members and 3 guests) have signed up for this trip. With deposits received for this trip and applications of checks from other event rainouts or cancellations, enclosed with this newsletter for each of the 26 players signed up for this trip is a balance sheet showing amount still owed for this trip. Final payments need to be received by June 16, so that we can finalize player counts with each of the courses.

We have had a number of new members join since our initial sign up for this trip, and possibly some summer plans may have changed for other members. We can still take additional players for this trip if you are interested – your full payment (\$205 per player for all 3 days (Thursday-Saturday) or \$135 per player for 2 days (Friday-Saturday)) would be due by June 16 to commit for this trip.

Once we have finalized the player count for this trip, additional information regarding this trip will be sent to those players signed up and paid for this trip.

Results from Rancho Solano, May 5, 2007

With some rainy weather earlier in the week, the good news was we had blue skies for this Cinco de Mayo event. The bad news was the strong winds, which made the course play much more difficult than would be expected. The large greens on this course generally lead to fewer shots to the green, and more putts than normal. The windy conditions, swirling at times and not always in the normal wind pattern for this course, made shots into greens much more difficult, and putting quite frustrating (only 1 player in our group of 44, Mike Fonseca (a guest of his Dad, CGC member Larry Fonseca) was able to make it through the round without 3 putting (or worse) a green).

Thanks to all players this day for their patience, as we had to adjust quite a few starting times and foursomes due to delays for many members getting to the course due to unexpected traffic delays due to a CALTRANS setup over the Yolo Causeway and into Davis.

Rancho Solano, May 5, 2007 (continued)

First Flight (White Tees, handicaps 6-15)

Low Net: Mike Fonseca, $38 - 41 = 79 - 9 = 70$ \$ 30
 2nd Low Net: Donald Carter, $43 - 43 = 86 - 15 = 71$ \$ 20
 3rd Low Net: David Hazelwood, $41 - 40 = 81 - 9 = 72$ \$ 15
 4th Low Net: Alan Rankin, $42 - 45 = 87 - 13 = 74$ \$ 10
 Low Putts: Mike Fonseca, 30 \$ 15
 Closest to the Pin (12th Hole): David Hazelwood, 18 ' 0 " \$ 10

First Flight Skins

Mike Fonseca \$ 12; Craig Wahlquist \$ 12; Donald Carter \$ 6; Jack Dever \$ 6;
 David Hazelwood \$ 6; Danny Olaivar \$ 6.

Second Flight (White Tees, handicaps 16-20)

Low Net: Terry Barr, $43 - 45 = 88 - 16 = 72$ \$ 30
 2nd Low Net: Gary Ciardella, $46 - 45 = 91 - 17 = 74$ \$ 20
 3rd Low Net: Larry Daniels, $43 - 49 = 92 - 17 = 75$ \$ 15
 4th Low Net: Greg Meyer, $46 - 52 = 98 - 20 = 78$ \$ 10
 Low Putts: Gary Ciardella, 34 \$ 15
 Closest to the Pin (5th Hole): None (\$ 10 will carryover to Castle Oaks event)

Second Flight Skins

Richard Boesch \$ 14; Greg Paulo \$ 14; Vince Avila \$ 7; Terry Barr \$ 7; Larry Daniels \$ 7.

Third Flight (White/Red Tees, handicaps 21-27)

Low Net: Robi Love, $45 - 46 = 91 - 24 = 67$ \$ 35
 2nd Low Net: Tom Halbbrook, $45 - 49 = 94 - 26 = 68$ \$ 20
 3rd Low Net: Mike Johnson, $46 - 46 = 92 - 21 = 71$ \$ 15
 4th Low Net: Marsha Suter, $50 - 47 = 97 - 25 = 72$ \$ 10
 Low Putts: Robi Love, 35 \$ 15
 Closest to the Pin (8th Hole): Julie Marr, 2 ' 11 " \$ 10

Third Flight Skins

Gary Borge \$ 12; Lane Nicholas \$ 12; Marsha Suter \$ 12; Richard Cisneros \$ 6;
 Larry Fonseca \$ 6; Tom Halbbrook \$ 6; Mike Johnson \$ 6.

Fourth Flight (White/Red Tees, handicaps 28-48)

Low Net: Mike Agrippino, $51 - 54 = 105 - 31 = 74$ \$ 30
 2nd Low Net: Tommie Rohrer, $54 - 52 = 106 - 31 = 75$ \$ 20
 3rd Low Net: Shelley Barr, $54 - 55 = 109 - 31 = 78$ * \$ 15
 4th Low Net: Heidi Duncan, $54 - 57 = 111 - 33 = 78$ \$ 10
 Low Putts: Mike Agrippino, 34 \$ 15
 Closest to the Pin (15th Hole): Tommie Rohrer, 42 ' 0 " \$ 10

Fourth Flight Skins

Mike Agrippino \$ 18; Fred Fieldhouse \$ 12; Tommie Rohrer \$ 12; Heidi Duncan \$ 6;
 Donna Johnson \$ 6; Sandy Schayltz \$ 6.

* - won tie-breaker

Rancho Solano, May 5, 2007 (continued)

General Prizes

Men's Long Drive: No Long Drive – due to all the confusion surrounding shifting of starting times

Women's Long Drive: No Long Drive – due to all the confusion surrounding shifting of starting times

In the Leather: None

Recent Sacramento Bee story on Island Greens

In the golf section of the Sacramento Bee on the Thursday at the start of the Players Championship in Sawgrass, Florida, a couple of weeks ago, the Bee ran a story about island greens in general, and about the Stadium Course at Sawgrass and our local island green at Bartley Cavanaugh in particular. Embedded in the story was a request for anyone who had played both courses to write in with their experiences. Since I have had the opportunity to play both courses (along with Coeur D'Alene in Idaho with it's 'floating' green), I sent in a quite extended write up. The Bee's golf writer sent me back a note saying he wouldn't be able to use any of the write up in his follow up story. Since the writing of this brought back a lot of pleasant golfing memories, I've decided to share it with all of my friends in the CGC – I hope you'll enjoy!

'I have been fortunate enough to play Cavanaugh, TPC Sawgrass and Coeur D'Alene. What initially makes the latter two tougher, along with the additional length, is the realization that for most of us regular folks playing these venues is a rare or 'once in a lifetime' opportunity.

It's been 10 years since I played Sawgrass (May 13, 1997). My brother joined me at the end of a business trip and we played golf in Florida for a week. We spent \$350 to stay at the Marriott just to be able to get the first morning tee time the following morning. Having watched the Players every year, you feel like you know the course, but your still in awe. Nearing the 11th green, a group came up behind us – and a young man drove up from the group and asked if Jim Colbert and Vijay Singh could play through. Of course we obliged, and they both were very nice and engaged in some small talk on the 12th tee before they teed off. As you round the dogleg on the 16th hole, the remainder of 16 and 17 is all in front of you – it is definitely difficult to focus on the remaining task at hand for the 16th! We played the whites, so 17 was playing at 121 yards – and the pin was in a very benign center left position, on the upper shelf but not too close to any edges. This allowed me to hit a comfortable 9 iron and not get cute – and I can proudly say I parred the hole! Having said that, I can't imagine having to try and hit a shot to a particular quadrant of that green, in competition, with thousands of spectators surrounding that amphitheatre. If you're an introverted type, it would probably feel like standing naked in front of the whole world.

Cavanaugh's 17th is probably my favorite hole, largely because in my over 1,900 round of golf to date in my lifetime, it is where I have made my only hole-in-one (March 13, 1999). A foursome of members (FYI – which included current CGC members Vince Avila and John McLaughlin) from our NCGA Associate Club were playing a practice round prior to our first event for that year (which was also to be played at Cavanaugh), and I hit a sand wedge to a front middle hole location that I thought might not clear the water – it one bounced through the rough, released and rolled into the hole. Probably the hardest shot I have ever had to hit was the following Saturday at our tournament on the 17th – the expectations were overwhelming, and I didn't even sniff the green with my first tee shot. Another member of our Club (Chris Maynard) did get a hole in one that day on 17, and won our Club's hole-in-one jackpot. I've played Cavanaugh 15 times, and have made every number between 1 and 7 on 17 – and while I've made par or better 9 of the 15 times, my stroke average for the hole is 3.73.

'Island Greens' (continued)

Coeur D'Alene's island green can probably play the toughest of the three, because of the additional length. I know they can vary the distance by 'moving' the green – the day I played it was at 147 yards. I'm sure it's easily the largest of the 3 greens – but not being a proficient bunker player, the last thing I wanted was to try and hit out of a greenside bunker onto an island green, so I felt like my landing area was much smaller. I hit what I thought was a good 7 iron and hit the front wooden planks (the tenseness that creeps into our swings, especially on shots like these, was evident when I put my second 7 iron right into the middle of the green!). The other feature about Coeur D'Alene is that surrounded by a much larger body of water (and without the little land connected walkway to the green), it truly looks and feels like an island.

For me (and probably most other golfers), the common trait on holes like these is that they are in your head long before you reach these holes. 17 is a wonderful location within the course, building up the anticipation and bringing the round to an emotional climax (one way or the other), though with both Sawgrass and Cavanaugh the 18th holes are not pushovers. I noticed that with Coeur D'Alene's island green being the 14th hole, I have very little recollection of the last 4 holes (though it was a beautiful course and I'd play it again in a heartbeat). Not knowing the layouts of Sawgrass or Coeur D'Alene well, you find yourself always looking for the island green, almost like looking for a safe haven for a lost soul. At Cavanaugh, at a minimum you sneak a peek from the 14th green to see the pin position on 17.

The other thing I find interesting is how you look for positives to use when reaching the island green tee. At Cavanaugh, on the back nine there might be 3-4 opportunities to hit shots of similar distances to the tee shot on 17 to get you acclimated to the distance. At Coeur D'Alene, you have a couple of decision shots over water on the holes leading up to the 14th that if you pull off give you a good vibe heading to the 14th tee. That may be where Sawgrass has a 'degree of difficulty' edge – where there are plenty of hazards throughout the course, most are to the sides of holes or can be navigated around, so the visual of 17 can weaken your legs and unsettle your breakfast. That and the fact that you know it even intimidates the pros would give it the edge. We are lucky to have a hole like Cavanaugh's 17th locally to give local golfers some of that feeling.'

CGC Website: www.carmichaelgolfclub.com

Alan/Deb home telephone / email: 386-8132 / rankingolf@aol.com or rankingolf@comcast.net