



# PAR POINTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE EMPIRE RANCH MEN'S GOLF CLUB

www.ermgc.com

FALL 2003

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MIKE KITCHEN

I would like to welcome you to the Empire Ranch Men's Golf Club. We are committed to providing our members with a quality tournament schedule, featuring both a Home and Away Tournament each month, along with participation in all the annual NCGA events. We are active participants in the Zone, Four-Ball, Net Amateur, and several other annual NCGA events. Combining our tournament schedule with the many recreational and social events at a great facility insures that this membership is one of the finest in the NCGA.

All members will receive a NCGA GHIN handicap card and access to all the features offered to members through the NCGA. Your membership will also allow you to receive reduced tournament and green fees, discounts on pro shop merchandise, and eight day advanced tee time reservations. Each year there is an annual picnic at no charge for members and their families. Tournament prize funds are generous with both net and gross winners, senior flights, and many miscellaneous side games to make your tournament round full of excitement.

I have been a member of this club for many years and have had the chance to observe many different clubs in the area. Without a doubt, I believe our club is by far the best in the area. We have a tested and tough Board, with many years of experience in running this organization. With the added features of electronic signups through a super web page, our tournament fields have been filled to capacity, offering some very competitive golf. The vast diversity of our membership includes golfers from every trade and business imaginable and offers you the chance to make some lifelong acquaintances and golfing friends. I look forward to seeing you on the links this year. Bring your "A" game and put the tee in the ground.

## 2003 Membership Increased 10%

Total membership in the Empire Ranch Men's Golf Club reached 582 in 2002-3, Handicap Chairman Greg Miles reported at the September meeting of the Board of Directors.

This is up from the 2001-2 total of 531 and makes ERMGC one of the largest golf clubs in the Sacramento area.

Membership applications are now available (see related stories) for 2003-4. The new membership year begins October 1st.

## 2003-4 MEMBERSHIP RATES

The Board of Directors has established a new rate structure for the coming year (see chart below). Members who renew prior to the end of November will receive a \$10 discount off the \$95 annual membership rate. If you renew during the first two months, it helps both you and the club. So renew now!

In addition, members joining or renewing after June 15 will pay the pro-rated discount rate of \$55.

Membership Forms were mailed with this newsletter and are available on-line at [www.ermgc.com](http://www.ermgc.com), at Empire Ranch at the Pro Shop counter and near the GHIN computer.

	10/1-11/30	12/1-6/15	After 6/15
RENEWAL	\$85	\$95	\$55
NEW	\$95	\$95	\$55

**General Membership Meeting: Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> - 7:30pm (Empire Ranch Clubhouse)**

## HANDICAP NEWS

GREG MILES

Our Men's Club Membership is now at 582 members. That is an increase of 51 members vs. 2002. I will start sign ups for 2004 new members in September and begin renewals in September-November time period.

### Some quick points on our club members' handicaps:

► It is a duty as member of our club that you post all scores correctly and that they are posted after every round.

► It is also the duty of men's club members to make sure that all scores are posted.

I have just come back from a NCGA Handicap Conference that teaches us guidelines on the NCGA Handicaps. Tournament Handicaps are always a concern for any Men's Club. The tournament Directors and I as the Handicap Chairman will cross check everybody's monthly handicap vs. the tournament scores handicap. We will use the lower of the two in upcoming tournaments to see if this levels the playing field.

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## FROM THE N.C.G.A.

### How Well Should You Play?

*by Dean Knuth*

**Does it seem to you that you play a few strokes over your Course Handicap most of the time? Well, that's normal under the USGA Handicap System.**

Why? The USGA Handicap System is based upon the **potential** ability of a player rather than the average of all his scores. The USGA's Handicap Research Team tells us that the average player is expected to play to his Course Handicap or better only about 25 percent of the time, average three strokes higher than his Course Handicap, and have a best score in 20 which is only two strokes better than his Course Handicap.

A few words and a little arithmetic may explain. A player's Handicap Index reflects his potential be-

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## ERMGC ON-LINE!

DAVE TERRILL

Have you visited our website yet? It is THE source for all ERMGC information, from tournament info and results, to a "virtual tour" of Empire Ranch Golf Course. You can even use the web page to enter tournaments! It's quick and easy and it makes the job of our Tournament Chairmen much easier.

In addition to our web site ([www.ermgc.com](http://www.ermgc.com)) we make extensive use of email. Currently on our emailing list we have addresses for more than 400 members. Everyone with an address on the list receives information regarding our tournaments and other matters of importance to our membership. If you don't currently get email from ERMGC, you can

### Currently on our emailing list we have addresses for more than 400 members.

start by sending us your email address.

There's a special button on the left hand side of the first page of our web site that says "Update Your Email Address" - if you click on this button a simple form pops up and lets you fill-in your name and email address. When you click the "submit" button it sends your request to a file that I try to update at least once per week.

While for the most part the list is automated, adding or changing individual email addresses is still something that is done by hand... by yours truly. So... please help me out if your email address changes by notifying me (again, via the website).

Please don't send your request to another board member, or directly to me for that matter. If you'll use the web page form it'll make it MUCH easier and quicker at my end.

One last thing... please check to make sure the address you send me is correct. About 1/3 of the addresses I receive are inaccurate for one reason or another. Questions? Email me at:

**[secretary@ermgc.com](mailto:secretary@ermgc.com)**

I'll see you on the "virtual" course!

**How Well Should You Play?***(Continued from page 2)*

cause it is based upon his best scores posted for a given number of rounds, ideally the best 10 of his last 20 rounds. Since the USGA has his worst 10 scores tossed out, his Handicap Index reflects his best days.

The arithmetic comes in when the golf club calculates a player's Differential for each score he posts. The Differential is the difference between a player's adjusted gross score and the USGA Course Rating of the course on which the score was made, multiplied by 113, and then the total is divided by the USGA Slope Rating from the tees played rounded off to one decimal place. For example (**NOTE: some numbers were changed to reflect play at Empire Ranch**), if you post an 80 at Empire Ranch (Course Rating of 68.3 and a Slope Rating of 120), your Handicap Differential is 11.0. The next step entails averaging your best Handicap Differentials, which your golf club or association then will multiply by a 96-percent "bonus for excellence" factor that slightly favors the lower-handicap player. The next step is to delete all numbers after the first decimal digit, with no rounding off to the nearest tenth. Your club Handicap Committee then reviews your record, modifies it, if necessary and then issues your USGA Handicap Index.

If you have a USGA Handicap Index of 11.6 for example, it translates into a Course Handicap of 12 when you play from the middle tees at Empire Ranch, so a little addition ( $68.3 + 12$ ) leads you to think that you will consistently shoot around 80. In reality, your score average is normally three more strokes than that, or an 83. The USGA Handicap Research Team has determined that your best score in 20 is normally only two strokes better than your Course Handicap, or an 78; the probability of your recording an 78 twice in 20 rounds is only one in 50.

Now, once in a while you will hear about someone shooting an incredible tournament score, such as a net score of 59. What are the odds of shooting a score like that? The USGA's Handicap Research Team has figured the odds of one exceptional tournament score up to ten strokes better than the

*(Continued on page 4)***HOME TOURNAMENT NEWS**

PAUL SAUER

I help organize 12 monthly tournaments at Empire Ranch Golf Course and some additional mid-week tournaments for our members to enjoy (see the tournament schedule on page five).

We hold three "major" type tournaments throughout the year (Club Championship, Directors' Cup and President's Cup) and a couple of just-for-fun tournaments like the 4-club Turkeyshoot, the Cha-Cha-Cha, plus a great two-day putting contest, just to name a few.

I'd like to cover a few things about how we run tournaments:

► About 8 days out from most tournaments we have to give the course our head count for tee times and for ordering food. At that point we're responsible for the costs, so if you cancel after that point you're going to be expected to reimburse us. For more information, please visit the Tournaments page on the web site and click on "General Tournament Information" at the bottom of the page.

► We've set up an easy way for you to enter tournaments, via our web site ([www.ermgc.com](http://www.ermgc.com)).

### **About 8 days out from most tournaments we have to give the course our head count for tee times and for ordering food.**

You can see all the information regarding each event, and using the on-line forms really cuts down on errors.

I encourage everyone to come out and play in a tournament. It's a great way to meet your fellow members and sharpen your game. First time players are more than welcome!

I look forward to working for you in 2004.

**To register for any ERMGC tournament, go to [www.ermgc.com](http://www.ermgc.com)!**

## FROM THE TREASURER'S CORNER

BRUCE HAYES

First of all THANK YOU to all of you for another great year. Our transition from El Dorado Hills went very well, and we have established a great relationship with our new home course at Empire Ranch. I have made several new friendships and I am looking forward to making many more as we continue to grow.

I am pleased to report that the financial health of the Empire Ranch Men's Golf Club is very sound. Our budgeting for the year's expenses turned out to be quite accurate. The Club is winding down to the end of the membership year with a small surplus which will be used to subsidize the Club Championship prize fund and skins games (approximately \$5,000). At this point I am projecting that we will end our membership year with our expenses virtually matching our revenue from membership fees for 2003.

As you know, we are about to begin our membership drive for the 2003-4 membership year. Based on our budget projections, the fees will be reduced for renewal memberships renewed before 12/1/03

### How Well Should You Play?

*(Continued from page 3)*

Course Handicap. For example, the odds of our example player with a Course Handicap of 14 beating it by eight strokes (-8 net) once is 1,138 to one. Put another way, the average player posts 21 scores a year. That means that to score this well, assuming the Handicap Index is correct, would take 54 years of golf to do it once. The odds of a player beating his Course Handicap by eight strokes twice is only 14,912 to one. That's 710 years of golf for the average player -- odds far beyond the realm of reasonableness.

Since the USGA Handicap System is designed to promote fairness during competitions, what happens if a player's scores contradict the odds and he consistently plays better than his Handicap Index when some crystal or trophies are at stake? The USGA has created a Formula - we'll spare you all the com-

(see article in this issue on fees for renewal). Renewals received *before 12/1/03* will be \$85 rather than \$95. New memberships will remain at \$95. The rationale for the price difference is that the NCGA charges us an additional \$10 for new memberships as well as renewals received after December. Be sure to renew early to take advantage of the reduced renewal fees.

### **The management at Empire Ranch Golf Course has been very gracious in offering specials for reduced green fees exclusively for our men's club.**

The management at Empire Ranch Golf Course has been very gracious in offering specials for reduced green fees exclusively for our men's club. I hope you had had the opportunity to take advantage of these great deals. We are building a very nice partnership with the course and they have been very generous to our members. This is not a common practice by other courses with their men's clubs. It's really a pretty special deal for us. I encourage you to show your appreciation and take advantage of the opportunity to play more golf at reduced rates during these specials. And if you happen to see Steve Loverde or Bob Sommers around the Pro Shop, offer a word of thanks.

Wishing you fairways and greens!

plicated arithmetic - that is outlined in the [USGA Handicap System manual](#) under Section 10-3, "Reduction of a USGA Handicap Index Based on Exceptional Tournament Scores." A player's USGA Handicap Index will be automatically reduced when he records at least two tournament scores in a calendar year or in his latest 20 rounds that are a minimum of three strokes better than his USGA Handicap Index. The better the scores, the greater the reduction.

The bottom line is you've got your USGA Handicap Index for better or for worse. Don't worry if you never-seem to play to it on a given day. All golfers are in the same boat because USGA Handicap Indexes are based on a player's potential ability rather than the average of his scores. You can do your part to make the USGA Handicap System work best by making sure all "great" tournament scores by all players get posted with a "T" so that they are reviewed and used under Section 10-3.

# ERMGC TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

## 2003

10/18	Member / Guest
10/22	@ Darkhorse
11/1	@ La Contenta
11/15	Turkeyshoot
12/13	St. Nick's

## 2004

(away tournament dates TBA)

1/17	German Open
2/14	ERMGC Memorial*
3/13	Italian Open*
4/17	President's Cup*
5/15	Picnic Tourney*
6/19	Directors' Cup
7/14 & 21	ERMGC Putting Championship
8/21	Members' Choice
9/10-11	ERMGC Club Championship
10/16	Member/Guest
11/20	Turkeyshoot
12/18	St. Nick's

\* NCGA "Spyglass" Qualifier

**To register for any ERMGC tournament, go to [www.ermgc.com](http://www.ermgc.com)!**

## Hoffman and Normington Win ERMGC Club Championship

Jeff Hoffman shot a two-day total of 139 (3 under par) to win the 2003 ERMGC Club Championships on September 5-6. Marc Normington's 131 earned him Net Champion honors.

Gross and Net Flight Winners were:

	<b>Low Gross</b>	<b>Low Net</b>
<b>1st Flight:</b>	Peter Demetros (146)	Tom Duran (133)
<b>2nd Flight:</b>	Lynn Judd (158)	Woody Forman (132)
<b>3rd Flight:</b>	Gerry Behman (166)	Jim Holbrook (138)
<b>4th Flight:</b>	Ross Weber (175)	Erik Novikoff (132)
<b>Seniors:</b>	Tom Duran (153)	Woody Forman (132)



Jeff Hoffman (left) is presented his trophy by Handicap Chairman Greg Miles

### FROM OUR NEWEST MEMBER

BILL McMORRAN

As your new board member, I'd like to say thanks for all your support, I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you personally. My duties include entering tournament scores, and posting scores to the GHIN website. We have a great men's club, and I know it will only grow and get better this coming enrollment.

Thanks again!



Competitors warming up just prior to tee-off on Saturday.

## ERMGC Board of Directors:

**PRESIDENT**  
**Mike Kitchen**  
*president@ermgc.com*

**TREASURER**  
**Bruce Hayes**  
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