



PAR POINTS



Newsletter of the Empire Ranch Men's Golf Club

www.ermgc.com

FALL 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TONY MORABITO



I want to welcome and thank all of you for the opportunity to serve you as President of the Empire Ranch Men's Golf Club for 2007. I am humbled and honored to have been given this responsibility and am committed to giving you only the best of my abilities. As we enter our 5th full year at Empire Ranch, I look forward to the challenge of continuing the foundation and framework laid by past president's Mike Kitchen and Greg Miles. I believe the next 2 years are critical for the club's stability and my goal with the help of my fellow board members is to keep "building the house" that Mike and Greg started so that we can solidify this club for the next decade and beyond. Fortunately, I will have past President Greg Miles to mentor me and also the experience of Dave Terrill and Bill McMorrان who collectively hold 8 years of board member service to help lead throughout the year.

We are one of the largest clubs in the Sacramento area and look to maintain that status in 2007. Operating a club of this size takes special effort and attention to many details but most importantly it takes communication. Our position as a board is to build relationships and nothing is more fundamental to building relationships than effective two way communication. As President, I want to meet your expectations and felt it necessary to involve you in the process by sending out the member survey for 2007. Through your huge response we were able to understand what your expectations are.

Thank you all for your insight and participation.

In 2007, look for change in the areas of pace of play and tournament presentation. We simply need to play all tournaments under enforced NCGA rules especially in the area of pace of play. All NCGA events are played in 4 ½ hours or less with or without the use of marshals. The NCGA says it is the responsibility of the group to maintain pace. We do not want anyone penalized; we just want to make everyone aware and accountable for their play the same way you would if you were playing at a NCGA event. So in tournament play be advised you will

2006-7 MEMBERSHIP RATES REMAIN UNCHANGED!

The Board of Directors has voted to keep the current membership rates in place for the coming year (see chart below). Members who renew prior to the end of November will receive a \$15 discount off the annual membership rate. If you renew during the first two months, it helps both you and the club. So renew now!

Membership Forms were mailed with this newsletter and are available at www.ermgc.com, at Empire Ranch at the Pro Shop counter and near the GHIN computer.

	10/1/06 to 11/30/06	12/1/06 to 6/15/07	6/16/07 to 7/31/07	8/1/07 to 9/30/07
NEW	\$125	\$125	\$75	n/a
RENEWAL	\$85	\$100	\$55	n/a

be asked to keep pace or you're going to get a 2-shot penalty for the group. We will also be looking at on-line payment methods that will make for a more efficient means of operating. There are many costs and issues associated with this possibility and we are exhausting every effort before making a decision. The Club will be operating with an approved itemized Budget for the year that will allow us to be fiscally responsible in all our decisions. We will be facing an increase by the NCGA for all clubs this year. Although the increase is substantial we will keep membership pricing the same as last year.

Our Tournament Chairmen will be providing you with an outstanding home and fresh away tournament schedule this year under equitable formats that will allow you to compete as an individual or team in Gross/Net and Open/Senior divisions. We believe the changes in our tournaments will only enhance your experience making 2007 the best tournament year yet. The schedule includes

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To register for any ERMGC tournament, go to www.ermgc.com!

HOME TOURNAMENT NEWS

GREG MILES



As your 2007 Home Tournament Chairman, it is my responsibility to create and run our Home Tournaments. As your past President the last two years, I realize how important tournaments are to a Men's Club. Empire Ranch Golf Course is a great golf course for tournament play. When we get over 120 members in our tournaments, Empire Ranch course management lets us have the whole golf course to ourselves.

Members will post their own medal scores on the score sheet...

The biggest complaint I've heard over the last two years has been pace of play. I will make every effort to have tournament play be near 4 1/2 hours. This is tough to do since we have five par threes and two short par five's. I would like to see Members putt out if all possible, wave on the eighteenth hole, and I would like the Members to make an effort to stay on pace with the group in front of them. If we did these three things we would see tournaments with a full field of players. Also look for more involvement from the marshals letting you know how your group's overall pace is during play.

Men's Club Tournaments are a great way to meet your fellow members, create new relationships, and to improve your game. As the Home Tournament Chairman, I am looking forward to working hard towards maintaining the great quality Home Tournament Schedule at Empire Ranch Men's' Golf Club (ERMGC) for the upcoming 2007 season. We currently have 12 Monthly Home Tournam-

ments scheduled. I will also bring back the Mid Week Tournaments and hopefully try and work with the golf course management to bring back a Horse Race or two.

There are three "Major" type tournaments scheduled throughout the year (Director's Cup, President's Cup and Club Championship). We will have our NCGA Qualifiers and several other tournaments during the year. In addition, we hold an annual 2-day Putting Championship for our Members. You may visit our website (www.ermgc.com) in order see all the current information on the upcoming tournaments and to register early on line for the next upcoming tournament event that you would like to enter. Please fill out the forms completely when submitting. When tournament pairings are not done random by the computer please always list your playing partners in the on line form. This will cut down on errors and rework. If you register for a tournament on-line and then need to cancel, I would appreciate it if you would please let me know in a timely manner. Please note that the club is required to provide the ERMGC with a final tournament count approximately 7 days before each monthly event. After that date, the club is responsible for the costs of the player, (green fees & food), so if you cancel at the last moment or are a "No Show" on tournament day, you may be expected to reimburse the club.

It is my goal to provide you with the initial Home Tournament results as fast and accurately as possible on the day of the event. I will make the members help me do so by making sure that your scores are printed legibly on your team scorecard. Have the scorer and someone else quickly review the scorecard for accuracy. Members will post their own medal scores on the score sheet that will be placed on the windows. Last but not least submit your scorecards to the Scorer's Table. Your participation with this matter will help to ensure every ones enjoyment on tournament day.

I look forward to working for you in 2007.

ERMGC ON-LINE!

DAVE TERRILL

Our website (www.ermgc.com) has continued to experience growth in use this past year, as has our email list. If you're not using the website now, you should be.

The website is THE source for all ERMGC information, from tournament info and results, to minutes of Board Meetings, and more. 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.



ERMGC members have registered on-line for tournaments more than 5,100 times!

If you aren't getting email from ERMGC, please sign up! There's a special button on the first page of our web site that says **"Not Getting Your ERMGC Email? Click Here!"** - this brings up a simple form. You can use this to manage your own subscription account (stop email if you go on vacation).

Questions? Email me at: secretary@ermgc.com

AWAY TOURNAMENTS

BILL McMORRAN



As we close out our 2006 Away tournament schedule, let's acknowledge what a fine job Barry Ward has done this past year. Looking forward, I'm excited to announce that we have some fine course's lined up for the 2007 season. We as a board look forward to these away tournaments.

As a avid golfer, its great to challenge our games on different tracks, also its good to break up the "Empire Ranch" grind from time to time. We look forward to seeing more of you newer members joining in on these excursions, and hope you have a good time doing so. One change we will be making, is that if your are mailing in your payments, please mail it to my home address. We will not have a P.O. box this year, so I'm hoping this will be less hassle for everyone involved. You can still drop off payments at the pro shop, as long as its received by the set deadline.

I do ask that everyone abides by the deadlines that are set up for these tournaments. All sign ups are done thru are web site address, which are forwarded directly to me. I look forward to seeing you at these future tournaments and I will be available to answer any questions that might arise.

Thank you.

Kirk Wins Match Play Championship



Match Play Championship Co-Chairmen Bill McMORRAN (far left) and Dave Terrill (far right) with 2005 Champion Rich "Graeagle Gaucho" DiMauro (left) and 2006 Champion, Rick "Bobble Head" Kirk.

On September 1, 2006, after six grueling rounds of head-to-head match play, Gary Reynolds and Rick Kirk squared-off to determine the 2006 ERMGC Match Play Champion.

It was a close match, but when Reynold's long chip just burned the edge on the 17th hole, Kirk was able to 2-putt for a 2&1 victory.

More than 100 golfers participated in the event, which took nearly 5 months to complete. Match play is the most exciting form of golf there is and we hope everyone will enter next year's event!

2006-7 ERMGC Board of Directors:

PRESIDENT

Tony Morabito

president@ermgc.com

HOME TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN

Greg Miles

homechair@ermgc.com

SECRETARY / WEBMASTER

Dave Terrill

secretary@ermgc.com

HANDICAP CHAIRMAN

Barry Ward

handicapchair@ermgc.com

TREASURER

Tom Ferguson

treasurer@ermgc.com

AWAY TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN

Bill McMORRAN

awaychair@ermgc.com

HANDICAP NEWS

BARRY WARD

I would like to thank you the members for allowing me to serve another term on the board of directors. In this coming year all the board members were assigned new positions.

I will be your new handicap chairman. I look forward to continuing the fine job done by Tony Morabito. For those of you who need a refresher on how our handicap system works, here's the low down:



HOME TOURNAMENT HANDICAP SYSTEM

*From the ERMGC Bylaws
Article 4, Section 2A:*

Members will play to the lower of either their standard GHIN index or the average of their two lowest home tournament scores recorded over the preceding 6-12 months, based on their quantity of play. The Handicap Chairman will issue tournament handicaps based on the 2 low scores of the 6 most recent home tournaments played. The Chairman may go back up to 12 months to ascertain a player's 2 low scores if they have not completed 6 tournaments. Otherwise players are adjusted to 90% of their GHIN handicap index if they have been an active member but have not played in any tournaments in the past 12 months. The Handicap Chairman reserves the right to further adjust any member's handicap to a level he deems equitable.

My goal is to continue to make our system as fair as possible for everyone. We will continue to keep tournament handicaps. I look forward to hearing from you in the coming year.

TREASURER'S CORNER

TOM FERGUSON

As the newest member of the ERMGC Board, I'm pleased and honored to be joining such a strong team. The experience and dedication of the other ERMGC Directors sets a high standard that I will aspire to emulate as your new Treasurer. In particular, Bill McMorrان did a fine job as Treasurer last year and, as a result, I can assure you that the financial health of the men's club is very sound. Bill has graciously assisted me in learning how the finances of the club are managed and with the transition of responsibilities.



The Board expects to have the ERMGC budget for 2007 planned and approved at the October Board meeting to ensure that a good balance of revenue and payouts continues in the coming year.

My thanks to everyone for another great year in 2006. The men's club continues to have a great relationship with our home course. The management at Empire Ranch has been very gracious in offering reduced green fees exclusively for our men's club. I hope each of you took advantage of these great deals.

As club President Tony Morabito noted in his article, we'll also be looking at on-line payment methods. Many of you have indicated that online payments would be a highly desirable improvement. We hear you. Online payments promise greater convenience to members and a more efficient means of operating. If an online payment process can be implemented cost effectively, we support the idea and will make every effort to get it done.

Just a couple of reminders before I close...

—Our membership drive for the 2006-07 year will begin soon. Be sure to renew early to take advantage of the reduced renewal fees.

—I encourage all members who are "collecting checks" from the past year to please cash them now. I haven't set a cut off date "yet", but we will need to have those monies accounted for to close out our year. Uncashed checks will be recycled to our general fund for prizes.

—Please check your Pro Shop credit balance. Make sure it's accurate and if at all possible, please try to spend your account down a little this year.

I have enjoyed making new friends this past year and look forward to playing golf with each of you this year and next! Thank you for your support.

Harrigan, Dicks and Armstrong Win ERMGC Club Championship

It was a great two days of golf at Empire Ranch Golf Course. When all was said and done, Cory Harrigan emerged as your 2006 ERMGC Champion, carding a 140 to edge out Paul Casper's 142 and defending champion Kevin Romer's 146.

In the Chairman's Division, Craig Armstrong's 149 took gross honors, with Dennis Dick's 127 good for low net. Armstrong and Dick doubled-up by also both winning in the Senior Division.

	Low Gross	Low Net
1st Flight:	C. Armstrong (149)	T. Duran (133)
2nd Flight:	L. Goshgarian (156)	D. Brown (134)
3rd Flight:	S. LeDoux (162)	P. Sorensen (135)
4th Flight:	D. Mulcahy (176)	R. Long (135)



Home Tournament Chairman Todd Keefe (left) and President Greg Miles (right) present the trophy to 2006 ERMGC Champion, Cory Harrigan.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont.)

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participation in all the annual NCGA qualifying events that ultimately lead to championship rounds played @ Spy-glass and/or Poppy Hills. **Did you know the men's club pays entry fees and issues a travel allowance for the winners of these types of tournaments?** Along with your NCGA tournament eligibility membership also includes your GHIN handicap index, reduced tournament and green fees, opportunities to win large prize funds in 23 different tournaments with many varied formats including our annual club championship, match play and the putting championship.

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
BY NOVEMBER 30th AND SAVE \$15**
Use the enclosed Membership Application, get one at the Pro Shop or on-line at: www.ermgc.com

Your membership also entitles you to discounts on pro shop merchandise and advance tee times offered by Empire Ranch General Manager Sean Silva and Director of Golf Brent Cohen and staff. They value our club and are also looking to promote this wonderful game of golf. As a men's club member it should be understood that we are all ambassadors at the golf course and that golf is a game of

honor and integrity. This philosophy and relationship with the golf course creates a winning situation for all of us.

Board member positions for 2007 consist of Greg Miles as Home Tournament Chairman, Bill McMorran as Away Tournament Chairman, Dave Terrill as Secretary, Barry Ward as Handicap Chairman and Tom Ferguson as the Treasurer. This group of gentlemen has the experience and dedication required to lead the club moving forward into 2007. The entire board is excited about the new duties and the challenge of continuous improvement within. If you have any questions or concerns about the Empire Ranch Men's Club contact any of us through our website.

The Empire Ranch Men's Golf Club is a great opportunity to meet new people or network your business. It can create a lifetime of friendships and even challenge your competitive side. It can be many things but in order to fully appreciate what we offer, you must participate in as many events as possible. Get your renewal applications in now and take advantage of the reduced rate of \$85 before Dec. 1, 2006. If you would like to promote your business through any type of tournament sponsorship or advertisements please let us know. We will gladly extend you this opportunity to reach over 500 members.

Together let's make 2007 the best year yet. I look forward to seeing you at the golf course until then.... hit it straight!

ERMGC TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

2006

10/7	Octoberfest Just Golf
10/14	@ <i>Darkhorse</i>
11/4	@ <i>Mather</i>
11/18	Turkeyshoot
12/16	St. Nick's

2007

1/6	New Year's Open
2/10	USA President's Open
3/10	NCGA 4-Man (1st Round)*
3/17	@ <i>Chardonnay</i>
4/14	NCGA 4-Man (2nd Round)*
4/14 - 9/1	ERMGC Match Play Championship
4/21	@ <i>Haggin Oaks</i>
5/5	@ <i>Rancho Solano</i>
5/19	NCGA 2-Man*
6/16	Directors' Cup & NCGA Net Amateur*
6/9	@ <i>The Reserve at Spanos Park</i>
7/18	ERMGC Putting Championship
7/7	@ <i>Wildhorse</i>
8/11	Hot August Day Open
8/18-19	@ <i>Poppy Hills & San Juan Oaks</i>
9/15-16	ERMGC Club Championship
9/22	@ <i>Ancil Hoffman</i>
10/13	Member/Guest Invitational
10/20	@ <i>Teal Bend</i>
11/10	Wild Turkey Open
11/17	@ <i>Turkey Creek</i>
12/15	Winter Holiday Open

First-Time Tournament Players Welcome!

Are you an ERMGC member who has never played in one of our tournaments? If so, please feel welcome to come out and join us for one of the events listed on this page.

If you've never played tournament golf before, please don't be intimidated. Your Board of Directors will be on hand to welcome you and make sure you're set to play. You'll be paired up with three members who'll be more than happy to answer any questions you may have about rules and golf etiquette.

Our tournaments are a tremendous amount of fun and a great opportunity to meet other guys who like to play golf. Just sign-up by going to www.ermgc.com, send in your check and show up at the golf course at least 45 minutes before tee time.

We'll see you there!

NEW FOR 2007:

"Rule of the Week"

COMING SOON:

On-line Payments!

Empire Ranch: Golf Course (916) 817-8100 - Restaurant (916) 817-8107
General Manager: Sean Silva; Director of Golf: Brent Cohen;

* NCGA "Spyglass" Qualifier

To register for any ERMGC tournament, go to www.ermgc.com!