

# The Willow Park

## MEN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2600, CASTRO VALLEY, CA. 94546

Issue: Sept 2006

### **Next Club Meeting:**

Sept 28, 2006  
6:30pm, WP Ballroom

### **Tournament Deadlines:**

Wednesday, Sept 6

### **Club Officers:**

**George Vance**  
President 925-847-2921

**Mike Jones**  
Vice President  
925-837-2151

**Huge Williams**  
Secretary 510-537-6844

**Robert Fabel**  
Treasurer 510-537-5156

### **Directors:**

Steve Davis  
Joe Johnson  
Tom Joseph  
Bob Riblett  
Allen Hamilton

### **Committeemen:**

Tournament Chairman  
Tony Paniagua  
510-785-5866  
Handicap Chairman  
Mark Hemenez  
510-537-1065  
Membership  
Larry Cobleigh  
510-783-8827  
Sergeant at Arms  
Ken Cadinha  
Morale Officer  
Herm Kerber  
Webmaster  
Daniel Turner  
510-744-5866  
Newsletter Editor  
Steve Falzone  
510-537-4050  
Postal Coordinator  
Peter Krass

### **2006 Tournament Schedule**

Sep. 16 - Club Championship - 2 Days  
Oct. 22 - TOC - Skins Game  
Nov. 12 - Turkey Shoot  
Dec. 10 - Turkey Shoot  
Tournament Green fees are \$47.00  
to be paid 10 days in advance

### **Presidential Focus**

Fellow Members, Our annual Invitational Tournament and Banquet was recently held on August 20 at Willow Park. The accompanying dinner was provided by the exceptional staff of the Paradiso Restaurant. I mention this specifically to share with those who didn't, or couldn't make it, what they missed! Where we were short in quantity, we surely made up for in the quality of those who participated. We had a great day of golf, camaraderie, exceptional raffle prizes, and just good fun!!! I thank those who participated, for they were certainly treated to another great and successful event. Along with your Officers and Directors, who continued their tireless work, I want to personally thank Rene Viviani for his continued and generous contributions to the Men's Club, and to Ilona Esfathiou, and her staff, for orchestrating such a well prepared dinner for us. My compliments to the chef!!!!

Our next tournament will be our Club Championship. This tournament is our two day event which will crown our Champion for 2006. For those who might not think that they can compete, don't dismay! ALL have an opportunity to shine and win with the expanded flights and eclectic "tournament within a tournament". This gives those an opportunity to qualify for the Skins Game the following month, Our Tournament of Champions.

October will also be the time for our Annual Meeting and Elections. This is your opportunity to have a voice in the

direction of YOUR club. Nominations are being accepted for positions to be filled. Posts that will be up for election to two year terms will be that for three (3) Directors, Secretary, and President. If interested notify any of your Officers or Directors to place your name in nomination. As a tease, let me close with the announcement of an exciting decision regarding the membership fees for 2007.....Take a look below!!!!!!

Good Golfing and Good Living to all.

*George Vance, President*

### **Tales from the Rough**

It appears that folks do actually read this newsletter. I mentioned a few things in last month's newsletter that apparently started rumors that major changes were on the way. The only change I've made is to move the blue marker farther back on the tee box of number 4. Do you all really think I would move the folks playing from the white tee markers back on that hole as well? Not sure where all the other wild rumors came from but I found it interesting that no one actually bothered to come to me and get clarification. Well at least I know now that someone other than myself read these.

The second major has been completed. For the second tournament in a row the scores were extremely low. It looks like the hot weather kept everyone loose. Perhaps it was just everyone wanting to take as few strokes as possible to get out of the sun as soon as possible. Whatever the reason was great shooting by all.

Congratulations to Mark Hemenez and Gary Hendrickson for qualifying into the October Skins competition. There is one spot each left in the gross and net flights. They will be filled from the September tournament.

For those looking at the September tournament, please remember that it is a two day event (September 16-17) and your entry must be accompanied by the fee for both days. Please make sure you make your check out for \$94 when sending your September entry in. See ya all on the course...

**Tony Paniague,**

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### Commentary from the TC

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The "Rule" applies to everyone...

I have been hearing comments regarding the interpretation of "Playing the ball down" and the automatic "Bump to Grass". Let me take a moment and clarify this for everyone.

Playing the ball down (or as is) means exactly that. You are not allowed to touch your ball unless it is allowed under the USGA rules of golf. I have heard comments indicating that some folks think they are exempt from this rule. Let me state this as clear as I can. This rule (along with all the other rules) applies to everyone playing in the tournament with no exceptions.

The "Bump from dirt to grass" is no longer in effect. If your ball lands on a dirt patch you must play it off the dirt patch. If you can find a USGA rule that applies to your dilemma that allows relief then by all means do so. Dirt patches are not automatic "ground under repair". If your ball lands in a divot you are not allowed automatic relief and landing on a dirt patch is treated the same.

Please keep in mind that the rules apply to everyone and to think otherwise is not fair not only to those in your flight but to all the players in the tournament. I'm not saying that throughout the year some modifications won't take place. I am saying that whatever rules are in place at the start of tournament play apply to everyone and are there to try and keep the competition fair and equitable. There are exceptions that can be made for health, medical or other reasons. These of course must be ap-

proved by the TC prior to the first tee time.

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### "At Large" Columnist

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*Each month this column is from a different Officer, Director or Chairman.*

I have some good news, and (groan) some bad news. First the bad news: At our last meeting in August it was decided to do away with the Associate memberships. After deciding that, we get a hand grenade from the NCGA that they are raising their fees \$5 (i.e.: NCGA's "new" member and "reinstatement" fees will be \$40, up from \$35. "Renewal" and "multi-member" fees will be \$30, up from \$25). We'll bet you didn't know they were taking that much out of your fees. They say there has been no raises since 2002. So!

Before you get in an uproar let me give you the GOOD NEWS. At the same meeting the board decided to eliminate Associate memberships, they also decided to charge only **\$85** fees for **ALL RETURNING MEMBERS** next year. That's right, \$85. BUT, then NCGA rained on our good news, and now it will have to be \$90. That's still \$20 less than last year. For one reason or another we have been losing members the last three years. In 2004 we had 235, in 2005 we had 209 and in 2006 we are at 183. We know we are taking a chance of losing our current Associate members, but we are hoping most of them will renew. It will be a \$15 raise in their fees but they will now get full club benefits. Of course all of this hinges on getting your applications in and processed by December 24, 2006. After that date you will pay a reinstatement (late) NCGA fee of an additional \$10.

It was also decided to eliminate the Pro-rate membership. We've gotten only three Pro-rate members this year and we are recommending that any potential new members wait until October 1st when they can participate in this year's last three months and all of next year.

The 2007 application is on the website. Check there for more details. We will mail applications to you if you don't have a registered email address.

There will also be copies at Willow Park.

Larry Cobleigh  
Membership Chairman

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### Sorry for the delay!

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Newsletter Editor here!

I would like to apologize to the membership for the delay in getting out the newsletter. My work has been very busy as of late and extra time has been in short supply. I will do my best to get the newsletter into your inbox within the first week of the month.

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### Interested in Volunteering?

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The LPGA is coming! The 11th annual Longs Drugs Challenge (LDC) tournament has moved to the Blackhawk Country Club in Danville on September 18-24.

As a volunteer you will receive some cool benefits (Valued at \$120) and you will also have the opportunity to see some of the world's best women golfers up-close, and be a part of this exciting new East Bay tradition.

To volunteer at the tournament you must be willing to work a minimum of three half day shifts.

For more information or to sign up visit.

<http://www.longsdrgschallenge.com>