



# Chip Shots

February 2008

## President's Message

*Gregor Markel*

Welcome to February! I can't believe the year is already one month old. I guess it is really time to put the holiday decorations back up in the attic. ☺

This year will mark some changes to the operations of the men's club, most notably the meeting schedule. The board has been discussing reducing the number of meetings to allow a chance to have more meaningful meetings, while still complying with the requirements of the by laws. In January, we had less than 10 (total) members present (only one non-board member) and decided it was time to make the change. The club meetings will still be held on Wednesday Nights at 7:00 pm. The following schedule is the meetings to be held for the remainder of the 2008 calendar year.

March 5<sup>th</sup>  
May 7<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Putting Contest)  
June 4<sup>th</sup>  
July 9<sup>th</sup>  
August 6<sup>th</sup>  
September 3<sup>rd</sup> (Final Putting Contest)  
November 5<sup>th</sup> (Annual Budget and Board Elections for 2009).

Please note there will not be meetings in February, April, October or December. Our hope is to consolidate the work of the board and allow us to have quality focused meetings that the membership will want to attend. We are working on having speakers or other events at each of the meetings. If you have suggestions please contact the Special Events Chairmen or myself.

The other big changes that are happening are outside of our club, and actually could have a larger impact on us as an organization. The City of Livermore has recently contracted an outside organization to do a review of the golf courses (Las Positas and Springtown), and have made recommendations

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## Special Events!!

*Tom Geary and Mike Rimington*

The January General Membership meeting was held on January 2nd at Beeb's Sports Bar and Grill. There were 9 members present. Our 2008 season Eclectic has begun. Be sure to put your extra dollar in per round to try to Qualify for the horse race to be held at a date yet to be determined.

Congratulations to the members who took part in the home and home match play tournament against Springtown Golf Club. We finally came out on the winning side!

Our yearly putting contest will begin prior to May's meeting this year. This year you will not have to attend the meeting to win or qualify for the finals. We would like to see more members come out and join in on the fun this year!! .Remember you can check the bulletin board out front or the web site for tournament results or any upcoming events. There will be no February meeting.

### January Raffle Winners

Gregor Markel	\$20.00
Alan Casamajor	\$15.00
Robert Scott	\$10.00

The next General Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Beeb's.

Hope to see you there !



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**President's Message**

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to the City for things that should be done to "improve" the courses in terms of operations, but primarily in terms of cost. The company performing this review is NGF (<http://www.ngf.org/cgi/home.asp>).

One of their recommendations is to contract out the maintenance of the golf course to a golf course operator such as CourseCo or American Golf. What that means to you and me is the maintenance staff will no longer be City staff, and we will not have the same communication channels we enjoy currently with City staff. Currently, by communicating with staff, they have been able to tailor some of their operations to our benefit by coordinating their aeration and verti-cut schedules with our tournaments and other events.

The other part of this recommendation is to contract out the operations of the proshop and Beeb's to the same operator. Though these may be cost saving measures to the City, in my eyes, this would have a devastating impact on our club. Imagine all of the home and home and twilight events gone. Our ability to set and get sufficient space for our club tournaments would be gone. To the operator, we would be "just another tournament group" and not necessarily a desirable one depending upon the number of members we can get to the course for a tournament. Any feeling you may have of being "one of the locals" and feeling like this is "your club" would become a thing of the past. You are now just a revenue source for the operator and City.

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**Coaches Corner**

*Jeff Debenedetti*

**New Rule**

**Rule 12-2**

If a player has reason to believe a ball at rest is his and it is necessary to lift the ball in order to identify it, he may lift.

If the ball is the player's ball and he fails to comply with all or any part of this procedure or he lifts his ball in order to identify it when not necessary to do so, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.

What this means is if you need to lift a ball in a hazard to identify it you may as long as you put it back in the same like condition as near to where it originally lay.

As well, players are no longer allowed to hit a ball in a hazard without identifying it. If you hit the wrong ball in a hazard there used to be no penalty. *Now there is a penalty for hitting the wrong ball in a hazard.*

**LAS POSITAS MEN'S CLUB  
TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE 2008**

**2008 LPMGC Schedule**

<b>JANUARY</b>	SAT. 19 SAT. 26	Individual Medal Individual Skins
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	SAT. 9 & SUN. 10	NCGA East Bay Zone Qualifier **
<b>MARCH</b>	SAT. 8 SUN. 16	Cha-Cha-Cha Individual Medal
<b>APRIL</b>	SAT. 19 & SUN. 20	NCGA Four-Ball Net Qualifier **
<b>MAY</b>	SAT. 10 SAT. 17	4 Man – 2 Best Ball NCGA Senior 4-Ball Qualifier
<b>JUNE</b>	SAT. 21 & SUN. 22	NCGA Net Am. Qualifier
<b>JULY</b>	SAT. 12 & SUN. 13	President's Cup **
<b>AUGUST</b>	SAT. 2 SUN. 17	Member-Guest Point Par - Stableford Club Championship **
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	SAT. 13 & SUN. 14	4 Ball Match Play
<b>OCTOBER</b>	SAT. 11 SAT. 18	4 Man – Gross / Net Beat the Pro
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	SAT. 8 SUN. 16	2 Man Razzle Dazzle
<b>DECEMBER</b>	SUN. 7 SAT. 13	2-Man Best-Ball Total 2-Man Best-Ball (Annual Charity Event)

**\*\*Indicates Major Tournament**

\*\*\*\*\*

All money won in tournaments are held "on the books" at the Las Positas Golf Course Pro Shop. All prize money won must be spent by end of October, 2008. No Exceptions Granted.

**LPMGC Twilight League**

Tournaments will begin on Thursday evenings in May. Keep Posted for dates and formats of tournaments.

**LPMGC Home-and-Home Events**

Home-and-Home tournaments will be announced at the General Membership meetings and sign-ups will open at that time on a first come-first serve basis.

**LAS POSITAS GOLF COURSE TOURNAMENTS**

**2008 LASPO Tournament Schedule**

<b>MARCH</b>	SUNDAY the 9th	LASPO Skins
<b>MAY</b>	SATURDAY the 3rd	LASPO Junior Benefit
<b>JUNE</b>	SAT 7th and SUN 8th	LASPO 2-Man Better Ball
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	SAT 27th and SUN 28th	LASPO Open

**President's Message**

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My biggest concern, is that this report is brand new, without an opportunity for public distribution, review and comment. At the most recent greens committee meeting (held January 24<sup>th</sup>), the City of Livermore determined that they were ready to take action on the recommendations of the report. They are going to recommend putting the maintenance operations for both courses out for bid to an independent operator. I can only see them following up with bidding out operations for each of the courses soon after.

Why would they do this so quickly after the report was issued to a select few? My guess is they have already made a decision, the report is the justification, and they don't want to face any opposition to what they are doing. We as a group need to make our opinions on this issue felt loud and clear. The way to do this is to attend the next City Council Meeting and voice your opinion on the subject. I plan to do so at the next meeting coming up on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. You can view a link of the current agenda at:

[http://www.ci.livermore.ca.us/minutes/cc\\_agenda.htm](http://www.ci.livermore.ca.us/minutes/cc_agenda.htm)

As a large and very interested group, and for quite a few of us, as registered voters in Livermore, we do have a voice that will have an impact on this issue. If we sit idly by and allow the City to do whatever it feels is best for them, we will be the ones to loose out.

I encourage you to become active and as vocal as you feel you can be. Please attend the next City Council meeting or the one schedule for February 11<sup>th</sup> and let the City know they need community input before making decisions like this that have an impact on our City facilities. You can also call, write or email the council members to let them know how you feel. Their contact information can be found at this link:

<http://www.ci.livermore.ca.us/council.html>

Don't wait until it is too late to act on this issue.❖

## LPMGC Slow Play Policy

The Las Positas Men's Club expects all groups in its tournaments to keep up with the group in front of it. If your group falls more than 1 hole behind the group in front of you, you will be considered a "slow" group, and subject to the policy as noted below.

**POLICY:** Members identified as slow-playing will be put on a list. This list will be published on the Men's Club bulletin board, in the Chip Shots and on the Club website. Members on the list will be given tee times at the end of any tournaments they participate in. To be removed from the list, you must not be warned for slow play in your next 2 tournaments.

You will be added to the list when you are warned for slow play by a member of the tournament committee (typically Jeff DeBenedetti and one or more of the golf shop professionals). You may also receive a "heads-up" about slow play from one of the golf course marshals first. This will not get you on the list, but should be taken as notice that you are in danger of receiving a warning from the committee if you do not catch up.

### Current Members on Slow Play List

*None (let's keep it this way!!)*

## ECLECTIC STARTS JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>

The 2002 Eclectic will start on January 1<sup>st</sup>. When you pay for a round of golf in the Pro Shop, indicate that you want to play in the Eclectic and pay \$1.00 extra. At the end of the round, you **MUST** turn in a separate scorecard, signed and attested, to the Pro Shop. (Not in the tournament box) All eclectic rounds **MUST** be played with and signed by a Men's Club or Senior Men's Club Member. Eclectic play is the same as LPMGC tournaments....play the ball down, unless "Winter Rules" are declared by the Pro Shop. There are no "GIMMIES."

### A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE ECLECTIC

You will have three consecutive rounds of golf to score the lowest NET Score (using your handicap) on each hole. The lowest NET score on each hole out of the three rounds will be your score for 18 holes. Remember, 3 consecutive rounds. You can try as often as you like. If you have a bad round, you may restart your three rounds at any time. Just tell the Pro Shop you are starting a new round. Tell them before you tee off, not after the round. The lowest 20 scores and all ties will be in a horse race on a date to be determined. Please ask the Pro Shop or any Board Member for more details.

## LPMGC Tournament Refund Policy

If you notify the Golf Shop within 48 hours prior to the Tournament that you have to withdraw, you will receive a full refund of your entry fee. If you notify the Golf Shop less than 48 hours prior to the tournament date, but no later than the close of business the day before the tournament that you have to withdraw, only the Green Fee portion of the entry fee will be refunded.

NO SHOWS will receive NO REFUND and the money will go to the Men's Club Funds.  
Players who do not show for the second day of a two day tournament will be treated as a NO SHOW.

Cancellations the day of the tournament will be considered for a refund of Green Fee only, IF the Golf Shop can find a replacement player. In case of an emergency on the day of the tournament, the player should notify the Golf Shop and may petition the Board, in writing, to request a refund of Green Fee Only.

For more information go to our website at [www.laspositasgolf.com](http://www.laspositasgolf.com)

**LPMGC – NCGA EAST BAY ZONE QUALIFIER**

*Sat. and Sun. Feb 09-10, 2008*

Two tournaments in one; a regular 2MBB tournament on Saturday only, or play Sat. and Sun. to qualify as our team for the East Bay Zone. The East Bay Zone will be held July 2-3 at Poppy Hills and TBD. Zone winners qualify for the Championship, August 25-26 at TBD and Poppy Hills. Enter as a two-man team or as a single and we will pair you up. Sunday's prize fees go to the two winning teams to help cover their expenses in Monterey. Their Zone entry fees will also be paid by the club.

Saturday Only: Two-man better ball played at 90% of February's course handicap. Participants must have (5) posted rounds or a handicap established by our handicap chairman to compete for the prize fund. Flighted, with prize money paid on Saturday's results.

Saturday and Sunday: Two-man better ball played at 90% of course handicap; maximum index, 18.4; players with an index of 18.5 or higher are eligible but must play to the maximum index allowed; 20 posted rounds are required. The two lowest teams will be our East Bay Zone team. A sudden death playoff will be used to break a tie so do not leave the course if you are in the running for the two top teams.

**Entry Deadline:**

Thursday, Jan.31, 2008 at 5 P.M.  
In the Las Positas Golf Course Pro Shop  
917 Clubhouse DR.  
Livermore, CA 94551  
Attn: LPMGC

**Entry Fees:** Sat. only        \$42  
                         Sat. & Sun.        \$84

**LPMGC – NCGA EAST BAY ZONE QUALIFIER**

*Sat. and Sun. February 09 and 10, 2008*

	Qualifying?	Circle one
Name #1 _____	Yes	No
Name #1 _____	Yes	No
Name #2 _____	Yes	No
Name #2 _____	Yes	No

Request, not required

- Early, **requires Front 9 completion in 2 hours or less**
- Late

**All Prize Money must be spent by end of OCT. 2008**

*Please Print Your Name  
Provide all \$\$\$ for Group Entries  
Checks Only Please !!!  
Payable to 'LPMGC'*

## LPMGC - Tournament Rules

The following are the current Tournament Rules for Tournaments held by the Las Positas Men's Golf Club.

1. A member must have at least twenty (20) posted rounds to be able to **Qualify** in the following tournaments:
  - a. NCGA Qualifying Events (4)
  - b. Presidents Cup
  - c. Senior Championship
  - d. Club Championship.

There are specific requirements for each tournament, these are published on the tournament entry form. ALL members are eligible to participate in every Men's Club Tournament.

2. All tournament entries must be accompanied by a check. All entries are due in the Pro Shop on Thursday, 5:00 PM, the week prior to the tournament. Entries are to be dropped into the club's box.
3. Entries for non-computer paired tournaments must include all names in your group and checks for your group.
4. Withdrawals must be made at least 48 hours in advance. The prize fund fee will not be refunded after 48 hours.
5. Withdrawals on the day of the tournament, the entrant will forfeit all fees unless there are extenuating circumstances. The tournament committee will make the final decision on refunds. Members should refer to the Refund Policy.
6. After the tournament pairings have been given to the Pro Shop, all further transactions (inclusions and exclusions) will be handled by the Pro Shop.
7. Each entrant is responsible for his "tee time", turning in a completed, signed scorecard and posting his adjusted score in the computer.
8. All rules decisions will be handled by the rules committee which consists of either Jeff DeBenedetti, or his designee.
9. All tournaments are in accordance with the USGA rules and guidelines. This includes equipment, balls, etc. Should a member use an item that does not conform to the USGA rules, that player will be disqualified.

**LPMGC – INDIVIDUAL MEDAL PLAY**

Sunday, March 16, 2008

The Individual Medal Play tournament gives you the opportunity to play in a flighted individual tournament against the field. Participants must have (5) posted rounds or a handicap established by our handicap chairman to compete for the prize fund.

- Play will be at 100% of March's handicap.
- Sign up as a group or an individual and we will pair you.
- There will be a prize fund for each flight based on number of entries for the tournament.

**Entry Deadline:**

Thursday, March 6 at 5:00 P.M.  
In the Las Positas Golf Course Pro Shop  
at  
917 Clubhouse Dr.  
Livermore, CA 94551  
Attn: LPMGC

**Tournament entry fee: \$42**

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**LPMGC - INDIVIDUAL MEDAL PLAY ENTRY**

Saturday, March 16, 2008

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Request, not required

Early, **requires Front 9 completion in 2 hours or less**

Late

**All Prize Money must be spent by end of OCT. 2008**

*Please Print Your Name*

*Provide all \$\$\$ for Group Entries*

*Checks Only Please !!!*

*Payable to 'LPMGC'*

# Handicap Update

Pat Moore

This page is designed remind old club members and introduce new members to the rules related to posting scores toward your handicap. By following these rules, the club can meet its goal for fair and accurate handicaps for all club members.

When posting scores, you should use Equitable Stroke Control (ESC), based on the table below.

**Tournaments:** It is your responsibility to post your score for tournament rounds, and **you must post within 15 minutes of the completion of your round**. The tournament scorecard should reflect your actual score for the day, based on the rules of the tournament. However, you must still apply ESC when posting tournament scores to the computer. **Failure to post will result in a penalty score** (a score equal to the lowest handicap differential on your current scoring record). You do not need to put a separate scorecard in the box for tournament rounds; your tournament scorecard will suffice for handicap review.

**Home Scores:** You must post all rounds played, and we are requesting you submit a [scorecard](#) in the box by th computer. The scorecard should **clearly** (key word, as it saves our eyes) show your full name (first and last), GHIN number, tees played, course handicap, gross score and ESC-adjusted score (matching the posted score). Also, be sure that your math is correct! The submitted scorecard is the deciding factor in resolving any discrepancies, so be sure that it is correct.

It is the goal of the handicap committee that all handicaps accurately reflect the playing abilities of our members. To meet this goal we need the help of all members. We are requesting that all home [scorecards](#) be turned in. The handicap committee will review all these cards. The following is a list of the most common mistakes in posting scores. Please take a look at the list and review your scorecard before posting your score. The handicap committee will notify you when any of these errors appear on your scorecard or in the posting of your score. Lets have a great year and work to have the most accurate handicaps. If you have any questions about them, please contact the handicap director.

Not adjusting per ESC

Failure to post, card in the box

Posting errors (posting a score different than scorecard)

Math errors (score posted matched card, but card has an addition errors)

**Away Scores:** You should not submit a scorecard for away scores posted at the course played. If you are unable to post at the course, and post instead at Las Positas, you should put the away scorecard in the box.

**Equitable Stroke Control (ESC):** ESC sets the maximum number that a player can post (not take) on any hole, depending on the player's course handicap (not his index).

<u>Course Handicap</u>	<u>Maximum Number</u>
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 to 19	7
20 to 29	8
30 to 39	9
40 or more	10

**LPMGC - CHA CHA CHA**

Saturday, March 8, 2008

The Cha-Cha-Cha tournament is a four-man computer paired team event. The Cha is the best ball for the first hole, the Cha-Cha is the two best balls for the second hole, and the Cha-Cha-Cha is the three best balls for the third hole. This sequence is repeated until you finish all 18 holes of golf, the exception being all **FOUR BALLS** must be counted on holes 9 & 18. Play is at 100% of March's Handicap.

Must have at least 5 posted rounds or a handicap established by our handicap chairman to compete in this tournament.

**Entry Deadline:**

Thursday, February 28 at 5:00 P.M.  
In the Las Positas Golf Course Pro Shop  
at  
917 Clubhouse Dr.  
Livermore, CA. 94551  
Atten: LPMGC

**Tournament entry fee: \$42**

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**LPMGC – CHA-CHA-CHA**

Saturday. March 8, 2008

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Request not required

- Early, **requires front 9 completion in less than 2 hours**  
 Late

**All Prize Money must be spent by end of OCT. 2008**

*Please Print Your Name  
Make checks payable to 'LPMGC'  
Checks Only Please !!!*