

MGA Newsletter



Coto de Caza
Golf & Racquet Club

February 2006



Building Tradition at Coto

The first newsletter of the year is a bit difficult as there are no tournaments to report on and no players' photos to fill up white space. The editor/writer has to focus on the future and the year to come but that's easy as what a year this promises to be.....

The MGA Board, expanded to 9 and full of enthusiasm, is working hard alongside Coto's management to make the golf experience at Coto second to none. We adopted an idea from Troy's previous experience to create this year's MGA Tour format which is going to provide a load of fun and competition and hopefully will attract great participation. If the huge sign up for the "Lone Wolf" event is anything to go by this season is going to be better than ever. The Ryder Cup finale promises to be really exciting and will be followed by a Gala Party which will become an annual event. The following day will see the 2nd annual Pro Skins event which was a huge success at the end of last year. Mike Harrington still hasn't come down off that cloud! This should launch everyone into the holidays in the right spirit.

By now everyone will have seen the new communications center in the men's locker room complete with two new computers. This should stop the queuing and will allow you to post your crap scores without someone snickering over your shoulder! A notice board will be added soon and then no-one can complain that they were not aware of what was going on.



In a month or so the MGA will have its own website which will be a portal from the Coto Club Corp. site. If you do not want your contact details included in the site please inform Anne Brooke by March 31. The website will contain the roster of all MGA members and will be the source of a hard copy 'Roster' book which will be issued to members before the summer. The website will have several sections – newsletters, MGA Tour standings, blogs and announcements.

So 12 tournaments already scheduled and some interesting ideas bubbling in addition....how about a Wednesday night summer league and a doubles ladder in the fall.....we'll keep you posted.

Coming soon to a course near you.....

Senior Club Championship (March 4 & 5, 2006)



The MGA season continues in full swing with the Senior Club Championship on March 4th and 5th. If you are over 60 and want to participate in the “Senior” portion, or Championship flight, of the event then you must play from the Blue tees (Senior), Gold/Blue (Championship). MGA Tournament Handicaps will be used.

- Participation: Seniors over 50, Super Seniors over 60
- Entry Fee: \$50 a person (carts included)
- Tee Times: Saturday South Course, Sunday North Course
- Tees : Blue for Seniors, Whites for Super Seniors
Championship flight – Gold South, Blue North
- Prizes: Lots of Script based on good participation
Gross and Net Winners



**Distance Measuring Devices may be used
Tournament committee retains right to adjust handicaps**

(This event is not included in the MGA 2006 Tour)

The 2006 MGA Tour

The MGA Tour has been totally revamped for 2006. The Tour comprises 12 events – 4 Majors, 6 Minors and 2 President's Cups. Points will be earned for placing in the events with the top 24 players advancing to a Ryder Cup style finale on December 8 and 9 with \$9,000 in prize money. Finale is 12 v 12 players, the odd players (1st, 3rd, 5th etc) versus the even players (2nd, 4th, 6th etc). The 1st and 2nd will be team captains. Then on Saturday night, the 9th December, (mark your calendars) there will be a big MGA Gala Party.

Coto golf is extremely competitive so that is a given foundation of the Tour but we also want to promote participation, the social side and fun. To make the final 24 players have to participate in a minimum of 5 of the events flagged as MGA Tour events in the calendar. You may have enough points but unless you have played 5 MGA Tour events you won't be included in the finale. The points gained will be separate from the prize money of the event itself.

MGA Tour 2006 Points System

	<u>Base Points</u>	<u>Major Events' Premiums</u>		<u>President Cup</u>
	<u>Minors</u>	<u>Flights</u>	<u>Overall Winners</u>	<u>Final 4 (Flight Winners)</u>
1 st Place	100	+ 20	+ 10	+ 30
2 nd Place	80	+ 16		+ 25
3 rd Place	60	+ 12		+ 15
4 th Place	40	+ 8		+ 10
5 th Place	25	+ 5		
Participation	10	+ 2		

Troy will maintain the points' standings and will post them after each event both at the new communications center in the locker room and on the new website which will be established soon.

Team Play 2006

The Saturday team finished the year on a high note by winning away at El Niguel 29-19. The team ended the season 3-3 and in second place; Victoria won with 13 points, Coto had 9, Glendora 8 and El Niguel 4. So another season ends and the guys have to be content with looking forward to next year where it looks like the other 2nd place finishers and our opponents for next season will be Bear Creek, South Hills and Red Hill.

The guys with winning individual records this year and deserve a big congratulations are Bill Gately 3-1, Rick Rajjevich 3-2, Kevin Pratt 3-2, Mike Steele 2-1-1, Joe Notaro 3-0, Larry Hickey 2-0, Scott Seminoff 3-2, John Renaud 3-1.

This year's MVP was Joe Notaro, based on his undefeated season, his 3rd best average net score. Good job Joe! Rick Raljevich wins for lowest average net score with 74.6. With a 3-2 record and an average under net 75, it's clear that you must net under 74 these days to win matches. Milligan wins for playing the toughest competitors, average net 73 against him.

Most improved goes to John Renaud. John's been a loyal and faithful Team Player for a few years now. He hasn't got many chances due to the strength of the Hickey/Seminoff team. With Larry being busy this year, Bob asked John to step in, and he went 3-1. Thanks for hanging in John and waiting for your chance!

Rookie of the year went to Joe Duarte, based on his 6th best average net score and finishing 12th in our overall results list. Good job Joe!

“We enter the season thinking 3-3 and trying to sneak an away win. Our loss at home to Victoria sealed our fate. Our season basically turned on 4 points at home against Victoria. Get 4 more points and we're in the playoffs. I'm certain the guys that played that day can find 4 points. And the guys who weren't available likely could have stepped in as well. Coto has a good Saturday Team and we make solid additions each year. We thought a Ladder prior to the season would get guys in shape, but that didn't seem to be the case. One observation I do have is that when I can play pairs consistently, our performance is much better. I can win with Gately/Duarte, Rock/Thomson, O'Grady/Gaunter, Pratt/Champlain, Hickey/Seminoff. Guys with styles that complement each other, and who enjoy playing with each other always have a better chance of winning. Maybe next Fall there's a Team Ladder where you play with someone within your LI range, and earn the right to play as a Team come Saturdays. At the end of the day it comes down to commitment. And, there's always the golf course debate to keep things interesting!

Thanks for your support and dedication!

Captain out”””!

The **Thursday team** did not emulate last year's great performance having what Captain Bob Wray (do you have to be called Bob to captain a Coto team???) says was a “ho-hum” season. The team had the same 3-3 record as the Saturday team winning all their home games but not managing to win one away. Mission Viejo, Mesa Verde and Marbella were in the group this year with Mesa Verde prevailing. Rick Contrucci and Dan Nador had a great rookie year winning their games.

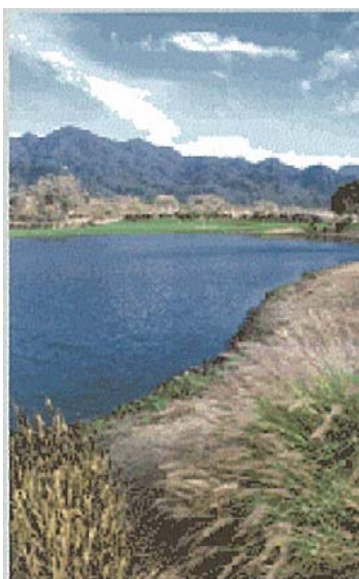
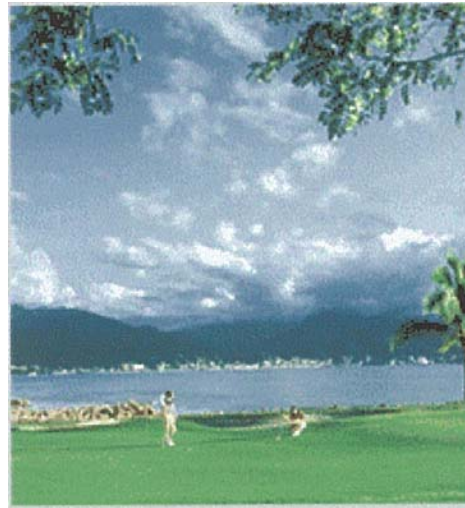


Off the Ranch

In December the 16th annual Puerto Vallarta Pro-Am was held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The event was a 4-day, 72-hole, 5-man team (1 professional and 4 amateurs). The tournament format was a Low Gross and Low Net competition, combined total on two separate balls. There were 98 teams that participated this year...that is 490 golfers!

This year, Coto de Caza's very own Director of Golf, Rick Booth, led a fearless group of golfers into the deep jungles and the Vista Vallarta Nicklaus Signature and Weiskopf Signature golf courses for two tournament rounds. Marina Vallarta along the Pacific Ocean played host to two of the four tournament rounds. All three courses are managed by Club Corp. Rick's team consisted of Larry Hickey, Alberto Palucci, Rick Rajevich and Mike Steele.

For any of you that have not been to Puerto Vallarta, it is a wonderful place and there is plenty to do there. The Coto group stayed at a boutique hotel called Casa Vela (sister hotel to the Velas Vallarta) and backs up to the Marina Vallarta Golf Course. A great location, friendly staff, good food, refreshing drinks, a comforting pool with a swim up bar and best yet was a spa that the wives thoroughly enjoyed...as did some of the guys. The suites were all different with all the amenities needed; it was like staying in a five star Spanish Hacienda. By the second day the Coto group was on a first name basis with all of the employees from the hotel...imagine that! The host hotel was the Marriott Casa Magna, but the group lucked out and was able to stay the Casa Vela just five minutes



away...although our cab driver couldn't find it Sunday evening, as it had just recently changed names. We drove around and around before finally finding this tucked away property.

The group left LAX on Sunday, December 5th and returned back home on Friday the 9th. Monday was a practice round on the Nicklaus course and was followed by the Welcome Cocktail Party at the Marriott Casa Magna. Flights 1 and 2 played up the mountain at the two signature courses on Tuesday and Wednesday. The team then moved to the Marina Vallarta golf course for the closing two rounds on Thursday and Friday.

There were four flights by total team index. The Coto team was at the bottom of the first flight to start the tournament and moved up a bit each day, but not enough to make it to the top of the flight. There were many great shots throughout the week, but one of the most memorable moments had to be the two tee shots on the 9th hole on Wednesday when Rick Booth and Rick Raljevich both drove the green on a par four with a number of spectators watching from around the club house. Another great moment was when a ten foot crocodile sitting near a lake moved very quickly and almost took Raljevich into the lake with him to feed on.

When the guys were golfing, the wives were either at the spa, sun bathing by the pool or shopping downtown. They didn't really care that we were out playing golf; they kept asking "can't you play 36 holes today." Although team didn't place overall, they did come in the middle of the first flight each day...needless to say, a great time was had by all!



The Club Room

In the land of the endless summer it's virtually impossible (especially coming from rain swept, single malt land) to not head for the first tee as soon as sun's up on the weekend. But that denies some of the great pleasures in life....a big comfortable armchair, a wee dram in the glass, the

fire burning in the grate and a good book to read (preferably in an old hotel overlooking a famous links course). Maybe the California version is a big sun bed under some nice shady palms. Both are great options and if you get a chance to do either here's some recommendations for a good read about your favorite hobby....sometimes it's good to read more than putts!

The best book published recently is Mark Frost's, "**The Greatest Game Ever Played**" which was made into a relatively enjoyable Disney movie. However it is a Disney movie and the movie does not do justice to the commentary on the social and economic framework of the period, the class distinctions, the parallel nature of the lives of Ouimet and Vardon and the equipment and course conditions. Given the latter, the players' scores are incredible! This book is not to be missed!

Ken Venturi's book, "**Getting Up & Down**" is an interesting follow up to this as it is fascinating to learn that Little Eddie, Ouimet's child caddie, becomes the biggest car dealer in the Bay Area and becomes Venturi's main sponsor. It's also surprising to learn of Venturi's friendship with Hogan and Nelson and even more, Sinatra and the Rat Pack.



For aficionados of course design, Alistair Mackenzie's, "**Spirit of St. Andrews**," is a must read. As a suggestion, read this book and then go and play Pasatiempo (Augusta if you can and if you're connected) and see, and play, Mackenzie's ideas in practice. You may never play a Pete Dye monster again on principle! It's great that guys like Tom Doak have come on the scene to bring us back to classic design.....try his "**Anatomy of a Golf Course**," if you have designer' pretensions.

For you children of the 60s, and who have never left Woodstock philosophically (are those people allowed inside the gates??), Michael Murphy's "**Golf in the Kingdom**" and the "**Legend of Shivas Irons**" takes golf into the mystic (unlike Bill, this guy definitely inhaled!) Murphy's description of the mythical kingdom, obviously that shrine on the East coast of Scotland, is super. Follow this up with James Dodson's, "Final Rounds" with his dying father and you will be immediately signing up for a trip to Burns' Country.

Other books which are really good reads are Lawrence Donegan's, "Four-iron in the soul," and David Owen's, "Making of the Masters". The former chronicles the experience of a journalist, who wanted to be a sports star, caddying for a journeyman player on the European tour for a year. Quickly takes the glamour out of touring! The latter is more of a biography of Clifford Roberts who, along with Bobby Jones, created the great Masters tournament of today. Donegan is actually the nephew of Lonnie Donegan, a famous Scottish banjo player, well known for that banjo classic, "Does your chewing gum lose its flavor on the bedpost overnight," (I'm not making this up). We Brits are so thankful the Beatles came along!

If your tendencies are for easier, lighter reads and books which are especially good for air travel/vacation then try Rick Reilly's, "**Who's Your Caddie**,"the Daly piece is remarkable, "**Cinderella Story**", Bill Murray's biography.....makes you wonder why he's not a better player, and Dan Jenkins, "**Slim or None**". All good page turners!

Not sure when I'll get to Mark Frost's "**Grand Slam**," the Bobby Jones biography, but it's on the shelf waiting....time for a vacation!



(Royal Dornoch's fabulous 8th hole)

MGA Board of directors

John Whipple	President
John McAdam	MGA Tour and Communications
Rick Raljevich	Major Tournaments & Greens
Jim Akers	Major Tournaments
Mike Steele	Handicaps, SCGA liaison and Tournaments
Mike Castner	Treasurer
Steve Ludwig	Tournaments
Scott Carroll	Communications
Lou Skubic	Handicaps

MGA 2006 Calendar ★(*Red Majors, Blue Minors*)

January 8	MGA Tour - President's Cup - 2 man
January 22	Pinehurst Qualifier
February 25	MGA Tour - Lone Wolf
March 4,5	Senior Club Championship
March 15	Monster Day
March 19	Pinehurst Qualifier
March	Member Guest Sign up
March 24,25	MGA Tour - Spring Classic
April 23	Pinehurst Qualifier
April 29	MGA Tour - Best of Buddies
May 18,19,20	MGA Tour - Windmill Invitational
June 3	Pinehurst Qualifier
June 9, 10, 11	MGA Tour - Club Championship
June 17	Pinehurst Finals
July 8	MGA Tour - President's Cup Individual
July 14	MGA Tour - Afternoon event with a big cook-out at the end
August 26	MGA Tour - Stableford and Horse Race
September 16	MGA Tour - Shoot your Handicap
October	MGA Tour - To be decided
November 17,18	MGA Tour - Fall Stampede
December 8,9	MGA Tour Championship - 2 day Ryder Cup
December 9	MGA Annual Party
December 10	Pro Skins

(Any letter, comments, corrections, suggestions.....Email John McAdam)
(john.mcadam@telmarnt.com)

Some comedian said this hole should be renamed "Firewood"



*A good day to read by the
fire...December 2004*



Some funny definitions.....

THINGY Female..... Any part under a car's hood.
Male..... The strap fastener on a woman's bra.

VULNERABLE Female.... Fully opening up one's self emotionally to another.
Male.... Playing baseball without a cup.

COMMUNICATION Female... The open sharing of thoughts and feelings with one's partner.
Male... Leaving a note before taking off on a fishing trip with the boys.

COMMITMENT Female.... A desire to get married and raise a family.
Male..... Trying not to hit on other women while out with this one.

ENTERTAINMENT Female.... A good movie, concert, play or book.
Male..... Anything that can be done while drinking beer.

MAKING LOVE Female..... The greatest expression of intimacy a couple can achieve.
Male..... Call it whatever you want, just as long as we do it.

REMOTE CONTROL Female.... A device for changing from one TV channel to another.
Male..... A device for scanning through all 375 channels every 5 minutes.



(March 23 - 25, 2006)

Sign up for the 1st Major Tournament of the 2006 MGA Tour season. Two days of great competition, Best Ball Friday on the South and Modified Chapman on the North on Saturday. The Spring Classic Perpetual Trophy will be won by the 4 man team, which will be drawn blind as usual on Thursday evening over cocktails. Also on Thursday will be the traditional team auction, dinner and cigars. Great tee prizes, breakfast and lunch included both days, the bar stays open all 3 days and goes mobile for the traditional Horse race which is on Friday afternoon after lunch.

- Entry Fee: \$225 per player
- Buy-in : \$120 per team
- Tee Times: 8:30 am Shotguns
- Tees : Modified Blues on South, Blues on North
- Trophies: 4 man winners, also 1st and 2nd in flights



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Distance Measuring Devices may be used
MGA Tournament Handicaps will be used

Tournament committee retains right to adjust handicaps at any time
Note: If team withdraws after 3/12/06, entry fee will still be charged unless they personally find a substitute team

(An "MGA 2006 Tour" Event)