



Coto de Caza
Golf & Racquet Club

MGA Newsletter

August 2007

2007 MGA Tour

We are into the 2nd half of the year now with all to play for. There are 3 Saturday events (Best of Buddies, Lone Wolf and the Ryder Cup formats) and a major, the 'Fall Stampede' still to come plus the results of the President's Cup Individual event (400-500 points still up for grabs!). To qualify for this year's finale it looks like you'll need to hit 300 points or above. Certainly the guys in the lower half cannot afford to relax and better keep participating and, more importantly, winning. Last year 5 players dropped out of the Top 24 after the Fall Stampede so it's far from over....the fat lady ain't even warming up the vocal chords yet, so get involved!

MGA Tour 2007			
Top 24			
Turner, Bob	406	Forkner, Randy	274
Contrucci, Rick	380	Hubbell, Richard	270
Duarte, Joe	360	Kelly Brian	270
Kim, Woojin	342	Murrell, John	268
Akers, Jim	336	Heino, Gene	260
Rodie, Don	329	Stoddard, Scott	256
Trausch, Tom	317	Rosenbaum, John	252
Coate, Chris	301	Beans, Cornell	246
Gately, Bill	301	Raljevich Rick	231
Olsen Ted	300	Carroll Scott	230
Almquist, Scott	280	Berlin, Scott	226
Griffith Mark	280	McAdam, John	225

We have had a couple of glitches with the points distribution this year. Please make sure you check on your points. Troy has all the details and each event is noted on the board at the communications center in the Men's locker room. The Thursday Night league and "Skins" points are included above. Rick Contrucci has agreed to be the MGA Tour Commissioner and will be supported by John Rosenbaum.

MGA Tour 2007

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

“Lone Wolf ” (September 15, 2007)



Everyone plays their own ball. After the drives, one person goes Wolf and that ball counts (net) and the team chooses the best of the other 3 balls (net) per hole; so two balls count for the competition. The same player cannot go Wolf on consecutive holes. A-B-C-D Format.



“Ryder Cup” (October 27, 2007)

The MGA Tour will be heading for the December finale.

We thought we would have another 2 man “team” format. Sign up with a partner and see if you can handle the Ryder Cup formats. If you are a new member, or your usual partner is out of town, sign up anyway and we will find you someone suitable to play with.

Format : 6 Holes Best Ball, 6 Chapman, 6 Scramble
 Field will be in flights, max. 8 shot differential between partners

The 19th Hole



Through this newsletter MGA members get to “enjoy” British humour which in the time honoured tradition of Benny Hill, Billy Connolly and, to a lesser extent, Monty Python, is usually at the level of a Kohler special fixture.

Now this sewage contractor has decided to use it in his mobile advertising. He must have been feeling flush at the time!!

The more interesting part of this however, **on very close inspection**, is that it would appear one of Dan Dent's Thursday Night League team may be a director of this enterprise.....of course, that may not surprise many of us!!!

Irish Diet

An Irishman was terribly overweight, and eventually was persuaded to see his doctor. The doctor told him that he would have to go on a severe diet.

The Doc. said "I want you to eat normally for 2 days, then skip a day, and repeat this procedure for 2 weeks. When you come to see me then, you should have lost at least 5 pounds."

When the Irishman returned after the 2 weeks, the doctor was totally shocked to find that he had lost nearly 60 POUNDS.

"Why that's amazing!" the doctor said, " Did you follow my instructions? "

The Irishman nodded.... " I'll tell you though, by Jesuz, I t'aut I was going to drop dead the 3rd day."

"From hunger you mean?"

"No, from f*****g skippin', " the Irishman said.

Will women ever understand the guys in the 19th???!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A typical 40 something, having split from his latest girlfriend, decided to take a vacation. He booked himself on a Caribbean cruise and proceeded to have the time of his life, that is, until the ship sank. He found himself on an island with no other people, no supplies, nothing, only bananas and coconuts.

After about four months, he is lying on the beach one day when the most gorgeous woman he has ever seen rows up to the shore. In disbelief, he asks, "Where did you come from? How did you get here?"

She replies, "I rowed from the other side of the island. I landed here when my cruise ship sank."

"Amazing," he notes. "You were really lucky to have a row boat wash up with you."

"Oh, this thing?" explains the woman. "I made the boat out of raw material I found on the island. The oars were whittled from gum tree branches. I wove the bottom from palm branches, and the sides and stern came from a Eucalyptus tree."

"But, where did you get the tools?"

"Oh, that was no problem," replied the woman. "On the south side of the island, a very unusual stratum of alluvial rock is exposed. I found if I fired it to a certain temperature in my kiln, it melted into ductile iron. I used that for tools and used the tools to make the hardware."

"Let's row over to my place," she says.

After a few minutes of rowing, she docks the boat at a small wharf. As the man looks to shore, he nearly falls off the boat. Before him is a stone walk leading to an exquisite bungalow painted in blue and white. As they walk into the house, she says casually, "It's not much but I call it home. Sit down, please. Would you like a drink?"

"No! No thank you," he blurts out, still dazed. "I can't take another drop of coconut juice."

"It's not coconut juice," winks the woman. "I have a still. How would you like a Pina Colada?"

Trying to hide his continued amazement, the man accepts, and they sit down on her couch to talk. After they have exchanged their stories, the woman announces, "I'm going to slip into something more comfortable. Would you like to take a shower and shave? There is a razor upstairs in the bathroom cabinet."

No longer questioning anything, the man goes into the bathroom. There in the cabinet, a razor made from a piece of tortoise bone.

"This woman is amazing," he muses. "What next?"

When he returns, she greets him wearing nothing but vines, strategically positioned. "Tell me," she begins suggestively, slithering closer to him, "We've been out here for many months. You've been lonely, there's something I'm sure you really feel like doing right now, something you've been longing for?" She stares into his eyes.

He can't believe what he's hearing. "You mean" he swallows excitedly and tears start to form in his eyes. ! ! ! "Don't tell me you've got **THE GOLF CHANNEL**"



Off the Ranch

It is no surprise, given the high standard of play at Coto, that our members are very discerning. Golf Magazine just issued their choice for the Top 100 courses worldwide and just about of all the courses in our composite course are included.

1. Pine Valley
2. Cypress Point
3. St. Andrews
4. Augusta National
11. Sand Hills, Nebraska
17. Pinehurst
57. Bandon Dunes
85. Spyglass Hill
90. Shadow Creek

Pasatiempo comes in at No. 55 on a US only list

In this section we have covered most of the major golfing destinations. A couple of areas we have not covered are the Caribbean and the Yucatan Peninsula. Mexico which are both being developed at a fast rate especially the Yucatan. Somebody (ies) will have to make the sacrifice and go for a trip and report back although be sure to avoid hurricanes!

As a sneak preview, one of our number was in Barbados recently and played two of the courses including Sandy Lane where none other than Tiger Woods was married. He probably played Fazio's famous Green Monkey course built through a quarry which sits high over the beach. At \$4,000 for a foursome it ran a bit expensive for our boy and that didn't include caddies! The course is only open 1 hour a day. Not sure what the return on capital invested is there??

The Sandy Lane championship course is interesting. They played the World Team Championship there which Langer and Siem won. The back nine is unusual in that there are 3 par 5s and 3 par 3s. It's typical Fazio with ample fairways and well protected greens. The course was in immaculate condition but at \$250 plus \$40 for the caddy it's questionable whether you would want to go there just for golf.



Watching the sunset from the spectacular clubhouse is pretty special. Certainly not a bad location for a wedding! The caddy told a fun story about Tiger's beautiful wife, Elin. The caddy, Apple (yessir, complete with dreadlocks), was caddying for Elin, her sister and a couple of Swedish friends, pre marriage. They started a game where if they hit a

bad shot they had to take a shot of tequila. She made Apple play with them. He was worried about losing his job but somehow she had that covered... given that Tiger had taken over the whole place for a week. OK, we knew she was a goddess but this takes it up another level! Sandy Lane hotel is ranked as one of the top spots in the Caribbean – a room is minimum \$1,000 a night.....Tiger took the whole hotel for a week too!



(Apple with another Euro lovely)

When Apple was asked if he was going to carry the next day he answered, “No way man, I’m way too tired.” That was the first round he had done in a week. Things are a bit more casual on the islands! Surprisingly he was their most experienced caddy. Obviously sharper when you’re well rested!

Back to reality.... Royal Barbados is a bit of a municipal track but with a load of fun holes. Playing golf in the Caribbean is all about coping with the wind. The 1st at Royal Barbados

is 505 yards. How does a drive and a 9 iron through the green grab you? Of course when there is 50 mile an hour gale at your back and links-like fairways it is no big deal. 440 yard par 4s up hill against the wind however made for quite a challenge!



Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Bahamas are all developing their golf facilities. However they are all 5 star and you may need a sponsorship with Nike to be able to afford them. It probably won’t be long until they do a golf cruise and then it just may be worth the battle with the winds. Until then, Cabo begins to look like a deal!

Tradition at Coto

We have written about building tradition at Coto. Given the diversity of our membership in playing ability, age, family size, economic standing and background it is highly likely that this has differing connotations for different members. Many, who may consider themselves purists, would see clubs such as Pine Valley defining the Gold Standard.....strict dress codes, basically male only, sports coats required in the restaurant, non-members only play when invited and members can only have a few guests per year. The whole environment whiffs of rules, privilege and history with club champions dating back years. It is also only about golf...no tennis or social memberships there! Off the ranch trips to Ireland and Scotland would serve up similar experiences.

Like everything else, life has evolved and, as much as many of our members would love to create some of the aspects above, this is not likely to happen at Coto. Coto is a large club and many joined for the total "country club" experience with tennis, pools, spa etc. and love all the youthful energy around the club. However, the quest for building tradition does necessarily incorporate some of the elements of these historical clubs and it is not just related to tournament winners over 100 years and a dusty trophy case... although they help. We have nearly a complete set of perpetual trophies and we have developed a very strong set of tournaments which would be the envy of most clubs so that aspect is in hand.

The most noticeable thing about the older clubs is a respect for standards and the club itself. Members at these clubs adhere to the dress code. It is not even a discussion...try wearing your shirt hanging over your shorts or your golf cap the wrong way around! You would be asked to go play the municipal across the street in a heartbeat. It wouldn't necessarily be a Board member or the Director of Golf who would be telling you but just about any of the members. These clubs basically self-police. Members should not place that burden on the Board or the Pro Shop. Thank goodness we voted down the "denim in the club" movement; that would have been a nice big nail in the "tradition" coffin. It shows many of us care and share a similar philosophy of what type of club we would like to be a part of.

The same principles apply on the course. Members at "traditional" clubs worry about the course condition and appearance. Coto faces challenges with the lack of rain and an out-of-date irrigation system but it is imperative that members do not add to this. Let's keep carts on the paths at the normal "parking" areas, rake bunkers etc. Generally our members are good in these regards and the issue pertains more to the outsiders who come to play in the Monday events etc. The MGA has to look to the Pro Shop and the course marshals to police these players.

A third area is behavior inside the club. There is a line between loud and raucous and loutish. Let's leave the latter to British soccer hooligans! Of course this does not just relate to the MGA. Coto is very "kid" friendly. We need to ensure that they are also well behaved and respect the club. It's not a playground although many seem to treat it that way. This extends to the course and the driving range. We are all responsible and should not hesitate to confront any behavior that is obviously outside the norms of a classy country club.

MGA Board of directors

John Whipple	President
John McAdam	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 2007 Calendar **(Red for Majors, Blue for Minors)*

MGA Tour Events

January 7	President's Cup - 2 man
February 24	MGA Tour "CotoBowl I"
March 30, 31	Spring Classic
April 28	MGA Tour "Shoot your Handicap"
April 4 – May 9	Thursday Night League
May 17, 18, 19	Windmill Invitational
June 8, 9, 10	Club Championship
July 7	President's Cup - Individual
July 20 Friday	MGA Tour "Skins"
August 25	MGA Tour "Best of Buddies"
Fall	Thursday Night League (canceled)
September 15	MGA Tour "Lone Wolf"
October 27	MGA Tour "The Ryder Cup"
November 16, 17	Fall Stampede
December 7, 8	MGA Tour Championship

Other Events

January 21	Pinehurst Qualifier
March 3	Windmill Invitational Sign up
March 2, 3, 4	Senior Club Championship
March 18	Pinehurst Qualifier
April 22	Pinehurst Qualifier
June 2	Pinehurst Qualifier
June 16	Pinehurst Finals
March 14	Monster Day
December 9	Pro Skins at 1:00pm

(Any letter, comments, corrections, suggestions.....Email John McAdam)
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