



THE DRIVER

Newsletter of the Madrona Links Men's Club

January 2021

Men's Club Tournaments and January Events

Three Clubs and a Putter—January 16

One Tournament This Month

Happy New Year, one and all! This month we have our annual 3 Clubs and a Putter Tournament. Yes, it's a "gimmick" tournament, but it has also produced some amazingly low scores. The format is just what the name says, you choose any three clubs from your collection, and add your putter. The rules specify that one of the clubs MUST be a putter, so don't think you can get an extra club in there by using your Driver as a putter.

The play is from the white tees, and the scoring is done using a modified Stableford Format. Players gain points by scoring bogies, pars, birdies and better. Anything over a bogey is worth no points. Typically bogies are worth one point, pars are worth 2, birdies are worth 3 and eagles are worth 5. I haven't seen this year's scoring, so I can't guarantee those point values. The points you earn are added to your handicap for the net category, so this is a great tournament for you high handicappers out there. In the high handicap flight the winning scores are generally around 40, so if your handicap is 27 you are more than halfway there before you even swing a club.

No partner is necessary for this tournament so sign up at the Pro Shop soon.

As always, you must be a member in good standing of the Men's Club in order to play. Over 100 people have already renewed for 2021. If you have not paid your dues, yet, please try to get it done BEFORE the day of the tournament. Applications for membership are available on the Madrona website (www.madronalinks.com) or in the Pro Shop. Dues must be paid in cash or by check, credit cards are not accepted for your dues.

Congratulations

I know people have been golfing all of December, but I have no reports of anything spectacular. Instead I'll just say:

Congratulations to all of those that braved December weather to play here at Madrona!

Madrona Links Men's Club

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TGA Reps : David Allen, Gary Roadhouse

The Driver

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Non-posting Season

None of the rounds that we play locally should be posted for handicap. The local computer at Madrona Links will not let you post any local rounds. If you play outside of the area, like California, Arizona, Florida, or any other spot that has sun and decent weather, those scores should be posted.

The theory behind the non-posting season is that our less-than-perfect conditions, and the fact that we are playing preferred lies (Winter Rules) will be reflected in our scores, and will cause our handicaps to be "artificially" high or low.

Unfortunately that means that our handicaps are "frozen" at the November 15 values. No matter how well or poorly you are playing this winter, you are stuck with your November handicap until we begin posting again in March.

Playing in Wet Conditions

Since we are well into winter weather, the course is currently pretty well saturated. This creates a number of problems for golfers and for our maintenance staff.

Virtually all of the hillsides are treacherous to walk on, so be very careful when walking downhill. All-to-frequently what you thought was solid ground can turn to mush and send you into a skid.

If you are using a power cart, please make sure that you stay on the cart paths or in the rough as much as possible, and stay well away from the greens. Things are soft enough that any attempts to drive up a slope are causing tires to slip and destroy what little grass has survived the downpours. If you MUST go up a slope, don't go directly up, go across the slope. If you do start to spin, don't hit the gas. Turn back and try another route. Your greens-keeping staff will thank you.

January 16
Three Clubs and a Putter
White Tees

February 13
Screwdriver Open
4-man Scramble
Blue Tees

March 20
2-Man Chapman
(7 stroke max differential)
White Tees