



## Improve your chipping!

Want to work on your chipping? We have arranged with Bob, one of the pros at BFGC, to provide a group lesson on chipping. It will be on Saturday April 14th at noon (which should be after play).

Spots are limited to 12 with a minimum of 6. The cost is \$15/person for a one hour lesson. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the board in the Café.

## Modernizing golf's rules...Changes for 2019

The USGA and R&A announced today that the new Rules of Golf set to take effect on January 1, 2019 have now been adopted. This brings an end to the rules modernization initiative that has been underway for several years. Many of the proposed rules changes from last year have been adopted, but there were a few differences from the initial proposals. The main changes include:

- **Dropping Procedure:** When required to drop, the ball must now be dropped from knee height. Currently, it must be dropped from shoulder height while standing erect with your arm straight. The original proposal was a drop from any height. The new rule will make it from knee height.
- **Double-Hit:** Currently there is a one-stroke penalty if you hit the ball twice while making a stroke. The original proposal would have maintained this penalty. The new rule will eliminate the penalty.
- **Stroke and Distance rule:** As we all know, the rules currently require a penalty of stroke and distance if your ball is lost or out of bounds. This means that you have to return to the area where you originally hit from and hit again with a 1 stroke penalty. Under the new rules, committees may adopt a local rule which allows players the option to drop the ball in the vicinity of where the ball is lost or out-of-bounds, under penalty of 2 strokes. This is an effort to maintain a good pace of play, while still maintaining a severe penalty for hitting your ball out-of-bounds or into an area where it cannot be found. This was NOT in the original proposals, but has been adopted because of a large amount of feedback during the review process.

- **Flagstick:** If you putt with the flagstick in the hole and the ball hits the stick, there will no longer be a penalty under the new rules.
- **Hazards now penalty areas:** Water hazards and lateral water hazards as we now know them will be deemed "penalty areas" and may include other areas of the course besides water. So, desert, jungle, lava rock, perhaps even a driving range may be deemed by the committee to be a penalty area. In addition, committees will now be allowed to make all penalty areas red, which means that lateral relief will always be a possibility. However, yellow penalty areas may still be used when appropriate. The new rules will also allow you to ground your club in a penalty area, and to move loose impediments without penalty.
- **Bunkers:** The new rules will allow you to move loose impediments in a bunker, and to touch the sand with your hand or a club as long as you don't ground your club right next to the ball. You may also declare your ball unplayable in a bunker and under penalty of two strokes, remove it from the bunker.
- **Lost Ball Search:** The time to search for a lost ball will be reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes.

**IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WHILE THESE RULES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED, THEY DO NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2019.** Until then, the current rules remain in effect.

More information about the changes can be found here:

[www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/text/an-overview-of-the-rules-modernization-initiative.html](http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/text/an-overview-of-the-rules-modernization-initiative.html)



## Upcoming Buchanan tournaments

—Tournament Chair Dennis Donaghu

Our next tournament, coming up quickly on April 21, is one of our **special tournaments** to which George Hall generously contributes prize money. Last year George gave us \$50 for first place in each of our four flights, \$25 for first place for each of the five greenies, a 10-play card for most accurate (not longest) drive on hole #4, and three free play cards for the winners of our putting contest. The club will contribute our normal prize money, so we will be paying six places in each flight, and three places on greenies. If you add up the number of prizes, lots of people will be winning something. This was the best attended tournament last year so be sure to sign up before the deadline of April 14. There will absolutely be no late entries allowed. Be sure and thank George for his generosity the next time you see him.



The May tournament, on May 19, will be the first of our **club championship** tournaments. It will be 18 holes with a shotgun start beginning at 8:45am. The deadline for signups is May 12. Again, there will be no late entries allowed. Also, since it is a shotgun, late arrivals will not be allowed to compete so make sure you are there by 8:15 at the latest. For those new to the club, we play three 18-hole tournaments in May, July, and September. The best two out of three scores will determine the champions in each of three flights, so you can actually miss one of the tournaments and still qualify for the championship.

Our June tournament, on June 16, is another fun event, the **49er Tournament**. This tournament is also a shotgun start at 8:45, and same rules apply...no late entries (deadline to signup is June 9) and no late arrivals on tournament day. For this tournament, you are allowed a 4-iron or hybrid, a 9-iron and a putter. This has consistently been one of our most popular tournaments so make sure you sign up before the deadline. Making it even better is a BBQ following the tournament. Because of the added cost of the BBQ, the \$20.00 fee must be paid in advance. Payment may be made in the envelopes and put in the slot under the computer or given directly to Treasurer Barbara Bassett. If you are not paid up by tournament day, you don't play.



In addition to our regular tournaments, there are **special events** during the year. One of them is June 3-6 in Reno. We stay three nights at the Sands Hotel and play Monday and Tuesday at Lakeridge and Wolf Run. This is a fun time for all, and if you are interested, please contact Geoff Goselin who is in charge of the tournament. There is still room for additional golfers.

Lastly, the **match play tournament** will be getting under way shortly. There will be two flights and it will be a bracketed elimination tournament on the order of the NCAA March Madness. If you are interested, please sign up quickly. Match play is a fun event where one or two bad holes don't eliminate you from competition.

See you on the course!

## TOURNAMENTS ON THE ROAD!



Fall Classic 2018:

Look out, Monterey Peninsula!

The 2018 Fall Classic will feature a return to the Olympia Lodge and golf at Pacific Grove Golf Links and Monterey Pines. This year's event starts on Sunday for lodging on September 23rd, with golf on Monday at Monterey Pines starting at 11:30 am. So, you can save a night's lodging and drive up on Monday if you wish.

For the folks arriving on Sunday, we plan to have a gathering at the Tea Lodge at the hotel for some appetizers and an optional group dinner at the world-famous Fandango's in Pacific Grove. Since we are playing a late round on Monday, we plan to serve a buffet dinner at the lodge (Tea Room). You will have your choice of BBQ chicken or Tri-Tip subs served with a cold salad and chips. Some have expressed an interest in a take-out bag or box so they can take their dinner and enjoy the beaches or parks in the area. We can make that happen.

Monday golf is not a shotgun start but Tuesday will be if we can field 40 golfers.

The hotel will have limited rooms available Tuesday night, so let us know ASAP if you plan to stay Tuesday night.

—Fred Arras



Every time, the easiest putt in Golf is the one that doesn't count and the easiest way to count on having a good time is to come to our Reno Invitational.

June 3-6 is our 2018 Funtastic tradition of golf, contests, gaming, dining and socializing. Because it is an Invitational, you are encouraged to invite golfing family and friends to join in the FUN. We will be playing Lakeridge and Wolf Run with flights of modified tees for all skill levels. There will be a Fourth Funtastic Flight again this year for players who do not want to play their own 18 holes and prizes for non golfers, too.

So pick up a brochure in the Pro Shop or contact Geoff Goselin at 415-710-4271 to RSVP.



## Member Spotlight Matt Ennis

Matt has been a member of the BFGC for over 10 years and has been perfecting his excellent play for over 60 years. As good as he is, can you believe he has not yet had a hole in one? Based on his play, it is coming. Matt plays at least twice a week and sometimes more. His favorite 18-hole course is Tilden in the Berkeley area. His fondest golf memories date back to when he was a caddie at Hyde Park Country Club in Cincinnati. The camaraderie and fun times are why he enjoys being a member of our club.

Matt is celebrating 56 years of marriage to April. April is a gardener and gourmet cook. They have three daughters and four grandkids. Matt is very handy with a hammer and a saw. He did much of the work on his residence, adding many finishing touches. He worked as a salesman of medical equipment. He has a few hobbies with coin collecting as his main one. Matt served in the Army Reserves for 8 years at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Our club is blessed to have many fine golfers like Matt who make our gatherings a fun place to play.

## CALENDAR of Events

<b>Apr 21</b>	Special tournament
<b>May 19</b>	18-hole Spring Championship
<b>Jun 3-6</b>	Reno Invitational
<b>Jun 16</b>	49er Tournament
<b>Sep 23-25</b>	Fall Classic, Monterey Peninsula

## Member updates

### Welcome to our 2018 New members...

John Hunt  
Paulo Abad  
Martin Kelly  
Mauricio Luna  
Dan Del Bonta  
Beth Del Bonta  
Harry Johnson  
Bill Sullivan  
Dave Holland

Raymond Bernardo  
Reno Del Rosario  
Frank Taylor  
Heidi Shelton  
Larry Curtin  
Tim Chatman  
Julia Sullivan  
Lynda Thacker

*This is worth repeating....*

### Late check-in for playdays or tournaments—CALL A FRIEND!

Making up teams can be difficult under the best circumstances. But late players don't help! If you are en route and are going to be late for a Saturday, Tuesday, or Thursday playday, **call the pro shop or call any member you know is present at the course** to secure a place for that day's play. That way, the teams can be made up and will include you.

If we are playing a tournament with cards pre-printed with the players' names, you still must check in and pay the hole-in-one fee by whatever time is sent to you with the tournament instructions. Failure to do so, or failure to notify someone you will be late, will result in disqualification.



**Call a friend!  
We want you to play!!**

