

Happy Holidays!

Tournament Review—Ocotillo (Gold/Blue)

The final round before Christmas was contested last Saturday at Ocotillo on the Gold and Blue nines. A pace of play experiment saw us playing from the White tees and it was reflected in the scores. The average gross was 90.5 as compared to 95.2 the last time we played these nines from the Blue tees, and average net was 73.6. J.R. Blaszek posted his second even-par round of the month, this time a 72. Tyler Thursam had the day's low net at 64. Michael Broudy played the Gold 9 at 2-under 34, while J.R. and Tyler both had 1-under 35s on the Blue.

The birdies were flying. The 33 total was our second-best rate of the season. Four players—J.R., Marc Caporrimo, Charles Garner and Michael Broudy—had three of them. In total, 21 different players made birdies on 16 different holes. Only the first (Gold #1) and last (Blue #9) eluded us.

The big birdies were there, too, as Tyler and Tom Hegna both posted eagles on Blue #1. It can't be any fun to make eagle and then not even win a skin for it. ☹️

Our hardest hole in this round was the par-4 Blue #8, playing at 1.50 strokes over par. That hole might actually be easier from the farther Blue tee. The easiest was the wide-open par-5 Gold #6, the rare Ocotillo hole on which you don't have to look at any water from the tee box. That hole played at +0.53.

J.R. was the Flight 1 champion at 72/net 66 and becomes the season's first four-time winner. Tyler topped Flight 2 with 76/64. Jeff Coughran led the way in Flight 3 at 92/71. Richard Pilewicz claimed Flight 4 at 93/67. And Ken Slagle continues to announce his presence with authority, winning the Callaway Flight for the 3rd time in as many tries at 76/73.

CTPs went to Charles on Gold #5, Al Dan on Gold #8, Marc on Blue #4 and Ken on Blue #7. It was Marc's 5th of the season, moving him to the top of the leaderboard in that category.

Marc Huttanus' birdie on Gold #4 led to five Gross Skins. Michael combined birdies on Gold #2 and Gold #4 with six leftovers to earn nine Net Skins.

Deuces were abundant. Charles, Ken, Tyler, Steve Oliva, Bo Montgomery, Dave Dean and Dan Gallegos all collected on them, and the two eagles also drew from that pot.

We had a pair of winners in Low Putts, as J.R. and Gareth Broudy each made it around with just 28.

Charles earned in four games and topped the day's money list with \$72.

Next Up—Southern Dunes

It may be officially winter, but we are going to the beach this weekend to play Southern Dunes and its 400,000 square feet of bunkers (that is not an exaggeration, and it used to be 480,000). The course is listed among Golf Magazine's Top 100 U.S. public venues and is an annual qualifying site for the U.S. Open. It is tee times this week, beginning at 8:00. Thirteen spots remain open.



The par-4 14th at Southern Dunes is drivable. All you have to do is avoid the eleven bunkers, including four surrounding the small green.

Sign Up for Wigwam Warriors

It's almost time for Wigwam Warriors, a three-event competition on the 54 holes at the Wigwam Golf Resort. The rules are simple. Just post the best net scoring average over the three tournaments, and you win! The first event is on the Heritage course (also known as Red) on January 4. The second is on Patriot (or Blue) on February 1 and the final on Gold on April 11. The entry fee is \$25. Payouts depend upon participation, but in the past, we have typically paid the top four places. You must play in all three to win.

Spring Schedule Posted

The **Spring Schedule** is now up on the web site and Course Coordinator June Vutrano has once again done a fantastic job assembling it. Some of the highlights:

- Tuscany Falls (East) in Goodyear, our first visit there since 2012.
- A return to Luke AFB's Falcon Dunes course.
- A two-day trip to Prescott in April, first at the private Capital Canyon Club, then at Stoneridge, a rescheduling of the November event.
- A challenging SGL Cup playoff slate, including Copper Canyon, Legend Trail and Longbow. The final at the spectacular, but difficult Las Sendas course guarantees a dramatic, carnage-filled finish to our year
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Signups are available now and the payment page will be updated shortly.

Individual Match Play Coming

News will be coming shortly about this year's Individual Match Play tournament. This fun event will feature a new format this year guaranteeing each entrant at least three matches. Keep watching for details.

Important Announcement Regarding Handicaps

Effective January 1, 2020, SGL will be joining the new [World Handicap System](#). This will require all members to join this system through the AGA and will affect league dues. For more detail, please visit [our website](#), where Dave has posted an announcement on the homepage.

Don't wait until the last minute to make this change. **We are making good progress here, with approximately 85 members signed up.** You can earn up to \$20 in membership rebates if done before 1/1/20. You may complete your signup [on this page at the AGA website](#).

What's Different About the New World Handicap System

While much of the math remains the same, there are some significant differences in the new world handicap system, which will be implemented in the United States on January 1 and elsewhere around the globe as the year progresses. Here are some of the things you need to know:

- Your index will now be based on the best eight of your last twenty scores, rather than the ten that is currently used
- The maximum score on a hole for handicap purposes will now be double bogey plus any handicap strokes for the hole. Currently, the max is double bogey if your course handicap is 9 or below, 7 if course handicap is 10-19, 8 if 20-29 and 9 if 30+.
 - o Example: You are playing a par-5 and you are getting 1 stroke for handicap purposes. The maximum score for your handicap is 8, i.e., par of 5 + double bogey + 1. If you are not getting a stroke on that hole, the max is double bogey, or 7.
- Abnormal course conditions will be factored in. This will be based on all scores turned in for a course on a given day, which are compared to norms for the course. For this reason, it is important to post your scores immediately after playing.
 - o NOTE: The league will now do the posting for your score's in our events. You will still be responsible for posting rounds played outside the league.
- Your index will also become your league index, meaning you will no longer have a separate one for SGL. More details to follow in future newsletters on how this affects those who do not already have a GHIN number and index.

Handy Links:

[Saturday Golf League web site](#)

[SGL Facebook Page](#)

[Saturday Golf League Tournament Schedule](#)

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