

Tournament Review—Southern Dunes

Challenging conditions met the 30 hardy SGL souls who showed up at Southern Dunes Saturday morning. It was cold, with temps barely reaching 50 by the end of the round. It was wet, due to all the rain earlier in the week. And, it was windy, easily two clubs worth on the back nine.

It showed up all over the stats for the round. The average gross of 97.7 was second only to Troon North for highest of the year, as was the average net of 78.2. Bo Montgomery was our medalist at 82, the first time this season that number has been above 80. Jeff Coughran posted the day's low net with 67.

With the course playing long even without the wind, our birdie rate was easily the lowest of the last two years. There were only 6 of them. No one had more than one, and they came on only 4 holes. Amazingly, there were none beyond the 6th hole.

The toughest hole was the already-long-and-now-playing-directly-into-a-two-club-wind par-4 12th, with an average of 2.07 strokes over par. Surprisingly, the 200-yard par-3 6th played the easiest at +0.86. But, that average made it our toughest easiest hole so far this year (if that makes sense).

Bo's 82 netted to 73 and won Flight 1. Randy Ross posted 86/70 to take Flight 2. Jeff prevailed in Flight 3 for the second straight week with 89/67. Rich Perry was your Flight 4 winner at 104/76. Mark Huttanus ended Ken Slagle's three-round Callaway Flight winning streak in a tiebreaker, shooting 88/74.

CTPs were earned by Ben Goodwin on the 3rd, Deane Reade on the 11th and Mark on the 17th. The one for the aforementioned 6th hole went unclaimed.

Normally, one would expect a smaller field to lead to more chances for Skins. Not today. Randy's birdie on the 3rd hole was the only one in Gross, meaning he picked up all 18—tying an unbreakable SGL record. On the Net side, Jeff's par/net birdie on the 18th earned him 12 Skins.

Deuces were also rare, as only two were made by those playing the game. Ben and Steve Oliva both scored them on the 4th.

One benefit of so few greens in regulation was a total of eight players with fewer than 30 putts. David Evers and Mike Tobin led the way with 25 each.

Randy rode his Skins to the top of the day's money list, earning \$79.

Next Up—Wigwam Needs Warriors!

This Saturday, we head to Wigwam's Heritage (Red) course, where in addition to the regular event, it will also be the first round of Wigwam Warriors. This is a three-event competition using all three courses at the resort. The rules are simple. Just post the best net scoring average over the three tournaments, and you win! The second round is on the Patriot (or Blue) course on February 1 and the final on Gold 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.

Right now, we have just 13 players signed up. Let's try to double that before the competition begins on Saturday. You may register [here](#).



Water left. Water right. A creek crossing. It takes a bit of navigation just to get to this view of the 18th at Wigwam's Heritage course.

Loop 202 Now Open!

As an added bonus for East-siders this week and beyond, the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway is now open. With 10 West Valley tournaments on the SGL spring schedule, this will be a big help to those living in Ahwatukee, Maricopa, Chandler, Gilbert and Queen Creek, especially in getting home from these tournaments.

New Skins Game Format Debuts This Week

At its December meeting, the SGL Board voted to change the format of the Gross and Net Skins games. Beginning with Saturday's tournament, the Skins pots will be divided evenly across all won Skins, rather than carrying them over from hole-to-hole. This will make all Skins equal in value and eliminate the awarding of leftovers to whomever earned the first one. This will also add a bit of intrigue, as on some days Skins will be worth a lot more than on others.

New Season-End Awards

The Board also approved the creation of some new end-of-season awards based on the statistical categories we track. We will be handing out prizes for:

- Low Gross Scoring Average
- Low Net Scoring Average
- Lowest Putting Average
- Most CTPs

The awards will be based on totals through the end of our regular season, i.e., the May 2 round at Longbow. In order to qualify for these awards, you must have played in 14 events, or 40% of our schedule.

Winners will receive a certificate and \$25 playing credit. The awards will be given out at the luncheon following the Tony Albrecht Cup Final at Las Sendas on May 30.

Here are the current top eight in each award category, based on participation in at least 6 events to-date.

Gross Scoring		Net Scoring		Putting		CTPs	
Player	Avg	Player	Avg	Player	Avg	Player	#
Jeff Thursam	77.27	Brennan Murray	68.67	Michael Broudy	28.875	Marc Caporrimo	5
JR Blaszek	79.09	Patrick Tacderan	70.33	Bob Owen	30.400	Adam Labbe	4
Dan Shumaker	79.67	Nandita Shah	70.50	Ben Goodwin	30.500	Ben Goodwin	3
Tom Hegna	81.70	Adam Labbe	70.70	Dan Shumaker	31.000	JR Blaszek	3
Bo Montgomery	81.83	Marc Caporrimo	70.73	Mike Tobin	31.083	Jeff Thursam	3
Bob Owen	82.00	JR Blaszek	70.82	Jeff Thursam	31.091	12 Players	2
Terry Johnson	82.00	Tom Hegna	71.30	Randy Ross	31.143		
Adam Labbe	83.10	Bo Montgomery	71.50	Steve Neil	31.286		

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.

Signups are available now and the payment page is also up-to-date.

Individual Match Play Coming

This year's Individual Match Play tournament will have a new format, modeled on the PGA Tour's Dell Technologies Match Play. We will have four-player brackets in which a round-robin will take place, meaning each player will face off with all of those in their bracket, guaranteeing each entrant three matches. Bracket winners will then move on to a single-elimination phase. Our target is at least 16 players for this tournament. More details to come next week.

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 98 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, or net double bogey. 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 scores 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](#)

[Sign up for Tournaments](#)

[Check your signup status](#)

[Check Results](#)

[View our photo gallery](#)

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