



The Crystal Bawl

(With special thanks to Larry Jordan who started all this)

6650 Golf Course Drive, Burlingame, California 94010

As usual if you have any stories or pictures you'd like to share please send them to the editor at wells@mac.com. In the meantime...

This is the Final Bawl

(By Rob Wells, Editor etc.)

OK, when the cheering dies down I shall continue... This is the final Crystal Bawl you will see accompanying your monthly statement. CourseCo is moving to electronic statements so we can no longer piggy-back on their mailing. The Bawl will continue to be produced every two months and will adopt a different method of distribution. You will be able to download a pdf version from either our GATB website or the CourseCo website. If you send me an email I will add you to a list and automatically send it to that email address every time. For those of you who are internet-challenged, we will still keep a few paper copies in the Pro Shop and you can ask for one there. So get ready for your favorite reading material next at the end of October. You will have helped save some trees. Download details:

GATB: <http://www.golffusion.com/gatb-playersclub/login> (must be a registered user, look in the Filing Cabinet under Member Info)

CourseCo: <http://www.playcrystalsprings.com> (no password required, look in the Men's Club section under Membership)

To get on the email list send a request to wells@mac.com. You'll only have to ask me once, not every month.

Recent Winners - President's Cup, Saturday July 11th

Fabulous golfing weather greeted the fifty eight participants in our annual two man team championship, the President's Cup. We played a shamble, which is more or less a scramble of the drive on every hole (pick the better of the two) then both play an individual best ball from there into the hole. The best team score of the day was carded by Tony Russo and Bruno Ugur, a rather outrageous 56, and they will get their names engraved on the handsome trophy as the 2015 President's Cup champions. The round was followed by an al fresco BBQ lunch that was an extremely pleasant change. Personally I'm hoping to see more such lunches. Tournament results:

WASHINGTON FLIGHT	ADAMS FLIGHT	JEFFERSON FLIGHT
1 st Matt Crichton & Brian Rickert 60	1 st Chuck Baird & Len Townsend 62	1 st Tony Russo & Bruno Ugur 56
2 nd Joe Cioni & Jim Grandcolas 64	2 nd Ron Clark & Sterling Walker 62	2 nd Haig Chakalian & Raffi Keuftedjian 63
3 rd George Ambrosio & Scott Robertson 66	3 rd Frank Brown & Shahin Nazarian 63	3 rd Rodney Rosland & Rob Wells 65

Recent Winners - Tournament of Champions, Sunday July 19th at Half Moon Bay

Thirty three of our tournament winners made the trek to the ocean for our annual TOC at the Old Course of Half Moon Bay. They were joined by two non-winners and three guests who had to pay the full price of \$115, as opposed to \$90 for the winners. Both are a steal as if you're not careful you can pay close to \$200 for a prime tee time on a Sunday morning over there. The Old Course, an Arnold Palmer design, is a great test of golf with hard and fast greens. The 18th hole is one of the most memorable finishing holes anywhere in the world. You play it under the gaze of a gallery of maybe 100 hotel guests, which can cause the knees to knock a little louder than usual. Fortunately I managed a very decent bogey after a dribbled drive. We were extremely lucky with the weather. Even the early foursomes started in warm sunshine and it stayed that way for everyone during the entire round. I'm not used to that much sunshine at Half Moon Bay. Several guys shot decent scores, five beating their handicap by the odd stroke or two. That's about the right number for a field of thirty playing the tournament from white tees. One guy shot 5 under, 3 better than anyone else, and beat the odds of 72:1 against making that score. Tony Russo (are you tired of hearing that name yet?) is duly our 2015 TOC Champion. Results with gross/net scores:

ALI FLIGHT	FRAZIER FLIGHT	FOREMAN FLIGHT	LOUIS (Gold) FLIGHT
1 st Matt Crichton 74/71	1 st Dan Voreyer 85/70	1 st Tony Russo 93/67	1 st John Schulte 88/76
2 nd Joe Cioni 83/73	2 nd Mike Tracy 84/71	2 nd Bruno Ugur 89/70	2 nd Rob Wells 103/79
3 rd Bret Barton 79/74	3 rd Frank Brown 85/72	3 rd George Musante 84/72	

Recent Winners - Senior Invitational, Wednesday July 29th

Our long standing one day mid-week invitational for seniors only managed to attract seventeen members and their guests. This was disappointing as the same event last year was supported by twenty seven members. The weather was spectacular (hot, even) and the course is in great summer shape. We played a regular best ball with 90% of our course handicap as is the recommendation for this format. We allowed our gold tee brigade to play along giving up the usual three strokes for the course rating difference. One gold team managed a flight victory but modesty prevents me naming them. Everyone "won" a sleeve of Taylor Made golf balls as a tee prize. I played with mine and thoroughly enjoyed them, finishing with all three still in my pocket which is unusual for me. One rather stellar round was played by Don Graham of Pro Shop fame, who shot 73 and turned in the low team score of the day - a 62 with partner Bud Calkins. But the day wasn't so much about winning and losing but more about having fun with your friends, and as our Tournament Director likes to say, if you didn't do that it was your own damn fault. We all enjoyed an al fresco BBQ lunch down by the driving range. I must say I'm becoming a big fan of this approach to the lunch after our tournaments, especially during the summer months. It's more sociable and better tasting in my opinion. Results:

BEATLES FLIGHT	STONES FLIGHT	WHO FLIGHT
1 st Ping Hsu & Gary Wang 63	1 st Bud Calkins & Don Graham 62	1 st Rob Wells & Paul Turner 65
2 nd Ron Koch & George Fox 65	2 nd Dave Sciandri & Gil Ramirez 65	2 nd Tom Chan & Joseph Huang 67

Recent Winners – Four Man Cha Cha Cha, Wednesday August 12th

Another brilliant day for golf was enjoyed by 31 of our non-working members, plus members who played hooky as well as golf on a Wednesday. We played a Cha Cha Cha, an odd name for a four man team playing 1 best ball on #1, then 2 best balls on #2, then 3 best balls on #3, then the cycle is repeated. It works out to be mostly fun, with occasional high moments of stress when that third ball is going to count. Those 2 foot putts can be devilish especially on some of our greens when you have three team-mates counting on you. Sorry guys. But overall most of us seemed to enjoy it. Congratulations to:

ONLY ONE FLIGHT

1st Steve Lorack, John Mino, Tom O'Connor, Frank Piro 125
2nd Neil Anthony, O.T.Meier, Len Townsend, Robert Walker III 126
3rd Fred Glosser, Ron Koch, Herb Lindberg, Bob Theisen 127

Poppy Hills, Thursday August 27th

Twenty four members plus eight guests were joined by five members of Crystal's Women's Club for a great day of golf on the Monterey Peninsula. We played Poppy Hills on 17 Mile Drive, the home course of the NCGA. The ladies brightened up the look of our usual gang and in the case of my foursome, also improved on the scoring. Well played, Mabel. It's a two hour drive and in the return rush hour more like four (ouch!) so it was along day, but the golf and course were spectacular. If I had a few tens of millions of dollars lying around I might even buy a little cottage and live down there. Poppy Hills remains a severe test of your golf game, even after the remodel of a couple of years ago that in theory made it more playable. The new waste areas help keep your ball in play and are much more friendly than when your ball wanders into the trees and all the twigs, branches and debris you find underneath them. A ball in the trees can often be unplayable. There are plenty of greenside bunkers and for most of us that's no bargain. The greens were smooth and strangely not all that fast (faster than Crystal but slower than Half Moon Bay in my opinion) with plenty of breaks, some of which were too subtle for me to read. If you check the scores below you'll see none of us managed to beat our handicap. I guess that says it all.

JOHN FLIGHT

1st Tom O'Connor 72
2nd Frank Piro 76
3rd Shahin Nazarian 78

PAUL FLIGHT

1st Phil Maresca 73
2nd Mike Tracy 73
3rd Bob Simi 74

GEORGE FLIGHT

1st Tom Elliott 71
2nd Dave Attard (guest) 73
3rd Haig Chakalian 76

Up Next

(By Jack Connolly, Tournament Chairman)

Our Club Championship, as the name suggests, is the big one in our tournament calendar, especially for the low handicappers. They will play four rounds, just like the Pro's, over two weekends – September 12th, 13th, 19th and 20th. This tournament will be played from the blue tees. The maximum allowed index is 9.3, or a course handicap of 10 from the blue tees. Golfers with a higher course handicap will not be allowed to play. The low gross after the four rounds will be crowned our 2015 Club Champion, have their name engraved on our perpetual trophy in the trophy case, represent our club at the prestigious NCGA Regional Zone tournament in Monterey next year, and also get very serious bragging rights for 12 months. Tim Higgins is the defending champion and as always will be tough to beat. Apart from the low gross Club Champion, all other players will be judged on their NET total over the four days. So after the champion (based on gross) is established everyone else will find themselves in a flight with prizes and GOTY points for the usual first, second, third based on *net* scores.

What about the majority of us with an index of 9.4 or higher? Don't worry, we also have a championship tournament. We call it the Flight Championship and it is played over just two days – September 19th and 20th. It is a net tournament, played with 100% of course handicap. We play in flights so you're up against golfers of similar abilities (or to be more accurate, golfers of similar GHIN index, not always the same thing). One flight will be reserved for gold tee players, regardless of index. Flight winners will be those with lowest net totals after two rounds. Note that even single digit golfers can enter this one. This allows members who cannot commit to *two* consecutive weekends of golf to play in some form of club championship. So please make sure you correctly enter either the 2 day or the 4 day event (but not both). Higher handicappers will obviously be entering the 2 day event, the Flight Championship. Our serious low handicap guys will enter the 4 day event, the Club Championship. Again, when you sign up, please make sure you put your name against the correct tournament.

Saturday October 3rd is the date for our Fall Meeting and tournament. The format this year will be a two man stableford with both balls counting. A stableford should enable us to play a fast round. You will play with your full handicap and score 1 point for a net bogey, 2 for net par, 3 for net birdie, 4 for net eagle etc.. Zero points for net double bogey or worse, and no minus points. So pick up your ball if you can only make net double bogey or worse (write down your most likely score followed by an X since scores will be posted). This picking up is what makes this a fast format and is how club tournaments are often played around the world. We'll start with an 8:00 shotgun since October is the start of our winter schedule - we usually start at 8:00 for the six coldest (?) months of the year – October through March. Sign up as usual. We will put singles together to make up teams – your chance to maybe meet a new friend at Crystal. After the game we will have our usual lunch and a short business meeting. This is your twice a year opportunity to hear from the directors and tell us what you think in a formal (more or less) setting. All comments, questions and suggestions are most welcome. Even if you do not plan to play in the tournament please join us for the lunch and the meeting. We should start shortly after 12:30.

The tenth annual Metropolitan Cup will be held Saturday October 10th. This is now established as a fun but extremely serious match between our club and the Metropolitan Golf Club of Oakland. This year we will be playing at home and defending the title we have held for six consecutive years. Approximately a couple of dozen members from the two clubs play each other in a matchplay round and score points for wins and half points for ties. The team total decides which club keeps the cup for the next 12 months. Our team captain is Tim Higgins, who gets to select our side, but it is based on the team from the previous year (especially if you won – hint hint) plus substitutes from the top performers at our tournaments throughout the year.

On Wednesday 21st October we will play our Senior Championship. It is the final mid-week event of the year. The over-50 brigade, which these days is the majority of our club, will play a round of golf with 100% of handicap. Gold tee play is allowed with all the usual caveats but they will not be eligible to win the championship. The lowest gross round of the day from white tees will be Crystal's Senior Champion for 2015. But apart from the usual smattering of applause this is about all they will get, as the prizes are given based on *net* score. We'll play as we usually do in flights, either to protect the low handicappers from the high handicappers or else vice versa, depending on your point of view.

2015 Golfer Of The Year Leaders

Not much has changed since the last Bawl but with the Club Championship looming expect some big changes next time you see this list. By the way, it is always available and more or less current on our GATB website under Leaderboard (under the Tournaments sub-menu). Remember there's a free tournament entry in 2016 for the top five at the end of the year. Points leaders to date are:

1 st Sterling Walker 460	2 nd Chuck Baird 413	3 rd Rik Roberts 380	4 th Shahin Nazarian 375
5 th Rodney Rosland 362	6 th Jing Bella 340	7 th Bill Frisbie 335	8 th Tony Russo 320
9 th Tom Chan 300	10 th Bret Barton 297	11 th Brian Simi 295	12 th Haig Chakalian 277
13 th Ren Marquette 267	14 th Tom O'Connor 260	14 th Raffi Keuftedjian 260	16 th Steve Wolles 255
17 th Len Townsend 252	18 th Ross Bonanno 250	19 th Jack Connolly 245	20 th Ed Garcia 240

This Year's Election

As most of you know we have an annual election for directors of the club who, if successful, serve a two year term. There is a Nominating Committee of non-directors whose task is to identify members who in their opinion would make a good addition to the board. This committee consists of Bret Barton, Ron Gallardo, Don Hopkins and Bob Theisen. So if any of these gentlemen taps you on the shoulder and starts into a sales pitch, beware. They may be trying to recruit you and have your name included on the ballot that we all receive in October, after the Fall Meeting. The membership as a whole then votes for the names on the ballot, this year up to four of them. Existing directors will automatically appear on the ballot unless they decide not to stand again. As far as I know the existing miscreants of Connolly, McNutt, Roberts and Steenvoorde will all be standing for re-election. The list of directors seeking re-election plus the other nominated members will be presented at the Fall Meeting. If any member would like their name added at this late stage they may do so. There is a procedure to follow, but if you simply let us know during the meeting your name will be included on the ballot. The final ballot will be printed and mailed to all members within the following few days.

Our Course Markings and the Rules of Golf

(By Rob Wells, Pedant etc.)

The western boundary of our golf course, typically the left side of holes #6 through #15, is marked in different ways. We have white stakes, red stakes, sometimes green tops and a couple of drop areas. The fundamentals of golf say you play the ball as it lies and the course as you find it. This mixture is how we find it. So when we strike our ball in the direction of all these different color stakes, and suspect we may never see that ball again, what do we do?

Obviously the Rules of Golf apply and are pretty straightforward most of the time. White stakes (#7, #8, #10, #14 and #15) mean out of bounds, so if you can't find your ball or you find it on the wrong side of the white stakes you must take a penalty stroke and replay from the original spot. Shame on you if you have to walk back to do it, as this is the situation where you *should* have played a provisional. Please play a provisional if in *any* doubt as it greatly speeds up play. Remember PPP – Play Plenty of Provisionals.

Red stakes (without green tops such as #6 and #9) mean a lateral water hazard and you are entitled to spend 5 minutes searching for your ball. If you find it you may play it, but inside the hazard don't ground your club or move any loose impediments when doing so. If the ball cannot be found anywhere you and your group must *know or be virtually certain* it is lost *inside* the hazard. Any doubts and it must be treated as a regular lost ball, in which case take a penalty and play another from the original spot. If everyone agrees it is lost inside the hazard you have options but they all involve taking a penalty. You can still replay from the original spot (you can *always* do that at any time – it's called *stroke and distance*) or drop a ball within two club lengths of the point where your ball last crossed the lateral hazard boundary, not closer to the hole, and play from there. It is not important that you see the exact point where you last crossed the hazard boundary. Unless you have perfect depth perception you never will know where that is exactly. Just make your best estimate, even with a blind shot. Note that on #6 this point will probably be only 50 yards in front of the tee. You are not entitled to hit a provisional when you suspect you are lost inside a hazard. In our club competitions you may not use the drop areas on these holes.

Red stakes with green tops (#12) mean an environmentally sensitive lateral water hazard and is the same as the above *except* you are not allowed to go in there and find or play or even retrieve your ball. Because of the set up of this hole one more of the options for a lateral water hazard may become available to you. I suspect those of you knowledgeable of the rules will have noticed I didn't mention a couple of the options, and that was because they typically aren't available to you when playing #6 or #9. The extra option you might have on #12 is to take the penalty as usual, but then drop a ball anywhere from the point of entry of the hazard, back in a straight line with the flag, and drop anywhere along that line. Don't pull a Tiger Woods and pretend you can drop within a couple of club lengths of that line or whatever he did. It must be on that line.

This mixture of stake colors introduces some more interesting situations. As this side of our golf course switches from red to white and back again, we should find points, when properly marked, where a red and white stake are next to each other. It's a lateral water hazard to the left of that point, out of bounds to the right. You'll find this around #6 tee when playing #5 (yes, been there done that), to the far right of #6 green beyond the bend of the cart path, somewhere deep left of #9 green, a snap hook away from #12 tee, deep left of both #12 and #14 greens, and probably a couple of other spots I haven't yet visited. What do I do if I strike my ball towards any one of these points and can't find it? The answer is you must assume that you are out of bounds unless you and your group are *virtually certain* it is lost in the red area. If I'm in your group there will be at least one person who won't be virtually certain. As an example it doesn't matter whether your ball last crossed over a white or red line. It is the final *position* of the ball that matters. Can you be *virtually certain* where that is, considering it cannot be found? Your only chance to persuade me you're not out of bounds would be to find your ball behind the red line and therefore still in the golf course and in the hazard. For this purpose the out-of-bounds is assumed to go off at right angles from the last white stake. Find it in the hazard and you have the usual options. If not, I'm afraid you must assume you're O.B.

Finally we have areas where there are red stakes in front of white stakes, such as left, 100 yards in front of #7 tee, and more interestingly just short and left of #14 green. Take #14 as an example, if I pull my second (or third) shot into that area what do I do? Firstly please hit a provisional as you may well be out of bounds. Then the "*known or virtually certain*" aspect of a ball lost in a lateral hazard comes into play again. For me there can be no way you can have this level of certainty in that area unless you can find your ball, and it is on the right side of the white stakes. So sorry, no lateral or in line with the flag drops for you, my friend, short and left of #14 green, unless you can show me the ball in the hazard. Play your provisional, and you're lying four (or five).

I wonder if I'll ever get anyone to play with me again?

Handicap Committee Formed

(By Rob Wells, Club President etc.)

We have established a Handicap Committee, comprising Bill Frisbie, Dan Voreyer and Tom O'Connor. Their mission, in line with NCGA recommendations, is to develop and manage a process that identifies and corrects cases where the GHIN index of a player does not accurately reflect their ability to score in our tournaments. Here is a copy of an email blast on the subject sent in July to all members...

"The board of Crystal Springs Men's Golf Club has heard a rising tide of concern from our members regarding repeated exceptional scores in our tournaments. Frequently scoring well below your handicap, either individually or in a team event, is a sign that your index no longer reflects your ability to score. In these cases your index will be adjusted for future tournament play.

All members can help in this matter by ensuring their GHIN index is accurate. Your responsibility is to post your score after *every* round. This is one of the things we will review after exceptional performance in any tournament. You *must* post a score if you play at least 7 holes in accordance with the principles of the Rules of Golf. Between 7 and 12 holes you post a 9-hole score. If you play 13 or more you post an 18 holes score. Before posting you must apply Equitable Stroke Control – if your course handicap is 0-9 you cannot post more than a double bogey on any hole. Course handicaps 10-19 may post no more than a 7. Course handicaps 20-29 may post no more than an 8.

At the moment this is still a work in progress. We have not decided how to define exceptional performance, how often is too often, and how to apply an index correction. We are voraciously reading various internet resources such as the USGA, NCGA and the Pope of Slope web sites. Many of you have been members of other golf clubs with similar issues. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.

We will be creating a handicap committee that will include non-directors. If you have any interest in serving on such a committee please let us know.

Our belief is that this will be welcomed by the vast majority of our club, and hopefully will result in improved tournament participation and enjoyment, which is why we all play this great game."

From Around the Course

(By various members – all contributions welcome, send to wells@mac.com for your 15 minutes of fame)

Congratulations to Brian Simi for his ace on #11 back on June 28th. The Men's Club, as always, will reward the member \$100 for an ace made at Crystal Springs. The idea is to offset your bar tab in the pub after the round. Unfortunately I was not there to participate in the celebrations.

Tom O'Connor and Dan Voreyer did the club proud in the NCGA Senior Four-Ball Net Championship qualifier at the end of July. Playing at Monarch Bay the pair carded a best ball 62, beating the rest of the field by 2 strokes. It was a good example of ham and egg play, with both players helping the team. A couple of net eagles (birdies with strokes) on the back nine by Tom didn't hurt. The guys will play the two day final at Poppy Hills around the time you are reading this newsletter. Good luck, lads.

You can never find a policeman when you need one. There was a serious case of elder abuse perpetrated at the club on August 8th. Jack Connolly was the victim. Playing with Tony Sciandri and his father Dave, the game was going along quite normally with Tony scoring a ho hum 40 on the front. But then Tony went par, par, par, birdie, par, birdie, eagle, par and birdie for a back nine 31. That's a course record worthy back nine. Well played, Tony. Poor Jack had to go home without his shirt.

Say Goodbye to...

Here are some members who are no more (members that is):

Dan Brown	Peter Caban	Ki Chang	Tim Cole	Frank Diamos	Charles Dickey
Ricky Ellis	Mark Filipowski	Tim Stake	Kevin Watanabe		

The Humor Section Returns

A student apparently scored 0% on the following exam. I would have given him 100%! Each answer is absolutely grammatically and factually correct, and funny too. The teacher has no sense of humor.

Q1: In which battle did Napoleon die? ANSWER: His last battle.

Q2: Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? ANSWER: At the bottom of the page.

Q3: River Ravi flows in which state? ANSWER: Liquid.

Q4: What is the main reason for divorce? ANSWER: Marriage.

Q5: What is the main reason for failure? ANSWER: Exams.

Q6: What can you never eat for breakfast? ANSWER: Lunch & dinner.

Q7: What looks like half an apple? ANSWER: The other half.

Q8: If you throw a red stone into the blue sea what will it become? ANSWER: Wet.

Q9: How can a man go eight days without sleeping? ANSWER: No problem, he sleeps at night.

Q10: How can you lift an elephant with one hand? ANSWER: You will never find an elephant that has one hand

Q11: If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in other hand, what would you have?

ANSWER: Very large hands

Q12: If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it? ANSWER: No time at all, the wall is already built.

Q13: How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it? ANSWER: Any way you want, concrete floors are very hard to crack.

I hope you like blonde jokes...

A blonde woman was speeding down the road in her little red sports car and was pulled over by a woman police officer, who was also a blonde. The blonde cop asked to see the blonde driver's license. She dug through her purse and was getting progressively more agitated. "What does it look like?" she finally asked. The policewoman replied, "It's square and it has your picture on it". The driver finally found a square mirror in her purse, looked at it and handed it to the policewoman. "Here it is", she said. The blonde officer looked at the mirror, then handed it back saying, "OK, you can go. I didn't realize you were a cop..."