
SEQUOIA WOODS COUNTRY CLUB MEN'S CLUB

An Historical Summary and Chronicle 1993 - 2022



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Sequoia Woods Country Club Men's Club An Historical Summary and Chronicle 1993 – 2022

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There is a long history to the land that Sequoia Woods Country Club now occupies. Following the California Gold Rush Arnold California was basically comprised of two ranches of considerable size.

The largest of the ranches was the Moran Cattle Ranch and was comprised of about 2000 acres. This ranch had changed ownership several times and at one point was owned by the Bonfilio family for grazing land for use in the summer months. The Bonfilio family resided in the Valley Springs area.

Moran Road today is a major artery connecting Avery, parallel to Highway 4, to above Arnold and to the Calaveras Big Trees State Park. One will also find Bonfilio Drive in the Lakeside Terrace subdivision, close to Fly-In-Lake.

The land was later sold to the Brown family. The first name of Brown himself and those of his family were not found in my research. However, Brown set in motion significant changes to how the land would be used.

Travis Bailey, a World War II pilot, had a flying school at the Stockton Airport where Brown had learned to fly. Much came from the friendship between these two men.

In 1947, Brown, knowing his land had great potential, brought Bailey to view his Calaveras County property. The large house behind the orchard on Moran Road was the old Bonfilio house and Brown thought that it could be turned into a lodge. The fact that there was already a lake on the property was a great asset and would lure visitors. That coupled with a large meadow suitable for a small plane landing strip made it ideal for development.

Baily was so excited to share Brown's dream he purchased about 1680 acres along what is now Moran Road, forming what was known as Fly-In Lodges, Inc. Bailey proceeded to build the landing strip where the current front 9 holes of the golf course are located.

Building the landing strip made the area accessible as well as attractive to those who owned small private aircraft. Following completion of the landing strip a dam was constructed to increase the size of the lake, making it 10 acres in size, and suitable for boating and fishing. Fly-In Lake was its new name which survives today.

Development Continued

The first subdivision was created a few years later and developed as Lakeside Terrace. Interestingly enough the streets of the subdivision were named after World War II planes. Names such as Lightning, War Hawk, and Mustang which still exist today. Lots could be purchased for \$10 down and \$10 per month and ranged from \$55 to \$1000 per lot. A far cry from the price of real-estate in the area now.

One interesting fact is that cattle still grazed on the landing strip. When planes flew in, Frances Bailey, Travis' wife, would drive onto the strip with her sheep dog and chase the cattle out of the way so the pilots could land. The airstrip was closed following a plane crash of a student pilot and his trainer and in 1963 Bailey sold his development to a developer.

The developer, DeMuse, a pilot himself bought the development known as Blue Lake Springs. DeMuse had his own vision for the area and saw a first-class golf course and country club with surrounding residential parcels.

DeMuse hired golf course designer Bob Baldock to design Sequoia Woods. Baldock who was by the way, the designer of the Shore Course at Pebble Beach.

The story goes that the first golf balls hit on what is now Sequoia Woods was in 1963, however the Sequoia Woods front 9 wasn't actually opened until 1964, in the area where the old landing strip had once been. The back 9 was opened a few years later.

Ten years later, tragedy struck when DeMuse and two of his four children were killed in a plane crash in a snowstorm following a skiing trip. DeMuse was the pilot of the small plane.

An interesting bit of rumored trivia is that in in the 1950's Bing Crosby owned a home near what is currently the sixth fairway.

Sequoia Woods continued to be developed, and after many years has become one of Calaveras' premier courses. Some say it is the "best" course around. It was a golf course open to the public until the early 1980's when it became the private Sequoia Woods County Club as we know it today.

As with most country clubs, there usually develops a group of men and women who form clubs within country clubs to promote comradery and golfing competitions. Sequoia Woods is no exception, boasting active Men's and Women's clubs.

While there is little written history and documentation as to how and when the Sequoia Woods Men's Club was formed, this missive is intended to chronicle some of the history and background of this longstanding club.

Sequoia Woods Country Club Men's Club

What we know is that the Men's Club has been around for a long time. What few records that have survived will provide the framework for the story that follows.

1993, the oldest records available, noted that a Charity Classic Golf Tournament would be held on Sunday August 29th of that year. Proceeds from the tournament were given to the Visiting Nurse Association – Hospice in Murphys, CA and the Chapel Benevolent Fund of Chapel in the Pines Church in Arnold who distributed food and baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas each year to local needy families.

Russ Phillips was President; Bob Henning, Treasurer; and Board members included Jim Dill; Gabe Orvino; Norm Brinkmeyer, Membership Chairman; and Lowell Wilcox.

In September an Individual low net tournament was held with a \$5.00 entry fee that included a BBQ dinner following.

1994, it was this year that Sequoia Woods Country Club took over handling dues for NCGA memberships. Prior to 1994, the Men's Club included NCGA dues with the Men's Club membership dues and paid NCGA directly for their members.

1994 also boasted a membership of 258 members as of September. Board members included: Lowell Wilcox, President; Bob Bialik, Secretary; Dan Cooper; Jim Dill; Bob Henning, Treasurer; Larry Staub, Vice President; DeLloyd Weems, Clyde Moar; and Gabe Orvino. The treasury was in good shape with a year ending balance of \$7,366.75.

A copy of the 1994 Men's Club By-Laws survived and will be kept in the Clubs records.

The most improved 9-hole golfer of the year was Larry Larson and the 18-hole golfer of the year was Lew Passeri. Howard Wilson took honors as the 18 hole most improved golfer.

At their August board meeting, Larry Babica, Head Pro and Jim Smith, Greenskeeper were in attendance to discuss problems with back 9 greens dying and the need for temporary greens due to green replacement.

The Charity Classic Tournament that year, provided funds for food baskets at the holidays and for emergency food support for families in need.

1995 saw the membership reach 251 by August. The Club was run by President Lowell Wilcox, President; and Larry Staub, Vice President; along with board members Al Chanteloup, Secretary; DeLloyd Weems, Treasurer; Russ Phillips; Don Struthers; Gabe Orvino; Clyde Moar; and Jim Dill who ran the Ringer Board. This was the first mention of a Ringer Board competition, a tradition that continues today.

The November minutes noted that Norm Kestner, an owner of SWCC, reported that their President Bob Miller had placed the General Manager John Mook, who was hired earlier in the year, on leave due to the fact that the owners were not satisfied with his performance. Norm also reported that the then friction among the owners would decrease and the number one priority would be the golf course. Larry Babica, Head Pro reported that he will be following up on broken ball washers, drainage, and green conditions concerns.

The most improved golfer for 1995 was K. A. "Dutch" Schultz whose index had dropped from 11.1 to 4.9.

Chapel in the Pines was again the recipient of support from the Men's Club to replenish their emergency food supply for less fortunate families in the community.

The Board recommended going to shotgun starts on Monday and Thursday play days and the Men's Club held two work days in May to help the Course Superintendent.

A Men vs Women tournament was held in June with a BBQ at Snowflake Lodge following play. This tradition still exists today, although the after-golf banquet is now held in the SWCC restaurant. And of note... the Women usually win. 1995 ended the year with a healthy carryover balance of \$6,738.60.

The records for 1996 show that Jim Lampi was introduced as the new Course Superintendent at the February Board meeting. Jim spoke of the various repairs and specific member concerns and has a list to address. The tees on hole 15 were changed this year with the women's tees being placed in front of the spillway. This change includes moving the men's tees toward the spillway and was implemented to address greater safety with the new 14 green opening up.

There were a few new faces on the Men's Club Board in 1996. Mel Gray became President; Russ Phillips, Vice President; Al Chanteloup, Secretary; DeLloyd Weems, Treasurer; with Stan Manchester taking over tournaments, Clyde Moar, Handicap & Rules; Bill Van Slyke, Membership; Gene Nelson, Public Relations & Ringer Board; and Larry Staub looking after Greens.

A tree planting memorial ceremony was held, where Bob Henning, Russ Phillips, and Tony Figuera spoke in memory of active member Ira Boyd who had recently died.

Jim Prusha, hired as the new general manager, was introduced to the Board of Directors. Jim gave a talk on the condition of the course and his and the owners desire to have a great golf course.

A committee was formed to work with the general manager on course improvement and maintenance issues and formed a Greens Committee. Minutes indicated work was being done to address standing water, green issues, and tee box issues.

The SWCC 12 Man Team won their league with a 5 and 1 record and advanced to the quarter finals. The seasonal cost to the Club was \$874, paid for by the Men's Club treasury.

1996 ended in good financial shape and once again contributed proceeds from the Charity Classic tournament to the food bank at Chapel in the Pines.

1997 revealed a number of issues with the club, the course, personnel, and particularly financial conditions.

In 1997, Mel Gray continued as President; with Bill Van Slyke taking over as Vice President; Al Chanteloup continued to act as Secretary with Stan Manchester, Treasurer; and the Board filled out with Gene Lively; Clyde Moar; Don Pesavento; Gene Nelsen; and Larry Staub.

Norm Kestner announced that General Manager Jim Prusha would focus on the golf course and a new hire, Dave Doody, would be the restaurant manager. Sally Hughes, a professional chef and long-time resident of the area, would continue as head chef.

Norm Kestner also reported that the owners want to sell the club, preferably, to the members. The owners are conferring with an attorney and will report back with a proposal. Discussion then continued addressing problems with the club and course.

Norm did return to the Board at their February meeting and reported that the club was for sale at \$3.4 million and that several parties are interested. Norm also reported that the membership had declined from 780 to 680 members. And, he stated that there were problems with the restaurant. The meeting minutes did not elaborate on what those problems might have been.

By mid-April Norm reported that there were two offers for the Club but serious disagreement on the terms of sale. The owners committed, however, to continue course improvements during the sale process.

The men's Club played a major part in the improvements of the course during that time through Men's Club work days.

New tee signs were addressed by the Men's Club Board. Norm stated that the club owners would pay for half of them should they be replaced. It was not clear in the records if the cost would also be shared by the Men's Club or individuals. The old wooden Tee signs can be seen throughout the area at various homes once owned by SWCC members.

There was a new course superintendent this year. Leroy Seamen attended the February Board meeting and address what could be done on the course. He stated that overall improvements would be few but he would make major improvements to the 17th Hole tee box.

President Gray attended a recent NCGA meeting and there were around 170,000 NCGA members at that time.

The 1997 Charity Classic was a great success and the Men's Club donated to the Chapel in the Pines food bank, St. Vincent de Paul, and the U.C. Hospital Davis in memory of Fred Young. The Men's Club also adopted a class at Hazel Fisher School supporting the purchase of computer equipment.

The 12-Man Team won their League for the second year in a row, but lost in the playoff round of 16. Losing to Swensen Park.

The parking lots and cart paths were re-paved and John Eckland's stock was expected to sell. It was reported that Hank Rullhausen had purchased John Eckland's shares.

The year ended with a financial balance of over \$6,600.

1998 began with a couple new members joining the Board. Bill Van Slyke moving up to President and John McKinney as Vice President; Roy Barnes joined the Board and took the position of Secretary; Stan Manchester remained Treasurer. The remaining Board members were Gene Lively; Clyde Moar; Don Pesavento; Gene Nelsen; and Ron Rodemeyer a new Board member.

Sequoia Woods made a small profit in 1997 as stated by Norm Kestner who reported that new owner Hank Rullhausen was working out well. Norm also reported that the restaurant lost \$65,000 in 1997 and that the prices may go up for banquets.

1998 was a year for a number of changes, Larry Babica became General Manager and Director of Golf on March 1st and that Rich Reynolds would be the golf pro and take care of the pro shop. Robert Cobb was named as the new Golf Course Superintendent. Cobb was introduced to the Board at its February meeting and provided his resume and his statement of goals for the course.

A bridge that had been under construction between holes 1 and 2 was finished in April of that year, and the Superintended requested Men's Club help on bunker work.

Larry Babica, as the new GM, reported that as of May a new menu had been developed and that the restaurant would be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. The Deli would be open on weekends. Pro Reynolds announced that there would be a BBQ on the deck every other weekend and the pro shop would be remodeled.

The condition of the fairways was such that the Board voted to play "winter" rules until such time as the fairways warranted going back to playing it "down". It was also reported that the lengthening of hole 14 would be completed in the spring of 1999. You may recall, that in 1996 the tees on hole 15 were move up toward the spillway due to the new 14 green position. 1998 was also the year that the netting along the right side of hole 14 fairway was removed and the back tee on hole 6 was introduced.

NCGA re-rated the course on May 1st, taking into account the recent changes to holes 14, 15, & 6. Superintendent Cobb acknowledged support from the owners to allow him to accomplish additional improvements. This was a turning point in significant improvement to the course.

As of August, there were 277 men's club members and Mel Fishburn recorded a hole-in-one on hole 17 on September 21st. It is well to note that up to this point, the hole-in-one insurance was voluntary and cost each member \$1.00. In later years the Hole-in-one insurance would be covered by the Men's Club annual dues.

The Charity Classic once again supported the food bank at Chapel in the Pines, St. Vincent de Paul, the Tri-County young people's golf program, and the Men's Club adopted a class at Hazel Fisher School once again.

One of the Men's Club goals for 1999 was to complete the Lobby Trophy Case project and by March of that year, a cabinetmaker had been selected. Sandy Theis with Al Cal Glass was selected for a total cost of \$1638 which was approved. Trophy installation took place in July.

New Yamaha golf carts arrived in April and the Annual Rental Fee was \$400 for 1 player and \$600 for a family.

The age-old question of whether or not to prepare a membership roster was addressed and the expenditure of \$350 was approved by the Board. The Directory included the names of the wives of members and was produced by Don Pesavento and Bob Parrington.

Improvements to the course continued with new flags, hole liners and new yardage markers all completed by May 1st for summer play.

The death of Past President Larry Staub was announced in the meeting minutes and there was held a Memorial Tournament in June along with a memorial tree planting and a donation to the American Cancer Society in Larry's name.

In July there was a change in the make-up of the Board with Jay Baker being appointed to fill the unexpired term of John McKinney who had resigned. Jay served a term of two years. The nominating committee presented three candidates for the 2000 election, Art Warner, Jack Jester, and Stan Manchester for a second term were approved.

It was in 1999 that a new Hole-In-One program was proposed to begin in the year 2000. It changed how the current program was funded and established a payout of \$100 in lieu of the current \$50 payout. Funding the new program would be accomplished in the dues structure of the Club, setting the by-in at \$5.00 annually, rather than the method that was in place that required each player to contribute \$1.00 after each hole-in-one.

2000, or Y2K to some, began with the new Board already accepting assignments immediately following their election the previous year. New assignments were as follows: Roy Barnes, President; new board member Jay Baker, Vice President; John Manchester, continuing as Treasurer; with new board member Art Warner, Secretary. The remainder of the Board were as follows: Gene Lively; Jack Jester; Ron Rodemeyer; Don Pesavento; and Clyde Moar.

The records for the years 2000 through 2006 were stored on a “floppy disc”, a medium no longer in use, and over time the discs became corrupted and unusable. Sadly, most of the history of those years has been lost.

One bit of information that I was able to gather is that General Manager Bob Russell began a long history with SWCC in 2001.

2004 was the year that this author, Jim Walton, joined the Men’s Club. Jim had been a part-time resident since 1983, then in 2004 he and his wife Sylvia expanded their home and moved to Arnold full time, residing in the Pinebrook Subdivision. Jim and Sylvia had been members of the Meadow Club in Marin, where SWCC Pro Larry Babica had had been an Assistant Pro in previous years. Jim was a Past President of the Alameda Men’s Golf Club and Scoreboard Chairman of the Alameda Commuters Golf Tournament, one of the oldest NCGA points tournaments having started in 1928.

A Few hard copies of 2005 minutes survived. What little can be gleaned from the June, October, and November records is as follows. In June it was noted that President Mike Casey, Bob Asher, and Ken Archibald came off the Board. Other Board members included Jack Jester; Randy Abernethy; Mark Worth; Jim Huth; and two others who were not noted in the June minutes.

From the October and November minutes we can construct who led the Men’s Club from the end of 2005 into 2006. President was Russ Phillips; and the remaining board members were Ray Canning; Jack Jester; Bill Abbey; Rick Sciotto; Randy Abernethy; Jim Huth; John Vasquez; and Mark Worth.

The 2005 Charity Classic tournament provide funds to “Arts of Bear Valley” and the Arnold Angels.

An age-old issue of a lack of sand in the bunkers was noted and the greens committee announced that it had been rectified. Paul Watts is now listed as the Golf Course Superintendent. With the lack of past records, it is not evident when Paul officially became the superintendent.

As with 2005 a few 2006 hard copies of minutes and documents were located and the Men’s Club had remained in good financial shape over the years.

2006 began with an operational financial balance of over \$6135.00 plus encumbered funds of \$800 to support the hole-in-one program.

The first Board meeting of 2006 was held in February with the full complement of Board members present as noted above having been elected at the end of 2005.

The tournament fees were raised from \$15 to \$20 per event. It was noted that low-handicappers did not want to play on Mondays and Thursdays and that there needed to be attention given to a format that would accommodate them. Discussion with low-handicappers indicated the perceived issue was, that high-handicappers did not know the rules. Discussion included play by handicap and trying to satisfy everyone was not practical.

By the May meeting, membership chairman Bill Abbey expressed concern that the Men's Club membership was so much lower than the previous year. A comparison of previous lists was undertaken to see who had not renewed his membership. By August the membership was at 170, a far cry from years past.

The Charity Classic was not well supported as it was in conflict with the annual Lions Club Tournament. A motion was made and passed and the tournament was moved to August.

Paul Watts, Superintendent, had purchased moss treatment for problem greens which seemed to be an ongoing issue.

2006 also saw a Board more active in how the course was marked and they took an active role in working with the Superintendent on placement of OB stakes and Red Hazard stakes. They addressed the OB within course boundary along the right side of Hole 6. It is unclear from the minutes if they were successful in eliminating the OB stakes right of hole 6 as the OB stakes are there today.

On October 17, 2006 the NCGA rating team, consisting of 12 men and women, arrived to re-rate Sequoia Woods. They requested carts and that tee markers be placed at the permanent marker locations and hole positions should be of a normal or average placement. Also, all hazard, OB, and environmentally sensitive areas were to be clearly marked.

Changes were made in the "golfer of the year" award, and it was determined that there would be no repeats year after year. Apparently, some repeat members would move their handicap upward during the winter only to have it drop when summer arrived. Does sandbagger come to mind?

The idea of a Board Annual Breakfast get together was proposed by Jack Jester, and that it would include wives. President Phillips nominated Jack to research and arrange. Be careful what you ask for...

The only minutes that survived for 2007 were for the November 19th Board meeting. They did provide the names of the Board members and their duties as follows:

President was Harold Hood; Doug Weir filled the Vice President slot; with Ray Canning as Secretary; John Vasquez, Treasurer; Don Pesavento, Greens; Carl Schelbert, Membership; Rich Sciotto, Tournaments; Randy Abernethy, Publicity & Ringer Board; and Dave Hatfield as Handicap & Rules Chairman.

The Club By-Laws were in need of updating and Doug Weir took on that project, asking Jim Walton to work on preparing new By-Laws. The revisions were to be presented in January 2008.

Don Pesavento announced his Greens Committee to include Randy Brown and Jim Walton. A list of 14 items were discussed regarding the condition of the course and suggested improvements to be presented to SWCC management.

A membership drive was announced by Carl Schelbert and would be in the next ForeCast newsletter. This was in response to a continued decline in membership.

The 2007 "most improved golfer" was awarded to Dennis McGibben. The format for awarding the most improve golfer was discussed and noted that the winner must play in a minimum number of tournaments. No resolution was reached at that time. Doug Weir was appointed to research this matter along with By-Law revisions.

It was a full year of tournaments, including for the first time the "Victorino", held in honor of Bob Victorino who continued to play one handed following a disabling stroke and a new tournament was added, the "Legends Cup".

We take up again with more complete records of minutes and correspondence in 2008. The membership had risen to 237 members by the summer, due mostly to Carl Schelbert's recruitment efforts.

Financially the Men's Club remained in good shape with a beginning balance of over \$6,000 in the checking account. Which included dues payments coming in for the year and a carry forward of \$3,400 from 2007. In past years, the Men's Club provided financial support toward travel fees for NCGA qualifiers. It was decided that going forward qualifiers would now be responsible for their own expenses.

Doug Weir reported that the committee to revise the By-Laws were himself, Jim Walton and Roy Silcox. The committee had reviewed by-laws of similar clubs and would have a report for the February Board meeting.

It had been a tradition of the Men's Club to offer volunteer help to the Superintendent by having Men's Club work days and to perform maintenance on certain holes as directed by the Superintendent. 2008 was no exception, Don Pesavento had met with Bob Russell, GM, and Paul Watts, Superintendent, reviewing a list of 19 items that needed attention on the course. The Men's Club took on completing 5 of the items listed. These items included clean-up on the side of certain holes, sand and seed bottles to repair divots on Men's Club play days and minimal pruning.

An outline of By-Law revision was presented and the Board supported continuing with revisions. A final draft was deferred until March.

The Men's club website was in need of updating and maintenance and Randy Abernethy took on that responsibility in an effort to promote new members.

March of 2008 was the first Board meeting noting the attendance of Hank Rullhausen a recent new owner of the Club.

The President thanked Dour Weir and Jim Walton for their extensive review and work on updating the By-Laws. Discussion included the current draft provisions; however, the committee wanted to make some additional adjustments and prepare one final draft for Board and membership approval. The new By-Laws were approved at the May Board meeting.

An early change to the Board in May was the introduction of Dave Ryniec to replace Dave Hatfield who had resigned as Handicap Chair.

The June Board meeting was opened with the introduction of Ramona from the local chapter of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life who came to thank the Men's Club for its donation of \$500 in memory of Bill Abbey and John Trench.

Also reported was a visit by Harold Hood and John Vasquez to St. Joseph Mark Twain Hospital where they received recognition and a thank you from hospital administrators, doctors, nurses, and local press for the Men's Club donation of \$5,700 from the 2007 Charity Classic tournament.

2008 was a year of water issues and Paul Watts reported that was the biggest problem he faced. Water had been an issue for a number of years and would be so in the future.

In coming 2009 President Doug Weir called a special Board meeting on October 16, 2008 to review and discuss how annual elections are conducted and in compliance with the Club By-Laws. Carl Schelbert presented a fact sheet addressing that there was concern as to how and why certain nominations for the Board were or were not acknowledged. This resulted in members interested in serving on the Board not being placed in nomination. The matter was corrected by agreeing to a strict adherence to the new by-law provisions regarding elections.

A new Board with a couple of new names started the 2009 year. Doug Weir moved up to President; Harold Hood moved from the 2008 President position to Vice President; with John Vasquez continuing as Treasurer and likewise Ray Canning continued as Secretary; the Board was filled out with Don Pesavento; Rich Sciotto; Dave Ryniec; Carl Schelbert; Bob Stilwill and filling the Liaison position, owner Hank Rullhausen.

An audit committee was suggested, to be comprised of two non-board members. This was requested as there had not been an audit for some time. The audit was successful with all accounts in order.

One topic of late was the issues with geese ruining parts of the course and causing disease on the greens. Geese were a long standing and on-going problem for the course and Superintendent.

The annual budget was presented each year in March and this year showed a negative balance of about \$2,400. This was an intentional decline in funds to offset the year after year carry over of over \$6,000. The Board wanted to be able to reduce the carry over and also provide greater return to our members through payouts and food at events.

With the addition of Hank Rullhausen as an owner, and our Liaison, it was reported that President Doug Weir was invited to attend an owner meeting in May as representative of the Men's Club and to offer suggestions to the owners for course or club improvements.

A number of improvements occurred in 2009: new electric golf carts arrived, rip-rap around the #1 - #2 lake, installation of 75-yard markers (paid for by the Men's Club), and a stepped-up maintenance effort.

Pace of play is an on-going topic for clubs and golfers and in 2009 written complaints from the membership were presented to the Board to address. This resulted in an open letter to all Men's Club members asking for everyone's cooperation and noting the average time to play a hole was 13 minutes. A committee to address slow play was established to address this issue.

President Weir appointed Jim Walton, Roger Hawkins and Jim Harrington as the nominating committee to solicit and present a slate of new Board members for the 2010 year. The names of Dave Ryniec, to serve a new term; Tony Gutierrez; and Joe Caccamo were placed in nomination for the 2010 Board of Directors.

Liaison Hank Rullhausen report that there will be improvements to the wall along the 15 green as well as the angle of the bunker and that in 2010 the 18-tee box will be greatly improved.

The wish of the Board to reduce the carry over balance was realized. The November ending balance was \$1191.80. A greater reduction than originally planned.

The first Board meeting of 2010 was held in February, weather cancelling the January meeting. A full complement of Board members was in place and with the end of year income for 2010 dues the balance sheet showed \$3915.26 in the treasury at the end of January.

Geese, Geese, Geese everywhere... that was the hot topic for the February meeting and a suggestion to install cables around the lakes to keep the geese from getting water, which will deter their presence, was presented. This method was approved by the owners and the installation was done by the Men's Club.

There was a lot of work done on the course in 2010. Sand traps were added to hole 6 and a redesign around the green; the blue tee box on hole 8 was redone, sprinklers and drainage was added; drain lines were added to the traps to alleviate water puddling and a new trap on hole 7. A Men's Club work party was held on April 13th, concentrating on clean-up of holes 1, 5, 8, and 9.

The Men's Club website was being updated with copies of Board minutes and tournament schedules for the year. Liaison Rullhausen noted that about 300 out of 840 SWCC members have submitted their e-mail addresses. E-mail was to be the future means of communication.

One action taken at the April Board meeting was the "Most Improved Player" award would no longer be presented, citing difficulties in determining and administering accurate results.

It was announced in April that the 2009 Charity Classic donated \$6,770 to the Resource Connection food bank. A thank you letter was received from them noting that the donation allowed them to purchase 10,000 pounds of food for the County needy families. Also received was a thank you card from Sonora Medical Center for a Men's Club donation in memory of Gene Lively a long-time member.

2010 was a year for late snow, postponing the SWCC Kick Off Tournament originally planned for April until May. Not only was the tournament affected, a Men's Club work day was cancelled due to snow and rain on May 18th.

Metal bag tags were purchased and provided to each member that year.

President Weir chaired the Charity Classic that year which was held on July 11th. Local wineries were contacted for donations for the traditional raffle prizes. There was a low turnout for the event. The year's recipient was the Arnold Library.

Dave Ryniec suggested, with approval of the owners, to create a signature name for holes 14, 15 and 16, much like the "Bear Trap" at PGA National. The Men's Club ran a naming contest over a 3-month period. The final name, "The Sequoia Triangle", chosen from a list of 78 entries, can be seen at the 14 teeing area, alerting players of the challenge ahead. The author of the name selected was Laure Andrade.

Three names were presented for nomination to the Board for 2011. Tim Hanrahan; Guy Pollak; and Jay Brethauer had agreed to run for the three vacant Board positions. Guy Pollak removed his name from nomination due to personal commitments and Don Peterson replaced Guy. The three were elected at the October 17th Turkey Shoot.

By the August meeting, the membership stood at 166 members and dues remained at \$30 for the year. Dues were due by December 31st of the previous year and due to some lingering delinquencies, a late fee of \$5 was added for payments received after January 1st.

For many years, Kathleen Shecter, wife of Men's Club member Phil Shecter, left homemade cookies, brownies, and other baked goods on the 5th tee next to their home on Men's Club play days. Needless to say, the members really enjoyed her generosity and the Board voted to send Kathleen a gift certificate and flowers from the Men's Club.

And important addition in 2010 was the availability of blue handicap flags for golf carts for those members who have disabilities. This was especially welcomed for the back nine holes where cart path only is required.

On November 12, 2010, Dave Ryniec took over as President from outgoing President Doug Weir who had served as President for two years. New and returning Board members included: Tim Hanrahan; Don Peterson; Tony Gutierrez; Ray Canning; Joe Caccamo; Bob Stilwill; Hank Rullhausen as owner liaison; and John Vasquez.

November meeting minutes noted that only 70 individuals had signed up for the annual Christmas dinner where usually over 100 have attended in past years.

Tim mentioned that he felt one purpose of the Men's Club was to sponsor and or conduct NCGA events. This was a topic of debate as NCGA qualifiers are open to all male members of SWCC and not just the Men's Club. In later years we would see a resolution to this issue.

Treasurer reported that the then bank balance was at \$773.25, with a few outstanding bills yet to be paid. 2011 dues had not yet started coming in so the reason for such a low balance.

A meeting with Pro Larry Babic was held to work out the coming season tournament schedule dates and to coordinate events with the Women's Clubs as well. The NCGA TPP program was put in place by the Club for tournament planning.

The first meeting of 2011 was on March 28th, called to order by President Dave Ryniec at 11:10am. The meeting was held in the upstairs Ponderosa Room of Sequoia Woods.

The Board complement was Vice President Tim Hanrahan; Joe Caccamo; Don Peterson; Jay Brethauer; Ray Canning; Tony Gutierrez; John Vasquez; Bob Stilwill; and Hank Rullhausen.

NCGA Club Representative Days that year allowed four club members to attend a 3-hour meeting and a round of golf. Golf was at the Wente GC and held on September 19th. After discussion, the idea of attending was aborted.

The age-old issue of members paying their dues after the start of the season was addressed and a \$20 penalty was discussed but tabled for later discussion in the year.

Jay Brethauer took over as tournament chairman noting that the season would run from April through October that year. Discussion included how to solicit donations for the Charity Classic scheduled for August 21st. The tournament date was move to July 10th.

2011 was no different in regards to course maintenance, Men's Club work days, goose population issues, and late snow keeping the back nine closed through March. Joe Caccamo, Greens Chairman, noted letters had been received from some members as to respiratory issues related to the goose droppings on the course.

Hank Rullhausen, owner liaison, reported that the Fore!Cast Newsletter would be e-mailed for the first time to members who have registered their e-mail address with SWCC.

By April, the membership stood at 149 with a few stragglers yet to come in. The club roster would go to print in May. Bob Stilwill reported that out of the 149 members 56 had signed up for the Ringer Board.

Winter persisted with the April 17th kick-off tournament being cancelled due to snow and weather. Hank reported that SWCC would offer certificates for 2 free rounds of golf to any donor who purchased a tee sign or made a donation of \$110 or more for the Charity Classic.

Sequoia Woods was one of a number of groups and individuals that sought appeal of the Calaveras County agreement with the USDA Wildlife Services as it pertains to regulations regarding goose population control. SWCC provide details on all of the mitigation efforts they had made to limit the number of geese on the course. There efforts were taken under consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

Along the lines of goose population control, John Vasquez reported that spraying the teeing ground with grape flavored Kool-Aid kept the geese off the teeing area. Seems they did not like the stickiness of the grass. Jay had been using a remote-controlled boat on the ponds to chase the geese and that proved effective as well. These methods were continued for a while.

2011 was a wet year. The May 22nd tournament was cancelled due to the course being too wet and the damp weather had resulted in a lack of interest in our members signing up.

By June of 2011 things were in full swing for the Charity Classic. Hank provided 45 free golf certificates, the entry fee was lowered to \$55 for members and \$85 for non-members to garner greater participation and sign-ups. The Tournament yielded \$5,395.24. The Arnold "Friends of the Library" were the recipients of the 2011 Charity Classic proceeds, which helped to keep the library open 5 days a week that year.

Hank reported at the July meeting that Larry Babica was now working part-time and that Bob Reichle was now the course pro. Bob has worked at the club and under Larry for 10 years. He reported that Bob scored in the top 10% of his PGA school level 1 class.

Solicitation for new Board members included the names of Kevin Andel, Jim Evans, Roger Hawkins, and Jim Walton. Discussion also included adding a "member at large" to the Board. A final list included Kevin Andel; Larry Haskell; Bob Atchison; and Jim Evans.

A number of course improvements were carried out that year and included: relocation of the Hole #1 greenside bunker; improvements to alignment of the blue tee for Hole #6; relocation of the left greenside bunker on Hole #7; Hole #9 greenside bunkers were reworked centering the fairway approach to the green; and the tee boxes on Holes #10 and #11 were leveled. Hank also reported that the ownership was spending \$125,000 on club improvements which included remodeling the poolside restrooms.

The final records for 2011 covered a new policy by the owners, in that the President of the Men's Club, the Captains of the Women's 18- and 9-hole Clubs would be invited to meet with the SWCC Board members. The meeting was on September 17th that year. For consideration at the annual meeting, the names of Kevin Andel, Jim Evans, Larry Haskell, and Hal Lane were presented by the nominating committee.

Tim Hanrahan moved to President for 2012 with a full complement of Board members including, Kevin Andel; Bob Atchison; Jay Brethauer; Jim Evans; Larry Haskell; Don Peterson; Dave Ryniec John Vasquez; and Hank Rullhausen.

Little to no records were found for the 2012 year.

So, on to 2013. Tim Hanrahan remained President for a second year with Kevin Andel as Vice President. Tim spent much of the winter and spring in the desert so many of the meetings were done as a combination in person and via teleconference with Kevin acting as the onsite meeting coordinator. Much of the communication and notices were done via e-mail that year.

The first official Board meeting was held on March 13th as an electronic board meeting using e-mail. The annual budget was approved as was the tournament schedule.

One important topic at the April Board meeting was a discussion about NCGA tournaments and who would be responsible for paying the entry fees. Up until this year, NCGA qualifying events were sponsored by the Men's Club, with the Men's Club covering the entry fees and expenses. As the NCGA events are open to all SWCC members the Pro Shop took over running those events. It was the decision of the Board that in light of the change in how NCGA events would be run, the Men's Club should not pay for entry fees or expenses.

The 2013 Board of Directors included Kevin Andel as Vice President; John Vasquez as Treasurer; Don Peterson as Secretary; Dave Ryniec, Membership; Larry Haskell, Ringer Board; Jim Walton, Handicap & Rules; Bob Atchison, Greens; Jay Brethauer, Tournaments; and Jim Evans Members at Large.

To address issues with posting of scores and legibility of scorecards the Board began random monitoring and checking scorecards. A sample scorecard was posted to assist in the proper completion of cards. Legibility continued to be an issue.

Potential recipients for the proceeds of the Charity Classic included the Resource Connection Food Bank, the Thrift Shop in Big Trees Center, the Calaveras Humane Society, Calaveras County Search and Rescue, the Bret Hart High School Golf Team, the Arnold Library, and Hospice of the Sierra. Following a Board selection process, the field was narrowed to two, Hospice of the Sierra and Calaveras County Search & Rescue. The final selection was Hospice of the Sierra.

By June the Club membership had reached 145 and planning for the Charity Classic was well under way. Five hearty souls participated in a Men's Club work day, cleaning up Holes 11 thru 13.

2013 was also the first year of the Home and Away with Oakdale Country Club. Eighteen players attended from the Men's Club. Oakdale provided breakfast and a lunch following play.

At the July Board meeting Jim Walton provided a two-page Rules of Play Manual for the Men's Club. This manual, for use by the Men's Club, covered not only rules but etiquette, pace of play, scoring, posting and ringer board information.

Discussion alluded to the issue of cell phones on the Course and the interruption it has caused during Men's Club play.

Nominations for the 2014 Board to replace Don, Tim, and Jay included Mike McAtee, Guy Pollak, Bob Belz, and Alan Beymer. Members accepting a nomination were Mike McAtee, Alan Beymer, and Guy Pollak.

So as 2013 came to a close, the new Board was in place after elections held at the Annual October Turkey Shoot. The financial records were audited by Doug Weir and Harold Hood and all was in order.

Kevin Andel assumed the role of President at the October Board meeting and announced the 2014 Board Roster.

The various roles were filled as follows: Jim Walton, Vice President; John Vasquez, Treasurer; Dave Ryniec, Tournaments; Larry Haskell, Ringer Board; Guy Pollak, Membership; Mike McAtee, Secretary; Bob Atchison, Handicap & Rules; Jim Evans, as

an At-Large member; Hank Rullhausen, Owner Liaison, and Tim Hanrahan hung on to cover Greens.

The 2014 Board took over immediately and began planning for the next year at the November 2013 meeting. The list of goals covered a number of items and included, updating the By-Laws; promoting a Home and Away with Oakdale CC; ordering Men's Club Golf Shirts; and updating the trophy case.

The new year began with discussion on how to or whether to post scores when five of the holes are closed due to winter. It was decided that no posting should be done except that if the front nine was played twice it could be posted and that is covered on the posting site. A front nine 9-hole score could also be posted.

The men's Club was in good financial shape with a starting balance for the year of over \$6800. The membership count as of January was 105 with the projected membership to reach 140.

Hank Rullhausen reported that the owners were negotiating to purchase two lots adjacent to the maintenance shed and the 6th tee box. He noted that it was their goal to construct a new tee box for hole 6 as the current blue tee box was on leased land.

Men's Club member, and past Board member, Jay Brethauer arranged for the Ebbetts Pass Fire Department to come and conduct a training on the SWCC AED defibrillator for the Board and any members who were interested.

2014 was the year that our first tournament would be designated "Opening Day" and would have a baseball theme.

In March the Board interviewed two potential recipients for the Charity Classic, Calaveras County Youth Mentoring Program and Calaveras County Search & Rescue. Discussion also included looking into a scholarship for a student from the golf program at Bret Hart High School. Following interview by both parties, the Board selected the Calaveras County Search & Rescue as the 2014 recipient. The 2014 Charity Classic was a great success raising over \$15,000.

Tim Hanrahan requested that the Men's Club provide divot repair tools to the membership in hopes of improving care of the greens. The cost of these was \$500 and covered by the treasury.

The first Home and Away with Oakdale CC occurred on May 30 with a small group traveling to the event. The Charity Classic was a sell out and held on August 17th.

To encourage participation in Men's Club events, Jim Walton proposed and it was accepted that an Honorary Membership be granted to the Pro, Assistant Pro, Course Superintendent and the General Manager.

By July the membership had grown to 131 with 53 participants on the Ringer Board.

Owner Liaison Hank Rullhausen report that the two wells on hole 13 had been repaired and are producing 200,000 gallons per day. Water was and is always a concern so with this work behind them Hank predicted the remainder of 2014 the course will be in good shape water wise.

The Board Term year came to a close with the usual Turkey Shoot and Annual Election in October. A review of the results of the Ballot / Questionnaire indicated that the Men's Club had provided a good experience and to the membership's liking. Kevin Andel announced the three newly elected Board members: Alan Beymer; Roger Hawkins; and Ed Stahlberg.

Jim Walton assumed the helm for 2015 taking over from outgoing President Kevin Andel. He announced the following officers' positions: Mike McAtee, Vice President; Roger Hawkins, Treasurer; Ed Stahlberg, Secretary; Bob Atchison, Handicap & Rules; Dave Ryniec, Tournaments; Guy Pollak, Membership; Joe Caccamo, Member Liaison; Tim Hanrahan, Greens; and Hank Rullhausen, Owner Liaison.

The November 2014 transition meeting concentrated on goals that stressed encouraging more members to participate in tournaments, a new event called the Big Break Sequoia patterned after a popular golf show on TV, a Thursday play day format calendar, updating sweeps to \$4, supporting a 9-hole group, and awarding Honorary Memberships to Bob Reichle, Chris Faria, Jaime Cosgriff and Paul Watts.

Over the years, the Men's Club has operated from a stable fiscal standpoint and 2015 was no exception as Treasurer Roger Hawkins reported a bank balance of over \$6,000. The annual audit was chaired by outgoing President Kevin Andel.

Alan Beymer, being a professional photographer, took photos of Board members for inclusion on the recently installed video monitor in the trophy case.

Member Liaison, Joe Caccamo reported that some of the neighbors adjacent to the course have been dumping their vegetation debris on the course property. Hank Rullhausen took note and also reported that the owners were going to build a roof over the clubhouse patio deck, that the Hole #1 pond would be dredged for more water capacity, and that a new bridge would be built between Hole #1 green and Hole #2 teeing area.

At its January meeting, the Board received a thank you letter from Calaveras County Search & Rescue for the donation given them from the 2014 Charity Classic Tournament in the amount of \$12,000.

As in past years, the Blue Lake Cup tournament was funded from weekly sweeps, \$1 of the \$4 sweeps are held in reserve for the event. The top 40 season long money winners qualified for the Blue Lake Cup.

Each year the Women's and Men's Clubs play against each other in a handicapped net score tournament. In 2015 the Men's Club hosted the Women's Club. The format was that the 10 best net scores from each club would determine the winners. Lunch was also provided along with the usual prizes.

Men's Club work days were scheduled for May and included raking and hauling of debris on the left side of holes 14, 15, 16 and both sides of hole 18.

Jim began a monthly e-mail informational communication sent to all members to increase member interest and participation.

Course Pro Bob Reichle began using a computer-based system for play day pairings. Board members expressed caution that the pairing system would not pair the same golfers time after time. The Board wanted to ensure that members would have the opportunity to meet and play with a larger number of members.

Jim also reported that he had made contact with the Bret Hart High School for possible Men's Club sponsored scholarships and worked with VP Mike McAtee to move that forward.

2015 was the first year for an "Ironman Tournament" which was a 27-hole event. Tournament Chairman Dave Ryniec had worked out the details with Bob Reichle with each 9-holes carried a different format.

By February of 2015 the Course was already using water at the normal July rate and Greens Chairman Tim Hanrahan reported on the progress of the dredging of ponds for greater water storage. Hank Rullhausen added information on the start of construction, which began on March 16, of the new bridge over the first / second hole pond. Building Department permit issuance and FEMA additional requirements was an issue and delayed the completion of the bridge from April to setting the bridge in mid-December. Hank also reported that of the 400 course sprinkler heads, 140 had been turned off due to the water shortage issues. He stated that Tees, Greens and most fairways would be playable through the summer and that the Course and Club were doing their part in conserving water. Normal usage during summer months would have been 300,000 gallons per day and they were now only using 100,000 gallons per day.

An additional improvement on the Course was the addition of hole collars to the cups on the greens to protect the rim of the hole.

Of note, was Hank's reporting of the costs of Course Improvements from 2014 and planned for 2015 was in excess of \$460,000. These improvements included improvements to Clubhouse lighting and second floor restroom remodeling. A new Clubhouse covered deck was completed with new patio concrete including raising and leveling of the 10th blue tee box.

A popular TV show prompted the Men's Club to hold its first Big Break Challenge event. It was named "Big Break Sequoia Woods" and was held on July 16th. The event was a balanced team challenge, conducted on the 10th hole with four different challenges. The skill challenges included a Bunker Shot; a Pitch Shot; a Flop Shot and a Putting challenge. The entry fee was \$5 and snacks and beverages were included. Fifteen members participated in the challenge event.

The 2015 Charity Classic, Chaired by VP Mike McAtee, provided support to the Norm Friborg Sports Equipment Fund for Children (administrated by Arnold Angles) and the White Pines Lake Association. Norm Friborg, a retired coach, was a long time Men's Club member.

One of the most significant contributions the Men's Club had made over the years was the support and commitment to Assistant Pro Chris Faria with a scholarship for his PGA Golf Management Program. The Men's Club provided \$3000 toward the cost of the schooling with the Club Owners, as announced by Hank Rullhausen, covering the balance of the schooling. This was the same program that Pro Bob Reichle had previously completed.

By the May meeting, the membership was at 142 with 75 Ringer Board participants.

Bob Atchison, Handicap Chairman, reported on the efforts to bring scorecard accuracy up to speed had resulted in a marked improvement in submission of proper scorecards. He noted that a few disqualifications got the members attention.

Pace of Play continued to be an issue. Four general members visited the August Board meeting to express their frustration and opinions on the issue of slow play. A number of suggestions were provided for Board consideration and for working with the Pro Shop on pairings. President Walton established a committee to work on the Pace of Play issue. The committee consisted of himself, Kevin Andel, Jim Harrington, and Brian Raley. NCGA was contacted and distance information was provided to them for their work in providing SWCC with a pace of play rating for each set of tees.

Brian Raley and Jim Walton measured the distances from each green to the next tee box, a part of the consideration for a pace of play rating. NCGA after analysis of the information provided by the Committee developed a "Pace of Play Rating" for each set of tees. Blue tees: 3hrs 56min; White tees: 3hrs 50min; Red-White Combo tees: 3hrs 48min.

At the October Board meeting Jim Walton presented the Pace of Play Committee report, recommendations, and NCGA charts and times for the different tees. Discussion included options to improve pace, using equitable stroke control, and other incentives for the 2016 Board of Directors to consider.

Kevin Andel, Nominating Chairman with his committee of Larry Haskell and Randy Brown presented a slate of names for election to the 2016 Board. The names

submitted were Jack Larmour, Brian Raley, Jim Harrington, and Vic Manuelli. Tim Hanrahan had submitted his resignation at the September Board meeting hence the need for four candidates, three for the new year and one to fill the unexpired term of Tim. All candidates were voted in at the annual meeting.

Jim Walton welcomed the new Board members and thanked the outgoing 2015 Board members for their hard work during the year. Roger Hawkins was nominated and unanimously confirmed to serve as President in the coming year.

Roger then announced his slate of officers for the 2016 year as follows: Mike McAtee, Vice President; Brian Raley, Treasurer; Alan Beymer, Secretary; Jack Larmour, Tournaments; Vic Manuelli, Publicity and Ringer Board; Jim Harrington, Greens; Ed Stahlberg, Handicap & Rules; Guy Pollak, Membership; Joe Caccamo, Member Liaison; and Hank Rullhausen, Owner Liaison.

It is well to note here that each year, following the October Annual Election, the new Board of Directors take over and begin the transition to the new year and new season. Even though it is the Board for the 2016 year they begin work in October and November of the previous year.

In November, Alan Beymer had to relinquish his role as Secretary due to health issues and the President appointed Cam Deen to fill the unexpired term of Alan Beymer. The appointment was unanimously approved by the Board.

Each year, the President of the Men's Club is invited to meet with the Owners of the Club to offer suggestions and provide feed-back on Course operations and Club staff. Roger reported at the November 2015 Board on just such a meeting with the Owners, where topics included condition of the Course, pace of play, restaurant dinner specials, and how the Men's club might contribute to projects with member work days.

The idea of Home and Away tournaments was a topic of discussion between the SWCC Men's Club and the Oakdale County Club Senior Men's Club. There was significant interest among members and a hope to expand the program to include other valley clubs.

The 2016 Board started the year with a full head of steam addressing various items such as pace of play (have we mentioned pace of play before??) with Roger meeting with Bob Reichle on suggestions to address the length of time it has been taking to complete an 18-hole round.

The treasury was in great shape as reported by Brian Raley at \$5855 and a membership start to the year was at 96 members. By May the membership had grown to 127 and in August the Men's Club boasted 140 members.

On a sad note, the Men's Club lost one of its long-time members Clint Babb who died early in January and the death of our former Pro Larry Babica was announced at the June Board meeting.

The completion of the bridge between Holes 1 and 2 had yet to be finished due mostly to weather that would allow the concrete topping to be placed.

It was 2016 when the Blue Lake Cup qualifying system was revised to go to a point system and away from a money winner's system. This was initiated to make the season long qualifying more equitable. In past years, not all event winners received the same amount of dollar winnings for equal placement in standings.

The first Men's Club work day for the year was held on May 3rd with 14 hearty souls cleaning up the sides of holes 12, 15, & 18.

A departure from the usual solicitation of local merchants to support the Charity Classic by donating goods and services was agreed upon and that funding was primarily from entry fees, silent auction items, and tee sign income.

USGA / NCGA asked that all yardage markers be removed from course fairways in 2016 with a lot of out-cry from golf members across the State. The Men's Club, as well as owner Hank Rullhausen wanted them replaced and discussion at the July Board meeting looked at their replacement and who would pay for the work. Discussion included adding 75-yard markers in addition to the traditional 200yd, 150yd, & 100yd markers.

Course work continued with the expansion of the #10 pond and the water situation was good, unlike previous years.

At the 2016 September board meeting, President Roger Hawkins submitted his resignation for personal reasons effective October 17th. Roger assured the Board of a smooth transition and that all Club business was in order.

Treasurer Brian Raley reported that the net proceeds for the Charity Classic was \$11,000 and would be divided among the selected recipients that included the Logging Museum at White Pines Lake and the local youth sports programs (administered by Arnold Angels).

In the absence of Roger Hawkins, Mike McAtee presided at the October board meeting. Topics of discussion and action included the election of Jim Harrington to serve as President for the 2017 year. Mike McAtee stepped off of the Board due to health reasons.

As his first order of business President Harrington announced his line-up of officers for the coming year. Tom Gosswiller assumed the Vice President role; Brian Raley, treasurer; Cam Deen, Secretary; Jack Larmour, Tournaments; Rich Garmsen, Greens;

Ed Stahlberg, handicap & Rules; George Cook, Membership; Vic Manuelli, Publicity & Ringer Board; Joe Caccamo, Member Liaison, and Hank Rullhausen, Owner Liaison.

Men's Club dues were raised to \$40 and were required to be paid by March 31. The board also clarified that no member would be allowed to participate in any play or event until their dues were paid. Membership Chairman Cook was charged with developing a new and updated membership application. In addition, the Monday and Thursday play day sweeps were raised from \$4 to \$5 effective the first play day of April.

Tournament Chairman Jack Larmour announced that the 2017 tournament schedule should be in place by the November meeting.

Secretary Can Deen read a thank you letter from the Logging Museum for the donation they received from the Charity Classic proceeds.

President Harrington reported on his meeting with the Owners and the positive feedback received. He also presented the Men's Club "wish list" or suggestions for course improvements including a facelift for the restrooms on Hole 3 and between Holes 15-16.

The biggest change in 2017 was the change in qualification format for the Blue Lake Cup Tournament. The Blue Lake Cup was now open to all members eliminating the qualification requirements for participation.

Other changes in 2017 included changing the summer Men's Club starting time to 8:30am with check-in by 8am, and to discontinue the annual Board Brunch held each November for incoming and outgoing Board members.

The annual budget was approved at the 2017 February Board meeting with total assets of \$7560. And the selection process for the Charity Classic recipients that year included the Bret Hart Golf Program, the Arnold Logging Museum and the Friends of the Calaveras Sheriff's Office. The net proceeds for the 2017 Charity Classic were \$16,000 and went to the Friends of the Calaveras Sheriff's Office.

The Men's Club continued to have a stable membership at 127 by May and ending the year at 140. Work days continued to help Superintendent Paul Watts and 2017 was no exception with 18 members cleaning up holes 12, 13, 16, 17, and the usual 18th Hole.

On August 17, 2017, the Men's Club hosted both Saddle Creek and Oakdale Men's Clubs for a home and away event at Sequoia Woods. The event was well attended with mixed teams competing.

Being pro-active, the Board noted that there will be four openings for the next year. The following names composed the slate of candidates for 2018: Eric Nissen, Bernie Tillotson, Andy Thompson, and Sid Gilbrech who were elected at the annual meeting / Turkey Shoot.

As the season came to a close, the new Board members assumed their respective roles and duties with Tom Gosswiller having been elected President for the 2018 year.

The Officers and Directors positions for 2018 were in place by the November 2017 Board meeting and were as follows: President, Tom Gosswiller; Vice President, Bernie Tillotson; Treasurer, Brian Raley; Secretary, Erik Nissen; Greens, Sid Gilbrech; Handicap & Rules, Andy Thomson; Publicity & Ringer Board, Vic Manuelli; Membership, George Cook; Tournaments, Jack Larmour; Member Liaison, Jim Walton; and Owner Liaison Hank Rullhausen.

Men's Club meeting records were limited in availability for 2018. However, it was possible to piece together and assemble a general over view of the year.

Every year or two the Men's Club selects a golf shirt for the year and in 2018 the color was burgundy and sported the SWCC Men's Club logo.

In April the Men's Club received presentations from recipients for the Charity Classic. They heard from the Calaveras Humane Society, from Hospice with Adventist Health, and from Friends of the Arnold Library.

The Greens Chairman Sid Gilbrech reported on various course activities including adding sand boxes on all par 3 tee boxes, and as a safety issue, raising the sod level at the front to the tee boxes on Holes 15 and 18 to eliminate arrant tee shots hitting the stone lip of the retaining walls.

By July things were in full swing in preparation for the Charity Classic. The Women's Clubs will be manning the check-in and ticket tables. Dana Weir & Shelia Silcox attended the Hole #6 "buy your drive" hole with Kaaren Babb and Mark Enea driving the beverage cart. As in previous years, Hank Rullhausen provided complementary golf certificates to anyone who purchased a tee sponsor sign. Tee signs remained at \$100 each and were the lion's share of income over the years.

As the year closed out and following the Annual Election, Alan Court, Mario Perez, and Jack Larmour (returning for a second term) were welcomed to the Board for 2019. A review of the annual member survey was discussed with positive feedback on tournaments and keeping the 8:30am summer tee time.

Over the years, the Men's Club has maintained a healthy financial position with year-to-year carry overs to facilitate the start up in January of each year as annual dues trickle in over several months. 2019 began with net assets of just over \$7200.

Bernie Tillotson was elected President for the 2019 year with the following assignments for Officers and Directors: Alan Court, Vice President; Brian Raley, Treasurer; Erik Nissen, Secretary; Jack Larmour, Tournaments; Jim Walton, Member / Owner Liaison;

George Cook, Membership; Mario Perez, Handicap & Rules; Tom Gosswiller, Greens; and Sid Gilbrech, Ringer Board.

The Board started the year with a set of goals that included: larger payouts for tournaments and more variety in deli food after tournaments, increase membership by contacting SWCC male members who are not presently members, host a new member tournament to attract members, publicizing Men's Club activity photos, and education on rules to the membership.

New USGA rules were discussed and passed out to the Board. Mario reported that he would be providing rules articles for the Fore!Cast newsletter. The Board agreed to purchase and distribute the "pocket" version of the 2019 new rules of golf at no charge to Men's Club members.

Secretary Erik Nissen reported on cards sent out during the month that included get well cards to Tom Gosswiller and Bernie Tillotson and a sympathy card to the Rullhausen Family after the loss of Hank Rullhausen our Owner Liaison. Golf Pro Bob Reichle attended the March Board meeting to discuss a number of items that included a suggestion to re-name the Charity Classic to the Rullhausen Charity Classic in honor and memory of our owner Hank Rullhausen. The Board agreed to this suggestion.

Golf Genius became the pairings and posting system in 2019 and Sid Gilbrech worked with Bob Reichle and Chris Faria on utilizing Golf Genius to populate the Ringer Board with great success.

The Charity Classic is always a popular event and even more so that year, having been re-named the Rullhausen Charity Classic. Starting in April the Board conducted interviews of potential recipients and ultimately selected Calaveras County Search & Rescue. Proceeds totaling \$17,000 from the event allowed CCS&R to complete the purchase of necessary hand-held communication radios. It was the first year that a "wine wall" fundraising element was added, which was a huge success with all of the wine purchased even before the event tee off time.

It was a sad year with the loss of our friend and Owner of SWCC, Hank Rullhausen. Hank's wife Diane died the previous year and the Club held a Celebration of Life for both Hank and Diane on June 3, 2019 in memory of two great individuals who supported SWCC throughout the years.

The Nominating Committee for the ensuing year was comprised of Kevin Andel, Roger Hawkins, and Tom Gosswiller who presented a slate of candidates for Board positions beginning in 2020. Those placed in nomination were Tom Schneider, Tom McGill, and Mike McAtee.

From time to time the Men's Club support youth golf in the community. Bob Atchison presented the notion that the Men's Club could provide funds for golf shirts for the Avery Middle School golf program. The Board unanimously approved this outreach.

Jim Walton was selected by SWCC golf professional to be the NCGA Club Ambassador for Sequoia Woods County Club and Jim along with Mario Perez, Rules Chairman, attended an NCGA rules seminar held at Del Rio County Club that covered the new and upcoming rules changes and the new USGA World Handicap System.

Well, 2020 was a year of Covid 19 shut-downs and limited gatherings with governmental edicts on isolation, face masks and development of vaccines to fight the virus. The golf course was closed for a while and when it re-opened it was walkers and single riders in carts only. Gathering before rounds was prohibited and check in was 15 minutes prior to your tee time with no shot-gun starts.

After holding their February meeting the Board of Directors then held its next meeting in April and via Zoom. The normal course of business was able to continue and the year started with a stable treasury at \$6,297.

The Board, under the direction and second term of Bernie Tillotson as President, was populated by the following Directors and Officers: Alan Court, Vice President; Tom Schneider, Treasurer; Erik Nissen, Secretary; Mike McAtee, Membership; Mario Perez, Handicap & Rules; Jack Larmour, tournaments; Sid Gilbrech, Ringer board, Tom McGill, Greens; and Jim Walton, Liaison.

Discussions included updating the Club By-Laws and a potential Charity Classic recipient. Jim and Mario reviewed their memorandums covering the new World Handicap System and how to convey and educate our members to the changes that have been put in place by USGA.

The “season opener” tournament in April and the May tournament were cancelled due to the pandemic. As of May the membership was at 82 with 47 signed up for the Ringer Board.

The Golf Course was allowed to re-open on May 1st but with restrictions established by County Health Department rules. The restrictions included: Play was limited to SWCC members only (no guests), Tee time spacing was ten minutes, Pro Shop was allowed to be open on a limited basis and only 2 people were allowed inside the shop at a time and must keep 6 foot social distancing, no more than 4 players allowed on a tee box, private carts are allowed but with only one rider, push carts are encouraged, rental carts can have only one rider and were to be sanitized after each use, rakes in the bunkers and ball washers were not allowed, as was no water coolers were allowed on the course. In addition, congregating before or after play was not allowed. Members were able to get some food and drinks at the deli but the club house was closed.

The pandemic had taken its toll on a number of activities and much of our life styles back then. It also moved the Board, in the interest of safety, to cancel the Charity Classic Tournament. As it turned out, the first Men’s Club event of the 2020 year was the annual Par 3 tournament, held on July 16th.

A new "local" Men's Club rule was put into place in July, to address the right side of hole 18. Due to the condition of the area and in the interest of safety if a ball comes to rest on the right side of the cart path, the player gets relief to the left of the cart path within one club length of the margin of the paved path no closer to the hole.

When the pandemic hit, SWCC limited the Men's Club Thursday play days to Tournaments once a month only. This was to allow more tee times for non-Men's Club members to play due to the restrictions not allowing shotgun starting times. This was presented as a temporary solution but significantly limited Men's Club play.

By August the membership had reached 113 and the Nominating Committee had put forth Kai Chung, Art Goldman, and Jeff Gardner as candidates to serve on the Board for the 2021 year. The annual survey and elections were held at the Blue Lake Cup Tournament with the above candidates unanimously elected to a three-year term.

The annual survey provided good feedback to the Board and confirmed the variety of formats for tournaments as desirable.

We survived shutdowns, we were able to play once again by mid-year, and we completed another successful and fun year.

When 2021 began we had a new set of Board responsibilities with Alan Court having been elected as President. Tom Schneider continued as Treasurer; Jeff Gardner, Secretary; Tom McGill, Greens; Jack Larmour, Tournaments; Kai Chung and Art Goldman sharing Ringer Board and Publicity; Mario Perez, continued with Handicap & Rules; Mike McAtee, Vice President; and Jim Walton continued in the position of Member / SWCC Liaison. The membership spot was left open.

As the year began the Board was hard at work planning for the year. Jack Larmour discussed a couple of new tournament formats for the year, Hatfield's vs McCoy's a two-team event, and a team best ball format where the number of best balls changes each 5 holes. It was called 5+5+5+3.

Changes at the Arnold Post Office resulted in the Men's Club receiving a new PO Box number (872) after many years with the same number.

Tournament fees were established to remain at \$20 with the hope that SWCC would allow the fee to be charge to the members account to avoid handling money due to Covid issues. This created a number of issues related to how the Men's Club pays for food and prize money for events. The final outcome was that the Men's Club would continue to collect the \$20 tournament fees at the check-in table. However, SWCC collected the \$5 play day sweeps by charging them to the members SWCC account.

It was also established that Men's Club dues would be due and payable by December 31st of each year and that they would be delinquent by March 31st. Also, it was decided

that the Ringer Board sign-ups would close on March 31st as well. For the 2022 year, dues paid by December 31 were \$35, after December 31 dues were \$40.

President Court set up a Zoom account for the Men's Club Board meetings to facilitate when the Board could not meet in person and to accommodate those Board members who were in southern California and Arizona until mid-year. The April meeting was held via Zoom.

As May approached, twenty energetic Men's Club members, under the direction of Tom McGill, the Greens Chairman, assisted Paul Watts in spreading bunker sand throughout the course over a two-day period.

Slow Play continued to be an issue, year over year, working toward a collective four hour or less round of golf the Board enacted a "pick-up rule" to speed up play for all Men's Club events and play days. The rule required a player to pick up and move on when the following situation occurred: If a player had not holed out by "double bogie net" he was to pick-up and add one stroke for his hole score. Put simply, double bogie + pops + 1 = hole score was the rule.

At its July meeting the 2021 Board put in place a maximum handicap of 40 or lower in order to play in Men's Club events. This new provision was another move toward pace of play issues. Liaison Jim Walton, prepared background regarding maximum handicap and developed the new provision after analysis of the membership index ranges and taking into consideration the New World Handicap System where tee differentials were no longer relevant.

Also, drought issues created a temporary provision where players could lift clean and place their ball within 6" and in the same cut of grass.

Due to Board member resignations over the years, the 2021 Board worked toward reestablishing a succession plan whereby officers would move up and the Vice President would assume the Presidency the following year. A number of options were discussed to achieve this goal, including Alan Court staying on, Jim Walton, Liaison filling the role of President to allow the newer Board members to gain experience before assuming leadership roles.

At the October Board meeting, it was decided that the standard Tees for Men's Club play would be the White Tees for 2022. Those that would like to continue to play from the Blue Tees or the Red / White Combo Tees would inform the Pro Shop of their decision, however those that choose Tees other than White would be required to play from those tees all season long except where Tees are designated for Tournament play.

The Annual October Election, held at the Annual Turkey Shoot elected Blake Campbell, Tim McKeon, and Bill MacDonough to serve as Directors for the 2022 year.

The last Board meeting of 2021 was held on November 8th and served as the transition meeting to the 2022 Board of Directors. Alan Court opened the meeting and provided opening remarks and a review of the annual questionnaire from the October Annual Meeting and Election. It was noted that Alan after discussions with Jim had determined that it would serve the Club's present need to regain a succession plan, if Alan came off of the Board in the normal fashion and that Jim took on the Liaison and President's role for one year.

The 2022 Board of Director and Officer positions were announced as follows: Jim Walton, President & Liaison; Jeff Gardner, Vice President; Tom Schneider, Treasurer; Tim McKeon, Secretary; Jack Larmour, Tournaments; Bill MacDonough, Handicap, Rules and Assist with Tournaments; Blake Campbell, Membership; Kai Chung, Ringer Board; Art Goldman, Publicity; and Tom McGill as Greens Chairman.

2021 ended the year with 123 members, 67 of whom participated in the Ringer Board. Dues notices were sent out early and the new deadline of December 31st was in effect. The annual Christmas Party was held on December 11th in the upstairs banquet room of SWCC and Jeff Gardner spoke for the Men's Club as President Walton was out of the State.

Jim Walton proposed that the Men's Club Board reinstitute a tradition of providing an Honorary Membership for the Calendar year to Bob Reichle, Hear Pro; Chris Faria, Asst Pro; Bob Russell, General Manager; and Paul Watts, Course Superintendent. A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimous approval.

The early Board meetings focused on updating the Men's Club By-Laws to reflect current functions, and included increased check writing limits, Director duties to align with responsibilities, and a general overhaul to reflect present day operations.

The Treasury showed a balance of over \$7700 to begin the year and the annual budget was developed by Treasurer Tom Schneider to reflect the Board's discussions to increase the payouts and provide enhanced food at the tournaments. The budget was unanimously approved by the March meeting.

As a part of updating the operations of the Men's Club, Vice President Jeff Gardner took on the trophy case to address outdated items and update trophy plaques. The Board moved to provide a more relevant display, including current photos on the Monitor screen. Also of particular discussion was publicity and promoting the Men's Club through efforts by Art Goldman the 2022 Publicity Director who would contribute to the trophy case display.

Member Bob Atchinson attended the April Board meeting to recommend the Men's Club resurrect their past efforts to provide financial support to the Bret Harte Golf Program. The Board received a presentation from the Men's Golf Coach, Cory Dagomanovich, about the program after which the Board discussed how to achieve budgeting support annually. It was determined that since the Golf season for Bret Harte begins in the

spring of 2023 that the incoming Board in November would take the actual vote and determine the allocation.

As with many years, the Season Opener was postponed due to weather from early April to late April but still enjoyed a good turnout of 40 participants. The Tournament schedule for the year included eight competitive rounds and two special events. The special events included the Men vs Women tournament (the Men actually won one), and the newly traditional Sunday Mixed Scramble and dinner.

By April the membership had risen to 121 and finished the year at 124 participants. The Ringer Board reporting was re-formatted on Golf Genius to show the standings as “net to par” so that participants could easily determine where they stood in their flight. The final Ringer Board participants equaled 73.

Tom McGill reported in April that the Superintendent had ordered sand for the traps and that a Men’s Club workday would be scheduled. The condition of the trap sand was reviewed hole by hole by Head Pro Bob Reichle and Superintendent Paul Watts and the grounds crew placed the sand, eliminating a need for a Men’s Club workday.

Sequoia Woods made considerable changes and updates to its website during the year with improved links to the Men’s & Women’s Club sites within the SWCC site. The Board determined that one individual Director would be the sole source for submission of materials to the website, however, the President would continue to submit his monthly Fore!Cast article to Nancy Ward for the newsletter.

Over the years, the issue of no-shows or withdrawals at the last minute have plagued the tournament schedule and pairings. A revision to the Men’s Club Rules of Play clarified that the policy of the Men’s Club is that a 48 -hour cancellation or withdrawal provision was in effect. Members who sign up were responsible to pay the tournament or event fee in the event of late withdrawal or not showing up.

Bill MacDonough, Handicap & Rules Director, presented throughout the year, various rules, course conditions, and policies prior to play days and tournaments. Bill noted that the emphasis on pace of play showed results with most rounds at or around the goal of 4-hours. At the end of 2022 Bill stepped down from the Board. His unexpired term was filled by Kevin Andel who was appointed by President Jim Walton per Club By-Laws.

Jack Larmour, completed his second term as Tournament Director this year. The Board thanked Jack for all of his hard work in preparing the formats and logistics over the six years.

Participation in tournaments and play days showed a decline in numbers for 2022. The surge in participation in 2021 was attributed to the easing of covid restrictions and players eager to get out again after the 2020 shutdown due to the virus. Discussions with the Pro Bob Reichle, confirmed that participation was down in all of the Men’s and Women’s Club’s events. 2022 was also a year when many of our long-standing

members moved away from Arnold to be closer to their families which attributed to the decline in players.

Vice President Jeff Gardner completed an overhaul of the Men's Club Trophy case in the lobby. Old and long forgotten plaques were removed and two new plaques were put in place. For the first time there will be a Hole-In-One trophy. There was also a special trophy for the winning team of the mixed scramble tournament.

At the August Board meeting, discussion included the Board transition plan and who would assume various positions in 2023. Blake Campbell accepted the position of Vice President. At this time, it was slated for Jeff Gardner to move up to President next year.

The Men's Club finances have always been in solid shape and this year sported a Treasury balance in August of over \$7100. This balance allowed the Club to continue to provide lunch and sweeps payouts for tournaments through the end of the 2022.

The Men's Club publicity chairman Art Goldman began working on holding social events to attract new members to the Men's Club. As the year progressed, Art and Tim McKeon, Secretary, developed three "off-season" social events to be held on Friday evenings at SWCC, where Men's Club members would invite a non-member to come, socialize and hear about the advantages of belonging to the Men's Club.

As Liaison, Jim Walton, approached Bob Russell about resurrecting meetings between the Owners and the various clubs to establish a repour for discussion about future plans and offering suggestions on course set-up and volunteerism.

In order to facilitate the NCGA dues deadlines that SWCC must follow, the Board made permanent that Men's Club dues were due by December 31st of each year for the following year. Dues paid after the deadline but prior to March 1st would carry a \$5 increase in dues amount due, dues paid after March 1st would incur a \$10 increase. It was also established that participants in the Ringer Board had to sign-up and pay the entry fee before March 31st and that the RB was closed on that date.

A number of changes were voted into place at the August Board meeting. They were as follows:

1. The Mixed Scramble Sunday tournament format would not be held and a new format developed.
2. Turkey Certificates were eliminated for the Turkey Shoot tournament, instead, the event would be free to all Men's Club members.
3. For the 2023 season, all members would play from the white discs for Monday play and the white tee blocks for Thursday play. Tournaments would continue to be from the white tee blocks.
4. The maximum hole score for 2023 would be double bogey net. This was to alleviate the problem of 2022 where the maximum hole score was double bogey net Plus one, which members had difficulty in understanding and that golf genius posted double bogey net in any case.

5. The current Board position of “publicity” would be changed in the future to “Communications”.

At the September Board meeting the resignation of Jeff Gardner, for personal reasons, was addressed and a replacement to complete his unexpired term was approved. After consultation with Alan Court, Nominating Committee Chairman, President Jim Walton appointed Bernie Tillotson in accordance with Club By-Laws to fill Jeff’s spot for the remainder of 2022 and 2023. Bernie, as a past president, had all of the qualifications to assume the required duties.

The final Ballot & Survey was approved in September for the Annual Meeting held as a part of the Turkey Shoot Tournament on October 20th.

The transition for bank account signatures was reviewed and Brian Raley and Blake Campbell made arrangements at El Dorado Bank to complete the changes. It was also decided to hold all new and renewal applications for membership until Brian Raley takes over as Treasurer in November. Applications were then processed in November.

The Board discussed the benefit of holding “off-season” social events as a means of attracting new members. Art Goldman and Tim McKeon took on the task of arranging and hosting three social events. The first event was held on November 4th and current members were encouraged to bring non-men’s club members.

Starting in early October, the sand and seed bottle program was renewed for back nine holes. Tom McGill the Greens Chairman announced that verti-cutting and sanding of greens began had begun the first week of October.

The new owners, Ryan and Derek Abel, who officially took over SWCC in December of 2021, met with Jim Walton to discuss communications between the Men’s and Women’s Clubs and the Ownership, to find ways to receive input from members as to course conditions and volunteerism and to provide updates related to course and club improvements to the members. They also discussed the new web-site format and what should and should not be posted, it being a public site, the owners stated that personal information should not be included.

November 14, 2022 Board Meeting was held as a “transition” meeting between the 2022 Board Members and the 2023 Board Members. The meeting was opened by Jim Walton, who gave thanks to the Board for their support and volunteerism. After a few opening remarks and a report on the annual election and survey, Jim turned the meeting over to Bernie Tillotson who filled the position of 2023 President, due to Jeff Gardner’s resignation.

The 2023 Board consisted of the following: Bernie Tillotson, President; Blake Campbell, Vice President; Brian Raley, Treasurer; John Darrah, Secretary; Mike Hurst, Membership; Kevin Andel, Tournaments and Rules; Kai Chung, Ringer Board and

Handicaps; Art Goldman, Publicity / Communications; Tim McKeon, Greens; and Jim Walton SWCC Liaison.

It is hoped that future years will be added to this history and chronology of the SWCC Men's Club.

Resources:

A Swing Through History, Sierra Loadstar, November 6-12, 2013. News Article on Golf in the Mother Lode.

SWCC Men's Club: Meeting Minutes, Financial Reports, Tournament and Event Documentation.