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City Courses in Good Hands

A few short weeks ago the city courses went through their spring top dressing schedules alternately leaving the course greens in a recovering state. At the time of this writing all four courses have amazing greens, smooth, quick, true and without waffles and healing holes. Part of this is due to favorable weather, sun mixed with surprising rain. But if I was to point out one factor that contributed to these conditions it would be the passion of our Golf Superintendent. What can I say...he likes grass.

David Salas has a long history of growing and maintaining golf courses. He spent time as an APS employee maintaining football and practice fields and then time at Four Hills maintaining their course. His many years (13) with the City of Albuquerque include Head Greens Keeper with Los Altos, then at Ladera, and currently as Golf Superintendent of all the city courses. He's been in this past position for four years to date.



David loves the hands on work and the camaraderie with his employees, though typically his current position is now about 90% administrative. To get an idea of the depth of knowledge required for his position take a look around at Los Altos improvements. From replacing leaky water fountain nozzles, to repairing the netting along Copper, to overseeing the pump repair near #2 green, David has an input on what needs to be done.

"You don't need to know what exactly has to be done, but you need to know enough so that you can determine what must be done and who needs to be involved", says David. Isn't that what a good manager does? "This all takes someone to give things a kick-start --from faucets to wells and all the stuff in between," he said. As an example of "in between stuff" he mentioned the planting of grass along the #12 fairway (now ground-under-repair) to help stop balls from rolling onto the par 3 course and out-of-bounds.

Golf Management has been working to maintain/increase the number of rounds of golf played at the public courses. Years ago before the casino courses and the likes of Paako, it was not unusual for the city courses to experience 500,000 rounds per year. With all the new competition it's now closer to half that number. Today's challenge is making visiting business and recreational travelers to Albuquerque aware of what's available in the city golf department. David has some input on that as well.

David still has connections to his old maintenance schedule. He still rises at 4:00 am. This gives him and his wife, Mary Anne, some quiet time together before the rat race begins. (.and who can forget her famous holiday bizcochitos) Their youngest of three is 17 and finishing school this year. David's been riding motorcycles since he was 12. This summer, he and his wife will be taking a two wheel vacation to the midwest. Come back safely, David, and continue the admirable job you've be doing. Oh, and.....thank you.

It's Just a Shot

I watched a Hank Haney instructional video where he was marveling about how some players could make really difficult shots; a down hill lie chip with little green to work with or close in chips from severe rough. Then, only moments later, they would skull a chip that was on the fairway only 5 yards off the green. He then asked a friend about this, "How can a player successfully make very difficult shots then flub an easy shot?"

The response was simple....**there are no easy shots.** There are only shots.

It reverts to a state of mind. A more difficult shot is given 100% of your attention, but believing a shot is easy will cause you to not focus on the shot at hand.. Think about this when you have an 'easy shot'. It's just a shot.



***Player of the Year
May Leader-board***



Chad Padilla 32
Tom Martin 26
Larry Carlton 25
Ray Woodbury 24
Mike Davidson 22
Kevin Goodrich 21
Roland Sena 20
Mario Valdez 20
Jason Myers 19
Hiroko Hutt 17
Gary Schuster 17

Rules, rules, rules....

Have you ever had a short tap in putt where you putt with one hand and catch the ball in the hole with the other? You might get away with it in a friendly round, but don't try it during a sanctioned tournament.

In the book of Decisions on the Rules of Golf, this action is prohibited. The rules Question: A player whose ball is on the lip of the hole putts with one hand and catches the ball with his other hand after the ball is below the level of the lip of the hole. What is the ruling?

Answer: The player purposely stopped his moving ball. In stroke play, he incurs a penalty of two strokes and is required to place his ball on the lip of the hole and hole out - Rule 1-2. If he does not do so, he is disqualified under Rule 3-2 for failing to hole out.

In order for a ball to be holed, it must be at rest within the circumference of the hole.

....know the rules.

Got something to say about slow play?? E-mail your comments to sloplay@comcast.net. The board will be discussing what to do about slow play and your comments will be appreciated; good, bad, constructive or otherwise.

Next LAGA Monthly Tournament



June 2015 ADO Invitational

Individual Stroke Play

Saturday June 20th

(LAGA and ADO)

\$25 Per Person

Optional Skins – Payable at the check in desk!

(7:30 Shotgun)

Entry deadline is Tuesday June 16th @ 6:00 P.M.