

## ***“No-Ball” Hitting Bay Coming To Los Altos Golf’s Café***

Los Altos will soon be home to a ‘No-Ball’ hitting bay in its café, plus a couple of regular hitting cages in the banquet room.

Randy McClelland, who had Randy’s Indoor Golf on the Westside, has been operating as a mechanic for Los Altos, a starter-marshall in the Pro-Shop, driving range/cart associate and is a 4-year board of directors member and current webmaster for LAGA (prior to that he was editor of The Duffer.) He and Chris Moya, Los Altos Director of Golf, came up with the idea of installing the ‘No-Ball’ system in the café.

“It’s really an amazing system,” McClelland said. “It helps a guy or gal groove a good swing without worrying about how they’re hitting the ball or where it’s going. It uses instant swing analysis to record swing speed, swing direction, club face position and club contact while playing on one of over 20 famous virtual golf courses from around the world.”



It seems that a computer sets up a virtual ball (a light on a mat) where a ball would normally be. As the golfer swings, two sets of lasers in the sensor produce images of the club head entering and leaving the ball contact area. The system then reports on how the club came into the ball, what the contact was like, and how the ball traveled. Finally, it’s a way to see what a golfer’s swing is really doing. All this happens while playing a virtual round of golf.

“The virtual ball and ball flight are displayed on the high definition television. Or, if using a real ball in a cage, the shot is projected in HD onto a full impact 10X10-foot screen while providing vital shot-making information,” McClelland says. He adds that a golfer can play 18 holes on some of the most famous courses in the world in less than an hour per person.

He and Moya expect to have the ‘No-Ball’ system up and operating in October, followed by a real-ball golfing system as pricing and indoor cages are established.

McClelland says of the ‘No-Ball’ system that “hitting a spot is easier than hitting a ball so you can concentrate on your swing instead of a ball. You can’t fix your swing unless you know what’s wrong with it and this ‘No-Ball’ tells you precisely what’s wrong.”

Moya says the cages in the banquet room will be fold-up types so there won’t be any conflicts with other events going on in that spacious room.

“While we don’t have many days that are unplayable, there are days when some folks find it too cold and/or windy to play regular golf. These indoor facilities give our customers an option, and an option that still keeps them involved with golf and an opportunity to improve their games,” he said. “This is another way we at Los Altos can serve our customers even when the elements are trying to work against them.”

### **Golf “Green” Etiquette.**


We are fortunate to have a great course at Los Altos and this year it is in really good shape. The greens are some of the best anywhere.

But there are some things we can do out of consideration for our fellow golfers to preserve the conditions of the greens.

1. Avoid shuffling your feet on the greens. “Soft” spikes can still leave marks that are very distracting, especially near the hole.
2. When you tend the pin, make sure not to damage the edge of the cup. Dragging the pin leaves a score mark that will affect future putts.
3. Avoid pulling your ball out of the cup with your putter. That can also damage the edge of the cup or displace the cup liner, even if you are very skillful. Bending over to pick your ball out of the hole is barely more than marking and replacing your ball on the green. If you are truly unable, for orthopedic reasons, to extract the ball from the hole with your hand, there are suction devices that you can attach to the grip of your putter or ask another player in your group to help.
4. Fix any ball marks that you see and have time to repair.
5. After you have puttied out, tamp down any spike marks around the hole and repair any damage to the lip of the cup.

A recent study found that the average golfer walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a Year. That means, on average, golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon.

Kind of makes you proud. Almost feel like a hybrid...

Player of the Year August Leaderboard	
	
Mike Davidson	42
Chad Padilla	41
Paul Todesco	36
Jason Myers	35
Mike Fogelman	34
Roland Sena	34
Tom Martin	33
Jon Welch	31

## WEDNESDAY LEAGUE CONSIDERATIONS:

We are working with around 150 players signing up to play every week. We average about five (5) complaints in some form or other each week. Typical complaints are: 1) certain groups are consistently playing too slow, 2) I don't want to play with certain individuals because of their method or behavior of play, 3) players spend too much time fishing for golf balls out of ponds, etc.

We are trying to encourage everyone that plays in this Wednesday league to complete each 9 holes in less than 2 hours and 15 minutes and to complete the 18 holes in less than 4 hours and 30 minutes. In order for us to try to meet this timeframe we have limited Wednesday morning to 120 players or less. The pairing process used to put a Wednesday tournament together prioritizes steady or fast players going off early to set the tournament pace. Observed pace of play (no matter how fast you *THINK* you play), your method of play and your attitude are other considerations that affect where you are assigned to play in the tournament pairing process.

Suggestions to speed up play:

Don't fish for balls other than your own if you can retrieve it right away. Deciding on a shot or putt should not take more than 30 seconds. If you don't drive the ball more than 200 yards, you don't need to wait for the group ahead to reach their green before hitting your Tee shot. If you are having a bad golf day, don't let your emotions cause someone else to have a bad golf day. Watch other shots in your group to help locate errant shots. Always hit a provisional ball while still on the Tee if your shot is questionable. Be mindful of gaps between your group and the group you follow.

## Next LAGA Monthly Tournament



## "LAGA Club Championship"

**Member Only / Individual Stroke Play**

**Sat/Sun Sept. 26th & 27th**

**\$45/Person includes meal on Sunday for entrant only**

**\$15 for Each additional Sunday guest.**

**Optional Skins – Payable at the check in desk!**

**8 AM Tee times on Sat./8:00 AM Shotgun Sun.**

**Eligibility Requirement:** The entrant must have participated in a minimum of 3, monthly and/or Wednesday, 2015 tournaments.

**Entry deadline is Tuesday Sept. 22nd @ 6:00 P.M.**

**There will be a Special Pairings Event this year on Friday, September 25th, so watch for details.**