



# ECMGC Newsletter

Eagle Crest Men's Golf Club  
Winter 2023



## President's Message

We are completing another super year of golf at Eagle Crest. Our Men's Club continues to grow with bigger and better tournaments for everyone to enjoy. It was a very busy year for our Club. The Golf Committee scheduled our Wednesday games for competitive, fun games consisting of individual, 2-man teams and 4-man team events. The "fun "games or "goofy" as some of you would like to call them have been moved to the shoulder season. We had so many events/tournaments that one needed a calendar to keep up. We had the Resort Cup, which was led by our Captain Greg Middlebrook. Greg has been working on a special hard core training program this year that paid off – WE won the Cup for the first time ever!! Congrats to the team of 19 players that worked together for the win.

The Home and Home events continue to be entertaining while playing other courses.

We had a super turnout for the Ladies Mixer and I do appreciate that all of our club did listen to me and took

showers the night before and acted like true gentlemen – the ladies were impressed.

The Tournaments were a huge success. The Match Play was great but we need to reduce the time next year, which is in the works. We had our second annual Eagle Crest Cup (our version of the Ryder Cup) which is very competitive ending with a trash-talking luncheon.

The Club Championship continues to be our premier golf test for our members. The event brings out the talent of our club, with intense competition, so who will become the reigning champ for the next year?

The Fall Classic is my favorite (being chair might have something to do with my feelings). We had the biggest field of golfers we have had in many a year and the payouts were for sure over the top. We paid out over \$13,000 to flight winners and side games. Overall, 95% of the teams won money! Our raffle netted \$600 after expenses which the club donated to two charity groups. Of course, the highlight was two hole in ones in the event – crazy! But a special treat was Dale Yoakum's tri-tip dinner with all the fixins.

Our club membership is at 103 with several new members that will be back next year. We typically get 40

to 50 members out for our Wednesday play and of course I would like to see that number go higher. We are not limited to the number of players so come out and join us for a day of fun, competitive golf with old and new friends.

This year we lost our shotgun starts except for tournaments and special events which takes away from our telling golf lies around a table of friends with beer. We have worked with the Golf Staff for a better solution, which is still in the works, but the side benefit is the course conditions as there is better scheduling for the ground crew.

Our club is very generous as we had several charity events at Eagle Crest during the summer to include our own event. I have seen several of you folks out at these events and having an enjoyable day of golf.

We had 42 members at our year-end general meeting with awards that are becoming quite heavy (that's why we call it hardware). The luncheon was good as usual at Niblicks.

As of this writing our posting season is over and headed into the off-season of golf which is always weather dependent. If you go south you can continue to post, and if not, you are stuck with your current handicap until April.

We will continue to work hard to make our club one of the best in central Oregon. If anyone has any ideas that could help our club, please submit those ideas to Curt Davis of

the Advisory Committee so we can evaluate the possibility of implementation. Stay well, hit them long and straight.

Roger Edgerly  
President ECMGC



### **Golf Committee News-Mike Bessonette**

I want to begin by thanking the members of the golf committee for their work this year. The 2023 members are Mark Haskin, Steve Laurin, Jerry Hoth, Rob Mahoney, Eric Erickson, Roger Edgerly, Ron Oliver, Ray Tatarka and Greg Middlebrook. The committee helped decide the games, formats, and tournaments.

**Golf Genius.** Major thanks to Eric Erickson and Mark Haskin for their work with Golf Genius and supporting all the major events and weekly tournaments.

**Weekly Games.** The weekly games are rotated through all three courses on dates set by Troon Management. This year we tried to balance the games with a variety of individual, two-man and four-man events. This was in answer to requests from the membership. We also moved most of the fun games to the spring and fall. Postable rounds and tournament preparation were used during the summer.

**Resort Cup.** Congratulations to the Eagle Crest Resort Cup team for their excellent 2023 season. Eagle Crest won the Resort Cup for the first time ever. Kudos to Greg Middlebrook who captained this year's team and did the organizing and recruiting.

**Home and Home Events.** This year we competed at Crook River Ranch (they will come here in 2024), did our home and home with Juniper and hosted the West Ridge Group. We'll have those same competitions next year and are looking to add one more. We have a request out to Awbrey Glen. Thanks to Jerry Hoth and Steve Laurin for coordinating the Home and Homes.

**Special Events.** We had a fun day with the Ladies Mixer in May and we'll repeat this event with the ladies hosting next year.

In November, we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Gobble Gobble Give Back charity event. This year was an amazing success with 76 golfers participating. We raised \$5810 for this year's charity Oasis Village.

**Tournaments.** This year we had 4 tournaments sponsored by the men's club.

The Match Play Tournament was started again under the leadership of Rob Mahoney and his committee. This event started in May and concluded in July. The gross flight

winner and club match play champion was Dan Broadly. The two net flight winners were Eric Erickson and Mike Bessonette. Next year this tournament will move to a June start.

The end of May was the date for the Eagle Crest Cup. The Blue Team jumped out to an early lead on day one, but the Red Team came back on days two and three to win the competition, 22 ½ to 17 ½.

The Club Championship Tournament was held at the end of August and faced a significant weather challenge with the air quality. Jerry McVay won the gross championship in a playoff with Dennis Rector. Ron Oliver was the net champion winning by six strokes over the nearest competitor.

The Fall Classic was the was a great success with a turnout 74 golfers. The Flight winners were Dave Abresch/Don Hadley, Brent Moschetti/Clifford Reynolds, Mike Corwin/Mike Bessonette, and Ron Haas/Tom Peterson. The team of Abresch/Hadley won the flight playoff on the third round. Highlights included 2 holes-in-one with Gary Garner winning \$15,000 for an ace on hole number 3 on the final day. 35 of the 37 teams won money in the various contests during the tournament.

**Next Year: Planning is already underway for next year. Here are some notes for your consideration.**

1. If you have suggestions for our weekly games, formats etc. please send them to Mike Bessonette.
2. We are forming committees for each of the tournaments in 2024. If you want to serve on one or more of these committees please let Mike Bessonette know the tournament you are interested in supporting. The tournaments are Ryder Cup, Match Play, Men's Club Championship, Fall Classic and Gobble Gobble Give Back.

Finally, thanks to all members who participated in a fun and successful year for the Eagle Crest Men's Golf Club.  
Mike Bessonette

Golf Committee Chair ECMGC  
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## **10 Golf Rules That Should Be Changed**

*Condensed / David Desmith  
Links Magazine*

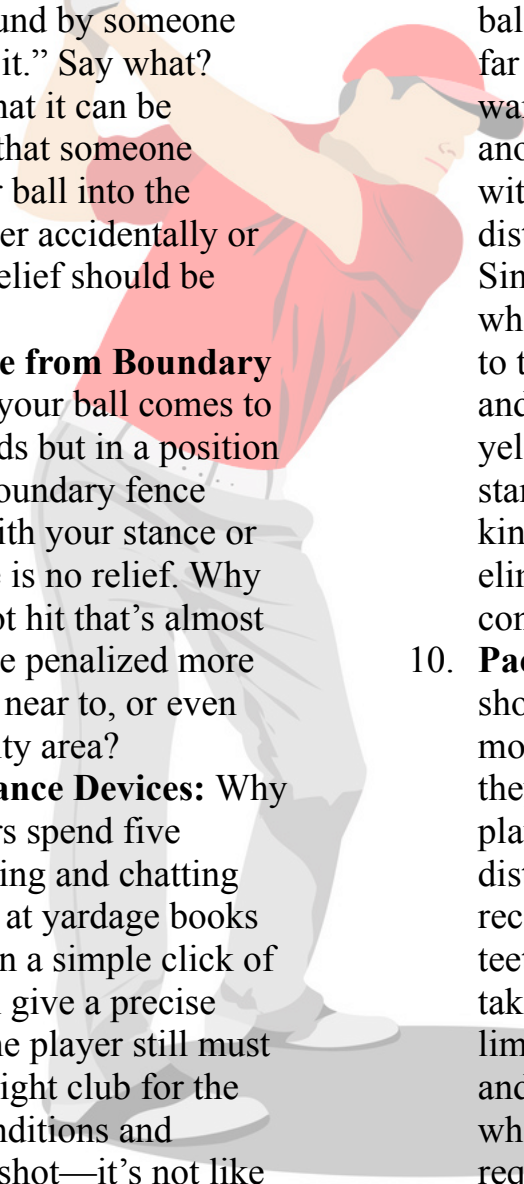
1. **Limit of 14 Clubs:** if players can increase enjoyment of the game by carrying 15 or more clubs, they should be allowed. Unfair? Not if everyone can do it.
2. **Relief from Divots:** the rules look to strike a balance between the longstanding tradition of playing the ball “as it lies” and fairness, and in the case of this rule, they indicate that on greens, such relief is warranted. But no such relief is offered in the case of a ball coming to rest in a divot.
3. **Relief in Bunkers:** many players do not take time to rake bunkers before moving on, and the result is an unnatural condition that makes golf not just less fair, but less fun. Move it.
4. **Stroke and Distance Penalty:** while you are only penalized one stroke for a ball hit into a penalty area, you're penalized two shots for lost balls and shots hit O.B. The rules should be modified to provide the option in both cases of taking a one-stroke penalty.
5. **3 Minute Time Limit:** three minutes may be perfect for preparing a soft-boiled egg, but

it's not a fair amount of time to try to avoid a stroke-and-distance penalty. It should be changed back to five minutes.

6. **Ball Embedded by Someone Stepping on It:** if your ball is embedded in its own pitch mark in the General Area (fairway and rough), you're entitled to relief. But this is not the case if "the ball is pushed into the ground by someone stepping on it." Say what? Assuming that it can be established that someone pushed your ball into the ground, either accidentally or otherwise, relief should be granted.
7. **Interference from Boundary Objects:** if your ball comes to rest in bounds but in a position where the boundary fence interferes with your stance or swing, there is no relief. Why should a shot hit that's almost gone O.B. be penalized more than one hit near to, or even into, a penalty area?
8. **Use of Distance Devices:** Why make players spend five minutes pacing and chatting and looking at yardage books forever when a simple click of a button can give a precise yardage? The player still must choose the right club for the shot and conditions and execute the shot—it's not like

judgment and skill aren't still required.

9. **Relief from Penalty Areas:** Balls in a yellow area create two options: stroke-and-distance relief from the spot where the previous stroke was made; and back-on-the-line relief, which allows you to drop on a line extending back from the hole to the point your ball entered the hazard (and as far back from that point as you want). Red penalty areas add another option—lateral relief within a two club-length distance no closer to the hole. Since there could be situations where lateral relief (no closer to the hole) could be possible and advantageous from a yellow hazard, why not standardize the rules for both kinds of penalty areas and eliminate this potential confusion?
10. **Pace of Play:** "the player should make the stroke in no more than 40 seconds after they are (or should be) able to play without interference or distraction..." This is a good recommendation, but it has no teeth. The length of time it takes to play a round of golf limits participation in the game and makes it less fun for those who do play. Would it be fair to require, under penalty of one



stroke, a player to play his next stroke with a ball in play (i.e. after finding a ball in the trees or making a drop) within 40 seconds?

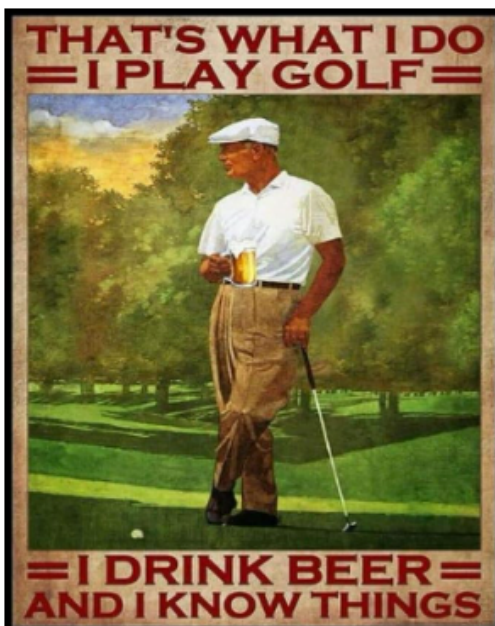
## TREASURER'S REPORT

With a month to go in the year, most of the activity is behind us and I can provide a recap for the year. Revenues for the year will come in at \$8,600, with the majority of that coming from annual dues of \$5,150. The club supported three main events for the year and the year end lunch. The club covered lunch costs, tee prizes and awards for the Eagle Crest Cup for \$1,670, for the Club Championship \$1,275 and for the Fall Classic \$2,260. For the year end luncheon we covered \$1,380 for food, and another \$1,590 for awards. Money

spent by the club to support these events meant that the majority of your entry fees came back directly to the members in winnings.

In the previous two years we had been restricted in some of our planned group meals because of the pandemic precautions, so we had built up a cash balance to start the year of \$5,000. We planned to bring this down during 2023, and will finish the year around \$4,100. For 2024, we plan to take the balance down another \$800 or so. In 2024, we began adding another event, bringing back the match play multi day tournament, and the club will be subsidizing this also. We will be setting the 2024 budget by year end, and members are welcome to send any questions they have about club finances to me.

Dave Miller  
ECMGC Treasurer



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