

119TH SCGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP



La Jolla Country Club
July 13-15, 2018



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR COMPETITORS,

Welcome to the 119th playing of the SCGA Amateur Championship. With little room to stretch out, La Jolla Country Club has never challenged players with its length. However, its tested defense is its small poa annua greens and challenging kikuyu rough. La Jolla CC incorporated in 1927 when noted architect William Bell was paid \$84,000 to create a course with a routing through narrow coastal canyons, with nearly every hole offering a panoramic view of the ocean.

Hosting this prestigious competition is a true privilege for the La Jolla CC's Board of Directors and its membership. La Jolla has twice hosted the SCGA Amateur. In 1977, Doug Clark won when Steve Horrell was President, and John Merrick in 2001 earned the championship when Dirk Kingma presided over the SCGA.

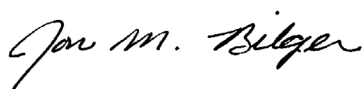
The list of SCGA Amateur Champions includes many of the legendary names of golf. In 1933, Charlie Seaver (Father of Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Tom Seaver) won the California State Amateur and the NCGA Amateur – followed by winning the SCGA Amateur in 1934. Tiger Woods in 1994 won the SCGA Amateur at Hacienda GC. Other current PGA Tour members who have won the Championship are Patrick Cantlay (2011) and Beau Hossler, who won back-to-back titles in 2013 and 2014.

Many notable professionals have called La Jolla CC home. The winner of 29 PGA Tour events, including the 1961 U.S. Open, Gene Littler was taught the game by SCGA Hall-of-Famer Paul Runyan – a past head professional at La Jolla CC. Other professionals La Jolla produced were Chuck Courtney, John Schroeder and Lennie Clements. However, no one is more beloved than honorary member Phil Mickelson. Three months after his first Masters triumph, Mickelson set the La Jolla course record by making nine birdies and two eagles to shoot 60.

We wish you all the best and expect an exciting week of outstanding competition in America's finest city.

I feel very privileged to serve as the President of the SCGA and to have been a member of La Jolla CC for over 40 years.

Play well,



Jon M. Bilger



FROM LA JOLLA CC

DEAR PARTICIPANTS,

Congratulations on qualifying to compete in the elite field of the 119th SCGA Amateur Championship!

On behalf of La Jolla Country Club's Members and staff, we welcome you to our Club. It is both an honor and distinction to host the SCGA Amateur Championship for the third time.

We invite you to experience "The Course on the Hill", a national golf landmark laden with a rich history of prestigious events and legendary golfers. La Jolla Country Club's awe-inspiring, mystifying location overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the Village of La Jolla creates an unbeatable environment.

Golf in La Jolla dates back to the 1890's when golf holes meandered through the seaside village and seemed to change almost daily. The current routing and design was born in the Golden Age of golf course design. William P. Bell was selected by the Club to design the challenging layout that opened to high praise in 1927. Since then Hall of Famer Paul Runyan, Reese Jones, and San Diegan Cary Bickler have contributed to the current design.

Part of the La Jolla Country Club Vision is to strive to uphold the finest traditions of golf, with emphasis on its decorum, protocol, and sportsmanship, in a club atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual respect. To that point, we are privileged to have the nation's second longest continuously-contested amateur championship at La Jolla Country Club. We wish you the very best and trust you will have a superb experience.

Sincerely,



Clint Whitehill, PGA
Head Golf Professional



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND FORMAT

FRIDAY, JULY 13:

ROUNDS 1 & 2 (36 HOLES, STROKE PLAY)

Round 1 tee times from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.;

Round 2 tee times from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. off Holes #1 & #11.

Breakfast will be available for contestants in the Greens Room starting at 6:15 a.m. Lunch will be available in the Greens Room between rounds.

Following the second round, the field will be cut to the low 42 scores (plus ties).

SATURDAY, JULY 14:

ROUND 3 (18 HOLES, STROKE PLAY)

Round 3 tee times from 7:30 a.m. – approx. 10 a.m. off Hole #1.

Breakfast will be available for contestants in the Greens Room starting at 6:15 a.m. Lunch will be available in the Greens Room after the round.

SUNDAY, JULY 15:

ROUND 4 (18 HOLES, STROKE PLAY)

Round 4 tee times from 7:30 a.m. – approx. 10 a.m. off Hole #1.

Breakfast will be available for contestants in the Greens Room starting at 6:15 a.m. Lunch will be available in the Greens Room after the round.

AWARDS

Awards will be presented immediately following the final round. In the event of a tie for first place only, a three-hole aggregate playoff will commence following the conclusion of regular play to determine the champion.

PLAYER INFORMATION

STARTING TIMES AND PAIRINGS

Starting times and pairings will be e-mailed to players and posted online at scga.org. Players are encouraged to arrive at their assigned tee well in advance of their starting time, as the SCGA starter will have information to discuss and distribute to each player in the group. Furthermore, players arriving late will be penalized under Rule 6-3a of the Rules of Golf. For example, the 9:00 a.m. starting time is defined as 9:00:00, and players arriving after that time are considered late. Lead groups should plan to be at their assigned tee 10 minutes in advance of their starting time. Subsequent groups are encouraged to arrive in time to watch the group in front of them tee off.

PRACTICE ROUNDS

One complimentary practice round will be issued to each championship contestant. Players wishing to schedule a practice round must contact La Jolla Country Club at (858) 454-9601. Reservations will be accepted beginning on Friday, June 15. A practice round block has been reserved on Thursday, July 12, beginning at 12 p.m. Requests for practice rounds outside that block will be issued on a space-available basis at the sole discretion of the club. Practice round cart fee: \$17.

TEES AND HOLE YARDAGES

Play will predominantly be from the course's black yardages; however, there will be significant variety throughout the championship. Course Rating: 73.0 / Slope: 133 / Maximum Yardage: 6,690. See complete course details on pages 13-15.

CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

La Jolla Country Club
7301 High Avenue
La Jolla, CA 92037
(858) 454-9601
lajollacountryclub.com

PARKING AND REGISTRATION

Ample parking is available at the club. All participants must check in at the SCGA registration table located in the breezeway on either Thursday or Friday.

DRIVING RANGE

The driving range will be open by 6:30 a.m. on each day of the championship. Range balls will be provided compliments of La Jolla Country Club.

LOCKER ROOM

Players will have access to the club's locker room facilities throughout the championship. The locker room opens at 6:30 a.m. daily.



DRESS CODE

Players and caddies must be properly attired in golf shirts, slacks, Bermuda-length dress or golf shorts and soft spike shoes. Jeans (any color or any kind), cargo shorts, T-shirts and tank tops will not be permitted. Shirts must be tucked in and hats are to be worn forward at all times.

FOOD SERVICE – PLAYERS

The SCGA will host a complimentary buffet breakfast and lunch for players each day in the Greens Room. The Halfway House, located adjacent to the 10th tee, will be open and available for players to purchase items with cash or credit cards.

PURCHASES AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

Credit cards and reciprocal charges will be accepted throughout the club. Cash will only be accepted at the Halfway House, but not elsewhere.

PHOTO GALLERY

Professional photos will be taken throughout the championship. Photos will be available online and are available for download and purchase at scga.pixieset.com.

AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Automotive transportation is not permitted for players, caddies or spectators. Any player seeking a golf cart due to a disability must contact the SCGA Rules and Competitions Department at (818) 980-3630 to obtain information on the procedure for submitting such a request.

PULL OR PUSH CARTS

Pull or push carts are permitted; the club has a limited number available for rent.

LODGING

A limited number of rooms have been secured at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine. Players are strongly encouraged to secure reservations while supply lasts. Reservations must be made by June 21.

HYATT REGENCY LA JOLLA AT AVENTINE

3777 La Jolla Village Drive

San Diego, CA 92122

(858) 552-1234

Rate: \$249+taxes and fees

[CLICK HERE](#) to make reservations.



POLICIES

RULES OF PLAY

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf, effective January, 2016. A Notice to Players addendum will be distributed at the championship. Disregard all other club-posted Local Rules including those on the back of the club's score card.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Players, caddies, and spectators should turn cell phones off or to silent mode while on the property and limit calls to the club's parking lot. Hole-by-hole scoring will be available throughout the championship at scga.org.

DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES AND CELL PHONES

A player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3. A multi-functional device, such as a smartphone or PDA, may be used as a distance-measuring device, but it must not be used to gauge or measure other conditions where doing so would be a breach of Rule 14-3. Any questions about such devices should be resolved before the start of the stipulated round. Otherwise, cell phone use is discouraged during the stipulated round.



CANCELLATION POLICY

To withdraw for any reason prior to the start of an SCGA competition, a player must notify the SCGA Rules and Competitions Department at (818) 980-3630, or by clicking [here](#).

If a player needs to withdraw on the morning of the event, notify the SCGA staff person through the golf shop staff at the host venue. Failure to notify the SCGA will subject the player to suspension from future SCGA competitions. Requests for refunds prior to the entry closing date will be honored less a \$10 administrative fee. Requests received after the entry closing date and 48 hours prior to the event will be honored less 50% of the entry fee. No refunds will be honored within 48 hours of the event.

CADDIES

Players may provide their own caddie. All caddies must adhere to the dress code listed in this document. Caddies will be issued an official SCGA caddie bib at the tee prior to each round which may be worn during the round and returned each day. Players bringing their own caddie are responsible for their conduct at all times while on La Jolla CC's property.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

By submitting an entry for any SCGA-administered competition, the contestant understands that his/her participation is at the sole discretion of the SCGA. A contestant may be removed from any competition at the discretion of the SCGA staff or Rules and Competitions Committee at any time before or during the competition. Incidents of unbecoming conduct or actions deemed to be detrimental to the image of the SCGA or the "Spirit of the Game" are grounds for such removal and suspension from future SCGA-administered competitions. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Willful damage of the golf course or golf course property
- Club throwing or unnecessary club tossing
- Offensive or unbecoming language
- Public criticism of golf course or verbal abuse of SCGA staff, officials, volunteers, host club staff or other contestants
- Potential endangerment of others
- Conduct deemed unbecoming
- Failure to post scores for handicapping purposes
- Manipulation of scores posted for handicapping purposes



SPECTATOR INFORMATION

Spectators are welcome and encouraged to attend this event. Spectators must adhere to the dress code listed within this document and must walk. If spectators have any questions leading up to the event, please contact the SCGA Rules and Competitions Department at (818) 980-3630.

FOOD SERVICE

Caddies and spectators may purchase breakfast, lunch, and snack items at the Halfway House, located adjacent to the 10th tee.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located near the restaurant and on the course near the 3rd and 12th tees.

AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Automotive transportation is not permitted for players, caddies or spectators. Any player seeking a golf cart due to a disability must contact the SCGA Rules and Competitions Department at (818) 980-3630 to obtain information on the procedure for submitting such a request.

SPECTATOR INFORMATION

Spectators are welcome and encouraged to attend this event. Spectators must adhere to the dress code listed within this document and must walk. If spectators have any questions leading up to the event, please contact the SCGA Rules and Competitions Department at (818) 980-3630.

Spectators may purchase food and beverage items from the Halfway House with cash, credit cards, or reciprocal charges. Restrooms are located in the clubhouse and on the course near the 7th, 10th, and 14th tees.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Players, caddies, and spectators should turn cell phones off or to silent mode while on the property and limit calls to the club's parking lot. Hole-by-hole scoring will be available throughout the championship at scga.org.



PACE OF PLAY POLICY

The Tournament Committee will determine the maximum allowable time each group is permitted to play the stipulated round. This time will be posted on each player's score card and each player is expected to maintain a pace faster than the maximum allowable time. The stipulated round is complete when the last player in the group completes play of the final hole and the flagstick is replaced.

LEAD GROUPS:

The lead group(s) must finish their stipulated round within the maximum allowable time established by the committee. If they finish over the maximum allowable time, each player will be assessed a penalty of two strokes to their score for the final hole.

Exception: If the lead group is held up by play that began on the opposite tee, they will be exempt from penalty if they finish over their maximum allowable time but within 14 minutes of the group in front of them.

FOLLOWING GROUPS:

Any subsequent group must finish their stipulated round within the maximum allowable time established by the committee. If they finish over the maximum allowable time, they must finish within 14 minutes of the group in front of them. If they finish over the maximum allowable time and more than 14 minutes behind the group in front of them, each player will be assessed a penalty of two strokes to their score for the final hole.

EXEMPTIONS FROM PENALTY:

If a group does not finish within their maximum allowable time due to circumstances beyond their control (such as a ruling or a ball search on the final hole, or any other circumstances which the Committee deems to be exceptional) but was otherwise in position during the play of the final four holes, the Committee may be justified in waiving the penalty. Being in position means to be immediately behind the group in front of you.

Any group that has a slow, deliberate or non-responsive player(s) may report the player(s) to SCGA Staff or a SCGA Rules Official at any time during the stipulated round, and the player(s) will be monitored. If SCGA Staff or a SCGA Rules Official identifies that a player(s) in the group is the cause of the group failing to maintain pace of play and determines other players are playing within the requirements of this policy, those meeting the requirements of this policy may be absolved from penalty while the others may not.

The SCGA reserves the right to review all penalty situations.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION AND LOCAL RULES

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf, Effective January 2016, the following Local Rules subject to amendments by the SCGA Rules and Competitions Committee, and the Notice to Players distributed at each site. Complete text of the Rules and [Appendix I](#) may be found in the current [Rules of Golf](#).

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is: Match Play - Loss of hole; Stroke Play - Two strokes.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS ⓘ – Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect. [Full list.](#)

LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS ⓘ – Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect. [Full List.](#)

PACE OF PLAY ⓘ – See separate memorandum to players for pace of play guidelines.

DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY ⓘ – Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

SCORE CARDS – A player is deemed to have returned his/her score card once he/she has left the scoring area.

CLOSE OF COMPETITION – A competition is deemed to have closed when the result (including the result of a playoff, if applicable) has been officially announced or, in stroke play qualifying followed by match play, when the player has teed off in his/her first match.

LOCAL RULES

DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES ⓘ – The use of Distance-Measuring Devices is permitted in all SCGA competitions.

EMBEDDED BALL THROUGH THE GREEN ⓘ – Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL ON A PUTTING GREEN – When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his/her partner, his/her opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. (NOTE: Full text of Local Rule available at usga.org/2017LocalRule).

WATER AND LATERAL WATER HAZARD STAKES AND LINES – When a water hazard or a lateral water hazard is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When a water hazard or lateral water hazard is bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

OUT OF BOUNDS ⓘ – A ball which crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR – Defined by white lines. French drains are deemed to be ground under repair.

WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY-SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS ⓘ – have the same status as the roads and paths, that of obstructions.

AERATION HOLES ⓘ – Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

SEAMS OF CUT TURF ⓘ (SOD SEAMS) – Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

EDGING GROOVES ⓘ – If a ball lies on an edging groove around a putting green, the player may, without penalty, lift the ball, clean it and place it out of the groove in the nearest position to where it lay, whether on or off the putting green, which is not nearer the hole.

WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH – are loose impediments, unless otherwise provided for in Notice to Players.

INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE – include artificial walls and pilings when located in hazards, unless otherwise provided for in Notice to Players.

POWER LINES ⓘ – If a ball strikes an overhead power line, the stroke is canceled and the player must play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played in accordance with [Rule 20-5](#). See Notice to Players for further clarification.

SCGA POLICIES

DRESS ATTIRE AND FOOTWEAR – Players must adhere to the dress code and footwear requirements as stated in the Player Information Sheet.

CODE OF CONDUCT – By submitting an entry for any SCGA-administered competition, the contestant understands that his/her participation is at the sole discretion of the SCGA. A contestant may be removed from any competition at the discretion of the SCGA staff or Rules and Competitions Committee at any time before or during the competition. Incidents of unbecoming conduct or actions deemed to be detrimental to the image of the SCGA or the "Spirit of the Game" are grounds for such removal and suspension from future SCGA-administered competitions. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Willful damage of the golf course or golf course property
- Club throwing or unnecessary club tossing
- Offensive or unbecoming language
- Public criticism of golf course or verbal abuse of SCGA staff, officials, volunteers, host club staff or other contestants
- Potential endangerment of others
- Conduct deemed unbecoming
- Failure to post scores for handicapping purposes
- Manipulation of scores posted for handicapping purposes

WITHDRAWAL POLICY – To withdraw for any reason prior to the start of an SCGA competition, a player must notify the SCGA Rules and Competitions Department at either (818) 980-3630, rules@scga.org, or by clicking [here](#). The player may also withdraw through his/her online player profile.

If a player needs to withdraw on the morning of the competition, he/she should contact the SCGA directly by phone or e-mail. Failure to notify the SCGA of a withdrawal may subject the player to suspension from future SCGA competitions.

WITHDRAWALS DURING AN SCGA COMPETITION – All players are expected to complete the competition which they start. Acceptable reasons for withdrawal during a competition are physical injury, illness, or an emergency. Poor play is not an acceptable reason for withdrawal. A player who withdraws without an acceptable reason or without notifying SCGA personnel (i.e. does not return a score card) may be subject to suspension from future SCGA competitions. Players who withdraw must sign and attest that the hole-by-hole scores are correct on the fellow-competitor's score card they were keeping and return that card to the fellow-competitor or another marker in the group.

For a complete listing of SCGA Tournament Policies and Procedures, click [here](#).

LA JOLLA COUNTRY CLUB

CLUB ESTABLISHED: 1927

ARCHITECT: William Bell

MEN'S COURSE RECORD: 60 (Phil Mickelson)

GREENS: Poa Annua

FAIRWAYS: Kikuyu

ROUGH: Kikuyu

COURSE RATING: 73.0

SLOPE: 133

YARDAGE: 6,690



GENERAL MANAGER: Michael Mooney

HEAD GOLF PROFESSIONAL: Clint Whitehill

SUPERINTENDENT: Dennis Fowler

NOTES FROM LA JOLLA CC

Yardages represent potential range during the championship.

NO. 1: 296 – 305 YARDS, PAR 4

A friendly opening hole. Lay up short of the fairway bunkers, or a long hitter may want to try to drive this green. One of the great legends of La Jolla CC is the day Phil Mickelson made an ace on this hole during a “beat the pro” day!

NO. 2: 130 – 157 YARDS, PAR 3

Club pro Paul Runyan influenced the design of this hole which was not a part of William P. Bell’s original 1927 layout. Missing this green with your tee shot will leave you with a difficult chip to a very fast and narrow green.

NO. 3: 436 YARDS, PAR 4

Dogleg left, the first of four long par-4s on the course. Avoid the fairway bunkers left, add a club more for your uphill second, and if possible, putt from below the hole. Great view of the coastline from behind this green.

NO. 4: 387 YARDS, PAR 4

A strategically positioned fairway bunker on the left side seems to be a magnet for a slightly pulled drive. A big greenside bunker on the right will catch many missed uphill approaches.

NO. 5: 325 – 349 YARDS, PAR 4

Fairway slopes left to right toward the fairway bunker. Lay up short of this hazard, or bust a driver down the left side. The green is well guarded by four bunkers, two of which are hidden behind the green.

NO. 6: 405 YARDS, PAR 4

A narrow driving area and OB left dictate a carefully crafted tee shot. The long hitter can drive beyond the plateau to a small landing area hidden below. An errant second shot to the right might be lost in the “hootie hole.”

NO. 7: 154 – 173 YARDS, PAR 3

A beautiful hole, well bunkered and disastrous if you miss the green left. Use enough club, and although you don’t feel it, the wind is generally in your face.

NO. 8: 559 YARDS, PAR 5

Big eucalyptus trees on the right dictate a left-to-right tee shot, or if you’re capable, drive straight over them. Unless you can reach this long hole in two, I suggest you lay up to the level area of the fairway at 100 yards. Two tiered green poses quite a challenge if you’re putting from above the hole!

NO. 9: 468 YARDS, PAR 4

The longest of all the par-fours, aim down the left side off the tee. Tree trouble looms if you miss your second shot right. The grilled burgers at the halfway house are outstanding!



NO. 10: 312 YARDS, PAR 4

Heading back toward the clubhouse, this short hole, although drivable for the longest hitters, is best played with a lay up to about 100 – 110 yards. Avoid missing over this green!

NO. 11: 396 – 402 YARDS, PAR 4

Great view of the entire hole from the elevated tee box. This narrow landing zone will surely pose a challenge as a starting hole during the first two rounds.

NO. 12: 388 YARDS, PAR 4

A real beauty. Tree trouble left and right all the way to this elevated well-bunkered green. A lay-up off the tee might be prudent for the long hitter.

NO. 13: 463 YARDS, PAR 4

A densely vegetated hillside all the way down the right side of this long par-4. Avoid the strategically placed fairway bunker on the left and you'll give yourself a better chance for par. The right to left sloping green makes for a very difficult up and down from the right greenside bunker.



NO. 14: 310 – 333 YARDS, PAR 4

A short, narrow hole with trouble right and trees left. Aim your drive or lay-up down the right side of the fairway. Enjoy the great ocean view from here!

NO. 15: 466 YARDS, PAR 4

Normally played as a par-5 for the members, this hole will be converted to a par-4 for the SCGA Amateur Championship. Really fast green from above the hole!

NO. 16: 176 – 184 YARDS, PAR 3

The longest of the par-3s, this well bunkered hole plays a club longer than the yardage. Like the last hole, it's extremely fast when putting from above.

NO. 17: 537 YARDS, PAR 5

OB left, this hole is reachable in two if you can drive the ball over the swale and on to the next plateau. Keep your second shot away from two well-positioned fairway bunkers left. Green slopes from right to left.



NO. 18: 357 – 366 YARDS, PAR 4

Uphill dogleg left with trouble all around. Fairway bunker on right is a good line off the tee. Grass bunkers on hillside left will catch a pulled drive. Beware of the false front of this very long and narrow green.

FORE MAGAZINE FEATURE

Legendary Links: La Jolla Country Club Set To Host The 119th SCGA Amateur Championship

foremagazine.com/lajolla

SCGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

EXEMPTIONS

- The past ten SCGA Amateur Champions (2008 – 2017)
- 2017 SCGA Amateur Championship (Top-10 finishers)
- 2018 SCGA Mid-Amateur Championship (Top-5 finishers)
- 2018 California Amateur Champion
- The past ten California Amateur Champions (2008-2017)
- 2017 California Amateur Championship - Match Play Qualifiers
- 2017 SCGA Senior Amateur Champion
- 2017 California Senior Amateur Champion
- 2017 SCGA Match Play Champion
- 2017 SCGA Public Links Champion
- 2017 Southern California Junior Amateur Boys Champion
- 2017 Winner of the SCGA Tournament of Club Champions - Championship Flight
- 2017 SCGA Points List (Top-10 finishers)
- 2017 U.S. Amateur and U.S. Mid-Amateur - Match Play Qualifiers
- 2018 CIF-SCGA High School Champion
- 2018 CIF-CGA State High School Champion
- SCGA members who qualified for the 2018 U.S. Open Championship
- SCGA members listed on the top 500 on the WAGR as of May 15, 2017
- Special Exemptions as selected by the Rules and Competitions Committee



SAM CHOI
2017 SCGA AMATEUR CHAMPION

LEGENDARY LINKS: LA JOLLA COUNTRY CLUB SET TO HOST THE 119TH SCGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

By Tod Leonard

The story is so far-fetched, so unbelievable to the current members of La Jolla CC that many pass it off as apocryphal. Except it's been written down and reported as fact in the annals of the club's history.

In 1959, club members were asked to vote on a proposal to purchase 350 acres, at \$1,000 an acre, in Carmel Valley, which is north and east of La Jolla, in the middle of what was then nowhere.

There were four proposals on the table, and the one that got the most votes — 87 of 236 respondents — called for building a new, longer course on the Carmel Valley site and selling the La Jolla land, whose location on a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean was getting more attractive by the year for developers

Pete Coe, who was La Jolla's head pro for 31 years before retiring in 2013, scoffed at the notion. "That was never going to happen," he said emphatically.

The members, or certainly the club's board at the time, came to their senses. It was decided they'd stay put, and membership became far more valuable. It was \$1,200 in 1959 and rose to \$7,500 a year later.

A HISTORY OF STARS

Since then, La Jolla CC has been so popular and revered that it's one of the few country clubs in San Diego to have maintained a waiting list to join (although, like most other clubs, there was an exit ledger in the aftermath of the Great Recession in 2008).

If the club had moved in the 1950s, so many incredible things probably would not have happened: Paul Runyan, an SCGA Hall of Famer who won two PGA Championships, and Phil Rodgers, his shortgame guru disciple, wouldn't have taught here; two other SCGA Hall of Famers, Gene Littler and Craig Stadler, wouldn't have grown up at La Jolla, honing skills that would win them major championships; notable amateur championships would not have been staged; and Phil Mickelson wouldn't have produced some incredible club moments and become the course's most beloved denizen.



After all, when Mickelson finally earned his first green jacket by winning the 2004 Masters, La Jolla hosted his homecoming celebration.

La Jolla CC will be in the spotlight again this summer when it hosts the 119th SCGA Amateur Championship (July 13-15). It will be the third time the SCGA Amateur has been staged here. Doug Clarke, an

18-year-old La Jolla member, captured the 1977 edition, and future PGA TOUR pro John Merrick — then a sophomore at UCLA — won the title in 2001.

La Jolla CC's history was laid out in a 2006 book published in celebration of its 80th birthday. The club was incorporated and opened in 1927, with the prolific William Bell being paid \$4,000 to create a layout, costing \$84,000, that rolled up and down through a couple of narrow coastal canyons. Its marked characteristic were its small, tilted greens.

La Jolla CC's honeymoon was short-lived because the Great Depression hit in 1929, and it would struggle to remain solvent for the next decade. World War II brought golf royalty to La Jolla, with Sam Snead, Jimmy Demaret and Jackie Burke Jr. frequently playing with members while serving in the military. Burke sometimes hoofed it over 36 holes on each weekend day before returning to the Marine Corps on Monday.

A young Gene Littler, whose mother Dorothy Lowery won numerous La Jolla women's club titles, often trailed the pros to watch. The winner of 29 PGA TOUR events, including the 1961 U.S. Open, Littler was taught the game by Runyan, who once gushed, "I'll take Littler over (Ben) Hogan and all the rest."

Before Littler's emergence, the club had already produced, arguably, its greatest golfer. Mickey Wright's father was a La Jolla member, and his daughter picked up her first club when she was 4 years old.

Young Mickey had her first lessons with La Jolla head pro Johnny Bellante in the mid-'40s, and she won a couple of club championships before setting off on a Hall-of-Fame professional career in which she won 82 tournaments and 13 majors.

Among the other professionals La Jolla produced were Chuck Courtney, John Schroeder and Lennie Clements. However, no one is more beloved than Mickelson, an honorary member.

Growing up in San Diego, Phil was a public golfer, only playing the private courses occasionally during tournaments. But Mickelson and Coe struck up a friendship while Mickelson was still in his teens, and it has endured over the entire course of Mickelson's Hall of Fame career, which includes five major championships.



TRUE CHAMPIONSHIP VENUE

Three months after his first Masters triumph, Mickelson set the La Jolla CC course record by making nine birdies and two eagles to shoot 60. His last five holes: birdie, eagle, birdie, birdie, birdie. Mickelson missed a 59 because he three-putted the par-4 ninth.

"I've never seen a round of golf played like that in my 40 years of golf," Coe said at the time.

The round, however, is almost a footnote for Mickelson because of another feat — also with Mickelson's lucky charm, Coe, on hand. Playing in the 2003 "Beat the Pros" member-guest tournament with Coe, his brother Tim and former junior golf rival and La Jolla member Harry Rudolph III, Mickelson drew a crowd around the tee of the 305-yard, dogleg-left opening hole.

The left-hander pounded a driver, the ball landed just short of the green and rolled up and into the cup for the first albatross of Mickelson's life.

Mickelson later joked, "I don't want to hear anything more about my driving accuracy."

A \$45,000 Jaguar had been put up for a hole-in-one prize, but there was a catch: The ace had to come on a par-3.

Another famous double-eagle was scored by Junior Seau, the late San Diego Chargers great. Playing a round in the spring of 2001, Seau used a rescue club from 230 yards to hole out on the 466-yard par-5 15th.



With little room to stretch out, La Jolla has never challenged players with its length. It totals 6,690 today from the tips. Renovated at junctures by Rees Jones and San Diegan Cary Bickler, its defense has always been its small, poa annua greens and wiry kikuyu rough that often causes even professionals to misjudge their distance.

"It's part of the classic charm of the place, to see people have days where they can burn it up," said La Jolla head professional Clint Whitehill.

In winning the 2001 SCGA Am title with a final score of 280, Merrick had to overcome one round of 74 with a 67. His final round 70 gave him a 2-stroke victory.

Technology and length have advanced considerably in 17 years, so Whitehill is fascinated to see what the competitors will shoot this time around.

"You could make the course so difficult by making it hard to get at the holes on the greens," Whitehill said. "But the SCGA won't do that. They're looking to have a respectable representation of the golf course, and if they all tear it up, that will be fun to see."



2017 CHAMPIONSHIP RECAP

History was made Sunday at Mission Hills CC, and not just because for the first time in its 118-year history the SCGA Amateur Championship was held in the Coachella Valley. Sam Choi, at just 17 years and one month of age, topped the rest of the field by five shots to become the youngest winner in the event's long and prestigious history.

"It's an honor to win this historical tournament," said Choi, a rising senior at Anaheim Discovery Christian School.

Going to bed Saturday night with a 3-stroke advantage, Choi had to sleep on the biggest lead of his young career. Having just come off back-to-back bogey-free rounds on Days 2 and 3 of the Championship, Choi looked to be in cruise control, ending Round 3 three strokes ahead of recent USC graduate Danny Ochoa and six shots better than the rest of the field.

But being on top of the leaderboard isn't always easy.

"I was so nervous last night," said Choi. "I basically just watched a lot of PGA TOUR and European Tour golf and tried to stay distracted. But when I got to the golf course today I was definitely nervous." If he was nervous, it barely showed. Despite carding a bogey on the 5th hole, his first scorecard blemish in an astonishing 45 holes, Choi looked unflappable. He played the front nine in even par. "I was hitting some disappointing shots on the front nine," said a humble Choi.

But it's Ochoa who will probably look back at that front nine as the one that got away. Entering the day in solo second place, Ochoa hit his first tee shot of the day OB, having to play a provisional and settle for a double bogey, quickly putting him five shots off the lead. The Carlsbad native would quickly right the ship, carding an easy birdie on the par-5 second hole before playing the rest of the front nine in

even par. However, it was the missed opportunities that followed that would allow Choi to keep his commanding lead. After Choi's bogey on the 5th hole, Ochoa was three shots off the lead, back to where he began the day. He would then put some pressure on Choi with an incredible tee shot on the par-3 8th hole, sticking it to two feet. After Choi missed his 10-footer for birdie, Ochoa followed suit, missing his putt just left of the hole to miss an opportunity to get within striking distance. On the very next hole Ochoa would again put himself in position to collect a much-needed birdie, but missed the eight-foot putt to remain at 9-under par. That was all Choi needed to get into gear. He would



make his own birdie putt on No. 9 and go on to play the back nine in 4-under par. The impressive display of hitting fairways and greens that spectators saw during Rounds 2 and 3 re-appeared, and the Korean-born golfer refused to let Ochoa back into the race. He would open up the back nine with a birdie on No. 10 to extend his lead to five, and despite Ochoa playing the back nine in three-under par himself, the eventual champion ended his own round with three straight birdies on the three final holes of the tournament. "On the back nine I started to really keep up and play aggressively," said Choi, who has verbally committed to play college golf at the University of New Mexico.

Minutes after tapping in for birdie on Mission Hills' iconic 18th hole, Choi made the historic leap into Poppie's Pond, a time-honored tradition first started by SCGA Hall of Famer Amy Alcott after her 1988 victory at the ANA Inspiration. Every year since, the winner of the LPGA Tour's major championship makes that very same leap, as does the victor of the annual AJGA event also held at Mission Hills. Earlier this year, Choi finished third at that AJGA event. "Jumping into the pond felt great," said Choi, who ended up shooting rounds of 69-67-67-68 for a four-day total of 17-under par. "Having played in the AJGA event here really helped me feel more comfortable with the course, and I just want to thank Mission Hills for being a great host."



Ochoa would finish five back of the champion, and four strokes better than fellow USC grad Andrew Levitt, Joshua Matz and Donald Kay, who all finished T3 at 8-under par. 2004 Champion Tim Hogarth continued his impressive play in the event, earning his fourth straight Top 10 finish at 3-under par T10.

Choi's record-breaking victory makes him the youngest winner of the Championship, a feat previously held by Paul Hunter, who in 1908 won his first of a record five SCGA Amateur titles at 17 year and four months of age.

With the victory, Choi is exempted into next year's SCGA Amateur Championship, which

will be held at La Jolla CC, as well as the 2018 California Amateur Championship, which will head to Omni La Costa Resort & Spa.

SCGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

HISTORY - WHO'S NEXT?

The SCGA Amateur is one of the nation's oldest continuously contested amateur golf championships. The first SCGA Amateur was held less than one year after the Southern California Golf Association was formed on July 29, 1899. Only the Utah Amateur, begun in 1899, has a longer consecutive string (the U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur both predate the SCGA Amateur, but both USGA events were suspended during war years).

A match play format was used for the first 58 years of the tournament. In 1957, the format was changed to 72 holes of stroke play. In 1973, increasing interest and the number of entries resulted in regional qualifying with a 36-hole finale. The 72-hole stroke play format was reinstituted in 1974. In addition to the championship itself, for many years the tournament also had net competition in flights. However, due to the increasing popularity of this portion of the tournament, a separate SCGA Amateur Net Championship was created in 1993.

The list of SCGA Amateur champions includes many of the legendary names of golf. Charles E. Orr, who won the first title with a 6 and 4 win over SCGA President Charles Maud, was



George von Elm (1922, 1925, 1927)

described as a "crack player from the Pasadena Country Club." Another Pasadena resident, Dr. Paul Hunter, won a record five SCGA Amateur titles from 1912 to 1929. In 1925, George Von Elm became the only player ever to win the SCGA Amateur, NCGA Amateur and California Amateur in the same year (a year later, he became the first Southern Californian to win the U.S. Amateur).

In 1933, another legendary amateur, Charles Seaver (who was also the father of baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Tom Seaver), won the California Amateur and NCGA Amateur. When he won the SCGA Amateur in 1934, he held all three titles at the same time for a few weeks; only Von Elm has equaled that feat.

The '40s were a golden age of golf in Southern California, with the likes of Johnny Dawson, Bobby Gardner and Bruce McCormick — all eventual Walker Cuppers — capturing SCGA Amateur titles. Notable winners in the 1950s included future PGA Champion Al Geiberger (in 1956 and 1959) and car dealer Fletcher Jones, while future PGA Tour members



Johnny Dawson (1942, 1944, 1945, 1952)

Barry Jaeckel, John Jacobs, Mark Pfeil, Tony Sills, Jeff Hart, Greg Twiggs, Dave Sheff, David Hobby, Paul Stankowski, Todd Demsey, Charlie Wi and John Merrick have won in subsequent decades.

In recent years, Craig Steinberg has won four SCGA Amateur titles (1988, 1991, 1992, 1997), just the third person to accomplish that feat, joining Dawson, who won four times, and Hunter, who won five titles. Scott McGihon joined the list of three-time winners when he won back-to-back titles in 2005-06, in addition to his 2000 win. In 1994, Tiger Woods, the most celebrated golfer of the current generation, won the SCGA Amateur at Hacienda GC, setting a four-round scoring record of 270, helped in large measure by a single-round record 62 in the third round. Woods scoring record held up until 2010 when Scott Travers finished the championship in a record setting 16-under-par. Patrick Cantlay capped off one of the great amateur golf summers by winning the SCGA Amateur in 2011 and Beau Hossler won back-to-back titles in 2013 and 2014.

Among those who have tried to win the SCGA Amateur and failed are Craig Stadler, Scott Simpson, Corey Pavin, Mark O'Meara, Phil Mickelson, Duffy Waldorf and Jason Gore.



Beau Hossler (2013, 2014)



Patrick Cantlay (2011)



Tiger Woods (1994)

YEAR	CHAMPION	SITE
2017	Sam Choi	Mission Hills CC
2016	Rico Hoey	Barona Creek GC
2015	Nathan Celusta	Oakmont CC
2014	Beau Hossler	Rancho Santa Fe GC
2013	Beau Hossler	San Diego CC
2012	Bhavik Patel	Big Canyon CC
2011	Patrick Cantlay	San Gabriel CC
2010	Scott Travers	La Cumbre CC
2009	Austin Graham	Wilshire CC
2008	Kevin Marsh	Saticoy CC
2007	Brett Kanda	Victoria Club
2006	Scott McGihon	Bakersfield CC
2005	Scott McGihon	Tijeras Creek
2004	Tim Hogarth	Hillcrest CC
2003	Roy Moon	Torrey Pines GC
2002	Nico Bollini	El Caballero CC
2001	John Merrick	La Jolla CC
2000	Scott McGihon	Rancho Santa Fe GC
1999	John Pate	Industry Hills GC
1998	Greg Padilla	The SCGA Members' Club
1997	Craig Steinberg	Lakeside GC
1996	Kevin Marsh	Santa Maria CC
1995	Charlie Wi	Santa Ana CC
1994	Tiger Woods	Hacienda GC
1993	Todd Demsey	Brentwood CC
1992	Craig Steinberg	Fairbanks Ranch CC
1991	Craig Steinberg	Bel-Air CC
1990	Pat Duncan	Wilshire CC
1989	Paul Stankowski	Glendora CC
1988	Craig Steinberg	Annandale GC

YEAR	CHAMPION	SITE
1987	Greg Starkman	Braemar CC
1986	Dave Sheff	Hillcrest CC
1985	Brad Greer	Virginia CC
1984	Brad Greer	San Gabriel CC
1983	David Hobby	Santa Maria CC
1982	Mark Blakely	Stockdale CC
1981	Greg Twiggs	Stardust CC
1980	Jon (Bud) Ardell	Oakmont CC
1979	Jeff Hart	Hacienda GC
1978	Brian Gaddy	Bel-Air CC
1977	Doug Clarke	La Jolla CC
1976	Tony Sills	California CC
1975	Lee Davis	Wilshire CC
1974	Jim Porter	Brentwood CC
1973	John Richardson	El Niguel CC
1972	Mark Pfeil	Hillcrest CC
1971	John Beetham	Virginia CC
1970	Gary Sanders	Oakmont CC
1969	U.T. Thompson III	Hacienda GC
1968	Barry Jaeckel	Lakeside GC
1967	Greg Pitzer	Riviera CC
1966	John A. Jacobs	Victoria Club
1965	Richard Davies	Annandale GC
1964	Larry Brown	San Gabriel GC
1963	Bruce McCormick	Hillcrest CC
1962	Larry Bouchey	Virginia CC
1961	Ted Richards, Jr.	Los Angeles CC
1960	Ben Alyea	Brentwood CC
1959	Al Geiberger	Oakmont CC
1958	Frank Hixon	Wilshire CC

YEAR	CHAMPION	SITE
1957	Verne Callison	Lakeside GC
1956	Al Geiberger	Santa Ana CC
1955	Jerry Steelsmith	Annandale GC
1954	Ted Richards, Jr.	San Gabriel CC
1953	Fletcher Jones	Los Angeles CC
1952	John Dawson	Hillcrest CC
1951	Jim Ferrie	Virginia CC
1950	Jim Ferrie	Oakmont CC
1949	Jerry Douglas	Victoria Club
1948	Bruce McCormick	Wilshire CC
1947	Bruce McCormick	Los Angeles CC
1946	Bobby Gardner	Virginia CC
1945	John Dawson	San Gabriel CC
1944	John Dawson	Lakeside GC
1943	Smiley Quick	Hillcrest CC
1942	John Dawson	Los Angeles CC
1941	Pat Abbott	Oakmont CC
1940	Smiley Quick	Lakeside GC
1939	Frank Hixon	Annandale GC
1938	Pat Abbott	California CC
1937	Jack Gaines	Riviera CC
1936	Roger Kelly	San Diego CC
1935	Harry Wesbrook	Los Angeles CC
1934	Charles Seaver	Bel-Air CC
1933	Harold Thompson	Brentwood CC
1932	Jack Gaines	San Gabriel CC
1931	David Martin	Los Angeles CC
1930	Fay Coleman	Midwick CC
1929	Gibson Dunlap	Bel-Air CC
1928	Fay Coleman	Midwick CC

YEAR	CHAMPION	SITE
1927	George Von Elm	Lakeside GC
1926	Paul Hunter	California CC/ Brentwood CC
1925	George Von Elm	Los Angeles CC
1924	Paul Hunter	Annandale GC
1923	Willie Hunter	Midwick CC
1922	George Von Elm	Flintridge CC/ Pasadena GC
1921	Paul Hunter	Los Angeles CC
1920	E.H. Seaver	Los Angeles CC
1919	Douglas Grant	Los Angeles CC
1918	R.J. Cash, Jr.	Los Angeles CC
1917	Windsor B. Walton	Midwick CC
1916	Harold B. Lamb	Los Angeles CC
1915	E.S. Armstrong	Midwick CC
1914	Carleton Wright	San Gabriel CC
1913	Norman Macbeth	Los Angeles CC
1912	E.S. Armstrong	Los Angeles CC
1911	Norman Macbeth	Los Angeles CC
1910	Wm. Frederickson	Annandale GC
1909	Paul Hunter	Annandale GC
1908	Paul Hunter	Los Angeles CC
1907	Sterling Liness	Los Angeles CC
1906	Wm. Frederickson	Los Angeles CC
1905	Walter Fairbanks	Los Angeles CC
1904	W.K. Jewett	Los Angeles CC
1903	Walter Fairbanks	Los Angeles CC
1902	H.M. Sears	Pasadena CC
1901	Walter Fairbanks	Los Angeles CC
1900	Charles E. Orr	Los Angeles CC