



# THE DRIVER

Newsletter of the Madrona Links Men's Club

December 2018

## Men's Club Tournaments and December Events

**CHRISTMAS PARTY—DEC 7**

**BALL BUSTER 2-MAN SCRAMBLE—DEC 9**

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### It's the End of the Year

Traditionally two things happen in December at Madrona. The first is the Men's Club Christmas Party. It is scheduled for December 7, and space is limited, so sign up soon. The celebration begins at 5:00 PM, and dinner will be served at 5:30. As always there will be a raffle, and everyone should get some sort of prize.

Sign-up at the desk so that you don't miss out. This is one of the benefits of being a member of the Men's Club.

The second event this month is the Ball Buster tournament. It is a two-man scramble from the "Ridiculous" tees. The tee boxes will be set up in places that make this tournament one of the most challenging of the year. For instance, it will be no surprise if the tee box for the fourteenth hole is down behind the 13th green. Get your partner and sign-up at the desk in the Pro-shop. This is set for December 9, so there is no time to waste.

### Congratulations

I have heard about the following accomplishments in November:

**Mike Marr** shot a **68** from the white tees.

**Ryan Kelly** topped that by shooting a **59** from the white tees.

**David Allen** eagled number four from the white tees.

And finally, a heart-breaker - **Bob Elsdon** shot a 79 from the white tees exactly one day **BEFORE** his 79th birthday. It was the closest he's been to shooting his age.

## Madrona Links Men's Club

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*Director of Golf:*

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*Telephone Numbers:*

*Pro Shop* 253 851-5193

*Restaurant* 253 851-5465

### Committee Chairmen

*Handicap :* Roger Smith

*Tournament :* Ron Cordes

*Social :* Wayne McCann

*TGA Reps :* Larry Miller

Roger Smith

### The Driver

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## Handicaps are Frozen

As of November 14 the USGA has frozen handicaps for our area. The computer in the pro shop will still accept Madrona Scores, but your handicap will not change until we "thaw" handicaps in March. The only thing that will change is the "trend."

Most of the Men's club groups will be using the trend for their competitions, so it is expected that you will post your Madrona scores on our computer so that your current scores on our often cold and wet course will adjust your trend accordingly. No need to penalize yourself for shooting less well when you are cold and wet.

Any rounds played in areas that are not "frozen," like California or Arizona should be posted on the computer at the course you played, or posted online. Those scores will be figured into your handicap.

## New Rules for 2019

Beginning January 1st we start the new USGA rules. Perhaps the most interesting change concerns out-of-bounds or lost balls. If our club adopts the recommended local rule, it will no longer be necessary to hit a provisional ball, though you may do so if you'd like. Rather than hitting a provisional ball, you can go to the probable location of the out-of-bounds ball (Call this Point A) then proceed to the nearest fairway edge no closer to the hole than measure two club lengths (Call this Point B). You are allowed to drop the ball anywhere in the triangle made by point A, Point B, and the spot of your last shot. There is a penalty of two strokes for doing this, so if your tee shot went out –of-bounds you would be lying 3 now.

If you choose to hit a provisional, you MAY NOT use the above method of relief. The rule for a lost ball is a bit more complex.

I recommend that you go to the USGA website ([www.USGA.org](http://www.USGA.org)) for a full explanation of this and all of the other new rules.

**December 7**  
**Men's Club Christmas Party**

**December 9**  
**Ball Buster**  
**2-man Scramble**  
**Incredible Tees**

**January**  
**No Date Set**  
**3 Clubs and a Putter**  
**White tees**