

## Hulka Empties Hole-in-one Pot!

New SGL member Steve Hulka continues to announce his presence with authority. On Saturday, after having won five times in his first seven league appearances, he emptied the league's hole-in-one pot on the 15th hole at Orange Tree to the tune of \$680.

We'll let Steve tell the story in his own words:

"So, I'm playing the ninth hole and, of course, I'm riding the cart with my good pal Bill Novak, who introduced me to the SGL...Bill hits it left off the tee over by the cart path and is entitled to get a drop for his stance. I get out of the passenger side to assist with his options, and not seeing a low limb of a tree, walk straight into it and hit the top of my head so hard I jam my neck severely...I went down (but not out) and catch my hand on some sharp rocks, bloodying my right palm so bad I turned my white towel red. After I proceeded to chunk my 2nd shot - a pitching wedge from 122! - into the pond I tell Bill I'm done, I'm going home. I'm playing horribly, my mind's not on golf (my wife and I got our business and personal bank accounts hacked this last month), and I truly had no business on the golf course. But I didn't want to let down Bill, especially, along with playing partners Steve Park and Mike Marsolek.

The rest, as they say, is history. The 5-hybrid on the 15th - 160 was the number - NEVER left the flag, landed 155, two hops and rolled straight in like a putt. Funny thing, while I was walking up to the green, my former PGA Tour player Brian Davis, who I caddied for the last 12 years, had texted me asking if my son Ben was at the Masters caddying for his man CT Pan. I pulled BD up on FaceTime and he watched me pull the ball out of the hole!

Last night when I told my old caddie buddy Herb Stevens (Larry Nelson in the 1970's) about my fifth ace, I come to find out he has five also...so we now have a \$100 bet on the "race to six"!

Funny thing about all this? The very day before at my Friday skins game at the Foothills GC in my neighborhood I rolled my 4-hybrid over the cup from 183 on #7, stopping a foot behind the hole...that deuce held up for a \$126 payday!! I came within inches of two aces in two days, back-to-back.

Golf is grand, isn't it? See you all next Sat. - the SGL is a GREAT group of people who share my Love of The Game!"

Ironically, the ace came in the midst of Steve's second-highest scoring round since he arrived. By the way, don't try hitting your noggin on a tree and expecting a hole-in-one. Your intrepid reporter slammed his head into an aptly named ironwood tree at Grayhawk a couple summers ago, and no such good fortune followed. Cutting your hand on some rocks may work, though. Haven't tried that one.

This marks the third year in a row we have had a hole-in-one in league play. George Banach did it at Wildfire's Faldo course in June of 2019, and Steve Oliva had an ace at the Arizona Biltmore's Links course in February of 2018. Prior to that, it had been over seven years since the pot was drained. So, time to fill it back up. Go to the payment page on the website and kick in your \$5!



*Steve Hulka pulls the ball out of the hole after his 160-yard chip shot. That will be a one, zero on the scorecard!*

## And, Oh Yeah, The Rest of the Tournament...

Saturday saw an enormous and possibly record-setting field of 61 SGL golfers on a perfect morning for golf at Orange Tree in the opening round of the 2020-21 Ringers event.

The course provided a solid challenge, as the field averaged 90.7 gross and 77.3 net. Bo Montgomery was the day's medalist at 75, while Jeff Henriksen claimed low net with 70.

Steve's ace was not the only eagle on Saturday. Brennan Murray added one on the par-5 6th hole. In addition, there were 33 birdies, with Bo leading the way at 4. The hardest hole was the go-for-it-at-your-peril par-4 18th, playing to an average of +1.56 strokes over-par. The easiest was the aforementioned 6th at +0.64.

Bo's 75 produced a net of 71 and earned him a Flight 1 victory. It was Dave Dean on top of Flight 2 with 81/71. Mike Tobin took a step forward in his cranial-rectal extraction therapy, shooting 89/74 to take Flight 3. Jeff scored 92/70 to lead Flight 4. And, Trevor Hillman bested another huge, fifteen-player Callaway Flight at 78/72.

Bo also earned a CTP on the 4th hole. Trevor got one on the 7th and was poised to claim it on the 12th also, until Ken Slagle got one inch closer (as measured by the scientific flagstick method). And, uhh...Steve took it on the 15th at 0 inches.

Trevor still made money off the 12th hole, though, as he sank the approximately 13-foot putt for a Deuce and a Gross Skin. Brennan pulled off what could be an SGL first by earning Deuces on consecutive holes. The par-5 eagle on the 6th counts as one (even though it's technically a Trey), then he birdied the par-3 7th for another. Jeff Coughran also made a 2 on the 7th.

Amy Arnold's 28 putts were one fewer than three other players to win her that category. Steve's total earnings on the day, including the ace, was \$784. Brennan topped the list of those earning from mere mortal achievements with \$141.

Saturday's Gross and Net Skins are detailed below.

Gross (\$22)			Net (\$32)		
Player	Hole	Result	Player	Hole	Result
Tom Hegna	1	Birdie	Brennan Murray	6	Eagle/net albatross
Brennan Murray	6	Eagle	Val LeChuga	11	Birdie/net eagle
Tom Hegna	8	Birdie	Steve Hulka	15	Eagle
Trevor Hillman	12	Birdie	Amy Arnold	17	Birdie/net eagle
Brennan Murray	13	Birdie			
Steve Hulka	15	Eagle			

## Next Up: Verrado (Victory)

It's back to the west side this weekend as we visit Verrado's Victory course. The challenging venue is a 180-degree change from Orange Tree, featuring many elevation changes within its desert target golf design.

Tee times are slated to start at 7:33, and you can expect another full field as we currently are booked beyond planned capacity.



*Large white boulders and rock formations are a common feature around the challenging Victory course at Verrado*

## **SGL Events Continue to Grow in Size**

Our last four events have had 48, 49, 52 and 61 players, with several alternates in waiting. And, again, we may approach 70 this week. If you see one you like on the schedule, be sure to sign up early. When we know we're going over capacity, we can try to make arrangements with the courses to add foursomes.

## **2021 SGL Memberships Now Available Thru the AGA**

SGL Memberships for the year 2021 are now available thru the AGA for new and existing members at a discounted rate until December 31, 2020. Other discounts may also apply if joining other leagues, having a lifetime membership or having a complimentary membership from the SGL. Some of the many benefits which include handicap service by the World Handicap System, access to AGA events, a free mobile app, newsletters and magazines and much more. [Click here to renew or join the SGL](#)

### **Handy Links:**

[New Golf Genius Portal](#) -- For the 2020 – 2021 SGL Season (Need to bookmark for tee sheets and results)

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