

THE OLYMPIC CLUB



2017

UNIQUE HISTORY

Established on May 6, 1860, The Olympic Club enjoys the distinction of being one of America's oldest athletic clubs. A west coast powerhouse in amateur sports, the Club has been the home of many local, regional, national and international champions.

QUICK FACTS

- "Gentleman Jim" Corbett became Heavyweight Champion of the World in 1892
- 23 athletes represented the United States at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris, the largest delegation from a Club. The U.S. rugby team, made up of mostly Bay Area and OC players, won gold for the second time in row.
- The OC football team celebrated undefeated seasons in 1925 and 1928, even with schedules that included games against such college teams as UC Berkeley, Stanford and St. Mary's. In 1925, the Club gave Cal its first defeat since 1919.
- In 1964, Olympians dominated USGA events: Ken Venturi won the U.S. Open Championship; Bill Higgins, the U.S. Senior; and Johnny Miller, the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship.

MEMBERSHIP

Since 1860, our membership has grown from the original 23 charter members to over 5,000 men and women, as well as 1,000 junior members. Olympians compete in over 19 sports and enjoy two historic clubhouses in San Francisco: the City Clubhouse, near Union Square, and Lakeside, at the Pacific Ocean.

Our members also support the Olympic Club Foundation, supporting programs that share the belief that participation in organized athletics enriches young lives and develops future community leaders. For more information, visit www.olyclubfdn.org

FACILITIES

CITY CLUBHOUSE

The Club's first permanent clubhouse downtown on Post Street opened in 1893, but was destroyed in the great 1906 earthquake and fire. During this dark hour, President William F. Humphrey emerged as the driving force of the Club, a role he performed for almost half a century. Olympic Club rebuilt its clubhouse, and the doors on Post Street reopened in 1912. It was restored in 2006 to its original glory. The clubhouse features a fitness center, cardio solarium, hotel facilities, handball and squash courts, circuit training facilities, two basketball courts and two swimming pools.

LAKESIDE

In 1918, the Club assumed operations of the Lakeside Golf Club, including an 18-hole golf course. Famed architect Arthur Brown, designer of the San Francisco City Hall, designed the Lakeside clubhouse, which officially opened in 1925. The clubhouse features spectacular dining and banquet facilities, meeting rooms, locker rooms, an exercise center and a swimming pool. The Golf Shop was completely renovated in spring 2011.

THE LAKE COURSE

By 1922, the Club had acquired enough acreage to replace the original golf course with two 18-hole golf courses. Willie Watson and course superintendent Sam Whiting designed the first Lake and Ocean courses in 1924. Unfortunately, storm damage led Sam Whiting to redesign both courses in 1927.

The Lake Course remains true to the 1927 design with a few renovations in the intervening years. Prior to the 1955 U.S. Open, the Club brought the USGA's official course architect, Robert Trent Jones, Sr., to toughen the Lake Course for competition.

Most recently, the Club completed the Lake Course Greens Replacement project under the guidance of Golf Course Architect William R. Love, former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. All greens were converted from poa annua to bent grass. In addition, new rear tees were added on many holes and the entire eighth hole was moved and sculpted into the surrounding hillside with views of the clubhouse. This was the first routing change to the course since 1927. The three-tiered seventh green was returned to its original two tiers and lengthened by six yards. The 15th green has been made slightly smaller and the bunkering around the green was redone. Some of the slope on the 18th green was also reintroduced.

THE OCEAN COURSE

The Ocean Course has been renovated several times since 1927. In 2000, the Club unveiled a new course, designed by Tom Wieskopf which was then again changed in 2012 by William R. Love. In the most recent change nearly forty new tees were added to the sixty tees to offer more diversity in length and angle to play each hole. All of the greens were converted from poa annua to bentgrass and were redesigned to add more challenge to golfers of all levels. All bunkers on the course were rebuilt along with modifications to aid in drainage. The Ocean Course now receives the same amount of play that The Lake Course receives. Its unique beauty and varied tee length offers those wishing a respite from the Lake Course a chance to enjoy a welcome reprieve when needed.

TOURNAMENT HISTORY

The Club began hosting golf tournaments in the 1930s, including the San Francisco National Match Play Open in 1930, 1932 and 1939. We went on to host the 1946 San Francisco Open (won by Byron Nelson), the 1948 Women's Western Amateur Championship, the 1958 America's Cup, the 1971, 1975, 1980, 1984, 1989, 2000 and 2006 Pacific Coast Amateur Championships, as well as the PGA Tour Championships in 1993 and 1994.

The Club has also hosted the 1958, 1981 and 2007 U.S. Amateur Championships, the 2004 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship and the inaugural U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship in 2015. The 2021 U.S. Women's Open Championship will also be played at The Olympic Club.

THE U.S. OPEN AT LAKESIDE

The Lake Course challenges professionals and amateurs alike with its narrow, tree-lined fairways and small, well-bunkered greens.

- The Club hosted its first U.S. Open Championship in 1955, when Jack Fleck, a relative unknown, defeated the favorite, Ben Hogan, in a playoff. Of the seven rounds under par for the tournament, Fleck put up three.
- During the next U.S. Open Championship in 1966, Arnold Palmer dominated, leading by seven strokes with only nine holes left to play. Billy Casper tied him and then won the playoff.
- In 1987, nine players went into Sunday within three strokes of the lead. The favorite, Tom Watson, was defeated, as Scott Simpson took the day, without the need for a play-off.
- In 1998, Payne Stewart went into Sunday with a four stroke lead but the legacy of Hogan, Palmer and Watson loomed before him. He too would falter, allowing Lee Janzen to make his way to the top. No player broke par for the tournament and only Janzen equaled it.
- In 2012, after starting Sunday four shots back from the leaders, Webb Simpson went two-over for the first five holes before putting together a string of birdies on 6, 7, 8 and 10. Graeme McDowell and Jim Furyk both needed birdies on 18 to force a playoff -- neither sank their shots and Simpson won his first major with a 1-over-par 281.

If you would like to learn more, request an interview, or request images of The Olympic Club facilities for publication, please contact <mailto:offices@olyclub.com>.