

GoGolf

... A VOTE FOR FASTER GOLF

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Last May four members of Rancho Men's Club, Bobby Howe, Ralph Rubenstein, Fred Muhl, and Harvey Poulin, played Rancho in *one-hour and fifty one minutes* and shot 71, 73, 75, and 77 respectively. And to complete his day, Bobby Howe had lunch and came back in the afternoon to shoot another 18 holes in 3 hours and 25 minutes for another gross 71.

The less than two-hour round was part of a unique experiment called Operation Go Golf, conducted by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks with the cooperation of the City's municipal golfers. It was a protest against the tendency toward creeping golf paralysis.

Playing on nine regulation Los Angeles City Courses, 4,240 golfers played rounds under tournament conditions ALL IN UNDER 4 HOURS. In fact, the average elapsed time was 3 hours 15 minutes per 18 holes. Strangely enough, the first instructions to the participants was *not to hurry*, but to observe a few simple instructions.

SO, WE HAVE THE EVIDENCE THAT GOOD GOLF AND FAST GOLF ARE COMPATIBLE.

There is a distinct trend toward slower play in golf, both tournament and recreation golf. Look at this ten-year comparison for the U.S. Open Championship:

	1955	1965	Increase
Threesomes			
1st round	4:27	5:27	60 minutes
2nd round	3:58	5:24	82 minutes

	1955	1965	Increase
Twosomes			
3rd round	3:42	4:26	44 minutes
4th round	3:13	4:13	60 minutes

In Kansas City it is now taking 5-1/2 hours to play the Southview course, exactly *two hours* more than it did in 1956. Then the course averaged 400 golfers a day. Now at 300 a day the course is still full. The same story is being told in New York, Milwaukee, Chicago, and Portland.

The principal reasons for slow play can be attributed to: television examples of the touring pros, the design of golf courses, the Rules of Golf, the caliber of the players, the operation of the course, — and public apathy.

The Los Angeles City courses are designed for fast play, with open fairways, minimal rough, few traps, lakes, or other hazards. The rules of golf have been changed this past year to speed up play. Golfers may mark and clean balls on the putting green but once, and they are required to continue putting until they hole out.

Not only did Operation Go Golf dramatically prove a point, but it has resulted in a substantial increase in the rounds played over Los Angeles courses. During Go Golf Week and the five following weeks, there was an *increase* of 14,670 rounds played over the previous six weeks.



GO GOLFERS (l to r) Fred Muhl, Ralph Rubenstein, Bobby Howe, and Harvey Poulin tell Golf Manager Ray Goates of their 1 hour and 51 minutes round. All are members of Rancho Men's Club, and Bobby Howe holds a Rancho record with 61.

GO GOLF has made it possible for more golfers to play on the City's courses. To play your part, here are the simple rules:

ON THE TEE

Tee off as soon as the group in front is clear.
Carry an extra ball in your pocket.
Limit conversation until you leave the tee.

ON THE FAIRWAY

Select club and hit without delay.
Watch your ball. Mark it if it leaves the fairway.
Help search for lost balls AFTER you hit your shot.
Limit search for lost balls to 3 minutes.
Drop your cart passenger; then drive to your ball.

ON THE GREEN

Place clubs between green and next tee.
Study your putt while others are putting.
Use continuous putting.
If you are lagging, first ones holeing out tee off first.
If you are lagging, do not wave up following group on 3-pars.

FROM THE GREEN

Leave green immediately after last player has holed out.
Mark scores AFTER you leave the green.
Hit tee shot without delay.

IN GENERAL

You MUST keep pace with the group ahead.
No golf lessons on the course.
Keep practice swings to a minimum.