

2007 Inductee Biographies



RUDY DURAN – Rudy turned pro in 1971 and was elected to PGA membership in 1976. He played on the Canadian Tour in 1976 and 1977 and played briefly on the PGA Tour in 1977-78 before the “all-exempt” tour that is now in place.

From 1972 to 1985 he worked at Heartwell Park GC, much of that time as the Head Golf Professional. It was during this time that he mentored the person who was arguably his most notable pupil, fellow Long Beach Golf Hall of Fame member Tiger Woods. He authored the book “In Every Kid There Lurks a Tiger” which covers his dealings with Tiger from the age of 4 to 10 years old.

In the 1980s, he relocated to the Paso Robles area, where he managed the Chalk Mountain GC and designed and built The Links Course at Paso Robles.

Rudy has always been very active in the game and in the profession, serving in many capacities with the SoCal PGA’s Northern Chapter, the Minority Golf Association of America and the First Tee of the Central Coast. He also received numerous awards including three time Northern Chapter Golf Professional of the Year, Section Junior Golf Leader and the Section Bill Strassbaugh Award for member and club relations.



JOHN MANSELL – John Mansell was the City Auditor for Long Beach from 1951 to 1961 when he was appointed City Manager, a position he held for another 15 years. He played golf on a weekly basis and oversaw the design, construction and opening of both Skylinks and El Dorado Park Golf Courses.

Playing golf as regularly as he did, gave him a keen perspective on the needs of the courses, and in his position he was able to act accordingly and many of the benefits and enjoyment that today’s golfers receive from the City’s Golf Operation are a direct result of his love for and involvement in the game.



GWENN HIBBS – In the 1960s and '70s Gwen Hibbs was one of the “players to beat” in Southern California women’s golf circles. The highlight of her career was winning the 1973 USGA Ladies Senior Amateur Championship at the San Marcos Country Club, the first person with Long Beach ties to win a USGA Championship. In the Championship she defeated among others the 5-time reigning champion, Mrs. Philip Cudone, and her score of 231 broke the then tournament record by 2 shots. The Championship was held at the San Marcos CC in Chandler, AZ.

She was an 11-time club champion at Recreation Park and two-time club champ at El Dorado as well as serving as Club President in 1971-72, and she won the SoCal Pub Links Senior Championship seven times. Hibbs initiated the Long Beach Area Women’s Masters Championship and the Long Beach Tri-Club matches.