

**M**y name is Lester “Skip” Looney, and I joined Burning Brook in 1999. I’m honored to be running for one of four available seats on our club’s board of directors.

As you might imagine, I have a vision of what needs to be done to improve our golf course. Since space is limited here in our wonderful club periodical, let’s get to the most important matter — me.

Following a stint as senior vice president of Serviceable Debt And Earnings Repurposing at Amortization, Greed and Growth until the SEC mistakenly shut us down (don’t believe the rumors), I decided to go to law school. Skip Looney has since been working as a senior paralegal for three years at the firm of Fault, Detainer and Tort. My experience there, combined with several hours spent sitting in on recent board meetings, tells me that we must restructure our club’s massive debt obligations if we hope to modernize our golf course.

Many of you have witnessed my extensive team building and leadership skills during our weekly poker games in the Old Tom Morris room. I’ve squelched many brouhahas that have surfaced, and I believe the management experience gained during those circumstances have helped me prepare for the rigors of running a club like Burning Brook.

This brings me to the real reason Skip Looney is running for elected office. This past year I wrote a letter to the green committee and our greenskeeper (whose name eludes me at the moment) appraising the course. Skip Looney now regrets this letter because it lacked the direct tone necessary to affect change. As a member of the board of directors, I promise never to make such a mistake again.

My letter’s closing statement sums up the feelings of most golfers I talked to while handing out campaign buttons at last month’s new member meeting:

“Remember when you took pride in being a member of the ‘toughest short course in the central valley.’ If we take ‘toughest’ out of that statement, what we’ll be left with will not be

## If You Elect Me, I Assure You ...

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



AS YOU MIGHT  
IMAGINE, THERE  
ARE MANY TASKS  
AT HAND AND  
VISIONS THAT I  
HAVE FOR OUR  
GOLF COURSE

pretty: a defenseless, meager golf course.”

With an approved master plan in place to “restore” Burning Brook, including senseless tree removal to supposedly help the turf in our fairways, we will only destroy the integrity of our great course. This cannot be allowed to happen.

With our handicaps already traveling poorly in monthly team play matches (is it any wonder we haven’t won a match in four years?), the Burning Brook board must not let this situation become any more dire. Skip Looney fears that this restoration will only further accentuate an already unacceptable state of affairs. As your elected official, I assure you that Skip Looney will not allow Burning Brook’s course rating to dip any lower. Strong words, I know, but these are ominous times.

We need a modern course here at Burning Brook. I promise that when we spend your hard-earned money, which the board is obligated to do, these outlays will be done to protect your right to challenging golf and not the rights of some dead architect named Ross.

In closing, I think you should know that Skip Looney’s father-in law spent a summer working on the construction site of a Frank Duane-designed course. So through osmosis as well as years of reading *Golf Digest*, I will bring a wealth of knowledge on golf architecture and course greenkeeping to this board.

In concluding, Skip Looney thanks you for the fine friendships that Burning Brook has extended to my fiancé Bunny and myself. Good luck on the links, and remember — vote for Lester “Skip” Looney for board of governors. It’s a vote you will not want to “skip.”

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