

The First Tee

Victoria Men's Club Newsletter

Spring 2011



Message from the President

After a year's hiatus I'm happy to be in front of a computer writing my message welcoming everyone back to another year of Men's Club golf at Victoria. I say this every year - looking over the desolate wasteland that is my backyard it's hard to believe we're - in theory - six weeks away from the start of another golf season.

Though the winter's been long we've been hard at work getting ready for the 2011 season - a season that will see some changes in the way we do business. I want to take this moment to thank everyone who stepped up last September to take a spot on the executive this year. It's great to see so many guys are willing and eager to roll up their sleeves and ensure we all enjoy a great year of golf.

There were a couple amendments to the bylaws that provide the Club

Captain a little more flexibility in filling out his Interclub team while ensuring the club stays true to the principle of fielding a team from those who competed for spots. Stephen has more to say on that in his article on the back page of the newsletter.

We've also taken steps to clarify an ongoing situation regarding eligibility for the Club Championship (CC) by putting the requirement on the new sign up form. That way everyone will know up front what is required if they are interested in being flighted for the tournament in August.

We're also adding a "social flight" to the CC that will enable everyone - regardless of the number of rounds played this summer - to partake in the Championship weekend. Players in the social flight will be eligible for hole prizes on both days and, of

Our Mission:

Play golf, have fun

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The 2011 Executive

President	Derrick Forsythe
Vice President	Charles Slater
Secretary	Marvin Wadsworth
Treasurer	Ken Hansen
Club Captain	Stephen Gibson
Wed Nite Chair	Steve Simmons
Weekend Chair	Gord Eikeland
Handicap	Paul Iglinski
Past President	Arnie Loxam

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Did you know...?

We all know that playing Ready Golf can help to speed up the pace of play.

And we all know what Ready Golf is, right?

If you think playing ready golf means playing your shot when you're ready, read on (this article continues through the side bars on each page).

President's Message Continued

course, will join us for dinner on Sunday afternoon.

The away tournament is on for this year and Black Bull is the scheduled course. Marvin will confirm the booking later this spring. I, for one, am looking forward to playing the course – I hear it's kinda tight off the tees...

In addition, I was in Athabasca early in March at a work-related dinner and happened to be seated with the President of the Athabasca Golf Course. He suggested a home-and-home challenge with Vic. I'll follow up on that early in the spring.

Back at Vic, we should be playing all holes from the proper tees this year – looks like work on the maintenance shed is done and will be open for business in time for the 2011 season. The new building does raise a couple questions given the fact the geniuses in the city decided to place the facility precisely where a bunch of you right handers like to power-fade your tee shots off the 4th tee...

Paul Iglinski and the rest of the handicap/rules committee are working on a solution – we'll have that out to

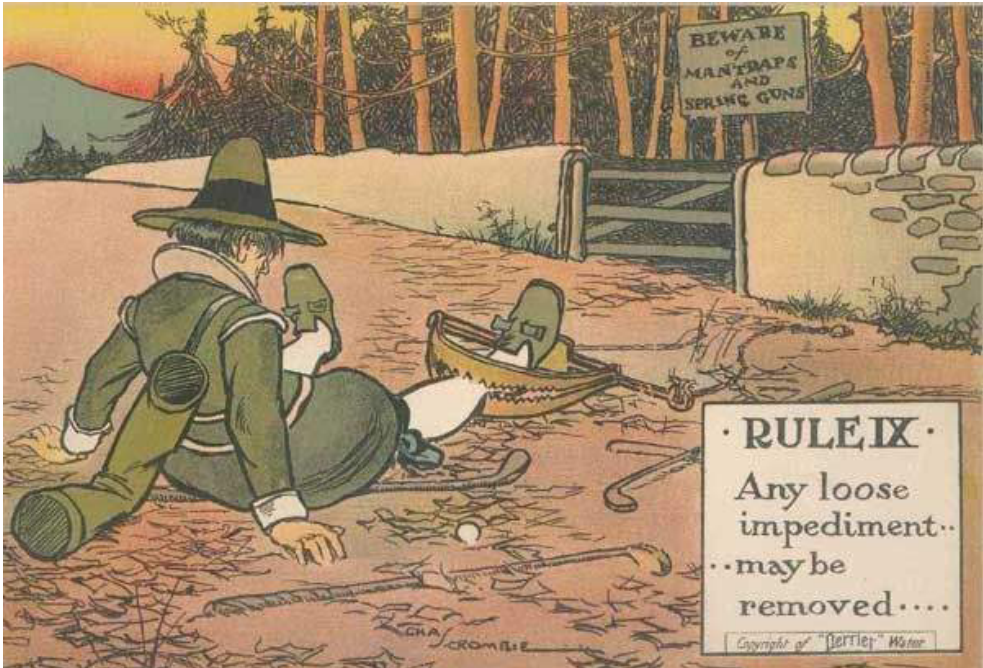
the membership once we discuss the matter with Kevin and Matte.

We're also ordering club shirts and hats again this year. The exec has narrowed down the choices and Davey-boy will be talking to the rep in early April on getting samples. You'll be happy to hear we're also expanding our club line a little to include a vest and a three-quarter sleeve windbreaker. Shirts will be a light blue; the vest and jacket will be charcoal; and the hat is red this year.

The big change this year in terms of new duds is that all orders will have to be paid up front. We'll start taking orders at the Meet and Greet (scheduled for 27 April) and stop taking any new requests after close of business 11 May 2011.

Well, there's lots more I'd like to talk about, but it'll have to wait until the 27th. Remember to get your applications into the clubhouse before 1800 hours on the 21st because – to paraphrase Ben Crenshaw – I got a feeling about this – it's going to be a great year of golf for the VMC.

See you all soon.



2011 Tournament Schedule

Date	Tournament	Remarks
May 11	Interclub Qualifier (IQ) Rd 1	Wednesday Night
May 15	Club Kick-Off / IQ Rd 2	
June 5	Jim Mahar	Two man Scotch ball
TBD	Mixed Two-Ball	
June 22	Johnny Aitken	Wednesday Night
June 25	Away Tournament	Black Bull
July 10	Tombstone	
July 17	River Valley Challenge	At Victoria
August 7	President's Choice	Modified Stableford
August 21-22	Club Championship	
September 10	Champions Cup	Steak & Beans
September 25	Club Final	Wicked Hard Scramble

Message from the Wednesday Night Chair

Welcome Back, Gentlemen:

It is exciting to be talking about golf again, and I look forward to another fun and spirited year at our club. I will once again be the Wednesday night Chair, so I have only a few reminders for you to make things go as smoothly as possible:

- The signup sheet will be posted each week from Wednesday until Sunday afternoon. I will make the draw based on the signup sheet only.
- Do not make tee time requests to me by email. You must sign up at the course on the sheet.
- After each round, make sure that your scorecard is passed in to me

or to my designate. The card must include your first name, last name, score totals, and handicap. All information must be complete for you to be eligible for gross or net prizes.

- All prize results for each week will be emailed to you within a day or two of play.
- Finally, please stay after your round if you can for some fellowship and banter.

Those are the basics. I will fill you in as we go on anything I missed, and please feel free to send me an email with any questions.

Steve Simmons
Wednesday Night Chair

Did you know...?

Ready Golf means THINKING AHEAD so that you're ready to play when its your turn. It means BEING ready to play, not playing when you're ready. Here is a summary:

- walk to your ball as soon as possible, so that you can choose your club and think about your shot in advance (don't wait until it's your turn to do this)
- if you drive a cart, drop off your partner first, let them select their club(s) and then drive to your own ball to get READY to play
- if someone in your foursome loses a ball, hit your own shot FIRST and then help to look for the lost ball
- walk down the SIDES of the fairway to reach your ball

Did you know...?

Ready Golf continued:

- don't play as a "caravan", moving in a group from ball to ball
- on the green, line up your putt BEFORE its your turn and putt out immediately (instead of marking) if you are not in someone else's line
- on the tee, Ready Golf means that the player with honors should be READY to HIT FIRST - only if they aren't should someone else tee up first
- Ready Golf means ALL golfers should go to their ball as soon as possible (as long as it's safe) and get READY to play their shot

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Dems Da Rules

Camilo Villegas, at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions, tried chipping his ball onto the 15th green, for the second time. Casually, he flicked away a small piece of debris near his divot as his ball rolled back down the slope towards him. That was a violation of Rule 23-1, which states that, "When a ball is in motion, a loose impediment that might influence the movement of the ball must not be removed." <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSWAJiH3yeI>

Villegas recorded a double bogey 7 for the hole, but did not add in the 2 stroke penalty for the rule violation on his signed scorecard. After a television viewer noticed the violation, it was brought to the attention of the tournament rules officials. After viewing the video replay, Villegas graciously acknowledged that this was a clear rules violation and accepted the DQ for the incorrectly signed scorecard. It was his 29th birthday. Like it or not, the Rules of Golf are the rules.

No one will be following you around Victoria with a video camera this season. But the golf we play is governed by the same set of rules that the pros observe, with a few exceptions. The rules are often wacky, but we are expected to know them and impose penalties upon ourselves when they are broken, even if we didn't correctly understand them before they were brought to our attention. It's not hockey.

Without becoming too anally retentive, here are a few things that we expect you to know and observe during club play.

- In stroke play competition, every green is holed out. If you miss a 2-inch putt with the back of

your putter, take another stroke at it after the ball comes to rest. You are not likely to do that very often if you count the strokes. Your opponent in match play can concede holes and putts. But if you are playing a match on Men's Night, putt out for your stroke play score. We know that it is not kosher to combine stroke and match play, but most of us have day jobs.

- Hit a provisional ball anytime you feel your ball might be lost. If you lose a ball and have not played a provisional, your only option for a legitimate score on that hole is to go back to where you played your last shot and take a drop for a one stroke penalty. The group behind you and your playing partners will not be happy waiting for you to do this. To avoid their abuse, consider taking an X on the hole and finishing the round for fun and handicapping purposes. With an X on your scorecard, you are not eligible for low net/gross prizes, but the round must be entered for your handicap.
- The cricket pitch on the left of #9 is OB. Lately, it has not been indicated by white stakes, but a line is usually apparent to define the boundary. If all of your ball lies outside the line, it is OB. Again, the only option is another shot, most probably from the tee. Always hit a provisional here if you are in doubt. Remember that if there is ever a hazard or OB marked with both stakes and a line, the stakes indicate the area while the line defines it.
- The parking area, its access road, and River Road are also OB if they come into play.



Da Rules...Continued

- The new maintenance building to the right of the 4th tee is going to be a magnet for many of us. Our intention is to get the area marked as a lateral hazard so that wayward shots there do not cause undue delay. A lost ball or nasty lie in that hazard would be remedied by a drop at the point of entry, with a one stroke penalty. A provisional ball would not be needed for a ball hit into the hazard.
- When in doubt of a rule, advise your playing partners that you are playing a second ball under Rule 3-3 and announce which ball you wish to use if the Rules permit. Report the facts of the situation to the Rules Committee before returning your scorecard.
- You are responsible for the correctness of your handicap, hole scores, gross score, and net score on the scorecard that is turned in. You are not eligible for net score prizes if you entered a higher course handicap than you actually have. Promptly enter all your

scores on all the rated courses that you have played into the RCGA Handicap System and be aware of your current handicap. Do not confuse your handicap factor (which has one decimal place) with your course handicap (a whole number that depends on the course and tee you are playing from). It is your course handicap at Victoria that is used for net scores and match play competitions. It also determines your flight for the Ringer Board and the Club Championship Tournament.

If you have any questions about handicap issues or rules, contact Paul Iglinski in person or at paul.iglsinski@gmail.com. Have a great 2011 season. May the golf gods be with you.

Did you know...?

Ready Golf continued:

- always leave your clubs to the side or back of the green, closest to the next tee
- don't stand around chatting and writing down scores while on the green
- Ready Golf means putting CONTINUOUSLY until you hole out (if you're not in someone else's line and you don't need to spend a lot of time surveying your shot)
- use a common sense approach to "Farthest from the Hole": for example, if you are carting and get to your ball long before your (walking) playing partners, hit your shot first even if you're not away

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Search "Victoria Men's Golf Club" and join us for all the latest club news and events

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Here for a Good Time

A very good friend of mine told me something the other day. I'd like to pass it on to you 'cause I believe what he said to be true. He said:

"We're here for a good time,
Not a long time,
So have a good time,
The sun can't shine every day."

Okay so maybe I'm shamelessly sampling one of my favourite songs of all time (Trooper – We're Here for a Good Time [Not a Long Time]), but it does serve as a good reminder of what our Wednesday nights and our passion for golf is really about. We golf because we love to golf; plain and simple. Never do we realize this more fully than in the dark depths of a February cold-spell.

The stories of far off lands with eternal sunshine and golf year-round offer some hope (Terry Roczkowsky, Tom Ray, Brent Gibson, Mark Gibson, Derrick Forsythe and the list goes on...), but only until you realize that none of the people golfing in these stories is you. Okay so maybe that's just a little bit of my own minor bitterness coming though, but oh well, maybe next winter.

Well back to topic. What's the topic? Perhaps no one knows. Oh wait, perhaps I should just start with an introduction and go from there. My name is Stephen Gibson (yes from the same clan of eternal sunshine and year-round golf fame) and I was elected as Club Captain during the 2010 AGM. With the savvy wisdom of smooth-swinging Jim Rainey at my side as Assistant Club Captain, I will do my best to represent the Club. I'll also be running the Club Facebook page which you can find by searching "Victoria Men's Golf Club".

Please, if you have Facebook (especially if you're interested in interclub), join the group. I'll be making events for all the tournaments and doing a lot of the interclub planning through the site.

Let's get down to business. My main responsibility is interclub team captain. Some new club bylaws relate to interclub, so read closely.

Our 12-person interclub team will be made up of 4 guaranteed spots (Club Champion, Club Captain and two Captain's picks) and 8 qualifiers. The top 8 golfers in the two round combined low gross score qualifying rounds will become the 8 qualifiers for the interclub team. More often than not, some members of the team won't be able to make it out for every interclub match and we'll require alternates to fill in for them.

IMPORTANT NOTE

(new bylaw): To be considered and chosen as an alternate, you **MUST** have played in BOTH qualifying rounds.

Now for another change that's likely to apply this season. I was at an EGA meeting in February and there were a couple changes and clarifications to interclub for the 2011 season. The one main point that affects you is that interclub will likely move from morning tee times to sometime around noon. The Gibson clan, for one, is very excited to have a few more hours of sleep/practice/warm-up in before we do battle against some of the best golfers this city has to offer.

Well that's about it. I can't wait for the season to start and I know it's a sentiment that's shared. I'm sure I've shared a round or a beer/rum with most of you by now, but I'm looking forward to meeting the new faces this year. Remember that one of the best ways to get to know your fellow Club members is through the tournaments and singles and doubles match play. I can't count the number of you I've lost to... err, I mean met during singles and doubles matches, but I've had fun every year!