

# The First Tee

Victoria Men's Club Newsletter  
Spring 2013



## VMC Set for Another Year of Great Golf



After almost ten years of sitting down to write this newsletter two things are clearly evident: one, it's tough to come up with new, exciting material for the lead article; and two it reminds me how much I'm looking forward to getting back to the Club to catch up with some good friends, welcome new guys to the fraternity and hitting the course for another season.

It will be an interesting year with a number of new faces in key positions this year. We've got a new Wednesday night (Gord Eikeland) and Weekend Chair (Wayne Saylor) who will soon be drinking from the firehose in terms of setting tee times and making sure our Wednesday/weekend outings run smoothly. Please be patient as they work their way into their positions.

Those are not the only changes this year. You'll notice when you walk in the clubhouse the foyer has been re-modeled - part of the City's ongoing effort to spruce up Vic's image in areas other than the course proper.

While the work is still in progress it will mean changes - specifically

in terms of the handicap computer which will move - at last report - into the pro shop. In addition, the bulletin boards we used to post tournament information to may also be gone with the renovations - we'll have to move our paperwork to the boards in the locker room.

On a brighter note Mike and the boys were hard at work towards the end of the season. You may have noticed the brush/undergrowth in the 9th, 16th and 18th tees was cut back to allow for better usage of either teeing areas and to promote better growth. Mike talks a little more on plans for this year later on in this edition.

Also, the foods contract is up this year and just like a NHL'er in the final year of his contract - the Eurst guys are reacting to some of the significant criticism both on the menu choices and some of their goofy pricing practices (like labelling Bud Lite Lime as "premium" beer and charging a higher price per can...).

I'm hoping this will translate into a healthier, more varied menu that will

## In this issue

Feature article  
Tournament schedule  
Superintendent's Notes  
Club Captain's Corner

## The 2013 Executive

President	Derrick Forsythe
Vice President	Charles Slater
Secretary	Marvin Wadsworth
Treasurer	Greg Gutsch
Club Captain	Stephen Gibson
Wed Nite Chair	Gord Eikeland
Weekend Chair	Wayne Saylor
Handicap	Stan Mah
Ringer Board	Peter Leong
Match Play	Steve Simmons
Past President	Arnie Loxam

## Contact information

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Mission Statement: Play golf, have fun  
Cover Photo: 9th Hole - Crowbush Cove

# One

## *Did you know?*

**The city may actually be moving - finally - to purchase more carts for the course...**

# Two

encourage more of us to stick around and have a bite to eat after the round because, let's face it - thirty or more guys hanging out telling war stories from the day's campaign is a pretty good way to end a Wednesday night.

Another change you'll notice for this year is the increase in membership fees - up \$25 to \$175 for regular members and \$15 to \$65 for associates.

For those of you not at the club final, this came in response to a motion from the floor. This is the first increase since... I can't remember when and will be used to meet the rising costs associated with running the club.

I will take the opportunity at this point to say that the books are in great hands with Greg Gutsch - we managed to get through the year with just under a grand in the bank - funds that we'll use to pay startup costs including our Edmonton Golf Association fees - fees that enable us to play in the Interclub each year and are due in late April.

We're also throwing a couple hole prizes out on the back nine - a KP on 12 and LP on 18 that will give folks something to shoot for on both nines and, hopefully, will encourage more guys to play the back.

We'll try and have a more detailed breakdown on how the funds are budgeted ready for the meet and greet, but I can tell you some of the increase will be used to boost the prizes for the ringer board and the singles and doubles match play winners this year - events that run virtually the entire season and should have a reasonable reward attached to those who do well.

You'll notice this year we've bumped back the dates for the Interclub Qualifier and Club Kick-off tournament - good thing too given the amount of snow we've had this winter. Stephen Gibson - our Club Captain - will be heading up our Interclub Team this season.

Speaking of tournaments, we're sticking with our Away Tournament again this year and have selected a venue that should be enjoyable for everyone - Coal Creek. It's a little further out of town than last year's location but the guys that

have played there say the course is a lot of fun - and it's affordable.

We're looking at perhaps laying on transport to and from the course - we'll have more on that closer to the date.

Sticking with tournaments, I want to take this moment to remind everyone that the 2013 edition of the River Valley Challenge is set for Victoria this coming July and we are defending the

***I can honestly say it was one of the happiest days I've ever had on a golf course...***

***(On winning the RVC in 2012)***

crown after a hard-fought contest with our compadres across the river that saw the match come down to the final two parings and, for the first time since the tournament began in 2007, Victoria emerged the victors - as one of the architects of this annual skirmish, I can honestly say it was one of the happiest days I've ever had on a golf course. Let's defend this year and start a run of victories that will help fuel a real, friendly rivalry with the guys at Riverside.

Finally, I want to talk a minute on the subject of green fees at Vic, we got lucky again as the fees have only been bumped by a buck or two.

That said we all know it can be expensive to play on city courses. One way to offset that cost is to purchase multi-passes.

As you know, you're allowed to pay for one other player on a pass. So this year I'd ask, if you normally purchase or are considering a pass - to look at buying more rounds a better discount then sell rounds to guys you play with over the course of the year.

It's the legal way to cut the cost of golf at Vic - money that can be put to good use on the east deck after the round...

On that note I'll sign off. Looking forward to seeing you in a few weeks and to getting back to some good golf and good time with good friends.

# The 2013 Tournament Schedule

## New challenges and old favourites

Event	Date	Time	Notes
Rd 1 Interclub Qualifer	Wed May 22	2:00-5:00 pm	Rain or Shine
Kickoff Tournament	Sat May 25	7:30 am	All members invited (also rd 2 IQ)
Jim Mahar	Sat Jun 8	7:30 am	
Mixed two-ball	Sat Jun 22	7:30 am	With the Vic Business Ladies
Johnny Aitken	Wed Jun 26	200-5:00 pm	
Away Tournament	Sun Jul 7	TBC	Coal Creek <a href="http://www.coalcreek.ca">www.coalcreek.ca</a>
River Valley Challenge	Sun, Jul 21	7:30 am	Dinner to follow played at Vic
Tombstone	Sun, Jul 28	7:30 am	Dinner to follow
President's Choice	Sun, Aug 4	7:30 am	Modified Stableford Scoring
Rd 1 Club Championship	Sat, Aug 17	7:30 am	
Rd 2 Club Championship	Sun, Aug 18	7:30 am	Dinner to follow
Champion's Cup	Sat, Sep 7	8:30 am	Dinner to follow -steak and beans
Club Final	Sun, Sep 22	8:30 am	Dinner to Follow

## Notes from the Superintendent

### What the City has planned for Victoria in 2013

In regards to proposed improvements at Victoria Golf Course I would like to start by talking about the clubhouse interior renovations currently underway. We have undergone a bit of a change by replacing the carpeting in the cafe and dining areas along with a fresh coat of paint to complement the original wood, stone work and furniture.

We are also changing out the lobby doors to the various rooms and amenities. We've also increased the number of tables in the cafe area to accommodate more patrons for pre and post golf social gathering. I can also confirm that the new deck railing is being built and we hope to have it installed in early May.

As for the golf course we have submitted numerous projects for consideration from last year which includes an improved tee box/transition area at 17 tee box with an alternative tee area on the front left side of the current tee; the construction of a nursery green adjacent to the existing putting green.

For submissions in this current season we have proposed project requests for an improved tee box/ transition

area for #5 tee box with an alternate tee box area again to the front left hand side; a cart path hard surface project to replace existing shale cart paths on the front nine with asphalt. It's important to note that projects have not yet been approved to move forward but we hope to finalize quite soon. We will have an update for the upcoming Advisory Committee Meeting.

From our Safety and Security Composite we have approved funding to construct a safety net barrier to prevent errant golf shots from #4 tee box from entering the maintenance facility service yard. We are also installing a safety railing on the green roof for added protection for staff maintenance but also recognizing that patrons have been climbing onto the green roof to gather errant golf ball.

So that is our proposed and approved projects for 2013. I would like to let everyone know that we have cleared the driving range field of snow with the hope of opening the facility as soon as possible this season. Please check out our website for updates.

*Did you know?*

The Johnny Aitken low net tournament has moved permanently to Wed nights to allow more members to play this popular format

**Three**

## *Did you know?*

The Away Tournament will be played at Coal Creek this year in July - sign up early and check out the course at their site: [www.coalcreek.ca](http://www.coalcreek.ca)

## Club Captain's Corner

Potholes... the real world's divots. Personally, I prefer driving into the golf world's version. I'm sure all potholes and divots will be repaired in a timely manner this year...? On a more hopeful note, the grey and brown hues that surround us this time of year remind me that greener pastures must just be around the corner.

Welcome new and returning members to the 2013 golf season and the Victoria Men's Golf Club!

My name is Stephen Gibson and I once again have the pleasure of being your Club Captain. The Club Captain's main responsibility is managing the Interclub Team. For those who aren't familiar, Men's Interclub is a match-play format competition between 12-men teams from Edmonton area golf courses. The 12 person Interclub Team will be made up of 4 guaranteed spots (Club Champion, Club Captain, two Captain's picks) and 8 qualifiers. The top 8 golfers in the combined low gross score qualifying rounds will become the 8 qualifiers for the Interclub Team.

The dates for qualifying are tentatively Wednesday, May 22 and Saturday, May 25. Historically, some members of the team won't be able to make it out for every match leading to the requirement

for alternates. If you play both qualifying rounds you are qualified to be an alternate. Times and dates of our Interclub matches will be determined later by the Edmonton Golf Association (EGA).

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching "Victoria Men's Golf Club". Please feel free to post and contribute to the page. I'll be using it to help coordinate club events, tournaments and Interclub. Don't forget that you need to get a minimum of 10 rounds of golf in for Club events before the Club Championship to qualify for the competitive flights and prizes. Club events include Wednesday "Men's Night" golf, Interclub, singles/doubles matches and weekend tournaments.

One of the weekend tournaments, the Away Tournament, is at Coal Creek this year. For those who haven't played there yet, it's quite a treat. I got lots of practice hitting out of the black sand bunkers and fescue last time I played there... so I'm ready!

Well that's enough from me. I look forward to rounds of golf and beer with all of you and to another great year!