

The First Tee

Victoria Men's Club Newsletter
Spring 2017



Wolf Creek Site of Away Tourney in '17



Winter is speeding away and, personally, I'm stoked about the Meet and Greet and Kick-off to the 2017 season at Victoria a little more than a month from now. It's shaping up to be another great season for the club with a number of important changes to golf course operations that should help us get to an improved normal.

The first of these changes is that return of driving range operations is returning to Kevin and Matte effective this year. Apparently the city had difficulty delivering customer service in an efficient and effective manner while making money.

You could see from the outset their "bold initiative" was doomed out of the gates - I mean fencing off of 15 percent of the available stalls from the public might have a negative effect on overall cash flow; who knew?

So now that the boys are back

in charge I am encouraging everyone to get back to supporting the range. I mean, speaking for myself only, it's not like I wouldn't benefit from some quality time recalibrating distances.

Murray Connors is back working there and there will be none of the delays, lack of stock, lines because staff are changing shifts as customers are arriving after work; in the midst of the busiest time of the day.

In short - we're back to having a functioning range again and I, for one, am really happy about that.

Which brings me to my second point; the city is now offering an improved discount card that gives a 20 percent discount on all green fees, plus the package offers one free bucket of balls and 10 percent off buckets over the season.

The card also gets 10 percent off food at the dogwood. Cost of the new card will be \$100 so have a

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The 2017 Executive

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| President | Derrick Forsythe |
| Vice President | Charles Slater |
| Secretary | Marvin Wadsworth |
| Treasurer | Greg Gutsch |
| Club Captain | Jordan Vallee |
| Wed Nite Chair | Aaron Anderson |
| Weekend Chair | Steve Simmons |
| Handicap | Stan Mah |
| Ringer Board | Peter Leong |
| Match Play | Al Nalli |
| Past President | Arnie Loxam |

Contact information

The First Tee © MMXVII
Published every winter by the Victoria Men's Club

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Mission Statement: Play golf, have fun

Cover Photo: 16th Hole - Jasper Park Lodge

One

Did you know?

Vic has won the last two RVCs in a row - let's make it three in 2017

careful look how which path you go down to get the best deal for your summer golf.

The 10 percent card is also being offered meaning you now have more opportunities to save money.

It's criminal to give the city full price to play. I strongly urge everyone to take a couple minutes to find a plan – multi-pass or the discount card – and pick one up this spring. The money you save can always be re-invested in beer after your round...

On another positive note, on March 23, the city is bringing in their forestry folks to discuss the possibility of trimming trees at certain locations. It only took 10 years of raising the issue.

The exec has identified five high priority areas as a start point for discussions - they are holes, 1, 3, 4, 5, and 18.

I've talked to the senior silviculture and science guys in my department. There's absolutely no harm to the tree from trimming the branches up three feet.

I fully expect some bovine scat song and dance, but if, at the least, I can get them to admit there's no harm in doing the work then all we have to do is lean on them to shake free the funds to get the work done.

I'll have more to say on this at the meet and greet on April 26. Even if we're successful – and I truly hope we are – it's likely the city won't get to it until fall after the trees set up for winter.

The Away Tournament this year is set for Wolf Creek (East and West courses) Saturday June 24, 2017, start time is 0740 hours. Stan Mah has worked a deal with a hotel in Lacombe (I think) it's close anyway for those that might want to go down Friday night.

There are also some RV sites available onsite for those who want to take a camper down or tent for the weekend. I'm packing a tent - and praying for blue skies - good times.

Those camping or in the hotel will have the first tee times – and may want to make a weekend of it and play 36.

It's criminal to pay the city full price to play golf - have a close look at the multi-passes or one of the discount cards and pick the one that's best for you.

The club will also be sponsoring a hole at the Mothers Against Driving Drunk (MADD) golf tournament again this season and I'm hoping to see at least a couple teams from Vic at the event.

I say it every year, the Links at Spruce Grove is an awesome venue and the tournament is one of the best deals I've seen in a long time. If you can spare a Friday in July, put a foresome together and play some golf for a good cause.

Speaking of tried and true happenings, Marvin is setting up orders for golf shirts. As I said, this is nothing new, Marv's been doing this for the last few years.

What is different for 2017 is that he's expanding the line of branded clothing to include vests for sure, maybe a three-quarter sleeve jacket, and of course hats.

Marv will have test sizes and the price breakout for everyone at the Meet and Greet.

Derrick.

The 2017 Tournament Schedule

New challenges and old favourites

| Event | Date | Time | Notes |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Rd 1&3 Interclub Qualifer | Wed May 10,17 | 2:30-5:00 pm | Rain or Shine - best 2 of 3 scores determines Interclub team |
| Kickoff Tournament | Sat May 13 | 7:30 am | All members invited (also rd 2 IQ) |
| Jim Mahar | Sun May 28 | 7:30 am | Calcutta prior - see board for details |
| Tombstone | Sun Jun 11 | 7:30 am | dinner to follow |
| Johnny Aitkin | Wed Jun 21 | 2:30-5:00 pm | low net Wed night |
| Away Tournament | Sat Jun 24 | 7:40 am | RV sites aval - Stan has hotel deal |
| River Valley Challenge | Sun Jul 9 | 7:30 am | Dinner to follow - At Victoria |
| Mid Season Classic | Sun, Jul 23 | 7:30 am | Dinner to follow |
| President's Choice | Sun, Aug 6 | 7:30 am | Modified Stableford Scoring |
| Rd 1 Club Championship | Sat, Aug 19 | 7:30 am | |
| Rd 2 Club Championship | Sun, Aug 20 | 7:30 am | Dinner to follow |
| Champion's Cup | Sat, Sep 10 | 7:30 am | Dinner to follow -steak and beans |
| Club Final | Sun, Sep 24 | 8:00 am | Dinner to Follow - AGM |

Al Nalli Takes Over Match Play at Victoria

The race for Vic's toughest trophies starts mid May

Hi everyone, I am really excited to be thinking about another golf season just around the corner and am enthusiastic to be taking on the role of Match Play Chair this year. This season long Singles and Doubles Match Play tournament provides its own unique scheduling challenges with vacations, inclement weather and even with the two match play formats for those competing in both factoring in.

To make the tournament successful, flexibility by all participants is appreciated in scheduling match play tee times in order to accommodate commitments outside of the club as tee times may not always be around the time each member prefers to play each week. The format of this tournament is great for the club as it gets members playing with others that they may not know or necessarily play a round with.

Being a long time member of the club I have seen this tournament get better throughout the years and hope that I can bring about some additional changes for further improvements. One of the changes this year will be email communications to the combatants as soon as I know

a match is ready to be played to help expedite conversations to get the matches underway. The sooner matches can be played the more likely they can be completed before the deadlines. I will also be looking into the ways for determining who advances to the next round when matches are not completed by their deadlines in the hopes of using the dreaded coin flip as a last resort and avoiding the "he said he said" (men's club) conversations as to why the match was not played. More details will follow before the tournament gets underway.

In conclusion, the weather is unpredictable and so might the decisions be for un-played matches after a few après-golf wobbly pops...kidding...or am I? One way to avoid this is to get your matches completed, the earlier the better. Hopefully we will have an early golf season start in order to get ready for the first round of matches starting around mid-May.

Allan

Did you know?

The Away Tournament is headed to Wolf Creek

Three

Did you know?

The River Valley Challenge is being played at Victoria early in July this year - time to defend our 2016 win...

Four

Club Captain's Corner

Welcome back to another season! I want to start off by saying, that I am honored to have been voted in as your Club Captain for the 2017 season. Steve Gibson, as you know, was our Club Captain last year and he did a great job!

But it's hard to be Club Captain and Club Champion at the same time, especially during the Champions Cup at the end of the season. I am hoping that Steve will stay on as assistant Club Captain to help me through the transition and make sure I don't mess up.

As Club Captain I am responsible for running our interclub which I'm super excited about! I believe that we have a great group of guys in our club and that we will be much stronger and more competitive this year with our team!

I have been talking with the boys on the executive and we are going to be getting the company that makes the Vic shirts to put interclub logos on the shirts this year!

We have also discussed the possibility of team jackets which I hope you boys would like to have and act as an incentive to play some good competitive golf early in the season to make the team.

For the new guys joining our club this year interclub works like this; our main job is managing the Interclub team. Men's Interclub is a match-play format competition between twelve-man teams from Edmonton and area course. Our Interclub

team will be comprised of five guaranteed spots and seven qualifier spots:

- Club Champion;
- Head Pro;
- Club Captain;
- 2x Captain's Picks; and
- Seven Qualifiers.

The top seven golfers in the combined low gross score qualifying rounds will become those seven qualifiers. As was introduced a couple of years ago, your best

two-out-of-three rounds count towards your qualifying score. The dates for qualifying are listed in the tournament schedule in the newsletter.

If you don't make it onto the twelve-man team, there is still a chance for you to play. If you play at least two of the three qualifying rounds, you will be considered as an alternate. Alternates will fill in for those on the team who may not be able to play a specific match.

Times and dates for all interclub matches are determined by the Edmonton Golf Association (EGA).

Ok that's all for me, I am not a writer, I am a beer drinking golfer that is looking forward to seeing all of you this golf season. Here's to another great season.

Cheers,

Jordan