

The First Tee

Victoria Men's Club Newsletter

Spring 2012



Message from the President

Well, the Edmonton Golf Show has come and gone - again and I spent the weekend watching a guy named Bubba swing a hot pink driver over a Blue Monster in Florida... we must be getting close to another golf season here in Edmonton.

This year, like every year prior, we all start getting the itch to swing clubs, walk green fairways and come together with out club mates at Victoria for another year of men's club golf.

I am especially looking forward to this year after having to miss last year's Club Championship in order to be on a course with the Army.

The executive met in January and we have most of the details finalized for the coming season. We also went over the outstanding prizes for things like the ringer board and match play tournaments. Those prizes, not

distributed prior to the close of business, will be handed out at the meet and greet in April. Apologies for the delay fellas - it was a question of getting the right people in the same place at the same time.

But enough of that. Let's talk about what's coming this year. We have the same slate of tournaments ready to go and Matte is in the process of slotting us into our times for the year.

There are a couple of small changes this year's tournaments. First of these being the Club Championship is on the fourth weekend of August (25-26). This is because the way the dates fall in the month we couldn't hold the President's Choice, support the ladies Club Championship and run our own tournament in the first three weekends given the holiday - so we had to shift our CC to the right one week.

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Our Mission:

Play golf, have fun

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The 2012 Executive

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one

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).

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President's Message Continued

Speaking of the ladies, there was interest expressed by the Victoria Business Ladies to join us on our away tournament this year.

This seemed like a pretty good idea - and it allows some of you to bring your significant other along for another round of golf this summer.

The choice this year is Lancaster Park Golf and Curling Club at CFB Edmonton - no, I don't get a cut on bringing in the business.

The executive chose this location because of its proximity to the city and because it's affordable (green fees even on the weekends will be about \$10 less than at Vic - and cheaper if you're over 55 (Dave)). We're hoping this will entice a few more guys to come on out and join us for the day.

As for the condition of the course at LP - the greens are firm and fair; there's grass on every tee box and the layout will test your course management skills - plus they have inexpensive beer in the clubhouse.

The River Valley Challenge is set for Riverside Golf Course this year and I

think that after five years of tweaking the format we have found the right balance in terms of scoring that makes the tournament truly competitive.

As for the fees at Vic for the coming year, they are going up by a buck or two - that's not the issue.

The issue this year is that the city continues to eat away at discounts to members.

This season they are capping the discount at 25 percent in order to maximize revenues. You will still be able to purchase additional rounds for your multi passes at the same rate of discount.

The clubs make up a significant slice of the overall revenue at Vic and it's time we started flexing our collective muscle. This season I encourage you all to (a) take a multi-pass of some kind to cut down on revenue the city takes from us and (b) to consider carefully where you play your non VMC golf. There are great values out there - perhaps seeing rounds dwindle will help the City focus on improving what should be one of the best courses in the city.

Looking forward to seeing you all in April/May.



The 8th hole at Fundy National Park, NB: one of the best par threes I've ever played.

2012 Tournament Schedule

Date	Tournament	Remarks
May 9	Interclub Qualifier (IQ) Rd 1	Wednesday Night
May 12	Club Kick-Off / IQ Rd 2	
June 3	Jim Mahar	Two man Scotch ball
June 16	Mixed two-ball	Vic Ladies
June 27	Johnny Aitken	Wednesday Night
July 8	Away Tournament	Lancaster Park
July 15	Tombstone	
July 22	River Valley Challenge	At Riverside
August 19	President's Choice	Modified Stableford
August 25-26	Club Championship	
September 9	Champions Cup	Steak & Beans
September 23	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 it's 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

three

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

four

New Handicap System 2012!

Welcome back everyone. As your Handicap Chairman, I would like to take a couple minutes to let you know about some important changes to the way handicaps will be calculated that came into effect on March 1, 2012.

In Canada, the Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) is the governing body in charge of establishing and maintaining the Golf Handicap System. This allows golfers of all skill levels to compete against each other on a level playing field. Permitting a low handicapper to play against a high handicapper where both have an equal chance of winning.

The RCGA Handicap and Course Rating Committee approved the change after their study, revealed that the current Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) was not taking into account the golfers abilities. For example, a golfer with a 1 handicap is not the same as a golfer with an 18 handicap. As a result, in head-to-head match play, the lower handicapped player had a better than 50% chance of winning.

The ESC adjustment is to prevent bad holes from inflating your handicap. The new method for calculating ESC scores would make the odds of winning closer to 50%. This new ESC method made the RCGA Handicap Factor the same as the United States Golf Association (USGA) Handicap Index.

So lets see how this all works.

A Handicap Factor is the golfer's potential on a course with standard playing difficulty. The Handicap Factor is a numerical number rounded to one decimal point. To establish a handicap factor you need to enter adjusted ESC scores for at least five rounds. Your handicap factor is calculated based on the best 10 of your last 20 scores.

There are two methods to enter scores:

1. Hole by Hole. The actual gross score for each hole is entered. The computer will automatically adjust your scores for you.

2. Adjusted ESC Score. You would have to manually adjust the individual hole scores using the ESC table below.

Old Equitable Stroke Control

<i>Course Hcp</i>	<i>Max Over Par</i>
0 or plus	1 over par
1-18	2 over par
19-32	3 over par
33 and over	4 over par

New Equitable Stroke Control

<i>Course Hcp</i>	<i>Max Score</i>
0-9	2 over par
10-19	7
20-29	8
30-39	9
40 and over	10

For example:

A golfer with a course handicap of 14 takes eight strokes. In the old ESC system his adjusted score would be a maximum of 2 over par. In the new ESC system the maximum score on the hole would be 7. The table below shows difference between the old vs. the new ESC method.

<i>On a Par</i>	<i>Old ESC</i>	<i>New ESC</i>
3	5	7
4	6	7
5	7	7

Scores can be entered at the club house or at home by going to www.golfcanada.ca (see me for your user name and password).

A Course Handicap is the number of strokes the golfer receives depending on the difficulty of the course and the tees that you are playing from. The course handicap is determined by looking up

New Handicap System //continued

a player's Handicap Factor on the Golf Course's Handicap table.

When we are talking about a golfer's handicap, we are really talking about the golfer's "Course Handicap." Do not confuse your Handicap Factor with a Course Handicap, they are not the same. A simple way to tell them a part is that a Handicap Factor is a number with a decimal point. A Course Handicap is a whole number.

Make sure that you use the Course Handicap on your score card and not the Handicap Factor. If you mix them up in competition, you will be disqualified.

Here are examples on how the handicap works in head-to-head competition:

We have two golfers: Wayne's course handicap is 10 and Stan's course handicap is 14.

In medal (stroke) play, the low handicap would give the high handicap the number of strokes, equal to the difference between their course handicaps. In this

case, Wayne would give Stan four strokes.

In match play, the low handicap would give the high handicap the number of strokes, equal to the difference between their course handicaps. With a twist, the strokes are given based on the ranking of the holes. In our example, Wayne would give Stan, a stroke on the four hardest handicap holes.

The handicap holes are ranked according to the RCGA and the Alberta Golf Association. The score cards have a row showing the holes ranking based on their difficulty. Where 1 is the hardest hole and 18 is the easiest hole.

It is your responsibility to enter your score in a timely manner, and as accurately as possible. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to speak to me or a member of the executive.

HAPPY GOLFING!!!!!!!!!!

Stan Mah, Handicap Chairman

Dave Letterman's Top 10: Reasons Golf is Better than Sex

#10... A below par performance is considered damn good.

#09... You can stop in the middle and have a cheeseburger and a couple of beers.

#08... It's much easier to find the sweet spot.

#07... Foursomes are encouraged.

#06... You can still make money doing it as a senior.

#05... Three times a day is possible.

#04... Your partner doesn't hire a lawyer if you play with someone else.

#03... If you live in Florida, you can do it almost every day.

#02... You don't have to cuddle with your partner when you're finished.

And the NUMBER ONE reason why golf is better than sex...
(see page 6)

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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*find
us on
facebook*

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

six

Getting the Itch

As the sun gets higher and higher in the sky, we all start to get the itch. Wednesday night walks with good friends and all that engaging conversation... some say spoiled by a silly game called golf. It's been a warm winter so far, but once again, I did not get away to play golf so I'll be coming in cold regardless of the temperature. Welcome back to you returning members and a big welcome to new members!

I am Stephen Gibson, your Club Captain again this year. The old man will be helping out as Assistant Club Captain this year – Captain Stephen and Commander Brent; I watch too much Star Trek! As always, my key responsibilities are managing the Interclub Team and trying to steal long drive prizes away from my brother (Mark Gibson). As it was last year, 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 9 and Saturday, May 13. 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).

I am running the Club's Facebook page again this year. You can find it by searching "Victoria Men's Golf

Club." There will be events for all the tournaments and I find it useful for Interclub planning. I'd like to emphasize again how great the singles and doubles match play competitions are for meeting and playing with different members of the club. As I said last year, I'm pretty sure I've lost to almost all of you by now!

I'd also like to remind everyone that you will need to get a minimum of 10 rounds of golf in (during/for Club events) before the Club Championship to qualify for the competitive flights and prizes. However, there is a social flight for those who don't get enough rounds in which guarantees that all of us can come out and play in the top tournament of the year! And for those that find they have difficulty getting out on Wednesdays during the regular tee time block (2-5 p.m.), remember that you can usually hop on the back nine with a Men's Club group coming through after these times. Men's Night rounds, Interclub, weekend tournaments and singles/doubles matches all count towards your 10 rounds, which should give you all plenty of opportunity to get them in.

That's about it for now – let's all get out and meet the new members and get a game in with those returning members you haven't had the chance to play with yet. I'm looking forward to another great year!

**#01... When your
equipment gets old
you can replace it!**