

# The First Tee

## Victoria Men's Club Newsletter Spring 2014

### VMC Set for Another Year of Great Golf



According to the calendar and the weather folk on radio and TV spring officially arrived earlier this past week - though looking out a window and/ or stepping out a door you'd be hard pressed to believe winter ever left.

Still in 46 short days from now we'll be teeing it up to start another season of golf at Vic; and I, for one can hardly wait to get back. It's been a busy off season and there have been a few changes at Vic for 2014.

Probably the most significant - and encouraging to those of us who like to grab a bite to eat after a round - is that we have a new company running the food ops.

Matte says he's an Italian fella who's going to change the menu up significantly adding things like pizza, chicken wings and Italian sausage as options.

It might actually be good enough to entice Dave and his child bride to return for dinners. At any rate it's a welcome change - Eures had been milking that gig for too long.

You'll notice some subtle changes to the scorecard this year as well. The course will officially be playing about 60 yards shorter with holes 7, 9 and 12 being posted with new yardage.

Seven and 12 are no big deal - all it does is reflect where the tees are most often placed - but I'm not sure what's going on with 9 which has been shortened from 267 to 245 yards. My guess is the staff are giving up on the teeing ground south of the service road given their inability to actually grow any grass back there in the trees. I'll try and find out what's up with that in time for the meet and greet.

Speaking of which, our meet and greet is scheduled for 30 April 2014 starting at 1830 hours - that's 6:30 pm for all you civies.

The exec has made a couple changes to play for the coming season - including a possible change to the staking along the cricket pitch and a new local rule for the fricking stupid maintenance shed.

We're still working through the details with the course staff and should have



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### The 2014 Executive

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

### Contact information

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Derrick Forsythe , Editor

11704 - 110A Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 1K8  
780-482-1824  
forsythe.db@shaw.ca

Mission Statement: Play golf, have fun

Cover Photo: 1st Hole - Vic courtesy Ken Hansen

# One

## *Did you know?*

**The city may actually have a computer set up for us in time for this season - maybe...**

# Two

more to report at the meet and greet.

Stephen Gibson is also implementing some changes to the way members qualify for the Interclub team. Want to know what he's thinking? Guess you'll have to show up at the meet and greet - I'm not going to steal his thunder.

You'll notice on the front cover that the position of Wednesday night chair has not been filled. We're going to run Wednesday nights amongst the executive starting off and hope to find someone in the club who will be willing to take the job on at some point over the course of the summer.

We'd talked last September about heading to Jasper for the Away Tournament this year. Well, after some long discussion this winter, we decided that might be a little too far a reach for a men's club event - we're looking at options close to home for the event we intend to hold on the first weekend in June.

Top of the list as alternatives are Barhead and Athabasca. We'll let you know where we land at the meet and greet and the sign up sheet will be posted inside the men's locker room.

In case you haven't picked up on the recurring theme - there's a lot of stuff going down at the meet and greet this year. I'd encourage you to come on out, have a pop - wobbly or otherwise - and catch up with the fellas.

As for finances, Greg tells me we have about \$3,000 in the bank to start the year meaning we'll be able to pay our EGA and AGA fees prior to the start of the season - which is a bit of a relief.

We're also ordering shirts for the 2014 season through deBoers golf. I'm trying to get sizing samples from Al in time for the meet and greet. Looks like the cost will be somewhere around \$50-60 per copy. Blue is the colour for this year.

Finally I want to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who supported my run for office this past October.

Though we came up short I was happy with the level of support we received in what was lean-grassroots campaign in a crowded field.

To those of you who donated to the cause - Thank you. I truly appreciate your faith in me and I'm sorry we weren't more successful. That said I continue to get positive feedback from people I met on the doors. I've saved my campaign signs and we may have to have another go in 2017.

I really wanted to do some good for my part of the city in general and

***We're really lucky to have a place like Vic located in the heart of the city...***

the golf course in particular. It has so much potential to be a really great golf destination - if properly run.

We're really lucky to have a place like Vic in the heart of the city and, as we have all discussed over beers, it could be a real gem if only the people running it more like a business and less like a cash cow to fund other failed initiatives. That said Matte told me the city is talking like they want to bring more focus to running the place like a business. We'll see how that goes...

That's all I got for now - it's 0335 in the morning and we're off to Florida in about five hours - Tegan needs to get his game in shape in time for the start of the season...plus he wants to see the rocket ships at the Kennedy Space Centre.

Mom and dad are taking clubs as well so with the three or four rounds I might get in over the time there I should be well into my mid-season wheels coming off my game form in time for the first Wednesday in May...

Until then, take it easy guys - we'll see you on the 30th of April.

Derrick

# The 2014 Tournament Schedule

## New challenges and old favourites

Event	Date	Time	Notes
Rd 1 Interclub Qualifier	Wed May 14*	2:30-5:00 pm	*new selection format best 2-of-3 rds
Kickoff Tournament	Sun May 25	7:30 am	All members invited (IQ)
Jim Mahar	Sun Jun 8	7:30 am	
Mixed two-ball	Sun Jun 22	7:30 am	With the Vic Business Ladies
Johnny Aitken	Wed Jun 18	200-5:00 pm	
Away Tournament	Sun Jun 1	TBC	TBC
River Valley Challenge	Sun, Jul 20	7:30 am	at Riverside
Tombstone	Sun, Jul 6	7:30 am	Dinner to follow
President's Choice	Sun, Aug 3	7:30 am	Modified Stableford Scoring
Rd 1 Club Championship	Sat, Aug 16	7:30 am	
Rd 2 Club Championship	Sun, Aug 17	7:30 am	Dinner to follow
Champion's Cup	Sun Sep 7	8:30 am	Dinner to follow -steak and beans
Club Final	Sun, Sep 21	8:30 am	Dinner to Follow

## Notes from the Handicap Chair

Welcome back to another year of great golf and fun! As your handicap chair, I want to review some of questions about handicap that come up every year.

### What is a golf handicap? And, why do you need one?

A golf handicap is a system devised to measure a player's ability on a specific set of tees. Players of different skill levels can use the difference between their handicaps to compete against each other. Both have an equal chance of winning.

### How do I get a handicap?

To get an official handicap you need to be a member of an RCGA affiliated club and enter your scores online on the RCGA web site.

### What is the difference between a handicap factor and a course handicap?

The simple answer is a handicap factor is the number with a decimal point, while a course handicap is a whole number. Your handicap factor measures your potential scores based on your last 20 (18-hole) rounds played. This is used to calculate your course handicap, the number of strokes you receive from a specific set of tees.

### What is equitable stroke control (ESC)?

The equitable stroke control is a downward adjustment of individual holes scored. This gives a better reflection of a player's ability and prevents bad scores from inflating a player's handicap.

### How do you enter in your scores?

Your scores are entered on the Golf Canada web site, [www.golfcanada.ca](http://www.golfcanada.ca). See Stan or Peter, for you user name and password.

Please keep your handicap up to date by entering your scores in a timely fashion. Enter scores for all rounds played, including rounds at courses other than your home course. Games played while you were on vacation or on business trip, also count towards keeping your handicap current.

There is a location on the website to enter scores from other courses you may play, including those in other countries. For instance, if you score a 68 on the Old course at St Andrews, you can enter that score on the RCGA web site. Also you should be on the PGA Tour!!!

If you need help entering your scores, please ask me or a member of the executive.

### How do I lower my handicap?

Play better golf!

### What's the best way to lower my scores?

Hit the ball less times!

### What do you get when you cross a vampire with a snowman?

Frost bite.



## 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?

From the Royal and Ancient's website - on pace of play:

*...as a general rule, try and keep up with the group in front.*

**We all need to do a better job in setting and maintaining our pace of play.**

# Four

## Club Captain's Corner

Play golf, have fun. This is the mission statement of the Victoria Men's Golf Club. It is simple, to the point and applicable to all. It's the spirit of this mission statement that keeps us coming back round after round, year after year. Somewhat ironically, Old Man Winter seems to have returned the day I chose to sit down and write this article. However, if I ignore the fact that I see snow out my window, I can cheerfully say that the 2014 golf season is nearly upon us!

I once again have the honour of being your Club Captain. The Club Captain's main responsibility is managing the Interclub Team. 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 5 guaranteed spots (Club Champion, Head Professional, Club Captain, two Captain's picks) and 7 qualifiers. The top 7 golfers in the combined low gross score qualifying rounds will become the 7 qualifiers for the Interclub Team.

The dates for qualifying are tentatively Wednesday, May 21, Sunday, May 25 and Wednesday, May 28. That's right... three qualifying rounds. New this year, your best two out of three rounds will count for qualifying purposes. Even if you don't make it onto the 12-man team, there is still a chance for you to play. If you play two out of three qualifying rounds, you are qualified to be an alternate. Alternates are required to fill in for those on the team who can't make it to a match. Times and dates of our Interclub matches will be determined later by the Edmonton Golf Association (EGA).

The Club's underutilized Facebook page can be found by searching "Victoria Men's Golf Club". Please feel free to post and contribute to the page. Let's see if we can get pictures posted from every Club event this year. It is also used to help coordinate club events, tournaments and Interclub. Don't forget that you 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. Club events include Wednesday "Men's Night" golf, Interclub, singles/doubles matches and weekend tournaments.

And now I'll move onto the hottest topic of the last decade (at least for Victoria Men's Club)...

### PACE OF PLAY

This has been a reoccurring issue at the Club for as long as I've been a member. The question we need to ask ourselves this year is... "What can I do better?"

It's easy to point fingers, but it's much more productive if we work together towards a solution.

Here are some quotes from the R&A website regarding pace of play:

Clubs, public courses, resorts and competition organisers have differing views on what constitutes acceptable pace of play... slow play detracts from the enjoyment of the game for many players. Few golfers are heard to complain about play being too quick!

If slow play has become an issue at your club, course or resort then strong and decisive action should be taken to resolve the problem. And as a general rule, try to keep up with the group in front!

How players can minimise round times (also from the R&A website):

- Be aware of your position with regard to the group in front and keep up with that group.
- If you feel that your group is losing ground, tell the other players in your group.
- Be ready to play your shot. While exercising due consideration for other players in your group, put your glove on, check your yardage, pick your club and line up your putt while others are playing.
- At the green, speed up your exit by positioning your bags on the way to the next tee.
- Move off the green as soon as all players in your group have holed out and mark score cards at the next tee.
- Play a provisional ball if your ball may be lost outside a hazard or out of bounds.

So let's try our best to improve this year. We don't want to risk our mission statement changing to "Play golf, have fun... and keep up to the group ahead of you".

Well that's enough for this year's article! I'm looking forward to seeing all of you once the golf season officially begins!