

# The First Tee

Victoria Men's Club Newsletter  
Spring 2015



## A New Tournament for the Club in 2015



I saw, thanks to Norm Gee, that this week courses in Calgary were open. While we're not quite that far along here in Edmonton, the signs are starting to show that our 2015 golf season is almost upon us - and none too soon. In just over 50 days we'll be teeing it up for the first round of the 2015 Victoria Men's Club season; and it's shaping up to be a really cool year for the club.

We've made a couple changes this year. The first of them being we've ditched the Mixed Two-Ball tournament. It wasn't an easy decision, a lot of guys like the day playing with the ladies and it did help to foster stronger relations between clubs.

In the end, however, it was difficult getting buy-in from both sides so we made the decision to substitute another tournament in its place - one that we think will be on the best attended of the season.

The Mid-Season Classic will be played on Sunday June 21 with a 0730 start time. This new tournament will be an opportunity

for members to see what sort of shape their game is in eight weeks in front of our club championship.

The format will be exactly like the Club Championship - except it is an 18 hole tournament. Everyone will be flighted based on their handicaps - there will be no net prizes in this tournament.

Now here's the cool part. The winner of each flight will have his tournament fee for the club championship and his first day's green fees paid for by the club. Seniors will be eligible for this as well - so long as they have paid their associate dues prior to the tournament.

We're hoping this will generate significant interest from the membership to come out and see how much fun we have playing on the weekends. Who knows, this new format might even entice Timmy Phillips come out and join us on the 21st - we like to dream big on the exec.

There will a dinner served and we'll hand out the inaugural trophy to the

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## The 2015 Executive

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

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Mission Statement: Play golf, have fun

Cover Photo: 6th Hole - Fundy Nat'l Park

# One

## *Did you know?*

**The city finally chopped out the scrub patch between the tee and green on 7. No excuse not for not being able to hit the green...**

winners. I really think it's going to be a great day of golf. If you're going to make only one weekend tourney this summer I'd say pencil the Mid Season Classic into your calendar.

We're also going to have a new company running the kitchen this year - it seems there were just too many issues with the new guys last year so the City made the change.

The good news is there is at least one experienced bid going in for this year and I'm hopeful we won't have to fight through the no beer - too expensive beer - before finally getting reasonably priced beer this year.

So I'll say at the outset - be patient guys - if all goes as I think it will we'll be in better shape all round in terms of food service et al this year.

In other positive notes, after a decade of reminding staff why not being able to see the green from the tee on a 150 yard par three was ridiculous they finally got the message; the trees that blocked the view of the green on 7 have been removed.

Here's hoping they replace it with a nice flower garden of some sort - maybe the Victoria logo - to give the hole a little more class. Given most of the folks running the shop are horticulturists first - I'm guessing we'll see something like that in the hollow sooner than later - the upside is it'll be a free drop area if you can find your ball in the marigolds...

Speaking of rules, it looks like we've finally settled the cricket pitch question - it will be OB for all men's night events. White stakes will be lined up as close to the white paint that rings the pitch as possible to give players that spray their tee shots a little left will be able to punch out from behind the trees so long as the ball does not come to rest on the pitch proper.

A reminder to everyone that given this final decision on the pitch - remember that if you even think you're close to the OB - hit a provisional. There's no shame in it and it beats having to run back and have Mario scream at you for slow play (apologies Mario - just having a little fun at your expense...).

And everyone should get into the habit of waving people up on 8 if things are starting to bunch up there later in the day. We all know that two par threes back to back is a pace killer, so let's do the courteous thing and let the guys behind hit up.

It has the added benefit of putting a little bigger gap between your group and the guys in front of you on 9 which helps

***the winner of each flight will have his tournament fee for the club championship and his first day's green fees paid for by the club.***

***(Mid-Season Classic tourney)***

speed things on 10 and it makes the round more enjoyable for everyone.

While I'm on the topic of enjoyable rounds, the maintenance guys have listened to the clubs on the question of aeration (finally).

There will be two aeration and sanding of the greens this summer - we're not going to be able to avoid it affecting a club Wed night, but the good news is both are currently scheduled to be completed well in advance of the Club Championship so we won't have to worry about the greens slowing from their regular eight on the stimp metre down to Bobby Jones 1930's Master's greens - or the greens I played while in Jamaica this past winter.

Holy cow they were slow... I played one round and promptly decided to then spend my time focusing on achieving the ideal daily consumption of rum and red stripes... there is work to be done on that front - it may require another visit to the island...

Ok fellas I've rambled on enough for another season. We'll see you at the meet and greet on the 29th of April. The boys will be taking orders for shirts that night so bring some cash. Until then take care and "GO TIGER" in the Masters - that's for Wayne...

Derrick.

# The 2015 Tournament Schedule

## New challenges and old favourites

Event	Date	Time	Notes
Rd 1&3 Interclub Qualifer	Wed May 20 Wed May 27	2:30-5:00 pm	Rain or Shine - best 2 of 3 scores determines Interclub team
Kickoff Tournament	Sun May 24	7:30 am	All members invited (also rd 2 IQ)
Jim Mahar	Sun Jun 7	7:30 am	
Mid Season Classic	Sun Jun 21	7:30 am	NEW TOURNAMENT!
Away Tournament	Sun Jun 14	TBD	BARRHEAD
Johnny Aitkin	Wed Jun 17	2:30-5:00 pm	
Tombstone	Sun, Jul 5	7:30 am	Dinner to follow
RVC	Sun, Jul 19	7:30 am	Dinner to follow - at Vic
President's Choice	Sun, Aug 16	7:30 am	Modified Stableford Scoring
Rd 1 Club Championship	Sat, Aug 22	7:30 am	
Rd 2 Club Championship	Sun, Aug 23	7:30 am	Dinner to follow
Champion's Cup	Sat, Sep 13	8:30 am	Dinner to follow -steak and beans

## Notes from the Tournament Chair

### What's in store for members in 2015

Like most of you, I'm looking forward to the upcoming golf season - to catch up with the guys in the club and to play some great golf.

This is my first year as Weekend Tournament Chair and we're making some changes to the schedule of events this year.

As Derrick mentioned in his article, we've done away with the Mixed Two Ball tournament in favour of a competitive mid-season tournament that will, I think, provide the club with a great day of competitive golf across all handicaps. And how can you beat a chance to "win your way in" to the Club Championship.

Tournament buy in will remain green fees plus \$10 - the regular weekend rate. The Club is putting up the green fees and covering the entry fee for the winners. We're hoping to find a sponsor for the Mid Season Classic to donate a trophy. This will be a one-time cost and their name will be on the hardware for life. If any of you have bosses or are the boss and want your company's name to live on in perpetuity - the opportunity is there. Just let one of the exec know at the meet and greet



and we'll arrange to have the trophy made up.

Remember everyone that in order to qualify for the Club Championship members need to have played 10 club rounds prior to August 22. These events include all the Wednesday nights, weekend tournaments, the away tournament, Interclub play and any Matches you might play on nights other than Wednesdays.

I encourage you to make every effort to come out to the weekend tournaments. We have great formats and, of course, there's the chance to encourage players finishing their rounds from the balcony on 18.

One last thing. Kevin has let the club know he's got a deal on Titleist Pro V1s on now. Buy three boxes and get the fourth free - plus you can have the balls customized with your name or specific numbers - a great deal - talk to Kevin and Matte for details.

See you at the meet and greet.

Steve

## Did you know?

The Away Tournament is headed back to Barrhead - so we can play it again from the Whites this time...

# Three

## Did you know?

The River Valley Challenge is being played at Vic this year - time to stick it to those Riverside guys...

# Four

## Club Captain's Corner

Another beautiful March day has me thinking of golf once again. What a whacky winter, right? I'm sure at least some of you had the chance to escape somewhere warm to keep those golf muscles finely honed. Me? Not a chance. Oh well. I'll let the rust fall off when it counts... during Men's night!

I am honoured to return as Club Captain once again. This year I'm happy to welcome Jordan Vallee as our new Assistant Club Captain.

Our main responsibility is the management of the Interclub Team. Men's Interclub is a match-play format competition between twelve-man teams from Edmonton (and area) golf courses.

Our Interclub Team will be comprised of the 5 guaranteed spots (Club Champion, Head Professional, Club Captain, two Captain's picks) and seven qualifiers. The top seven golfers in the combined low gross score qualifying rounds will become those seven qualifiers. The dates for qualifying are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, Sunday, May 24 and Wednesday, May 27.

As was introduced last year, your best two-out-of-three rounds will count towards your qualifying score. 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 out of 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 attend a match. Times and dates for our Interclub matches will be determined by the Edmonton Golf Association (EGA).

I'm particularly excited this year to be heading back to Barrhead Golf

Club for the Away Tournament. It's a beautiful course and a proven challenge for golfers at all levels I thoroughly enjoyed the experience last year; however, I think we are all in agreement that we should play the whites this time!

I'm also pleased to announce the addition of a NEW tournament to the schedule. The "Mid-Season Classic" will be a one-day gross score tournament broken into flights by handicap (similar to the Club Championship). This tournament replaces the "Mixed Two-Ball" and promises to add some serious excitement and competition to the middle of the season!

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching "Victoria Men's Golf Club". Stan has done some great work on revising the site. 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!