

The First Tee

Victoria Men's Club Newsletter
Spring 2016



Club Heads to Jasper for Away Tourney



Well here we are. Another winter almost done and another golf season is right around the corner. For the first time in a long time we didn't get anywhere warm - a combination of a crummy exchange rate and the fact that if I don't get the basement finished this season I could really be in trouble...

But as I type this message the first coat of mud is on the wall and, if all goes well, we'll be ready to paint before the Easter weekend.

This is the eleventh straight year I've sat down to write this newsletter and I'm probably more excited about this year than any I can recall - for a couple of reasons;

First, we're in the unusual spot of defending the River Valley Challenge at Riverside this year. It had been a long drought since our inaugural win and I'm really glad to see that we appear to have the handicap thing tweaked just about right.

I'm hoping this thing will become truly competitive now and live on as a challenge between the two clubs for

years to come; its a great tournament and really good competitive golf.

Secondly, we're taking the Away Tournament to a new level this year by heading to Jasper National Park to play, what I believe, is one of the most beautiful courses anywhere.

There's a lot of moving parts into getting this event off the ground and Greg, Marvin and the guys have done most of the heavy lifting in getting everything in place for the event set for June 25th.

The cost for the event will be \$140 (for the round of golf only) and \$200 for the round of golf + the bus ride up and back that day - it's a pretty good deal for Jasper and will be a day we remember for a long time.

Marvin is working on a form that may or may not be attached to this newsletter (I haven't been able to confirm that with him at the time of writing). We'll start taking payments with the membership application, at the Meet and Greet and until we head home on the night of the first Wednesday in May.

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The 2016 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

Contact information

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Mission Statement: Play golf, have fun

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

One

Did you know?

We have more new trees up by the green on the 4th hole

I'm also interested to see what the city is going to do with the course layout on the 4th hole.

Many of you will have noticed a bunch of new trees have been planted on the left hand side of the hole up by the green - initially I thought it was because the tees would be shifting to the right looking from tee to green. It now looks like they won't be doing that this year; or at least not so far as I know so far. The next River Valley Advisory Committee meeting is 24 March - I'll pass along what I find out at the meet and greet in April.

One of the other things we'll talk about in April is a proposed local rule for the club we're trying for the 2016 season - a modified Lift, Clean and Place rule.

I don't want to steal anyone's thunder - there's more on this later on - suffice it to say the Exec talked over this point for a long time while enjoying some awesome Thai food at Charlie's place on Whyte (you all should get there by the way, the food is awesome).

I think, in the end, the change as written strikes a pretty good balance for our course that often times rewards a shot in a rough while penalizing a good drive. We'll review how it went in September at the Club Final and AGM.

We also spent some time, again, trying to crack the nut on slow play, so here is my annual plug to ask everyone this year to embrace the principles of ready golf so that we can keep the club moving on Wednesday nights and during our weekend tournaments. The upside is the sooner we get off the course the sooner we can get upstairs and enjoy some social libations and snacks.

Speaking of change the city has decided it can do a better job of running the driving range than Kevin and Matte - we'll see how that goes... I'm not holding my breath that is going to make things better. It will mean the end of the free warm up balls the morning of the Club Championship.

The Culina guys are back for another season. I talked with Matte last month and he indicated the city was working with Brad, the owner, to tweak the menu to better reflect the audience.

This will be the year rubber hits the road for these guys - I'd better see a club sandwich on the menu this season or someone's gonna be in big trouble...

The Dogwood Cafe is open this winter for brunch on Saturdays and Sundays. Brad is in his wheel house catering to the bearded skinny jean set.

Nic and I went there for brunch once and the food was pretty good - the place

Next to the Away Tournament this is one of the best golf deals you'll find - and it's for a great cause...

(MADD tournament held at the Links at Spruce Grove)

doesn't look much like a clubhouse, but the food was good and the prices were reasonable.

Finally I want to make a plug to everyone planning on coming back this year to make time in your schedule to play in the MADD tournament this summer.

Next to the Away Tournament this is one of the best golf deals you'll find - and it's for a great cause. Breakfast, golf, a dinner afterwards, prizes and a silent auction; all for about \$175 +/- . Give it some serious thought year guys.

That's it for me fellas, see you at the meet and greet in April.

Derrick.

The 2016 Tournament Schedule

New challenges and old favourites

Event	Date	Time	Notes
Rd 1&3 Interclub Qualifer	Wed May 11,18	2:30-5:00 pm	Rain or Shine - best 2 of 3 scores determines Interclub team
Kickoff Tournament	Sun May 15	7:30 am	All members invited (also rd 2 IQ)
Jim Mahar	Sun Jun 5	7:30 am	
Johnny Aitkin	Wed Jun 22	2:30-5:00 pm	
Away Tournament	Sat Jun 25	11:00 am	JASPER PARK LODGE
Mid Season Classic	Sun Jul 10	7:30 am	
RVC	Sun, Jul 17	7:30 am	Dinner to follow - at Riverside
Tombstone	Sun, Jul 24	7:30 am	Dinner to follow
President's Choice	Sun, Aug 14	7:30 am	Modified Stableford Scoring
Rd 1 Club Championship	Sat, Aug 20	7:30 am	
Rd 2 Club Championship	Sun, Aug 21	7:30 am	Dinner to follow
Champion's Cup	Sat, Sep 11	8:30 am	Dinner to follow -steak and beans
Club Final	Sun, Sep 27	9:00 am	Dinner to Follow - AGM

New Lift, Clean & Place Rule Coming to VMC

New Rule responds to chronically wet fairways

Like slow play, the condition of our fairways continues to be a source of constant conversation; and we go back and forth on it almost as much as we do the cricket pitch (a reminder the pitch IS, in fact OB).

This winter the Executive agreed to implement a new local lift, clean & place rule for the 2016 season with the exception of the Club Championship (unless, of course it's - you know really raining that weekend).

The rule states: "If your ball comes to rest on the fairway of the hole you are playing with enough dirt on the ball to affect your next shot - **and at least one member of your group confirms there is dirt on your ball** - you are eligible to gain relief as follows:

- place a tee directly behind your ball;
- clean the ball and replace it back in the same spot - even if that spot is a bad lie like a divot; then
- play your next shot

This is essentially a variation of the sand trap rule the Club put in place a few years back to address (a) the lack

of maintenance resources at Vic, and (b) the appalling lack of knowledge/etiquette displayed by an increasing number of people who view golf as their personal Bud Lite experience...

This rule is NOT intended to improve your lie every time you manage to find a fairway, but we've all hit a great shot in the fairway (especially off the tee) on a day when there's been no rain and when we walk up to our ball there's a huge glob of black dirt resting on the ball.

So we're expecting everyone to call this rule sparingly, and if we find this is slowing play, we'll remove it as an option available to members.

We will have a firmal review/discussion at the AGM in September.

For this year the Exec asks that everyone keep an open mind as we seek to keep the game enjoyable for everyone.

Thanks guys.

Did you know?

The Away Tournament is headed to Jasper

Three

Did you know?

The River Valley Challenge is being played at Riverside this year - time to defend our 2015 win...

Club Captain's Corner

Welcome everyone! It's been another long winter without golf (at least for me). Although when I look outside, it doesn't look like winter has much tread left - here's to hoping!

I am honoured to return as Club Captain and it's great to have Jordan Vallee back as the Assistant Club Captain.

Our main 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 Captain;
- 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 years ago, your best two-out-of-three rounds count towards your qualifying score. The dates for qualifying are listed in the tournament schedule on page three of 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).

On to some new content! Apparently the Rules of golf are updated every four years. The 2016 edition came into effect January 1 of this year. The most significant changes are briefly

detailed below:

- *Withdrawal of Rule on Ball Moving After Address - Rule 18-2b;*
- *Limited Exception to Disqualification Penalty for Submission of Incorrect Score Card - Rule 6-6d;*
- *Modification of Penalty for a Single Impermissible Use of Artificial Devices or Equipment - Rule 14-3; and*
- *Prohibition on Anchoring the Club While Making a Stroke - Rule 14-1b.*

I encourage everyone to read the full article on the rule changes on the R&A web site:

www.randa.org/News/2015/10/R-and-A-USGA-release-2016-edition-of-Rules-of-Golf

You're also no doubt read a change to our own local rules for this year. Shane has addressed this change in his article. We'll go over it during nachos and beer at the meet and greet in April.

For those of you who do not know, Victoria Men's Club has a Facebook page - you can find it by searching "Victoria Men's Golf Club."

Don't forget you need a minimum of ten rounds (nine or eighteen holes) during/for Club events before the Club Championship in August to qualify for the competitive flights and prizes. Club events include Wed nights, Interclub, singles/doubles matches and weekend tournaments.

That's enough for me! I'll see you all at the course!

Stephen Gibson