



THE FIRST TEE

Victoria Men's Golf Club Newsletter

Spring 2020

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Derrick Forsythe



Vice President
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Club Captain
Mark Gibson



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Mike Pickard



Tournament Chair
Lincoln Chow



Asst Tournament Chair
Doug Krystofiak



Handicap
Peter Leong



Match Play
Allan Nalli



Ringer Board
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Victoria

Message from the President



It happens every year. About three weeks after Christmas I notice it isn't dark anymore as I walk to my car after work and immediately my mind

pivots – despite the fact it may still be minus two million – that another golf season is around the corner. As I write this note it's 52 days until the deadline for applications arrives and then the big Vic machine begins rolling.

2020 is shaping up to be a pretty cool year of golf for the club. For starters we're kicking off our active season a week early with the first Wednesday night being 29 April; a week earlier than normal. We decided to slide the start date to the left a week because of the way the calendar lined up this year and to give guys one more week to get in qualifying rounds for handicaps, ringer boards and eligibility for the Club Championship.

There will be a few changes at the course when you roll up this year. Not the least of which being we'll have a new food service company. I remain optimistic the city will finally get it right and that, after 20 years as a VMC member, we might finally be getting back to a caterer that can make a two minute hot dog and serve up a wicked club sandwich; I'm a glass half full kinda guy...

Another difference you'll all notice almost immediately is that Matteo won't be around the Pro Shop this season. He and Ivy have taken spots at the course formerly known as "JR's". It's under new management and the owners are looking to turn things around out there. Sounds like a pretty cool opportunity for Matte – we'll miss him though. He was a big supporter of the club from an operational perspective.

I think the pathways torn up last year have been paved and the elevator should be in and operational for the start of the season. There are plans for more capital projects around the course. The planned tearing out of the pavement in front of the clubhouse has been pushed into October, but we'll probably be off the back boxes at 16 and 18 at some point this summer so the city can strip off the gravel, put down some actual top soil and lay in irrigation so we'll have workable tee boxes either late in the year or in time for 2021.

There are pathways still to build – between 10 green and 11 tee and from 12 tee to green for example – so we'll be working around that for a while, but it's making the course better overall and the mess isn't forever – at least we can see the progress.

Message from the President—continued

Lincoln has us set up for the Away Tournament this year. I won't steal his thunder. You'll have to read on to find out where we're headed this year. I'm looking forward to playing this track.

Aaron has a new contact for golf gear. Details on that are on the inside of this newsletter. The merch looks pretty good and the prices are reasonable. Have a look at what he's put together.

The RCGA has also introduced a new way of calculating handicaps – so, no you haven't miraculously gotten better over the winter; your handicap has simply been adjusted downward under the new system – you'll now just have to work harder at keeping it there...

Food Services

The city has awarded a local restaurant group a contract to provide food for city-owned golf courses.

Starting in April, **Robert Spencer Hospitality Group** will provide a wide range of local, fresh food and seasonal menu items

at Riverside, Rundle Park and Victoria golf courses.

Robert Spencer Hospitality Group has a great reputation in the city and serves notable, handcrafted food at two well-known local restaurants, Workshop Eatery and

Woodshed Burgers.

Paul Shufelt, a chef with the hospitality group said they are excited to provide a dining experience that matches the beauty of the river valley, which the golf courses call home.

Club Captain's Corner



Welcome new and returning members to the Victoria Men's

League 2020 season! I am excited to be your new Club Captain for this year and I hope to continue the good work of the past Club Captain, Jordan Vallee.

For those new members, the main responsibilities of the Club Captain and Assistant Captain are to organize and run the Interclub Team.

Interclub is a match-play format competition between Edmonton and area Golf Club Men's Leagues. Our team will be comprised of five guaranteed spots (Club Champion, Head Pro, Club Captain, two Captain's picks) and seven qualifiers. The qualifiers will be the top seven players with the lowest gross scores coming from two out of three qualifying rounds. The three qualifying rounds will be listed in the newsletter's tournament schedule.

For those who didn't make the 12-man team but played in at least two of the three qualifying rounds, you will be considered as alternates and can possibly be called upon at some point to fill in and play. The times and dates for our Interclub matches will be determined by the Edmonton Golf Association (EGA).

Well, that's about all I got to say for now. Hope to see you all on the course in the spring!

Mark Gibson

Finally, for those of you not at the Club Final last September, 2020 will be my last year as President. Fifteen seasons is lots and we have a really strong group of guys that have some cool ideas on where they want to take the club. It's been a great run and I'm looking forward to seeing where the club heads as I join the rest of you on the other side of the podium for meetings et al.

See you all at the meet and greet this April – we'll be holding that on the 22nd this year and then off we go. I'm looking forward to getting out and playing a little more than last year.

See you on the green!
Derrick Forsythe

Member Registration Deadline

**Sunday
April 19th
6:00 pm**

(Completed form and payment to be dropped off at the pro-shop. E-transfer payment and registration form can be emailed to

Meet & Greet

**Victoria Social Room
Wednesday
April 22nd
6:00 pm**

**Food and Refreshments
will be provided**

Opening Day

**Wednesday
April 29th**

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From the proshop...

Take advantage of the available discounts....

Golf Rewards Card - \$40

10% Discount on Green Fees, Carts, Food and Proshop items

1 Free Large Bucket of Balls

Platinum Rewards Card - \$100

20% Discount
Regular Green Fees

10% Discount
League Tournament Play

10% Discount on Carts, Food, Proshop items and more

1 Free Large Bucket of Balls

Ask about the Golf Multi-Pass as well!!!



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Welcome to Wednesday



Welcome to the Victoria Men's Golf Club for the 2020 season!

I, for one, am ready to get started with the new season. I trust that all of you are as well!

This is my tenth year with the club and my third year as the Wednesday Chair.

My role is to make sure that Wednesdays run smoothly and to have your experience with our club be an enjoyable one.

We always have some challenges, and even make some mistakes, but I hope that these can be minimized to where most of you are blissfully unaware of any of them.

My goal is always to exceed your expectations and to have your experience with our club be welcoming, all-inclusive and long lasting.

As I have for the past ten years, I look forward to meeting all of our new members and re-connecting with our returning ones.

I hope that everyone is able to take a couple of minutes, or a couple of hours, to come upstairs after your round, as our club is as much about the social aspect as it is about the golf!

With the change to the new World Handicap System you may see a change in the handicaps used to create our flights, but we will continue to make sure that our handicap groups are balanced and competitive.

I don't foresee many other changes this season as the on-line sign-up and the format for Wednesday will continue as they did last year.

I will send out an E-mail prior to the Meet & Greet with instructions on how and when to sign-up.

Information will still be accessible on our Google Sheets Page from links on **The Victoria Men's Golf Club** website.

—Wednesday Tee Times

—Wednesday Prize results

—Tournament Tee Times

—Tournament results

—Attendance

—Interclub results

—Match Play schedule and results

We will have a lot of information to pass along as we get closer to the start of the season so keep an eye out for a few informative e-mails.

Play well! Have Fun!

Mike Pickard

Match Play



Hi everyone, I will again be heading up the

Match Play tournaments.

These are optional season long Singles and Doubles Match Play events for players who wish to sign-up and compete against fellow club members.

Participants schedule their matches with their opponents during regular Wednesday play or any other time as long as it's before the allotted deadline for each round. If you want to play you

can sign up for both or just one of the two events.

There is hardware for the champions, and cash for all those making it to the final rounds, but mainly this is a chance to get your competitive juices flowing (mixes great with beer) and also to play with members who you might not.

To make these tournaments successful and finish before the end of season, matches need to be played as soon as possible in each round so that weather and other circumstances don't become a factor.

This is especially important during the early rounds which set the pace going forward.

Therefore, I will again be requesting preferred times during sign-up, early 2:00pm-3:30pm, late 3:30pm to 5pm, or no preference. The draw will then start with these preferences to get it underway.

Match play is planned to start around mid-May. Information to sign-up will be communicated as we start the season.

Play well!

Allan Nalli

Tournament Chair Address



Welcome to new and returning fellow golfers!



Weekend tournaments create an environment

that encourages friendly competition and playful banter. This also allows members to get to know each other by gathering after their round to enjoy the camaraderie over food & drinks. Tournament prize winners will be announced and trophies presented. Each tournament trophy is unique and the winners will have their picture taken for our website. Door prizes may also be drawn but you must be present to win.

Weekend tournaments offer lots of variety as each tournament is played in a slightly different format. This gives you lots of opportunities to challenge yourself and to test your mental & physical skills. Details of each tournament will be posted in the Men's washroom board as well as emailed to all members. This cumulates into our biggest tournament, The Club Championship, which is a 2-day event to crown the best in mid-August.

Most tournaments will be held on Saturday mornings at approximately 7:30 AM. The exceptions are the Away Tournament which starts at approximately 11 AM. and the 2-day Club

Championship (Saturday & Sunday) at approximately 7:30 AM. Our tournaments in September may have a later starting time as well (depending on weather/sunlight). Please observe tournament sign-up deadlines as it will be very tight logistics wise due to having the event on Saturdays instead of Sundays.

Some tournaments also include meals or food vouchers to provide added value for each participating member.



This year, our Away Tournament will be held at the scenic and challenging **Innisfail Golf Course**.

They have a brand new Clubhouse and have been rated Score Golf's #1 Conditioned Golf Course in Alberta & Top 3 "Best Courses You Can Play in Alberta".

We'll be teeing off Saturday, June 27, starting at around 11 AM.

For this Away Tournament, club members, family, friends & guests are welcome but the maximum limit is 48 players. The cost is \$125 per person (includes driving range, 18 holes, power cart, meal, gratuity & GST) for club members and any guests. Club members will

also pay an additional \$15 tournament fee to cover hole prizes and tournament prizes.

If we go over the maximum limit of 48 players, preference will be given to club members first.

The sign-up deadline is May 6 by 11pm. Payment must be made in full by the deadline. More details to come at our Meet & Greet.

Finally, for this coming year, we are hoping to expand our sponsorship program from last year so

there will be more &/or better door prizes for each tournament. For those interested, this will provide an opportunity to market your company/business/services to your fellow members.

(See Page 6 for contact information)

Looking forward to meeting everyone, sharing some laughs and having a fun & memorable year of golf!

Lincoln Chow

Tournament Chair

Doug Krystofiak

Assistant Tournament Chair

2020

Tournaments

Wednesday, May 6

Interclub Qualifier # 1

Saturday, May 9

Kickoff & I.C. Qualifier # 2

Wednesday, May 13

Interclub Qualifier # 3

Saturday, May 30

Jim Mahar Memorial

Saturday, June 13

Tombstone

Wednesday, June 17

Johnny Aitken

Saturday, June 27

Away Tournament

Innisfail Golf Club

Saturday, July 11

Mid Season Classic

Saturday, July 25

President's Choice

Saturday and Sunday

August 15 and 16

Club Championship

Saturday, September 12

Champion's Cup

Saturday, September 26

Club Final and AGM

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MADD Golf Tournament July 3, 2020 at The Links in Spruce Grove

Contact Tim Phillips
(tphillips99@hotmail.com)
for information on how to
participate

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Handicap



What is a handicap?

Contrary to popular opinion, a player's handicap is intended to show a player's potential, not a player's average score. The frequency by which a player will play to their handicap is a function of that golfer's handicap, as low handicappers are statistically more consistent than higher handicappers.

Some highlights on the new system for 2020 (World Handicap System – WHS)

Fewer rounds required to obtain a Handicap Index

Only three 18 hole rounds are required (a total of 54 holes – which is made up of any combination of 18 hole or 9 hole rounds)

Handicap Index will be based on your lowest 8 of the most recent 20 rounds

For handicap purposes the Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is being replaced

A limit of Net Double Bogey on the maximum hole score

For more information about handicaps, click on the attached link at the bottom of this article.

The Handicap Index travels worldwide with the golfer from course to course (and tee to tee) and is used to calculate a “Course Handicap”. The Course Handicap is the number of strokes a golfer receives from the specific set of tees at the course. The more difficult the golf course, the more strokes the golfer receives and vice versa.

To avoid any confusion with the revised handicap rules for 2020, it is advised to enter your **hole by hole scores** on the **date played** on the Golf Canada website to ensure your handicap is calculated correctly and to ensure your eligibility in the VMGC ringer board competition.

On your Victoria scorecard you are required to enter your course handicap (e.g. 19) not your handicap factor 20.5 (the factor is used to determine your course handicap on any course with a slope and rating), and your full name on the scorecard to be eligible for Wednesday night and weekend competition.

NOTE: course handicap is always a whole number (no decimals).

In stroke play, it is used to calculate a net score from the number of strokes played during a competition, thus allowing players of different proficiency to play against each other on somewhat equal terms. In match play, the handicap difference between players is used to determine the number of strokes the high handicap player should receive from the low handicapper during the playing of their round. The higher the handicap of a player, the poorer the player is relative to those with lower handicaps.

If you have more questions about the golf handicap, please go to the Golf Canada link: <https://golfcanada.ca/handicapping/-handicap-faqs>

Your Handicap Chair... **Peter Leong**



Your Handicap Factor is **20.5** [View History](#)

At-a-Glance
My Club Roster
Favourite Players
Favourite Courses

Post a Score

Handicap Lookup

Find a Course

Member Club:	Victoria Men's Golf League
Membership Type:	Default
Expiration Date:	N/A

Home Course:	Victoria Golf Course
Default Tees:	Black
Course Handicap:	19 [View All]
2019 Score Count:	0
2019 Scoring Average:	0.0

2019 Awards and Champions

Club Champion	Stephen Gibson
Club Kick-off	Jarad Watson
Jim Mahar	Gavin Morton/Derek Jones
Johnny Aitken	Tilman Klumpp
Away Tournament	Gerry O'Donnell
Tombstone	Brent Gibson
Mid-Season Classic	Stephen Gibson
President's Choice	Gary Salh
Club Final	Stephen Gibson
	Karim Damji
	Joe Lavorato
	Al Chapman
Singles Match Play	Gary Salh
Doubles Match Play	Doug Krystofiak/Lincoln Chow
Fellowship Award	Ross Savard
Prize-Pig Award	Stephen Gibson



Merchandise Store



This season, we are moving to a new supplier for apparel.

The Promo Addict, a local small business based out of Sherwood Park, has secured us some great prices and designs for our shirts, hats, and some other cool items.

The ordering process will be a little different this year – we can order online. You can visit our custom store (at the link below) to place your orders starting today.

We will be placing the orders in batches, which means the first order will be delivered once the new guys join the club and have a chance to get their orders in.

It'll be around the end of May that we get the first batch in hand.

Any questions regarding this service find me around the course and I will be happy to help you out.

I also wanted to send a big **Thanks** out to Marvin for sourcing our club shirts over the years – thanks Marvin for all your hard work to get us looking our best.

To place your orders visit:
www.victoriagolf.promoaddict.shop

Or click the button to the right 

Aaron Anderson

Tournament Sponsorship

Tournament Sponsorship — Our sponsorship program allows members to market their company or services to fellow members. This provides a great opportunity to increase exposure while providing excitement and interest for our tournaments.

Sponsorship Levels

Platinum	\$500 plus
Gold	\$250 - \$499
Silver	\$100 - \$249
Bronze	\$99 or less

Please contact **Lincoln Chow** for more information regarding sponsorship
Email: lchow66@gmail.com
Cell: 780-445-8082

Website

Vmcgolf.ca

2019 Statistics

Rounds played 1825
Prize Payouts – 418
Wednesday \$6400
Weekends \$2500
Club Championship \$3425
Total Payout \$12,325

1 Hole in One

**VMGC
Merchandise
Store**

Click to Enter

Play Golf, Have Fun

VMGC Publishing Company

March 2020

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