

Gabriola Golf & Country Club



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- YOUR BOARD MEMBERS 2
- FUN WITH GOLF 2
- NEW YEARS EVE 2
- CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES 2
- SOCIAL EVENTS 3
- WINTER GOLF 3
- CALIFORNIA GOLF TRIP 3
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT 4
- XMAS PARTY PHOTOS 5

WIN BIG IF YOU REFER THE MOST MEMBERS

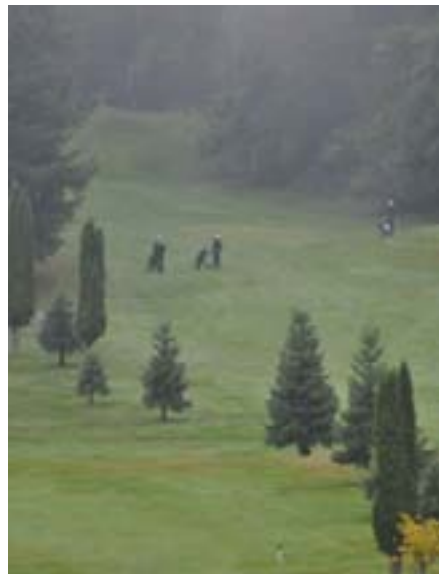
2012 membership drive

Your new board of directors have identified "membership" as a priority for the coming year.

Changes in the way initiation fees are paid will certainly aid in securing new members. The current economic conditions and especially our recent "wet" spring have prompted the board to initiate changes to how fees are paid. New members will pay \$100 for 5 years for their initiation fee.

Previous members of the club, ones who had to opt out but have had to re-pay their initiation fees will now only have to pay their annual dues. Once the initiation fee has been paid, it is no longer payable. This will encourage previous members of the club still living on the island to re-visit joining.

We are hoping all members will encourage their friends, neighbours and new island residents to experience and join our



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"New members will pay \$100 yearly for 5 years for their initiation fee."

Golf Club. As an incentive for new membership, Golf West in Nanaimo is donating a \$200 Gift Certificate. This certificate will be awarded to the member who refers and recommends the most new members to the club. The certificate will be awarded April 30th, based upon these referrals for fully paid up new members. Many thanks to Golf West for their generosity. ■

President's Welcome

Dear Golfers,

Thanks to all of you for electing me. My condolences to those who ran against me. I don't know why this isn't a more popular position. It's a lot of fun. Each night, I drift off to sleep chuckling at the day's events, a smile on my face.

Even though many of you blindly put your faith in me and may not care, I'm going to tell you my vision anyway.

The 35 voting members who attended the AGM have heard some of this before; but, it's new to the rest of you.

We need to make sure the Gabriola Golf and Country Club:

1. Offers the best possible value it can; and
2. Is entertaining and fun for it members and guests.

We need new members, and that should always be a priority.

Go to **Page 4** and see my full report, thanks. ■



Matt Richards
President

Fun with Golf...

By The Rules

Two friends were playing golf one day.

They decided that they would adhere strictly to the rules with no improving their lie. After a few holes, one guy's ball landed on a cart path.

As he reached down to pick up his ball to get relief his friend said,

"We agreed that we would not improve our lie."

No matter how much the first fellow tried to explain that he was entitled to this relief, the second fellow would not allow it. So the man went to the cart to get a club.

As he stood over the ball he took a few practice swings, each time scraping the club on the pavement, taking out big chunks of blacktop and sending out lots of sparks!

Finally, after several practice swings he took his shot. The ball took off and landed on the green about 6 feet from the pin.

"Great shot!" his friend exclaimed. "What club did you use?"

"YOUR 7-iron!" he replied. ■



LET US INTRODUCE OUR

Board Members

The Club Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday December 4th and a slate of officers and directors were affirmed and elected. These are all volunteer positions and each director is assigned a responsible position in maintaining our golf facilities and planning our golfing activities.



The Executives

Matt Richards (shown above) has been elected to the position of President. Matt will preside over our board meetings and direct the activities of the board and the club.

Chris Jans was elected to the position of Vice President and will support Matt in his position. Chris is also responsible for directing our fleet of golf carts and overseeing the driving range. Andre Lemieux has taken the position of Treasurer and will also maintain his role as Golf Director and master of technology to include our website. We are pleased to have as our Past President, Harold Jenner.

The rest of the board members

For the second year of his term, Jordan Sorrenti will maintain his position in Marketing and Advertising for the club. New board member Jerry Ellins is taking the position as chair of the Management & Personnel Committee, new member John Doak will be looking after House and Grounds & Deane Farley has accepted the position of Membership Secretary. Returning board member Al Tanner will maintain his responsibility of looking after our greens.

IN THE CLUBHOUSE

Coming Up & Coming Soon

New Years Eve

Come out and celebrate the New Year at the Clubhouse. \$10 for the evening includes your party favours & champagne at midnight. All you need to do is bring an appetizer to share. So come on out and ring in the New Year with us! If you want tickets, email Ev Simpson at social@gabriolagolf.com or call 250-247-0152. ■

Volunteer Dinner in February

Every year we honour our volunteers with a dinner prepared by the board. This year, we are planning a very tasty meal and if you have volunteered, you will be receiving an invitation in the new year.

Please mark Saturday February 4th on your calendar for this event. ■

The Superbowl is coming

The superbowl is on Sunday February 5th this year and we will have the clubhouse open for the game. Plan now to get a group together to enjoy the game! Watch the clubhouse for more details. ■

Sunday Breakfasts

Sunday breakfast is from 9-12 pm every Sunday except the weekend of the Men's Amateur, Christmas Day and New Years Day. We offer a full breakfast at one set price which includes bacon, sausages, hash browns, toast,

..... with eggs any style or a cheese, mushroom and pepper omelet. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and juice are also available. Come and enjoy a leisurely breakfast over-looking our scenic golf course.

Our charming crew of volunteer servers will make you more than welcome. ■

Line Dancing Mondays

Line Dancing classes will continue on Mondays from 1-3 pm at the golf course and will continue every Monday until March.

This is a social/beginner level dance class so beginners are more than welcome. Come out and get some fun exercise for the winter.

For more info contact Bev Bickerton at 247-9077 or Ev Whitney at 247-9723. ■



If you think it's hard to meet people, try picking up the wrong golf ball...Jack Lemmon.

Dart night

There is a social dart league every Friday at 7 pm at the golf club. This is a drop-in event with teams picked randomly each week. The season started mid-October and will continue to the end of April. The third Friday of each month is potluck appetizers. As well, every Friday at 6 pm, dinner is offered at a nominal price with a set menu and is open to all members as well as dart players. Please sign up ahead or call in and leave a message.

Attendance, to date, has been good with anywhere from 18-30+ players – more are always welcome. Although the league is more than half golfers, it is open to the public so come out and bring your non-golfing friends. Over the Christmas season there will be darts on Dec. 23 and possibly on Dec. 30 (to be determined by the players on Dec. 23) so bring your Christmas visitors for an evening out. For more info call Bev @247-9077. ■

CIMMARON GOLF RESORT

Gabriola Southern Open

The California open takes place in Palm Springs next year on Monday March 12th, 2012.

The open takes place at the Cimmaron Golf Resort in Cathedral City. The format is a four person Texas Scramble with four drives per player and the chosen drive plays the second shot except on par three holes.

Teams will be made up by the tournament committee to balance the chances of winning using your handicaps and experience level. A dinner will follow the end of play.

There are no other qualifications required and to register please send an email with your name, contact phone (cell, hotel name) address, your handicap or experience level to Andre Lemieux at golfdirector@gabriolagolf.com. ■

IT JUST LOOKS COLD

Winter Golf

Don't forget that we can golf all year round on Gabriola and we want to encourage all members to let everyone know that they can golf 7 days a week and that the clubhouse is open on weekends.

There will be many sunny days ahead to enjoy the course. Currently, tee boxes have been maintained for the winter generally with yellows for the front nine and blues for the back. Greens have been playable for all but a few days where frost in the morning has necessitated using the temporary greens. No flooding yet on number 6 and the fairways are still fairly dry. ■



THERE GOES THE HANDICAP

Equitable stroke control changes

What it is. Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make Handicap Factors more representative of a players' potential scoring ability.

Effective March 1, 2012

In the old system, someone with a handicap of 15 who scored a 7 on the 2nd hole (par 4) would record a 6 or a maximum of 2 over par. Under the new system, the same handicap, a 7 would be recorded as a 7 (the maximum score). Even a par 3 hole, instead of a maximum of 2 strokes, there is now a maximum score of 7.

Here is how it works. A 9 or less handicap would score a maximum of 2 over. A 10-19 handicap would score a maximum of 7. A 20-29 handicap would score a maximum of 8. A 30-39 handicap would score a maximum of 9 and over 40 a maximum of 10. ■

President's Report

Our membership is ageing and our retired members cannot sustain us indefinitely. We need to create value for those who are still working, those who have families, those who have limited incomes. We need to exploit opportunities to attract members of the community who are never likely to (but still might) become golfing members of the club, especially in the winter months.

We can't make money unless the clubhouse is open; but, we can't just open the doors and hope that customers come in. We can't open the clubhouse unless we are going to make a profit. We have to be opportunistic and predatory. We have to take advantage of events that present themselves to us. We have to be predatory in the sense that if the opportunities don't exist, we have to create them for ourselves.

We have the resources and infrastructure to do this. Our license allows us to serve food, liquor, accommodate minors (not with booze), and provide for non-members. Our clubhouse staff is flexible, and enthusiastic about working more hours and earning more money.

To attract members of the public we need to offer a really good product. Already, we offer events that have become institutions:

1. line dancing on Mondays;
2. darts on Friday nights;
3. Sunday breakfast;
4. The Concert on the Green.

We can do more. Except if it's booked, the clubhouse is available every afternoon and evening of the week. Amazingly, Saturday afternoons are quite quiet

and especially quiet in the winter time. I would like it to be as noisy as Fraser Smith who has just won the 3rd flight of the club championship (Go Fraser!).

We've already received dozens of ideas on how we might do this. These are some healthy, active, outdoor, events that might appeal to those with young families:

1. Bocce tournaments;
2. Horseshoes;
3. A fire pit at the driving range with attendant marshmallow toasting, sing-a-longs, ghost stories;
4. Tobogganing;
5. Beginners golf days;
6. Skills competitions;
7. Highlands Games on Robbie Burns Day.

Or maybe you'd prefer to be inside. How about:

1. Chambers Music with tea and cucumber sandwiches;
2. A lecture series;
3. An adult jam session;
4. Poker nights;
5. A book club.

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"We need new members & that should always be a priority."

If there's something you'd like to do, please let us know (or, better still, get it going). If it's profitable and quasi-legal, we're in!

These things don't happen overnight. As an example, Shazam happens every Tuesday night. Everyone who pays the \$5.00 entry is welcome: men, women, juniors, non-members. It is a golf event created to accommodate working people. The last tee-off time is always 6 o'clock,

Memo
COMING SOON
 Very soon, you will be able to play ping pong at the Clubhouse. No, we're not kidding, ping pong.
BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
 Timmy Proudfoot, a long time and still playing member is turning 75 on Dec. 21 and Caren Mancell, also a long time playing member is turning 80 on Dec. 19.

so that those who work until 5 o'clock have time to attend. When we started in 2008, the clubhouse was closed when we finished at 8 o'clock. Afterwards, we'd go to the White Hart for a drink. It was suggested to the manager at the time that an opportunity existed for the club to make money by staying open and selling us some drinks and food. Shazam is going strong four years later. From May to September we get an average of 20 players a week, we have a famous burger night and the club makes a profit. The event has generated some new members and inspired the return of some former members.

As members we are hosts and ambassadors of the club. We need to be friendly and welcoming to members of the public. We need to be proud of our club.

We have a great membership, a great staff and enthusiastic board. I'm looking forward to working with all of you this year.

Have a Merry Christmas & thanks for your support.

In the Sounder

GOLF GIFT IDEAS

NEW MEMBERS SPECIAL
 Buy your 2012 membership before Dec. 31st & receive 3 months free golf!
 (Golf Jan-March for free, 2012 yearly membership starts on April 1st.)
PLUS...take 5 years to pay your initiation fee.

PRO SHOP
 Great stocking stuffers still available. Branded golf balls, tees, & more.

WINTER PASSES
 You can enjoy golfing all year round, we have a special pass for winter golfers. \$40.00 per month in January, February or March 2012.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR FORMER GOLF MEMBERS
 If you've already paid your initiation you can rejoin by paying only your yearly dues.

Clubhouse open weekends in the Winter, don't forget our great Sunday breakfasts from 9-Noon & call us about New Years Eve!

GABRIOLA'S GOLF CLUB

250-247-8822

WWW.GABRIOLAGOLF.COM

- Don't forget the pro shop when you're thinking of gifts this Christmas. A box of balls would make a great "hostess" gift for a golfer this season.
- The NEW MEMBERS SPECIAL that is advertised would allow golfers to golf free for the months of January - March on purchase of a full membership. Free always sounds good.
- Remember that Golf West in Nanaimo is sponsoring our Membership drive, when you visit their shop, please mention you saw them in the "Birdie".

This newsletter is published by:

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**CHRISTMAS PARTY
PHOTOS**
Thanks to Andre Lemieux

It was a great party and
the food was superb & these
photos are proof that
everyone enjoyed
themselves.

