



# up to par

## BOWEN ISLAND GOLF CLUB

MARCH 2019

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### LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

**We're putting the wacky winter weather behind us and looking forward to another super spring and summer on our awesome award-winning course. There will be changes this year, both on the course and in the clubhouse.**

#### Message From the President:



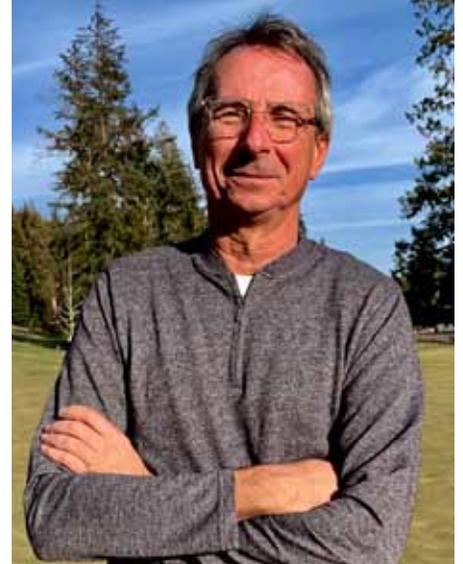
**Welcome to an exciting new season of golf at the most beautiful nine hole course on the coast!**

WE'RE EXCITED TO BE WORKING once again with *Monaghan Golf*, and are very happy to welcome Bowen's own *Les Meszaros* as Pro Shop manager. Bowen's growth and issues related to BC's housing market and economy continue to create

challenges for our golf club, particularly in the food and beverage area. We're working hard to solve these problems and provide the best possible experience for everyone who visits our course.

*Alan Morse, President*

**Welcome to Les Meszaros, our new Monaghan Golf pro shop manager!**



Many of you met *Les* last year when he did some relief shifts in the pro shop. What you may not have known is that Les has had a stellar career in sports management at the top levels of Canadian and international soccer. We're sure his experience, energy, and enthusiasm will be a great addition to our club.

#### Follow us!

Please follow and 'like' Bowen Island Golf Club on Facebook and Instagram and share our posts.



**BIGC Up to Par Newsletter**  
Editor: Terence McKeown  
Design/production: Pat Adams

#### Alcohol on the Course

Any alcohol consumed on the course must be purchased from the clubhouse. This isn't just so that we can make money (though that's a good enough reason, given our financial situation); we could lose our liquor license, and that would be a disaster.

Thank you for observing this rule.



URGENT!

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED for  
2019**

OUR GOLF COURSE EXISTS only because of the ongoing efforts of a small group of volunteers. The same people have been doing this for years.

In 2019 four of our directors must resign because of term limits, including our president and vice president. *We are in desperate need of new volunteers.* Please get in touch with any board member or the pro shop if you are willing to contribute some of your time towards the survival of the club.

**Elections for the board will be held at the end of June.**

**DIRECTORS  
NEEDED**

**Money isn't the only thing that keeps our golf club going. Without volunteers, there would be no golf course on Bowen.**

**BIGG EVENTS**

**RECENT EVENTS**

**Groundhog Day  
Tournament**

OUR FIRST EVENT of the calendar year was the first annual Groundhog Day tournament on February 2nd. (Ironically, it was the last day of golf before winter descended with a vengeance; but that's all behind us now.) The day was beautiful, the golf was fun, and Frank Patt's chili was delicious. The winning team, to no one's surprise, was *Kathy and Peter Clarke, Billy Keller, and Tom Roocroft.*

Participants in the 2018 BAF tournament



**COMING EVENTS**

**The Island Masters -  
April 13**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS (or consult our online one) for one of our most popular tournaments of the year. Here's your chance to partner with a pro, combining your score with a randomly-selected Masters player whose score may vault you into stardom, or pull you off the podium. The drama in the Clubhouse is so thick you could cut it with a putter.

Contact the Pro Shop to sign up.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

IT'S NOT TOO SOON to put our 2019 BAF fundraiser in your calendar, our most important event of the year: September 7th. Thanks to you, we raised a record amount last year which almost offset our annual loss. It's critical to our survival.

**New Members**  
Welcome to our new members:

- Ailve McNestry
- Diane Sutherland
- Jim and Linda Elliott
- Adrian Buitenhuis
- Dwight Russell
- Arif Bandali.

Some of these new members live above the 9th tee. You may see them cheering or jeering your tee shots from their lovely new homes.

Please don't hit their houses!



## Bowen's more "laid back" lady golfers are gearing up for June 11, the opening day of our Just fore Laughs season.

JOANN GASSMAN, ELIZABETH HAMMERBERG AND SYLVIA BOSS -- the trio of organizers who did such an impressive job last year -- will again be orchestrating the group's activities.

Play Days are scheduled every Tuesday morning from June 11 through August. Liz Hammerberg reports that we'll use the same format that worked well last year. That is, players sign-up by email in advance and arrive at the BIGC Club House by

## Just fore Laughs — Just fore Fun!

by Gayle Stevenson

... still short on rules, long on fun

9:30 a.m. for sign-in, team formation and tee assignments. Play starts at 10 a.m. Depending on this year's catering arrangements, we hope to include post-game group lunches at the club house.

To make it easy, everyone on the JFL contact list receives an email reminder with simple instructions on how to participate at least one week before each Play Day.

Just fore Laughs is the ideal fit for ladies who've never played golf or are beginners, as well as for those who just want to have fun with the game and prefer camaraderie to competition. Ours are carefree, no-pressure matches, where keeping score is

optional. One can tee-up on the fairway or pick up the ball when it's too hard to hit -- no problem, your teammates won't notice.

(Nevertheless, we're proud that a few of our players have progressed to the point where they're now fully at home with the serious ladies who meet on Thursday mornings.)

A detailed announcement will be distributed in advance of our June 11 kick-off. If you're not on the JFL contact list, or have a friend you want to include, please email:

[gaylestevenson@shaw.ca](mailto:gaylestevenson@shaw.ca)

We warmly welcome all new players.

## BIGC Women's League

by Barb Rendell

THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE STARTS with our opening day on Thursday, April 11 (with a 4 person team fun game) and ends on Thursday, Sept. 26 with another 4 person scramble followed by a luncheon party.

Our league emphasizes that golf is for everyone at every level. We try to mix players each week of varying skill levels so they can play together as well as learn from and support each other.

During the April-September season, we play every Thursday morning with a shotgun start at 9 am with a different game format that is designed to be fun and friendly. We finish each game with some social-

izing on the Clubhouse deck.

Our online 2019 Women's League Fixture book (BIGC website under Tournaments and Events) is full of useful information such as our calendar of events, game descriptions and much more.

Come to our coffee party on **Thursday, April 4** from 9:30-11:00 am. (at the clubhouse) to meet other golfers, meet the club executive and get an overview of who we are and what our golf season looks like.

Please let Barb Rendell ([rgmiller1@shaw.ca](mailto:rgmiller1@shaw.ca)) or Jane Skipsey ([jskipsey@telus.net](mailto:jskipsey@telus.net)) know if you wish to be added to our contact list. We're looking forward to meeting you.



Off to play Sechelt!



For ten years athletically inclined older gentlemen, and a few younger competitors, have been engaging in a fun, friendly Saturday morning 9 hole golf competition known as Saturday morning “Skins and Pins” and the summer long Buzzard competition.

This is an open invitation for anyone, of any age, to join the group and enjoy the fun. Tee off time is at 8:00 AM but there are always a few who start a few minutes earlier.

On average there will be 12 to 16 players but on occasion the number exceeds 20.

## Saturday Morning Buzzards

by Larry Oliver

The Buzzard competition is for gentlemen over 50 or those with grandchildren. It is a summer long competition with a total of the 10 best NET scores posted, during the approximately 6 month competition, determining the winner. The winner receives a beautiful Bob Miller hand-carved Buzzard. The Buzzard trophy is in honour of Greg Cope a founder of the competition.

The Buzzard Cup is played alongside the “Saturday morning NET skins competition” which is open to any-

one who has a handicap. Entry fee is \$5.00 per event with \$4.00 disbursed to “Skins and Pins” and \$1.00 going toward the “Buzzard Bash” an end of the year party for the Buzzards who achieve the 10 game qualifier.

This competition is very friendly, the groups are established based on when you show up or you can choose someone to play with.

Everyone is welcome to compete regularly or just on occasion, come on out and bring a friend.



## Groundskeeper's Report

by Frank Griffiths

### Course Update

Over the winter we had long periods of being closed due to frost and frozen greens. With spring just around the corner, there shouldn't be many more frost delays. I have been updating the pro shop answering machine message when we are closed. It is recommended to call ahead to check on the status of the course before coming out to play.

On February 3rd we were hit hard by the windstorm which dropped over ten trees on the course. Most of the damage occurred on hole #5 and #6. It was a bit overwhelming to see so many trees down and it was a big task to clean up. I have to thank Kevin Huskisson and Eric Hunter-James for their assistance with removing and cutting rounds out of the larger

trees. Also I would like to thank Shane Fitzpatrick for volunteering his time to aid in the cleanup process.

We have replaced and installed some new drainage lines on hole #2 over the last month. We started by replacing the lines by the 150 yard marker which were completely blocked/crushed which caused a pool feature to form in the swale. Once that was completed, we focused our attention on the landing area on #2.

We cut in some new lines and replaced some sections that had blockages. We have one more drainage line to install on #2 and these additions will greatly improve the conditions of the landing area.

Time seems to be flying by and soon

we will be planning our Spring Aeration. I will be setting dates soon for April to complete the aeration. Our priority will be to do tees, aprons and greens first but we will follow that with fairways. Fairways do take considerable amount of time and your patience is greatly appreciated while we carry out this work.

We recently secured a deal to purchase 14 2015 Yamaha power carts. We will be trading in the old fleet and keeping two of them for work and tournament carts. In doing this we are increasing the rental fleet from 12 to 14 carts. We also have a deal in place to purchase 50 used clip gear pull carts from Marine Drive (thanks to Braden Jolly!). We expect these items should be arriving in April.

Looking forward to this season and seeing you out here!



## Oliver's rules

by Larry Oliver

### New Rule: Penalty Area

**As everyone knows, on January 1 this year the new “simplified” and “modernized”**

**rules of golf kicked in.**

**Until now, there has never been so much in the way of good rules explanation material available.**

Just go to the Golf Canada web site and you can find video tours and explanation of every change. In my view it is more challenging to learn and use the new terminology than it is to adopt the new rules. You might wonder why expressions like the term “casual water” have been changed to “temporary water” or why “rule officials” are now called “referees.” It is so that the written rule book could be translated into every language in the world – everyone knows what a “referee” does.

For now I thought I would start with the rule that I think has the biggest impact on the Bowen golf course. That would be Rule 17 which is a specific Rule for penalty areas, which are bodies of water or now “other areas defined by the Committee where a ball is often lost or unable to be played”. On Bowen these are the red staked areas that in the past were treated as water hazards. Prior to this rule change the red hazard areas on Bowen were technically incorrect; the committee did not have the

right to declare areas that did not have water in them as water hazards. Now they do have the authority so the red staked areas with the terminology change are now called “penalty areas”.

If you hit into the penalty area and if you choose to take one penalty stroke you now have three options: 1) replay your shot, 2) drop your ball (from knee height) within two club lengths of the point of entry, or 3) drop the ball back on a line from the point of entry to the flag stick (hole). (The option to drop on the other side of the hazard, a confusing rule that barely anyone understood, has been removed).

Of course you may also play the ball, as it lies, out of the penalty area but now the big difference is you can play the ball exactly the same way you would if it was on the fairway, you may ground your club, take practice swings and remove loose impediments to improve your opportunity. You may still not remove growing or attached natural objects around the ball or on the line of play. If your ball has been imbedded you may not take relief as you would in the “general area” (a new term for most of the course, which excludes penalty areas, tee grounds, greens and bunkers).

Looking forward to see how these rule changes will work out, my guess is we will evolve to rarely removing the flagstick especial in casual play. As always I welcome questions or comments.

### DEFIBRILLATOR

Anyone wishing to take the AED/Life Saving Course (3 hour course @ \$52/ person) should contact Bruce Russell (brucer@gulfpacific.ca).

The AED is located in the pro shop. It will soon be moved to the area of the large sign next to the parking lot near the #1 green / #9 tee.

### Online Booking System

**Book online up to 7 days in advance. Your user name is your email address, the default password is ##Bigc.online\$\$.** Please change your password after your initial log in. You can type this URL into your browser to get the BIGC booking site:

<http://foreupsoftware.com/index.php/booking/index/19643#welcome>



## IN MEMORIAM

We mark the passing of members, friends, and contributors to our club, and send our condolences to their families. They will be missed.

### HELEN BROWN

— A PIONEER CHARTER MEMBER whose love and skill at quilting did not leave sufficient time to golf enough. In the early years, Helen and husband Bill hosted many club directors' meetings at their home.

### EILISH MCKENDY

— AN ARDENT SUPPORTER OF A PUBLIC GOLF COURSE on Bowen before the Bowen Island Golf Association was registered as a non-profit society in January 1988. She was delighted to see the course become a reality, joined the board of directors, and played for many years..

### JEAN CLEATOR

- JEAN EXCELLED AT MANY SPORTS, golf included which she took up in her seventies. A member from day one who loved the game and the people. She was loved, admired and envied by all.



Photo: Jane Skpsey

### PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE PRO SHOP

**before your round, everyone, always!**

Whether you're a member or not, the pro shop requires everyone to check in before heading to the first tee. The club needs to know who is playing, and how often . . . And it's proper golf etiquette.

### Course Etiquette

#### Pace of Play

Please keep up with the group in front of you. And let the pro shop know if there are problems on the course.

#### Divots

Please repair your divots, either by replacing them, or filling with our sand and seed mix. See below to learn how to do it properly. Visit any of the following sites for a recap of the divot and pitch mark repair instructions :

- <http://www.golfchannel.com/media/golf-fix-how-repair-divot>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpEm5Z9smIo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-ZzT8yMnmg>