



Men's Section



In the late 70s Bill Wakeham demonstrates the golf swing to (l to r) Doug Skinner, Bob Slonski, Tom Kerrone and Carl Norman



The Men's Section

The history of the Men's Section is, by and large, the history of the Club. It was mostly men who provided the impetus to get the Club started and over the years they have participated in every aspect of Club life — they have provided the majority of Board members; physically put up the first Clubhouse; worked hard as Greens and Grounds Chairmen; led Expansion Committees and provided much of the vision which has put the Club where it is today. All these contributions have been documented in other parts of this history.



*Clayton Wright
& Arnie Walker
marshalling in
1988*

From the earliest years they were organized as a group which included Seniors. They elected a Captain from amongst themselves at their annual wind-up dinner and reported to the Board through the Match and Handicap Chairman. In 1972 this position was abolished, however the Men's Section continued to be represented on the Board by a member who though not necessarily the Club Captain often held that position. Today the Club Captain is a permanent Board position. The duties which past Captains have considered to be part and parcel of the job have been numerous and

have affected facets of Club life over and above the organization of the Men's Section — they included running the Cowichan Open, enforcing discipline, including the dress code, making up the Men's fixture list, arranging the Men's interclubs and organizing the Twilight competitions. Some have made changes which have had far reaching effects. It was a Club Captain, Arnie Walker, who, as the course got busier and busier, initiated the system, now in operation, of booking tee times. Arnie was also responsible for bringing the first computer to the Club; in fact Cowichan was one of the first clubs on the Island to use computerized scores. He was one of many Captains who, once they assumed the position, gave of their time unstintingly and the Club is for ever indebted to them for the work they did. In this context other names like Ron Loiselle, Fred Mills Junior and Gwyn Hughes come immediately to mind as dedicated, hardworking men who made outstanding contributions. From an earlier period, no one could or should forget Clayton Wright Senior who did the job for nine years. At the AGM of 1959 the membership paid him a special tribute for the 'amazing amount of work he did.'¹

Nowadays the Men's Section's weekly activities are confined to Wednesday Twilights but this was not always so. The Twilight dates only from the early seventies but from Day One of the Club's history Sunday mornings belonged to the men for Medal and Par competitions. Local rule #10 on the back of a scorecard dating from Bill Wakeham's time states "Only men's 4s on Sunday. Starter to use

1. *Cowichan Leader*, March 5, 1959.

his discretion to allow 2s.” Unfortunately in August 1982 this hallowed time was challenged by one, Agnes Todd, who appealed to the Human Rights Commission claiming that she was being discriminated against as a woman because she was not allowed to play on Sunday morning. A decision in her favour could also have worked against the Ladies who had always regarded *Wednesday* morning as ‘*their*’ time.² The dilemma was solved by the Board under the Presidency of Tom Kerrone who, on the advice of the HRC, regularized pre-booking foursome times on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Somehow since that time regular Sunday Men’s competitions have fallen by the wayside as has play for many of the Challenge cups which used to be competed for annually. The names of many of these trophies — names like the George Syrotuck Memorial Trophy, the Art Irvine Senior Men’s Championship Trophy and the Archie Sherman Men’s Championship Handicap Cup bring back memories of the contribution made by these former members. Other annual trophies inherited from the old Club like the Koksilah Bogey Competition Cup (also called the Bundock Cup)³ were played for every year until the early 80s, at which time there are increasingly frequent references in the Board Minutes to the lack of interest in competing for these Cups. The annual Club Championship, however, remains very keenly contested and, over the years, has been responsible for some very fine golf. Gordon Whan,⁴ mentioned in one newspaper account as one of the finest amateurs playing at the time, won it fourteen times. Other multiple winners have been Alex Forward, Bob Slonski and T.Reynolds. All three Martin brothers have won it at one time or another and an interesting winning duo is a father/son one — Clayton Wright Senior was Club Champion 1963 and his son Bert achieved that distinction ten

years later in 1973.

Interclubs have always been a feature of the men’s golfing schedule, the fixture list from the early years covered most of Victoria and many up-island clubs, one went even further afield and was one of the most popular. The annual match against Beach Grove was always regarded as a highlight of the fixture list. In 1969 as many as 40 members travelled to compete at the Vancouver Club. Beach Grove is no longer a fixture but in 1985 Duffy Chaster was the moving force behind “The Triangle”, a competition in which 24 players from each of the three Clubs — Mount Brenton, Cowichan and March Meadows — compete on each of the three course every year.

The Senior men had their own championship almost from the beginning but were not organized as a separate unit until the early 70s, since which time they have formed their own group, elected their own Captain and have held their own regular weekly competitions on Thursdays. They started with a membership of 35 which by 1994 had grown to 160 and in 1997 stands at 180, only 126 of whom are Thursday regulars. In theory the Senior Captain is elected yearly but in practice it has been difficult to find men to take over the task and those that have done it have been asked to stay in office for a long time. Men like

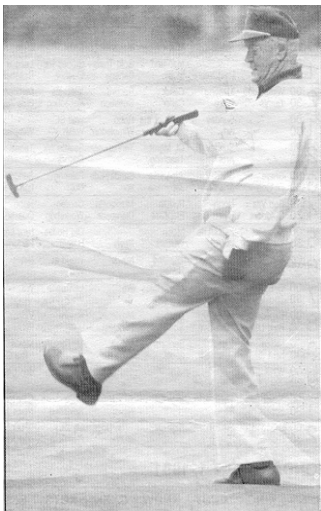


*The Whan brothers:
left, Walter, first
winner of the
Archie Sherman
Trophy and right,
Gordon, fourteen
times Club
Champion*

2. Rule #7 on that same scorecard reads “Course closed on Wednesday a.m. till 1 p.m. March 1st to October 31st Ladies Day”.

3. Named after W.W.Bundock who donated this cup to the Koksilah Club in 1910.

4. Gordon Whan, who died in 1970 at the age of 52, was an excellent all-round sportsman. He played baseball as well as golf and, at one time, had been the B.C. Junior Tennis champion.



Hal Rees sinks a putt!

Hal Rees, Ray Reimer and Knud (Ken) Boelt have done the job again and again, working hard, with great success, to make this section a cohesive, active, *fun* part of the Club. The Senior's Captain working alone organizes weekly competitions, interclubs and the yearly Club Championships. Since 1994 the Senior Champion has been awarded the Earle Bradshaw Senior Men's Baton. Since 1993 a separate championship has been run for the Super Seniors, players age 70 and over and the winner of this championship also has his name engraved on the Bradshaw trophy.

The age to be a Senior is relatively young at 50 but many of them are already retired and, thank goodness, give a great deal of time to the Club. In the words of Hal Rees, they have ever been 'the workhorses' of the Club. In the early days they dug drainage ditches, cleared bushes, did landscape work and generally made themselves available whenever the Greenskeeper needed extra help. Sometimes they took matters into their own hands — Fred Mills Senior considered the lack of toilet facilities on the course unacceptable so he organized his golfing buddies into a work force which dug the holes and built the outdoor toilets, one for Boys and one for Girls, which, for many years, snuggled in the

would conscript his army son when on leave to help with course work.⁵ Also in another part of this history it is noted how much work the Senior men did after the expansion to eighteen holes.⁶

The Seniors not only did everyday repair work they did much that was creative as well. In 1984 Ralph Canning presented the Board with a gavel and stand made from pieces of the maple, fir and alder trees which had been cleared to make way for the new eighteen holes. After the new nine was in play Ralph, together with Ron Loiselle, made beautiful tee markers in the shape of a totem pole which, at that time, was used as the Club logo. They made permanent large markers with hole number and yardage information and smaller, brightly coloured ones to be used on the first and tenth tees for special competitions. In 1988 when Arnie Walker was Captain he initiated the actions which resulted in the park benches presently gracing every tee. They serve a double purpose — as a rest area and as a record of Club benefactors, but it is important that members be told the story of their acquisition. Arnie saw a need for benches round the course and he obtained a plan for them from the Parks Board in Victoria. Ron Loiselle, with his considerable welding skills, built them, Arnie did the woodwork and painted them, they were then offered to the membership to sponsor at the ridiculously low price of \$30.00 each. The response was overwhelming and, as offers poured in, the names of the donors were carved on the backrests by Dave Pearson. At present a vital ongoing task carried out by a Senior is the editing and publishing of 'The Divot' — this is yet another example of the contribution made by the King family. Pete took over this job when he retired and has done it ever since.

Fred Mills - both Junior & Senior on the putting green



woods between the old 7th green and the 8th tee. In an earlier chapter it was mentioned how that same Fred Mills

Senior work bees were not confined to

5. See above p.21.

6. See above p.30.



Left: Cedric King in the early 50s on the 1st tee. Right: Peter & Pat King in the late 80s.

the course. The old Clubhouse was in constant need of repair and there are many records of Seniors doing such varied work as painting the whole building (1971), replacing the carpeting and the hard flooring and painting the old Pro shop inside and out. Fred Mills Junior, newly retired from the army, followed the example of his father and immediately became involved in work for the Club. He was elected to the Board and took over the job of House Chairman. As such he was expected to do much in the way of maintenance and he remembers many 'on the job' training sessions with Ron Loiselle who had done the job before him. A particular problem in the 70s and 80s was the plumbing in the Ladies' washroom. Fred spent a great deal of time there trying to fix it and recalls one particular occasion as he was teeing off in the Cowichan Open he heard his name being called and on looking up, he saw a distraught lady member crying "Fred! Oh! Fred! There is a flood in our loo!"

When Charles Phillips took over as Chairman of the Board he started his first Board Meeting with a list of tasks which needed doing round the Clubhouse. They

included repainting, general maintenance, repairing the pump, replacing the carpet and tiling in the Clubhouse and doing small carpentry jobs around the place. It is obvious from the tenor of his speech that he expected all these jobs to be done by volunteer labour. Which it was. Most of it from the Senior Men. Their attitude is best summed up in a notice put on the Board by Arnie Walker announcing a Notice of Assistance required. He *never* had any trouble getting help for whatever task needed doing at that time.

The Club has always been keen to encourage Juniors and to promote this in the past there was a Junior Chairman, one each for the boys and the girls. Also in the past there were generous Club members who provided the funds to send promising players to outside tournaments, one as far away as Nova Scotia, the venue for the Canadian Junior Championships twenty years ago. In the early days Angus Campbell paid for many juniors to take lessons, and he also picked up the tab for the dues of many a keen youngster.

Over the years some very talented players have learnt their golf at Cowichan, from Earl Davies, Dick Saunders, Dave Bennington and Les Atchison in the earlier days to the Keeping brothers in the late 90s. Many of those talented juniors have since gone on to become Club Professionals. Earl Davies, a junior here in the 60s is now the C.E.O. at Olympic View, Ian Campbell from the 80s is the Pro at Pemberton Golf Club, Blair Caldwell from the same time is the Pro at March Meadows, George Paine is at the Dunes in Kamloops and Gordi Melissa is the Assistant Pro at Cowichan. Many others who played as Juniors have gone on to play excellent amateur Tournament winning golf. Names like Martin Holman, Laurie Peet, the Martin brothers, the Steininger brothers and



Scott Keeping in 1993 before leaving for Japan to represent Canada in the World Junior Team

The present Pro Shop feels very strongly about promoting junior golf. Just this last year Norm Jackson was responsible for getting the Jack McLaughlin Memorial BCPGA ProAm Tournament to be played at Cowichan. Thirty two teams made up of girls and boys from all over B.C. competed and the top ten were rewarded with a trip to the GVO where they were allowed to caddie in the Celebrity ProAm part of that tournament. Cowichan entered two teams and both qualified to go to Vancouver. A special mention must be made of Kevin Ng who earned a place in the *long drive* competition where he competed with the pros. A great experience.

Altogether one might conclude that the future of the Men's Section is in good hands.



Willing helpers keep the scoreboard for the Ladies Field Day in 1989. (l to r) John Buchanan, Roy Robinson, George Jessup and Ken Morrison

Club Champions

1949	J. Robertson	1973	Bert Wright
1950	G. Bruce	1974	Bob Slonski
1951	Gordon Whan	1975	Brian Stott
1952	Gordon Whan	1976	Alex Forward
1953	Gordon Whan	1977	Alex Forward
1954	Gordon Whan	1978	Bob Slonski
1955	Gordon Whan	1979	Bob Slonski
1956	Gordon Whan	1980	Bob Slonski
1957	Gordon Whan	1981	Bob Slonski
1958	Gordon Whan	1982	R. Williams
1959	Gordon Whan	1983	Martin Holman
1960	Gordon Whan	1984	
1961	Gordon Whan	1985	Glen Martin
1962	J. Swanson	1986	Glen Martin
1963	Clayton Wright	1987	Brian Martin
1964	Gordon Whan	1988	Glen Martin
1965	T. Reynolds	1989	Barry Martin
1966	Gordon Whan	1990	Dave Bird
1967	Gordon Whan	1991	Barry Martin
1968	Gordon Whan	1992	Brian Martin
1969	Andy Baraniuk	1993	S. Keeping
1970	Martin Holman	1994	Steve Bird
1971	T. Reynolds	1995	Alex Forward
1972	Alex Forward	1996	Gary Gill
		1997	Shawn Wilson

Senior Men's Club Champions

Holders of the Art Irvine Senior Trophy

1962	Dick White	1975	Dick White
1963	P. Perraton	1976	Hal Rees
1964	Dick White	1977	Vic Gill
1965	Ted Stannard	1978	O. Droob
1966	Ted Stannard	1979	G.Miller
1967	Ted Stannard	1980	Jack Douglas
1968	Ted Stannard	1981	J. McCourt
1969	Pat O'Brien	1982	Sam Archambault
1970	Clayton Wright Snr.	1983	W. Nelson
1971	Len Holman	1984	A. McMorland
1972		1985	C. Newsome
1973		1986	Fred Mills Snr.
1974	S. Mitchell		

Author's note:

Apologies must go to winners whose names have not been recorded here. The best endeavours have been unable to fill in the blanks of this table of names or any others over these pages.

Senior Men's Club Champions

HOLDERS OF THE EARLE BRADSHAW BATON

1984	Andy Baraniuk	1991	Earle Bradshaw
1985	Duffy Chaster	1992	Fred Mills Jr.
1986	Andy Baraniuk	1993	Andy Baraniuk
1987	Andy Baraniuk	1994	Gary Bishop
1988	Ken Brownsey	1995	Gary Bishop
1989	Earle Bradshaw	1996	Gary Bishop
1990	Eugene Thorne	1997	Al Hayden-Luck

Super Senior Men's Club Champions

1993	Colin Preece	1996	Colin Preece
1994	Armand Granbois	1997	Armand Granbois
1995	Bert Morrison		

Junior Club

Champions-Under 14

Trophy presented by Chimo Club

1975	Bruce Ogg	1981	Ron MacGillivray
1976	Ted Hunt	1984	Gordi Melissa
1977	Barry Martin	1988	Scott Keeping
1978	Barry Martin	1989	Kelly Osborne
1979	Ken Hearsey	1990	Richard Lord
1980	Ian Campbell	1991	Richard Lord

Junior Club

Champion

Trophy presented by Bob Hale

1975	Glen Martin	1984	Mark Krenz
1976	Glen Martin	1985	Gordi Melissa
1977	Glen Martin	1986	Gordi Melissa
1978	Glen Martin	1987	Chris Delorme
1979	Barry Martin	1988	Scott Keeping
1980	Ted Hunt	1989	Scott Coomber
1981	Rick Williams	1990	Scott Keeping
1982	Ian Campbell	1991	Scott Keeping