

The Clubhouse

The New Clubhouse



Reading through the Board minutes and the minutes of the AGMs of the seventies one becomes aware of two things. One the rapid increase in membership numbers from 471 in 1971 to 717 in 1979 (these figures refer to membership in all categories)¹ and secondly the number of repairs and additions carried out on the Clubhouse. As early as 1970 John Frisch, in his report to the AGM as President of the Board, said that the “Bar was too small, the refrigeration inadequate, there was no dishwasher or adequate counter space and no washer or dryer so that all laundry had to be sent out.” In 1976 renovations were carried out to the Pro Shop, to the bar and to the coffee shop. In 1978 \$5,000 was spent putting new plumbing in the men’s locker room and replacing the floor in the kitchen and adding new drapes to the lounge. In 1979 new lockers were installed in the men’s room and a new walk-in cooler bought for the kitchen. In 1979, too, there was talk about expanding the lounge at a cost of \$20,000. All these were efforts to cope with an increase in membership and the wear and tear of an aging facility. The list could go on and on; the trend continued into the eighties and a new dimension was added in 1985 when the course expanded to eighteen holes. A press account from 1986 states that 7,000 rounds of golf were played in the summer of 1985, 1,500 more than in any former year.² The impact of the increase in the number of players was certainly felt in the Clubhouse. Feasibility studies were being conducted as early as 1978, and again in 1981, by Mike Crosbie and Bob Chambers. It became increasingly obvious that something had to be done and done soon. In February 1986, the

Board, headed by Charles Phillips, asked Pat Milino to think about ways to improve the existing building. He came back to the Board with some good ideas but pressure of work meant that he would be unable to do any more. In July 1986 the Board approached member Mark Sharp, a retired architect, and he volunteered to give his time to producing a design showing how the present building could be radically altered to meet the new challenges. Meanwhile a Committee consisting of Board members Les Atchison, Arnie Walker and Fred Mills Junior had been formed to handle all expansion suggestions. This Committee met with Mark Sharp in March of 1987 and, although they were very positive about the work that he had done, they were already beginning to question the basic wisdom of sinking more money into an old building. Finally, with some degree of regret, it was decided to jettison any ideas of rescuing the old building and instead to build an entirely new complex. A special meeting of the membership was called to discuss the issue and a large turnout endorsed the idea for a totally new building. In May 1987 Douglas Campbell, an architect from Victoria, was retained to design the new facility, Mark Sharp stood by to give advice on the requirements of a golf clubhouse and Peterson Construction from Honeymoon Bay was given the building contract. Les Atchison, President of the Board in 1987 and an active member of the Expansion Committee, reckons that the Club was

“...a large turnout endorsed the idea for a totally new building.”

1. This figure was an all time high. Membership remained at about 600 throughout most of this period.

2. Progress '86 May 1, 1986.



Les Atchison

In October 1988 the estimated figures were as shown on the table at right

particularly well served by Jim Peterson who gave much that was over and above the strict letter of his contract.³ Les kept meticulous notes and these reflect the total involvement and time consuming attention to detail of the House and Expansion Committees at every stage of the Clubhouse development. Their efforts resulted in a great facility and their names should be recorded for the history — Arnie Walker, Mary Dougan, Fred Mills Junior, Charles Phillips, Gary LaCroix, Dave Pearson, Mark Sharp, Bob MacGregor and Jim Putnam.

The final figure proved to be slightly

Clubhouse	12,500 ft ² @ \$60/ft ²	\$750,000
Septic tank system		110,000
Kitchen		70,000
Paving		35,000
Furnishing		65,000
Water pump and electrical		8,000
Fees	Construction	30,000
	Architect	35,000
	Engineer	35,000
	Contingencie	32,000
	Total	\$1,170,000

above the original estimate. Financing the project was done through a bank loan and a substantial grant from the Government Lotteries Corporation.

Problems with the plans for the prospective sewage system delayed start of construction, but finally demolition of the old building started in September 1988 and the members used a temporary mobile canteen set up in the parking lot during the building period. Construction actually started in October 1988. By

April of the following year the members of the Cowichan Golf and Country Club were the possessors of a most attractive building and when, within a few months, a paved parking lot and landscaping⁴ were added, we had a facility second to none. The new building covered 12,500 square feet on two floors. The lower floor



“...demolition ... started in September 1988 ...”



“Construction ... started in October 1988.”

3. As an expression of gratitude Jim and his wife Carol were given a year’s membership to the Club.

4. Planting at the entrance was done on advice from Peter Kearns and Wayne Douglas.

The new building covered 12,500 square feet on two floors. The lower floor housed the new Pro Shop, locker rooms and storage space; the second floor was taken up with an entrance hall, office, kitchen and a lounge/restaurant/bar area with dividers which could be opened or shut so that other functions would not interfere with everyday club use. Decks on the west and south side ensured a 180-degree view of the course.

The official opening on April 28, 1989, was indeed a red letter day. Les Atchison, the Club President introduced M.L.A. Graham Bruce (a man whose family was amongst the earliest supporters of the Club) to cut the inaugural ribbon. Other dignitaries attending were Elwood Veitch (Minister of Regional Development) and Mayors Mike Coleman of Duncan and Rex Hollett of North Cowichan, CVRD Vice Chairman Lorne Campbell and Cowichan Band Chief Ernie Elliot.

The Clubhouse is very well used and, as in the olden days, is the centre of the social life of the Club. It is also well used by outside visitors for functions, weddings, parties and indeed just as a pleasant place to have lunch.



Master of Ceremonies, Charles Phillips, at the official opening ceremony



From the 18th green — note Andy Baraniuk's eagle atop the flagpole



The entrance

COWICHAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

1988 - 1989

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Les Atchison – President

Ernest Brunner	Sandra Buchanan
Gary LaCroix	Edward Mould
Robert MacGregor	David Pearson
James Putnam	Norm Russell

Sid Murdoch – Club Manager

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Les Atchison	Fred Mills Jr.
Robert MacGregor	Charles Phillips
James Putnam	Mark Sharp

Arnie Walker

Architect, Douglas A. Campbell, M.A.I.B.C.

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Veane Edie	Hilda Evans
Patrick O'Brien	James Patterson
James Saunders	Lester Way

Kenneth Worthington

CHARTER MEMBERS

(Prior to Official Opening 3 July, 1949)

Preston Bruce	Jane Fall
Bert Evans	Louise Tassin
Don Gard	Clayton Wright Sr.

PROGRAMME

– OPENING CEREMONIES –

Weather permitting members and guests are to assemble outside main entrance to club house otherwise in main dining room.

Introductions by Master of Ceremonies

Mr. Charles Phillips, Past President

Address of Welcome

Mr. Les Atchison, President

Introduction of Special Guests

*The Hon. Elwood N. Veitch,
Minister of Regional Development*
Mr. Graham Bruce, MLA, Cowichan-Malahat
Mr. Michael Coleman, Mayor, City of Duncan
Mr. Rex Hollett, Mayor, North Cowichan
Mr. Lorne Campbell, Vice-Chairman, CVRD
Mr. Ernie Elliott, Chief, Cowichan Band

Address by

Mr. Graham Bruce, MLA

Unveiling of Plaque and Cutting of Ribbon by

Mr. Graham Bruce, MLA

Assisted by Mr. L. Atchison, President

*J.L. Peterson, contractor to turn over keys to
L. Atchison, President*

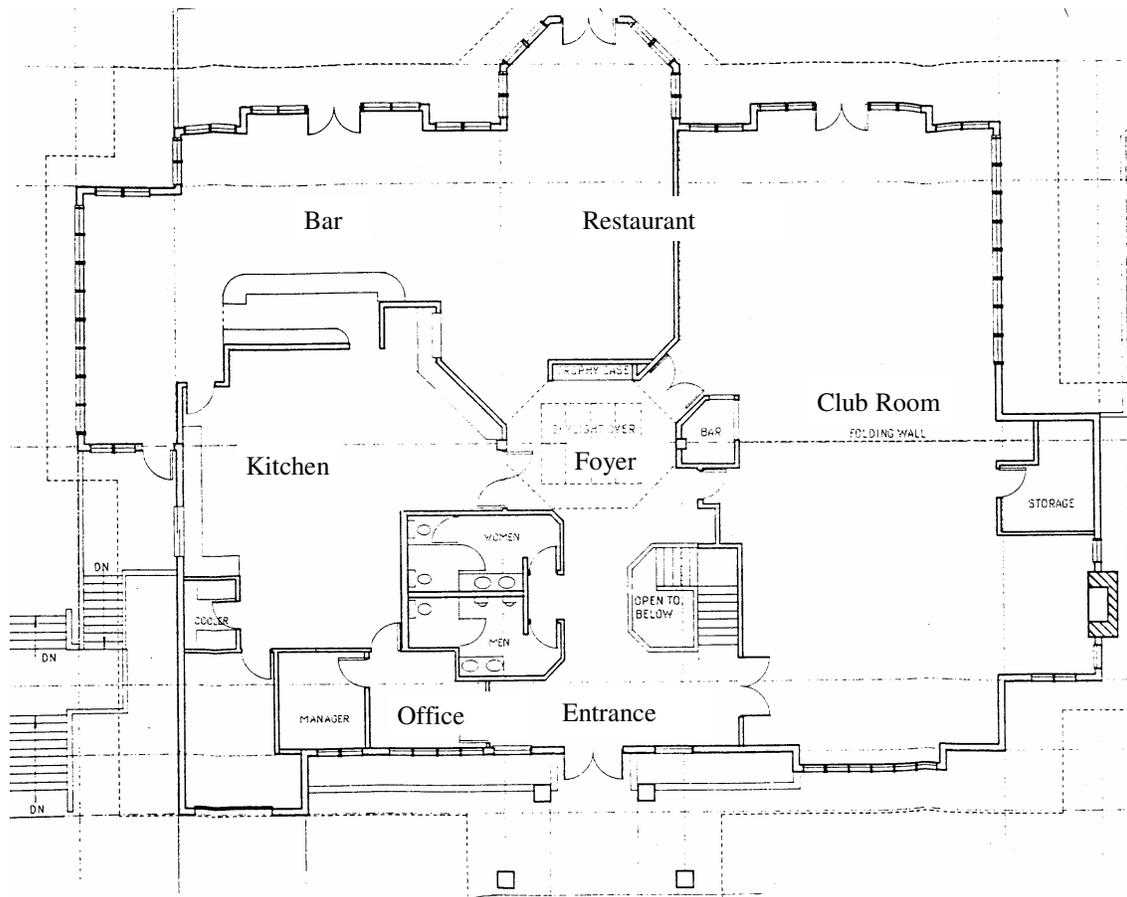
Closing Remarks

Master of Ceremonies

Refreshments
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

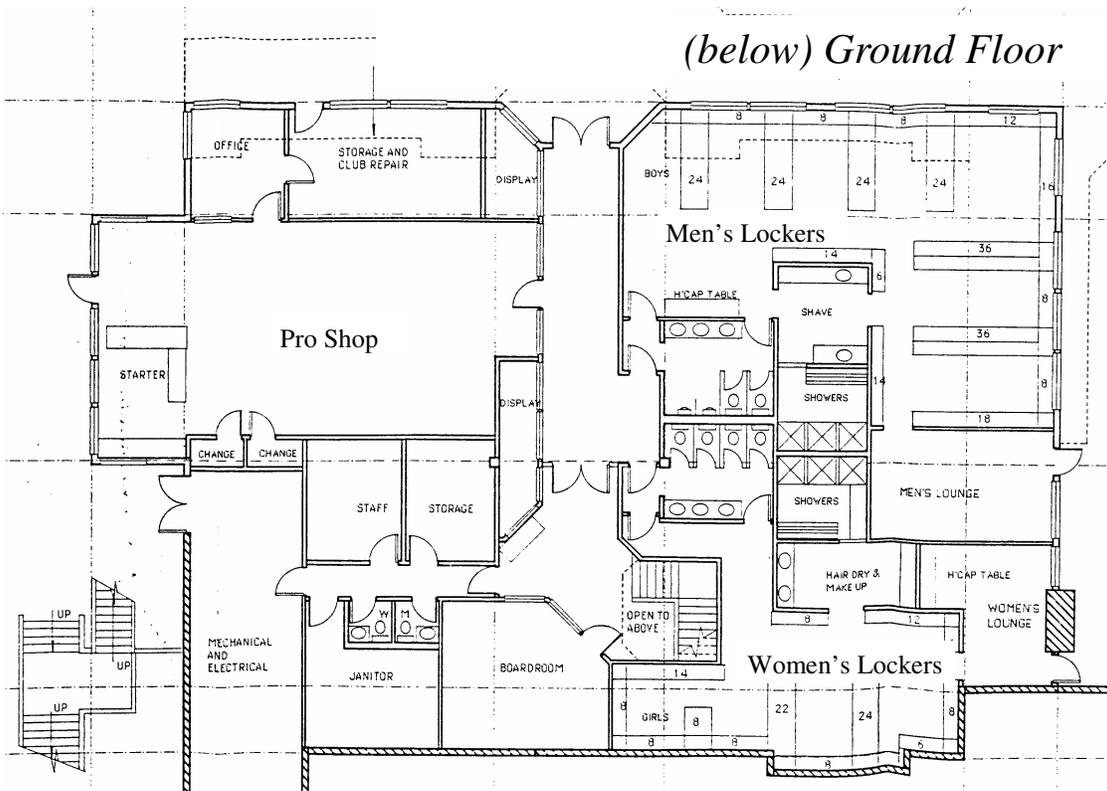
The programme for the opening ceremony, Friday, 28 April, 1989

Author's note: The date of the official opening in 1949 was not July 3, but August 21 — see above p.13.



(above) First Floor

Plans for the New Clubhouse 1987



(below) Ground Floor