



Cowichan Golf & Country Club 1947 - 1997



Jocelyn MacLachlan

Foreword

Fifty thousand rounds of golf are played each year at the Cowichan Golf & Country Club. The splendid clubhouse and grounds, eighteen lovely golf holes beckoning, the intimacy of an island golfing community make this a special place. As intrepid golfers limber up before the prospect of the first tee, do they wonder how the Club actually began, how it developed, and how they came to be so fortunate as to have such a facility at their disposal?

This book traces the Club's history, placing it within the larger context of Vancouver Island's golf development and then detailing its genesis from the first Cowichan Golf Club, established in 1921, into the welcoming verdancy of the current site. There are plenty of interesting anecdotes and financial details, such as who registered the first hole-in-one and how the first clubhouse was built. You may find your own pleasure (some may wish to use another word, perhaps) at playing the Great Game enhanced because you will know the story of the Club's current logo, or how much foresight and hard work it took to develop the second nine holes that opened in 1985, creating a first-class, fully equipped and professionally operated golf course for all to enjoy. Fore!

A well earned and deserved tribute to Jocelyn MacLachlan for the effort and much voluntary time expended in research and gathering of information and material to bring this project to its wonderful conclusion.

R.M.Tobler
President

Author's Preface

The idea of commemorating fifty years of Cowichan Golf Club history with a book came from President of the Board, Rudy Tobler. His repeated pleas in 'The Divot' for someone to undertake this task got no response and I felt, that, although a relatively new member, perhaps I should volunteer as I had done this sort of work many years ago. It has however proved to be both a bigger and more difficult task than I had at first envisioned. There have been several reasons for this, the chief one being the huge gaps in the original material which have resulted in considerable difficulty establishing exact sequences of events. The move to the new Clubhouse probably resulted in many records being destroyed or lost, but perhaps the damage was done earlier when, in 1979, a motion to destroy all documents more than seven years old was passed at Board level. Whatever. What original material there was had to be indexed and catalogued before it could be used, and this alone was a very time consuming task.

The chief sources used have been surviving Board minutes and the *Cowichan Leader* which exists on microfilm in the local museum. Priscilla Davis from the museum has been particularly helpful. For the very early years I am indebted to Alan Andersen who drew my attention to a box of original letters which he had found in the garden shed where they were slowly disintegrating. All Vernon Macan's letters and the documents relating to the Cowichan Golf Holdings quoted in the first chapter were in this box. I am also grateful to Pat King and Les Atchison who lent their comprehensive personal records for me to use. A special 'thank you' must go to Mike Riste of Golf House in Vancouver for much information on the Koksilah Golf Club and the first Cowichan Golf Club.

Some long time members answered pleas in 'The Divot' to share their memories and some were very helpful in collecting information from other old timers unknown to me. Mary Milino deserves a special mention in this context but the Club is indebted to *all* who helped. **It would be excellent if someone would follow this avenue further and undertake the making of an aural history to serve as a vital accompaniment to this factual one.**

Far and away the biggest debt of gratitude goes to Pat MacLachlan who has spent hundreds of hours putting the results of my research and writing into a desktop publishing program, helping to design the layout and scanning all the photos.

Jocelyn MacLachlan
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