

Men's Club General Information

The Golf Course

The Cordova Bay Golf Course is owned by a small group and managed by the team that runs the pro shop, restaurant and grounds crew. The Men's and Ladies' Clubs operate as non-profit societies in cooperation and consultation with ownership and management.

Role of the Men's Club

Under the terms of its constitution, the purposes of the Cordova Bay Men's Golf Club are:

- (a) to encourage, organize and promote the playing of golf and associated recreational activities for the members of the Club, such activities to be conducted in accordance with and in support of the rules, regulations and ethics of the game of golf as administered in the province of British Columbia by the British Columbia Golf Association;
- (b) to represent the members in respect of the play of golf and associated activities by application for membership in the said British Columbia Golf Association and related golf associations; and
- (c) to represent the members in dealings with the ownership and management of the Course.

Duties of the Board of Directors

At the annual general meeting in November, the members of the Men's Club elect a board of directors to manage the affairs of the club and organize events for its members.

The board of directors:

- organizes and funds Men's Club tournaments;
- in conjunction with [Zone 5](#) (Capital Region) of the BC Golf Association, organizes Cordova Bay Men's Club participation in interclub competition;
- monitors member handicaps, and adjusts them if necessary, to ensure accuracy and compliance with BC Golf Association regulations; and
- works with Cordova Bay Golf Course management to provide the best possible golf experience for members and to address member suggestions and concerns as they arise.

Once elected, the directors appoint from their number a president, captain and directors responsible for the range of matters to which the board must attend (e.g., treasurer, secretary, communications coordinator, interclub coordinator, and handicap committee chair). Board meetings are held in the club restaurant every few weeks and are open to all members except in the rare event that the board needs to hold part of a meeting in camera.

Allocation of Membership Dues

The Course collects membership fees and distributes approximately one-third of that amount to the Men's Club for its operations. Membership fees constitute approximately 90% of the Men's Club budget. The remainder comes from the amount charged by the Men's Club to participants in interclub competition.

The Men's Club Budget

The Men's Club budget is allocated in four roughly equal amounts for:

- Golf Canada and [Zone 5](#) (Southern Vancouver Island) dues;
- green fees and meal costs payable to the Cordova Bay Golf Course for hosted interclub matches;
- payouts and prizes for the Club Championship and Senior Championship tournaments; and
- other club tournaments and events, event skill prizes, and board administration costs.

The first two items above (dues and fees) are non-discretionary Men's Club expenses. The final two items (payouts and prizes for tournaments and other golf-related events) are discretionary and determined by the board of directors.

Tee Times

2021 Men's Night will take place on Thursday from April 15th through September 16th. Members will submit tee time requests for each Men's Night event separately. Tee time ballots will be made available online. Registration opens 16 days ahead at 7am of the play date and close 8 days in advance at 8am. Once entries close, a draw will be prepared and emailed to all players 7 days prior. A maximum field of 132 players can be accommodated weekly.

One of the benefits of Men's Club membership is the ability book a tee time for a casual round either through the pro shop or online up to 16 days in advance (starting online at 7 am). Let the pro shop know who will be playing in the group and whether there will be fewer than four players, as soon as you know. If you need to cancel a tee time, do so as early as possible and at least two days in advance.

Communication with the Men's Club Board

There are several ways to contact your Men's Club Board. The easiest would be a conversation when you see them at the course. Alternately, you can reach your Men's Club executive by email at your convenience (directory included on the Men's Club page)

If you really appreciate how a staff member has performed his or her job, tell them. We frequently hear from staff what a great place Cordova Bay is to work. Much of that is thanks to the supportive attitude of the owners and senior management. And a large part of the reason Cordova Bay is a great place to play golf is the professional and personable approach of staff at all levels to enhancing member satisfaction. If you feel that way, let them (and their bosses) know!

Hole in One

If you get a hole in one you get to buy your buddies a drink at the end of the round, if you feel generous. Being generous is easy! As part of your membership, any player making an ACE at Cordova Bay Golf Course (no away games) will receive a gift card in the amount of \$750. Gift cards may be used exclusively in for merchandise or food and beverage purchases.

Tips for Fast Play and Course Care

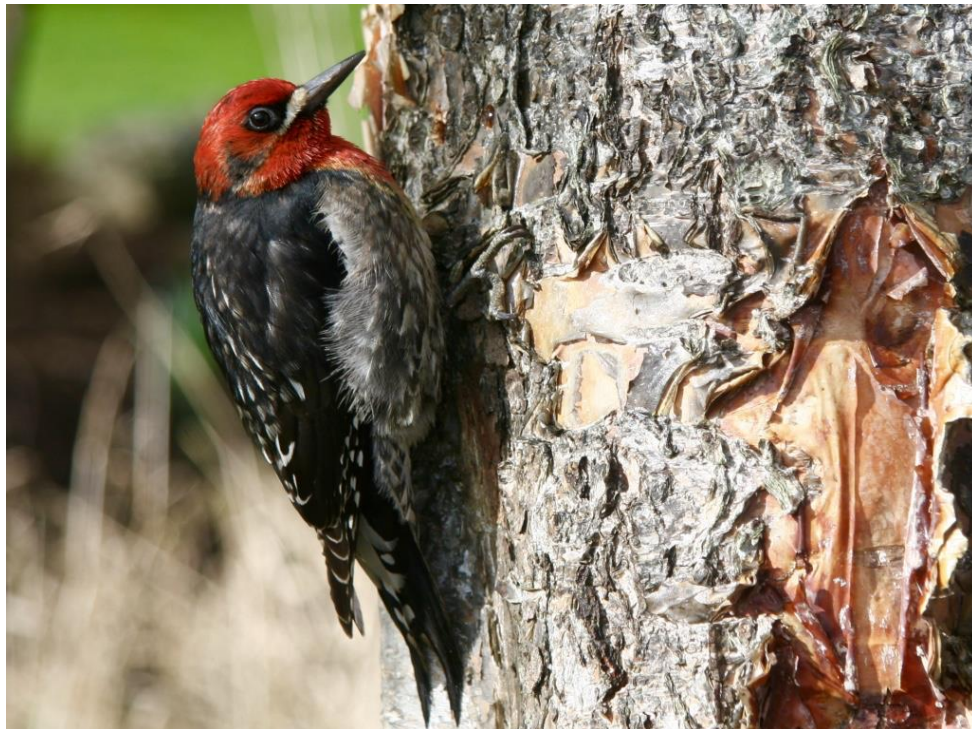
- Don't dawdle. Get in the habit of playing "ready golf" both on the tee and on the fairway. Be ready to hit when it's your turn. A prompt pace of play throughout the round not only avoids frustration for groups behind you, it also benefits the club and the course. If your ball is clearly out-of-bounds or lost, don't waste much time looking for it.
- Hit first, look later. If one of the players in your group has lost his ball, hit your ball first before you help to look.
- Know the rules of golf. Familiarity cuts down on indecision, illegal moves, and unnecessary delay.
- Fill divots with sand. The starter will provide a sand bottle to fill your divots on the fairway. In summer, throw the displaced divot into the rough, where it will disintegrate with mowing. In winter, play from fairway mats may be mandated.
- Properly repair ball marks on the green. Pushing the outside of the depression towards the centre enables the grass at the perimeter to spread inwards to fill the gap. Do not push upwards from the outside to flatten the ball mark, as that typically produces a scab-like mark that prevents the grass from regenerating.

Course Maintenance—The Contribution of a Dedicated Grounds Crew

Time and again we play with visitors who tell us they love playing Cordova Bay when they come to Victoria because the course is so beautiful, well designed, and kept in pristine condition. None of this would be possible without the vision and support provided by the owners since the course opened in 1991, and the dedicated service of the grounds crew.

In an age of ever-increasing awareness of and appreciation for ecological values, golf courses are frequently the target of criticisms about everything from pollution to waste of water to adverse impacts on wildlife and native plants. Cordova Bay has long been an innovative leader in maintaining a course that plays well in all seasons, offers a magnificent scenic backdrop for golf, and applies an ecosystem approach to the maintenance of natural attributes.

A quarter century after its opening, Cordova Bay has developed into a beauty of a course, thanks to the foresight of course designer Bill Robinson and the attention to detail of Dean Piller, Superintendent of the course since its inception in 1990. Dean oversaw not only the seeding of the course but also the plantings of trees and shrubs that, now mature, provide an all-season display of colour, from the rhododendrons of early spring to the red Japanese maples of fall to the stark white winter beauty of jacquemontii paper birches clustered behind the 17th green.



In early spring the sap starts to run in the jacquemontii paper birches by the 17th green, attracting what kind of bird? **Sapsuckers**, naturally.

A maturing course requires constant planning to keep it in shape and up-to-date, especially with regard to watering and drainage. Recent projects to enhance course drainage and construction of new tee boxes has resulted in a course that is enjoyable for players of all abilities every day of the year. Sprinkler heads have been replaced and new ones installed on several greens, tee boxes and fairways. An efficient water system, together with thick turf, is an essential tool in deterring the growth and spread of weeds on a course that has elected to prohibit the use of chemical herbicides. Finally, the grounds crew continues to manage the many species of trees all while ensuring the balance between beauty and playability.

Cordova Bay obtained certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2006 (and has since been recertified five times), but its practice of ecologically friendly course maintenance dates back to the earliest days of operation.

Chemical insecticides and herbicides have not been used at the Bay and Ridge courses since 1996. Instead, the grounds crew applies natural biological products such as bacteria strains that work as microdigesters to clean the water in the ponds, in addition to introducing species such as the American signal crayfish to further purify the water by consuming invasive algae.

This in turn promotes ideal habitat for an abundance of wildlife such as the native frogs and newts and dragonflies seen at Cordova Bay that are indicators of a healthy ecosystem. Native wildlife and the regularly stocked rainbow trout (about 500 a year) also attract predatory species like otters, in addition to providing a source of food for the nesting pairs of bald eagles (Bay course) and ospreys (Ridge course).

The ecological approach to maintenance benefits both quality and quantity of water. Water draining from the course is cleaner than the water the course collects through runoff from nearby subdivisions. Features such as the naturalized areas scattered throughout the course, with their meadows of uncut rye and alkali grasses, reduce the need for watering of fairways because of their prolonged retention of moisture.

The absence of chemical products encourages an abundance of birds whose feeding habits reduce insect populations far more effectively than insecticides. One violet-green swallow (the little birds you see in summer swooping over ponds like the one you dread carrying from the 17th tee) can consume close to 1,000 bugs a day.

Also on the pond on the 17th and elsewhere on the course, volunteers have installed nest boxes to attract western bluebirds, another native species that feeds primarily on insects and that in recent years has begun to return to Vancouver Island after being extirpated as a result of human development. This year, a new comprehensive "Birdies of the Bay" brochure will be released listing the many species of birds that call our course home.