

# THE BALFORE BIRDIE



BALFOUR GOLF'S SOURCE FOR EVENT, PLAYER AND COURSE NEWS

SPRING 2025

## FIRST EDITION

Welcome to the first edition of The Balfore Birdie. The plan is to publish three times a year (Spring, Summer and Fall) and to summarize events, people and goings on around the club.

While Craig's regular emails are great and informative ....The Birdie will be different. This will be a place for current events, recent results, stories, member profiles and more.

Member contributions to future editions are highly encouraged (see contact details below).

Yeah - Spring has officially Sprung! Time to clean up the clubs, limber up and get out on the links!



## Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday Balfour Golf Course!

The course opened (as a 9-hole course) in 1990. More on this and some of our history a bit later....

## WELCOME NEW PASSHOLDER MEMBERS FOR 2025

A big warm welcome to all our new passholders (so far!):

David Alfaro  
Grant Carr  
Brian Hartridge  
Dennis Langlois  
Melanie Mattson  
Cam McFadyen  
Ernie Moisey  
Michelle Palm  
Tom Schwartz  
Jayden Wouters  
Mitch Lepore  
Terris MacDonald  
Eric Martin  
Matthew Wouters

Vivian Benedetti  
Nancy Friedt  
Henry Hrnirak  
Darrell Mackay  
Al May  
Corinne McFadyen  
Brandon Nedelec  
Kylan Palm  
Bret Shandro  
Chris Wouters  
James Mason  
Dan Maglio  
Dean Langford  
Jodi Wouters

Ashley Bennett  
Bruce Friedt  
Howie Hyssop  
Kelli May  
Sherry McIvor  
Sue Moisey  
Darren Palm  
Erika Schmidt  
Doug Stewart  
Carole Waters  
Toby Bombier  
Brian Ronmark  
Alex Van den Ham

## BARBER SHOP ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> Tee?

Looking Good!

October 5, 2024 – War on the Shore



## 2025 LEAGUE INFORMATION

Our weekly leagues this year include:

**Men's Night** Tuesday from 11AM  
Contact: Craig Wilkinson ([gm@balfourgr.com](mailto:gm@balfourgr.com))  
Every week commencing in mid-April through late September. Weekly games and prizes, season long team event.

**Ladies 9 Hole** Wednesdays Commencing early April  
Contacts: Kathy Baker ([kathrynnbaker1@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynnbaker1@gmail.com)) and  
Jane Tillotson ([janetillotson@shaw.ca](mailto:janetillotson@shaw.ca))

**Ladies 18 Hole** Thursdays  
Contact: Currently Open (looking for volunteers to help organize)

**Senior Men** Thursday AM May 1 through late September  
Contact: Andrew Clark ([andrewclarkmail1@gmail.com](mailto:andrewclarkmail1@gmail.com))

**Couples Night** TBD (Fridays?)  
Contact: Currently Open (looking for volunteers to help organize)



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE COURSE THIS SPRING?

In addition to our weekly leagues, the following events are scheduled for the Spring Season (thru June 21):

April 4: **Planned Opening Day!** Tee times commence.

May 10: **Spring Scramble and Fundraiser.** Come one and come all to our first event of the year. This year the event will be in support of Balfour Fire/Search and Rescue. Golf and Dinner. Sign up in the pro shop.

May 26: **Men's Match Play** commences. Sign up in the pro shop by May 22 for what has become a classic season long event. Defending Champion: Reg Clarkson (Dean Paton runner-up).

June 7: **Men's Senior Open.** The longest running tournament at Balfour Golf Course – a must attend! Defending champions Brian Morton (Gross) and Harold Arnett (Net)

**Junior Spring Classes:** commencing April 13. Contact Brendan Watts.

## DONATIONS

A great big thank-you to the Senior Men's Group who donated 4 sets of new Junior Golf Clubs this year. These clubs are now available as loaners to our budding young golfers.

**A LITTLE HUMOUR** (Golf requires laughter to survive):

Golf balls are like eggs. They're white, sold by the dozen, and before you know it you must buy some more.

Why did they call it GOLF? A: Because all the other four-letter words were taken.



## MEMBER PROFILE – MR LEON NOBERT

Passholder Member since: **1990**

Handicap Index: **18.9**

Rounds per year: **140 + many more walks in the winter season**

Days of the week that you golf: **Every day is a potential golf day**

Most memorable moment at Balfour Golf Course: **So many, it's really hard to pick just one. I played a lot with Bob Hale and he made very many special moments for me, but I guess my best memory is playing with my son Rob when he got his hole in one.**



## Fall 2024 – Wrap Up

While it seems like a long-time ago, Fall 2024 was certainly busy around the Golf Course. Our Golf Season ended with a number of great events. In addition to the leagues wrapping up, the **Iron Man/Iron Maiden** with 64 participants was held on a spectacular Balfour fall day (October 15); the sold out (108 participants) **War on the Shore** took place on October 5 and the **Champions and Volunteers Appreciation Event** (over 60 attendees) on September 25.

### Iron Man/Iron Maiden Results:

<u>Ladies Gross</u>	<u>Men Gross (Top 3)</u>	<u>Men Net (Top 5)</u>
1st - Jackie Little - 70	T1 - Dave Stadler - 65	1st - JJ Schubert - 55
<u>Ladies Net</u>	T1 - Craig Wilkinson - 65	T2 - Brian Morton - 56
1st - Dianna Ducs - 66	T3 - Derrick Simister - 66	T2 - Cameron Fry - 56
2nd - Jane Tillotson - 68	T3 - Reg Clarkson - 66	4th - Erik Morrison - 58
3rd - Betty Farenholtz - 70	T3 - Brendan Watts - 66	5th - Gord Olynyk - 59

**Champions and Volunteers Appreciation Event:** On September 25, the golf course hosted more than 60 Volunteers, Champions, Long- time members and their guests in the Osprey Mountain Grill. The evening began with drinks and a wonderful buffet put on by Chef Glenn. Speakers included Craig Wilkinson who thanked all of the volunteers for their contribution and support in helping make 2024 a great year for Balfour Golf and Recreation. Craig went on to specifically thank **Pat Little** and **Uli Lehnert** for their outstanding contributions. Pat did an incredible job chairing the British Columbia Women's Amateur and Mid-Amateur held at the course in Mid-June. Uli contributes in so many ways to BG&R; you'll see his work on the course and clubhouse everyday: including signage and the tables in the Osprey Mountain Grill. Craig also thanked the many "original members" in attendance who have been calling Balfour Golf home since 1990. These included:

Gord Anderson      Harold Arnett      Reg Clarkson      Roma Crispin

Doug McMullin      Leon Nobert      Mike Reichardt

If you'd like to get in on this event for 2025....please sign up for volunteer activities.





## NEW LAKE NAMES AND SIGNS

We all fear hitting one of the many lakes around the course...well now there is a name for that. It might be a “Dosenberger”, a “Thomas” or a “Lang”. In recognition of their commitment to making Balfour Golf Course happen, we have named 3 key lakes after each of Nick Dosenberger, Dave Thomas and Ron Lang. Our historian, Pat Little spearheaded the idea and did some, uh, “digging” into the past and found some good dirt on these three key pioneers:

### Thomas Lake – Hole 1

In 1985, Dave Thomas, as a member of the Balfour Recreation Commission (BRC), proposed a local golf course. Over the following few years, with his leadership and hard work, ploughed through numerous financial and red-tape hurdles to open doors for the course development. In the fall of 1989 after exhaustive endeavors, Thomas was rewarded with hitting the first shot off the new fairways.

### Dosenberger Lake – Hole 8

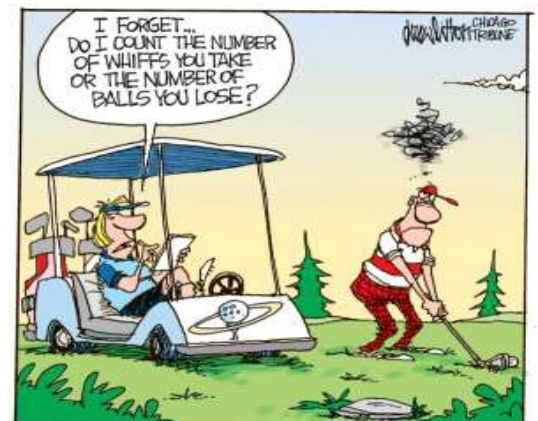
Nick Dosenberger and his local construction company were retained to collaborate with a small army of committed volunteers to remove trees and brush and level fairways. There were numerous times when the project ran out of money to pay for his heavy equipment and time. Through those regular interruptions, Mr. Dosenberger selflessly reassured the BRC by keeping his machinery onsite and operational at substantial personal cost. It is through his philanthropic contributions of machinery, time, and labour that the long-time Sunshine Bay resident is recognized through naming of the lake left of #8.

### Lang Lake – Hole 10

As the front nine emerged, Ron Lang joined the golf course as a regular playing member. An unrelenting local businessman and Board Member of the BRC, Mr. Lang was inspired with the concept of adding nine holes to complete the 18 hole course. Achieving the concept became a significant challenge for the Commission, members, and the Osprey Ridge Golf Estates. Mr. Lang remained unwavering in his belief in the idea. In 2000, the back nine opened, and while the method acquiring those extra fairways appeared unconventional, the end result benefitted the community and golf course. It is for that reason, the lake left of #10 fairway, with its magnetic ball attracting properties, is named after the mercurial Balfour entrepreneur.



New signs courtesy of Uli Lehnert.



## SUPER STUFF

Myself and “The Crew” would like to welcome all golfers, whether you’re a casual player or an insane golf addict, back to Balfour. I’m very excited about the upcoming season. The course came through the winter in the best condition in its 35 year history. There is no disease damage on greens or fairways, and the little bit of disease that was active under the snow in the rough is quite superficial and will recover quickly with a little sunshine and warm weather. The only damage the course sustained was done by our 4-legged foe, elk. Even though the crew put up snow fences around greens to try to keep the elk off, when a 1000-pound animal decides it’s going through, it’s going through. Only a few greens were lightly damaged by the big beasts. I wish I could say the same about fairways. The herd definitely did some

partying on a few fairways this winter. We’ll do our best to repair what we can, but it will take some “grow in” time for the hoof marks to heal completely. Good thing we’ll open playing winter rules, FREE RELIEF from Elk damage.

As far as course improvements are concerned, the crew has been busy since last fall with the following.

1. Expansion and levelling of the white/combo tee on #12 to be completed this spring.
2. Expansion and levelling of the black tee and blue/combo tee on #13 to be completed this spring.
3. Construction of a new forward tee on #16 and #17
4. All cart paths received a new layer of road gravel.
5. Parking lot and cart storage area received a layer of road gravel.
6. Extensive brushing and bush thinning on numerous holes completed.
7. Removal of numerous large trees near tee boxes for light and shot making

We’ve been so busy in the off season I’ve probably forgotten some other projects we’ve tackled. I guess what I’m saying is we’ve been working hard to improve your golf experience here in Balfour.

One other practice that we started a few years ago is aerifying and topdressing greens before we open. By getting this very necessary cultural practice completed early it means no mid-season greens disruption.



Larry Olson – Superintendent  
[super@balfourgr.com](mailto:super@balfourgr.com)



**Chef Glenn Rosales**

## CHEF GLENN'S CORNER

We are so happy to be back for our second season at the Osprey Mountain Grill. The plan is to be open from the 4th of April from 11am to 8pm daily.

**Menu Updates!** We have expanded the menu and added vegetarian options. We’ve also kept many of the popular items from last year. Please come out and try one of our new entrees Beef Cheeks, Lamb Shank or Korean fried Chicken. New vegetarian options include a Beet and Arugula Salad, Penne a la Vodka and a Mushroom Sandwich (to name a few).

For this upcoming season we are accepting more catering events like weddings, birthdays and company events. We are also planning an on-course beverage cart for busier golf days. We are hoping to serve the community through food and good hospitality. We always strive to create a memorable experience for our Golfers and locals alike.





## News from the Pro Shop – Craig Wilkinson

2025 is shaping up to be another great season. A good portion of my personal excitement revolves around our new Parent Pass and Junior Programs. We've seen quite the uptick in adult/youth golf the past few seasons and this was the perfect year for us to be able to step up our game in the regard. I'm excited to say that long time Balfour team member, Brendan Watts, will be back to full time status and then some this year. Brendan LOVES the game of golf and is continuing his journey creating a career in the industry by taking on creation and implementation of a much-needed Junior Program this year! Expect to see more updates regarding a Junior League and an Adult/Youth event in the coming months!



Contributions for the Summer Edition of the Birdie can be made at [golfshop@balfourgr.com](mailto:golfshop@balfourgr.com)

