

Famous Visitors to Royal Colwood Golf Course

There have been many famous visitors to the Club, including notable golfers and others better known for other reasons.

1913-1920

- 1913 **Harry Vardon** and **Ted Ray** visited the developing course, but there is no record of them having played.
- 1919 **The Prince of Wales** played the Course on September 27th. He was a guest at the Dunsmuir home, Hatley Park, which is now Royal Roads University.

1920-1930

- 1921 **Joe Kirkwood**, an Australian professional and famous trick artist was probably the first notable golfer to play Colwood Golf Course on October 21st. He and his travelling partner, **Victor East**, played a 36 -hole exhibition match against Colwood and Victoria professionals, Willie Black and Phil Taylor. The locals were beaten decisively.
- 1924 **The Prince of Wales** returned and played the Course in October. He was quoted in a newspaper to state that: 'of all the courses over which I have played golf in many parts of the world this is positively the best and most picturesque; I can see, too, that it is extremely well looked after.'
- 1927 **The Prince of Wales** made his third and last visit between August 19th and 23rd. It is believed that on this trip he was invited to become honorary patron of Colwood Golf Club. Walter Parry, the Club Secretary, approached the Prince's staff, who passed on the invitation to the Prince.

An accomplished group of British senior golfers toured North America. They included **Alistair MacKenzie**, the renowned golf architect and designer of such courses as Augusta National, Cypress Point and Royal Melbourne. Matches were played at Colwood with MacKenzie and his partner losing to the Colwood team. Unfortunately, there is no record of MacKenzie's opinion of the Course or whether he was able to meet with A.V. Macan during his stay in Victoria.

1930-1940

- 1931 **Walter Hagen** was probably the best known player to face the challenges of Colwood.

Other famous visitors between 1930 and 1940 included **Gene Sarazen**, **Bing Crosby**, **Bob Hope** and **Jack Warner**. Hope returned frequently and played regularly with the Club professional, Bill Court.

1940-1950

1940 **Ralph Guldahl** and **Jonny Revolta**, two US golfers, played with Colwood professional, **Joe Pryke**, and Men's Champion in 1939 and 1940, **Ted Colgate**. Revolta, when asked what was the toughest course he ever played answered "St. Andrews of course." When asked what was the second toughest he replied: "A course you probably never heard of, Royal Colwood in Victoria, BC."

Other notable golfers included **Jack Hutcheson**, **Jug McSpaden** and **Horton Smith**, who won the US Masters twice.

1945 **Joe Louis**, the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion, played a charity match with local golfers. His caddie was 15 year-old **Lawrie Kerr**, who went on to a distinguished golfing career. He is celebrated as a member on Royal Colwood Golf Club's Wall of Honour.

1947 **Bobby Locke**, who as a regular player on the US Tour won 11 times in a 32-month span and later became a 4-time British Open Champion, played a match at Royal Colwood. The others in the fourball match were the notable Vancouver golfer, **Stan Leonard**, former Colwood professional, **Joe Pryke**, and an excellent local golfer, **Fred Painter**. **Vic Painter**, Fred's cousin and future member of Royal Colwood's Wall of Honour, caddied for Locke while **Lawrie Kerr** caddied for Leonard. Locke shot 67, Leonard 69, Pryke 70 and Painter 80.

1950 - 1960

1957 **Gordie Howe**, Hockey Hall of Fame Member, played the Course.

1960 - Present

Other famous professional golfers who have played at Royal Colwood include **Porkie Oliver**, **Jim Rutledge**, **Jim Nelford**, and former Masters winners **Tommy Aaron** and **Mike Weir**.

Other famous people that played or visited the Course included **Mikhail Baryshnikov** and **Prince Edward**, youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II. **Prince Edward** opened the new clubhouse during his visit in 1993.