



BC HORSESHOE ASSOCIATION



The Victoria Horseshoe Club gathered on New Year's Day to start the year off right

ALL GOOD THINGS FOR 2024 FROM THE BC HORSESHOE ASSOCIATION!



BCHA EXECUTIVE

- President: Bob McAuley
 - Vice President: June Lazenby
 - Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Ryder
 - Mainland Representative: Jim Grant
 - Interior Representative: Dwight Cousins
 - Island Representative: Gail Bishop
 - Past President: Tom Moffat
-
- Webmaster: Jim Grant
 - Newsletter Editor: June Lazenby

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BOB MCCAULEY



Hello BCHA Members!

So much has happened since our last Newsletter and I know that each of our member clubs have their own tales to tell. We have all experienced the Christmas and New Year's season with some sighs of relief I would guess!

In looking forward to a new year of horseshoe pitching, I want to extend a hearty welcome back to all of you. It is a pleasure to be part of such a passionate and dedicated horseshoe community. I know that each and every one of you will take advantage of this fresh start and the opportunities that it brings for growth and involvement in our chosen sport.

An issue that keeps cropping up at any club is volunteering, whether it be for the daily mundane tasks or for intermittent duties such as during tournaments. I urge you to consider taking a role, no matter how small, in volunteering at your club. It could be helping with organizing events, maintaining the facilities, or recruiting new members - your contributions are invaluable. Volunteering at your local club not only takes some of the burden off the regulars and helps to prevent burnout, but it also fosters a strong sense of community and camaraderie. We can all experience a positive sense of accomplishment and unity. Together we can create a welcoming and thriving community for all of us.

It can be the responsibility of each of us to recruit new members, and just as importantly, to focus on retaining the members that we already have. By contributing your time and skills you not only improve the club for yourself but also create a more welcoming and supportive environment for everyone. Make your club one to be proud of and one that others will want to be part of and join.. The strength of our clubs lies in its members, and by engaging new individuals and nurturing existing relationships we can ensure the continued growth and success of our horseshoe community.

I would like to commend our Tournament Director, Tom Moffat, and our Web Master, Jim Grant for their timely completion and publication of our 2024 Tournament Schedule. I know that each of our participating clubs had a hand in it as well (my thanks), however Tom and Jim pulled it all together!

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JUNE LAZENBY

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PLEASE NOTE:

BCHA would like to advise all members to expect an increase in BCHA fees next year from \$22 to \$25

Speaking of new opportunities, how wonderful is it that the Western Canadians, the Canadians, and the Worlds are being held right here in our province and just across the border - practically in our backyard! What an opportunity to compete in and witness the best pitching that our sport has to offer. Many pitchers from the Island have already made plans to attend all three events, with some attending at least one. All of us should be encouraged to participate in some way - this might be a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Shout out to the Abbotsford Club! You have been through some trying times of late - relentless break ins and thefts - on top of organizing and preparing for the prestigious tournaments this summer. We all feel your pain and are standing by to help however we can. Some clubs and individuals have contributed to your Go Fund Me. As time goes on, all clubs are encouraged to be proactive and seek out ways to help Abbotsford succeed in their quest to host the best Canadians and Westerns ever. This is an opportunity to showcase our province to the rest of Canada and the world!

We can all look forward to a fantastic year of horseshoe pitching, and can be excited to discover all the ways in which our community will continue to flourish and thrive. Thank you, our members, for your dedication and commitment to the sport. I, for one, can't wait to see what we can achieve together in the coming year!

Yours in Horseshoes,
Bob McCauley, President
BCHA

BCHA 2024 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

<https://www.bchorseshoe.com/2024results/2024T.html>

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CANADIANS AND WESTERN CANADA CLASSIC

<https://abbotsfordhorseshoeclub.ca/canadians-july-2024>

EDITOR'S NOTES

JUNE LAZENBY



As we emerge from the busy holiday season, the days are getting noticeably longer and there is the promise of lots to do outdoors.

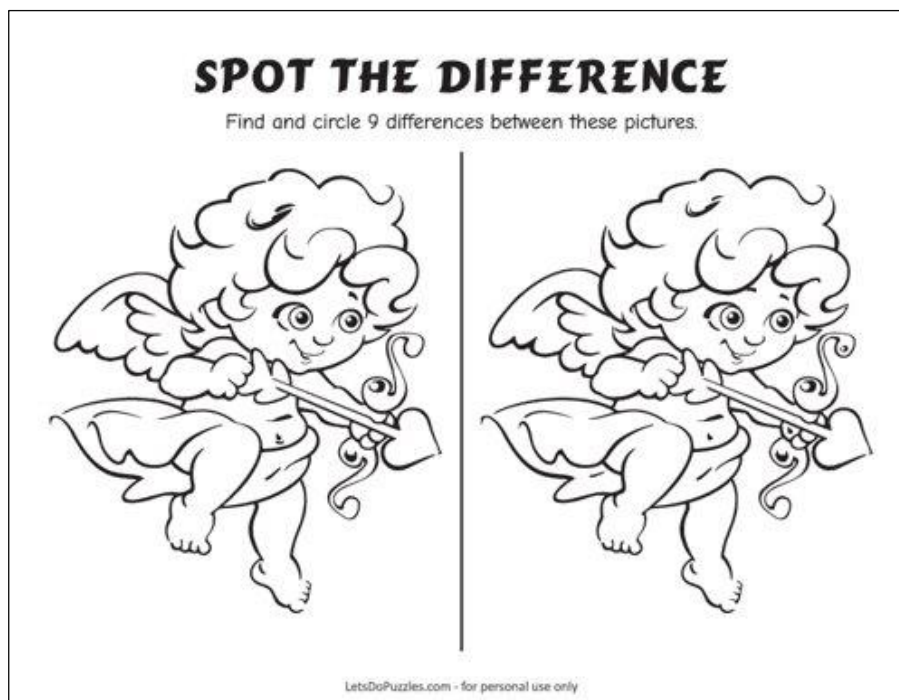
There is a big exciting tournament schedule for the upcoming year, especially with the Canadians in Abbotsford and the Worlds nearby in Washington state. Lots of information in this issue about those events.

Which does not diminish our local tournaments one little bit - the BC 55+ Games horseshoe event will be hosted by Salmon Arm this summer, and Ladysmith has returned to the tournament schedule as well. Lots of opportunities to enjoy our favourite sport without having to travel too far and enjoy our home province at the same time.

Sponsor information is still welcome at any time and please feel free to send any pictures of events, tournament results, social gatherings, and in memoriam notices - anything you would like to share with our horseshoe family - to me at brekitabuddy@shaw.ca. There is still no set publication schedule so drop me a note any time!

Cheers,

June



THE WORLDS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW - Part 2

It was very interesting and unfortunate that the NHPA changed the tournament schedule, what... the day after our last newsletter was published? So, the format is not as I explained in great detail - it is the opposite - so Monday to Friday of the first week will be the higher divisional group play. Think A-D groups for men, women, elders, senior women, and senior men (these are older men who still throw from 40 feet).

Championship flight play will begin on the Thursday of the first week. You have to be in the top 16% of ringer percentages to play in this group, and it costs an additional \$50US to play. This is the real "world championship" play - if you place in your division, you are a "divisional winner" not a world champion.

All other divisions will play in the following week.

You will still have your schedule weeks in advance of the tournament and you will know exactly who you are playing against and what day and time that you will play. There will be a link to the registration form for the Worlds later in this newsletter.

So, how different is it to play in clay? I found that my shoes still bounced occasionally and they never really did get sucked into the clay. Occasionally they slid just a little, but what they did do differently was stand up. In the sand they might roll over or flip, preferably onto the pin, but in the clay, they stand right up. They can be knocked on to the pin or knocked over having an effect on the score, or you may do that to your opponent's shoe.

If you arrive early enough, you can practice on the pitches but once tournament play begins you can only practice on the designated practice courts, and there weren't very many so time there is limited. There will be practice pits somewhere in the host city - we found the outdoor clay pits in Lansing without any trouble. It was a lovely facility, but it was smoking hot outside in Michigan so you couldn't play for long. You will be able to warm up on your designated pits but if you haven't played in clay you will want a little more time than that - no one likes surprises during tournament play. Pacers get paid \$20US per game so if you have the energy for that, it's a good way to get in some extra time.

I was never formally shown how to groom the clay pits - I just did what I saw others do and hoped for the best. The pits are groomed after every game. There will be a water jug available to sprinkle the clay. Then you take the shovel and turn the top layer over and try to smooth it over with the shovel. Sometimes an extra sprinkle of water helps but it was a difficult job. The pits are not very deep and the clay is quite heavy to turn. You can tell who plays in the clay on a regular basis - their pits looked perfect while mine looked like a marching band had gotten lost in it. The last step is to spray paint the pin white. None of my opponents ever commented on my pit grooming skills or lack thereof. Important note: you are not allowed to adjust the clay during the game without your opponent's permission. Occasionally when a shoe stands up it leaves a big hole in the clay and you might like to smooth it out with your shoe - you have to check with your opponent before you touch it.



Even World Champion Alan Francis grooms his own pit..

Scorekeeping is done on computer right at the court and scorekeepers look after two games at a time, so make sure that you have their full attention when you report your score. Some of them are new to scoring so be patient with them. The person scoring is the one who reports to the scorekeeper. On the scoreboards below, one game is in yellow, and the other in white. The other board scores the two games playing on the other side of the boards. If you think that you can keep two games straight at all times, there is \$20US to be made for every game that you keep score.



I found that the noisy and encouraging banter of our local league and tournament play does not live at the World Championship - kind of like the big golf tournaments, no one makes a sound until well after the swing. However, if you were ever going to take tournament play seriously, would the World Championships not be the place to do it? It's like regular horseshoes with a touch of formality about it. Introductions before each game are polite and reserved. Bob McCauley had provided us with City of Victoria pins and I gave one to each new opponent. Not everyone exchanges a hospitality gift but I received a goodie bag, a pencil, and an Arizona t-shirt. There wasn't much talk during the games - a

quiet 'nice shot', "bad luck" or "well done" was about the extent of it and definitely no Bam Bams, yeehaws, or yelling at your shoe, although the odd cursing under one's breath was probably alive and well. But after the game was concluded, win or lose, the conversation was looser and really friendly. So go with your best horseshoe manners and game face but be prepared to meet some really lovely folks. Some of them have been attending this tournament for years and they understand the need to keep our sport alive so they love to encourage us newbies.

Water is provided for participants and there is portable metal stadium seating available - bring a cushion to sit on if you plan to be there for long periods or your own folding chair. There will also be a horseshoe washing station - your shoes might get pretty mucky after 15 games in the clay. When you check in, usually the day before everything starts, you will be given a welcome package with info about things that are available locally. If you don't play till the second week and choose not to arrive till then, you still check in and get your package. There will be food available to purchase somewhere at the venue or you can venture out to explore the local neighbourhood. I can't recall if the same venue sold beer... Ron and Polly's Horseshoe Pitching Supplies from Texas bring a good selection of their horseshoe merchandise so if you're looking for new shoes or accessories like measuring sticks, etc. you can shop onsite. Polly does horseshoe jewelry and it is all reasonably-priced in US dollars plus they take credit cards - check them out online at <https://horseshoes4u.com/> There will also be a separate T-shirt venue of some sort to get your souvenir shirt.

Are you ready to go? Here's the link to the registration form. You can print it and mail it or you can do it all online with a credit card. Be sure to read **ALL** the information first!

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REGISTRATION INFO:

<https://www.horseshoepitching.com/wt-signup-online-2024/>

July 29th - August 10th, 2024

Tri Cities, Washington

Click here for more info

Visittri-cities.com

We have not included a copy of the form in this newsletter as it is quite long with all the information that you need to be aware of for registration. Please go to the link and read everything and then you will have the opportunity to register online or print the form and submit by mail.

CANADIANS AND WESTERN CANADA CLASSIC



The Abbotsford Horseshoe Club is gearing up for an exciting 2024 Horseshoe season. Club members are already working on organizing and coordinating the Western Championships July 20th & 21st, and the Canadian Championships July 23rd to 27th. Our team of dedicated members is focused on making these two tournaments the best ever.

Some of you may know that our President, Jim Williams, expressed interest in hosting these tournaments several years ago. He convinced all of our members that this was something that our club could do; his enthusiasm was contagious and before we knew it, he made the big announcement that we had the go ahead for our club to host the 2024 Westerns and Canadians in Abbotsford! Sadly, in January 2023 Jim suddenly passed away. It was a devastating blow to our club, but our members decided that we were going to see Jim's vision come to light. So here we are, plans are underway, and we are looking forward to welcoming our Canadian horseshoe family to Abbotsford!

Abbotsford is located within the traditional territory of the Mathxwi, Sema:th, and Leq'a:mel First Nations. The Abbotsford Horseshoe club is located at scenic Mill Lake with a backdrop of the snow-capped Mount Baker. Abbotsford is located in the Fraser Valley, just 60 minutes from Vancouver and minutes from the United States border. We are referred to as "The City in the Country", as we have all the amenities of a city, such as shopping malls, arenas, restaurants and international airport, and surrounded by country within our wealth of fertile farmland.

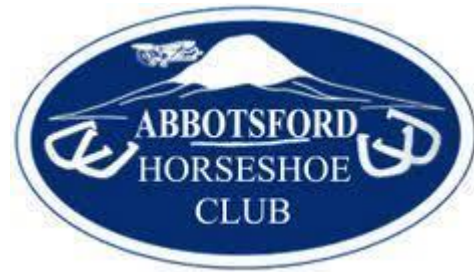
Our horseshoe family is inviting you to attend the Westerns and Canadians, and we are looking forward to welcoming you to our vibrant community in July. We are anticipating great attendance at these tournaments, as the World Championships are being held just across the border in Tri Cities Washington from July 29th to Aug 10th.

Some things to note:

- Registration forms for both tournaments are now up on our website at abbotsfordhorseshoeclub.ca
- We are working with the city to arrange for RV and motorhome spaces. (more info to come)
- We are working on getting special room rates at nearby hotels. (more info to come)
- We are planning group activities, a special opening ceremony, a windup banquet, and daily breakfast and lunch menus.
- We are excited to announce that we are presenting unique custom-made trophies to all category winners!

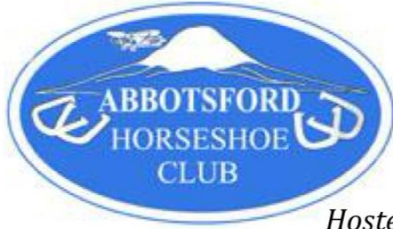
We are looking forward to hosting fun, competitive Championship Tournaments this summer. Please feel free to contact us if you require further information. (abbotsfordhorseshoes@gmail.com)

Cindy Rowell
President
Abbotsford Horseshoe Club



Entry forms attached on following pages





Western Canada Classic

Entry Form

July 20-21, 2024

Hosted and held at the Abbotsford Horseshoe Club
2308 Adanac St, Abbotsford, BC, V2S 4S9



****Additional Prize Money Added****

REGISTRATION FEE: \$40.00 (JUNIOR/PEEWEE NO FEE)

\$40 Covers entry, scorekeepers and judges.

Please do not mail cash. Make cheques payable to: **Abbotsford Horseshoe Club**
E-transfers will be accepted at: **abbotsfordhorseshoes@gmail.com**. *On the same day, a scanned PDF of your entry must be emailed to confirm entry – NO PICTURES WILL BE ACCEPTED. **Entry form and fee must be received by the tournament director no later than Friday, July 13, 2024.**
(Inclusion in the tournament cannot be guaranteed for late entries.)

Name _____ Membership # _____

Address _____

Province/State _____ Postal Code _____

Cell Phone # _____ E-mail _____

Please Circle one of the following categories:

Open Men's Open Women's Elders 30' (65+) Jr. Boys Jr. Girls Peewee

Dress Code will be enforced – Shirts must have name & province on back (no sleeveless shirts allowed). Closed toed shoes must be worn.

Mail to: Tammy Sigankis asig@telus.net 604-615-7990

34948 Marshall Road, Abbotsford, B.C., V2S 7S9

Participant Liability Release: In Consideration of participating in such activity, I hereby waive release and forever discharge Horseshoe Canada, BC Horseshoe Association and the Abbotsford Horseshoe Club, all officials, employees, volunteers, agents or servants of the afore stated organization, and all fellow participants of this event for any and all action, cause of action, damage, loss or injury which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the Western Canada Classic.

Signature _____

Date _____

Horseshoe Canada Official Entry Form



July 24 - 27, 2024
Abbotsford Horseshoe Club
2308 Adanac Street,
Abbotsford, BC V2S 4S9



Name:		Horseshoe Canada Card #:	
Street Address:		Date of Birth:	
City:	Prov:	Telephone Number:	
Postal Code:	E-mail Address:		

Number of Banquet Tickets required: _____ (Pay for them at the Tournament.)

Are you interested in Scorekeeping? _____ Judging? _____ Pacing? _____

Classes (Please circle One Division):

Open Ladies	Open Men	Junior Girls
Senior Ladies	Senior Men 40 Ft.	Junior Boys
	Elders (30 Ft.)	Peewee

Are you a Current Provincial Champion? Y or N (optional) do you wish to play in the A class if possible? _____

Please read carefully:

1. Any pitcher 12 years old or younger for the entire calendar year may register in the Pee Wee Class.
2. Any pitcher 18 years old or younger for the entire calendar year may register in the Junior Class.
3. Men may register for the Elders 30 Ft. Class in the year they become 65 years old.
Men under 65 may be included in this class with a doctor's certificate.
4. Men may register in the Open Men Class regardless of age and pitching from 40 feet.
5. Men may register for the Senior Men 40 Foot class in the year they turn 60 years old.
6. Ladies may register in the Open Ladies Class regardless of age.
7. Ladies may register in the Senior Ladies Class in the year they turn 60 years old.
8. **DRESS CODE: Your last name and Province professionally lettered on the back of your shirt.**
Said shirts cannot be sleeveless. No cut-offs are permitted and closed-toe shoes must Be worn
 (As quoted from NHPA Rule 12 - Section C - Dress Code)

****** Entry fee is \$75.00 **** for Adults (Fee includes cost of scorekeepers and judges)**
****** Entry fee is \$35.00 **** for Juniors and PeeWees**

Please make all cheques / money orders payable to: **Horseshoe Canada (Do not send cash in the mail)**
 E-transfers will be accepted at email below. A scanned PDF of your entry must be emailed to confirm entry – **NO PICTURES WILL BE ACCEPETED.**

ENTRY FORM AND FEE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, 2024

(Inclusion in the tournament cannot be guaranteed for late entries.)

Mail Entries To: Jane Cordingley phone: 403-560-7185
 Horseshoe Canada e-mail: jmcordingley@hotmail.com
 Tournament Director
 #303 7029-16 Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2A 6C5

Participant Liability Release: In Consideration of participating in such activity, I hereby waive release and forever discharge Horseshoe Canada and BC Horseshoe Association, all officials, employees, volunteers, agents or servants of the afore stated organization, and all fellow participants of this event for any and all action, cause of action, damage, loss or injury which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the Canadian Horseshoe Pitching Championships.

Signature _____ Date _____

CLUB NEWS - ABBOTSFORD

Happy New Year from the Abbotsford Horseshoe Club. Since the sunlight hours are shorter and the weather is cooler and wetter, many members have had not a chance to be out pitching together. We have a few players, however, who are die hard players and are often seen in small groups out pitching around lunchtime.

As many people know, our clubhouse was broken into, and we lost thousands of dollars' worth of equipment and our clubhouse had damage. Thanks to our GOFUNDME, the help from other clubs, other horseshoe players, and the public we were able to recoup almost all the money to replace lost or broken items. Unfortunately, in our wait from the city to add additional protection to our clubhouse, the vandals returned and stole a few more items. We have now implemented a variety of security measures so this will hopefully not happen again.



In the meantime, our club has had a few get-togethers since we cannot be out pitching together. We had our annual Christmas party where we traded gifts, ate food, and played games together. A great time was had by all. Then early in January we had a Club night at the Abbotsford Canucks hockey game. We had a great time cheering on our team as they came out on top with a win.



Now we are getting ready for this year's Western Canada Classic and the Canadians happening this summer. This month, groups will be organized and hopefully information will be sent out to all clubs soon. Keep a look out for registration forms and info arriving within the next couple of months. Until then, happy pitching!

CLUB NEWS - LADYSMITH

Recollections by Jerry Melissa...

Thought I would reminisce about my Horseshoe beginnings since they began simultaneously, 50 years ago, with the first year of the Ladysmith Horseshoe Club!

In 1973, I was 31 years old with a growing family and looking for a new activity to replace golf. I was an avid member of the Mount Brenton Golf Club in Chemainus and found that I was spending far too much time on the links! 5-pin bowling was my winter sport of choice at the time.

Coincidentally I read an article in the Ladysmith-Chemainus Chronicle about a Ladysmith resident that had just won the B.C. Horseshoe Championship in September, 1974. Bob Timothy was not unknown to me. He was a fellow longshoreman worker with my dad. I knew my dad loved the game of horseshoes but he wasn't very good at it. During longshoreman picnics the shoe tournament was the highlight of the day.

I immediately phoned Bob and asked him about the game of horseshoes. He told me that he was a member of the Nanaimo Horseshoe Club but that Ladysmith was in the process of building a horseshoe club and facility at Transfer Beach. A fellow Ladysmith resident, Len Copp and others were instrumental in the formation of the new Club.

Bob invited me to take part in the final shoe tournament of the club in Nanaimo later that month. While there I became enamoured with the whole experience! I asked Bob and Youbou resident, Murray Raynor (another former B.C. champ) to show me how to throw a 1 1/4 delivery.

After investigating the best horseshoe to use I ordered two pairs of Ted Allens and proceeded to construct a shoe pit in my back yard! I also joined the fledging Ladysmith Horseshoe Club that Fall.

Between October 15, 1974 and May 15, 1975 I practiced an hour a day: rain and snow did not deter me!

The new club facility was an immediate success. At one time it boasted of almost 200 members. Each of them and their supporters purchased building blocks for \$2. Each block was inscribed with the name of the donor!

Many members went on to reach top horseshoe achievements. Ladysmith boasted many Provincial, Canadian and International Champions: Bob Timothy, Harvey Robbins, Tony Rondow, Murray Rayner, Lindsay Hodgins, Bernice Busch, Wilf Gregory, Earl Morris and Maryse Atkinson!

It was a perfect setting and right away, tournaments were well-attended with free camping and park facilities that were the envy of everyone!

For the next ten years I enjoyed the club and loved representing it throughout B.C. and the rest of Canada. Tournaments were well-attended and hosted some of the best players in Canada. The club boasted umpteen members who went on to win Provincial and Canadian Championships.

But in 1982, family duties called and I retired from competitive play and dropped my membership in the Club. I moved from Ladysmith to Duncan and then to Youbou. When I decided to again join the horseshoe fraternity, I was told that the Victoria Horseshoe Club had to be my club of choice: Youbou, unlike Ladysmith, was in Zone 1 for all senior competitions.

The Ladysmith Horseshoe Club continued to be the most sought-after facility for Island tournaments. Victoria members especially enjoyed the weekend away from the Capital City. Nanaimo eventually folded and joined Ladysmith!

The years of Covid brought many clubs to near extinction and Ladysmith suffered more than most! However, the present executive is both improvising and creative in their 'future' thinking! The past glory days are more than possible to return!

I am so very pleased to identify with the club's' 50-year anniversary. I am very fortunate to still be playing this wonderful game. And I regret that many of my associates from the 1974 year are not here to help celebrate the Clubs' success. They would be so very proud!

Editor's Note: Ladysmith will be hosting three tournaments this year: May 20 - Mixed Gross/Net Ladysmith Open, June 30 - Island Championships and July 13 - Ladysmith Mixed Doubles Open



CLUB NEWS - SALMON ARM

I must first reflect back to 2023, a year of many challenges and adversity both personal and community-wise, however also great opportunities

Long time member Ted Peters is recovering from a lengthy hospital stay after falling, and is now at home.

Our members overcame a torrential rain-soaked May 2023 tournament, then a summer of fires and extreme heat and smoke for the August tournament. Congratulations to all who came out and supported us and endured those conditions. Our members and volunteers were upbeat throughout the season.

On a lighter note, members engaged in several social events after practice nights, luncheons, and a festive Christmas gathering hosted at Sharleen's house. We extend our best wishes of health and happiness to all in 2024.

We started a total kitchen renovation - much praise must be given to our volunteers for their support and contributions throughout the year. Much is still to be done to prepare for the 2024 season with continued maintenance and renovations to clubhouse facilities and grounds.

We are looking forward to inviting everyone to participate in our May and August tournaments. We're also proud and honoured to host the 2024 55+ Games Horseshoe Event September 11-14th. Please set these dates aside on your calendar. We will remind you in upcoming newsletters.

At our last AGM, members elected a new executive and directors to fulfill the Club's vision for 2024 and beyond. We are striving to ensure the viability of the game of horseshoes for the social enjoyment and physical health benefits for all, as well seeking to attract new players to the sport. With the 55+Games committee invaluable support, contributions and advertising, we will show potential players the benefits to physical health and wellness through our sport.

We are planning a Yard Sale in the Spring, date to be announced. Local Askew's foods has offered onsite store BarBQ for a fund-raising opportunity.



I have included a couple of pictures, and mention our appreciation for grants and donations from Askew's Foods, Salmon Arm Credit Union, City Hall and Salmon Arm Rotary Club for making our Visions for 2024 possible.

Ben Gartner
President

CLUB NEWS - SOOKE

SHPA ended 2023 with our annual Santa Parade and our Christmas party.

2024 brings lots of hope to our club as we work to get grants and materials for all weather roofing over our pits. This is a project that will take a few years to accomplish but we are a determined bunch!!!

This year our club hopes to up our membership with lots of new enthusiastic members. January and February we are working on getting banner sponsors. April we will start Spring League.

Sooke is holding 2 tournaments this year. Hoping to see lots from the mainland come on over to join us at our tournaments.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE CLUBS IN BC IN 2024!!!!!! We already have several of our members ready to tackle WORLDS this year so pretty exciting year for all. TAKE CARE AND SEE YOU ALL SOON.....happy pitching!



BOOM BOOM - AIN'T IT GREAT TO BE CRAZY!

The companies below are sponsors for Sooke Horseshoe Club - please support them whenever you can!



CLUB NEWS - VICTORIA

I would have thought that with all the tournament play and excitement of the summer that the fall season would have been moderately quiet-but it was not to be! Inspired by other clubs who apparently like to throw in the snow, Tom Moffat instigated what he liked to call "Ringtober" and "Ringvember". This added a couple of ringers only, fully-sanctioned tournaments to our schedule. This turned out to be a great idea since scorekeepers were not necessary, plus we got to raise our percentages for the Worlds (haha), and luckily there was no snow!



Well, actually, we did have a little snow, but it melted before it caused any delays in any of our events. Some of the pits temporarily froze as well, but no harm done.

In addition to our two late season tournaments, further horseshoe action consisted of our fall league which started on October 1 and continued until the end of November. League play got off to a rousing start with a pancake breakfast (gratis) for all early birds. Actually, we served 60 but only 56 stayed to play. I believe four of those e-birds migrated early!

October 14 marked our annual awards banquet, our major catered event of the year. Probably more highly anticipated than the actual awards for achievement throughout the year was the order in which the tables were called to the buffet. This year it was done by matching half of the card under the centrepiece. Everything went smoothly until it was discovered that the Jack was missing! All hell broke loose, but then order was quickly restored by promises of extra dessert. Good recovery, Pat!

The companies below are sponsors for Victoria Horseshoe Club - please support them whenever you can!



Ethical
B O T A N I C A L S



ROYAL OAK

ALL VICTORIA VACUUMS





Westland Insurance



We had many awards that evening, and one of the most prestigious is the “Work Horse Award” given to the member who has exhibited outstanding effort and dedication to the Club. This year it went to Sante, who was heard to quip, “Sure, I’m dedicated and indispensable, but tell me I’m handsome too!” Good stuff!

Our fall AGM was held on November 19 with the usual reporting and lively discussion on a variety of topics. The annual elections resulted in several incumbents being acclaimed and we welcomed Barbie Hudock to our list of directors.

We celebrated our club Christmas party early on Dec 2. Chinese food was featured since we knew that most people have turkey at home and we didn’t want to become jaded early in the season. In conjunction with this occasion Tom Moffat did a ringer-a-thon and raised \$357.00 for the Salvation Army. For interest’s sake, Tom threw 39 ringers out of 50 shoes for a percentage of 78%! Look out World’s!!

As well as eating, we had a lot of games topped off by a visit by the real Santa - one of our members who is engaged to spread Christmas cheer at a local mall. He made a lot of wishes come true at our party as well, I’m sure.



Although Santa gave all the ladies quite a thrill when he promised to make all their wishes come true, he also gave the boys some attention. I know these are good boys, and I'm sure their wishes will come true as well!

What better way to spend the morning of New Year's Day than dusting off the ol' horseshoes and starting the new year off right? Well, that's exactly what a stalwart crew from our club did. We met and played our usual count all doubles games then had a pizza lunch and then spent an hour with a rousing mini-Cornhole tournament. What a great way to kick-start our new Horseshoe Year!



Looking to the near future, our Spring League starts February 4. We have a Ringers Only tournament on February 10 and you are all invited! What's going on February 11 you may ask. Why it's the super Superbowl party at the clubhouse! To heck with football, we want to catch a glimpse of Taylor Swift, or at least watch some people who are watching her (just kidding).

And so on it goes...everyone at the Victoria Horseshoe Club wishes each and every club in BC all the best in 2024. May this be one of the most exciting, most rewarding, and most memorable Horseshoe years ever!

Bob McCauley
GVHPA President

CLUB NEWS - WINFIELD

Two of our members have recently competed in the Huntsman World 50+ Games and I thought it would be a great addition to the newsletter.



The Huntsman World Senior Games are the largest annual multi-sport event in the world for over 30 years for athletes aged 50 and over. The event includes over 30 different sports and takes place for two weeks each October. From softball to swimming, from square dance to soccer, The Huntsman World Senior Games offers a world class competition experience.

This year, two of our Winfield Horseshoe Members competed in the Games, Barry Crombie and Donna Nicholas.

Barry Crombie's Results - Track & Field:

1. Shot Put

Class: Men 85-89

Position: #7 Barry Crombie Lake Country, BC, Canada 4.74m

2. Standing Long Jump

Class: Men 85-89

NOTE: There was a tie for 2nd place and therefore, Barry was actually awarded the Bronze Medal for 3rd place

Position: #4 Barry Crombie Lake Country, BC, Canada 1.00m

3. Long Jump

Class: Men 85-89

Position: #5 Barry Crombie Lake Country, BC, Canada 1.29m

4. Discus

Class: Men 85-89

Position: #4 Barry Crombie Lake Country, BC, Canada 11.89m

5. Javelin

Class: Men 85-89

Position: #6 Barry Crombie Lake Country, BC, Canada 7.15m

Report from Donna Nicholas - Cycling:

In cycling there are four categories: Beginner, Division 3, Division 2, and Division 1 (expert) which is where I am. I believe there was only one other 80 plus lady cycling and she was in a Recreational Division (2 or 3). I was alone in my category.

I did the four events: 5K Hillclimb, 25K Road Race, 18K Time Trial and a Criterium getting the Gold Medal in each. Because I did all four, I qualified for the Overall Champion medal and a special "World Champion" cycling jersey. Even though it was a no brainer for me to get Gold in each event, I still did my best as I was hoping to either break or set a record in my 85 to 89 age category. I was the oldest woman participating in cycling.

The oldest man was a very fit 90-year-old who is a USA National champion.

The guest speaker at Opening Ceremonies was a 101-year-old lady who is a swimmer from somewhere in the States. Of course, she's setting records in all her events. It's wonderful to see older "athletes" participating, keeping fit and healthy. Motto of the Games is Health Friendship Peace. I hope others may be inspired to begin in a sport as well. For me, it's not about the medals – it's about living a healthy active life into our old age years.

MEMBER SUBMISSION - HORSESHOES IN HAWAII - Jerry Melissa

League play, Kona, Hawaii, style! Play begins around 4:00 PM and must be over before dark at 6:00 PM. Handicapped but not walking doubles. Mixed! Scoresheet is different from ours but is very efficient.

Spectators are mostly families of all ages and outnumber the participants 5 to 1. Lots of cheering and kibitzing from the on-lookers.

They have as many as 20 (two to a team) teams. They pick their own partner for the duration of the league play. They have four segments. Kona's club is non-sanctioned so they keep their own stats. Those wishing to take part in sanctioned tournaments on the mainland must do so individually. There are no other active clubs in the Islands since Covid!

They have two members in the 60% class. I look forward to their play during the Wednesday morning drop in! Humidity is very high and the daily temperature is a steady 26 degrees. Tempo of play is laid

back and not too serious! I left with my ride, at 630 PM and was the first to leave the area! Family involvement is unbelievable!

There are 12 sand courts and an adequate club house. Running water and electricity is available. Site is in a huge recreational complex. 3 large tennis courts, 4 lighted soccer fields, 2 baseball diamonds, outdoor swimming pool, children's playground, and a short walk to the ocean.

