

PEPP-ALK

May 10
with
Harry
Pepper

Now that the local golf season is well underway, my partners and I have around 150-200 holes played over at the Birchbank course. We are awaiting the promised opening of the Upper Course, which we are told will happen this week. It will be good to get things like Retiree's Day and Men's Night underway.

I have not walked the course yet but Rich Watkinson and Percy Cutler have and they report that the greens leave something to be desired, but the fairways are in great shape. No doubt the greens will respond when the recent cool, damp weather changes to something a little more like summer.

One of the first jobs on our hands will be to get the Retiree's Day underway for the summer. There doesn't seem to be much reason to change the day of the week. It was Tuesday last year and it looks like it will be in that slot again. We hear that Men's Night will be on Thursday at the Upper Course this year so as not to collide with the one now established at Birchbank.

Most of the Retirees will miss Munroe and Debbie in charge of the clubhouse last year, but I understand that Chris Cross is going to be given the chance to do that job and we wish her all the luck in the world in her new post.

Last night I got a look at junior rugby at close quarters as I visited Jubilee Park in Rossland and watched Rich Chobanuk's Rossland 15 take a 4-0 win over a Trail team. Rugby is a game I have never had a great deal of time for, mainly I suppose, because there is a lot that goes on that I don't follow because I am not up on the rules. If I'm going to watch the games I shall have to have a long talk with Paddy Flood, Rossland's oldest and premier rugby enthusiast.

For my first look at the sport, it would appear that it is certainly a very robust type of sport. The youngsters that are playing it in this area certainly go at it in that fashion. I had a notion after watching the last 45 minutes that a guy could get his head yanked out of its socket on some of the tackles. I saw, however, that there didn't seem to be any ill will between the players after it was all over.

From what I understand, Jubilee Park is going to be a hive of activity this summer what with minor soccer, oldtimers soccer, and rugby and I suppose we shall see some slow-pitch games up there. Centennial Park will be home turf to Rossland's only Fastball team which will play Wednesday evenings out there. The main arena for slow-pitch will be the little Cook Avenue Park.

We also have the makings of a new park for minor soccer down below the area where Thompson Avenue connects with the Trail highway. It was partially graded last summer but it looks like it will take another summer's work to be put in shape for soccer.

I often wonder if we shall ever get another soccer team in Rossland. The demise of the Labatts in the local league leaves a big gap in the lives of soccer lovers in this town. Maybe we shall all become rugby fans now that it has got its start.

The Rossland Legion has acquired another pool table and now is going to be hosting pool and snooker tournaments. Jim Schuck and Bert Pengelly head up a committee in charge of this sort of thing and have lots of plans for the future.

Dennis Hiron, our darts impresario, is back from an extended trip East and with the news that Rossland will host Zone darts championships later this year. The dart will start to pick up steam as Dennis makes his plans.

The Legion's West Kootenay Zone Golf Tourney will be hosted by the Grand Forks branch on June 8th and the deadline for entries is May 10. This year there will be a special event for ladies.

The Christina Lake Golf Club has specified at least 80 players must sign up or they cannot close the course for us. It would appear that the numbers are not impossible to meet but time is running out. So any of you who read this and are interested in playing, get down to it now.

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Well, the weather is starting to look like it's time to start doing some gardening so, I'll just say, 'til next time, then!