

# PEPPER-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

April 4/86

Before we go on to other subjects I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations to Derek Spring and his Cranbrook Colts for once again winning the Cyclone Taylor Cup as B.C.'s Junior B Champions. This victory adds fuel to the idea quoted by many local hockey people that our league, the KIJHL, is the premier Junior B league in the province. I see where Tom Renney has made a statement to that effect recently, and I'll gladly back it.

Now then, to get on to a more seasonable subject, golf, and the problems of the Rossland-Trail club. I have just got through filling out a questionnaire regarding that club and its possible directions in the matter of the upper course. After reading the matter contained in a missive we received, very carefully, I got the job done. My answers may not agree with everyone else's, but they are a true picture of what I would do if faced with the situations proposed.

It is my understanding that the club is having economic problems. OK, but after seeing the figures, in comparison it looks as though the Rossland course is generating about one-third of the total participation by paying players and guests, which, when one looks at it, compares favorably as the costs of upkeep are studied. Sure, it's quite possible that the long-term view is probably going to be more costly on the Rossland clubhouse because of its age but it is a good solid old structure and I think a lot of guests come to see its solid rustic appearance than they do for fancy fixin's. They also come to play and maybe a little more bally-hoo which can be had for free in some places, would be a step in the right direction. Good public relations are a big step on the right road. Crying the blues does not attract too many people who are looking to enjoy themselves.

I've been playing?? the Rossland course for a good twenty-five or thirty years now and it has always proved a fantastic challenge. I think most people who come to play have their eyes open most of the time and what they see on that grand old layout is something that is venerated world-wide, rustic beauty and a tremendous challenge to their golf skills.

Now I don't think that the Rossland course is going to fade from the golfing scene in the Kootenays, and I also think that the Rossland-Trail club may be able to weather the economic times by a continued use of the available outlets to get their product before the public. And by doing so I feel along with a lot of others that what they get will be better for both courses.

Some suggestions that I have had handed to me recently are that better supervision of the help on the Rossland course there have been times when it has been sadly lacking, some of the help you have at the upper course are quite capable of assuming a supervisory role. A lot of people feel that this would make for a lot better administration all-round. You also have another source of help which doesn't cost very much and if used in the right way could help a lot. There are a whole bunch of guys with all sorts of skills which are not being used these days, namely the guys you give a break to in their dues, the Retirees. Don't try to discourage these guys, they work better when you pat them on the back or buy them a beer.

Now I've said what I want to and it is up to you, take it or leave it, I'll just have to try to get my game in shape to be worthy of the Rossland course when you get through carrying out your mandate to make it the best course in the country. That won't take much, a few touches here and there will do the trick.

'Til then, I'll say, 'Bye for now!