

President's Report

I don't think it's controversial to say that 2019 was an exceptional year for disc golf in the Comox Valley. The sport continues to grow quickly, expanding its presence through an increase in participants, courses, and events. At the forefront of that growth is the Comox Valley Disc Golf Club. I think my fellow board members and devoted discers would agree that the CVDGC is as healthy as it's ever been. Consider as a group what we accomplished this year:

- The CVDGC became an official BC Not-for-profit Society. Registering as a society enhances the legitimacy of the club and improves our ability to develop partnerships and engage in projects with other organizations. In addition, designation as a society involves clearer and more consistent processes: CVDGC now has a constitution, bylaws, and standards for record-keeping.

***Constitution** - To act as stewards of the sport of disc golf in the Comox Valley by cultivating community, competition, growth, and education.*

- The Comox Valley got a new disc golf course at Lake Trail School. The school partnered with the disc golf club to design and install the Lake Trail course in the beautiful surrounding forest. It has been a regular stop for club days, and many locals are using it for family recreation. There was some unexpected pushback from an environmental group concerned with the health of the creek running through the course area; nevertheless, the club and school did an outstanding job responding to the concerns and promptly making changes to address those concerns. In addition, the club organized a month long afterschool program to introduce students to disc golf. The school plans to reintroduce the program this coming spring.
- In October, the CVDGC held an outstanding fundraising tournament at The Park golf course in Comox. A superb team of volunteers, led by tournament director, Selena Marshall, put on a wonderful two round event and raised \$2000 to support the club's goal of purchasing its own baskets. The tournament layout made full use of The Park's available acreage and challenged all participants. Additionally, the CVDGC and greater disc golf community left an excellent impression on the management of The Park, and the ownership is considering the potential of adding disc golf permanently.
- As mentioned previously, the CVDGC had a goal of raising funds to buy its own set of baskets. With the money raised from the tournament and some of the existing funds, the club purchased 9 baskets with portable bases. Owning baskets improves the club's ability to host events, and it provides a valuable equipment asset that has very little, if any, depreciation--baskets last a very long time. In 2020, the CVDGC will continue to raise funds to purchase an additional 9 baskets to assemble a full set of 18. As an attractive bonus, these baskets provide the option of being converted to permanent baskets should an appropriate opportunity present itself in the future.

- CVDGC built on their relationships with Cumberland and Comox municipalities and as a result, completed some valuable upgrades to both courses. CVDGC's awesome crew of volunteers put in many new concrete tee-pads at the Cumberland course and built a set of stairs connecting hole 15 and 16. At Comox, 9 advanced tee-pads were added to give the course 18 unique holes, and aluminum signage was installed to make the course layout clearer and more presentable. The Town of Comox also supplied gravel to help reduce muddy areas during the wettest months.
- CVDGC had excellent attendance for its weekly club rounds, which cycled through the 3 courses. Tags rounds, doubles, and now glow golf have been popular formats--January 9, 2020 glow golf had 25 attendees! The club plans to keep club days rolling through 2020.
- The club sold all of its 75 membership tags this year, and the Facebook group grew 25% in 2019 from 400 members to over 500. Surely this represents an opportunity to bring a few more people in the CVDGC fold in 2020.
- CVDGC established a relationship with the Parks Department at the Comox Valley Regional District and was directed towards the extra land surrounding the new CVRD water treatment plant as a potential site for a new full-sized 18 hole disc golf course. With the backing of the CVRD Parks Director, the club submitted a comprehensive proposal for the development of a new disc golf course on January 6, 2020. While there are still plenty of challenges and unknowns that lie ahead in receiving approval for a project of this size, the proposal is a positive symbol of the club's intentions and level of organization. What's more, it contains compelling statistical information on the growth of disc golf both locally and internationally, lending crucial evidence to the proposal that extends well beyond the hopeful assertions of a few passionate disc golfers. So whatever the result of this particular proposal is, the document, at the very least, opens the door for meaningful action in the future.

And if we know anything about disc golfers, all we need is a little window of opportunity, and we're going for it!

It's been a pleasure being the CVDGC President in 2019, and I am very proud of our accomplishments this year. I met a lot of new people, many of whom I now call friends. Disc golf continues to be unique in its sense of community and inclusion, and I expect the same culture in 2020.

Cheers,

Jamie Branch
CVDGC President