

Sketch of a West Pointer – Chris Allen

Who is the 13 handicapper who served as your Vice Captain for 2 years (2011 and 2012) when he was responsible for the Captain's Table duties of receiving and verifying scorecards (with assistance from other members), distributing prizes and being the go-to guy on a weekly basis? We'd like you to meet **Chris Allen**, who was born in North Bay, Ontario and spent many years in Ontario before relocating to Burnaby.

Chris was recruited by the Vice Captain to serve on the Captain's Table, where he did a stellar job. This led to him being nominated to be Vice Captain – Scoring the following year. He served on your Board of Directors for two years in that capacity and then accepted an appointment as an Advisor to the Board in 2013; he is currently responsible for maintaining our eHandicap system.

Chris began his journey in golf at the tender age of 15, after his parents had taken up the sport and enjoyed it so much that they encouraged all five of their children to give it a try. Chris admits he didn't know much about golf at the time but was immediately hooked, playing regularly for three or four years before taking an extended break in his 20s and early 30s. After returning to action, he became a student of the game and achieved a low handicap of 11; he's not far off that now.

Chris has lived through the exhilarating experience of two holes-in-one. One of them occurred on July 8, 2001 at the Hammond Golf Club, just outside of Ottawa. He was playing in an Ottawa district tournament. The golf course has power lines running through it and a local rule that states, "If you hit a power line with your ball, you must abandon that shot and re-hit, with no penalty or stroke assessed against you." On the short (137 yards) par 3 14th hole, he hit a wedge and was admiring his shot as the ball sailed up into the air towards the green. Suddenly, the ball struck the power line, deflected sharply left and onto the road. Being a good golfer and respecting the local rule, he teed up another ball and struck it on a lower flight path. The ball landed on the front of the green, took one big bounce and several smaller ones before coming to rest in the cup. He tells people (tongue in cheek) that's how he recorded a hole-in-one on his second shot!

Chris studied chemistry at Algonquin College in Ottawa, but it was difficult finding a job in that field at the time so he worked for a couple of years doing road surveying. As this was seasonal work, he worked on contract jobs for the Federal Government during the winter; this eventually led to the offer of permanent employment. Although it wasn't in his original plans, he thus became a career civil servant, working as a programmer doing software development. He received his computer training through "on the job" courses as well as a few evening courses at Algonquin College. His career began with Statistics Canada, where he stayed for nine years, working at the government complex called Tunney's Pasture, west of downtown Ottawa. He transferred to the Canada Revenue Agency in downtown Ottawa, retiring from there in 2004. Chris' three sons still reside in Ottawa.

Chris likes many golf courses but one of his favourites is Augusta. Having lived most of his life in Ontario, he always looked forward to the Masters in April. That was a sign that winter was coming to an end and the local golf courses would soon be opening. One golfer Chris admires is Fred Couples; he likes his swing tempo and often wishes he had a swing like Freddy's.

One of Chris' memorable golfing moments was the day he first broke 80. This exciting experience happened during the first round of the Club Championship, when he shot 76. He recalls that he was so nervous the next day playing with the "A" class players that he soared to 94 – and didn't even win the B flight!

Chris has enjoyed many successes on the links as a West Point member. In 2010, he was the Club Match Play Champion and also won the Len Brown Memorial trophy at the Putting Jamboree. Playing in the 0-18 handicap division, he's won the Bud Brown Eclectic four times, the Joe Dwyer trophy in 2009 and the Ed Angel competition (with Jim Mackie) in 2011. In 2012, he was the recipient of the Bob Jack Award, signifying his proficiency in the Away games. Chris joined West Point Golf Club in 2006 and continues to make many contributions to our Club.

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