

Sketch of a West Pointer – Jim Appleby

Jim Appleby was born March 10, 1939 in London, England, and has also lived in Durham, Essex, Bermuda, Leeds, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Vancouver and Burnaby. As you can see, he does get around! Jim is a life-long educator – teaching K-7 for three years and grades 8-12 for seven years before embarking on a 26 year administrative career in Vancouver and Burnaby public school systems. Jim was the Athletics Coordinator for many years in Vancouver, providing excellent service and advice to every school and every PE teacher. Upon “retirement” he worked at Simon Fraser University for ten years, mentoring and collaborating with prospective teachers.

After years of courting, Jim married Ila in a beautiful setting (their backyard) in August 2006. He is extremely proud of his stepson, Bean, and has many nieces and nephews in England. When asked who his favourite golfer is, he replied that he most admired his brother, Stuart. If only Jim had Stuart’s talent!

Jim joined WPGC in 2005; his handicap has reached a low of 12. Jim has experienced the good fortune of acing Langara’s 147 yard second hole in 2009. He recalls that playing partner, Andy Schmidt, “found” the ball in the cup and wasn’t prepared to admit to Jim getting a hole-in-one! Jim’s favourite golf courses are Mid Ocean in Bermuda, Lythme/St. Anne’s in England and Capilano GC in West Vancouver. His ideal place to visit is New York.

When asked when he started playing golf, here is his reply. “It wasn’t called golf; it was, ‘Can I hit the parachute in the garden? In England at age 7, I used my mother’s clubs to hit this strange looking ball that was attached to a parachute. Sometimes the ball went really well when the string to the parachute broke! The first time on a golf course – to play – I was probably around 11 and went with my father. I learned that not everyone hits the ball the first time, and I also learned a few choice words to boot.”

Jim moved to Bermuda in 1963 and bought his first set of clubs, second-hand, and played all the great courses on the islands. He established friendships with a number of business executives who were kind enough to take him on the private courses. When asked for a memorable occasion, Jim remembers a noted local educator and athlete asking him to remove a scarlet sweater because it was blinding him on the green!

Jim has served the West Point membership in many capacities: Director at Large in 2007, Membership Chair in ‘08, President during 2009 and 2010, and Past President for the past two years. His leadership has been invaluable to your Board of Directors and the membership as a whole.

*Prepared by Lorne Lindsay
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