

Sketch of a West Pointer: David Cooke

David has a vast background in mineral exploration. He received his BSc in Geology at the University of New Brunswick, MA in Economic Geology and PhD (Geology) at the University of Toronto. He was employed as a Senior Exploration Geologist by Cominco Ltd. (now Teck-Cominco) where he set up its copper/molybdenum exploration program for BC and Yukon and supervised several exploration programs. Various projects as a Mineral Exploration Consultant took him to Mexico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil and the USA. He did a stint with the Jamaica Geological Survey in the sixties. As a Mineral Exploration Consultant, he identified and supervised the exploration program that resulted in the discovery and mining of the Aurora gold/silver deposit near Hawthorne, Nevada. He was team leader for Pacific Ridge Resources and responsible for the discovery of the Kemess South copper and gold deposit in north-central B.C. He also organized and managed a dozen exploration limited partnerships. He is a life-time member of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C. and the Association of Mining Explorationists of B.C.

Born in Montego Bay, Jamaica, David has also spent time in Fredericton, Toronto, Vancouver, Richmond and Surrey. David and his wife, Mavis, enjoy vacations in Hawaii and Jamaica. They have a son and a daughter.

David began playing golf in the mid-1960s when he was based in Smithers for summer mineral exploration work and recalls that the putting surfaces were sand. His lowest handicap was a very respectable 12 and fondly remembers his first round under 80 (43-36), occurring at Fraserview about 15 years ago, playing with Paul Levy. Once when golfing at Fraserview, his foursome arrived at the 15th green, only to see a golfer, lying there dead. His partner remarked, "He won't get a refund for an incomplete round today!" Like many amateur golfers, David admires Fred Couples for his smooth swing and the fact that he appears so relaxed.

In addition to his love of golf, David has excelled in cricket and squash. In 1983, he competed in the World Masters Games in Toronto and won the squash Bronze medal for singles in the Over 45 division. David and his partner won the Over 60 Canadian Squash Doubles Championship in 1996, when it was held in Vancouver. His hobbies include drawing and painting, and his favourite quote is Einstein's, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." David has drawn inspiration from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela, and has devoted considerable time over the past 20 years to raise funds in support of bursaries for talented and needy students at Cornwall College in Jamaica. He was a director of The Canadian Jamaican Medical Assistance Society, which raised funds for Jamaican medical and educational institutions.

*Prepared by Lorne Lindsay
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