

## Sketch of a West Pointer: John Foster

John Foster became a member of West Point Golf Club in 2004 and has made numerous contributions to the Club. He has been the coordinator of various TNT competitions since 2011 and joined the Board of Directors in 2016. In his current capacity as Membership Chair, he has provided excellent service and is a willing participant around the Board table. John is thoughtful, insightful and shares his opinions.

John was born in Penticton and has also resided in New Westminster, Victoria, North Vancouver, Hudson Bay (Saskatchewan), Vancouver, Tacoma (Washington) and West Vancouver. He was a successful Mechanical Engineering graduate from the University of British Columbia in 1961. His career path began at MacMillan Bloedel in their Vancouver Plywood Division where he served in various positions including construction foreman, maintenance superintendent and green end production superintendent. During his contract as the Engineering Manager for MB Island East Division saw mills, he spent 3 months in Pine Hill, Alabama, developing project plans for their new MB solid wood facilities.

A move to Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan, saw him as the mill manager at their OSB (Oriented Strand Board) plant for four years. Upon leaving MacMillan Bloedel, John moved back to Vancouver and was a partner in Norman Springate & Associates, building plywood plants in Canada. A move to Tacoma was next, where he was in charge of Wood Products Engineering for Weyerhaeuser. He joined HA Simons in Vancouver and headed up a Wood Products Engineering group. John must have tired of working for others because he formed his own company, John Foster and Associates, managing mill revisions and OSB plant construction in Canada and the US for 6 years until his retirement.

In addition to the many cities that John and his family lived in, his working career resulted in time spent in the Philippines, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, India, Germany, France, Poland, Mexico and Chile!

John did not start playing golf until age 55 and has achieved a handicap as low as 22. He has won many West Point competitions as you can see by viewing Galleries/Members on our WPGC website; he was the Super Senior Net Champion in 2015. John and his wife, Dodie, have two sons and three grandsons.

He likes Kona Country Club in Hawaii and Glen Annie in Santa Barbara, when his is not enjoying golf in Vancouver. Jason Day is John's favourite golfer, but Dodie's niece's son Brendon, age 11, shoots 79 off the white tees! John is an avid reader and gardener and when asked about his finesse at playing bridge, he commented that his wife gave up bridge and he followed suit.

*Prepared by Lorne Lindsay  
May 2017*