

Sketch of a West Pointer – Colin Kelly



Colin Kelly is an avid golfer and has been a member of West Point since 2013. He was our Club Champion in 2014, winning both the Stroke Play and Match Play competitions. In 2017 he won the Dave Fairweather Memorial Match Play event, with games being played over the entire season.

Colin was born in Vancouver, attended St. Pat's Secondary, played basketball for the school and graduated in 1961. As with most of us, he had many jobs during the early years. He lived in Port Alberni for a short time and was the Recreation Director at the Alberni Indian Residential School for a year and a half.

Colin's favourite two golf courses are Royal Colwood in Victoria and Kokanee Springs, located at Crawford Bay in the beautiful West Kootenays. It is noted for its perfect blend of rugged beauty and endless fairways and celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

He competed in BC Amateur Golf tournaments about the time Doug Roxburgh started his winning streak. Colin caddied at the old Shaughnessy Golf Course on Oak Street and recalls many stories involving some of its members. One of his brother's friends was so upset about shooting a 78 that he threw his golf bag – with clubs - into the Fraser River!

Colin says that his best score (not his lowest) occurred about 20 years ago. Playing from the blue tees at Riverway, he shot a 2 under par 70. His lowest score is 68, which he has recorded twice to go along with a 69. He has also shot 71 at Langara in the year he was 71, which brought him into West Point's exclusive "Shot His Age" club in 2014. He was runner-up in the Ab Miles Tankard event that year. Colin says that he didn't realize what a feat shooting his age was until he couldn't do it again.

He recalls fondly the good old days when he shot 76 at both Pebble Beach and the south course at La Jolla Country Club, where the US Open and other prestigious events are played. Its awe-inspiring, mystifying location overlooks the Pacific Ocean and features small greens and narrow fairways, making it a challenge to play. One day playing at La Jolla, he was part of a sevensome, 6 men and a woman. They all played from the back tees, measuring 6690 yards, and the lowest score was 78.

Colin's employment career began with BC Hydro Transit Authority in 1973, the same year that he married his wife, Dena. Colin drove bus for 11 years and served as president of the Bus Drivers' Union for 7 ½ years before moving into management. He was manager of Safety and Training and then manager of the Burnaby bus garage before becoming Director of Attendance Management for Coast Mountain Bus Company. He spent 22 years in the Human Resources Department before retiring in 2011 after 38 years with the company.

At one point in his golf career, Colin was a 4 handicap. Although recent health difficulties have contributed to a rising handicap, he still really enjoys golfing and has played almost 40 games with West Point members this season.

Prepared by Lorne Lindsay September 2018