

Sketch of a West Pointer: Gordie MacCulloch

Gordie MacCulloch was born in Scotland and lived mainly in Helensburgh, where television was invented, and spent some years on the Isle of Man. As a young lad, Gordie played a lot of soccer and badminton but thought he might enjoy playing golf with some of his friends. He was 14, but junior members were not encouraged at his club at that time. Gordie was a good athlete. He played in the Canadian Badminton Championships for a few years and it was at age 28 when he first damaged his knee; he continued the sport until he was 44.

Gordie says that he always told people that he was on the Scottish national ski team, but then admits that was not true! It was during a ski trip to Lillehammer, Norway in 1954, that he met his wife. They immigrated to Canada in 1956, settling in B.C. where they have resided ever since. Gordie's working career was in banking, commencing with The Royal Bank of Scotland, followed by The Royal Bank of Canada and latterly with the Business Development Bank, a government bank involved in business lending. His job also took him to Kamloops and Campbell River.

When he emigrated from Scotland, Gordie brought his wooden-shafted golf clubs with him and played his first game at Langara in 1957. "Needless to say, I didn't keep my wooden-shafted clubs too long! Maybe I should have kept them as they are now collectors' items!"

Gordie was a member of the Men's Club at Fraserview for a number of years and recalls scoring an eagle on the difficult 8th hole. With the elevated green, no one in the foursome had a clear idea of where his ball was, but after spending five minutes searching, they discovered his ball in the hole! During that stretch of time, he also achieved his lowest handicap of 13. Gordie joined West Point Golf Club in 1996 and has enjoyed the friendship and golf games very much over the past 18 years. When asked about holes-in-one, he remembers two that occurred in Phoenix, Arizona. He was a guest at Falcon Dunes on Luke Air Force Base for the first one and playing at Pueblo el Mirage for his second hole-in-one. It took 50 years to achieve the first one and only two years for the second. The wait for the elusive third one continues!

Three of his favourite courses are Gleneagles in Scotland, Torrey Pines in California and Falcon Dunes in Arizona. He recalls a special occasion at Gleneagles when he sank a 50 foot putt that broke four different ways before going in the cup for a par on the 18th hole. Gordie has respect for Colin Montgomerie, who did a lot for golf in the UK. Although Colin didn't win much during his trips to North America, he was the top golfer in Europe for many years and won 31 European Tour events.

Gordie and his wife, Morag, have two sons and two daughters and have been blessed with six grandsons; they are hoping for a great-grand-daughter some day! Gordie loves to play golf with his sons and grandsons and says, "If I tie them, it is a moral victory as far as I am concerned!" In addition to spending parts of the past 15 winters in Arizona, Gordie and his wife, who are both avid lawn-bowlers, recall that a favourite vacation was with a group of 65 lawn-bowlers who toured Australia and New Zealand. They loved the Aussies and Kiwis, for their expertise in lawn bowling and spirit of fun. Gordie believes that being a good putter helps in his lawn bowling. "Putting is all about reading the green and getting the right weight, just as it is in lawn bowling."

Prepared by Lorne Lindsay
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