

Sketch of a West Pointer: John McHattie

John McHattie didn't start playing golf until age 56, and did so in a desire to get Friday afternoons off work! John's lowest handicap was 16 and he currently plays to a 27. He became a member of the West Point Golf Club in 1999 and served as our Social Director in 2006. He won the Bud Brown eclectic for his handicap division in 2013 and was the winner of the Laurie Craddock Vintage Cup for the 80+ age group in 2014.

John is among the fortunate golfers to have struck a hole-in-one – and he's achieved it twice! The most recent one was on the 8th hole at Langara on August 12, 2005. At the time, he thought he had gone to Heaven! He also remembers winning the Johnny Walker Award in 1993 when he aced McCleery's seventh hole, making him eligible to win a trip for 2 to Montego Bay – but alas, his name wasn't drawn!

His favourite vacation spot is Hawaii and his most memorable golfing experiences have been on the links in Maui. His two favourite courses are the municipal course on Maui and Sudden Valley, Washington.

John was a professional painter until his retirement at age 60. He was a consulting engineer in the construction division for the Department of National Defence and served them for 37 years in the Vancouver area.

John is one those rarities, born in Vancouver. He has been married to Margaret for 60 years and they have a daughter, Linda, and son, Robert, a mechanical contractor supervising a staff of 50.

In earlier days, John played rugby (centre scrum), tennis and basketball. He also was a good horseshoe player and did well in several military tournaments, as he had a knack for the game. These days, in addition to golf, John enjoys playing recreational bridge.

Among the professional golfers, John admired Doug Saunders and his short back swing. He recalls fondly watching Jack Nicklaus play at Shaughnessy.

One of John's hobbies was salt water fishing off Bowen Island, where he often got his limit. Occasionally he would run out of bait, go get more and continue down-rigging to 80 to 120 feet. He recalls that fishing was very good up to the time of Expo 86, when things tailed off significantly.

John enjoys his golfing days with West Point and looks forward to getting together with the guys after the game for beer or coffee and conversation.

*Prepared by Lorne Lindsay
August 2015*