

Sketch of a West Pointer – Art Roberts

Art was introduced to golf by his best buddy at age 23, in 1951. You can figure it out, but Art just celebrated his 85th birthday in June. He began playing left handed for two years and then switched to right handed; he was a natural switch-hitter when he played ball. In 1986, Art qualified for the BC Senior Championships out of Zone 3 (Meadow Gardens); the event was played at Royal Colwood and Uplands in Victoria, both beautiful and difficult courses. His handicap reached a low of 12 in 1995-96, a time he recalls as his best year playing golf. He lost the Club Championship at Meadow Gardens, where he was a member for 30 years, by a single stroke. Art was in the 2nd last group and came in with a sparkling 77, only to be beaten by the owner of the course, who followed him in with a 76!

Art joined West Point in 2007 and first shot his age at Langara in 2012. He was the Super Senior Champion in his first year with the Club and the Senior Master Champion in 2009. His favourite golf courses are Meadow Gardens, where he has enjoyed playing both the old and new courses; Northview, where he golfs well on either the Ridge or Canal course; and Sandpiper, because of its scenery and the tree-lined fairways. Art always walks the course, and these three provide an enjoyable walk.

Born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Art has lived in Woodstock, Ontario, North Vancouver and Burnaby. He started working at a young age in the lumber business as a millwright and then worked his way up to senior sawyer. He worked 33 years for MacDonald Cedar in North Vancouver and Fort Langley; after they were purchased by International Forest Products, he continued at the same mill for another 10 years until retirement.

Art and his wife, Joan, enjoy many vacations cruising and in Hawaii. They have three children from his first marriage - Judy, Sue (husband Ian) and Barry (wife Colleen), six grandchildren, a great grandson, and recent addition, great granddaughter, Vie.

He identifies two of his favourite golfers as Fred Couples, for his demeanor on the golf course, regardless of the situation, and Greg Norman, for his tenacity and perseverance when dealing with circumstances that most normal folks would deem unfair.

We will conclude with Art's favourite golf joke. A husband and wife played golf together on a regular basis, but he was in the habit - after hitting his ball off the white tee - of walking ahead of the forward tee before his wife had hit her drive. It always made her nervous and she would constantly warn him that it was a dangerous thing to do. He shrugged her warnings off, saying that he was walking down the sides of the fairway, so he'd be OK. One day he had done the same thing but this time she shanked her ball and it veered to the right and hit him squarely in the back of the head. He immediately slumped to the ground and lay on his back. His wife quickly called the clubhouse for emergency assistance. After several minutes, help arrived and the emergency response team found her at her husband's side and it was apparent that he was no longer breathing.

The police arrived and asked her what had happened to cause his injury. She explained about accidentally hitting him with her tee shot in the back of the head and causing his immediate passing. The policeman said he understood that but could she explain the golf ball in her husband's mouth.

She replied, "Oh that – well, I had to hit a provisional!!!"

Prepared by Lorne Lindsay
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