

Sketch of a West Pointer – Bob Crawford



Bob was born on August 15, 1944 in Gisborne, New Zealand, also the home of the famous opera singer, Kiri te Kanawa. (He says he has a louder voice, but makes no claims about his ability to carry a tune!) As a schoolboy, he loved all sports and played tennis, field hockey, soccer, rugby, golf and cricket, where he was captain of the first eleven team. Despite seeming to spend most of his waking hours playing games, in his senior year he was selected as an American Field Service Scholar. He spent a year in Wisconsin Dells, where he helped take their golf team to the state finals. On his return to New Zealand, he went to Canterbury University in Christchurch, and earned LL.B. and LL.M. (Honours) degrees. He focused on his cricket at university and his summer holidays in Gisborne, playing representative cricket for the University, Poverty Bay, and Northern Districts under-23 teams. In 1968 he played for New Zealand Universities against Australian Universities, and in trial games for two provinces.

In 1969, he went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton to study oil and gas law and earned a second LL.M. degree. He also played for Alberta in interprovincial cricket matches! In 1970 he came to B.C. and articulated for the New Westminster law firm, McQuarrie Hunter (*the firm that also employed former West Point member Paul Levy*). Bob practiced law there for 30 years and was proud to work with C.D. McQuarrie, Q.C., for many years on major cases.

1971 was a big year for Bob, as he married Kathryn, and was called to the B.C. bar. Kathryn put up with his cricket playing for another decade as he played for West Vancouver, British Columbia and Canada. He became a partner in his firm in 1976. He is a devoted family man and the proud father of their three daughters, Lindsay, Julie and Meghan and their four teenaged grandchildren.

Bob has had a distinguished career of service to the legal profession: President of the New Westminster Bar Association in 1979, an elected member of the Canadian Bar Association B.C. Branch from Westminster County from 1979 to 1985, on the executive for his second term and National Civil Litigation Chair in 1985-86. In 1993 he organized the New Westminster Bar's centenary celebration. In 2001, he was elected a bencher of the Law Society. He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 2001 and retired in 2019. Bob served on the New West Chamber of Commerce and was president in 1988; was a trustee of the Surrey Library Committee for many years; member of the New West Rotary Club, and president in 2000-01; member of the Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation Board; and served on the hospital ethics committee for more than a decade.

Bob started golf in his late teens, beginning by caddying for a sturdy NZ farmer. He has been an excellent golfer over the years, and often played to a single digit handicap. Paul Levy reported that Bob "plays golf like he practiced law – studiously, carefully, calmly and accurately, devoid of emotional outbursts".

He returned to golf in the 1980's, after building a house in Crescent Beach, and getting involved at Nico Wynd, a 9-hole course built by Herb Fritz, a hardy WWII vet, and a man with a vision in creating the popular course. Fast forward to 2000 and Bob acquired a new set of clubs and scored a pair of 76s in the Nico "opens", and shot 75 in the Law Society's annual event. A hole-in-one remains elusive but he has eagled several par 4s.

Bob enjoys journeys to NZ, UK, Europe and Puerto Vallarta and has travelled with a friend who became a Canadian Ambassador, to Iran, Poland and Serbia. He reads widely, enjoys TV sports of all kinds but especially the All Blacks.

He cites a few golf memories: Sam Snead's tree story (*OK, look it up like I did*), Scott McCarron and the heron, and Mike Reid's 2-stroke penalty.* (*see below*). Bob has been a walking scorer for many events, beginning with the Women's du Maurier championship at Vancouver Golf Club, PGA championships at Northview, 3M PGA events at Minneapolis, Champions events at Austin, the Canadian Open at Shaughnessy, and the CPKC Women's Open at Point Grey. He's scored for Brandel Chamblee, Payne Stewart, Arnold Palmer, Johnny Bench, and Brooke Henderson.

When asked about his favourite golfers, Bob states that several have recently gone down in his opinion, either by playing golf with Trump or taking the LIV money and abandoning their principles. But his favourite threesome is Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan and Arnie. His New Zealand favourites are Bob Charles, Stuart Jones, Michael Campbell and Steve Alker. Golf courses that he admires are St. Andrews, Poverty Bay Golf Club in Awapuni, NZ and Semiahmoo.

Paul Levy introduced Bob to the West Point Golf Club in 2016. Bob says it has been a privilege to be a member. He enjoys the mix of people, many of like vintage, who play the game, enjoy the chit chat around the course and after the game, and of course the post game beer and camaraderie. He tips his hat to the executive who do a marvelous job. Bob has appeared in the winner's circle several times. He reflects that the funny part for him is that his game held up pretty well during his working life and he figured with the additional day or two of golf each week, that improvement would come, not going in the opposite direction. "But as always, the walk is healthy, the company excellent, and the beer always tastes fine."

Prepared from some material written by Paul Levy and more information submitted by Bob to Lorne - November 2023 to February 2024

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* Mike (Radar) Reid hit his ball over the green and into heavy rough on Northview's second hole. Bob and other volunteers went to help look for his ball. Mike was carefully using an iron to part the long grass and found his ball. He made a wonderful pitch onto the green and sank the putt. On the 3rd hole one of his playing partners' drive ended in a drainage area in the fairway. The player called for a Rules Person who came, looked at it and said, "Too bad, it should have been circled but it's not, so play it."

The player turned to Bob and asked for the Head Rules Person, who duly arrived, heard the plea, whipped out a spray can, marked the markedly sloped drain, and said, "Take relief," and the player did.

At this point, Mike Reid went over to the Head Rules Person and said, "I was looking for my ball at the back of the last hole in long grass, parted the grass with my club, and saw the ball. It moved down a bit and stopped, and then I pitched it on. Is that OK?"

The rules person asked, "Did you re-place the ball?"

Mike replied, "No."

Rules person, "Two shot penalty, one for moving the ball and one for not re-placing the ball..."

Mike missed the cut by one shot!

When Bob shared this story with some law students, he said that if they practiced law the way Mike Reid played golf, they would never be in trouble with the Law Society!