

## Sketch of a West Pointer – David Johansson



David was born in Chemainus, B.C. in early February 1948. His father worked in the forest industry. After Chemainus, they lived in Port Alberni before moving to Vancouver and the University Endowment Lands in 1952. His parents were avid golfers at Marine Drive Golf Club and for several years David walked the course with them, learning the basics of the game. When he was 8 to 10 years old, on summer days he and several chums would take an early morning bus ride to play at University Golf Course. He figures that these events were partly a way for his mother and other parents to keep their scruffy children out of their hair! Price of golf before 7 a.m. was 50 cents per round! David's recollections are that the game was a great way to spend part of a day walking in the early morning sunshine while surrounded by the forests. The course had mats for tees, bone-dry fairways (no irrigation) and well-maintained

greens. He still remembers the original layout of the course; the first hole was what is today called the 8<sup>th</sup>, the original 13<sup>th</sup> is now the 18<sup>th</sup>, etc.

In David's early years he also played field hockey. He started at age 8, participating through school and university and then as an adult. As youngsters, he and many of his friends continued to be active in the sport and in the 60's they became the Vancouver Hawks Field Hockey Club. It was a great socializing sport and David was active as one of its organizers, then a junior coach and finally a member of the "Grey Hawks" team up until 2010.

David played golf as a Junior Member at Marine Drive. In grades 11 and 12 he was on University Hill Secondary's golf team and thus got to play many courses around the Lower Mainland. In 1964, he attended the filming of Shell's Wonderful World of Golf at Capilano GC when the match featured two Canadian icons, Stan Leonard and George Knudson.

In the late 1960's, David's handicap was as low as 8, but usually 12 to 15. Although he never parred Marine Drive, he once shot a 1-under 70. His favourite golfer is Angel Cabrera, winner of the 2007 US Open and The Masters in '09. David watched on TV when Angel nearly won the 2013 Masters against Adam Scott. David recalls that, "Cabrera behaved like a real human being on the course, with full expressions of anger and delight and cigar smoking! In the final round, he was in the last grouping and needed a birdie on the 18<sup>th</sup> to tie Scott. In the driving rain, his second shot ended up within 10 feet of the flag and he drained the putt. On the second playoff hole, he was unlucky that his putt from approximately 20 feet did not drop. What a competitor!"

While attending UBC, David was among a group of students who played the University GC on Thursdays. As they were all in Arts and were able to schedule no classes for that afternoon (or skip them), Thursday was a great day for golf – and still is, David says. He graduated from UBC in 1970 with a B.A. in International Relations. Over the next 30 years he played golf less frequently.

In 1975 David enrolled at Vancouver City College in their Real Estate Appraisal programme. The following year, he and Ursula moved to Victoria where he began his first appraisal job and in 1978, they were married. David continued his interest and involvement in field hockey in Victoria. He also found time to occasionally play golf at Gorge Vale and Colwood. He recalls playing New Year's Eve at Gorge Vale and

continuing to party for the rest of the year! Moving back to Point Grey in 1980, David continued appraising and the couple welcomed the births of their two children, Lina and Greg. Lina and her family live in Regina now and Greg resides in Whitehorse with his fiancé. David had three other jobs in the Lower Mainland before joining Nilsen Realty Research in 1996. That company merged in 2004 as part of the Canada-wide firm known as the Altus Group. Valuation work there was often for litigation purposes such as arbitration or expropriation. He retired at the end of 2006.

In the mid-2000's, David began playing golf with a few old friends who were already regular Monday golfers around the Vancouver area. Upon retirement, he joined them and has maintained this very enjoyable tradition ever since. All are members of West Point Golf Club – Brian Boone, Keith Beglau and Dave Wilson. Brian sponsored David's application to join the Club in 2012. They have made a few road trips, including annual November junkets to Palm Springs where they like to play Eagle Falls, Indian Canyon South and the Mission Hills Pete Dye course. David's very steady play has helped him win many events, beginning with the Bud Brown Eclectic for low handicappers in 2014 and twice he's been the victor in the Laurie Craddock Vintage Cup, winning for the 55-69 age group in 2017 and again for the 72-76 age group in 2020. David has very much enjoyed his years of belonging to West Point, citing that it's such a well-organized and social club, with all members still focused on their golf scores, swings and handicaps.

David's wife, Ursula, took up the game after 2007. Their summer road trips to visit their daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren in Regina have usually included golf. Favourite courses are Desert Blume in Medicine Hat, Shadow Mountain (Cranbrook) and the Revelstoke Golf Club. Closer to home, their continuing favourite is Olympic View in Victoria. David ponders that his favourite course might be one that he has not yet played. In his youthful travelling days in 1971-72, he was hitch-hiking around Ireland and stayed in a small, scenic harbor town known as Kinsale, Ireland's most southern point. He remembers that it had fine Guinness, good music in the local pub and a cheap hostel. Nearby are the remains of a 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century fortress. He has since learned that there is a stunning seaside golf course known as Old Head Golf Links which occupies much of a peninsula that juts out into the Atlantic Ocean. *[Check it out on the internet; looks fantastic!]*

From an early age, David wanted to travel and see the world beyond North America. After his university graduation, his desire to see places and cultures and do things other than start a career resulted in a year-long trip to Europe in '71. He hitch-hiked around parts of England, Ireland, Europe, North Africa and finally across Canada. His enjoyment of travel has continued ever since on summer holidays when the kids were growing up and particularly once they left home for studies and life elsewhere in the country, and especially after he retired. Overseas trips have been mostly to central and southern Europe, although there have been others to Australia, Argentina and Iceland. Their vacations usually include walking expeditions. He admits his good fortune in seeing a lot of different places and declares that all have been worthwhile. One was their 3-week trip to Austria in 2018 where they enjoyed excellent late summer weather, beautiful mountain walks in the Alps and wonderful stays in local towns.

*Prepared from information submitted by David to Lorne - January 2021  
Published July 13, 2021*