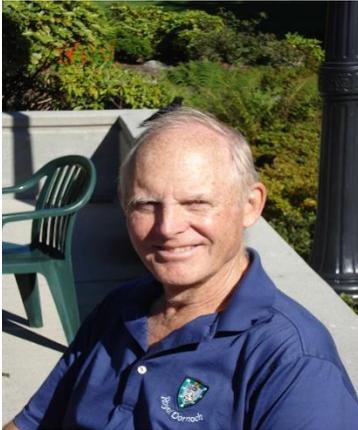


Sketch of a West Pointer – Russ Quinn



Russ Quinn came into this world during the first week of August 1946. In addition to living in Vancouver, he has also resided in Shawnigan Lake, B.C. and Toronto. Russ has had an interesting work career as a stockbroker, articling student and investment counsellor. *But it was during his days as owner of an indoor tennis club that I first met him.* Blue Mountain Racquets Club on the Burnaby-Coquitlam border was a great facility. My wife and I enjoyed many years of playing tennis there until Russ and Barb got a really good offer for the property and closed the doors forever. Russ and Barb were married in 1981 and have two children, Stephanie and Kelly. Russ had two children (Steven and Ali) with his first wife, Margot. There are 8 grandchildren to enjoy and spoil, with a ninth on the way!

The first time Russ ever hit a golf ball was at the age of 9, at the old Shaughnessy Golf Club (current site of Van Dusen Gardens). But the first time he was ever hit by a golf club occurred much earlier, in the family back yard. His younger brother, about 5 years of age, got mad at Russ and clobbered him on the head with a club, resulting in a trip to the hospital for Russ. When he was 13, Russ became a Junior member at Shaughnessy when it moved to its present location on S. W. Marine Drive. He says that, regretfully, his game has not progressed much since then! His lowest handicap has been 20 and remembers shooting a low score of 86 at McCleery. Russ joined West Point Golf Club in 2014, after learning about us from former member and captain, Don McPherson. Russ' wife had been cycling with Don and his wife in Spain at the time!

Some golfing memories include seeing a rattlesnake on the fairway in Arizona and a bear on the green at Furry Creek. *He didn't share what his score was on either of those occasions!* One day in 2006 he played as a single at Gorge Vale in Victoria and was pleasantly surprised when he was randomly paired with an old school friend. On another occasion, he arrived as a single at Nelson Golf Club in Nelson, New Zealand. As he walked to the first tee, he asked the couple if they would mind if he joined them. Their reply, "As long as you don't mind playing with a couple of Canadians." He has stayed in touch with Gerry and Florence Feehan of Red Deer ever since, doing a house swap with them in 2014.

One of Russ' favourite golfers is Phil Mickelson and he got to like him better as a result of his win at the 2021 PGA Championship, at the age of 50. He's also a fan of Jordan Spieth, who currently sits 24th in the World Ranking. Rory McIlroy fascinates Russ and he expects there are a few more victories on the horizon.

Russ' favourite golf course (he played with a friend who now lives there and Russ recalls scoring well) is the Tarrangower Golf Course in Taumarunui on the North Island of New Zealand, a beautiful track in a spectacular setting, the gateway to the Whanganui National Park. *Research reveals that the club is celebrating its centenary in November '21.* It is an attractive all-weather layout with undulating fairways guarded by magnificent oaks and giant redwoods. Hole names include The Gap, Wattles, Lookout and Ngauruhoe. Another memorable course is Ardglass, a links course in Northern Ireland, where he has played several times because a friend was a member. It's in a natural setting hugging the coast of Northern Ireland between Dublin and Belfast, has stunning views and unique golf holes. You can check out the drone flyover to enjoy Lamb's Lough, Cathlin (198 yards from the 12th hole white tees along the

ocean) and Cowd's Castle, an impressive finishing hole. Boasting the world's oldest clubhouse (1405), it claims to be "a perfect combination of subtlety, severity and consummate golfing experience." Locally, Russ likes The Meadows in Pemberton because it's inexpensive and easy to get a tee time!

A favourite vacation destination is Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Russ loves the culture, speaking the language (admitting that he is poor at it), the food and the warm climate. Russ loves golf trips and has played in the UK, US, Australia and New Zealand as well as many places in BC. During a 7-week holiday in New Zealand he became a member of the Nelson Golf Club for a short time. With so many beautiful courses in NZ, he admits being fortunate to play several of them. Russ is still chasing the elusive ace and admires any golfer who can shoot his age. He figures if he lives to be 100, he might be able to shoot his age.

Russ' passion is singing, and he particularly enjoys singing in a choir. Presently, the only choir he's singing with is the Canadian Memorial United Church choir, which has a great reputation for its music. Due to Covid-19, unlike golf, the group has not been getting together and await the "all clear" from Dr. Bonnie Henry. Music has been a big part of his life and over the years he's sung in quite a few choirs and groups. His favourite group was when he was in high school; it was called the Frenchmen Five. Russ played the banjo and the group performed at dances and a coffee house in Victoria. He was a member of the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir for 11 years before switching to the mixed voice choir at his church. He fondly recalls putting together a 16-voice Gospel Choir at Selkirk Wilderness Ski Lodge – it was so much fun.

For the past year and a half, Russ has been studying baritone ukulele with his instructor, Guido Heistek. His new repertoire includes swing music and tunes from the 30's, 40's and 50's – like "Nevertheless" by the Mills Brothers, "Don't Blame Me" by the Everly Brothers and "No, Not Much" by the Four Lads, all groups who were popular in the 50's and 60's. Other interests include photography, music, cycling, skiing and walking the beach. He definitely enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, although it can be tiring! His 16-year-old grandson, Jack, has become addicted to golf as it one of the things he can do during these Covid days. Russ thinks of golfers as optimistic masochists!

*Prepared from material submitted by Russ to Lorne - April 2021
Published September 14, 2021*