

## Sketch of a West Pointer – Peter Reid



Peter Reid was born on September 8, 1946 in Stockport, Cheshire, UK (near Manchester). When he was a young lad, his family moved to Poynton, a village on the outskirts of Manchester. He attended Stockport Grammar School where he discovered his interest in biological sciences. While in his early teens and kicking a tennis ball around the schoolyard, he became friends with others who shared the same passion. A group of them were Man United fans and would meet up outside Old Trafford for many of the home games, cheering on the likes of George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton. From Poynton it was three trains each way to the grounds, but as an avid train-spotter, that was a bonus! Peter remembers that it was something very special to attend a sporting event with 65,000 fans cheering loudly.

He attended St. Andrews University, Queen's College in Dundee, graduating with a BSc in Physiology. While there, he attended some Scottish Rugby Internationals at Murrayfield, Edinburgh. Peter recalls that those trips would not be complete without an evening on Queen's Street, and after the international game the pubs would be so busy that a trip to the bar and back to your mates would take about 20 minutes! After graduation, he went to Newcastle-upon-Tyne Polytechnic and completed a one-year course in Business Studies. This course-work provided opportunities to join the pharmaceutical industry, leading to his first career job with ICI Pharmaceuticals (later to become Astra-Zeneca), where he trained for a sales position in the field. His first sales appointment was based in Nottinghamshire, where he resided for 8 years.

During his university days, Peter had travelled to Canada and the United States on summer vacations. While working in Nottinghamshire, he developed a desire to explore new opportunities in Canada, so in 1977 he emigrated, became a Landed Immigrant and subsequently got his Canadian citizenship. He says that the best move he ever made was coming straight to Vancouver, where he has lived ever since. He has no regrets but he does miss "British Beers, the pub scene and the banter about football (soccer in North America), family and friends." Since arriving in Canada, he has had sales jobs in laboratory supplies and diagnostic testing, eventually retiring from Pfizer, after spending 30 years with the company. Peter says he genuinely loved working with the medical profession, interacting with medical specialists, nurses and pharmacies.

Peter's father died in 2002 but his Mum celebrated her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday in April 2023 and is the proud owner of one of the last "100<sup>th</sup> Birthday" cards from Queen Elizabeth II. Peter's second marriage produced his son Cameron, who today is seeking a career in biosciences at Simon Fraser University. Cameron was enrolled in a Dunbar junior football (i.e. soccer) program at age 5 and Peter took on the coach's role, progressed through the different age groups with Cameron, and found it to be a very rewarding experience. It allowed him to interact with a fine group of young men, coach with a fellow parent and enjoy the support and encouragement of the parents.

In 1996 Peter undertook a weekend experience called the Stirling Men's Weekend that fundamentally changed the course of his life, giving him the tools he required to become, "The man I always wanted to be." It saved his marriage, helped him on the way to becoming a man of honour and integrity, and a better role model for his son. It also gave him a better understanding and appreciation of the differences

between men and women. “To this day I am truly grateful as I now value the importance of hanging out, playing, and bullshitting with men about their lives and experiences.” He adds that West Point Golf Club is a great place for these interactions.

Peter’s passion as an athlete has always been football. He played in an over-55 league until about 8 years ago when he realized it was becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with players 10 years younger. He played racquetball and squash while at college and enjoys tennis in the winter at UBC. Recently he purchased a Pickleball bat, so that’s the next activity to conquer.

His father was keen for Peter to start golf, so at age 13 he took some lessons at his father’s club and had a junior membership for awhile. Unfortunately, Peter admits to being terrible at the sport and got frustrated so he gave it up. This meant that he never had a chance to play at St. Andrews, even though it was nearby during his university days. About 9 years ago he met his spouse, Shirley, and he learned very rapidly that she was an avid golfer and went on golfing holidays! Needless to say, he bought new clubs, took lessons and then joined West Point Golf Club in 2016. One of Peter’s regrets is that he never got to play golf again with his father, explaining that the game would have been very interesting as his father seemed to have the same combination of “the good, the bad and the ugly” strokes in his repertoire as Peter did. Peter’s current handicap of 20.5 is the best it’s ever been. His goal is to equal or surpass his father’s 16 handicap.

One of the pro golfers who Peter admires is Rory McIlroy, who despite his stature, hits incredibly long drives and always seems to be attacking the hole. Formerly, Peter admired Nick Faldo, and recently enjoys following Tommy Fleetwood, an up and comer from the UK.

His favourite course is the Municipal Course on Maui, for its scenic views of waves crashing alongside fairways and the fact that as you stand on the tee box, you have a magnificent view of the course and the ocean adjacent to it. Closer to home he enjoys the 9-hole layout at Sonora Dunes in Osoyoos, “as it is very quirky, winding its way through the desert terrain with the 6<sup>th</sup> hole featuring a vicious uphill dogleg and hazards both left and right up the fairway.” The first time he played the course a rattlesnake awaited his foursome on the first green. Needless to say, “Two putts all around!” Locally, he has always delighted in playing at Tsawwassen Springs, even though some holes are a struggle. A favourite golf story occurred a few years ago, during a round at Kings Links, when one of the players that day had 3 holes-in-one the same round!

If you don’t already know it, Peter is a train aficionado. As a young man he was a keen train-spotter, in the days of steam, just as the early diesel era hit the UK. He spent many happy hours, standing on the platform, or on railway bridges, spotting (i.e. collecting) the unique numbers of each locomotive, while wearing an anorak, of course. And eating white bread and tuna sandwiches, made lovingly by his Mum. He thrived on the excitement and exhilaration of seeing locomotives for the first time. These days he has become a 00-gauge model railroader, specializing in UK trains. He has his own layout at home and is an active member of a local model railway club.

When asked to comment on favourite vacations, Peter quickly responded about one that involved a trip to Cambodia. They stayed in the town of Siem Reap, which is the gateway to the ruins of Angkor. Surprisingly, the town featured some of the best restaurants imaginable. He recalls the people as extremely friendly and members of a safe society. He and his wife, Shirley, took a cruise down the Mekong River to Saigon and then on to Thailand. The locals obviously knew they were coming, because

as they arrived in their hotel room on the river in Bangkok, they were greeted by a fantastic firework display – in celebration of Chinese New Year!

Other favourite holidays include: a drive from Glasgow up the west coast of Scotland; taking the Jacobite steam special from Fort William to Mallaig (featuring the Glenfinnan Viaduct); staying in the main hotel of Kyle of Lochalsh and spending an evening in the bar with drunken fishermen and being regaled by their stories. Peter says that a visit to the Isle of Skye would not be complete without dining at the “Three Chimneys Restaurant” - which he said is rated in the top 10 restaurants of the world! They were ‘gobsmacked’ by the location, quality of food and excellent service.

Peter says he is very fortunate to have joined WPGC, as he enjoys the camaraderie and banter with different members each week. He relates that the club organization is great, says the opportunity to play at three different local courses on a regular basis is a privilege, and likes the option of playing away games at various courses throughout the season. He maintains that his most memorable golfing occasions have been with West Point Golf Club and playing team events. Check out his golf accomplishments under Galleries/Members and note that he has won many individual events in addition to the team game triumphs.

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