West Point Golf Club

1932 - 2021

Preface

The West Point Golf Club has the privilege of being one of the oldest golf societies in British Columbia, having been founded in 1932. It is a society of senior golfers (over 55 years of age), without direct financial or membership affiliation to any one course.

An excellent history of the Club, from 1932 to 1990, was researched and published by Ed Angel, a past President. Nearly 30 years have passed since that publication, and it was felt to be time that the history was updated to include this latter period.

The core of this additional material comes from extensive work done by Dave Stephens in analyzing Club records. This has been supplemented by information and photographs from the Club website, complemented by oral and written history from Club members.

The difficulty with any such history is the integration of the chronology of events with certain continuing themes. The current document is a hybrid of the two approaches, in an attempt to make the story of the Club more readable. The early history by Ed Angel has been condensed and included within the current document, so that the relatively short finished version covers the whole period of 85 years.

Special credit should be given to Ed Angel for his original history, to Dave Stephens for his in-depth research of the last 35 years, and to the Club's past and present webmasters, Ed Watson, Wayne Gatley and Gary Sinclair for their extensive records of photos and events. Thanks are also due to a number of past Board members who have provided their guidance.

Colin Mallet
President

West Point Golf Club Origins (1932-84)

In 1923, the Provincial Government set aside 2900 acres of land, popularly called the University Endowment Lands. This land was beside the newly re-located University of British Columbia and was intended to provide long-term funding for the University.

In 1928, an Order in Council was passed to establish a Public Golf Course on these University Endowment Lands, and the course was constructed between 1928 and 1930. Davey Black, the professional at Shaughnessy Golf Club, was the architect for the course, which was constructed by the General Construction Company.

The course was called the **Westward Ho Golf Club**, and opened on 24 May 1930, with only 9 holes ready, and an incomplete clubhouse. The first professional was Harry Winder, who came that month from the Riverside Club in California to take the position. The Opening Ceremony was well attended by local residents and was held in front of the "Shack", which became Harry Winder's Pro Shop for many years.

Harry Winder's Golf Shop

J. Ballard held the original lease for the course, but signed it over to John Boyd in 1931, and he became the first President of Westward Ho Golf Course Ltd. By **1932**, there was a growing group of regular players. With the strong support of Harry Winder, these players decided to get together to form a club, to participate in organized competitions and social activities. They chose the name '**West Point Golf Club**', and J.H. Lucas was elected as the first President of the Club.

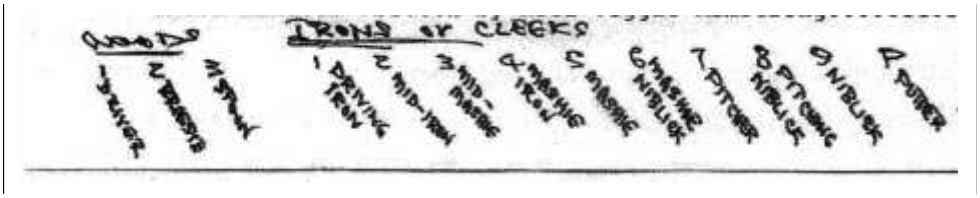
The initial annual membership dues were $10, green fees were 50 cents a round, the membership was limited to 100 (later expanded to 150), and the original competition days were Saturday and Sunday. Golfers toting their "drainpipe" bags were soon a common sight, riding Point Grey street cars grinding up the 10th Avenue hill to Sasamat, to play in Club events.

The Clubhouse on the corner of Blanca Street and University Boulevard, next to the 1st tee, was soon completed. Designed by Frank Mountain, it resembled a 'British Indian Bungalow' with a larger veranda on three sides and a two-foot overhang on the roof. This 'Bungalow' is still to be seen on the same site, 90 years later, now housing the BC Golf Museum.

Westward Ho Clubhouse

The course was well run and kept in good condition, with well- watered fairways. The number of West Point GC tournaments rapidly increased, with trophies donated by regular members. Their names, like those of the early tournament winners, are no longer so identifiable, although 'Joe Dwyer' still had a trophy in current competition in 2017.

A 'jigger' was also a common club (not to be confused with the tropical parasitic insect). It resembled a putter with a sharply inclined face for short chips onto the green. Putters with a lesser slope were also used in the past. One member, Bruce Groom, continued to use one very effectively into his 80's He had inherited it from his grandfather, so it was nearly



Jotted on Minutes 3 October 1995

as old as he was.

The rules of golf evolved, not always in the same way in Canada, under Royal & Ancient rules, as in the U.S., under U.S.G.A. rules. The smaller golf ball was still in use, and in 1938, the number of clubs permitted was reduced (!!) to 14. The 'stymie' was still permitted. When an opponent's ball lay more than 6 inches away from your ball, and directly between your ball and the hole, you were said to be 'stymied'. As in croquet, you had to use whatever creative means was felt necessary to sink one's ball in the hole. This rule was not changed until 1952. The West Point Golf Club continued to meet and compete through the 1930s, but membership naturally declined between 1939 and 1945, as many of the members 'went to war'. The Club went through a few 'lean years', and one or two special levies and contributions were required to keep it afloat. Divot Dust 1945 refers to the need for members to bring their own sugar!

While many members carried their own clubs on the course, there had been no shortage of caddies available to assist, until the war. It was at that point that the first 'pull carts' started to make an appearance.

Pull Carts…
The marketing approach for these carts might disturb the memories of some of our current members, who began their golf careers as caddies. "Many club players choose carts because they are annoyed by the kid who smirks when a shot is missed and lazes dreamy-eyed far behind, while the foursome fumes about delays. A caddie is more expensive than a cart, caddies are scarce, caddies are small, caddies are untrained, caddies are arrogant, which is natural when their services are in demand. Caddies insist on carrying double or they will not work. The Labour Laws are beginning to investigate if small children should be carrying 50-60-pound bags around a golf course for 4-5 hours. School age caddies are only available in the summer, and golfers are forced to carry their own clubs in the spring and fall!"

Membership of the West Point Golf Club increased as soon as people returned from the 2nd World War.

New tournaments were established, and the annual **'Monkey Golf and Smoker'** was a popular feature from the 1940s through the 1970s. This was a team competition, and the Captain of each team allocated one club to each player. Team members played in an unbroken sequence, regardless of the appropriateness of the club that they had been allotted, whether it was a driver, a 5 iron, a 9 iron or a putter. The game required 'serious' concentration, but roars of laughter could always be heard around the course.

In 1957, the West Point Club held an Anniversary Banquet and Celebration, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Club. The gathering was very well attended, and included 14 past presidents, as well as John Boyd, founder of the golf course, and Harry Winder, the Club Professional. Of the Past Presidents, one of them, Don Renshaw, who was Captain of West Point in 1956, was still playing every week at the University Golf Club in 2017.

From the earliest days, the Club members were interested in the training and encouragement of **Junior Golfers**. In the 1960s, the Junior Development program reached a high point with clinics, driving range practice and tournament competitions, and developed some excellent junior golfers. As one Club President said "Once a young boy or girl is given the opportunity to learn the basics of golf, they receive much more than golf lessons, instructions in etiquette and rules. They learn such things as self- discipline, how to get along with others, reward for effort, self- control and much more. Any contribution in this direction, no matter how small, will always be worthwhile".

In 1960, Mrs. Lilian Baldwin, daughter of John Boyd, succeeded her father as President of Westward Ho Golf Course. She continued to operate the Club until July 1, 1971, when the lease ran out. The lease was not renewed by the Provincial Government, and control passed to the University Endowment Lands. At the same time, long time Professional, **Harry Winder**, took the opportunity to retire, after 41 years of outstanding service to golfers of Westward Ho and the West Point Golf Club.

The next few years were very frustrating for the West Point Golf Club members. Grandiose plans were made to renovate and update the course and build a new clubhouse, but little was implemented. A new Professional was appointed and told that the West Point Club had to open membership to all comers. At the start of 1973, the Club had 252 members. At the same time, pre-booking and course time for special events were eliminated. The Club had tee times for less than half the members!

The popular Monkey Golf & Smoker was dropped, because the new Westward Ho Administration could not provide a free evening for the event, but it was replaced by a new **Palcutta Smoker & Tournament**, which has subsequently continued for nearly half a century. Harry Winder was approached with the intent of establishing a regular golf Calcutta event. However, he made it clear that he would not permit any overt gambling events at his course and denied this initiative. The Club wouldn't accept "no" as an answer, so they put a different spin on their idea and convinced Harry that the event that they had in mind was just a friendly competition between golfing "Pals" and coined the term "Palcutta" to describe it. Harry accepted this "re- packaging" and the Palcutta Smoker and Tournament was launched.

In an exciting ending to one tournament, the 3-round Harry Winder Trophy, the story goes that Roy Moulton was eight strokes ahead with 18 holes left to play, then the roof fell in. Peter Roche, with superb play, pulled into a tie with Roy at 202 net, while Tim Oke, on the verge of passing both, put two balls out of bounds for a disastrous nine, and a 203 net. Roy weathered the storm by beating Peter in an 18- hole playoff.

Meanwhile, in 1974, the Club looked for expansion in a new direction. A number of players expressed interest in forming a group to play on weekdays, because of the shortage of weekend tee times. It was agreed that the **Mid-Week Club** would be a division of the West Point Golf Club. Membership would be limited to senior players, 55 years and over, and would initially be capped at 25 members, paying the same annual dues as the parent, West Point Golf Club. There were 20 Charter members of the West Point (Mid-week) Golf Club initially, and Ed Angel was elected as the first Captain.

While the West Point club had been operating since 1932, it was only formally incorporated as a society under the BC Societies Act in 1975, with a constitution and bylaws. The constitution was short and to the point: the name of the society was to be the West Point Golf Club; its operations were to be primarily in Vancouver; and its purposes were to be:

"… the encouragement of good fellowship among the members and the promotion of Golf, and other sports and games, and such related recreational activities as the Board of Directors may from time to time deem suitable but not

the operation of a social club."

Why the drafters felt compelled to refer to the exclusion of a "social club" in the purposes is lost in the mists of time. Reflecting the arrangements in place at the time, the bylaws provided for a Mid-Week Golf Committee, chaired by a West Point director elected by the members of the Mid-Week Section.

Over time, the Mid-week section expanded with some excellent golfers. One feat was recounted regarding long time member, Jim Simpson: In the week of Oct 1, 1979, playing on the Monday in a foursome including Ed Angel, he teed up on the par 3 ninth hole, and stroked the ball in for an easy hole-in-one. Then on Friday of the same week, again playing with West Point members, Jim managed a second hole-in-one on the par three fifteenth hole!

Not great odds…
"The odds against a hole-in-one are 10,331 to 1. If you play 50 games a year, with 4 par 3s per round, you may get a hole-in-one by the year 2039."
Divot Dust, June 1989

The Winds of Change: Gathering Clouds (1984 - 85):

For the first 10 years of the existence of the Mid-Week sub-group, the West Point Golf Club maintained a healthy membership, but there was little active management of the Westward Ho Golf Course, and little was done except to the mere administration of fees. In 1984, the provincial government called for proposals to lease the course (officially the University Endowment Lands Golf Course) for a period of 20 years, with a view both to putting the management of the course in private hands, and to increasing Crown revenues. Thirty-eight bids were received, and a 20-year lease from April 1, 1985, with a further 20-year extension option, was granted to a Vancouver group. Their plans were to renovate the course, build a new Clubhouse, and change the name to '**The University Golf and Country Club'.**

Westward Ho Clubhouse… Revitalized with new owners, and a new layout and clubhouse, UGC did not need the 'British India Bungalow' Westward Ho Clubhouse, at the corner of Blanca and University Blvd which had been the original home of the West Point Club. Various ideas for its future use were considered and rejected. The building fell into disrepair. Finally, with considerable political, financial and above all, volunteer support, the golf community was able to restore the building to accommodate a new Golf Museum. With its emphasis on the history of golf in BC, the Museum agreed to hold the records of the West Point

Although the new lessees were obliged to maintain the course as a public course, there was little room in their new plans for a separate club to use the golf course, and no particular concern for the needs of Seniors. The West Point Club's concerns were vigorously voiced to the Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing, but without result. The new management's plans were finally clarified in October, 1985: West Point members were given until 31 December to apply for membership in the University Golf Club. After that, UGC members would be chosen from that Club's own application list. There was no room for a separate West Point Club to play at the UGC course.

In his opening remarks to the WPGC AGM on January 28, 1986, President Don Gilchrist noted that "The new operators of the UGC have elected to run a proprietary golf club… and the West Point Golf Club no longer enjoys any

Golf Club, and the Club became a donating member of the BC Golf House

playing privileges on the course". He indicated that as of that date 210 of 285 West Point members had taken advantage of the opportunity to become members at the University course. Because of the dramatic change in the West Point Club's circumstances, it was agreed that the Club funds would be divided equally among the existing members, with those signifying their intention to continue membership in West Point contributing their share to the "new" WPGC to play elsewhere.

New Beginnings from the Ashes: 1986 - 2000

It was the members of the Mid-Week section who formed the core of the **"new" West Point Club**, and who inherited its constitution and bylaws. At the Special General Meeting of the new Seniors' group, in **April 1986**, a new West Point Golf Club Board was elected, under the Presidency of Neil McIntyre. The Club's bylaws have been gradually updated over time, most recently in 2017, but the fundamentals remain the same as those of the original WPGC.

At the same meeting, **McCleery** was chosen as the **new 'Home' course**. Alvie Thompson, the McCleery Professional, welcomed the Club, but he was unable to grant block tee times or any other special concessions, due to the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Board's policies. Ed Angel described the "new" Club's first year:

> "The move to the McCleery Golf Club was not without its problems. A new home without a clubroom available to the members, a depleted membership, disorganized foursomes, and the lack of tee times created temporary difficulties. Therefore, 1986 was of necessity a year of rebuilding and consolidating an active membership, familiarizing the members with their new home, and creating a friendly rapport with the Pro Shop and Clubhouse staff."

Opening day was Friday, May 9, 1986, and Fridays were established as the Club day. The opening annual budget was set at $2360, and annual membership dues at $30, both of which doubled over the next 2 years, as members and activities were added.

The new version of the Club started with 57 regular members and one honorary member, but an initial goal of **75 members** was reached by June 1987. (There were subsequent ups and downs in the numbers, but the Club was able to gradually increase its membership cap to 85 in 1991, 100 in 1994, rising to 110 in 2015).

McCleery Golf Course occupied the site of the former McCleery farm, established in 1862 by the McCleery brothers. It was later sold by Mrs. Harry Logan (nee Theodora McCleery) to the Vancouver Park Board, on condition that it would be a recreation area in perpetuity. The course was designed by the golf architect, AV Macon and opened for play as a public course in July 1959.

McCleery Club House

In the years 1987/88, a broad competition program was established at McCleery including:
Weekly Honey Pot
Doug LeBlanc Shield for the Monthly Medal
McIntyre Trophy for 54-hole Net Stroke Play
Renshaw Singles Champion Trophy
Ed Angel Trophy for 4-ball Competition
Roli Parker Shield for a 4-game Eclectic

With a capped membership, there were feelings from time to time that members, who were infrequent participants in Club activities, were blocking keener new applicants. This was partially handled in 1988 by the reestablishment of an **Associate (Social) category of membership**, to accommodate members who 'by reason of disability can no longer play regularly but wish to be involved in the Club's Social activities'.

In conjunction with this, the WPGC Board introduced criteria for membership in the Club, including the requirement that potential members had to have a handicap of 30 or less on joining, and agree to play a minimum of 10 games each year with Club members on regular Club playing days.

As noted earlier, prior to 1986, the West Point Club had been a strong supporter of **Junior golf**. When the club split in 1986, the majority of members favoured turning West Point's Junior Development Program Fund over to the University course. It was only later realized that the University course did not have a junior program, and the funds were retained by WPGC. In each of 1987 and 1988, after West Point started using McCleery as its 'home' course, the Club made donations of $200 to the junior program there. The program appears to have been run by the McCleery (weekend) Men's Club, and complications crept in. Finally, in 1992, the McCleery Men's Club decided that it could not accommodate outside donations to its program, and it was a number of years before Junior Program support was revived.

The traditional **Palcutta** was continued, and in 1989, Ed Bobinski and Jack Apps swept both the Player Pool and the Auction Pool, from a field of 23 two-man teams. Subsequently, teams were extended to 4 players instead of 2. It was explained in Divot Dust that one of the main reasons for the change was 'age': "unexpected illness or injury (or perhaps, we could suppose, 'on course misadventure') usually crops up and ruins (the scores) of a twosome. Whereas with a foursome, it will only happen to one of the four, leaving three to contribute".

From the start, the **lack of a regular weekly block of tee times** was a perennial problem. Tee times were usually held for the Club on Opening and Closing days, and sometimes for the Palcutta, but otherwise individual members had to

show up at the McCleery clubhouse at 5.30 am on Thursday mornings to receive a numbered token. Starting at 7.00 am, the Pro Shop would alternate between taking phone calls from the public and assigning tee times to WPGC token holders. One can only marvel at their dedication.

As the Park Board continued to ignore the Club's requests for block times, this issue became a major pre-occupation for successive Club Boards. In 1994, it reached the stage that a search was made for a new host location. At the January 1995 AGM, members were asked whether they wanted to play at Surrey, Delta, Guildford, or Green Acres, all of which were prepared to offer block times, but the vote was 28 to 20 to stay at City courses. Various other solutions were presented to the Park Board over the next 2 decades, including a pre-payment premium, but to little avail.

Once WPGC was re-established, there was a generally amicable relationship between the new West Point Club and the former members still at the University Club, not least because there was a significant overlap of membership. In May 1989, 37 West Point and 35 University course members played a friendly game together at Lake Padden, with a further match in July at the University course, which was won handily by West Point (36-21). Norm Clark donated a trophy, and an "Annual" event was established.

Early on, A**way Games** became an important part of the new West Point program. From a single away game at the Lake Padden course in 1986, the number increased to five by 1990, over a range of courses. An informal survey of members in 1995 indicated that their preferred courses for away games were, in order of preference, Lake Padden, Squamish, Sandpiper, Northview, Mayfair Lakes and Surrey, while Carnoustie, Green Acres, Meadow Gardens, and Burnaby Mountain had also been played in the past. In 1996, the **Bob Jack Trophy** was established to recognize the WPGC member with the lowest total net score over at least three away games over the course of the season.

In 1990, the Club Board also inaugurated a new membership category for **Honorary Life members**, for those who had made major contributions to the West Point Club, and who would be absolved from paying further membership dues – this was revised in 2008, and more detail is given at that point in this history.

Members of the 'new' West Point Club felt sufficiently confident in 1990, to commission their own **Club crest**, which was eventually used on bag tags and Club caps. The following year, 1991, saw the retirement of Ed Angel, who had been a driving force behind the successful re-birth of the new Club; he retired as President in 1991, but his invaluable contributions to the Club continued with his authorship of the Club history from 1932 - 1990, which forms the basis of the first part of the current document.

Unfortunately, there were still occasional bumps along the road, relating to the ownership of trophies, and the regret that some University Golf Club members had in losing the “West Point” name.

While most West Point members appear to have put the emotions of the 1986 split behind them, it is clear that it continued to rankle with some. In early 1992, six years after the break, the then editor of Divot Dust, felt compelled to publish a two-page, 40-point editorial reviewing the reasons why West Point had left the University course, offering strong criticism of its management, and suggesting that the 15 charter members of West Point who were also members at the University course were trying to relive “the good old days” there, and should “come home…to help us operate your WPGC as a single entity, supported by the entire membership”. This editorial provoked a strong letter in response from Past President, Roli Parker, refuting the editorial’s main points and maintaining that “it is well past time to put this ‘University Course’ thing behind us once and for all”. The editorial also prompted President Fred Walsh to write to all members on behalf of the Club Board, noting that the views expressed in the editorial did not reflect the views of the Club Board or the policy of the West Point Club, and regretting that the editorial had given rise to many negative comments and had distressed some members personally. The editor subsequently resigned.

The first Putting and Chipping Jamboree was held in 1990. It was spiced up with a ‘Stylish and Outrageous Costume event’. Patti from the Pro Shop loaned her friendly personality as judge and awarded Dave Fairweather the prize for

The First Putting and Chipping Jamboree

the most outrageous costume, while Ed Angel received the one for being most stylishly dressed. This event was extremely popular and remained a regular Club social/golf occasion for many years, albeit with fewer 'outrageous' costumes.

While West Point was primarily a Golf Club, **social activities** were (and are) important. Socials associated with the opening of each season and with the Palcutta were annual events, and there were other, one-off social gatherings, such as the garden party held at the home of former President Reid Mitchell in August, 1988.

Above and Beyond? When WPGC President Noel Armstrong discovered that a liquor license was needed for the 1996 Social at the Arbutus Recreation Centre, he went to the liquor store, got a licensee program manual, studied it, wrote the exam (scoring 100%) and received his license, after writing a cheque for $48.

The **Annual Banquet and Awards Night**, typically held in late November, was one of the social highlights of the year. For the first 3 years, the event was held at the UBC Faculty Club, but that proved somewhat expensive, so the Bella Casa restaurant was used until 1998, with a successful timing change made that year from an evening to a lunchtime affair, on the grounds of " … age and driving safety". With this new timing, the Arbutus Club seemed a better venue, and the Annual Banquet and Awards Event has been there held since 1999.

The **West Point Club's relations with the City and the Park and Recreation Board** (VPB) played a major role in the life of the Club. In that regard, Trudeau Senior's elephant analogy comes to mind. In managing the Fraserview, McCleery and Langara courses, the City and the VPB regularly made decisions that had a significant impact on the operations of WPGC, while WPGC had very little leverage, not even being officially recognized by the City. As a result, a good part of the WPGC Board's energy was expended on battles over a range of issues. Besides the VPB's opposition to granting the Club block tee time booking rights, these included green fee changes, winter closures, and course renovations.

"Living next to the USA is in some ways like sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered the beast is, one is affected by every twitch and grunt."
Pierre Trudeau, 1969

Green fees: Increases in green fees had been one of the aggravating factors in the decision to leave the University Golf Club and play at the City courses. The switch did not make the issue go away – it simply made WPGC subject to decisions by the City and the VPB rather than by the University course.

Another Course Diversion? This is a transcript of an actual conversation between a US Navy Ship and Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland, October 1995…

***US** Please direct your course 15 degrees north to avoid a collision.*
***CDN** Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees south to avoid a collision.*

In early 1987, the year after the Club's move to McCleery, the VPB had "abruptly" discontinued the sale of regular, senior and 20-game passes. After protests from WPGC and others, the pass was reinstated at a 50% higher price. Another strongly-worded petition was signed by more than 200 golfers, that: "This disregard and lack of consideration for Senior golfers will make it financially impossible for many Seniors to participate regularly in the healthful exercise and fellowship of the sport that they have supported for many years. We urge reinstatement of the Annual senior ticket with an increase in cost commensurate with the proposed increase in the daily rate".

The VPB did decide to retain the senior pass for 1990, at a cost of $250 for 50

US *This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert your course.*
CDN *No I say again, divert your course.*
US *This is the battleship USS Missouri. WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP of the US Navy. DIVERT YOUR COURSE.*
CDN *This is the lighthouse…your call!*
Divot Dust March 1997

18-hole games, to be played from Monday through Friday only, but then added a further 17% to the price in 1991. In high dudgeon, WPGC President Noel Armstrong prepared a petition to the VPB and City Council, signed by nearly 100 seniors, protesting the "unconscionable" proposed increase, which the petition described as flagrant discrimination against seniors, the effect of which would be to "force the majority of them from the sport they enjoy and require to maintain their physical well-being. This mandate of the Parks and Recreation Board (VPB) to provide recreation facilities on a fair and equitable basis for all citizens will be tarnished and open to public rebuke. We urge reconsideration of this outrageous policy". The VPB was not swayed by Armstrong's rhetoric and decided to phase out passes entirely by the end of 1994.

Winter Closures: Frosty Reception: In August 1991, the VPB proposed closing all 3 courses for 3 months in the winter, to 'save $75,000'. It took the WPGC President, Dave Fairweather, to point out to them that, far from saving money, a winter closure would cut into the $1.4 million revenue contribution that golf made to the City. He argued that they should instead be making significant investment in the courses. Nothing more was subsequently heard of this idea for winter closures!

Course Development: Dave Fairweather may have regretted urging the VPB to move on course improvements, as the Board subsequently developed a plan to renovate its three main courses. WPGC supported improvements to McCleery's drainage and watering systems, but voiced strong objections to the VPB Commissioners regarding the projected $24.9 million cost, arguing that there was no need for an expensive new driving range, particularly since one had just opened at Musqueam. Changes would also have to be made to the front nine to accommodate the driving range, and McCleery would have to be closed while these extensive renovations took place. He further argued that the costs of the renovations should not be borne by golfers through increased green fees, since the profits from golf course operations, of over $1 million a year over the past five years, had not been used to finance improvements, but instead been drawn into general City revenues.

The project was nevertheless approved by the VPB in May 1992. Protests continued over the next year. A letter to Mayor Gordon Campbell focused on the impact of the course closure and green fee increase on Seniors, particularly the unfairness of unloading the costs onto golfers, when the users of other City facilities – beaches, play fields, tennis courts, swimming pools – made no direct contribution to their capital costs.

In September 1992, some **100 golfers demonstrated outside City Hall** and in the public galleries, calling into question the Board's plans. Efforts were also made to engage the Vancouver Sun, the McCleery Men's Club and the Musqueam Golf Centre, but the project and the closure of McCleery Golf course went ahead in September 1994.

Fortunately for WPGC, Muncie Booth, the Pro at Langara, was agreeable to having the club play there on Mondays while the work at McCleery was going on. Although other courses were considered in the interim, West Point continued to play at Langara until the end of the 1998 season, returning to McCleery only in 1999. The variety of playing 2 courses appealed to members, and in 2002, WPGC was able to start playing annually in July and August at Langara.

Handicaps: Until the slope system was introduced on January 1, 1994, handicaps were calculated using differentials. Keeping differentials up to date and reviewing them was very time-consuming, with each one reviewed by the Vice-Captain weekly or biweekly, depending on the number of scores each member had submitted. This included rechecking the handicaps of members "who have exhibited unduly superior prowess in Club competitions", and, if justified, assigning revised handicaps. There is no indication as to how often the Vice-Captain had occasion to do this!

Handicap Committee: "Members of the WPGC requiring 'Handicap Negotiations' will be entertained behind the Green Door on the 5th Floor of the McCleery Club House. Appointment by fax only." - Divot Dust Feb 1990

The introduction of the slope system in 1994 corresponded roughly with the advent of computers for calculating handicaps. The first reference in Club records to **computers** occurred in 1992, and - perhaps reflecting an inter-generational gap that has persisted over time – it noted that "Al Williams agreed to discuss the use of computers with his daughter". This resulted in 1994 in the first computerization of the Club's handicap system, using BCGA software.

Roy Moulton took over the management of our handicap data in 1999. Prior to that time, our handicaps were computed by the daughter of the Captain, Bud Brown, and she lived out of town. She provided us with a CD, but no-one was able to load it on to the McCleery Club computer, which West Point arranged to use, so loading had to be done by hand, from print outs of each member's data.

As Roy said "It was a mind-numbing task: it took me a week to enter all the information, which included 20 scores from each of 99 members, a total of nearly 2000 scores, with date, course, tee, gross score, adjusted score, and in many cases course slope and rating. Numerous interruptions from golfers entering their latest scores didn't help!"

The New Millennium: 2000 - 2021

The Millennium started on a high. Membership was full, with 100 regular playing members and five on the wait list, and both the Opening Social and the golf opening day attracted record turnouts, at 75 and 84 respectively.

There was a full golf program of weekly play, at McCleery, and away games were held at Morgan Creek, The Falls, Mayfair Lakes, Northview, Sandpiper and Redwoods.

The **Joe Dwyer Shield** was introduced, named after the Club's longest-serving member (he joined in 1932). In a generational change, it was decided in April 2000 to stop describing social events as **"Smokers"** (a term that had been used since at least the 1940's), on the grounds that the word was not descriptive, and "downright scary" to some members. Henceforth, effective immediately, social events were to be described as "Socials".

"In the 1999 Club Championship, I was playing against a very deliberate opponent on a stinking hot summer afternoon at McCleery. At the 14th tee there was pressure and grumbling from behind us. I was two up with the honour and drove promptly. My opponent went into his seemingly interminable routine, eventually reaching the top of his backswing, when, inexplicably, he stopped, put his club down and removed his shirt. Several minutes later he continued. I dared not speak. Fortunately, the match concluded quickly, and I made my escape!"

Recollections of a West Point Member

Green fees had not been an issue for some time, but the VPB proposed a substantial 30% increase for seniors for the 2001 season (compared with 5% for non-seniors). Membership Director Stan Lawson pointed out at a VPB meeting in May that City golf courses had made a profit of $3.2 million in 2000. This had then been used to fund other Board programs: "…it appears that the VPB sees the golf courses as a real cash cow that must be milked vigorously. I am sure that all golfers have a charitable nature but there is a limit".

A number of significant changes were made in 2002. On the social side, the long-standing Summer Social was cancelled in the face of declining attendance, and in a successful effort to increase attendance at the AGM, it was decided to hold the AGM and the Awards banquet on the same day.

On the golf front, **"Gimmees"** were relaxed. These were a perennial point of member grumbling and Board discussion. It was decided that gimmees of up to 12" should be permitted (to be marked by tape on putter shafts) since it was considered impossible to enforce a "no gimmees" rule. This lasted only one season, before being reversed, not for the last time!

With 15 block times, and that for only seven games in the season, the majority of tee times continued to be obtained through phone booking by individuals, partly for their foursomes and partly for the general membership. Michael Alms coordinated this for years. The Club was finally able to obtain block booking for all games at Langara in 2005, through the efforts of the Captain, Stan Lawson, but McCleery times were still limited. It wasn't until 2009, as described later, that this changed.

By early 2003, membership had fallen to 78. This led to a decision in 2005 to move the minimum entry age from 60 to 55, to reflect the fact that retirement at 55 was becoming more common. In the event, 26 new members joined the Club during the 2005 season, resulting in a year end complement of 95, with 9 Associates and 13 still on the waiting list.

Jack Jones was at one time our oldest member. He had been Air Canada's 1st 747 commercial pilot. It was rumoured that they had fitted blocks on the pedals, so that he could reach them. He always pushed a cart and payed briskly. One day we were being held up by some very much younger members. Jack was nigh on 90, and I tried to have him shout down the fairway, "While we are still young!". Unfortunately, he was too much of a gentleman to stoop to that level. In 2005, Jack shot an 85 on McCleery, 5 shots less than his age!

Recollections of a club member

On the administrative front, it was agreed that the Club should withdraw from the BCGA and the RCGA, on the grounds that the benefits were not worth the costs (some $1,800). The BCGA and RCGA were duly informed of this decision, leading to a response from the BCGA notifying WPGC of its 'expulsion' from the organization.

Super Senior and Senior Masters competitions were introduced in 2003 for members 75-79 years of age (still young), and 80 and over (still less young), reflecting the age span of the Club. The first-year winners were Dave Fairweather and Arnold Tennant. The following year, the Bud Brown Eclectic was added, named after the long-standing Divot Dust editor and former Captain, complementing the extremely popular Parker Eclectic.

"May all your shots lie in green pastures, not in still waters."
Gary Sinclair, Divot Dust May 2004

In a radical step to accelerate the Club's move into the 21st century, President Gary Sinclair used e-mail to send out Minutes of the January 2005 Board meeting to Committee members. This move was well received by the general membership, and Membership Director, Ray Dujardin, bravely moved to e-mail to distribute the July, 2005 issue of Divot Dust to the 74 West Point members who had provided their e-mail addresses; the other members continued to receive their copies through regular mail.

Development of a West Point website proceeded in parallel with the rollout of e-mail communications. The new website had been unveiled to members by President Gary Sinclair at the Palcutta Social in August, 2005. By September it was up and running, with new features being gradually added, including tee time posting of the draw, lists of winners and awards, and a members' gallery. It rapidly became the Club's primary channel of information, with an average of 700 visits/month. Gary Sinclair continued to manage the site for some 12 years, assisted by Ed Watson, before Wayne Gatley and Ed took over full responsibility.

Shooting one's age is a remarkable feat, achieved by only 9 in a million golfers. Shooting one's age in the tournament itself would be even more unusual. In the future, George Drew would better this in 2015, shooting a 79 off the whites, in the tournament at Fraserview, at the age of 81.

Paul Levy and Laurie Craddock had noted that 9 members or about 10% of the active membership, had shot their age, a record which few other clubs ever achieve. Paul created a "**Book of Champions**", recording details of every member who shot his age. He also established an annual competition (later named the Ab **Miles Tankard**) for this elite group in 2005, in which they used their respective ages as their handicaps. Doug Symonds (who shot his age 53 times) won in 2005, when Ab Miles disqualified himself for playing the wrong ball on one hole, but Ab won the following 2 years, shooting an 85 in this competition in 2007, at the age of 85. Initially this elite category only included members playing off white tees, but it was later extended in 2017 to those who shot their age off red tees.

Between 2005 and 2007, a number of major changes were made to the golf and social program:

- ∴ A '**Pocket Reference'** booklet was designed and produced by Brian Ciccozzi, consolidating in one handy document the club roster, the club rules, the calendar of events, and competition descriptions; this became invaluable to members, and Brian expanded the content and edited and produced this booklet each year until 2019, by which time its contents could be sent out and updated more easily online. The Club Accounts were also automated by Brian, simplifying the job of future Treasurers.
- ∴ Social events, apart from the AGM lunch, were moved to the Langara clubhouse.
- ∴ A Club 'Stroke Play' Championship was established, separate from the Club Match Play Championship;
- ∴ The **Captain's Table** was introduced by Jim Selley as a permanent weekly feature of the golf day, providing a focal point for score recording and interaction with members. This eliminated the need for the Saturday morning ritual of card scrutiny.

The category of Honorary Life membership had existed since 1990. It recognized significant contribution to the Club. Roli Parker had been nominated as the first 'Honorary Life Member' at that time, followed later by Ed Angel and Joe Dwyer.
In 2008, this category was split into two parts, **Lifetime Members** and **Honorary members**, the latter category being for members who were no longer active in Club golf. Dave Fairweather was appointed as a Lifetime member in that year, followed in successive years by Roy Moulton, Hugh Marshall, Gary Sinclair and Ray Dujardin, reflecting their tremendous work for WPGC. In 2010, Jesse Cove was nominated as the first Honorary member, and Roy Moulton moved from Lifetime to Honorary membership in 2015 as his golfing career wound down. This permitted recognition of the stellar work of Jim Selley and Brian Ciccozzi, and their appointment as Lifetime members in 2014 and 2016 respectively. In 2019, Gary Sinclair and Ray Dujardin were given Honorary membership, as their golf careers with the Club wound down, while Lorne Lindsay was honoured with Lifetime membership, recognizing his contribution to the Club.

Lifetime Members

In 2007, the Club was able to negotiate 15 block tee times at McCleery – a major step forward – but a strike by Vancouver civic workers in the third week of July, effectively closed the City courses. In anticipation of the strike, Jim Selley approached the Riverway course in Burnaby and the Burnaby Parks Board about the possibility of West Point playing there. They were receptive, offering 14 block tee times on Tuesday mornings, and play shifted there until mid-September.

Art Roberts was a switch hitter at baseball. When he took up golf at the age of 19, he tried a round playing the front 9 holes left-handed and the back 9 right-handed. Scoring better on the back 9, he decided to play right-handed. When he was 82, he reached the 18th green at Langara in 80 shots, and needed 2 putts to shoot his age. He was dismayed to sink the 1st putt, for a score of 81, because being of a literal turn of mind, he figured that he had failed to shoot his age of 82! Fortunately, in August 2012, he reached his goal of shooting exactly 84 on Langara.

Recollections of a club member

While participation at Riverway was lower than at the City courses, there was strong interest on the part of some West Point members in continuing to play there, and the interest was clearly reciprocated. The following Spring, the Burnaby Parks Board offered WPGC a full block of tee times at an attractive price if the Club left the Vancouver courses and played at Riverway instead. However, with the strike resolved, the Club decided to return to McCleery and Langara for 2008 with a full golf program.

There were still lingering questions about whether the Club's long-term future lay with the City courses; West Point was still limited to 15 tee times at McCleery, with no indication that that cap was likely to be removed anytime soon. In addition, there was concern that the University course might be closed to public play if ongoing negotiations led to the transfer of that course to the Musqueam Band, possibly putting additional pressure on the City courses. These concerns and other issues, relating to the day of play, Club size and choice of tees, led to a decision to hold a **Special General Meeting of the Club** at Langara in October 2008, to seek members' input. Some 53 members attended. Jim Selley led the discussion:

- ∴ There was close to unanimous support for continuing to hold regular weekly games at McCleery and Langara;
- ∴ A majority of members favoured playing regular weekly games on Thursdays, especially if this resulted in the Club being granted more block tee times;
- ∴ A number of members were interested in playing an additional, informal

game at Riverway on Tuesdays;

∴ Members were in favour of continuing to play from the white tees on all courses (however this was amended in 2012 to introduce the option of red tees);

∴ There was support for a Club membership limit of 100 members (however this was subsequently raised to 110 in October 2016 as members' weekly participation fell below the traditional block tee time allocation).

Following further correspondence with the VPB, they engaged consultants, to review their golf operations. Members of the West Point Club were invited in January 2009, to present their case to these consultants. In their final report, the consultants had very positive conclusions on the value of clubs such as West Point to the VPB golf operations. As a result:

∴ **The VPB officially recognized the West Point Club** for the first time.

∴ 22 tee times were allocated when the Club was playing McCleery and 20 when the Club was at Langara, to be modified as usage varied.

∴ WPGC was assigned tee times on Thursdays rather than Fridays

From the WPGC perspective, these decisions brought a long-standing frustration to an end and represented a reasonable balance between West Point's needs as an organized club on the one hand and those of the VPB on the other. Later that year, Jim Selley approached Fraserview and negotiated the right for WPGC to play there for the month of October 2010, and this was subsequently extended from 2011 to the whole of September and October, providing balanced access for WPGC to all 3 Vancouver city courses.

Fraserview Club House

Meanwhile, Jim Selley had followed up the interest in **Riverway**, shown at the 2008 SGM. He arranged for the WPGC to get 6 tee times at Riverway for the 2009 season, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. This arrangement was made year-round in the fall of 2011, and coordinated first by Jim Selley and Ray Dujardin, then in 2015 by Peter Coyle, followed by Chris Murray in 2020.

Since the 2nd World War, **Divot Dust** had been a key element in keeping members up to date with Club activities and maintaining a sense of community. The first existing record that we have is dated 1945, but this was numbered Volume 6, so it seems reasonable to assume that Divot Dust dates from about 1940. It came out several times a year with the latest news and humorous insights from the Club, and volunteers had to not only prepare the text, but to ensure that each issue was mimeographed, collated, addressed and mailed to members – a huge effort.

The cacophonous prattle of crows momentarily abated, a blackbird paused in its endless search for tumescent larvae, the ball arced into the pristine sky, over the perilous reed-infested creek, propelled by the exploding energy from this fit, but aging athlete. It struck one of the diabolical mounds protecting the Riverway 11th green, took a hop, disappeared behind the mound, and reappeared, before being swallowed by the hole. Time stood still, as earlier years flashed before his eyes. Neil Brett-Davies remembered his hallowed years as a cricketer and his first awkward attempts to swing a golf club; the years of relative golfdom futility - but now in his golden age, he could revel in the knowledge that again he had attained perfection.

2010 Adapted from Norm Thiessen

By 2005, the Club had been able to e-mail Divot Dust to members, but over the years, the Website took on more and more of the functions of Divot Dust, with Gary Sinclair as both Editor of Divot Dust and Webmaster. Finally, in 2010, after 70 years of Divot Dust playing a major role in maintaining the “spirit of the Club”, it was decided to focus on the website as the source of all ongoing and background information for members and those interested in the WPGC. Divot Dust remained, but was limited to one issue per year, in October, focusing on all the information required for the AGM.

One of the most popular features of the former Divot Dust was the ‘Roving Reporter’ in which members were asked to share details about themselves, their golf experiences and their favourite courses. While the Website had developed a Members Gallery, with comprehensive details of each member’s club activities and golfing prowess, there was initially very little of the Roving Reporter-type of personal information. Future President Lorne Lindsay, began to remedy this in 2012, by interviewing and contributing more detailed sketches of the lives of individual longstanding members. By 2020, more than 40 **Member sketches** had been completed and included on the Website.

CLUB CHAMPIONS (Stroke and Match)
Dieter Schwab 2006 (M) 2007 (M,S), Barry Arnett 2011 (M,S), Peter Coyle 2009 (S) 2012 (M), Jim Selley 2009 (M), Chris Allen 2010 (M), Glen Lockhart 2004/2005 (M,S)
Seated: *Mike Carter 2010 (S), Ed Bobinski 2002, Joe Davison 2012 (S)*

In parallel with the moves to electronic communication, there was clearly room for improvement of the **electronic management of WPGC's operations**. Under the leadership of Ray Dujardin, Jim Selley, Gary Sinclair and Ed Watson, the Club moved in 2010 from the arrangement that it had with the McCleery Men's Club to use of Northern System's Handicap and Tournament Software, with the addition of e-sign up in 2011. In a further step forward in 2014, the Tournament module was replaced by one developed by Barry Arnett, although this came with the disadvantage of a software partition, necessitating double entry. In 2017, the Club felt that a longer term solution was required, but did not feel that it was worth buying into the expensive Golf Canada data and handicap system. After an in depth study, Nick Atkinson recommended and led the adoption of an integrated system from Golf Software Inc. With his leadership and training support, and dedicated efforts from Bill Titmuss, Richard Martin (and his Captain's Table) and Brian Montpellier, the conversion went exceptionally smoothly, and proved much easier to manage.

The maintenance of good relations with the individual course Pro Shops continued to be a primary concern. One of their preoccupations was '**speed of play'**, and in that respect, a Seniors' club could be considered to be vulnerable. In 2012, the Club, to permit foursomes to record the finishing time of their rounds, purchased a punch clock. While not universally welcomed, it soon became a routine part of play, providing the Captain's Table with an objective measurement of speed of play. As a result, WPGC developed a very positive relationship with course marshals, and the Club was able to maintain finishing gap times between foursomes averaging under 10 minutes.

2012 was the **80th Anniversa**ry of the founding of the West Point Club. The AGM was planned as a birthday celebration, with each of the 86 attendees presented with a West Point logo ball. Laurie Craddock opened the festivities by leading an only slightly off-key rendition of 'Happy Birthday', before having an almost unrecognizable, bewigged, skirted and booted Ed Bobinski emerge from a large decorated paper barrel cake. Laurie then proceeded to enlighten members with highlights of the Club's history, while regaling them with jokes.

Peter Coyle shot a Gross 69 at Langara in 2008 off a handicap of 10. This is believed to be the lowest gross score shot by anyone while they were a member of West Point.

Jack Plummer enjoyed a year to remember in 2010. At the end of 2009, he had his knee joints replaced. He began the 2010 season with a 20 handicap. He won tournaments in almost every month of that season, and by the end of August, his handicap was down to 12. For a golfer to lower his handicap from 20 to 12 in the course of his 75th year may well be a feat unmatched in the history of the game, and one which made him the unrivalled winner of the prize for strategic handicap management.

In 2012, WPGC took the first steps to acknowledge that physical ability can change with age. The WPGC Board established an **'Option Group'**, with 10 members, who found that playing off forward tees made their golf faster and less pressured. This approach reflected the USGA recommendation that players choose their tee box according to their shot length, playing a 5800-6000-yard course if their average drive was 225 yards, and a 4400-4600-yard course if their average drive was 175 yards or less.

After teething problems in 2014, this initiative was re-visited in 2015, and thoroughly researched by Bill Titmuss. Through his efforts, it was decided that every member should be able to choose the tee that suited them. This has effectively moved from being a limited concession to being a fully accepted element of WPGC, including full participation in all Handicap events. By 20*20*,

some 20 members were playing some or all of their golf from the *'red'* tees.

Interest in the annual competition for the Ab Miles Tankard was always high. In 2013, past Captain, Laurie Craddock, proposed an event for the lesser mortals of West Point, who had not yet shot their age. This became an annual competition, known as the **Laurie Craddock Vintage Cup**, for which Age-Shooters were ineligible. The definition of 'Vintage' seemed particularly appropriate for the entrants: "of old, recognized and enduring interest, importance or quality, usually associated with the quality of aging, enduring or improving over time". The same rules as for the Tankard applied, with handicaps being the age of the player in that calendar year. Three age categories were established for the competition: Hardly Old (55-69), Older (70 – 79) and Senior members (80+).

Foursome Captains 2015

Colin Kelly was one of a number of members who started their golfing careers as caddies at the old Shaughnessy Golf Club. I was lucky enough to be playing with him when he shot his age of 71 off the white tees at Langara, in July 2014. Amazingly, he managed to birdie every par 3, much to my annoyance because I was inside him on several of these holes and failed to get any birdies.
Recollections of a member

Members were a little surprised when one of our new members in 2013 turned out to be 92 years old. Don Angus had played much of his golf with the Fraserview Club but had outlived most of his golfing colleagues. He had shot his age for the first time with a 67 at Fraserview at the age of 70 and he continued to shoot his age almost every year. Despite being a late arrival to WPGC, his record continued, as he shot a 94 in 2014 at McCleery, and a 95 in 2015 at Fraserview, setting the record for the oldest member to shoot his age. He is believed to be the oldest member to join West point Golf Club and the oldest member to shoot his age in a WPGC tournament.

The website continued to be a rich repository for club information and photos, but, until 2017, the main official club records were kept in a filing cabinet in the BC Golf House Society (Museum). As the club functioned more and more on a digital basis, paper records became something of an anomaly, being hard to access and inconsistently maintained. Official club records were still needed in addition to the website, so in 2017 a cloud-based repository was established on Dropbox. All Board and other records were made easily accessible on this site to all Board members, with updating and editing organized by the Secretary.

Hugh Marshall, still disdaining a cart (and shooting his age) when over 90

A new award for '**The Most Improved Golfer'** was introduced in 2017, and a new tournament, using only **3 Clubs and a Putter** proved very popular. Interestingly, a number of players achieved a lower score with 4 clubs than they normally achieved with 14 clubs!

After sinking his 3rd shot for a birdie on #10 hole at McCleery, in the summer of 2017, Andy Schmidt walked up the hill to loud applause from all the workmen putting up the new house behind the green.

Club lore

West Point continued its long-standing tradition of supporting junior golf, making a regular annual donation of $1500 to Muncie Booth's Inner-City **Youth Golf Prog**ram at McCleery.

Course maintenance at all 4 courses used by WPGC continued to be excellent, but the 2016/17 winter was a difficult one for Vancouver golf courses, particularly those close to the Fraser River.

The greens at McCleery were badly damaged by winterkill, and the course was very soggy in the spring following very heavy rains.

WPGC was able to play instead at Fraserview in April and May, returning for only a few weeks to McCleery, once the greens were re-sown.

The Park Board established a new plan in 2018 to improve the drainage

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throughout the Langara course. Financial pressures delayed the implementation, but a decision was made to spread the work over 3 years, on a hole by hole basis, and substantial progress was made in 2020. Finally at the end of 2020, work was begun on new forward tees for Par 4 and 5 holes, on all the Vancouver City courses, providing 4 tee options, as recommended by Golf Canada.

January 2020 was the date of introduction of the **World Handicap System**. Course ratings were established, and the 8 best, rather than the 10 best scores were to be used for the handicap calculation. The most controversial new element was an attempt to standardize individual hole pars by yardage. Taken as presented, it would have resulted in par reductions on multiple holes on our 4 courses. Brian Montpellier and Bill Titmuss were involved on a daily basis over several months negotiating flexibility in applying these guidelines with Golf Canada and the local courses, and successfully reduced the changes to a minimum on our courses. These technical complexities were not apparent in individual handicaps, and the resulting slight handicap reductions were well accepted by members, since they did not change relative competitiveness.

Golf continued to be the poor cousin of Park Board recreational activities, perceived by a number of Commissioners as more of a source of business income and potential land re-purposing than as their most successful (in person-hours of exercise generated) sports activity. Representation had to be made, both in 2019 and early 2020, to defend the continuing use of Langara as a full size golf course. As a result, a Task force was struck by the Club, and a **'Case for Vancouver Golf'** position paper developed by Nick Atkinson, clarifying the major contribution which golf courses make to the Park and Recreation Board mandate.

With the **onset of COVID** in March 2020, Park Board attention was diverted away from the future of golf in Vancouver, and Langara in particular. Rather than stirring up attention again, the Board felt that it was better to hold the position paper in reserve, for use with future Park Boards.

COVID precautions in 2020 led to the closure of all City golf courses from mid March to mid May. With the re-opening, tee times were initially 15 minutes apart, severely limiting the number of golfers accessing the courses. Excellent compliance with the regulations by golfers soon led to this spacing being reduced to 10 minutes. While golfers were extremely lucky in having continuing access to their sport, other sports and activities were less lucky, increasing interest in golf, and making it hard to get tee times. Fortunately, due to efforts by Club members, and by the Captain , Brian Montpellier and Drawmaster, Ian Allen, in particular, West Point was viewed very favourably, and was able to access as many starting times as the Club needed. At times, West Point took as many as 24 tee times on a Thursday, due to the lack of travel or exercise options for members. In parallel, the waiting list rose to 19 by the end of the 2020 season, reflecting the difficulty that non members had in accessing tee times on the overloaded courses.

Nov 2020: As a member was boasting about a good score on the last few holes at Fraserview, the incoming President, John Dawson, aged 79, quietly mentioned that he had just shot 74 off the white tees in wet weather!

Competitions were reinstated in June, but social activities were very limited and no member gatherings could be held in the 2020 season. This was a major loss, but it did result in a substantial reduction in Club expenditure, resulting in enough surplus in the 2020 season to permit annual dues for the 2021 season to be temporarily reduced to $50.

The strong turnout for golf, even late in the season, and the lack of winter travel possibilities during COVID, led to a decision to make an arrangement with Fraserview for **Winter golf**, maintaining a block booking of 8 Club-reserved tee times there over the winter for those members who were interested Interest was strong, and these were consistently oversubscribed in the last 2 months of 2020. Golf courses continued to be heavily booked through 2021, as COVID limited other activities, enhancing the value of Club memberships, with their attached block tee time bookings. This resulted in the **temporary closure of the membership waitlist** for the 2021 season. Club social events continued to be very limited in 2021, but the 2021 AGM lunch was held, with Zoom participation arranged for those who did not wish to meet.

In conclusion, one has to say that the West Point Golf Club has shown remarkable resilience for a Club without a course of its own. Founded in 1932 at the Westward Ho Golf course, it has successfully overcome major setbacks in its 89-year history and has become a major player in seniors' golf in Vancouver. It has 120 members with an average age of 75, ranging from the youngest at 59 to the most senior at 93. Thanks to the hard work of past boards, it is well organized, with a healthy balance sheet, and established arrangements with all three City of Vancouver courses. It is truly a club in which all its members can take pride.

PAST CAPTAINS: Last 55 years 1967 – 2022

1967 – 70	Les Hooper
1971 – 73	Sandy Taylor
1974 – 75	Ron Erdman
1976 – 78	George Milne
1979 – 80	John Wilson
1981 – 83	Bill Watkins
1984 – 85	Terry Wong
1986	Frank Maynard
1987 - 88	Doug Leblanc
1989 - 90	Dave Fairweather
1991	Doug Leblanc
1992	Ed Angel

1993	Len Brown
2002 – 03	Dave Fairweather
2004 – 05	Stan Lawson
2006	Dave Haddleton
2007 – 08	Jim Selley
2009	Dave Stephens
2010 – 11	Laurie Craddock
2012 -13	Mike Carter
2014 – 15	Don McPherson
2016 – 17	Peter Coyle
2018 - 19	Bill Titmuss
2020 – 22	Brian Montpellier