

**Melville (Mel) James White – Life Member of PGA Canada (BC)**

It is with deep regret that Seymour Golf & Country Club announces the passing of Melville (Mel) White on January 4, 2018. Mel was Seymour's second Head Professional, serving the Club from 1957-1992. A Celebration of Life Reception will be hosted at Seymour on Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00pm.



Mel, the eldest son of Lloyd & Rose White was born in Prince George, BC on June 23, 1930. Mel moved to Vancouver when he was a young boy and lived in the Marpole area of Vancouver.

Mel attended school and graduated from Vancouver College, located in the Shaughnessy neighbourhood of Vancouver. After school Mel would walk to the old Shaughnessy Golf Club, where he caddied and worked in the back shop for Freddy Wood, Head Professional.

After graduation he was hired as Assistant Golf Professional at Capilano Golf and Country Club by Head Professional, Jock McKinnon. After working under Jock for three years Mel was encouraged by Jock to consider an opportunity to work at Beaconsfield Golf Club in Montreal, under the mentorship of Bill Kerr, one of Canada's leading Pros. Mel accepted and spent an enthusiastic golf season at Beaconsfield.

After Montreal, Mel returned to work at Shaughnessy until he got his first Head Professional position at Gleneagles Golf Club in 1955, when Al Nelson left to go to Vancouver Golf Club.

On May 1st, 1957, Mel was hired at Seymour Golf and Country Club in North Vancouver, where he held the Head Professional's position for 35 years, retiring on December 31, 1992. During his time at Seymour, he held the dual role as Pro and Manager for five years. Besides owning & operating the Pro Shop, Mel spent hours on the driving range teaching the fundamentals of golf.

During his 35 years at Seymour, Mel employed many Assistant Professionals & back shop staff to help run his Pro Shop, some of whom included his children and grand-children. The two people Mel relied on most were his assistant pro for 17 years, Wayne Smiley, and Mel's wife of 64 years, Trish White, who he met while he worked at Capilano.

Mel taught many students the fundamentals of golf and coached Jim Goddard, Canadian Junior Men's Champion, and Tracey Lipp, BC Ladies' Amateur Champion & Canadian Ladies' Amateur Champion.

During the off season Mel and Trish organized and accompanied golfers on golf trips all over the world (Scotland, Ireland, Fiji, New Zealand, Portugal, Thailand, South Africa & Australia), as well as the USA and Canada.

Some of Mel's golfing accomplishments included playing in the Canadian Open and playing in the qualifying round for the 1981 British Open in Kent, England. He won the Chilliwack Open in 1967, the BCPGA Seniors in 1980, and at Seymour he shot two rounds of 62 in the same week, and had three back-to-back eagles on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> holes in the same round.

Mel chaired the popular Junior Golf College between 1972 and 1978, held each summer in Chilliwack. In his over 68 years as a member of the British Columbia Professional Golf Association (BCPGA), Mel was President of the Association in 1970, 1971, and again in 1992 when he was also named Club Professional of the Year.

In the fall of 1992, Mel was honoured by the Board of Directors and Members of Seymour with a special weekend. Filled with festivities, including a barbeque, live music provided by his Assistant Pro, Mather Hewison, and other competitions and events, the weekend commemorated his 35 years as Seymour's Club Professional, and celebrated his retirement. To express the Club's gratitude, Mel was also awarded an Honorary Life Membership at Seymour. A great weekend!

After retiring, Mel continued as Teaching Golf Pro at Park Royal Golf Centre, and then finished his golf career at Takaya Driving Range, giving his last golf lesson in February 2014.

The game of golf and being a Golf Professional was Mel's second love [His wife Trish was his first!], so even when Mel could no longer play the game of golf or offer others his services as a Golf Professional, it was no surprise that he remained a passionate advocate for the game.

Mel passed away January 4, 2018 surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his wife, Trish, four children, Pamela Seeley, Jeffrey White, Kim (Tom) Pike, Bradley White (Dawn). His extended family includes eight grandchildren, Christopher, Scott, Chantal, Josie, Blake, Kyle, Kate and Eli, and four great-grandchildren, Liam, Ava, Tessa & Luke.

Mel's family would like to thank the many caregivers at the Kiwanis Care Centre, and Dr. Wayne Smith, for their dedication and compassionate care. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Seymour Golf and Country Club Youth Scholarship Program would be appreciated.