

Re-tooled Frenchman's Creek re-opens



NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla.—Weitz Golf International recently completed

an 18-hole renovation at Frenchman's Creek Country

Club based in Palm Beach Gardens.

Architect Robert Cupp of Cupp Design directed the project, which broke ground on April 2, 2001, and was completed in time for winter play in 2002.

The renovation included stripping and clearing the entire

course and re-grading it to Cupp's specifications. In addition, Weitz installed a new irrigation system.

The course now features larger greens grassed with TifEagle, fairways grassed with TifSport, new bunkers, new timber bridges and timber bulk-heading and custom-colored cart paths.

The renovated fairways are highlighted by new landscaping elements throughout the course.

This was the second renovation Weitz Golf has performed at Frenchman's Creek, following a total restoration of the course's clubhouse last summer.



The 11th green at Frenchman's Creek.

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that to expose the more typical open Kentucky rolling horse farm-type of landscape," Rogers said.

The construction aspect of the project, which was handled by Landscapes Unlimited, included some work with the existing lakes on the property, Rogers said.

"We replaced the lake overflow structures and connection structures from what was a concrete gutter-type system, which was not the look we were trying to achieve," he said. "We extruded those and used a lot of the limestone on site. We had a water feature specialist, Horizon Golf, build more stream-



The 16th hole at the newly renovated University Club of Kentucky, which re-opens May 18.

like spillways that connected the ponds, which aesthetically was an improvement."

Because of the extensive drainage system renovation, Rogers said, the fairways are completely new.

"There was a lot of disturbance in the fairways necessitated by the drainage that we planned to install," he said. "As you can imagine, trying to save anything in the line of fairway turf was not a number that made any sense. We were kind of starting from scratch there.

"We did not alter the original routing to speak of. A few were lengthened, a few shortened, but the original corridors were maintained as they had existed."

Rogers said his affiliation with the University of Kentucky came in handy on this project, from both a personal and professional standpoint.

"Most people don't get a chance to give something back," he said. "I was already familiar with the property from years past and got to do some significantly exciting things. I played it a few times under its old name." ■

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