



**Hole 6 at Brackett's Crossing Country Club, a drivable par 4.**

Once known as Honeywell Country Club, Brackett's Crossing Country Club was planned, developed and managed by the non-profit organization known as Minnregs, Incorporated. The Minnreg Organization was originally made up of male-only employees of Honeywell Inc. The financial support originally came from the receipts of vending machines used by the employees located in the various Honeywell

plants and offices in the Twin Cities area. Times have changed with the development and expansion of what is now known as Brackett's Crossing Country Club.

1960- Four hundred and sixty acres located in the Village of Lakeville was purchased for the purpose of building a recreational center and a country club. The Minnesota Vikings officially became a profes-

# *tion: Brackett's Crossing Country Club, A Walk Down Memory Lane*

*Photos and content by Tom Proshek, Superintendent*



Boundary Water Canoe Area gains new protections under the federal Wilderness Act in 1964.

1970- The Minnregs paid to have a gravel road installed between Judicial Road and Highway I-35. This road was paved in the late 1970's. Mary Richards throws her hat into the air on the Nicollet Mall, and a TV. Comedy is born. Mary Tyler Moore, "turns the world on with a smile" for seven years from 1970 until 1977.

1981-1982- Honeywell leases the club to private operators who change the name to Brackett's Crossing to honor early Lakeville settler J.J. Brackett. Apparently Mr. Brackett frequently crossed over the land on a trail used for mail service between Lakeville and Prior Lake. The general location of the trail still exists behind the 10th green. The Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome is opened on April 3, 1982.

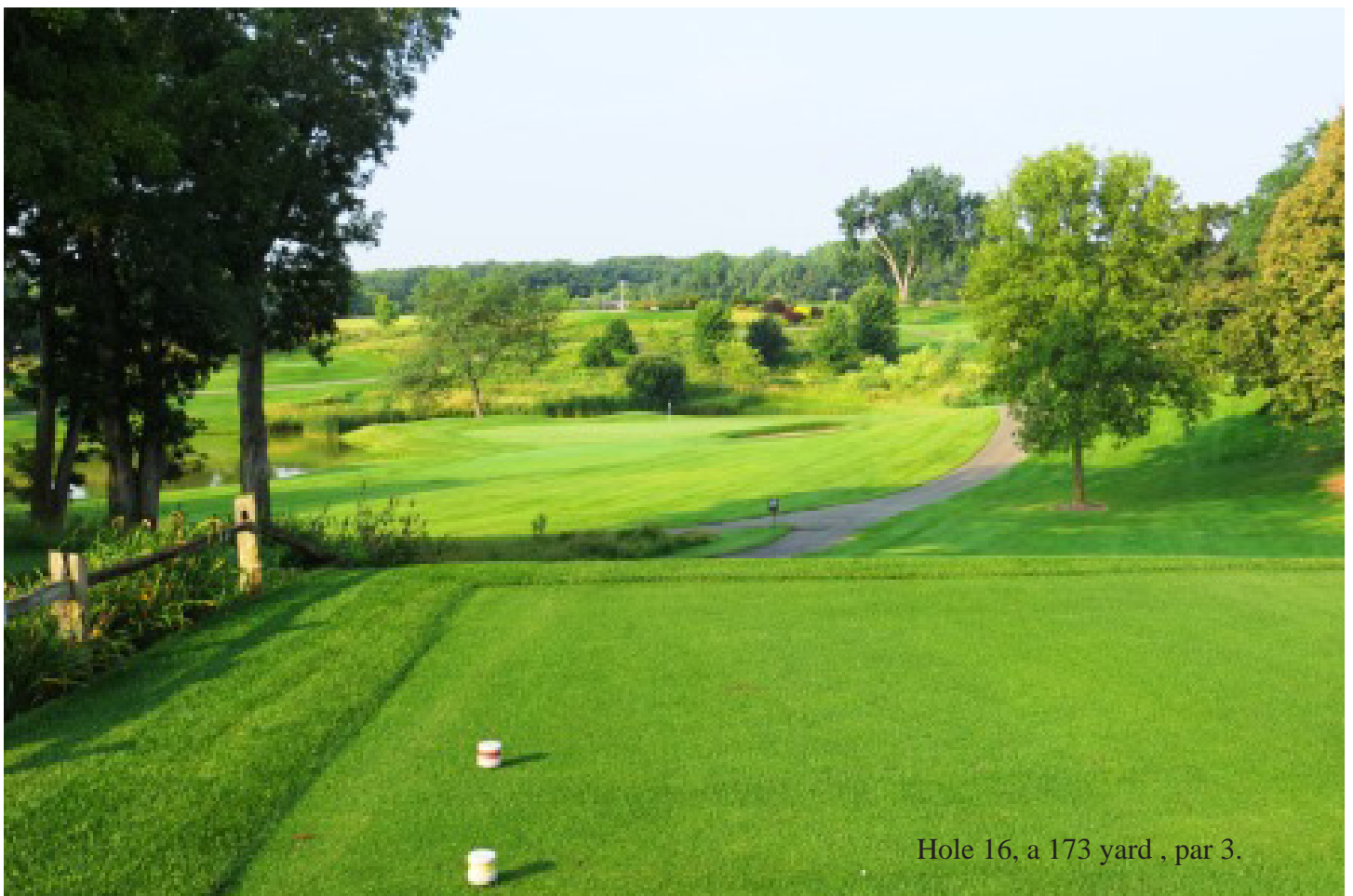
sional football team in 1960.

1964- The golf course was opened to all Honeywell employees and their families who purchased golfing memberships. The course was designed and built by Harrison, Brauer & Ripple and originally used the Lakeville VFW as its clubhouse, which was moved to the golf course and located south of the current clubhouse next to the tenth tee. The

1993- The Club is purchased by current owners Tom and Peggy Smith. Since their arrival the golf course and clubhouse have experienced many positive reconstruction projects. Brackett's Crossing maintains it's private status, however the banquet facilities are open to the public. The Minnesota Lottery is initiated and state receives a visit from soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

A whole lot can happen over the course of 53 years, but there is

one constant in the community of Lakeville, Brackett's Crossing Country Club, a destination for family golf. This fine club is also playing host to the 2013 Minnesota Wee One Foundation Golf Event on October 7. The Wee One Foundation was developed as a tribute to Wayne Otto to assist golf course management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources. As a profession we have taken steps nec-



Hole 16, a 173 yard , par 3.





Brackett's Crossing Country Club Professional Turf Management Staff Welcomes the Wee One.

essary to support our own in cases of emergency and need.

Tom Proshek, Superintendent at Brackett's Crossing for the last 19 years is looking forward to the event. Proshek began his career 32 years ago at New Prague Golf Club followed by a grow-in stint at Wildflower Golf Course. According to Tom, all the staff from the pro shop to the administrative office are ready and welcoming the group for a fantastic fundraiser at a great venue.

Proshek and his professional management team of Assistant Arik

Hemquist, Head Mechanic/Assistant Ken Adams and second Assistants Mark Schmitz and Larry Enwall have a combined tenor at the club of over 63 seasons. All those years add up to a well-maintained 18 hole golf course stretching to 6990 yards from the "tips" and 6,551 for the Wee One Tournament.

Agronomically, Brackett's Crossing has its challenges. The property sits upon old farm and swampland with a heavy rock and clay profile that does not drain well even in the best of seasons. Frost heaving accentuates the issues and annually changes



Pipers, three, on hole 9

drainage patterns even more. Fortunately for Tom and his crew, the club's owner understands soil dynamics and the need to be continuously maintaining and improving the surface and subsurface drainage patterns for better playing conditions.

The blend of poa/bent fine turf surfaces were also challenged during last winter's long grip of ice and an additional layer of May snow. Now however, you can't tell there was any injury thanks to the recovery efforts of Tom and

his capable staff. Smooth and firm, the course will challenge the field and provide scoring opportunities for those who can craft their game as well as have a bit of luck.

The toughest hole? "Number 10", according to Tom, "It is a slight dog leg right, par four with water on the left and OB to the right of the landing area. Without a well-positioned drive you will be left with a long iron into a well-protected green that is slightly elevated. Due to some of the previously mentioned drainage challenges,



the 10th hole will be played as a par 3 while Hartman Companies remedies a few moisture issues. The easiest is number six, a short par four drivable by the real long hitters.”

The trickiest hole? “Number four is a long par four that plays slightly uphill and dog legs to the right. A long, precise tee shot needs to hit the angled fairway otherwise deep rough on either side will make hitting the blind second shot very difficult,” according to Superintendent Proshek.

The 2013 Wee One Event is shaping up to be a great fundraiser. Two on-course food stands, a sumptuous Italian buffet dinner, raffle prizes valued at over \$3,000, a purse over \$1,500, camaraderie and most important of all, support for “one of our own”.

2013- The Wee One Event. It wouldn't be the same without you. See you on October 7th. The MGCSA/Wee One Event nets the highest return ever...October 7, 2013.

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