



**John's Island Club Hole No. 17 North Golf Course
Chuck Calhoun, Superintendent. Tim Hiers, Golf
Course Manager**



JOHN'S ISLAND CLUB

By George & Charlotte Jones
Wellington Golf Club

THE John's Island Club is located east of Vero Beach between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intercoastal Waterway. It is nestled in a native oak woods wrapped around beautiful coves of water breaking into the Intercoastal Waterway.

As we entered the club property, after being thoroughly checked by a security guard at one of the two main entrance gates, a definite impression of the club struck us immediately. The entrance, club and homes were manicured to perfection and yet have been carefully blended into the native woods. The picturesque twisted oaks and plants continue from the woods through the yards and golf courses in perfect planned harmony.

The John's Island Club is directed by General Manager, Trevor Wright. The Club Professional is David Marad, the Golf Course Manager is Tim Hiers, and the Greens Committee Chairman is Bud Morrison. There are three courses available to the private membership. The original North and South Courses and the newly opened West Course.

The North and South Courses were designed by Pete Dye. The North Course has Tifdwarf Bermuda greens and the South Course has 328 Bermuda greens. Both courses have 419 Bermuda fairways. During winter the greens on both courses are overseeded with Bent grass.

As we traveled the courses we noticed many wild birds, including a large hawk sitting on top of a tall tree and screeching perhaps a warning or mating call. Tim Hiers said he would like to continue to improve the natural areas, irrigation, drainage, and cart paths. Especially the drainage since both courses are only a few feet above water level.

To keep the North and South Courses in top shape there is a crew of 29 headed by Superintendent Chuck Calhoun. His assistant is Chuck Green, Foreman is Tim Noland and Head Mechanic is Pete

Luedtke. The maintenance area is well organized, very clean, and safety markings and equipment are ample.

The new John's Island West Course is actually an extension of the original club. It is located about five miles northwest and has its own clubhouse, maintenance, and driving range. But it has no homesites and is for the use of the east club and its members.

The first impression is that the terrain is like Jupiter Hills. The course has its own identity though and has up to 60' elevation according to Tim. The architect is Tom Fazio and the shaping was done by Tom Fazio's group and Central Florida Turf. Central Florida Turf also did the irrigation. The greens are Tifdwarf Bermuda overseeded with Bent grass. The fairways are 419 Bermuda.

Al Batog was the project manager overseeing the construction of the golf course.

The course is in a 215 acre plot that is very hilly and placed very carefully to leave the woods and native foliage undisturbed. There are only three buildings in this large site: the clubhouse, maintenance area and a small house-like pump station.

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West Course, Hole No. 15, Par 4 looking from green to tee.

Tim pointed out large stands of trees that have been left untouched where wild life can flourish. He noted there are many native plants and trees growing here that are unseen in other developed areas, and the wildlife is plentiful. As we looked around we noticed the lack of undesirable trees such as Brazilian Pepper, Australian Pine and Melaleuca. All of which have been introduced in Florida and have smothered out many native plants and animals in other areas.

Because of the terrain, much of the rough areas are large bunkers of sand ranging up to 30 ft. in depth. The sand ranges in color from golden orange to gold to Ortona white around the greens and puts outstanding emphasis on the beauty of the native land.

There are 20,000 linear ft. of concrete cart paths, but because of the unique design, the only path you see is the few feet you're on. The fairways capture the



L. to R. Jay Gratton, Tim Hiers and Chuck Calhoun



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beauty of the natural hills and pitfalls and make the course a challenge for even the best players. The driving range tee is the largest we have ever seen on a private course. It is divided into three long tears on a hillside. This makes it much easier to control the tee area so maintenance can be accomplished.

The irrigation is complete and absolutely controlled. Woods areas are not watered, even if they jut into the fairway or lay between tees. One green is down in a crevice and yet has good natural drainage.

The maintenance facility was designed by Hod De-Hays and is extremely modern and functional. Tim said they took many of the best ideas from other courses and implemented them.

The Golf Professional for the West Course is Greg Kelly and the Superintendent is Jay Gratton. A crew of 15 maintains this fine course.

Tim Hiers stated that because of the unique terrain and the outstanding course that Tom Fazio has carefully designed into it, he hopes in the future superintendents can perhaps meet here and experience this superb golf course.

As we left John's Island, we had a good feeling. The knowledge that the people at John's Island are living the good life and keeping their environment natural and undisturbed around them. Man and nature in harmony. ■