

Hole of the

■ No. 17
Black Creek Club
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Month

Ghost of Raynor

It was Seth Raynor, the classic architect of the 1920s, who inspired Brian Silva to create Black Creek Club, which opened last September in Chattanooga, Tenn. Black Creek features Raynor's trademark blind approaches, strategically placed bunkers and punch bowl greens.

"There's more to creating a traditional golf experience than mere appearance," Silva explains. "It's one thing for a course to look old school; it's another thing for a course to play that way."

Raynor, who was greatly influenced by 19th century British course design, was known for recreating holes on different courses. This hole, the par-3 17th, is known as the Biarritz. The green is 60 yards long with a wicked 5-foot-deep trough. The putting challenges are obvious.

There are many maintenance challenges for superintendent Scott Wicker. They begin with the green, which takes about an hour to walk mow. There's also 6,000 square feet of sand to rake and steep slopes to fly mow. But Wickman wouldn't have it any different. "It's certainly well worth it," he says.

Golfdom's Hole of the Month is presented in partnership with:

JACOBSEN
www.ttcsp.com

TEXTRON

GEORGE PELET