

# The MGCSA Championship at Midland Hills C.C.

*Editor's Note: With the MGCSA Amateur Championship coming up on August 17th and being that the last time members played Midland Hills Country Club was in 1986, Scott Austin, CGCS, was asked to kindly refresh our memories about how Midland Hills plays. Best of luck to all participants.*

## **Hole #1 323 yards Par 4**

The first hole is short and "straight-away". Avoid the grove of white and Austrian pines left of the landing area. Deciduous trees, right rough, provide an adequate barrier between the driving range and the good opening hole. The front half of the three-level green had a "face lift" last September thus you will find this green to be slightly slower than the others. Look for a challenging pin placement here.

## **Hole #2 333 yards Par 4**

This dogleg right hole has out-of-bounds along the entire right side. A well-positioned tee shot is critical. A long iron off the tee can be a smart play. Bunkers can be found on both sides of the long, narrow green.

## **Hole #3 412 yards Par 4**

Aim your tee shot at the radio tower in the far distance. The flag pole, behind the green, should help to make your blind approach shot easier. The green is guarded with a bunker short-right and behind the green.

## **Hole #4 138 yards Par 3**

Although this short hole is surrounded with four bunkers, the real challenge is negotiating the sloped green. Watch out, this hole can jump up and bite you!

## **Hole #5 477 yards Par 5**

This par 5 definitely can be reached in two. A well-positioned tee shot should come to rest on the right half of the fairway. The green has two bunkers, one left and right.

## **Hole #6 528 yards Par 5**

That's right, back-to-back par fives. Highway 280 borders the right property line and offers "instant death" for those who haven't found a cure for their slice. A well positioned pond (70 yards in front of the green), will make the "big hitters" think twice about going for the green in two. With the prevailing wind out of the southwest, this feat is rarely accomplished.

## **Hole #7 158 yards Par 3**

This par 3 is relatively harmless if you hit the ball straight. Lateral water left, out-of-bounds right. Guard against going over the green or into the "sadistic" pot bunker located short right.

## **Hole #8 337 yards Par 4**

Although your drive must clear "Walsh Lake," the real challenge to this dogleg right hole lies with your approach shot to this elevated green. You will find the green to slope back to front and be extremely slick.

## **Hole #9 352 yards Par 4**

Take aim at the cluster of cottonwoods 250 yards off the tee. Bunkers left and right of the green, with out-of-bounds for those who venture long of the green. Avoid the right rough and Walsh Lake way right.

## **Hole #10 559 yards Par 5**

The length, coupled with the spruce/pine trees and elevated green, makes this hole as difficult as it is picturesque. Beware of the out-of-bounds on the right-side. You can reach this green in two **only** "in your dreams."

## **Hole #11 422 yards Par 4**

This tough, slight dogleg left par four is well deserving of its #1 handicap rating. A well-positioned tee shot towards the "BIG" elm will position you in great shape for your approach to the green. Avoid being long or right of this green.

## **Hole #12 174 yards Par 3**

What you see is what you get. Bunkers surround this green on the left, right and front center. Out-of-bounds will penalize those who venture too far left.

## **Hole #13 384 yards Par 4**

Our only "true" dogleg left hole. Fairway bunkers both left and right. A strategically positioned elm tree (125 yards out from green) guards the left rough and the green side bunkers left and right wait your errant shot.

## **Hole #14 377 yards Par 4**

A good drive will find the left half of the fairway. Beware of "that darn Mugho pine" which occupies the right rough. The "hidden" green is situated 10 feet below the fairway elevation. There are two bunkers 30 yards in front of the green.

## **Hole #15 338 yards Par 4**

This "straight-away" hole is best played just that way - "straight away"! Trouble looms with the lateral hazard on the left. The "heavy-hitters" (boom-boom) who venture long right (240 yards plus) could get wet in #16 pond. Local rules allow for a drop area. Look for a fair, but tricky pin placement.

## **Hole #16 191 yards Par 3**

This is an excellent par three. Make sure that you use plenty of club - it's "all carry." Look for another challenging pin placement here.

## **Hole #17 500 yards Par 5**

This hole can be reached in two for those who possess a "cannon." The green tilts front to back, making it difficult to keep the ball in the front half of the green. Guess where the pin will be located!

## **Hole #18 343 yards Par 4**

This short par four can "jump up and bite you." The conifers which occupy the entire left and right rough can send you to the nineteenth hole extremely frustrated and disappointed. With the driving range located on the right side, those with that "incurable" slice will have no trouble finding their golf ball providing they tee-off with that "special" yellow golf ball in their bag labeled - range!

Have an enjoyable tournament!

—Scott D. Austin CGCS