

Here Are Brief Histories of 'Stodola' Courses

(Ed. Note: The 1992 Stodola Scramble will be played September 14 at Rolling Green Country Club in Hamel and Wayzata Country Club in Wayzata. Following are brief histories of the two courses prepared by Course Superintendents Pat Walton, Rolling Green, and Jim Lindblad, Wayzata.)

ROLLING GREEN COUNTRY CLUB

In the mid 1960s, the membership of Brookview Country Club in Golden Valley began to consider the possibility of selling their country club to the city of Golden Valley and building a new championship golf course complete with a large clubhouse and swimming pool and tennis courts. The membership of Brookview purchased 180 acres in Hamel in 1967 and began construction of their new country club in 1968.

Charles Maddox of Chicago was hired to design and build the golf course. Members told Maddox that they wanted a large championship golf course with large bunkers and large greens. Maddox choose to give Rolling Green two drastically different nines. The front nine would be wide open with few trees, but heavily bunkered and featuring very large and undulating greens. The back nine was basically cut right out of the woods. Construction of the championship course was completed in 1968 and the executive course was completed in 1969.

In June, 1969 the championship course was opened to play. At that time the club carried a full golfing membership of 350. After the membership of the club had a chance to play the course for a few seasons, they began to wish that they hadn't instructed Charles Maddox to make the course so difficult. Many of the members were getting on in years and were unable to score well on the golf course.

In an attempt to alleviate this problem, many of the championship tees were abandoned and many of the bunkers were filled in. These measures were not enough for many of the original members and they ended up leaving the club because they

found it too difficult.

To compound this problem, many of the original members of the club left during the mid '70s to early '80s and joined Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins. While the club had been losing members for 10 years, they had not been gaining any new members during this time. The golfing membership bottomed out in 1983 when the number of dues-paying members dropped to 116.

As we all know, with only 116 dues paying members, there wasn't a lot of money to go around, as can be attested to by former Superintendent Rick Fredericksen. The club was "bailed out" of its financial problems temporarily by a local investor in 1983. He took a 10-year option on the property. During this period of 1983-1988, many new members joined the club and the membership was able to buy back the club in 1988.

Since regaining ownership of their own club, the membership has been dedicated to making some long-range improvements to the facility. In the past four years they have automated the irrigation system, purchased some badly needed maintenance equipment, remodeled the club house, installed over 5,000 feet of drain tile, instituted a tree trimming and planting program and repaired the swimming pools. Many other improvements and projects remain to be done and with a strong and growing membership I am sure they will be in the coming years. I hope that all of you who will be playing here on September 14 in the Stodola Scramble have an enjoyable round of golf.

—Pat Walton, Superintendent

WAYZATA COUNTRY CLUB

Wayzata Country Club was founded and chartered July 30, 1956, on what was known as the Bowman Estate.

The early club, known as the Wayzata Golf and Hunt Club, sported a T-shaped olympic-sized swimming pool, a riding club which grew into the largest Hunter Jumper Show in the Upper Midwest, a skeet and trap range and an 18-hole golf course designed by Robert Bruce Harris and built by Charles Maddox, noted golf course contractor. The first nine holes were ready for play in 1957, and the entire 18 in 1958.

In June, 1957, Lloyd Borg, the first club president, hit the first ball to open play under the watchful eyes of Homer Martinson, the club's first golf professional.

The Bowman home was the first clubhouse and, under the

direction of Glynn Shifflet, an architect member, early additions were completed in the summer of 1957. Modest cosmetic changes were made through the years until major remodeling was completed in October, 1975, and again in 1987.

The present club also supports an outstanding clubhouse, golf and tennis pro shops, eight tennis courts, two paddle ball courts, a beautiful pool and the skeet and trap range.

Over the years, the club has hosted the United States Golf Association Junior Championship, the MGA and MWGA Championships, the Minnesota State Open, the Women's Western Amateur Championship and, in 1992, the MGA Mid-Amateur Championship.

—Jim Lindblad, Superintendent