

A Hole-By-Hole Look At Rochester Golf & Country Club

Rochester Golf & Country Club is a vintage A.W. Tillinghast designed golf course, circa 1925. While Tillie's trademark design philosophy of a "controlled shot to a closely guarded green is the surest test of anyone's golf," holds true at RGCC, the tight evergreen-lined fairways have extended this philosophy from tee to green.

Veteran golfers at RGCC have a few basic strategic golf pointers for playing this Tillinghast classic.

- Never miss your approach shots to the greens long, especially No. 2.
- Don't try to be a hero when punching out of trees. Just pitch it straight back to the fairway.
- Stay below the hole, especially on No. 7.
- Accuracy of the tee, not distance, reaps rewards.

• Always remember which direction the wind is coming from before you start, because the avenues of evergreens cause many deceptive swirling winds below the tree line.

The following comments give you some details for the holes at RGCC.

No. 1, Par 4, 355 yards. Unless there is a strong wind from the west, the fairway bunker usually doesn't come into play. The fairway slopes right to left with a ridge preceding the green, giving a false depth perception to the approach shot. Any pin placement in the front third of the green may result in many three-putts.

No. 2, Par 4, 390 yards. With more room to the right side of the fairway, players should choose to play safely away from the pines lining the left side. Those going over this green will find themselves facing a nearly impossible shot coming back.

No. 3, Par 3, 190 yards. A great par three. There is no margin for error. Missing the green left or right leaves very delicate chip shots to this left to right sloping green.

No. 4, Par 5, 530 yards. One of the great par fives in the state. While the

tee shot appears to allow placement down the center of the fairway, any shot left of center may be blocked by pine trees on the corner. A well-placed drive provides the option of hitting either a fairway wood to a short uphill lie or a mid-iron onto a longer flat lie. Wayward approach shots have been known to produce broken windows in the clubhouse or find the pool.

No. 5, Par 3, 175 yards. This tee shot requires a full carry to a wide but shallow putting surface. One of the easier greens to make a long putt. Remember your wind direction here.

No. 6, Par 5, 535 yards. This elevated tee creates one of the most scenic views on the golf course. With the safe negotiation of the fairway bunker, it takes two large shots to reach this green in two. The right bunker in front of the green creates a distance illusion, making the third shot club selection key. In best shot, a par here and you lose a stroke to the field.

No. 7, Par 4, 335 yards. Accuracy, not distance is the key to this tee shot. Players will want to avoid driving down the left side, as overhanging limbs will block the approach to another elevated green. Considered by members to be the most difficult green on the course. An approach shot below the hole may yield a birdie try or a demanding shot from "Big Mouth" bunker in front of the green. Downhill putts here require steady nerves and a light stroke with a par four being a great score here even in best shot.

No. 8, Par 4, 370 yards. Again the tee shot is key. A slightly off-line drive in either side of the pine trees means an almost certain bogey. Yet for those who set up their approach well with an accurate drive, the green may provide rewards.

No. 9, Par 4, 435 yards. A long par four which usually plays against the prevailing winds. One of the few holes

where a long tee shot pays dividends. This green is the largest on the course.

No. 10, Par 4, 320 yards. The shortest par four on the course. A dogleg right to a small elevated green that slopes right to left. Only an uphill putt will yield aggressive attempts at birdie here.

No. 11, Par 3, 120 yards. A classic short par three with surrounding bunkers. This hole always seems to be in between clubs and especially can be tough downwind with out-of-bounds directly behind the green.

No. 12, Par 5, 450 yards. A great chance for eagle here in best shot and certainly a sure birdie. This hole was originally a par four (same yardage) and was changed via members in the late '40s to a par five. It takes a big tee shot to avoid a downhill lie, and the green is crowned. Therefore, accepts only the straightest of approach shots with putts breaking to the clubhouse.

No. 13, Par 4, 405 yards. A great par four! Long iron approach shots must be on target with severe penalties for straying long or left. Also, a bail-out right of the green will leave you at a very difficult chip to right pin placements.

No. 14, Par 4, 370 yards. The landing area in the fairway narrows as you get nearer the green. This is the toughest green to hold. Again, missed approach shots right, left and long reap severe penalties. Putts on this green are difficult to read.

No. 15, Par 3, 172 yards. The first of the "two new holes" has a long but narrow green for a long iron approach. Prevailing winds are usually right to left, making a solid hit imperative to keeping your flight line. A bail-out right in the greenside bunker almost guarantees a bogey....or more.

No. 16, Par 4, 350 yards. A tee shot of 225-250 yards is of extreme import-

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Bunker Sand Traps—

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ing fine particles, the silt and clay can cause drainage problems, and should be avoided. A percentage of no more than 2% total silt plus clay may be acceptable in a material which meets all other standards.

The final consideration is cost. As the ideal material must be screened, and in most cases washed, you can predict that your costs will be substantial. Do not assume that the most expensive material is necessarily the best one; the material may have had to be processed much more intensively than its less expensive competitor in order to meet acceptable standards. In some areas there are local "name" brand materials with good reputations; these tend to be quite expensive, and not always better than a less well-known one. The cost of hauling cannot be overlooked in the cost equation, since this factor can double or triple your total cost. In submitting material for testing, it is helpful to indicate relative costs of the materials, since we can weight our selection using the same factors you do and assist you more effectively in making a choice.

There are a few things to bear in mind as you prepare to put your new materials in place. First, do not mix new material with old, contaminated sand. The bunker should be emptied, drainage checked and corrected, and then the new sand should be added.

Also, try to stage the addition of the material; have it brought to the course and dumped on a driveway or other hard, clean surface. Then transfer it to the prepared bunker.

This permits examination and control of incoming materials. It is a good idea to specify that the trucks doing the hauling be cleaned before picking up your load. This prevents contaminating materials such as gravel or cement being picked up by your fresh sand.

Finally, check with the supplier of your selected materials to determine that the deposit of the material you select is adequate to supply your needs for some time to come. Limited availability can affect your future additions, and require that you go through the whole process again much sooner than you would wish.

A little time spent initially on assessing your specific needs, making inquiries concerning available materials and solving the initial cost versus maintenance cost equation will provide you with a more satisfactory long term result. The more information you have, and can provide to us, the better able we will be to recommend the best material for your needs.



Rochester G&CC—

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tance here. This is the only hole with out-of-bounds directly along the right side. This green will only receive very high shots or those landing on the front half of the green. Don't be left of the green.

No. 17, Par 4, 390 yards. With prevailing southerly winds, this hole will play long. Tee shots finding the right side will be blocked by a large Eastern White Pine. Pin placements on the left side will require an approach shot short and right of the hole.

No. 18, Par 4, 410 yards. A drive down the left side of the fairway will avoid the double elm on the approach. The greenside bunkers on the left front give a false sense of depth perception. Pin placements to the left require accuracy.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS—JUNE 13, 1994

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|--|-----------------|
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RECLASSIFICATION—JUNE 13, 1994

| | |
|--|----------|
| John Sternal Retired | A to AA |
| Mark Callender Fox Hollow G.C. | C to BII |
| Chris Hasbrouck Daytona C.C. | BII to A |

Dick Grundstrom, Membership Chairman