

“The Little Course With the Big Name”

Elm Creek Hosts MGCSA Scholarship Scramble

By MICHAEL KLATTE, CGCS
Elm Creek Golf Links of Plymouth

July 20th is the date set for Elm Creek Golf Links of Plymouth to host the 1998 MGCSA Scholarship Scramble with morning and afternoon shotguns.

I thought you might like to learn a little more about the course before you come to play.

In our early years our course had a reputation of a short course with hilly, tree-lined holes. It was designed to challenge the golfer to carry shots over ravines and creek beds. In its 38-year history a number of changes have taken place.

In 1991 we expanded the golf course by adding 23 additional acres. This would give us the flexibility to stretch out holes and eliminate most of the par 3s. We planned to use as many of the old greens as possible and to build ten new holes with 2,000 yards of distance. We modified four greens and built four new greens. The natural surrounding hills allowed for elevated tee and scenic views of the golf course.

Our name changed, too. A rather long name, Elm Creek Golf Links of Plymouth was created to distinguish our location from others in the area that use elm creek for identification, such as Elm Creek Park Reserve. Elm Creek begins in the Hamel/Plymouth area and meanders throughout the northwest suburbs until it finally joins the Mississippi River near Champlin.

The golf course plays to a par 70 at 6,115 yards, a course rating of 70.4 and a slope of 132 from the championship tees. All of the ten new holes are strong and place a premium on shot making. The signature hole has always been the par 3 ninth.

Elm Creek's PGA professional David Kirkbride gives this hole-by-

hole description.

**1 Par 4
375 Yards**

This is a straight away hole with slight elevation toward a large green sloping towards the front.

**2 Par 4
367 Yards**

Dogleg to the right places a premium on your drive, because of a ditch along right side of landing area. Second shot looks down at a green that hugs a pond on the right. Bunker behind green.

**3 Par 4
300 Yards**

Don't let this yardage fool you! MGA rating team felt it was the toughest hole on the course because of the slope of the green. Second shot is to a hilltop green with bunker on the right side.

**4 Par 4
385 Yards**

Straight away hole with slight dogleg to the left. Blind shot to the green with steep bank on the right side. Ravine follows right side of green area.

**5 Par 5
445 Yards**

Easiest hole on the course. Slight dogleg to the right.

**6 Par 3
150 Yards**

Tricky par 3 with small narrow green that slopes to the right cut into a hill which has a banked green with steep slopes.

**7 Par 4
322 Yards**

Another easy hole that has a gradual climb toward the green from the tee area.

**8 Par 4
350 Yards**

Narrow driving hole with small, elevated green with bunkers on left and right. Out of bounds on right side of fairway and marsh area on left side.

**9 Par 3
162 Yards**

This signature hole is the toughest par 3. A beautiful setting with the green perched and the creek wrapping around the entire area. The tee is elevated high above looking over a spectacular sight.

**10 Par 4
350 Yards**

Another challenging hole with OB right of the fairway. You must keep your drive well left to avoid the out of bounds. Level putting surface on this dogleg hole.

**11 Par 4
340 Yards**

Sharp dogleg right, 175 yard, lay-up shot, one can gamble with a drive over a deep ravine on the right side of fairway. Second half of hole drops below landing area setting up second shot. Bunkers and pond are left of green.

**12 Par 3
161 Yards**

Good par 3 with great views of the golf course. Out of bounds right of hole with sharp drop on the left toward the creek. Level putting surface.

**13 Par 5
560 Yards**

The number one handicap hole. A tough driving hole because of a 200 yard carry over creek. Blind second shot to top of hill with third

(Continued on Page 18)

Elm Creek—

(Continued from Page 15)

shot looking down a small green. Bunkers along left side of fairway for drive and second shots. The kidney-shaped green has a front bunker and small pond behind the back bank. Out of bounds on right side for second shot.

14 Par 4 380 Yards

Another tough driving hole! This time you have a 200-yard carry over a five acre pond with your drive. You have a bail out on the right but this makes a long second shot to the green. A medium-sized green with a deep yawning bunker in the front left with bunkers right and back.

15 Par 4 360 Yards

High elevated tee looks down towards a straightaway hole. The large pond defines the left side of fairway. Green hugs the pond on the right side with bunkers on right side of green.



Mel Strand, CEO
35 years experience

Double Eagle Golf Construction

*Redesign the Old
...Construct the New*

17555 Madison St. • Ham Lake, MN 55304 • **(612) 434-0054**

16 Par 4 390 Yards

Some say this is the strongest hole on the course! Long, narrow fairway with OB on right side with long narrow bunker left of landing area. Tight second shot to a large, elevated sloping green. Large evergreens define back of green with a deep bunker below to the left front of green.

17 Par 3 138 Yards

Beautiful little hole that plays longer than its yardage. All

carry from tee to green over a deep ravine and creek. Smallest green on the course with steep drop off on right side.

18 Par 4 160 Yards

Great finishing hole with narrow landing area and small, elevated green. Elm Creek comes into play from tee with direct and lateral water hazards.

QUALITY SUPPLIER OF TURF

- **Washed** and Regular Turf (Sod) in 1^{1/2} yd. or up to 55 yd. Big Roll Size (42" Wide)

TURF TYPES:

- ELITE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS BLEND
- SPORTS TURF
BLUEGRASS/P. RYEGRASS BLEND
BENTGRASS



MEMBER

NCTGA	MGCSA
MSTMA	WTA
SDGSA	ISTMA
MTGF	TPI

8651 Naples St. N.E.
Blaine, MN 55449

For Quality Turf Contact:
(612) 674-7937 • FAX: (612) 674-7044

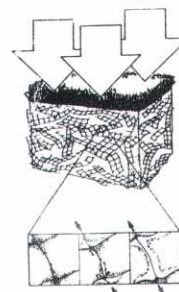
QUALITY CONSTRUCTION & RECONSTRUCTION

- *Golf Courses*
- *Sports Fields*



NETLON[®] ADVANCED TURF SYSTEMS

Self-Cultivating means healthier turf and better drainage.



NETLON[®] MESH ELEMENTS AND MIXES

For Compaction Resistance on cart paths, sports fields and other high use areas.

For Quality Construction & Nelton[®] Products Contact:
(612) 784-0657 • FAX: (612) 784-6001