

# GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Fall 2020, Vol. 24 No. 3

**DUMBARNIE  
LINKS:  
SO NEW,  
SO OLD**

**MONTEREY:  
THE ULTIMATE TRIP**

**SHOUT OUT TO  
SHORT COURSES**

[GOLFChicagoMagazine.com](http://GOLFChicagoMagazine.com)

# TITO'S

TEE TIME



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Cover: Dumbarnie Links 6th Hole. Above: Dumbarnie Links 8th and 9th Holes

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Good Riddance to 2020

OPENING SHOT

DAVE  
AND  
TIM

Feeling Cooped Up?

Even with the ability to play golf, there's been a confining feeling to this year ever since the COVID-19 virus reared its ugly head.

It was tough to go somewhere when there was nowhere to go.

That's changed, and that's great. Not only have local courses opened, so have resorts, and, with proper social distancing, you can have as good a time now as you could last year.

Perhaps better, because our cover subject, Dumbarnie Links, wasn't open last year. Located on a 5,000-acre estate overlooking the Firth of Forth about 10 minutes outside of St. Andrews, Scotland, it looks like it's



"I'm giving you 10,000 free golf balls with my company's logo on them. Since you'll lose every one of them, it'll be good advertising."

been there forever. We have an exclusive interview with architect Clive Clark, who should be over the moon about the reviews.

It opened at the end of May. This year, that is, not 1703, but it's one more course to add to the Scotland bucket list, and the more of those, the better. All we need now is the green light to travel outside the country.

Back in the States, our Neal Kotlarek covers another five-star destination, the Monterey Peninsula. From Pebble Beach to Pasatiempo, the golf there is sublime.

Neal also dug into the recent trend to build short courses, whether fewer than 18 holes or a par-3 layout, as exemplified by the recent opening of a short course at Forest Dunes in Michigan, and Kohler's announcement of a similar venture at Blackwolf Run in Wisconsin.

We also look forward to the final men's major of the season, the Masters, the calendar having turned the traditional opener into the season closer. There won't be any fans hanging out at Amen Corner, but a review of Mark Cannizzaro's new book on the toonimint will help take you there.

Additionally, there's another super-sized helping of The Good Stuff, instruction from Katherine Marren of Carmel, Calif., and more.

Thanks to the pandemic, we only presented you three issues this year, but we expect to be back to normal in 2021. We hope the world is back to normal by then as well.

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# THE GOOD STUFF

Compiled by Todd Mrowice

## Seemore Putter, Sink More Putts

SeeMore's unmistakable design is incorporated into its latest model, the Platinum M7 Tour. A heel and toe weighted putter, this classic looking putter has enhanced forgiveness and multiple milling patterns for buttery contact. Made of 303 stainless steel, the M7 Tour has the brand's Rifle Scope Technology which is that little red dot that gets you aligned.

\$350 [www.seemore.com](http://www.seemore.com)



## Adidas Stripes Without Spikes

The new Codechaos line from Adidas brings a light and energized experience to your golf shoe game. These spikeless kicks have a waterproof textile upper, INSITE sockliner, and Fitfoam cushioning. A spikeless shoe doesn't need to sacrifice traction, and Chaos Traxion with Twist Grip gives you superior stability no matter what the playing conditions may be.

\$150 [www.adidas.com](http://www.adidas.com)



## Bamboo Pants Are Here

Bamboo isn't just for panda bears, it's for making super comfy pants. The Bamboo Stretch five-pocket pant from Linksoul is everything you never knew you needed in your wardrobe. These pants are perfect for the course, work, and anywhere in-between. 69 percent cotton, 29 percent bamboo, 2 percent spandex, machine washable, and a modern fit. Available in five colors.

\$130 [www.linksoul.com](http://www.linksoul.com)



## Swagger in a Sleeve

"It's not a dozen balls, it's a box of swagger." What else can TaylorMade say about a golf ball that was designed in tandem with Rickie Fowler? High-level performance meets a truly unique design. Strategically placed graphics frame the TaylorMade logo to form ClearPath Alignment for immediate feedback.

\$44.99 [www.taylormadegolf.com](http://www.taylormadegolf.com)



## The Kube for Your Bag

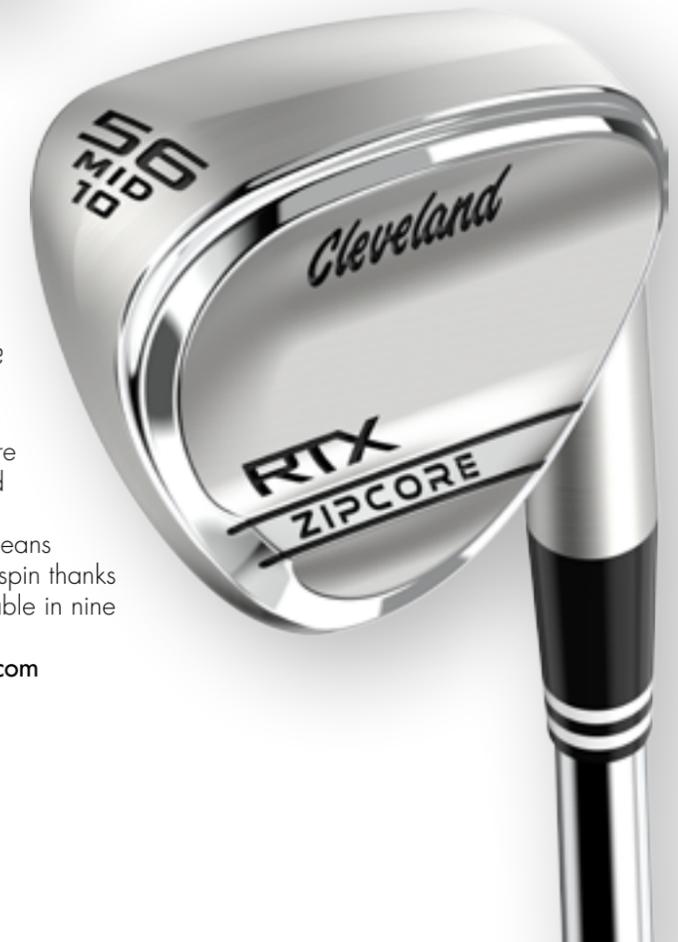
Where is your golf travel bag? Probably somewhere inconvenient due to its inconvenient size and awkwardness. Weighing only 6.8 pounds, the Sun Mountain Kube is made from ballistic-style fabric in combination with plastic half-shells. The Kube folds down to only 9" x 13" x 14.5" for convenient storage. Available in eight colors to make it as bright and noticeable as possible.

\$229.99 [www.sunmountain.com](http://www.sunmountain.com)

## Cleveland Rocks Wedges

Death, taxes, and Cleveland wedges. Isn't that how it goes? The new RTX ZipCore wedges are a sleek design with intense performance. A lightweight core paired with a newly positioned center of gravity makes finding the sweet spot easier, which means controlled distance and better spin thanks to new UltiZip Grooves. Available in nine lofts and three sole grinds.

\$149.99 [www.clevelandgolf.com](http://www.clevelandgolf.com)



# THE GOOD STUFF

Compiled by Todd Mrowice



## A Near-Weightless Golf Bag

With our golf weather fleeting, does it get any better than taking advantage of a beautiful fall day and walking nine or 18 holes? The Ping Hoofer Craze-E Lite bag makes carrying your sticks so much easier by weighing only three pounds, but without sacrificing quality. High tensile strength fabric is beyond durable and the four-way top easily holds your club cargo.

\$249.00 ping.com



## Hat's on to Arnie

PUMA's tribute to Arnold Palmer's life and style is showcased in the PUMA x Arnold Palmer Collection. The AP Rope Snapback has the AP umbrella patch which highlights this cap, and has a moisture-wicking sweatband and Flexfit 110 Technology. Available in four classy colors.

\$35 www.cobragolf.com



## Too TRUE to Believe

Has it really been 11 years since our last review of TRUE shoes? They are really frontrunners when it comes to comfort and quality for a shoe to "Enjoy the walk," as TRUE urges. The OG Premium is constructed with a natural platform to increase balance and feel. High-quality leather and coordinating sock liner allow flexible comfort on and off the course, and they come with a two-year waterproof guarantee.

\$179 truelinkswear.com

## A Wristful of Yardage

A high quality GPS watch doesn't need to cost you, well, the arm you wear it upon. The new V3 from Shot Scope is a lightweight and comfortable watch with a full-color display. Preloaded with 35,000 courses, the device gives front, middle, back, and hazard distances. It comes with 16 Smart GPS tracking tabs to record all of your shots and can also act as your everyday watch.

\$219.99 shotscope.com



## A Glove Unlike Any Other

The thing about wearing a premium golf glove is that once you've experienced it, it's hard to go back to value. Wearing an Asher glove is like wearing a Bentley on your hand. Do you really want to go back to that '92 Sable? Made from a single piece of AAA Cabretta-Leather and precision cut to perfection. There's just no substitute.

\$24 www.ashergolf.com



## Rah-rah Grips

Golf Pride wants you to share your allegiance with every shot. The new MCC Teams grips are designed with the color schemes of just about every major pro and college team so you can rep your squad. Brushed cotton cord on the upper hand, premium rubber for the lower hand. The best of both worlds. Available in standard and midsize.

\$10.49 per grip  
www.golfpride.com



## Now Hear This

Why spend the money on a GPS and a Bluetooth speaker when you can have both in one unit? The new Wingman speaker from Bushnell features crystal-clear high quality audio, and the battery life is 10 hours. The speaker also includes a built-in USB port for charging other devices. With 36,000 courses, one push of a button and you'll have front, back, and center distances.

\$149.99 bushnellgolf.com





## Considering the Chip Shot

There is nothing like a perfectly struck chip shot. You have to make solid contact, start the ball on the correct line and control the distance of the ball. When all three of those skills come together it can feel immensely satisfying.

I tell my students that I rank the chip shot as the most important shot in the bag because the correct fundamentals of this small swing teaches them a Tour player-like impact they can use to help improve their full swings. Plus, we all know how critical good chipping is to lowering our golf scores, yet chipping tends to be an elusive shot for many golfers to master.

I'm going to share with you my favorite chipping tips, but first it's important to describe a chip shot. A chip shot is a low shot played close to the ground, and by definition has less air time than ground time. Think bump and run. There are also two distinct chipping techniques: one that mimics putting (and uses a putting grip) and one that is more like a mini-golf swing. I am going to describe the mini-golf swing version that uses a regular full-swing grip because it is a technique you can use to get the ball over small obstacles like rough or green fronts when used with your most lofted wedges and irons.

### The Set-Up

The set-up is the most important part of your chip shot and it is the most distinct set-up in golf. You should always be able to tell from observing a player's set-up if they are trying to chip. The feet are very close together with the lead foot slightly open. The golf ball is off the inside of the back foot and the golfer's hands are ahead of the ball, causing a very distinct look of the club shaft leaning forward.

Here is the most critical part of the set-up: Lean your head or upper body slightly forward to get your weight on your front foot, the foot closest to the target. This is the secret for getting the bottom of the swing in front of the ball and avoiding chunks and thin shots.

### The Key to Solid Contact

The most important skill in chipping is keeping the grip ahead of the clubhead through the ball. Almost all misses in chipping occur because the clubhead passes the grip before ball contact. Another way of describing that for right-handed golfers is that the right hand passes the left hand before ball contact which makes the club head swing up into the ball – the dreaded skulled shot.

If this mistake has been derailing your chips, try focusing on keeping the grip ahead of the ball through to the finish. If you are successful you will see the shaft in line with your lead forearm and your lead wrist flat (stick drill picture). You can even try to bow the lead wrist down as you swing through the ball to keep that lead wrist flat through impact.

### The Swing

The swing motion in chipping is often described as an arm swing or a putting-like swing. That's a good descriptor to start and keeps the length of the swing manageable, but there are some key differences to note.

First, because you are using a regular full swing grip in chipping, it is possible that your wrists will break ever so slightly on the backswing. That's okay; it helps you create some power and the ability to hit down on the ball. With that said your backswing is only about knee high. I like to think of the chipping swing as being about the same length back and through, and the finish has some specific looks that you can easily train into your motion. One, the club head finishes low, and two, the shaft of the club is in line with your lead arm. This makes your lead wrist appear flat and your lead arm long or straight.

### The Plane

Even in chipping the swing plane is important. I see most golfers struggling with chipping when their path or plane is too up or vertical or way too low and inside.

Remember chipping is like your full swing. There is a tiny arc so as you swing back the club head goes slightly up and in. When golfers struggle with chunked, topped or skulled shots it is often their swing path or plane.

### Practice

The best chipping practice I can assign my students is to try to take their most lofted wedge and to learn to hit the ball as low as you can. At your practice green, find a 20-yard chip shot, take your sand wedge and hit low trajectory shots. Land the ball halfway to the hole about 10 yards and make it run the other 10 yards. Chipping the ball with a low trajectory helps you keep the grip in front of the ball and helps eliminate the miss of scooping the ball which sends the ball sailing across the green.

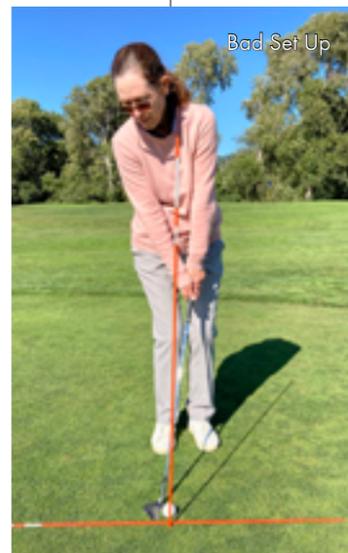
As you hit chip shots, monitor your trajectory. When you see a higher shot with less roll out, you may have indeed broken down your wrists, so challenge yourself on the next shot to hit the ball

lower and build better awareness of the left wrist staying flat and the right wrist bent back slightly through impact on the next shot. 

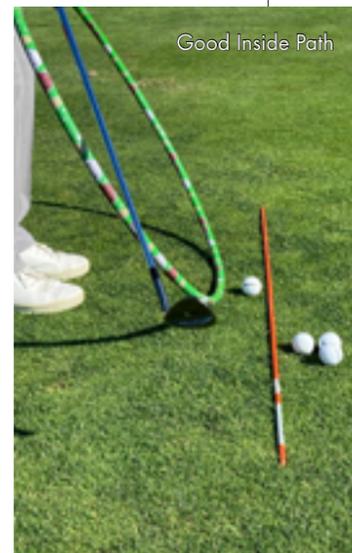
*Katherine Marren is the director of instruction at Quail Lodge & Golf Club in Carmel, Calif. (www.quailodge.com), and was the 2008 Northern California PGA Teacher of the Year. She can be reached at (831) 620-8859.*



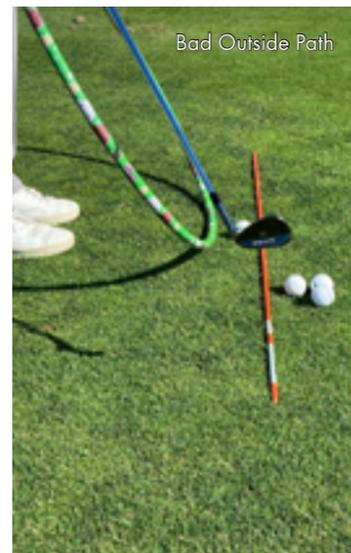
Good Set Up



Bad Set Up



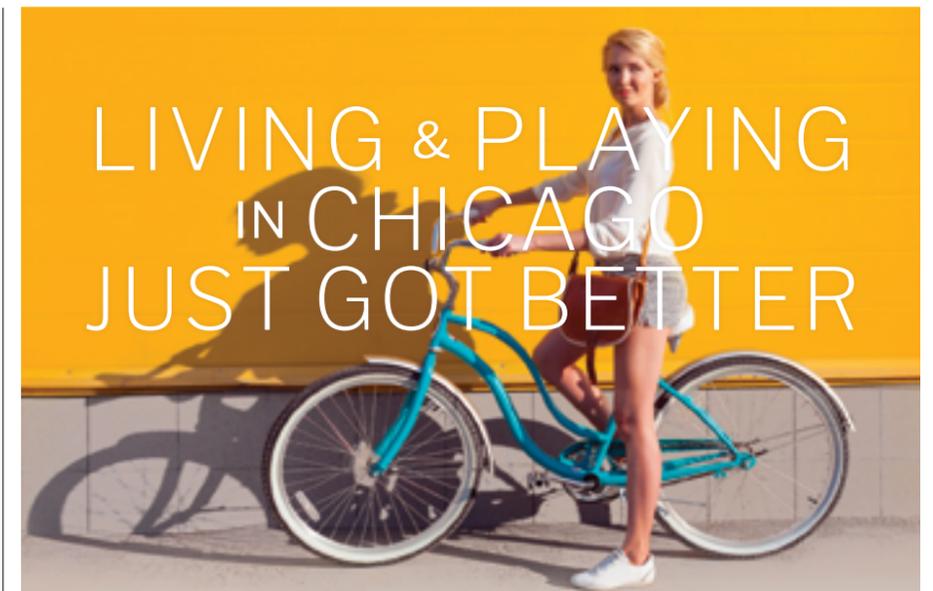
Good Inside Path



Bad Outside Path



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# Sweet Home Chicago

## Emory Takes Charge at Illinois Open

Bryce Emory is one of those guys who keep teeing it up, looking for the breakthrough.

The 29-year-old Auroran may have found it at nearby White Eagle Golf Club in winning the Illinois Open. He won by four strokes after seeing his 36-hole lead evaporate during the round, collecting \$19,928 and a huge dose of confidence before a gallery of several hundred.

"In all honesty, I kind of thought this could be the last year (of chasing the dream)," Emory said. "Then throw on the coronavirus stuff and I had time to think about it. You realize there are bigger things than golf. But I'm playing well this summer so I'll probably play a little bit longer."

Emory's total of 8-under 208 beat second-year pro Jack Korzon of Downers Grove, whose closing 69 jumped him into solo second. Charlie Netzel of Western Springs and Tim "Tee-K" Kelly of Wheaton tied for third at 3-under 213.

## Sort of a Three-peat for Sluzas

The high school season was altered like everything else this season, with the IHSA eliminating the championship playoffs for boys and girls. A shortened regular season will be capped by a regional playoff. That eliminated the chance of Lockport Township's Ben Sluzas to win a third straight IHSA state 3A title, matching Mason Jacobs, who did so in 1A for Massac County High from 2005-07.

But Sluzas more than made up for that by capturing the IJGA's 51st Illinois Junior by going around Makray Memorial in even-par 213 in mid-August. Playing in the penultimate group, he beat Dominic Scaletta of Inverness (and Barrington, where Makray is located) by two strokes with an eagle on the par-5 18th in the final round, while Scaletta, in the final threesome, double-bogeyed to fall out of the lead and hand the title to Sluzas.

Truth be told, summer golf, from the IJGA's wide-ranging series of tournaments to national play, has long surpassed the high school-connected season for those seeking college scholarships. But Sluzas, headed for Northern Illinois, now has the best of both worlds, titles in each over three seasons..

## Birdies Fly for Charity

It's the biggest little fund-raiser around, the annual Birdies for Charity bash at River Forest Country Club. Brainchild of Medinah's

Travis Johns and River Forest's Chris Gumbach a decade ago, this year's one-day bash, combined with one downstate conducted by the Central Illinois Chapter of the Illinois PGA, raised over \$350,000 despite a late start because of downpours.

The 40-player haul via 1,042 birdies brings the total to about \$2.31 million in the 10 years it's been held, thanks to pledges by members of the clubs the pros work at. Proceeds go to the Illinois PGA Foundation, Laurie Children's Hospital, JDRF of Illinois and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland.



Rachel Oberheide grins after making a birdie during the Birdies for Charity marathon. (Tim Cronin)

## The Silent BMW

Usually, a 66-foot, 3-inch birdie putt across a green and down a slope that falls into the cup to win a tournament is accompanied by a roar you can hear from the other side of the course. Jon Rahm received a couple of cheers and prolonged but polite applause when the putt described dropped into the cup at Olympia Fields during sudden-death in the BMW Championship.

Ranked No. 2 in the world, he was the winner after top-ranked Dustin Johnson, whose 44-footer from a similar angle on the 72nd hole had forced extra holes, missed a 30-footer that came up about a foot short. Thus ended four rounds in which Olympia's North Course was the real winner. Only five players finished under par, and the scoring average was over the strict par of 70 all four days, even Sunday, when the wind was a whisper.

Could this mean the course proved tough enough for another U.S. Open? Perhaps, but there's much more – including bad USGA memories of Cook County politics – involved. More likely, Olympia will get a future BMW, one filled with spectators.

## Stix Breaks Club Design, Sales Mold

They look like branded clubs. They play like branded clubs. But when you check out the price tag on a 12-piece set of clubs offered by Stix Golf, you immediately understand the difference. Leave it to a team of entrepreneurs from Chicago's western suburbs to shake up the golf industry with a motto of "premium quality and minimalist design at a fair price."

Stix Golf uses a direct-to-consumer model to offer equipment at \$799 for the entire set, consisting of a driver, two woods, a hybrid, five irons, two wedges and a putter. The clubs are made with high-elastic graphite shafts, are all-black and have a sleek, elegant look.

"We saw an opportunity to save our customers a lot of money even with a high performance product line," said Stix Golf co-founder and CEO Gabriel Coyne. "We've had a great response to the product line from all levels of players," he added. "We think one of the reasons some people don't play the game is due to the high cost of equipment. So maybe Stix Golf can play a role in bringing more people into the game."

The price includes free shipping and a 100 percent satisfaction guarantee. For now, the clubs are only available in right-handed models. Visit [www.stix.golf](http://www.stix.golf) for order information.



## PROFILES

NEAL KOTLAREK

Three years of painstaking renovation work, redesign, and a multi-million-dollar investment has helped put the "royal" back in Royal Fox Country Club in St. Charles. The private club is nearing completion of a regal renaissance performed with the singular goal of upgrading every aspect of the facility including the golf course, the clubhouse, the restaurants and multiple amenities spread across the grounds. The vision by management and ownership was to make Royal Fox the premier country club and residential community in the western suburbs.

"Time is a precious commodity," explained club general manager and PGA professional Brian Tulk. "When our members enter the club, they deserve a first-class experience, whether that experience involves playing the golf course, relaxing with their family at the swimming pool, or enjoying a great meal in the evening."

The club's centerpiece is a scenic, rolling 6,816-yard championship course that over the years has hosted seven Illinois Opens and multiple CDGA qualifying events. While most of the original design remains intact, subtle enhancements were made to improve aesthetics and course playability. Phase 1 of the project involved back nine cart path pavement and grass replacement around the greens where multiple varieties had taken root. Phase 2 incorporated bunker renovation, the addition of grass bunkers and waste bunkers, and the completion of new cart paths on the front nine.

# The Renaissance of Royal Fox

"The sand bunkers add strategy while at the same time increasing the course's beauty," said PGA head professional Alex Mendez, who joined Royal Fox after a long stint at Butterfield Country Club.

The Royal Fox golf course was built in 1989 by the late legend Dick Nugent, whose credentials include Michigan's five-star The Dunes Club and both Harborside International courses on Chicago's south side. At Royal Fox, Nugent utilized the property's naturally rolling terrain to construct a challenging layout replete with sprawling bunkers that can make approach shots a test of nerves. One of the noticeable improvements made to the course is the use of fine white sand that glistens in the sun. Over \$500,000 was spent to upgrade the property's maintenance equipment.

Royal Fox's two nines contrast and complement one another. The tree-lined and bunker-filled front nine gives way to a water hazard-laced back nine. Along with two spectacular par 3s, the front nine is highlighted by the challenging 416-yard (white tees) ninth. Following a straightaway tee shot to avoid trees along the left side of the landing area, the hole veers diagonally to a large green made much tighter by large bunkers protecting its left and right sides. When the flagstick is placed near the front of the green, the long approach shot has to be carefully placed to avoid these strategic bunkers.

The layout's final two holes are extremely memorable. The par-3 seventeenth calls for

a formidable tee shot over a large pond to a large tiered green also protected by an L-shaped bunker on the back side. The 550-yd. eighteenth is an intriguing par-5 that provides a thrilling approach shot whether going for the green in two with a wood or using a short-iron on the third shot. The vast putting surface is protected by water, a large embankment and three snaking bunkers.

No visit to Royal Fox is complete without a stop inside the renovated clubhouse. The facility's multiple dining areas offer both casual and fine dining options. Adjacent to the clubhouse's oversized patio is an enclosed elegant outdoor swimming pool which recently underwent a \$300,000 renovation. "After it reopened," said Tulk, "the patio has become the club's premier outdoor social gathering spot for our members. We can also expand that area with canopies to allow for larger occasions," he added. Amenities at the patio include a fire pit, heaters, and regularly scheduled live music.

The club maintains an active social calendar for couples, families, and avid golfers. The Royal Fox Junior Coaching Programs are geared to juniors 6 to 13 and promote team-building athletic skills; programs are open to children of members and non-members. Regularly scheduled events include holiday celebrations, summer soirees, "nine and dine" evening events geared toward couples, and golf clinics.

"Royal Fox Country Club is unique in the Chicago metro area," said Tulk. "The club

continued on page 28



One-hundred-and-one years ago, Pebble Beach Golf Links opened to the public after two outstanding amateur golfers, Jack Neville and Douglas Grant, designed one of the wonders of the golf world. Unlike many other links courses that abut great bodies of water, their layout hovered above a rugged coastline. To maximize the number of holes on the ocean, the links were routed in a figure 8. Ten years after it opened, Pebble Beach hosted the U.S. Amateur. Since then, the now legendary course has hosted six U.S. Opens (with a seventh slated for 2027), a PGA Championship, the perennial AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am – the old Crosby Clambake – and, in 2023, is scheduled to host the U.S. Women's Open. While the competition seems to get stiffer each year, Pebble Beach has been ranked as the No. 1 Greatest Public Golf Course in America by *Golf Digest* since that category was introduced in 2003.

While Pebble Beach Golf Links remains the 17-Mile Drive's premier attraction, the peninsula is also home to three other great championship courses, all of them accessible to the public, along with one of the world's greatest private courses, the ultra-exclusive Cypress Point Club. Indeed, any itinerary to the Monterey Peninsula should incorporate two or more other courses to create lasting memories. Following are summaries of the best beyond Pebble's lure.

### Spyglass Hill



Located just a mile away from Pebble Beach Golf Links, the course was designed in the 1960s by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and has a vastly different feel from its sister course. Long considered the toughest golf course in northern California, Spyglass Hill begins with a dogleg left par 5 that opens to sweeping views of Monterey Bay and the Santa Cruz Mountains. The ensuing four holes include ocean views as they wind through, alongside, atop, and over sand dunes. The tee box of the 172-yard third hole includes views of the aforementioned Cypress Point Club along with a backdrop of the Pacific Ocean. While perhaps not as famous as No. 7 on Pebble Beach, this par 3 includes many more obstacles than its counterpart, including waste areas teeming with native grasses. A saving grace is that the green is large and forgiving.

Robert Trent Jones referenced No. 4 as his favorite par 4 of his long and celebrated career. Nicknamed "Blind Pew," the hole ends with a fascinating 55-yard long putting surface that is only 10-yards wide and is sunk between sand dunes. Be careful with

# The Drive of a Lifetime

## Why the Monterey Peninsula is worth the trip

By Neal Kotlarek and Dave Weretka

Arguably, there are only two iconic pathways leading to a pair of America's greatest golf courses. The first is Magnolia Lane, the stunning 330-yard entryway into Augusta National Golf Club that is protected by 61 towering magnolia trees, most of which date back to the 1850s. Most of us, of course, will never have a chance to perform a test drive, as the driveway is only used by the members and guests of one of the country's most exclusive clubs.

The other iconic pathway is joyously accessible to the public and may arguably be the country's most scenic roadway. It is 17-Mile Drive, which hugs the Pacific Ocean coastline and takes drivers through parts of California's Del Monte Forest, past barking sea lions near Bird Rock, and even past a lone cypress tree that has stood guard over the ocean for 250 years. The painter Frances McComas called Point Lomas, along the two-lane road, "the greatest meeting of land and sea in the world," a quote almost always attributed to the author Robert Louis Stevenson. All avid golfers can echo the sentiment, as the Monterey Peninsula is not only a spectacular drive, it's also home to Pebble Beach, Spyglass Hill, and a host of other stunning championship courses.



shot selection on the approach shot, as a ball on the wrong side of this green could leave a putt almost a half of a football field long.

Following the fifth hole, the course weaves into the mature pine trees of the lush Del Monte Forest. While the fairways are generously wide over this stretch of holes, Jones placed strategic fairway bunkers on every par 4 and par 5. These hazards reduce landing areas significantly to thus bring the trees lining the fairways into play.

The highlight of the back nine is the intimidating No. 14. A double dogleg, this par 5 bends severely right over the final 150 yards. The green is tucked behind a pond and a deep snaking bunker on its right side.

### The Links at Spanish Bay



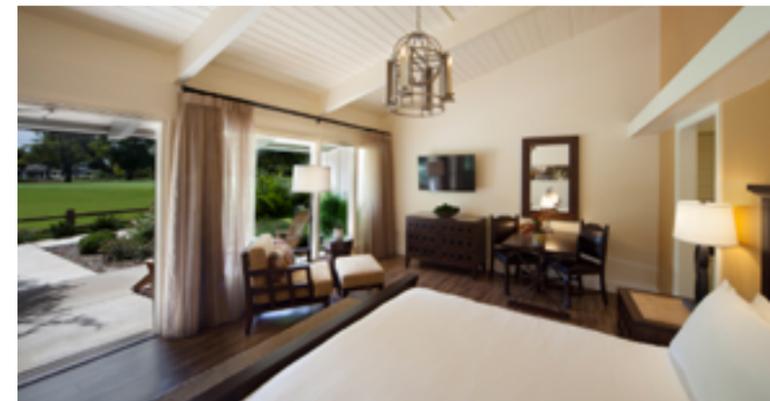
Just as cliffs are the theme of Pebble Beach and the Del Monte Forest dominates Spyglass Hill, sand dunes are the predominant characteristic of Spanish Bay. Designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. with input from Tom Watson and former USGA president Sandy Tatum, the course has a distinctly Scottish feel as its fairways consist of fescue grass. This feature adds a strategic element to the course with many approach shots calling for a pitch-and-run to the green.

Site of an abandoned sand quarry, Spanish Bay zigzags along the ocean for all but four holes. While some of the fairways are extremely wide, hazards abound across the course. These include pot bunkers, marshlands, waste areas, and deep fescue grass. PGA Champions Tour star Scott McCarron won the 2016 TaylorMade Pebble Beach Invitational and praised the course afterwards. "Spyglass Hill and Pebble Beach are my two favorite courses," he said. "And Spanish Bay probably has the best views of any golf course I've ever seen."

Each evening at Spanish Bay, a lone bagpiper plays a mournful tune and paces across the course to signal the sunset. Few traditions in golf are more inspiring.

### Quail Lodge Golf Club

Located seven miles inland from Pebble Beach, Quail Lodge Golf Club is a gently rolling parkland-style course designed by Robert Muir Graves and restored in 2015 by Todd Echenrode. The layout plays to a modest (by today's standards) 6,464 yards, but is plenty challenging due to the presence of 10 lakes, scores of bunkers, and the Carmel River. Nestled in the secluded Carmel Valley, Quail



Lodge serves up great scenic views of the verdant hills surrounding most holes. Impeccable conditioning makes the course a joy to play.

The most interesting hole on the front nine is No. 6, a short par 4 with a candy cane-shaped green fronted by a creek. Make birdie here and you'll feel as if Christmas arrived early. The 17th hole is a terrific par 3 featuring a large green protected by wasteland on the left and three massive bunkers on the right. The entire hole is framed by trees and hills in the distance.

### Pasatiempo, Santa Cruz



Even though this course is situated an hour's drive away from Pebble Beach and is not on the Monterey Peninsula, this fabulous and historic course deserves your consideration when scheduling a golf trip to this area. Indeed, if your flight from Chicago takes you into San Jose, I recommend you make this your very first stop. Everything about this semi-private course (with limited tee times available to the public) makes it a must-play. For starters, the layout was the vision of

continued on page 28



# DUMBARNIE LINKS

## SCOTTISH COURSE MAKES INAUGURAL IMPACT

BY TIM CRONIN



Dumbarnie Links 4th Hole

**T**he golf architect has a difficult job. He must satisfy several constituencies: the owner from the start, the regulatory bodies during construction, the members or customers as they play it, and finally, himself.

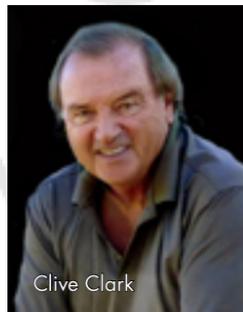
He has to take what nature gives him and improve upon it, accentuating the features present and adding those necessary to make a journey from first tee to 18th green feel challenging, entertaining, and, for casual play, relaxing, all at the same time.

And he has to meet the budget.

Ideally, the property is in an accessible location – though Chicago-based developer Mike Keiser, master of the far-away getaway, will tell you otherwise. If there's something of a view, so much the better.

Architect Clive Clark, born in England, more recently anchored in La Quinta, Calif., but always with an eye to the roots of the game, found an accessible property with a view of the Firth of Forth in Scotland, scant miles from St. Andrews.

"I had always wanted to do a links course, and you very seldom find a genuine links site," said Clark, his voice and accent from working several Masters telecasts in the 1980s still familiar. He sat behind the 16th hole after Henry Longhurst and before Jim Nantz.



Clive Clark

The property, suggested to him by friend Malcolm Campbell, who lived a mile away and happened to walk to it one day, would be the site of Clark's first venture into designing a links course.

Dumbarnie Links, he would call it, and, open only since May 27, it has received considerable acclaim as a course the golf tourist besotted with playing The Old Course must add to his list to go with nearby Kingsbarns as well as the other St. Andrews links.

Clark, working with a split-level property that gently tumbles from the clubhouse 90 feet above sea level to within a flip wedge of a mile-long beach, has taken slanted ground where cows had grazed for hundreds of years and turned it into a lively rumpled carpet of golf. Holes sit between dunes both natural and conjured up by his mind while living at the site for the best part of four months.

The result is that most welcome of golf creations, a new links to go with the some 246 worldwide that Campbell and fellow author George Peper identified in their 2010 book, "True Links."

The property itself is unusual, in that it was created on 345 acres of the 5,000-acre Balcarres Estate, lovingly tended by one family since the 1500s, about when golf itself began.

"There was an air of uncertainty when my family was first approached about building a golf course on our land," said Lord Anthony Balniel, leader of the family. "Fast forward several years and we simply could not be more pleased. What Clive Clark and his team have done is nothing short of outstanding. I have been struck not only by the beauty of what

has been created with the dune landscape being so significantly enhanced, but also by the focus on the wildlife, plants and birds.

"It has been a joy to see the project unfold."

Balniel is the rare Scot who does not play golf, but he recognizes excellence when he sees it. Putting his faith in Clark, who assembled a group of investors to finance the project, was a wise move.

Clark, 75 and anything but retired, was a successful amateur and professional player who had studied art and architecture – building architecture, that is – in college for a time before deciding he wanted a club in his hand rather than a triangular ruler.

"I realized it was it wasn't quite the same as playing golf, which I loved," Clark recalled. "It was a seven-year course."

He escaped into the



world of amateur golf and won four important tournaments that summer, landing on the 1965 Walker Cup team, where he went 2-0-2 at Baltimore Five Farms, and was a threat from then on.

Fast-forward a couple of decades, and Clark, by now the head professional at Sunningdale while moonlighting on BBC's golf telecasts, slid into golf architecture by working with Peter Alliss, a broadcasting colleague. Clark coaxed Alliss back into the business, and their partnership lasted through 22 course designs. Then the market in the U.K. dried up and Clark moved here to ply his trade.

His great asset in entering the business?

"Because I'd studied architecture and been to art school, I can draw," Clark said. "If you're designing anything, whether a fashion designer or golf architect, it's very helpful. I'd learned to do grading plans when studying architecture. It's very similar to being a golf course architect."

The former Walker and Ryder Cupper could also use his imagination. Beyond the beauty – five holes play toward the Firth, across which on the rare exceptionally clear day it is said one can see Edinburgh – Dumbarnie Links is filled with imaginative shots.

There are three short par-4 holes which dare the bold player to attempt driving the green, a particular favorite of Clark's, as it gives everyone a chance at a birdie. He compares it to "shopping at Harrod's when there's a 60-percent sale. You're getting something for nothing. It's a bargain." The drivable third, a shade over 300 yards, has already recorded that rarest of golf birds, the albatross ace on a par 4. On the 17th, one must contend with a 300-year-old stone wall that you can drive over if you dare, at the risk of finding one of the seven "gnarly pot bunkers," to use Clark's term. There's a safer route, but what fun is that?

There are two holes, one a par 5, that emulate the double-fairway hole of Charles Blair Macdonald's long-gone Lido, where the narrower fairway, harder to hit, offers a several-club lesser approach to the green in comparison to the safer but longer route. Several holes are bisected by small streams, while dunes are everywhere, guiding the golfer about.

"It's a constructed golf course but it looks very natural," Clark said in a recent telephone conversation. "If you went there today and looked out across it, you'd probably think it had been there for 100 years. The holes are very secluded. On the high part of the site, there are some holes you can look over the whole golf course."

The black tees – the back tees on the scorecard – play to about 6,900 yards, not long in this era, but surely long enough for 99.5 percent of Dumbarnie's clientele. That's especially true when one remembers the wind has a tendency to blow in Scotland.

But, Clark revealed, and a close look at the course map confirmed, there are 13 holes with unlisted tees. Those, if used in a championship, would stretch the layout to some 7,600 yards, likely long enough for even the biggest hitters to take a deep breath.

Clark calls himself "a chameleon" when it comes to course design, preferring to enhance the features of the land rather than impose a single style upon it. That brings in imagination even more. A Clive Clark course isn't cookie-cutter golf.

"It's a thinking man's golf course, and I think that's also been a factor in the popularity," Clark said. "And it's a thinking man's course where you see everything."

Clark is too modest to say this is his best design, but allowed, "It will be the best-known one, since it's a links."

Because of coronavirus-induced travel restrictions, almost nobody outside of Scottish and United Kingdom residents have seen Dumbarnie Links. That makes the acclaim from those who have all the more legitimate, for links golf is in the blood of the Scottish golfer.

"I'm absolutely thrilled," Clark said. "We've had a lot of days with full tee sheets."

One can only imagine the trumpets will sound tenfold when the rest of us get to visit the land that started it all.

#### DUMBARNIE AT A GLANCE

Dumbarnie Links

Upper Largo, Fife, Scotland

U.S. phone: 1 (833) 691-0403

[www.dumbarnielinks.com](http://www.dumbarnielinks.com)

Green fee: U.S. \$371 (as of September 11, 2020); resident rate lower



Dumbarnie Links 10th Hole



Dumbarnie Links 16th Hole



Dumbarnie Links 3rd Hole



Almost 30 years ago, golf architect Rick Smith had a cool idea. Even as a second championship course was about to open at Treetops Resort in Gaylord, Mich., where Smith also served as head instructor, he thought it would be neat if guests at the resort had something else to do after making it through an arduous round of championship golf. Inspired, perhaps, by the Par 3 Course built in 1958 at famed Augusta National, Smith wanted to build nine holes that took maximum advantage of the property's hills and dales. The end-result was a dramatic layout brilliantly named "Threetops" that received national exposure in 2001 when Lee Trevino rang up a hole-in-one on No. 7 to earn a cool \$1,090,000 in the ESPN Par-3 Shootout. The course features intriguing short holes with tees that dramatically tower above large greens – some designed to funnel a tee shot toward the flagstick.

Flash forward 28 years after the opening of Threetops. The golf world – not to mention the rest of the world – is a different place. While some resorts have come and gone since 1992, a number of spectacular "bucket list" golf resorts have opened and thrived. Besides great championship golf and luxurious accommodations, each looked for a unique amenity that would make visits to their properties extra special. What better amenity than a short, nifty and uber-fun par-3 course?

If there is a single parallel between the par-3 courses at Bandon Dunes, Sand Valley, Big Cedar Lodge, Threetops and Forest Dunes, it is the priority placed on providing golfers a fun and thrilling experience. Most everyone can hit a wedge shot 60 or 70 yards onto a large, gathering green. As this distance levels the playing field, high-handicappers have a decent chance of winning closest-to-the-pin contests against single-digit competitors. While Judge Smalls would surely disapprove, these courses have a tendency to generate wagers between individuals and teams. Throw in some on-course cold beverages and you have a veritable Happy Hour for Hackers.

Here is a look at some of the newest and best par-3 courses across the Midwest, along with a preview of two courses now under construction, one of which is out West.

### Threetops – Treetops Resort Gaylord, Michigan

It's still amazing that after all these years, this nine-hole northern Michigan course stands out among all others due to the dramatic landscape which makes for disorienting yardage calculations. The 3rd hole, called "Devil's Drop," plays 207 yards from the middle tees

toward a green positioned 145 feet down, in a glen surrounded by the towering mature trees that inspired the Treetops Resort name. In a calm wind, assume three clubs less than you'd normally use from this distance.

The 135-yard No. 7 is called "High Five" due to the reaction fans and the ESPN Shoot-out participants had after Trevino's momentous ace. The severe 90-foot drop can, according to the course guide, "lead to a club selection swing of up to four to five clubs." While you probably won't pocket \$1 million from your friends on this hole, a shot close to the pin is, as the credit card commercials used to say, priceless.

Treetops Resort is home to 81 holes of championship golf designed by the aforementioned Smith, Robert Trent Jones Sr., and Tom Fazio. Another resort golf amenity available at the four-season resort is a dramatic 17,000 square-foot putting course appropriately known as "The Himalayas.."

### The Sandbox – Sand Valley Rome, Wisconsin

Designed by the formidable duo of Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw in 2018, this 17-hole short course is as playful as its name indicates. Holes are positioned over 25 acres on a sandy ridge and stretch from a diminutive 40 yards up to 140 yards. Golfers familiar with the game's architectural legacy get to enjoy some fascinating green complexes, including a Redan, a Biarritz, and a punch bowl. As the 25 acres used for the course are relatively flat, the putting surfaces serve as the greatest defenses against par. Fortunately, the short distances on many holes allow players to dial in tee shots near the flagstick to prevent against long lag putts over multiple undulations.

Sand Valley is located just outside of Wisconsin Rapids in central Wisconsin. The complex is home to two acclaimed championship courses: Sand Valley, designed by Coore and Crenshaw, and Mammoth Dunes, designed by David McLay Kidd. Both courses are lovingly laid out across unlikely prehistoric sand dunes previously covered up by a tree farm. Elegant accommodations include suites, cottages and lodge rooms.

### The Short Course – Forest Dunes Roscommon, Michigan

Resort owner Lew Thompson looked out over the horizon of the short course a day prior to its grand opening in August. His eyes sparkled as he observed the rolling topography of the course, the sprawling sand bunkers, and the vast forest in the distance. "Pretty good stuff, don't you think?" he asked rhetorically before he addressed his tee shot.



Top of the Rock Hole #4

The Short Course – Forest Dunes



Threetops – Treetops Resort 6th Hole

# The Short of It

By Neal Kotlarek



Big Cedar Lodge



Tiger Woods Par 3, Pebble Beach Resort

As befits his personality, Thompson vastly understated the quality and enjoyment of the 10-hole 1,135-yard course designed by Keith Rhebb and Riley Johns. Presumably inspired by the dramatic green contours of the resort's Tom Doak-designed The Loop course, the putting surfaces on most of the holes feature strategic slopes and banks which can be used to nudge tee shots toward the flagstick.

Forest Dunes is a world-class golf resort nestled on an isolated property just outside the tiny community of Roscommon. The original Forest Dunes course was designed by former British Open champion Tom Weiskopf and is perennially ranked nationally among the top five courses in Michigan. The Loop is a reversible championship course that plays one way on odd days and the other way on even days. Three times during the summer, when months stretch to 31 days, the course hosts The Duel which allows teams of two to play the course in both directions over a single day.

Asked in an interview if the addition of The Short Course along with expanded accommodations at the resort will complete the property, Thompson was coy. "We never stop thinking about how to improve this beautiful property," he said. "There's lots of interesting ideas about what we can do next to make Forest Dunes even better."

### Top of the Rock – Big Cedar Lodge Branson, Missouri

Leave it to Jack Nicklaus to take on the challenge of building a par-3 course that features lakes, waterfalls, massive rock formations, wandering creeks, bass-filled ponds and even Arnie's Barn – a 150-year-old storehouse relocated from Arnold Palmer's backyard in Latrobe, Penn. Say what?!?!?!

While every golf hole has been lovingly crafted by Nicklaus, the primary characteristic of the course is breathtaking scenery. Stand on the 1st hole green and enjoy the view of the Chapel of the Ozarks above you and Table Rock Lake in the distance. The course stretches to a modest 1,420 yards and includes a few holes that look suspiciously inspired by Augusta National, home of The Masters, where Nicklaus won six times and finished in the top 10 an amazing 22 times over his career.

Big Cedar Lodge is promoted as "America's Premier Wilderness Resort." Owned by Johnny Morris, founder of Bass Pro Shops, the sprawling property features championship courses designed by Tiger Woods, Tom Fazio, Coore-Crenshaw, and Gary Player.

### Baths of Blackwolf Run Kohler, Wisconsin

Just announced in August, this 10-hole course

is planned to open in summer 2021 and rests in the middle of the Blackwolf Run complex. The name is an homage to Kohler Company's design history and is the work of Chris Lutzke. Holes will stretch from 60 to 160 yards.

"The par-3 and putting courses will provide a dynamic experience for our international guests and local community," said Kohler Co. executive chairman Herb Kohler. "It is important for these courses to aid in our continuing efforts to grow the game by creating opportunities for players of all skill levels. The Baths will do it with the Kohler touch to create a unique experience."

Blackwolf Run is a Destination Kohler resort property that features the River Course and the Meadow Valley Course. Nearby, overlooking Lake Michigan, is Whistling Straits, with the Straits Course and the Irish Course. All were designed by legendary architect Pete Dye.

### Tiger Woods Par 3, Pebble Beach Resort Pebble Beach, California

Perhaps the most intriguing par-3 course in America is now under construction at the famed Pebble Beach Resort in California. While the 670-yard course is officially called a redesign of an existing par-3 course designed by Peter Hay, the TGR design firm owned by Tiger Woods has basically reconfigured the course which had played counter-clockwise away from the ocean and will now play clockwise toward the ocean. In an exclusive interview, John Sawin, VP and Director of Golf at Pebble Beach, said the entire concept of the course is to make it accessible to players of all skill levels.

"Tiger's philosophy is welcoming and friendly to juniors and beginners," Sawin said. "You won't lose any balls on the course and you can use almost any club in your bag, depending upon how the wind plays on any particular day."

The signature hole on the course, scheduled to open next spring, will undoubtedly be No. 2, a virtual replica of the famous 7th hole on Pebble Beach. "We wanted to create the opportunity for all visitors to experience one of (golf's) most famous holes," Woods said in his announcement of the project.

Even the yardages of each hole will carry meaning. "We connected the yardages with some significant dates in our history," said Sawin. The 9th hole is 100 yards long. Tiger, of course, won the 100th US Open at Pebble Beach."

The Par 3 course will also be complemented by a 20,000 square-foot practice green and a 5,000 square-foot patio.





### Arrowhead

630-653-5800  
26W151 Butterfield Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60189  
[arrowheadgolfclub.org](http://arrowheadgolfclub.org)

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Arrowhead is a public course which offers impeccable golfing conditions at affordable rates on three separate par 72 18-hole layouts surrounded by forest preserve. The West, East and South Courses feature new bunker renovations and enhancements. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons are available.



### Balmoral Woods Golf Club

708-672-7448  
26732 S. Balmoral Woods Dr.  
Crete, IL 60417  
[www.balmoralwoods.com](http://www.balmoralwoods.com)

A fun public golf course on IL-394 in Crete 40 minutes south of Chicago. The 18-hole course with a driving range is spread out over undulating terrain and features a number of holes with mature oak trees. Also the annual home to the Will County Amateur in the Spring. A "must play" course on the south side and a great venue for your next event or function. Book tee times online or check out other information about the property at [www.balmoralwoods.com](http://www.balmoralwoods.com).



### Blackberry Oaks Golf Course

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2245 Kennedy Rd.  
Bristol, IL 60512  
[www.blackberryoaks.com](http://www.blackberryoaks.com)

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Home of the Blackberry Amateur, the premier Midwest amateur golf event.  
[www.blackberryamateur.com](http://www.blackberryamateur.com)



### Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880  
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.  
Elgin, Illinois 60124  
[bowescreekcc.com](http://bowescreekcc.com)

Ranked as *Golfweek's* Best Courses You Can Play, Bowes Creek Country Club gives you every option to play your ideal round of golf. Along with annual memberships, we offer a "member-for-a-day" pass, allowing you the privilege to play unlimited golf with cart as well as full use of the practice facility. If playing a quick round of nine or eighteen holes suits your game better, we offer that as well. Bowes Creek allows the public golfer to experience the private club, without an annual membership.



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- Indian Boundary: 18 Holes
- Joe Louis: 18 Holes
- Meadowlark: 9 Holes
- River Oaks: 18 Holes



### Fox Bend Golf Course

630-554-3939  
3516 Route 34  
Oswego, IL 60543  
[www.foxbendgolfcourse.com](http://www.foxbendgolfcourse.com)

Fox Bend is Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course. This 18-hole, par-72 course boasts plush fairways, mature trees and challenging greens. With 34 well-positioned bunkers and water coming into play on 11 holes, the course tests skills of all levels. USFGA FootGolf is also available on select days. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the deck overlooking the scenic course at Pearce's restaurant, or book the Pavilion for your next outing or special event. Take advantage of tee time specials and book online.



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Wheaton, IL 60189  
[cantignygolf.com](http://cantignygolf.com)

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9 Holes: Par 27  
Yardage: 80 - 210  
Chicagoland's only fully-lighted 9-hole course is open late year-round, and until midnight Fall-Fall. The 80-bay lighted and heated Driving Range is one of the Top 50 Ranges in the country: automatic ball tee-up, 300-yard outdoor landing area, plus 11 grass tees. The 1-1/2 acre Short Game Area features three sand bunkers and multiple putting greens; you can practice chip shots from up to 60 yards out. Unlimited Memberships are available for the Course and Short Game, and the Driving Range. Restaurant, Sports Bar, Pro Shop and GolfTec Lessons.



### Harborside International G.C.

312-782-7837  
11001 S. Doty Ave. East  
Chicago, IL 60628  
[harborsidegolf.com](http://harborsidegolf.com)

Located just south of the loop in the City of Chicago, Harborside features two championship-style links courses designed by renowned architect Dick Nugent. Harborside is home to Chicago's largest practice facility, a prairie-style clubhouse and The Pier at Harborside restaurant. Harborside's Port and Starboard courses rank annually among the Midwest's list of best courses you can play.



### The Bluffs Public Golf Club

815-467-7888  
24355 W. Bluff Rd.  
Channahon, IL 60410  
[heritagebluffs.com](http://heritagebluffs.com)

18 Holes: Par 72  
Yardage: 5,035- 7,171  
Located near the intersection of Interstates 80 and 55 just south of Joliet, Heritage Bluffs is the pride of the Channahon Park District. The tranquil surroundings make a day playing golf fun and relaxing. Along with our award-winning course we also feature a large all-grass practice range along with a large putting green and a separate chipping green and bunker. After your round you can relax in our Grille Room or out on the patio, enjoying a full menu of delicious food and beverage choices.



### The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950  
875 Sports Way  
Elgin, IL 60123  
[highlandsofelgin.com](http://highlandsofelgin.com)

The Highlands of Elgin has become a premier destination for thousands of golfers throughout the region. Nine new holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind, including a twelve-acre quarry lake. Four holes hug the top of the bluff thirty to forty feet above the water, providing golfers with incredible views and numerous shot options on each hole. The prairie-style clubhouse features an expanded golf shop, locker rooms, event rooms and a full-scale food and beverage operation.



### Ravisloe Country Club

708-798-5600  
18231 Park Ave,  
Homewood, IL 60430  
[ravisloe.com](http://ravisloe.com)

Ravisloe Country Club has been one of the most acclaimed golf courses in Chicagoland since its inception. Bearing the signature of world-renowned course designer Donald Ross, it has played host to many great golfers and features rolling mounds, deep bunkers and challenging greens. Located just 25 minutes from Chicago, 10 miles from the Indiana state line and across the street from the Homewood Metra Station, Ravisloe is your one stop destination. Wine-Dine-Stay-Play with Ravisloe, La Voûte Bistro and La Banque Hotel.



### St. Andrews Golf & Country Club

630-231-3100  
2241 Route 59  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
[standrewsgc.com](http://standrewsgc.com)

36 Holes:  
Course #1: par 71,  
5116 - 6920 yards  
Course #2: par 72,  
5341 - 6818 yards  
Since 1926, golfers have sought out St. Andrews for its two championship courses. With its vast rolling terrain and mature trees, St. Andrews offers a high-quality golf experience for players, golf outings, leagues and permanent tee-times. Guests will also enjoy the award-winning 32-acre Practice Center with premium range balls and 10 heated, sheltered hitting bays. Other amenities: golf carts with GPS, J.J.'s Bar & Grill, exquisite lakeside ceremony site and live entertainment.



### Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060  
2220 W. 83rd St.  
Naperville, IL 60564  
[golfnaperville.org](http://golfnaperville.org)

Springbrook Golf Course commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. The facility features a challenging, parkland-style championship course, a practice facility with a one-acre turf practice tee, a large practice putting green, and two short-game practice greens with bunkers. Golfers of all skill levels return time and again to play. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the expansive patio with great views of the course. Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and more.



### Stonewall Orchard

847-740-4890  
25675 West Highway 60  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
[stonewallorchard.com](http://stonewallorchard.com)

Cutting through hundred-year old oak and pine trees, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club has quickly become one of Chicago's most prolific public golf courses. Since opening in 1999, the Arthur Hills-designed gem located in northwest suburban Grayslake has served as Final Stage Qualifying site for the U.S. Open, and currently sits in rotation with Olympia Fields and Medinah Country Club as host site for the Illinois PGA Section Championship held every Fall.



### Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333  
1700 W. Renwick Rd.  
Romeoville, IL 60446  
[mistwoodgc.com](http://mistwoodgc.com)

Mistwood Golf Club, with its recent multi-million dollar renovations and new state of the art golf-learning center, has become one of the premier golf experiences in the Chicagoland area. Mistwood, host of the Illinois Women's Open, features new Scottish-style stacked sod-wall bunkers, which are not something seen in traditional American golf. Other amenities include a full-service pro shop, golf instruction and wonderful dining.

- *Golf Magazine's* "2013 Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play"
- Golf Range Association of America "2013 Top 50 Golf Ranges."



### Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215  
22204 W. 111th St. /  
Hassert Blvd.  
Plainfield, IL 60585  
[golfnaperville.org](http://golfnaperville.org)

Located in Plainfield, scenic Naperbrook Golf Course is a "links style" course that features rolling hills and wide fairways. Challenges in the way of ponds, a double green and hidden bunkers await golfers of all levels. Additional amenities include a ten-acre driving range, separate lesson tee and practice putting greens. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio; Naperbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop and much more.



### Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500  
2411 W. Illinois Ave.  
Aurora, IL 60506  
[orchardvalleygolf.com](http://orchardvalleygolf.com)

6th Best Public Course in Illinois by *GOLF* magazine. One of Chicagoland's best public courses, Golf Digest ranks Orchard Valley 4½ Stars! A true championship layout featuring wetlands, lakes, roughs, water hazards, marshes and more.

PLUS...a program for everyone!  
• SAVE on every round with the OV Rewards PLUS program.  
• UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PPP card.  
• Annual Memberships and MORE!



### PGA TOUR Superstore

1017 Butterfield Rd.  
Downers Grove, 60515  
1319 E. Golf Rd.  
Schaumburg, 60173  
295 Center Dr. Vernon Hills,  
60061

PGA TOUR Superstore carries the largest selection of golf clubs, clothing, footwear and accessories for your game. With the most advanced technology for club fitting, we also offer the Fitting Van Experience which is a TOUR caliber assessment. With three Chicagoland locations, come see why nothing compares to PGA TOUR Superstore.



### Tam O'Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

847-965-2344  
6700 West Howard Street  
Niles, IL 60714  
[golftam.com](http://golftam.com)

One of the most important courses in popularizing the game of golf in America is located right here in Niles, Illinois. In 1953, Tam O'Shanter Country Club hosted the first-ever nationally televised golf tournament. Today, a public 9-hole par-33 course remains, maintained with the goal of providing playing conditions reminiscent of those Hogan, Palmer and Nicklaus enjoyed years ago. Swing out for a scenic round and walk in the footsteps of legends at Tam O'Shanter! Year-round instruction available!



### University Ridge Golf Course

608-845-7700  
9002 County Road PD  
Madison, WI 53593  
[universityridge.com](http://universityridge.com)

University Ridge is home to the University of Wisconsin Men's & Women's Golf Teams. Since 2016, University Ridge has been the host site of the PGA Tour Champions, American Family Insurance Championship, which is hosted by Ryder Cup Captain Steve Stricker. A public golf course, designed by Robert Trent Jones II, University Ridge is yours to play with all green fees under \$100. Play where the Badgers and the Pros play, University Ridge!!!



### Water's Edge Golf Course

708-671-1032  
7205 West 115th St.  
Worth, IL 60482  
[watersedgegolf.com](http://watersedgegolf.com)

Rated Best Places To Play by *Golf Digest*. Water's Edge is Chicago's south side destination course. This championship 18-hole golf course offers bent grass greens and fairways and a complete day/night practice and range facility, along with The Edge Bar & Grill for great meals and daily specials.

PLUS...a program for everyone!  
• SAVE on every round with the Edge PLUS Pass  
• UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the Edge Practice Club



### Weber Park Golf Course

847-674-1500, ext. 3600  
[skokieparks.org](http://skokieparks.org)  
9 Holes: Par 27  
Yardage: 1,095

Located just twenty minutes north of Chicago on I-94, all ages will enjoy Skokie's Weber Park Golf Course. This 9-hole, par-3 golf course features bent grass greens, beautiful landscaping and is ideal for learning to play golf, working on your short game, or gathering a few friends for a fun round of FootGolf.



## Monterey Peninsula

continued from page 15

Marion Hollins – the only American woman who carried a men's polo handicap, and who was a guiding force behind the establishment of Cypress Point.

Pasatiempo was designed in 1929 by the great Alister MacKenzie, with later updating performed by Jim Urbina and Tom Doak. Interestingly, MacKenzie owned a home set just off the sixth fairway and made it his primary residence until he passed away in 1934. Set in the rolling southern hills near Monterey Bay, Pasatiempo might mean "relaxed passage

of time" in Spanish, but the course serves up ample shares of drama from hole to hole to hole.

Considered by many golf critics as a great classic of golf's early Golden Age, the course's features include sprawling bunkers, rolling hills, small ravines, and a large barranca. A joyous romp from start to finish, it seems appropriate that Pasatiempo's signature hole is its last one. While few championship courses end on a par 3, this 169-yard hole can truly make or break one's round. From an elevated tee, the player must weave a long-iron or middle-iron over a barranca teeming

with tall grass and two classic MacKenzie bunkers. Still two more bunkers protect the back side of the large green. If the flagstick is placed on the far left side of the hole, be prepared to hold your breath as the fronting bunkers snuggle up to the green's fringe. The better play here is to aim for the center of the green and hope to sink a long putt to end your round with a bang.

Few golf trips in America can match the exhilaration of a visit to the Monterey area. Great golf, comfortable temperatures and even a great oceanside drive provide travelers with memories that will last a lifetime.

## Royal Fox

continued from page 13

has a reciprocity program with the sister club The Grove that allows players to experience a second course." Tulk pointed out that The Grove also has an active tennis program featuring two tennis instructors. "Both properties have amazing social environments that truly make members feel like part of an extended family. We offer lots of diverse programs and events geared toward every member of a family – even those who don't play golf."

Designed by Robert Bruce Harris, The Grove is an impeccably manicured course that stretches to 7,000 yards from the back tees but offers multiple tee options for all handicap levels. Harris is a member of the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. His acclaimed designs include the Country Club of Florida in the Village of Golf, Illinois State University Golf Course in Normal, and The Brute at Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, Wis.

Along with outstanding championship golf, The Grove places emphasis on its dining experience. The club's culinary team is anchored by two Chicago legends: Joe Roireau, former corporate chef at Phil Stefan's Signature Restaurants, and Luigi Garcia, former executive chef at Riva seafood restaurant on Chicago's Navy Pier. "We wanted to provide a top-tier food experience for our members and guests," said Tulk. "With two of Chicago's top chefs now on our staff, we are confident that goal has been realized."

Regular membership at Royal Fox Country Club provides unlimited golf and amenities to access to members and their families to both Royal Fox and The Grove. Family membership includes the primary member, spouse, and children under 25. Young Executive memberships (age 40 and under) are available for individuals and families seeking a networking hub and social gathering spaces.

For more information on Royal Fox Country Club, visit [www.royalfoxcc.com](http://www.royalfoxcc.com).

## ON THE CORKSCREWS

STEPHEN HAWK

**C**abell Coursey is a busy guy these days. In addition to being the winemaker at Lombardi Winery (profiled last issue), he is also consulting winemaker at Flanagan Wines, and winemaker and co-owner, with John Graves, at Coursey Graves Winery in Santa Rosa, California. He began his career in wine in Burgundy, and went on to toil in Oregon's Willamette Valley and New Zealand.

He is committed to constantly improving the wines he makes from vintage to vintage by understanding his vineyards and maximizing their quality. He also feels obligated to mentor young winegrowers by teaching parameters they can use to customize and improve grape farming for better produce.

Although there are plenty of renowned wineries and vineyards throughout Sonoma, of course, the lesser-known vineyards of Bennett Valley quietly yield some of the area's most highly concentrated fruit. This is because the well-drained volcanic soils of the area ensure that the vines grow deep root systems in search of hydration. Ultimately this leads to concentrated, complex wines, as the water-stressed vines will focus their attention on grapes, rather than luxurious foliage. The rocky soils coupled with the cool weather mimic the austere conditions of Bordeaux.

Coursey Graves is located on vineyard sites 800 to 1500 feet above sea level on Bennett Mountain overlooking Sonoma, on the western edge of the ancient, volcanic Mayacamas Range that separates Napa and Sonoma. The winery, estate vineyards, and caves are built into the slope overlooking the Bennett Valley below. Eighteen acres are planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Merlot, Petit Verdot, and Syrah.

In addition to the estate vineyard, Coursey Graves relies on two others as well. Nestled on the sloped edge of an ancient volcano, Coombsville Vineyard is home to sixteen acres of Bordeaux varieties growing between the red and black igneous basalt and the white, ashy volcanic tuff. At two thousand feet above sea level, Cabernet from Howell Mountain Vineyard benefits from much cooler day-

## Hey Man, Dig These Coursey Graves

time temperatures and slower ripening.

I have now had the opportunity to try eight of Cabell Coursey's wines. They all have a smooth and silky mouthfeel. Thinking this had to reflect the intervention of the winemaker, I asked him about how he achieves that, and he had this to say, "First is vineyard work. I get up-front and mid-palate concentration through diligent effort in the vineyard, by managing fruit load to the amount of vine canopy, and careful applications of irrigation. I have

some control over berry size, and therefore juice to skin ratio, by controlling how much water-stress the vines have at various times during the growing season. Extra stress at flowering and fruit set limits berry size, while more water increases berry size. I don't have a standard plan each vintage, but rather change according to conditions.

"Second is tannin management during the winemaking process. Certain tannins (phenols) extract from grapes at different ranges in temperature. Also, they bind at different temperatures. I manage the temperatures during fermentation very closely and change to either extract, not extract, or bind, depending on taste and mouthfeel. I do use lab numbers to double check what I taste. However, it's mostly by taste. After working with these vineyards and my cellar for a few years, I've started to learn where the wines' tannins need to be at the end of fermentation to age properly upon the wines' release and subsequent aging."



smhawk@winervana.com

### Coursey Graves Chardonnay 2018 \$60

The fruit for this wine was sourced from the Durell and Heintz vineyards on the Sonoma coast. It was fermented in oak and stainless-steel barrels. It is light bright lemon yellow in the glass, which is appropriate as it opens with the smell of lemons, paired with a hint of melon and crushed stone. Those flavors continue on the palate, abetted by a zippy acidity and a suggestion of oak. It wraps up in a brisk finish. Only 91 cases were made.

### Coursey Graves Syrah 2016 \$65

This 100% Syrah hails from Coursey Graves' estate vineyard in Bennett Valley. It is an opaque but brilliant purple color. It features aromas of dark red fruits. The rather lean palate offers flavors of blackberry and olive, with a bit of pepper at the end. It's all complemented by good tannins and a moderately long finish. Production was limited to 268 cases.

For more about Coursey Graves and many other wine reviews, be sure to visit [winervana.com](http://winervana.com).

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### Green Meadows Golf Course Westmont, 630-810-5330

This 9-hole gem features quality conditions and traditional parkland styling.

### The Preserve at Oak Meadows Addison, 630-595-0071

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## The End of an Endless Year

It was the silence that was most noticeable. The lack of cars rolling by at almost all hours. The quiet of evening in the middle of the day.

The Pandemic of 2020 silenced the world. Sadly, hundreds of thousands are silent forever. That is the biggest loss, but everyone and everything was affected, including golf, the quietest sport.

With nobody on the course, the sounds of the game disappeared. All that was left were the birds chirping away and singing their songs. Gone was the smack of a driver. The crisp click of an iron meeting ball. The thump of a wedge against the sand. The rattling of clubs in the bag. The whirl of a helicoptered iron after a shank. The plunk of the ball dropping into the cup.

We didn't even get the latter at first when the world began to reopen and tees were allowed to be planted into the ground. The plunk was replaced by the thunk of ball against the plastic donut. Not quite the same.

It was unsettling, as has been almost the entire year. The calendar ceased to matter, and then, at least in sports, was shuffled beyond recognition. We still await the 2020 Masters, that rite of spring. Playing in November is certainly a tradition unlike any other. Amateur horticulturists worldwide are eager to see what Augusta National looks like a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving. But only once.

This bizarro world where the Masters is played after the Kentucky Derby, which is run after the Indy 500, a planet where the great summer double of the John Deere Classic and British Open is put on hold, is not something anyone wants to get used to.

Likewise the U.S. Open in September. That worked when Francis Ouimet knocked off Harry Vardon and Ted Ray in 1913, igniting the first national craze for golf, but not now. The U.S. Open is difficult conditions under sweltering heat and differing winds for long hours before large and – when in New York – rowdy crowds. This year's delayed competition, while welcome to have taken place at all, had the atmosphere of a member-guest without the Calcutta or Saturday night party.

Topsy-turvy is something for fairy tales, not reality. Next thing you know, Alice will climb out of a rabbit hole on the 14th hole and tell us we're 2-down.

When restrictions were lifted, first out of state and then in Illinois, playing golf became more than recreation with, depending on your game, a dash of competition thrown in. It became an outlet, a release from working at home and the weekly pressure cooker of going to the supermarket at the right time, when few were about and you didn't have to worry about someone walking the wrong way down the snack aisle.

In the great outdoors, far apart from humanity, you could clear your throat while clearing your head. On the tee, on the fairway, on the green, even in a bunker, socially distant was just part of the regular routine, not a mandate. A mask, standard dress now in public, wasn't needed when you were routinely 75 feet away from the rest of the gang.

There was a new-found joy in the old routines, from picking the right club to clear that pesky creek to lining up a long putt with a pair of breaks. (Remind us to take a lesson from Jon Rahm.)

The combination of pent-up demand and little else on the schedule meant tee sheets were filled almost everywhere, from private clubs to public munis. If restaurants weren't open right away, at least players were on the course. And a funny thing happened. Once pro shops opened, equipment sales jumped to record levels.

According to market research company Golf Datatech, July's sales of equipment – everything from balls to gloves to drivers to putters – set a record for the month, with \$388.6 million in sales, breaking the record of \$368.1 million set in June 2007. That might not have made up completely for March and April, when most of the country was in time out, but it helped. (Sales had been down over 31 percent from 2019 through May.)

Similarly, there were 10 million more rounds played in July this year than in July last year. Some of those rounds were played by new golfers, people who turned to the game because they couldn't do anything else but walk the dog.

The mini-boom might continue. If the weather in fall is good, what traditionally is the most enjoyable time of the year to play should be as popular as summer. The lack of college football in much of the midwest eliminates Saturday's excuse to play the couch potato role, and if the Bears are what they usually are on Sunday, there's no reason not to tee it up then.

It certainly beats the silence.

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