

Manchester Country Club

Maintaining the past while looking to the future

You can understand why tradition and history are so important at Manchester Country Club. For starters, look at the creators of this classic New England layout.

The original course was created in 1917 by Tom Bendelow and Devereux Emmet, two legendary golf architects of the golden age of American golf design. Both are known for designing courses that hosted U.S. Opens: Congressional Country Club in Maryland was Emmet's creation, and Medina Country Club in Illinois was the work of Bendelow.

And when Manchester Country Club was redesigned in 1935, another renowned architect did the job: A.W. Tillinghast, who crafted Bethpage Black in Farmingdale, N.Y., site of last year's U.S. Open Championship.

Indeed, these are courses that follow the flow of the land in a consistent, natural way. And that's the character of Manchester Country Club, which strives to maintain the

past while subtly adjusting to the future.

"Our course clearly displays the skills of these great Scottish designers," said Gordon Daring, Manchester's club president. "Each hole provides numerous options from tee to green and takes into account the skill level of players."

This is what attracts golfers to Manchester, which has seen generations of members play there. You need to employ all your golf skills throughout the course, especially around the greens, which are generally small, contoured and well protected.

But beyond the classic layout is a membership that cares deeply about the course and each other. And it's why the club has focused on attracting new members by offering a variety of new membership programs with lower costs. Their slogan: "Great Course. Great Value. Great Friends."

Manchester Country Club plays a

challenging 6,339 yards from the back, or Blue, tees with a slope of 128 and rating of 70.6. The White markers are only slightly shorter at 6,118 yards and almost as difficult. The Red tee for women drops to 5,528 yards. Par is 72 for all three sets of tees.

John Cook, who is in his second year as head professional, says that at Manchester Country Club, each hole provides a new and different challenge.

"There is so much variety to the holes that you will use every club in your bag and every skill that you have," Cook says.

That's especially true on the par-4 6th hole, the highest handicap hole at Manchester. This difficult dogleg-right also might be the most intimidating. From the tee box, the fairway appears tight and narrow with stately pines along the right rough and out-of-bounds on the left. You'll need a solid drive to leave you between 150-175 yards from an elevated green that is protected on both sides by bunkers.

One of the course's most scenic holes is the 14th, which Cook describes as a high-risk, high-reward hole. It's a straightaway par-5 that starts from an elevated tee and features bunkers flanking the fairway. For long hitters, the goal is to find the bottom of a two-tiered fairway, which gives you a chance to reach the green in two.

However, going for the green is a high risk because the green is guarded in the front by two bunkers and a pond. Cook says the safe play is to land short of the pond and hit your third shot from 150 yards.

The finishing hole at Manchester is another great challenge, a par-3 that plays 192 yards from the back tees. Here, you're faced with out-of-bounds on the right, water on the left and a tricky up-and-down if you miss the green long. Even more work awaits on the double-tiered putting surface that offers plenty of slope.

Aside from offering a playable course in top condition, Manchester Country Club focuses on



Manchester Country Club

Manchester, CT | www.mancc.com

2009 Club Champions: Men: Daniel Quatrocelli
Women: Carolyn Horvath

Course Record: 62 – Paul Ryiz (1983)

the enjoyment of members and daily players. The highly active Men's and Ladies clubs schedule a full season of events through October. The course also hosts the renowned Manchester Open, one of the season's premier golf events, with top area amateurs and professionals competing in the mid-summer tournament.

For daily fee players, Manchester Country Club offers resident and non-resident rates along with discounts for seniors and juniors.

For 2010, several season membership plans are available. Categories include Single, Full Family, Senior Single, Senior Family, Young Executive, Weekday, Corporate, Student, Youth, Social and even Clergy. Most membership plans allow payments extended over 10 months.

For after your round, the newly renovated Waterview Cafe is open seven days a week overlooking the scenic Globe Hollow Reservoir. You can enjoy a full dinner menu offering specials and value priced dining most evenings.

In addition, Manchester Country Club is a great venue for weddings, business seminars, social dinners, anniversaries, showers and banquets with accommodations for 25 to 175 people. The Gazebo near the water is a favorite spot for capturing magic moments.

These kinds of innovations certainly make Manchester Country Club a desirable course to join and an enjoyable one to play.



The 15th hole is a 531-yard par-5.