A BRIEF HISTORY OF HGC'S GOLF COURSE DESIGN

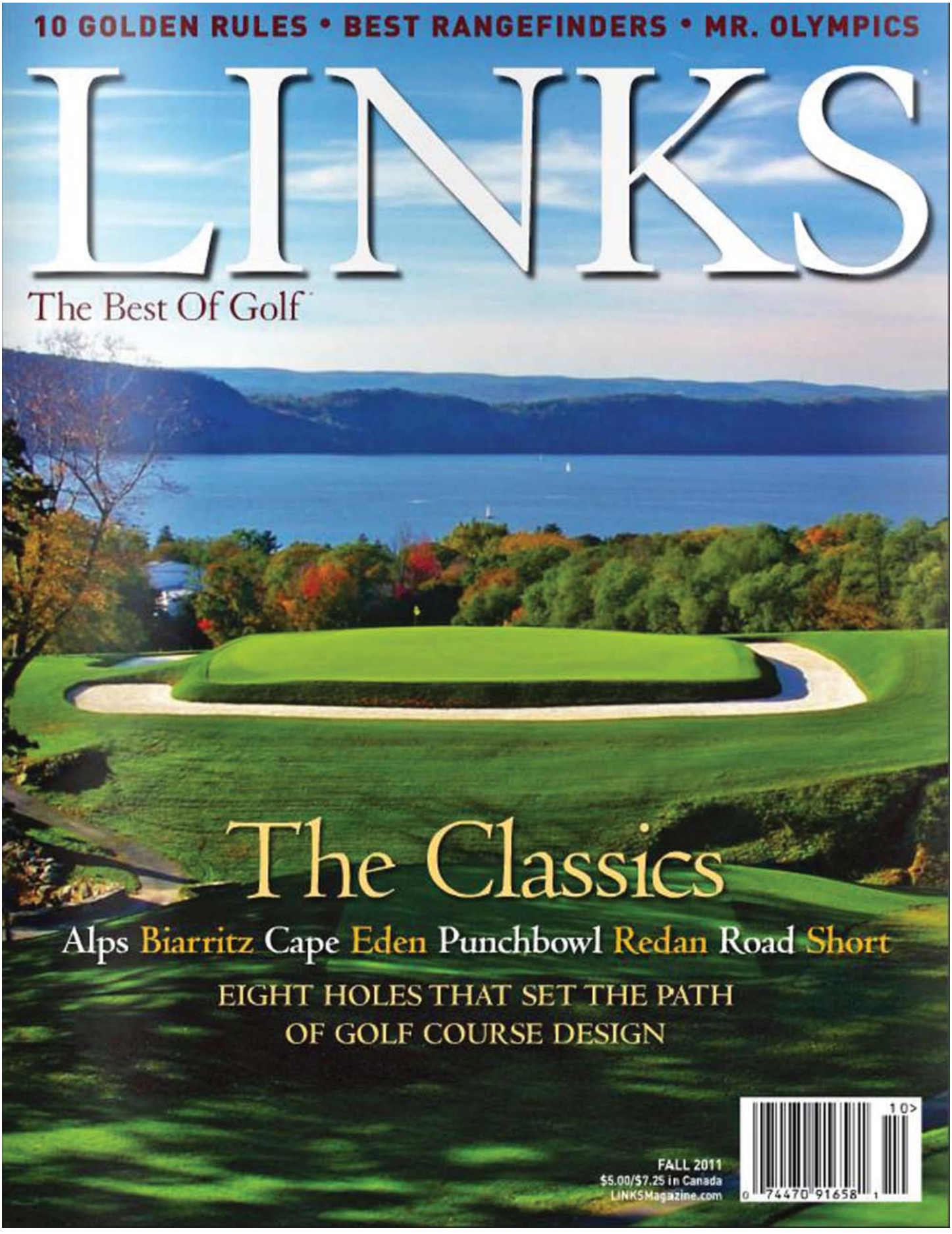
With all the course work over the past few years there have been several articles in Golf magazines outlining the types of holes we at Hackensack have been restoring to the original Charles Banks design.
The articles from Links, the NJSGA, and The Memorial Magazines are attached for your review and will shed light on the great template of holes we have here at HGC.

Listed below are the holes at HGC where some have been restored or will be in the near future:

HOLE	DESIGN
#3	Biarritz
#4	Bottle
#5	Double Plateau/Principals Nose
#6	Short
#8	Plateau
#11	Sahara
#12	Redan
#14	Leven
#16	Punchbowl
#18	Road Hole

Enjoy the history of our great golf course!
Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees


10 GOLDEN RULES • BEST RANGEFINDERS • MR. OLYMPICS
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The Classics
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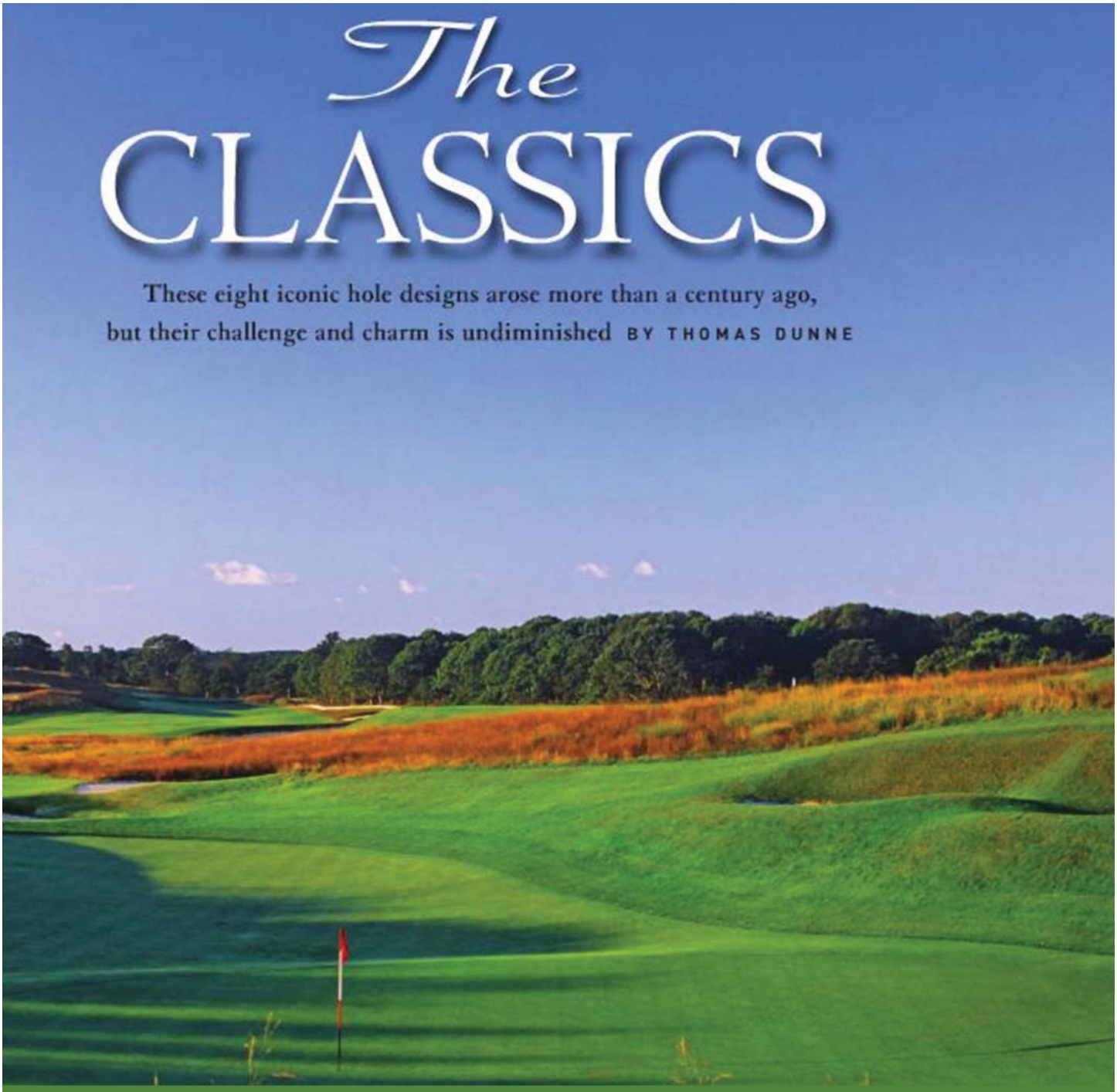
The CLASSICS

These eight iconic hole designs arose more than a century ago, but their challenge and charm is undiminished BY THOMAS DUNNE



THE SUCCESSFUL DEBUT of Tom Doak and Jim Urbina's Old Macdonald, the latest course at Bandon Dunes, has brought classic design principles back into the limelight. More than a century ago, Charles Blair Macdonald, a Chicagoan who had studied at the University of St. Andrews in the 1870s, set out to build the "ideal" course at the National Golf Links of America in Southampton, New York. His idea, in an age when golf in America was in its infancy, was to study the best and most strategic holes of Great Britain and not just reproduce them, but improve upon them, along the sandy shores of Peconic Bay.

Macdonald's ambitious plan came off so well that he and his design cohorts, Seth Raynor and Charles Banks, continued to employ these "templates" throughout the rest of their careers. These holes are among those that form the foundation of strategic design. In reviewing their principles, we also took a quick look at the various ways in which the templates have migrated into the contemporary era of design.

1 Punchbowl

"If you have a good sporting game, for heaven's sake don't try too much to improve it. Your business is not to improve the game but to improve your play." —CHARLES BLAIR MACDONALD

THE PUNCHBOWL is more of a building block than a full-on template hole, but encountering such a green on any course—classic or modern—is always a delight. Though some of the most dramatic bowls (the fourth at **Fishers Island**, **Sleepy Hollow's** 15th) are the clear product of engineering muscle, the roots of the form are in ancient necessity: "In the days before artificial irrigation," writes Tom Doak in *The Anatomy of a Golf Course*, "greens were often located in hollows because they held water to nurture the green."

Punchbowl greens have drawn criticism over the years for their capricious nature (it's not uncommon to see a woeful hosel rocket meet a better result than a perfectly struck wedge), but that is a sporting quality—and the source of their beauty. After all, both players still have to putt the ball, and such greens frequently feature both subtle borrows—when two sides of the bowl compete for influence—and sweeping breaks.

The green complex of the 16th at the **National Golf Links of America** (left) is a masterpiece of composition, with the club's iconic windmill looking down on a punchbowl guarded by artfully sculpted bunkers. But these features are not for the copyist—most current architects use the form creatively, connecting punchbowl greens to holes of all shapes and sizes. At his Seth Raynor-inspired **Black Creek Club** in Tennessee, Brian Silva created a fun, reachable par five on the sixth hole by using a natural ridge as the front edge of the bowl, then moving the earth behind it to shape the side walls.

2 Eden

"In brief, the Strath and the Hill [bunkers] provide a perfect illustration of the mythological Scylla and Charybdis—the rock and the whirlpool which terrorized ancient sailors—adapted to terrorize modern golfers."

— HERBERT WARREN WIND

THE EDEN IS ONE OF THE FEW classic holes where the brilliance of the original, in this case the 11th at the **Old Course**, is yet to be matched. Its formula seems simple, but in practice a great Eden can be maddeningly difficult to produce. Says Tom Doak, who recently created perhaps the finest modern example of the hole, the second, at **Old Macdonald** (below): "In some respects, there are a thousand Edens—any par three with a bunker front right-center and another along the left flank sort of captures the style. But it only registers as an Eden hole when the option of steering the ball through the green entrance is more than a matter of just flying it pin high left, and of course most American courses aren't set up for the running approach."

This element is just one of many, though—the dramatic back-to-front pitch of the green, the gathering nature of the fronting Strath bunker, and the mortal fear of missing long also play their roles. Even Eden-inspired greats like Alister MacKenzie's fifth at **Royal Melbourne (West)** and Walter Travis's 18th at **Garden City** can't quite capture the unique "spirit of St. Andrews."

3 Cape

"Mid Ocean's version of the Cape hole...was unforgettable. It was tightly bordered by water on the left as it swung in a crescent from tee to green. It is still being rebuilt many times a year by the best modern architects." — HERBERT WARREN WIND

DECADES LATER, Wind's words continue to ring true: It seems like practically every other week on the PGA Tour, players are confronted with a finishing hole that traces a long arc against a lake, demanding a heroic, "bite off as much as you can chew" drive. Such holes are usually referred to as Capes, though the tee shot is only part of the equation. Of equal importance is the approach, which plays toward a green that extends out into the same hazard and features a mound or sideboard that will either work for or against the golfer, depending on the angle one achieves by either flirting with or shying away from the hazard on the first shot.

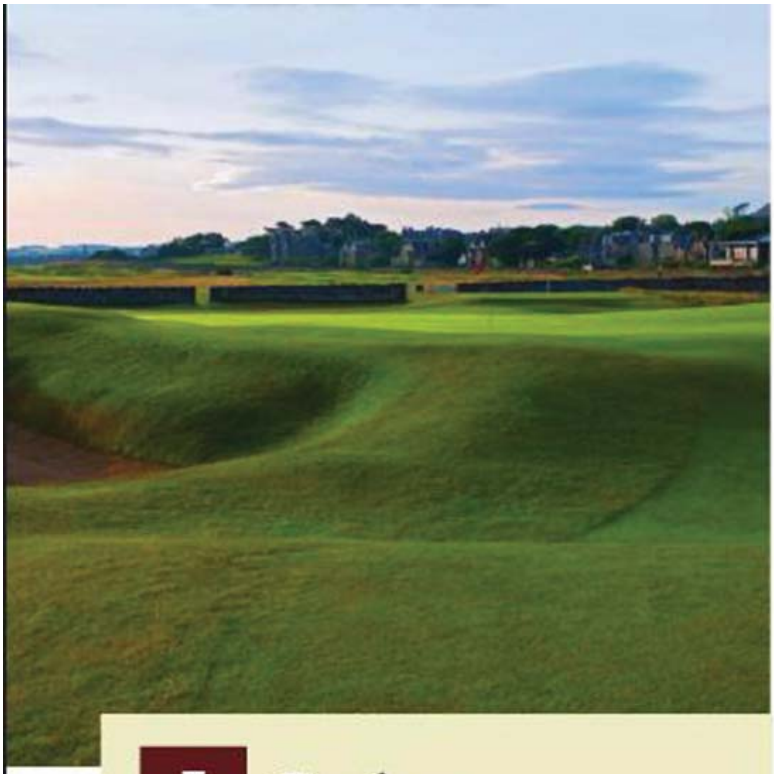
This type of hole is considered a Charles Blair Macdonald original. It was first established at the **National Golf Links**, but the original green was moved long ago to make way for the club's entrance road. Macdonald's most masterful Cape is the fifth hole at the **Mid Ocean Club** in Bermuda, where measuring one's line from the pinnacle tee and taking flight across Mangrove Lake is among the most thrilling shots in golf. The hole has become a staple in the modern architect's design vocabulary. Pete Dye is a fan, having built famous versions like the 18th at **TPC Sawgrass (Stadium)**, the 14th (right) at **Blackwolf Run (River)**, and many more. Another hole that expresses true Cape principles from tee to green is Coore & Crenshaw's 427-yard 10th at **Cuscowilla** in Georgia.

4 Biarritz

"From a strictly golfing standpoint, [the chasm] has always been a hazard of no importance, provided a man hit his tee shot even moderately. But this proviso is a large one, especially when the tee is on the edge of a precipice, with the Atlantic thundering at the base." — HORACE HUTCHINSON

THE BIARRITZ is one of only a handful of classic hole types where the original no longer exists—except, that is, in grainy 19th-century photographs. Indeed, the majestic chasm-crossing third at the eponymous club in the south of France was already on the outs when Horace Hutchinson published *British Golf Links* (one of golf's first coffee table books) in 1897. But architects and golfers ever since have been enthralled by the idea of watching a well-struck ball land short of the flag, vanish into a swale, and then reappear moments later, climbing Orpheus-like from the depths to settle near the target. Some debate exists as to whether the approach area should be fairway (as at the fifth at **Fishers Island** and **Mid Ocean's** 13th) or putting surface (as at the sixth at **Shoreacres** and the **Course at Yale's** ninth, above left). The latter is preferable, but provided a running shot can find the back section of green, either is acceptable. As the longest of the one-shot templates, the true measure of a Biarritz is how well it tests a player's courage with a long iron or fairway wood.

Biarritz greens don't often fit seamlessly into a natural landscape, so they can be difficult to render, but the hole has nevertheless experienced something of a mini-renaissance in recent years, popping up in designs by Bobby Weed (**Glen Mills'** par-five 15th in Pennsylvania), Lester George (the eighth on the Huguenot nine at **Salisbury Country Club**), and others. At 152 yards, the late Mike Strantz's third hole at **Tobacco Road** is on the short side, but its wild and woozy green is the real deal.



5 Redan

"You cannot go wrong with a Redan hole."

— DEVEREUX EMMET

EASILY THE MOST widely reproduced of the templates, the Redan poses strategic questions that are both timeless and technology-proof. A mid-length par three with a green set on the diagonal and running away from the player, the hole takes its name from a Crimean War fortress in Sevastopol, Ukraine, the V-shaped salient of which British forces hurled themselves against (unsuccessfully) on more than one occasion. The decision of whether to challenge a deep fronting bunker and attack the flag or play off to the right and let the contours of the green feed the ball toward the target remains one of golf's most compelling. Architect Brian Silva points out that a great Redan has the effect of "leveling the playing field," in the sense that a weaker (but clever) player can engage with the architecture to contend with his or her more skilled (but imprudent) counterpart.

Since its original iteration, the 15th at **North Berwick's West Links** (above), countless Redans and Reverse Redans (a hole suggesting a left-to-right shot shape) have taken shape around the world. The fourth at the **National Golf Links** remains the gold standard, though A.W. Tillinghast's wicked sideboard second at **Somerset Hills** places that version squarely in the conversation. Excellent examples abound in recent work, from the intimidating (Coore & Crenshaw's fourth at **Hidden Creek** in New Jersey) to the subtle (Steve Smyers's sixth at **Wolf Run** near Indianapolis) to the flashy (Robert Trent Jones Jr.'s third at **Chambers Bay**).

6 Alps

"The popularity of the Alps is proof that not all blind holes are bad; also that if you must have a blind hole it should provide as much uncertainty as possible."

— CHARLES BLAIR MACDONALD

"I'LL GO ON RECORD as saying that my favorite hole at **Old Macdonald** is the Alps," says the course's co-designer, Jim Urbina, referring to the 16th hole, "because you can't build them anymore." Coincidentally, when Urbina began his career working for Pete Dye in the 1980s, the first course his boss sent him to study was **Prestwick**—home of the original Alps hole (below). With its blind approach over a high dune, not to mention a bunker short of the green deep enough to require stairs, the 17th epitomized the rugged, lay-of-the-land golf of the Victorian era. It played a pivotal role in the early days of championship golf; in 1861, Willie Park's title defense in the second Open Championship was doomed by a "daring attempt to cross the Alps in two," where he was "punished for [his] avarice and temerity."

Most course developers today, being averse either to the quirky side of golf or potential lawsuits (or both), wouldn't dream of building such a hole—though, in fairness, not every property possesses a landform that would suggest one. As a result, it remains a rare bird, largely confined to Dye designs and the Macdonald-Raynor canon (**National's** third and the fourth at **Fishers Island** the most spectacular). For many, Doak and Urbina's faithful rendition at Old Macdonald represents the best opportunity to tackle the Alps.

7 Road

"But what is the devil in the hole is its perfect length—YOU CAN get on in two—you badly want a four—and...but I am presuming upon too brief an acquaintance. I have no doubt all kinds of other subtle horrors have escaped my notice."
— PATRIC DICKINSON

WHETHER ONE HAS PLAYED the 17th at the **Old Course** (below) once or a hundred times, the "horrors"—both subtle and not-so—make themselves known in abundance. We can clang one off the railway sheds or pull the ball into oblivion, whip up simooms in Scholars or Progressing or the Road bunker. We can play two nice shots and still face a terrible scrape-chip from the road itself. The Road hole is, as James Finegan writes, "a villain of darkest hue."

The conventional wisdom is that such a hole only gets a pass because it's in St. Andrews, but the design principles of the Road continue to inspire today's architects. As Dickinson suggests above, the hole's mystique is partly based on the fact that, in the 470–480 yard range, it plays somewhere between a par four and a par five—something Macdonald and Raynor grasped at **National** (seventh), **Piping Rock** (eighth), and **Yale** (fourth), among others. Tom Doak, however, felt inspired to connect a Road green to the short par-four 14th at New Zealand's **Cape Kidnappers**. He notes that for the tour pro, the tee shot actually replicates the challenge of the second shot at St. Andrews. But for the average golfer, he adds, "It's a scary hole. You are driving diagonally over a deep ravine (which replaces the o.b. right at St. Andrews), and you have to flirt with the hazard to get it on the right side of the fairway and have any kind of decent angle to the flag. Most people bail left, and are faced with a 70–120 yard second shot across the bunker to the narrowest part of the green—with a deep pot bunker front and center and a steep slope off the back of the green down toward the ravine."

8 Short

"On some of the best holes for the mashie pitch, the green is a small island, surrounded by either sand or water."
— ROBERT HUNTER

MOST GOLFERS can likely think of plenty of modern courses where each par three calls for a similar mid-iron shot. But one of the hallmarks of Golden Age design was to test different aspects of a player's game, including short iron accuracy. Dr. Alister MacKenzie expressed it well: "There should be infinite variety in the strokes required to play the various holes—that is, interesting brassie shots, iron shots, pitch and run up shots."

The 129-yard fifth hole (present-day fourth) at **Royal West Norfolk** in England served as Macdonald's inspiration for the Short. Designed by one Holcombe Ingleby, the local Member of Parliament, the hole featured a pushed-up green guarded by sleepers and pot bunkers. Macdonald retained the principle of the "island green," but added a new wrinkle. By creating either a mound (as at **National**'s sixth) or a depression in the middle, the putting surface became divided into three sections, complicating the golfer's thinking over an otherwise straightforward shot.

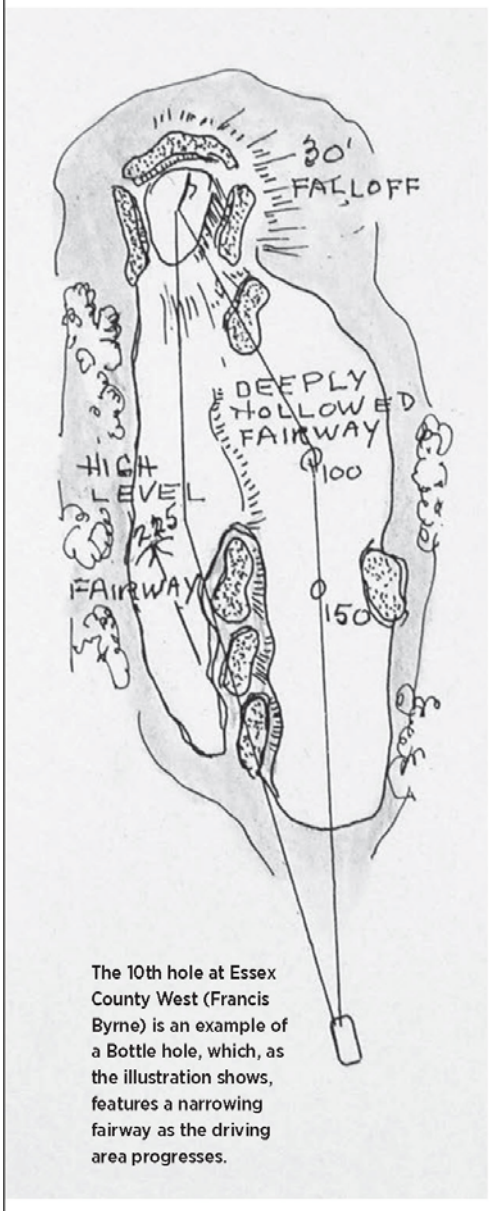
One of the highlights of Gil Hanse and George Bahto's recent work at **Sleepy Hollow** in New York was the restoration of that course's Short 16th, returning design integrity to one of the most visually appealing examples of the template. And while it's not usually described in the context of its forerunners, Pete Dye took the "island" concept to its logical extreme at the 17th at **TPC Sawgrass** (above left), thus creating the most-copied hole of the modern era.

NEW JERSEY STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

The Template Holes of Macdonald, Raynor and Banks

BY DAVID B. CRONHEIM



The 10th hole at Essex County West (Francis Byrne) is an example of a Bottle hole, which, as the illustration shows, features a narrowing fairway as the driving area progresses.

COURTESY OF GEORGE BAHTO

Golf is a game of numbers: how far, how many, which hole? All evoke numbers. I officially go on record against numbers in the game of golf. Golf was meant to be match play, where the only number that mattered was one more or one less than your opponent. Personally, I went to law school precisely to avoid numbers. I like words. Judging by the length and frequency of the yarns I've heard spun in locker rooms across the country, I'm not alone.

Take people, for instance. We have names—No one says, "This is my son, number 2." Or skiing. No skier has ever traded après-ski lies about their perilous descent of Trail 47a. Golfers should remember that many holes used to have names, not just numbers, and those names often meant something.

Sometimes the names given to holes are an obvious allusion to a feature on the property. For example, No. 7 at Tillinghast's Somerset Hills is named "Racetrack," a reference to the horse track that formerly ran across the site. The depression formed by the track is still visible and affects play on a number of holes on the first nine. However, many golfers are unaware that for one trio of golf course architects, the names of their holes described the type of hole the designer built.

Many early courses featured blind or semi-blind shots, though perhaps more by necessity than choice. Before steam-shovels and dynamite were used to construct courses—and later where cost was an issue— if an obstacle could not be moved by horse or by hand, it stayed where it was. Since many early courses were built on rocky land considered too poor for farming, many such obstacles remained.

Knowing the type of hole helped players formulate a plan of attack, even where the hole was quirky or blind. For example, when playing a "Redan" (see glossary below), a right-to-left shot is the preferred play to a rear hole location because the contours of the ground allow the ball to release to the back of the green without challenging the bunker fronting the green.

Names were a helpful hint. But for three famous golf course architects— Charles Blair ("C.B.") Macdonald, Seth Raynor and Charles Banks— they were something more. Macdonald, Raynor and Banks developed the concept of named holes into a school of architecture that produced some of the nation's most highly regarded layouts.

Any story of the three men must begin with Macdonald, for without Macdonald's influence, many of the trio's great courses would simply never have gotten off the ground. Macdonald was a gentleman architect and a forceful personality. Wealthy and well-connected, Macdonald typified the moneyed elite of the day. He was as comfortable (and welcome) on the porches of America's grand old clubs as he was directing construction projects. It was these connections that helped him land many of his design jobs. It is certainly no coincidence that Macdonald's courses are located at some of the country's most exclusive clubs, places like National Golf Links of America and Chicago Golf Links. To understand the circles Macdonald frequented, one need understand nothing more than where there was a club blue-blooded enough for a polo field, one often finds a Macdonald golf course.

Macdonald may not be as well-known to the average golfer as some other great course architects such as Donald Ross or A.W. Tillinghast because he designed so few courses in his lifetime. Moreover, most of his courses are not open to the public, and few have hosted majors or PGA Tour events (the recently added Greenbrier Classic on Macdonald's public Old White course being a notable exception). Raynor and Banks each designed more courses than Macdonald, but both had the misfortune of dying in their mid-50s at the height of their considerable prowess. However, their work has been highly regarded. Eight courses on the *Golf Digest* or *Golf Magazine* U.S. Top 100 lists were designed by Macdonald or Raynor. MacDonald had a simple design philosophy that would be adopted wholesale by his protégé, Raynor, and later by Raynor's disciple and business partner, Banks. In the early 1900s Macdonald took a trip to the British Isles to study the best of links golf. Upon his return to the United States, he incorporated what he thought were the best holes in the United Kingdom into his American designs. As a result, the trio's courses were distinguished by their use of "template holes," holes adapted from famous links holes.

Raynor served as Macdonald's chief engineer and is rightly credited as the man whose engineering genius allowed Macdonald to create his masterpieces and seamlessly meld the great holes of the British Isles into any number of varying landscapes, from seaside links to Midwestern parkland. After working as Macdonald's chief engineer, Raynor set up his own firm. While working on a project at the Hotchkiss School, Raynor met Charles Banks, then employed by the school as an English teacher. Banks was appointed by the school to oversee construction of the nine-hole course Raynor was building. They forged a great friendship, and Banks joined Raynor's firm as his construction foreman, soon becoming a partner.

Instead of merely copying great holes from overseas and imposing them on the ground, Macdonald, Raynor and Banks adapted their basic designs to fit the landforms presented to them. The templates were less a stencil and more a set of guiding principles. As such, a good deal of variation exists within each template. Far from being monotonous recreations of famous holes, the trio's hallmark was the ingenious way they adapted the templates to the unique topography of each site.

Amongst these template holes were the "Biarritz," "Redan," "Punchbowl," "Prize Dog Leg," and "Alps." Each hole evokes a specific shot value to a player who has seen their unique configurations. Unlike some courses where the features are tiny and accessible only to tour-caliber players able to land their ball on a dime, Macdonald, Raynor and Banks' courses boast oversized slopes, mounds and ridges that even beginners can enjoying utilizing. Their designs anticipated fast and firm playing conditions that allow smart golfers to play the ball along the ground and access difficult pins by hitting shots that roll along the turf.

New Jersey is fortunate to be home to many fantastic Raynor and Banks designs. Raynor designed Essex County's East and West courses (the West is now known as Francis Byrne) and Rock Spring. He also completely redesigned Morris County and designed a nine-hole track for Roselle. Banks is credited with the design of the course bearing his name at Forsgate and for The Knoll, Hackensack, and Montclair's Fourth Nine. Notably, Hackensack was Banks' first solo design and will host the 2013 NJSGA Open.

Some have criticized the trio's designs as lacking in imagination, claiming they simply reproduced the same holes everywhere they went. These critiques miss the mark because they fail to appreciate the genius in how the "same" hole plays differently at each site. The fun in playing Macdonald, Raynor and Banks courses

The par 3 12th hole at Forsgate Country Club, called Horseshoe because of the depression of that shape in the green, exemplifies the classic Short playing to an elevated island with severe fall offs to bunkers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FORSGATE COUNTRY CLUB

is discovering how one course's template hole compares to the next. For example, Hackensack's Redan (No. 12) plays right to left, while Forsgate's (reverse) Redan (No. 7) plays left to right. Morris County's Punchbowl (No. 6) plays downhill while Forsgate's (No. 9) plays uphill, but both are semi-blind variations on a theme.

Bold, memorable, and even a bit quirky, Macdonald, Raynor and Banks have left an indelible mark on the history of golf course architecture. Their enduring legacy is that perhaps more than any other architects, they found a way to design courses that were challenging without being penal, fun for high and low handicappers alike and sporty without being gimmicky.

While many of Macdonald and Raynor's courses are secreted away behind exclusive gates, New Jersey is fortunate to be home to several outstanding public courses designed by Banks. These courses can give the reader a taste of the trio's template holes described above. Most notably, George Bahto's restoration efforts at The Knoll in Parsippany have been nothing short of spectacular. His attention to detail has restored the Knoll to one of the country's most authentic Banks courses.

Below is our glossary of a few of the more common Macdonald/Raynor/Banks template holes you might run across along with some of the better known examples of those holes both in New Jersey and across the country.

ALPS

An Alps hole is recognizable by the "Alps" bunker, often replete with a high-mounded face which fronts a portion of the green and, in its purest form, requires a blind approach over the bunker. The hole derives its name from having to hit over the large bunker, akin to hitting over the "Alps." The design fell out of favor because many disliked the blind approach. An Alps hole also often features a punchbowl green.

Modeled After: No. 17 at Prestwick, Scotland

Famous Example: No. 3 at National Golf Links of America, NY

BIARRITZ

Modeled after the "chasm" hole at the Willie Dunn-designed Biarritz course in France, a Biarritz is a long par 3 with a deep valley bisecting the green perpendicular to the line of play. A low running shot scoots the ball down through the valley and onto the back of the green.

Modeled After: No. 3 at Biarritz, France

Famous Examples: No. 3 Hackensack, No. 9 at The Course at Yale.

BOTTLE

A hole characterized by a narrowing fairway as the driving area progresses. Often, this narrowing is accomplished by a series of bunkers splitting the center of the fairway.

Modeled After: No. 12 at Sunningdale Golf Club

Famous Examples: No. 10 Essex County West (Francis Byrne), No. 8 National Golf Links of America, NY

CAPE

Contrary to popular belief, Raynor/Macdonald historian George Bahto asserts there is no such thing as a "Cape" tee shot. Rather, a "Cape" hole is defined by a green jutting into a hazard or sand bunker. Technically, an ideal Cape hole wraps around the same hazard from fairway to green.

Famous Example: No. 5 at The Mid Ocean Club, Bermuda

DOUBLE PLATEAU/PLATEAU

A hole with a large green featuring three distinct levels. While the green itself may be large, it essentially plays like three tiny greens, often with two upper levels separated by a valley.

Famous Examples: No. 4 at Morris County, No. 8 at Hackensack, No. 1 at Yeaman's Hall, SC

EDEN

A par 3 typified by a severe back to front pitch, guarded by bunkers in the front left and front right of the green. An Eden often plays uphill and affords long views beyond the green.

Modeled After: No. 11 at the Old Course at St Andrews, Scotland

Famous Examples: No. 17 at Morris County, No. 15 at Greenbrier (Old White), WV

PRIZE DOG LEG

Typically the hardest par-4 hole on a Raynor/Macdonald course, the prize dogleg is a long, dogleg par 4 with diagonal hazards off the tee and 40-60 yards short of a fishhook-shaped green. The cross bunkers have often been removed, and over the years many clubs have converted the holes to short par 5s due to their difficulty. It is so named because Raynor won second prize for the design in a 1914 design contest held by a British magazine. The winner? Augusta National designer Alister Mackenzie.

Famous Examples: No. 15 at Essex County West (Francis Byrne); No. 16 at Fox Chapel, PA

PUNCHBOWL

A hole with a green that slopes in toward the center like a punchbowl.

Modeled After: numerous holes across the British Isles constructed in hollows that helped preserve moisture in the days before irrigation systems.

Famous Examples: No. 1 Fourth Nine at Montclair; No. 7 at Morris County

REDAN

Perhaps the most copied design in golf, a Redan is a par 3 with a green that angles diagonally away from the tee from front right to back left. (A "reverse" Redan angles from front to back right). Generally, deep bunkers front the green, making the use of the slope ideal for reaching a back hole location without risking a long carry over sand. The name is derived from an angularly shaped fortification that was the lynchpin to the Russian army's defense at Sevastapol during the Crimean War.

Modeled After: No. 15 at North Berwick, Scotland

Famous Examples: No. 3 at Rock Spring, No. 12 at Hackensack

ROAD

Playing as a par "4.5," the Road hole is defined by its green complex, which is triangular in shape with a deep bunker fronting the left and center portions of the green. Often a long bunker is located right of the green representing the road.

Modeled After: No. 17 the Old Course at St Andrews, Scotland

Famous Examples: No. 1 at The Knoll, No. 10 at Shoreacres, No. 8 at Fishers Island

SHORT

As the name might suggest, a short par 3 with a large, usually square shaped green with severe fall offs to bunkers on

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DAN MCKEAN GOLF PHOTOGRAPHY

The third hole at the Rock Spring Club (top) and the 12th at Hackensack Golf Club (bottom) illustrate the Redan, perhaps the most copied design in golf, with a green that angles diagonally away from the tee from front right to back left.

at least several sides. The green plays like an elevated island set above a sea of sand. Generally, severe interior contours in the green demand a precise shot. At Forsgate, the green is marked by a deep horseshoe impression.

Modeled After: No. 8 at The Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland & No. 5 at Royal West Norfolk (Brancaster), England.

Famous Examples: No. 12 at Forsgate, No. 16 at Sleepy Hollow, NY.

The eight courses on the *Golf Digest* or *Golf Magazine* U.S. Top 100 lists that were designed by Macdonald or Raynor: National Golf Links of America (NY), Chicago GC (IL), Fisher's Island (NY), Shoreacres (IL), Camargo (OH), Yeaman's Hall (SC), Yale (CT) and Piping Rock (NY). Raynor also routed Cypress Point (CA) just before his death. Raynor and Macdonald also originally designed Shinnecock National (NY), portions of which remained after William Flynn's 1937 redesign, most notably the Redan.

David B.Cronheim is a New Jersey lawyer and golf writer. He carries a 2.7 handicap index at Deal Golf & Country Club and Twin Brooks Country Club.

An Outstanding Biarritz:
The 3rd at Hackensack Golf Club

DAN MCKEAN GOLF PHOTOGRAPHY

The stunning par-3 third hole at Hackensack Golf Club in Oradell is a very precise rendition of a Biarritz hole, named for the third hole at the course designed by Willie Dunn in Biarritz, France in 1888. The hole plays 230 yards from the championship tees, 224 from the blue tees and 197 from the whites. A rear hole location can require a tee shot of 260 yards.

Like the original Biarritz, Hackensack's version features an immense green extending 80 yards from front to back with a deep depression bisecting the putting surface about midway and deep bunkers protecting the sides. Front hole locations accept a lofted approach, but locations behind the depression are best reached with a low running shot. Players watch apprehensively as their tee shots roll from the front of the green, disappear into the depression and—hopefully—emerge on the other side.

Putting from the depression or through it makes it very difficult to get down in two putts.

Charles Banks designed the Hackensack course in 1926, two years after he worked with Charles Blair Macdonald on the Yale Golf Course, whose 235-yard ninth hole is considered one of the most outstanding Biarritz holes. The concept was known as "Macdonald's Folly" by those skeptical of the unusually long green divided by a chasm, yet today Biarritz holes such as Hackensack's masterpiece are treasured classics.

NATIONAL GOLF LINK

Charles Blair Macdonald was a central figure in the early development of American golf

BY JEFF WILLIAMS

NO MAN WAS MORE IMPORTANT to the growth of golf in America at the start of the 20th Century than Charles Blair Macdonald. If you could speak to him today, he would tell you so.

No one knew more about the game, was more responsible for its proliferation on these shores, more active in its organization than C.B. Macdonald. He would tell you that, too.

Upon news that Macdonald would be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2007, United States Golf Association Executive Director David Fay had this to say about him: "Charles Blair Macdonald is recognized today as the father of organized golf in America. Without Macdonald the USGA would not have been created. And without his leadership and strong character, the game in this country could have easily gone astray. As a player, administrator, architect, rule maker and chronicler of the game's history, he was one of the true giants."

Macdonald would have told you all of this. He would have told you not only was he present at the creation, but that he created it.

This is a man who designed the first 18-hole golf course in the United States, the Chicago Golf Club, which was completed in 1893. He was the first to describe himself, and those who succeeded him, as a golf course architect. In December of 1894, at his urging, five influential golf clubs formed the United States Golf Association. In 1895, he won the first official U.S. Amateur Championship. In 1911, he opened the National Golf Links of America in Southampton, N.Y., a course he designed to the standards of championship courses in the United Kingdom. The course, unlike any other in the U.S. at the time, hosted the first Walker Cup Match in 1922.

Born in Niagara Falls, Ontario, in 1855 to a wealthy family, Charles Blair Macdonald grew up in Chicago. Supremely intelligent and extraordinarily confident, Macdonald was sent to college at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland in 1872, which was a supreme stroke of luck for American golf, because it was there at the game's birthplace where Macdonald discovered

OPPOSITE PAGE: COURTESY OF CHICAGO GOLF CLUB

Above: C.B. Macdonald won the first U.S. Amateur Championship in 1895.

his lifelong passion. So lucky was he that his paternal grandfather was a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. So lucky was he to have taken up playing the game on the Old Course at St. Andrews. So lucky was he to have been schooled by playing with St. Andrews' legendary professionals Old and Young Tom Morris.

When Macdonald left St. Andrews in 1874, he made a point of visiting other notable courses in the United Kingdom before returning to the United States. When he did return, it was to a Chicago that had been devastated by the great fire of 1871 and a depression in 1873. Such a ruinous atmosphere soon suppressed Macdonald's ardor for the game, and for the next 17 years he contented himself with being a businessman, a period he described as "the dark ages." The clubs he brought back with him from St. Andrews were used only once, on a rudimentary course he and a friend concocted over a Civil War battlefield.

The first roots of the game in America began to take hold in the New York area in the early 1890s with the formation of the St. Andrews and Shinnecock Hills Golf Clubs. But in 1892, Chicago was decidedly more prosperous, and a friend of Macdonald's, Horace Chatfield-Taylor, invited him to design a nine-hole course on the grounds of Senator Charles B. Farwell's estate. Though not impressed with the land, Macdonald built the course, procured golf equipment, and went about corralling a membership to pay for it. Immediately in search of better land for golf, Macdonald found a plot in Belmont, Ill., built nine holes there, then expanded it to 18 holes in 1893, again rounding up the membership. The Chicago Golf Club, as it was chartered, was the first 18-hole course in America. A year later Macdonald found a more substantial property in Wheaton, Ill., and built a more formidable course, the site of the present Chicago Golf Club. It was the beginning of the Macdonald legend.

Below: Participants in the 1899 U.S. Amateur included, from left, Walter J. Travis, C.B. Macdonald, Findlay S. Douglas

TOP AND BOTTOM: USGA ARCHIVES

C.B. Macdonald had an ego so massive it required its own caddie. He was a physically robust man who towered over others. A large mustache, sometimes done up in handlebar fashion, gave him a powerful, almost ominous visage. He was articulate and expressive and never at a loss for words or the willingness (some might say gall) to speak them. Until his death in 1939, Macdonald was at the epicenter of the game and in the cauldron of its controversies. He was someone you loved or hated—without middle ground—though even friends would often question why they were so loyal to him.

Macdonald was a formidable player. In 1894 he competed in two tournaments, one at the Newport Country Club, the second at the St. Andrews Golf Club in Westchester County, N.Y., each tournament attempting to proclaim a champion of golf in America among amateur players. Macdonald did not win either of them, but his vehement, and, frankly, self-serving protests over the way the tournaments were conducted was part of the reason that the United States Golf Association was formed in December of that year.

In October of 1895 the first United States Amateur Championship was held at Newport. Macdonald was clearly the best player in the field and swept to victory by routing Charles Sands of the St. Andrews Club, 12-11, in the 36-hole final. Macdonald played out of the Chicago Golf Club and enlisted the club's pro, James Foulis, as his caddie. Foulis would go on to win the second U.S. Open Championship at Shinnecock Hills the following year.

Macdonald was an absolute stickler for the rules, preaching divinely on the subject. The game, he maintained, was to be played the way it was in the Old Country, by the 13 basic rules adopted by the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers. Of course, he wasn't above taking advantage of situations that presented themselves. The Chicago Golf Club was the first to adopt an out-of-bounds rule. Out of bounds at Chicago punished hookers. Old C.B. was a fader. He endorsed the new rubber-cored Haskell ball over the traditional gutta percha because it gave him extra length in his later years.

He was adamant that the courses of the Old Country should be the foundation for the courses of the New World. To that end, Macdonald became determined to build his ideal course, an idea that was enhanced considerably by his move to New York City in 1900. In 1904, Macdonald returned to Scotland and Britain to find the holes and strategies that would make up such an ideal course. Bunkering was of great interest to him. He believed that at least some sand bunkers should exact a heavy toll on those who challenged them. The holes that captured his attention were the par-3 Redan Hole at North Berwick, the par-4 Road Hole at St. Andrews (then a par 5), the par-3 Eden Hole at St. Andrews and the par-4 Alps Hole at Prestwick, all with distinct and penal bunkering. He noted the massive Hell Bunker on the 14th at St. Andrews and the Sahara Hole at St. George's with its massive carry bunker as well.

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USGA

Charles Blair Macdonald in 1932 at his Mid-Ocean Club in Bermuda.

DONALD SCHWARTZ

C.B. Macdonald built the first 18-hole course in the U.S., the Chicago Golf Club. Not satisfied with the original layout, Macdonald rebuilt the course on nearby land where the famed clubhouse now sits.

He would bring all of these strategies into play when he returned to the U.S. and began his search for land. Having played Shinnecock Hills Golf Club (then a rudimentary course south of the railroad tracks, not the current championship layout), Macdonald found nearby a delightful piece of land with frontage on Peconic Bay (after first trying to buy Shinnecock itself). It was there he built his iconic National Links of America, imperiously named but absolutely fitting to the course and the man who designed it.

Having rounded up enough wealthy people to form a club and fund the project, Macdonald set about the task of building it with the aid of local land surveyor Seth Raynor. They formed a partnership that designed and built other significant courses, among them Piping Rock, the defunct Lido Golf Club, Shoreacres, Blind Brook, Yale University and a redesign of Shinnecock in 1916.

It wasn't Macdonald's vision to exactly duplicate the holes of the great courses. Rather, he wanted to adapt them into his own landscape, creating new designs with classic features. His Alps Hole, Redan Hole, Sahara Hole and Road Hole at the National didn't look much like their progenitors, but the strategy and the menace were there all the same. And he created a hole that became known as the Cape Hole, a dogleg par 4 with a green jutting out into a body of water.

Though one of the best players in the country, Macdonald was able to subdue his ego when it came to accommodating the average players that formed his membership and the bulk of the playing populace. He provided sufficient room to maneuver a ball around hazards. He felt that holes should have three set of tees to accommodate players of disparate strength and varying weather conditions. He didn't want an endless procession of lumpy greens, and not all of his bunkering was thoroughly penal. He liked variety of length, but decried very long par-3 holes. Short holes, he maintained, should be short.

When the course opened, it received rave reviews, including from influential British journalist Bernard Darwin and America's most well-known sportswriter, Grantland Rice. Quite some time after the National opened, Macdonald communicated his philosophy to Rice for a story in *The American Golfer* magazine. Here are a few excerpts:

"I don't believe in pampering any class of golfer, nor yet in forcing average players to attempt impossible strokes with no other outlet. For example, the National is hard to score consistently in low figures, yet it is extremely fair and an extremely popular spot for golfers who play between 90 and 105 or 110. For here each player can name his own medicine and take only as much risk or attempt only as long a carry as he thinks he can handle."

His bunker philosophy was devilish, especially so considering his own immense ego. "The object of a bunker or trap is not only to punish a physical mistake, to punish lack of control, but to punish the pride and egotism. I believe in leaving a way open for the player who can only drive one hundred yards, if he keep that drive straight. But the one I am after is the golfer who thinks he can carry one hundred and eighty yards when one hundred sixty is his limit. So I believe one of the best systems of trapping or arranging bunkers is to let the player make his own choice, from either

the shorter or longer route, and go for that.

"This helps to make a man know and study his limitations, and, if he is inclined to conceit, he will find his niblick has drawn a hard day's work."

At National, Macdonald put together holes of great variety, strategy and esthetic interest. What he did not want was a course made up of holes that were merely good but could be considered bland. He was the first to move massive amounts of earth, filling in marshland, building up green sites, digging bunkers and leveling sloping terrain. His was building history, and he knew it. And for the National and all the courses he designed, he never took a fee.

In his own book, *Scotland's Gift—Golf*, he had this to say about the comments he received on the holes he designed:

"I became convinced that any hole warranting warm or acrimonious discussion over a term of years must be worthwhile, otherwise it would have been consigned to oblivion with far less comment."

Macdonald's work did not stop at design and construction. The National project was set back by 18 months because of a disaster on the greens. He purchased a seed mixture for the greens that proved to be completely unfit for tight mowing and the smooth rolling of a ball. He embarked on a search for the proper grasses and the proper way to build a green's substructure to accommodate them. He could be said to be golf's first agronomist.

He determined that the green base had to be properly prepared and introduced meadow sod turned into the ground as a way to preserve moisture below the green's sandy surface. He mixed limestone and sandy loam into the soil to sweeten it. He established a turf nursery at his baronial estate, Ballyshear, which overlooked the course. There he developed a mixture of fine grasses, of bent and fescue, which proved to be perfect for conditions on Long Island. When it opened, the National had the best greens in the United States, though a far cry from today's felt surfaces.

The hot summers of Long Island baked out the greens, though. So Macdonald designed and built America's first golf course irrigation system, fed by gravity from a tower between the second and 16th greens, where the National's classic and defining windmill sits. That windmill is also a classically defining symbol of Macdonald's character. National's lore holds that Daniel Pomeroy, president of Condé Nast, suggested to Macdonald that a windmill, designed to cover the water tower, would be more pleasing to the eye. Macdonald agreed, had one built, and sent Pomeroy the bill.

At every crucial point of golf's early development in America, C.B. Macdonald was at the forefront. As a player, a membership organizer, a course designer, a builder, an administrator and an agronomist, Macdonald took the lead. More than a century later, American golf stands tall in the world because of him. **MT**

Jeff Williams is the golf writer for Cigar Aficionado *magazine and a contributor to several other publications. He was the golf writer for* Newsday *for 22 years and has covered championship golf for three decades. When he plays golf, he is often asked about his handicap. Unfortunately, it's his swing.*

National Golf Links, in Southampton, N.Y., was the site of the first Walker Cup in 1922. It was at the National where Macdonald created the Cape Hole, a dogleg par 4 with a green that protruded into water.

JAMES KRAJICEK

Charles Blair Macdonald's Career Highlights

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Spearheaded formation of the United States Golf Association
- Winner of first U.S. Amateur, 1895; victory over Charles Sands by 12-and-11 score is still the record for largest winning margin in the final
- Considered America's first golf course architect
- Author of the acclaimed book, *Scotland's Gift—Golf*

SIGNIFICANT COURSE DESIGNS:

1895	Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Ill., the first 18-hole golf course in America
1911	National Golf Links, Southampton, N.Y., site of the inaugural Walker Cup in 1922
1913	Piping Rock, Locust Valley, N.Y.
1924	Mid-Ocean Club, Bermuda
1926	Yale University Golf Course, New Haven, Conn.

PHOTO: USGA ARCHIVES