

# Our Course

by Donald Caste

The title is purposeful. It is deliberately not “Our Club”. Our Club is about the members; this is about our course. I’ve recently found something about our course that I previously didn’t know. I think it’s fun. I’d like to share it with you.

For me it really started last fall when our fine member, Jack Onderdonk, invited a few HGC’s guys to play National Golf Links of America out on Eastern Long Island. National, as it is often referred to, is Charles Blair Macdonald’s masterpiece. Opened in 1911 (CBM having conceived the idea of a great American course in 1904, he began building the course in 1907. He then refined it over the next 25 years), it sits with the beautiful Great Peconic Bay on one side and it borders Shinnecock Hills Golf Club on the other. Those of you making the trip to this year’s US OPEN can look to the north from Shinnecock’s high point clubhouse location and see National’s famous windmill. I learned that this windmill functions as a cover to the club’s water tower. It is also the subject of a good C.B. Macdonald story, which I can tell you at another time.

Our two days of golf at National was as good as it gets. As usual, this was attributable primarily to the company. Playing National however, proved to be something very special. Ranked number 8 on Golf Week’s recent list of top 100 courses, National provides that amazing bigger than life feeling that one gets at major courses like Augusta, Pebble Beach and Pinehurst No. 2. It’s not only exciting golf, but it’s also great theater and high drama. I can only imagine, but I would liken it to the feeling respectful baseball players get as they first walk up the dugout steps into Yankee Stadium. You have arrived. You are in an important place. It’s time to try your best and see what you’ve got.

But what does this have to do with our golf course? It’s actually quite simple. After my unforgettable experience at National, I learned that our Board was developing an interest in our course’s history. This led to my becoming interested and familiar with the writings of George Bahto. For several years, George has been researching and writing about certain of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century’s great golf course architects. His major work “The Evangelist of Golf – the Story of Charles Blair Macdonald” contains a wealth of information about C.B. Macdonald, the National and some of the greatest golf courses and golf holes ever.

The major theme in the book is that C.B. Macdonald led the way, followed by Seth Raynor and, our own, Charles Banks. They started at a time when there were only a few courses in America. These three partnered in the design and construction of some of our Country’s greatest golf courses. Banks who liked to be referred to as “Josh”, never “steam shovel”, was the youngest of the three (youngest to die as well at age 47 in 1931, having outlived Raynor by about 5 years). Prior to Banks’ death, the three combined to design and build over 100 courses, 19 of which are in the “Top 100”. Only Donald Ross has more with 24. In addition to National; Fishers Island, Camargo and Shoreacres are among their courses ranked in the “Top 100.” Outside the U.S. Mid Ocean in Bermuda is a wonderful course in a most beautiful setting. Each is credited to one or more of these three architects. Pretty much all of these courses were built between 1910 and 1931. HGC’s was finished 75 years ago in 1929.

What makes this trio of great golf architects so special is their use of “Classic Holes”. C.B. Macdonald, a member of a wealthy Chicago family, visited the UK numerous times in his youth to study and document the “best golf holes in the world”. Using this repertoire, he and subsequently Raynor and Banks used the Classic Holes repeatedly in their designs. The great holes of National (and the UK) run like a bloodline to our course. Each one of HGC’s holes can be traced to such holes as the Redan, the Narrows, the Short, and the Biarritz, among others. The Classic Holes each have a rich history and each can be described to explain their origin and the unique playing strategy involved in their design.

I’ve had the good fortune of a recent meeting, set up by our Board, with George Bahto. I learned that his interest in Charles Banks, stems from having played on three different Banks designed home courses (Hendricks Field, Essex County CC, and the Knoll Club) over a 45 year period. He has graciously agreed to help us identify the Classic Holes at HGC. We are going to try and analyze what Josh was thinking back then. Most of us know that our twelfth is the Redan but did you know that three is the Biarritz, six is the Short, and seventeen, the Eden? They are from North Berwick, France (circa 1888), Brancaster and St. Andrews, respectively. Some of our holes are now hard to distinguish because of the changes made since 1929. Hopefully, with George’s help, we can figure them out. I’d like to write about them, hole by hole, their history and design elements, in future newsletter articles.

I think this will be fun. I hope you will agree.

# Our Course

## The Par Threes

By Don Caste



In the previous article I described some of the background of our course's architect, Charles H. Banks. In 1925 he joined Charles Blair Macdonald and Seth Raynor in designing and building many of America's early golf courses. Macdonald and Raynor had been together since building the National Golf Links of America in 1911. By 1925 Macdonald and, more so, Raynor had been involved in the development of over 100 courses, including our course. Virtually all of their clients were private clubs whose members were benefiting from the prosperity of the 1920's. Macdonald's reputation and formidable social contacts, coupled with Raynor's professionalism (civil engineer and surveyor) placed this team in high demand.

Macdonald was not as interested in building courses - the National was offered as a prototype for others to understand and build on. The large majority of their courses were designed by Raynor. Banks was recruited by Seth Raynor in the midst of the "Roaring Twenties" as his demand reached new heights. Banks' background in finance and organization was a blessing to Raynor and within a few months he became a partner in the firm.

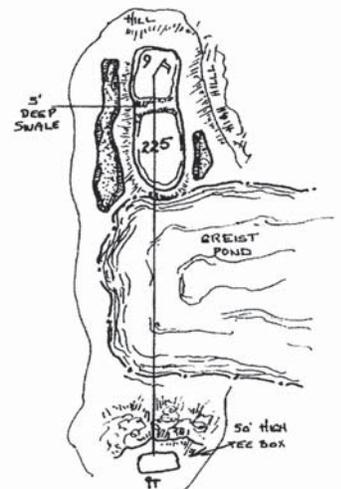
One of the things that differentiated our architects from others of the day was their faithful use of classic holes. One needs to keep in mind that the renditions of these famous holes had to be adapted to fit each new setting. However, the following four classic par threes were used in virtually all of their courses and are therefore easily recognizable.

They are: the Biarritz (our No. 3), the Short (our No. 6), the Redan (our No. 12), and the Eden (our No. 17).

Below are the descriptions of each of these (and our) par threes. George Bahto has graciously permitted us to reprint these descriptions from Chapter Five, "Glossary of Holes and Greens" in his book, "The Evangelist of Golf, The Story of Charles Blair Macdonald." If you find these descriptions interesting I recommend you read George's book, particularly his hole-by-hole review of the National, which can be found in Chapter Six. In there, George embellishes each hole's description with richer historical detail and deeper analysis of play strategy.

### BIARRITZ

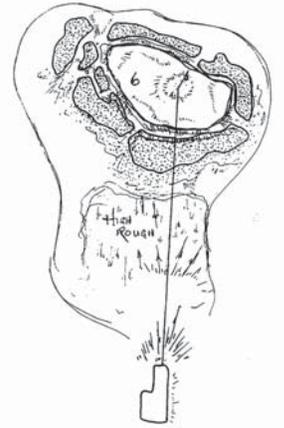
Origin: 3<sup>rd</sup> hole (the Chasm), Biarritz Golf Club, Biarritz, France. Architect: Willie Dunn Jr. 1888. Length: 220-245 yards. Bunkering: Narrow strip bunkers guard the sides and rear of green. A framing bunker short of green often used to represent the original cliff-to-cliff over Bay of Biscay. Green: Enormous green with deep swale either in front of or incorporated into putting surface when fully planted. Approach: Original architecture featured only one tee. All shorter tees were added later by clubs. Best example(s): First version built at Piping Rock. Most literal version had been 9<sup>th</sup> at Yale (see illustration right) or 7<sup>th</sup> at Fishers Island until it was ascertained by Dr. Alister MacKenzie that the 16<sup>th</sup> at Cypress Point was originally suggested by Seth Raynor as part of his original routing there. Comments: Macdonald never built a version at the National. Until recently only Yale and Chicago had the "landing area" short of the green planted as putting surface (20,000 sq. ft.). Presently there are over 30 such dramatic versions.



**HGC's version:** *We have an exceptionally strong Biarritz. I say this primarily due to it's placement in a relatively secluded corner of our course. This is a tribute to our very good course routing, which I believe was done by Raynor. The bold and unique features of the Biarritz are thereby showcased at HGC in this setting. At other courses this impression can suffer from the distractions of nearby holes. Significant alterations to our current Biarritz include a major reduction in the length of the flanking bunkers. The original plan shows that they started from slightly behind the green and ended near the point where our fairway starts! Based on others I've seen, the swale in front of the green probably was much deeper with a much steeper slope on the tee side (nearly vertical). Excellent local examples of less altered Biarritz holes can be found at Forsgate (No. 17) and the Knoll (No. 13).*

## SHORT

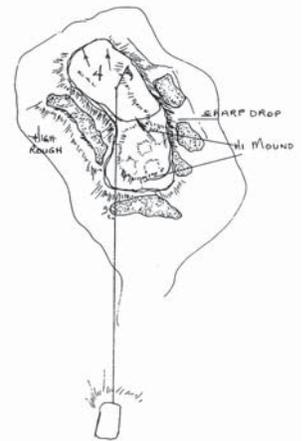
Origin: Suggested by the 5<sup>th</sup> at Brancaster (now Royal West Norfolk), Norfolk, England. Length: 130-140 yards. Bunkering: Deep greenside bunkering surrounds putting surface and creates an “island” effect. Approach: Generous green, usually much wider than deep. Green: Plateau green, generally elevated 5 feet above natural terrain. Putting surface features usually the most complex on the course. Dished depressions, rear shelves, and false fronts abound and segment the greens. 10,000 (plus) square foot greens not uncommon. Best example(s): 6<sup>th</sup> at the National (see illustration right); 10<sup>th</sup> at Chicago G.C.; Bank’s version at North Hempstead’s 2<sup>nd</sup>; Raynor’s version at Nassau C.C. Comments: Green committees often mistakenly lengthen this hole to add yardage to the course. A Short is designed specifically to examine the short iron and putting skills of the golfer.



**HGC's version:** *Our Short hole is also well positioned in a distinct undistracting corner. It's original features were much more rugged and therefore in my view more dramatic and eye-catching. The green was likely ten to twenty percent larger, with two or three more distinct putting surfaces (separated by spines or the “horseshoe”). The green itself would have appeared to be higher as a result of much steeper sidewalls. Wide flat bunkers virtually encircled the green. Our new tee also brings longer irons into play. No. 12 at Forsgate and No. 6 at the Knoll are good local examples.*

## REDAN

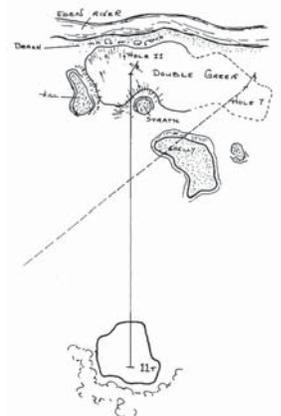
Origin: 15<sup>th</sup> hole at North Berwick Golf Club (East course) East Lothian, Scotland. Architect Ben Sayers. Length: 190-215 yards. Bunkering: Deep sandpit guards direct frontal attack. Deep bunkering also beyond short side of green. Normally a “framing bunker” is positioned well short of the putting surface. Approach: High shoulder along outside edge of the green is designed to deflect balls toward the center of the green. Green: Putting surface oriented at 45-degree angle to tee, most renditions are boldly tilted to the rear. Every flagstick change or wind change dramatically alters the strategy of hole. Classic Redan green tilted from front-right to back-left. Many later versions (reverse-Redan) built as mirror image. Best example(s): 4<sup>th</sup> at the National Golf Link's (see illustration right); 3<sup>rd</sup> Piping Rock. Reverse Redan: 8<sup>th</sup> at Creek Club. Comments: Considered the finest par-3 design in the world. National's 4<sup>th</sup> rated one of top 100 golf holes in America.



**HGC's version:** *Our Redan is great. It's classic feature of only showing you a sliver of the green from the tee can not often be replicated. The original bunker includes one in the front similar to today and a very long one in the back, almost the length of the green. In 1929, there were no pines on the right or back left. This provided a more open feeling, similar to No. 4 at National. Other locals don't compare to ours, but if you go out to Shin-neckock this year, check out No. 7.*

## EDEN

Origin: 11<sup>th</sup> hole at St. Andrews (High-Hole-In), St. Andrews Old Course, Fife, Scotland. Length: 160-170 yards. Bunkering: Greenside: “Hill” bunker left, “Strath” bunker (technically a pot bunker) right. “Eden” bunker behind green represents beach of the Eden River (Scotland). “Cockleshell” (or “Shelly” bunker) short and right of the green frames the green complex. Green: Original Eden severely tilted back to front; later versions feature much larger greens with moderate slope and undulations. In truest form, balls can be putted off the green into the Strath bunker. Approach: True representations offer few easy cup placements. Most versions are a gentle interpretation of St. Andrews original (see illustration right). Best example(s): National 13<sup>th</sup>; Chicago 13<sup>th</sup>; St. Louis 3<sup>rd</sup>; Lido 3<sup>rd</sup>. Many other fine examples remain. Comments: Along with Redan, the Eden is considered one of the finest examples of par-3 strategies.



**HGC's version:** *Altered significantly, the original had the full bunkers, including a semicircle around the back of the green, representing the Eden River Bank at St. Andrews. Eden greens typically have more height making the bunkering effect, particularly the hill bunker usually on the left, extremely dramatic. A good local example is No. 3 at Forsgate.*

# Our Course

## Our Classic Par Four's

By Don Caste



The previous "Our Course" articles included background on the architectural team responsible for the initial golf design of our current course. This was seventy-five years ago. Since that time there have been two major renovations and numerous other modifications. The major renovations were led by architects William Gordon (1961) and by Rees Jones (1996). Both efforts were directed at updating our course to the look and play of a modern golf course. As a result, many of the sharp square edges and other bold features such as dramatically large, deep bunkering were taken away. In their place are smoother, more subtle mounding and shallower bunkers.

To rediscover some of the original features of our course, reference can be made to several old aerial photographs (see cover of the August 2004 HGC newsletter for one). It's readily apparent that major changes involve our bunkers and predictably, a significant growth in the number and size of our trees. In addition to the aerials, we are fortunate to have a copy of the original Charles H. Banks design drawings (includes a third nine, west of the Clubhouse.) This source is particularly helpful. If you would like to see for yourself, there's a copy in the HGC Centennial History Book.

By comparing Banks' original design to a circa 1930 aerial, one can see that a significant number of bunkers and certain other of his intended features did not ultimately get on the course. All in all, this makes tracing some of our current golf holes to their classic roots, a challenge.

Once again, thanks to George Bahto, we have been able to identify some good clues, particularly in the old Banks diagram. George has also pointed out to me that Banks would not always replicate a classic hole in its entirety. Instead he would use classic pieces, primarily the green complexes to make up the par fours and par fives.

Such is the case with our 18<sup>th</sup>. Originally there was a huge bunker between its green and the ninth's. Our original 18<sup>th</sup> hole green complex represented the road hole at St. Andrews. This green complex can be found in virtually all Macdonald, Reynor, Banks courses. The large bunker represents the road. The other tell-tale for the road hole is a deep pot bunker on the front left of the green. Ours (now two instead of one) are not as deep as they used to be but they are still full of trouble as we know.

In this article, as in the last, I've described four of our holes and how they relate to the classics.

They are: the Plateau, our No. 5, the Knoll, our No. 13, the Leven, our No. 14 and the Alps, our No. 16.

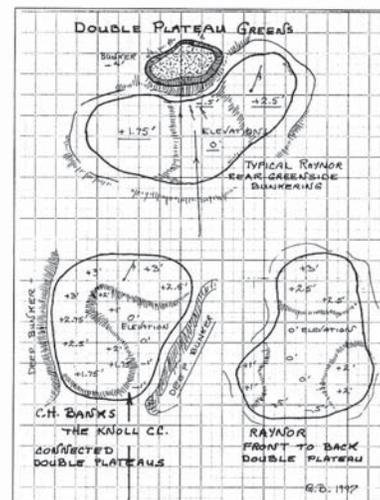
I intend to continue these descriptions as best I can in future articles. Eventually, I plan to provide some detail on certain classic green complexes and other significant golf course features which I think best relate to the classic features of Our Course.

### PLATEAU

Origin: Impossible to determine. Design likely based on many natural plateau greens in the British Isles. Length: Long par 4's, often the longest two-shot hole on the course. Bunkering: Moderate fairway and greenside bunkering, often with Principal's Nose-type bunker set 70 yards in front of the green. Green: Stubby L-shaped green. Good renditions feature three levels. Location on putting surface usually front-left and right-rear, though there are many exceptions. Early versions would funnel aggressive approaches through the green to a deep bunker beyond. Approach: Generally open in front of green except for Principal's Nose bunker in fairway short of the green to visually obscure portions of the target. Best example(s): National's 11th green; Chicago Golf's 6th; Fishers Island's 18th; North Shore's 14th. Most renditions still in their original form. Comments: Great variety of single plateau greens in both Raynor's and Bank's designs, but true representation of this style contains at least two separate plateaus. Most renditions feature very large greens.

**HGC's version:** Hole No. 5. We have the separate plateaus version and the Principals Nose. Now you know what to call the mound and bunker complex left and short of the green that catches so many of our shots. My image is one of a lanky, robed, bespectacled, and intolerant schoolmaster. At once, identified with and by the "prominent proboscis." Clearly the Principal's Nose, and the rest of the man, should be avoided.

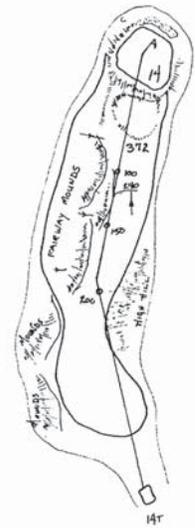
The deeper and steeper bunkers of 1929 have been changed along with the addition of smooth mounding around the green and along the right side of the fairway. These Rees Jones "containment" features provide a softer feel to this hole today compared to the original.



## KNOLL

Origin: 4th hole at Scotsraig Golf Club, Tayport, Fife, Scotland. Architect: Tom Morris. Length: Short par 4 averaging 300 yards. Bunkering: One moderate greenside bunker - if any. Approach: The play to the green is blind because of the extreme elevation of the putting surface. Green: In pure form, greens were built 8 to 10 feet above the fairway with steep falloffs on all sides. Putting surfaces feature a rear plateau, fronted by a sharp slope to an expansive collection area on lower tier. Best example(s): 13th hole at Piping Rock is the prototype Macdonald/Raynor version. Comments: Can be played in a variety of ways depending on the flagstick position. Back tier placement is the most difficult.

**HGC's version:** Hole No. 13. One of the shortest par four's on our course. My sense is that during our renovations, the fairway was built up (13 historically had drainage problems) making the green's height less significant. The dramatic bunker encircling three quarters of the green was removed during the 1961 renovation. I think this particular feature, if it existed today, would provide for some more interesting recovery shots than hitting off hardpan in the lightly wooded area which exists behind

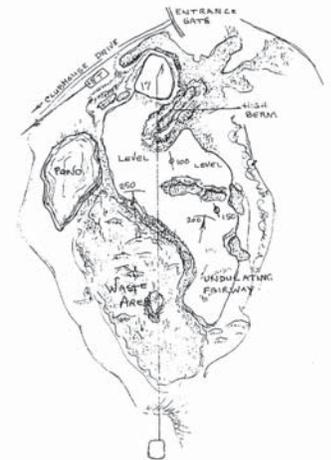


## LEVEN

Origin: Old 7th hole of old Leven Links, Leven, Fife, Scotland. Length: Short par 4, usually 330-360 yards. Bunkering: Fairway bunker or waste area challenges golfer to make heroic carry for an open approach to the green. Less courageous line from the tee leaves golfer with a semiblind approach over a high bunker or sand hill to the short side of the green. Green: Usually moderately undulating surface with least accessible cup placement behind sand hill. Best example(s): 17th National Golf Links of America. Many second tier examples. Comments: 17th at National rated one of top 100 holes in America - one of the great short par-4 strategies in golf.

**HGC's version:** Hole No. 14. Our "Tree Hole" causes some to aim their tee shot to the left. There, you have to be careful of two bunkers. Originally the mound on the left front side of the green was so high and wide that according to Tom Hawthorn, if the hole was placed behind it that day, an extra tall pin had to be used for one to see it. Today, a well placed shot over the tree and landing on the right side of the fairway is rewarded with a more accessible approach.

Still true to the Leven strategy, an approach from the left (where it's easier to get to from the tee) presents a more challenging golf shot. But can you imagine looking at that original mound?!



## ALPS

Origin: 17th Hole at Prestwick Golf Club, Ayrshire, Scotland. Architect: Old Tom Morris. Length: 400 - 435 yards. Bunkering: Deep cross-bunker in front of green on far side of high hill. Green: Depressed or raised punchbowl green with distinctive ridge or spine running through putting surface. Approach: In purest form, a blind approach shot over a high hill. More moderate versions provide a partial glimpse of the target. Most common version positions the green over or at a rise in the fairway with Alps-type bunkering, mostly notably the frontal cross-bunker. Best example(s): 3rd hole at the National Golf Links; 4th hole at Fishers Island; 5th at St. Louis. Many other fine examples remain. Comments: Dismissed by some as a relic of the past, but a fun and unpredictable hole to play. Hill is often represented by a rising fairway to a semiblind green. A consensus of golfers who know the National well call the Alps one of their favorite holes.

**HGC's version:** Hole No. 16. I've heard many Members question why No.16 is the number four handicap and No. 18 is six. Think of 16 after placing three separate mid-sized bunkers at slightly varying distances from the tee, in the fairway, at the top of the hill. Add a twenty yard-wide bunker about twenty yards in front of the green. Then build a berm around three quarters of the green to create a classic punchbowl. After these changes were made some of those questions no doubt would cease.



None of these features appear to have made it from Banks' design to our course. If they had, we would be playing a more classic Alps and an even more demanding golf hole.

# *Our Course*

## A Classic Composition

By Don Caste



In previous articles I described some of the background of Charles Banks and his partners Seth Raynor and Charles Blair Macdonald. Together they had designed over 100 golf courses during the early twentieth century “boom years” of American golf. Their designs were in high demand and they were committed to using a repertoire of “classic holes”. Holes derived from their intense study of golf design and play strategy which was based upon their research of the best golf holes of Great Britain. In 1929, the year Hackensack Golf Club opened its new course in Oradell, Raynor was gone (passing in 1926) and Macdonald was only interested in selected major opportunities. Our architect, Charles Banks, was basically on his own.

In 1929, Banks was working on dozens of courses (finishing what Raynor had started plus his own), the nation would start to face a long and deep economic depression and Banks would only live two more years. In short, the string was about to run out. Unlike A. W. Tillinghast, Donald Ross and other major architects whose designs continued to move forward into mid-century, our designers did not. It's only recently, with the growing interest in golf course history and restoration that the work of our early American golf architects has been illuminated.

In designing and building our course, Banks used the classic hole concepts which he had learned from Macdonald and Raynor. In previous articles, I described the par threes, which usually were the most precisely replicated holes in each of their course designs. Similarly, certain other holes such as those described in the “Our Classic Par Fours” article were “stand alone replicas”. But after Raynor's death, Banks progressively tried new things. He made certain variations in design which he believed would distinguish his work.

I've had reproduced, an enhanced (thanks to George Bahto) version of Bank's 1925 HGC course concept drawing. It is attached, and when you look at it, focus on the fairway bunkering. If you compare the drawing to our 1930 and 1940 aerial photographs, you will see that at least 50% of the bunkers in the concept never made it to the course. I have speculated as to why. It could be membership preference. Perhaps the “finishing touches” were left for the future and were not done due to the impact of the Great Depression. Or perhaps Banks, then overwhelmingly busy, and gone by 1931, never “pushed it”. In any event, many of the classic features in the design were never completed. As we spoke of before, many of the other classic features that once did exist have since been removed or were changed over the years. These factors, along with Bank's growing self-confidence in making his own mark, make a one-to-one correlation of the classics to our yet undescribed ten holes a bit of a challenge.

The direction I took (with George's advice), was to heavily rely on the 1925 concept drawing. This drawing was made prior to Raynor's death (my reason for believing that Raynor had a hand in our course routing). Therefore it is possible that the early concept drawing had little or no influence from some of the distracting factors described above and is, as a result, more faithful to the classics.

Another factor that makes one-to-one correlation to certain classic holes less pertinent to some of our holes is that Raynor and Banks often viewed golf holes in two distinct pieces for par fours and par fives. The tee shot/landing area, and the green complex. In designing a golf hole golf architects usually give more value to the green complexes (size, shape, contours, bunkering, etc.) than to the tee shot. When it came to reproducing the classics on land that was much different than that on which the original classic was built, the designers improvised and used a classic green complex with a tee shot landing area that fit best. As a result the hole would not be an exact classic replica. (See discussion of our 18<sup>th</sup> “The Road Hole” later for a case-in-point.)

The idea I'd like to leave you with is that some of our holes are composites of classic holes as originally designed, and many of our holes no longer or never had some of the classic features of the original design. I think it's fun to study the original concept drawing and picture our holes in the context of their classic design and play strategy, then debate whether it appeals to you or not.

Based on my review of the Banks 1925 concept drawing and some discussions with George Bahto and admittedly some of my own imagination, I think the following HGC holes most closely represent the indicated classic holes designs. Raynor's Prize Dogleg, our Numbers 2, 9 and 11; The Narrows, our number 4; the Road Hole, our number 18; The Hog's Back, our Number 7; The Long, our number 8; the Valley, our number 1. Holes 10 and 15 do not appear to closely correlate to any particular classic. Certain features of 15 resemble the Long (landing areas framed by bunkers leading one down a long fairway). Our hole number 10 is a pretty standard three shot par 5, as with number 1 there is a valley followed by an elevated green complex. The green complex we now have as designed by Rees Jones is an excellent one and coincidentally resembles an “Eden” green complex particularly from the front.

## A FINAL WORD

I've had fun doing this and I hope you enjoyed it as well. As I said, in the first article, this is about our course and not about our club and its membership. I think our course is great. It's beautiful, challenging, fair, and fun to play. I have no strong feelings about restoration. I'm simply even more proud of our course now that I am more aware of its rich history and importance.

Hackensack Golf Club has lasted for more than 100 years. Other clubs of equal prominence years ago have not survived or have experienced considerable decline. If HGC survives another 100 years (I certainly hope it will), it's inevitable that the golf course will undergo changes. In making these changes, I only wish that the future generations of members reflect on the extraordinary significance of our original designers and the compelling substance of the classic holes.

## RAYNOR'S PRIZE DOGLEG

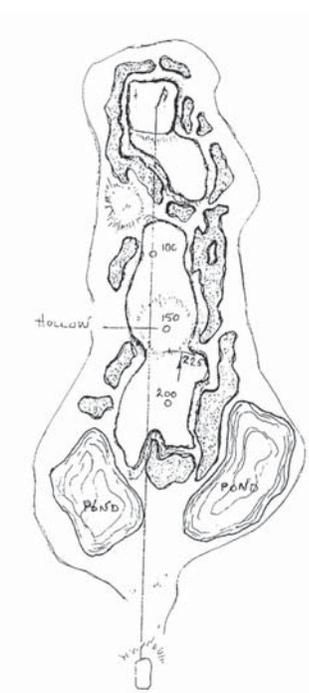
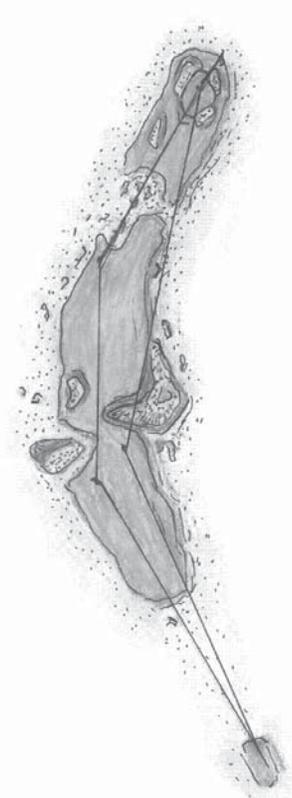
**Origin:** 6<sup>th</sup> at Lido, a reachable par 5 (493 yards). A Seth Raynor rendition combines two entries in the *Country Life* magazine design contest. **Length:** 435-445 yards. After Lido, hole was designed as an unusually long par 4. In Raynor's own words, "a par four but a bogey six." **Bunkering:** Severe fairway bunkering, especially at inside of dogleg. Play to opposite side lengthens hole considerably. **Green:** Elevated green angled to the line of play; often "fishhooked" in the same direction as the dogleg. In later versions, green sites were often not bunkered. **Approach:** Huge waste area 60 to 100 yards short of the green left golfer with a lay-up or go-for-it decision. Later versions more forgiving as the waste area was replaced with echelon bunkering. Even with modern equipment this hole is difficult to reach in regulation figures. **Best example(s):** Sadly, it appears no unaltered difficult versions remain. Memberships unable to appreciate strategic excellence of design filled in more fairway bunkers-negating the design strategy. **Comments:** Raynor developed the hole from a prize winning submission on the contest in *Country Life* magazine prior to the construction of the Lido G.C. It immediately became a feature hole on all future Seth Raynor designs. Aside from Raynor's prototype at Lido's 6<sup>th</sup>, a prime example was built at T. Suffern Tailor's nine-hole Ocean Links (1919-1920) as its 9<sup>th</sup> hole.

**HGC's version:** Hole numbers 2, 9, and 11: *The original diagram shows strong cross bunkers required to be carried off the tee (they also serve to accentuate the turns on these otherwise "soft doglegs"). There are also bunkers (as originally conceived) in the line of play 100 to 150 yards from the green. These would require some golfers to make a decision to lay-up or not, which was the key to Raynor's strategy. Banks' original design called for a punchbowl green on No. 2 and a sharing of the Road Hole bunker with No. 18 on the left of the 9<sup>th</sup> green.*

## NARROWS

**Origin:** Portion: Second Shot: 15<sup>th</sup> Muirfield, East Lothian, Scotland. **Length:** Mid-length par 4 averaging 400 yards. **Bunkering:** Greenside bunkers: Heavily bunkered left, right and to the rear. **Approach Bunkers:** In purest form (National), middle of the fairway, 50 yards before the green. **Green:** Sloping fairly severely back-to-front; moderately undulating; steep falloff to the rear. **Best example(s):** 15<sup>th</sup> at the National-prototype Macdonald / Raynor version. **Comments:** National's 15<sup>th</sup> has the most beautiful bunkering on the course from tee to green. Pure versions of this genre are few and far between, but the hole is best identified by the "narrowing" of the approach area from about 100 yards in to the green. The bunker in the middle of the fairway short of the green is often removed by golf clubs not fully understanding the hole's strategy.

**HGC's version:** *Banks' original design for hole No. 4, called for pinching (narrowing) bunkers about 260 yards and 310 yards from the tee. These were never put in. Reese Jones' containment bunkers at the upper right of the fairway along with a deep wide bunker guarding the right side of the green, today provides an effective "Narrows" design. The right greenside bunker also produces a "Cape Hole" green effect, particularly when the pin is back right. This is a particularly attractive classic feature provided by Jones.*



## ROAD HOLE

**Origin:** 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Andrews Old Course. 461-yard par 4. Originally played as par 5. Architect: Allan Robertson. **Length:** Various lengths of long par 4s or short par 5s. **Bunkering:** Deep and notoriously “gathering” pot bunker guards the front of the green. Macdonald and Raynor versions normally installed bunkering beyond the green to represent the road behind original. Pot bunker, though deep, rarely as treacherous as the one at the 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrews (see illustration right). Fairway bunkering often used at corner of dogleg to represent tee shot over railway sheds (now a hotel). **Green:** Abrupt rise to the green along the right portion, triangular in shape with shallow depth. Green rejects overly bold approaches to rear bunker. It is possible to putt the ball into the pot bunker on some versions. **Approach:** Drives correctly placed in right side of fairway, leaves best approach to a green oriented at a severe angle to the centerline of play. Many golfers bail out short right of the green to avoid Road bunker hoping to get up and down. Drive to left, away from hazard directly confronts pot bunker. **Best example(s):** 7<sup>th</sup> at the National (see illustration far right); 8<sup>th</sup> at Piping Rock; 3<sup>rd</sup> at North Shore C.C. (NY). Many other fine versions remain. **Comments:** Technology-proof hole. As mad-denyingly difficult today as it was when built by Robertson in 1842.

**HGC's version:** *The membership universally believes that No. 18 is an outstanding finishing hole. It might be considered our signature hole. Although in my view it would have to compete with the Redan. No. 18 is an excellent replica of the classic road hole green complex. The original enormous bunker behind and to the right of the green has long been removed. This represented the road. The fairway was “flopped” over to fit the necessary course routing. We have a right to left dogleg vs. left to right at St. Andrews. Rees Jones put the bunkers in the dogleg corner which represents the tee shot over the railroad shed. This bunker was in the original design but never made it to the course until Jones’ put it in.*

## HOG'S BACK

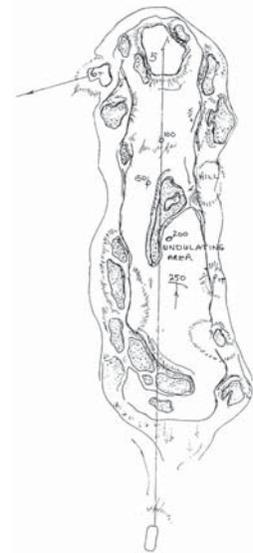
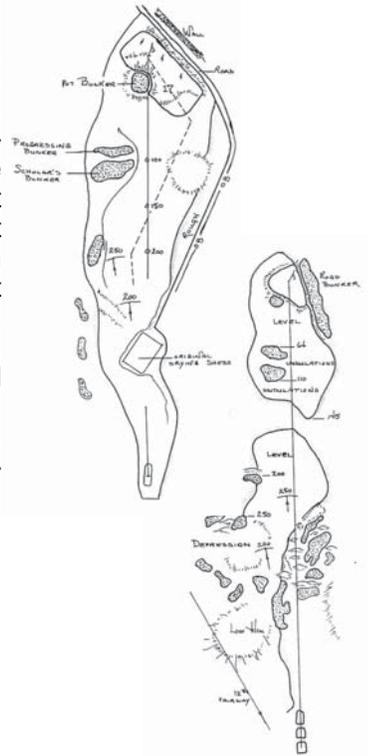
**Origin:** Impossible to determine. Many examples found as natural fairways and greens in the British Isles. **Length:** Medium length par 4. **Bunkering:** In purest form, a large bunker obscures the prime landing area from the tee. Later versions eliminated this for an unobstructed view of a semi-crowned fairway. **Approach:** Usually a deep bunker to one side with high lip. **Green:** Hogbacked spine running along the line of play segmenting the green into two distinct areas sloping away from each other. **Best example(s):** 5<sup>th</sup> at National Golf Links is considered the overall best hole; 4<sup>th</sup> at Knoll Golf Club (New Jersey) has the best green. **Comments:** Hole places premium on tee shot accuracy. Off-line shots catch slope and bound away from line of play, often into a waiting bunker or hollow. Many renditions that remain are no longer effective due to over irrigation, which negates the turtleback effect of fairway slope, and takes fairway bunkering out of play.

**HGC's version:** *Today we have no Hog's back in the landing area and a decent but not distinctive hog's back spine in the green. Prior to our two renovations No. 7 had a severe blind tee shot. The original design features two major cross bunkers on the brow of a blinding steep hill 100 to 160 yards from the tee. I believe this fairway, as well as others was not originally flat. Rather it was mounded to pitch shots away from the center.*

## LONG

**Origin:** 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Andrews. **Length:** Normally identified as the longest par 5 on the course. **Bunkering:** Fairway bunkering arranged to force players to flirt with moderate representation of the Hell Bunker complex (St. Andrew' 14<sup>th</sup>). Greenside bunkering is generally moderate. **Approach:** In true form, tee shots must negotiate a diagonal carry. Most golfers play these as 3-shot holes. **Green:** Impossible to generalize as there is no identifiable pattern in putting surface contouring. **Best example(s):** Although the 9<sup>th</sup> at the National may be the best remaining representative example, the most literal version was built by Macdonald/Raynor at the lost Lido course (hole #17). Only there were all aspects of the St. Andrew's original, including Hell Bunker, faithfully represented. **Comments:** In the 1920s these were difficult holes – often requiring a midiron approach on the 3<sup>rd</sup> shot. The Hell Bunker complex (75 yards wide and deep at St. Andrews) was designed to present a clear choice to either lay up or attempt the long second-shot carry. Most versions by Macdonald and Raynor were far less severe to accommodate club players.

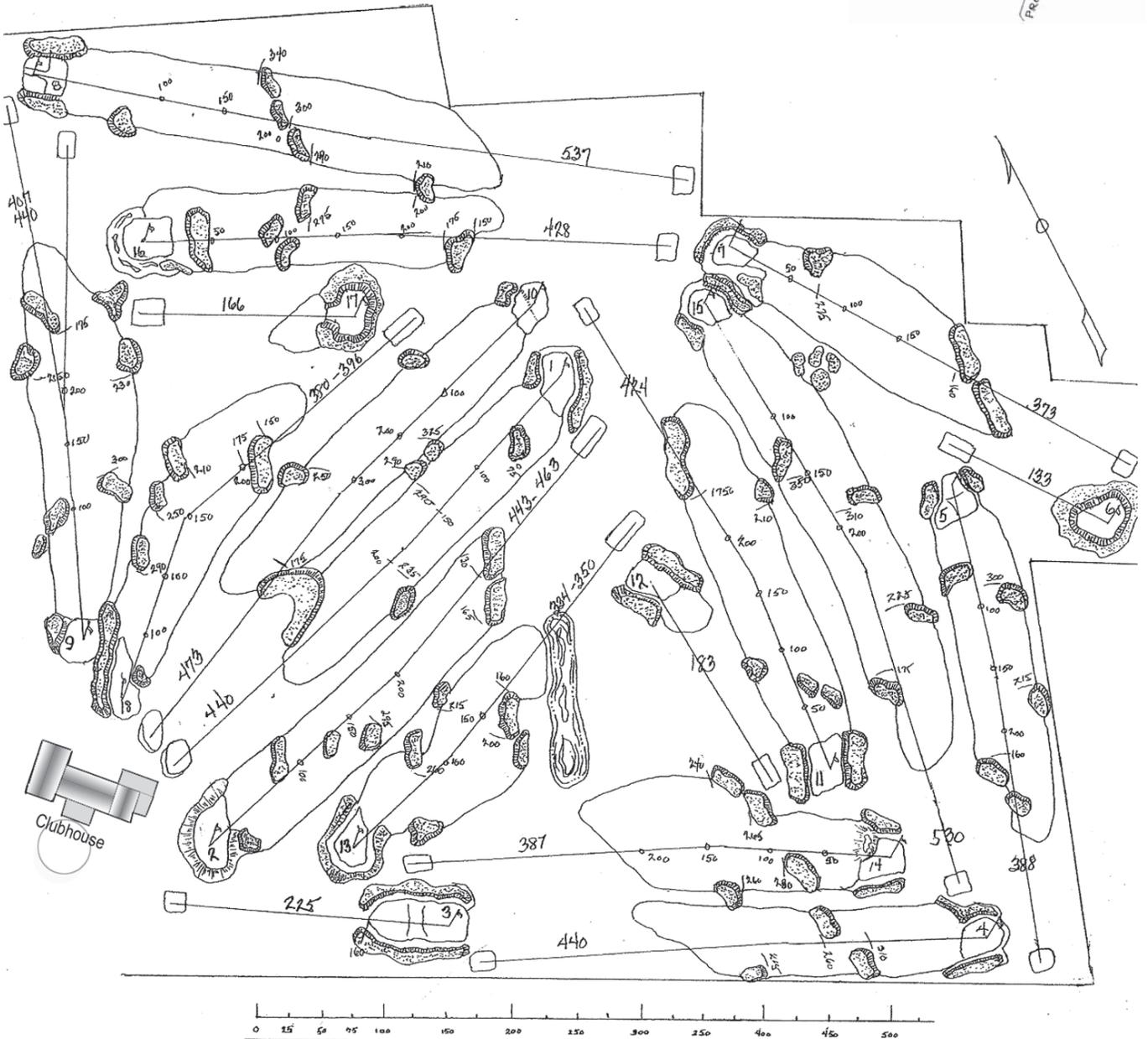
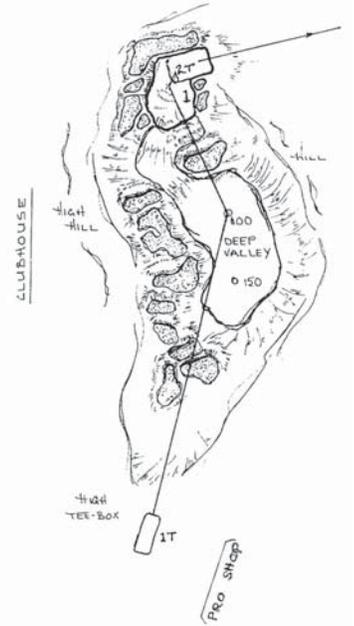
**HGC's version:** *No. 8 is our longest hole. Its original design featured a “hell bunker” complex diagonally across the fairway from 290 to 340 yards out. These were never put in. Our eighth hole green complex is often referred to as a classic maiden green. You may ask me about the origin of this name sometime.*



## VALLEY

**Origin:** Generic term ascribed to many holes where topography dictated a severe downhill fairway. **Green Complex:** Usually on naturally high ground. **Best example(s):** National Golf Links 1<sup>st</sup>. **Comments:** Fairway bunkering, approaches, and green complex vary and have no specific bearing on this style hole.

**HGC's version:** Our opening hole, originally No. 10 and a par four. The tee was not as far back as it is now. This would have put the valley in reach off the tee. However, you may get a downhill lie to an elevated green. A tough one for sure, as you know if you've missed your second shot on our opening par five today. From the aerials, it looks like this hole was originally set up to be a two shot Redan. A variation of the Redan green complex (one of the best) was often used on a par four or a par five by our designers, in addition to the famous par three.



**HACKENSACK GOLF CLUB**  
Original Charles Banks concept plan - 1925