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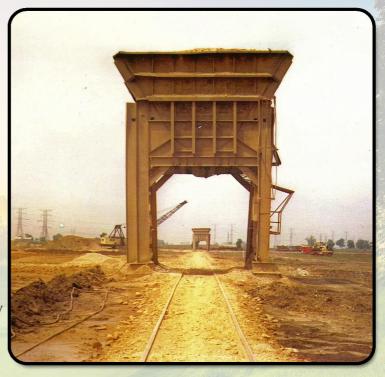
#### The Renaissance of Mistwood

#### Early Years

The land that Mistwood Golf Club currently sits on was originally a family farm. In the mid-1900's part of the land was mined for sand and aggregate that was used for the building of roadbeds. After several years of being utilized as a quarry, the empty land was converted into a lake that became a sportsmen's club before being purchased by the Village of Romeoville.

In the 1990's, a group of investors bought the land from the Village of Romeoville with the intention of building a golf course. Architect Raymond Hearn was hired to create the original design of Mistwood Golf Club, and construction began in 1996. The course officially opened to the public in the fall of 1998.

In 2003, James McWethy purchased Mistwood Golf Club and began making minor improvements. In 2007, McWethy called upon Hearn to analyze every hole and develop a master plan to redesign the course with the goal of making Mistwood Golf Club one of the top courses in the Midwest.



After three years of walking the property and scrutinizing every square inch of land, the master plan was complete. In 2011, one of the most significant public course renovation projects in the country began.

#### The Renaissance of Mistwood

This major renovation involved improving each of the original eighteen holes in terms of shot value and strategy. The idea was to give Mistwood Golf Club the feel of the early Scottish courses such as Carnoustie and "The Old Course" at St. Andrews. This included the addition of 19 stacked sod-wall bunkers. A trademark hazard for courses in Scotland, these unique bunkers are not something seen in traditional American golf.



Hearn also wanted to build upon his original design principles and redesign Mistwood to be challenging and rewarding for golfers of all abilities.

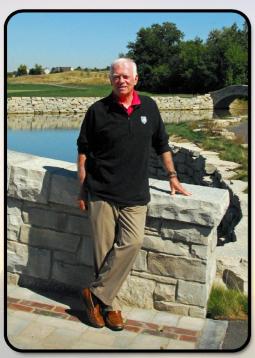
"In my original design and recent redesign of Mistwood Golf Club, strategy, shot value, playability, aesthetics, and enjoyment were my five guiding design principles," said Hearn. "Each hole is very unique and offers a challenge and enjoyment for all golfers, from golf professionals to beginners, and everyone in-between."

"Each hole is very unique and offers a challenge and enjoyment for all golfers, from golf professionals to beginners, and all the graduations in-between"

- Ray Hearn, Course Architect

The renovation was not limited to the golf course, as it also included the construction of a 5,000 square foot performance center. Designed by Daniel Wohlfeil and completed in 2013, the Mistwood Performance Center has the look and feel of an old Scottish cottage, and is dedicated to the highest levels of golf improvement.

With the renovation of the golf course and practice area now complete, Mistwood Golf Club is poised to become one of the elite golf facilities in the region.



#### Jim McWethy Owner

Jim McWethy grew up in Palos Heights and developed his love for the game from his golfing family, and then as a member of the high school team at Blue Island. He played collegiate golf at Cornell, in Iowa, and then settled in the Chicago area after entering his professional life in 1970 with Berry Bearing Company, a business created by his grandfather, Lester Berry.

In the early 1990's, McWethy entered into the business side of golf, as a part owner of another course named Mistwood. This one was in Lake Ann, MI., near Traverse City. Eventually the owner of that layout invited McWethy to join him in creating Mistwood's Illinois version. He took over as sole owner in 2003 after the facility encountered some difficult economic times.

Jim McWethy's decision to completely revamp Mistwood Golf Club was not an easy one. McWethy opted to renovate what was already a well- respected

course, and construct a brand new performance center to create an outstanding experience for his customers, and for his love of the game.

"If you believe you have an exceptional product, market it well, and take great care of your customers, I do believe that, even in this market, you can be successful. I am very excited about the project and believe when we are done we will have one of the top golf experiences in the Chicago area." - Jim McWethy, Owner

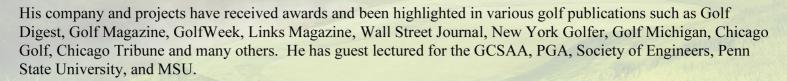
#### Raymond Hearn Course Architect

Raymond Hearn is the president and founder of Raymond Hearn Golf Course Designs, Inc. He has been practicing the art and science of golf course architecture since 1986 and is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America.

Hearn is a graduate of Michigan State University with bachelor degrees in Turfgrass Science and Landscape Architecture, graduating with honors in both degrees. He is also the only graduate of the Evans Scholars Program currently practicing golf course design.

Raymond Hearn Golf Course Designs, Inc. has worked or is working on new or remodeling projects in Egypt, France, South Korea, Vietnam, India, Bahamas, Argentina, Mexico, Croatia, Columbia, El Salvador, Russia,

Dominican Republic, Canada, and the USA. Hearn is also an instructor of a highly acclaimed international golf course design seminar with students from the USA and around the globe.



He is the golf course architectural writer for Golf Seminar Magazine in Korea and Japan. Ray is often described as a traditionalist with a passion for classic design work whether it is new, restoration, renovation, or remodeling assignments. He believes a golf course design or redesign that integrates the natural context and inherent features of a site will ultimately function as the best fit for that site.

In 2010 Golf Inc. Magazine recognized Hearn as one of the USA's highest valued golf course architects. In 2013 Golf Inc. Magazine recognized Hearn as one of the USA's most innovative golf course architects. For more information on his career, employees, design process, projects and more, visit his website at www.rhgd.com.



#### Mistwood Re-Design Philosophy

By Raymond Hearn, Course Architect

After many years in the golf course design business, any golf course architect will tell you that there is no greater joy than to update and improve one of your previous designs, especially one that has been so well received. My vision for the re-design work at Mistwood Golf Club, which was a true labor of love, was to enhance the shot value, strategy, playability and beauty of each golf hole.

My original Mistwood design was completed in 1998 and quickly became one of the premier public golf facilities in the Chicago area. The course received high praise and excellent reviews from its members, media, and golfers of all abilities.

So why go through a major renovation project, during these difficult economic times?

The renovation of Mistwood Golf Club, which is one of the only major public course renovation projects in the country, came about for a couple of reasons. Jim McWethy wanted to upgrade his facility and create one of the top golfing experiences in Chicago. This multi-million dollar renovation

includes upgrades to the golf course, a new performance center, and plans for a new clubhouse. McWethy, who is a

true visionary, and one of the original-founding partners of the project, believed he had a product that could be taken to the next level and become an elite course in Chicago. The second reason for the renovations has to do with the overall design features and playability of the golf course. In this quickly moving era of technological advancements, original risk reward shot values between tees and hazards can be compromised. This can create discrepancies in playability between the highly skilled and average golfer. To counteract this, golf courses should be analyzed and possibly tweaked every ten to fifteen years. We felt that Mistwood offered several opportunities to create a new and improved layout that would be challenging, relevant to a golfer's specific skill level. The renovation would also give us the opportunity to upgrade drainage, cart paths, and irrigation.



During the master plan phase, it became evident that the future clubhouse site was infringing upon the third green. This evolved into creating a new green site and eventually a completely redesigned par 5. The renovation work on No. 3 was the most significant of any hole at Mistwood. In addition to re-locating the green, we also proposed a new rock wall along the existing lake and creek including the back of the ninth hole green.

Through the redesign work on the third hole, it was also deemed necessary to increase the size of the existing water feature to offset the floodplain loss. Working closely with the US Army Corps of engineers, we were able to meet the needed permit requirements while creating a higher quality wetland, which will be a new home for local wildlife.

The master plan and remodeling project of Mistwood Golf Club included much more then just improvements to hole No. 3. A detailed list of the other areas that we focused on can be found in the next section of this book. In addition, a detailed hole-by-hole rendering with changes for each hole is also included.

All of the course improvements and renovations have yielded a new and improved Mistwood Golf Club. We believe that the very unique remodeling effort by my team at Raymond Hearn Golf Course Designs Inc. and the contributions by Mistwood's Superintendent, Ben Kelnhofer, has achieved our objective with heighted shot values, improved multiple Redesigned Signatue Hole #3

play angles and risk-reward scenarios, as well as strategies for players of all skill levels. We feel we achieved all of this while still yielding a golf course that is fair and enjoyable to play.

We are very excited about creating a unique and memorable destination golf experience in the Chicago region, and we look forward to hosting members, public golfers from the Chicago area and the Midwest, as well as business people traveling to the Chicago area.



## hole 1 par 4 - 395 yards



## "The Burn"

The first hole at Mistwood sets the stage for great strategy, shot value, playability, aesthetics and enjoyment for the rest of the course. New tees were added from the original design resulting in a variety of teeing options. Every tee shot must contend with the new tree plantings on both sides of the fairway, as well as the "burn," or creek, which runs at a 45 degree angle and splits the fairway into two halves. A bent grass collar was added around the green complex, allowing the golfer a range of options around this tricky, undulated green. The bunkers surrounding the green were remodeled and moved closer to the putting surface.



#### **HOLE 1 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 1 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







## hole 2 par 4 - 376 yards

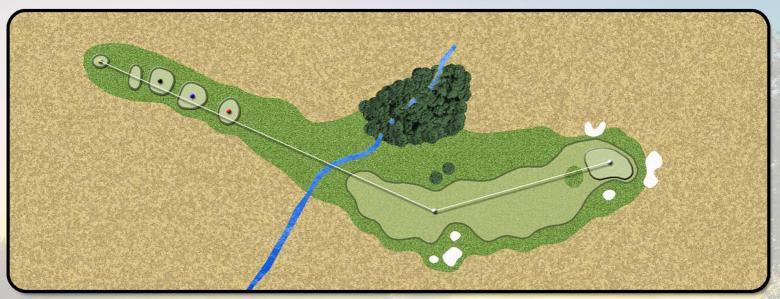


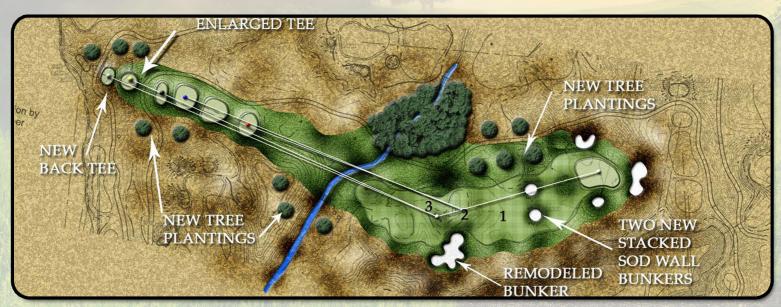
## "Wee Pots"

The view from the tee of this stunning par four was improved in a number of ways. The teeing areas were enlarged, and a new back tee was built to lengthen the hole by fourteen yards. A number of trees were removed on the left side of the fairway, opening up the sightline from the tee. This expanded view now draws attention to the two new wee pots--better known as stacked sod wall bunkers--that taunt the golfer from the middle of the fairway. The newly remodeled bunker on the right side of the fairway also cannot be ignored. New trees were planted from tee to green in order to frame the hole.



#### **HOLE 2 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 2 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







# hole 3 par 5 - 556 yards

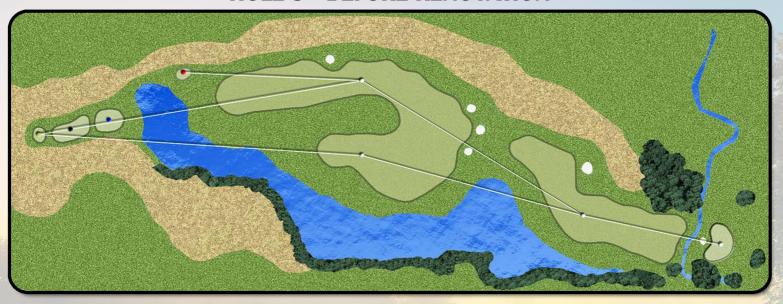


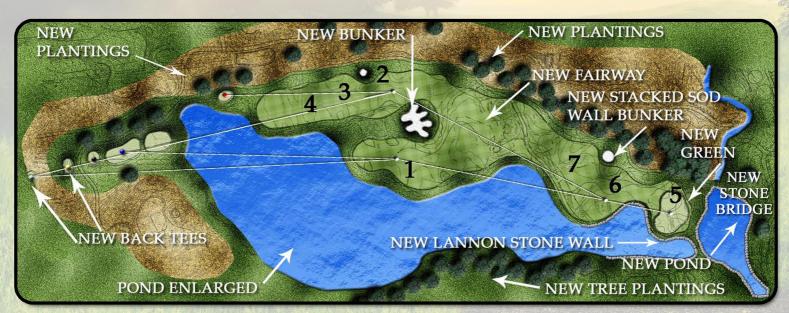
# "Lannon Stone"

This medium length par five was altered more than any other hole during the renovation. Two new tees result in extra length, and the addition of a MacKenzie-like bunker in the middle of the fairway now defines the tee shot, forcing the golfer to choose between two fairways. While the right fairway allows the long-hitter to reach the green in two, the pond on the right side of the hole was expanded to nearly three times its original size, making this play extremely risky. Another stacked sod wall bunker was added in the fairway, and new trees were planted on both the left and right side of the hole. The green complex was completely relocated, opposite of the creek that originally guarded its front side. That creek was expanded into a pond, lined with beautiful Lannon stone walls and complete with a stone-faced bridge to provide picturesque views from the clubhouse.



#### **HOLE 3 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 3 - AFTER RENOVATION** 











## hole 4 par 4 - 420 yards



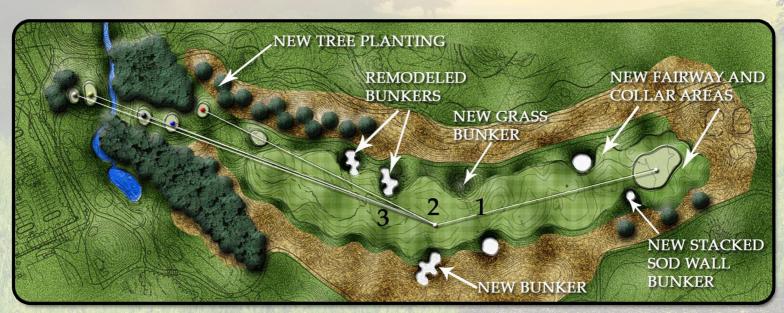
"Highlands"

The main focus of the remodeling of this par four was the bunkering. Two new bunkers come into play on the tee shot, as a sand bunker was added on the right side of the fairway and a grass bunker was created on the left to menace players trying to cut the corner of the dogleg. Enhancements around the green include a new bent grass collar, larger bent grass surrounds, and a stacked sod wall bunker protecting the right side of the green.



#### **HOLE 4 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 4 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







## hole 5 par 4 - 396 yards

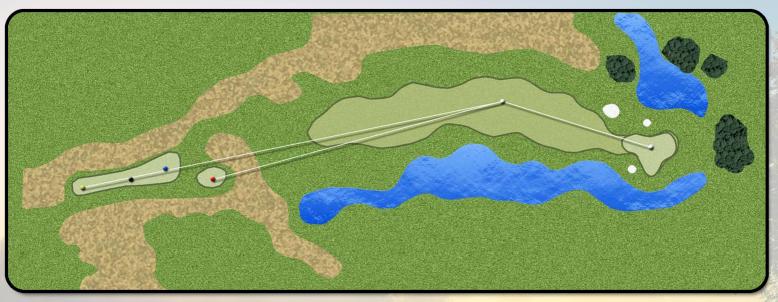


"Long Loch"

The defining feature of this short par four is the long loch, or lake, that guards the entire right side of the hole. As part of the renovation, this pond was expanded to guard the front of the fairway, resulting in a beautiful vista from the new tee box located thirty yards behind the original tip. New trees frame the teeing area, and golfers now journey across a new wooden bridge as they venture to the fairway. All of the green-side bunkers were remodeled and a new stacked sod wall bunker was added to protect the right side of the green.



#### **HOLE 5 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 5 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







## hole 6 par 4 - 388 yards

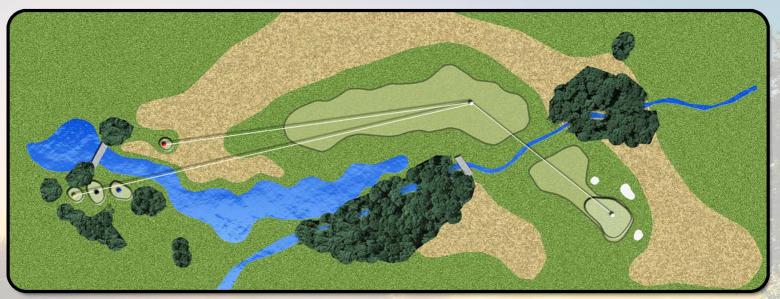


# "Wee Bend"

The green complex of this medium-length par four was remodeled to provide multiple playing options around the green. New bent grass collars were added on each side of the green, and a stacked sod wall bunker was placed short of the green to catch errant approach shots. The other bunkers surrounding the green were completely remodeled.



### **HOLE 6 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 6 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







# hole 7 par 3 - 238 yards

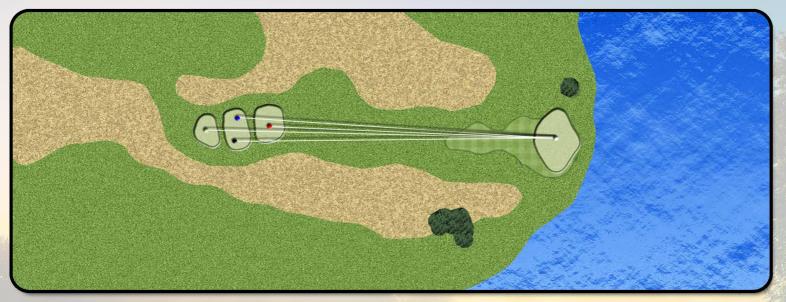


"Doon"

The Scottish word "doon" means down, which accurately describes this scenic par three that plays downhill from the tee. The addition of a new back tee results in a total distance of 238 yards from the back. The shoreline behind the green was reinforced with beautiful Lannon stone, making the presence of Loch St. James all the more imposing on the golfer. An expanded bent grass collar now allows for a variety of options around the green, and the fescue on the right side of the hole has been re-contoured and new trees were added.



#### **HOLE 7 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 7 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







## hole 8 par 5 - 602 yards

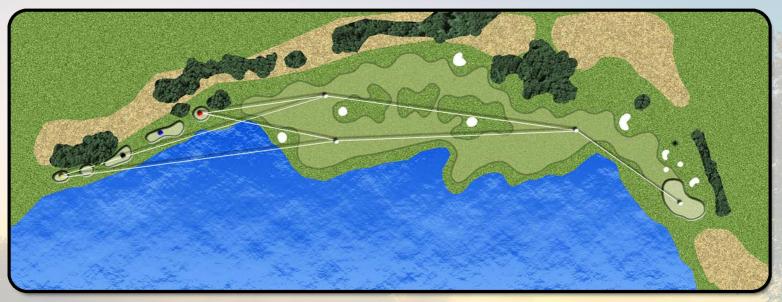


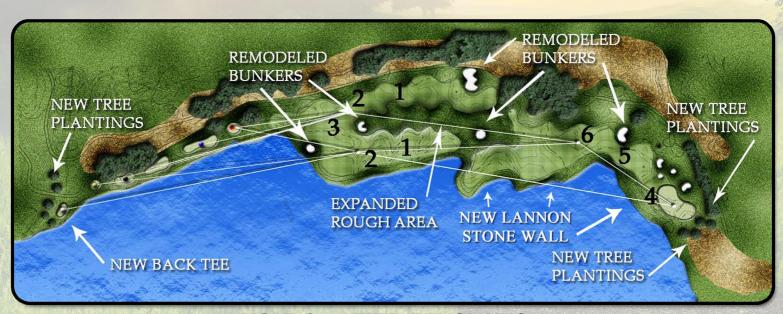
# "Royal Split"

Dan Jenkins from Golf Digest ranked this incredible par five as one of the top par fives in the United States. A new back tee not only adds yardage to the hole, but it also increases the carry off the tee by thirty-five yards. Every bunker was remodeled on this tough par five, and the rough was expanded, resulting in a slightly smaller fairway. The most noticeable addition to this hole, however, is the Lannon stone that was installed along the entire length of the fairway. Spanning more than 250 yards, this visually striking rock-wall border adds a crisp definition to the fairway while providing erosion control and an unbelievable panoramic vista.



#### **HOLE 8 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 8 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







### hole 9 par 3 - 183 yards

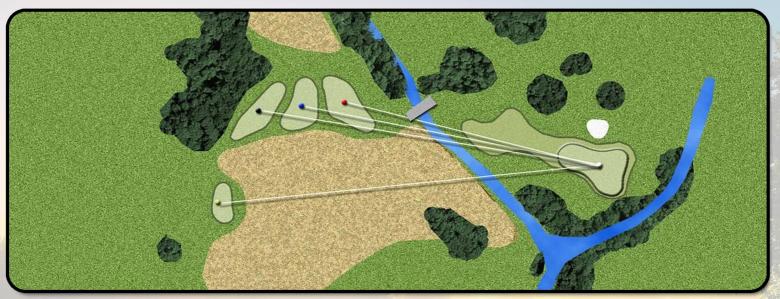


## "Blind Pot"

This medium length par three puts to rest the age old discussion as to whether a par three makes for a good finishing hole. The bunkers were remodeled and a new stacked sod wall bunker, a "blind pot," was added to catch balls hit long of the green. The creek that ran behind the green was expanded into a small pond. The addition of Lannon stone around the green and along the shore draws attention to the trouble, as well as to the beauty of the hole.



#### **HOLE 9 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 9 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







### hole 10 par 4 - 362 yards

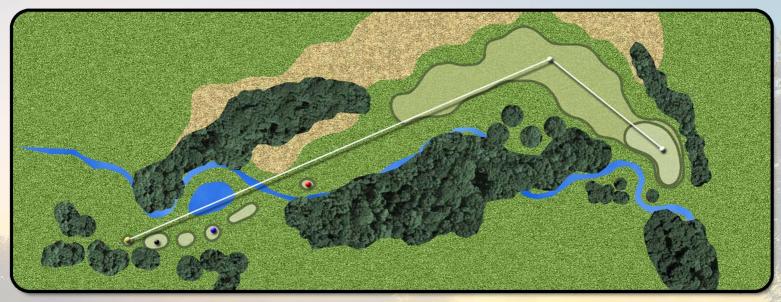


# Berry Bend

The excitement of this short par four was preserved during the renovation, because the hole already possessed the trait which defines the Mistwood experience: a variety of challenging options. Long hitters looking to drive the green will be challenged by the new back tee, while two new stacked sod wall bunkers were positioned ominously in view of those looking to play down the fairway. This short "cape" hole prepares the golfer for the challenges of the back nine.



### **HOLE 10 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 10 - AFTER RENOVATION** 











# hole 11 par 4 - 441 yards



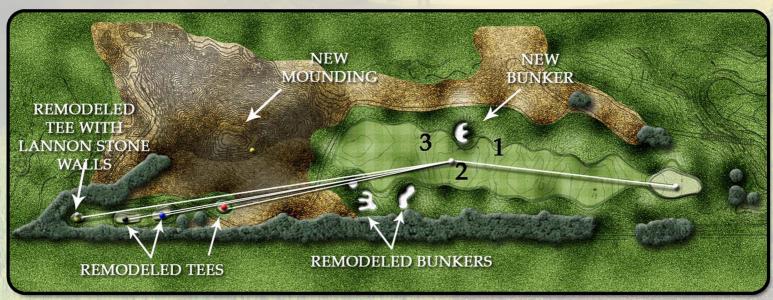
### "Beinn"

The eleventh hole was named "Beinn," the Scottish Gaelic word for mountain. A large rolling hill was created on the left side of the teeing complex, and the tee box itself was elevated and faced with Lannon stone walls. The result gives the golfer a feeling that is true to the hole's namesake. A new bunker was installed on the left side of the fairway, and the bunkers on the right were remodeled. The added fescue surrounding this hole provides an atmosphere typical of many classic Scottish courses.



#### **HOLE 11 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 11 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







### hole 12 par 4 - 400 yards



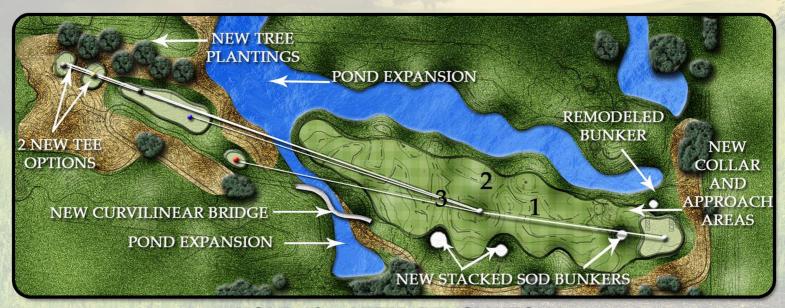
# "Deep Pot"

This long par four is complete with strategy, challenge, intrigue and beauty. The lake that spans the hole on the left side of the fairway was enlarged, and the right side of the hole is now defined by stacked sod wall bunkers. Both of these additions are highly visible from two new elevated tee boxes, which extend the hole by 40 yards. A curved wooden bridge greets golfers as they depart the tee, and gives special definition to the hole. The imposing feature of this hole, however, is the large stacked sod wall bunker located directly in front of the green. This bunker has been remodeled, and at more than eight feet deep, it is the deepest bunker on the golf course. A new bent grass collar, approach area, and another remodeled bunker highlight the changes around the green.



#### **HOLE 12 - BEFORE RENOVATION**











### hole 13 par 4 - 375 yards

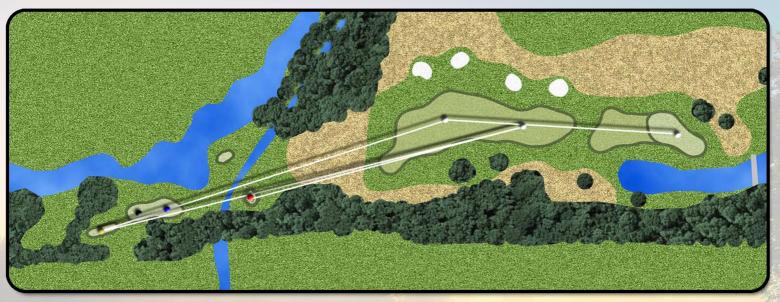


## "Wee Neck"

Standing on the tee of this medium length par four, the golfer will quickly notice the remodeled bunkers that guard the left side of the fairway. These bunkers have been relocated closer to the fairway, which, along with the new trees planted on the right, result in a fairway landing zone that narrows with the length of the tee shot. The expanded bent grass collar and approach areas provide more options around the green.



### **HOLE 13 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 13 - AFTER RENOVATION** 











### hole 14 par 3 - 239 yards



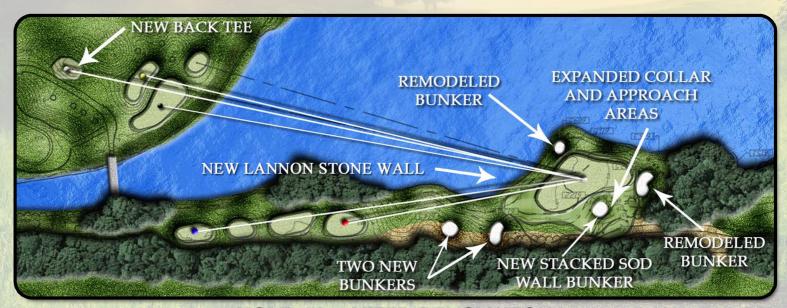
"Helpie's Lookout"

Named for the creature from Scottish folklore that haunts rivers and lochs, this incredible par three ranks among the top par threes in the region in terms of its beauty, challenge, and drama. The view from the back tee is breathtaking, especially since Lannon Stone walls now span the shoreline by the green. The new back tee adds thirty-nine yards to the hole, yielding a 239 yard shot over the water. All of the bunkers were remodeled and three new bunkers were added including a challenging stacked sod wall bunker protecting the bail out area on the right.



#### **HOLE 14 - BEFORE RENOVATION**











## hole 15 par 5 - 569 yards



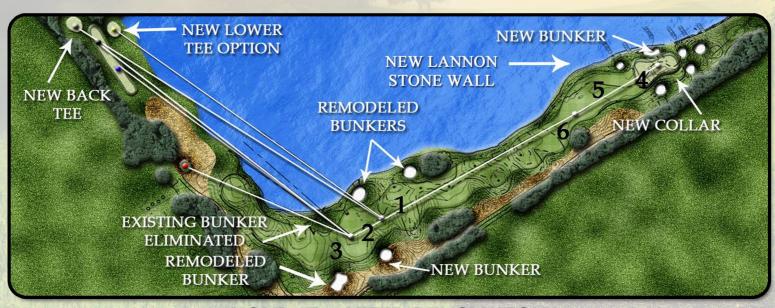
"Helpie's Bend"

Already one of the most talked about holes in the Chicagoland area because of how this great "cape" hole bends around Loch St. James, this picturesque par five was strengthened with new tees and bunkering. Two new tees boxes were added, presenting different challenges for the long hitter. The lower "shore tee" forces a 240 yard uphill carry over water, while the new back tee box adds more raw length to the hole. One bunker was eliminated from the front side of the fairway, and another was added behind the fairway to catch wayward drives. Near the green, beautiful Lannon stone now lines the shore of this challenging hole. Another bunker was added on the left side of the green to prevent balls from rolling into the lake, and a new bent grass collar was installed at the perimeter.



#### **HOLE 15 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 15 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







## hole 16 par 4 - 365 yards

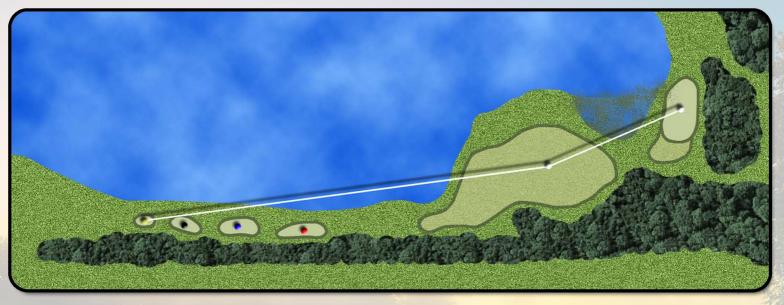


# "Kelpie's Bay"

The penultimate hole of Kelpie's Korner, this short par four received a number of improvements from its original design. The green was previously relocated to the left, forcing the approach shot over the bay. During this renovation, a new back tee was added and a bunker was installed in the landing area to challenge the tee shot. The fairway and parts of the lake were re-contoured to widen the landing area off the tee, but these changes also bring water into play on the second shot. A new bent grass approach links the green to the fairway, and an expanded collar allows for a variety of options around the green.



#### **HOLE 16 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 16 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







## hole 17 par 3 - 175 yards

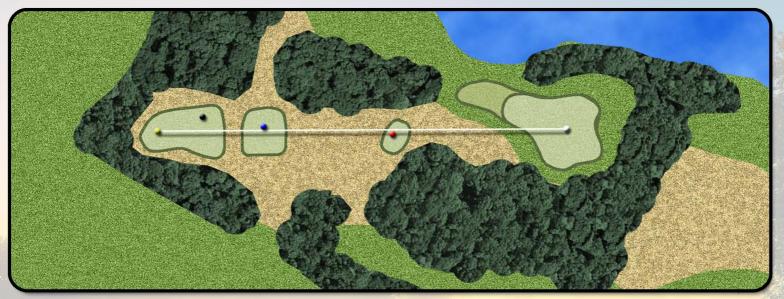


"Kelpie's Spine"

The last hole of Kelpie's Korner now boasts an extraordinary view of the lake, since trees and brush were removed from the left side of the hole. The back of the green was remodeled and the bent grass collar was expanded in order to catch balls hit long of the green.



#### **HOLE 17 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 17 - AFTER RENOVATION** 







## hole 18 par 5 - 527 yards

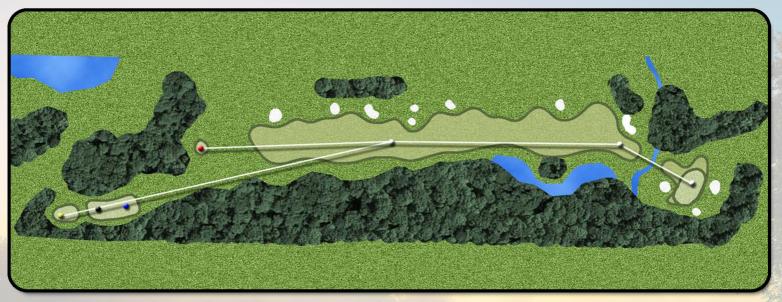


"Home"

Simply named "home," like many of the great finishing holes in the British Isles, the eighteenth hole is a grand finish to a grand golf course. The bunkers lining the left side of the fairway were remodeled, and the approach area and bent grass collar were expanded by the green. Three impressive stacked sod wall bunkers now surround the green complex, leaving the golfer with a lasting impression of the unique characteristics of Mistwood Golf Club.



#### **HOLE 18 - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**HOLE 18 - AFTER RENOVATION** 











## practice



## "Range"

The improvements made to the practice range were among the most extensive and dramatic of all the changes during this renovation. Because the range is home to the 5,000 square foot Mistwood Performance Center, a number of features were expanded in size and elevated in quality. The practice tee was enlarged, and equipped with new drainage and irrigation. A new putting green was constructed, and a short game area was developed to reinforce Mistwood's commitment to golfer development. The target greens were reconfigured, and the surrounding areas of the range were transformed from flat land into a sweeping vista of rolling hills. The lake on the right side of the range was expanded, and a number of trees were planted to provide a barrier between range and water.



#### **RANGE - BEFORE RENOVATION**





**RANGE - AFTER RENOVATION** 









#### **Mistwood Performance Center**

The Mistwood Performance Center is the Midwest's premier golf training facility, aiming to serve as the foundation for player success, and to help players reach their maximum potential.

- 5,000 square foot building
- 11 heated hitting stations for all-seasons practice
- 2 teaching bays with state-of-the-art technology
- Putting lab
- Dedicated club repair room
- Full service bar with 8 flat screen televisions
- Turf Room for private events













#### **Player Performance**

The Mistwood Performance Center offers individual and group programs for all ages and abilities, from beginners through competitive collegiate and professional athletes.

#### Performance Center Staff:

#### Jim "Doc" Suttie

- 2000 PGA National Teacher of the Year
- 1990, 1991, & 1998 IPGA Teacher of the Year
- Golf Digest Best 50 Teacher
- Golf Magazine Top 100 Teacher

#### John Platt

- 2011 Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year
- IPGA 2012 Junior Golf Leader
- US Kids Top 50 Instructor Honorable Mention
- 1999 NCAA Division II/III Coach of the Year

#### Mike Baldwin

- Trackman Level 2 Certified
- SAM Putt Lab Level 2 Certified
- TPI Certified Golf Coach Level 2
- Certified Master Club Performance Specialist













#### Club Fitting & Repair

The Mistwood Performance Center is home to two certified Master Club Performance Specialists who perform custom club fittings and club repairs, utilizing industry-leading technology.

#### **Custom Club Fitting:**

- Trackman radar analytic software
- Foresight GC2 HD camera analytic software
- True Temper & KBS Performance Fitting Center
- Fujikura Charter Dealer
- Mitsubishi Rayon Authorized Dealer

#### Club Repair:

• Length, loft, lie, regripping, swing rating, and frequency adjustments to optimize club performance

#### **Putting Lab:**

- SAM PuttLab software
- Quintic Putting Analysis HD camera-based analytic software that measures ball & putter
- Match putter style & then customize length, loft, and lie
- Industry-leading brands such as Bettinardi, Odyssey, and more!









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