

Brief History and Description of the Elkridge Club Golf Course

The Elkridge Club was founded in 1878 as a fox hunting club in Elkridge, Maryland. In 1888 the club moved to its current location, on Charles Street north of Baltimore. In 1894, a group of gentlemen formed the Baltimore Golf Club and built the first nine holes of golf in the state of Maryland on the property next to Elkridge.

The next year Elkridge built its own nine-hole course. The courses were shared by many of the same members for four years and were often played as 18 holes. After the 1898 season the two combined.

A much improved nine-hole course was built by Thomas Bendelow and opened in 1900. Seth Raynor was hired to design a new 18-hole course, which was open for play in May of 1925. There have been a number of changes to the course over the years, but the members are still playing the basic 1925 course.

The course underwent major renovations in the 2000s, re-opening in 2008. Course architect Brian Silva redesigned the course and restored many of the Raynor traits that were lost over the years. The renovation included rebuilding the 18 greens, rebuilding every tee and bunker, and lengthening some of the holes. The par for the 6,445 yard course is 71.

Although a number of holes are well bunkered and lined with mature trees, the greens are the principal defense of the course given its length. Several greens are steeply sloped, while others are multi-leveled. No. 2 features a “thumb print” in the front center, for example.

Raynor designed and named his greens after working with Charles B. Macdonald on the National Golf Links of America on Long Island. As a result, there is a “punch bowl” hole (No. 15) and a classic “redan” (No. 17) among others, which were modeled after holes in the British Isles that Macdonald admired. The most unique is “Biarritz” (No. 13), which is a one shot hole with a rectangular green bordered by similar shaped bunkers and features a large swale in the middle.

Expect a very well-conditioned course in mid-October with very fast greens for a fun golfing experience.

