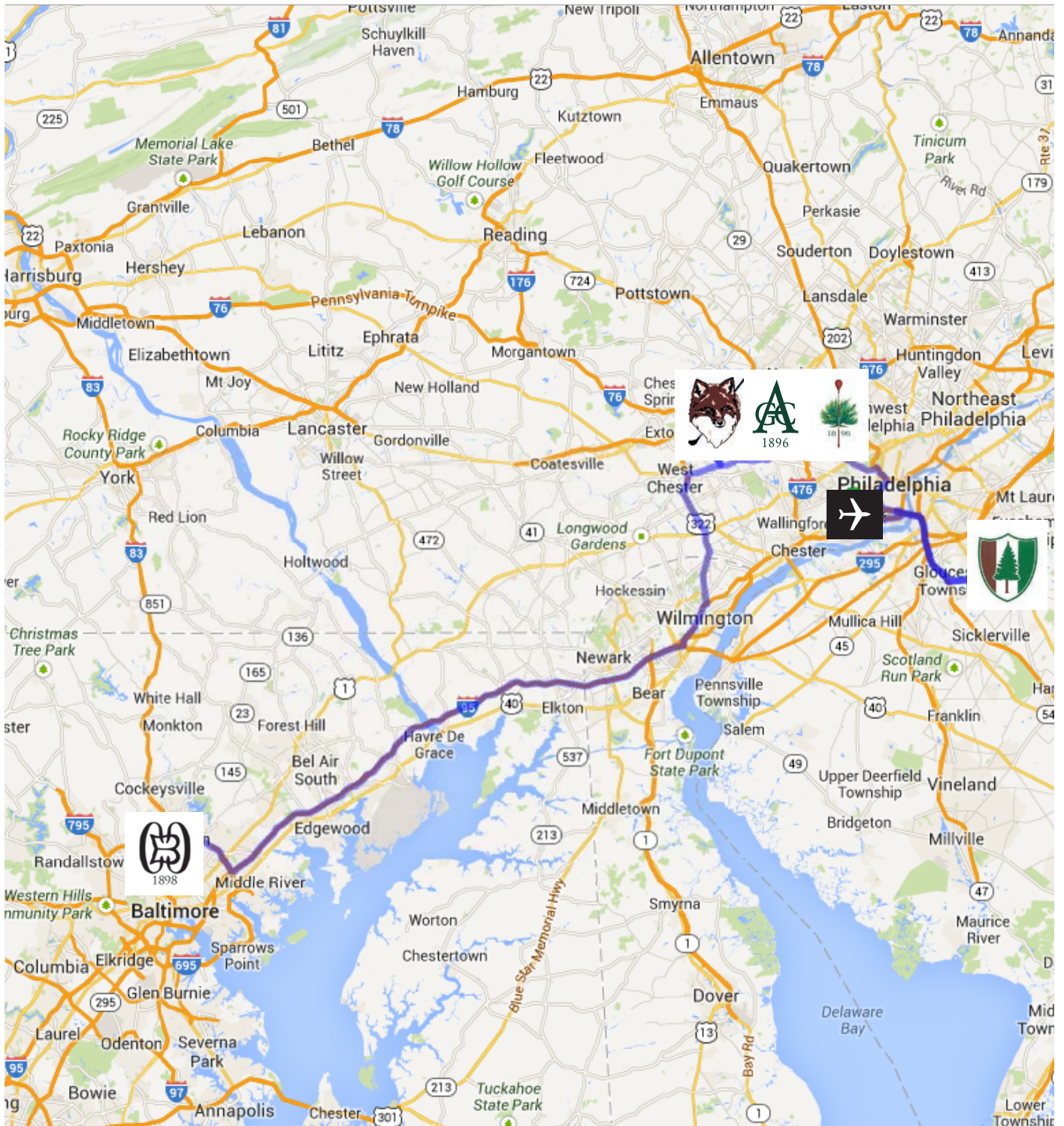




ST. GEORGE'S HILL GOLF CLUB CENTENARY TOUR 2013





Baltimore
10th September

11500 Mays Chapel Road
Lutherville-Timonium
MD 21093



Merion
11th September

450 Ardmore Avenue
Ardmore
PA 19003



Aronimink
12th September

3600 St. Davids Road
Newton Square
PA 19073



Applebrook
13th September

100 Line Road
Malvern
PA 19355



Pine Valley
14/15th September

East Atlantic Avenue
Clementon
NJ 08021

THE TOURISTS



David Judd - 14

Juddy or Dunchin' Dave played front-row rugby football as Hooker for Harlequins - like President Gerald Ford - without a helmet, but with similar results. He is our Centenary Captain.



Stuart Letts - 6

Hollywood or Toi is the best-groomed member in the whole Club, including the ladies section. So as to preserve his trouser creases, he is known to drive (but not putt) in his underpants.



George Meakin - 13

Ginger is the tour rock-drummer, as befits his origins in tribal Africa. Noted for his subtle, side-saddle putting style, he is also the current Vice-Captain of St. George's Hill.



Jeremy Lowe - 4

The Owner (Jerry) but only in the U.S of A, is our Chairman. He has won countless competitions and is a member of the R&A, Royal St. George's, Moles and Seniors, as well as (honorary) at Pine Valley and Royal Cinque Ports, where he ran the "Halford Hewitt" for 20 years.



Tom Cooper - 8

Tom loves US golf courses and Big Californian Reds. Attended weak golfing school, he says, so makes the Halford Hewitt team. R&A member. Claims to be (easily) the 2nd best Cooper family member on tour.



Chris Pettie - 4

Boris builds mansions on St. George's Hill for Russian oligarchs and is Gaffers' son-in-law. Began playing seaside golf at Bognor Regis. ("Bugger Bognor", last words of King George V).



Will Cooper - 7

Will learnt his golf at Thurlestone, Devon. Also, is a member of Royal Worlington, golfing home of Cambridge University. Like elder brother Tom, he admits to membership of the Beavers Society.



Simon Skeldon - 0

Skelly is a Club champion, County golfer and former representative of British Students. Has played off scratch or better for 25 years. Director of a Research Agency.



Alistair Defriez - 12

Ali or the Colonel tends to lapse into military history, typically on his opponent's back-swing. Once sailed the Atlantic, a little after Columbus. Also a member of Rye and Royal Wimbledon.



Julian Smith - 1

Jules has won numerous competitions - most recently the Alba Trophy, a foursomes event staged at Woking, with fellow tourist, Simon Skeldon. He is also a sinister (or left-handed) realtor.



Steve Flanagan - 3

Flanman is our kilt-wearing Centenary Committee Chair. A schoolboy international once beaten 7 & 6 by unknown 13 year old Spanish kid, Jose-Maria Olazabal. Memberships include Haggis(?) Castle.



Gavin Spencer - 5

Gavin played for British schoolboys, (lowest handicap +2) before he says he discovered girls and booze, hence his decline. Also a member of Sunningdale and Loch Lomond.



Cavin Gaffney - 13

Gaffers is a former airline pilot and is our tour logistician, or bag-man. Main claim to fame was winning the Secession Cup for "the Hill" in 2009 as our rear-gunner. A member of the Seniors and Rye, he is also the Club Vice-Captain erect.



Paul Thomas - 11

Doc, and definitely not Grumpy, is our tour medic. His hobbies (when not fathering children) are vascular surgery and golf. Smiles a lot for a man paying astronomic school fees.



Jonathan Hickling - 13

Lord Hickies of Marlborough, a minor public school, is a major exporter of chicken wings to the West Indies. He is also a Member of Rye and St. Lucia Country Club.



Nick Tucker - 6

Geoff has been at St. George's Hill boy-and-man. With his tall, commanding presence and loud, plummy voice, he is rightly famed for his lead role in "Saving Private Banking" at UBS.



Abe Mitchell, playing in his first tournament as a professional, putting on the 9th green, watched by Alex (Sandy) Herd (Open Champion 1902), during the competition organised to celebrate the official opening of the course on October 2nd 1913. It was won by George Duncan (£25) holing the course in 71 strokes with Mitchell second (£20) at 73 strokes.



St George's Hill Golf Club, Centenary Tour to the United States of America, September 2013



It is a delight for our team from St George's Hill to be playing in the USA as we celebrate our 100th anniversary.

St George's Hill Golf Club formally opened on October 2nd 1913 with a spectacular day of golf, comprising a morning competition between twelve of the leading professional golfers of the era and an afternoon foursomes match in which these professionals took on the amateurs of the Oxford & Cambridge Golfing Society. George Duncan, a future Open Champion, won from Abe Mitchell, who subsequently coached Samuel Ryder and is the figure on the eponymous Cup. Harry Colt, the course architect and an alumnus of Cambridge University, played for OCGS. The only top professionals missing were Harry Vardon and Ted Ray, who were touring America to promote golf; a tour culminating in their appearance in the US Open at Brookline, where a historic victory over them both was scored by Francis Ouimet.

Harry Colt's brilliant design, carved out of dense heath and woodland, might never have come about, but for a chance encounter between the developer of the estate, W.G. Tarrant, who was primarily a builder, albeit a visionary one, and Charles Ambrose, a leading golf writer. Tarrant told Ambrose his plan was to invite each of the first twenty people buying houses on the estate to design one hole for the golf course, to which Ambrose responded that it would surely be better to employ a golf architect instead. "Do you know one?" he was asked; "Yes – Harry Colt". The year was 1912 and Colt, who was then Secretary of Sunningdale Golf Club, already had an established reputation in golf course architecture.

Before the end of the opening year, World War I broke out and some one hundred Members and Staff responded by volunteering for active service, many never to return; whilst Members generally subscribed funds for the clubhouse to be converted for use as a military hospital, under the auspices of the Red Cross. Disaster then struck again in 1920 when the original thatched roof caught fire and the clubhouse was virtually destroyed, although mercifully without loss of life.



The 170 yard eighth - a large gallery follows the International four ball challenge match held in 1924 between Great Britain (George Duncan and Abe Mitchell) and USA (Walter Hagen and Macdonald Smith) - possibly a forerunner to the Ryder Cup.

We enjoyed something of a golden period between the two World Wars. The Club frequently featured in county events and several Members performed with distinction at national level. For instance, Willie Hope played in a number of Walker Cup matches, having the 'privilege' perhaps of being beaten by the great Bobby Jones in the 1928 match. His finest hour however came at the 1932 Open Championship, won by Gene Sarazen, in which Hope won the Silver Medal as the leading amateur. Cowan Shankland was another Member who shared the dubious honour of being beaten by Bobby Jones; the occasion being the 2nd round of the 1930 British Amateur Open at St Andrews – a tournament which Jones won as the first leg of his immortal Grand Slam in that year.

The Members bought-out Tarrant in 1931 and shortly thereafter Bernard Darwin was invited to write a brochure for the Club. A friend of Colt, Darwin knew St George's Hill from its very early days. He wrote about walking through the forest marvelling at Colt working out a route for the course, then later returning to see the finished product. Before commenting on the individual holes, he set the scene in the following terms:

"All those Surrey courses of heather and sand bear to each other a certain likeness, but if I had to describe St George's Hill by likening it to any one course, that one course would be the famous Pine Valley near Philadelphia. There is on each of these two courses something of the same view over green seas of tree tops, the same big and spectacular quality of shots. Pine Valley is the more difficult of the two, and I do not think anybody who plays at St George's Hill need regret that, because the American course is generally held to be the most fiendishly difficult in the world. St George's Hill is quite difficult enough for human nature's daily food, and is, moreover a fine, big, bold course where the slashing hitter, if he is a straight hitter, will reap the reward he is due."

When World War II broke out in 1939, it affected St George's Hill very badly. Members and Staff again responded to the call to arms and Membership plummeted from 766 to 236 with a resultant severe loss of income. An added problem was the proximity of the aircraft factories at nearby Brooklands, which meant the Government took over many holes and installed anti-aircraft defences on them, not to mention the danger from aerial bombardment itself - indeed a bomb exploded beside the tenth fairway showering shrapnel on the clubhouse terrace.

Recovery in the post-war years of austerity was gradual and it was not until 1965 that a major capital reorganisation gave the stimulus for a determined revival. Since then, the improvements to both the course and the clubhouse have been steady and thorough. Accordingly, we have arrived at our Centenary in good shape and well-financed. Whilst the third or green loop of nine holes has undergone a number of changes (since it was originally opened in 1929 as a second 18 hole course designed again by Colt), the original red and blue nines are virtually unchanged. The only change worth mentioning was moving the first green some thirty yards to the left of its original position; it was an alteration greeted with rapturous applause by the Members in 1932 as it saved climbing up a particularly steep hill. Colt's inspired design has certainly stood the test of time.



Baltimore Country Club was founded on January 12, 1898 at its Roland Park Location. The Club was a success from the start, with 600 members enjoying its 150-acre facility less than five miles from downtown Baltimore. Just one year after opening, the Club gained immediate recognition in the golf world by hosting the fifth United States Open Championship, which was won by Willie Smith of Scotland. By the 1920s the decision was made to acquire land to the north of the city and expand the popular golfing amenities to a second location. The East Course at Five Farms, designed by A. W. Tillinghast, officially opened in September of 1926 and was instantly recognized as a masterpiece of golf course architecture.

In October of 1930 the Roland Park Clubhouse sustained fire damage; prior to completing repairs, it was virtually destroyed by a second fire on January 5, 1931. The new “in-town” Clubhouse was formally opened on April 1, 1932. The fine Federal-style detailing of the Georgian Room, the paneling and black Belgian marble of the foyer, and the rough stone and pine of the Grille remain practically unchanged to this date. The duckpin bowling lanes were built in 1932 and remain in use today. During the late '30s and early '40s the grass tennis courts at Roland Park were selected by the National Lawn Tennis Association to host the qualifying rounds for the Davis Cup matches. Teams from Australia, Cuba, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and the United States all participated. The Roland Park Golf Course was officially closed in 1962 when all of the property on the west side of Falls Road was sold. That same year the West Course at Five Farms was opened. Two years later the stately Olivier Mansion, which served as the original Five Farms Clubhouse, was demolished and replaced with a new building.

Squash courts, now international, were added to the Roland Park facility in 1963. The Club continues to host professional squash tournaments that draw participants worldwide. The Club expanded its racquets program and added paddle tennis courts to the Roland Park campus in 1976. The Club's swim complex, consisting of three independent pools, opened at the Five Farms location in 1996 and new tennis courts, also at Five Farms, were debuted in 2007.

The USGA lists Baltimore Country Club as one of the first 100 clubs established in the United States. Today the Club is some 3,000 members strong. It is widely recognized as one of the top 50 country clubs in the nation and top 100 in the world. In 2013, LINKS magazine named Baltimore Country Club as one of the 100 Most Prestigious Clubs in the World. BCC is one of only seven clubs nationwide to operate on two campuses.

MERION



Merion is synonymous with championship golf. The East Course has hosted more USGA Championships than any course in America. From Bobby Jones' completion of golf's elusive Grand Slam at the 1930 U.S. Amateur to Ben Hogan's awe-inspiring performance and legendary one-iron on the 72nd hole during the 1950 U.S. Open, the sculpted greens, fairways and treacherous bunkers of Merion have witnessed many of golf's greatest moments. Earlier this year, Merion hosted its record 18th USGA Championship, memorably won by England's Justin Rose.

Merion dates back to 1896 when the original Haverford course was laid out, but by 1910 the Haskell ball had out-distanced it. Accordingly, the Merion Cricket Club Golf Committee assigned Hugh Wilson, a 32-year-old Scottish-born member of the club, the task of designing a new course, which he planned, prepared and seeded by the early fall of 1911 with 120 steep-faced, Scottish-style bunkers. Wilson consulted frequently with C.B. McDonald who was a great student of courses in the UK and an internationally renowned golf architect to help him craft a masterpiece. The East Course duly opened on September 14th that year, and was quickly acclaimed as "the finest inland links in the country."

Respect for tradition is a hallmark of Merion and the course is constantly compared to early photographs, to ensure the maintenance of its character. Indeed, the course is maintained as though championships are held daily. There is always an intermediate rough, dunes grass and scotch broom and bunkers with peninsulas, islands of grass and "eyebrows." The precise origin of Merion's tradition of distinctive wicker baskets, rather than flags, is uncertain; they appear to have been first documented in the summer of 1915, when the Superintendent received patent approval for his singular design.

Merion became the first club in the U.S.A. to boast two 18-hole championship layouts when the West Course was completed in May 1914. Other notable achievements at Merion include Olin Dutra's victory in the 1934 U.S. Open, despite battling severe sickness, which was proclaimed by one reporter, as "courageous a victory as any ever scored on the golf links"; Jack Nicklaus's (66-67-68-68-269) performance in the 1960 World Amateur Team Championship; and Lee Trevino's dramatic 18-hole playoff victory over Nicklaus in the 1971 U.S. Open. Nicklaus himself averred that "acre for acre, Merion may be the best test of golf in the world."



Aronimink was founded in 1896, then named the Belmont Golf Association. This was a spin-off from the Belmont Cricket Club, some of whose members first laid out a few rudimentary golf holes. In 1913 the Club, renamed Aronimink after a legendary chief of the local Lenape tribe, moved to Drexel Hill, where it remained for 13 years. In 1926 the Club acquired 300 acres in Newtown Square and commissioned the renowned Scottish-born professional, Donald J. Ross, who became one of America's foremost golf architects, to design and lay out an 18 hole course there. The Club moved into the current British-inspired clubhouse in 1928.

Ross designed Aronimink to put even the best golfers to the "supreme test" - that of exceptional long-iron play. The Ross challenge is evident from the very first hole, which presents a sharp drop right off the tee, followed by a 250-yard uphill climb to the green. The course also requires endurance - especially on the 16th hole with its 545-yard, par-5 challenge. Moreover, to assure players are at the top of their games, Aronimink is balanced with well-crafted shorter holes that make strategic excellence and accuracy essential. However, in classic Ross style, the ingenuity of the course's design opens it up to all levels of abilities-presenting a rewarding challenge to the most skilled professionals, while giving average golfers a course on which they can play with confidence.

Upon returning to Aronimink in 1948, two decades after it was completed, Ross proclaimed "I intended to make this my masterpiece, but not until today did I realize that I built better than I knew." Using the rolling contours of the landscape to best advantage, the course at Aronimink is indeed generally considered to be Ross' finest. Moreover, the greens, fairways and hazards of his design are the same today as they were in 1928.

Thus today the sense of tradition is evident both on the course and in the clubhouse. Over the past century Aronimink has hosted many prestigious tournaments, most notably the 1962 PGA Championship, the 1977 U.S. Amateur Championship, the 1997 United States Junior Amateur Championship, 2003 Senior PGA Championship and the 2010 and 2011 AT&T National Championship. Aronimink has also been home to many accomplished golfers in its history. The first American-born winner of the U.S. Open, John McDermott, was an Aronimink caddie who learned to play golf from Aronimink's longtime head golf professional, Walter Reynolds. Notable members from the modern era of golf include: Gary Player - an honorary member since 2003, Sean O'Hair - PGA professional and home-town favourite and Jay Sigel the distinguished amateur and senior professional golfer.

APPLEBROOK



Applebrook is a private Member's club, established in 2001 and located in beautiful Chester County, on Pennsylvania's prestigious Main Line in Malvern.

The design of Applebrook Golf Club honours the great traditions of golf and classic Philadelphia architecture. Drawing on knowledge of traditional designs, Gil Hanse, a leading contemporary golf architect, has crafted a course that feels right at home in this golf rich area. The course has been laid out to provide the maximum variety by way of terrain, change of direction, and balance. A wide range of distances challenges players of all abilities.

The par fours range in distance from 310 yards to 466 yards; and the five par threes from 121 yards to 224 yards. Scoring opportunities are provided with two reachable par fives, but the other two are rarely reached by even the very longest hitters. The layout incorporates the best natural features the site has to offer and integrates these features into the strategy and beauty of the golf course. The course was designed with the walking golfer in mind.

Applebrook further enhances the experience with one of golf's great traditions, the caddie, supported by an appropriate program. Hanse trained partly in Britain with Hawtree and Son, the oldest continuously practising golf course architectural firm in the world and he has been commissioned to design and build the golf course for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

The lush rolling hills and picturesque views enjoyed by all who play the course are on land formerly known as "Applebrook Farm". Robert Williams, an early settler, owned this fertile farmland, deeded to him by William Penn in 1680. It is located just outside the historic village of Goshenville, which was to see action in the War of Independence. In September 1777, the British Commander, General William Howe, with Generals Lord Cornwallis and James Grant, having defeated the Continental Army at the Battle of Brandywine, marched with 13,000 soldiers north up Goshen Road. Cornwallis and his troops encamped in Goshenville, just north of the schoolhouse, where a skirmish ensued with the Continentals at what is now the southern end of the Hersheys Mill development. This skirmish, which resulted in twelve Americans losing their lives along with two Hessian soldiers and at least one British soldier, became one of three skirmishes fought that day prior to torrential rains and became known as the Battle of the Clouds.

PINE VALLEY



Pine Valley is recognised as the world's finest golf course and a perfect example of penal golf course architecture. It was the dream of George Arthur Crump, a hotelier from Philadelphia, who invited Harry Colt to collaborate with him in creating its original design; but Crump sadly died in 1918, before it was completed.

Pine Valley is also celebrating the Centenary of its founding in 1913 by a group of amateurs from Philadelphia, who purchased the initial 184 acres of rolling, sandy, somewhat desolate, ground deep in the pinelands of southern New Jersey. Crump's one and only golf course design reflects his idiosyncratic principles: no hole should be laid out parallel to the next; no more than two consecutive holes should play in the same direction; and players should not be able to see any hole other than the one they are playing. He also felt that a player should be required to use every club in the bag.

The site was challenging and the project became an expensive obsession for Crump, who sold his hotel and ploughed his capital into what some initially dubbed "Crump's Folly". Marshlands had to be drained and 22,000 tree stumps pulled out with horsepower and steam-winch. Eleven holes were opened unofficially in 1914, but on Crump's death, holes #12, #13, #14 and #15 remained to be finished by others. Pine Valley later spread to 623 acres, of which 416 acres remain virgin woodland. There is also a ten hole short course which replicates the main design, but without the drives.

Pine Valley is praised for the consistent high level of challenge on each hole, requiring careful placement of the ball from tee to green, especially on approach shots, owing to significant swales and undulations. All other courses measure their degree of difficulty against it, given its "slope" of 155 from the championship tees. Trademark holes include the par three 5th, which requires a well-placed 220 yard slightly uphill drive over a lake into a small and sloped green, the par five 7th, containing "Hell's half acre" (a massive barren wasteland, probably the largest bunker on the planet), the par three 10th, sporting "the devil's asshole" (an impossibly deep greenside bunker), and the famous par four 18th, which combines Pine Valley's many challenges into one spectacular finishing hole.

The Club is private and exclusive, with membership by invitation only from the board and male only. In keeping with its traditional, under-stated ethos, the clubhouse is plain, and simple. No major professional golf tournaments have ever been hosted, but the Walker Cup was staged here in 1936 and 1985.

... just some of the challenges with which you will be faced... be sure to smell the roses along the way.



The short fifth - one of the world's most challenging short holes - hitting the green is a result, staying there is possibly a miracle.



The tenth, not unlike our eleventh, with the Devil's Asshole bottom right of the green. Enter at your peril!



The magnificent eighteenth presents a fearful second shot which must be hit well to the left side of the green over a creek.



The second with church pew styled bunkers on the left of the fairway followed by a steep incline to a viscusly contoured green.



The par 5 seventh - a long tee shot required to enable the opportunity of making the carry across the scrub before taking on the green. Off the back tee no one has ever reached the green in two!



Looking towards the thirteenth and perhaps one of the finest second shots to contemplate anywhere - but the drive, right of centre, has to be long.



"Though much is taken, much abides; and though
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Alfred Lord Tennyson 1809-92