



## Richland Golf Club ~ Turning Over a New Leaf

Nick Ciattei

Change occurs quite often in the golf business, and when it has to do with the ownership of the operation itself, it normally it takes a year or two before you begin to notice the alterations. In the case of Richland Golf Club in Middletown, MD, those modifications are coming up in spades. The new ownership took over back in 2015 and immediately changed the name from Hollow Creek to Richland to start anew. The course and facility overall have made tremendous strides since then.

The Rick Jacobson designed Richland Golf Club opened in 2002 and is routed through the surrounding Glenbrook housing development. The course is well buffered from the community with a majority of the layout playing unscathed across a natural creekside setting. Five sets of tees range from the reds at 5100 to the golds just over 6800 yards. While not overly long by today's modern standards, Jacobson used natural terrain, hazards, and undulating greens to challenge players of all skill levels.



The front nine at Richland starts with a long downhill par 4 that rates as the hardest on the scorecard. Taking extra time to hit some balls at the range will make you glad you did. Lots of trouble lurks to the left, so approach the green with caution. Big hitters can reach the second, the first of the four par 5s, in two. The par 3 fourth, a lovely ditty that plays over wetlands to a heavily sloped green, also highlights the outward nine.

The difficulty of the par 5 fifth emerges as you play uphill all the way, so think extra club when approaching the green. Three par 4s close out this nine, and it is wise to keep the driver in the bag on the ninth. A smart play calls for a fairway wood or hybrid because the fairway runs out at about the 150 yard marker. Play for position that will leave you a downhill second shot over wetlands.

Hole number ten is a flowing par 5 with an inviting fairway. Any drive over the top of the hill gives you a realistic shot to get home in two. After the par 3 eleventh, you come to what I feel are the key holes to having a good scoring round at Richland. Four par 4s, none oppressively long but ones that require accuracy, can rapidly change a decent round to a sorry one or vice versa. The twelfth hole has a large environmental area running up the majority of the left side. That same hazard lies to your left on the following hole where a straight drive will find the fairway. The par 3 sixteenth, a charming downhill hole, features a bunker complex to the right. The closing hole at Richland is an outstanding par 5 risk-reward hole. Plenty of fairway bunkers and a large pond that protects the majority of the left side add to the decision making. Plans to build a new tee box on hole 18 will give Richland one of the best finishing holes in all of Frederick County.

Customers have noticed many of the improvements at Richland Golf Club, and we are here to tell you that more are on the way. One of the bigger projects starting in November includes constructing a new pro shop and range house, indoor hitting bays, a fitness center, and locker rooms. A cart pathing project as well as restoring bunkers that regularly wash out are also on the docket.

Nineteenth holes are a golf course tradition, and the Valley Grill at Richland Golf Club may just be one of the best in our region. This sports bar is not only a golfer's dream, but sports gods and goddesses alike will love the 25 ft. wide screen TVs, a very impressive selection of domestic and imported beers, and tasty casual dining fare. The spacious, upscale French-style clubhouse and surrounding area have recently been given a facelift. Its modern neutral color scheme fits any desired wedding décor. Jen Freeze coordinates events at The Vistas at Richland Golf Club. The ballroom holds up to 170 guests and the fireplace room works ideally for smaller functions like rehearsal dinners. A large balcony overlooks a picturesque stone patio, pergola, and water fountain. A wonderful golf track and delightful surroundings now have lots of new and improved amenities for everyone to experience.



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