



## Bowling Green Country Club The Morrison Legacy Lives On

Nick Ciattei



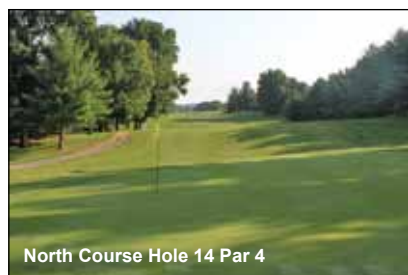
Nearly 35 years ago Lynwood Morrison saw that the region needed another facility that offered quality golf at an affordable tariff. At that time the mid-Atlantic witnessed an outburst of new upscale golf courses popping up across the area. While several of those courses have already closed, Morrison's recipe endures at Bowling Green Country Club just outside of Front Royal, VA. His first go-round in the golf business occurred back in the 1960s when he developed the Shenandoah Valley Golf Club in the northeastern corner of Warren County. After selling Shenandoah, Morrison eventually started work on the North Course at Bowling Green, which opened in

1984, and then completed the South Course eight years later. Each day Lynwood's wife Nellie would be doing her thing in the kitchen or in the garden. They were quite a team. Sadly, both have passed on, but the Morrison's legacy lives on through their family and management team that continue to carry on using his formula on these two championship 18-hole courses.

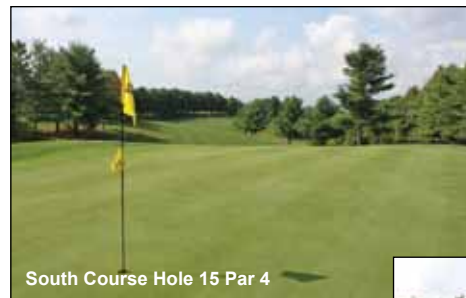
The North Course, the tougher of the two eighteens, remains one that is very playable even though several changes have been made. Bowling Green-North measures in at just less than 6500 yards from the tips, but its tight fairway and moderately sized greens create enough nuisance. The par 71 features several lakes, towering willows, and a relatively dry drainage creek that can gobble up



shots on no less than ten holes. Big hitters can reach both par 5s on the front side in two with the latter hole being a great risk/reward endeavor. The most recognized hole is the par 3 fourth, which has undergone a complete metamorphosis. A normal 170-yard par 3 became a bulk-headed island green, and more recently, a natural land slope replaced old wood surrounding the green to complete the transition. Several

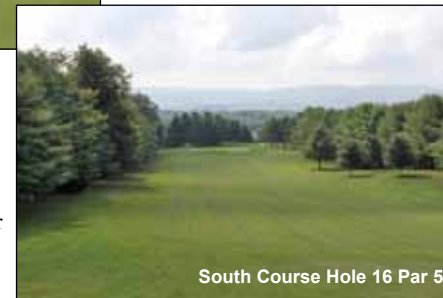


short par 4s characterized by tricky undulating greens punctuate the back nine on the North Course. Score level par for good results on the two long par 3s on the inward nine.




The South Course, while somewhat shorter than its older sibling, is favored among seniors and women for its very playable length just a tick under 6000 yards. Bowling Green-South offers abundantly sized greens and wider fairways. Golfers also love the South course because

of its lack of hazards. You will more than likely finish with the same ball with which you started. Better skilled players will still find plenty of challenge, especially on the closing holes. A couple of short par 4s appear on the front nine of this par 70, while the back nine heats up with a tough stretch starting at the fourteenth, a par 4 well-known for its roller coaster fairway. Two more treacherous par 4s follow. I've always found the fifteenth to be just plain difficult from tee to green. Sixteen, the longest of the lot tipping in at 450 yards, will wow you with stunning views of the valley and Blue Ridge Mountains.



Bowling Green has recently restored bunkers and cart paths throughout the property and has scheduled more improvements to come. Longtime Bowling Green Superintendent David Lewallen does a terrific job in keeping both courses in tip-top shape. The facility has two clubhouses, two grand ballrooms, and two golf courses that make wonderful venues for weddings, parties, and golf tournament events of any size.

Bowling Green Country Club General Manager Adam Engley notes that golfers can take advantage of several exciting options for 2018 memberships. Among the more popular categories that the club offers are the Young Professional Membership for those 35 and under, the Senior Weekday for those 55 and older, and Junior Weekday for those 17 and under. These memberships as well as others available include unlimited green fees, four guest passes, and pro shop and range discounts. You will also receive preferred rates at the three other Wingfield properties in Virginia. Engley points out that an alternative to buying a membership is to join the Associate Member Club. For about the cost of two rounds of golf, you get back 2 free rounds plus ample savings year-round at both 18-hole championship courses at Bowling Green.

The Morrison's will always be fondly remembered in this part of Virginia for their hard work and outstanding contributions to the game of golf. Those goals of providing a terrific product and keeping the sport affordable for everyone continues on today at Bowling Green Country Club. 

For more information visit [bowlinggreencountryclub.net](http://bowlinggreencountryclub.net)