



THE GOLF CLUB AT CREEKMOOR

HOLE BY HOLE NARRATIVE BY ARCHITECT THOMAS E. CLARK

Creekmoor Golf course is designed by Ault, Clark & Associates, Ltd. This firm was established in the late 1950's by Edmund B. Ault. His direction, and many years of experience as a prominent golf course architect, helped the firm develop innovative designing concepts and proven construction administration techniques. Brian T. Ault and Thomas E. Clark are the principals of Ault Clark & Associates, and collectively, they have nearly fifty years of golf course design experience. Each is in charge of every phase of golf course architecture on various projects. Ault, Clark designs are well-known for making maximum use of each site to create distinctive and exciting experiences for all players and in some case spectators, as well as television audiences.

Hole 1: Make sure you take a moment to warm up on the small putting green near the first tee to adapt your stroke to these fast A1/A4 greens. This downhill, dogleg right par four features a wide landing area that will hopefully get golfers off to a good start on this otherwise demanding course. The fairway bunker on the right can be flown for the big hitter, which opens up the approach to this well protected green.

Hole 2: This relatively short par four is wrought with danger for an errant tee shot. The bunkering on the left and right and the native area, put accuracy to a premium where a medium iron or fairway metal may be the best choice of clubs. The green is elevated and guarded by a large deep bunker which makes the approach shot demanding.

Hole 3: This lengthy par four requires a good tee shot, which should be started at the bunker at the left and allowed to roll off the slope, setting the opening to this deep and relatively large green. Be happy with a par and move on to hole four.

Hole 4: This downhill par 3 features a two-tiered green that is protected by two small bunkers on the left side. If you miss the putting surface, miss to the right, as this will allow an easier chip and putt for par.

Hole 5: This slightly uphill par five features the first real water hazard of the course. If the player opts to go for the green in two, they need to either fly it on, or hit a low fade around the pond. This green is also two tiered with a split in the lower portion, which means that no birdie or eagle will come easy.

Hole 6: Not only is this par four long, but it plays into the prevailing wind. It would be best to flirt with the bunker on the left, which is over 300 yards from the back tee, to open up the approach to the green, which is well guarded on the right side.

Hole 7: This par three could be the signature hole at Creekmoor. The green sits on the main body of the lake and is protected not only by water, but bunkers in the front and rear. It is best to be long, as you can always chip back to save par.

Hole 8: This uphill monster requires an accurate tee ball to avoid the bunkers on the left. Don't go too far right, as the trees on the right will block your approach to the green. The green is well guarded on the front left and middle right.

Hole 9: "The Beast at Creekmoor." At 660 yards and playing into the prevailing wind, this par five is definitely a three shot hole. The player needs to avoid the pond on the right and the series of bunkers guarding the second landing area. This will leave him with a slightly uphill, long approach to the green guarded short right and to the left.

Hole 10: Upon making the turn, be sure to test your putting stroke on the practice green adjacent to the tee, as the back nine not only features some demanding holes, but some tricky greens. This long par 4 plays downhill, which makes it a necessity for the tee shot to find the fairway. The landing area is guarded by a bunker on the left and native area to the right, and the green is a challenge.

Hole 11: I am sure the brave and reckless will have a go at the green on this short par four, and that is just what I want them to do. Miss it to the left, and you're in the native area, and to the right, a series of deep bunkers guard the green. The green itself is the smallest on the course and is elevated eight feet above grade.

Hole 12: This is the longest par three on the course, and even though it plays downhill, it may require a fairway metal or driver to reach the putting surface. The green has no sand bunkers, but is guarded by two deep grass depressions on the left side.

Hole 13: This medium length par five has a well-guarded landing area where the bunker on the left can be flown, but it may be hard keeping the tee shot in the fairway as it slopes from right to left. The second landing area is guarded by a bunker on the right and native area on the left and the green, though large, is modeled after the famed Biarritz and should make putting quite challenging.

Hole 14: This dogleg left par four, though not long, places a premium on driving accuracy. Stay close to the fairway bunker on the left to open up the depth of the green, which is guarded by an "illusionary" bunker front left, and a deep menacing bunker on the right. This green resembles the famed Redan.

Hole 15: This brute crosses two ravines to reach a large, well contoured, putting surface bunkered on the right.

Hole 16: This begins the home stretch, which makes this uphill par four a brute. Bunkered short left and to the right, one must find the fairway to be able to stop the ball on a green that falls away from the middle to the back.

Hole 17: This beautiful but long par three is fraught with danger, as it is guarded by water in front and bunkers to the rear.

Hole 18: This slight dogleg left par five is a thinking man's finishing hole, as it tempts the golfer to flirt with the bunker on the left in order to reach the putting surface in two. The green is at least three clubs different in depth, and is guarded by the pond on the left and a series of bunkers on the right.