



Bowling Green Country Club ~ Where North Meets South

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About 75 miles from the Mason–Dixon line, the North and South actually do sit side by side. Here though, just a row of pine trees separates them. I’m referring to Bowling Green North and South, two championship 18-hole golf courses that have a history that could rival any previous battles fought in the region. The Shenandoah Valley area is blessed with some breathtaking landscapes, and not many match those at Bowling Green Country Club.



North – Hole 4 Par 3

The 36-hole combo differs as do the North and South. Two distinctly different courses cohabitate here. Bowling Green Country Club’s formula has always delivered quality golf at a decent tariff. Shenandoah Valley golf legend Lynwood Morrison established that recipe when he developed the courses in the mid 1980s and early 90s.



North – Hole 16 Par 5

The North Course opened in 1984, and even though several changes have been made, the layout remains very playable and lots of fun. Measuring in at just less than 6500 yards from the tips, Bowling Green–North is no pushover with tight fairways and moderately sized greens. The par 71 features several lakes and towering willows. The plain–Jane

170-yard par 3 fourth has been modified from Morrison’s original design to transform it into an exciting, bulk-headed island green hole. On eight, another nice par 3, a large pond protects the entire left side of the green, whose subtle dips can become a setup for some tough pin placements. A true risk-reward hole, the par 5 ninth (pictured on the cover) requires a drive from an elevated tee to a tight landing area. The second shot must carry a pond and the layup area narrows, adding to the challenge. Characterized by tricky undulating greens, several short par 4s punctuate the back nine on North Course. Level par is a good score on two long par 3s on the inward nine. The other noteworthy



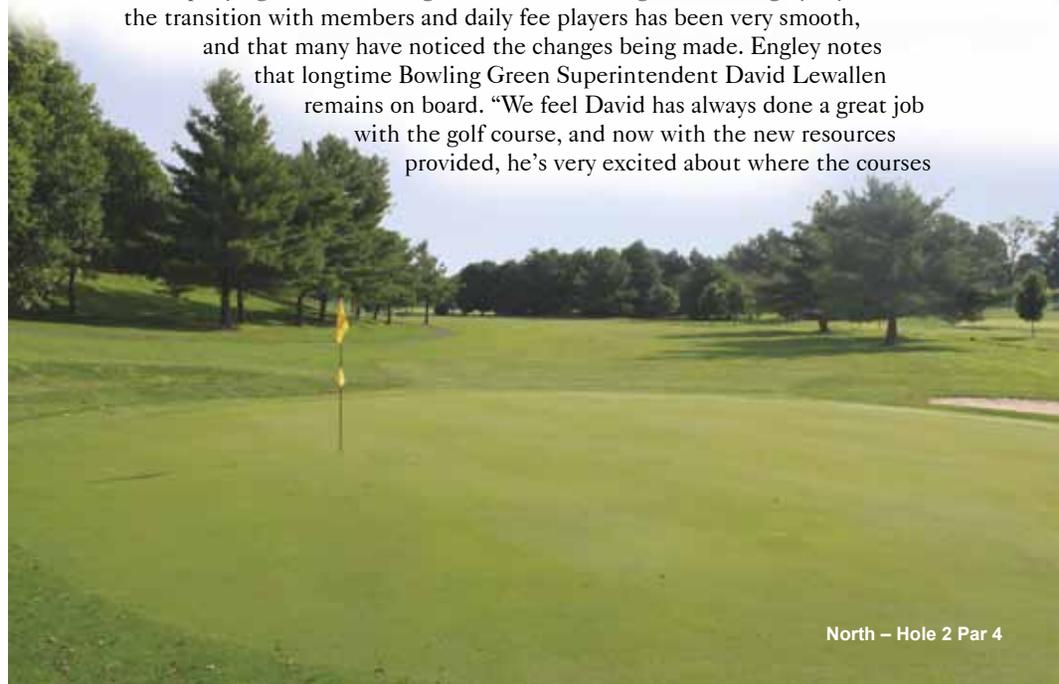
South – Hole 7 Par 4

trait of the North Course, a dry drainage creek, comes into play on no less than eight holes.

Known for its abundantly sized greens and wider fairways, Bowling Green–South’s very playable length, somewhat shorter than its older sibling at a tick under 6000 yards, makes it a favorite among seniors and women. Many also love the South course because

it lacks hazards, which gives one a good chance to finish with the same ball you started. Better skilled players still find enough on the table to keep things interesting, especially the closing holes. A couple of short par 4s on the front nine of this par 70 can be reached by the big hitters. The back nine at Bowling Green–South 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 fifteen 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.

One major change at Bowling Green occurred when Wingfield Golf Properties took over the facility’s management at the start of the year. Wingfield also manages South Riding and Pleasant Valley in Northern Virginia as well as The Club at Viniterra in New Kent. They have already improved both courses’ accompanying facilities throughout. General Manager Adam Engley says that the transition with members and daily fee players has been very smooth, and that many have noticed the changes being made. Engley notes that longtime Bowling Green Superintendent David Lewallen remains on board. “We feel David has always done a great job with the golf course, and now with the new resources provided, he’s very excited about where the courses



North – Hole 2 Par 4

are going.” A complete bunker renovation will wrap up in early 2015 on the South Course, and a cart path improvement project will begin next year. A new fleet of golf carts that will be added to both courses will surely excite golfers. Expect new and better merchandise at each of the pro shops, both of which have also received major face-lifts. Over on the range, which will be converted to Bermuda grass this fall, look for new balls and targets. Besides those upgrades for the players, a new tournament series including Night Golf events has been added.



South – Hole 15 Par 4



South – Hole 16 Par 4

Bowling Green Country Club has always been recognized as one of the premier banquet and wedding facilities in the entire valley with two separate large clubhouses at each course. Wingfield immediately noticed that the infrastructures and features of both buildings needed repair. Engley said “The North Ballroom is being renovated with new

flooring and painting, and we installed new heating and air conditioning units in both.” One thing this writer noticed in the South Clubhouse was the brighter and happier Grillroom! Several new HD TVs can also be spotted at both complexes. Engley also saw the need to freshen up the website’s appearance with a new look and advancements like online tee times and a new E-Club.

Finally, along with those physical upgrades, Engley has vowed that customers will see greatly enhanced customer service, and he has assembled a staff to help Bowling Green achieve that goal. He brings long-time friend Rob Howells in as head pro. The two worked together at Goose Creek in Leesburg. Leah Ferezan, a George Mason graduate with a BS in tourism and events, has been named the new marketing and sales director. The former chef of the Piccadilly Public House in Winchester, Jamie Gulden, has been recruited. His first line of business will be to overhaul the food and beverage department.

Bowling Green Country Club has entered a new chapter in what is already a successful and memorable one for many who have played a round of golf or maybe had their wedding reception or class reunion there. The North and South form a solid golf duo, and with new management firmly entrenched, it should be an exciting time to be on the border!

For more information visit bowlinggreencountryclub.net

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