



Alex Findlay describes how to golf your ball around RCC

In an article from the *Reading Eagle*, October 22, 1922, Alexander H. Findlay, RCC's architect, describes how to play the course that was under construction at the time.

Here is his hole-by-hole description of the nascent Reading Country Club golf course.

No 1, 385 yards – Slightly dog-legged, a good tee shot will land on a beautiful plateau, a nice iron shot should reach the green which is nicely contoured. Terraced on a rock ledge, deep trays for the slice and pulled shots are at each side. The fairway is wide; a pulled drive will reach the base of a huge gully; an easy 4, which is par, should be recorded.



The first fairway, with the green in the distance. No sand, but trouble to the right and behind the green.

No. 2, 365 yards – The tee is elevated in order to give the player a chance to see his ball sailing in the middle of a nice valley paralleling the Philadelphia Pike. A large mound will catch the topped or half-topped iron shot to the green, which is built up within close touch of a cluster of trees. No player should find any difficulty in registering a par 4 at this easy hole. There are numerous nicely placed sand traps near the green, not too difficult to play out of.

No. 3, 330 yards – Calls for a well-placed drive up a slight incline. The second, an iron shot, should reach home. The putting green is very large and rolling, surrounded by grass and sand mounds. There are a few nice fruit trees at the sides, it is well elevated and one of the nicest holes to play. The first three holes are roomy and quite long enough; giving players a chance to limber up, at the same time minimizing congestion.

No. 4, 265 yards – The drive may effect the weak-hearted mentally, inasmuch as the shot must be placed between large trees, 50 feet apart and over a nice wide babbling brook; both hazards being at least 300 feet from the tee. A mashy pitch should be lobbed onto the green, where a 4 will be recorded. This is the easiest par on the links, providing the tee shot is hit. Birds will be made and also eagles. The drive reaches a flat and the pitch to a nicely trapped green by the "Old Mill Dam site." *[This hole is now a par 3; the green has been rebuilt in the location Findlay selected.]*

No. 5, 520 yards – The long hole calls for a drive, a brassy over the creek and a pitch onto a large terraced green over the wide part of the stream. A vista cut out of the woods shows the green surrounded by water. A long hitter may be tempted to reach home with a long second shot, but he won't be in a hurry to attempt it a second time. The mouth of the green is narrow and calls for an accurate pitch, a 5 should easily be registered, which is par.



The 5th hole requires two shots over the Antietam Creek.

No. 6, 160 yards – An iron shot over the stream and valley to the hill-top, large trees to right, deep trap in front and pits at each side of green. A well placed shot will reach the flag on the fly, a grand test of golf and a nice par 3.



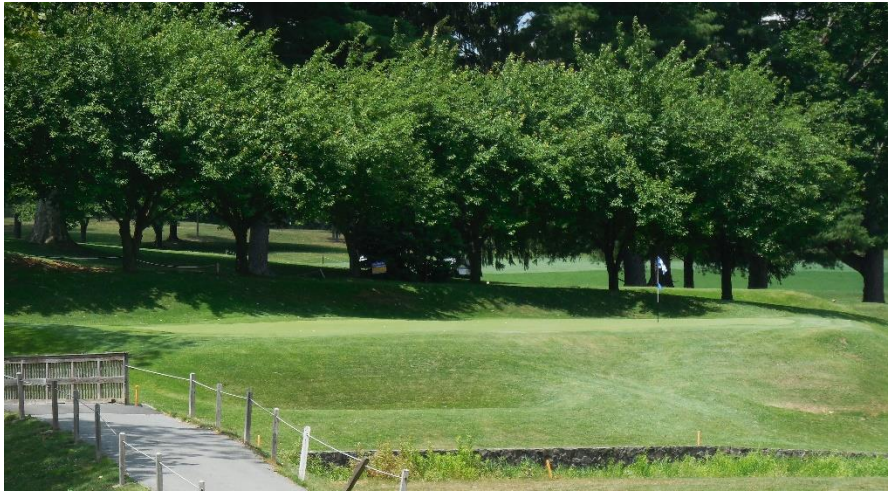
The 6th hole features a tricky two-tiered green.

No. 7, 445 yards – a good drive will land on a plateau within 30 yards of the stream, a clean brassy should reach the green, which is nicely placed in the meadow, elevated and surrounded by an array of shallow sand traps and mounds. This hole will help the long hitter to score a bird below par 5.

Number 7, now a par 4, plays long, even from an elevated tee.



No. 8, 180 yards – A midiron shot, the creek rushes by at the foot of the green, which will catch topped tee shots. Trees will kill the pull, also hurt the slice. A nicely placed tee shot, however, will land on a rare (sic) putting green, and with the orthodox allowance of two putts, one should experience little difficulty in scoring a par 3.



Two deep bunkers await shots hit short to the narrow 8th green. You don't want to be in either of them.

No. 9, 335 yards – A drive should be placed on a nice reach at the top of a huge hill, and a well played mashie pitch will reach the pin; this green is quite adjacent to the club house; hole is slightly dog-legged, with huge trees as a background, traps at sides, and in front of the green, a first-class hole and nice to look at from the tee. Par 4.



The short 9th. Don't miss right. Or left. Or long.

No. 10, 295 yards – Tee in front of club house, a nice drive and pitch hole with few obstacles in the way. The putting green is scientifically trapped and lies within close touch of a beautiful cluster of trees. Par 4. *[This hole is now a par 3 playing to Findlay's green.]*

No 11, 400 yards – An extreme dog-leg two shotter, a drive and full spoon or cleek shot will reach the pin; each shot must be placed with unerring accuracy in order to secure a par 4. The green is large, as all two full shot holes should be; nice mounds protect the corners and there are numerous traps all the way home. *[The fairway traps no longer exist; a large trap guards the left side of the green.]*

No. 12, 430 yards – Over an old patch of pasture land and though an apple orchard, quite a wide fairway. The scratch or plus player should reach the pin nicely with a well-placed second or brassy shot. This is one of the most difficult par 4 holes on the course, but a joy to play. *[The twelfth is now a 360 yard par 4.]*



A sand trap guards the dogleg of the 12th fairway.

No 13, 385 yards – A plain easy drive and a midiron will place one near to score par figures. The green nestles at the foot of very large trees, numerous fruit trees skirt the fairway boundary. One must play straight, as punishment awaits the wayward. Par 4.



The 13th green features traps left and right.

No. 14, 510 yards – Two screaming wood shots will reach foot of the green; a mashy niblick pitch is necessary in order to overcome the numerous difficulties surrounding the pin. The green is scooped out of the face of a large hill and faces the pitch; a very sporty hole to play but just about impossible to get home in 2, owing to the hog back fairway in front of the green; the third shot is one of the dog-leg order. This is one of the nicest long holes in the United States. Par 5.



The 14th green looks flat. It isn't.

No 15, 175 yards – The third and last of the one shot holes *[it is now the last of five par 3's]*, the tee is at the top of a high hill, the green is over a stream. Numerous picturesque trees are at sides and back thereof, is well built up and quite undulating. The triumvirate of iron shot holes compare favorably with that of the famous Tavistock Country Club, Tavistock, N.J., and that is going some as Tavistock when two years older will be one of the finest tests of golf in this golfing country; in fact it is not yet two years old and a gem to play. Reading Country Club in a year or two will be likewise blest. Think it over! Trouble galore awaits the misplaced tee shot whereas a good shot will net anyone a par 3.



Visual intimidation is just one of the challenges that awaits the golfer on hole 15. The 15th can play 220 yards from a tee added after Findlay's time.

No. 16, 340 yards – A drive over the creek and a nice iron shot will land on the green, which is up a nice gradual sloping hill nicely trapped on all sides. If in match play, one wins by 3 and 2, one simply struts through the woods to the club house, which is less than 50 yards away from the green. The 16th is an easy par 4.



The golfer whose tee shot misses the 16th fairway is playing for a bogey.

No 17, 420 yards – A fine two shotter, a delightful view is afforded one standing on the tee; the drive is down hill; a long straight brassy will reach home, which is open and wide, inviting a wood shot to the pin; the green is properly bunkered and calls for accurate golf. Par 4. *[Now a 510 yard par 5.]*



A short pitch to the 17th green awaits the golfer in search of a birdie. Don't go long.

No. 18, 345 yards – Drive and an iron shot to the hole; the green is on an up-grade, located quite near trees and the club house, making a fine finish to this splendid course. The green is well trapped and mounded. Par 4.



The second shot to the 18th green plays uphill.

No. 19 — Time for a Guinness. You've earned it.