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M A G A Z I N E

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- J. Todd Heifner



Tucked inside the prestigious residential community of Royal Palm and winding its way alongside million dollar homes is the beautifully manicured par 72 country club course.

Originally designed by Robert Trent Jones and opened in 1959, the course accepted additional changes under the supervision of Joe Lee. In 2002 it underwent its most dramatic change to date—a complete facelift—as Jack Nicklaus redesigned the entire golf course. Forward tees play just under 5000 yards and championship tees play just over 7000 yards.

“This is a very traditional Nicklaus designed golf course,” said Heifner, head golf professional. “The par five’s are very much risk/reward par fives and because of the inclusion of five sets of tees it’s very playable no matter what level of golfer. There are no forced carries anywhere on the course and while many of the greens have adjacent hazards, Nicklaus gave the

higher handicapper a bale out area next to the green so that 150 yard shot over water isn’t so intimidating.”

Blue lakes and refreshing water features, including marshy wetlands filled with aquatic plants, strategically placed bunkers and smaller, well-protected

greens aren’t the only challenges awaiting the golfer. Large waste areas have been carved between several holes, creating a new dimension of risk and adding to the visual relief of the emerald green fairways.

Along with the redesigned golf course, a new 30,000-square-foot clubhouse has been completed. It houses the golf pro shop, cart storage, and state-of-the-art ladies’ and men’s locker rooms. Members enjoy expansive golf course views from the second floor dining room, terraces, lounge, and private dining room.



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