

Course Review: Bay Breeze Golf Course

In the shadows of the famous Tillamook Cheese Factory along Highway 101 you'll find Bay Breeze Golf Course. Opened in 1993, Bay Breeze is a 9-hole executive course that currently features six par 3s and a threesome of par 4s.

Bay Breeze holds a special place in the lore of Don and Pete Golf Oregon because it was the first stop on the first day of our very first "Golf Week" in 2007. We had decided to embark upon our "Quest" to play every course in Oregon earlier that year, then later decided to earmark the second full week of August as an annual week to play courses in certain geographic areas. Golf Week 1 was to be the Central Oregon Coast, and we left Newberg bright and early on that August 2007 morning, set to play Bay Breeze and neighboring Alderbrook before tooling down Pacific Coast Highway to our headquarters for the week at Don's in-laws in Newport.

There is some Internet confusion as to Bay Breeze's current length. We (and its proprietor) assume that's due to Bay Breeze being strictly a par 3 layout when it originally opened. The course was later lengthened to add the three par 4s. So despite many Internet Bay Breeze scorecards that cite the yardage as 1061 yards, the correct yardage number is actually 1714 yards from the white tees and 1941 from the blues.

Obviously that's not a huge difference, but the par 4s do add a little more challenge to your Bay Breeze round. They're lumped together as Holes 2-4, the longest being 306 yards. The six par 3s range from 110 to 189 yards from the white tees.

Bay Breeze was built in a wetlands area, so even in the summer it can be a little mushy here and there. A little creek meanders throughout the course, so you can find water trouble here and there. The course is well maintained for what it is, but it's certainly not an upscale or well-manicured track. The greens are somewhat slow; they'll hold most approach shots easily so you can go pin-hunting without fear of rolling off.

Bay Breeze also features a very nice, very well-kept 18-hole natural grass putting course. This isn't putt-



putt golf with a clown's mouth or an opening and closing castle gate to aim at, this is fun and challenging "real golf" on a very small scale. For the record, Pete led throughout the round until Don ran him down on the last two holes. We had a good time telling people we played 45 holes on our first day of Golf Week, which we did — 9 executive holes at Bay Breeze, the 18 putting course holes at Bay Breeze plus 18 regulation holes at Alderbrook.

However, the best thing that happened at Bay Breeze occurred before we ever teed off. As we were paying, we asked about logo balls. Again, Bay Breeze was our first stop on our first-ever Golf Week, so we were pretty excited. We had both decided to collect logo balls from each course we played, and at this point, having played a smattering of courses, we were at 100 percent. So we were dismayed when the guy behind the counter said they didn't have logo balls.

"We used to, but not any more," he said. Then he paused, and pointed to a large logo ball display on the clubhouse wall. "You know, we might have one up there."

Well, one wasn't going to do, but lo and behold, as he scrounged around, he found two. Pete got the better one, with the logo in green. Don's featured a black logo, but we were pumped, walking out to the course with the absolute last two logo balls that existed at Bay Breeze — at least at that time. We hope they've reconsidered and have them in stock again.