

# Course Review: Hood River Golf & Country Club

Golf Week 2015 kicked off with a stop at the Hood River Golf and Country Club, and we were stoked. The first course of any Golf Week is always exciting, plus this was the Hood River *Golf and Country Club* — on *Country Club Road*, no less. This was going to be a high-end start to Golf Week.

Er, maybe not. The Hood River G&CC did not meet our expectations, and mostly that was our fault, not theirs. We had played Indian Creek in Hood River previously, and it's an absolute gem. So of course the *Country Club* was going to be even better. Or so we thought.

Hood River G&CC has a nice website with lots of great pictures of their course. Those pictures were obviously taken in spring or fall, because the course looks inviting and green. Good for them, put your best foot forward! But things aren't so green there in August, we discovered.

Mostly, Hood River G&CC is simply older. It's an older-style layout, the clubhouse is older — shoot,



even the carts were older. Nothing wrong with that. Again, we were the ones who created the raised expectations. We were greeted warmly and had a great conversation with the staff about our Quest and the courses ahead for that week.

One thing you definitely get at Hood River G&CC is a great view of Mt. Hood from several holes and some gorgeous old growth trees. As usual, we played the white tees, which measure 5547 yards at Hood River. Par is 71 as there is an "extra" par 3 on the back nine. Hole No. 1 is a great introduction to what your round at Hood River G&CC will be like. A par 4 that's only 330 yards, it's a gentle dogleg left with trees pretty much lining both sides from tee to green. Hit an accurate tee shot and you've got a relatively short approach shot. Hit it right or left much and one of those beautiful trees will be in your way. That story soon continues throughout your round, although Holes 2-4 are the least treed on the course.

The most challenging hole is No. 13, a 490-yard par 5 that is a big, sweeping dogleg right. A well-placed fade or cut will help get you into decent position, but trees along the right side keep anyway but low handicappers from really going for it.

Overall the course was in decent condition. This is not a manicured layout. The fairway grass was much like the grass at a lot of people's homes — a little grass, a little clover, a few weeds, etc. If you're off the course at all you're in scrub brush. The greens were slower than they looked that day, but generally consistent. All in all, it wasn't quite what we expected, but we still had a great time.

