

Course Review: Middlefield Golf Course

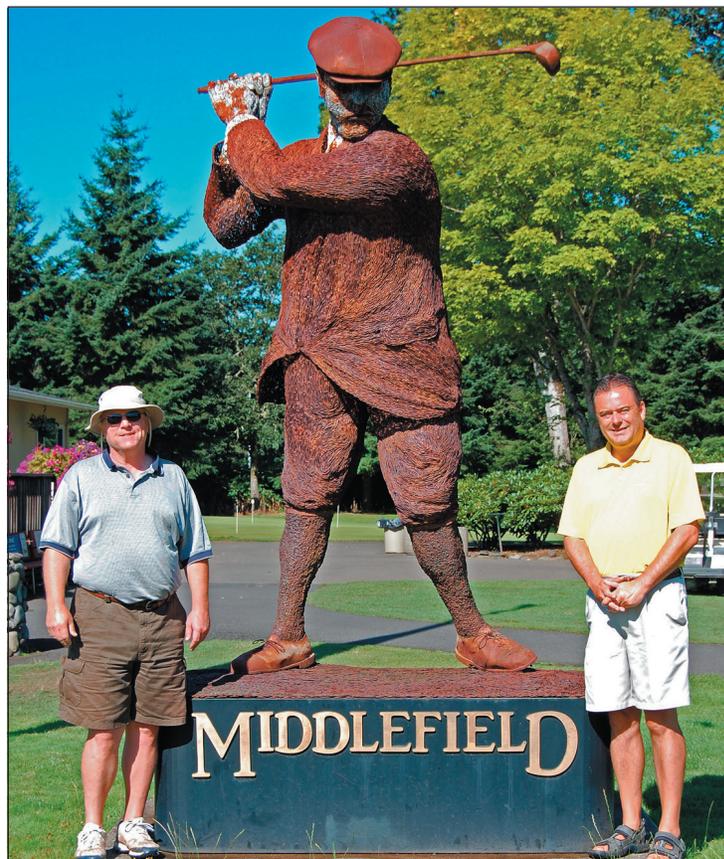
Middlefield Golf Course began its existence in 1991 as part of the Village Green Resort, located off of Exit 174 on Interstate 5. Traveling south on I-5 in particular, you have the opportunity to watch an errant shot as you whiz by. But the Village Green was having some issues, and the City of Cottage Grove was looking for a water source, so this unlikely match culminated in the city purchasing the “resort course” in 2006 and turning it into a municipal track.

The course went from being the Village Green Golf Resort to Middlefield Village Golf Course at first; later the city dropped the “Village” homage to its original owner. As the city purchased the course for the water rights, not for the golf rights, so to speak, as long as the course breaks even the city fathers are happy. That has allowed the Middlefield management to keep greens fees relatively low, helping draw hackers down the 20 miles or so from Eugene.

We played Middlefield as part of our Golf Week 2011, which was headquartered at a friend’s home in Springfield and featured courses from all over “greater Eugene.” We played Middlefield on a nice August morning, grabbed some lunch along the way and trekked up to Oakridge for an afternoon nine at Circle Bar. We *love* Golf Week! ☺

Some term Middlefield an “executive course” — including its own website — but we’re not sure that’s description is entirely accurate. First, it does have a par 5. Only one (and it’s a dilly), but there is one. There are just two sets of tees, blues for men and red for women, and the course measures just over 5000 yards and plays to a par of 67. So it’s certainly a *short* course, but not necessarily “executive.”

It’s not every course where you walk under a major interstate freeway, but you do so at Middlefield — four times, in fact. You play Nos. 1 and 2 going parallel to I-5 north, then you’re under the freeway



for the first time on the way to the third tee. After No. 8 you come back under the freeway for the ninth hole. Nos. 10, 11 and 12 stay east of the interstate, then you’re back under again for five holes, crossing under one last time for the finishing hole.

Even though the City of Cottage Grove bought the course for the water rights and there is *some* water on the course, most of it isn’t in play. There is a pond that runs the length of No. 4 on the right side, it’s a challenging 194-yard par 3. There’s water on No. 13 and No. 13, but it’s pretty out of the way. That same pond that was on the right of No. 4 is on the left of No. 17, and No. 18 has a long, skinny pond running alongside most of the fairway on the left.

The par 3 hole lengths really run the gamut at Middlefield, incidentally. There’s a 200-yarder, another that’s 216, but also one of 117 yards and one that’s just 90. With the exception of No. 16, at 402 yards, the par 4s are all quite short and playable. The No. 1 handicap hole is the par 5 No. 15, a big S curve that demands you go left off the tee and then right. Overall, the course is well maintained and the greens putt consistently. A good morning on a fun course!

