

# Course Review: Tetherow Golf Club

The opportunity to play what was then a two-year-old Tetherow Golf Club in Bend was to be the highlight of Golf Week 2010 — and it was, even though the week was shortened to three days when Pete’s generally balky back went bonkers. Tetherow was the talk of the golfing state at the time, an 18-hole championship semi-private course that boasts a distinctive layout by David McLay Kidd, the award-winning architect of Bandon Dunes here in Oregon as well as the Castle Course at St. Andrews in Scotland (among others).

Generally speaking you either need to be a member at Tetherow (or know one) or stay on the property’s swanky accommodations to play the course. Fortunately, our Chehalem Glenn pro Branden Thompson has a friend and colleague at Tetherow, so not only did we get to play the course, we played for free! Chehalem Park & Recreation District Superintendent Don Clements rounded out our foursome; CPRD owns and operates Chehalem Glenn.

Tetherow was also our first experience with a caddie. We were greeted in the parking lot by Doug, a friendly and capable chap. For the uninitiated (as we were), this is not the PGA tour where you have an individual caddie that carries your bag, etc. Doug was the forecaddie for our entire group, generally jumping on the back of one of our golf cars as we went shot to shot. It is proper to tip your forecaddie at the end, FYI.



Here is the massive first green that greets you at Tetherow, slicker than grease and a sign of things to come.



Rarin’ to go on the left: Pete, Chehalem Glenn pro Branden Thompson, Don and Chehalem Park & Recreation District Superintendent Don Clements. About four hours later, a tuckered out Pete and Don on the right.

Tetherow has the reputation of being hard to play, so we were simply hoping to perhaps break 100 on the day. Don played amazingly well (more on why in a bit), shooting 43 on the front nine and had visions of breaking 90. Reality set in with a 48 on the back, but he was still thrilled with his 91. Pete, suffering through the first of the back spasms that would curtail the week after the next day, carded 109.

Tetherow is a “links-style” course, although there are trees here and there so not a true links layout. The greens are huge and quicker’n snot. If you can’t backspin the ball, you can’t land it on the green and keep it there. If there’s anything consistent to Don’s golf game, it’s his penchant for hitting chips and pitches short, so almost comically, the reason he shot so well was his usual short shots were rolling up onto the green. “You’ve really got this down pretty good,” Doug told him at one point, clueless. ☺

We’ve never seen a course vex Don Clements so. One of the most adaptable golfers we know, Don was rolling putts off greens, shooting balls 20 yards past cups and generally having a miserable day. Tetherow can do that to you.

We played the tan tees, which measure 6,500 yards. If you stray off the fairway there’s a lot of scrub and losing balls is part of the day. Doug did a great job of advising us; we’re simply not good enough to always execute the pointers. Best advice from us: play bump-and-run rather than pitch on your approach shots, and however soft you think you should hit your putt — hit it softer.