



community success initiative

HELPING INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES MOVE FROM WHERE THEY ARE TO WHERE THEY WANT TO BE

## Raleigh RGA golf course strategies

CSI Speaker and part-time “Golf Pro”, Sheldon Howard

Hole number three is a par three 142 yards. with a three level undulating green. When you stand on the tee box and look at this green, it looks very easy. If you land on the green close to the pen, then yes, you can make birdie or certainly a par However, if the pen is at the back of the green and your tee shot is on the front, then good luck on making your par. You’ve got three levels of green to work with, and long putts are going to break two and sometime three times.

If by chance, you miss the green with your tee shot - except right in front - you may not get your bogey. There is a trap on the back left. **IF THE PEN IS IN THE BACK AND YOU ARE IN THE TRAP, IT IS GOING TO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP YOUR TRAP SHOT ON THE BACK AND UPPER**

**LEVEL OF THE GREEN.** There are mounds on the right side of the green, when you miss the green there, these mounds will often give you some very interesting chipping angles. You have to miss by only a very few feet to have this experience.

If you miss a little bit to the left, you’re probably hit the oak tree that stands about ten yards. from the left and a little to the front of the green. The upper branches are about two yards from the side of the green. So, you hit the tree, and the ball drops in the "hole" (just not the hole you were aiming to hit). This hole is twenty to thirty feet in diameter, and about four feet below the level of the green. If you get out with a bogey - then the golf gods love you. Hey, this hole may play as easy as it looks - then it will get you when you just missed by a little bit.



Hole number four is the first par five on the front nine. The green is 448 yards. from the white tee and the fairway is straight, and about 100 to 120 yards. wide. If you hit the ball well down the right middle, then an eagle is not out of the question. The green is tucked into the left hand corner. There is a large grassy hole to the right of the green about 8 feet below the level of the green. The front of the green is wide open. However your approach shot should be from the right middle of the fairway. The green is slightly up hill - yet, a fairly good shot will often roll off the right back. (Never understood this about this green.) If the pin is in the middle and your shot is on the back of the green then you are going to have a fast down hill putt that will be hard to stop.

Most players get in trouble when they go down the left side lined with large pines with low hanging limbs. Believe me, if you continue down the left side by hitting the ball low and hard toward the green, you're going to end up having to roll the ball on the green. (By the way, you can get a look at this hole on our web sight.) The green is also trapped at the front left.

If your drive ends up on the left side, I have found the best second shot is to hit the ball right toward the green as far as your skills will allow. You really do not want to stay under the pines - no matter how much closer the green looks. ( I know that at least one team in the tournament that has not read this blog will go down the left because it looks so much closer, and end up with a bogey for their team score on number four.)

This is a par five where the average player has chance of an eagle with a good drive down the right middle and solid fairway wood. However. with a drive down the left side you could end up with a double bogey.

Also, there are tall pines and oaks down the right side of the fairway. It is not out o bounds over there - just do not go there. I have been there once or twice and it is like you have been exiled from the green. Your golf buddies look at you with pity in their eyes, or they turn their backs and pretend not to know you.

Hey, I am an old guy, and an average golfer at my best. The most recent time I played this hole - I hit a 225 yard. drive down the right middle of the fairway, a fairway wood into grassy hole to the right of the green, and a high sand wedge which landed, and stayed 18 inches from the cup - made my putt - took my birdie on a par five. It felt good to do it right.

Hey, come and play in our tournament. RGA is a very interesting golf course. I will keep blogging about it. However, it is much more fun to play this great old course - established in 1929. All of the sign up information is on our web site.

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