



*St. Louis Country Club  
Site of the 2014 Curtis Cup*

How to play the course as set up for the Curtis Cup  
by  
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***Hole #1 – Preparatory — 381-yard par 4***

A road and tall Oak trees line the right side of the hole. Most players will hit a driver down the left side, leaving a mid to short iron into the green. Approaching the green from the right side is very difficult as the green runs from right to left, causing many approaches to run off the putting surface. Players must try to keep the ball left of the hole on the green to leave an uphill putt.

*During the 1947 U.S. Open, Gene Sarazen, upon viewing the hole for the first time, made the statement about the opening tee shot, “I’ve seen wider bowling alleys”.*

***Hole #2 – Double Plateau — 185-yard par 3***

A signature Biarritz-style hole, it features a large swale in the middle of a long narrow green. The hole plays uphill, and is well guarded by bunkers left and right. The green itself is 60 yards deep, making club selection a challenge. Players will play to the green with mid to long irons.

*During the 1925 Women’s Amateur, the second hole played as a par 4.*

***Hole #3 – Eden — 196-yard par 3***

Designed after the original Eden hole at St. Andrews, the green slopes severely from back to front with a ridge separating the right from the left. Players hit over the only significant water hazard on the course to a green beautifully framed by a number of deep bunkers. Long irons or hybrids will be the club of choice.

***Hole #4 – St. Andrews — 385-yard par 4***

Macdonald had the Road Hole at St. Andrews in mind when he designed the fourth. A drive of 235 yards is required to carry over the swale in the middle of the fairway. Drives of less than 235 yards will often end up on an upslope leaving a semi-blind shot of around 170 yards to the green. The putting surface is angled away from the fairway, with the narrowest edge at the front left and a larger surface to the right. A deep bunker protects the right side of the green. Approach shots that land on the front right of the green often roll back into the bunker. Players must pick the right line and distance on their approach to hit the green.

***Hole #5 – Punch Bowl — 469-yard par 5***

Another of Macdonald’s classic holes, the Punch Bowl will play as a par 5 that is reachable in two for longer hitters. The green is blind on the second shot as players look over the Principal’s Nose bunker, which sits 142 yards from the green. A Punch Bowl green is designed for balls to filter towards the middle of the green. When the hole location is to the sides of the green, putting can be very challenging. Players also have the opportunity to run their ball onto the green using the sloped right side of the fairway leading to the green.

#### **Hole #6 – Blind — 353-yard par 4**

The tee shot must avoid the road to the right, and trees and rough to the left. The tee shot must carry at least 200 yards to reach the flat part of the fairway. The fairway runs out 66 yards from the hole with players who drive through the fairway find that they may be faced with a downhill shot from the rough to a green that is slightly elevated.

*When the 5th green was moved for the 1947 Open (it was restored to its original punchbowl location in 1989), the 6th tee was moved closer to its current location. Prior to 1947, the 6th tee was adjacent to the road and forced players to hit over the corner of the road.*

#### **Hole #7 – Shorty — 145-yard par 3**

Don't let the yardage fool you; this is one of the more difficult par 3s on the course; belying its 18-handicap rating. A number of bunkers, some of which are very deep and very penal, surround the green. The green has a large "thumbprint" in the middle of the putting surface creating a horseshoe shape on the putting surface than can be extremely difficult to negotiate if one's tee shot is on the wrong side of the horseshoe. To further complicate reading putts, the entire green is deceptively sloped to the left to right. The "thumbprint" in the middle of the green is a very friendly place from which to putt when the hole is located there. However, if the hole location is back, or on either side, the player will be faced with a daunting two-putt.

#### **Hole #8 – Cape — 351-yard par 4**

Most players will take a conservative approach and play away from the creek that guards the right side of the hole – from tee to green. A bailout to the left could leave the player in deep rough or in one of several bunkers that line that side. For those who challenge the corner and succeed, a very short approach to the flattest green on the course is their reward. The green is surrounded by bunkers on the right and left side, in addition to the creek that curves around the back of the green.

*The Cape Hole at the Club is designed after a hole Macdonald designed at National Golf Links on Long Island, making it a classic American hole.*

#### **Hole #9 – Ladue — 509-yard par 5**

Players will quickly note that they cannot see the fairway when standing on the tee as the fairway rises some twenty feet approximately 100 yards from the teeing ground. Large trees on both sides of the hole frame the tee shot. In addition, a road lining the right side will also play a part in the mental challenge as players prepare to hit their drive. However, a well-struck drive will make it over the hill and down the slope in the landing zone, adding a few extra yards. However, this is often accompanied with a sidehill or downhill lie for the player's next shot; navigating the creek, which cuts diagonally across the fairway. The green, which slopes sharply left to right, has a ridge line that runs from the front left all the way around to the back right portion of the green.

#### **Hole #10 – Hill Top — 343-yard par 4**

This dogleg right par 4 plays slightly downhill off the tee, then uphill on the second shot. Trees on the right side, and moguls and shrubs on the left require a precise tee shot. In addition, a small water hazard is nestled in the trees on the right side about 200-yards off the tee. Players may elect to hit a driver to carry over the water hazard, but the landing area becomes smaller as you travel up the hill. In addition, from this position, players are faced with an uphill lie from which to hit the approach. A number of players may choose to hit a 200-yard shot off the tee to leave their ball in the flat part of the fairway. The green complex is a blind approach, but the flag is always visible.

#### **Hole #11 – Valley — 403-yard par 4**

A slight dogleg left that runs parallel to the tenth, the tee shot plays downhill to a fairway that is framed by three bunkers with tree groves just off the fairway on both sides. The bunkers on the both sides are reachable for most players, demanding a well-placed drive. The approach shot will play uphill off of an uphill or side-hill lie. Players will be able to see the flag, but not the putting surface, as it is surrounded by a series of moguls on the left, along with a deep bunker. Another bunker sits at the front right of the green, which slopes from back to front.

#### **Hole #12 – Crater — 154-yard par 3**

Crater is a relatively short hole with a challenging tiered green, plus a false front. When the hole is on the front of the green, players must not make the mistake of hitting their ball to the back surface or they will have a tough time keeping their approach putt from rolling off the front. It is easier to play from short of the green to a front hole location. The green is surrounded by five bunkers, which create different challenges for players who find them off the tee.

### **Hole #13 – Club House — 549-yard par 5**

The longest and the most difficult hole on the golf course. The fairway slopes from left to right, leaving players with a ball below their feet for their second shot. Four cross-bunkers angled diagonally are strategically placed down the fairway, providing not only a visual challenge, but making it very difficult to reach the green if players find themselves in one of them. Upon reaching the green, the real challenge just begins. The entire green slopes from back to front, with a sharp fall off. Hole locations are normally set on the right and left sides of the green and with the middle sloping severely from back to front, players need to play a precise approach shot to the side of the green where the hole is located.

*Macdonald described the diagonal pattern of fairway bunkering as “echelon” bunkers.*

### **Hole #14 – Dome — 386-yard par 4**

This straightaway hole is anything but straightforward. The landing area for the tee shot often leaves players with a ball below their feet and an uphill lie to a semi-blind green, which slopes away from the fairway. Longer hitters will be able to carry their tee shots up onto the flat portion of the fairway, but then must contend with a bunker that protects the right side of the fairway. Balls hit to the right side off the tee tend to bounce farther to the right and end up in heavy rough behind trees.

### **Hole #15 – Narrows — 491-yard par 5**

A straightaway par 5, framed by trees on both sides. A road runs along the right side of the hole, so players must avoid this at all costs. On the tee shot, players are faced with a fairway that slopes sharply from right to left. From the fairway, the second shot is generally played from a hanging lie with the ball above the player’s feet to an elevated fairway above another set of echelon cross bunkers cut into the side of the hill. Longer hitters can reach this green in two, but the blind approach is to a green that is protected by bunkers and out of bounds on three sides. A definite risk-reward par 5. For players unable to reach the green in two, the echelon cross-bunkers remain a strong visual challenge as players look to position their second shots. The green is a series of three different shelves: the front is fairly flat at fairway level, while the middle of the green tends to slope away from the fairway. The back of the green has a flat, narrow elevated shelf that is very difficult to reach and have your ball hold.

### **Hole #16 – Redan — 178-yard par 3**

Patterned after the 15th hole at North Berwick, the 16th is a classic Redan hole – though this one is a reverse Redan, playing left to right. The green is angled such that a right-handed player must have a good combination of distance and direction to hit and hold the green. A long, deep bunker lines the right side of the hole, influencing players to hit their shots to the left side of the green. However, long or left is often just as difficult in an attempt to save par. Typical of a Redan, a well-struck tee shot that lands on the front edge, will funnel down toward the middle of the green. Once on the putting surface, the green has a gradual slope from front to back as it slopes away from the tee.

*Many golf historians find this Redan to be among the best of Macdonald’s work.*

### **Hole #17 – Log Cabin — 372-yard par 4**

Standing on the tee, players will see two bunkers on the left and one at the corner of the slight dogleg to the right. To carry the bunker on the right hand side requires a carry of 250 yards. Most players elect to navigate to the left of the bunker, and will be faced with an uphill lie to a small, well-guarded green. The green slopes from right to left and back to front, causing players to keep their ball left of the flag regardless of the hole location.

*During the 1921 U.S. Amateur, the 17th hole was called “the jewel of the course”*

### **Hole #18 – Oasis — 362-yard par 4**

The 18th is an Alps hole, similar to the 17th at Prestwick. An Alps hole refers to one where a ridge conceals the putting surface from the fairway. Not only does the 18th barely let the player see the flag – despite being 12-feet tall – but it also conceals the deep, wide bunker short of the green.

Players need to carry an uphill tee shot at least 225 yards to reach the top of the hill; otherwise, they will be faced with an uphill lie and a blind second shot. Longer hitters may be able to hit their drives over the hill and pick up some yardage with rollout, but they will face uneven lies from the fairway. The large green makes two-putt pars a challenge.