



FARLEIGH COURT RE-FURBISHMENT PHASE 1

Holes 19 - 27

Designers Comments

When Marc Hayton asked me if I would like to revisit Farleigh to upgrade the course as near as possible to its original design I jumped at the chance.

Walking round the course in the summer with my wife she said to me "I cannot believe that you designed these bunkers." They have certainly not been constructed as they were designed and it is here, especially greenside where the bulk of the improvement budget will be spent in an attempt to provide maintainable hazards, create a few more problems and be appealing to the eye.

HOLE 19

This is the only hole where I am adding fairway bunkers. I want them to define the dog-leg rather than be particularly penal. The rough will be allowed to grow in to the back of the bunkers and into the fairway beyond to make it much more difficult to cut the corner.

This is quite a long opening hole so I do not want to make it too difficult. The two greenside bunkers will be rebuilt, that on the left being brought in to narrow the green entrance a little.

HOLE 20

A nice medium length par-4 with an enormous 45m long bunker down the right which will be reduced in size by at least 50%. I also want to swap back tees with hole 25. I think that this will improve both holes, giving a different slant making a more interesting tee shot.

I remember watching Ian Woosnam hit a very poor approach shot into a green at St Mellion some years ago. His ball hit a bank and bounced into the middle of the green. I suspect that has happened here and I propose to introduce a bunker short left of the green as a deterrent. I also propose reducing the size of the greenside bunker, replacing some sand with grass.

HOLE 21

A short, relatively simple par-3 with a white knuckle ride from tee to green thrown in free. This is where I propose to introduce a largish pond to block off the right hand side of the green. It will be visually stunning from the tee and make even the best golfers think. It is similar to the fourth hole I have planned for my course in Mexico, and it will become a dramatic and exciting hole.

The left hand side bunker will be made into a grassy hollow for those too timid to take on the water, on a small bunker constructed behind the green to deter those who will hit long and hope that the ball will run back onto the putting surface.

HOLE 22

The next two holes up the valley are my favourites. Not just because they are nice holes but because it is such a pleasant place to play one's golf and I always feel completely at peace with the world whilst walking up them. I will probably leave the fairway bunker untouched. It does not come much into play, but it is doing no harm.

At the green I am providing three bunkers, two on the right, one short and one greenside, wrapping round the side to give some interesting pin positions and one front left to narrow the green entrance. In addition the left hand edge of the fairway will be brought in to ensure that the ditch is in play.

HOLE 23

Continuing up the valley this hole is a little similar to the last. A new back tee built into the bank will transform ones view of the hole and give it a new dimension. Again the fairway will be mown towards the ditch to bring it into play. At the green once again three bunkers, but the reverse of the last hole, two on the left and one on the right.

HOLE 24

This is an interesting but unchallenging par-5. The views are spectacular but marred as one walks along the hole by unsightly un-maintained bunkers down the right. Most of these will be filled in and left as grassy hollows which will act to stop slightly wayward balls drifting down the bank into no-mans-land, be easier to maintain and much more pleasing on the eye.

There is a hollow short of the green into which I propose to add a group of up to five new bunkers blocking off all the right hand side of the green, making this a worthy par-5. The bunker short left of the green will be replaced with a grassy hollow and that on the left of the green will be moved further to the centre. The green may still be reachable in two, but it will take thought and an excellent second shot.

HOLE 25

Currently this is a very bland and short hole which could probably be played with a putter alone. I propose to construct a steep sided swale bringing both bunkers in towards the centre line of the hole. This will provide more interesting approach shots for those who fail to reach the putting surface from the tee.

Changing over the back tees with hole 20, as mentioned earlier will also add an additional dimension as it will then be necessary to carry the right hand side bunker to reach the green.

HOLE 26

This is probably the most ordinary hole on this loop. It is a poor par-5 with little in the way of interest or challenge. To try and rectify this I want to make it a long par-4. Mowing the fairway over to the left to bring existing mounding into play just off the left hand edge of the fairway, creating a slight dog-leg will create more interest, at the same time bringing the hollow front left of the green into play.

It will now be much more difficult to par the hole so I will be kind at the green with just one bunker, on the right.

HOLE 27

To make up for the loss of a stroke I want to turn this hole from an ordinary par -4 in to an excellent par-5. Two new slightly elevated tees are to be built behind those existing to make the pond more visible and bring it into play from the tee. To achieve this aim, it will also be necessary to move the fairway over to the left and make it narrower it at the same time. This brings to mind my second hole at Golf Las Americas in Tenerife which has water at the end of the drive and is very popular hole.

In front of the green there is an excellent swale which lends itself better to a par-5 and to which I propose to add two greenside bunkers, one to replace that on the left, and a new one on the right to leave a narrow green entrance. In addition I propose to reconstruct the bunker short right which has previously been returned to grass and is currently full of stones.

I have tried to create a more challenging and attractive nine-hole loop without dramatically changing its overall feel. There may be some changes to the above during construction, but on the whole I hope that the loop will provide a more challenging and satisfying round without being too penal.

David Pottage
Golf Course Architect
John Jacobs Golf Associates Limited.
October, 2010

**PROVISIONAL CARD
White Tees**

Hole	Yardage	Par
19	453	4
20	345	4
21	152	3
22	386	4
23	365	4
24	508	5
25	133	3
26	465	4
27	520	5
Total	3327	36

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On behalf of

FARLEIGH COURT LIMITED

Farleigh

GOLF COURSE REFURBISHMENT - PHASE 1

HOLES 19-27

Scale: 1:2000 Date: 08.10

DRAWING NUMBER: F.334.1

Do not scale from drawing