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Tulsa's Oldest Country Club Now Has Tulsa's Newest Golf Course Rees Jones redesigned the original A. W. Tillinghast course

Tulsa, OK - Originally founded in 1908, Tulsa Country Club has the oldest golf course in Tulsa. As of July 1st, 2011, it also officially has the newest.

TCC's golf course can now claim two of the world's most distinguished golf course architects. The original 18-hole course was designed by A. W. Tillinghast. The current redesign was done by Rees Jones. Mr. Jones has successfully redesigned many historic A.W. Tillinghast courses, including past U.S. Open host sites Baltrusol Golf Club and Bethpage State Park. Rees' experience with Tillinghast designs was one of the many reasons the members of TCC were excited to have him as their architect on this project.

"Rees Jones did a masterful job of enhancing every hole on the golf course and bringing back the original Tillinghast characteristics that had been lost in previous renovations," says Jason Fiscus, Tulsa Country Club's General Manager.

"In our business, you learn by doing," Jones said. "I've done so many Tillinghast golf courses that I sort of know what was in his mind. It was all about shot options and having to map out a course of action after your drive."

Jones designed six different sets of tees to excite golfers of all skill levels. Jeff Combe, TCC's head golf professional for 20 years, added, "We are not saying, 'This is the ladies' tee, this is the men's tee.' You go play the tees at the distance you feel comfortable with, where you can enjoy the experience of the golf course. That was the goal all along."

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Jones has designed more than 100 golf courses in his career, including many PGA tournament sites. In fact, Jones has earned the nickname “The Open Doctor” for his redesign work at seven U.S. Open host courses, including the 2011 host – Congressional Country Club. Jones also has designed or redesigned courses that have hosted seven PGA Championships, four Ryder Cups, two Walker Cups and the PGA’s Tour Championship.

Some of the most notable changes to TCC’s course came on the par 4’s. “On the old course, players were using essentially the same clubs on their approach shots,” says Fiscus. “Rees lengthened some par 4’s and shortened others to create more risk-reward options and strategic interest.” With par 4’s ranging from 350 to 495 yards, players now get to use every club in their bag.

The total cost associated with the course redesign and renovation is just over \$6 million dollars. The project included:

- Building 18 new greens to USGA Specifications. Greens were seeded with TYEE/007 bentgrass.
- Rebuilding all tees, greenside complexes and bunker surrounds
- Re-grading and grassing all 18 fairways
- Creating strategic fairway bunkering on all par 4s and 5s – 41 new bunkers in all
- Replacing the majority of the cart paths
- Enlarging and redefining all ponds, including a new 1.5-acre irrigation pond
- Replacing all bridges, irrigation, subterranean drainage pipes and other infrastructure

“We were able to squeeze every last drop out of the allocated budget,” Jones said. “We proved that with the right team and a good contractor in place, we can do a lot of quality work on a limited budget.”

The course renovation was the Club’s second major project completed in the past 12 months. A \$2.5 million dollar renovation to the clubhouse was completed in August 2011.