



HISTORY OF FREMONT GOLF CLUB

The Fremont Golf Club can trace its roots back to the first decade of the 1900s. The Club commissioned noted architect, Tom Bendelow, to build the original 9 holes, which was completed in 1930. The Scottish born Bendelow was one of the more prolific architects in the first third of the twentieth century. He is best known for his design of Medinah CC No. 2, which he built in 1926. This course has been the site of U.S. Opens as well as PGA Championships. In 1930, the clubhouse was located to the south on 23rd Street or U.S. Highway 30. It was in a location approximately 500 or 600 yards to the south of the present 5th tee box.

In 1960 or 1961, the original clubhouse burned. The Club used that fire as an impetus to move the clubhouse and expand the course from 9 to 18 holes. The clubhouse was relocated to Somers Street. Illinois golf architect, David Gill, was hired to expand the course. In fact, Mr. Gill added 11 holes. Seven of the original Bendelow holes remain. The original Bendelow holes are 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 15 and 16.

1980 or 1981, the clubhouse was again gutted by fire. The original architect, Gordon Jenkins, of Fremont, designed and supervised the reconstruction of the existing clubhouse.

Over the years, there have been many improvements made to the golf course and clubhouse by Club members. Length has been added, bunker and ponds constructed, and new and improved irrigation systems have been added. The course has matured, as has the magnificent collection of trees framing the holes. The Club maintains top-flight course grooming equipment. In 1987, Club leadership worked with noted golf course contractor, Bill Kubly of Landscapes Unlimited in Lincoln, to move the infamous upside down and backwards 12th green, designing a new split-level green located 50 yards behind the original green. Recently the Club has purchased 100 acres north of the existing course. The ownership of this land gives the Club many options for the future. The purchase of this 100 acres demonstrates the commitment of the Club to continuing the heritage of constantly improving the Club facilities for the benefit of the members. Today, one will find a beautiful, traditional, parkland style golf course. It is known for its narrow, tree-lined fairways and sloping slick greens. The course is challenging for the better player and, at the same time, playable and enjoyable for the average player. The members never tire of playing this beautiful and challenging golf course. Just ask one.

The Club annually hosts the Fremont Invitational. This is a highly regarded tournament for amateurs in the State of Nebraska. It is one of the oldest such tournaments in Nebraska, if not the oldest. Its origins go back to the 1950s. The winners among this tournament are consistently among the best amateur golfers in Nebraska. In addition, each year the Club hosts the annual member-guest tournament known as the Rawhide Rumble. This tournament is also one of the oldest of its kind in the State.

With its outstanding reputation as a stern test of golf, the Fremont Golf Club has hosted numerous state championships. The tournaments it has hosted and the winners are listed below:

Nebraska Amateur Stroke Play
1974 Tom Sieckmann, Omaha
1985 Larry Sock, Lincoln
1997 Tom Olson, Omaha
2004 A.J. Elgert, Lincoln



Nebraska Match Play
1973 Charles Walter, Lincoln
1989 John Sajevic, Fremont

Nebraska Mid-Amateur
2000 William "Skip" Gist, Omaha

Nebraska Senior Amateur
2000 Tom Thomsen, Fremont

The Club's place as a traditional leader and promoter of golf in the State of Nebraska is further evidenced by the fact that there have been five Club members named to the Nebraska Golf Hall of Fame. Those five members are:

Al Beister

Al Beister was "Mr. Golf" in Fremont, Nebraska, serving more than 30 years as the head golf professional at the Fremont Golf Club (1952-83). But his influence on people - and the game - reached far beyond that city or the state's boundaries. In addition to serving as president of the Nebraska Section of the PGA, Al was elected national vice-president of the PGA of America. An excellent player, Al qualified for the 1946 PGA Championship and the 1950 U.S. Open. And even more outstanding teacher of the game, Beister watched three of his Fremont High teams win State Championships. The children of at least six of his Fremont GC members followed Al's footsteps into the golf profession.

John Sajevic

John Sajevic is a three-time state champion who has played in the US Amateur and Mid-Amateur championships and serves the Nebraska Golf Association as its vice President. John is a three-time NAIA District 11 champion at Kearney State before graduation in 1978. During John's career he has won eight Fremont Invitational titles, four Michelob Amateurs, three Indian Creek Amateurs, and 10 Club Championships.

Lou Feuerstein

Lou Feuerstein of Fremont served the Nebraska Women's Amateur Golf Association for almost a quarter-century, with her most extensive involvement from 1986 to 1995 as a member of the NWAGA's executive boards. Lou's first position with NWAGA was as historian, a position she held from 1973 to 1995. In 1986, she was elected NWAGA vice-president and served as president from 1988 to 1991. From 1991 to 1995, she acted as executive secretary of the organization during some of its growth years. Lou was also the first woman to be elected to the Fremont Golf Club board of directors.

Gene Johnson

Gene Johnson grew up in Fremont winning the Class A state title in 1958, his senior year of high school. Gene was working with fellow Hall of Famer Al Beister by age 14, returning later as an assistant pro. After Gene's collegiate career at the University of Nebraska, he was accepted as a PGA member in 1962, the same year he qualified for the PGA Championship. In 1965 he joined Bob Popp at Omaha Country Club as an associate pro and work there until hired in 1972 to run Omaha's new, 18-hole Applewood Golf Course.


Douglas Peterson

Through Doug's life involvement with golf, he has gained a reputation as one of the nation's most respected golf course superintendents. With more than 35 years of experience, Doug is especially recognized for the ability he has shown to solve complex turf grass problems at every course for which he has cared. Some of the honors that Doug has garnered throughout his career include Superintendent of the Year and president of both the Nebraska and Kansas Golf Course Superintendents Associations.

Don Spomer

Don was a past Director of the Nebraska Amateur Golf Association as well as a former Club Professional at the Fremont Golf Club from 1950-1951. Don is credited with being the person to initiate the annual Fremont Invitational Tournament. During his playing career, he was a State Amateur Champion along with the Lincoln City Amateur Champion in 1949. He was also a three-year letter winner at the University of Nebraska and served as a golf captain in 1948 and 1949. Some other accolades include winning the Pacific Armed Forces tourney in Japan in 1946 and winning the Norfolk Open, Beatrice Homestead Tourney and the Kearney Open. Don also served as Past President of the Fremont Golf Club. Don Spomer was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005.