

CCF Historical and Architectural Series Volume 8
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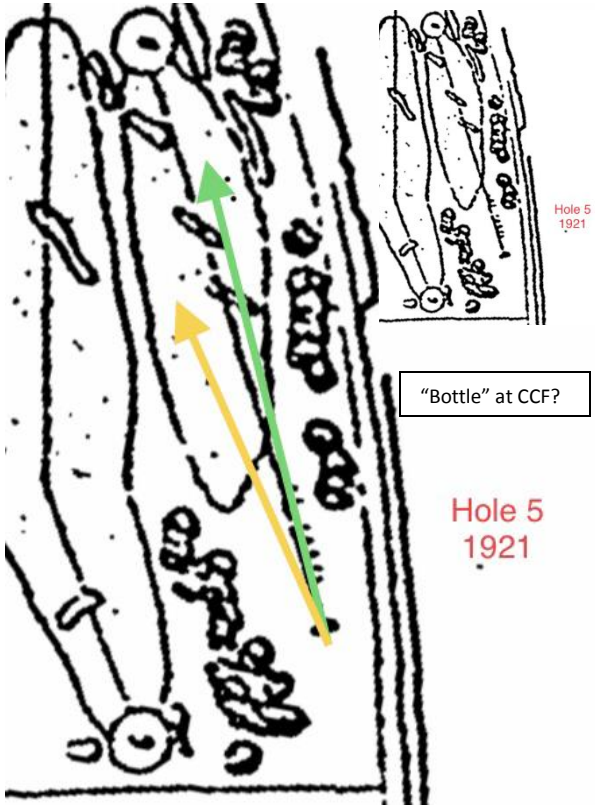
Two holes in the new course will be made similar to those at very famous courses; the third hole will be the Sahara and the seventh will be the Redan.

"...and the 7th will be the Redan" stated the course description of the 1921 Emmet routing of CCF. It's difficult to know

if the most famous and most duplicated of the par 3 template holes was ever built at The Country Club, Farmington, but it is possible that the 7th hole referred to in the 1921 newspaper article was our former par 3 17th hole (that has since been converted into our current par 4). The landscape on that hole would be conducive to a redan hole with the green positioned short of the pond (at the site of the current fairway bunker) running down and away from front-right to back-left. Assuming the front left bunker in the 1934 version of the hole was located deeply below the green would further suggest the existence of a redan at CCF. However, since green elevations are indistinguishable on an aerial view, our 1934 photo of CCF cannot confirm any suspicions, but rather only provide fodder for theories. Despite the removal of our theoretical redan par 3, CCF today still has a template hole in addition to our Sahara 3rd hole.

To some, our 5th hole may be the most historically significant hole at CCF because of its connection to Connecticut history. Flanking the right side of the 5th green and along the right boundary of the 5th fairway are remnants of the famous Farmington Canal, an engineered waterway that provided transportation from New Haven to Massachusetts in the early 1800s. From a golf architecture standpoint, however, our 5th hole has an equally intriguing history.





Close examination of the 1921 routing diagram of the 5th hole demonstrates the classic echelon bunkers associated with C.B. MacDonald's "Bottle" template. Modeled after the 12th hole at the Old Course at Sunningdale Golf Club outside London, the Bottle template

describes a hole where a string of bunkers separates the fairway, often in step-wise fashion. A player who successfully challenges the bunkers will be left with a clear approach to the green [green arrows]. A tee shot that avoids the bunkers often will feed down to a tighter fairway with a more difficult angle to the green [yellow arrows]. Examples of the Bottle template exist at The National Golf Links of America (8th hole), Old MacDonald at Bandon Dunes (10th hole), and Country Club of Fairfield (3rd hole).



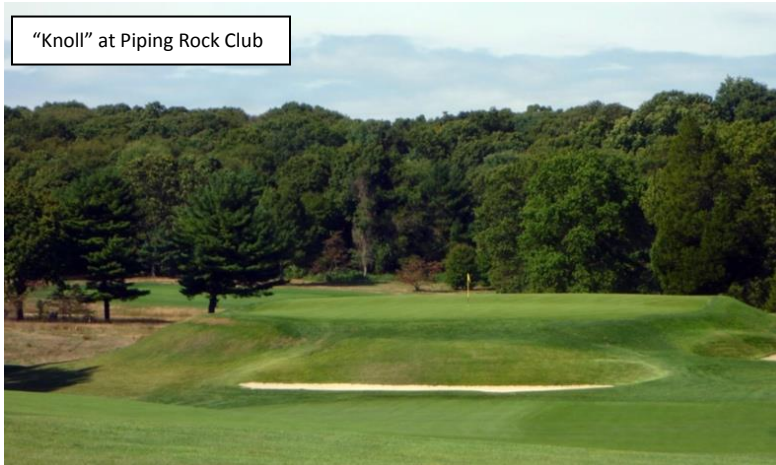
"Bottle" at Sunningdale - Old



"Bottle" at CC Fairfield



Looking back to the "Bottle" fairway from the 12th green at the Old Course at Sunningdale Golf Club in England



For whatever reason, the "Bottle" bunkers crossing the fairway on Devereux Emmet's 1921 plan for CCF were never built. Nevertheless, the 5th hole still has the features of a template hole.

With its severely elevated green surrounded by steep banks and false front, the 5th hole at CCF can be accurately characterized as a "Knoll" hole. Inspired by the 4th hole at Scotsraig Golf Club in Tayport, Fife, Scotland, the Knoll template will exacerbate the result of a marginally misplayed approach shot by a careening bounce off its greenside slope resulting in a blind pitch back to the putting surface.

C.B. MacDonald created perhaps the finest example of a Knoll hole in the U.S. on the 13th hole at Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley, NY (Long Island). C.B. MacDonald and Seth Raynor also created a Knoll template hole in Connecticut at The Course at Yale when they built the bunkerless, perched, tabletop green at Yale's 14th hole. The fairway is dramatically canted at Yale's Knoll hole which draws another similarity to the 5th hole at The Country Club, Farmington.

