

Bear Lakes Country Club

Hitting an Inflection Point



“In some ways, you can be a hero if you make the correct decisions. Once our work is complete, we will define Florida links-style golf.”

— DAVIS LOVE III

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA: Not all golf is the same in Florida! Once again, Bear Lakes Country Club is taking an insightful approach and offering something quite different for South Florida golf. This time, with the complete reimagination of one of its two premier courses, which will be a welcome and exceptional change from most others in the state. “When you have two iconic courses and want to provide something fresh and equally inspiring to play, you look for a partner with passion and vision reminiscent of that of the original designer, Jack Nicklaus,” opined Mike Rienzi, director of agronomy at Bear Lakes Country Club. Teaming up with Love Golf Design was the perfect match.

“We are taking an approach that I think will appeal to purists,” said Rienzi. “We are transforming our existing Scottish-style Links Course into the ‘American Links’ layout spearheaded by Davis Love III and Love Golf Design, with elements seen by Charles Blair Macdonald at National Golf Links of America, as well as Seth Raynor at Fishers Island. Upon completion, we will continue to provide our members and their guests with two astounding yet completely diverse golf experiences.”

As Chris Hull, COO/GM of Bear Lakes Country Club, and his team brainstormed, they shot for the stars with ideas. “The concept of creating the ‘American Links’ style but in a tropical climate

“In addition to the new golf course, we are renovating the north side of the club as well. The all-new racquets, aquatics, outdoor dining, and large veranda style outdoor bar and gathering space is our next project that our members are excited to experience.”

— CHRIS HULL



with Bermuda and native grass is anything but stale thinking, and a first for our region. We completed an exhaustive search to find the perfect look that replicates some of the great Macdonald and Raynor courses, such as Chicago Golf Club and Sleepy Hollow. In addition, once complete, more than 1,500 new palms and pines will be installed on the perimeter of the property,” explained Hull.

“Maintaining this new course also brings the opportunity for our new maintenance center with \$4 million in new equipment. We continue to surprise and challenge our players while also enhancing the enjoyment of the golf experience. Love [and his lead architect Scot Sherman] wanted to provide something unexpected and unique to the local course design options, and this will ensure both playability and a valid test of golf for all skill levels,” offered Hull. ■



For more information, please visit BearLakes.org.