

The CC at Mirasol to Unveil New Practice Facility in October

By **Brandi Shaffer** | September 15th, 2015

The Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., club has renovated and reoriented the practice range, short-game facility and putting greens at the 36-hole property. An additional phase that will update the clubhouse will debut in March 2016.

The Country Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., has renovated and reoriented the practice range, short-game facility, and putting greens at the 36-hole property, while also updating the clubhouse.

The club commissioned a comprehensive study to determine how the facility was and should be used, and broke ground on the project in May 2015, and grassing began July 15. The practice facilities will open for play this October, while the entirety of the clubhouse/practice area renovation package will ultimately debut together in March 2016.

C&RB featured The CC at Mirasol as its cover story in **February 2008**.

“I think people will be amazed when they come back down to Mirasol this winter,” Director of Golf Course Maintenance Michael Thomas said.

Mirasol’s former practice facility was three separate facilities: putting green, limited short-game area, and range, which weren’t convenient to each other or the club’s respective 1st tees. There was no order or flow to the pre-round experience, resulting in serious traffic issues at a club where 99 percent of all rounds are cart rounds.

The new practice facility bears all the markings of a true collaboration of club, architect and superintendent. Architect Drew Rogers took a 2-tier tee and made it single-tier, increasing square footage by 20 percent. He added a second putting green to reduce turf stress and provide players more elbowroom. Perhaps most important, he created a seamless flow of traffic, where players park once and use the new range, short-game area and putting greens without getting back in a cart.

The range features well-defined target greens that mimic shots golfers will ultimately encounter on both courses. Those targets are accented with faux bunkers and landforms and fashioned target corridors by deploying/contrasting two varieties of turf (Tifgrand for target greens, Tifsport for rough) that don’t require differing mowing heights.

“The practice facility has become one of the primary drivers of golf usage here at Mirasol,” Thomas said. “Members increasingly hang out with their buddies, have lunch, hit balls and don’t necessarily even go out on the golf course—that’s the trend we see.

“The new practice facility is right over the cart path from the new grille room, which is now under construction. That’s no accident. The new grille won’t be called the 19th hole, but it will serve that purpose. It’s going to be a great place to hang out. I’ve got 795 golf equity members and almost 70,000 rounds of golf and I have a lot of people to whom that’s a big deal.”