

GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE

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Mirasol's renovated Sunset course to reopen

The Sunset course at Mirasol Golf and Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, is to reopen by the end of October following a renovation by golf course architect Drew Rogers.

The primary purpose of the project has been to improve the ageing infrastructure of the course, which opened in 2001 and hosted the PGA Tour's 2003 Honda Classic. The club returned to Rogers, who led the original design of the Florida layout while working for Arthur Hills' firm.

"The project scope initially entailed bunker and tee reconstruction, along with fairway turf conversion from TifSport to Celebration bermudagrass," said Rogers. "Over time, studies on course playability resulted in teeing area refinements, reduction and repositioning of bunkers, some light-to-moderate earthworks, drainage and path replacements.

"I hate to single out any one or even several holes as 'standing above the rest' simply because we have quite literally 'touched' all of them in some way. Some treatments are certainly more subtle while others are more visually and immediately impacting, all with the intent to refine certain elements in such a way that playability is greatly improved, but without significant impact to the original design intent. That can be seen by way of tee locations, bunker



Drew Rogers returned to Mirasol to update ageing infrastructure and improve playability

positions, development of bailout areas and recovery areas.

"We've also made quite an effort to improve the overall aesthetics throughout the course by removing exotic and invasive species and simplifying the overall landscape treatment," said Rogers. "The course is now, without question, more appealing to the eye. And we've addressed a number of maintenance and

construction challenges by shoring up steep lake slopes with stack cap stone walls, conversion from turf to landscape and an overall smaller footprint of maintained turf.

"The intent of the original design certainly remains intact, although it has been refined in favour of enhanced member enjoyment and inspired playing options that did not exist before," said Rogers.