



## Pendleton Golf Club ~ Aye, She's a Bonnie Lass

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Most true golf aficionados know that the game of golf originated in Scotland back in the 15th century. Golf “across the pond” definitely has a distinctive feel. Few places in the Mid-Atlantic golf scene give you that similar ambience. Pendleton Golf Club in Ladysmith, VA, certainly fits the bill. At Pendleton you can play golf in Scotland without the cost of the airfare. The signature “Scottish” mounding and native

grasses prevail throughout the Thomas Walker design that offers equal parts challenge and fun.

Walker makes wonderful use of the land’s contours and uses multiple tees to make the course playable for all. The back tees measure just under 7100 yards and carry a formidable 141 slope rating, while the forward markers lay across just over 4500 yards. Pendleton Golf Club spreads out over an immense piece of land that includes a golf community that has little impact on the course, which is always good. With no parallel fairways, each hole sits alone. This well-conditioned golf course has Bermuda grass fairways and roughs while the greens are bentgrass.

The front nine opens with an impressive par 5. A drive down the left side gives the best play. If you decide to lay-up, avoid the two bunkers on the right. The memorable, undulating putting surface on the par 4 second makes this hole noteworthy. This dogleg right features an approach shot over wetlands to a 50-yard wide green with three distinct levels. Anything not on right stage could lead to a three-putt. The first of the par 3s, the beautiful third over water, plays about 150 yards. A well-placed lofted iron gets you on the green safely. Walker’s use of extensive mounding is never more evident than on the par 4 fourth, where four greenside pot bunkers attract any misses short right. On the fifth, the second par 5 on Pendleton’s front side, a long drive over a waste area sets up a chance to get home in two. The par 4 sixth, a terrific gentle dogleg left, features another of the layout’s wow-effect greens with its 50-yard deep green and upper and lower plateaus. Try to score well on the par 3 seventh because both closing holes will prove testy. The one-of-a-kind, dogleg right par 4 eighth features old house ruins and a 19th century gravesite. Take par here as a good score and on the long uphill par 4 ninth.

The back nine at Pendleton opens with two tough par 4s. The tenth plays uphill 462 yards from the tips with a dogleg left. The 453-yard eleventh has love grass covered hillocks up the left side that can literally swallow a ball. Par always looks good on the scorecard, especially on the par 3 twelfth, which measures 220 from the tips. Two fashionable holes, the par 5s on this side, call for



creative shot making. Both offer good scoring opportunities with thirteen reachable if you can trim the corner of the dogleg. A large tree that actually oversees another gravesite splits the fifteenth’s fairway. Let’s not forget the par 4 fourteenth, a dogleg right with water impeding your second shot to the green. Don’t be short on sixteen, a serene par 3 over wetlands. The back nine wraps up with two par 4s, the latter a sharp dogleg right where the second shot plays uphill.

You may wonder how they chose the name of the course. Edmund Pendleton, Caroline County’s most famous historical figure, participated as a political leader in the late 1700s and also became well-known for his involvement in creating Virginia’s independence. Now in its tenth year, Pendleton Golf Club prides itself for its outstanding customer service and friendly atmosphere. One of the best practice ranges in the state with a one-acre grass tee and laser measured target flags calls Pendleton home. Since many of us only dream of going to Scotland, why not take a chance to go there free? Pendleton is giving away a trip for two to Scotland. Go to their website to find out more and to register. Now, that would be nice. In the meantime, enjoy the next best thing! Pendleton Golf Club lies 1.5 miles off I-95 on Route 1 conveniently located midway between Richmond and Fredericksburg, VA. 📍



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