

Ticket to Write | Steve Stephens commentary: Ohio course to re- create roots of golf

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I once thought I'd take
up the sport of golf,
which my grandfather
loved. I played a
number of rounds with
Grandpa Mike and even
took a course on the
game in college.

GLENLAUREL INN

Century-old golf clubs will still send a ball down the
fairway.

But I never showed
much ability. And I'm busy. And, truthfully, I enjoyed my time with
Grandpa more than the game itself. Since he died, I've picked up my clubs
(actually his clubs) only a few times.

Even though I no longer golf - and have been known to insist that it's a
tremendous waste of time, money and human ambition - I recently
introduced my older sons to the game, almost by accident.

Please hold your recriminations. I have an excuse, though not a good one.
We were on a family vacation at a resort in West Virginia. One of the
activities offered was a golf lesson followed by 18 holes on the park's little
par-3 course. What harm could it do? It might even inoculate my sons
against further golf-related curiosity, I thought.

But now my eldest tells me he's headed back to the links and may even
take another lesson.

What have I done?

Ah, well. Spilled milk and all that.

But because golf has been on my mind, I was intrigued by word of a new
course under construction at Glenlaurel Inn in the Hocking Hills.

Glenlaurel bills itself as a Scottish country inn - and even has its own
bagpiper on call. So I wasn't surprised to learn that the new course will
attempt to re-create the Scottish golf experience of 100 or more years ago.

Like pre-20th-century courses, Glenlaurel Scottish Links will feature sand
tees and greens, said the inn's Becky Russell.

The course will have eight holes. Historically, courses varied from five to
25 holes. Only comparatively recently has 18 become the magic number.

Golfers will use antique hickory-shaft clubs and old-style balls that travel
about half the distance of modern golf balls, Russell said. (The balls I hit
generally have that characteristic, anyway.)

The course will be open only to guests of Glenlaurel, which will supply the
old-timey equipment.

Not only are the sand greens and tees historically accurate, but they
require no water, fertilizer or pesticides, helping to keep Glenlaurel
"green," Russell said.

The rolling grass fairways, pasture grasses and old stone fence will add to
the atmosphere and just might make golfers forget they're in Ohio.

Is that *Brigadoon* I hear playing?

Glenlaurel hopes to open the course by late June and host an open house
July 10.

The historic nature of the activity should appeal to golfers and nongolfers

I'd look good in a kilt.

What could possibly go agley?

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