



Colonial Country Club Unveils a Comprehensive Master Plan Renovation with Gil Hanse Golf Course Design on the Eve of its 75th Anniversary

Tournament set to celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2021

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – May 26, 2021 -- The historic Colonial Country Club unveiled and approved a \$20+ Million renovation of its championship golf course last week. The comprehensive project is scheduled to commence immediately following the final putt of the 2022 Charles Schwab Challenge next May, with a planned grand opening for the 2023 event. Founded in 1936, the course was designed and created by renowned architects John Bredemus and Perry Maxwell. The approved Master Plan and renovation project was conceptualized and designed by decorated course architect Mr. Gil Hanse and inspired by our championship layout that attracted the 1941 US Open Championship to Colonial.

“This is a monumental opportunity to celebrate our proud legacy with a nod to our storied history, but with an eye to the future,” remarked Frank Cordeiro, COO of Colonial Country Club. “It will still be the revered Colonial course we are all familiar with seeing and playing, but the Hanse work will improve, update, and maximize the legendary course and routing. The membership is excited.”

The project will address every aspect of the golf course infrastructure, including a state-of-the-art irrigation system, new bunkers, tees, and green complexes. State of the art subterranean cooling and heating system for the green complexes are designed to manage and adjust soil temperatures for superior growth and plant health, maximizing playability, aesthetics, and consistency. Every feature will be rebuilt and new turf will be established throughout the entire golf course.

“The Gil Hanse design will suit the modern game for players of all levels, including the best players in the world, yet celebrate the features and strategy of the Golden Era of golf course design,” added Cordeiro. Colonial Country Club Founder, businessman and visionary Fort Worth Icon, Mr. Marvin Leonard, established this historic club in the era when many of finest courses in the country were founded and built. Gil Hanse, President, Hanse Golf Course Design, said “We are excited about the opportunity to restore some of the early character and architectural features of the golf course at Colonial. While Colonial is one of the most recognizable names in golf, the course has evolved far afield from its original vision. We are honored that the members have entrusted us with this classic gem, and will work hard to make it more visually artistic and more interesting to play. We are similarly hopeful that upon playing the restored course the best players in the world will find that the attributes that make Colonial challenging will still be at the heart of the design.”

The Charles Schwab Challenge – with Charles Schwab currently in its third year as title sponsor -- celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2021, with each playing having been contested at Colonial Country Club dating back to 1946 when Ben Hogan captured the inaugural event. It is the longest running event at the same location in PGA TOUR history. The legendary Ben Hogan a lifelong Fort Worth resident won the event five times, including the first two in 1946 and '47.

Colonial Country Club Course Renovation

Christine Klote, Colonial Country Club President, commented, “This is a very exciting time for the members of Colonial Country Club. I am thrilled that Gil Hanse will be coming to Fort Worth to lead the renovation and restoration of our historic and world renowned golf course.”

“As a proud member of 29 years at this storied club, I’m excited for the membership and the Charles Schwab Challenge. This project was approved with overwhelming member support and I cannot wait to see the outcome,” said Jim Whitten, Charles Schwab Challenge Chairman and tenured Colonial member.

Jim Leito, Charles Schwab Challenge COO, remarked, “The golf course drives the member experience daily, the success of the Charles Schwab Challenge, and is the platform that generates charitable donations for our local community. Mr. Gil Hanse will provide the next generation of members, tournament volunteers, and golf fans with an experience not seen since 1941. I am very proud to be a part of the past and future of Colonial Country Club.”

About Colonial Country Club

Local business magnate Marvin Leonard founded Colonial Country Club in 1936 specifically to introduce championship golf to his beloved home of Fort Worth with bentgrass greens. He lured the USGA to Texas with the 1941 U.S. Open championship, and the success of that event led to the establishment of the current annual PGA TOUR event. The club has also hosted a Players Championship (1974) and a Women’s U.S. Open Championship (1991), representing a unique repertoire of hosted events. Ben Hogan’s success at his home course, along with Nicklaus, Palmer, Trevino, Snead, and more recently Mickelson, Spieth, Garcia, Rose and Scott, helped elevate Colonial into the elite level of professional tour events and it has maintained that status since the 1950s.

Colonial Country Club and the Charles Schwab Challenge support dozens of local charities each year with a variety of programs. Its successful Birdies for Charity campaign generated more than \$15 million in 2020. The event also supports military charities and First Tee of Fort Worth. The tournament has impacted more than 150 different organizations in the last two decades, totaling more than \$130 million.

About PGA TOUR

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The PGA TOUR, headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, co-sanctions tournaments on the PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry Tour, PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada and PGA TOUR Series-China. Members on the PGA TOUR represent the world’s best players, hailing from 29 countries and territories (94 members are from outside the United States). Worldwide, PGA TOUR tournaments are broadcast to 216 countries and territories in 28 languages. Virtually all tournaments are organized as non-profit organizations to maximize charitable giving, and to date, tournaments across all Tours have generated more than \$3.2 billion.

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About Charles Schwab & Co.

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About Hanse Golf Course Design

An intentionally small firm, dedicated to the proposition that golf courses are designed, restored and renovated in the field as opposed to solely on the drawing board. Formed in 1993 by founder Gil Hanse, who was joined in 1995 by partner Jim Wagner, Hanse Golf Course Design has patiently nurtured its reputation and its craft to arrive at a position of designing and restoring some of the finest golf courses in the world.

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