

North Carolina has emerged as one of the nation's few bright spots for golf course construction and renovation. Charlotte is especially active, with three Donald Ross courses in various stages of design overhauls.

Ron Prichard oversaw a major renovation of Charlotte Country Club, originally designed by Ross in 1910.

After a yearlong closure, the course reopened in late March with widened fairways, restored bunkering, totally regrassed greens (A1/A4 bentgrass),

300 additional yards and one entirely new hole, the par-3 17th, intended to evoke the old 17th that had been lost to a 1960s modernization.

CCC also has gotten faster down the middle thanks to a major fairway dethatching and topdressing program by head superintendent John Szklinski.

Interestingly, CCC opted not to go with paved cart paths. As a classic course with a large caddie program, the club's members are used to walking, with cart traffic comprising less than half of all play.

Elsewhere in Charlotte, architect Kris Spence is

Photo quiz

On which watery hole (pictured) did Bobby Jones manage to skim his second shot across a pond

on the way to making a final-round par and winning a U.S. Open?

1. No. 18, par 4, Inwood Country Club, Inwood, N.Y. (1923)
2. No. 16, par 4, Oakland Hills Country Club (South Course), Bloomfield Hills, Mich. (1924)
3. No. 8, par 5, Scioto Country Club, Columbus, Ohio (1926)
4. No. 9, par 5, Interlachen Country Club, Edina, Minn. (1930)

>> Visit www.golfweek.com/eye for a chance to win a prize from PeakVision.



nearing completion at two other Ross courses, Myers Park Country Club and Carolina Golf Club. Myers Park is where Byron Nelson started his streak of 11 consecutive wins in 1945.

The biggest change will come at previously unheralded Carolina Golf Club. Ross' work had remained in place, but the site had deteriorated; trees overtook the grounds, and putting surfaces shrank. Prediction: When the full restoration is revealed in late summer/early fall, folks will be blown away by the boldness, width of play and recaptured greens.