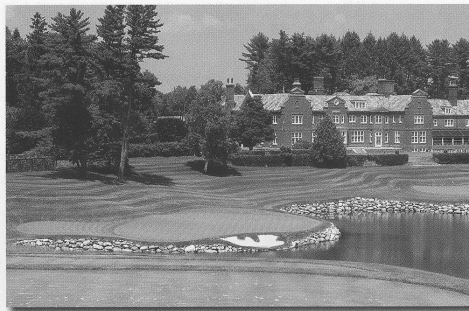




#1 – The ninth at Myopia



#3 – The 10th at Turner Hill

The North Shore's Top 20 Par 3s

Par 3s are great equalizers. They often make-or-break a tight match or a career round. They are money holes. Greenie holes. Car holes. History makers. Holes where octogenarian grandmothers can match shots with their great grandchildren.

Golfers from the North Shore are blessed with the opportunity to play a multitude of fantastic par 3s. So we here we at *North Shore Golf* decided to take on the daunting task of ranking what we believe are the 20 greatest par 3s among our more than 40 regional courses, both public and private. While we accepted nominations from the area's golf professionals and you, our readers, it was the *North Shore Golf* editorial staff that had last say. We based our selections on a hole's beauty, degree of difficulty, fairness and overall design quality. We chose 11 holes from the publics, nine from the privates. As an added bonus we spoke with the club pro, or someone else familiar with the course, to find out how they play the hole from a strategic point of view. So without further ado, we salute the region's Top 20 Par 3 holes.

How many of them have you birdied?

to the ninth once needing a par for 69 (we'd started on 10) and made double bogey. I have yet to break 70 here."

2 No. 7, 258/189 yards, Cape Ann Golf Course, Essex

This visually spectacular hole was included, at 189 yards, in our "Dream 18" feature in our debut issue in 2003. Since that time, the Stavros family that owns the course has added a new "championship" tee for the daring, adding 69 yards to the already intimidating challenge.

Club Manager George Stavros: "The Essex River tidal marsh surrounds the green, making it an island green except for the narrow path that connects the fairway with the putting surface, which is slightly elevated and bowl shaped. From anywhere beyond the 189-yard tee marker, you're smart to take the safe route and hit your tee shot short and hope you can make a chip and a putt for

comes in toward the fairway from about 75 yards out and the trouble over the green. Take a three or four and walk happily to the next tee."

17. No. 16, 170 yards, The Sheraton Ferncroft, Danvers

Golf Director Toby Ahern: "A slightly uphill shot from a narrow tee box leads to a sharply sloping green, back left to front right, that's protected on the left side by a deep bunker and off to the right by another bunker. I aim for the middle of the green every time and take my chances with the putter. Just don't miss it left or par is probably out of the question. Any room for error is on the right, even in the bunker."

18. No. 8, 187 yards, at The Meadow at Peabody, Peabody

Director of Golf Peter Cronan: "We use the phrase 'on or gone' here because much of the shot is carry over water all the way up the right side, which shouldn't come into play but often does. The marshland and woods on the left seem to attract so many balls. The green is an adventure, three tiers and plenty big, 70 feet deep and 40 feet wide. Nothing fancy works here."

19. No. 5, 145 yards, Middleton Golf Course, Middleton

Head Pro David Nyman: "Next to Myopia's ninth, our fifth may be the narrowest green in your top 20. Our green is 12 paces wide (40 yards deep) and slants left to right, front to back, but that's only partly why this is a grand hole, yard for yard. It's one of those holes that at first glance looks easy, but once the challenges of the hole sink in, you know you've got a testy shot."

20. No. 18, 167 yards, Mount Hood Golf Club, Melrose

Head Pro Mike Farrell: "This is a good old-fashioned, rock solid par 3, a strong finishing hole and worthy of a finishing hole, like the par-3 18th at Congressional (in Maryland). It's pretty much a level hole without elevation or slope, but the pond in front of the green and the bunkers on either side give the golfer all the challenge he or she needs, regardless of the handicap. Don't try and get fancy. A 'routine' three here is sweet." ■

The Best of the Rest:

- 11th at Amesbury CC
- 17th at Bass Rocks GC
- 7th at Bear Hill GC
- 15th at Beverly G&TC
- 16th at the CC of Billerica
- 9th at Chelmsford CC
- 13th at Crystal Springs GC
- 4th at Essex CC
- 6th at Garrison GC
- 12th at Georgetown GC
- 6th at The Meadow at Peabody
- 3rd at Myopia Hunt Club
- 6th at Salem CC
- 3rd at Sun 'N Air Golf Center
- 18th at Turner Hill
- 8th at Winthrop GC