

Combination of Japanese classic & modern links



Just for me, Hayamakokusai Country club is somewhere special place. During my adolescence, when heard of driving, I thought of here and drove through on Yokohama Yokosuka Highway. We'll face the ocean by Nagisa Bridge cross. In front, there's "Denny's" where people spent their easy slow afternoon. My adolescence shifts toward adulthood while I spent my time on Hayama Marina. I drink coffee, fascinating myself a bit.

Hayama country club was built in 1963. Diamond course, made by pioneer of Japanese pro-golfer Yuki Yoshi Yasuda and Yuuji Kodera the designer of Karuizawa golf club and Emerald Course, made by Shiro Aahoshi on of most famous pioneer of the Japanese golf wave was built near the Imperial villa on its hill. For opening the 36 hall golf course with the designing of such famous pioneers must be tough though. With such passion and effort, Hayamakokusai country club was finally built.

At this time of great re-creation of the emerald course, I got a lucky chance to play through two courses. As I recall, I had a memory not in detail of playing at Hayama. I went through the course from the 1st hole.



1st hole was totally great. Although we'll hitting down the tee shot and hitting up the second, existence of the five impressive bunker making the hole so memorable. We'll see the bunkers from the club house. Its shape reminded me of the five rings from the Olympic. Before

starting the shot, the scene rise my expectation a lot, doesn't fall short at last.

To avoid the bunker, instead of using the driver, I used the 4-iron with the tee-shot. Main message that I felt through the course was "chose the best club depends on your skill and the course layout". 1st hole is one of the courses that appeal such message. Green on the first hole has the threefold layout with the potato chip-like shape, making the ball control more difficult. I shot the first pat from the middle, but the approach was tough, taken me 3 pats to finish up. I got a bogie on the first hole, but still with green's great undulation, my expectation continues.

Great view from the tee-ground was waiting for me on the second hole. To par the hole, we have to finish up the hole with 4 shots, going over the valley with the traditional bridge on the right. Green was kept on the hill with the flowing-like shaped bunker. The hole was so beautiful that I was caught for a



while, but at the same time, the existence of deep valley put pressure on me. Take a shot with the driver, I hardly caught the fair-way.

My shot gone over the green, and its approach toward the green didn't went good, I got bogie on 2nd. Done with two holes, I was so fascinated with these courses. While the tee-shot, I felt of tension, ball goings on the green like the living animal, all the element that makes me fascinates was fully on this course.

Playing on the Scotland's links, I understood that the golf is the sports using the "14" clubs. Shooting the tee-shot with the driver and approach the green with the wedge is the very act without thinking. Shooting the tee-shot with the iron and using the patter from the 100yard distance, such flexible management is required on the birthplace of the golf. And because the designer of the course is Shiro Akahoshi, its management has such similarity with the emerald course.

6th hole, to get the par it needed to be finished up with the 5 shots. it can be able to

reach the green with 2 shots, but the left side of the hole is thrilling. My tee-shot was good, but the next shot with the 4-iron was strained. The ball went out on to the valley. Re-star with the new ball, reached near the green, I felt the beauty of green and its around. Mound was well made with the work of great green shaper. Shiro Akahoshi's passion greatly appeals on this side.

7th hole was great hole too. Shooting down toward the green, fairway drives "S" shape. Variety of the tee-shot seems to be many; the distance of the regular tee to the bunker on the fair-way right side is 230 yards. I don't want to be shot in to the bunker or to the right side OB, I chose 4-iron. Ball went to the left side rough grass. To the goal pin, there were still 140 yards or so. By shooting with the driver, it must go over the bunker; it was too risky for me. Choosing the club and the way, thinking about the risk reward was so exciting.

8th whole, we could see the green from the club house, couldn't see the tee-ground at that point though. To see with some expectation, the hole was impressive with the unique shape of pot bunker, moon crater like bunker. Through the course, holes only with the 3 shots to the par have the nervousness on the whole. This hole was either that. We have to go over the valley, the green on the little hill seems like the castles in the air.

With such a curiosity, playing the hole one by one, I reached the hole No.14, the signature hole. This hole's tee ground is placed on the hill top where people see the great scene of the Sagami bay. There, only with the good weather, we could see the great Mt Fuji. Certainly Shiro Akahoshi placed the tee ground there with the intension, and such scene is the core of the course I guess. From the 8th to 13th hole should be the an hors d'oeuvre like course of the 14th hole the main. Standing on the 14th, spending some time with such great view is one of the real pleasure of the Emerald course.



My excitement continues toward the 15th hole. This hole seems like the southern atmosphere that palm trees are stands side by sides. 14th hole surprises the player with the beautiful scenery, and 15th changes the atmosphere a lot. These 2 holes were just like the climax of the hole.

With the resonance of the 14th and 15th, last three holes passed by like a flash.

On the contrast to the Emerald, Japanese classic layout modern links, Diamond is the course influenced from the British style witnesses.

In a direct fashion, I could say that playing on the diamond course is like playing on the above clouds. Starts from the 1st, and going up through the 2nd, 3rd and 4th, we could see the Yokosuka's townscape from the tee ground. Such exhilaration is nothing but can felt in the other courses. On the day with great occasion, we could see Tokyo bay Aqua-line, Umi-Hotaru or up till the Boso peninsula from the landmark of the diamond course.

It was impressive for me with the layout that the 3rd and 6th hole, par 5 condition, we couldn't see the tip of the pin because of the heavy slope. Especially with the 6th, because of the bunker and the lake yard, our technique of positioning strongly reflected.

9th hole is another one that was impressive. I approached for the left back-pin from the left side edge. I thought of the good approach toward the cup, though the ball went far to the right with the slope. Technique of artificial camouflage of the slope is reflects the great potential of this course.

In the back-nine, 10th green is on the hill, that people can have the unlimited expanse of the Yokosuka city. In the front nine, it took 3 holes for the cloud-above, but this time we immediately invited on the first hole.

11th hole is on the ground, but on the 12th par 3 hole, we could see the Yokosuka city and the Tokyo bay again from the hill. Because the valley is located on the back, we felt the slight pressure on our play. I was impressed with such rare course with the mountain-like course on this location.

13th hole is kind of a difficult course for the beginner that players have to go over the valley. Hitting with the spoon, I just went over the valley and placed the ball on the left rough. Continued the second shot with the 5th iron, saved with par in total. On the side of this green, there is the café for the player where having the retro mood of the oldies'. Had a small talk about the interior with the waitress and continued my play.

Finished with the 14th and by standing on the 15th, I felt the theme of course designer. On below my eyes, I can see the two great courses which somehow look like 2 flat tops.

The scene made me feel the strength of the course that made me presume the designers original vow. He must make this 15th a climax of the course that he'd tried to show the great scenery from the 15th tee-ground.

16th is another hole that made me felt the technique of architect that the right-side fairway bunker exist on the tough location. I was easily ripped off with the distance toward the green on the second shot. Diamond course is the place where not having the outstanding mount creation, which makes the player not having the long distance shot on the course in total. I was the one who easily deceived that always hitting the miss shot and misunderstanding the distance toward the green.

Improvement of the emerald seemed to make each courses outstanding a lot. 36 holes are having unique characteristics of their own, with the impressive pot bunker, green complexity and variety of ball route.

On the other hand, the Diamond course is the course that makes me feel the latitude of choosing my own route toward the green. Like the 3rd, or the 15th, there are a lot of ascent slope through the course. The way how to move ahead is totally commended to the player. Us the player, must use full set, 14 clubs to go through the course.

Both the courses seem to be an enjoyable. I guess that is the very reason that those 2 courses were beloved by the players for 50 years and next.

The course were totally beautiful, what the course they made.

