

MINIATURE GOLF COURSE REVIEW

# Golf Land

• Miniature Golf •

• Chip-and-putt



## Rob Edwards' take



**Overall:** As an avid golfer, there is nothing I hate more than a course that isn't well maintained. This course is clean enough to eat off of. Doesn't have all the bells and whistles, but probably the best maintained course in South Jersey. First 10 of the year.

**Rating:** 10

**Green speed:** The greens are perfect. Look and play like new. The cups are in good condition as well. We played in the rain and the course was still up to par.

**Rating:** 10

**Difficulty:** The course is simple, but not easy. I thought I played rather well but still couldn't get under par.

**Rating:** 8

**Obstacle interference:** Not too many obstacles to play around. Undulating greens on a couple holes will get to you, as well as the bank shots. Speed comes in to play on the bank shots as well.

**Rating:** 7

**What Matt's not telling you:** I'm down 3-2 to a guy I should be able to beat playing left-handed. I think I'm back on track with this win. Next week the two of us are going to travel down the shore to play a handful of courses and settle this thing once and for all.

**Par score:** +3, 51 on the par-48 Golf Land.

**By Robert Edwards and Matt Chando**

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*After a couple of trips to courses neither of us have ever played, we decided to return to more comfortable stomping grounds this week, to Golf Land, our fifth stop this summer.*

**VOORHEES** — Golf Land in Voorhees has been around since the early 1960s.

But it looks like it was just built.

Meticulously maintained, Golf Land not only provides one of the cleanest rounds of mini-golf around, but boasts an 18-hole chip and putt course that any avid golfer would be happy to improve their game on.

"We're really maintenance guys, not golfers," Owner Bob Leithead said. "I've never played the mini-golf course, never played the pitch and putt. I do the grass, I do the maintenance, but never played."

While Leithead is detached from the sport, the facility does not suffer for it. He fancies himself as the Sam Malone from "Cheers" type — a bartender that doesn't drink. The chip and putt is maintained like any full-size golf course and the carpets on the mini-golf course are replaced every three years. And the difference is noticeable.

"That's what we put our emphasis on," Leithead said of the course-cleanliness. "I had a partner

one time who we had a hard time keeping off the course. But when your self-employed, you have to keep your eye on the business."

The mini-golf course is simple enough. Not too many obstacles, but enough corners to turn and undulations to putt over to add difficulty. The toughest hole, No. 17, is a three-shot venture at best, with an angle to play, as well as a curve in the middle, before reaching the cup. The course also has a practice green, perfect for those serious about their game and even better for those anxious to play on a busy day. And for just a few extra bucks, the chip and putt course only requires a wedge and a putter, as holes range from 25 to 43 yards.

"It gets busy on the weekends," Leithead said. "We cater to everyone here. People who have never golfed before, avid golfers. We get a lot of families and a lot of serious foursomes. We have a whole range of customers, from amateurs to guys who really want to work on their short game."

With a movie theater and a shopping strip across the street, Golf Land sits in the middle of prime real estate. But it stands out on its own.

"It's nice for the kids and we try to keep it inexpensive," Leithead said. "The kids really love this course and it's simple enough for them to play and reasonably priced."

**CONTACT**

• 801 Haddonfield Berlin Road, Voorhees, NJ • (856) 783-8700 •  
• Seven days per week, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. •

**PRICES**

• Mini-golf round \$4.50 for children, \$5.50 for adults •  
• Chip and Putt \$8.75 on weekdays, \$9.75 on weekends •

## Matt Chando's take



**Overall:** Golf Land holds a special place in my heart as I used to go there many times during my childhood summers. The course is classic, with plenty of geometry to consider in tee shots, and undulation in the quick greens.

**Rating:** 8

**Green speed:** While you wouldn't know it by looking at them, but these greens were like glass. Their speed made even the shortest of putts an adventure, and forget about hitting predictable tee-shots.

**Rating:** 9

**Difficulty:** The challenge in this course is two-fold. Players are required to have control off the tee in order to hit at least seven bank shots; while also needing good pacing on putts to avoid being hurt by tiered greens.

**Rating:** 8

**Obstacle interference:** The greatest obstacle challenge is bank shots. Missing one of them easily puts you two shots behind.

**Rating:** 7

**What Rob's not telling you:** Feeling sympathy for his bruised ego, I let Rob have this one — just to make the 'War at the Shore' more interesting.

**Par score:** +8, 56 on the par-48 Golf Land.

