

### Old Marsh Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens, FL



#### Property Details:

##### **Superintendent:**

Tony Nysse

##### **Installation Date:**

2016

##### **Field Control System:**

IC System™  
MI Series™ Mobile Control

##### **Central Control Platform:**

Cirrus™

##### **Emitters:**

751 Rotors  
5000 Plus Rotors  
RD1800™ Sprays

##### **Accessories**

Rain Watch™ Weather Sensor  
WS-PRO LT Weather Station

#### CHALLENGE

Opened in 1987, Old Marsh Golf Club has been hosting world-class golf for decades. The golf course is located in an environmentally-sensitive marshland, so Superintendent Tony Nysse is tasked with maintaining an exceptional-looking course while ensuring his crew's work does not damage the vegetation or wildlife of nearby ecosystems.

In 2012, the club installed a competing satellite system, trenching new wire but leaving the existing pipe in place. As they considered a more substantial renovation in 2016 to raise the course, they discussed bringing every element of their renovation up to modern-day standards, from grass mixes to bunker designs and more. With the goal of modernizing all aspects of the golf course, Tony started researching two-wire technology from the top two golf irrigation manufacturers.

---

*"We were bringing all aspects of the course up to 2016 standards, but our satellite technology was 20 years old. So I made a case to the club that we needed to invest in the newest irrigation technology, too."*

—Tony Nysse, Superintendent

---

## SOLUTION

Installing a new Rain Bird IC System helped Old Marsh Golf Club bring their irrigation system up to modern-day technology while meeting several key criteria for their renovation.

Being more efficient with water and having advanced diagnostics were the key considerations for the course during planning. Today, the system's real-time diagnostics let the crew check the status of every rotor in a matter of seconds, keeping them one step ahead of any issues in the field by finding problems before they happen. Combine that with the system's single-head control, and the course now has a much greater ability to maintain elite playing conditions while minimizing water use.

As the brains behind their IC System, Rain Bird's Cirrus Central Control makes it easy for Tony's crew to build and adjust programs as seasons and conditions change. And with integrated Rain Watch technology, their central control measures precipitation in real-time and automatically adjusts irrigation schedules when rainfall hits pre-determined thresholds. This saves the course even more water with no work required, giving Tony piece of mind when he is setting up his system to water at night.

For Tony, the benefits of his new system go beyond water savings. The Rain Bird IC System eliminates the need for satellites, which means the marshland course no longer needs to worry about satellites going under



water when flooding occurs. It also removes satellite boxes from the course's picturesque views.

With up to 90% less wire than a satellite system, common wire issues are less of a concern now. "That was one of the big things that made me choose the IC System," said Tony. "With satellites, we would only go to them when there was a problem. There are no satellites to repair and that is a huge saving to Old Marsh."

Offering easy expandability, Old Marsh Golf Club can add to their new system by tapping into any existing wire. So as they work to master their playing conditions and their water use, their options are endless.



***"With the IC System there is 90% less wire, so that means 90% less wire problems."***

—Tony Nysse, Superintendent

### Bay Hill Club



### *Bay Hill Renovation Brings Modern Vision to Legendary Golf Course*

#### Property Details:

##### **Director of Grounds**

Chris Flynn, CGCS

##### **Architect**

Arnold Palmer  
Design Company

##### **Consultant**

A.S. Altum & Associates

##### **Contractor**

Leibold Irrigation, Inc.

##### **Rain Bird Distributor**

FIS Outdoor

##### **Renovation Date**

May-October 2018

##### **Rain Bird Products Used**

Cirrus™ Central Control  
IC System™  
500/550 Series Rotors  
751 Rotors  
MI Series™ Mobile Controllers

#### PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Bay Hill Club was founded in 1960, but it was the vision of one of golf's greatest legends, Arnold Palmer, that turned the sweeping 270 acres into a world-class facility and one of the PGA Tour's finest golf courses. Located along the shores of the Butler Chain of Lakes outside of Orlando, Florida, the Challenger and Charger links feature 27 holes of tour championship golf, a challenging but revered course for both professionals and amateurs alike.

#### BAY HILL'S UNIQUE RENOVATION STORY

When Director of Grounds Chris Flynn came to Bay Hill in 2014 he was faced with many challenges, including an old hydraulic irrigation system that provided poor coverage and required constant maintenance and repairs. In 2009 a major renovation had been completed at Bay Hill that included upgrading the control system but did not replace the original pipe network, which dated back to the 1960s. Undersized pipes, bad spacing and low pressure plagued Chris and his crew.



*"We have been extremely happy with the installation and performance of our IC System. Its ease of install and use has given us the control we need during the renovation process."*

— Chris Flynn, CGCS, Director of Grounds  
Bay Hill Club & Lodge



By 2017 it was clear that a major overhaul was needed. Chris describes his approach to selecting an irrigation manufacturer as “totally neutral” as he weighed out all the options of satellites and 2-wire systems from Rain Bird and other manufacturers. Once he learned about the Rain Bird IC System, Chris says, it was the tipping point in his decision to go with Rain Bird. The project began shortly after the 2018 Arnold Palmer Invitational.

*“It’s been great working with Rain Bird, and the IC System has been solid as a rock... I’m happy with the project and it’s working perfectly.”*

— Tony Altum, President  
A.S. Altum & Associates

The new irrigation design features Rain Bird 751 IC Rotors installed as “ins and outs” on the fairways and greens for greater control and flexible water management. In the future they will be able to respond to changing water regulations by turning on only the “ins” to water just the fairways, or leading into tournament time turn off the “ins” to firm up the fairways, while keeping the “outs” on to water the rough. Chris is thrilled with the results: “The distribution uniformity and adjustment features of the 751 series have already yielded improved conditions for us.”

One of Chris’s biggest challenges with the irrigation renovation was the need to balance doing projects while keeping the golf course open. In order to get him up and running quickly, Bay Hill upgraded to Rain Bird Central Control and satellites on the existing system so the IC System could be installed in phases with minimal disruption to the golf course. This “hybrid” system allows Chris and his team to control the Rain Bird satellites and IC System all from one Rain Bird Central Control. “It’s pretty neat”, Chris says, “We had Toro hydraulic and within 24 hours we’re running a Rain Bird system.” Because the IC System is simple to learn and use, the transition was easy, and with MI Series Mobile Controllers (MI) right on their phones, Chris and his team were able to make changes in the field without having to go back to the computer.

## RESULTS

Installing a hybrid Rain Bird system is helping Bay Hill transition from an old hydraulic system to the state-of-the-art technology of an IC System – all on a tight schedule while keeping the golf course open. Most importantly, with the individual head control and advanced diagnostics of their new IC System, Chris and his team can now put water exactly where they need it, improving coverage and providing better uniformity across the course. Whether managing the expectations of members or preparing for the next PGA Tournament, the IC System now makes it easier to provide exceptional playing conditions at Bay Hill - as envisioned by the Legend himself.



*“Our new IC System helps us promote and achieve the firm fast playing conditions best suited for the game, promotes water conservation and reduced consumption through technology and responsible use while improving overall turf quality and agronomic conditions. We are extremely pleased with the new installation at Bay Hill.”*

— Brandon Johnson  
Vice President & Sr. Golf Course Architect  
Arnold Palmer Design Company



*“The Rain Bird IC System is so simple to install and troubleshoot, it makes an installer’s life easy. If I had a golf course, this is the system I would put in.”*

— Brandon Johnson  
Project Superintendent  
Leibold Irrigation, Inc.



*“The Rain Bird IC System is extremely user friendly and way easier to work with overall.”*

— Alex Hills, Assistant Superintendent  
Bay Hill Club & Lodge

### Vinpearl Golf Nam Hoi An



### *Overcoming the Challenges of a Course Built on Native Sand Dunes*

#### Property Details:

##### **Developer**

Vinpearl Golf (a member of Vingroup JSC)

##### **Irrigation Contractor**

Gateway Equipment Vietnam

##### **Superintendent**

Mr Pham Xuan Nga

##### **Architect**

IMG Worldwide

##### **Installation Date**

July 2018

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Vinpearl Golf Nam Hoi An is the 18-hole golf course in Vinpearl Resort & Golf Nam Hoi An combines immaculate holiday facilities. Vinpearl Resort & Golf Nam Hoi An is situated south of the historical town of Hoi An in Quang Nam Province and includes a 5 star resort & hotel, Vinpearl Land Amusement park, Vinpearl River Safari wildlife care and conservation park; VinEco - ecotourism destination and Vinpearl Golf. The golf course has been designed to provide members and hotel guests a unique links style golfing experience from. The course has utilized local trees and native grasses in the out of play areas to replicate the original sand dune ecology.

#### CHALLENGES:

The golf course has been built on native sand dunes with high infiltration rates and very high summer temperatures so Vinpearl Golf required an irrigation system with individual head control to allow flexibility to adjust watering schedules on the high and low points of the course and achieve elite playing conditions year round. The irrigation installation had to be completed in 4 months. Vinpearl Golf chose the IC system for its fast and accurate diagnostics and the ability to communicate with the Rain Bird pump station and ensure the system could precisely replace precipitation to their unique climatic conditions and respond to changing conditions by automatically adjusting irrigation through real time communication.





## RESULTS:

They chose the Rain Bird® IC System™ for advanced diagnostics and single-head control that would allow them to irrigate with precision. The IC System allows the superintendent run diagnostics every morning in a matter of seconds, and instantly know if any heads experienced issues. Coupled with MI they have the flexibility to activate heads during peak summer and address dry areas from their mobile devices. A Rain Bird pump station was chosen allowing for the use of the Rain Bird Smart Pump™ software. With Smart Pump, the Central Control computer knows what the actual flow being used is and what is available, reducing the watering window and wear and tear on the pump station to help reduce maintenance costs. The 700 & 751 rotors offer the flexibility to switch from full-circle to part-circle operation at the turn of a screwdriver, while maintaining the arc settings with Rain Bird's MemoryArc™. The use of these rotors allows the superintendent to adjust the arcs when the wind direction changes between summer and winter and reduce overthrow into the native grass areas.

