

The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 6 Issue 3

May 1998

May Meeting

Harrisburg North Golf Course

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Speaker - 11:30 AM

Lunch - 12:00 PM

Golf - 1:00 PM

Joint Meeting with Keystone
Association

There will be no CPGCSA Board of
Directors Meeting.

Superintendent Profile

Robert Wert has been Superintendent/Owner of Harrisburg North Golf Course since 1987. Prior to 1987, he worked for Ross Perot - Electronic Data Systems as a computer engineer trouble shooter. Bob is one of 18 children and is originally from the Central Pennsylvania area.

Course Profile

Harrisburg North Golf Course was built in 1960. It is 6,292 yards, Par 71, Slope 115 and rating 68.9. The golf course was changed to a golf resort in 1993. Many changes were made to the course over the past 8 years including a massive tree planting program, 11 miles of cart paths, and fairway irrigation.

Reminder: This is a Non-Metal Spike facility!

USGA "Tip of The Month"

by Stan Zontek

This is my first, "Tip of the Month" column for your newsletter. The topic was prompted by Mark DelSantoro's comment in the February newsletter. To recap, Mark said, "managing turfgrass is not rocket science. Keep it simple and stick to the basics!"

I agree. Thus, as we begin managing our golf courses for the 1998 season, keep in mind the basics. A brief summary includes:

- 1 Plants need sunlight to grow. At least 8 hours of direct sunlight per day is needed. The morning sunlight is the most important. Anything less is just that, less. The turfgrass will be less healthy. Fortunately, the reverse is also true. If you know tree work is needed, try to complete these projects as soon as possible. Bentgrass experiences most of its root growth in the spring.
- 2 Don't over-water. More bad things can happen with wet grass and soil, than with dry grass and soil. Also, it is easier to add extra water, than to remove an excess. When it comes to applying irrigation, have your best employees do it. Educate them on the need for even irrigation and not to saturate the soil...unless there is a special need.
- 3 Don't over-fertilize or under-fertilize the grass. There is an old saying that goes something like this, "let the grass grow, do not make it grow." Do not push the grass unless you have a good reason to do so, i.e. recovery from damage, a grow-in, etc.

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President's Message by John Gehman

"You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy." I really enjoyed our day at Moccasin Run Golf Course, a very picturesque facility contrasted by open farmland, tilled by some of the biggest tractors I've ever seen (in Pennsylvania at least). And to add even more contrast, the Amish man off the other side of the course working his fields with a six horse team. Maybe if I paid more attention to my game rather than watching the tractors and horses in the fields, (and airplanes flying overhead), I might hit the ball straight once in a while.

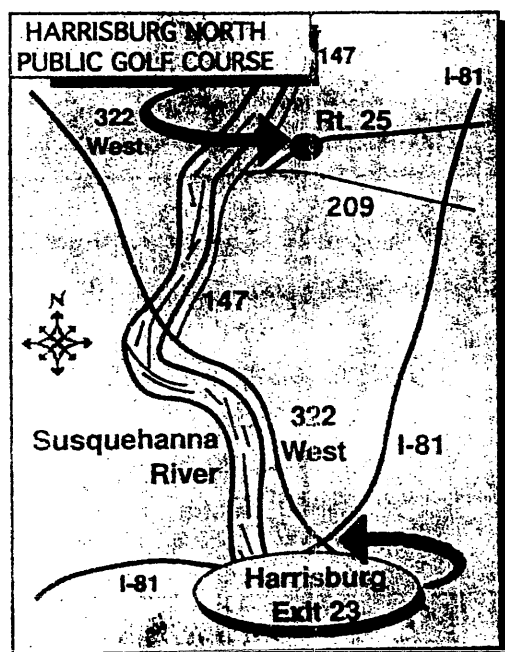
I want to convey a hearty thank you to Curt and the entire King family for hosting us. Although the turnout was small (seemed everyone was aerating that day), we had a great time. At least Ted and I had a great time, neither our golf chairman nor assistant were able to attend the meeting, so it all fell onto the shoulders of your President and Vice President. Is it really any surprise that the two of us walked away with almost half the prize money between us? Now that's a well run tournament!!

Our speaker that evening gave us a real good overview of the progress being made in developing a desirable strain of annual blue grass. It wasn't that long ago I heard people joking about promoting poa since it seems bent is a losing proposition anyway. Guess what, it's no longer a joke. He didn't give us any time line, but we just may be seeding annual blue grass rather than bent in the not too distant future.

As far as turf management is concerned, are any of you experiencing an inability to get in gear the way I am. Last Spring I had my game plan all laid out for the season. This year I don't know if I'm coming or going. I've had fairly good luck with poa seed suppression in past years, sure didn't catch it in time this year though. The mild Winter and early Spring seems to have many of us guessing. At this point I feel like I'm just throwing darts. I'm sure it will all work out, it always does. And October is only a few months away.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Harrisburg North Golf Course. I know it's a long ride for many of us, but the aerating is done, relax for a day. Besides, it's a long time till the October slow down.

Directions to Harrisburg North Golf Course



From Harrisburg:

⇒ Route 81 to Exit 23. Route 322-22 West to 147 West to Millersburg. Turn right at square in Millersburg onto Route 209, go 1/2 mile. Turn left on Route 25, continue 3 miles to golf course on right.

From Sunbury:

⇒ Take Route 147 South to Millersburg. Turn left at square in Millersburg onto Route 209, go 1/2 mile. turn Left onto Route 25, continue to golf course on right.

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Membership News

The following individuals have applied for membership into our association. If there are no written objections within the next seven days, they will be accepted into our association at the next meeting.

Rick Eschbach, Superintendent

Upper Perk Golf Course.....Class A

Leon Drawbaugh, Superintendent

Yorktowne Golf Course.....Class A

Martin Campfield, President

Nutrient Solutions in Agriculture...Class AF

David Mattes, Head of Golf Course Construction

TSG Services.....Class AF

We would like to welcome the following individuals into the association.

Eric Houck, Assistant Superintendent

Chester Valley Golf Club.....Class C

Robert Book, Sales

UHS.....Class AF

Jerol Hughes, Sales Representative

NCH Corp.....Class AF

James J. Nagle, RLA

Derck and Edson Assoc.....Class AF

Thomas Mahute, Sales Representative

Lesco, Inc.....Class AF

Theodore Huhn, Representative

BASF Corp.....Class G

Charles Groff, Owner/Manager

Groff Farm Golf Club.....Class M

Darin Bevard, Agronomist

USGA.....Class H

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association or has questions on the status of their applications, please have them contact Mark Malasavage at (717) 533-3269.

As of July 1, 1997, GCSAA bylaws require an individual applying for Class A or B membership also be a member of a local affiliated chapter.



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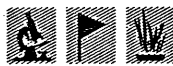
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USGA Tip..... continued from page 1

Equally, grass needs enough fertilizer to grow at a reasonably active rate. With the amount of play most golf courses are now receiving, levels of fertility are gradually increasing. Always remember the basics ... 4-1-2 or 3-1-2 or even 4-1-4 ratios of N-P-K. Use soil tests to identify deficiencies on your fertilizer program and add supplements as necessary.

- 4 Keep it simple. Do not complicate the management of your golf course. If a new product sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Always test new materials on a nursery, a tee, the beginning of a fairway or the rough. Always leave a test strip or a non-treated area for comparison. Finally, when you have a doubt in your mind on what to do, do not use it. Rely on your instincts and common sense.

Keep it simple and stick to the basics.

Speaker Profile

The speaker for the May meeting will be Jim Blaukovitch. Jim is a native of Pennsylvania, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture from the Pennsylvania State University. During the summer of 1972 and upon graduation in 1973 he was employed by the golf course architectural firm of Killian and Nugent. Jim was involved with many master plans for existing golf courses and numerous new courses, one of which was Kemper Lakes Golf Course in Illinois, listed among the top 24 public golf courses. Since that time, he has been actively involved in designing, building, remodeling, and irrigating golf courses. Jim is a certified golf course irrigation designer, a Registered Landscape Architect in Michigan and Pennsylvania, and a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Just A Reminder

Should you need to fax information to Wanda, the number is the same as her home phone number (717) 274-6004.

If the answering machine picks up, be sure to let it run through the recorded message, then the fax will automatically turn on.

If you have any accomplishments or things you have done that could benefit other members, please be sure to get the information to Wanda so that it can be included in the newsletter.

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For Your Information...

- GCSAA is now accepting applications for the GCSAA Scholars Competition. This program was developed to recognize outstanding students planning careers in golf course management. If interested, please call the GCSAA Foundation team at 800-472-7878, ext. 622 or an application may also be found on-line at www.gcsaa.org.
- If you have not yet paid your 1998 CPGCSA membership dues, please do so now so that you will continue to receive association mailings and be included in the upcoming 1998 Roster book.
- If you are interested in becoming a "Green Sheet" supporter for the 1998 season, please contact Wanda.
- Don't forget to wear your name tags to all meetings. If you haven't received one or can not find yours, please contact Wanda to order a new one.
- Please contact Wanda if either your home or work address and telephone numbers change, so we can keep our records up to date.
- Congratulations to Faron Stoops on his new position as Superintendent at Mountain View Golf Resort in Fairfield, PA. Good Luck Faron!

Scholarship and Research

On behalf of Brad Shaffer from Briarwood Golf Course we have received a \$25.00 check from Novartis for the 1997 Novartis Purchase Plus Program.

Thanks to Brad and Novartis for your support!

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- 1 Using "Yahoo" website search engine
- 2 Click cursor in search box
- 3 Type "Golf Courses"
- 4 Click the SEARCH button.
- 5 Click on - Recreation Sports: Golf Courses
- 6 Click on - Yahoo Golf Course Guide
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- 10 Hit Print



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Heather And Gorse

by Mark V. DelSantro, CGCS

As a pseudo-avid golf fan (that means I'd rather be playing than watching), it seems I look forward to watching a handful of PGA events each season. Perennially at the top of my PGA event list is the "by invitation only" Masters, held at Augusta National in Augusta, Georgia. This year's Masters event was no exception...

It was Sunday afternoon on April 12th, 1998. I had just locked all the doors, drawn all the shades, taken the phone off the hook, and began to relax in my recliner next to an ice cold six-pack of Foster Lager (by the way, that's Australian for beer) when I heard a car pull into our drive. It was three minutes or so before the final round telecast, so I quickly ran to the door to shoo away whoever dared to interrupt me during this annual sacred ritual. Figuring on either a Jehovah Witness or a girl scout, you can imagine the combination of terror and anger that went through me as I looked out the door window to see my wife's grandmother, mother, two brothers, and girlfriend walking towards the door.

"Say it ain't so, Joel," Easter Sunday on the final day of the Masters. How could the calendar makers schedule Easter on the last day of the Masters? It's absolutely sacrilegious! It's an outrage! It's outrageous! It was at that very moment that the heathenistic side of me felt that this was unequivocal evidence towards a real life "Jesus Conspiracy!"

As I politely greeted each person through the door, I quickly assessed my options as to how to maximize my airtime potential prior to sitting down for a big dinner. My sights immediately zeroed-in on my wife's eighty-four year old grandmother. A closet golf fan from way back, I knew I could sway grandmother towards the television set without too much sacrifice. After a few line-baiting remarks about how beautiful she looked, I quickly set the hook like I was fishing for salmon, and within minutes Grandmother and I were sitting in front of the television, guzzling a few Fosters (that's Australian for beer!), and watching Fred Couples, David Duval, and the eventual champion, Mark O'Meara battle it out down to the wire. In an effort to clarify how much I wanted to watch this event, let me be perfectly clear on the fact that I don't usually share my Fosters with just anyone (I keep a six-pack of chilled National Bohemian in the refrigerator for normal uninvited guests), but in this case, I figured I needed to go for the "Full Monty" if I were to have the best chance, and in the end, I believe it was well worth it.

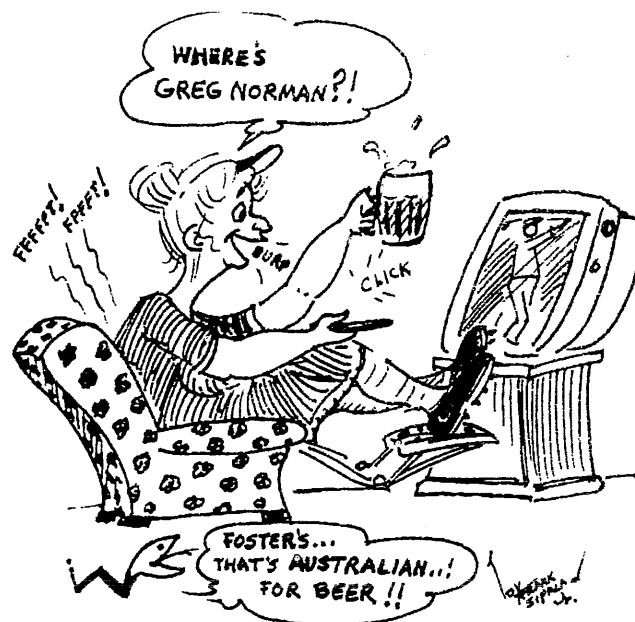
I must say that I was impressed by how much Grandmother knew about the game of golf. During the telecast, and in-between belches and farts, we discussed everything from why "those idiot touring professionals" won't switch from steel

spikes to soft spikes ("especially when they are playing for so much stinking money"), to Fred Couples' ex-wife's table-dancing bar exhibition at the British Open a few years back. Eighty-four years of wisdom set free by a few Australian brewskis. It was incredible!

Grandmother had an interesting, and only slightly slurred, opinion on everything. By the way, Grandma does not like Mr. Woods, Mrs. Woods, or their prodigal son, Tiger. I can't be sure as to why, but I think it has to do with his trademark fist pumping gesture that he employs after making a terrifically difficult shot look so easy. Quite frankly, I've yet to meet an old Italian (man or women) who doesn't feel that Tiger's gesture is too closely related to the old Italian gesture for "up yours"!

In the end, we were both teary-eyed when Mark O'Meara made the putt on the eighteenth green for a birdie and a one shot victory. I actually sensed for a moment that Grandmother considered offering me a high-five following that putt, but instead decided in favor of a salutary toast. After a hearty clanking of our bottles, and one last evil leer from my wife, I knew I had had my fun at least for this decade, and we stumbled to the dining room for a feast fit for a Masters Champion.

Reflecting back on the day, Grandmother and I had a wonderful time, watching a grandiose golf tournament, and slamming a few Fosters Lagers (our Easter dinner wasn't that bad either). Maybe having Easter the same day as the Masters isn't all that bad after all. Of course, my wife might have a different, more obscure opinion on that topic. But then, that would be her view from the heather and gorse and not mine. For better or worse, that's my view from the heather and gorse.



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Actual Newspaper Headlines

- * Red tape holds up new bridge
- * Deer kill 17,000
- * Typhoon rips through cemetery; hundreds dead
- * New study of obesity looks for larger test group
- * Local high school dropouts cut in half
- * Cold wave linked to temperatures
- * If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last a while
- * Enraged cow injures farmer with ax
- * Iraqi head seeks arms

Golf Results

We thank Curt King and his family at Moccasin Run Golf Course for a wonderful day of golf. Not to mention the food was darn good!!!

This tournament was a 2 Man Scramble. The winners are as follows:

1st Place

Don Benner, Greg Hain 69

2nd Place

John Gehman, Thed Fraleigh 72

3rd Place

Ted Zabrenski, Jim Carville 72

Closest to Pin #7

Ted Zabrenski

Closest to Pin #10

John Gehman

If you are still in need of a handicap, please contact Bob Wert, Harrisburg North Golf Course (717) 692-3664.

We hope to see all of you in May at Harrisburg North Golf Course. The tournament will be Two Best balls out of the foursome.

Thanks!

Bill Brooks and Bob Wert, Golf Chairmen

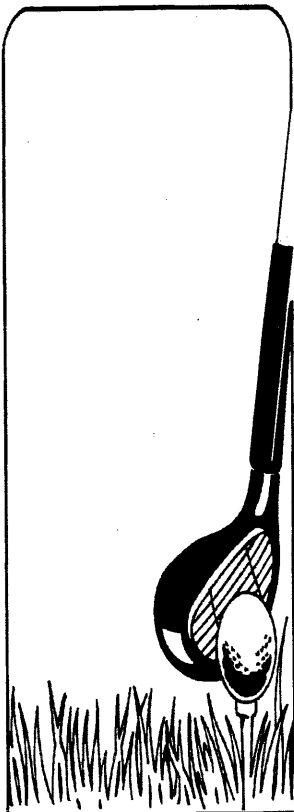
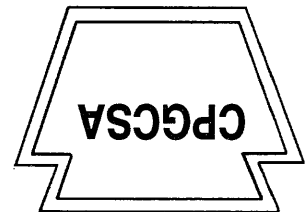
1998 Meeting Sites

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| June 9 | Heritage Hills Golf Resort
Tony Goodley, CGCS |
| July 14 | Reading Country Club
Brian Ahrens, Superintendent |
| August 11 | Honey Run Golf Course
Don Dodson, Superintendent |
| September 8 | Foxchase Golf Course
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Joint Meeting with Philadelphia and Pocono |
| October 7 | Lebanon Country Club
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Annual Meeting/ Association Championship |



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The Green Sheet



The Rules of the Game

Question: In playing a tee shot a player misses the ball. Before playing his next stroke, the player presses down the turf behind the ball. Is this permissible, considering the ball is in play?

Answer: Yes. Rule 13-2 permits eliminating irregularities of the surface on the teeing ground, whether or not the ball is in play.

Remember, the "teeing ground" is defined as a rectangular area two club-lengths in depth, the front and sides of which are defined by the outside limits of the two tee markers. A ball is outside the teeing ground when all of it lies outside the teeing ground.

Now, what if...

Question: A player's tee shot strikes a tree, resulting in his ball embedding in it's own pitch mark within the teeing ground of the hole being played. Considering that the teeing ground is not considered through the green, is the player entitled to relief?

Answer: The rules of golf does not contemplate such a situation. In equity (Rule 1-4), the player is entitled to relief without penalty and must follow the procedure prescribed in Rule 25-2 for a ball which lies through the green. The same principle would apply if there was interference by casual water (Rule 25-1b(i), ground under repair Rule 25-1b(i), or an immovable obstruction (Rule 24-2a).