

The Green Sheet



Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 6 Issue 7

September 1998

September Meeting

Foxchase Golf Club

Tuesday, September 8, 1998

Lunch - 11:00 AM

Speaker - 12:00 Noon

Golf - 1:00 PM

Cocktails/Hors d'oeuvres - 6:00 PM

**There will be a CPGCSA Board of Directors
Meeting at 9:30 AM.**

Superintendent Profile

Dan Achenbach has been Superintendent at Foxchase Golf Club since 1993. Prior to this he was the Assistant Superintendent at Royal Oaks Golf Course and had worked at Fairview Golf Course. Dan graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1985 with a Bachelor's degree in Police Administration and also is a 1992 graduate of Penn State Turf Management Program. He is married to Patricia and has 3 German Shepards and one cat. Dan's hobbies are golfing, scuba diving, and ice hockey. He especially enjoys time away from the course to spend with his wife and family.

Course Profile

Prior to being an upscale daily fee golf course, Foxchase was a Dairy Farm that has been in the family for 75 years. The course opened in May 1991. The intent of the Graybill family was to build a fun and challenging course maintained like a country club. The course is built on 170 acres with a lot of tall fescue, mounding and large Pennlinks bent greens, rye tees and fairways.

**Foxchase Golf Club is a non-metal
spike facility.**

USGA "Tip of The Month"

by

Darin S. Bevard

When most of you read this, fall renovations will not be far from your thoughts. In our recent travels, several courses have already started aerification, and many others are anxious to get the process started.

One thought to keep in mind for green renovations is to treat weaker greens gently during this process. They tend to get beat up during renovation. This may include utilizing hand brooms to work in topdressing on some of the weaker greens. This is labor intensive, but generally benefits the green. Too often we see superintendents work hard to keep a problem green alive through the summer, only to severely damage it during the renovation process, usually through the process of incorporating topdressing.

This is a good time to reiterate an earlier message from Keith Happ: Communicate, Communicate, and Communicate! Communicating with all parties involved is crucial for smooth fall renovations. Oftentimes, players feel the golf course is in excellent condition, and the superintendent is destroying it! Let people know what to expect and what you are trying to accomplish during the renovation process.

For those with perennial ryegrass fairways, cases of Grey Leaf Spot have been reported from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. Most have occurred in taller cut turf of the intermediate and primary rough. University of Maryland Pathologist Dr. Peter Dernoeden states that this disease can occur well into October under the right conditions. Be aware the disease is active in our region.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate, and it will be a good fall for everyone.

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President's Message

by John Gehman

See, now that's what I was talking about...enjoyable green speeds. The greens at Honey Run were perfect. The ball went where you putted it and when it came to rest, it was at least closer to the hole than it had been prior to the putt. Playing a well maintained, user friendly golf course was one factor for an enjoyable game. Another factor was playing along with partners like Jim McGall and Don Hollinger who take their game about as seriously as I take mine. If you listened, you could hear how well we were playing. The degree of laughter was inversely proportional to the accuracy of the shot. I wonder what it's like to shoot in the low 70's, probably no "fun" at all.

Don Dodson has done a wonderful job with that golf course and his efforts have been duly noted. By the time you read this, Don will have left Pennsylvania and taken over the superintendent's position at the 36 hole, Lake View Golf Resort in Morgantown, W.V. We wish Don the best of success in his new position.

The highlight of the Honey Run meeting was our speaker, Jim Davis from EcoSoil in CA. It looks like we've come full circle in one season. In April we decided to give up the war against poa, isolate and cultivate the most stress tolerant strains and make it the putting surface of choice. Now we're introduced to a bio-product that is site specific to poa and will allow us to maintain the bent populations we desire. Jim presented a brief slide presentation on how to use the product and its effects on annual blue grass alone. Don't laugh, it looks like this stuff really might work.

Being not only a superintendent, but general manager/owner, this day was an especially interesting experience. The whole day could be described as a comedy of errors. Nothing seemed to go right. Billy Brooks, our golf chairman, had his happiest moment when he drove out the driveway to go home. We are not the best organized group as far as golf outings go, and I know first hand how annoying that can be to a club's staff. However, we must really have been annoying that day. The management seemed to have little interest in accommodating our group of golf "professionals". We almost didn't get lunch (hotdogs and hamburgers, no beverage) and the shotgun didn't materialize. Adding to the ambiance was a club house closed for renovations and half a dozen "Job Johnnies" emitting a fragrance reminiscent of my comments in last month's newsletter, adorned the landscape near the proshop/trailer.

Honey Run was purchased about a year ago by the management company, Gotham Golf Partners, formerly Florida Golf Properties. Someone once posted a question on the GCSAA website about management companies. I replied that the word "prostitution" quickly comes to mind. That may have been a bit strong, but I have my reasons. I apologize to the supers in the Central Penn chapter who are happily employed by professional, financially stable management companies. I've copied some of those companies' business practices into my own operation. Unfortunately, what I saw this day did nothing to abate my perception.

The info packets for the GCSAA show in Orlando are out. Get your room, golf, and seminar reservations as early as possible, the good stuff fills up fast. Dan Achenbach will be representing Central Penn at the Chapter Delegates' meeting in September. Give him a jingle if you have any gripes or concerns you'd like relayed to GCSAA. Also, Sam Snyder will be running for reelection to the GCSAA Board of Directors. Let's give him our support when we're traveling and meeting superintendents from other areas.

September will be a tri-meeting with Philadelphia and Pocono at Foxchase Golf Club the day after Labor Day, the week before aerification. NO EXCUSES!! Call Wanda right away, we can only accommodate 144 golfers. See you there.

The speaker for the September meeting will be Bill Byrnes from Floratine Products.

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Membership News

There were no new applications presented to the board this month.

Congratulations to:

- Faron and Elizabeth Stoops on the birth of their daughter Jordan on August 1.
- Brian and Christine Ahrens on the birth of their daughter this month.

Get Well Wishes to:

- Jim Carville while recuperating at home from heart surgery.

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.

Attention...

If you or someone you know is interested in running for the 1999 CPGCSA Board of Directors, please contact Mark Malasavage at (717) 533-3269.

Proposed Bylaws Changes

Proposal: Change Affiliate Member ratio from 30% to 40%

Section 6.11. Class AF - Affiliate Members. To qualify for affiliate membership, an applicant must be a person interested in the growing, management or production of turf grasses, either individually or through employment by, or other affiliation with, a company, proprietorship, or association, who does not qualify for membership in another class. Affiliate members shall have all privileges of the association, except those of voting and holding office. Affiliate members shall not exceed forty (40%) of the total of Classes AA, A, B, C, and voting R members with the following exceptions: A bona fide turf oriented company may be granted one (1) membership representative into the association, regardless of the Class AA, A, B, C, and voting R members to commercial ratio, provided they are not presently represented in the association. He or she shall pay fees, dues, and assessments.

Proposal: Add Student Classification

Student - To qualify for Student membership, an applicant must be a full time turfgrass student enrolled in a formal course of education, or have completed his or her formal education less than one year prior to the date of application for membership.



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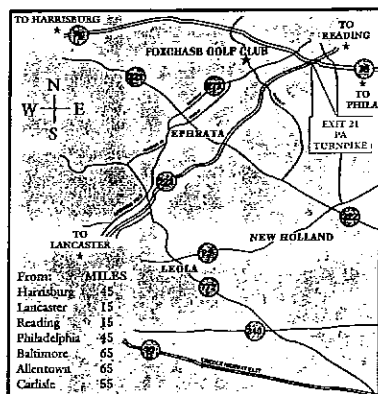
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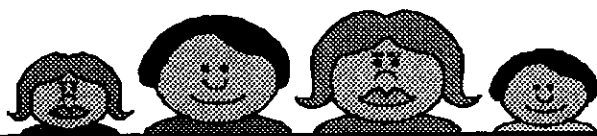
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Directions to Foxchase Golf Club



Get off Exit #21 PA Turnpike and follow to traffic light. Take left at light (Route 272 South). At next traffic light take a right onto Church Street and take left at next road (Stevens Road). Follow for about 1/4 mile and golf course is on the right.



CPGCSA now has it's own fax and phone number.
Please make this adjustment in your records.

(717) 279-0368

For Your Information...

- Reservation reminder...Please remind your club of the importance of mailing your meeting reservations by the posted deadline date. Many reservations are being received late which can cause an inconvenience for the host and hosting club. If you have any doubt about your reservation, please call Wanda at (717) 279-0368.
- 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.

1998 Meeting Schedule

October 7 Lebanon Country Club
 Jeffrey L. Fry, CGCS
 Annual Meeting/Association Championship

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Why Fast Greens?

By Bill Brooks

Last month in the "President's Message", John Gehman asked an interesting question after playing two local country clubs. "Why do greens have to be so fast?" I see John's name on Turfnet all the time so I know he enjoys some good controversial answers every now and then! So I figured I would try to respond to the question and I hope most of you can relate.

First of all, I've been asking that same question for a few years to the different members I've worked for and have finally come up with an answer in my present job situation.....Because I have too! I don't have a choice. I am sure that Superintendents in a country club setting feel the same way. Raising mower heights in the hot summer months is not an option. Without fast and smooth greens on a daily basis, I'm under the gun. Give 'em a manicured golf course...good tees, fairways, bunkers, etc. while having greens that don't roll 10 and above and the course is just OK.

Am I targeting the entire membership with ultra fast greens? Absolutely not! The Greens Committee has directed me to do so. And if I don't I will hear about it! John, I am in agreement that the average player cannot even play these greens, and will say they are unfair, but they are not speaking out. I have never seen a letter to the Greens Committee or Board of Directors complaining that the greens are too fast.

So for the past 3 years I've been investigating methods of how to keep greens consistently fast while maintaining health. 90% of the gray hairs and stress these days comes from less than 2 acres of turf. Well...Gray leaf spot has caused a bit too! But you know what I mean.

And so John, the fast greens are not by our choice, but our Greens Committees. In the 60's, US Open green speeds were about 8.5 feet. Now we hear of speeds of 12 and 13. I think "Augusta National Syndrome" has set in and is getting worse.

Through all of this, I have learned 2 important things. Algae infested greens roll fast and dead greens roll even faster. Just make sure there are no green patches in between to deflect the golf ball. I've also learned that when my Greens Chairman tells me the greens are too slow, I can't respond by saying "just hit it a little harder!"

Just A Reminder

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. The deadline for the October newsletter is September 14, 1998.

Should you need to fax information to Wanda, the new phone and fax number is (717) 279-0368.



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Heather And Gorse

by Mark V. DelSantoro, CGCS

I get a kick out of the "Joe Homeowners" of the world who year in and year out attempt to maintain their lawns and landscapes by themselves. In my "hood" there is a resident my wife and I call "Navy Man" (we won't mention his real name for fear that he may somehow acquire a bootleg copy of this newsletter). Anyway, every April, "Navy Man" burns up at least on third of his yard by misapplying fertilizer. The first year he was our neighbor, he had just bought a brand new spreader. Judging by the width of the serpentine dead grass bands every three or four feet apart, my guess would be that he purchased an 18" wide, drop spreader. Now, 1) had that drop spreader dispersed the fertilizer in a pattern similar to a rotary spreader, and 2) had that spreader been calibrated correctly, his yard might have looked like Camden Yards. Unfortunately for "Navy Man", it sort of looked like a junk yard.

So all of you professional grass growers of Central PA, riddle me this, how is it that a homeowner like "Navy Man" can walk into a hardware store and purchase products such as Methoxychlor and Diazinon strictly for misapplication purposes, and licensed pesticide applicator's who want to use it properly on golf courses can't touch the stuff???

I've always theorized that there was a gigantic, governmental, global-thermo-nuclear, pathenogenic, epidemiological chemical conspiracy that started a decade ago or so, and has continued to this very day. Think about it, remember when things were much simpler? The only diseases you had to worry about were pythium, and dollar spot, and even if you had a disease that you couldn't ID, PMAS still took care of it?

Think about it. Back in the seventies, many of the large chemical companies were experiencing a recession. The government proceeded to ban the heavy metal fungicides stimulating research and development within all of these companies. The new products weren't necessarily great products, but they were "legal" products. Due to the inadequacy of the non-heavy metal fungicides, diseases began to thrive, which stimulated more research and development of new and better "legal" fungicides. It created new jobs, new fungicides, new diseases, more new fungicides, resistant strains of the old diseases to the new fungicides, etc.

If the heavy metals are so bad why did they just recently take lead out of the fillings a dentist puts in your mouth? Similarly, did you know that it was only a few years ago that plumbers stopped using lead-based solder on your copper drinking water pipes? Hope your house is less than a few years old! How about mercury? If you ever used nasal drops to relieve congestion as a kid, little did you know that you were snorting small doses of mercury right up your nose and

down your throat.

The list goes on: Cadmium, Lead Arsenate, Phenyl Mercuric Acetate, Diazinon, Methoxychlor, Chlordane,; all of these nasty, bad products that were banned from golf course consumption because they were too dangerous, in the government's opinion, and because they worked too damn well in Professor DelSantoro's opinion.

Let us remember that this is the same government that has led us to believe things such as that a single gunman and a single magic bullet assassinated President Kennedy, and that the SST Concorde depletes ozone, and that oral sex isn't technically sex as long as only one of the participants is stimulated. Last time I checked an elemental chart, Mercury, Lead, and Cadmium were naturally occurring elements. It seems it is OK to kill bacteria and the like in our drinking water and swimming pools with Chlorine, which is another naturally occurring poisonous element, but these other elements are destroying the environment. I don't get it!!!

PMAS is still manufactured and used readily in Canada. Of course, growing up in Minnesota, I always wondered about our friends north of the border, and then when I met and got to know Mr. Loke, and I must say that all of my boyhood questions were answered. To my knowledge Canada has never experienced an inordinate amount of Mercury poisonings. I understand it is a wonderful place to fish and hunt. In fact Canada's natural habitat, in my opinion, is at least as beautiful as any other country's. Maybe Mr. Loke and some of his friends could set up an underground PMA pipeline.

The bottom line is that conspiracy or not, there is something wrong when "Navy man" can purchase and misapply products that golf course superintendents can not. Searching for the truth, that's my heavy metal, organophosphate-distorted view from the heather and gorse.



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Dave Mattes

Golf Results

Thank you to Don Dodson and his crew at Honey Run for a great golf course. Everything looked great and I'm sure Don will be missed as he pursues his new job in West Virginia. We will all miss him for sure!

Results of our 2-Man Best Ball with a Calloway format are as follows:

1st Place	Dan Davis, Bill Rahling	67
2nd Place	Dan Achenbach, Steve Graybill	70
3rd Place	Thed Fraleigh, Dick Kauffman	70

Closest to Pin #17 Dave Mattes

Long Drive John Gehman

We'll see you all at Fox Chase!!

Bill Brooks and Bob Wert, Golf Chairmen

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We will continue to advertise used equipment each newsletter. If you have anything that may be of interest to anyone else, please contact Wanda to place your ad FREE!!!

Upcoming Events

- George E. Ley Co. Scholarship Tournament — September 16, 1998 at Pilgrim's Oak Golf Course in Peach Bottom PA
- 1st Annual Keystone AGCS Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament — October 14, 1998 at White Deer Challenge Course. For further information, contact Jay Kline, P. O. Box 73, Reedsville, PA 17084.
- The 22nd Annual Joseph Valentine Memorial Golf Tournament — October 19, 1998 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. For additional information call John Chassard at (610) 967-4643.
- Penn State Golf Turf Conference — November 3 - 5, 1998, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA
- Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference & Trade Show — January 5-7, 1999, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA

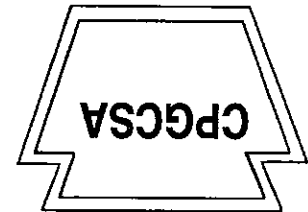


Lebanon, PA 17042-0200

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Wanda S. Fry - Executive Secretary
Mark V. DeSanto, CGCS - Editor

The Green Sheet



The Rules of the Game

Rule 18-2a/decision 26: Ball dislodges from tree when player climbs to play stroke.

Question: As a player is climbing a tree to play a ball lodged in the tree, the ball falls to the ground. Does the player incur a penalty?

Answer: Yes, under Rule 18-2a, the player is penalized one stroke, and the ball must be replaced.

Now, what if, a player could not find his ball. Believing the ball might be lodged in the tree, he shook the tree and his ball fell to the ground. He played the ball from where it came to rest. What is the ruling?

Answer: The player incurred one penalty stroke under Rule 18-2a for moving his ball. He should have replaced his ball. Since he did not do so, in match play he lost the hole and in stroke play he incurred an additional penalty stroke, or a total penalty of two strokes.

