



CHIPS & PUTTS

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POCONO MEETING

The Pocono Turfgrass Association Meeting for August will be a Clambake, which will be held at Great Bear Golf & Country Club. The date is August 18.

Plan now to attend. It should be a great day!



Ron Garrison, CGCS, Superintendent Fox Hill Country Club Exeter, PA

The Association's president, Mr. Ron Garrison, CGCS, will be hosting our next golf meeting on July 21, 2003, at the lovely Fox Hill Country Club. The meeting will be an educational meeting to which, hopefully, all our superintendents will bring their owners, greens chairman, greens committee members, club president, or anyone involved with day to day operations on the links. We can then cook up some great discussions.

Fox Hill C.C. is an A. W. Tillinghast design built in the early 1920's. The course plays all 6,528 yards and is a Par 71. Ron manages a staff of 8 full-time employees, and during the height of the season manages up to 21 employees. Mr. Chris Pries is the assistant superintendent.

Ronald Garrison, CGCS, attended Penn State's two-year program in 1987 and interned at Congressional C.C. under Bill Black. Ron has also experienced the preparation needed to host a PGA tour event while at the T.P.C. course in Connecticut for two years. Ron then went to Lord's Valley C.C. and worked for Dennis Watkins, CGCS, as his assistant. Ron credits these two



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President's Message.....

What a great day for golf at Woodloch Springs last month. The golf course was in great shape, and the food was out of this world! I had seconds of everything! Big "Thanks" go out to Mark Eisele and the entire staff at Woodloch for taking good care of us!

The month of June was another one for the record books in regards to rainfall. I think it was in the top five of all time for the amount of rain we received.

The Dog Days of Summer are upon us. I wish all of you success in "maintaining" your golf courses over the next 120 days. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and the disease pressure will be low.

The Clambake will be held at Great Bear this year! I know I am looking forward to playing this great track. Our defending champions from Blue Ridge Trail have reloaded with a few new members. Those interested in sponsoring a hole for this event can contact Steve Chirip.

I hope over the next few remaining months we will see an increase in Superintendent attendance at the meetings. The Board of Directors has done a terrific job in setting up these events and the affiliate members are tired of seeing the same old faces!

See you at the meetings!

Ron Garrison, CGCS



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From the Editor's Desk.....

People are saying that there are only a few weeks left until the end of the season. For a year that seemed to drag on forever, I now feel like I am wondering where it went. This year has brought on some new challenges which will certainly have an impact on next year.

The Roundtable Discussion at Fox Hill was somewhat reassuring to hear that most clubs in our area are experiencing similar situations.

Let's hope for a great fall.

Eric Reed

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POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTED AT THE 2003 MASTERS

(An interview with Ron Garrison, CGCS, conducted by Charlie Koennecker)

Over the last year, a big transition has occurred in the Pocono Turfgrass Association. As everyone knows, Ron Garrison is back as President of the Association. I took a few minutes to sit down with Ron to discuss the changes that have taken place in the Association and about his recent experience volunteering at August National G.C. for the 2003 Master's Tournament.

Pocono Issues:

Q: What changes have been made this year with the Association to improve upon last year?

A: We felt a need to get membership involvement to another level. One of the most important issues we needed to address was getting a "unified board" in place. So far this year, we feel we have been very unified and have worked hard together to get great meeting sites/host clubs. We are also excited about our new and exciting golf formats. As always, we are very open to member ideas on how this can be improved, but we feel that we have gotten off to a good start so far.

Q: What improvements would you like to see in the future?

A: Improved superintendent attendance at meetings. We are working hard to improve the perceived value of each meeting as a valuable educational experience, in addition to a good time. We know that your time is valuable and by getting good meeting sites, along with good education, we feel we can create a productive day even for those superintendents who do not get reimbursed for meeting expenses. The Association has many different types of superintendents in its membership. A good suggestion is to have commercial members bring new or non-attending members to meetings. This is a great way for those commercial guys to continue to develop relationships while improving superintendent attendance. Please note: This is just a suggestion. We are very thankful for commercial member support. Without their support we would have a hard time functioning.

Q: Meeting prices continue to rise. What has been done to control meeting costs?

A: On every meeting notice, we have decided to break down the cost of the meeting to show members where our money is going. Right now we are for-

fortunate to have our current year and next year's meeting sites chosen. Those clubs should not lose money for being gracious enough to host our events. The value for members attending is tremendous for the product and atmosphere received. We have some great clubs lined up for this year and next.

Enough Association business. Those people still reading want to hear about the Masters.

Q: After seeing "golf perfection" at Augusta, is there anything you would change?

A: Clothes Dryers would have been nice this year due to the rain. (What, hundreds of hand-held blowers did not give you that bouncy soft feeling?) Other than that, I did not see anything I would change.

Q: Did you meet any golfers or celebrities?

A: Jack Nicklaus spoke to the crew and congratulated us on our efforts. I did see Jim Belushi, Tiki Barber, and Ingrid (the Fox Sports News update girl).

Q: What was the grounds crew schedule like?

A: 4:00 A.M. Assistant Superintendents came in to walk fairways with flashlights to check for any imperfections.

5:45 A.M. Volunteers show up for Staff Meeting, then off to work.

9:00 A.M. Finish up with first jobs. (Ron whipped fairways, raked bunkers and pushed squeegees.)

9:15 A.M. Start on Second job (called Passive Mode). Our fearless leader ran the sub-airs and waited for play while working on a "response team". The response team consists of 5-7 ambulance type carts that respond to anything that can happen on the course.

After Round Conclusion: Crews receive their next jobs. Ron originally was slated to flymo, but due to rain he ended up on bunker work/patron area work/ and got to walk mow fairways.

Q: What was vendor support like?

A: Let's just say, with one call, Brad had 25+ Walk mowers delivered. Fairways were walk mowed due to the rain. Normally, they use about 20 5-gang Fairway units.



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Q: Did you pick up any tips for the members of the Pocono Association to use?

A: One of the main things I noticed was the different terminology used to describe jobs. For example: Jake Care = collar and fringe work; Rough = First Cut. They also drag fairways with a chain to eliminate clumps and used "wet rakes" for bunker work.

Q: Did you see/hear of any protestors?

A: They actually sold "Support Hootie" buttons in some of the tents. Other than that we did not see any.

Q: How have your members responded to you since you returned?

A: I think they are glad I went because they ask a lot of questions about Augusta and my experience at The Masters. I am just gracious for their flexibility by allowing me to attend such an event. Hopefully, they will see the results on their golf course. I am still wondering, though, how I will compete with last month's meeting at Woodloch Springs. The whole day could not have been better. The golf, food, and education were all top notch. Hopefully, we will have as nice a day at Fox Hill.

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gentlemen for having the most positive influences on his career. In 1990 Ron attained his first superintendent's position at The Center Valley Club overseeing the construction and first several years of play. In 1995 Ron accepted the superintendent's position at Glen Oak C.C. He remained there for two years before coming to Fox Hill C.C.

Ron has a beautiful wife, Amy, and two children, Logan, 7 and Haley, 11. Ron likes to golf, hunt, fish, and coach girls' basketball. Ron's favorite meal is breakfast, potato chips, and soda (biggie size).

Finally, Ron is serving his third term as our Association's president. Therefore, we would like to thank him for all the time and effort he has given to our Association.

Thanks, Ron!



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Word Origins from the Game of Golf

What is the origin of the word 'golf'?

The word 'golf' is not an acronym for anything. Rather, it derives linguistically from the Dutch word 'kolf' or 'kolve,' meaning quite simply 'club.' In the Scottish dialect of the late 14th or early 15th century, the Dutch term became 'goff' or 'gouff,' and only later in the 16th century 'golf.'

The linguistic connections between the Dutch and Scottish terms are but one reflection of what was a very active trade industry between the Dutch ports and the ports on the east coast of Scotland from the 14th through 17th centuries.

Some scholars suggest that the Dutch game of 'kolf,' played with a stick and ball on frozen canals in the wintertime, was brought by the Dutch sailors to the east coast of Scotland, where it was transferred on to the public linkslands and eventually became the game we know today.

How did the terms 'birdie' and 'eagle' come into golf?

The term 'birdie' originated in the United States in 1899. H.B. Martin's "Fifty Years of American Golf" contains an account of a foursomes match played at the Atlantic City (N.J.) CC. One of the players Ah Smith relates: "my ball... came to rest within six inches of the cup. I said 'That was a bird of a shot... I suggest that when one of us plays a hole in one under par he receives double compensation.' The other two agreed and we began right away, just as soon as the next one came, to call it a 'birdie.' In 19th century American slang, 'bird' referred to anyone or anything excellent or wonderful.

By analogy with 'birdie,' the term 'eagle' soon thereafter became common to refer to a score one better than a 'bird.' Also by analogy, the term 'albatross' for double eagle - an even bigger eagle!

What is the origin of the word 'bogey'?

The term 'bogey' comes from a song that was popular in the British Isles in the early 1890s, called "The Bogey Man" (later known as "The Colonel Bogey March"). The character of the song was an elusive figure who hid in the shadows: "I'm the Bogey Man, catch me if you can."

Golfers in Scotland and England equated the quest for the elusive Bogey Man with the quest for the elusive perfect score. By the mid to late 1890s, the term 'bogey score' referred to the ideal score a good player could be expected to make on a hole under perfect conditions. It also came to be used to describe stroke play tournaments - hence, in early Rules books we find a section detailing the regulations for 'Bogey Competitions.' It was only in the late 1900s/early 1910s that the concept of 'Par' started to emerge - this being the designated number of strokes a scratch player could be expected to take on a hole in ideal conditions. In this way par was distinguished from bogey. The term par itself is a standard term in sports handicapping, where it simply means 'level' or 'even.'

What are the origins of the term 'dormie'?

Historically, the term dormie is derived from the French/Latin cognate 'dormir,' meaning 'to sleep,' suggesting that a player who is 'dormie' can

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relax (literally go to sleep) without fear of losing the match.

Why do Golfers shout "Fore" when they hit an errant shot?

The word "Fore" is Scottish origin, and is a shortened version of the word "before" or "afore". The old Scottish warning, essentially meaning "look out ahead," most probably originated in military circles where it was used by artillery men as a warning to troops in forward positions. Golfers as early as the 18th Century simply adopted this military warning cry for use on the links.



What is the definition of a 'links' course?

'Links' is a term that refers to a very specific geographic land form found in Scotland. Such tracts of low-lying, seaside land are characteristically sandy, treeless, and undulating, often with lines of dunes or dune ridges, and covered by bent grass and gorse. To be a true links, the tract of land must lie near the mouth of a river - that is, in an estuarine environment. From the Middle Ages onward, linksland (generally speaking, poor land for farming) were common grounds used for sports, including archery, bowls and golf.


Because many of the early courses of Scotland were built on these common linksland, golf courses and links have forever been associated. The term 'links' is commonly misapplied to refer to any golf course. But remember that a true links depends only on geography.

What is the origin of the popular golf game called 'skins'?

As a format of golf gambling, 'skins' has been around for decades, but really only became popular after the creation of "The Skins Game" in the 1980s. In other parts of the country, 'skins' is also known as 'cats,' 'scats,' 'skats,' or 'syndicates.' Of these, 'syndicates' seems to be the oldest term, going back at least to the 1950s, and possibly earlier. It has been suggested that 'skins,' 'scats,' etc. are simply shortened, simplified versions of the term 'syndicates.'

Compiled by Dr. Rand Jerris, USGA Museum Curator

Look for more golf terms in the next issue!



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A message from your golf course superintendent and GCSAA



Golfers Seem To Understand

By Stanley J. Zontek

The people living in the USGA Green Section's Mid-Atlantic Region, along with most of the East Coast, cannot escape the reality of this season's weather. It has been wet...very wet. While extra rainfall was needed to fill reservoirs and replenish groundwater following the drought of 2002, too much of anything is never good. Golf courses are on the defensive. Most courses are following a conservative maintenance program. In other words, turf managers are being careful.

Turf managers know and appreciate the link between mechanical damage and the weakening or predisposition of the grass to disease and summer heat stress problems. To manage grass through this period, you try to minimize those factors that weaken grass.

- Do not cut grass too short
- Do not topdress too heavily (if at all)
- Do not groom or vertical mow too deeply (if at all)
- Lightly syringe the grass, but do not puddle or over water
- Switch from grooved to solid rollers
- Compress fungicide spray intervals
- Tankmix and rotate fungicide chemistries
- Do not over regulate the turf using growth regulators
- Punch holes. Vent the soil, dry out the soil and stimulate some new roots.

If there has been one surprise this summer it has been how golfers have accepted these practices even summer aeration. Maybe they are just happy playing golf in between the rain events. A few small aerator holes seem insignificant to simply being able to play a round of golf.

I personally like to think golfers are becoming more sen-

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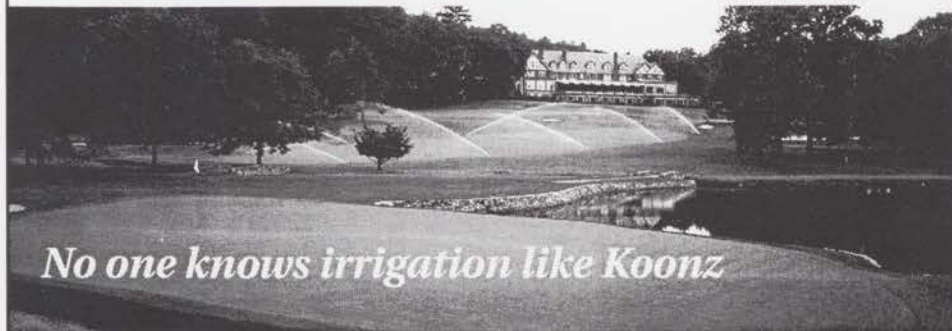
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POCONO ROUNDUP

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE POCONO TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

As you are probably aware, Dr. George Hamilton is the Turfgrass Program Director at Penn State. He was recently diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. Please include Dr. Hamilton and his family in your prayers.

The Roster Books for 2003 have been mailed out. If you should need an extra one, please contact Melinda.

When mailing a check to Melinda, please remember to tell her what the check is for!

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sitive to the needs of the golf course during periods of inclement weather. I like to think that golfers accept the fact that turf managers are doing their best to maintain their golf courses in spite of some terrible weather.

The solution?

1. Be patient
2. Be understanding
3. If you want good weather for golf, go West where it has been hot and dry or travel to the United Kingdom and northern Europe where it also has been unusually hot and dry.

It seems to be a sign of our times that the globe is experiencing periods of weather extremes. Perhaps these situations will help all of us to better understand that we all must work together, especially when conditions are not conducive to produce the best possible golf turf. Right now, turf managers are just trying to keep the grass alive.

As always, if the Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists can be of assistance, contact Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) or Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org)



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