

...of the professional golf tour

Last year the course conditions were criticized as being too soft from the record rainfall in 1994. We were determined to keep the playing conditions firm in 1995.

The result was close to U. S. Open playing conditions, very firm and very fast. The winning score went from -24 in 1994 to -5 in 1995, which got very favorable responses from the media and spectators alike."

The LPGA Sprint Championship

Going into the LPGA members' first championship to be held at their brand new LPGA International Golf Club, Superintendent Mark Heater had two fears, rain and/or hot weather. The late spring dates in April could be disastrous on either count. On April 16th, one week before tournament week, the temperatures began climbing to summer-like numbers 90, 92, 93... Mark could imagine TV shots of dead ryegrass all over the

place. At 1 pm that Sunday, the watering began.

Mark said they pumped record gallons of effluent water each night for six nights plus the daytime syringing to cool the grass in the heat of the day. The downside to so much watering to save the overseeding was that the course is built on heavy soils. Heavy storms run off quickly, but the top quarter-inch can stay soft and hamper mowing. It was a no-win situation.

Finally, the heat wave subsided just in time for tournament week with high temperatures returning to low to mid 80s. Mark had also hedged his bets by spraying the fairways with Primo growth regulator in case he couldn't mow due to wet conditions.

By the end of the tournament, some ryegrass areas were getting "toasty," but the course only lost a few per cent of overseeding. After the tournament another heat wave hit and this time the rye said sayonara! Through it all the bent/

poa greens showed no signs of stress. Mark attributes that to the application of K-Power's 12-0-42 fertilizer at 1 lb. of Potassium per 1,000 square feet, three weeks before the event.

The tournament routine itself was a juggling act of men and equipment squeezed into a near impossible time frame. It took eight men walk mowing with spotlights on the putting and chipping greens and first holes front and back to stay ahead of the early morning 1 & 10 tee times. The 5:45 a.m. morning routine consisted of setting cups, walk mowing 24 greens (double cut), walk mowing the tournament tees because of signs immediately behind each tee, raking the bunkers and dragging the fairways.

At 4:00 p.m. the crew returned, working until dark to triplex mow the rest of the tees, mow the fairways, collars and approaches, mow the first cut of rough, double cut the greens again, and "brush drag" the bunkers. By the way, the greens average 7,000 square feet so it wasn't a

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Palm Beach Chapter spotters all geared up for the Senior PGA event at PGA National.



Central Florida Chapter volunteers gather before getting group assignments "inside the ropes" at the Nestle Invitational.

Inside the Ropes

Acting as the eyes and ears for NBC Sports, the FGCSA has been providing spotters and scorers for the television broadcasts of LPGA, Sr. PGA and PGA Tour events in Florida for several years now. It is a win-win situation for all involved. NBC gets golf knowledgeable people to report who's away, club selections, unusual shots, penalty situations and scores to the production trailer for relay to the announcers, and the FGCSA members get the best seat in the house inside the ropes following a group of players during competition. Additionally, the monies paid by NBC for these services is turned over to chapter scholarship and research funds. ↘

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walk in the park to stay ahead of golfers in the morning and trying to beat sundown each night.

Mark and assistants, Allison Reaves and Steve Kugler figure they began putting in 90 hour weeks a month out to make sure the new course would be ready. Including them, it is a 25 man operation with 18 crew members grooming the turf. There are 90 bunkers. Some of them rival the Mojave and Sahara in size. It took 4 mechanical sand rakes to rake them ahead of play each day. Mark said he had zero spare people, and on Saturday he found himself walk mowing greens to cover for a "no show" by a now former employee. There were three other saving graces that

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Florida fuel tanks must be insured

BY SCOTT BELL

On January 1, 1995, all above ground fuel storage tanks were required to be insured. If you have above ground fuel storage tanks that hold over 550 gallons of fuel, then you are required to carry restoration insurance and third party liability coverage.

Restoration insurance will cover the costs (after a deductible) for clean up from a fuel spill. Those costs can include soil and water remediation, reporting and testing. The third-party liability covers you in the event that the contamination leaves your property and affects your neighbor's property.

The limits needed for tanks of 250,000 gallons or less are \$1 million per incident and \$2 million annual aggregate for facility clean up and third party liability coverage. With all of the remediation, testing and reporting, restoration costs can easily exceed \$100,000.

The law allows for a facility to self insure itself if it can meet certain criteria explained in 17-769.5000 FAC. A facility can purchase insurance from a private insurance company, or they can participate in the Florida Petroleum Liability and Restoration Insurance Program (FPLRIP). Information can be obtained by calling:

FPLRIP 1-800-475-4055
PLUS 1-800-866-4758
another insurance program

For more information, call the FL DEP at 904-488-0876. It should be noted that if you have below ground storage tanks, they should have already been insured, and if they are not, they should be insured as soon as possible.

LPGA Sprint Championship

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made the operation possible: (1) Loaner equipment in the form of three walk mowers, a fairway mower, a Jake 3810 and a bunker rake, (2) They didn't have to mow the roughs after the first day of the week, and (3) Super volunteer, former superintendent, Gary Morgan who showed up every day to help drag fairways and rake bunkers.

Mark would like to acknowledge the training and experience he got by understudying Tom Alex at Grand Cypress. Mark said, "I set my benchmarks for excellence based on what I learned from Tom. I saw and learned what a golf course could be. Why would anyone strive for anything less? It is the model I use to compare results here at LPGA International."

With a clubhouse, resort, and homes to be built, Mark and company have a lot of work ahead. But for now, congratulations on an outstanding debut!

Joel D. Jackson, CGCS
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