

Hogan's desire to have photos made of every tee shot and approach shot on the course is a testament to the caliber of course Wilson designed. Hogan reportedly called it "one of the finest courses in the world."

Arnold Palmer and Dow Finsterwald applied for conventional memberships to the club after playing it. Wilson was also the original designer of the Bay Hill Club in Orlando.

Forse of Forse Design, Inc. of Hopwood, Pa. is an avid restorationist. He even teaches a GCSAA course on classic courses and master architects. His reputation for attention to detail was a key factor in his selection for the project.

Forse says, "The beauty of what Wilson created and still remains, is very rare. This course and the photo documentation should remain as a historical monument to one of golf's greatest architects."

Bulldozers, backhoes, front end loaders and four dump trucks with turf tires have been rebuilding the greens, bun-

kers and lakes with amazing delicacy and minimal sound. Under the intense study of Forse, it is obvious that the intent of all concerned is to pull off something historic and spectacular. Construction has been moving along at a good pace and the reopening is tentatively planned for Nov. 1.

## From bentgrass to bermuda and beyond

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

In the mid 1980s, the Isleworth Country Club in Windermere was one a few courses in Florida built with pure bentgrass greens. The others were Golden Eagle in Tallahassee, The Plantation at Ponte Vedra in Ponte Vedra Beach, and Loxahatchee in Jupiter. As of last year, all of those courses have converted to Tifdwarf bermudagrass greens except the Plantation course, which still doggedly pursues the holy grail.

Since I had the challenge of managing Isleworth's greens from 1988 to 1991 during the bentgrass years, I was interested in finding out from superintendent Buck Buckner exactly how the conversion took place, and what other changes the club had made. Buckner, who already had a great reputation for his good greens at the nearby Orange Tree C. C., came on board in 1993 to oversee the conversion.

"The first decision — to replace the bentgrass and rebuild the greens to USGA specifications — was a no brainer," said Buckner. "Having bentgrass in Central Florida is a wonderful dream, but just isn't realistic! As you experienced it, Joel, you could have great bentgrass for six to eight months depending on the weather.

"When it got warm and humid, it could get ugly. The club wanted to make sure we had the best possible playing surfaces all year round, so switching to Tifdwarf was the obvious choice."

"The second decision was harder. Af-



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Isleworth's 12th green: rebuilt and regrassed. Photo by Buck Buckner.

ter we got into coring out the greens and rebuilding them, the members began talking about playability issues and the challenge of the course. The course had always been wide open and player friendly.

"Everyone was looking for a little more challenge.

"So we decided to hire golf course architect, Steve Smyers, to look into what could be done to complement the original layout and instill a little more challenge and excitement. So the relatively simple concept of converting the greens turned into a multi-year phased program of improvements and change."

"Isleworth's vision of challenge included good bunkering. Smyers reworked the existing 26 bunkers and added 64 more for a total of 90. I think he did a good job with them," said Buck.

I had to agree. As Buck and I rode the remodeled course, I had a hard time remembering whether some of bunkers were original or new because they seemed very natural in the rolling layout.

Buck added, "In addition to the bunkers, the greens were all reshaped and #17 and #18 were relocated. The 18th hole was shortened into a challenging par 4 and the 17th lengthened into a gambling, go-for-it-in-two, par 5.

"The high left side of the 7th hole was cut and lowered and we used the fill to

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raise the low areas on the 3rd hole. We also moved tees and built new tees to give more variety for playing length and different sight lines.

"Additionally, we have planted a lot of magnolias, maples, oaks and sweet gum to help define some areas and screen others. If you remember that Brazilian silk floss tree on #13, we harvested two seed pods and have planted many of the resulting seedlings around the course."

"The only real difficulty we had during the project was the record rainfall in the summers of 1993 and 1994. It forced us to do more sodding on areas we might otherwise have sprigged .

"All of the changes have been good, and the members seem pleased with the results. The course is still very playable for golfers of all caliber. I think the new changes may have toughened up the course by a stroke or two overall, but I think they're having more fun and excitement each round with the new looks and challenges."

## Super Tips

# Cleaning up fairway clippings presents challenge

BY DARREN J. DAVIS

*Golf Course Superintendent  
Olde Florida Golf Club*

As a golf professional friend of mine often says, "There are many ways to make par." This philosophy certainly holds true in a golf course superintendent's line of work as well. Every superintendent has their own unique way of doing things and often the same task can be completed many different ways.

It is because of this that I believe one of the best methods for a golf course superintendent to advance his knowledge in the field of turfgrass management is through networking with his peers. It is this interaction among comrades that allow us to pick up on little tips or even completely different styles of management that will help us to a better job on our own "turf".

Beginning with this issue, a new feature in the *Florida Green* will be the "Super Tips" section. The "Super Tips" section will provide tips from your peers that might make your job easier or more efficient.

The first "Super Tip" relates to the clean up of "fairway clippings".

One of the challenges golf course superintendents face today is how to mow the large acreage of fairways with little or no distraction to the golfer. Some have chosen to mow the fairways in the afternoon. Mowing when the turf is dry usually solves the problem of the piles of clippings in the fairways.

However, not many golf course superintendent's have this luxury since it would probably be a hindrance or distraction to the golf play. Therefore, we are usually forced to mow fairways in the early morning hours.

Consequently for southern golf course superintendents, who mow fairways without baskets, mowing in the morning re-