It's the smart course that plans for emergencies

BY DONALD GEYER

BRIGANTINE, N.J. — Early one morning at about 8 a.m., I looked out of the front door of our local club, Brigantine Golf Links. A pick-up truck entered the parking lot at a high rate of speed and came to a very sudden stop. The driver jumped out of his truck and ran into the clubhouse.

"Call 911, there is a guy with a heart attack on the fourth hole," he said.

The person working on the desk immediately picked up the telephone and called 911. The conversation ran like this, "This is the Brigantine golf course. The course opened in late 1992 and is the Brigantine Golf Links. It has a number of streets that run parallel to a fairway with potential access points. There may save a life."

But the episode got me thinking. The course has 18 holes: the Hagen nine and the Vardon nine. It is very hard to protect it.

The purpose of this plan is to coordinate the efforts of the Golf Course and Rescue Personnel in aiding a person needing assistance. All of us working together will save valuable time, which may save a life.

A. Upon learning of an emergency
1. Determine which hole Hagen 1-9 (front) or Vardon 1-9 (back) and the exact location of the person on the hole.
2. Obtain a brief description of the type of emergency.
3. The exact location on the hole will determine the Fire Rescue Access #.

B. Dial 911
1. This is Brigantine Golf Links
2. We have a possible-heart attack or stroke or broken leg.
3. Fire Rescue access Area # is. The emergency is on [See Al above]
4. Golf Course Personnel will meet you at Access #

C. Call Ranger on the radio
1. We have an emergency. Where are you?
2. Go to Hagen 1-9 or Vardon 1-9. The person is at (give a specific location on the hole.)
3. Please meet the F.D. Rescue Unit at their Access Point to give them directions.

D. Access Points

1. On Club House parking lot near H1 Tee Box and H9 Green and across Roosevelt Blvd. to V1 Tee Box and V9 Green.
2. On Hagen Road near H1 Green and H2 Tee Box.
3. On East Shore Drive near H4 Green and H5 Tee Box.
4. At Dead End Street off 11th Street, near H5 Fairway and H5 & H6.
5. On Sheridan Place near H6 Green, H7 Tee Box & Green.
6. At Sheridan Blvd., and Washington Drive near H9 Tee Box and on Washington Drive along H9 Fairway.
7. On Roosevelt Blvd. near V1 Green and V2 Tee Box.
8. Pump House On Roosevelt Blvd. near V3 Green and V4 Tee Box.
9. On Sheridan Blvd. near V3 Green, V6 & V7 Tee Box.
10. On Sheridan Blvd. near V7 Tee Box.
11. On Saronzo Road near V7 Green and near V3 Tee Box and Green.
12. On North Shore Drive near the middle of V9 Fairway.

E. Pro Shop

1. Dispatch at least one person and cart to the emergency site — D.G.
The Hayter Cup

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summer had made for poor growing
conditions on the close
cropped fairways. All of these fac-
tors suggested the superb West
Lances course would provide a
stiff enough test, gentle or no.
View the description “pussycat”
in a purely relative sense.

The range of playing ability
was wide, from plus-1 handicap
to more than 12. This in mind,
the opportunity for some one-
side matches was very real. As
this would have been contrary to
the spirit of the contest, organiz-
ers and team captains agreed to
avoid such a scenario by the imple-
mentation of two devices: First, the matches would be
played full handicap; second, the cap-
tains would, as near as pos-
sible, order their players in
roughly ascending handicaps.

As the results show, this was a
successful move with only five
matches out of 18 being reason-
ably described as “comfortable
victories/uncomfortable defeats.”

The morning foursomes were
extremely closely contested,
four of six went to the 18th, one
to the 17th, with only Dean
Morrison and George Renault of
the Americas cruising to a 6 and
5 victory (see complete scoring
results on page 33).

Opening salvos were jocular
and generous with 3-foot “gimmies”
fairly commonplace. By about hole
seven the konomik was a good
descriptor of the morning if one
good, take it away,” had been re-
placed with a calculating silence.

Tension was mounting.

By hole 14, the sole Canadian,
Thom Charters, had his shoe off
decaying a mirthful but
“with this ailing he put-
ing, it might have explained
his three-jeck on the 18th
who was not wearing his
game. By his own admission,
“The Canadian choked it!”

Charters was not alone in a
ner-
vous display on the last. Alex Reid
of Scotland missed from 2 feet
and thus achieved a half, instead
of what might have been a vital win.

The Cup went down almost to
the wire. If Ian Buckley had not
been 3 off the tee at the 18th,
the result may have been different.

However, truth be known, the re-
sult was perhaps not as important
as one might imagine. Surely the
excitement was felt as both team
captains were waiting on the 18th
with information and encourage-
ment for the final few matches.

But the real buzz was felt by
everyone by dint of being in-
volved in such a brilliant event.

Hayter’s Macled was delighted
with the way his team was
panned out, declaring that even the weather
was great: “This is everything I
hoped it would be,” he said.

This correspondent would go
one better: The event surpassed
all expectations.

Emergency plan
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along with worst-case scenario
of a golfer — heart failure with
a lack of oxygen — how much
is required to start immediate
first aid, summoned training
emergency personnel with equip-
ment, and deliver the golfer to a
hospital? Not hours, but minutes.

This scenario required a plan
to coordinate all potential par-
ticipates. Pat Vanderstine is gen-
eral manager of the golf course.
It was appropriate to discuss my
concerns with her. She readily
agreed from a humanitarian
standpoint that I should proceed.

The beginning of the plan re-
quired training the golf course
with paper and pencil viewing
the course with an entirely new
perspective. Example: The
Hagen first hole has water crossing
the fairway at 90 degrees
halfway between tee and green.
The water is crossed by a bridge
whose integrity is adequate for
golf carts, but surely not for a
heavy emergency vehicle. An
emergency situation would re-
quire the exact location of a
golfer needing assistance. Is the
golfer between the tee box and
the water or is the golfer be-
tween the water and the green?

This exercise started the cre-
ation of many pages of notes. It
was quite apparent a layout
of the golf course, along with the
adjacent city streets, would be
needed. A trip to the fire depart-
ment and the taxi office located
the needed street layout. The Fire
Chief Darry Platt was very enthu-
siastic about the development of
this plan; he offered any needed
cooperation by his department.

On one of the layouts the wa-
ter, macadam paths tee boxes
and greens were established and
colored. Water was blue, paths
were black while tee boxes and
greens were green. With the notes
the planner, access points were
established in red on the layout.
This was accomplished after many
meetings with the fire chief and
deputy fire chief. The layout had a
total of 12 access points.

The next order of business was
to set forth a simple set of in-
structions for course personnel
(see related story). Copies of
these instructions and the course
layout with the access point were
reviewed with Chief Platt for his
approval and any necessary
changes were turned over to the
city department.

The fire department conducted
training sessions with their per-
soneel to familiarize them with
it. At no cost to the golf course,
Chief Platt offered to run train-
ing sessions on CPR and artifi-
cial respiration for all golf course
personnel — paid and volunteer.

PGA’s Reserve augments Fla. butterfly population

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. —
Audubon International has
presented its top award to
the PGA Golf Club at The Reserve
— only the fifth in the nation to
receive Audubon’s Signature
Sta-
tus for environmental excel-
lence.

The award ceremony — com-
plete with a live butterfly release
— took place during The
Reserve’s opening dedication
celebration attended by hund-
dreds of PGA delegates from
across the country, special guests
and the news media.

PARAMUS, N.J. — Ridgewood
Country Club has become the
second course in the state to
achieve designation as a “Certif-
ied Audubon Cooperative Sanctu-
ary” by the Audubon Cooper-
ative Sanctuary System.

Our efforts and accomplishments
are part of an overall plan to
not only maintain The Ridgewood
Country Club as one of the top
golfing facilities in the U.S. but
to also make our club environ-
mentally sound,” said Ridgewood
President Fred Nydegger.

“The club is extremely com-
mitted to preserving the natural
beauty of its 275-acre ex-
complex,” explained Ridgewood
superintendent
John J. Gaspard, “and our
long-range environmental plan
was created so that RCC can
improve and sustain our desired
level of environmental quality
for year to come.”

RYE, N.Y. — Westchester
Country Club has been designated
a Certified Audubon Cooperative
Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooper-
ative Sanctuary System.

Westchester is the third course in
New York to receive the honor.
“We are proud to have reached
this status and look forward to
maintaining and further enhanc-
ing our Audubon program,” said
superintendent Joe Alonzi.

All golf courses should have
an emergency evacuation plan.
Just because a course has a num-
ber of holes that aren’t close to
guarded roads with no houses. There
should be a plan in place and per-
soneel familiar with its operation.

Here, this issue has been dis-
cussed from the humanitarian
standpoint. T he issue was
mentioned that no one was
attending were their fellow play-
 ers who were untrained. A negli-
gence suit is waiting to happen.

An attorney for the deceased’s
heirs can and would raise many
critical questions of the golf course
and possibly the local emergency
department. With my training in
risk management I saw a potential
problem, but I also saw a practical
way to reduce and minimize the problem.

Statement of Ownership
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