A lot of things can happen in seven years—but Poa annua in my PennLinks is not one of them.

“For one, I was a younger man when I was grow-in superintendent at the OGA Members Course at Tukwila. Now, I’m married, have two dogs, a cast on my foot, our course has a beautiful new clubhouse, and we’ve had more than 300,000 rounds played on our PennLinks greens since we opened in August, 1994.

Our crew has managed to control Poa annua in our greens even though our public course is surrounded with hazelnut orchards where annual bluegrass thrives under the canopy of trees. To start with, PennLinks is a strong variety with good recovery from daily scars and wounds. When managed consistently with a balanced fertility program, and by aerifying in late May and mid-September—after Poa annua backs off the seeding stage—we can keep the nuisance grass in check. We’ve observed that alternative spikes don’t disturb the putting surface, thus providing and ideal seedbed like steel spikes will. When Poa annua does occur in our greens, crew members remove the individual plants with tools we’ve adapted for the job; like a sharpened screwdriver, weed cutter, and a plunger for stubborn plants. Collars are the buffer between the surrounds and the greens, and have some Poa annua growing in them. I plan to re-sod the collars this year to start afresh and stop the threat of encroachment.

We’re open year ‘round, and have consistently posted more than 44,000 rounds per year for the last seven years. Our PennLinks greens are cut at 0.110 to 0.115” in the summer, and raised to 0.135” in the winter. We strive to maintain country club standards with less than a country club budget.

I may not look as young as I did seven years ago, but our PennLinks greens do. Now if I could get rid of this cast and control those geese, all would be well.”

Kirk Kundrick CGCS, Supt.
Our clients bring vision.
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Heller Financial is pleased to announce that its Real Estate Finance business unit has launched a Golf Lending Group, targeting existing middle-market golf course properties across the United States. The new lending program has a dedicated business staff providing floating rate debt ranging from 50% to 75% loan-to-value.

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