

Turfgrass Matters



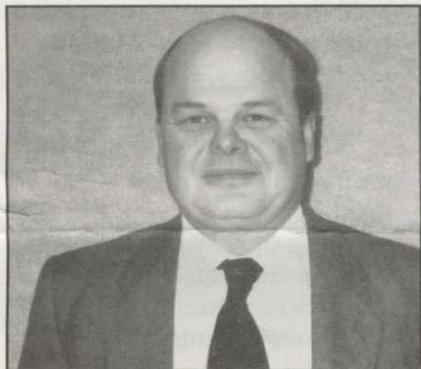
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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Queenstown Harbor Golf Links will be Site of Superintendent-Pro Tournament

by Bill Shirk, C.G.C.S.

Queenstown Harbor Golf Links (QHGL) is a 27-hole public course owned and operated by Washington Brick and Terracotta Company. This family-based real estate



partnership, located in Washington D.C., is managed by Art, Lex, and Charlie Birney. These individuals deserve respect and admiration for their perseverance in the seven-year struggle to make QHGL a reality. (For a history of the property, see Lex Birney's article on page 6).

A Lindsay Ervin design, the course winds through wetlands, forests, and farmlands. Construction officially began on July 20 1990. Ryan Eastern handled all the mass earth moving. Kenova Company was responsible for construction of the greens and tees, drainage and irrigation, and the final grading. The three nines to be built were *Harbor*, *River*, and the *Woods*. Carved out of 405 acres are seven acres of greens, six acres of tees, and forty acres of fairways.

Seeding began on October 10, 1990 on the *River* course. All greens and tees were seeded to Penncross Bent, with Penneagle Bent roughs. The *Woods* course was seeded in the spring of 1991, and completed during the first week of June. Mounding and limited time led to the hydroseeding the entire golf course in hopes of eliminating erosion and establishing a playing turf more quickly. Opening day was scheduled for July 1991! In addition, all greens and tees were covered with a Terra-Bond product to speed turf establishment. Much to my amazement (no thanks to Mother Nature!), we did open the the *Harbor* and *River* courses on July 1, 1991—just 11 days shy of one year from when construction started. The *Woods* course opened April 1992. The Superintendent-Pro Tournament will be played on the *River* and *Woods* courses which measure 7110 yards from the blue tees with a slope of 138 while the white tees measure 6599 yards with a slope of 132. The greens are mowed at 5/32", six days a week. Twice per week, tees are mowed at 3/8", the fairways at 1/2", and the rough at 3".

The irrigation system, designed by PSI, consists of a variable speed pumping station which is capable of pumping 1800 GPM. In addition, there is a well whose pumping capacity is 800

GPM and which can be used to run the irrigation if necessary. TORO's Network LTC computer system controls the 1000 sprinklers on all three courses using VT-4 satellites.

A water monitoring system involving thirteen wells also exists. Testing for various metabolites and pesticides is performed four times a year by Horsley, Witten, Hegemann, Inc.

The greens were built to USGA specifications with the same root zone mix for both greens and tees: 90% sand (very small percentage of clay particles) and 10% peat. The percolation test

Bring plenty of golf balls as sixteen of the eighteen holes have water or environmentally protected areas.

under laboratory conditions showed a rate of 28.2 in/hr. The fertilizer composite was added directly to the root zone mix as it was being blended. As a new golf course we tried to maintain a 1-1-1 ratio on the entire course. From October 1990 to December 1991, application was 22 lbs. N/m on the greens, 16 lbs. N/m on the tees, and 10 lbs. N/m on the fairways and roughs. I have yet to decide on a crabgrass control program as I am venturing into

See *Tourney*, page 8

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new territory with bent fairways. Last summer was a success with Acclaim, Methaz-30 and Impact.

Some projects still need to be completed. Nine miles of cart path paving is scheduled for completion by the first week of May. A better growing season this year would help thicken the turf density in the roughs. And in the fall, the wooded areas of the golf course will undergo major seeding.

In association with the Chesapeake Wildlife Foundation, QHGL is presently funding a project, to improve wetlands and wildlife habitats. We will assume control for an additional 100 acres, not including woodlands, to create feeding and nesting areas. The Foundation has already installed many wood duck and bluebird boxes, purple martin and bat

houses, and osprey platforms. All the environmentally protected areas are being seeded with wild flowers and natural grasses.

My wife Cheryl, a registered nurse, is Nurse Manager of the ICU at Memorial Hospital in Easton and takes classes toward a masters degree two nights a week at the University of Maryland. We have two children, Adrian (10) and Ashley (8). Taking care of all their projects and tolerating a husband with a wild and crazy profession, she is truly the backbone of this family.

I certainly hope everyone gets an opportunity to play our new and very exciting course soon. Bring plenty of golf balls as sixteen of the eighteen holes have water or environmentally protected areas. Maybe in three to five years we can again host a MAAGCS meeting so everyone

can see how the course has matured.

Other hosts for the day will be head pro Trent Wright who came from Wakefield Valley Golf Course and is adapting well to Eastern Shore living; Thad Hoy, who will handle food preparations; and Jeff Wolfe, my assistant, who graduated in 1991 from the turfgrass program at Penn State University (my alma mater-1972). Good luck to everyone!

Cocktails & Dinner will be at 6:30 and 7:00. **Cost:** \$30 per person for those **not** playing golf. For those in the tournament, all is included in that cost.

Directions: Take 50 east across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. Continue on 50 East. Take 301 North (toward Wilmington). The golf course will be on the left approximately 1/2 mile past the 50E/301 split..

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