

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE



Name: David Procter

Employer:

Ruby Hill Golf Club, Livermore, CA

Position: Assistant Superintendent

Years in the Business: 11

Previous Employment: The Olympic Club, San Francisco, CA

Education: BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science

GCSANC Work or Interests: I am a chapter member and enjoy attending

events like the Demo Field Day. I look forward to becoming more involved with the chapter by serving on a committee and maybe one day on the board.

Family: Married to wife, Holly, and reside in San Francisco, CA.

What was the first car you ever owned? Volkswagen Jetta

How fast did you drive it?

Depends on how late to work I was (kidding).

What is your favorite band? Being of English descent, it is Oasis.

How did you get into the business? At the age of 13 I played my first round of golf with a group of friends. I quickly became hooked and spent the next three summer vacations working on the maintenance crew at a few local clubs. As part of my initial college turfgrass program I had the opportunity to move to Scotland and work at Loch Lomond Golf Club, then home to the Scottish Open. It was this high-level exposure that made me realize that this was the life for me.

My initial exposure to the industry (in the USA) relies heavily on Mike O’Keeffe and Ohio State University where I participated in an international exchange program which specialized in Horticulture, Agriculture and Turfgrass. I spent six months in Ohio at Sand Ridge Golf Club, six months in Florida at Card Sound Golf Club followed by 6 months in New York at Westchester Country Club.

What did you learn that they never taught you in college?

The human element. The ability to work with a variety of folks and all for the common good of the project and/or the club.

What is #1 on your bucket list? To attend the World Cup.

What’s the best bit of professional advice ever tossed

your way? I would never ask someone to do a task (or assignment) that I wouldn’t be willing to do myself.

What accomplishment are you most proud of? My goal (as with many of my colleagues) is to continue to learn, improve and progress within the industry, so I would have to say I am most proud of the position I hold today at Ruby Hill GC. This has come from years of hard work and with a commitment to always give my best.

I have worked European tour events in Scotland, PGA Tour events in the USA, The US Amateur and two Wimbledon tennis championships. It’s always a stand-out moment whenever I’ve been involved with an event of global scale. To work along side other professionals in a voluntary capacity at a major event is something everybody should jump at the chance to experience.

On a personal level, I am most proud to have married my beautiful wife, Holly. With her support I’ve been able to achieve many of my professional goals.

What’s your favorite restaurant?

The Boxwood Café in London

Beer or wine? Wine

Favorite course to play: Meadow Club (Fairfax, CA)

Ipod top 5: *Wonderwall* (Oasis), *You Do Something to Me* (Paul Weller), *Fake Tales of San Francisco* (Arctic Monkeys), *Through the Wire* (Kanye West), *America* (Neil Diamond).

What’s your favorite vacation spot? Portugal

Favorite hobby: Growing up in England my main passion has always been football (soccer). However, I also love golf, hiking and camping.

Strangest thing you’ve ever seen on a golf course: A boat that landed in a bunker at Loch Lomond Golf Club.

Name your top superintendent influences: Ken Siems at Loch Lomond Golf Club. He demanded a lot of respect and was always extremely professional,

Name your top life influences: My dad and mum

Lowest score you ever shot and the course: Shot an 82 at the Meadow Club (no wonder it’s a favorite course of mine!)

The most rewarding thing in your job is: Seeing what goals can be achieved through the efforts of the team. It was quite rewarding recently observing how happy our members were at the club invitational.

Few people know I like to...cook.

If you weren’t in the business of growing grass what would you be doing? I think I would have chosen a career as a public safety (police) officer and eventually becoming a detective.

What’s in your garage? Sorry, no garage. I live in downtown San Francisco with street parking only.

What’s in your closet at home? Not much, since my wife takes over most of the closet (which I hear is quite common these days).

What’s in your office? Lots of things, but most important to me is a flag and hat collection, and of course, my irrigation computer.

What magazines do you subscribe to? Outside of all the industry publications, *Men’s Health* is the only other magazine.

Do you collect anything, and why? Yes, flags and caps from tournaments I have attended and/or venues where I have served on the volunteer crew.

Worst piece of equipment ever owned? Never owned it, but back in Scotland the club had a Ferris (a walk behind mower). None of us wanted to use it. (Amazing how often the tires were mysteriously found flat.)

Worst place you have ever slept? My office.

Closest to death you ever came? In my youth I experienced severe hypothermia and was med-flighted to the hospital via helicopter.

The invention that you thought of but someone else made the million dollars and not you? Never quite had the mind of a great inventor. However, it would have been great if I had invented a central irrigation control system.

Do you expect to collect on social security? Yes. Don’t we all?

What were your favorite activities as a child? Football with friends and fishing with my dad.