

1998 Hayter International Cup

Al Pondel
Deerfield G.C.

During the week of October 11 through the 16, I went to Atlanta as one of twelve superintendents to represent America's Team (AME) in a three-day competition against twelve golf course superintendents from the Rest of the World (ROW). The invitation was a result of my victory in last year's national tournament. The format of this biennial event resembles the Ryder Cup matches where you play four-ball (best ball) the first day, foursomes (alternate shot) the second day and then singles matches the final day. The courses we played were the Atlanta Athletic Club, site of the PGA in 2001; Peachtree Golf Club, previous site of the Walker Cup; and White Columns Golf

Club. We also were fortunate to play the Golf Club of Georgia and Cherokee Country Club the two days preceding the competition. The golf courses we played were in superb condition, and the hospitality shown us by the clubs was first class. I am happy to report that our team was victorious 13.5 to 10.5.

The 12 superintendents from the ROW's team were from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France, Spain, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany and Australia. The superintendents from AME's team were from Argentina (2), Canada (4) and the United States (6). The matches were very competitive, but when the round was over, we really got to enjoy the company of these guys. Interestingly, all of

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Match	Players	Team	Result	Points AME	Points ROW
No. 1	Piller VS. Kauler	AME ROW	6+5		1
No. 2	Mangum VS. Lewis	AME ROW	2 up	1	
No. 3	Witt VS. Sternberg	AME ROW	5+4		1
No. 4	McGinnis VS. Sheehan	AME ROW	3+1		1
No. 5	Alarie VS. Eriksson	AME ROW	8+6	1	
No. 6	Baden VS. Hansen	AME ROW	3+1	1	
No. 7	Pondel VS. Dorbeau	AME ROW	8+6	1	
No. 8	Seuss VS. Webber	AME ROW	1 up	1	
No. 9	Young VS. Frewin	AME ROW	1 up		1
No. 10	Fearis VS. Ambresin	AME ROW	7+5		1
No. 11	de Udaeta VS. Rezola	AME ROW	Halved	1/2	1/2
No. 12	Meyer VS. Wilson	AME ROW	4+2	1	
Singles Team Totals				6 1/2	5 1/2



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An engineered barrier is the IEPA's way of saying asphalt. So something good will come out of all of this; we will get to resurface the asphalt ground around the maintenance building.

Our CAP has been submitted to IEPA, and we are waiting to hear whether or not it will be approved. It may take up to six months to get approval. The IEPA may decide that groundwater monitoring is not adequate and that we need to perform active remediation of the site. Active remediation could require bio-remediation or vapor extraction—either of these systems would be extremely expensive.

After two years of researching and working on this issue, what have I learned? That it will probably take another three years before we can get a no further

action letter from the IEPA. What expert advice can I give on this topic? None! My nonexpert advise is: Hire an expert engineering firm. Keep your club officials aware of what the worst-case scenario could be (it may happen). Learn as much as you can about the prior history of the site. The tank which we removed had always tested tight. We believed that the contamination is largely due to a prior tank which was located in the same spot.

Remember that this thing isn't over until you have a no further action letter from the IEPA safely locked in your file cabinet. Take the time to do a survey of all the potable wells on and around your course. Find out what the setback zone is on each well. This information is important not only when dealing with fuel tanks but also in regards to location of rinse pads and pesticide storage areas. 

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the ROW team and our teammates from Argentina could speak English.

Here are a few interesting tidbits about some of the people I met. Pierre Ambresin from Switzerland is also a ski instructor. That would seem to be the norm, but not the fact that his golf course is open year round. Nick Webber from Northern Ireland had played on the European tour before becoming a car salesman; that wasn't until he realized where his real interests lay as a golf superintendent. Martin Sternberg of Sweden used to play junior golf with Jesper Parnivik. Finally, tipping for services is not the norm in some of the other countries, so trying to figure out a bill for a table of 14 was pretty exciting. 

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