



# Tim White -N- Prestwick Country Club

*Prestwick Country Club, the site of the 2008 MAGCS College Scramble, is managed by Mr. Tim White. Tim is the third golf course superintendent to manage the grounds that opened in 1964. He was preceded by long time MAGCS members Dick Trevarthan and Tim Anderson, CGCS. The golf course was designed by Larry Packard.*

Prestwick Country Club is located in the southwestern suburb of Frankfort, a town that was founded by German settlers from Pennsylvania in the 1840's and 50's. It was named after one of the founding father's hometown Frankfurt-Am-Main. The Joliet and Northern Indiana Railroad built a line through the present village and named it Frankfort Station, upon incorporation in 1879, Station was dropped and the name Frankfort was inked. Of course, Prestwick Country Club borrows its name from the golf club located on the Ayrshire coast, a stretch of land that has a few other namely clubs such as Royal Troon and Turnberry.

The golf course is surrounded by homes and boasts many trees of differing species. Traversing the property, the park-like setting provides a peaceful respite for the members that enjoy playing golf.

Hickory Creek meanders throughout the property creating many interesting golf shots and scenic views. Subject to flooding, this creek can create a challenge for the golf course superintendent and crew.

Tim has been at the helm of Prestwick Country Club since February 2005. Since then, he has overseen a few changes that were taken from a master plan of the property developed by local architect Greg Martin.

Tim and staff jumped in the fall of 2006 and modified each greenside bunker, by changing the sub-grade, adding drainage, and replacing the sand. In 2007, Tim oversaw the reconstruction of all 77 tees on the property. Tee work was completed by Hollembeak Construction Company. Each was sodded with a Alpha-T1 creeping bentgrass blend, a combination that Tim has been very pleased with for his teeing surfaces. Hollembeak also worked on 22 fairway bunkers, contouring, and giving facelifts while on property.

Tim has experimented with rhizomatous tall fescue (RTF) on the 9th hole around a fairway bunker complex. Tim really likes this choice of turf for this hot and dry location, explaining the RTF doesn't need all the water Kentucky bluegrass requires to stay green during the hot and dry months. Tim finds the RTF easier to manage and looks forward

to see how it performs in the coming years.

A local Southsider, Tim grew up in Homewood and began his career in golf as a caddy at Ravisloe Country Club when he was 13 years old. Not having a clue about golf course maintenance, he moved inside to work in the pro shop through high school. He did experiment one summer away from golf when he tried his hand at selling furniture. That didn't work out. Tim kept sitting down on the job.



Tim White

(continued on page 6)







Tim attended Bradley University for a stint majoring in Political Science and History. He was going to be a teacher until he returned home during summer break. Tim landed a job at Olympia Fields Country Club, under the direction of Dave Ward. Tim describes his first summer on the maintenance crew as fantastic. He loved every minute of it and his main task was weed-eating the creek where he refreshed an infection of poison ivy every other week.

This summer was truly life changing for Tim as he switched schools and majors, transferring to Southern Illinois University and taking up turfgrass science. Tim continued to work at Olympia Fields Country Club through the Senior Open in 1997 during school breaks. In 1998, Tim went to work for Dan Tully at White Hawk Country Club where he helped with construction and grow-in full time.

In May 2000, he was offered the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent position back at Olympia Fields Country Club. He immediately jumped at the chance knowing they were the site of the 2003 US Open. Tim's experience during this time grew and so did his passion for the profession. Under the tutelage of Dave Ward, Tim learned what it took to present a golf course to a nationwide audience. Luckily, Tim also learned how to deal with a property that floods. Tim tells me he has since downsized. Whereas at Olympia Fields there were 14 holes that flooded, currently Prestwick only has 11 that go under.

Tim transitioned well becoming a golf course superintendent because his passion for the job never weakened. When asked what advice he could give to current assistant

golf course superintendents looking to land the head gig, Tim told me it is important not to lose your focus or let your impatience overcome your passion for the business. Let that passion that first got you into the superintending field drive you through to where you will be someday. It is also important to use your time wisely by learning all you can and making many contacts along the way.

Tim is a hardworking golf course superintendent and leads by example. Tim is a teacher and his students are his crew. Under his sharp eye and guidance, he allows them to be creative in getting their tasks done while creating a positive work environment. He enjoys each day and the challenges it brings.

Tim is a White Sox fan and enjoys attending sporting events throughout the year. His family had season tickets for 11 years, and while growing up, Tim was never in school on opening day or as he called it, "a family holiday". To this day, his favorite player is still Greg Luzinski, (the Bull) who played for the White Sox until 1984. In his free time, Tim enjoys reading, his family and friends, and of course, golf.

If you play in the MAGCS College Scramble at Prestwick, bring a putter you can trust. The greens are known to be difficult to read, probably because they break toward the meandering creek. There is one thing for sure, well two, the golf course will be in great shape and all will enjoy the day.

-OC



# DUNTEMAN

**TURF FARMS**

*Growers of Quality Sod*

SERVICE!

LOCAL GROWING FOR  
EASY PICKUP OR QUICK DELIVERY.  
DELIVERY ON TIME, EVERYTIME.

QUALITY!

FEATURING  
ELITE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS,  
BENTGRASS SOD, AND  
TURF-TYPE FESCUE

NEW  
PRODUCT

- LOWER MAINTENANCE
- MORE DROUGHT & SHADE TOLERANT
- BETTER WEAR RESISTANCE

PRICE!

CALL FOR A QUOTE




**630-557-2900**

MAIN STREET  
11 MILES WEST  
OF BATAVIA, IL

RTV900

## The utility vehicle that's built as tough as a tractor.




Hard working, dependable and tough: the Kubota RTV900.

- **21.6 HP diesel engine** - Designed by Kubota engineers
- **Hydrostatic power steering** - Handle tight turns with ease
- **Variable Hydrostatic Transmission (VHT)** - No belts. No maintenance. No loss of torque.
- **Hydraulic wet disc brakes** - Smooth braking, even in mud and water
- **4-wheel drive** - Power through the roughest terrain
- **Ground-hugging suspension** - Fully independent front and semi-independent rear suspension
- **4 different models** - General, worksite, turf and recreational

Tractor tough. Kubota smart.

Martin Implement, Inc.

16400 104th. Ave.  
Orland Park, IL 60467  
(708) 349-8430



EVERYTHING YOU VALUE

www.kubota.com

