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Hole no. 16 at Prestwick Country Club. (Photo by Jim Trzinski)

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The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.



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# Stardate 6.2003

*Believe it or not, my term as MAGCS president has already crested and is now on the downward slope to that past presidents' pasture in the sky. Time flies when you are having so much fun. The truth of the matter is, time flies when you are so busy you have no time to glance at a clock, much less a calendar. If I were to give myself a mid-term grade, though, I am afraid I could only muster a C+. Passing yes, but not quite what I hoped for when the gavel was passed onto me. Luckily, there is still time to raise my performance and accomplish a few more of the goals I had originally set for myself, for the directors and for our Association.*

*To help understand the goings-on of MAGCS, I can only compare us to a "Star Trek" episode, any "Star Trek" episode. As president, I of course would take on the role of Captain Kirk: strong, driven, overbearing at times.*

At this time, I will not bore you with what the MAGCS Board of Directors has been up to. Now that we print up Board highlights in *On Course* and post Board meeting minutes on our Web page, saying it all again would just be redundant. No, I would much rather put a presidential perspective on the members that comprise the MAGCS cabinet: those distinguished individuals who represent themselves as my officers, directors and advisors, the "worker bees" that do myself and their Association proud.

To help understand the goings-on of MAGCS, I can only compare us to a "Star Trek" episode, any "Star Trek" episode. As president, I of course would take on the role of Captain Kirk: strong, driven, overbearing at times. Given just one simple goal, to carefully guide this vessel through the unknown, building a stronger foundation for a better tomorrow for our membership. Our eminent secretary/treasurer Phil Zeinert, as the consummate professional, unflappable, precise and logical, would be wearing the shoes of Mr. Spock. Never letting his emotions interfere with his analytical thought process, Luke Strojny as the immediate past president would have to be Dr. McKoy. "Bones" always seems to be lurking in the background, watching my every move, constantly offering worthwhile advice, reminding me continually of federation protocol. Then there is my proverbial right-hand man as vice president, Fred Behnke. In Trekkie lingo, I can only describe Fred as the "anti-matter" that everyone else fears, but I applaud him. His alternative viewpoint on just about every issue is exactly what I and the entire Board need when trying to arrive at a well-thought-out, rational decision.

As for the rest of my "Enterprise-ing" young crew, I originally asked them to look beyond our galaxy when issuing committee assignments last November. To improve upon the things we are doing well, and completely overhaul the things we were not. Keeping with the Trekkie theme, that of course meant, *"To boldly go, where no Board has gone before."* And in galactic terms, they all have gone well beyond the boundaries of my expectations.

Tim Anderson and his Arrangements Committee's encore performance after a very successful MAGCS hospitality suite in Atlanta has seen them travel light years ahead of their time by completely booking host sites for 2004, and

*(continued on page 4)*

they are now in the midst of scheduling 2005. Dave Braasch and his Editorial Committee staff have gone beyond the stratosphere as well. Their immediate mission encompasses determining the feasibility of giving *On Course* a whole new look for 2004 by having a strictly editorial-based magazine. The Education Committee, chaired by Luke Cella, has given us some wonderful educational opportunities in 2003 already, and surely will enlighten us at this year's Midwest Turf Clinic. Luke has accomplished all of this while volunteering for double-duty as our interim executive secretary with guidance from our ailing George Minnis. As George concentrates his efforts on life, we as a Board continue to search the stars for his replacement. The members of the unheralded Golf Committee, chaired by Tony Kalina, have set their "phasers" to stun by using their imaginations and creating some golf events this year that will be fair to all who participate. A thankless task indeed, trying to please everyone at a Midwest golf event. Gary Hearn and the Membership and Environmental Committees have advanced things

to warp speed with ever-increasing membership totals and this year's Bird-Watching Open attracting more participants than ever before. Beam me up, Scotty—Speiden, with his Public Relations and Long-Range Planning Committees, is seeing that the Association stays the course by gearing up for this fall's MAGCS survey. These completed surveys shall provide us with vital information for the future of our Association. On top of that, committee members are putting the finishing touches on our updated/revised standard operating procedures (SOPs) for each committee. When completed, the SOPs will even be standardized for the first time ever.

Filling out the crew would be our host of advisors. Ed Braunsky is in charge of the illustrious Past Presidents Council, which by all indications thinks we are heading in the right direction. If not, we hear about it faster than the speed of light. Our *On Course* editor Cathy Miles Ralston and "Bull Sheet" contributing editor John Gurke continue to do us proud by publishing great issue

after great issue of our Association magazine. As for Sylvia Lima and her Commercial Advisory Committee, their efforts and advice continue to build a stronger relationship between commercial and superintendent members. And hats off to the newest member of our team, Erwin McKone, the class C advisor, and his committee of young up-and-coming cadets. Their committee, through dedication and commitment, will insure the future of our Association is in good hands.

To the officers, directors, advisors and plethora of committee volunteers, I thank you all for your tireless efforts in aiding our Association's growth and stability. I am proud to be your captain.

Hope to see you all at Olympia Fields Country Club, the site of this year's U.S. Open, and again at Prestwick Country Club for the June golf meeting.



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# Change on the Horizon?

*As a longtime member of the Editorial Committee and now as its chair, I can vouch that we are continuously looking for ways to improve On Course magazine. You have seen the changes in the past, including the conversion from a black-and-white newsletter to a 32+-page full-color publication and the implementation of new editorial awards and feature content. At this time, I would like you to take a quick look through this issue and see how easy or difficult it is to follow an article. Might take some time and effort—yes? Why? Because mixing editorial and advertising content sometimes requires distracting “jumps”—those legendary “continued ons”—and cluttered layouts!*

*... one proposal we are mulling over: to partially or completely remove all advertising from On Course. ... We would consider removing all of the advertising and instead, placing one-time ads into our annual membership directory.*

The Editorial Committee's latest idea is to, in effect, “defragment” the magazine. You do it to your computer on a regular basis to make it easy to find files and so it runs more efficiently—why not do it to the magazine.

Here is one proposal we are mulling over: to partially or completely remove all advertising from *On Course*. Please finish reading this before picking up the phone and going ballistic on someone who really doesn't deserve it. Yes, the By-laws of the MAGCS currently state that *On Course* must meet a 60/40 advertising-to-editorial ratio, but change can be good. We would consider removing all of the advertising and instead, placing one-time ads into our annual membership directory. What might be the benefits of doing so?

- A much “cleaner” and more aesthetically pleasing monthly publication to read and follow.
- One-time billing of our supporting vendors for an entire year of commercial sponsorship, which would save everyone involved both time and paperwork. This would have the added benefit of affording our editorial staff more time to experiment with the magazine and enhance the content to improve it even more.
- More frequent and better visibility for our commercial members' advertisements. Quite honestly, I look through my membership directory more often than I do at *On Course*. The magazine I read once and put on the shelf, whereas the directory I look through several times per week. For many of us, it is a daily reference guide.

We are currently working with our printer, Darwill Press, and our graphic artist, Mark Karczewski, to find out what the new pricing structure would be. The preliminary notion is that this approach could cost the commercial members the same or less, in terms of dollars, for more—more visibility on a daily basis. For those vendors desiring to run seasonal messages, we could—on a quarterly basis—provide the opportunity to place advertising inserts in the mailing envelopes with *On Course*. These seasonal messages could supplement

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## Tim Anderson -N-



Linda, Tim, Rachel and Hannah  
at Rachel's first communion.



*The monthly meeting for June takes us south to Prestwick Country Club. Built in 1963 and opened in 1964, Prestwick C.C. has been under the care of only two superintendents. Past president of the MAGCS Dick Trevarthan oversaw the construction by Wadsworth, served as grow-in superintendent and retired before Tim Anderson took the helm in November of 1996. Designed by Lawrence Packard, Prestwick lies in the flood plain of otherwise-developed property of Arthur McIntosh. Mr. McIntosh sold the golf course to the original charter members in 1983, making it a private, member-owned, equity country club.*



Linda and the girls in Maui.

Since Prestwick C.C. was built in a flood plain, you may be surprised to know that the highest point in Will County is also part of the country club's property. Perched atop this vantage point is where you may find Tim Anderson if the flood waters rise. Thirty-nine-year-old Anderson is a native of Kansas City, Missouri. Tim and wife, Linda, moved to Naperville after she finished her residency in K.C. Yes, Linda is a doctor, and a successful one. You may ask yourself, why would the husband of the head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Edwards Hospital have a job at all, let alone a job as superintendent of a course situated in a flood plain? No, he isn't brain-damaged: contribution and dedication is the answer. As a former employer tells it, Tim had shoulder surgery one summer; his employer said it was no big deal and they would work around it. The surgery required a pillow that was in place under his arm to keep the shoulder in position. One irrigation leak later, and Anderson is in the hole, pillow and all, digging away. When the boss arrives on the scene, the pillow is dirty and sweaty and Tim is busy digging pretty effectively with one arm. "He is one of the hardest-working, most intelligent people I know," claims a former employer and friend.

Tim's dedication is a result of his late father and hero, Phillip Anderson. "He taught me to be honest, hard-working, to be your best at what you do, and to have time for your family." Tim and Linda have two daughters: Rachel, 10, and Hannah, 8. When they are not at home playing with "Fur Ball" the cat, they may be headed to compete in rhythmic gymnastics. Anderson says the girls enjoy the gymnastics and fundraising for events and competitions. The activity keeps them busy and gives them a sense of accomplishment. The Anderson family also enjoys traveling, be it back to Kansas City to visit family

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or Mexico, a vacation they take every year. "We like the beach, sand, and water," says Tim. "But in our business, vacations in the summer are not an option." Mexico offers the Andersons the warm weather and summer fun in December. Tim says his girls are like little fish and love to swim and play in the water. The Andersons took a trip to Napa this year for the first time; other trips have included Denmark and several to Hawaii.

Tim started work on the golf course during high school, when he spent summers at Melburn Country Club in Kansas City. He continued to work summers there through his college days, when he attended

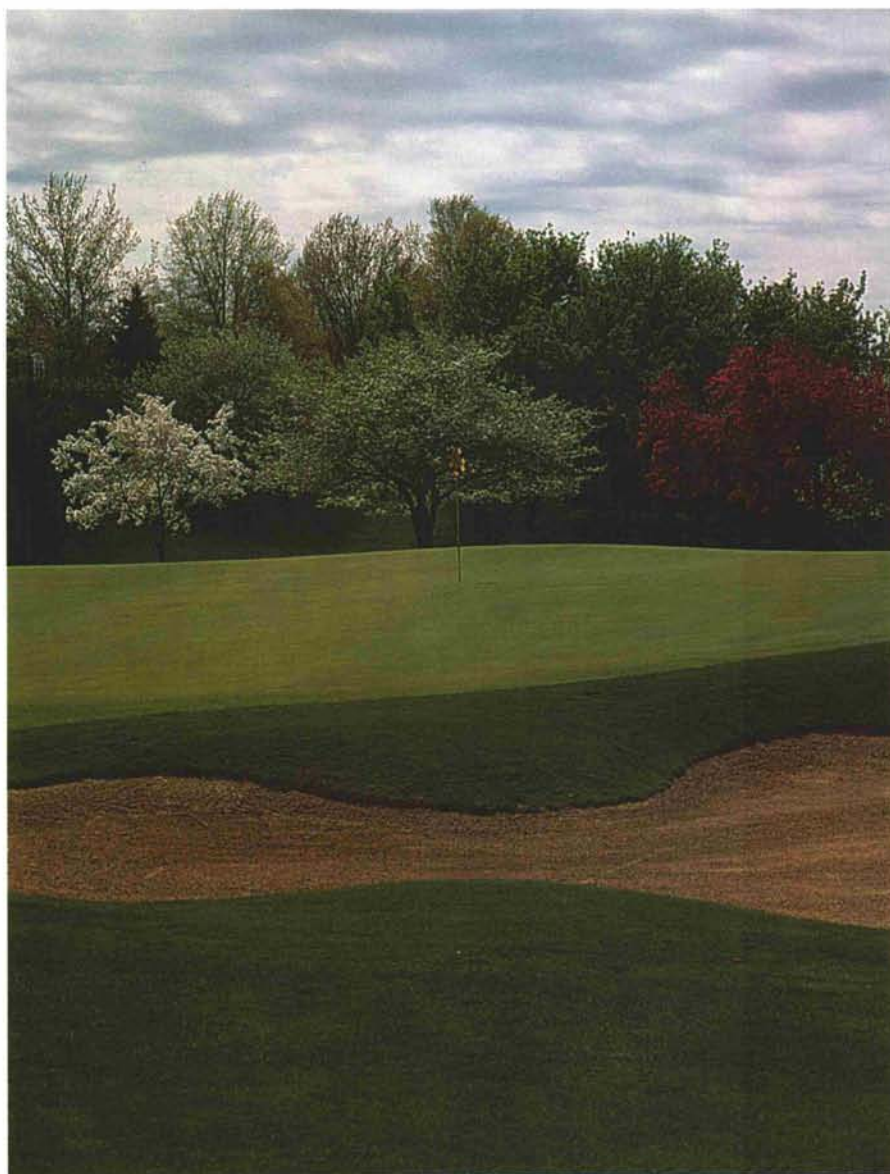
Rockhurst College in pursuit of a biology degree. After Rockhurst, he knew he wanted to pursue a golf career, so off to Penn State he went for the two-year turf program. Finishing Penn State, Anderson moved back to K.C. to work at Melburn once again, this time as assistant superintendent. Soon, he moved to nearby Loch Lloyd Country Club, again as assistant superintendent.

In 1993, Linda received an opportunity in Chicago; rumor has it Tim was ready to take a superintendent job at a private club in K.C., but dedication to wife and family took a front seat. The Andersons would head for the Windy City and Tim

found himself at Naperville Country Club soaring to new heights—literally (doubling as aerial photographer). The winds of change would blow for the Andersons again in 1996, when Tim accepted his current position. He remembers seeing all the pumps around the facility and thinking, "Hmm, sure are a lot of pumps around this place, wonder what they are for?" Prestwick C.C. is the watershed for about 7,000-8,000 acres surrounding it. Without much in the way of elevation change, a foot of water can flood massive areas of the course. What does having a course in a flood plain teach you? To ask the flood question in the job interview, Tim jokes.

Seriously, though, Prestwick's crew must be caught up at all times. "If the course floods, you will lose a week of routine maintenance. Any time it rains the drains must be checked and cleaned." Prestwick has in the neighborhood of 200 drains and Tim is fortunate that foreman Marcos Camargo knows each and every one of them. Marcos has been at Prestwick since Dick Trevathan was there. In fact, Tim says he is fortunate that he has several key crew members that really keep Prestwick up and running. This "key team" includes Harry Schmidt, who is a second-generation golf course mechanic. "Harry is the best mechanic in Chicagoland," boasts Tim. Superintendent Anderson is also grateful to have Bob Cunningham as his assistant and Carlos Hernandez as another foreman. "These guys are the ones who run the show," says Tim. "I am just a puppet." Tim is grateful to have such good employees and speaks very highly of those working behind the scenes.

When the waters do rise, Prestwick is flooded by the mighty Hickory Creek, which may or may not have water in it when Midwest members play there June 16. Members of Prestwick are beginning to finalize a long-range plan for renovations. Since coming on in 1996, Tim and his crew have renovated all the green bunkers and surrounds with the design direction of architect Bob Lohmann. Tim has also replaced a majority of the bridges, expanded the



Hole no. 1 at Prestwick Country Club.

irrigation system and put in miles of drain tile. Current projects include expansion of the drain-tile fields.

Prestwick Country Club has more than just the potential to flood as its claim to fame. Prestwick has a mature stand of oaks aged about 200 years, which tower in one pocket of the course. In 1994-95, the tree inventory was taken and Chris Bachtell recorded the largest hawthorne tree in the state. The hawthorne can be found on the 15th hole near the tee; remember to stick your camera in your bag before heading down. While you are contemplating the compartment to house your camera, make sure it is accessible. Prestwick and the subdivision house a few celebrities. Jim Evans and Dave Ferris both worked at Prestwick early in their careers. Bernie Mac resides in the subdivision when not shooting "The Bernie Mac Show," and before jamming out "Mister Roboto," Dennis DeYoung of Styx grew up in the sub.

While we are on the subject of jamming out, don't let the mild-mannered façade Tim Anderson fronts fool you. Under the quiet, soft-spoken exterior lies a wild beast. If a flash of color races past you on I-55, it just may be Tim on his high-performance motorcycle. He can be identified by the tattoo on his ankle. More rumors claim most of this wild side was left in Kansas City in the alleys behind the barbeque joints. If you head that way, Tim recommends Gates & Sons or Bryants BBQ as two of the best K.C. has to offer. Kansas City is slower. It's a small town that Tim associates with family. The fast pace of Chicago is very different, but doesn't bother the Anderson family. "I have grown accustomed to the pace of Chicago," claims Tim, who enjoys the fact that you can "drive an hour and be in a different world." The lakefront and the downtown area are favorites of the Anderson family.

Tim served on the Education Committee of the Midwest Association

for two years before a Board vacancy opened up. He has served on the Board for two-and-a-half years now. Tim is currently serving as Arrangements Committee chair. What does he like about Board work? "It gives you a chance to give back to the Association," he says. That answer was not a surprise coming from Tim; it seems anyone you talk to who knows him will emphasize what a hard-working and giving person he is. Tim also believes that serving on the Board of Directors rounds a person out as a professional. The members at Prestwick recognize and support his Board involvement, a way of paying your dues to the Association as Tim puts it.

We would like to thank our host of this month's meeting. Please introduce yourself to Tim and personally thank both him and his crew for the work involved with preparing for our event. While you are at it, congratulate him on the recent (May 14th) 15th anniversary of his nuptials with Linda.

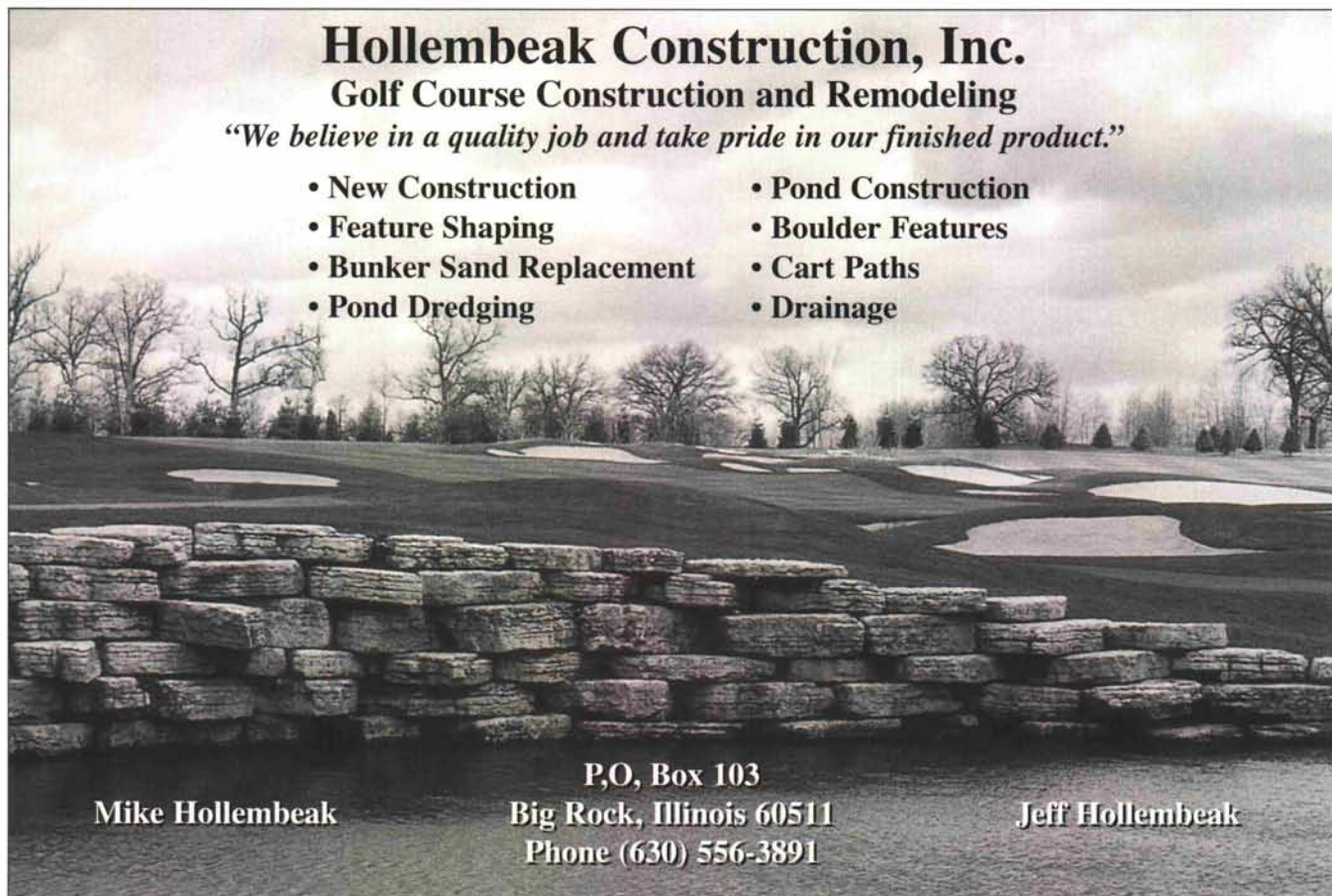


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