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Seven Bridges Put On A Splendid ITF

*The May meeting was the ITF/MAGCS Spring Golf Day, and it took place at Seven Bridges Golf Club on the 18th with **Don Ferreri** hosting. The event was the ITF Regional Team Golf Tournament, where teams from Metro North, Metro West, Metro South and Greater Illini (encompassing anyone who didn't fit into one of these other categories) went at it head-to-head, mano a mano, duking it out for the right to be called Emperors of Golf (a term coined by aliens from another place). The day cooperated wonderfully and offered an abundance of philanthropic wagering opportunities, including the floating target, the putting contest, longest putt, straightest drive, closest to the pin and longest drive.*



Barry Heinrichs of Burris Equipment with George O'Hara, Bill Kennedy and Todd Schmitz.



One of the more unique betting holes—the floating target.



Trent Bradford, Rennie Jacobson, Kenny Shepherd and Jim Hall.



Derek Florian, Tim Keating, Jeff Smith and Scott Adams.

The big winners of the day are, of course, the recipients of all the money generated for research (and we the superintendents who benefit from that research); but, as previously mentioned, there had to be a coronation. This year, the crown went to the Metro South team with a score of 453, nudging out Metro West (458), Greater Illini (462), and last, Metro North (an abysmal 473). The winning team consisted of John Maman, **Scott Armstrong**, **Chad Walk**, **Dave Kohley**, **Tim Scott** (does any other team stand a chance against the likes of them?) and **Chuck Odierno**. Congratulations, Emperors! As for the rest of the day, some other folks got to share in the good fortune, including **Kenny Shepherd** (closest to the pin on no. 14), **Bill Kennedy** (straightest drive), **Tim Scott** (closest to the pin on no. 15), **Gilberto Velasquez** (longest putt made) and **Dave Kohley** (longest drive).

Once the golf portion of the event ended, it was inside for a great spread of food and drink and prizes and raffles and drink (did I mention that?). The putting contest, officiated by the venerable **Drs. Branham, Voigt and Fermanian**, was won by **Tim Scott** with a scorching 5 (Tim donated his prize—a golf bag—to charity, and **Big Jim Shanley** was most generous in bidding \$150 for it at auction), while the chipping contest to the floating target at no. 10 tee was won by **Tim Scott** (Cubs tickets) and **Renny Jacobson** (golf bag).

& Don Ferreri MAGCS Spring Golf Day



Bob McCallum, Kathy Newyear,
Don Altman and Bruce Schweiger.



Kevin DeRoo, Howie Shuck,
Eddie Braunsky and Jim Styka.



Aaron Rowe, Jimmy Frels,
Chuck Odierno and John Maman.



Erik Swenson, Scott Armstrong,
Chad Walk and Andy Fassett.



Jeff Reberg, Joe Hustler, Garry Ander-
son and Scott Witte.



Our favorite betting-hole girls
Marsha Traves and Patti Thorson
with boss-man Barry Heinrichs.

While all this giving was going on, attendees were entertained by the happening sounds of the Tom Fermanian/Tom Voigt/Bruce Branham/Carl Hoppman Quartet, who belted out some of their most popular numbers, including "Ode to Automated Turf Quality Measurements," "The Unmowed Rough Playability Blues," "The *Poa Annua* and Growth Regulator Study Be-Bop" (results now available online), and the timeless classic, "The Sunshine Through Golf's 8-Acre Par-3 Course Boogaloo." As you can imagine (if you weren't in attendance), the fun had to stop before someone was seriously injured, so last call was . . . called, and off everyone went into the evening to digest all they had experienced.

It was a grand day on a grand

(though penal as all get-out) golf course, and it was enjoyed by all. Special thanks go out to the many people who made the day possible, including Don Ferreri and his staff, the PGA professional staff and food-and-beverage staff at Seven Bridges for all of their great preparation; **Darin Douglas** for assisting with registration; **Sylvia Lima**, **Sharon Riesenbeck** and **Carl Hoppman** for the charity hole on no. 10; **Ann Huber-Falcone** and **A. J. Huey** for the charity hole on no. 6; **Marsha Traves** and **Patti Thorson** for the charity hole on no. 12; and **Danna** and **Kelli Eberly** for the charity hole

on no. 18—you folks all deserve our deepest thanks for your ongoing support and generous sharing of your time! Also, HUGE thanks to the day's sponsors:

President's Club Donors: Bayer Environmental Science; Central Sod Farms, Inc.; H & E Sod Nursery-Town & Country Landscape Supply; Lesco, Inc.; Olds Seed Solutions; ProSource One; Syngenta; and Turf Professionals Equipment Company.

Director's Club Donors: BTSI; Chicagoland Turf; Johnson & Associates of Lombard, Inc.; Lebanon Turf Products; PBI Gordon; Precision Labs; and Signature.

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(continued on page 34)

IL; Burris Equipment Company; Illinois Pump, Inc.; J. W. Turf, Inc.; Medallion Fungicide by Syngenta; Nadler Golf Car Sales, Inc.—An Authorized Club Car Distributor; Palatine Oil Company, Inc.; Prime Turf; Reinders Inc.; Silver Lake Country Club; Spectrum Technologies; The Andersons; and Waupaca Sand and Solutions.

Without your generosity, none of this could have been possible. Thank you all for a great event!



Host Don Ferreri receives his gifts of thanks from Kevin DeRoo.



University of Illinois faculty Tom Voigt, Tom Fermanian and Bruce Branham display a reminder for the Illinois Professional Turf Conference (the former NCTE event) coming up on November 29 through December 2 at the Pheasant Run Resort.



The winning team from the South, L. to R: John Maman, Scott Armstrong, Chad Walk, Dave Kohley, Tim Scott (having more fun as a blond) and Chuck Odierno.



The other favorite betting-hole volunteers, from L. to R: Anne Huber-Falcone (Huber Ranch), Danna Eberly (J.W. Turf), A.J. Huey (Chicagoland Turf), Kelli Eberly (J.W. Turf) and Sharon Riesenbeck (Waupaca).

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The New Girl

The phone rings, caller ID indicates it is my husband checking in from the course. As a couple, we communicate primarily via e-mail and telephone. The incredible hours that he devotes to the course make this a very effective system. "Hey!" he says, "I have a good idea. I want you to do for me at work what you do for me at home!"

Excuse me!?

"Hmm yeah," he mumbles with his mind completely on the e-mail that he is writing. "You take care of all this stuff and I will be able to spend more time out on the course."

Stuff?

"Bills, budgets, invoices, letters, labor hours, the whole database!" he exclaims.

Gee, sounds like fun.

By now he is finishing the e-mail and is really warming to the subject. "Copies, files, accounts, YOU can track down the packing lists: get everything applied to the correct budget and . . ."

Jon, are you out of your mind?

"I will pay you," he states.

Pay me? Don't you think the members, your Green Committee chairman and the clubhouse staff might think that a bit odd?

"No, it's a great fit. I don't have to pay you much, you are pretty smart and no one will have any problem with the fact that I am having a personal relationship with my office manager."

Intriguing, how his mind works.

The 'good idea' seemed to go away until a Sunday afternoon in midwinter when Jon came home loaded down with files, invoices and packing slips. The kids were playing around the house, generally wreaking havoc, while we turned the dining room into Chicago Golf Club South. Jon sets himself up to finish a presentation on his laptop. I set myself up for five hours of being frustrated and completely flummoxed by the mountain of paperwork that does not match up. Why do the rental guys send pink, yellow, pink, yellow and white forms with different numbers on them for the same piece of equipment?

It turns out that all of this information must be coordinated with labor and budgets. Enter TRIMS. Now as Jon said, I am 'pretty' smart; I minored in computer science; I ran my own high-tech sales firm. So, I jump right in, grab my yellow pad and begin to interview Jon on the basics. The answer to every question is delivered in a preoccupied, rather annoyed tone, "Go ask Aaron." Within two days, Aaron is screening my calls out as if I am a collection agency bent on harassing him. Not to be deterred, I pack up my work and head to the club to harass Aaron in person. Tall and amiable, Aaron greets me with a booming, "Hey, TNG! How's it going?" TNG, it turns out, stands for The New Girl. Of course, there is nothing either new or girlish about me; I guess that's why the name stuck.

Aaron, as assistant superintendent, has been responsible for the labor-tracking information. He is absolutely delighted, maybe even a bit gleeful, about piling up all of the huge binders and passing the baton to me. He even helps me pack them into the car. But, when I pull out the infamous yellow pad and start to interview him about those basics, he responds with considerably more charm than Jon, "Go ask Susan-at-TRIMS." (For some reason Susan-at-TRIMS is one word)

Susan-at-TRIMS should be awarded dual first-place trophies titled 'Knowledge' and 'Patience.' Our first conversation went very well; she was able to direct

(continued on page 38)

What happens when a superintendent's midwinter brainstorming prompts him to recruit his "pretty smart" wife for administrative help?

my efforts and actually answer my questions rather than direct me elsewhere like my bosses. In order to increase the databases' effectiveness, Jon needed to make a couple of decisions. To her credit, Susan only chuckled when I said that I probably would not be able to speak with him until he got home for dinner.

After serious hours studying the documentation, listening to tutorials and scanning the online reference manual, I dive right in and mess up the database beyond belief. It only took one utterly panicked telephone call to Susan-at-TRIMS to save my database, my marriage, my new job and very likely my life.

With the finance tracking and the database under my tenuous control, we launch into a very serious search to fill two important positions on the staff. I find myself buried in resumés and the task of keeping those merge files and response letters up to date. In no way does my position in the office give me any decision-making authority but it has been incredibly interesting to become more informed on the specifics. Kind of like George W. turning to Laura over a breakfast bagel and saying, "Wow, that Condi would make a really good National Security Advisor, don't cha think?" Okay, so no one is going to name me First Lady of the Maintenance Facility but you get my drift.

My two office assistants (pictured here) enjoy the new job



immensely. The war whoops, maniacal giggles and ominous crashing noises are all testimony to the fact that they love anything that will distract my attention from them a couple hours a day. Each visit to Daddy's office nets them soda from the machine with his desk change, a golf cart ride and the possibility of playing on the Mount Everest of all sand piles. Life is very good.

I think I can do this thing, being TNG. My boss could use a personality transplant but I seem to have a soft spot where he is concerned. There are those who warn that this will never work, but he has not fired me yet. I do think I will sell tickets to the exit interview though. It should be a doozy.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The following are highlights of the MAGCS Board of Directors meeting held Wednesday, June 9, at Bartlett Hills Golf Course. Full meeting minutes, once approved, are available upon request.

- The Board recorded a thank-you note from the Utica Tornado Relief Fund for a \$950 donation (proceeds from the April betting hole plus a 50 cent per dollar match by WGN).
- The Board approved a \$100 donation to the Evans Scholars Foundation and a \$500 tee sponsorship for I*Mag*Jen Charities' fundraising golf outing.
- The Board voted to extend an honorary membership to Jim McLaughlin.
- Digital photography and graphics guidelines and specifications for *On Course* are now posted on the MAGCS Web site.
- Discussion ensued regarding opening registration for monthly golf meetings to nonmembers. This discussion resulted in the Board

deciding that while members should continue to enjoy priority registration, the Golf Committee has discretion to open registration to nonmembers within a certain timeframe prior to an event.



How the Fed and Interest Rates May Affect Your Investments

There is usually no shortage of news reports when the Federal Reserve Board (Fed) meets—especially if they decide to adjust interest rates. If you're wondering why the financial world watches the actions of the Fed and its chairman so closely, it's because their decisions may have an impact on the economy, the markets and even your investments.

The Federal Reserve System, the national banking system, was established by Congress in 1913 to keep the U.S. economy steadily chugging along. The chairman of the Fed's board of governors, currently Alan Greenspan, has been appointed chairman by three different presidents.

Driving the Economic Machine

The Fed is charged with monitoring the supply of money in the economy. It sets economic policy by setting the interest rates that banks charge one another for loans. Any rate changes the Fed makes can result in our overall economy speeding up or slowing down and, by extension, interest rate changes may also affect the stock and bond markets.

If the Fed lowers banks' rates, the effect may be lower interest rates on credit cards, auto loans and mortgages. Generally, that will mean that consumers and businesses may spend and borrow more, helping to give the economy a boost. This can also be healthy for the stock market, since lower interest rates make it cheaper for businesses to borrow the money they need to grow and for consumers to finance mortgages and other purchases.

Interest Rates and Inflation: What Goes Up . . .

On the other hand, when the Fed raises interest rates, businesses and consumers may borrow and spend less, slowing economic growth. However, a positive aspect of higher

interest rates is that you may earn more interest on your investments. Why raise rates and slow growth? Generally because the Fed is concerned that too much spending and growth could lead to higher inflation. Conversely, too little spending and growth could lead to a recession. As watchdog of the nation's economy, the Fed meets every six weeks to review interest rates.

So the next time you hear reports about Alan Greenspan and the Fed, listen carefully. When the Fed changes interest rates, it's not just news on Capitol Hill—it could have an effect from Wall Street to Main Street.

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