

# HIGH RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB . . .

## *A Natural Oasis for Golfers*

By: Mike Bailey & Irene Jones

High Ridge Country Club is an exclusive private golfing facility . . . and there is a waiting list of people wanting to join. The seasonal membership of 285 members are predominately eastern based residents of New York and Canada. The club is unique in the fact that no homes border the golf course; the members live along the ocean in Palm Beach. The golf course is located in Lantana.

The Joe Lee designed course was built in 1979 and opened in January of 1980. The course measures 6,800 yards from the back tees and 6,500 yards from the member tees. The 272 acre tract of land is encompassed by a unique 72 acre buffer zone perimeter around the golf course which blocks out the view of any nearby homes or obstructions. The panorama is spectacular compared to the more normal Florida scape because this choice piece of real estate was blessed with rolling terrain, natural slash pines, majestic century old oaks, and a natural wetlands with a "savannah look" all combined with Joe Lees; ability to lead the golfer through the natural oasis. All this beauty makes every round of golf enjoyable. Because of the natural

beauty bestowed upon the course, such as the large mature trees, the six year old golf course appears more as if it were 60 years old. There are several tight, yet fair golf holes winding thru the slash pines while several holes are nestled thru the oaks. Several of the other holes are strategically laced around the ever so tender and environmentally protected wetlands. The course with so many different views makes for a very relaxing and interesting round of golf.

The course is planted in Hybrid Bermuda on the tees, fairways and rough. The greens are pure Tiftdwarf with no contamination or mutations, so the greens are of a non overseeded mono-stand. The exception is the practice putting green, which is overseeded with Bentgrass because this green is in deep shade until almost noon. Mr. Lou Oxnevad, CGCS was employed by the members during the early phases of golf course construction, which allowed for the golf course superintendent to play a vital role in the formation of the course. Lou worked closely with Joe Lee in regards to plantings during the key aspects

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### *Golfers Repeated Winning Record*



Members of the golf team included Tim Boyle, Dick Ries, Dave Bailey, Bear Reis, Dick Marting, and Coach McNabb.

This year's golf team composed an overall record of 6-1. After losing to regional favorite Dixie in their first match, the boys ran a win streak to six victories.

Beechwood.... 2 1/2	Dixie ..... 9 1/2
Beechwood.... 12	Newport .... 0
Beechwood.... 12	Holmes .... 0
Beechwood.... 7	C.C.H. .... 5
Beechwood.... 9	St. Henry .... 3
Beechwood.... 9	Boone Co.... 3
Beechwood.... 15	Dayton .... 0

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of grow in prior to the opening of the course.

Mr. Ralph Biernbaum was the first club President, his very successful term carried over for three years. Mr. Morris J. Fellner followed as President. Mr. Sid Silverman is the current President.

Two knowledgeable, dedicated greens committee Chairmen have helped assure the membership that High Ridge will remain in top-notch condition. Mr. Sidney Grossman was the first Green Committee Chairman. Mr. Lloyd Ribner is the current Chairman. Lloyd, a very successful golfer is the current mens' club champion. He played in numerous U.S. Opens during the early to mid 1950's, qualifying as an amateur, along with being the former champion of the prestigious New York Metropolitan Amateur Tournament.

The membership finds High Ridge to be a very successful and enjoyable club not only from a golfing point of view, but also as a social club. It is famous for grand evening social parties that match none other. Mr. John Gerecter, the Clubhouse manager heads up these theme parties with lavish decor and style. His staff has provided many memorable evenings for the members.

Mr. Tim O'Neal and his fine staff head up the golf shop. At the prop shop you will always find a pro with a friendly smile, congenial to setting up member tournaments that always prove to be a huge success with the members.

As mentioned earlier, Mr. Lou Oxnevad, CGCS was with the club from its first conception until 1984, at that time another prominent who's who in golf management, took over. The current golf course superintendent also carries the title of CGCS. He is in charge of not only maintaining the beauty already evident but he continues to add even more features to this already spectacular golf course.

For those of you who know this Certified Golf Course Superintendent there may be a few things that you do not know . . . until you finish this article that is. The information which you are about to read was gathered from a



August, 1971. Moving from home where David "built" his first golf course using flower pots for holes. Car shown is the Porsche David drove to Florida.

reliable (related) source. He began his interest in turf grass maintenance at a very early age. His "growing up years" were spent in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, just outside of Cincinnati. During this time he converted the family yard in to a variety of miniature golf holes. This was accomplished by taking the wheels off the lawn mower in order to make the "greens." Flower pots buried in the ground served as the holes, while the green sticks used to support flowers took the place of pins.

He would impress his younger brother by knocking the ball clear across the home made course. At age 12 a neighbor gave "our superintendent" a wooden shaft club which he used to enter the local Youth Day Tournament. He began to participate in Youth Leagues and many days would walk and play 54 holes. If his brother would agree to carry the clubs then sometimes he was allowed to putt when they reached the green.

High school offered the opportunity to play on the school golf team. One year the team had a record of 6-1. Around this time another home made project produced a very impressive 5 foot tall golf tee which eventually found its way into the boys' bedroom.

After high school two years of junior college followed, during which time there was no part time work available on the local golf course. A career in the field of elementary education was pursued during the last two years of college. It was during these last two years that the summers were spent working on a golf course maintenance crew. Summer nights were usually devoted to the volunteer position of night sprinkler man, in addition to homework. And interest in the game of golf continued.

In 1970 a B.S. Degree in Elementary Education was obtained from Murry State University. In the 1970's Murry State did not offer a degree in golf course management, but since then one has been added. Right out of college a move was made to Hobe Sound, Florida and a position was accepted as an elementary school teacher. Application was also made to the Tequesta Country Club and a second job was obtained for the weekends, when a superintendent named Bill Wagner offered him the position of cup cutter.

After one year of teaching a decision was made to change professions and application was made at the J.D.M. Country Club. At that time no positions in management were available so some "dues were paid" when a job offer to start out on the crew pulling weeds was accepted on September 30, 1971. After working through all the positions on a crew, the position of Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at J.D.M. was offered by Superintendent Carl McKinny. Carl has since commented on the very successful working relationship that developed over the next seven years.

In 1976 the position of Assistant Golf Course Superintendent was taken at Breakers West under the Director of Golf, Jim Ellersol. The learning and the experience continued and in July of 1978 the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Atlantis County Club opened up. This position was applied for and was obtained in July 1978. In May 1984 the move was made to High Ridge Country

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Club.

In the words of his Assistant Superintendent Dennis McNally, (Dennis has been his Assistant since 1981 and his mechanic before that time) "He has the ability to revolutionize the way a shop and a course can be run, which has greatly influenced my choice of this profession."

Described as a walking, talking library of sports information. When a discussion came up regarding the 1966 N.F.L. game he made his point by naming all the players on both teams as well as the final score. Auto racing, basketball, football and baseball have all been named as his "favorite" sport. You will probably find this Superintendent at most of the major sporting events anywhere in the world. He has attended every Masters Golf Tournament since 1973.

He is also an accomplished photographer. A recent trip to the Grand Canyon found our Superintendent hiking down the canyon wall, spending the night in the canyon and then waiting 4½ hours for the sun to get just right in order to get that perfect shot.

He was Associate Editor of The South Florida Green and The Florida Green. Currently he remains active with our publication as the person in charge of our magazine covers. In this capacity he makes all the arrangements for travel to our cover assignments as well as setting up the shooting dates. His regard for details and his eye for photographic composition can be found in our award winning magazine covers.

If you visit the office of the Golf Course Superintendent at High Ridge Country Club you will find a very organized desk and sitting behind that desk will be David M. Bailey, CGCS. ■

Editor's Note: We have learned since going to press that Mr. Abe Blumenfeld has been appointed the new greens chairman at High Ridge Country Club.

## Florida Green is a Winner

Editors of seven outstanding newsletters will be recognized during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA's) 57th Annual International Golf Course Conference and Show in San Francisco, January 27-February 4, 1986.

The 1985 winners of the annual GCSAA Chapter Newsletter Contest were selected from newsletters of 49 eligible, affiliated chapters by a panel of five highly qualified judges. To be eligible, newsletters must be published by GCSAA affiliated chapters between October 1 of the previous year and October 1 of the current year.

Within each of three chapter size categories, one newsletter was selected as the best overall. Newsletters were evaluated on overall excellence, appropriate design, editorial judgement and content, scope and quality of writing, and presentation. The size categories: A - fewer than 30 members, B - 30 to 70 members, and C - more than 70 members.

In addition to the three overall awards, judges selected four newsletters for special recognition awards regardless of chapter size. These special categories: best flag design, best cover, best original editorial content, and best format and readability.

The 1985 winners are:

Category A: Turf Talk  
New Hampshire GCSA  
Editor, Barrie Robertson

Category B: The Ballmark  
Central Illinois GCSA  
Editor, Michael Vogt

Category C: The Grass Roots  
Wisconsin GCSA  
Editor, Monroe S. Miller

Best Cover: The Florida Green  
Florida GCSA  
Editor, Dan Jones, CGCS

Best Flag: The Green Breeze  
Greater Cincinnati GCSA  
Editor, Dennis Warner

Best Editorial: The Greener Side  
GCSA of New Jersey  
Editor, Jim Gilligan

Best Format: Green is Beautiful  
Ontario GCSA  
Editor, Neil Acton, CGCS ■

## Pro-Superintendent Captured by Brooks and Dytrich

The 1985 Pro-Superintendent Championship of the South Florida P.G.A. was held at Mariner Sands Country Club in Stuart, Florida. The always dependable team of Pete Brooks (Supt.) and Rick Dytrich (Professional) from the Palm Beach Par Three Club captured the trophy with a fine 65 gross bestball. The tournament was staged on the Gold Course that provided the players quite a test with quick putting surfaces and challenging pin placements.

A group of ninety-six individuals had lunch before heading to the tee and enjoying probably one of the finest days of weather that anyone could ever imagine. No matter what was shot, most pros and superintendents enjoyed the day and got a chance to relax and spend some time together on a more casual basis. During the awards ceremony Mr. John Shulock an umpire in the 1985 World Series, was able to share some stories of the Fall Classic and also highlighted some unique situations in the life of an umpire.