

GCN JANUARY

WAUSAU, Wis. — A golf course has been found at fault in a legal case involving a golfer who had 13 drinks before tripping on his golf spikes, falling face first onto a brick path outside the clubhouse, breaking his jaw and shattering his teeth.

The golfer, Dale L. Larson, needed nine root canals, 23 crowns and had his jaw wired shut for months. He was awarded

Trip-and-fall case goes against Wis. course despite 13 drinks

\$41,540 in damages even though his own lawyer had said it was rare for a drunk person to win a negligence case.

The appeals court upheld a trial judge's ruling that Indianhead Golf and Recreation, Inc. of Mosinee was 51 percent negligent because of its terralock brick ramp that led from the clubhouse bar. The judge

said the gaps in the bricks could have caused even a sober person to fall. The appeals court agreed the gaps were an initiating factor, especially since the ramp was built in 1976 to save \$1,440 over a recommended 4-inch thick concrete slab.

Larson, wearing golf spikes, fell on the ramp as he left the bar the night of May 16, 1990. He

argued the gaps were unsafe because a spike caught in one, causing him to lose his balance. An asphalt surface was installed a year later.

A doctor testified Larson was in a stupor, with a blood-alcohol level of .28 percent 90 minutes after the accident. But Larson said he was not significantly impaired by the eight beers and five mixed drinks he had over a period of six hours before the accident.

GCN JULY

Mouse-on-a-bun no laughing matter to golfer

WALKERSVILLE, Md. — A seasonal course maintenance worker at Glade Valley Country Club has been named in a \$500,000 lawsuit over a distasteful practical joke — he is accused of planting a dead mouse in a friend's sandwich.

Golfer Terry Lee, who bit into the sandwich, has filed the suit in Frederick County Circuit Court against the Glade Valley Country Club, the public club's manager James L. Reck, and maintenance employee Charles F. Shawver, who Lee contends handed him a mustard-covered rodent in a hot dog bun during a golf outing in December 1996. Lee and Shawver are, or were, friends and reportedly have played golf together off and on for the past 12 years.

According to the suit, Shawver, 57, handed Lee what he thought was a hot dog wrapped in foil before his round of golf. Lee bit down and discovered that the bun contained a dead mouse covered with mustard. According to the suit, the incident sent passers-by into fits of laughter.

Shawver, who is retired and works at the course during the summer, told the *Baltimore Sun* he is surprised that Lee filed a suit.

"It makes me irate to have something like this happen over a joke and then to think I have to go through litigation," he said. "This thing started out among friends, but the whole thing just went sour. I'm sorry it really did happen."

Meanwhile, Lee alleges in his lawsuit that the incident caused him to suffer "highly offensive contact" with the "hot dog" and "emotional pain" caused by his fear that dead rodents can carry potentially fatal diseases.

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