

Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



//FIRE



The fire raged the day after Christmas, destroying the maintenance building, tools and 52 of the course's gas-powered golf carts.

BROOKSIDE BURNS DURING HOLIDAYS

BARBERTON BROOKSIDE CC (NORTON, OHIO)
LOSES EQUIPMENT IN DECEMBER 26 FIRE



It was a not-so-merry Christmas in Norton, Ohio this year when the maintenance facility at Barberton Brookside Country Club burned to the ground.

The fire resulted in a total loss of the building and even melted the tools together.

When local firefighters arrived at the scene, the fire already had gone through the roof, burning intensely due to the gas golf carts and a 55-gallon drum of oil. Early estimates put the damages at over half a million dollars.

The fire claimed 52 of the course's 72 gas-powered golf carts.

Club owner Joe Flogge pointed out one silver lining in the whole disaster; the fire happened in the dead of winter. The facility was also insured and

though some turf supplies had been pre-ordered, they still remained safely in the vendors' warehouses.

However, nearly every piece of equipment, from wrench sets to greens mowers, will be needed come spring.

The maintenance building was about 10,000 square feet and contained all maintenance equipment for the 18-hole course. Plans for rebuilding are currently blurry. "I just don't know at the moment," says Flogge, who also says they are now in the planning process.

Baker Vehicle Systems, a nearby dealership, brought a Cushman for staff use. Flogge is set to meet with Baker shortly after the New Year.

"At this point, there is nothing anyone can do," says Flogge.

//ACQUISITION

BRANDT ACQUIRES GRIGG BROS.

Family-owned Springfield, Ill. agricultural company, Brandt Consolidated announced recently that it had acquired Grigg Bros. Grigg Bros., a golf and sports turf fertilizer company, was founded by Mark and Gary Grigg in 1995.

Though the acquisition is not yet finalized, the chief marketing officer for Brandt, Karl Barnhart says it should happen in mid-January. These changes will not interfere with normal business at Grigg Bros. "If you know Brandt, you know we tend to let businesses go on as normal if business is going well. So this is going to be a 'business as usual' acquisition," Barnhart says.

Grigg Bros. customers will now be able to get Brandt products, but the two brands will remain separate.

"Grigg has great products, great distribution and the two guys leading the way in Gary and Mark... We've admired them, and we've run up against them, for a while now. When Mark and Gary were looking at the next phase of Grigg Bros., we're lucky they looked to us," says Barnhart.

//WINNER WINNER

GWAA PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

The votes are in and the Golf Writers Association voted Adam Scott the Male Player of the Year. His victory was a narrow one however, with Tiger Woods only five votes behind.

The Female Player of the Year went to Inbee Park, while Kenny Perry was awarded the Senior Player of the Year. Both Park and Perry took 91 percent of the 220 votes for their categories.

Woods has been honored 10 times by the GWAA in the past. However, Scott's worldwide tournament success played a part in swaying the votes in his direction. Scott is ranked second in the world behind Woods. Other than his win at the Masters, Scott was joint third at the Open Championship and joint fifth at the PGA Championship.

All winners will be honored at the GWAA Awards Dinner in Augusta, Ga., prior to the start of the Masters.

PHOTOS COURTESY: BARBERTON BROOKSIDE / ISTOCKPHOTO (GOLF BALL)