

Thanks to Tuscumbia Tumblebrook Country Club Next

Our thanks to Golf Course Superintendent Deak DeCramer and the staff of the Tuscumbia Country Club for an outstanding dinner and meeting on April 10th. Dr. Saroretto's remarks proved interesting, as expected. Again, thanks to Deak and maybe next time the weather will cooperate.

WGCSA's third meeting of 1978 will be held on Tuesday, May 9th at Tumblebrook Country Club. Host Superintendent Dale Stukel has advised that lunch will be available at 12:30 p.m. on your own. Tee times will be available from noon until 2:00 p.m. ON NUMBER 1 TEE ONLY. A limited number of carts are available so indicate your desire to ride on the attached reply card. Price for carts is \$10.40. Bill Douglas has set up a two-man Best Ball event, so include your partner's name on the same reply card.

Dinner will be served at 7:00 and includes a strip steak, salad, etc. for only \$10.50. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Robert M. Stern. Dr. Stern, who is President and Director of Research of Great Lakes Biochemical Co., will be speaking on a "Management Program for Aquatic Weed Control", which should prove to be of great interest to all. See you at Tuscumbia Country Club on May 9th. Reservation deadline is May 6th.

I will attend the May 9th dinner and meeting at Tuscumbia C.C.

NAME _____

AFFILIATION _____

GUEST _____

PLEASE RESERVE A CART _____

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Return all reply slips to: BILL DOUGLAS
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The following article was written by Mr. John Toepel, in collaboration with Mr. Mark Makhholm. Mr. Toepel is a past Director of the Stevens Point Country Club. Mr. Makhholm is a Past President and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Stevens Point Country Club. They, along with Mr. Bill Ellis, who is also a past Director and President made up the Committee referred to in this article.

EDITOR--

Building a New Golf Course A Look Back

Stevens Point Country Club was in trouble. No doubt about it. We had been rather lax in establishing a ceiling on the number of golfing members. A "sporty" nine hole course, built back in the middle twenties, couldn't handle the crowded conditions that were developing. Tee times were necessary. Like 10:27 a.m. or say 1:03 p.m. Play was slow, awfully slow. Lots of grumbling, unhappy members.

So this news filtered back to the Board of Directors. The Board felt that an expansion plan must be looked at and a Committee of three was appointed to do just that.

Fortunately, the Club had some foresighted members who had purchased adjacent land some forty odd years ago. They also had the foresight to plant lots and lots of pine trees on these acres. Forestry people told them that the trees would not grow well in sandy soil, so they planted them close together, thinking that maybe 10 per cent or 20 per cent would survive. Almost all of them made it.

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A Look Back cont.

The Committee did it's homework. It was decided that we should go with a top golf course architect. He came up with several designs which were presented to the Board. It was recommended that we build 12 holes, keeping only six of the original nine.

At this point, members were beginning to sense that the Board was doing something about expanding our facilities.

After getting the blueprints of the course, the first physical move was to have a pulp logger cut fairways through the heavily wooded pines. You know, life by the inch . . . Up to this point, everything was on paper. Now members could see that maybe this was for real.

Next came an important step. Facing up to members on moving ahead with the 12 new holes. Not an easy task. Some said, "Let's stick to the nine holes, we've lived with them for forty years". Others said, "We can't afford this. It will drive out many members". But we were a tenacious Committee, so a brochure was prepared showing the new 12 hole layout, the cost of building, how it would be financed, length of time to build, etc.

So, we had a membership meeting. Kind of tough. The architect was there to answer any questions on the design. And of course the Committee was there to answer any questions of doubting members.

Yes, we had one hole, number 15, that was to be built in a swamp. Older members said it was a "sink hole". The Committee had "sink holes" in their stomachs. Borings were made in the swamp area which proved to have a very sound, solid base. 40,000 cubic yards of soil were placed in that area, taken from other parts of the course.

It turned out to be our finest golf hole, most spectacular.

Now, we're ready to build. The Committee made another sound decision. Go with a top golf course builder. Do not be tempted to go with a local "earth mover" to save a few bucks. Cutting corners can prove to be very expensive. We're very happy about that decision.

During the building of the 12 new holes, we were, of course, faced with only 6 old holes and three very make-shift holes. Yup, they were something else. But we struggled through the summer, lots of laughs, and the members took it in stride. They kept looking at that new course taking shape.

As the course took shape, it needed developing. Our builder recommended that an agronomist be hired to insure the best possible growth. We were fortunate in getting a young man out of Purdue who did a super job for us. He was later hired as our Golf Course Superintendent.

So now we're ready to tee it up on the new course. The reaction of the members was worth all the work and worry. The doubting Thomas' faded rather quickly. "Of course, we should have had this all along."

But this is not the end of the story. Members began to complain about the old six holes. The new 12 holes were different. It was hard to adjust from the new to the old. Too much contrast.

So, back to the drawing board. We were fortunate in getting the same architect and the same builder and we came up with 6 wonderful new holes. I guess we must be grateful to these people for giving us so much and making our golf course outstanding. Truly, the members are happy with their new course and quite proud of it.

ROY G. ZEHREN

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