

# Racine Country Club – October Meeting



By *Dustin Riley*, Golf Course Superintendent, Oconomowoc Golf Club

The 2003 WGCSA Member/Guest was held on Tuesday, October 14 at the Racine Country Club in Racine, Wisconsin. This event is set to build upon the successes established by the previous hosts, Pine Hills CC and West Bend CC.

The purpose of the event was to enhance the relationships between WGCSA members and the influential golfers at their clubs. Members were encouraged to invite a guest(s) along for a full day that includes a morning education session and an afternoon two-person scramble. Suggested guests were green committee chairs, club presidents, board members, owners, golf professionals or managers. This meeting was an excellent opportunity to improve personal and professional relations with an influential player as well as an opportunity for WGCSA to strengthen its relationship in the golf community.

This year's educational speaker was Mark Kuhns. Mark is the Director of Grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club and has recently been elected to a position on the GCSAA Board of Directors. Mark shared his experiences in preparing a golf course for a major professional golf tournament. He also shared other experiences as the golf course superintendent at such prestigious golf courses like Baltusrol Golf Club, Oakmont Country Club and Laurel Valley Golf Club.

Mike Handrich, golf course superintendent, provided the quality playing conditions that Racine CC is known for. Mike is a 1983 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, acquiring a Bachelor of Science degree in Turfgrass Management. As a student, Mike interned at Blackhawk CC in Madison and also at Columbine CC in Denver, CO. In 1984, Mike served as the assistant superintendent at Eagle CC in Bloomfield,

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CO. At Eagle CC, Mike assisted in the construction of 9 new holes, which allowed the course to expand into a semi-private 18-hole facility. Mike then returned to Wisconsin to serve as the superintendent at Ville du Parc CC in Mequon. In 1989, Mike assumed the responsibilities at Racine CC. He continues his role at Racine CC with the support of his wife, Karen, and two daughters, Holly and Jessi.

Roger Packard designed Racine Country Club in 1909. Since then, Racine CC has developed a certain reputation for FAST GREENS. Mike and his staff should be commended for maintaining that reputation through many years of unpredictable weather. Despite the cooler, wet weather, nearly 112 players proceeded to play a wonderfully maintained golf course in a Two-Person Scramble. Although slowed by the morning and early afternoon rain, the greens still provided the speed many attendees had heard about. There were two skins games also included on a volunteer basis. The first skins game involved rewarding cash to any



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team which recorded the lowest gross score on a particular golf hole. Unfortunately, there were no skins awarded and the \$500+ was donated to the University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. The second skins game involved the lowest gross team putting attempts on individual holes and the lowest total team putting attempts for the day. As with the lowest score skins game, there were no individual low gross putting winner. However, the putting skins collection was then split and awarded to Marc Schwarting and Daren Rose with a low total of 26 team putting attempts over 18 holes. Second lowest went to Bob Lohmann and Mike Benkusky with 29 total putting attempts over 18 holes.

**The Two-Person Scramble results are as follows:**

- 1st, 67: Randy DuPont and Eddie Teresa \$250
- 2nd, 68: Rod Johnson and John Wallrich \$160
- 3rd, 69: Bob Lohmann and Mike Benkusky \$120
- 4th, 69: Don Selm and Bob Becker \$120
- 5th, 70: Todd Quitno and Dan Weck \$80

**Hole Events:**

- Closest to Pin #4: Bob Becker
- Longest Putt #6: Jeff Millies
- Closest to Pine #8: Gene Curran
- Closest to Pin #10: Lee Reinke
- Longest Putt #13: Scott Schaller
- Closest to Pin #16: Scott Schaller

The WGCSA Member/Guest meeting at Racine CC was a success. Providing an opportunity for all superintendent members to include and educate an influential golfer is another step in improving personal and professional relations. Thanks to all superintendents and facilities that volunteered to host a WGCSA this season. ♣



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