



Ireland's Valley

By **Randy DuPont**, Golf Course Superintendent, North Hills Country Club

The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association's July meeting was held at Glen Erin Golf Club in Janesville. Glen Erin literally means "Ireland's Valley", and the golf course is a true reflection of its name, with its rolling terrain and prominent valley that runs through it.

Opened in 2003, Glen Erin provides an Irish flavor with wide undulating fairways, large greens, pot bunkers, sandy waste areas, and native fescues in the outer rough. Two other characteristics of the golf course which I found quite interesting and unique were its short flagsticks and its "low mow" bluegrass fairways.

I'm not sure of the story behind the short flagsticks. Perhaps, it is an Irish folklore involving leprechauns playing golf!

The bluegrass fairways are exceptional. The golf ball sits up beautifully resulting in player friendly lies. I think most high handicap players (the majority of golfers) would agree that it is much easier to hit a ball off of this surface rather than a "tight" bentgrass fairway. Perhaps more golf courses constructed in the future will consider "low mow" bluegrass fairways as a viable option.

Warm and breezy conditions awaited some 66 participants, not your typical Irish weather. The event for the day was a two-man best ball gross score.

Winning the event with a score of 69 were our friends "south of the border", Chad Ball and Paul Bastron. Prizes were also awarded to the 4th place team of Mike Skenandore and Todd Fregien (73) and the 8th place team of Joel Peterson and Brian Bergner (78).

Six flag events were also awarded. Long drive on #10 went to Ed "Boom-boom" Witkowski with a drive reportedly well over 300 yards. Since this is Ed's second long drive award of the year, we will automatically be checking the trampoline effect of his driver before the next meeting. Winning the long drive on #18 was Jeff Townley. Closest to the pin winners

were Mike Bremmer #2, our host Dave Braasch #7, Mike Skenandore #14, and Joe Knudtson #16. Congratulations to all!

I would like to thank our host superintendent Dave Braasch for the outstanding job he and his staff did. We all know how hot and dry it has been, but you sure wouldn't know it by the excellent condition of the golf course. 🌱

