

April Meeting at Geneva National

By Jake Schneider, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

Geneva National Golf Club once again hosted the first WGCSA monthly meeting on April 23. And, unlike last year, Mother Nature was kind enough to provide a beautiful, snow-free day for the very well-attended event.

Pete Whitacre from the Toro Company kicked off the meeting with an informative talk about the looming Tier 4 air-quality emission standards that will be affecting new, off-road, 25-plus horsepower diesel engines beginning in 2013. The new standards were mandated by the U.S. EPA and are meant to reduce nitrous oxide and particulate matter emissions. Pete explained that there are several methods that the manufacturers are likely to use to meet the new regulations, including converting to gasoline engines when feasible. However, for competitive purposes, none

of the major turf equipment manufacturers have publicly laid-out their plans for Tier 4, but the bottom line is that the newly-affected equipment will cost 10-20% more than the equipment that is currently available. As such, he strongly recommended that superintendents take a close look at their near-future replacements with their courses' decision makers because buying sooner rather than later could save a substantial amount of money. While pre-2013 equipment can still be sold, the price difference means that it's likely to sell very quickly.

After that dose of less-than-great (but good to know) news, the attendees were treated to a hearty tailgate-style lunch prior to taking to the golf course. As usual, Kevin Knudtson and his entire staff at Geneva National had the Palmer Course

in fantastic condition. As my bounding wedge shots could attest to, the greens were firm, and the course was fast. As expected by the author, the group consisting of Aron Hogden, Jim Kerns, Trygve Ekern, and Scott Gilbertson found their way around the course fairly well and posted a score of -15 in the scramble format. Fittingly, Dr. Kerns knocked one in from 100 yards for an eagle on their last hole, and they finished five strokes ahead of the rest of the field. Congratulations were also in order for the hole-prize winners that included John Rautmann, Dustin Riley, Andy Kronwall, Tim Wegner, and Brad Legnaioli.

Thanks to all who organized the event and especially to Kevin and the rest of our hosts for an outstanding day at Geneva National.



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4/18/12 MEETING AT GENEVA NATIONAL



WINNING TEAM (BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT)

ARON HOGDEN

DR. JIM KERNS SCOTT GILBERTSON TRYGVE EKERN



SPEAKER
(LEFT AND BELOW)
PETE WHITACRE
OF THE
TORO COMPANY



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THANKS TO HOST SUPERINTENDENT
KEVIN KNUDTSON!

