

Foot Golf

By Bruce Schweiger, Agronomist, Midwest Turf Products

What a year it has been for Wisconsin golf! The year started with a bang, the temperature heated up and the rain was spotty at best. Records temperatures were seen everywhere. With all the happenings in golf like the Women's Open at Kohler there was a huge first happening in the Wisconsin Dells. On July 22nd the first US Foot Golf Championship was played. Foot Golf has been alive and growing in Europe and had it's first ever event at Chula Vista Resort. What is foot golf you ask well let me explain it to you.

Foot Golf is played on a regulation golf course and the player uses a number size 5 soccer ball. Play is from the forward tees and you play to specialized cups at the end of each hole. The cups for this event were 21 inch flower pots with a regulation putting green cup cut into the bottom to hold the flag. These cups were not placed in the

putting greens but near the green usually in the rough, allowing organizers to incorporate trees and bunkers into the course. The players and organizers understand the traditions of our game and are very understanding. The players wore turf shoes and not soccer boots, so they did little or no damage to the course. They also dressed in more traditional golf attire and like many of our league players they rode in golf cars, more on that later.

This new form of golf blended well with the more traditional game. The day of the tournament they were able to have regular play before and after the event with little or no effort.

The players were able to complete 18 holes in around 2½ hours. On the day of the Tournament they closed the first tee and 1½ hours after the last tee time the tournament kicked off. The first players easily caught the

traditional golfers before they could finish.

Many of the participants rode in golf cars and when asked why the answer was very simple, "we need to have the golf car so we have someplace to carry our beer." OK so these guys are very much like our normal players. When asked about the lack of clubs each player said they play with between 10 and 12 clubs or 5 to 6 different ways to strike the ball with each foot.

When interviewing Bill Kehoes the Superintendent at Chula Vista he made the following observation. A certain person felt they should cut the cups on the putting green but Bill was able to convince them that this was not possible and the repair would be very difficult. Bill rode with the organizer and set-up the course, marking each hole and assessing the difficulty of each pin placement. Once the pin locations were located it took 2 workers 4 full days to set cups.



Prevail®

better. smarter. responsible.

you will love it... ...and so will your bottom line.

saves money

eco-friendly



When you choose Prevail®, you'll achieve superior results *and* capitalize on cost advantage savings by using 20-30% less fertilizer than conventional products. Prevail appeals to a vast new audience that cares about the environment and the footprint they leave behind for future generations. With Prevail® you're using high quality products that will provide dependable results, and your customers will love knowing they're utilizing better products to manage their greenspace areas.

But we've just scratched the surface here, to get the full story on why your turf and your bottom line will love Prevail®, contact Spring Valley®. We'll show you how these revolutionary new products work.

Available from **Reinders** 800-782-3300

Moving beyond conventional...
...for a better planet



MISCELLANY

Each hole had to be hand dug and the material hauled away, then the cup set and leveled with a sand base with a regulation cup in the bottom of the 21 inch flower pot. When these holes are not being used they are covered with a $\frac{3}{4}$ piece of plywood painted green, to allow regular play to continue and not become a hazard to golf balls or ill driven golf cars.

As far as a golf course set-up Bill was done. As we talked he pointed out that the players did virtually no damage, limited divots, no pitch marks on greens, divot bottles were not needed, putting area height way over 0.11" and no disease control was requested. He also made a point to say

that these players can complete 9 holes in just over an hour and that this might be a great way to bring revenue to Chula Vista in the fall. As we all know leagues end late August to early September many times due to lack of daylight to complete 9 holes. These foot golfers can play much later into the year.

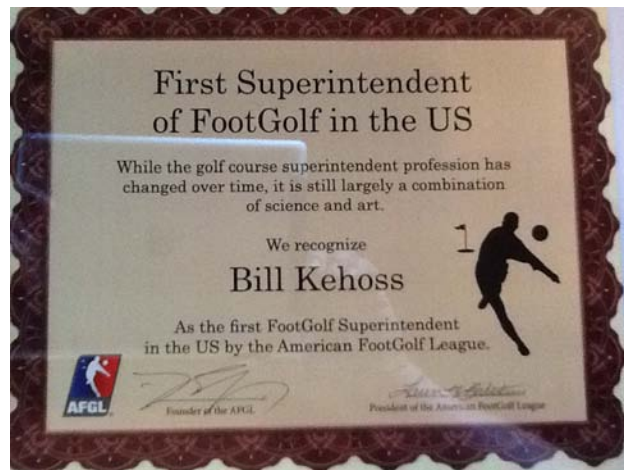
Now to the golf, this event had players from all over the USA and Europe. The course that they played at Chula Vista was 4230 yards with a par of 69. The winning player made it around that course in 80. At the conclusion of the event Bill Kehoss was recognized as the first Foot Golf Superintendent in the United States.

The course at Chula Vista remains set-up and ready for future play. I was informed that the Foot Golf League of America is in the process of trying to setup more event and leagues throughout the US. Chula Vista is presently setting up a league and this writer and his sons can't wait to give it a try.

Are you interested in foot golf for your course, then look at the following websites to get a better feel for this game.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnxQNKt2PyE> American Foot Golf League

<http://www.footgolfwisconsin.com/#!> Wisconsin Foot Golf League



Top Left: The foot golf cup

Bottom Left: The foot golf cup securely covered.

Top Right: Bill Kehoss, Golf Course Superintendent at Chula Vista Golf Club and the First Superintendent of Foot Golf in the United States!



Footgolf players in official dress.



golf industry show



San
Diego

GCSAA

Education Conference & the Golf Industry Show

Feb. 4-8 • San Diego

National Championship & Golf Classic

Feb. 3-5 • San Diego

www.gcsaa.org

2013