

## BMW Championship At Conway Farms

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Chad Ball the Certified Golf Course Superintendent at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, IL and a 31 year member of WGCSA recently hosted the PGA Tour's best players during the BMW Championship.

Conway Farms Golf Club is set on 209 acres that was purchased by three golf minded families in 1956. However work did not begin on the Tom Fazio designed course until 1989. The course was built by the Wadsworth Company and opened for play in August of 1991.

The links course has hosted many local and national amateur championships over it's history but this is the first major professional event. The course has been tweaked and tightened up over the past two years with input from the PGA and Western Golf Association.

The goal was to provide a layout that is challenging for the tour players but playable for the members who belong to the course. Conway Farms has a unique membership with 169 of 255 regular members carrying a single digit handicap.



**Top Right: The 18th Hole, Par 5, 570 Yards**

**Top Left: Tiger Woods hits his approach shot into the 10th green during the pro am.**

**Bottom Left: Wisconsin native Steve Stricker on the Par 3 11th hole.**

**Bottom Right: The crew puts the finishing touches on the 13th green complex.**





## MISCELLANY



**Top Left:** The bunker crew puts the finishing touches on the 196 yard Par 3 2nd hole

**Middle Left:** Host Superintendent Chad Ball makes room for spectators on the 10th.

**Bottom Left:** Mark Petitgoue, Superintendent at Thunderhawk Golf Club mows the 17th approach.

**Right Side:** The Par 4 15th. On the bottom WGCSA member Paul Bastron helps measure greens firmness





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Among those accomplished players is PGA Professional Luke Donald who served as a information source as the course prepared to host the worlds best players. Conway Farms offers a excellent practice facility for members to hone their skills.

Conway Farms is a walking only facility and offers 5 sets of tees for member play with yardages from 7,216 to 5,275 and par 71 rating/slope of 75.8/149 to 71.7/132.

Ball came to Conway farms in 1994 after serving at North Hills Country Club in Menomonee Falls and Meadowbrook Country Club in Racine. Conway Farms Golf Club has a maintenance staff of 20 employees and used 30 volunteers to help with the BMW Championship.

Key staff members include Assistant Superintendent Connor Healy, Assistant Superintendent Adam Wiles, Assistant Superintendent Javier Mata and Equipment Manager Brian Brown.

The course was very well received by the professionals who started play with temperatures in the 90's and ended up with cool and wet to finish the event. Congratulations to the staff and volunteers for providing a great golf course.



**Top Right & Middle Right: The 8th hole from the green back and fairway forward plays 600 yards.**

**Lower Right: The Par 3 17th hole plays 207 yards and offers various tee distances and angles.**

**Left: Rolling, Cup changing and green speed measuring on the 17th green.**



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