

THE SPILT PERSONALITY OF THE BROOKTREE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

by RICHARD DICKS, JR.
Golf Course Superintendent
Brooktree Municipal Golf Course

The Brooktree Municipal Golf Course was developed in two stages by a private company and sold to the City of Owatonna one nine at a time. The first nine opened in 1963 and was known as the Owatonna Municipal Golf Course. The course was constructed along a creek in a flood plain area and is set in a fairly mature area. The greens are small, averaging 4,500 square feet. They are elevated but flat, making them an invisible target. They were originally planted with Penncross but now co-exist with poa Annuua. The tees, like the greens, are small, averaging only 4,000 square feet and were originally planted with common Kentucky bluegrass as was the rest of the course. The course itself plays 2972 yards from the M.G.A. plates and is a Par 35. Without playing extremely long, the course can be very difficult as the creek and/or out of bounds areas exist on every hole.

The second nine, known as the Brooktree Golf Course, opened in 1976 and was leased by the City of Owatonna in 1978. The city finally purchased the second nine in 1981. The second nine was constructed on farm land and in contrast to the first nine holes is located just above the flood plain and is very wide open. The tees average over 6,000 square feet and were planted with the more improved varieties of bluegrass as were the fairways and roughs. The greens at the time of construction were planted with a variety of creeping bentgrass not known yet as Penneagle. These greens ten years after they were planted are still very pure. The greens average 5,874 square feet and are elevated at the back to face the golfer. The real hazard on the course is the pond between hole seventeen and eighteen which provide a challenging finish to an otherwise hit a way golf course of 3411 yards.

The two courses have been run as one eighteen hole course known as the Brooktree

Municipal Golf Course since 1978. The contrasting courses make for interesting and diverse playing conditions. Because the two courses are completely separated, we have found it more efficient to have two people changing the cup and tee positions. This also allows us to spend more time patching divots on the smaller tees of the front nine. Our irrigation systems are also completely different and separate systems. Both systems are manual and are run one at a time as over watering is inevitable if they are run simultaneously.

To help make the greens of the two courses play more consistent we have been topdressing with a fifty percent sand mixture which is consistent with that of the back nine. We have also decided to cut back on the fertility of the more aggressive penneagle greens. They seem to develop an abundance of matty material that topdressing and aerifying is not by itself eliminating.

Some courses are designed with diversity throughout, but the Brooktree Municipal Golf Course markedly plays with diversity from one nine to the other. In adding up the differences between the nines, our maintenance aim is to maintain the small tees of the front nine and expand them when time permits and to make the greens play as consistent as possible.

NEW UTILITY TRUCKS ARE INTRODUCED

A new line of utility trucks designed to perform a wide variety of grounds maintenance service has been introduced by Jacobsen Division of Textron, Inc.

Two models unveiled in the line are the T1000 with a 1000 lb. capacity and the T2000 which has a capacity of up to 2000 lbs.

With attachments, the latter vehicle performs a variety of turf care tasks in addition to carrying personnel and hauling equipment and materials.

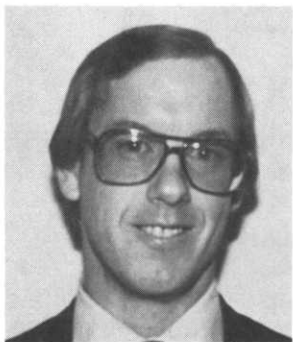
A four-wheel truck the T1000 is powered through an automatic-type transmission by a fuel-efficient Jacobsen air-cooled engine that will operate all day on its 6-gal. tank of gas. Riding on 71-in. wheelbase

continued on Page 5

with an overall length of 106-in., this compact machine has a light print of only 8 psi, a desirable feature in turf work. Though a light-weight, construction is heavy duty, featuring a welded high-yield tubular steel chassis and a diamond-plate steel body and cargo box. The convenience of an automatic transmission, a steering wheel and simplified controls add to operator control.

For more rigorous and varied duty, the T2000 is powered by an 18 hp twin-cylinder air-cooled Onan gas engine, moving the three-wheel truck through a three-speed transmission at speeds up to 22 mph. Nearly six hours of continuous use are provided by one 8.5 gal. tank of gas. In addition to its 2000 lb. capacity, with 10-ply tires, including operator and passenger, a variety of optional attachments convert the T2000 into a multi-function system machine. With optional hydraulic system, PTO drive or high-low range charger, the T2000 can be a mini dump truck with tailgate, aerator, seeder, spreader, top dresser and several kinds of sprayers. A boom assembly and hand gun with 50-ft. hose can be added. The 124-in. long T2000 is built for heavy-duty use with tubular steel frame and diamond steel cargo box. Wide, six-ply standard tires provide a light print on turf.

EDITOR'S CORNER



by DOUG MAHAL
Chairman
Editorial Committee

Would it be redundant to say June was a little unusual this year? But then, this is Minnesota-land of no normals! I've heard no one wishing for rain. In fact, the contrary is more frequent in conversation. The moisture we've had has created some spectacularly lush, green turf on Minnesota's golf courses. I imagine the soil will dry up just in time for the

weather to turn hot and dry. Well, that's Minnesota and that's what M.G.C.S.A. superintendents' manage as well as any - change!

If you missed the June meeting at Forest Hills, you missed seeing a tremendous drainage system effort on the part of the club and Superintendent Lyle Olson. Without seeing, it's hard to imagine what 55,000 feet of drainage system looks like. Thanks, Lyle, for a great day and the visual experience.

Many M.G.C.S.A. members missed out on the first annual Green Industry Expo held at Anoka Vo-Tech, Rum River Campus. Next to the G.C.S.A.A. National Show, one is not likely to see as much turf and related equipment anywhere. I found it just a great day to get down to "brass tacks" with some of our distributors and actually get a "hands on" look at the equipment and supplies we and other related industries use. For those superintendents who did attend, it was a day for simple camaraderie, a function lost since beginning our noon meeting format. Plan to attend in '85.

Our July picnic will again be held at Baker Park on Lake Independence. The date is July 9. Arrangements Chairman Russ Adams has something special and new planned in the way of food. The price for your family will be a little higher but it will be well worth the expense. We all need a little "time out" about that time of year. Come on out and enjoy the day. Bring the family!

Many thanks to last month's HOLE NOTES contributors, Gerry Murphy and Glen Lentner. I've always said that our membership has a lot of good information to share and these fella's have proved it again. Good job!

Effective July 1, 1984 a new law involving golf courses goes into effect. I might suggest you all get a copy of the "Employee Right to Know" law and look it over. Basically, the law requires employers to post a list of all chemicals used on the golf course including fertilizer.

Have a great July and take a little time to get away and relax. See you on the 9th for a great day at the lake.