



PREPARING FOR THE RESORTERS TOURNAMENT

by Steven Hamelau
Superintendent, Alexandria Golf Club

This coming August will see the Alexandria Golf Club host its 65th Annual Resorters Golf Tournament, a week long series of events. We are but one of three "sister" tournaments held this time of year in which many golfers have tried for the difficult task of accomplishing a "Grand Slam". Lee Kirchgatter must start the golfers off on his Bemidji Course, I follow the very next week, and Brad Klein at Detroit Lakes gets them the following week. Each of the three courses is different from the others in many ways. My intent is to give those of you not familiar with hosting a week long tournament a brief look into what we do for ours.

The crew and I look forward to our Resorters Tournament each year for many different reasons. I think one of the biggest reasons is the chance to change our normal daily routine. As you will see from the information that follows we move into two shifts per day.

I think giving you some of my more important steps and concerns in preparing and maintaining our course can be done most easily by using charts and outlines. You all are familiar with the jobs that I have listed but I'll try and tell you our particular timing we use to accomplish them. Included will be two charts giving you my equipment and crew information for a chance to get a relative idea of my basic operation size for a self-comparison.

Breaking the jobs into the time-frames of two weeks before, one week before, evenings during and mornings during will give you the general program we use. I hope that my programs seem simple and easy to carry out. They are supposed to be!

Given a rain out at night or in the morning we intend to still have the course playability covered. This is one superintendent that will not gamble away the evening hours available to wake up to rain and lightning with no possible chance of any maintenance being done before they have to start playing in standing water to get done!! If we don't get any rain we just simply have a more frequent mowing cycle which all the golfers like anyway.

I went to Iowa State University and had one professor that impressed upon me the famous "K.I.S.S." method - "Keep it Simple - Stupid!" It has turned out to be a very useful tool in trying to communicate with boards and new crew members. Over the years I've seen enough go wrong even when things are kept simple and so probably have you. Below is the first chart outlining major steps that are taken during the second week before.

2 WEEKS BEFORE:

All equipment is double checked for possible break downs.
All mowers are sharpened.
We verticut and topdress moderately with a 1/1/1/ matching mix and use an older mower until they are clean.

By the end of the week all mowers will have been lapped in.
On Thursday and Friday all fairways are cross-cut.

I establish in writing the expected work schedule and times each crew member will need to be available tournament week.

Plans already agreed upon for the tournament are checked again (Golf Pro, Tournament Chairman, President and Manager).

Before getting into the "week before" I'll show you our crew size and the major equipment we have to work with. As you can see, from the chart labeled "Crew Size and Duties During the Tournament", I have ten people at maximum. Not shown is that with five being of a three-month period and the rest vary from four, five months to seven months that I am the only 12/month person here. Also listed is each person's normal duties during the tournament. The chart labeled "Major

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Equipment Used and Settings" explains what we use where and at what setting. This should give each of you a chance to now compare our size operation to your own. Now on to the week before.

1 WEEK BEFORE.

First trim and manicure everything on Monday and Tuesday.

Both ponds are cleaned of all vegetation by hand.

All areas are fertilized except the roughs.

Greens and tees are preventatively sprayed with 26019.

On Wednesday and Thursday all mowers are lapped in and the new settings are made. I like to check the new heights out on the course for a couple days to make sure it is what I want.

Fairways are again crosscut on Friday and Saturday. Note: We only have one unit so we mow 9 holes each morning seven days a week. By 10:00 o'clock we have an impossible number of golfers to mow fairways around all year.

Re-trim and manicure everything on Friday and Saturday.

At end of week help move in concession stands.

Saturday night starts our swing shift operation.

Our Resorters Tournament involves all ages and all calibers of golfers - in both men's and women's divisions. With this in mind we have set pin placements with matching tee block settings for each day as requested by the tournament chairman and golf pro. A cup setting system I used for multiple day tournaments before moving to Alexandria was approved and tried during my first Resorters Tournament in 1981 with great success. It has been approved each of the years since and may be of use to some of you. I make sure that all cups are cut toward the backs of the greens during the last part of the preceding week. On Sunday, which is a practice round, I use the toughest side of the greens and mix them up between the front left or front right. Understand that at no time during the week are all pins in the same exact position on all 18 greens - like all front left or all front right. The opposite sides of the fronts of the greens are used for Monday. We have greens that range from 3000 to 7000

sq, ft. so by having the first two days of golf near the front of the greens we prevent over 80% of the ball mark damage than if they had been back. The next three days find pin placements mixed with three options: Center-left, Center-center, or Center-right. This leaves us with the back left quarter and the back right quarter for mixing placements on Friday and Saturday. Before the final rounds for the championships start at noon, I cut another set of cups in the position of middle-back and let them go after them. By then the pressure is tough enough and the club doesn't want slow play caused by tough pin placements. This pattern never puts the golfer back into a highly damaged area before the week is over for his short putts near the cups. As I move back and towards the center of the greens I have less people playing at the end of the week and the greens really look better than you would imagine. It works well for me and I only included it for the sake of comparing what others do for cup placement as compared to what I do. Now I'll get back to the rest of our jobs during the week of the tournament.

Basically we start on the front nine behind the golfers at night and finish the back nine first thing in the morning. We do finish mowing the greens each night with lights so they are cut twice a day all week. A few extra maintenance duties during the week occur for longest drive, putting tournaments, derby, etc., but I generally take care of anything not in our normal pattern.

Below in outline form you will see the breakdown of the maintenance program during the tournament. We swing into two different shifts that become routine by Monday. Saturday and Sunday have been written separately due to a few extra jobs that we do up front. What you see written for Monday morning will be the same for all the rest of the mornings and the same for Monday night and all the rest of the nights. Sounds great! Sounds easy! If only it worked that way. I'm not going to even start listing all the changes that can take place due to weather, committee requests, mechanical problems, vandalism, etc. so go ahead and read our "ultimate" plans for the week as listed below and get an idea of what we have to do and when.

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TOURNAMENT WEEK JOB TIMING.....

Saturday Night:

- Close front nine at 3:00 p.m. for maintenance to start
- Repair all ball marks
- Verticut greens very lightly
- Mow all greens after verticutting
- Change all cups and pull pins
- Mow front fairways
- Mow Front Green Banks
- Mow 1 round all roughs with 5-gang twice (two ways)
- Move all tee blocks, service tee area and restrooms
- Rake all sand traps
- Mow front lawn, parking, etc.
- Water greens, tees & fairways as needed

Saturday Morning:

- Mow all greens
- Mow all tees
- Mow back green banks
- Mow back fairways
- Rake all sand traps
- Check all cups & replace tournament set of flags
- Check all tees & restrooms

Sunday Night:

- Repair ball marks
- Change practice cups
- Change tee blocks & service tee area-until too dark
- Mow front fairways
- Verticut all greens
- Mow all greens after they are verticut
- Rake sand traps
- Mow 1 round of rough two ways-until too dark
- Mow front green banks
- Change cups-until too dark for making a good choice
- Pull all pins right behind last golfers
- Water greens, tees & fairways as needed

Starting Monday Morning- General Morning Routine

- Mow all greens-start with lights on
- Mow back green banks
- Mow all tees
- Rake all sand traps

- Check cups cut last night and finish any left to do
- Check all tee blocks as pins are replaced
- Finish mowing 1 round of roughs if not already done
- Mow back fairways
- Hand mow and trim where needed before traffic comes
- Service tee areas, restrooms, general clean-up
- Keep front lawn & parking area looking sharp

Starting Monday Night- General Night Routine

- Change practice cups
- Repair all ball marks
- Mow all greens-use lights if needed
- Mow front fairways
- Mow front green banks
- Rake sand traps
- Cut cups until too dark for seeing good locations
- Move tee blocks & service tee area until dark
- Mow 1 round of roughs & pull pins until dark
- Hand mow or trim where needed
- Water greens, tees & fairways as needed

Those of you who made it this far through this article can be sure you have the staying power to host a week long tournament. I will admit that by the end of the week we have all had a great plenty of "change" and look forward to our old routine! I'm still lucky. I now host a big tournament but I have a good crew and enough equipment to get the job done. I will never forget what it was like when I was at a smaller nine hole country club years ago. Even to get the course ready for a one day tournament was a monumental task. At that time "I" was the crew and I had less equipment than a small lawn service would need. I've also been to courses that made me drool over their operations. Reading and hearing about what these larger courses must do to host national tournaments is almost incomprehensible to me. But after I've been in this profession for as long as I have now, I can say the most important thing is to try and keep your own grass greener and wish those on the other sides

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MAJOR EQUIPMENT USED & SETTINGS

JOB	MACHINE-USED	NORMAL	TOURN.
GREENS	2 - TORO GM3	3/16	5/32
VERTICUT	"		
FRINGES	"	7/16	13/32
GREEN-BANKS	1 - 84" TORO - 3 GANG	1 1/16	15/16
TEES	"	3/4	1/2
FAIRWAYS	1 - JAC.F-10 - 7 GANG	1 1/16	15/16
ROUGHES	1 - 72" TORO ROTARY	2	2
	1 - TORO GENERAL - 5 GANG	2	2
SAND-TRAPS	1 - SMITHCO TRAP RAKE		
TRANSPORTAION	1 - 1/2 TON PICKUP		
	3 - CUSHMAN TRUCKSTERS		

NOTE:

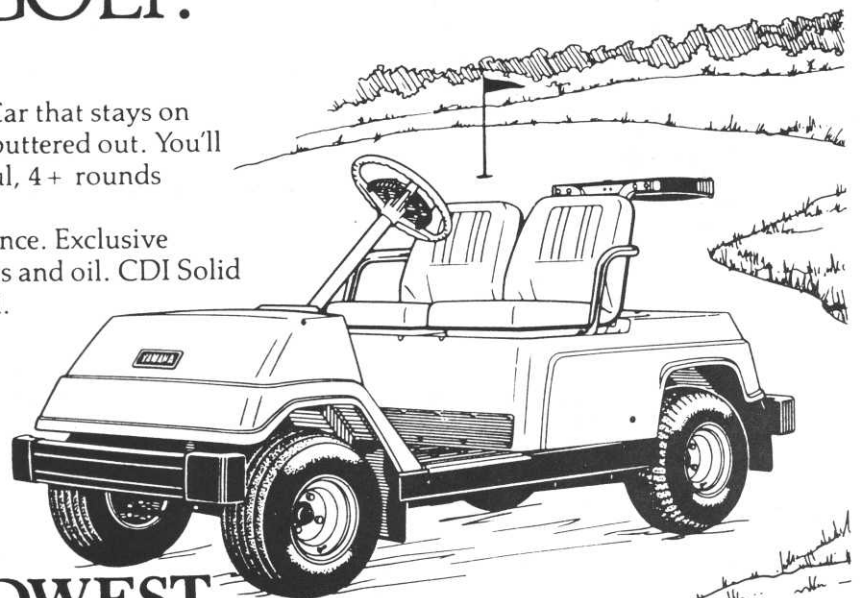
- GREENS - BENT & POA MIXED
- FRINGES - BENT & POA MIXED
- TEES - BLUEGRASS
- FAIRWAYS - BLUEGRASS
- ROUGHES - BLUEGRASS

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of your fences good luck in keeping their grass greener too!

CREW SIZE & DUTIES DURING THE TOURNAMENT

MYSELF: Cut all tournament cups
Apply any pesticide needed
Cover unexpected problems or requests
Double check crew is informed as to any changes in their jobs from the prewritten assignments on blackboard
Personally check with golf pro and golf tournament chairman each morning to make sure all communications are received
Help service concession stands
Stay available for unexpected

ASSISTANT: Service tees: (Ball washers, tee-blocks, trash, etc.)
Service restrooms & keep course clean
Change practice green cups daily
Put pins out each morning
Irrigation repair

MECHANIC/FOREMAN Equipment maintenance
Mow tees
Mow green banks
Oversee & help on special projects

FAIRWAY PERSON: Mow fairways

ROUGH PERSON: Mow roughs and driving range

NIGHT WATERMAN: Water greens, tees and fairways

SUMMER LABORER: Mow greens, fringes & do hand labor

SUMMER LABORER: Mow greens, fringes & do hand labor

SUMMER LABORER: Paint white lines around greens and trim

SUMMER LABORER: Sand traps, flower beds & day watering

SUMMER LABORER: Repair ball marks (evenings only)

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