

Tom Fischer Had Edinburgh in Great Shape for the LPGA

By DALE WYSOCKI

For some golf course superintendents it can be a once in a lifetime shot — to prepare your golf course for a USGA, PGA or LPGA Tour event.

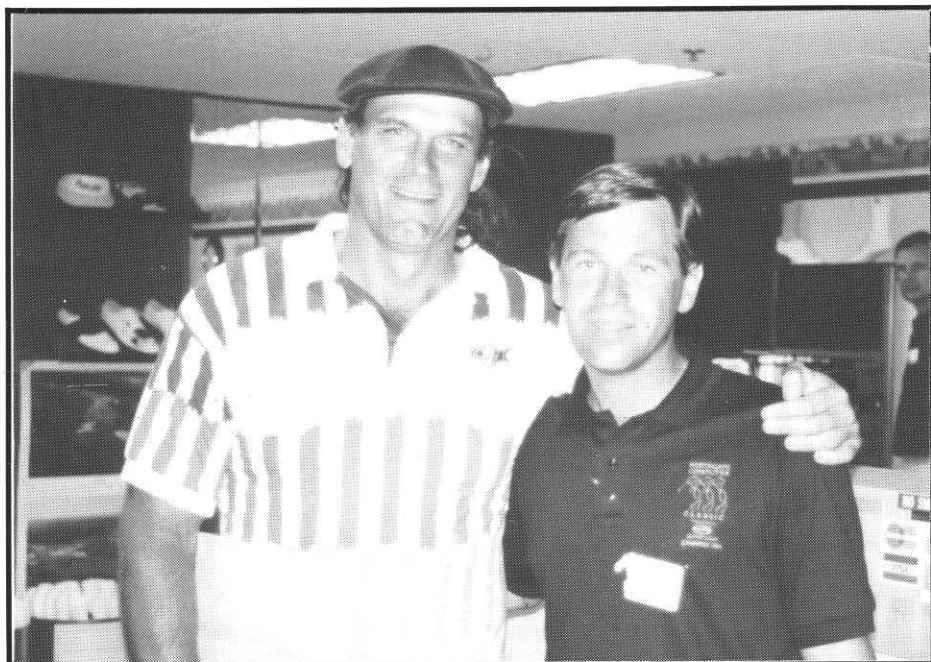
Imagine getting an event that will be a regular stop on the tour for three years. Imagine having 45,000 rounds of golf at this facility per year. Imagine having a staff of 22 that is responsible for setting up leaderboards, roping off galleries, trash removal and all the little or major gremlins that pop up before, during and after the event. Oh yes, the staff also does the teardown, too!

Tom Fischer, CGCS, has been at Edinburgh USA since 1984, and these are just a touch of his responsibilities during the LPGA Northgate Computer Classic.

The tournament was in its second year at Edinburgh in August, and playing conditions, as always, drew raves from tournament participants.

If you happened to be at Edinburgh USA during the event and were able to see Tom, the first thing that you would have noticed is that he does not have one radio. . . but three radios. One for the LPGA, one for IMG and one for his staff. He was running a solid second place in air time; Michael Sterns, tournament director, had the honor of the most air time.

The golf course was designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr., and it is a mag-



Jesse "The Body" Ventura with MGCSA president Tom Fischer

nificent layout with its signature bunkers and the famous seventeenth hole that requires a perfectly placed drive or your ball will join the ranks of the experienced golf ball jar inside the golf shop.

Tom is very modest about his accomplishments at Edinburgh. Sometime in the future it might be recorded that the golf course was designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. and Thomas Fischer. Tom has developed a keen eye for detail.

When golfers did not like using the cart path on seventeen, Tom designed a walking path using keystone retaining wall products and Agri-lime.

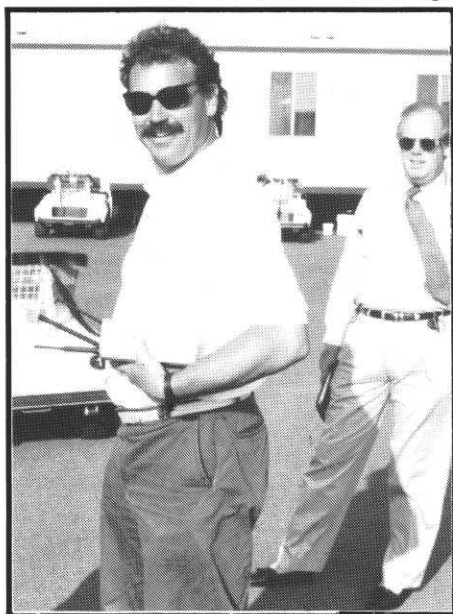
The green on seven was just a tad small and those incoming 4-iron shots were having a tough time finding their target. Along comes Tom and the green is enlarged to help those incoming shots find the dance floor.

The sixteenth tee was increased five-fold and now has four tiers, which made for some very interesting placements during the tournament.

About the only difference concerning maintenance at Edinburgh was the greens. They were double cut with Toro Triplex mowers with a bench setting of 9/64". This gives the greens a stimp-meter recording of 10' - 10'6" — just what the doctor ordered.

What happens the Monday after the tournament? It's business as usual. . . no closing the golf course for tear down or repair. Tom and his fine staff go on keeping this public golf course in very "private" playing conditions.

Edinburgh USA — a golf course with private playing conditions for the public.



LPGA Commissioner Dave Stearns



The 9th, 18th and putting green at Edinburgh USA