

# The Wee One Tournament, Peers Help

By Dave Kazmierczak, CGCS

A glorious cause deserved a glorious day.

That was the feeling of all involved at the 4th annual Wee One Tournament held at Brackett's Crossing Country Club on Monday October 7th 2013.

Under perfect blue skies and comfortable 65 degree temperatures some 131 golfers showed up to enjoy a day of golf, food and drink but more importantly, help raise funds for the Wee One Foundation, a charity supporting the golf course industry's personnel with needs due to medical hardship.

Superintendent Tom Proshek and his staff had Brackett's Crossing in terrific shape for the four-man scramble format and conditions were ideal for low scoring.

While the ultimate goal is

never to have to distribute any of the funds raised, there was not one person in attendance that didn't feel good about raising over \$21,000 dollars to support this year's recipient Eric Peters, Superintendent of

North Links Golf course in Mankato, Minnesota and his family.

Peters was diagnosed with cancer in March of 2013 in multiple areas of

his body, and has been undergoing treatment ever since.

With his wife, Diane and children Kirsten, Megan and Maxwell looking on, Peters expressed his gratitude to all who have helped him and his family through his journey to recovery. He also expressed his resolve to overcome his illness and return to a normal life. Eric was overwhelmed by the sup-



# Helping Peers

port he has received from industry and the Wee One Foundation.

The Wee One Legacy began in 1985. Four friends traveled to Scotland on a golf trip. The caddies were making wagers as these golfers stood on the tee. One caddie declared, “My money’s on the wee one!” The “wee one”, Wayne Otto, CGCS, passed away October 21, 2004 losing his battle to cancer.

Wayne had dedicated his life to the betterment of the golf maintenance profession he loved and the individuals who shared his passion.

The Wee One Foundation was developed as a tribute to Wayne to assist golf course management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship without comprehensive insurance or ad-

equate financial resources. Through the Foundation’s work, Wayne’s legacy will never be forgotten.

Although the event was shadowed by a somber situation, everyone enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of a peer’s need. From the new Wee Putt Challenge to the brat and taco stands to the distribution

of door prizes, the event was festive and participants chose to celebrate life in general. Everyone was a winner



that day.

Some, more than others, as the group did recognized a Hole In One made by Mike Carlson and the team Kazmierczak, Lesmeister, Thompson and Rasmusson blew the field away with a score of 53. Make plans to attend next year’s Wee One Tournament and challenge Team Prestwick for bragging rights.







