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NEWS FROM ACROSS THE SEAS

Miniature Golf: The Way Ahead?

The world's first commercial golf court will be opened later this month at Lensbury conference centre, at Teddington Lock, by Laura Davies.

A golf court is a new concept in golf, designed by Compac Golf Ltd, that enables a full 18-hole round to be played on 18 acres of land compared to the average 150-acre golf course. The concept can also be adapted to fit smaller areas of land.

Mathematically designed to include four greens and eight tee areas, a golf court offers players all the challenges of a full 18-hole course, incorporating Par 3, 4 and 5 holes on a smaller area and can be completed in far less time. The game on a golf court is very easy to follow, the tee and yardage markers and flags are all color coded. Each hole is different. They vary in both length and perspective. A golf court is as safe as a golf course and each golf court will undergo a PGA safety audit.

Like a tennis court, a golf court can be booked by the hour offering the golfer the flexibility of playing six holes in one hour, 12 holes in two hours or a full 18 holes in just three hours. The game is considerably quicker than on a conventional golf course because the system of play means waiting time is virtually eliminated.

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The potential for golf courts is enormous. Hotels, conference centres, property developments, universities, inner city areas and leisure clubs are just some of the areas with limited space that could feature a golf court.

A golf court is around £300k. It is inexpensive to maintain, requires very little watering and, being so compact, is easy to floodlight for night-time golf.

"It means having the opportunity to play golf safely and it will bring golf to a whole new category of players for whom golf has not been feasible or available before." said Bob Hunt of PGA Golf Management, who advises on the building of golf courses.

True Grit: Sand Research

A frequent source of debate within golf clubs concerns the performance of bunker sands. Regular complaints about bunker sands include excessive crusting, soft and fluffy lies, excessive plugging of the ball on impact and unstable footing. Undoubtedly, some of these comments are influenced by the way in which the sand was installed and its subsequent maintenance. However, the physical composition of the sand also has major effects on the performance of golf bunkers. The objective of this article is to review research studies that have looked in detail on the effects of sand type within bunkers, particularly on playing performance.

Apart from playing characteristics, many issues need to be taken into account when choosing sands for bunkers. The sand should be free draining and in particular contamination with silt and clay may reduce drainage rates. High silt and clay contents may also contribute to the development of a surface crust following rainfall and subsequent drying. As a guideline, sands with more than 2% silt and clay should be avoided.

Windblow is an important consideration. On links courses, most of the local sands used within bunkers fall in the size range of 0.1-0.35 mm diameter. This may be appropriate for the generally deeper and narrow bunkers typical of a links course but this would be a potential disaster on many inland courses. The fine sands on links courses are usually a product of transportation by wind before stabilization by vegetation. Therefore, their use on more open bunkers, particularly on exposed inland courses, would be a recipe for disaster.

In selecting a bunker sand, it must always be remembered that golfers are liable to blast sand out of bunkers while playing from the hazard. If the sand contains a lot of coarse material, greater than about 1.5 mm, this is liable to remain on the surface where it can interfere with putting and may also damage mowers. The localized accumulation of considerable quantities of excessively coarse sand splashed from a bunker may also make the turf more drought susceptible. Similarly, on inland courses, the lime content of the sand is important. If the sand contains appreciable amounts of lime (eg. as shell fragments), this may accelerate the invasion of annual meadow-grass and broad-leaved weeds, encourage earthworm activity and on newer, sand-dominated greens make the turf more susceptible to take-all patch disease.

Sands can stack at different angles. When moisture is present, a sand can easily be raked up and remain against a very steep bunker face. Fine sands retain moisture more readily and they can maintain a steeper angle for longer periods than coarse grained sands, which can quickly dry-out. Dry sands have a maximum slope, known as the angle of repose, above which they will not be stable. If the sand has a higher angle of repose, it remains against bunker faces more easily and thus less maintenance is needed.

Field Day—

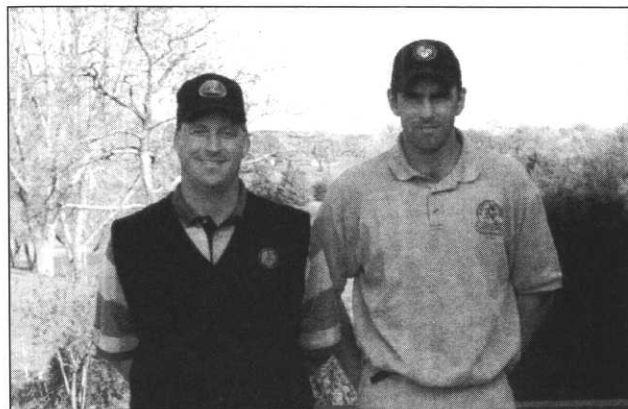
(Continued from Page 14)

field day will be only \$10 for persons who pre-register. The sign-in desk will be open from 8 to 9 AM at the demonstration gardens. Registration will be available on the day of the field tours for \$15. All participants will be provided with a field day program at the sign-in desk. Coffee and doughnuts will be available in the morning and refreshments will be available during the field tours. You are invited to stay after the tours to take an extended look at field plots, visit with presenters, or to walk around campus. If you would like a boxed lunch, you may pre-register for one for \$7.50. The proceeds of this event will go to cover field day expenses and to support research and educational activities at the University.

So mark July 26th on your calendar and plan on joining us for this summer event. If you have any questions about the field day feel free to contact Jon Powell at 612/625-5290 or visit the web site <http://www.crc.agri.umn.edu/~jpowell/turf/field-day.htm>



THE WINNING TEAM AT BRACKETT'S CROSSING C.C. were, from left to right, MGCSA President Paul Eckholm, CGCS, Eric Peters, Dale Parske and Barry Provo.



HOST SUPERINTENDENT TOM PROSHEK, left, with Eric Ritter, one of his assistants at Brackett's Crossing C.C.

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State of the GCSAA

By STEVE MONA
USGA President

Quarterly State of the Association reports provide GCSAA members with a "big picture" view of GCSAA activities and operations. The following report is a synopsis of Steve Mona's quarterly report to the GCSAA Board of Directors. For more information, visit GCSAA's Web site at www.gcsaa.org.

Career Development

GCSAA has developed a new image enhancement strategy based on qualitative research conducted last fall. As part of this strategy, GCSAA is using television instead of print media for this season's media campaign. Television spots are airing on The Golf Channel through Sept. 30. The television spot also will advertise GCSAA's new consumer Web site, www.golfsuper.com, which launched in April or early May. GCSAA continues to expand its online ERS services. Online application forms now allow members to apply for positions directly to employers via e-mail. This year, at GCSAA's conference and show, the career development resource center showcased an online employment center. Currently, 63 GCSAA chapters are working in an official capacity with First Tee facilities. The association also is developing a public service announcement for homeowners on pesticide use with a grant from the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program.

Communications

GCSAA completed a highly successful conference and show with media coverage in such outlets as the San Antonio Express News, Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star Telegram, Sports Illustrated, Los Angeles Daily News, and The Golf Channel. The professional golf events reception brought CBS-TV coordinating producer of golf Lance Barrow as a featured speaker. The first quarter of 2001 brought extensive media coverage, including "The Golf Course Superintendent's Analysis" in all The Golf Channel's televised events and exposure through GCSAA's relationships with allied associations, such as the PGA Tour. The association continues to receive media play through its sponsorship of Senior PGA Tour player Jim Colbert, who wears GCSAA's logo on his shirt. GCSAA also plans to begin a program of communication aimed at publicizing GCSAA's 75th anniversary. The Golf Channel media buy value ad will continue with superintendent interviews and a 75th anniversary feature. GCSAA has finalized the restructuring of its environmental award program with Golf Digest.

Corporate Marketing and Sales/Conference And Show/The GCSAA Foundation

A record 750 people participated in GCSAA's annual tournament, which took place this year in San Antonio, Texas. Mitch Clodfelter, superintendent at Cowans Ford Country Club in Stanley, N.C., won the 2001 GCSAA Golf Championship. 550 people participated in the four-ball tournament. A record 275,500 square feet of exhibit space was sold for the 2001 conference and show in Dallas, accommodating 735 exhibitors. 20,500 people attended the conference and show. GCSAA is researching the feasibility of growing conference and show attendance and influence by merging GCSAA's trade show with the trade shows of other selected allied associations. The association is focused on several Foundation issues, including capping the "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign. The GCSAA Foundation received 6,300 donations through dues contributions, which resulted in \$248,000. Currently, there are 543 Golden Tee members.

Education

GCSAA has completed 79 regional seminars with an average attendance of 39. This number combines all forms of the regional program, including the traditional program, the Superintendent Leadership Series and the chapter-administered programs. In November, the association hosted the first session of the GCSAA Leadership Institute; 19 people, representing 18 chapters, participated in the program. The participants are using GCSAA's action learning guidebook to address specific challenges their chapters are facing. Environmental stewardship The association continues to work with Audubon International to increase participation in the sanctuary program. Results of the Performance Measurement Survey, which is part of the Golf and Environment effort, were presented Feb. 16 at the conference and show. Also at conference and show, GCSAA introduced the Collaboration Guide for Golf Course Development, which was jointly funded by GCSAA and USGA, and the Environmental Principles Checklist. Information services GCSAA has completed the redesign and updates of information packets and mini packets. A total of 37 information packets and 17 mini packets were on sale in the bookstore at the Dallas conference and show, and the packets will continue to be available through the service center.

(Continued on Page 27)

MGCSA Membership Report

New Members and Reclassifications ~ May 8, 2001

Paul Grogan

TPC of the Twin Cities.....A - GCSAA
11072 Radisson Rd. NE, Blaine, MN 55449
W: 763/785-0696

Dennis Hamilton

Chippewa Valley Golf Club.....A - GCSAA
1307 Ballentine Rd., Menomonie, WI 54751
W: 715/235-9680

William G. Voigt

Kings Walk Golf Course.....A - GCSAA
1013 Cherry St., Grand Forks, ND 58201
W: 701/746-2750

Kurt Bowman

Ramsey Golf Club.....B - GCSAA (pending)
54386 244th St., Austin, MN 55912 W: 507/433-9098

Thomas Edstrom

Zumbrota Golf Club.....B - GCSAA
150 E. 9th St., Zumbrota, MN 55992 W: 507/732-4649

Andy Keyes

Windom Country Club.....B - GCSAA (pending)
1475 17th St., Apt. 9B, Windom, MN 56101
W: 507/831-0207

Doug Larson

Minnewaska Golf Club.....B - GCSAA (pending)
719 Wollan St., Starbuck, MN 56381 W: 320/634-5262

Chris Carpenter

Eagle Valley Golf Course.....C
7821 Irish Ave. S., Cottage Grove, MN 55016
W: 651/714-3756

Alan Domnick

Rochester G&CC.....C - GCSAA (pending)
5081 Logan St. SE, Rochester, MN 55904 W: 507/536-4487

Darren C. Gilgen

Mill Run Golf.....C
624 Broadway St., Apt. 4, Eau Claire, WI 54703
W: 715/834-5942

Robert Hensel

Blackberry Ridge Golf Club.....C - GCSAA
357 S. Riverside Ave., Sartell, MN 56377 W: 320/229-1888

Brian Jordan

Edina Country Club.....C
5700 Wooddale Ave., Edina, MN 55424 W: 952/922-9012

Matthew Mears

Red Wing Country Club.....C - GCSAA (pending)
1020 N. 6th St., Lake City, MN 55041 W: 651/388-9524

Terry Benson

Troy Burne Golf Club.....D
228 Cty. Rd. F., Hudson, WI 54016 W: 715/386-2902

Aaron Bentley

Brookview Golf Course.....D
8317 Xerxes Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55444
W: 612/523-2313

David Brudwick

Eastwood Golf Course.....D
819 23rd St. SW, Rochester, MN 55902 W: 507/285-5785

Jim Haas

Midland Hills Country Club.....D
1876 Draper Dr., Roseville, MN 55113 W: 651/631-1545

William Neuman

Baker National Golf Course.....D
1118 Cty. Rd 37 NW, Buffalo, MN 55313 W: 763/473-3369

John R. Pollnow

Midland Hills Country Club.....D
972 Scheffer, St. Paul, MN 55702-4014 W: 651/631-1545

James Pollock

Midland Hills Country Club.....D
11700 Kumquat St. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448
W: 651/631-1545

Neil Roberts

Sparta Municipal GC.....Student - GCSAA (pending)
1225 Jane Dr., Sparta, WI 54656 H: 608/269-3726

Adam J. Helgren

North Star Turf.....Affiliate
201 N. 2nd St., Cannon Falls, MN 55009
W: 651/484-0511

Steve Hunsley

E.C. Grow Inc.....Affiliate
E5175 Interlachen Blvd., Elena, WI 54738
W: 715/876-6422

Rick McCarthy

Superior Tech Products.....Affiliate
15339 71st Pl. N., Maple Grove, MN 55311
W: 952/546-3678

Nathan Oberle

Club Car, Inc.....Affiliate
4652 Bristol Blvd., Eagan, MN 55123 W: 651/454-6739

Fred Anderson

Reinders, Inc.....Affiliate
1038 Grover Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701 W: 715/456-0971

Kevin L. Kantz

Zumbro Falls Golf Club, Inc.....Associate
RR1, Box 23, Zumbro Falls, MN 55991
W: 507/753-3131

RECLASSIFICATIONS

Bradley J. Hable

Bunker Hills Golf Course.....B to A - GCSAA

Andrew Lindquist

Century Rain Aid.....B to Affiliate

Jason Spitzner

Moorhead Country Club.....C to B - GCSAA

Ron Bloom

The Fairways.....Affiliate to B

Steve Makowske

Interlachen Country Club.....D to C - GCSAA

Dean Spencer

Edinburgh USA.....C to I

*Submitted by Daniel Swenson
MGCSA Membership Chairman*

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State of the GCSAA—

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Government Relations

GCSAA has completed the redesign of the Government Relations section of the Web site, which now includes an online advocacy and legislative tool called the "GCSAA Legislative Action Center." The tool allows members and chapters to access a wide variety of information about lawmakers and the legislative process. A legislative conference is being planned for the spring of 2002. It will include a reception, visits with legislators and educational programs. The association continues to work on issues related to the Food Quality Protection Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Historical Preservation

Six major historical exhibits were created for the Dallas conference and show, in addition to historical displays by 28 vendors. Several travelling exhibits have been shipped to regional turf shows. Work continues on the 75th anniversary gala in Lawrence, Kan., and Kansas City in September. GCSAA also is planning a golf tournament in addition to the other anniversary festivities. Along with the 75th celebration, the association is encouraging members to participate in the commemorative brick program and the golf ball showcase. In addition, a 75th anniversary toolkit will be available to help chapters celebrate GCSAA's anniversary. GCSAA member Gordon C. Witteveen and affiliate-member Bob Labbanca have completed four chapters of the book they are writing on the history of the profession. The book is scheduled for release by the 2002 conference and show. Membership/chapter services The association is focused on increasing membership, which currently numbers 21,075. To address this issue, GCSAA is contacting nonmember superintendents and non-renewing superintendents. The \$75 dues opportunity, offered in conjunction with the association's 75th anniversary, is another way GCSAA is planning to impact membership numbers.

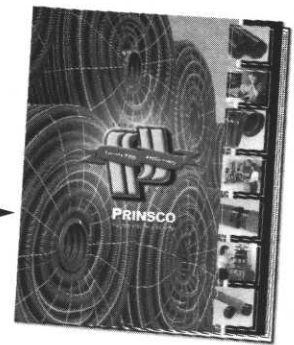
Member/Chapter Services

The membership committee established the first cut of proficiency levels for Class A members, which will be used by superintendents to assess themselves when using the Professional Development Resource. The certification committee also has set the proficiency levels for certified

superintendents. Work has begun on the redesign of the certification exam, which is being updated so it more closely aligns with and supports the competencies. In chapter relations, GCSAA has identified limited budget outreach program liaisons for 57 affiliated chapters, and 101 affiliated chapters have identified
(Continued on Page 28)

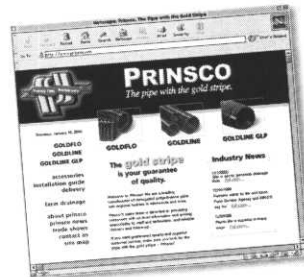
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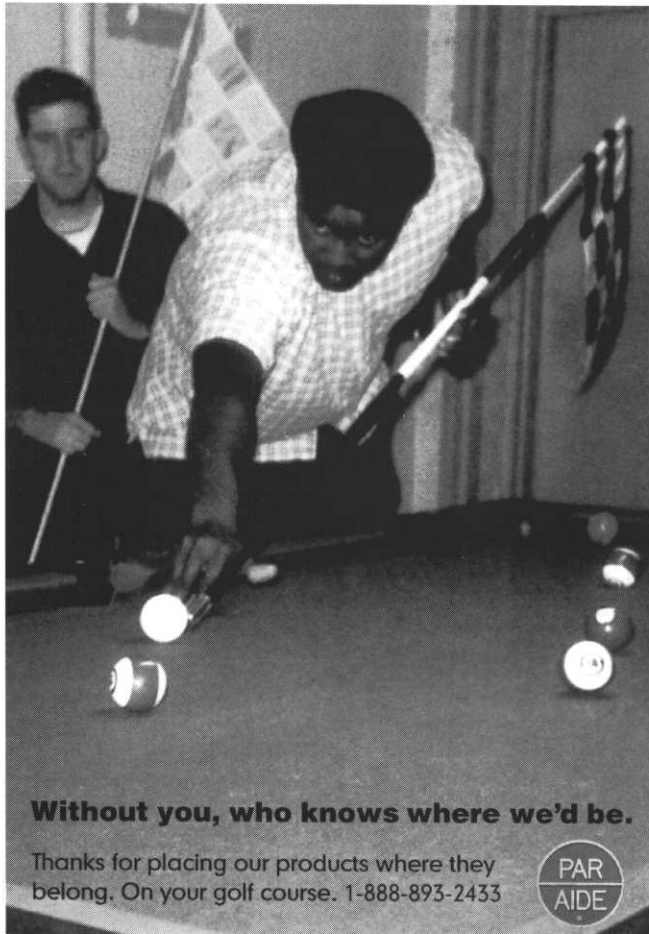
State of GCSAA—

(Continued from Page 27)

a 75th anniversary representative. The speakers bureau program also is in full swing -- approximately 50 chapters a year take advantage of the presentations. Merchandise and bookstore The association launched the 75th anniversary merchandise catalog last fall and all merchandise has been placed on the Web for online purchasing. Second quarter revenue for the bookstore was \$67,135. GCSAA opened a satellite bookstore at conference and show. In addition, 36 titles, which aren't normally offered through the bookstore, will be available this year to the membership at below suggested retail cost.

Publications

A 320-page January issue of Golf Course Management magazine was completed for conference and show. The September 2001 issue of GCM will be a commemorative issue of the magazine to celebrate the association's 75th anniversary. GCM also collaborated with Golf Digest to co-publish the Top 100 Golf Course List in the May issues of both GCM and Golf Digest. NewsOnline, the Web-based version of Newsline, is being delivered to all members and has been well received.



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Research

For the fourth year, GCSAA prepared research posters for display at the conference and show. This year, the exhibit demonstrated each of the 29 projects that The GCSAA Foundation currently funds. Six speakers gave presentations on a range of research issues at the conference and show in Dallas.

Internet Services

The GCSAA Web site is averaging 3 million hits per month. Forty percent of GCSAA's members are registered on the Web site, and 48 percent of registered members use the Web site on a monthly basis. The conference and show Web site, which launched Sept. 1, was successful in disseminating information about the event. At conference and show, GCSAA greatly expanded its program over last year's conference, including an Internet Strategy Update, a Web demonstration area, a cyber café, a series of hands-on workshops and giveaways to publicize the "Get Connected" concept. GCSAA also is advancing the Net Market RFP process, Knowledge Management focus groups and enrollment strategy discussions.

Accounting

GCSAA has successfully implemented "check by phone" payments to allow members to order items at headquarters using a check or credit card option of payment. The association also is investigating the possibility of electronic fund transfers for donors to The GCSAA Foundation.

Human Resources

The association completed its team member benefit enrollment for the year 2001 maintaining a competitive package. Online tools are guiding staff members in performance management and professional development, ensuring an affective and professional staff to serve GCSAA members.

Management Information Systems

GCSAA has completed a comprehensive program that has aligned all users with the proper level of PC hardware and software. User activity is monitored to ensure a consistent level of service across the entire network. With the passing of PDI, the association also is focussed on preparing for the additional support requirements that will be placed on the association's computer environment.

Executive Management

GCSAA continues to work on the Net Market and Knowledge Management initiatives, as well as the 75th anniversary and the Professional Development Initiative.

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