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HOLE NOTES

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From Your President's Desk

New Minnesota Pesticide Law Now In Effect for Applicators



Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
MGCSA President

On January 1, 2002, a new pesticide law went into effect in Minnesota. The law requires all applicators to be licensed in the categories the pesticide is being applied to. General ground, turf and ornamentals, and aquatics are the primary areas where golf course applicators will need licensing. The MGCSA Board has supported licensing spray applicators and encourages our members to become licensed. Until recently, the state only required licensing for restricted use pesticides. With the interpretation of the new law by the Department of Agriculture, an applicator may now need to be licensed in other categories. I have included the phone number and e-mail of Rick Hansen, Dept. of Agriculture, if you need further clarification or to comment (651-296-6715 or rickhansen@state.mn.us). Also on Page 15 and Page 17 is a list of State Congressmen and Senators with e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Take the time to locate your representative. It will be useful for our Association to have our members contact their representatives when legislation is being proposed that directly affects your golf course.

* * * *

The GCSAA reprinted an article in the January Golf Course Management written by MGCSA Member Norma O'Leary, CGCS titled "Tackle Big Projects-and Build Better Relationships-With Member Volunteers". Norma received the Watson Award from the MGCSA for the best-written article published in the Hole Notes for 2001. She has my vote for the 2002 Leo Feser Award from the GCSAA.

* * * *

Kevin Clunis, CGCS has agreed to serve as GCSAA Certification Liaison for our Association. He will assist in answering questions about becoming certified as a golf course superintendent and help make site visits. Kevin has served on the Certification Committee for the GCSAA and was our chapter delegate in Lawrence at the December delegates meeting. If you are interested in becoming certified as a superintendent, please contact him.

* * * *

I received some great e-mails pertaining to Association matters after last month's article. I do appreciate hearing from you and encourage you to contact me. The Association has a very good website and a majority of the Board of Directors have direct links to e-mail also. Send them a note of support as you browse our site.

Respectfully,
Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
r_fredericksen@msn.com

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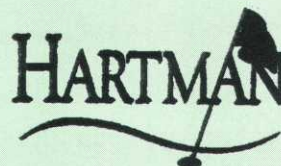
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First Cut Conversion At North Oaks Golf Club

By Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

The history and integrity of all courses change with time and management demands. North Oaks Golf Club is no different. Designed and built by master Canadian architect Stanley Thompson in 1950, the club was the cornerstone of a very progressive community which offered a total living package complete with a private fishing lake, horseback riding, ski slopes, skeet shooting range, dog kennels and tennis courts. The first fifteen years of operation saw very few changes on the course.

In 1965 the club was sold to the membership and over the next two decades changes took place under the guidance of a well-intended Green Committee and Board of Directors. Trees were planted, bunkers added and deleted, green shapes modified, fairway design altered and tee boxes reconstructed. Everything implemented under the tutelage of very smart people, the best in their fields of banking, medicine, industry and economics. Unfortunately, architectural intent was lost to the political fancy, and the player expertise, of those in charge.

The decade of the 1980s saw dramatic changes in management philosophies. The hierarchy of control progressed to the General Manager concept. The process of change was streamlined to develop consistency throughout the club. A new superintendent was hired in 1985 and a golf course architect was brought on board to lend his expertise to the future direction of the club.

Enter the esteemed architect Geoffrey Cornish, former partner of Stanley Thompson and golf course historian. Cornish's task was to prepare the course for the twentieth century by implementing his concept of Contour Mowing. That is, each hole outline was redefined depending upon distance from the green and shot values. Besides increasing the risk/reward component of the game of golf, fairway acreage, and the maintenance there of, was reduced dramatically.

The once huge and straight fairways were modified and narrowed into hourglass shapes which offered tight targets for the long hitters and large landing zones for those willing to take a lesser risk. Great idea for some clubs, but it became very evident after a short period of time that the narrow necks were also the landing zones for the second, and even third and fourth shots of those unable to reach the green in regulation. And what once was a blend of Poa, bent, blue and rye grass fairway, maintainable fairly consistently at a tad over one half inch, became spotty, marginally-playable and aesthetically unacceptable rough. Scratch



Rolling out the new sod.

players were less affected by this hodge-podge of turf than the high handicappers.

Political fury centering around this "new" rough became high pitched until architect Brian Silva was retained to create a master plan and restore the course back to the original Thompson design. Adopted into the by-laws in 1994, the Silva Plan recommended the restoration of bunkers, the removal of hundreds of trees and the re-contouring of the fairways. The majority, but not all of the fairway acreage was returned back to their meandering flow around the strategically placed Thompson hazards. A formal first cut was created by maintaining a 72-inch strip of abandoned fairway around each hole as well as an apron in front of the fairways a minimum of thirty feet in depth. The height was determined to be 1.25 inches.

From bunker restoration to the creation of berms and the removal of trees, the Silva Plan was embraced, implemented and completed over the next five years. The course was once again close to the original architectural intent. But what to do about those intolerable abandoned fairways disguised as first cut and primary roughs?

The mix of Poa, bent, blue and rye grasses were unacceptable to the majority of golfers, both in playability and beauty. Optically, there was no clear-cut definition

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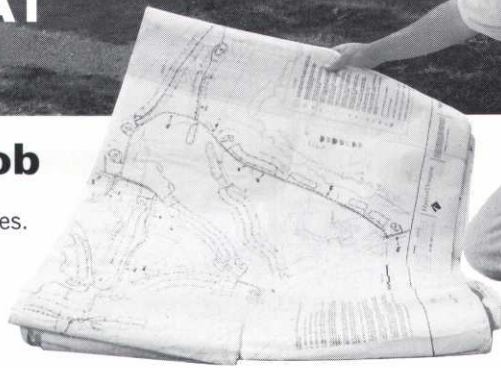


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First Cut Conversion at North Oaks –

(Continued from Page 5)

between the first cut and the fairway. And as the fairways are mowed in the traditional fashion, only too appropriate for a traditional course, this negative perception was accentuated.

Last spring the Green Committee began to pursue the conversion of the abandoned fairways from the crazy mix



The Koro Topmaker removes the old sod.

of grasses to a blend of close-cut Kentucky Bluegrasses. Not only would the height of cut and texture be consistent, but also the deeper color would add contrast to the lighter green of the predominantly Poa fairways.

One of the information resources enlisted was the Turf Net network. Ideas for conversion ranged from growth suppression and heavy overseeding to fumigation with Basimide and reseeding. However the most surefire method of developing a consistent rough was the physical removal of the existing turf and the laying of new sod. Needless to say, a very big project.

And expensive. In fact, the Green Committee went back to the drawing board after they received the bids. However, the project was important and the need for an impressive and guaranteed finished product was deemed the correct thing to do.

A local sod producer with a national reputation was brought on board to do the work. Originally the Glenn Rehbein Companies was going to use its sod harvest machines to strip and roll the grass to be abandoned. However, this would necessitate the creation of haul roads and the use of plastic netting to keep the cut rolls intact for removal to the dumpsite. The roads themselves would

have to be restored and the netting would never break down completely.

Realizing the challenge, the Glenn Rehbein Companies pursued and bought the Koro Field Top Maker machine, described in Gordon Witteven's Last Word article from April of 2001. This device actually flails, and removes through a conveyor system, the grass and soil off of the area to be resodded. There would be no surface glazing, as found in the sod harvesting process, and the finished product is ready for sodding after a bit of grading with a light landscape planner. Small trucks, less than one ton, are used to haul the debris, thus not developing any haul roads. And no plastic netting would be introduced for the removal of the old sod. As a bonus, the material harvested would also, after degradation, create some fine soil for future construction projects.

The North Oaks Board of Directors, while somewhat apprehensive as to the membership response, embraced the Rough Restoration and Renovation Plan. It was directed that the construction commence immediately, with ten holes to be completed this year and the rest of the course next fall. Emphasized as well was the demand that only two holes be closed on any one day.

During the third week of September, the green staff began preparing the sites by core cultivating the areas using a GA-60. Also, all of the irrigation heads, valve boxes and accessories were highlighted to prevent accidental damage from the

heavy equipment. The membership was informed of the upcoming events through postings and the newsletter. And traffic patterns were developed for both the sodbusters and the membership.

Ideas for conversion ranged from growth suppression and heavy overseeding to fumigation with Basimide and reseeding. However the most surefire method of developing a consistent rough was the physical removal of the existing turf and the laying of new sod. Needless to say, a very big project.

Rain delayed the project until September 27th. At that time Rehbein arrived with its brand new Top Maker set at a width of 63 inches. Two passes around each fairway would remove the undesired first cut of 72 inches as well as several more feet of the Poa contaminated rough. Between

(Continued on Page 9)

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First Cut Conversion

At North Oaks GC –

(Continued from Page 7)

six and eight more passes would be necessary to eliminate the fairway apron. And, on several other holes, large abandoned fairway areas converted to rough by Cornish and accepted by Silva were to be removed and resodded.

Hole Six, the first to be processed, was closed at two o'clock in the afternoon and 80 percent stripped by six o'clock. The following morning the sod arrived and, after a slight frost delay, both soil removal and sod laying began. The sod, a blend of NuGlade, Rugby II, BlueMoon and NuBlue Kentucky Bluegrasses, was cut in "big roll" fashion, 42 inches wide by 120 feet long. Three rolls were necessary to fill the width of the cut created by the Top Maker. Following the sod process, a starter fertilizer was applied and the new turf irrigated heavily by hand. Ropes were also installed in an attempt to keep the players from damaging

the finished product.

While the sod was being laid, the Top Maker was moved to the next hole. The process continued through five and one-half workdays until all of the designated areas were cut and resodded. At no time were more than two holes closed and there was very little player inconvenience. All together, over 18,000 yards of sod was stripped and replaced.

Everything went better than planned. The Glenn Rehbein Companies did a spectacular job and the Koro Field Top Maker performed as advertised. The finished product is outstanding in consistency and also its ability to define the hole. No longer will a lie upon a hodge podge of turf varieties be to blame for a poor shot.

Although an expensive program, regrassing the surrounds of the fairways at North Oaks Golf Club accentuates the architectural intent of Stanley Thompson in an immediate fashion. And, most importantly, the membership has accepted the change as one that dramatically improves the character and playability of their course. In fact, many wish the total course had been completed this fall.

Although an expensive program, regrassing the surrounds of the fairways at North Oaks Golf Club accentuates the architectural intent of Stanley Thompson in an immediate fashion.

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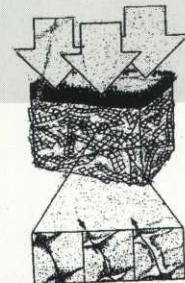
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Minnesota's Reed Mackenzie Elected As USGA President

Far Hills, N.J. - Reed K. Mackenzie of Chaska, Minn., has been elected to serve a one-year term as president of the United States Golf Association. The election of officers and the full 15-member USGA Executive Committee took place on February 2, 2002, at the USGA's Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo. Mackenzie, who succeeded Trey Holland of Indianapolis, Ind., will lead the professional staff and more than 1,200 volunteers who serve on more than 30 committees.

Mackenzie, 59, who served four years as vice president and a year each as treasurer and secretary, first became involved in USGA affairs with the Junior Amateur Championship Committee in 1977. He has been a member of the Executive Committee since January 1992, the year after he served as general chairman for the U.S. Open at his home course of Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn.

Mackenzie is an expert Rules official who has worked every U.S. Open since 1978. In all, he has been a Rules official at more than 70 USGA championships. He has been a member of Hazeltine since 1965 and served as club president from 1981-1984. He has been club champion four times. He was president of the Minnesota Golf Association from 1988-1990, and his wife, Jane, was president of the Minnesota Women's Golf Association in 1988. He has been a director for the MGA since 1978.

Professionally, Mackenzie is a trial lawyer with the Minneapolis law firm of Mackenzie & Hallberg, P.A. Founded in 1988, the firm represents individuals in personal injury litigation in the area of medical malpractice, automobile accidents and products liability. He has tried more than 100 contested matters, including jury trials, to verdict.

Mackenzie is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, is certified as a civil trial specialist by the Minnesota Bar Association and is board certified in civil

trial advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 1965 and received his law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1968.

The other elected officers of the Executive Committee are: Fred S. Ridley of Tampa, Fla., and Walter W. Driver Jr. of Atlanta, Ga., as vice presidents; Eric J. Gleacher of New York, N.Y., as secretary; H. Winfield Padgett Jr. of Dallas, Texas, as treasurer; and John W. (Jack) Vardaman of Washington, D.C., as general counsel, for his fifth year.

Seven others were re-elected to the Executive Committee, while three individuals were elected for a first term.

Returning members include: Dr. Lewis H. Blakey of Alexandria, Va.; Jeanne-Marie Boylan of Boston, Mass.; Paul D. Caruso Jr. of Helena, Mont.; John D. O'Neill of Quioque, N.Y.; Mary Bea Porter-King of Kapaa, Hawaii; James E. Reinhart of Mequon, Wis.; and John Suisman of Bloomfield, Conn.

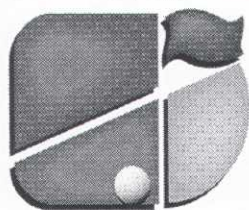
Craig Ammerman of Cherry Hill, N.J., Emily R. (Missy) Crisp of Mill Neck, N.Y., and Bruce C. Richards of Bellevue, Wash., have been newly elected to serve one-year terms on the Executive Committee.

Retiring from the Executive Committee are: Peter W. James of Pacific Palisades, Calif., Frederick C. Hickle of Tucson, Ariz., and Trey Holland of Indianapolis, Ind.

Ammerman, 53, has been a member of the USGA Communications and Green Section Committees since 1993. He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Golf Association of Philadelphia since 1994, presiding over the organization's Centennial in 1997, and has been its president since 1999.

Crisp, 60, serves on the Board of Directors of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association and the Executive Committee of the U.S. Senior Women's Golf Association. She was chairman of the ladies' golf committee of the Fishers Island Club, currently heads the ladies' golf committee of the Jupiter Island Club in Hobe Sound, Fla., and was the treasurer of the Women's Long Island Golf Association.

Richards, 58, is a member of the USGA Senior Amateur Championship Committee and has been an active committeeman in the Pacific Northwest Golf Association, the Washington State Golf Association and the Pacific Coast Golf Association.



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