



Brandon as an intern and later as the second assistant. When Dave left Edina in 1999, Edina promoted from within their own ranks, and moved Mike Kelly from first assistant to superintendent. Mike then promoted Brandon to his first assistant. Brandon was Kelly's right hand man a number of years before Mike took a position with Bayer Environmental Sciences. Edina Country Club brought in Mike Powers from TPC Twin Cities as the new Superintendent and Brandon continued on as Powers' First Assistant. Powers left Edina in December 2010 and the hiring from within continued with Brandon being promoted to Superintendent.

Like most northern area golf courses,

the winter months are a time to take a breath and catch up on some of the things you did not get done during the busy season and it is a time to start planning projects for the upcoming golf season. Edina Country Club is no different. Brandon explained to me that even though it was the "off-season" he was still very busy with meetings on various projects the club is planning on doing this spring and summer. One major project the club is planning on is redoing the landscaping in front of the clubhouse.

So this summer when Brandon is out scouting the golf course at 5:30 AM during his morning drive around the golf course, he will need to take a drive by the front of the clubhouse to see how the

project is progressing, which should take about two to three weeks to complete. Upon interviewing Brandon, his day seemed to be like most superintendents... checking the crew, checking the heights of cut, scouting for disease, checking with Pro Shop, checking the weather, etc. etc. etc. I don't want to bore anyone with those details. We all know those days of summer are very long and the time on the job probably never ends. But what does Brandon do after he leaves Edina Country Club?

He spends quality time with his bride of five years, Hilary, at their Eden Prairie home. There they talk about their day and catch up on their busy lives. Hilary is a Nurse Anesthetist at Fairview University Hospital and you can probably only imagine the stories she may have. When it comes time for dinner, perhaps Brandon will look into his newly acquired "BBQ Bible" and pick out a recipe for a big fat

rib eye and throw it on the charcoal grill until it is pink on the outside and red in the middle. As for the brats, he knows when they are done because they are "popping and spitting back at you". Now that kind of makes me hungry.

Brandon does a marvelous job at Edina Country Club, but as Brandon notes, he cannot do it alone. He has a wonderful staff of assistants in Jeff Mold, Ben Arvidson, and Brian Grill. I have always heard a good mechanic can make or break a superintendent and there is no better mechanic in the golf industry than "Red" Maenke. Red has been with Edina since 1967. How about that for longevity? Red makes Brandon's and the crew's job so much easier. The rest of the crew numbers 32 during the golf season and seven during the off season. So if you are ever in the Edina area, give Mr. Schindele a call and perhaps he will give you a tour.





### Edina Country Club

Built: 1923

Initial Architect: Tom Bendelow

First Superintendent: Joe Rush (1921-1964)

Following Superintendents: Bill Johnson

Dave Simeon

Mike Kelly

Mike Powers

Brandon Schindele

Recent Renovation Architect: Tom Lehman / Chris Brands

Grass:

Greens: T1 Creeping Bentgrass

Tees: Dominant Extreme 7

Fairways: Dominant Extreme 7

Rough: Bluegrass, Ryegrass, Fescue

*Authors note: In January I contacted our NEW Executive Director of the MGCSA, Jack MacKenzie and our NEW Hole Notes Editor Dave Kazmierczak to express my interest in writing an occasional column or article for the magazine. Like any publisher and editor of a Superintendent magazine, they readily accepted my offer. I thought I could offer a different perspective since I travel 75% of my time outside of Minnesota. My intent is to write an occasional article featuring a current or past member of the MGCSA. In my previous life when I lived in Chicago, I helped their editor out as well, writing articles about current members. I must have started something because the column is still in their monthly magazine today. Today it is called the "Super-N-Site". We don't have a name yet for this column and I don't want to steal their name, but I will take my idea back and utilize here in Minnesota.*

*I had the absolute pleasure to sit down with Edina Country Club Superintendent Brandon Schindele a couple of weeks ago. I have known Brandon for close to ten years now and figured he would be a perfect "victim" for my first column on members of the MGCSA.*

*Hole 7 photo on page 22 by Peter Wong*



***Ohh la la!!! Golden Valley Golf and Country Club is ready for “The Scramble” a new competition that combines the two biggest four man scramble events hosted by the MGCSA. Jeff Ishe, the Executive Director of Property and Sports Operations, hosts the big event on June 11th. Pictured above is hole number 8, a daring par three with risk and reward for the talented and a lot of fun for the rest of us! See you there.***



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In Bounds (continued from page 6)  
How do they smell? Is the paper soft enough? Warm, water or sanitizer? Beyond your bathrooms how about the bunker rakes, cups, ball washers and garbage cans. Are they too beyond reproach? Perhaps on opening day, but what about in late August?

Statistically the average golf course allocates approximately 1.5 percent of the annual operating budget (not including water consumption) upon their 'basic' amenities and accessories. Wow, wow... no really...WOW, that isn't a whole lot for a peripheral, yet very personal part of the game that the players take for granted.

Sure one splintered handle upon the course isn't going to spoil a round but how about three or four, a chipped ball washer, missing tee towels or sun faded flags. Of course they don't have a lot to do with the basics of golf, but their presentation will effect your players perception of your track and in the long run their expectations.

When the course is great, the weather fine and scores at least average a small blemish in the total picture may be overlooked, or even one or two. However, at the end of the summer when everything and everyone is getting a bit weathered and tired even the littlest of things

will shout catastrophic, cataclysmic and abhorrent blasphemies about your management style and or lack there of.

At courses I have worked upon we usually spent one quarter of the national average each year to keep the amenities in par with player expectations. By the end of the year we had fewer rakes than when we started, slightly bleached flags and towels, a couple of chips in the ball washers and spotty cups. Was the experience as good on the last day of the season as it was on April first? Were expectations diminished through out the round as imperfections added up?

Sure excuses can be made for anything and everything including simple wear and tear. But at what price...surely 1.5 percent is a minimal investment in enhancing player appreciation...even if they don't notice it directly. Their subconscious perceptions will however and the difference may impact their desire to play.

One thing is for certain...the population of Italy and all the tourists who visit wouldn't tolerate ill kept and non-functioning bathroom amenities. And I am darn glad of it! In life if the basics are well kept everything seems to work out in the end.



# Within the Leather

by David Kazmierczak CGCS

Greeting and salutations from balmy Minnesota! Or, as the locals like

to call it: "The Spring Breaker's Paradise." Come experience our brown, cool beaches on dark, freshly melted lakes. Enjoy the scrub brush starting to leaf out and the last of the ginormous parking lot snow piles releasing their watery content. But most of all, enjoy our freshly growing golf courses with tight fairways, soft, receptive greens and none of those nasty tree leaves to swat down a wayward shot. It's paradise!

If your General Manger or Golf Pro has run this promotional idea past you the last couple weeks, do not be alarmed. Everybody gets caught up in the moment occasionally, and can you blame them? The month of March 2012 will go down in the history books as the most outrageously, wonderfully warm and sometimes downright hot March ever. Unless, of course, you are one of those people who love the snow and cold. If you are one of those, this is not the column for you.

To put it simply, this is the March of my dreams. This is the spring I have been hoping for since I left the Kansas City area 13 years ago. Down there, the course was always waking up around the first week in March, and flying by the third week in March. We always conducted spring aerification on the Monday of the NCAA Basketball Championship game. It was my favorite time of the year down there because it was not too long before the heat ramped up, and stayed up, until late

September. That will not happen here though. This is Minnesota. It never gets too hot here, and the extra season will be nothing but a blessing for all. Or will it?

I addressed change a couple months ago, and as far as I am concerned, I am getting five quarters for a dollar this spring, maybe six. Check with your pro shop to see how much "change" this "change" in the weather patterns is netting your operation. After last season there are plenty of golf courses that can use the extra revenue this year. Yet, how is this very big change going to affect your operation?

The On Board question in this edition of Hole Notes asks that question. I encourage everybody to read it and get some perspective on how one superintendent thinks this early season will impact their lives. Hopefully it will get you to seriously think about your situation. The laws of physics state that for every action, there is a reaction, for every up, a down, for every good, a bad. It is called equilibrium and nature has a way of making everything right in the end. If that is the case, we may all be in for a very unique season, and at minimum, a very long season.

As I started speculating at just how advanced the growing season was when I was writing the On Board article when my foreman at Prestwick came into my office and started conversing about a few general topics and ended it with a summation in one sentence. A quick, short line that summed up one fraction of what we were about to embark upon in the time ahead. I started thinking to myself what other phrases I was going to hear this year that were out of the ordinary. Over the next few days, I didn't need to dream up the questions, comments or concerns, they came flowing to me in waves from various sources on the golf course.

They came from the Pro Shop, the