

my mechanic and 8 retirees. The retirees were great, as they were able to adjust their personal schedules to accommodate the new mowing schedules, but the grunt work was up to us. I also was short one body on the two tournament mornings, and one piece of machinery. That void was filled by Jamie Bezanson, Superintendent Oneka Ridge Golf Course and Jeff Girard, superintendent of Stoneridge Golf Club. Girard lent us another vibratory roller, and Bezanson lent us his walk-mowing abilities that he used to display as an assistant at Prestwick. It is so gratifying to know you have friends in the industry that are willing to help in a time of need- thanks guys!

With the basics covered we tried to concentrate on the little things, and hope it all came together and for the most part it did. There were a few minor glitches, a few communication break downs, but judging by the positive comments from the players, the MGA guys and, of course, my boss we did a pretty good job. We had a few very long, exhausting days leading up to it but, I never felt tired or run down until- the morning after.

I guess that is when the adrenaline runs out. The nervous energy is over. Back to the mundane tasks performed every day on an empty golf course, and this was just our little tournament. I cannot imagine the emptiness after something like hosting a major tournament. It has to be an extremely surreal feeling. At one

moment all of your focus and energy is directed to a common cause or goal and then in a few short days it is all over.

Reflecting on it all, I can honestly say that I am proud of my crew for their hard work and accomplishments, and would without a doubt like to host another event like this. It is a chance to show off the golf course to high quality golfers who take the game seriously. It is an opportunity to display the skills for yourself and your crew that you can accomplish such a task. It is also a way to galvanize a crew into a single working unit and build a team mentality. But most of all, aside from the bunker work, it is just fun to do. If you have influence over such things, and have been contemplating whether or not to ask to host an MGA event, or something similar, give it a shot. I believe you will find it very rewarding.

As for the crew at Prestwick, we get one week of rest before airification and then the short slide into the winter abyss. If we do get the opportunity to host a similar event, I think in-season would be my preference- at least that is what my back is telling me. It has been a great season for us, as I hope it has been for all of you.

**Now, where did that
bottle of ibuprofen disappear
to?**