

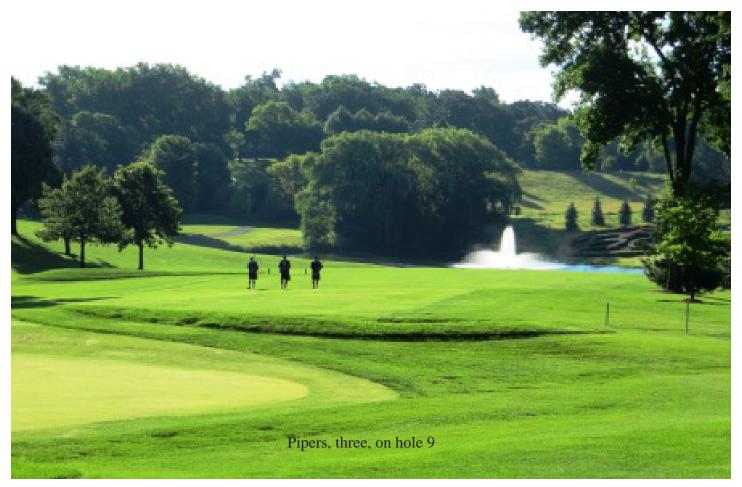
essary to support our own in cases of emergency and need.

Tom Proshek, Superintendent at Brackett's Crossing for the last 19 years is looking forward to the event. Proshek began his career 32 years ago at New Prague Golf Club followed by a grow-in stint at Wildflower Golf Course. According to Tom, all the staff from the pro shop to the administrative office are ready and welcoming the group for a fantastic fundraiser at a great venue.

Proshek and his professional management team of Assistant Arik

Hemquist, Head Mechanic/Assistant Ken Adams and second Assistants Mark Schmitz and Larry Enwall have a combined tenor at the club of over 63 seasons. All those years add up to a well-maintained 18 hole golf course stretching to 6990 yards from the "tips" and 6,551 for the Wee One Tournament.

Agronomically, Brackett's Crossing has its challenges. The property sits upon old farm and swampland with a heavy rock and clay profile that does not drain well even in the best of seasons. Frost heaving accentuates the issues and annually changes



drainage patterns even more. Fortunately for Tom and his crew, the club's owner understands soil dynamics and the need to be continuously maintaining and improving the surface and subsurface drainage patterns for better playing conditions.

The blend of poa/bent fine turf surfaces were also challenged during last winter's long grip of ice and an additional layer of May snow. Now however, you can't tell there was any injury thanks to the recovery efforts of Tom and

his capable staff. Smooth and firm, the course will challenge the field and provide scoring opportunities for those who can craft their game as well as have a bit of luck.

The toughest hole? "Number 10", according to Tom, "It is a slight dog leg right, par four with water on the left and OB to the right of the landing area. Without a well-positioned drive you will be left with a long iron into a well-protected green that is slightly elevated. Due to some of the previously mentioned drainage challenges,

the 10th hole will be played as a par 3 while Hartman Companies remedies a few moisture issues. The easiest is number six, a short par four drivable by the real long hitters."

The trickiest hole? "Number four is a long par four that plays slightly uphill and dog legs to the right. A long, precise tee shot needs to hit the angled fairway otherwise deep rough on either side will make hitting the blind second shot very difficult," according to Superintendent Proshek.

The 2013 Wee One Event is shaping up to be a great fundraiser. Two on-course food stands, a sumptuous Italian buffet dinner, raffle prizes valued at over \$3,000, a purse over \$1,500, camaraderie and most important of all, support for "one of our own".

2013- The Wee One Event. It wouldn't be the same without you. See you on October 7th. The MGCSA/Wee One Event nets the highest return ever...October 7, 2013.







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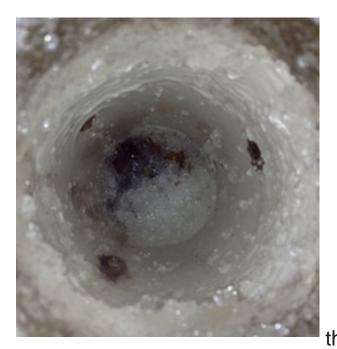
As another winter approaches, we start planning how to deal with next year's formation of ice. We all know when ice melts that the problems for greens can be devastating if the water isn't removed from the surface, but instead allowed to go into a constant freeze/thaw period. But we also know removing ice by chipping can be tedious and exhausting for a maintenance crew, not to mention the marks left behind on the greens.

Over the last three years at The Missoula Country Club, we have tried to help the water runoff the surface of the green with as little ice chipping manual labor as possible. We already have some problems with soil dams in front of our greens, and with the frost heaves that accompany winter, they create a dam two times higher than during the summer. Because of this, we see very little drainage off the green until that soil dam is breached. Unfortunately, by the time a strong melt starts, the sun goes down and the water comes to a standstill and freezes. To combat this problem, we started putting drain

holes in our greens to help evacuate the water off the green faster.

In the fall of 2009, we had a soaking rain that, with a little help from the irrigation system, showed the low spots and natural drainage

perfectly. I flagged each low spot with an irrigation flag and followed with a paint dot; the dots required some maintenance until the drains were put in. The number of drains varied from three to five drains per green.



Around the first of November, our crew cut the drains. We used a regular cup cutter, an old cup cutter that was modified into an auger, and four-inch drainpipe with a drain grate. The first guy cut a cup at every drain site. The second guy followed with the auger, which dug the rest of the drain hole and also collected the drain-hole material so it made almost no mess. Next, we took a stick of four-inch drainpipe and cut it just short of the surface so the drain grate could sit flush on the green. We also used a push type sod cutter, normally used to repair hydraulic leak accidents, to

cut a canal through our soil dam in the front collar. Both plugs and the sod strip were stored in our nursery and overwintered. As play fell off and the threat of snow came, we removed the drain grates and put

a flag next to the hole.

Around the middle of February, I went out with a broom handle and found the holes, which had been covered with snow, and exposed them. Most were already draining some water, and the holes were not

iced over or filled with snow. I used the broom handle just to make sure the bottom of the hole wasn't frozen, either. The drains were working to eliminate water, and therefore ice, on the greens.

We have modified how we do things over the last three winters. We now use water to find the low spot instead of eyeing it, and we place green drain covers on the greens to finish out the year. Obviously snowfall has varied considerably these last three winters, but the results have been consistently fantastic. The drains worked so well this year that we

will probably go without the canal through the front collar in 2014. In 2013 we didn't have any solid ice in our low spots, and the ice that we did have contained an air layer, between it and the turf, that collapsed when you walked on it.

There is always going to be ice, but here at Missoula Country Club, we may have found a way to be ready whenever Mother Nature provides the unseasonal warm up.





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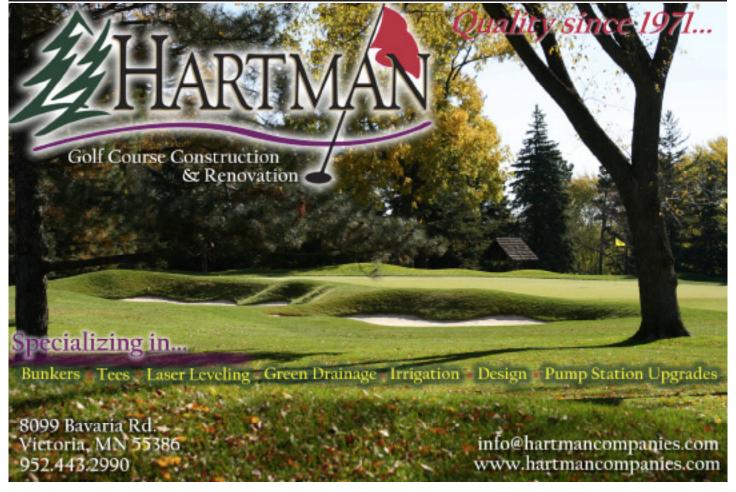


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