

Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Nash to Host Team Championship June 8

Steve Nash will host the MAAGCS June meeting and Two-Man Team Championship at International Town & CC in Falls Church.

The club, named because of its proximity to Dulles Airport, is a member-owned facility that opened in 1961. Approximately 440 of its 600 members are class A golfing members.

Originally designed by Fred Bolton and John Wilkinson, the course undertook a major project in 1991: 17 new greens, consolidation of two ponds into one, installation of a wooden bunker around number six, two new tees and two fairway bunkers. Architect Bill Love of Ault, Clark & Associates designed this new work. John Ponko Construction Company was the contractor. Work began in June, final sod was laid on October 6, and the course re-opened for play March 27, 1992.

The final green, number 15, was rebuilt by the ITCC maintenance staff in November 1992. Says Steve, "It was not rebuilt in 1991 because it was newly constructed in 1988, but after one year of play, it was obvious that there was a difference in putting texture and design style." Therefore, they decided to "gut" the old green, put in the same type greens mix, resod with the same sod as the others, and alter the sand bunkers to resemble more closely the newer ones on the course.

The new greens were sodded with 1020/1019 Bent. "They have many pluses and only one minus so far," says Steve. "They have

wonderful drainage which was greatly appreciated during 1992. This has meant less disease, increased cupping area, and better playability for the golfer. The only minus is trying to keep enough fertilizer on them to keep them



growing.

"My greatest task for the future is to keep *Poa annua* from invading. My program for 1993 will be Dimension pre-emerge in spring and multiple light rates of Prograss this fall and winter." Greens are mowed six days a week and receive 6-8 lbs. K per season; 6-8 lbs. N in granular form. Whenever greens are sprayed we include micro-nutrients, iron and/or liquid N. Greens are mowed six days a week at 3/16", and are rolled approximately once a month.

Tees are Ryegrass, Bent and Poa. They receive 4-5 lbs. N applied throughout the year and are mowed three days a week at 1/2". The ryegrass fairways are mowed three days a week at 9/16" and receive 2 lbs N in the fall.

A graduate of the Institute of Applied Agriculture, Steve has been superintendent at International T&CC since 1984; he became CGCS in 1985.

As we go to press, Steve and his wife Carla are heading to the hospital for the birth of their fourth child. His other children, Jessica—12, Timothy—8, and Lindsay—4 are looking forward to helping baby sit between their myriad activities: Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, girls' softball, tee-ball, tennis, and junior golf. Dad Steve, is assistant coach for softball and tee-ball. With all this, do you wonder how Steve maintains a 17 handicap by playing two or three times a month?

Between coaching and chauffeuring, Steve does find a bit of time for his favorite hobby—fishing.

Golf: Two-man Team Championship. Cost: \$20 per team. No shotgun start, and tee times—from 11:00 to 1:00—are essential. Call ITCC pro shop: 703-968-7070. MAAGCS members only, *no guests, please*. Anyone wishing to play golf but not in the tournament may do so after all tournament players have teed off. **Dinner:** Cocktails will be at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00. Dress is formal—coat and tie required. Reservations a must by June 4. Call 301-490-6202.

Directions: Take I-66 West toward Front Royal. Go approximately 8 miles (from I-495) to Rt. 50—Exit 57. Go west toward Dulles Airport/Winchester. The club is about 2 miles on the right.