



My 2010 U.S. Open Experience at Pebble Beach

By Tim Powers, CGCS, Crystal Springs Golf Course

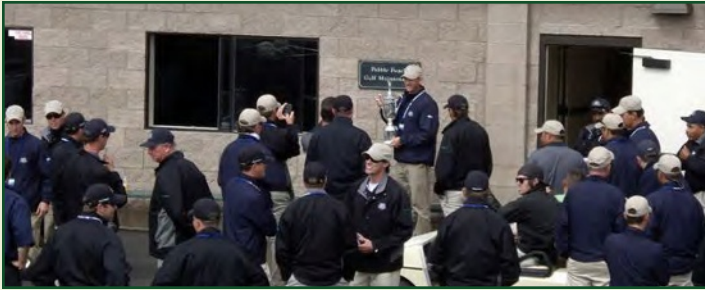
I just completed the fantastic opportunity of volunteering at the 2010 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links. This was the fourth Open that I have worked at and the ninth that I have attended. I highly recommend it to anybody to experience a major tournament. It is particularly important to the younger guys to see what it takes to put on an event of this magnitude.

The USGA sends the host superintendent to the Open for five years prior so they can see everything that is involved and to make sure that all bases are covered. The USGA will have their own person onsite for two years to take care of logistics such as parking, traffic, bathrooms, evacuation procedures, volunteers, transportation, tents & hospitality, merchandise, television, radio, media, tickets, etc. Chris Dalhamer is the golf course superintendent at Pebble Beach

and did a fabulous job preparing the course for the event. Jack Holt has been the assistant at Pebble for 30 years. He and three other staff members were working their 4th Open Championship. Billy Hausch is another assistant superintendent.

There were 70 full-time volunteers including people from Australia, Japan and Bermuda plus 70 part-time volunteers. We were put up at Robert Louis Stevenson School with shuttles to run us back and forth. We were visited by three superintendents who formerly worked at Pebble including Mark Michaud, Tom Huesgen, and Eric Greytok. We had meetings in the hospitality tent every morning at 4:15 am to go over the duties. There was a list on the wall of everybody's tasks and what carts they were using. All equipment was ready to go with whatever tools that were needed. The days are very





long but you have time to nap on couches, cots or grass. We were given lots to eat in the tent after jobs. I never eat that much food. Nobody went hungry and the catering staff did a super job as well as the regular Pebble Beach Grill Team of Rick and Clayton.

The USGA was happy with how the course played and the players mostly said it was a fair setup. The staff did a great job building new



tees and bunkers. The fairway bunkers looked fantastic with a gnarly fescue edge to them. Many of the fairways were cut right into bunkers and to the edge of the cliffs. Pat Gross was the USGA agronomist and he had clearly done his homework. I even got the chance to meet

Lance Barrow, a USGA guest, who is the producer of CBS Sports, Golf. He invited me to tour their production truck which I will do in the future. The weather was all over the place from cool and foggy to bright and sunny but I was prepared with the right clothing.

The US Open trophy was brought to the shop so everybody could get a photo taken with it. The maintenance staff followed the last group up the 18th fairway on Sunday. Everybody was thrilled that there wasn't a playoff. Lexus brought in Hall of Famers to sign autographs including Johnny Miller, Annika Sorenstam, Tom Watson, Raymond Floyd, & Mark O'Meara. They added to my collection of memorabilia. The crowds were capped at 32,000 per day so it wasn't too hard to get around unless you were trying to follow Tiger. I hope I get the opportunity to work at the Olympic Club in 2012.

I want to thank Chris, Pat, Jack, Billy and the entire staff at Pebble Beach for their great job. And congratulations to Graeme McDowell on his even-par victory!

(More photos next page)



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