



Stepping Up to the Plate for Wee One

By Paul Diegnau, CGCS

October 2010

I had the pleasure of playing in the Wee One tournament several weeks ago at North Oaks GC. I know a fun time was had by all. But more importantly, \$22,000 was raised for Tom Fuller and his family and that is very special! Once again, the individuals and companies that make up our industry stepped forward and showed their generosity. Several individuals were intimately involved in bringing this wonderful event to Minnesota. Dale Parske of Reinders served as the Tournament Chairman and poured his heart and soul into making this inaugural event as successful as it was. I know for a fact he's dreamed of bringing a Wee One tournament to Minnesota since its original inception in our sister state across the river. Well done, Dale! He was assisted by committee members John Meyer of Agrotain and Tom Proshok, Superintendent at Brackett's Crossing. Thank you to the North Oaks Golf Club for hosting the event and providing quality service throughout the entire day. Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, and his staff should be commended for the phenomenal conditioning of the golf course. Within the pages of this *Hole Notes* edition (*Pages 25-26*) you will find a thorough recap of the event written by Mr. Parske. Check it out!

With the weak economy and ailing maintenance budgets it has become clear to your MGCSA BOD that attendance numbers are a shadow of what they were ten years ago and probably will remain as such into the near future. With the possible addition of the Wee One to the annual tournament schedule, the prospects for increasing attendance at our regular events are even more unlikely. I have asked the Arrangements Committee to explore possible solutions to this trend and to propose recommendations to the BOD. I would expect a course of action will be agreed upon by the end of the year.

The MGCSA Harold Stodola Research Tournament was held in September at The Classic in Brainerd. Having never golfed this highly-touted layout I must say I was blown away! Hats off to the golf course designer and Superintendent of this beauty, Scott Hoffmann, CGCS. Thank you to Scott and his staff for hosting this event. In case you are unaware, Maddens Resort was awarded Golf Digests Green Star Environmental Award. A Green Star is meant to signify environmental achievement in every phase of a golf resort's operation. The 2009 winners included Barton Creek Resort & Spa in Texas, Kiawah Island (S.C.) Resort, Pebble Beach Resorts and Sunriver (Ore.) Resort. Maddens was the lone recipient of the award this year, indicative of the extremely high standards required to bring home a green star. Very impressive!

I would be remiss if I failed to mention an article I recently stumbled across (I stack my magazines for winter just like most of you) featuring another environmental leader in our midst. The April 2010 issue of *Golf Course Industry* features an interview with Roger Stewart, CGCS, of TPC Twin Cities. Pat Jones interviews Roger on his golf course maintenance philosophy as it pertains environmental responsibility. The interview is a great read and really shows you what a class guy Roger is. Make sure and put it on the top of your must read list this winter.

Speaking of diminishing maintenance budgets, I was asked by Scott Turtinen to clear up some confusion regarding dual membership between MGCSA and GCSAA. I am sure GCSAA will not be excited to read these words but here goes: Only Class A and SM members are required to carry dual membership. Enough said.

Don't forget that your last chance to complete pesticide recertification for 2010 is scheduled for November 19 at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education Center on the St. Paul campus. Details are available at mgcsa.org
One final thought, November 2 is the mid-term elections. Please vote. You can make a difference!

*Until next time,
Paul Diegnau, CGCS*