

## FROM THE D.O.G.

If you haven't seen the articles in Golf World (10-5-07) and Golf Week (10-06-07) on the Presidents Cup and in particular Willowbend member Woody Austin, come by the golf shop and take a look. Woody is on the cover of both magazines. They capture Woody's personality and his contributions to the Presidents Cup beautifully. As an example I want to pull a small part of the Golf World article.

"Austin is a totally different animal. His skill set, at least from tee to green, is immense, but his mental fragility is frightening, his powers of self-deprecation utterly comical. He possesses not an ounce of interest in serving as a leader, but his twisted, lovable persona resonated with all 11 of his less-tortured teammates. He made a much bigger difference than anyone could have imagined as both a player and a mascot, simply by being himself. "What a great sense of humor, to be able to take the ribbing he took this week," Nicklaus noted in the closing ceremonies, at which point the entire U.S. team clapped harder and faster than they had all week.

Maybe he'll make the 2008 Ryder Cup team, maybe he won't, but for four glorious days in a place where French is the native tongue and hockey is all that matters, Austin emerged as America's missing link. He lit fires, smiled through the needles and saved up all his joy to laugh in pressure's face. He's a big bottle of glue in red, white and blue. "I lost to Phil the first night, then I didn't lose again," Woody crowed of his exploits at the ping-pong table. I beat Zach five or six times, Furyk once or twice. I beat Phil in the rematch and he wouldn't play me again. He'd beaten me soundly the first time, and I said to him, 'Man, I had no idea you guys take it so seriously. Phil's like, 'Oh, man. Pong is very big.' I told him I was a rookie, that I'd made a rookie mistake." His first one-and, as it turned out, his last."

Congrats WOODY from all your friends at Willowbend! We couldn't be happier for you!

### *Important Notice*

Any account that is past due 90 days will be automatically sent to 14 day pre-collection and handled by our collection firm. If any accounts is 120 days delinquent, golfing privileges will be suspended until the account is satisfied.

### *Email*

If you are not receiving emails from the pro shop we probably don't have an email address for you or we have an old address that has been changed. Please send your updated email address to "proshop@willowbendgolfclub.com". Thank you for your help.

The golf season is drawing to a close and the golf course isn't recovering as quickly as it has before. This has brought on a lot of discussion about what exactly it is I am trying to do and do I really have a plan. The answer is yes, I do have a plan and I have not done a good enough job getting that information out so here it goes.

First lets start with why things are not healing in as fast as they have before. There are two major reasons, weather and seed variety chosen. We did over seed all of the bad spots in the fairways. The seed we used was a blend of three Kentucky Bluegrass varieties. As I have said from day one we want bluegrass fairways and that is what I am trying to establish. The problem is it takes longer to germinate and establish than ryegrass does. In the past tons of ryegrass has been seeded out here. It germinates quickly in the fall and dies quickly in the summer. Then when fall comes around again the fairways are so bad that more ryegrass has to be put out. I am trying to break that cycle. The other thing that has worked against us is this weather pattern. We had 90-degree days all the way through September and the first part of October. It has been in the 80's much of the time after that. For bluegrass to germinate and perform we need soil temps in the mid 50's to lower 60's. The temperature of our fairway soil finally fell below 65 degrees on October 10th. Now, twenty days later we are starting to see seedlings emerge in the bare spots. We simply put our seed out when we usually do and didn't get the weather we needed until several weeks later. In years past you had more ryegrass seeded (which we don't want), and another month of fall temperatures. Plus, we have had exactly five inches of rain this fall and it all came the same week. Just another example of how different the weather has been.

The plan is simple, remove the unwanted grass and replace it with the desired grass. It is the same thing I have been doing on the greens. Remove the poa and promote the bentgrass. On the greens I can control the rate at which the poa leaves. I have been real successful timing the poa's exit with the rate at which the bent can take over. Unfortunately, the rye gave up all at once and the weather hasn't allowed the blue to fill in as quickly as it might have. This is the exact same thing I did last year, but last year the weather cooperated and the fairways recovered faster. Also the fairways that were the worst last year are not the ones that were the worst this year. Why? Because the fairways that were the thinnest last year had the chance to grow the most bluegrass, which made it through this summer better. Last year #2, #15 and #16 were the worst fairways by far. This year they were not perfect by any means but they were some of the better ones. Last year we lost very little on #6. Consequently we seeded very little on #6 and this year it went south. This year #6 was seeded two different times. Essentially, if we continue to promote bluegrass on our fairways we will begin to decrease the amount of grass we lose during the harsh summers and the better our fairways will be year round. They will never be perfect. This is a very active golf club. We do a lot of rounds. We have tons more cart traffic because of private carts. The wear of an active club is just more than any grass will handle, but out of all the cool season grasses bluegrass will handle it the best.

It is important to remember the cycle of a cool season golf course. We look great in the spring. We loose it in the summer. We rebuild it in the fall so we can look great in the spring. If we continue promoting bluegrass we will loose less in the summer and have to rebuild less in the fall. If we fight through this now we should have to fight through less and less each season after. Please don't let a question or problem build until it is a major issue. Call me or stop me on the golf course and get it from the horses' mouth. 744-0400

## Coming Events - November 2007

*Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday*

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 <b>Half Price Guest Day</b>	14	15 <b>Men's Club Fall Meeting 6:00 pm</b>	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 <b>Closed</b>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## Coming Events - December 2007

*Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday*

						1
2	3	4	5	6 <b>Christmas Party 6:00- 8:00 pm</b>	7	8
9	10	11 <b>Half Price Guest Day</b>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	<b>Closed</b>				

Men's club fall meeting is scheduled for 15th at 6:00 pm. Please make plans to attend. There many items on the table to be discussed.

Christmas Party – December 6th – 6:00 to 8pm. Make your plans to attend and enjoy to fun.

## *Ladies Club Results*

### **Ladies Last Blast**

#### First Flight

- 1st Canada – D. Sinnett, M. Hatcher, G. Kuczkowski, M. Viney
- 2nd Sweden – J. Eudy, J. Bachelder, W. Turriff, J. Sabolik
- 3rd United Kingdom – B. Mai, R. Luna, K. Watts, C. Winn

#### Second Flight

- 1st France – S. Hawkins, J. Reiners, A. West, T. Gile
- 2nd Mexico – M. Koker, J. Plumlee, S. Anderson, K. Longenecker



*Specializing  
in  
Willowbend!*

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*... I'll see you out  
on the golf course!!*

## *Our Staff*

Rick Nuckolls	General Manager
Rod Nuckolls	Director of Golf
Gene Abernathy	Head Golf Professional
Brad Kipper	Asst. Golf Professional
Vince McAlister	Golf Course Superint.
Brian Anderson	Asst. Golf Course Superint.
Jan Nuckolls	Office Manager

## *Club Phone Numbers*

Office: 636-5555 | Bar and Grill: 858-3287

Golf Shop: 636-4653 | Maintenance: 744-0400  
(GOLF)

## *Hours of Operation*

November 1 to March 31: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm  
April 1 to April 30: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm  
May 1 to September 16: 7:30 am – 8:00 pm  
September 16 to October 31: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm  
Mondays begin at 12:00 noon  
Weekend tee times start at 6:30 am, Memorial Day  
to Labor Day

## *Tee Time Reservations*

Members may make reservations 1 week in advance for weekday tee times. Weekend and holiday times may be made 3 days in advance. (Example: Call Wed. for Sat. & Thurs. for Sun.) Tee times for weekends and holidays must be made by telephone. Reservations for all tee times may be made 30 minutes prior to the first tee time. Weekend and holiday tee times from Memorial Day to Labor Day will be taken at 7:00 am.