
Behind the scenes at the Deutsche Bank Championships

In Volume 15.4 of Australian Turfgrass Management Journal you may have read the article by former Sunshine Golf Club apprentice **Simon Rees** who undertook an internship through the Ohio State Program during 2012 and the early part of 2013 ([click here to read](#)). After stints at **Congressional**, **TPC Scottsdale** and more recently **Sunningdale** in the UK, Rees has returned to the US to take up a position at **Trump National Golf Club** in New Jersey.

En route to starting there, Rees had the opportunity to volunteer at last week's **Deutsche Bank Championship** held at **TPC Boston** in Massachusetts. This was Rees' third time working a US PGA Tour event and followed on from his experiences at the **2012 AT&T National** (Congressional) and **2013 Waste Management Phoenix Open** (TPC Scottsdale). With the tournament run and won (**Henrik Stenson** shot a final round 66 to prevail by two strokes from Steve Stricker), Rees sent through the following report and photos on TPC Boston's tournament preparations.



"My relocation to New Jersey coincided perfectly with the dates of this year's Deutsche Bank Championship at TPC Boston, giving me a great opportunity to observe tournament organisation/planning from a much broader stand point at a facility that hosts the PGA Tour every year. The professionalism across the whole staff was evident from the very first morning meeting.

"Each morning greens were back mowed (a time-efficient double cut) before moisture readings were taken with a Field Scout moisture meter and syringed where necessary (12 per cent being the daily target). The A4 bentgrass greens were cut at 3.375mm, which by most tournament course standards is quite high, but due to the moisture control and prior growth regulator program, green speeds in excess of 12' were achieved through minimal mowing stress. Approaches were mown and monitored for moisture, as well as professional tees and player walks.



The unique TPC Boston bunkering was picturesque with fine fescue and a selection of sedges shaping hazards that must give the day-to-day members nightmares. Bunker faces were lightly watered morning and night before being lightly teeth-raked to keep a firm yet playable sand surface. The bunker sand is deliberately produced from finely crushed river rock and was perfectly manoeuvrable and workable.

Each afternoon fairways were striped up and amateur tees mown as close to the last group as possible. Greens were single cut and rolled before again being moisture monitored and syringed if necessary. The usual fluffing of high traffic areas and fairway mower turning circles was carried out, as well as divotting of landing zones in fairways. It's worth noting that in all my tournament experience the professional tees are never divotted between rounds.



The Deutsche Bank Championship takes place on America's Labor Day weekend each year meaning a Monday finish and as with my previous tournament experiences Mother Nature decided to play a part. A severe lightning storm hit the New England area delaying final round set-up by four-and-a-half hours, the first weather delay the tournament had experienced in 11 years. A quick reschedule of morning preparations by a calm and collected superintendent Tom Brodeur saw the greens single cut, pro tees cut and fairway wet spots squeegeed. Play started at 9.30am under the 'lift and clean' rule and aesthetically you could not fault the course.

I had an awesome experience with the staff at TPC Boston and the volunteers, whether local or commuting from international and interstate alike. It's one thing watching on television, but nothing beats being inside the ropes and getting involved."

