

Pebble Beach Golf Links Pebble Beach, CA

PROJECT DETAILS

Superintendent
Chris Dalhamer

Contractor
Hydro-Engineering

Installation Date
August 2008

PROJECT GOALS

- Upgrade irrigation system to provide increased level of irrigation control and management
- Choose a system that will allow for easy future expansion with minimal impact on the course and on play
- Eliminate field satellites to maximize aesthetic value of links-style course layout

RESULTS

- The new Rain Bird Integrated Control (IC) System™ was installed on the 12th hole. This system offers single head control on every rotor, increasing control and improving water management capabilities.
- The IC System was easy to install with minimal impact on playability. The system architecture and large station capacity make it easy to add rotors in the future.
- Field controllers were eliminated on the hole, improving course aesthetics. Integrated control is now built right into the rotor.



Rain Bird EAGLE™ IC Rotors use up to 23% less water to deliver a more playable course.



The IC System is easier to install. It requires less wire and fewer splices, saving materials, labor and time.

New Rain Bird IC™ System improves aesthetics and water management capabilities at Pebble Beach Golf Links while providing unparalleled flexibility

Project Overview

Since 1919, the exquisite beauty and unique challenge of Pebble Beach Golf Links has thrilled golfers and spectators alike. Pebble Beach Golf Links has been the site of golf's most prestigious tournaments, including the upcoming 2010 U.S. Open Championship. Designed by Jack Neville and Douglas Grant, the links-style course hugs the rugged coastline, providing wide-open vistas, cliffside fairways, and sloping greens.

Project Challenges

The irrigation system at Pebble Beach Golf Links has an outdated pipe network and operates multiple rotors on each station. Efficiently managing the irrigation system is a challenge for Superintendent Chris Dalhamer and his staff.

Dalhamer acknowledges that Pebble Beach Golf Links, as a world-famous golf attraction, has an environmental leadership responsibility. "Right now it is difficult to efficiently manage our irrigation because the system is running between three and five rotors per zone. Water conservation is critical to our long-term success. We need to be seen as a leader in irrigation management."

In addition, the course is constantly going through minor design adjustments and updates to the landscape. "We need an irrigation system that is very flexible and can easily be modified without disruption to the players or the course."

Dalhamer added that the wide-open links-style course means that there are a lot of rotors and consequently a high number of field satellites. The satellites are aesthetically unappealing and create additional maintenance issues. "If we can eliminate the satellites we can eliminate another area of maintenance and increase the beauty of our facility."



For the first time, control technology is integrated right into the rotor.



Central control and Rain Bird's IC Rotors communicate instantly with one another. Voltage tests and diagnostics can be run in real time. Make adjustments. Solve problems. Instantly.

Solutions

Pebble Beach Golf Links installed Rain Bird's new IC System on the 12th hole to demonstrate the improved irrigation management and aesthetics. They contracted with Hydro-Engineering to install new IC Rotors and a new two-wire path, linking the rotors directly with the interface located in the maintenance building. Rain Bird IC Rotors have an Integrated Control Module (ICM) mounted directly on the sprinkler. This provides direct intelligent control (using constant two-way communication with the central control software). With the intelligent control located at the sprinkler, the maintenance team can eliminate the now-unnecessary field satellites on the hole, instantly improving aesthetics.

Dalhamer was impressed by the ease of installation and minimal fuss. "This system went in really quickly because it is so simple to install. One wire path connecting directly to each sprinkler is about as easy as it can get."

The IC System's large station capacity provides Pebble Beach Golf Links with the flexibility to add future rotors when needed. "We are always adding rotors, so the ability to simply tie into the nearest sprinkler allows us to have maximum flexibility with minimal course and player disruption." Dalhamer explained, "With decoders or satellites, we needed to plan ahead to ensure that we had sufficient addresses available for expansion. The new IC System essentially eliminates this issue and creates a very user-friendly option for my course."

Because the IC System works with all Rain Bird central control software, Dalhamer and his staff have the ability to link the new rotors on the 12th hole to their existing central control software. They enjoy increased water management and conservation capabilities offered by the IC System and single head control.

Dalhamer said, "We are very pleased with what we have seen from the IC System thus far. If you are buying a new irrigation system, I recommend that you learn about Rain Bird's IC System."

Summary

Rain Bird's IC System has given Pebble Beach Golf Links a new level of irrigation control, achieving their water management objectives. The system was easy to install with minimal impact on the course and playability, and provides the flexibility that suits their ever-changing needs.

Chris Dalhamer and his staff are enjoying the fact that there are fewer field satellites to maintain on the golf course, freeing them to focus valuable maintenance time on other critical areas. They are looking forward to upgrading the entire irrigation system in the future as they continue to enhance the world renowned landscape of Pebble Beach Golf Links.

Rain Bird Corporation

6991 E. Southpoint Road
Tucson, AZ 85756
Phone (520) 741-6100
Fax (520) 741-6522

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