

## The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic (Korn Ferry Tour)

The Abaco Club on Winding Bay • Cherokee, Abaco, Bahamas • Jan. 22-25, 2023

### Director of Agronomy

#### Matt DiMase, GCSAA

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Years as GCSAA Member: 17

Years at the Abaco Club: 7

Years as a Superintendent: 15

Previous Courses: Haig Point (director of grounds),  
Black Diamond Ranch (director of golf course maint.)

Hometown: Lecanto, Fla.

Professional Tournaments Hosted: This will be DiMase's  
5<sup>th</sup> Great Abaco Classic.

DiMase Fun Fact: Worked for the Tampa Bay Rays  
visiting club house in early 2000s. Several retired MLB  
players are members at Abaco Club and share stories.

### Other Key Golf Personnel

Demetrio Hepburn, Assistant Superintendent

Pedro Burrows, Assistant Superintendent

Darron Sands, Equipment Manager

Hermon Hepburn, Equipment Manager

Number of Employees: 32

Number of Tournament Volunteers: 24

### Course Architect

Architect (year): Donald Steele and Tom Mackenzie ('04)

Renovation: 2017

Rounds Per Year: 7,300

Course shuts down on Jan. 18 for play.

### Twitter

Superintendent - [@dimasematt](https://twitter.com/dimasematt)

*Tournament Fact Sheets for the PGA TOUR, LPGA, PGA TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry and Epson Tours and USGA and PGA of America championships can be found at: <https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>*

### Tournament Set-up

Par: 36-36--72

Yardage: 7,141

Stimpmeter: 11

### Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 7,000 sq. ft.

Total Property Acres: 675

Acres of Fairway: 60

Acres of Rough: 35

Number of Sand Bunkers: 84

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 1

Soil Conditions: Native sand

Water Sources: Well

Drainage Conditions: Natural Sand Cap

### Turfgrass

Greens: SeaDwarf paspalum .090"

Collars: Sea Isle supreme paspalum

Approaches: Sea Isle supreme paspalum

Tees: Platinum paspalum .250"

Fairways: Sea Isle supreme paspalum  
.400"

Rough: Empire zoysiagrass 2"

### Additional Notes

- Tournament was played at Abaco in 2017-19 before being moved to Nassau due to Hurricane Dorian in 2020 and canceled in 2021 due to Covid. It returned to Abaco in 2022.

- The Abaco Islands are known for some of the best blue water and fly fishing in the world. The Island also boasts underground caves.

**Additional notes and quotes on next page**

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Since 1926 the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to 19,000 members in more than 78 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and improve communities through enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.

## **Q&A with Matt DiMase, director of agronomy (from Jan. 6)**

Q: Any changes to the course since last year?

A: No. 11 – Green renovation that flattened the eastern shelf to create more hole locations.

No. 12 – New rough and rough line and added fairway bunker and two local specimen trees.

No. 16 – Rough renovation on southwest side of hole along with new fairway bunker and ornamental grasses in waste areas.

Q: How has the growing season been and what is the result for course conditions?

A: June started off promising with adequate rainfall, but then we hit a drought in July through mid-September. Rain has been plentiful in October, November and December and the turf health is a result of that. If prevailing winds out of the East/Northeast occur for the tournament and create dry conditions, the course will be set up perfectly for tough conditions.

Q: Any interesting facts about the golf course or surrounding area?

A: This is the first and only links-style golf course in the Bahamas. A short 15-minute drive from the golf course and you could find yourself in the middle of a pine forest swimming in a “blue hole”. It is so serene and peaceful.

Q: What environmental steps have you made?

A: We recycle seaweed that is removed from the beach and use it on the golf course. We use Tier 4 equipment to reduce carbon emissions. We have reduced water usage by 30 percent from last year by eliminating unnecessary irrigation heads. We use organic insecticides for mosquito control.

Q: What wildlife is on the course?

A: Reef crabs, wild roosters and chickens, a wide array of birds, including the Abaco Parrot.

Q: Anything else?

A: Our club ambassador is Darren Clarke, who has been a member since 2004.

Q: Any more fun facts about you other than working in the Tampa Bay Rays visiting clubhouse?

A: My greatest golf shot was a 107-foot walk off eagle putt on 18 at the Abaco Club to win a match of the Abaco Club vs. PGA Tour rules officials and agronomists. In December of 2022, I was elected the inaugural president of the Caribbean Golf Course Superintendent chapter of the GCSAA.