

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1975
DECEMBER 1974



Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE SUPERS GONE?

Dean Robertson coined the title for this piece. The successful New England Golf Course Association vice-presidential candidate had no politicking in mind, either, when he looked around a people-dotted annual meeting room and unloaded his query.

Ah, the annual meeting. It was, for the most part, enjoyable...not to mention worthwhile. The slate of officers—headed by re-elected president Tom Curran—received the expected full approval of the gathering. Some members got to swap thoughts on topical subject matter that ranged from the plight of the Boston Bruins to the rising cost of fertilizer and perhaps the latter's whereabouts. There was plenty of quality all right, but the quantity was nowhere to be seen. Alas, the place was barren.

A quick count of voting eligibles drew the alarming figure of 19! This brought to the attention of officers and general membership the apparent lack of interest growing through the ranks. Granted, there were isolated locations where traveling conditions played an important part in attendance decisions. However, the weather produced nothing more than a little rain and a little wind. 'Twas not the blizzard of '66 nor the Johnstown Flood.

The apathy caused certain of the faithful to propose remedies for the situation—some sound and some wild. It also was decided to form a committee for the return of missing members. President Curran appointed that group which will study ways and means to bring the flock back.

Robertson and a few others spoke of amending the membership dues so that luncheon fees would be added, thereby making it a financial risk for members to skip meetings. This drew considerable support.

There also was offered the idea of compulsory attendance, that members would be required to attend a set percentage of meetings or relinquish their rights...including that to vote. Further, it was tossed out that poor attendance might even be just cause for suspension from the association...temporary and in some cases permanent.

Some thought this penalty too harsh, while others maintained that the strength of the NEGCSA was being threatened from within and that all steps (including suspension) should be considered in order to keep goals and purposes in sight.

Perhaps, the first step should be a posting of delinquent names in the association Newsletter. Unfortunately, it has been brought to the attention of diligent members that certain stay-aways are using budgetary funds for use other than to attend association meetings. "Maybe we should bring this out in the open", one unnamed super declared. "Green chairmen read the Newsletter. They will have names available. If one happens to fall into the above category, the guilty superintendent will have second thoughts about using his expenses as they were intended to be used.

The feeling throughout the group present was that it was being cheated by fellow members who chose to play hookey. "I think that a small turnout is bad for the entire organization", another super said. "I have to be amazed at the number of missing people today. All I can think of is the group's first meeting 50 years ago. They had 41 there and here we don't even come up with half of that

Best



Wishes

for the most important meeting of the year. We have to have unity and we have to have numbers in order to keep the association strong."

Educational chairman Larry Bunn was especially concerned at the low attendance figure for the annual meeting and for other gatherings over the year. "Sometimes I'm embarrassed when I line up guest speakers and only a handful are there to hear them", he stated. "I'm for setting up some kind of a penalty system for those who constantly stay away."

Thus, the annual meeting was interesting...and worthwhile, to be sure. If you weren't there, you missed something. Hopefully, the tone of the discussion there will get the delinquents off their duffs and back to the duty of attending NEGCSA meetings. It is in the best interest of all.

Gerry Finn

Next Meeting . . .
JANUARY 6, 1975

Holiday Inn, Newton
Directors Meeting 11:00 A.M.
Regular Meeting 1:00 P.M.
Lunch On Your Own

Larry Bunn has an interesting educational program set up — so try to make it.

To Be Voted on at the next meeting
Robert L. Petrillo
John A. Forrest

Golf Course Superintendents Association

COWAN'S CASSIDY CHAMPS

It wasn't all work, thank the Good Lord, for the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association through the summer. Even though the majority of area courses looked like the typical super were chained to his maintenance building with super conditions prevailing, the boys took some well deserved time to get in their own golf licks. And out of the confusion (not really), emerged Brian Cowan of Eastward Ho and the retired Phil Cassidy as our champions.

The New England Championship fell plunk in the middle of a very ambitious schedule...arranged, incidentally, by Cowan who turned in a very efficient year as association golf chairman. Site of the championship was the Ferncroft Country Club with Paul Johnson host super.

Cowan fired a formidable 75 to capture the overall title. Meanwhile, Cassidy--showing the advantages of being retired and available for a practice session at all times--paced the seniors contingent with an 88. Low net honors went to Mark Taylor with 63. There followed Dave Barber, 69; Bruce Petrelli, 71; Bill Carter, 73 and Guy Tedesco, 73.

The tournament season opened at Dave Mauk's home stomping grounds at Clauson's Inn. A blind draw team championship was at stake and from the group came a winning net score of 215 by Pete Coste, Joe Rybka and Julie Aksten. Individually, Gug Tedesco's 79 took gross honors while Dave Barber was low net with 69.

Next on the agenda was another team safari, this time at Vesper Country Club where Bert Fredricks served as host. Gross prize after a 381 went to Brian Cowan, Ron Kirkman, Al Auger and Julie Aksten. The net fight was decided by Dave Barber, Len Gregory, Tom Schofield and Mark Taylor who combined for a 302.

The superintendent-green chairman tournament followed at the Longmeadow Country Club where 58 players were greeted by host super Leon St. Pierre...plus several movie stars who were on location shooting a film there. Ron Kirkman and Mr. Anderson took the honors with a net 61 over the celebrity- saturated layout. Ron Kirkman and Charles Border shared individual gross with

fine 75's and Mel O'Kelly took the net prize with 67. Other notable scores were turned in by the teams of Gary Luccini-Hewitt, Bill Carter-Grimsley, Bob Mucciarone-Clapp, Bruce Petrelli-Geldnacku, Paul O'Leary- Johnson, Jim Damien-Gagnon, Tom Schofield-Barnes and Hubert Morton-Kusser.

Cohasset and Arthur Washburn laid out the welcome mat for another team tussle among the members. Net honors and the title went to Brian Cowan, Dave Barber, Bert Fredricks and Steve Butler with 55. Just edged out by a stroke were Charles Borden, Pete Coste, Lenny Blodgett and Art Washburn. Individually, Art Washburn's 77 was good for low gross while Pete Coste and Norm Mucciarone tied for low net at 71.

The super-celebrity tournament found 29 teams in action at Spring Valley where John Sperandio was host. Brian Cowan again came through with the championship off a net 70 compiled with partner Joe Bellino. Ken Mooradian and Bob Phillips were a stroke back at 71 in a second place tie with Guy Tedesco and Gino Cappaletti. Los gross of 72 was turned in by Gary Luccini and Bob St. John.

The always-popular John Shanahan Memorial, super-pro tournament at Brae Burn with Bob Grant as host, produced the year's biggest field of 64 teams. Ron Kirkman and Mike Smith walked off with honors on a net 66. Next at 68 were the teams of Dick Napierata and Don Parsons and Bob Mucciarone and Ed Kornasky. In with 69's were Paul Johnson and John Theo and Julie Aksten and Len Sewell.

Final event of the campaign came at Needham where Ron Kirkman was chief greeter. This was another team event with the three some of Nick Bruno, Al Auger and Bob Mucciarone firing an amazing net 55 to win by five strokes. Next at 60 were Ron Kirkman, Gary Luccini and Sil Paulini. Two teams-- Ken Mooradian, Art Washburn, Sam Mitchell and Brian Cowan, Bob McEwen and Eric Brown--tied at 61.

And there you have the NEGCSA lineup of champions for 1974.
Gerry Finn



Green Keepers Club of New England having lunch in 1925. Looks like a pretty good attendance then. We should be able to do the same.

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THOMAS CURRAN Fox Chase Road South Sutton, N.H. 03273 Phone 938-8436 Eastham Golf Course	WAYNE ZOPPO 9A Village Green North E. Providence, R.I. 02915 Phone 434-1759 Agawam Hunt	DEAN ROBERTSON 24 Riverview Drive Newbury, Mass. 01950 Phone 482-4540 Chestnut Hill Country Club	RONALD KIRKMAN CGCS 25 Green St. Needham, Mass. 02192 Phone 444-8412 Needham Golf Club	LUCIEN DUVAL 12 Gault Road Bedford, N.H. 03102 Phone 572-3454 York Golf & Tennis Club	MAX MIERZWA 106 Crestwood Street Chicopee, Mass. 01020 Phone 594-4996 Chicopee Country Club	DAVE BARBER 1 Muriel Road Chelmsford, Mass. 01824 Phone 256-4417 Wayland Country Club	ARTHUR WASHBURN 520 No. Main St. Cohasset, Mass. 02025 Phone 383-9532 Cohasset Golf Club	DONALD HEARN 4 Topeka Road Chelmsford, Mass. 01824 Phone 256-8709 Weston Golf Club

SOUND OFF

(Time again for the reader to take his stance, approach his pen and paper and let us have it. This is Sound Off--that popular section of the Newsletter where steam is let off and sounds of praise occasionally drift in. The ground rules aren't shaking. All contributors are asked to sign their offerings and include home address. Names and addresses will be withheld upon request. The place where all the flak gathers is Newsletter Mail Bag, 290 North Road, Sudbury, Mass. 01776. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all published letters.)

"Please allow me to use the Sound Off column as a means of expressing my concern over the small attendance at the recent annual meeting.

"As president of our organization, I feel that the membership is only as strong as its actions. The action, too, should be reasonable attendance at meetings all year.

"I have appointed a committee to study this issue which came to a head last month. It will report to me and the full membership will be asked to take action on its proposals.

"I also agree with the letter last month from Dean Robertson. I feel that the Newsletter and the Sound Off column are a means of giving members and others a chance to air their views. Often some of the letters bring to our attention topics worthy of thought and discussion and vital to the interests of our profession.

"Therefore, I urge more involvement by our members. They can show this by better attendance at meetings and participation in the issues of the day in the Newsletter.

"Thank you again for placing the presidency in my trust for another year. With everyone making the NEGCSA a working organization, I'm sure the profession and golf will benefit."

TOM CURRAN
President, NEGCSA

We won't gavel you down on these points, Tom. Let's hope the right people get the message this month!

"Your recent issue on the 50th anniversary of your association was interesting and enjoyed by this reader.

"I wasn't aware that the superintendents had been organized that long. Certainly, it was an occasion to celebrate and look back on what I'm sure are many accomplishments.

"It was pleasing to see that some of your 'pioneers' could make it for the party. As someone remarked in one of the stories, the turnout represented three generations.

"As a relative old-timer, myself, I can look back to the days when the superintendent was the greenskeeper and not given the recognition he deserved. If the organizing of the superintendents has accomplished one thing, it is that recognition. Certainly, the superintendent has to be placed in a position of respect and responsibility in the operating structure of the country club. And I suspect the act of organizing yourselves has had much to do with it.

"Belated congratulations."

THOMAS KOJAKIAN
Watertown, Mass.

Your kind words are appreciated, Mr. Kojakian. Please pass them along to your fellow members should you belong to a country club.

Golf Chairman	Educational Chairman	Newsletter Chairman	Past President
BRIAN COWAN Robins Way Harwich, Mass. 02645 Phone 432-9041 Club Affiliation Eastward Ho Country Club	LARRY BUNN 145 Dedham Street Canton, Mass. 02021 Phone 828-7266 Club Affiliation Blue Hills Country Club	THOMAS SCHOFIELD 290 North Road Sudbury, Mass. 01776 Phone 443-3712 Club Affiliation Wellesley Country Club	ROBERT GRANT CGCS 22 Patricia Road Sudbury, Mass. 01776 Phone 443-2671 Club Affiliation Brae Burn Country Club

"Recently, I read somewhere that a John Campbell moved his place of business from famed St. Andrews.

"Several years ago, I seem to recall that a John Campbell made a visit to Western Massachusetts where he spoke at some kind of a seminar or educational meeting concerning golf courses.

"I was wondering if this was the same Mr. Campbell who was here and what ever possessed him to leave St. Andrews? From what I've heard and read of St. Andrews, it appears to be that paragon of places for a golf-oriented executive to work.

"Isn't Campbell's actions somewhat questionable. I thought a man employed by St. Andrews was a man blessed with vocational attainment."

JASPER KING
Hampden, Mass.

Yes, the John Campbell, who left St. Andrews, is the same superintendent who made an appearance in Western Mass. and other American ports. His reasons for leaving are his own, naturally. However, we understand his new job offers him more financial stability.

"I read with interest the letter you received from a Mr. McDonald and his revival of the old time names for clubs. In that same light, I was wondering how long it will take present-day manufacturers to start a new line of names.

"I refer to the sudden step-up in production of woods that go beyond the normal one through four numbers. It has been common these days to see players have a complete set of woods in their bags, with only a chipping iron or perhaps a putter to break the string.

"Even some of the professionals are going for the high-numbered woods. I think I saw Lee Trevino use a six-wood on a television series and there are others who are switching to wood.

"In my travels, I've seen wood numbers as high as 13. I think you'll see some wood calls coming out soon."

EMERY COLLINS
South Hadley, Mass.

Yes, and there are some other names by which clubs are called...especially when a shot goes astray!

(That's the Sound Off wrap-up for Now. Keep those letters and cards coming. They keep this space alive.)

USGA Green Section Conference On Golf Course Management

Fri Jan 24, 1975

BILTMORE HOTEL
NEW YORK, N.Y.

9:00 A.M. — REGISTRATION TIME

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