



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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March 1988

Hearn Leaves GCSAA Ship in Good Shape

“The waters carrying our ship are calm.”



So did Don Hearn characterize the stabilized condition of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America one day last

month in Houston as he moved to that corner of the administrative table where the group's immediate past-president resides.

The administration of the Weston Golf Club super, then, has come to an end—kaput.

Eventful, ex-prez?

“I'd say it was a relatively quiet year,” Hearn scratched his head trying to recall some act, some move that might have shapen his profession's world—even caused it to tilt a little. “I'd take that to mean most of our members are satisfied with the way I ran the show.”

This isn't to suggest that Hearn's was a rocking-chair administration.

“On the contrary,” Don respond. “If I got paid for this job and sitting was part of it, I'd have gone broke. No way was this a passive experience. I went at it like I've approached everything in my life. I was on the go from the moment last year's conference was winding down and I was winding up to begin my term as president.”

After all, leading an upbeat organization like the GCSAA lends itself to burning the midnight oil. It also marks the man

doing the leading as something special.

“Oh, yeah,” Hearn laughed. “I was up there in the clouds—for about 90 seconds. I came down to earth in a hurry. Hey, don't get me wrong. I enjoyed the exposure, the position. It always will be the highlight of my career, one of a kind stuff. But it didn't change me as a person. At least I don't think I acted any differently.”

The GCSAA waters were calm, too. Probably Hearn's handling of the presidency had much to do with a no-rumble year. However, it wasn't as if the GCSAA was anchored all year.

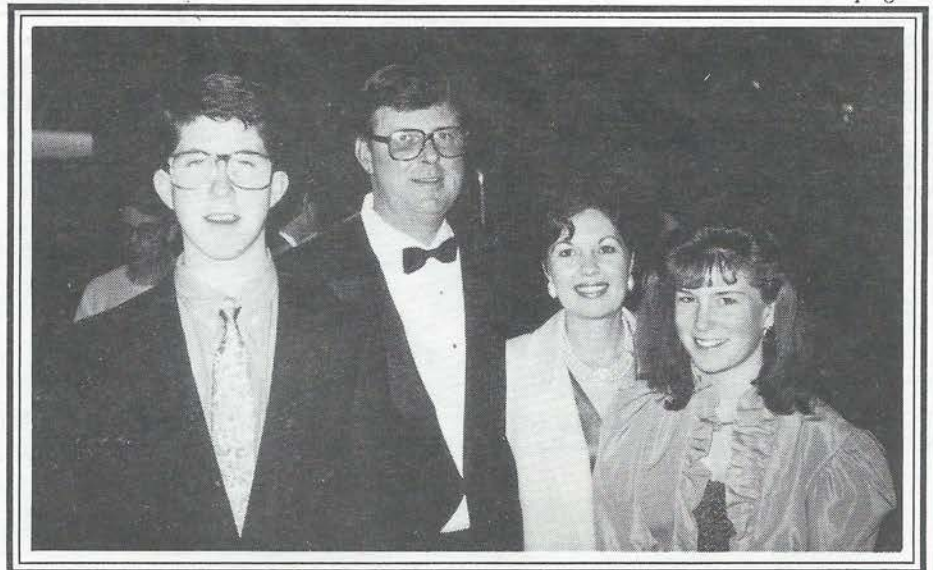
“Are you kidding?” Hearn remarked. “Have you read some of those government regulations, environmental specs and all the other restriction-laced directives and proposals the golf course super-

intendent must deal with? Just a nodding acquaintance with them points out how important our educational programs are to the future of golf and the present, plus the future of the superintendent.”

Of course, the on-going education of the golf course superintendent has become a bolder and bolder underlining theme of the profession.

“No doubt, the profession is moving further and further away from a strict 'school of hard knocks' mentality,” Hearn observed. “There's no getting away from the fact that the superintendent has to build on his experience with knowledge gleaned only from an educational endeavor and an appreciation of what an educational program can effect.”

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Don Hearn & Family (GCSAA Banquet)

DON HEARN *Cont. from page 1*

Which could be a lead-in to one of Hearn's favorite topics—the GCSAA's certification status.

"It's gaining in stature," Don told. "I think the number of certified superintendents is approaching 900. Right. That's not enough. However, little by little the public is coming to know and recognize our program.

"This is evident by the increased number of referrals and requests for certified superintendents when there's a job to be filled. Believe me, the certified super is something special and the golf community is beginning to recognize the people in our profession who take that extra step to self-improvement."

Improvement of another kind has been one of the true accomplishments of Hearn's administration—improved association and personal relations with the Professional Golf Association and its members.

"Yes, I think you can say this is one area where I made an effort to bring about a more harmonious relationship," Don disclosed. "I really can't explain why there was a strain in the relationship. I suspect it was a case of bruised egos. However, the line of communication has been opened and it's working."

Hearn says the two groups are working together in an attempt to downplay the rivalry between factions at the country club but he accepts the natural feeling that superintendents want their members to think they are THE person-position in the club.

So, progress in all areas—both sensitive and insensitive—walked hand in hand with Don Hearn for the past 12 months and that progress occurred without histrionics. Which is one way of describing the man's personality, character and work ethics. In his own effective way, Don Hearn got the job done without fanfare. Bravo!

GERRY FINN

-COMMERCIAL CLIPPINGS-

Sawtelle Brothers, Inc. Wins TFC Financing Award

Racine, WI—Sawtelle Brothers, Inc., Lawrence, MA, was presented with an award for being the Jacobsen Distributor with the highest volume of Textron Financial Corp. financing for 1987. The award was presented February 6, 1988, at Jacobsen's Annual Distributor Awards Breakfast held in conjunction with the GCSAA's 59th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Houston, TX.



Pictured are (from left to right): Dan McCullough, Vice President of Field Marketing for TFC; Robert Brown, Vice President of Sawtelle Brothers; M. Frank Higgins, President of Sawtelle Brothers; and Russ Maloney, Assistant Vice President of Field Marketing for TFC.

GCSAA News

John A. Segui, CGCS, Berwyn, Pa., was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) during the association's 59th International Golf Course Conference and Show held in Houston, Texas, on Feb. 1-8. Segui succeeds Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, Weston GC, Mass., who as immediate past president will continue to serve for a year as a director. Dennis D. Lyon, CGCS, City of Aurora Parks Department in Colorado, was elected vice president. Re-elected as a director and appointed secretary/treasurer was Gerald L. Faubel, CGCS, Saginaw CC in Michigan. Also re-elected as a director was William R. Roberts, CGCS, golf course/grounds

manager for SentryWorld (Sentry Insurance), Stevens Point, Wis.

Elected as a director for the first time was Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS Acacia CC Lyndhurst, Ohio.

Kenneth A. Sakai, CGCS, Sunnyvale GC in California, was appointed to serve Lyon's one year unexpired term as a director. Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, Metedeconk GC, Manasquan, N.J., and Randy Nichols, CGCS, Cherokee Town & CC, Donwoody, Ga., continue serving terms as directors.

Officers serve one-year terms, and directors are elected to two-year terms.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is an international organization of more than 7,500 members. Its headquarters is in Lawrence, Kan.

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The Super Speaks Out

Welcome to **The Super Speaks Out** — a monthly feature which offers the golf course superintendent a forum to express his or her views on topics and issues relating to their profession.

This month's question: *It's that antsy time again for golfers, so as the day to open your course approaches how do you keep the eager beavers off regular greens and other sensitive areas??*

Tony DeBettencourt, Andover Country Club: "I don't have to worry about having to explain why members can't play the regular greens here because I have one steadfast rule. All the frost has to be gone before any golfer steps foot on the course—anywhere.

"Which means, of course, that we use regular greens or we don't use any greens at all.

"There's a one-owner arrangement at our club and that makes it easier for me to cope with any pressures members might put on me regarding when, how or whatever about opening the course.

"Actually, I make the decision. But our owner is in complete agreement with that decision to open or close our doors.

"We don't pinpoint any opening date, either. It could be anywhere from the first of April to the 15th. I'd say we're about two weeks behind in weather factors, compared to places on the Cape (Cod).

"We've had plenty of snow cover this winter and the frost should be coming out of the ground as golfers begin thinking about how nice it would be to get playing again. Oh, I get a few squawks here and there when the course isn't ready according to my standards but ready when members apply theirs. But it's nothing serious.

"The bottom line is that as long as we have frost no one gets to play. I never compromise by using such things

as temporary greens. That's the way it is here and it's working."

Dick Duggan, Concord Country Club: "Okay, first of all, let me say that temporary greens seldom are used at Concord. About the only time we use them is when I aerate. At that, some of the new equipment helps us get the job done so quickly there may come a day when we won't have any use for temps.

"Anyway, I have my own little rule for determining when those feet are allowed to go tramping on the regular greens. If I see footprints, it's no go. It means the greens aren't ready, also that the course remains closed.

"Opening day follows the dictate of the presence of frost but we usually like to zero in around April 1. Therefore, it varies. I have had years when we opened in the middle of March. Come to think of it there have been times in March when we opened and closed.

"Remember, we got about 10 inches of rain at one sitting last year and that closed half of the course. It's pretty much a weather situation. Hey, anything can happen in spring.

"The opening process works out nicely. The green chairman and I inspect the course, then make a decision. Once in a while we'll open just one side (inner nine). Regardless, when it's spring, we wait till the regular greens are ready. Only then do we start the season."

Frank Murphy, Country Club of Halifax: "Having just gone private you'd think it would open things up to a

lot of flak from the members in terms of starting dates, conditioning and the like. But it's minimal, believe me.

"Although we have the full boat of member input—green chairman, committees and the rest of it—we're still a one-owner course and that means control stays out of the clubhouse and 19th hole.

"Sure, we have a frost problem here but it's more a matter of ice than anything. The rule is if everything's solid, golfers are allowed on the course. But once the thaw comes, everybody off until I'm sure no damage will be done—even when a golfer breathes on our greens.

"We've had bad experiences with temporary greens, so we never use them. When we did, the darn things grew so much they weren't very good to putt on. So, we decided no more of those things.

"Consequently, when we do open in the spring—and we're talking somewhere as early as March 15 and late as April 15—it's with the regular greens in play. However, we stress that those greens must be frost-free before we ring the bell.

"In the end I'd say we let the condition of the course tell us when to open, not the anxieties of the members."

GERRY FINN



(L to R) Mr. & Mrs. Mark Klimm, Tom Colombo, Kip Tyler

President's Message

"This is my first opportunity to address the members of the GCSA of New England and would like to thank them for electing me the 31st president of our association. I also would like to thank Dave Barber for the fine job he did as president of the association.

So far in 1988, we have had the opportunity to attend several excellent educational conferences. Special thanks should be given to the organizers and volunteers who put on the New Hampshire Turf Conference, the GCSAA Conference and Show, the MGA Spring Conference and the Massachusetts Turf Conference. I also would like to congratulate Don Hearn for the great job he did as president of the GCSAA and thank him for his years of service to the GCSA of NE and the GCSAA.

At the February meeting, we met with Kathy Pappalardo of the New England Agricultural Chemical Association. She briefed us on the upcoming pesticide bills in the Mass. Legislature and one thing is

clear! We all must be willing to spend a little time watching these bills and also must be willing to take the time to contact our Representatives and Senators to tell them how we feel about certain bills. If we don't, our ability to manage our golf courses may be severely restricted.

Finally, as we look forward to our summer meetings, the Board of Directors has decided to do something about reservations for the meetings. For 1988, every person who is going to attend a meeting must call the host superintendent and make a reservation. If you fail to show up for the meeting, you will be billed for its cost. If you do not make a reservation and show up at the meeting, you will not be allowed to eat lunch until those people who have made reservations are served. If there is a shortage of food, people without reservations may not get fed. Also, people without reservations will be the last to sign up for golf and may be excluded if the host club has set a limit to the number of players. So do us all a favor and make reservations for all meetings. I would like to wish everyone a successful 1988 golf season.

DICK ZEPP

Divot Drift

Congratulations to Arthur Silva who has successfully completed the requirements of the GCSAA Certification Program. Attaining certified status is no minor accomplishment. Successful completion of the certification process indicates an individual's willingness to be judged by the standards of fellow professionals and assume a position of leadership in the game of golf. Mr. Silva's attainment of certified status demonstrates both desire for personal advancement and also a commitment to provide Belmont Country Club with the highest level of golf course management expertise available.

The superintendents that played in the National golf tournament in Houston had good weather, good scores and played some great golf courses. Though no one captured 1st. place, the golfers from our association with a two month lay-off were not at all rusty. In the Black Flight, Paul Miller from Nashawtuc C.C. won 2nd gross and Jim O'Kelly from Brae Burn C.C. captured 4th gross. Paul Jamrog from the Orchards C.C. won 2nd gross in the Red Flight and Charlie Passios from Hyannisport Club won 5th gross. Steve Murphy from Larry Gannon G.C. won 3rd net in the Red Flight. In the Blue Flight, Kip Tyler from Salem C.C. won 2nd net and Don Hearn from Weston G.C. captured 3rd net. The chapter team of O'Kelly, Jamrog, Murphy and Dave Barber won 3rd net. Other players were Steve Chiavaroli, Tatnuck C.C. - Mike Legere, Holden Hills C.C. - Tom Flaherty, Woods hole G.C. Tom Schofield, Wellesley C.C. - Dave Clement, Woodstock C.C. - Steve Butler, Larchmont Eng. - Mark Taylor, Haverhill C.C. - Bert Frederick, Vesper C.C. - Barrie Robertson, Sky Meadow C.C. - Tony DeBettencourt, Andover C.C. - Tom Colombo and Mark Klimm, New Seabury C.C. - Steve Carr, Pocasset C.C. - Dave Robinson, The Captains G.C. - Frank Higgins, Sawtelle Brothers - John Pluta, C.C. of Pittsfield - Doug Stachura, Springfield C.C. - Bob Bullard, Green Chairman Weston C.C.- Bob Dirico,

Continued on next page



Dick Zepp "typical president"

DIVOT DRIFT

Continued from page 4

Bellevue C.C. and Ron Milenski, International G.C. Dave Barber, Blue Hill C.C. was captain of the winning chapter team.

On this last day of February, it appears the golf courses in the Boston area have survived the winter with little ice damage. There is snow mold on fairways and tees and some reports on greens but not as severe as last year. Many courses are reporting severe frost heaves. There could be a lot of broken pipe. We'll keep our fingers crossed but right now everything looks good.

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Contact: Lianne Larson
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Contact: Ron Kirkman
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(617) 444-8412 evenings

Assistant Superintendent
Holden Hills Country Club
1800 Main Street
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-Proposed New Members-

Robert Mathews CGCS
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-NEW MEMBERS-

Welcome and congratulations to William C. Rolland Foxboro C.C. and Arthur Billingham, Pinecrest. C.C.

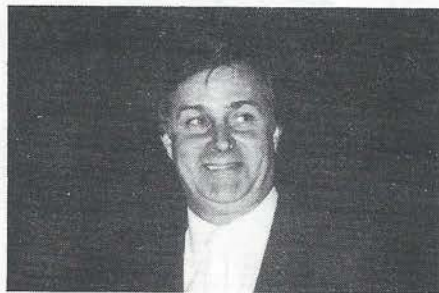
-BANQUET ALBUM-



Tom Schofield



(L to R) Dave Barber, Ron Kirkman, Art Silva



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