

# CONNECTICUT CLIPPINGS

Volume 31, No. 4

September/October, 1997

## President's Message

John Napier, CGCS  
CAGCS President

Another summer has come to an end and it has been an interesting one. It was a summer that provided some of us with plenty of rain and left others with empty ponds and no need to mow roughs. Although it brought everyone extreme temperatures at times, fortunately, they did not stick around for very long. As I enjoy the latest break in the weather, I would like to take this opportunity to remark on the association's summer events.

First, I would like to mention one superintendent who, after many years of not being able to enjoy a summer, will finally have the opportunity to enjoy the next one and hopefully many thereafter. Bob Chalifour, one of the highly respected individuals in our profession, will retire in the next few months. On behalf of CAGCS, we would like to wish you and Pat a great retirement.

Now a few words about this summer's past and future events. Our Annual Invitational had a full field of golfers, all of which had a great time at the Hartford Golf Club. Congratulations to the team from Oak Lane CC

*(continued on page 2)*

## GOLF COURSE CHANGES AT SHENNECOSSETT GOLF COURSE

by Robert Chalifour, CGCS

As the 100th anniversary of the famed Shennecossett Golf Courses approaches (1998), major changes are underway. The Donald Ross design golf tract will be building five new golf holes and redesigning two existing holes. The Town of Groton which owns the course chose Cornish, Silva and Mangum Golf Course Architects.

Would the famous golf course architect Ross approve? Most are sure he would, if the land had been available to him. The former site of the Griswold Hotel (raised in 1969), now owned by Pfizer, was not available to Ross. The water view of

ferries, submarines, a scenic lighthouse and an onshore breeze with challenging golf holes will enhance the golf experience of those that play. The neighborhood of stately homes will also benefit with a golf course instead of overgrown brush and trees. One

home in particular (I should have bought it) has gotten a million dollar view.

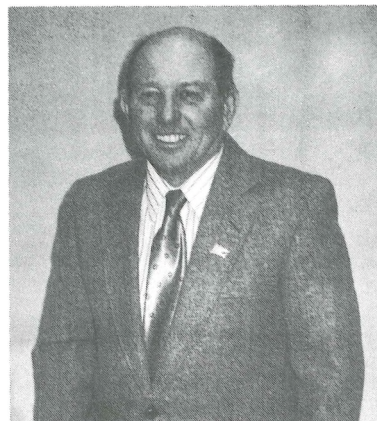
The existing three holes that are being replaced will go to Pfizer in a unique land exchange. Presently, Pfizer does not have plans for the property—however, they have broken ground on

their property for the largest building they have ever built in Groton. The new building is being built based on the fact that they will soon be getting additional land that will provide space for parking and more buildings. The new research facility will provide

jobs for 700-1,000 additional employees.

I proposed the idea for the exchange of property while superintendent at Shennecossett GC. The concept and sketches of golf holes was shown to several people but did not get serious

*(continued on page 3)*





*John Napier, CGCS  
1997 CAGCS President*

**President's message** *(continued from page 1)*

lent fund for our members.

We held the tournament at two golf courses, not the five we initially planned. Out of our 300+ members, only seven members participated. We would like to increase that number for next year. We did succeed in gaining media coverage as WVIT Channel 30 and WTIC 1080 AM radio advertised our associations and our benefit to youth golf. The good news is that one group from our association will be continuing on to the final round at Farmington CC to play for the trip to Myrtle Beach.

I would also like to say how much fun the two-man tournament has been. I know there have been some closely contested matches; and, regardless of the outcome, all those involved had a good time. I would like to thank all those who have allowed matches to be played at their courses.

The Annual CAGCS Family Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 13th, at Lake Compounce in Bristol, CT. The committee hoped that by having the family day later in the year and on a Saturday, many of you and

your families would be free to attend. While this issue of the *Clippings* is presently at the printers, I am pleased to announce that we presently have over 100 reservations for our family day.

The annual CAGCS Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 12th, at the Hawthorne Inn. Because of popular opinion and the response from last year, we have again booked the same band, The Crescents.

As November approaches, I will be stepping down to past president to make way for new superintendents with new and creative ideas. I would like to encourage many of you to get involved in your association. If you cannot find the time for a director's position, you can become involved in committees. The more you put in, the more you get out of it. I am very proud of our profession and equally proud of our association and its members. We provide a tremendous value to the environment and to the health, well-being and enjoyment of those who use our facilities.

for the 1997 Invitational Trophy.

We also joined forces with the Connecticut Recreation and Park Association for the first "Connecticut Golf Scramble Tournament". The tournament's main goal is to benefit youth golf programs in Connecticut. However, it was hoped that the joint venture would also give both of our associations media coverage, as well as some non-dues revenue for scholarship and research and to help start a much needed and long overdue benevo-

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## Shennecossett renovations *(continued from page 1)*

attention until recently when Pfizer (sticker symbol PFE) acquired land next to the golf course. The 12-acre parcel that has holes 5, 6 & 7 now became interesting. When approached by the Town Manager, Director of Recreation, and the Director of Economic Development, the process began.

As most of you know, approvals by many agencies would be necessary. This project would be even more unique because of the land exchange, road and zoning changes. Before the land exchange was announced, rumors started to spread about the 24-acre Pfizer site. The neighborhood property owners association was one of the first to show support. The golf course would be a much better neighbor based on past history than the building of 60 homes that could be built on the property.

Another potential use of the site mentioned was for a ferry terminal to bring more gamblers to Foxwoods Casino. The first approval would have to come from both the city and town governing bodies. The golf course owned by the town is located in the City of Groton (similar to a fire district, yet much more complex — don't ask). This approval would be necessary before any further negotiations could take place. Once this passed, then applications could be made to the appropriate agencies for their approvals.

A major zoning change would be necessary, as well as permission from the State of Connecticut. The golf course, when purchased in 1967, received 50% of the money from open space funding. Golf course land zoned open space would have to be changed to commercial, and the Pfizer property in a residential zone would now change to open space. If the project failed, both properties would revert back to their original use.

The first hurdle was crucial to the success of the project. There was some

dissentment by some that spoke at the meeting; however, the support for the project was strong. The overall opinion was that this was a win-win situation for everyone.

With the community strongly behind the project, other approvals would be easier to obtain—big money talks and is listened to. A road closure and the relocation of a short section of Shore Avenue would prove otherwise. One neighbor has filed a law suit because he is not in agreement with the road relocation (road has been moved and paved). Approvals from the City Wetlands Commission were granted with some changes, and the Planning Commissions of both the city and town have given their approval.

Pfizer will bear all expenses for the project except for the minor road relocation. Sonoco Construction of Groton is the general contractor. White Construction of New Hampshire is the golf contractor, and Irrigation Systems of Maine will be installing a Toro irrigation system.

Construction started June 16th and, typical of Pfizer, the project is on a fast track with a completion date of September 28, 1997.

Other aspects of the project will include a tunnel under Eastern Point Road for the safe passage of golfers and equipment from one part of the course to another. Additional wetlands will be created to take the place of wetlands

displaced and a small section of waterfront was donated to the city for a parklet.

The cost of the project for four new golf holes, relocation of some existing holes, and the tunnel will be about \$3 million.

The golf course was not expected to be under construction this year. As a result of accelerated construction, it was decided not to hold our CAGCS September meeting at Shennecossett as originally planned. I would like to extend an invitation to the membership to meet here in the fall of 1998 to see the changes, enjoy the view and have a chicken barbecue.

I had second thoughts when a green I nurtured for 27 years was brutally attacked by a D-8. I think I have changed my mind about this idea.

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## Monthly meeting golf results

**June - Crestbrook Park Golf Club - Host Superintendent: Peter Cure, CGCS.**

Peter has been a member of our association and superintendent at Crestbrook for seven years and obtained his certification just this past year. The 18-hole layout was built in two stages. The back nine was built in 1963 with Geoffrey Cornish as architect. The front nine was added in 1981, designed by Al Zikorus.

Greens 5, 6 & 7 are scheduled to be rebuilt this fall.

The tournament for the day was "best 15 holes at 75% handicap" and it was also the 2nd round of our CAGCS Championship.

*Congratulations to Jim Staszowski, Turf Products, for taking home the 1997 CAGCS Championship!*

### CAGCS Championship Results

Flight	Gross	Net
A (0-12)	Jim Staszowski	Peter Cure
B (13-19)	Dick Cook	Steve DiVito
C (20-36)	Joe Malay	Carl Wallace
Senior	Peter Pierson	John Motycka

### Skill Prize Winners

Longest Drive  
Mike Dukette

Closest to Line  
Jean Nicole

Long Putts  
Dick Cook &  
Al Adaskaveg

Closest to Pin  
Peter Cure &  
Brink Schoonmaker

Kickers Winners  
Tom Watroba  
Shawn Donovan  
John Butenko  
Jim Calladio  
Steve DiVito  
Bob Silva

### Best 15-holes

A Flight	Gross	Mike Dukette - 57
	Net	Bob Viera - 57
		Gary DePaola - 57
		Jim Staszowski - 57
B Flight	Gross	Peter Cure - 60
	Net	Wayne Urban - 56
		Sean Moran - 57
		Tom Watroba - 58
C Flight	Gross	Rick DiBella - 70
	Net	Carl Wallace - 51
		Dan Rackliffe - 55
		John Napier - 57

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### July - Westwoods Golf Course (Built 1960)

Host Superintendent: Kevin D'Amico, CGCS

A superintendent for 20 years, Kevin has been the Parks Superintendent for the Town of Farmington for the last 15. Westwoods was originally privately owned and holes 8 through 18 were lighted for night golf. The Town of Farmington purchased the course in 1980 and also owns 145 acres around the existing course and there are preliminary plans for new golf holes. The golf course operation has been operating on a self-sustaining basis for 16 years for operational and capital expenditures.

The gross A-B-C-D tournament prize was won by the team of Mike Chrzanowski, Brian Pope, Mike Decker and Anthony Grosso shooting 59. The team of Wayne Urban, Peter Moran, Jeff Rogers and Skip Deubel took home the net prize with a net 51.

Longest Drive - Mike Chrzanowski; Closest to the Pin - Dave Brownell #12 (7'11") and Mike Chrzanowski #3 (4'6"); Closest to the Line - Kevin D'Amico.

Skins: Sean Moran #2; John Labrie #5; George Wyss #6; Kevin Kelley #11; Peter Cure #12; Jeff Rogers #15 & #17.

CAGCS wishes to thank Sawtelle Bros. for providing the beverage cart on the golf course and Mike Dukette for the keg of beer provided at the steak barbecue following golf.

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### 1998 Conference & Show Anaheim, CA Room block and hospitality suite

CAGCS has blocked a total of 30 rooms at the Anaheim Hilton & Towers (Association Headquarters) for the 1998 Conference & Show.

Please call the CAGCS office to obtain your form. Rooms will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

CAGCS will again be co-hosting a hospitality suite at the National Convention on February 6th at Headquarters Hotel, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Final details will be in the December issue of the newsletter.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Sites needed for 1998 CAGCS monthly meetings

We need volunteers for sites for 1998 monthly meetings, specifically for April, July, August, October, our annual S & R and Invitational Tournaments.

Please contact Dennis Houle, Education Chairperson, at 203/938-9640.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Spikeless chit-chat

Did you know that at least 30% of the field at the PGA Golf Championship at Winged Foot were wearing some sort of spikeless shoes? Most noticeable was the winner—Davis

Love, III, who has been on the spikeless trail for over a year.

Despite the absence of metal spikes, he tamed the infamous Winged Foot with his record winning score on way to his first major tournament win.

Congratulations to Davis Love, III, who wore spikeless shoes during the entire tournament and averaged 282 yds. off the tee.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Superintendent of the Year** ballots will be mailed to all voting members in mid-November. Please take time to vote and mail in your ballot.

\* \* \* \* \*

### CAGCS annual meeting Nov. 4th

The following is the slate of officers which will be voted upon at the CAGCS annual meeting scheduled for Nov. 4 at Birchwood CC:

- President - Anthony Grosso
- Vice President - Brian Skelly
- Secretary - Jud Smith
- Treasurer - Peter Pierson

Three Directors will be elected to serve two-year terms:

- Peter Cure, CGCS
- Steve DiVito, CGCS
- Dan Rackliffe, CGCS
- Wayne Urban

### Upcoming events

**October 14**  
*Annual S & R Tournament*  
\* Redding Country Club  
Redding, CT  
Dennis Houle, Supt.

**October 20**  
*Monthly Meeting*  
\*Country Club of Waterbury  
Waterbury, CT  
Les Kennedy, Jr., CGCS

**November 4**  
*Annual Meeting*  
\*Birchwood Country Club  
Westport, CT  
Edward Consolati, Supt.  
\* Denotes spikeless clubs

**December 2 & 3**  
*CAGCS/GCSAA Regional Seminar*  
*"Golf Greens - History, Theory, Construction & Maintenance"*  
Hartford Marriott Hotel  
Farmington, CT

**December 12**  
*CAGCS Annual Christmas Party*  
Hawthorne Inn  
Berlin, CT

**January 6**  
*CAGCS Winter Seminar*

**February 2 - 8**  
*GCSAA Conference & Show*  
Anaheim, California

**March 3 - 5**  
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*Team from the Country Club of Farmington  
John Ruzsbatzky, Supt.*



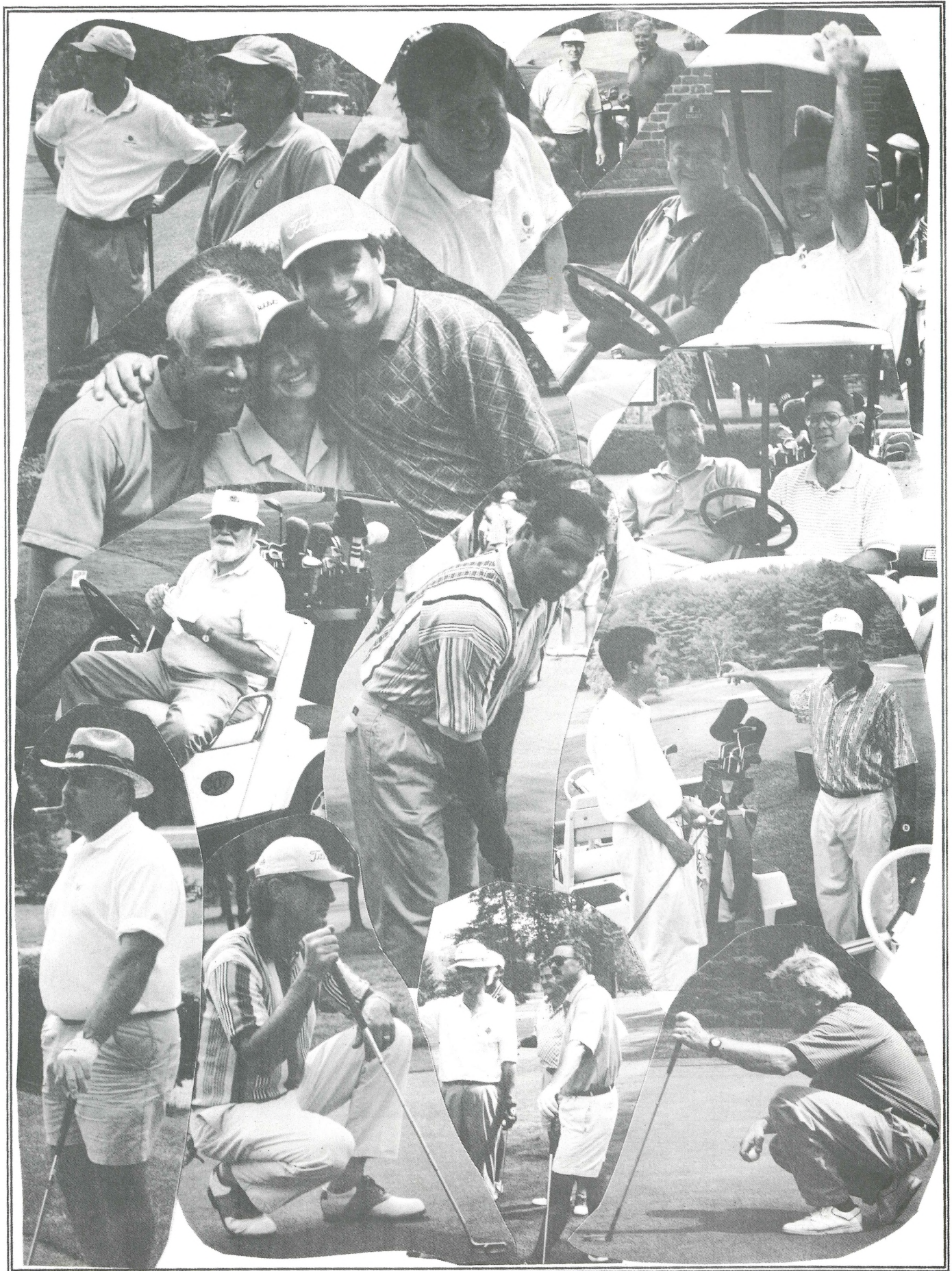
*Team from Dedham Country & Polo Club  
Jim Reinertson, Supt.*



*Tumble Brook Country Club  
Cindy Johnson, Supt.*



*Team from Indian Hills Country Club  
Kevin Bengtson, Supt.*





## New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show March 3 - 5, 1998

The First Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show (NERTCS) is scheduled for March 3-5, 1998 at the Providence, RI, Convention Center.

The N.E. Regional Turfgrass Foundation has brought on board David Rosenberg and his company, Marketing and Events, Inc., to do all show organizing, advertising and production of materials that will be needed. Already his staff has begun to produce and put us on the right track. David's experience with working with the R.I. Conference & Show will be a key asset to help bring together this new event.

CAGCS past president, Philip Neaton, Mary Owen, UMASS Extension, and Dr. Bridget Ruummele, URI, have been tasked with the job of putting together a working committee from the region to organize the educational program for this inaugural event.

Having such strong support from the region's educational institutions will not only insure a successful conference, but will also strengthen the relationships within our industry and its future.

Education is premier in all industries, but especially important in ours. This conference program will be second to none because of this focus.

## Two CAGCS members host PGA events

The TPC at River Highlands was again host to the annual GHO. When the tour pros arrived at River Highlands, they were pleasantly surprised to find much improved playing conditions during the week of the tournament. Hats off to Tom DeGrandi, first year superintendent, for his efforts.

The PGA Championship was held at Winged Foot Golf Club in August with Bob Alonzi, CGCS, at the helm of yet another major tournament. Conditions at Winged Foot were, at the least, spectacular and Bob and all of his staff and many volunteers should be congratulated for a job well done.

The MetGCSA provided volunteers for marshalling duties throughout the week, along with many staff members from neighboring clubs who participated in the daily maintenance during this major event.



December 12th

Annual Christmas Party



Because of last year's huge success, we have again scheduled our annual Christmas party at the Hawthorne Inn in Berlin, CT, because of its central location and easy access for all members, its grand ballroom and fine cuisine.

Also, back by popular demand, will be entertainment by *The Crescents*, one of the northeast's most renowned 50s & 60s rock 'n roll showband.

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## Larry Dodge and company from Oak Lane Country Club capture CAGCS 1997 Invitational

On August 11th, the team from Oak Lane Country Club (pictured right) captured the annual CAGCS Invitational Tournament. The team of Lawrence Dodge, Gordon Leahey, Wayne Garrick and George Estabrooke fired a best ball of 64.

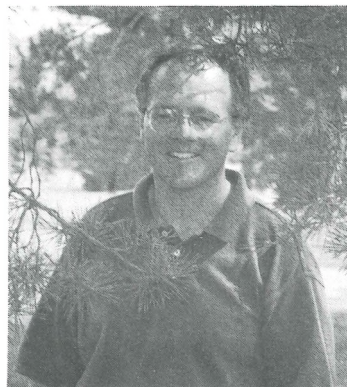


Our host team, Hartford Golf Club - Les Sheiber (pictured below), Valerie Bulkeley, Ezra Ripple and Gary Reynolds, captured the net prize with a 59.

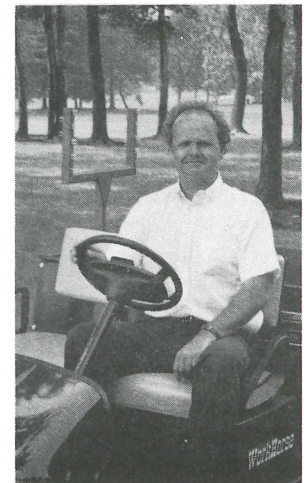
CAGCS would like to thank the Hartford Golf Club for their gracious hospitality and the fine course conditions provided by

Herbert Watson, superintendent (pictured right).

We would also like to thank Bruedan Corp. for their participation and sponsorship of the premium event of our golf schedule. Among the representatives from Bruedan in



attendance that day included Jake Kriney, President of Bruedan, and Mike Gesmundo, Treasurer.



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### Other Invitational Results

2nd Low Gross - 66  
 Country Club of Farmington  
 John Ruzsbatzky, Supt.

2nd Low Net  
 Tumble Brook Country Club  
 Cindy Johnson, Supt.

3rd Low Gross  
 Dedham Country & Polo Club  
 Jim Reinertson, Supt.

3rd Low Net  
 Indian Hills Country Club  
 Kevin Bengtson, Supt.

## Assistant again!

Kevin DeVaux, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent  
Stanley Golf Course

When I took the assistant superintendent's position at Stanley Golf Course two years ago, the only thing that I was certain of was that I wouldn't have to work every single day during the summer anymore. I had been a superintendent for the previous four years, so I was pretty sure that I would be able to bring something to the table as an assistant. My goal was a normal one—to be a good assistant and to add to the already successful maintenance program that was in place at Stanley.

The big question to me was: What makes a good assistant? Although the superintendent's position has grown tremendously in the last decade or so, I do not think that it is difficult to define what makes a good superintendent, even if the definition is quite long. However, the position of assistant superintendent and the responsibilities of the position may vary greatly from course to course depending on the wishes of the superintendent. To me, that makes the definition of what makes a good assistant a little more difficult to pin down.

Basically, the key to being a good assistant comes down to two things you personally have control over - attitude and reliability.

Whether your main responsibility is changing cups, spraying or setting up and running the crew on a daily basis, you have to remember one thing—the superintendent should not have to concern himself/herself with whether or not you are doing your job. Trust me, he/she already has enough on his or her mind.

Do the job realizing that someday you will be a superintendent and you are going to want your assistant to be as conscientious as you are. It is important to realize that no matter what the responsibilities of the assistant are, they do not match those of the superintendent's for many reasons. For one,

it is not going to be you that faces the greens committee when something goes wrong. And, two, he or she is the one that is taking the course home at night, not you.

In almost all cases, the superintendent/assistant superintendent relationship is crucial to the success or failure of the maintenance program. Ideally, the relationship must be a synergistic one, and your attitude as an assistant will be key in bringing this about. This may mean that you will be required to do things that you do not always agree with or in a way that differs from your way of performing a maintenance task. This should not be a problem. You will get the chance some day to do these things your own way; but, for now, you can see what works (or doesn't work) for the superintendent and you can store these things away for future use.

Chances are, your contributions will go unrecognized by the majority of members, but that is part of the territory. Being an assistant superintendent is a great opportunity to learn.

Don't ever fall into the trap of thinking that you know all there is to know, and that you could step into the position of boss. It is amazing how many people who become superintendents say they never realized how hard the job actually was until they were in the hot seat.

Every day on the course brings with it a new opportunity to learn something about turf or the turf business. So, take advantage of this time as an assistant to take in all there is to learn.

I think that the main point is that no matter what your job description may be, or no matter what your level of involvement in the maintenance program, you can contribute greatly to it by having a positive attitude and being a reliable employee.

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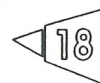
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- Preventative and curative activity
- Low rates, extended spray intervals
- Novel mode of action
- Low risk toxicological profile
- Reduced risk to environmental resources

For more information contact your authorized Zeneca distributor or call Zeneca Professional Products Toll Free at 1-888-617-7690.

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