

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.

Dick Duggan — a Doer

Because Dick Duggan isn't afraid to get his hands dirty, the Maynard Country Club has cleaned up its act.

Translation: Three years ago, Duggan rolled up his sleeves and forged an improvement program that has turned the nine-hole layout into one of the best-groomed golf courses in the area.

Maynard just happened to be Duggan's launching point as a full-fledged golf course superintendent and it presented a big challenge. The course had slipped away from the tidy condition in which former super Tom Schofield



NEXT MEETING

May 17, 1982
Hampden Country Club
Hampden, MA.

Director's meeting - 10 a.m.
Regular meeting and Educational
Program - 10:45 a.m.
Lunch - 12 noon
Golf after lunch
Educational Speaker - David Sylvester
from Tuco Division of Upjohn Co.
Host Superintendent -
Robert W. Johnston, CGCS



Bob has been superintendent at Hampden C.C. for the past 9 years. Prior, he was superintendent at Winesuket C.C. in South Bellingham, Mass. for 5 years. He is also a 1969 graduate of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass.

Bob currently serves as finance chairman of GCSANE and has been very active over the years hosting many meetings at Hampden. We all look forward to a fine day on the 17th.

Directions - Mass. Pike west to Palmer Exit, turn right. Follow one mile to Palmer center. At lights turn right onto Rt. 20 follow for six miles to North Main St. in Wilbraham, turn left. Follow for six miles. Road turns to Wilbraham Rd. in Hampden. Course will be on both sides of the road.

IMPORTANT - Please make a reservation by May 14 either by sending a post card to Bob or call at (413) 566-3096.

left it. Actually, it was on the edge of taking the form of a pasture.

"It needed a lot of work," Duggan recalled. "In between Tom's departure and my arrival, things got out of control. So, I picked up a shovel and rake and tore into it. Call it bull work, whatever. It needed that kind of input. So, I plunged into it."

Duggan, a 29-year-old Stockbridge graduate (class of 1977), is one of the young turks of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association. He's dedicated to his own job at Maynard and his profession. From all indications, he's on his way to bigger and better things.

His background is perfect for the professional road he's chosen to travel. He started in golf as a caddie at the Nashawtuc Country Club, became so proficient playing the game that he won the Sandy Burr club championship twice and eventually turned to the superintendent's field as a turf student and apprentice under two of the association's steadiest members - brothers Nary and John Sparendio.

"The experience I gained working under Nary and John really prepared me for that big jump to a head job," Dick explained. "No one ever does anything by himself. Like all young people, I needed guidance. Nary and John provided it for me."

Maynard is a semi-private course with a budget in the \$50,000 range. That's average for a nine-hole track. However, since the course's condition has prospered under Duggan's direction, so has its popularity. Membership is on the upswing and play has increased to the point where starting times on weekends are golden.

Therefore, keeping nine holes in shape at Maynard is
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DIVOT DRIFT - Congratulations to Steve Chiavari and his wife on the birth of their baby girl... Thanks to Henry Davis of Loudon Tree for a fine presentation for our educational program at Eastward Ho... After the snowstorm of April 6 no one thought we would be playing golf six days later Brian Cowan and his staff did a fine job, which included shoveling off five greens... Pete Coste has introduced the orange golf ball to the GCSANE tour. When asked if he would continue to use it he seemed a bit uncertain until one of his playing partners reminded him he would have spent an additional twenty bucks on golf balls from being in the woods so often. Pete then agreed the ball was much easier to find and added it also seemed to bounce off hardwood trees better than the conventional white ball. He only lost one ball and that was because the orange ball does not float... Thanks to Don Hearn who did a fine job in having the bylaw books published... Congratulations to Dick Blake who will be taking on a new superintendent position in Key Largo, Florida at the Card Sound Golf Club... Finally, what a great tribute to Guy Tedesco of New Seabury last month at the Chateau de Ville in Randolph. Among the attendees were Harry Sinden, and Bob Cousy.

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akin to applying expertise to an 18-hole spread.

"My work days are long," Dick disclosed. "But they're also rewarding. Our members appreciate the job we're doing. Usually, they'll give me anything I ask for - within reason. So, retaining top notch condition is a two-way street. You need cooperation from members. And, even though Maynard draws a lot of walk-on players, most of them realize they have to do their part by being aware that the way they conduct themselves is a form of preventive maintenance."

Don't get the idea that Dick considers himself the perfect superintendent.

"Oh, I get complaints, all right," he remarked. "Sometimes, I start too many projects and have to restate my priorities. I know it's all part of the learning process. And, believe me, I'm still learning."

Duggan does enjoy good rapport with his members and green committee.

"My biggest transition from assistant to head superintendent was taking on the task of being responsible for the condition of the course," he added. "Before I came here, I was used to having someone tell me what to do. Now, I have to make the decisions and give the directions. That's something else I'm still learning at this stage of my career."

Incidentally, that career was in limbo for quite a while.

Duggan took five years after high school graduation to decide what he wanted to do with his life.

"At one time I had three vocational goals," he revealed. "One was to find something in golf. Another was to be a sports broadcaster. Those two took up so much of my thoughts that I forget what the third goal was. Anyway, I think I made the right decision."

Now thoroughly entrenched in the superintendent's field, Dick likes to believe that choosing the profession was one of the biggest things in his life. However, he holds fast to two other eventualities.

"The first big thing I've ever done was to get married," he quipped. "And the second was playing the old St. Andrews course in Scotland. I shot a 77 there. Oh, I played there before I married Janet."

That marriage has produced another mouth to feed - four-month-old son, Kevin.

EVENTS FROM APRIL MEETING

There were thirty two players for golf. The weather turned out to be very enjoyable after looking rather bleak in the morning. Eastward Ho was in fine condition for this early time of year.

Tournament Results

The home court advantage did pay off. The team of four winners were Brian Cowan, Paul Miller, Mark Klimm and Charlie Borden. They won by matching cards with a net 62. Second place went to Al Sanders, Dave Barber, Jack Cronin and Bobby Brown.



THE WINNERS (L-R) - Brian Cowan, Paul Miller, Charlie Borden, Mark Klimm

Awards

Mel O'Kelly of Marshfield C.C., was presented his twenty-five year pin and Manny Francis Sr. received a plaque for his achievement of being the N.E.P.G.A. Golden Golf Award.



L-R - Mel O'Kelly, Brian Cowan, Manny Francis Sr.

"This just gives me more incentive to improve my position," he told. "There's more bread to put on the table which drives me to wanting to do the best possible job I can. After that, I'd like to move on to a bigger challenge. Hopefully, I'll be ready when it comes."

Obviously, he will be.

Gerry Finn

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April 7, 1982

Constructive Involvement

An open letter to country club members:

With the dawning of another golf season, you're probably aware of the importance of that guy running around the course as if he's been handed the task of preparing it for the arrival of royal dignitaries.

This is exactly how your golf course superintendent approaches a very special time in his work year when everything from frightening elements to over-expectant golfers sometimes cramps his style. In a word, he has all his pistons kicking over with all the verve at his command. Actually, his quest for appealing playing conditions supercedes your desire for them.

I mention this as a lead-in to another situation which will pop up once a month - now and during the height of the season.

On certain Mondays, you'll look around your course for the superintendent and he'll be nowhere to be seen. Don't panic. He hasn't gone fishing, nor is he moonlighting at the local nursery.

If your superintendent is of the conscientious faith and in good standing with his professional priorities, he's off to the monthly meeting of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England where, indeed, he couldn't be in better hands.

That meeting is essential to the well being of your golf course and the state of mind of your superintendent. For those of you steeped in suspicion, it is not some beer-swilling gathering where he forgets himself and the every day drudgeries of his job. It is, as they say in the psychological parlors, constructive involvement.

That's what monthly meetings of the NEGCSA are all about.

At them, supers go back to school, back to the books and spontaneous seminars where the vital questions of golf course grooming are stated and answers come flowing from all directions.

Preventive maintenance is the main course at these luncheon-sessions. Often a superintendent will become aware of a turf disease that has never troubled him at his course. Consequently, he's steered onto a chemical that prevents it. Thus, he's ahead of the disease before it makes an appearance.

Unfortunately (for themselves), there are some clubs in New England that prefer to turn their backs on the pleas of their superintendents to join the association. They hold to the opinion that the group is a social-oriented flock of goldbrickers who steal away from their clubs for the sole purpose of making merry. Balderdash!

Association meetings in the middle of summer do include the option of playing golf. However, that avenue is a secondary road. Usually, golf becomes an educational endeavor in itself. Out of such tournaments as the super-green chairman and super-pro come relationships that further the cause of the game and the golf course.

Then, too, each meeting often has a formal educational program attached. Specialists in all fields of golf course maintenance are invited to speak before the group. Some of these presentations have been known to last three or more hours as the supers and speaker develop a give-and-take situation. In the end, the golf course and you are the winners - all because of the superintendent's active participation in his association.

On the subject of playing golf, the association events



Members of the Pine Brook C.C. grounds crew took full advantage of the beautiful spring weather to enjoy a casual round of golf. Now they know why they make orange golf balls.

Congratulations to Charlie Borden and Roy B. Davis on becoming new members.

To be voted on at next meeting:

Donald Marrone Jr., Wachusett C.C. and John F. Streeter, Alpine C.C. as regular members.

Kip Tyler, Salem C.C. and Michael R. Legere, Holden Hills C.C. as associate members.

serve as an outlet for tensions a superintendent might live with as the result of the demands on his expertise. In this day and age of pressures from within and without the country club, you might liken your own plight to that of the super. A round of golf might be the best tonic to relax those tensions.

So, the next time you think your superintendent has turned into a phantom on those scheduled NEGCSA meeting days, don't send out a searching party or suggest that he be punished for deserting his post.

They are the regular gatherings of men dedicated to their profession and a time when perhaps the condition of your own course is made or broken because of a chance exchange of association members.

The NEGCSA is a necessary part of your superintendent's professional life. If he's making those meetings, be relieved. If he isn't, it's high time he did and high time you saw to it that he does.

Sincerely,
Gerry Finn

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