

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1984



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.

Try Participating, Not Pontificating



Don Hearn sat back and pondered the question.

Are two hats one too many when it comes to distributing his time and expertise among the best interests of the New England Association as well as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America?

"I don't see any problem arising from the situation," Hearn reflected on the unique position of being president of the local and director, of the national, so to speak. "There's no conflict of priorities in the two jobs. Both groups have a common cause, a common goal with everything directed toward making the profession better for its members and the people it serves."

That Hearn can keep the administrative pot boiling on two fronts, in addition to sustaining his successful input into the greening of the Weston Golf Club, goes without saying. Heck, splitting himself all different ways is nothing new to Don. Once he did a double-take as general manager at Weston.

As a matter of fact, Don downplays his part in the workings of the national and New England groups.

"It's not so much what I can do as what the officers and members of both associations put into them," he advised. "I've always promoted the philosophy that proposes it's not what the association can do for the member as much as what the member can do for the association. Maybe I'm just twisting John Kennedy's words around to suit the purpose. Whatever, it's meant to convey the thought that the superintendent and the association live on a two-way street."

Hearn bubbles over the state of the GCSANE.

"I'm impressed with the new enthusiasm which seems to have rooted itself in our group," he remarked. "Obviously, Brian Cowan (his predecessor) and the other officers will be a tough act to follow.

"There seems to be more action in the association lately. More members are making it to meetings. And our educational programs are getting more punch into them. It's a closer group, too. We're finally beginning to realize that unity among ourselves is important."

Education is a big word in Hearn's vocabulary. He embraces it with a passion since he believes the superintendent and his profession are dependent on it.

"The cornerstone of our association is education," he told. "And everyone should be aware of its importance. Education can be experienced in many ways, but it must be an on-going aspect of the profession.

"Participation in meetings is one of the strongest forms of learning. We owe it to ourselves to participate in group, individual and other kinds of discussion. No one benefits from pontificating when the sessions are over. We need less of that and more of involvement when it counts."

Hearn also is a strong advocate of a more active part in the game, itself. In other words, he believes the superintendent should pick up his golf clubs on occasion and discover what life is all about on the other side of the tee.

"All too often we hear about superintendents who have no idea what their members would like their golf course to look like," Don noted. "There's no question about the position of the members. They pick up the tab; they're entitled to at least have their preferences known.

"Many times this means that the superintendent has to do something that's not best for the turf. However, we have to give a bit in this business. After all, we still provide a service as well as our expertise. All of us shouldn't forget it."

Hearn is aware, too, of the fact that some of the association's older members are drifting away from a more active role.

"I can understand this," he commented. "Let's face it. The younger generation has the enthusiasm and energy that go with deeper involvement in professional groups. It's just a sign of the times.

"There are some diehards among the veterans who still show up for meetings and remain valuable tools of wisdom for the rest of us. But all of us know those who came before us were the association's pathfinders. They laid the groundwork; we're simply carrying on for them."

So, Don Hearn is ready to wear two hats and fiddle with a third and fourth as a member of the Massachusetts Golf Association executive committee and a Ouimet Caddy Scholarship Fund director. Not to worry, though. You'll be represented well. Don Hearn doesn't dilly-dally; he delivers.

Gerry Finn

Next Meeting

Monday, March 19, 1984

Franklin Country Club

Franklin, Mass.

Host - Gary Luccini

Directors Meeting 10:30 am

Lunch 11:45 am

Membership Meeting after lunch

Educational Program - Fred Tabaracchie of Maeaferri Gabions. Slide presentation on the use of gabions; Question and Answer period.

Directions - From Rt. 495 take King St. exit. Head toward Franklin to Rt. 140 at light. Take a right, club will be on the right approx. 1 1/2 mile.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

GCSAA in Las Vegas



(L-R) Tony DeBettencourt, Tony Caranci, Kip Tyler and Glenn Ackley



(L-R) Paul Johnson, Brian Cowan, Paul Miller and Bob St. Thomas

GCSAA News

Las Vegas — James W. Timmerman, CGCS, of Orchard Lake Country Club, Bloomfield, Mich., was elected here Thursday (February 2, 1984) as president of the 5,500-member Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). He succeeds Robert W. Osterman of Easton, Conn.

Eugene D. Baston, CGCS, golf course superintendent for the Country Club of Birmingham, Alabama, was elected vice president.

Elected to the Executive Committee were James W. Taylor Sr., CGCS, superintendent of golf courses and grounds for the Kanawka County, West Virginia, Parks and Recreation Commission; John E. Laake, CGCS, of Columbus, Ohio; and Riley L. Stottern, CGCS, of Park City, Utah.

CGCS stands for certified golf course superintendent, a certification awarded by GCSAA.

The elections were held in conjunction with the 55th Annual International Turfgrass Conference and Show sponsored here by GCSAA. Some 9,000 persons from around the world attended.

GCSAA's president and vice president serve one-year terms; directors serve two-year terms; and the immediate past president remains as a director on the Executive Committee for a year.

"Today we live in an environment characterized by rapid change," said Timmerman, "GCSAA must reflect the world in which we live. My job as president is to make sure that the changes which are implemented lead to progress and to the benefit of the individual members."

GCSAA is an international organization with headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas.



GCSAA News

LAS VEGAS — President Reagan joined the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) here Thursday night (February 2) in honoring comedian Bob Hope for his contributions to the world of golf.

Hope was presented with the "Old Tom Morris Award" by GCSAA in recognition of continuous contributions to the world of golf. The President's praise of Hope came in the form of a letter read to superintendents and others attending a convention here.

The GCSAA award was presented by Arnold Palmer, last year's recipient. "Arnie's a little down tonight," quipped Hope during the presentation. "He saw a (TV) commercial he wasn't in." Hope described golf as "a game you can play until they put you away." He also observed that Sammy Davis Jr. "hits a (golf) ball 90 yards but his jewelry goes 100."

GCSAA established the Old Tom Morris Award as an international honor identified with the heritage of the game. Old Tom Morris was a greenkeeper, golf professional, club and ball maker, golf course architect and the first "superstar" of golf.

GCSAA President Robert W. Osterman of Easton, Connecticut, said Hope "has displayed a continuing, selfless commitment to golf and to furthering the welfare of the game in a manner similar to that of Old Tom. Bob Hope's promotion of the game around the world — and the continuing popularity of his own Bob Hope Desert Classic — provide highly visible evidence of his commitment to the game and to its continued welfare."

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February Meeting



Warren Shepard addressing GCSANE



A jubilant Bobby Brown collects his trophies from golf chairman Steve Murphy while ex-champ, now chump Steve Butler resists giving up his championship.

GCSAA Tournament Results

We had 14 participants in this year's GCSAA Golf Tournament held in Phoenix, Arizona at the Phoenician Golf & Racquet Club and the McCormick Ranch. Winners from our association were - Paul Miller of Tedesco CC, 3rd gross black flight, Steve Murphy of Larry Gannon GC, 6th gross Red flight and Doug Johnson at Pine Brook CC, 6th net Red flight. Tony DeBettencourt "nailed" down the 2 round high total for the 2nd year in a row.

Tournament Results

	McCormick Ranch	Phoenician	Total
Paul Miller	80	81	161
Steve Murphy	89	86	175
Doug Johnson	95	83	178
Dave Barber	91	87	178
Tom Schofield	87	97	184
Don Hearn	94	92	186
Pete Coste	90	96	186
Bert Frederick	92	99	191
Kip Tyler	101	100	201
Bob Brown	100	106	206
Dave Clement	100	109	209
Tony DeBettencourt	106	121	227
Frank Higgins	97	N.C	—
Arthur Washburn	87	Injured	—

Legal Notice

Golf Course Superintendent

The Town of Brewster thru its Golf Commission is seeking a qualified Superintendent for their 18 hole regulation golf course now under construction.

Applicants must have a minimum of five years experience in golf course maintenance with an educational background of High School and College in fields related to golf course maintenance. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Resumes and references will be accepted by:

Chairman, Brewster Golf Committee
Brewster Town Hall
Brewster, Ma. 02631

Divot Drift

The GCSAA Tournament and Show was a great success. Our group in Phoenix had plenty to talk about after each day's round of golf. Dave Barber had 5 birdies in his round at the Phoenician and still struggled in with 87. Frank Higgins of Sawtelle Bros. was a legitimate contender for high score honors but took the N.C. route his second day. It seems Frank ran out of golf balls. One of his playing partners, Bobby Phipps from Conn. said that Frank started getting the shanks and splashed at least a dozen balls. Bob then had to sell Frank 6 balls but they didn't last and when Bobby developed the shanks himself they ran out of golf balls with 2½ holes to play. Rather then embarrass themselves further they called it quits. Nice going Higgy I also had my moments. The first round of the tournament I was going along fairly well being 4 over par for nine, then the wheels fell off. The next four holes were 11, 6 (par 3), 8, 7 to struggle in. Pete Coste dubbed it up big and now has a wedge that only a midget could play with. He gave it the "helo" then the test of strength by snapping it in half. Bert "Burpalapino" Frederick set a tournament record by smoking four cigars in one round. On the serious side Brian Cowan and Ron Kirkman did a fine job in running our hospitality room in Las Vegas. It took a lot of time and effort on their part and they are to be commended for it. Our thanks to Warren Sheppard for enlightening us on the pesticide laws at our February meeting, also our thanks to Gary Luccini and Franklin CC for being our host.

Upcoming Dates

Please make note of the following:

April meeting - April 23, 1984

Hyannisport Club, Hyannis, MA

Qualifying for the Guy Tedesco Tournament

Make own foursome

May meeting - May 14, 1984

Green Harbor GC, Marshfield, MA

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