



# THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

— July, 1986 —

## — DATES TO REMEMBER —

**July 2**

Guy Tedesco Memorial Tournament  
C.C. of New Seabury  
Mashpee, Mass.

**July 3-6**

Canon/Sammy Davis Jr.  
Greater Hartford Open  
TPC of Connecticut, Cromwell, CT

**July 7**

GCSANE Regular Meeting/  
Golf Championship  
Vesper C.C.  
Tyngsboro, Mass.

**July 17-20**

LPGA Boston Five Classic  
Sheraton Tara Hotel & Resort  
Danvers, Mass.

**August**

GCSANE Regular Meeting-Steak Bake  
Heritage Hills G.C.  
Lakeville, Mass.

**December 6**

GCSANE Christmas Party  
Needham G.C.

## — NEXT MEETING —

**July 7, 1986**

**Vesper C.C., Tyngsboro, Mass.  
Superintendents Championship  
Host Superintendent: Bert Fredrick**

**Directors Meeting: 9:30 A.M.**

**Regular Meeting: 11:00 A.M.**

**Lunch: 12:00 Noon**

**Golf: 1:00 Shotgun**

**Make your own 4-some**

**Format:** Superintendents Championship, prizes for low gross, low net, longest drive and closest to pin.

**Directions to Club:** Rte. 3 North to Tyngsboro/Westwood Rd exit. Go right at bottom of ramp. At next light turn left. Take right at next light and go over bridge. Take 1st right over bridge. Club is approximately two miles up on the right.

**Reservations are required to play golf and attend lunch.**

**Call 617-453-1231**

## — WHO DUNNIT ? —

In the Spring of the year, the thoughts of young men everywhere supposedly turn to affairs of the heart. For young, and not so young, golf course superintendents throughout New England, these thoughts are directed towards an assessment of the damages resulting from the ravages of winter. Where damage occurs, it is not unlike an Agatha Christie novel as the purported culprit shifts from desiccation to ice cover damage to direct low temperature injury to late season play and the like. The difficulty of the situation is compounded by un-spring like conditions featuring cold, wet days that keep soil temperatures low and hinder recovery of damaged areas. The winter of 1985-1986 was no exception.

At Mt. Pleasant in Boylston, golf superintendent Jim Beane reported damage to his 7th and 10th greens. Jim's 7th green is his problem child; a small velvet bent green surrounded by trees where the annual bluegrass population is high. With little snow this winter, the damage was seemingly the result of desiccation. In mid-May, the greens were aerified, verti-cut and overseeded with three pounds of velvet bent per thousand square feet. Topdressing followed the seeding and there was good germination, though Jim felt that better results would certainly have been gained were he able to close the greens at least temporarily. Other winter damage on the course was relegated to poorly drained areas in fairways where water collected during the winter and ice formed. The affected turf was annual bluegrass and the areas are coming back on their own without overseeding.

Ron Milenski at International at Bolton told of a variety of winter damage. The greens were topdressed in the late fall and appeared to winter well. However, once growth got going on his velvet greens this spring, the surfaces started to decline in both high and low areas. Apparently, the greens were affected by ice cover over the winter and the poor growing conditions in the spring further placed the turf under stress. The two most severely injured greens were aerified, verti-cut and overseeded with two pounds of Penncross per thousand square feet and topdressed. Cold weather inhibited germination. The overseeding process was repeated in mid-May on all affected greens included and the warmer temperatures in late May greatly helped recovery. Playing areas were kept in play throughout the recovery process. Damage to tees and fairways was concentrated on heavily shaded and poorly drained areas. Such areas were sliced and seeded in two directions with a blend of Penncross, Penneagle and Emerald bentgrass. Ron anticipates a tee renovation process that will involve tree removal, and complete reconstruction of tees to be planted to bentgrass.

At Brae Burn in Newton, Jim O'Kelly started the spring with a first green that was severely damaged. A heavily shaded green with poor surface drainage, the turf lost was a combination of bent and annual bluegrass. The ice cover damaged green was serified, spiked again and overseeded with two pounds of seed per thousand. Jim was very pleased with recovery on this green and felt that this was due to closing and covering the green. Next winter, the green will be covered. Damage on tees and fairways was confined to shady and poorly drained areas. With Brae Burn now involved in a long range planning process, Jim expects that some of the chronic problem areas will be addressed on a more permanent basis.

Ron Kirkman at Needham experienced somewhat different damage on three greens. The grass seemed to weather the winter well, but failed in the spring and Ron felt this was related to record breaking warm temperatures in March and heavy late fall and winter play. The damage was concentrated in cupping areas. The affected turf was South German bent and annual bluegrass and the areas

*Who con't. on pg. 4—*

# Golf Course Superintendents Association



Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund - Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

## President's Message

David Barber

July, 1986



The GCSA of New England Superintendent-Green Chairman Tournament turned out to be a superb day for all. The morning started as though it was going to be a washout, but the further west we traveled on the Mass. Pike the more the weather improved. Host Superintendent Peter Hasak and the entire staff of Hampden Country Club did an outstanding job in making it an enjoyable day.

On behalf of the GCSA of New England, I would like to take this time to thank Dr. Joseph Troll for his unending support to our Association. Most recently he has presented a check to the Troll-Dickinson Fund (scholarship money for students in turf related educational programs) that will surely help perpetuate the fund.

Dr. Troll has been **THE** indispensable figure in the Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference and Show, which he credits for the fund's financial growth, which has reached the six digit figure. We all thank you, for your devotion to OUR profession.

Next month's meeting, July 7, Vesper Country Club, PLEASE CALL Host Superintendent Bert Fredrick for your reservations. This means Superintendents and Friends of the Association.

## —Editorial—

... There appears to be a lot of confusion about President Barber's May request for the water fact finding survey. These fact sheets are for *our* reference only. They will *not* be submitted to any state officials. However, in the event that the legislature comes to us while writing new bills concerning water usage we must be prepared to give them immediate facts on how much, where from, and what for. If we don't have our act together we will lose out, no two ways about it.

We all stood by and watched special interest groups mold the lawmakers thoughts while writing pesticide laws and then cried like heck about how unfair the demands were *after* they were written. (I think it's fair to say that). It's been a long uphill battle since then.

Gentlemen, it is in your best interest that the fact sheets were requested. Let's fill them out, make a copy for our own records, and send the original forms to Dave Barber for GCSA of New England files. If we are to call ourselves professionals, let's act the part and let State Officials know that these proposed laws directly affect our livelihood, and that we won't stand for regulations that are not based on factual research.

*Michael E. Hannigan, Editor*

## — POSITION AVAILABLE —

### Golf Course Superintendent

New Golf Course Under Construction  
4,000 Yd., 18 Hole, Executive Course  
Yarmouthport, Mass.

Please contact:

Mr. David Caligaris  
The Green Company  
46 Glenn Ave.  
Newton Centre, Mass. 02159  
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## —COMMERCIAL CLIPPINGS—

R.F. Morse & Sons, Inc. is pleased to announce that Mr. Jack Cronin (formerly superintendent of the Cochecho C.C. in Dover, N.H.) has joined their sales force.

Jack will be representing R.F. Morse in the greater Boston area and North, including New Hampshire.

## —MAY MEETING REPORT—

The May meeting was held at Beverly Golf and Tennis Club. Our thanks to our host Al Auger and staff. Typically, only thirty nine made reservations. Al, in his infinite wisdom planned for double that amount. Being in the business for over a quarter of a century he realizes many superintendents and even friends of the association often misplace their telephone. For those brave enough to face the drizzle and cold raw east wind our golf chairman. Jim "Duffer" O'Kelly held a blind draw tournament. 1st net at 59 went to Steve "Martini" Butler - Bob "Sleepy" DiRico - Tim "Legs" Ahrens - and our fearless leader Dave "Grumpy" Barber. First gross was awarded under protest to Steve "Le Broom" Murphy - Dan "The Man" Lehan - Paul "Smiley" Brooks and Ron "Slugger" Ryan. Of course, Duffer O'Kelly, Kevin "Snowman" Lyons - Mike "Basher" Cornicelli - and yours truly "Capt. Kirk" were tied with the winners at gross 73. Our young golf chairman refused to listen to his elder Newsletter Chairman who advised him to match cards from number 18 hole and back. "Slugger" Ryan talked him into matching cards from the first hole. We immediately lost. All in all, we played a fine track and enjoyed the good fellowship.

Mr. Roy Crystal from DEQE gave a lengthy and informative talk on the new Water Management Act to be instituted in March of 1988. As with any new law there appears to be misconception and some confusion. If the superintendent is having trouble understanding this new Act or if you have any question at all regarding this Law please phone President Dave Barber. While we're on Laws, don't forget the Massachusetts state regulations on underground storage of flammable fluids. Existing tanks must be tested the 10th, 13th, 17th, and 19th year after installation, and annually thereafter. Any questions on this matter call your local fire department.

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## Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

NEWSLETTER-July, 1986

### — MGA and NEGCSA a Good Mix —

Dick Haskell says, with more than a hint of satisfaction, that the Massachusetts Golf Association is the envy of the field.

"No question," explains the MGA executive director. "We got there first and everyone's either copying us or wishing they would. Obviously, it was a good move."

The move was initiated by the MGA several years ago when it formally placed a representative of the golf course superintendent profession on its board of directors. It was a good move, too, because other associations have been following suit ever since.

Haskell gives the late Guy Tedesco credit for suggesting that the superintendent become a viable and visible part of the state's golf ruling body.

"It wasn't as if we weren't aware of the superintendent's influence on the overall golf scene," Haskell explained. "It just happened to be an obvious step and Guy was the person who encouraged the practice to be adopted. A noble idea from a noble person."

Haskell also has watched with interest and almost as much enthusiasm as the superintendent, himself, the on-going upgrading of his profession.

"There's no doubt the recognition of the superintendent is on the upswing and continues to rocket in that direction," Haskell said. "I've been around those good many years, here in my position with the MGA and as someone who's always appreciated the superintendent's input in the game, enjoying his stature grow and thrive."

"The improvement in the profession is so apparent it hits you in the face. The current superintendent is better all-around. He's better educated and better equipped to handle what probably is the most important job in the game of golf. The field is attracting high quality people. They just seem to be getting better all the time."

Of course, the working relationship between the MGA and the superintendent always has been a strong and productive one. The superintendent is becoming more involved in the MGA's projects and adding a new dimension to their success.

"Ever since Guy came on the board, it's become an automatic spot for the profession," Haskell advised. "Now

it's reached the point where the present president of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association steps right in and becomes an integral part of our operation.

"Dave Barber recently took over and he's made an immediate, positive impact on our relationship. But I shouldn't single out Dave, either, because all the superintendent board members have impressed us."

Haskell makes special note of the superintendent's part in the staging of the MGA's championship tournaments.

"That part of the superintendent's involvement has become more visible in recent years," Haskell informed. "We have the superintendent of the tournament course on hand for all our meetings. That's a must as far as both groups are concerned."

"It works out beautifully, too. We really don't make any demands of the superintendent, other than to offer suggestions in regard to making the course more attractive and challenging to the contestants. We don't tell the superintendent how to do his job. We recognize and respect his expertise."

"Consequently, the quality of the tournaments has been a product of the way the MGA and tournament site superintendent work together. I really think the courses we play on are getting better conditioned as the schedule moves along."

There is an automatic side effect that comes with the selection of a course for an MGA event.

"That's another plus for us," Haskell told. "We know the superintendent takes pride in his job and that pride will be reflected in the manner he approaches the task of getting his course ready for tournament play. Don't forget, word about condition of the courses spreads and the superintendent is right at its focal point."

Haskell also noted that the MGA is counting on the superintendent for input in other phases of the game.

"Our new slope system of handicapping is one of them," he said. "It involves the superintendent heavily because he is expert at knowing the characteristics of his course. Then, there is the question of speed of the greens. He's right in the middle of that hot potato, too."

So, the MGA and the superin-

### —The Super Speaks Out—

(Welcome to The Super Speaks Out - a monthly feature which offers the golf course superintendent a forum to express his views on topics and issues relating to his profession.)

*This month's question: What are the golf car driving habits of your members, and if they need to be improved, what is your club doing about it?*

**Norm Mucciarone, Woodland Country Club:** "Oh boy, did you ever hit a nerve. Talk about opening up a can of worms!

"As far as I'm concerned, we should have a driving course here. That's right. Put the golfers through a session on how they should drive and then test them on it. I wonder how many would pass?

"We've tried everything just short of putting up traffic lights and putting a cop out there with a whistle (a gun, too, Norm?).

"Signs don't seem to help. White lines don't mean anything, either. They just run them down, run over them or around them. It's kind of a funny situation here, too.

"We have members, who spend the winter or parts of it in Florida and pay fancy prices to play and ride. Down there, they obey all the golf car driving rules. When they get back up here, they go crazy. I can't understand it. Here and down there they're different persons.

"There are such things as reporting reckless driving and the like. It goes to the guilty party receiving a letter (warning) and eventually losing rights to a car for a period of time. But what good are they if they aren't enforced?

"I feel this (bad driving habits) is something the club must handle. It is the club's obligation, not mine. When it's solved here, you'll be the first to know."

**Dick Duggan, Concord Country Club:** "Ah, bet you think I'm crazy

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tendent, in the form of the NEGCSA, is a good mix. The two groups have common goals to be reached through a solid relationship. The MGA and the NEGCSA. They're working and working together and golfers are reaping its rewards. Nice, huh?

—GERRY FINN

## Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

NEWSLETTER-July, 1986

—Super con't. from pg. 3

when I say I can live with golf cars.

"Actually, I can say this because we aren't one of those clubs that rely on the revenue-raising plus side of the cars. We have restrictions and they work.

"The rules are laid out. Only golfers 65 years and older or golfers with a medical certificate, specifying they must ride, are allowed to use golf cars.

"For one thing, this keeps the caddy philosophy going and I like it since I got started in this business as a caddy.

"Presently, we have nine club-owned cars and 24 private. And, truthfully, I really don't have any problems with them.

"I've been using white lines instead of signs to keep the cars well off the greens and they work out fine. So, I guess I should consider myself lucky compared to some of the guys who get headaches from those things.

"Same rules apply to guests here, too. If they don't qualify, for age or health reasons, they walk. I mean, isn't that the way golf's supposed to be?"

**Paul Jamrog, The Orchards Golf Course:** "What a timely question, because we just set up a committee to take some action on abuse of rules and etiquette.

"We do have golf car driving rules but compliance with them is just like life. Some people obey and some don't.

"However, from what I have learned, concerned members have decided to take a tougher stand on enforcing rules. They're really determined to rub out that kind of



### —POSITION AVAILABLE—

**Golf Course Superintendent**  
Paul Harney Golf Course  
E. Falmouth, Mass.

Please contact:

Mr. Chris Harney  
Paul Harney Golf Course  
Club Valley Drive  
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617-563-3454



mentality which turns up things like not using the roughs to drive on and piling four people into one cart.

"I don't know, I think some of our golfers are like little kids trying to get away with something. It's ridiculous.

"From what I understand, the rule-breakers here are going to be treated like the enemy. There'll be a warning and then something worse than not being able to ride - like sitting out a week or so.

"I just hope it works because, just as I'm talking to you, I'm looking out the window and there goes some cowboy riding down the middle of the first fairway.

"I guess it takes all kinds. But that kind you can have."

—GERRY FINN

—Who con't. from pg. 1

were overseeded twice with a total of six pounds of Penneagle per thousand square feet. Poor growth conditions in the spring and heavy play limited recovery of greens. With chronic problems on a number of greens, Needham has engaged the services of Brian Silva, Golf Course Architect, and we will be completely rebuilding three greens starting this August. At this time, problems associated with heavy soils and poor surface and subsurface drainage will be addressed.

While many courses suffered winter injury this year, the causal agents seem to change from course to course and within each course. Some have suggested that winter failure of greens is on the upswing due to low cutting heights being adopted to further increase putting speed. However, even a casual memory will bring to mind massive failure of greens in the past that were maintained at one-quarter of an inch and above. More often than not, the damage doesn't result from any one factor but a combination of factors. As golf course superintendents, we can only hope to educate our members as to the problems associated with such damage, pray that Mother Nature will cooperate during the recovery process and set in motion plans to permanently correct the more persistent of our "problem children". Then it's on to affairs of the heart.

—RON KIRKMAN

—LAST MEETING-June 2, 1986—

### Superintendent-Green Chairman Tournament Hampden C.C.

I think Dave Barber said it best in his President's Message - "Outstanding". For those of us who missed it, I think we missed a good one. Everyone who attended had high praise for the program, the meals, and course. A very sincere Thank You to Host Super Pete Hasak and the staff of Hampden C.C.

### Golf Results

1st Gross (74)

-The Orchards, Paul Jamrog, Supt.

1st Net (73)

-Blue Hills C.C., Dave Barber CGCS

2nd Net (65)

-Franklin C.C., Gary Lucini, Supt.

3rd Net (65)

-Cohasset C.C., Art Washburn, Supt.

4th Net (65)

-Bellvue C.C., Bob DeRico, Supt.

Longest Drive

-Bob Lake, Turf Specialty

Closest to Pin

-Stan O'Connell, The Orchards

### —CHIP SHOTS—

... our Dictator is trying (at Vesper C.C.) for his 4th consecutive win this season. He was trying to keep this low key but being the good reporters we are, and seeing that press people are supposed to expose things like this, we just thought it was in the best interest of the association to keep you informed of his past record! ... If anyone is using PGR's for annual bluegrass seedhead control, Ron Kirkman would like to hear from you concerning your results. He's putting together a follow article to the report Mike Nagle (Worcester C.C.) wrote last year ... Helpful Hint - to apply PGR Embark<sup>o</sup> to hard to reach areas add 6 capfuls of PGR to 3 gals. of water in a hand sprayer and walk at normal pace ... we've learned that Arthur Anderson was in the Newton Wellesley Hospital but may be home now - I'm sure a card or two would lift his spirits a bit ...

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## — Maintenance Begins in the Maintenance Area —

By: Peter French, Glen Falls, C.C.

After ten years at my present position I have finally decided that the maintenance yard deserves a spot on the priority list. I quite often found it difficult to justify utilizing labor to straighten the maintenance yard when there was so much work to do on the golf course or other areas. Consequently the maintenance yard has gradually deteriorated to a junk yard and has become a real eyesore to the club's property. The realization of this problem has prompted me to write this article and to adopt a plan for correcting the situation.

Curing my career I have visited many fine golf courses, only a handful of these golf courses could boast a respectable maintenance yard and building organization. I offer the following comments of what the maintenance areas should be striving to achieve to reflect the true professional image of the golf course superintendent.

### The Business Image

Think of the maintenance area as your place of business. What would your customers think of your operation if they came to your place of business? Creating a professional image in this area is a reflection of your managerial skills and talent. Although we are not a retail center we can still give ourselves the business image.

### Where To Begin

Put up a sign to identify your business. I justified the expense for the sign by a need to be recognized by delivery personnel who drove right past us and had to turn around in a crowded clubhouse parking lot. A sign identifying you and your key staff members is also advisable for obvious reasons.

### Landscape The Area

Because we are professional growers and have expertise in this area it is important to plant some grass, trees, shrubs and flowers around the building. This will make those who visit, especially the green chairman,

aware that this is also club property. A little soil, seed and fertilizer can surely be spared for this purpose. Trees can be dug right on the property and there are usually enough annuals left over from the landscape plantings to give a splash of color here. Remember to keep the lawn mowed and this may be a good area to use up remnants of herbicides and fungicides left in the spray tank.

### Screening

Often the use of stockade fence or a closely knit row of evergreens can go a long way in concealing some of the awkward areas, like the building materials that you keep salvaging every time the club remodels.

### Paving

This has always been my dream, to eliminate the mud hole syndrome in the yard. Right after you sweep the shop floor, in comes all the mud on the equipment tires. I am hoping the club can incorporate this in their long range plan with the clubhouse parking lot expansion. In the meantime, we'll be content with a crushed stone arrangement.

### Equipment Wash Area

We have advanced to an outdoor faucet and hose, neatly coiled on an old tire rim. I have hopes of creating a sloped concrete pad, with sufficient drainage surrounding this area to eliminate a stagnant pile of grass clippings.

### Employee Parking Area

If at all practical, a single area should be designated for employees to park where their personal vehicles will be out of harm's way. You won't have to worry about somebody backing into their car with the yard rake.

### Designated Storage Areas

Assign a given area for firewood, scrap lumber, scrap metal, etc. It would be desirable to store excess construction materials in an organized manner so they can be easily recognized for future use. Storing used equipment and salvage materials on pallets seems to be a good method, rather than just sitting them on the

ground to rot.

### Equipment Parking and Traffic Patterns

Give consideration to developing a traffic pattern around the building or buildings to allow free access for incoming deliveries and free flow of maintenance equipment in and out of the yard.

### Long Range Planning

Remember, I have been forming this plan for ten years and if you can give some advanced planning to this concept, it will surely someday become a reality. We are now beyond the era of the maintenance "barn" and into the modern era of the maintenance center.

Credit: — "The Gateway Green"  
Mississippi Valley GCSA

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**\*Tom Irwin, Inc.**  
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Mike Donahue, Rep.  
(800) 321-5325

**\*Loft's Seed**  
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Victoria Wallace, Rep.

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