



# THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents

Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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

September 1987

## —NEXT MEETING—

Thursday October 15, 1987

The Country Club

Green Chairman—Supt. Tournament

Directions to Club: From 128 take Rt. 9 East, go past Longwood Cricket Club. Take right at Texaco to Clyde Street to club.

Host Superintendent - Bill Spence

## Divot Drift

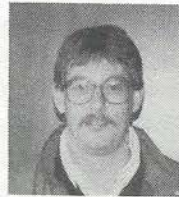
September has finally arrived and as August left us so did most of the golf course personnel. Oh well, for some of us there is not much grass left anyway. On with the good news—there is just a little over one hundred shopping days till Christmas.

The final round of the club championship was completed at the Duxbury Yacht Club. Tom Morris, our host superintendent had us swinging from the back tees and the conquerous were—in the champion flight—Jim O'Kelly, Brae Burn C.C. First net was a tie between Dave Barber, Blue Hill C.C. and Steve Chiavaroli, Tatnuck C.C. (yes, they will each get a trophy). The first division champ is Charlie Passios, Hyannisport Club and the net winner is Mike Nagle, Worcester C.C. The second division finds Jeff Carlson, Ocean Edge C.C. the champ and the net winner is Don Levangie, Norfolk G.C. Mel O'Kelly, retired, Marshfield C.C. won the seniors division and first net was captured by Art Washburn Cohasset G.C. The commercial winners were Ron Ryan, Sawtelle Brothers, gross

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## Jamrog's Touch Tells at The Orchards

When Paul Jamrog took over the greening of The Orchards Golf Club as superintendent three years ago, he found two constants waiting for him:



The golf course's reputation glowed as a result of being one of architect Donald Ross' gems. Because of the time of its birth (1922) status as a monument to Ross' genius, the course was suffering from old age.

Poor drainage and bunker deterioration were still in Jamrog's hair, then, when an Orchards committee in concert with the United States Golf Association decided to stage the USGA Girls' Junior Championship at the venerable and testy layout this year.

In fact, by the time you read this, the 39th renewal of that tournament will be history with the title having been determined last month.

Before that, Jamrog was on the spot. Not only were there major projects to be addressed, like completing a massive drainage repair job on the troublesome sixth hole and building a new tee on the demanding 18th, Paul still had to direct his 10-man crew through the paces of providing members a fast track.

In addition, the 30-year-old Jamrog was going head-to-head with a rainless summer (.2 drop in one three-week stretch), turf disease and taking part in regular dogfights with the scourge of the airways—the Japanese beetle.

Therefore, this was to be the summer of 14-hour work days for Paul who was brought up only a few miles from the South Hadley layout in Chicopee where, among other things, he once was a member of a state championship-runnerup high school golf team.

Yet, the Jamrog touch never wavered and never left the route of success. The girls were treated to playing one of New England's best golf courses in a condition in keeping with that reputation.

"I really had to reach out and get something going in my first USGA preparation tournament," Jamrog told. "The real problem was the weather. When you have to spend half of your time making sure the course is watered properly and gets enough water, it makes you think that maybe somebody out there doesn't like you."

Certainly, Paul didn't court Mother Nature's favor. However, he managed to off set that lack of co-operation with some good, old fashioned knowhow and dogged effort.

The circumstances of The Orchards being the purest form of the original Donald Ross design formed the backdrop of what turned out to be a busy year for Jamrog.

"You know, Donald Ross is known as the patron saint of golf course architects," Paul reminded. "And folks at The Orchards have preserved the original concept down through the years.

"They tell me that when two greens were rebuilt (the rest of the greens are as

*Continued on page 2*

**JAMROG'S TOUCH**

*Continued from page 1*

they were when Ross whipped them into rolling midgets), a lot of the members were furious. So, making changes here was like pulling teeth—without a pair of pliers.”

Therefore, Jamrog has been trying to provide adequate drainage and put more definition into bunkers and fairway lines for the three years he's been at the Mount Holyoke College-owned course.

Regardless, “Progress” has been Paul's middle name in the short time he's tackled the conditioning program. The Orchards has bounced back from a term of hairy maintenance results and appears to be making gains as Jamrog's input brings out the best in its appearance and condition.

One of the major projects Jamrog worked on was the “Girls Tournament 18th Tee”. The original yardage on the rugged hole tabbed out at 442 from the Blues, 412 from the Whites and 345 from the Reds. All of this accompanied an uphill trip to an elevated green with some time to contemplate crossing a winding brook cutting through the fairway.

“The USGA thought the girls should play the hole somewhere from around 370 yards,” Paul explained. “The Whites made it too long, the Reds too short with

the added flaw of having to lay up drives. So we hit the happy medium to give the tournament an outstanding finishing hole.”

Outside of that change, The Orchards was considered a good test by USGA standards. Jamrog speeded up the greens a little and put in a step-cut rough system which will be a permanent part of the maintenance program.

“I think, all things considered, that our members are going to have even a better course than they had before the USGA event,” Paul concluded.

“I'm excited about the prospects here. It's been a wonderful experience and everyone will benefit by it.”

Because of the Jamrog touch. It's working at The Orchards. You'd better believe it.

**GERRY FINN**

**DIVOT DRIFT** *Continued from page 1*

champ and Steve Butler, Larchmont Eng. net winner.

The skins game was run by Doug Johnson and the winners were: Tom Colombo, Jack Cronin, Steve Chiavaroli, Mike Cornicelli, Ron Kirkman, Kevin Osgood and Ron Ryan. Congratulations to all the tournament winners and a round of applause to our golf chairman Jim O'Kelly, for giving everyone an equal chance of winning by the setting up of divisions.

A word of advice from your editor—Do not use a chain saw in the summer! A word of advice from your secretary—Do not attempt to slam a tail gate of a dump truck shut with your finger resting in between the body and gate.

Don't forget the September meeting at the Orchards G.C.

Congratulations to Roy Davis, superintendent Marshfield C.C. as a new member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

## 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:** *What is your program in toughening up your golf course for tournaments and what attitude do you have in establishing it as a championship (tough) layout?*



**Tom Colombo, Country Club of New Seabury:** “I don't have any trouble giving players a test here because New Seabury

is unique. It's a tough course to make easy.

“Of course our Blue Course (outer) is the one everyone talks about. It has a natural guardian of the course record and low, low scores in the wind. It's always a factor.

“Therefore, we usually set the tee markers according to the part we expect the wind to play in scoring. We can make holes play a difference of two or three irons with tee placement because our tees are so big.

“The layout of the course gives us flexibility and that's the big thing. In addition to the tees, our greens are large enough so that we can utilize four different pin placements for each one. We map out those locations and set them accordingly. Usually, it works out to six easy, six medium and six tough pin placements.

“We also take pride in our Green Course (inner). In fact, we're making some changes to attract more play and obtain some balance between it and the Blue for traffic purposes.

“As for being part of a championship

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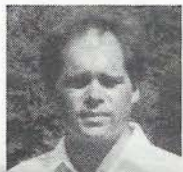
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**SUPER** *Continued from page 2*

course reputation, I'd want it no other way. It's nice. You hear people talking about the course and it's a boost. But, as I said, this is simply a tough place to make easy."



**Doug Johnson,  
Pine Brook Country  
Club:** "We really  
don't try to make Pine  
Brook tough. But, on  
the other hand, we

don't have to. The layout and other characteristics take care of that.

"Our course has fast greens with a demand for position since the length is only 6,300 yards. And, just as it seems to work out, no one burns it up. The last MGA event we had no one broke par and three-over was the winning score.

"When there are changes made, specifically for events like State-Am qualifying or pro-members, they come down to only a few.

"What I usually do is set the pins harder on some of our easier holes and just let the harder holes alone. It's almost play the course as it lies situation. We don't need to trick it up. In our last pro-am, only one player (Jay Dolan) broke par and he did it by keeping his putts down to 25.

"Our reputation as a championship layout isn't really on my mind or on the minds of our members. Fact is, the course is tough enough for the members, just as it is. That's the way they like it and want it. And that's just fine with me."



**Joe Rybka,  
Thorny Lea Golf  
Club:** "We have a lot  
of important golf tour-  
naments here, so de-  
gree of difficulty is a

popular item around the course and clubhouse.

"The length here isn't much to worry about, only 6,443 yards. However, the course has other characteristics that lend

themselves to setting up a tough layout for big events.

"But whatever our committees decide on or what I do to toughen things up, I think it really comes down to the golfer, himself. What golfers do is put pressure on themselves which means they can make the course as hard or as easy as their mental approach to the particular round allows them.

"I suppose the National Assistant Pro Championship is our premier event in terms of exposure and we give those players a good test. We don't mow the rough for a week and we give tee and pin placement special attention.

"But we still have a naturally tough layout because we have a lot of trees and holes that play tight. When we move some of the tee markers back, we can set up the feeling of driving out of a chute.

"There are other things to beef it up, too. Our fifth green is 120 feet long, so you're talking a difference of one or two clubs, depending on where we put the pin.

"Sure, we're proud of Thorny Lea as a fair but tough layout and I consider myself the keeper of that reputation. Usually, everything in setting up the course is kept in my hands. So, maybe I'm also a part of that reputation."

**GERRY FINN**

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Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bob Piantedosi and family. His dad, Cosmos passed away last month. Cosmos was the superintendent at Oakley C.C., Watertown, MA. until his retirement twelve years ago.

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