



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.

June 1988

DATES TO REMEMBER

- JUNE Club Official Tournament (at Press Time-club unknown)
- JUNE 16-19 U.S. OPEN, The Country Club, Host Superintendent, Bill Spence
- JUNE 23 University of Massachusetts Turfgrass Research Field Day
University of Massachusetts Turfgrass Research Center, South Deerfield, MA. Contact: Dr. Richard J. Cooper, Dept. of Plant and Soil Sciences, Univ. of Mass., Amherst, MA 01003 (413) 545-2353.
- JULY 18 Gardner Muni G.C. Host Superintendent, Michael Hermanson, Association championship, first round
- AUG 1 Thorny Lea G.C. Host Superintendent, Joe Rybka, Association Championship, Final Round
- SEPT ? Vesper C.C. Host Superintendent, Bert Frederick
- SEPT 19 Blue Hill C.C. Host Superintendent, Dave Barber, Superintendent, Manager
- OCT 3 Salem C.C. Host Superintendent, Kip Tyler, Superintendent and Green Chairman
- OCT 17 Brae Burn C.C. Host Superintendent, Jim O'Kelly, Pro-Superintendent Tournament
- NOV 3 Whitinsville G.C. Host Superintendent, Dick Zepp

Where's Charlie? Where the Action Is, of Course



It used to be that the super went with the flow.

Or as Charlie Passios tells it, "The golf course superintendent

learned of restrictions on the use of certain chemicals and heeded them without a trace of resistance."

That was before Passios and a few other directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England stuck their foot in the Massachusetts State House door. Charlie? He won't pull it out.

"Oh, let's not make it sound like the superintendent is against regulating use of chemicals and related materials he applies in his maintenance program," the Hyannisport Club super emphasizes. "If anything, we're leaders in environmental preservation and protection. However, our voice should be heard when it pertains to laws and regulations on that subject."

Passios is the first to admit that the NEGCSA is just getting its feet wet getting involved with the ways and means the state goes about establishing those laws and regulations.

"We're the babes in the woods because we're new at this," he tells. "But it's a necessary involvement because in the past things have been forced upon us without any practical reason and we've just sat on our hands allowing it to happen."

The gist of public (state legislature) input in the agricultural product field is to set up regulations where the trend will be

for less chemical and more biological material use in the grooming of the golf course. However, the methods of such a transformation are not working.

"For one thing, many of the people making proposals affecting the golf course superintendent and actually pushing them on him are misinformed," Passios contends. "Now we hear of such things as 'Integrated Pesticide Management'. It's just a fancy label for trying to take more pesticides out of the hands of the superintendent.

"And what does it advance? It makes an advance, all right, but in reverse since it demands that the superintendent take 10 steps backward by switching to organic gardening techniques. They have no basis for changing from a chemical-oriented conditioning program to organic but there's no one there to challenge them."

But that was then and this is now.

"We've been writing letters, pumping them to the legislature so that we can be heard in this matter," Charlie reveals. "We have to start taking a stand on certain bills before the legislature and show them that our expertise has to be considered when they come up for passage."

One of the projects of the NEGCSA is Bill # 1444. It protects the manufacturers of golf course conditioning products and in doing so is a technical aid to the superintendent.

"We went down there (state house) wearing badges and everything," Passios tells. "Dick Zepp (NEGCSA president)

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WHERE'S CHARLIE

Cont. from page 1

and Mark Klimm (representing the Cape Cod group) testified. We treated it in the spirit of a public hearing. We think we made our point and made an impression.

"But this is only scratching the surface. Eventually, I mean the way things are going in our business, we may have to have a lobbyist working for our interests when legislature concerning our profession is proposed. We have to do it professional-like, no kidding."

Having been involved in a controversial situation on the Cape where the issue heated up over water-use regulations, Passios is aware of the inequities that prevail in the present system.

"Now, we're faced with kind of a double-standard arrangement as far as the licensing process is concerned," Charlie says. "The farmer takes one test, the superintendent takes another. Why can't the test be the same for everyone? I guess that might stand as a vote for getting some lobby action behind us."

Passios also notes another glaring inequity where pesticide regulations walk a crooked mile.

There are five golf courses on Cape Cod with a cranberry bog scenario attached. Regulations? Certain chemicals could be used on the cranberry bogs but not on the golf courses that share the same land and soil on it.

Another reason there for Charlie and his cohorts to make a march on city hall, the state house... whatever.

So, the ground has been broken for some heavy input by the golf course superintendent when it comes to how he tends to his profession.

"Our biggest effort at the moment is directed to getting exposure and having our expertise recognized by people in the state legislature," Charlie concludes. "Unfortunately, we are unknown to many of them. But we're working on that problem and making progress. Regardless,

one thing's for sure. Now they (state legislature) know the golf course superintendent refuses to go with the flow. After all, this is our turf."

Well put.

GERRY FINN

Golf in the U.S.: A \$20 Billion Industry with a \$40 Billion Future

JUPITER, Fla—Golf in the U.S. is currently a \$20 billion industry that, over the next 12 years, could sky-rocket itself into the \$40 billion-a-year category.

The possibility is one of several growth scenarios outlined in the recently-completed "discussion draft" of the Strategic Plan for Golf that has been prepared for the U.S. golf industry by the National Golf Foundation and McKinsey & Co., the highly-acclaimed business planning and consulting firm. The industry called upon the NGF to develop such a plan 14 months ago at the conclusion Golf Summit '86 where 250 industry leaders met to discuss issues impacting the future of the game.

Golf course superintendents planning to attend the U.S. OPEN can pick up their passes at the WILL CALL window which will be located at the Longwood Criquet Club (Rte. 9) in Brookline. In order to get your pass for you and your spouse you must present your GCSAA GOLD CARD with proper identification. "NO OTHER CARD WILL BE ACCEPTED" Passes are granted on a daily basis only.

The plan offers three other scenarios: One shows the industry reaching only \$31.1 billion by the Year 2000. Another has it holding fairly steady at \$23.5 billion, while the fourth shows it falling to \$17.7 billion.

Where the industry ultimately finds itself in the Year 2000, say the planners, will depend largely on its ability to begin to manage its own future, i.e., to harness its various resources and to work collectively and effectively to address those issues that either enhance or threaten the future of the game.

One of the most significant and immediate threats is what NGF research has revealed is an impending crisis in golf course capacity that could seriously impact the nation's overall "headroom" for growth.

The related data indicates that the U.S. could find itself facing a deficit of more than 4,000 golf courses by the Year 2000 if new golf course construction does not keep pace with the projected annual increases in total number of golfers. (The U.S. golf population is expected to increase from 20.2 to 30 million by the Year 2000.) To accommodate this demand, planners are estimating that approximately 400 new courses will have to be opened each and every year. At the moment, however, the rate of new course construction is running closer to 125 per year.

The current preliminary draft of the Strategic Plan for Golf presents discussion outlines of 15 specific programs that are aimed not only at increasing golf course capacity and numbers of golfers, but also at increasing frequency of play among both new and existing golfers.

Completed last November, this draft is being circulated for review, comment and modification among the major golf associations, manufacturers and other leading members of the U.S. gold industry. The complete text of the discussion

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GOLF IN US *Cont. from page 2*

draft has been published in the January/February 1988 issue of *Golf Market Today*, the NGF's bimonthly newsletter that circulates nationally to its more than 5,000 members. The finalized document will be presented at Golf Summit '88 which is scheduled November 15-17 at the Marriott at Sawgrass Resort hotel, Ponte Vedra, Fla.

"The industry review of our preliminary draft is critical to the overall development of the plan," says NGF President & CEO David B. Hueber. "For this plan is not an NGF plan or a plan for the NGF...but is the industry's plan, and, therefore its development from here on must be an inclusive process."

"Consequently, in our industry meetings in the months ahead, we will be asking all to critique the work done to date; to suggest new or revised programs if necessary; to take a leadership role on programs that are of interest to them, and, in general, to become involved and thereby help make sure we have the most viable plan possible for presentation at Golf Summit 88."

In its present form, the Strategic Plan for Golf presents a comprehensive economic analysis of the U.S. golf industry as it stands today, together with projections of the potential for growth. It places total annual spending on golf and golf-related activities at \$19.8 billion and identifies the major areas of this spending today as:

Equipment (Clubs, balls, bags, apparel, etc.)	\$2.1 billion
Golf Course Operations (Memberships, green/car fees, etc.)	5.7 billion
Travel/Lodging	7.8 billion
Real Estate	3.8 billion
Media/Service Suppliers (Advertising, tournaments, etc.)	0.4 billion

Requests for copies of the current draft of the Strategic Plan For Golf should be directed to the NGF's Communications Department.

Credit: National Golf Foundation

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: *There is a distinct difference in being employed at a private and a municipal golf course, so with your experience at the municipal level how does each stack up?*



Rich Arzillo, Unicorn Golf Club:

Unicorn Golf Club: "I made the move from private to municipal four years ago and, believe me, I've never been sad over that

move. "I know most private country club jobs pay more. However, in my case, it was just the opposite. When I came here, the motivating factors were more money and all around benefits.

"I think the fringes are almost reason enough to go public.

"There's complete medical coverage, sick days that can be accumulated, vacation time and a few other perks.

"On the course I answer to a small committee that is operated by and part of the Stoneham Recreation Department. It works well for me and also for the town. We're both satisfied.

"When I was working the private side of the street, I was at the mercy of the members - I mean all the members. You know, some people think paying dues gives them employer-rights.

"Of course, everything doesn't fall into place automatically just because we're town-run. In fact, for that reason funding can be a problem. Our setup finds all the Unicorn profits, we turned back \$140,000 last year, going to a general fund.

"Getting some of the money back into our operating budget can be tricky at times and sometimes it encourages overspending the previous fiscal year.

"But, overall, the municipal route is the way to go - for me, anyway."



Mike Hermanson, Gardner Municipal Golf Course: "Hey, I've been here 17 years, so I guess you can say this kind of work satisfies me.

"There are a lot of reasons why money wins over private even though my only involvement in a private course was as a laborer (Oak Hill).

"This course is a ringing success. We have 1,200 members, we had 65,000 rounds last year and I haven't been fired for putting on a sprinkler when a four-some happens to be within hearing distance of the dripping water.

"Oh, sure. That can happen at a private course. You look cross-eyed at a member, four years later he's your green chairman and you're gone.

"The biggest drawback, I suppose, is salary. The money's not always good at a municipal or public course.

"Here, I work with a committee. There's politics involved because the mayor and city council have to approve funds for maintenance and improvements.

"There's seldom a hassle about budgets, either. I work with a golf commission that's golf-minded. That's a plus, too.

"And then there's civil service status which gives me job security. This is very important because it allows me to deal with certain situations without fear of losing my job. And, of course, there are the benefits, the whole nine yards. Would I have stayed here 17 years if it weren't the right thing for me?"



Max Mierzwa, Chicopee Country Club: "The only edge the private country club sector has over this is money (salary) and maybe some of the

politics you're exposed to in going through the 'front office' (mayor) to secure a fair budget.

"After that, it's all down hill for the municipal superintendent and up hill for

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THE SUPER *Cont. from page 3*

the private super.

"I've been involved in both sectors, I've worked with a lot of different committees and had to deal with varying personalities and I wouldn't want it any other way than how I have it now.

"There's no secret that the job security and the built-in fringes are very inviting at the municipal level. The salary is higher at the private club but one works against the other. It's a no-win situation if you want to stack them against each other.

"Benefits can be measured in many ways. Take some of mine. I have five people who work year-round, so my labor problem isn't as acute as some private club supers. Then there's the season. It never ends at the private club. Hey, I remember being on call for those snow plow jobs. Not here.

"I work with a commission that usually is top-heavy with golfers and aware of the influence the super has on the success of the course. Its members let me make golf car use decisions and the like. Then, there are the opening and closing dates. They're set and that's that.

"Overall, the municipal advantage is this: I just feel more at ease here than I ever did at a private country club."

GERRY FINN

May Tournament Results

The May meeting was held at Ocean Edge and Jeff Carlson had the course in fine shape. There were some testy pin placements but it didn't phase Mal Wendell from Rhode Island C.C. and Ron Ryan from Sawtelle Brothers. Both carded 77 gross and were awarded 1st and 2nd place. In the net division, Joe Rybka from Thorny Lea came in 1st with a net 70. Second place was captured by Art Miller, Nabnasset Lake C.C. with a net 71.

In at 73 net were Doug Johnson, Pine Brook C.C., Steve Carr, Pocasset G.C. and Mike Hannigan, Sawtelle Brothers. The long drive was won by Cameron Quinn, Turf Products Corp and Cameron won closest to the pin on #12. Dave Farina, Country Club Enterprises won closest to the pin on #7.

Commercial Clippings

Second John Deere Team Championship Golf Competition Announced

Moline, IL—From May 1 through September 30, 1988, hundreds of teams of amateur and professional golfers again will compete in PGA-sanctioned tournaments across the United States to determine qualifying teams for the second annual John Deere Team Championship tournament to be held at PGA West, Palm Springs, California, in November.

"Last year's Team Championship was a huge success," said Gary Gottschalk, manager of golf & turf products for John Deere & Company, "thanks to the hard work of people in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and The Professional Golfers' Association of America, and many club managers and John Deere golf & turf distributors. Because of their efforts, more than 3200 amateur and professional golfers from more than 800 golf courses were able to enjoy friendly competition for trophies and prizes." Thirty-four sectional teams qualified to compete in the 1987 national finals at PGA National in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The sectional tournaments are the only PGA-sanctioned events that provide an opportunity for a golfing facility to field a team of four golfers composed of a PGA professional, a GCSAA superintendent, a club manager and a club president (or two members from the board of directors). Teams in the national tournament include a fifth member from the sponsoring John Deere distributorship.

Plans call for a sectional qualifying tournament in each of the 41 PGA sections. The winning team from each sectional one-day tourney qualifies to play in the 2-day, 36-hole national championship.

The format of sectional tournament play is a "modified scramble." The PGA professional team member plays his own ball. The rest of the scramble team players

use the best of three shots until the ball is holed. The team score is the sum of the scores of the scramble team, minus 20 percent of the scramble team's handicap, plus the professional's score. All players must have an established USGA handicap; the maximum handicap an individual may use is 30. Handicaps used in the sectional events will be carried forward to the national tournament.

A debated vogue Stimpmeter promotes standards in speed of greens

"The Stimpmeter probably has influenced this game more than any other single instrument over the past decade", according to a recent article in *Golf World*. In June 1988 the spirit of Edward Stimpson, II will be at The Country Club in Brookline early, checking the greens. He was a member there for 33 years.

The 1935 U.S. Open at Oakmont established a need in Stimpson's mind for a method to measure conditions confronting a golfer on the green. A local pro, Sam Parks, Jr., was the only player who could master Oakmont's lightning fast greens. Originally, Stimpson visualized a simple device to quantify the speed of greens. His wooden measure was modified by the USGA into what was called the

Speedstick, made of aluminum, with a notch near the end of a three foot, v-shaped groove. They issued a set of guidelines to Green Superintendents and sold the device for a small charge. Renamed in 1976, thanks to the efforts of Arthur Rice of the USGA Executive Committee, the Stimpmeter has become associated with "fast" greens despite the original focus.

Stimpson designed the Stimpmeter to promote consistent standards in the speed of greens compatible with slope. Many New England courses have severely

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STIMPMETER

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pitched greens with few fair placements under fast conditions. Balls above the pin often provide nearly impossible challenges and foster slow play and frustration for club players. Thus it was Stimpson's urging over many years which influenced the USGA to address the green speed issue.

Guidelines communicated to Green Superintendents define slow, medium and fast green specifications for normal club play. Tournaments conditions for PGA tour events, the U.S. Open or the Masters result from months of special conditioning and extraordinary expense. The Country Club has a contractual obligation to the USGA to have its greens at 10 on the Stimpmeter opening day of next year's tournament. Corrective action such as rolling, double cutting morning and evening, and light watering can be

taken to reach the objective if Open conditions have not been achieved. Officials will be out daily with the dewsweepers stimping the greens.

Those of us not tournament golfers may never experience fast greens except vicariously through watching the likes of Ben Crenshaw on TV. We should not expect "tournament" conditions on our greens very often. Remember the incredible task our Green Superintendents and their crews take on season to season, providing us good putting surfaces. Be realistic in your expectations and leave Stimpmeters for experts. The next time you play on consistent greens send compliments to the maintenance shed and be grateful for the USGA's continuing effort to standardize the game.

Credit: Mass. Golf Association

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Rhode Island**

**Superintendents
Invited To U.S. Open
Reception**

GCSAA again will host a reception at the U.S. Open, which this year will be played at the Country Club in Brookline, Mass. William Spence is the club's superintendent.

All superintendents, especially those from the New England area, are invited to attend this semiformal gathering. The reception will be at the Marriott-Newton on Thursday, June 16, from 7 to 9 p.m. Prominent members of allied associations in golf are expected to attend, as well as many members of the golf news media. We encourage GCSAA members in the area to show strong support for their professional association by attending the GCSAA reception.



EDNA HERE WANTS TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY GOLF. I LEARNED YESTERDAY.

Abraham Lincoln, commenting on the importance of preparation:
"If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend six sharpening my ax."

**Mel O'Kelly Testimonial
Marshfield C.C.
Monday, June 20, 1988
Rain or Shine**

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THE NEWSLETTER

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