



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 1989

NEXT MEETING

Monday, July 10, 1989
Concord C.C.
Concord, MA

9:00 am Director's meeting
9:00 am Past President's meeting
10:00 am Regular meeting &
Educational Session
11:45 Lunch
Golf after Lunch

Club Championship Tournament
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Host Superintendent—
Richard Duggan

Reservations Required by July 1—
(508) 369-0879

14 Carts—first come, first serve



Richard has been the supt. at Concord Country Club for 5 years. Previously he had been supt. at Maynard C. C. for 5 years. Dick has a Turf

Management Degree from Univ. of MA Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

Born in Concord, MA, Dick resides in Marlboro, MA with wife Janet and their 3 boys ages 7, 3 & 1. Hobbies include spending time with family and Little League coach.

Directions—From Rte. 128, Take Rte. 2 west, take the Emerson Hospital exit, go past hospital entrance. The club is 1/4 mile from hospital.

From Rte. 495, Take Rte. 2 east, take right Emerson Hospital exit. The club is 1/4 mile from hospital.

Tom Touches All Bases and Heads for Home



There's a lot of Tom Curran in the Eastman Country Club.

"That's why everything had to be right, especially the timing," the soft-spoken veteran golf course superintendent disclosed. "Whoever was to replace me had to have the same interest in Eastman I've had ever since I came here. We have the person. So, now this is the right time to retire."

Retirement. It just doesn't seem to jibe with the pleasant native of Northampton who's been looking after golf playgrounds ever since he took a career tip from old buddy, Bob Grant, when the two were testing professional grounds over 30 years ago.

Curran turned 60 only recently. Plenty of time left to keep the green, green grass just that, right, Tom?

"Oh, it's not because I'm sick of my job or fed up with work," Curran replied. "I'm walking out the door with a nice arrangement I made with my employer and I'm still young enough to do some of the things I've wanted to do when this day came. Just say, I'm ready."

Originally, Curran and the folks at Eastman thought a long, transitional period would delay his retirement a year or so.

"We figured we'd hire someone as my assistant or associate and it would take that person some time to get acclimated to the environs and the way things are done here," Tom disclosed. "I had the full cooperation of my board, members and everyone else connected with the community. I was to find someone and stay on

in an advisory capacity for as long as it was needed."

That's when Curran approached Ron Hansen with such a proposal. Hansen, the Spring Valley superintendent who had spent some time in the New Hampshire-Vermont area as head man at Quechee, was anxious to return to that area. Phase I was complete.

After that, things started to pop—accelerate, too.

"I brought Ron up for an interview and there was a definite positive response on both sides," Tom told. "In fact, Ron impressed the board so much it gave me a chance to re-assess my situation. It was all up to me. Right now, he (Hansen) expects to come here in June and I'll be around for any aid he may need. After that and if all goes well, I'll be free to do what I want.

"Actually, this is too good to be true. Ron and I have a real relationship. He worked for me at The Country Club, so I know just what kind of a superintendent he'll be for the (Eastman) Club. And, with Ron coming in, it makes for a good transfer of responsibility. The whole thing means that I got to name my successor. Not too many people are able to do that."

In that transfer portion of the arrangement, one would have to make that a "good transfer of responsibility and expertise". Tom Curran, you see, is pedigree material when it comes to the golf course superintendents' profession.

"Like I said, it all started with Bob Grant (recently retired from Brae Burn)," Curran said. "I'd just gotten out of the service and really didn't know what I wanted to do. Bob suggested the golf

Continued on page 2

TOM TOUCHES *Cont. from page 1*

course maintenance field because there just weren't enough superintendents around. So, I tried it."

Tried and succeeded—in spades.

Tom took the two-year course at UMass and in no time he was headed for higher places.

"When I graduated from Stockbridge in 1957, I decided the only job for me was on an 18-hole golf course," Tom remarked. "I got one, too, in Saginaw, Michigan where I had charge of the second oldest club in the state. It worked out well, too. But Nancy (Tom's wife) and I are both from the East. That meant we'd prefer something closer to home."

Obviously, Curran was on the ball at Saginaw because he got a call from Oak Hill in Fitchburg two years later. Then after a nine-year stay there, Tom took charge at The Country Club in 1968, an era during which he served as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. The offer to get in on the ground floor and grow with the development came from Eastman in 1972. That's where Tom's hung his hat ever since.

Every course I went there always was a solid rapport between superintendent and members," Curran said. "I can't remember ever having a problem. I even did it all (club manager for a while at Eastman). And all of it was rewarding. Nancy and I brought up four daughters in a setting just perfect for family life. Funny thing, though, I followed Bob (Grant) into the business and now I'm following him out the door."

And now, instead of growing them, all Tom has to do is smell the roses.

"Right," he concluded. "It's been a garden life for us. And we're ready to sit back, relax and enjoy it."

Enjoy, Tom, enjoy.

GERRY FINN

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: *How do you cope with the incidence of vandalism, trespassing and other sources of nuisance at your golf course?*

Jim Leighton, Framingham Country Club:

I've just started here, so I really can't comment on this situation yet. However, from what I've seen in a short two months, there shouldn't be much of a problem.

"My last course was Wayland and, again, I guess it was the environment or whatever because there were only traces of trouble there.

"The only threat of vandalism came around Halloween time. Then, we'd bring in the flags a couple of nights before the holiday.

"As for trespassers, I assume you mean golfers who sneak onto the course. Not much along those lines, either. Green fees and such are the responsibility of the golf pro, so I wasn't involved there although we did have some illegal players until we started a tag system to identify those golfers who had paid.

"From what I've seen already I do expect to experience a heavy load of Canada geese this year. They are a problem. So messy. I have a solution, though. I have a Labrador retriever who seems to scare geese. They want no part of him. However, from a practical standpoint, I can't have him running the course with golfers trying to concentrate.

"Other than that, I'm worry-free. Even the joggers aren't cause for concern. The only place I've seen them is in the parking lot."

Bob Heeley, Quaboag Country Club: "I guess you'd have to call me a lucky guy because we haven't had a speck of trouble in the last five years or since that trail biker barreled through here.

"I'd say that's about the only serious incidence of vandalism or trespassing we've seen here. But that guy was something. He made a couple of railroad tracks on my fourth green and that caused me a lot of concern. We caught him, though, and we haven't seen him since.

"What'd we do to him? Oh, that'd be telling. Just say we convinced him the golf course is no place to run a trail bike.

"This is not a place where you'd expect to find "strangers" or people interested in sneaking onto the course. We're away from everything here. We're non-city, non-residential. All we get are golfers., the legal kind. I wouldn't know what a jogger looks like."



Dan Higgins, Co-hasset Country Club:

"We're another one of those quiet, away-from-it-all golf courses where everybody knows one another and

everybody's only interested in golf.

"We may have someone sneak onto the course once in a great while. But I doubt anyone, who doesn't belong here, could play a full nine holes without "not" being recognized and asked to leave.

"What we might have in the winter are sliders. We don't post any signs about this but we do discourage people from using the course as a sliding area.

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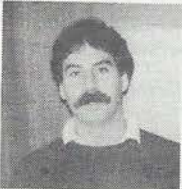
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THE SUPER

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"Again, we don't seem to attract intruders. There are joggers but we allow them on a road that cuts through the course, allow them just as long as they don't disturb the golfers.

"The only "wild" life we see are two mallards who show up each year. There are no geese, no turf-digging animals. This is just a peaceful place in the country."



Neil Loomis, Certified Golf Course Management Corp.: "Right now I'm involved with two courses—South Shore and Saddle Hill. One is urban (South Shore) and the other rural (Saddle Hill). And, believe me, that makes a difference.

"When South Shore was a private course, there were dull spots and it put up with a lot of sneak-on traffic. However, now it's town-owned, public and so busy it's virtually impossible to get on without paying.

"Something else about South Shore. Because it is listed as open space and

—NEW MEMBERS—

Welcome & Congratulations to

Peter Lewis, Regular
C.C. of Farmington, CT

Gregory Misodoulakis, Regular
Bellevue C.C.

Keith Gavin, Associate
Pine Brook C.C.

Gregory Riggs, Associate
Poquoy Brook G.C.

Michael Cummings, Assistant
Heritage Hill C.C.

The annual University of Rhode Island Turfgrass Field Day

will be held on

Wednesday, August 30, 1989

at the

Turfgrass Research Farm
Plains Road
Kingston, RI 02881.

For information contact:

Dr. C.R. Skogley
Plant Sciences Department
Woodward Hall
Kingston, RI 02881

there for recreational use, town residents have access to it for other activities. In fact, joggers are thinking of applying for a race day. You have to put up with it. I suppose the next thing they'll think of is "kite-flying day".

"The urban influence affects the vandalism factor because, to be frank, urban parents are more lenient disciplining their kids. So, we have to look out for flag stealing and flying tee markers at South Shore.

"I think the whole situation is dictated by the area where the golf course is located. Heavy populated areas mean looser discipline and more chance of vandalism, trespassing and the like. Lightly populated areas tend to be just the opposite. You can apply this theory to every facet of life."

Editor's Note: More on Vandalism next month.

GERRY FINN

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FUTURE MEETING DATES

July 10 - Concord C.C. Concord, MA—Supt.
Championship, one round only

August 7 - South Shore C.C.—Hingham, MA
September 5 - Larry Gannon G.C.—Member-
Member

September 12 - Wampanoag C.C.—Joint
meeting, New England and CT.

October 3 - Hyannisport C.C.—Supt. & Green
Chairman

October 16 - Brae Burn C.C.—Supt. & Pro
November 2 - Mt Pleasant C.C.—Lowell, MA

Tournament Results

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THE NEWSLETTER

RONALD W. KIRKMAN
Newsletter Editor

KIP TYLER CGCS
Associate Editor

THOMAS SCHOFIELD CGCS
Business Manager

GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor



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