



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.

May 1989

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 8, 1989
Twin Hill C.C.
Longmeadow, MA

9:30 am Director's meeting
10:30 am Regular meeting &
Educational Session
12:00 noon Lunch
Golf after Lunch

Host Superintendent— Roy Mackintosh

Reservations Required—(413) 567-0321

Roy is our host at Twin Hill C.C. He has been a superintendent for 25 years. Roy was a former superintendent at Greylock Glen in Adams, Mass. and also the C.C. of Wilbraham. He is a 1964 graduate of Stockbridge, Univ. of Mass. Originally from Springfield, Roy now lives in Longmeadow with his wife Frances. They have 3 children, ages 25, 22, and 17. In his spare time, Roy enjoys golf, fishing and skiing.

Directions—Mass. Pike west to exit 6. Left onto 291. Exit 91 South. Go to exit 1 (rte. 5 Longmeadow). Stay on rte. 5 to rte. 192 toward Hazardville, Ct. Take 2nd left beyond Longmeadow C.C. onto Wolf Swamp Road. Club is 1 1/2 miles on left.

—PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS—

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.

Murphy's Law: Do It All, If You Can

Seen Steve Murphy lately?

Here's a hint. He's in either one of three places—Lynn's Gannon Municipal Golf Course where he keeps 525 members happy with a sparkling layout, North Reading's Hillview Golf Club where he shares a course management project with partner Mike Foster or Nahant's Sea Gales Golf Club where he just turned the papers for the more challenging, more interesting venture of leasing a course.

"Uh, and don't forget the irrigation business," Steve adds. "That might have been the thing that stirred my enterprising blood."

That spinoff from Murphy's fertile mind began 10 years ago with a modest undertaking of installing irrigation systems in private homes. Since then it has grown, along with involvement by Steve's brother, John, into servicing golf courses.

"John pretty much runs things there now," Steve explains. "All of a sudden 'Greenway Irrigations' has taken off and he (John) has had a lot to do with its success."

One might ask how does Steve find the time to spread himself so thin, not to mention gain the blessing of Gannon officials. After all, it's his superintendent's lifeline. He's been at the municipal course for 13 years after four at Pine Crest and a prep stint at The Country Club.

"I have no problem at all fitting in my outside interests," Steve tells. "As a city employee I'm in Civil Service and my basic hours are 6 to 2. Don't worry. If I neglected that job, I'd hear about it."

True, Steve's boss at Gannon is Gene

Dooley, a Department of Public Works commissioner who is a former golf course superintendent and, in fact, a member of the New England supers' group. What's more, Gene was greening the Gannon fairways etc. as Murphy's predecessor.

"We get along real well," Steve characterizes the relationship. "Gannon's a busy place and it needs the same, tender care as a private course. I see that it gets it. The golfers there are satisfied, Gene's satisfied and the city's satisfied. I have to admit, though, there could be a problem if I did all this while working in the private sector."

Murphy's arrangement with Hillview is strictly a management-oriented exploitation of his expertise. His company, Golf Facilities Management, Inc., charges a fee and percentage of the gross to run the town-owned club's golf operations.

"We hire the pro (Brian Gilchrist) and the superintendent (Jack Ventrone who was top man at Colonial for 17 years) under a five-year management contract," Steve says. "Personally, I'm not wild about this and I've made a suggestion that Hillview go on the same setup as a municipal course. Meanwhile, we're there to see that things go smoothly."

The leasing venture is something else. It's new for Steve and he can't wait to see what his input does.

"This is the kind of thing that can be exciting," Steve explains. "The lease is for a straight fee, plus capital improvements. This is a complete takeover and more of the kind of operation I've always had in the back of my mind."

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MURPHY'S LAW *Cont. from page 1*

"It's just like taking the ownership route. There are a lot of risks, but those are offset by the possibility of reward coming from taking them. It's a win, lose or draw situation. I think the potential for a successful stay is there."

Murphy reveals that being owner of a golf course is perhaps the one, left undone project in his life.

"I think having my own golf course would cap everything in my professional career," he divulges. "I'd like to buy a little course somewhere and see what I could do into making it a winning operation. It's something I've always thought of."

"I suppose getting into the leasing end of the business is the next best thing to owning a course. And maybe I can use the experience at Sea Gales to find out whether or not I could make a go of it if I get the opportunity to buy a course."

While all this spins through Steve's head, he emphasizes that his flagship post at Gannon gives him an opportunity to enjoy the best of two worlds—the security of Civil Service employment there and the chancy life he heads into when he works the lease at Sea Gales.

Regardless, he's giving his maintenance and business skills the full workout and putting them to the supreme test.

Steve Murphy. If there is someone who can do it all, he's the man to do it. Good Show.

GERRY FINN

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- June 8 - Twin Hill C.C. Longmeadow, MA
- June 19-Willowbend Cub—Member and three club executives.
- 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.

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: *With a lot of attention focussed on the need for extensive turf research, do you think the time has come for the country club to make a significant contribution to a Turf Research Fund?*



Tom Columbo, Country Club of New Seabury: "Allow me to open my line of response with this happening:

"One day last year our club made arrangements for a visit by the USGA Green Section. If I recall correctly, that one-day consultation cost the club somewhere between six and seven-hundred dollars. And there was no argument about it.

"There is a distinct similarity here. Obviously, the Green Section and turf research are on the same track. Therefore, there's no question that my club, as well as all country clubs, should take part in a Turf Research Fund.

"Presently, we're making improvements at New Seabury after a little slack-off period. The members are putting money into them through their dues and, as the improvements develop, our members can see their dues going to work.

"Donations to a Turf Research Fund would bring about the same thing, only more so because improvements derived from research benefit the entire game of golf.

"Personally, my time spent talking with members tell me that golfers are becoming more aware of the complica-

tions coming into golf course maintenance. They realize there's more to conditioning a course than cutting grass. Of course, the environmental issues tend to open more eyes to our problems.

"Clubs support turf research? Hey, it's the only thing to do."



Paul Jamrog, The Orchards Golf Club. "In one form or another, the club will have to support turf research. It either should come from direct appeal for

contributions or become a line item on the golf course budget. That's how important it is—to us (supers) and members.

"In the end, it's the member who will benefit most from research. And, in the end, successful turf research will result in a combination of better conditions at less cost.

"One of our biggest problems is water. Just for openers, the cost to The Orchards for irrigation for one season runs \$12,000. And I'm not even talking shortage here.

"Eventually, research may lead to drought-resistant grasses and that will relieve the pressure on water availability and use. But for this to come about, country clubs have to make Turf Research Fund donations a high priority item.

"Oh, there'll be some opposition but I think the majority will back the fund. As a golf course superintendent I feel it's my responsibility to tell members about our (profession's) problems and the importance of a Turf Research Fund.

"I'm confident golfers will get that message and react favorably to it, too.

Continued on page 3

*We wish Arthur
Washburn, Cohasset's
finest, a speedy recovery
from his recent illness*

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Brookton C.C.

THE SUPER *Cont. from page 2*



Bill Spence, The Country Club:
"Sometimes a problem doesn't hit home until it strikes there."

"And this is one of the means to educate members about the problems facing the superintendent because of weather, environmental restrictions and other factors affecting the golf course conditioning process."

"When members see their lawns at home burn up, the situation comes through a little clearer. Because of it, golfers are starting to learn about turf problems and the demand for technological improvements."

"The ideal country club involvement in a Turf Research Fund is to establish a one for all, all for one attitude in deciding how a contribution is to be made. Therefore, it's logical that the club incorporate a donation into the budget instead of depending on individual solicitation."

"It's also up to us, the superintendents, to draw the attention of members to our maintenance problems and on to their possible solution through turf research."

"No doubt, club members should buy the fund, whichever way the money gets to it. They will be the chief beneficiaries of turf research. No more dead fairways, no more dead lawns. Maybe that should be our rallying call."

GERRY FINN

-NEW MEMBERS-

Welcome & Congratulations to

Mark Gagne, Regular—Walpole C.C.

**Robert Medeiros, Associate
Maynard, C.C.**

**Michael Stykowski, Associate
Norwood, C.C.**

Richard Tworig, Assistant—Halifax C.C.

**Andrew Langlois, Assistant
Foxboro 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**

1989 COMMITTEES

**Membership—Paul Miller, chairman;
Stephen Chiavaroli; Richard Zepp
Finance—Paul Jamrog, chairman; Thomas
Scholfield**

**Education—Ronald Milenski, chairman;
David Heroian; David Schermerhorn;
David Copeland**

**Golf—Robert DiRico, chairman; Paul
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**Newsletter—Ronald Kirkman, chairman;
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**Publicity—Edward Brearley, chairman;
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**Turf Research—Paul Miller, chairman;
David Barber; Kip Tyler; Frank Higgins;**

**Kevin Lyons; Dr. Richard Cooper
Bylaws—David Barber, chairman; Stephen
Chiavaroli**

**Government Relations—Charles Passios,
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**Christmas Party—Kip Tyler, chairman;
Edward Brearley; Charles Passios**

MGA & Ouimet Liaison—Richard Zepp

GCSAA Liaison—Paul Miller

Commercial Liaison—Kevin Lyons

-POSITION OPENINGS-

**Perry Hollow
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RFD 1, Middleton Road
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(603) 569-2387

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**Golf Commission, Captains Golf Course,
1000 Freemans Way
Brewster, MA 02631.**

Send resume to:

**Golf Commission, Captains Golf Course,
1000 Freemans Way
Brewster, MA 02631.**

Respond by 6/16/89

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Tournament Results

Kings Way G.C.

Low net 51

**Dave Farina, Alan Cumps, Dick
Zepp, Tony DeBettencourt**

Low Gross - 58

**Paul Littlejohn, Greg Ellis, John
Lenhart, Mike Iacono**

Long drive - Jim Conant

Nearest the pin - Tim Berge

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Box 642, Silverwood Terrace
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THE NEWSLETTER

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