



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 1993

June Meeting

Monday, June 7, 1993
Thomson Country Club

Host Superintendent
David Kahrman

9:00 a.m. Board Meeting
10:30 a.m. Regular Meeting
11:00 a.m. Education
Golf and Lunch to follow
Golf & Lunch - \$35.00
Lunch Only - \$17.00

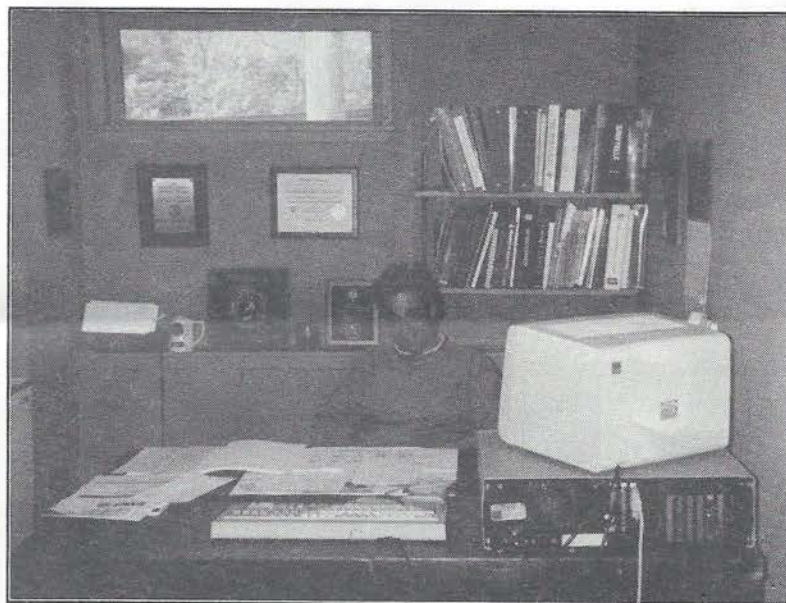
Reservations Required
Call by May 4, 1993
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Checks payable to GCSANE

David Kahrman has been Superintendent at Thomson Country Club for the past five years. Prior to that he was Superintendent at Steeplechase Country Club in Columbus, Ohio for three years. Before relocating West he was Assistant Superintendent at Ferncroft Country Club for eight years. David obtained a degree in Turf & Horticulture at Essex Agricultural Institute. Married to wife Colleen, they reside in Middleton. David enjoys hockey, golf and traveling.

Directions to Thomson Country Club: North on Rte. 128 - Take Exit 41 marked Lynnfield Center bear right off Exit and follow straight through for five or six miles until you reach Rte. 62; bear left on Rte. 62 and the Thomson Club is 1/4 mile on left. Route 93 - Take Exit marked Concord Street Wilmington bear right off Exit and follow until you come to Rte. 62; take right about five or six miles, the Thomson Club is on your right. Rte. 128 South - Take 114 West to Rte. 62 Middleton; take left at Rte. 62 and follow through until you reach Thomson Club on your left. From Rte. 1 - Take 114 West to Rte. 62 Middleton; take left on Rte. 62 and follow two miles, bear right and clubhouse is on left.

Mike Iacono a "natural" in super field



Mike works on his computer to organize Pine Brook.

of a natural in his own little field of dreams - the superintendent's profession. He was born into it, had to sidetrack away from it for a while but gradually came to realize that golf course maintenance was the only route to follow settling into his life's work.

The side-

Mike Iacono says he's just beginning to get his feet wet. Which is no big feat in itself, considering the preponderance of high tides that turned the golfing community into a quagmire this spring.

Actually, Iacono, a pillar in the Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association before a recent job change to the Pine Brook Country Club, is saving ground while familiarizing himself with colleagues in the Greater Boston area and the rest of his peers who make up the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. "I want to become involved (in GCSANE affairs)," he explained. "But I don't want to look like I'm bulldozing my way into the group. Eventually, I'd like to take an active part here. It's just the natural thing to do. I wouldn't feel right if I didn't."

Speaking of involvement, Iacono is sort

track was a four-year, degree-earning stint at Providence College. Half of that time was spent anticipating a career in medicine while Mike poured over his major in biology. But that direction was soon abandoned.

"After two years of preparing myself to become a doctor, I got the old 'outdoor call' bug, Mike recalled. "Suddenly, I told myself I'd never be happy working within four walls all the time. But I wanted that degree and stuck it out until I got it. After that everything was all golf, the way I probably thought it would be from the beginning."

It's not too difficult to appreciate Iacono's love for the superintendent's profession. It was built-in since his late father, Vincent, was a fixture and a renowned super at East Providence's Metacomet Country Club.

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"Working on a golf course fascinated me from the moment I started tagging along with my father at Metacomet," Mike disclosed. "I think I was 12 years old when I got my first taste of it. When I was 13, dad let me work around the course. Then, I became a regular "semi-crew" member the following year. It was strictly summer stuff and it got to a point where I wished summer never would end."

When Mike graduated from PC, he went right from the classroom to the position of Metacomet assistant superintendents under his father. Five years later, tragedy struck. Mike's father fell ill and died. And, all of a sudden, Mike found himself in charge. In fact, there never was any question as to who would take over the head super's job. Metacomet members also know Mike was a natural in his chosen profession and he was the logical choice to carry on the Iacono tradition at one of the top five country club operations in Rhode Island.

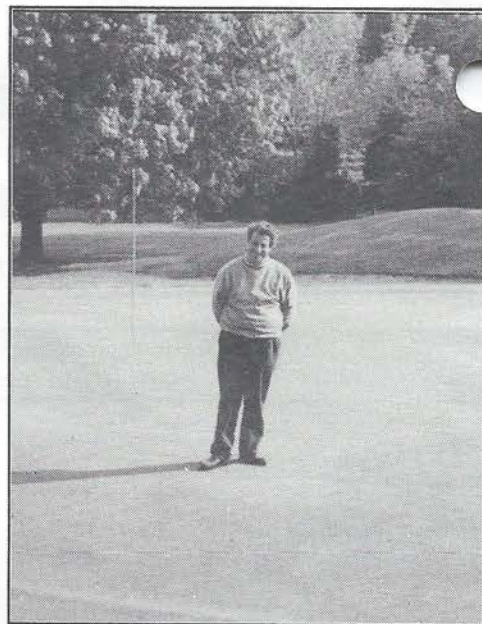
There was an interesting sidelight to that appointment. Mike was given the prestigious post even though he never attended a formal turf school or taken a turf-related educational course. However, that didn't stop him from plunging into seminars and the like in order to become a successful aspirant in the golf course superintendents' certification program.

"Really, I'm a graduate of the school of hard knocks as far as my formal training in golf course maintenance is concerned," Mike said. "But, when you look at it, could I have had a better teacher when I was learning the business? Hey, I had the best. I just hope I live up to my dad's expectations, even though, originally, he tried to talk me out of being a super."

Iacono, then, definitely didn't start at the bottom. He moved into the cat bird's seat at Metacomet without a hitch. That was in 1982. Nine years later he faced a tough decision. The Pine Brook job opened and its members were aware that the answer to their needs was toiling among the cream of the crop in Rhode Island.

"I don't want to put it in words that suggest I'd gone as far as I could go at Metacomet and in Rhode Island," Mike emphasized. "However, Metacomet was kind of a done deal maintenance-wise. Its members, through cooperation with me and my staff, had taken it to a certain level - where they wanted it to be. On the other hand, Pine Brook members wanted their course to be a better one than it had been."

Yet, the change was a mind-wrenching experience for Mike and his wife, Roseanne. Both were Rhode Island natives, Mike had run the gamut in the RIGCSA from newsletter editor to president and there also had to be considered the future of the couple's children; Andrew, 4 and Alyssa, 2. "I guess the thing that convinced Roseanne and me to pull up stakes was the challenge Pine Brook presented," Mike said. "I'd spent just about half of my life at Metacomet, so maybe the change was a



Mike here enjoying the Spring this year on his course.

plus for everybody all around. I know it was the right decision, too. My family and I have adjusted to our new surroundings and everything has fallen into place very nicely."

Presently, Mike is dividing his professional time between "getting Pine Brook where it wants to be" and establishing a one-on-one relationship with GCSANE members. His next-door neighbor, Weston Golf Club's Don Hearn, has been very helpful along those lines and in other ways, also.

"Right, Mike concluded. "We're really starting to feel at home. I like my new job, the people within its framework and the supers I associate with away from the job. Everyone's made it easy for me to become part of a new environment. I couldn't be happier."

GERRY FINN

Calendar

June 7	Thompson Club
June 28	Franklin C.C. Supt./Chairman
July 19	Concord C.C. Championship
August 9	Thorny Lea

The Super Speaks Out:

This month's question: *What are the pressures, if any, you encounter in regard to preparing a public golf course for as early an opening as possible and what have been the drawbacks in that endeavor in light of Mother Nature's late winter blast this year?*

Bill Zuraw, Crumpin-Fox Club: "Until the last few days, and it's the middle of April as we speak, we've had so much snow accumulate on both nines that it's been impossible to even get vehicles onto the fairways and in the roughs. Therefore, my crew hasn't had much to do other than clean up where the snow has melted."

"As for pressure from management to get the course in shape in order to generate revenue, there is none."

"Crumpin-Fox has turned into one of the special golf courses in the region, so much so that we draw guests from near and faraway places. Because it's supposed to be a treat to play here, the bulk of our business is conducted during the height of the golf season and maybe splashes here and there into the early fall months."

"They want to see and experience playing the course when it's in full bloom. Therefore, the preparation for spring open is no different here than in surrounding private clubs. However, we are north of the Pioneer Valley which means our growing and playing season probably is a couple of weeks or so behind the courses nearer to Springfield."

"Right now, we still have snow (plenty of it on the older holes) and the snow has been my ally in not having to rush to open. However, the new holes have responded to higher temperatures and I've set my sights on getting them to play by the end of the weekend (April 18th). So, our members should be able to get some early swings in because of those holes' better drainage and more favorable exposure to sunshine."

"We're just about three weeks behind our 1992 opening which fell in the last week of March. That's not too bad after the late snow blasts we got and the larger amounts of snow mold we have to live with because of late winter and early spring washoff of the preventive sprays."

"My biggest concern is getting my irrigation system running smoothly. The weather here can be tricky. Three or four days of 70-degree temperatures bring signs of wilt and

we can't afford that."

"Otherwise, we're in about the same boat as everyone else. We have plenty to do and not enough time to do it in. Which is nothing new."

Charles Dickow, Poquoy Brook Golf Club:

"In my case the question of opening the golf course always boils down to a balance of agronomics and economics. Since I own the course in addition to maintaining it, the feeling that I might tend to rush the opening might be a popular reaction from those who know that condition exists."

"However, as a golf course superintendent with over 20 years experience in the field, my priority always has and always will be the condition of the golf course. In fact, sometime I wish I could hold up the opening of the course more than I do. Unfortunately, when finances have to be considered I simply can't do that."

"The late winter snows and other storms have meant time and, frankly, money to our operation this year. Generally, we open around the first of March. This year, we didn't open until April first and there was a lot of clearing of ice, snow and debris before we could get things rolling again."

"The delay hasn't put the golfers on hold. Since we opened, we've been jammed. I mean there are days when we are in excess of 200 golfers. After all, we're the first golf stop on the way to the Cape (Cod), so we're a happy sight for golf-starved folks enroute there. So, I guess you might say I control the only pressure there might be on me to prepare the course for its opening because I also own it. Again, I have to emphasize my prime concern as a superintendent. The golf course comes first here. I won't let it be any other way."



Jim Passios, Middleton Golf Club: "Obviously, revenue is a factor in all phases of operating a public golf course and setting the course on target for an early opening is one way of keeping its presence in mind."

"However, our owners appreciate the importance of maintaining the course at a level of high standards and I work with them in keeping our efforts fixed in that direction. Opening day, then, is the result of a meeting of many minds and my expertise always comes into play in the final decision."

"This was, as everyone knows, an unusual lead-in period to the golf season. We were like most local courses in the matter of storm damage. We got battered by both late-winter and early-spring storms. There was snow all over the place and some of it was still there while we prepared to get things going."

"Opening day is the result of a meeting of many minds."

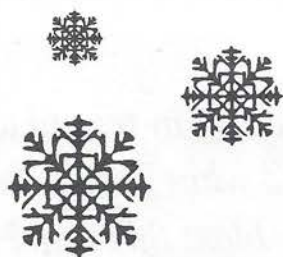
Jim Passios

"We finally got to play on April tenth. That's about three weeks later than normal which took its toll financially. Just to give you the picture, usually at this time we're sitting on 3,000 rounds. This year that figure is way down, around 1,000. So, you can see what a late opening can mean in a public course operation."

"Most of our preparation had to do with cleanup. We lost a lot of time clearing debris, like a ton of it from 25-year-old arbor vitae that didn't hold up to stormy conditions. That and a lot of tree work kept me and my crew going around the clock."

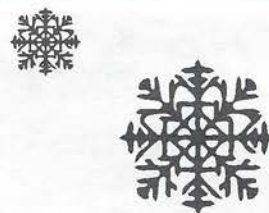
"Now, we're looking for the equalizer or a bunch of fair weather weekends. We deserve them after those two wicked late storms."

GERRY FINN



Snowfall Amount

(inches)

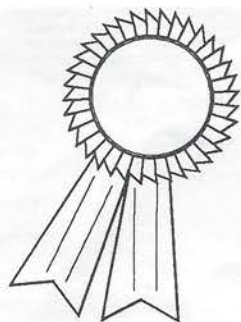


	<u>BOSTON</u>	<u>WORCESTER</u>	<u>SPRINGFIELD</u>
1991 - 1992 Season	27"	46"	24"
1992 - 1993 Season	82"	119"	61.8"
Record High	89" (1947-1948)	119" (1992-1992)	90.4 (1947-1948)
Record Low	9" (1936-1937)	21" (1954-1955)	16.1 (1979-1980)
Average	40"	67"	48"

****NOTE:** Data provided courtesy of WCVB TV (Channel 5) Meteorologist Dick Albert.



Special thanks to
Matt Crowther
Associate Editor



Tee Party Salutes Gerry Finn

Gerry Finn, the guest of honor at the 47th annual Tee Party held a week ago at Shaker Farms Country Club,

Westfield, was certainly not one-dimensional in his sports writing career.

The Tee Party, sponsored by the Western Massachusetts PGA Chapter, recognizes on individual each year for contributions to golf. Thus, the accolades received by the honored guest each year generally are received only from representatives from the golf community.

Finn, who recently retired after 40 years - a majority spent with the Springfield Newspapers - as a sports reporter and columnist, did earn the plaudits of the various golf associations. In addition, he was also cited by Lou Gorman, general manager of the Boston Red Sox, and Dave Gavitt, general manager of the Boston Celtics, who sent along a Celtics' warm-up shirt.

In his long service with the Union/News/Republican and the Hartford Times, Finn on many occasions covered the three golf majors - the Masters, U.S. Open and PGA. He also was on hand to report the action on the local level.

His penetrating observations, skillful mastery of words and unique style enabled him in different years to be a prize winner in the Golf Writer's Association of American writing contests. In addition to earning national recognition, Finn also won the respect and admiration as a writer of his colleagues.

Co-worker Carlo Imelio, the New England Patriot's beat writer, said "I have long appreciated the talents of Gerry Finn as a writer. I have set a goal of being as good a writer as he is, but I know that I never will reach that level," said Imelio. "There is no way that I can roast a Gerry Finn. I am willing only to toast him."

Ted Perez Jr., pro at East Mountain Country Club, presented a gift to Finn from the Western Mass. PGA Chapter and Bob Shea, executive director of the Connecticut

Section, sent a congratulatory message and a gift.

General chairman Tom DiRico, pro at Shaker Farms, after lauding the committee, also presented gifts to the guest of honor. Jim Barry, a member of the original committee, who explained the origin of the Tee Party, made a presentation to Nancy Finn, the guest's wife. Finn's daughters, Cynni and Robin were also present.

Mass. Golf Association was represented by Robert Hutchins of Longmeadow, a member of the executive committee. A special tribute was also paid to Finn by Leon St. Pierre from the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association, which the retired Longmeadow Country Club superintendent helped to found. Rollie Jacobs was the master of ceremonies.



Tournament Results from Poquoy Brook

BEST 16 HOLES

Low Gross

Ed Ulmann, Westboro G.C.	70
Jack Hassett, Mt. Pleasant	72

Low Net

*Mike Hermanson, Gardner Mucp. G.C.	
Steve Murphy, Gannon G.C.	68
*Dave Comee, Winchendon G.C.	
Eric Newell, Rockalnd G.C.	
Dick Duggan, Concord C.C.	70

**Place determined by match of cards.*

May format: ABCD four ball 100% handicap.

SUGGESTIONS ON GREEN SPEED

Jim Connolly, USGA Green Section



One of the best statements on green speed can be found in the 1973 Manual for Championship Preparation by the USGA.

"The greens should not be rolled or cut to point where a ball could gain speed in putting down all but the severest slopes."

Furthermore,

"A player should be able to stop the ball at the hole."

The ball should come to rest within two to three feet of the hole when putting from above the hole. There are rare occasions where this may not be the case, perhaps on a green where the obvious strategy is to keep the ball below the hole, and only a miss-hit shot would end up above the hole.

These guidelines should be followed when setting cutting height and green speed. The speed should be set to represent the average of all 18 holes. If there is only one severely sloped green, the speed would not be set to green. However, five or more greens with slopes and undulations would have a definite impact on overall cutting height/green speed.

I recently visited a golf course built in 1921 that has an average green six of less than 5,000 sq. ft. and more than nine of the greens could be considered "undulating". Many areas of the greens are not used for hole locations when cutting heights go below 5/32". When greens are cut so short that flagstick locations are lost you are essentially robbing the golfer of a good part of the game. This is a shame.

Large, flat expansive greens are most prone to lower cutting heights simply because of their design. Many golfers that complain about slow greens, especially on large greens, lack a quality in their game known as authority of stroke. John Jacobs, famous British instructor and former Walker Cup coach, describes this fault in golfers.

"We tend to wave it, coax it, steer it, drag it, jab it, twitch it-anything but hit it."

John Jacobs. Practical Golf

On this type of green, the emphasis should be upon smoothness because the distance of

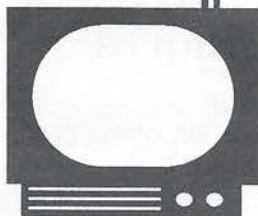
ball travel may be longer. Imperfections along the line of putt will make it difficult to predict ball direction and roll.

Enter this season with these thoughts in mind and begin to manage the putting surfaces appropriately. Go out on the course with the green committee and go through the above steps. Examine each green and see if there are hole locations that have been sacrificed to the Speed God. Get them back.

The Green Superintendent greatly influences the game as a direct result of maintenance. He/She is responsible for preparing the course and making decisions that are best for the game.

The USGA Green Section Turf Advisory Service (TAS) is designed to assist golf courses in maintenance programs that bring out the best in a golf course. A visit to your course opens a forum for discussion and creates an atmosphere of open communication. I encourage you to support the USGA Green Section by subscribing to the TAS this year.

NEWS RELEASE



CGCM report chronicles pesticide usage at U.S. golf facilities.

Lawrence, Kan., May 14, 1993

Pesticide usage patterns in the U.S. golf industry are documented in a new report from the Center for Golf Course Management (CGCM).

The *1993 Pesticide Usage Report* is designed to complement and expand upon the pesticide portion of CGCM's *1991 Pesticide and Fertilizer Usage Report*.

The *1993 Pesticide Usage Report* presents the findings of an in-depth survey of golf course superintendents. The survey, conducted in the fall of 1992, collected pesticide

expenditure information and presented superintendents with a comprehensive list of more than 100 turfgrass disease, weed and insect problems.

For each turfgrass problem, superintendents in the survey were asked to rate the intensity of the problem at their facility, indicate the pesticide products used as primary and secondary treatments, and rate their effectiveness.

The *1993 Pesticide Usage Report* is available from CGCM for \$2,500. For more information, contact CGCM at (913) 841-2240.

CGCM is the market research subsidiary of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

DIVOT DRIFT ...announcements...educational seminars...job opportunities...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members:

Richard Trombi, Assistant, Pleasant Valley C.C.; Raymaond Legere, Assistant, The Meadows, Inc., Associate; David M. King, Student; Caldwell Environmental, Inc., Friend; Mark A. Farley, Affiliate, Baker Golf Cars; Robert D. LeBlanc, Student.

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed New Members:

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