



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.

April 1994

Supers Jim Fitzroy & Mike Hermanson wear their winter zebra stripes well

May Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 1994
Poquoy Brook Golf Course
Lakeville, Mass.

Host Superintendent
Charles Dickow

9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
11:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting and Education to follow
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Golf

Reservations Required
Call by May 20, 1994
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You must pay by check - No Cash!
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Charlie has been the owner and superintendent of Poquoy Brook for the past three years. Prior to that he was the owner/operator of Heritage Hill Country Club in Lakeville since 1980. Charlie and Susan Dickow have two children, Tyler, 6 years old, and Sara, 4 years old. Hobbies include guitar, golf, and landscaping. Charlie and his family reside in Lakeville.

Directions: From I-495 North or South, take Exit 5. Go 1.5 miles, take right on Taunton Street and then a left on Leonard Street. Club is on the right.

Mike Hermanson and Jim Fitzroy spent their winters on the run. While at it, they were also on the ball...following the round ball, that is, or whistle-blowing fouls and other violations on the basketball hardwood, as college and high school officials.

In basketball's inner circle, officials are known as "zebras"—a sobriquet derived from the striped shirts they wore in the past. The moniker stuck even though most levels of basketball officiating have substituted the stripes for more subdued working garb.

But why do Hermanson and Fitzroy, prominent members of the golf course superintendent's profession, choose to go from one stress-strewn activity to another?

"Wait a minute," Fitzroy flapped. "Let's get one thing straight. There's twice as much stress officiating basketball than there is working as a super. But I just keep coming back for more, winter after winter. Maybe it's because it makes the winter and bad weather pass quicker. Maybe it's because I love the game."

Fitzroy, a golf course grooming fixture at The Presidents Club, is a native of Dalton (hometown of former Red Sox reliever Jeff Reardon) and played basketball at that Berkshire town's Wahconah High School. He doesn't characterize his level of play as a schoolboy, but it must have been a step above average since he continued playing the game while prepping for the superintendent's field at Stockbridge School.

"I played all right," Jim modestly described his schoolboy and college career. "But I stuck with it more because I had fun playing. I always had a strong feeling for basketball. I just like the game and wanted to be part of it."

Jim credits an old friend and former golf course superintendent Ken Mooradian for turning him in the direction of becoming a zebra. "I had a serious automobile accident and had gotten away from the game," he explained. "I couldn't play anymore, but I still was interested. That's when Kenny suggested that I think about studying for the officials' exam. One thing led to another. I soon found myself running up and down the floor, taking those steely stares from coaches and unkind descriptives from the fans in the stands. That was in 1981. Thirteen years later, I'm still at it."

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Jim Fitzroy, superintendent at Presidents Golf Course.

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Newsletter Editor . . . Michael F. Nagle, CGCS
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Contributing Editor Gerry Finn
Business Manager Robert Ruzala

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Fitzroy confines his officiating to high school. He works about 25 varsity games a season and is regarded as one of the more competent whistle tooters in the four leagues (Hocomock, Tri-Valley, Old Colony, and Mayflower) he travels.

"It's not as bad as I make it sound, all the so-called abuse basketball officials are exposed to," Jim said. "You learn to handle it, but the stress to make the right call is always there. Overall, I think it's a good thing for me to do in the winter. I get a lot of exercise by running the gym three to five miles a game and I make a few bucks."

Hermanson has been officiating a little longer than Fitzroy, having taken his first zebra steps in 1975. However, their backgrounds are similar.

"I played on pretty good high school teams at Gardner," informed Hermanson, who keeps things green and smooth at that town's municipal golf course. "We had about five guys who were 6'3" or so. I was one of them, and I got good playing time. Were we any good? About middle of the road or a little better. We had records like 11-7 and 12-8."

Mike decided to go the intramural route when he hit the University of Massachusetts and Stockbridge. "That was 1973-74 and a bunch of us were in a men's league that wasn't all that bad. That's when I got my first taste of officiating. We took turns blowing the whistle. Then, when I got out of school, I started going to officiating clinics to get ready to earn my stripes."

Hermanson, who has seen the game from all sides including a two-year stint as freshman and junior varsity coach at Fitchburg's Massachusetts Technical School, was a beaver in his early officiating days. He took every job he could find, working as many as 80 games a season.

"I started at the bottom and worked my way up," Mike disclosed. "I pulled four years in the high school frosh and JV ranks until I got my first varsity assignment in 1978. By that time I also got interested in women's basketball. And by 1980 I was going half men, half women officiating."

It didn't take Mike long to become recognized as one of the sport's leading rules enforcers. Soon he was working state tournament games and leaning toward assignments at the college level.

"Eventually, I had to make a decision about which direction I wanted to go," Mike added. "I had to draw a line somewhere, so in 1987 I decided to concentrate on women's basketball. That's worked out well, even though I'm still as busy as ever. However, I've cut down my schedule to 35 college and 25 high school games. As for the abuse, I've found that you get less as you

earn a reputation. Acceptance is the big word. Once you get that, you can handle just about anything."

Mike says he has the upper hand, comparing officiating to grooming a golf course. "Here (basketball) I have a whistle; I'm the ultimate authority," he explained. "In golf, it's more a mediation thing. But one avocation helps another (my vocation of superintendent). Patience carries over from one job to the other. Well, when I first started officiating, I whistled 50 or 60 technical fouls a season. Not it's only one or two."

So, Hermanson and Fitzroy (joined by Wayland super Jim Reinertson who also wears zebra stripes) know how to make winter into a good thing. They just pick up the tools of their second trade and whistle while they work. Come April, they're ready to get back on the golf course to face their real worlds.

GERRY FINN

Calendar

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| May 3 | Pro-Super-Press-Press
The International, Bolton, Mass. |
| May 24 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Poquoy Brook G.C., Lakeville, Mass. |
| June 6 | Manager-Pro-Superintendent-President Tournament
Kernwood C.C., Salem, Mass. |
| June 13 | Superintendent-Green Chairman Tournament
Belmont C.C., Belmont, Mass. |
| June 27 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Gardner Municipal G.C.
Gardner, Mass. |
| July 13 | Superintendent Appreciation Day
Shaker Farms G.C., Springfield, Mass. |
| Aug. 1 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Dedham Polo and Country Club
Dedham, Mass. |
| Aug. 16 | 2nd Annual GCSANE Scholarship & Benevolence Fund Tournament
Wachusett C.C., W. Boylston, Mass. |
| Sept. 6 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Twin Hills C.C., Longmeadow, Mass. |
| Sept. 26 | 6th Annual GCSANE Turf Research Tournament
Worcester C.C., Worcester, Mass. |
| Oct. 11 | Superintendent - 3 Club Officials
Blue Hill C.C., Canton, Mass. |
| Oct. 17 | NEPGA Pro-Supt. Tournament
Spring Valley C.C., Sharon, Mass. |
| Nov. 7 | GCSANE Monthly Meeting
Mount Pleasant GC, Lowell, Mass. |
| Dec. 7&8
(Tentative) | GCSAA Regional Seminar
Golf Course Construction and Techniques
The International, Bolton, Mass. |

The Super Speaks Out:

This month's question:

With the environmental responsibility of the golf course superintendent on a continual rise, how will the new pesticide license regulations affect your pesticide program this season?

Jeff Carlson, Ocean Edge Golf Club: "As an effect of environmental awareness and as practically every technical move in maintenance of the golf course became acute, I made it my business to try and keep one step ahead of any corresponding regulations having to do with the application of pesticides."



"Five years ago I was the only one on my staff to have a license, but I had visions of stricter regulations and went the full route in the matter of exposing my staff to both the core and commercial pesticide applicator licenses."

"I think the foresight of realizing that eventually every person applying pesticides would need his own license, rather than having blanket coverage from the superintendent's license, evolved naturally. As the public's knowledge of course grooming methods (i.e. chemical use) increased, it was only logical that the state would expand its restrictions on how those chemicals would be applied. Now, it's a reality."

"Presently, my assistant Rob Donovan has a commercial applicator's license, my foreman has a core license, and I'm working on other members of the crew to prepare them to take the license exam."

"With that part of the pesticide application problem dealt with, there's another related problem the superintendent has to face. It's the matter of insuring all pesticide applicators and, more to the point, finding a carrier who provides liability insurance. Then, once that's done, the whole concept of licenses and insurance must be worked into the annual budget. It's a snow-ball effect but a necessary one."

Wayne LaCroix, Andover Country Club: "I don't see any problem in the expansion of regulations for applying pesticides. After all, the procedure for studying for the exam and actual taking of it is another form of the step-up we're seeing in the superintendent's participation in ongoing education."

"The new regulation, that of having everyone applying pesticides earn his own license, kind of passes the educational torch to other members of the maintenance staff. And I'm all for any kind of incentive that will keep education on the front burner."

"Here, we have the pesticide application job surrounded. I have a license as do my assistant and foreman. As for the club's involvement, we make it a point to tell everyone on the crew that we will pay for all fees involved in obtaining a license."

"I think the outgrowth of regulations covering the application of all chemicals has made the whole thing more simplified. Now, everything is spelled out for the superintendent as to where, when, how, and by whom all pesticides should be applied."

"The basic idea of having a kind of wall-to-wall licensing agency within the maintenance personnel probably serves the superintendent in a public relations vein. It's just another way of telling anyone concerned that we are an environment-conscious profession and we are cooperating with state and national officials in the effort to preserve the environment's natural forms."

"As for the overall cost of complying with regulations intended to reach that goal, there is no hardship on our end of the bargain. So far, environment related regulations and restrictions have been no strain on me or my club. It's just something that has to be done."

"The new regulation ... passes the educational torch to other members of the staff. And I'm all for any kind of incentive that will keep education on the front burner."

**Wayne LaCroix
Andover Country Club**

Ron Milenski, International Golf Club: "First of all, I have to explain our part in the overall environmental and health concentration that seems to be sweeping the country."

"By 'our' I mean the very active position the owner of International, ITT, has taken in environmental and health matters. The company has made it clear that preservation of natural resources is a prime concern in its operational methods and those natural resources also include the people ITT employs."

"Along those lines, ITT has hired a consultant agency to make sure all of the golf course maintenance operations here comply with regulations set by state and national government edicts. In fact, it encourages all staff members to pursue educational goals leading to an even stricter adherence to environmental guidelines than the regulations originally intended. And the company pays for all expenses in that pursuit."

"As for my personal involvement, I and my staff have conformed to the old pesticide regulations as well as the latest for several years. We have six members of the staff licensed to use pesticides and we're prepared to make room for more if it's necessary. All, I might add, at no cost to those who become licensed."

"Another note worth disclosing is the length our owner has gone to insure the health of maintenance staff members. It provides blood tests for all golf course employees to act as a protection measure in any after-effects from applying chemicals. Additionally, ITT conducted a safety audit a few years ago, one that monitored staff members who had been exposed to chemicals."

"I'd say we've covered all bases to protect and preserve the environment and the people who work in it maintaining our golf course...as well as the golfers who play it."

GERRY FINN



Update on golf course pesticide budget debate in Braintree

Late last year at a town meeting in Braintree, Mass., the approval of the town's golf course pesticide budget was put on hold after several town meeting members voiced alarm concerning chemical use and contamination of drinking water.

Two representatives, one pregnant and the other battling cancer, whipped other attendees into a frenzy and a vote was taken to ban use of pesticides on the golf course. Although that vote was set aside, Superintendent Daryn Brown was left with virtually no funds to correct severe grub and weed problems on the course.

Instead, some town meeting members demanded Braintree raise and release

"beneficial insects" before trying pesticides. Incredibly, at this same meeting, approval was given for \$46,000 to treat two town lakes with an aquatic weed killer. Although objections were heard, assurances were given that the chemical was no more than "medicine for our lakes".

Dr. Richard Cooper of the University of Mass. was commissioned to develop a pesticide and fertilizer plan for the course. His recommendations included construction of a storage facility for chemicals, I.P.M. practices, a list of pesticides for use at Braintree, and use of lightweight mowers.

This report was presented to another town meeting earlier this year. In atten-

dance was Jim Fitzroy, CGCS, of Presidents G.C. in Quincy, who spoke in defense of Brown's competence and professionalism using pesticides, the budget amount (\$23,000) the golf course was seeking for chemicals, and reasons for their use. Although the course experiences about 52,000 rounds per year, has populations of 60-80% poa annua, and high infestations of grubs, crabgrass, and knot weed, the pesticide budget for the last five years was only \$4,000 per year!

The issue will be decided and voted on at the May 5 town meeting.

MIKE NAGLE

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

MEMBERSHIP

Proposed for Membership: Timothy Keating, Affiliate, Prolawn Inc.; Christopher Cowan, Affiliate, AgriTurf, Inc.; Linda Kelley, Associate, Bedrock G.C.; Joseph Borden, Associate, Strawberry Valley G.C.; Thomas Morris, Regular, Berkshire Hills C.C.; Gregory McKnight, Assistant, Sandy Burr G.C.; and Jon Orkiseski, Assistant, Worcester C.C.

Welcome New Members: Paul F. Prisco, Assistant, Heritage Hill C.C.; David A. Stowe, Assistant, Newton Commonwealth G.C.; and Jeffrey D. Baker, Assistant, The Country Club.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Position Opening: Assistant Superintendent at Indian Ridge C.C. in Andover, Mass. Application deadline is May 15, 1994. Send resumes to Roger Brink, c/o Indian Ridge C.C., Lovejoy Road, Andover, MA 01810.

Position Opening: Assistant Superintendent at Walpole C.C. Position available immediately. Salary negotiable. Send resumes to Mark Gagne, CGCS, P. O. Box 186, Walpole, MA 02081; (508) 668-3859.

MEETING NOTES

Thanks to John Kotoski and the staff at Pine Ridge C.C. for a great job hosting the April meeting.

INFORMATION

Jim Reinertson, formerly at Wayland C.C., is the new superintendent at The Orchards G.C., South Hadley, Mass. Congratulations!

David Robinson, formerly at the Shattuck Inn G.C., is the new superintendent at Atlantic C.C. in Plymouth, Mass. Congratulations!

It has been reported that on the last run of the last day of the ski season, Jack "Alberto Tomba" Hassett decided to take one last jump off a mogul too large. The result was a broken wing. We wish him a speedy recovery.

A reminder: Please make your reservations for monthly meetings by the date posted to avoid disappointment.

Let's get those membership dues in ASAP! The third billing has been mailed out. Any members who do not pay by May 31, 1994 will be dropped from the membership roster. Reinstatement will require a \$20 late payment charge.

During the latter part of March (sorry, no date was given) John Lenhart, Steve Carr, Scott Reynolds, and Scott's significant other Maura Beckley took 2nd place in the 1st Annual Attitash Open. It was (bear with me) a golf tournament played on skis down the White Horse trail finishing in front of the lodge...And people think I'm weird for hunting wild turkeys.

GOLF RESULTS

Pine Ridge C.C. Team of Four Scramble
1st Place - 62 - Kevin Lyons, Daryn Brown, Ed Uhlman Sr., and David Stowe; 2nd Place - 63 - Mike Hermanson, Wayne LaCroix, Kip Tyler, and Chris Peterson. (Two others teams tied at 63 lost in a match of cards.

GCSANE COMMITTEES

The following are the GCSANE Committees for 1994:

Membership: Edward L. Brearley, Robert DiRico, Kevin Osgood, and Scott Reynolds.

Employment: Robert DiRico, Kevin Osgood, and Robert Ruzala.

Publicity: James Fitzroy, William Spence, and Richard Tworig.

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By-Laws: Richard Zepp, David Barber, and Donald Hearn.

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Turf Research Fund: Robert DiRico, Dave Barber, Jim Fitzroy, Owen Regan, Richard Cooper, and Kevin Lyons.

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Newsletter: Michael Nagle, Stephen Chiavaroli, Gerry Finn, and Robert Ruzala.

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Friends of the Association profiles

P.I.E. Supply Co.

As a distributor of a complete line of top quality supplies featuring Buckner, Hunter, and Hardie Irrigation equipment, P.I.E. Supply Company has been recognized nationally for its technical service department and sales department. With two warehouses in Connecticut and sales offices in New York and Massachusetts, P.I.E. Supply Company is dedicated to serving the irrigation needs of New England.

We believe that information and education are our greatest strength and most valuable asset. We are actively involved in the local and the national industry associations. Our staff also is continually expanding and updating their knowledge through classroom and seminar studies. We provide our customers with this knowledge through personal contact with our sales representatives and support staff, newsletters and bulletins, seminars, and on-site training.

Intelligent irrigation practices remains a focal point at P.I.E. Supply Company. We integrate effective design, efficient equipment, and proper installation with conscientious system maintenance which prevents much more than just wasted water (i.e. money, energy, time, problems). This planned approach to irrigation will help sustain our parks, sports complexes, lawns, and golf courses well into the future. We don't just do it the easy way, we do it the right way.

Please mark your calendar!

Please keep in mind the following important dates:

Tuesday, August 16, 1994 - 2nd Annual Scholarship and Benevolence Fund Tournament at Wachusett Country Club, West Boylston, Mass.

Monday, September 26, 1994 - 6th Annual Turf Research Tournament at Worcester Country Club, Worcester, Mass.

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