

Connecticut Clippings



Volume 53, No 4

December 2019

CAGCS WINTER SEMINAR • JANUARY 7, 2020 • MYSTIC MARRIOTT

Our annual educational seminar was attended by over 150 members and supported by 30 commercial sponsors. I would like to thank our presenting partner Atlantic Golf and Turf, our gold sponsors Turf Products/Toro, Tom Irwin, U.S. Pitchcare as well as all our silver and bronze sponsors. Your continued support is what makes this an exceptional educational event.

Thanks go to the speakers for sharing their knowledge. Dr. Beth Guertal, Auburn University, began the day with her talk on Soil Fertility and began the afternoon session sharing Strategies for Controlling Thatch. Gina Rizzi, ARCUS

Marketing & Radius Sports Group, spoke on maximizing teamwork in your staff and shared her experiences with NASCAR racing teams. Dr. Olga Kostromytska, University of Massachusetts, updated us on Annual Bluegrass Weevil control. Dr. Paul Giordano, Bayer U.S., talked on plant protectants and how science proves their responsible use. Delphine Tseng, Landseer Communications and Consulting ended the day with her talk on being a better you.

During the morning break, Timothy Dunn, Assistant at Old Lyme CC was elected as the Class C Representative to the Board. The day ended thanking Mary Jo Kennedy

for her years of service to our association as Chapter Executive and sending her off with best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

It has been a rewarding experience to serve as your education chair the last two years. I would like to thank the CAGCS board for all their advice and guidance on organizing these events. Lastly, thank you Grace Marie and Mary Jo for making the 2020 winter seminar such a successful event!

Duncan McGowan
Litchfield CC



L-R. Gina Rizzi, Dr. Beth Guertal, Delphine Tseng, Duncan McGowan, Dr. Paul Giordano, Dr. Olga Kostromytska and Paul Bonini, CGCS.

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Paul Bonini

The Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents' 50th president is Paul Bonini, CGCS. Paul has been the superintendent at Watertown Golf Club for 20 years.

The President's Message

Paul grew up in Farmington, CT and his first jobs in the golf business was as a cart boy and in the pro shop at Tunxis Plantation CC during high school for Lou Pandolfi and Angelo Fiducia. Paul majored in accounting at Merrimack College for a year and a half and during summer breaks, he worked at Westwood GC for Kevin DiAmico, GCGS. Paul transferred to UMASS and received his Associates from Stockbridge and his Bachelor of Science in Plant and Soil Science in 1996.

Paul's UMASS placement was at Sable Oaks GC in Portland, Maine for two years with superintendent Chuck Welch. Upon graduation, Paul became the assistant at Pine Meadows CC in Lexington, Mass., a New England Golf Corporation managed course, with superintendent John Allen. In 1997, Paul became John Ruzsbatzky, CGCS's assistant at CC of Farmington

until he took the superintendent position at Watertown in October 2000.

Paul was asked to be on the board in 2005 and has enjoyed his 14 years of service to the association. The events he has attended and the people that he met have made the work worthwhile along with the professional and personal friendships that developed along the way. When CAGCS won the 2013 Excellence in Government Relations Award from GCSAA, it was a highlight and the culmination of teamwork among the board.

Paul lives in Burlington with his wife, Christine and children, Andrew, Ava and Allison. Paul has enjoyed coaching his children's sports over the years and playing any sport with them. Please welcome Paul Bonini, CGCS as our next CAGCS President.

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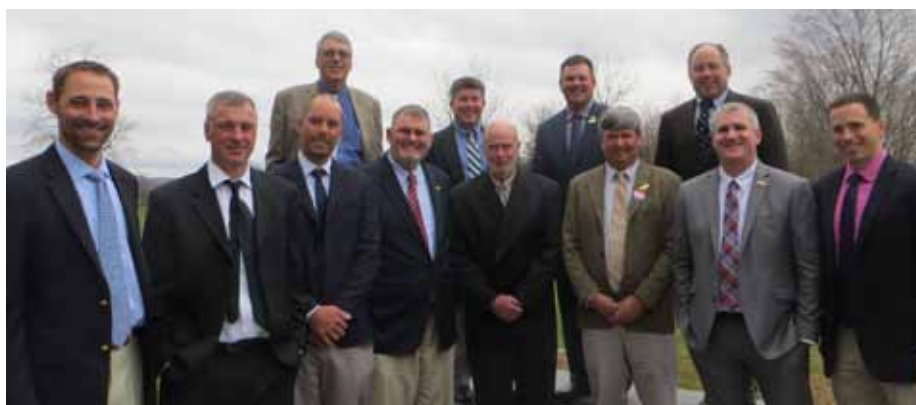
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KEVIN'S KORNER

Sometimes it is a struggle to develop a new topic to include in association newsletters. Add to that, a highly fluctuating travel schedule, and there are issues where I unfortunately fail to deliver content. I really appreciate Greg Cormier's patience with me, and feedback I get from members regarding my content. The topic for this article was born on Thanksgiving Day. It gives you a little look at how I tick, and the thoughts on overall team efficiency. It is a rant with a message that hopefully you will find useful.

My wife and I make a good team. She is a middle school special education teacher who relies heavily on structure to function personally and professionally. She plans and makes lists. We work well together because I can read and follow lists. We share most family duties including cooking. When it comes to large functions it is my kitchen and her support role is critical to get things from the oven to the table. It's a good team approach.

We hosted Thanksgiving which was planned for twelve. Two backed out last minute, causing angst for the planner. The missing mouths led to more uneaten food than expected. That caused me strife because it exposed an inefficiency that flat drives me nuts!

I fear the cabinet that holds our food storage containers. In my humble opinion, nothing ruins a wonderful meal like struggling to find a lid to match the container I just placed the leftovers in. For some strange reason, it happens to me every time! My teammate (wife) sees no issues with the current setup. So, as a superintendent, I stated my case regarding this perceived inefficiency in real-life research based scientific format. I dismantled the cabinet and counted everything to see if my perception met reality. Here is what I found:

- 49 containers
- 54 lids

Those numbers were closer than I expected, but I was undeterred. I then paired up the lids to match the containers:

- 43 containers with matching lids
- 6 containers with no lid
- 11 lids that fit no container
- 1 cracked container that had a lid (a refrigerator cleaning waiting to happen)
- 1 container with a broken lid

So even I would consider the numerical results a bit disappointing. I had honestly figured there would have been a much larger disparity. But as often happens with good research, I wanted to add an additional layer of inquiry. Of the 43 containers with matching lids, there were 17 different brands in the sample. That means there is a 40% chance the lid I would select would not match the container to begin with regardless of similarities!

Now picture the table covered with your irrigation parts, spare equipment items, or even the small tool area. Shop makeovers are not easy. Parting with pieces that may be useful can lead to future expense and increased downtime. Neither situation is desirable. However, ensuring the items are still viable, well-marked, and in working



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order can increase the efficiency you and your team must rely on in the critical moment of need. If you aren't specifically responsible for the inventory, be sure to engage your staff and ask how they would streamline their process.

My research led to a positive result in my household. I threw away what didn't match while my wife was at work. I'll pay for that later. If my employer finds out I cleaned out my container cabinet during work hours I might get in a little trouble for that too. While it was done in the name of pure scientific research in order to accomplish a business-related task, please don't tell them just in case.

Enacting small changes like these can take a prohibitively long time to achieve. However, if an equipment manager can immediately grab the exact belt he needs, or an irrigation technician easily communicating from the field the correct part needed for a repair to a fellow staff member leads to a faster more effective process, that would be a massive benefit every time. Engaging the staff for feedback could be a motivating factor, it might also remove some frustration from those responsible for their areas of expertise. More engagement, less stress, and more efficient sounds like a winning combination to me.

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

You Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already

Registration open for 2020 Golf Industry Show in Orlando

GCSAA and presenting partners, the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) and American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA), will offer a dynamic, progressive week of unparalleled networking opportunities and hands-on access to golf course and facility management solutions for golf industry professionals.

Redeem your GCSAA gift certificates for GIS costs

GCSAA is offering show attendees the opportunity to reduce the cost of participating in the show by allowing GCSAA gift certificates to be redeemed for flight and hotel expense.

Redeem GCSAA gift certificates

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

Nor'Easter Ski Day 2020 will take place at Killington Resort on February 27th, 2020. Last year nearly 200 industry professionals, friends & family set an attendance record (nearly 200), and a GREAT time was had by all!! Be sure to mark that date on your calendar and plan to join others from Maryland to Maine! More information to follow soon.

Upcoming Webinars

Dec. 12 @ 10 a.m.
Best Management Practices for the Turf Care Center
Gary Bogdanski



Jan. 9, 2020 @ 10 a.m.
Challenges and Possibilities of Irrigating Turfgrasses with Treated Effluent Water
Elena Sevostianova, Ph.D.

Jan. 15 @ 10 a.m.
Core Components of Personal Finance
Ross Miller

Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Kevin F. Doyle
GCSAA Field Staff
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Follow me on TWITTER @GCSAA_NE



**NEW ENGLAND
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Thank you to the Maine GCSA and Boothbay Harbor CC for a wonderful day of golf on a challenging and picturesque golf course.

- 1st. - New England GCSA
- 2nd. - Connecticut GCSA
- 3rd. - Rhode Island GCSA
- 4th. - New Hampshire GCSA
- 5th. - Vermont GCSA
- 6th. - Maine GCSA
- 7th. - Cape Cod GCSA

**THE 2019 CLASS C
TOURNAMENT
FISHERS ISLAND CLUB
OCTOBER 23, 2019**

The results for the 2019 CAGCS Class C Tournament were as follows:

1st Place Gross

Noel Hall, TPC River Highlands

1st Place Net

Timothy Nadeau, Rockledge Golf Club

2nd Place Net

Ben Newfang, Wethersfield Country Club

3rd Place Net

Kevin Fuchs, H.B. Brownson Country Club

Longest Drive

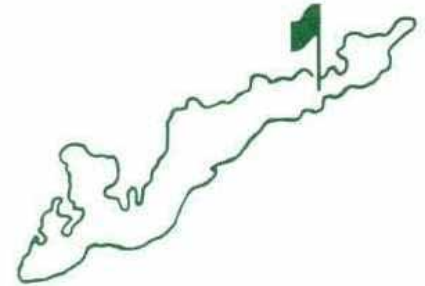
Matt Quinn, Indian Hill Country Club

Closest to the Pin #2

Matt Quinn, Indian Hill Country Club

Closest to the Pin #16

Noel Hall, TPC River Highlands



**RESULTS ANNUAL MEETING
SHARON COUNTRY CLUB
NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

1st Place Gross – 29:

Jason Dowgiewicz, Plant Food
Justin Church, Tallwood CC
Eric Morrison, Shennecossett GC
Scott Ramsay, The Course at Yale

2nd Place Gross – 31:

Jay Popko, Winfield United
John Callahan, Cardinals
Duncan McGowan, Litchfield CC
Brian McCullough, Turf Technologies

1st Place Net – 25:

Tim Nadeau, Rockledge GC
Bruce Morse, Cold Spring CC
Anthony Grosso, Chippabee GC
Al Adaskaveg, Rockledge GC

2nd Place Net – 28:

AJ Ruwet, McLellan Tree
Heather Garvin, Chas. Heart Seed
Marc Weston, Indian Hill CC
Daryl Aresco, Borough of Fenwich

Skill Prizes:

Long Drive: John Callahan
Closest to Line: Eric Morrison
Closest to Pin #4: 5'6"
Jason Dowgiewicz, Plant Food
Closest to Pin #8: 17'
Peter Bacon, Wyantenuck CC



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Congratulations!

To Paul Bonini, CGCS, CAGCS President on being selected a 2020 Melrose Leadership Academy Recipient. The Melrose Leadership Academy supports the professional development of GCSAA-member golf course superintendents. It is administered through the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), the philanthropic organization of GCSAA. The program was established in 2012 by Ken Melrose, former CEO and chairman of the board of The Toro Co., and is supported by a \$1 million gift to the EIFG from the Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation. Academy members are chosen through an application process based on financial need, volunteerism and a drive to advance their careers. The new class includes 17 members who will participate in networking and leadership activities as well as attend a variety of education seminars at the Golf Industry Show. Read

more: <https://www.gcmonline.com/course/environment/news/gcsaa-melrose-2020-class>.

Peter Gorman, technical representative for Atlantic Golf & Turf, has earned the 2020 Excellence in Government Affairs Award from GCSAA for his passion and hard work in advocating for the golf course management profession. GCSAA annually recognizes a chapter, coalition or superintendent for outstanding advocacy or compliance efforts. Read more: <https://www.gcmonline.com/course/environment/news/peter-gorman-gcsaa#ixzz68fRzCaRo>

Jim Pavonetti, CGCS, Fairview Country Club and Jeffrey Reich, TPC River Highland for receiving one of the 2019 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards (ELGA). Jim was the first runner up of the Natural Resource Conservation Award. Jeff was the second runner up of the Natural Resource Conservation Award.

Jonathan Burke on his new position of Golf Course Superintendent at Pocasset Golf Club in Pocasset, Massachusetts.

Curtis D'Ana on his new position of Golf Course Superintendent at Hartford Golf Club.

Anthony Gross on his new position of Golf Course Superintendent at Chippabee Country Club.

Bill Hamm on his retirement from Chippabee Country Club.

Tim Nadeau on his new position of Golf Course Superintendent at Rockledge Golf Club.

Clay Pedigo on his new position as Supervisory of Parks, Grounds and Cemeteries for the Town of Newington.

Scott Ramsay, CGCS on his new position of Golf Course Superintendent at Country Club of Farmington.

Garth Townley on his new position of Golf Course Superintendent at Pequabuck Golf Club.

Danyel and Ed Grant, K & J Tree Service, on the birth of their son, Edward H Grant V, on December 20, weighing 8 lbs., 5 oz. and 21 3/4 inches long.

Kelly and Joey Trenholm, Ellington Ridge CC Superintendent, on the birth of their son, Myles Gordon on January 30, weighing 5 lbs. 9.5 oz. and 18.5 inches long.



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Condolences

Michael Reeb on the passing of his son Tyler Michael Reeb, 34, on October 14, 2019. For more information please visit: <https://www.covenantfuneralservice.com/tributes/Tyler-Reeb>

Michael Conricelli on the passing of his brother Joseph Cornicelli, 72, December 18, 2019. For more information please visit: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/providence/obituary.aspx?n=joseph-m-cornicelli&pid=194756302&fhid=41682>

Phil Neaton on the passing of his father Ronald A. Neaton, 85, on December 29, 2019. For more information please visit: <https://www.newcomeralbany.com/Obituary/179642/Ronald-Neaton/Albany-NY>

Fulling Elected 84th President of GCSAA

By Jan 30, 2020 | Angela Hartmann

Lawrence, Kan. (Jan. 30, 2020) – John R. Fulling Jr., the certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) and grounds and facilities manager at Kalamazoo (Mich.) Country Club was elected to a one-year term as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) at the association's annual meeting Jan. 30, held in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. He is the 84th president in the association's history.

Other elected officers were Mark F. Jordan, CGCS and natural resource leader at Westfield Country Club in Westfield Center, Ohio, as vice president, and Kevin P. Breen, CGCS and golf course superintendent at La Rinconada Country Club in Los Gatos, Calif., as secretary/treasurer.

Board member Kevin P. Sunderman, CGCS, director of grounds at Isla Del Sol Yacht and Country Club in St. Petersburg, Fla., was elected to serve again, while Douglas D. Dykstra, CGCS, golf course superintendent at White Mountain Country Club in Pinetop, Ariz., was newly elected to the board.

Jeff L. White, CGCS and superintendent at Indian Hills Country Club in Mission Hills, Kan.; T.A. Barker, CGCS and superintendent at Fore Lakes Golf Course in Taylorsville, Utah; and Paul L. Carter, CGCS, at Bear Trace at Harrison Bay in Harrison, Tenn., continue their service on the board. Rafael Barajas, CGCS and the director of golf course operations at Boca Grove Golf and Tennis Club in Boca Raton, Fla., will serve as immediate past president, while past president Darren J. Davis, CGCS and golf course superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Fla., retires from board service.

Connecticut Clippings is an official publication of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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The Clippings is open to all commentary.
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**June 22nd-28th, 2020 at TPC River
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Jeff Reich, TPC River Highlands Director of Golf Course Maintenance Operations, is looking for industry volunteers to assist in daily course set up and recovery during the PGA TOUR's Travelers Championship, to be held Monday, June 22 through Sunday, June 28, 2020.

There are two available shifts: Course Set Up, from approximately 5 AM to 8:30 AM, Monday through Sunday; and Recovery, from approximately 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM (weather dependent), Monday through Saturday. Times may vary slightly according to play.

Volunteers will be provided with Tournament apparel, as well as Tournament credentials, additional gallery tickets, and meals will be served post-shift in the mornings and pre-shift in the evenings.

You will also be able to watch the action on the course! If you would like to stay and watch play after the morning shift

or come back early to catch some golf before the evening shift, tickets will be provided. Parking passes will be provided for entry to the parking lots.

If you would like to volunteer, please email the attached form to Gerry Gilbert, Administrative Assistant, TPC River Highlands Golf Course Maintenance Department, at tpcrhagronomy@gmail.com or call for more information at (860) 635-2954. Please advise the days and times of the shifts you are available when completing the form.

Online Volunteer Application at:

<https://forms.gle/5U2C1bcRqz3YmFhD9>



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2020 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**PRESENTING PARTNER**

February 27	Nor'Easter Ski Day Killington Mountain
March 3-5	NE Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show Providence Rhode Island Conference Center
April 13-20	Tee It Up New England
April 27 Monday	Blue Fox Run Golf Club Host: Stephen J Curry 2 Ball Shamble
May 19 Tuesday	Redding Country Club Host: Brett Chapin <i>CAGCS Scholarship & Research Tournament</i>
June 15 Monday	Cold Spring Country Club Host: Bruce Morse Low Gross/Net by Flight <i>1st Round CAGCS Championship</i> <i>MET Team Championship Qualifier</i>
July 13 Monday	Hop Meadow Country Club Host: William Demur Low Gross/Net Blind Partners <i>2nd Round CAGCS Championship</i> <i>New England Team Championship Qualifier</i>
August 19 Wednesday	The Hartford Yard Goats <i>CAGCS Social/Network Event</i>
September 28 Monday	New Haven Country Club Host: Jason Booth, CGCS <i>CAGCS MEMBER/GUEST</i>
October 13 Tuesday	Wethersfield Country Club Host: Allen Woodward 2 Person Best Ball <i>Superintendent/Assistant Tournament</i> <i>President's Cup & McLaughlin Trophy</i>
October	TBA Host: <i>CAGCS Class C Tournament</i>
November 4 Wednesday	Rock Ridge Country Club Host: Steven Loughran 9-Hole Scramble ABCD <i>CAGCS Annual Meeting</i>
December 3 Thursday	J. Timothy's Taverne <i>CAGCS Christmas Party</i>



THE CONNECTICUT AGCS WINS 2019 MET AREA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP AT MORRIS COUNTY GOLF CLUB

For the second time in the past 3 years and the fifth time in the past 15 years, the team representing the Connecticut AGCS wins the MET Team Championship at Morris County Golf Club in Morristown, NJ. Connecticut dominated this year's event, winning by 13 strokes with a well-balanced team. Kevin Collins and Eric Morrison led all Net teams with a score of 66 and the team of Mike Dukette and Eric DeStefano were just one off the low gross score at 72. Overall the 8-person team was just +3 with Jason Dowgiewicz and Andrew Hannah at 75 gross and Jay Popko and Tim Nadeau at 70 net rounding out the Connecticut champions.

Host Superintendent Jon Heywood and his team had Morris County in pristine conditions with everyone praising the recent renovation work they have done on the course. Morris County Golf Club is a Seth Raynor gem founded in 1894 and at the time was the first club planned, organized and operated by women. Morris County was one of the early members of the USGA and the first club in NJ to host a national championship.

While Connecticut seemingly ran away with this year's championship, the battle for second was extremely close. The defending team from the MetGCSA lost a match of cards to New England for second and third place, and Long

Island finished just one shot back in fourth place. It just goes to show you, every shot counts out there!

Year after year, the Met Area Team Championship was made possible by our 7 major sponsors who continue to step up to make this one of the best events across North America! Please join me in thanking BASF, Bayer, Koch Turf & Ornamental, Ocean Organics, Plant Food, Syngenta and Toro as they continue to support this fantastic event.

The Met Area Team Championship continues to raise money each year to help those in our industry going through difficult times. Over the past 9 years we have raised over \$10,000 and have supported superintendents, industry representatives and their families in times of need. Last year we donated \$1,000 to the Scott Wiiki memorial Rutgers Scholarship. Scott was the superintendent at Mill Creek in Rochester, NY and suddenly passed due to a brain aneurism at the age of 28. Thank you to all who support these efforts with the 50/50 raffles! If you know of anyone in need please let us know.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, Jon Heywood and his entire staff and all the folks



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at Morris County GC for another successful championship! A special thank you to our local GCSAA representative Kevin Doyle for help with registration and Shaun Barry for the great photos as usual! Photos can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/gp/185020654@N02/Z52e5G>

We look forward to seeing everyone next year, so stay tuned for announcements over the winter! Note: Please save the date for the Nor'easter Ski Day at Killington Mountain on February 27th, 2020!!



**2019 MET AREA TEAM
CHAMPIONSHIPS
MORRIS COUNTY GC
PAR 70
OCTOBER 8TH, 2019**

Team Scores

*Par 280 (Ties broken by lowest
gross scores, then net)*

	Score
1st Connecticut AGCS	283
2nd GCSA of New England	296
3rd MetGCSA	296
4th Long Island GCSA	297
5th GCSA of Cape Cod	299
6th Pocono Turfgrass Association	299
7th GCSA of New Jersey	303
8th Philadelphia AGCS	305
9th Central New York GCSA	307
10th Hudson Valley GCSA	309
11th Northeastern GCSA	312
12th Rhode Island GCSA	334

Skill Events

Closest to the pin hole #3, sponsored by
Ocean Organics: Steve Stephens 1'-5"
Philadelphia AGCS

Closest to the pin hole #13, sponsored by
Bayer: Eric DeStefano 5'-3"
Connecticut AGCS

Closest to the pin hole #15, sponsored by
Toro: Jason Criss 14'-6"
Philadelphia AGCA

Closest to the pin hole #17, sponsored by
Koch T&O: Brian Bontemps 5'-9"
Morris County GC

Long Drive

Hole # 11:
Gross Division sponsored by Syngenta
Andrew Hannah – Connecticut AGCS
Hole # 11:
Net Division sponsored by BASF
Steve Aspinall – Northeastern GCSA
Hole # 11:
Sponsors Division sponsored by Plant Food
Matt Kerns – Plant Food

Low Gross Team

Luke Knutson & Shawn O'Sullivan
Long Island GCSA
Score of 71

Sponsorship Team Winner

Jon Heywood & Brian Bontemps
Morris County GC
Score of 63

Most Honest Teams

Net
Drew Cummins & Nick Burchard
Rhode Island GCSA
Score of 88

Gross
Steve Lafazia & Dan Wolf
Long Island GCSA
Score of 85



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