



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

— AUGUST, 1986 —

— DATES TO REMEMBER —

— August 11 —

GCSANE Regular Meeting-Steak Bake
Heritage Hills C.C.
Lakeville, Mass.

— August 20 —

University of Rhode Island
Research Field Day
URI, Kingston, R.I.

— September 25 —

GCSANE Member-One Guest Tournament
Cummaquid G.C.
Yarmouthport, Mass.

— October 6 —

GCSANE Member Guest Tournament
Hatherly C.C.
Scituate, Mass.

— October 20 —

Superintendent-Pro Tournament
Brae Burn C.C.
Newtonville, Mass.

November 3

GCSANE Regular Meeting
Presidents G.C.
Quincy, Mass.

— December 6 —

GCSANE Christmas Party
Needham G.C.

— NEXT MEETING —

August 11, 1986
Heritage Hill G.C.
Lakeville, Mass.

Host Superintendent-Charles Dickow

Directors Meeting: 10:00 A.M.

Regular Meeting: 11:00 A.M.

Lunch: 12:00 Noon at club
On your own

Golf: 1:00 P.M. Shotgun-Super-
Super Championship (Best Ball)

Cocktails: 4:00-5:00 P.M.

Dinner: 5:30-Steak Cookout

Cost: \$20⁰⁰/Person
(includes cart & dinner)

Directions to Club: Rte. 24 South to
Rte. 495 South. Take Exit for Rtes. 18
& 44. Go South on Rte. 18 to yellow
blinking light (Rte. 79). Go right on
Rte. 79. Take first left off Rte. 79. Take
1st Left. Go Right on Heritage Hill
and follow to club.

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— SMALLER MOWERS FOR FAIRWAYS — The Wave of the Future or a Passing Fad ?

A great deal of attention has lately been given to the use of smaller, lightweight machines for mowing of fairway turf. The use of such smaller machinery supposedly got its start when superintendents began mowing the narrow approach areas leading to greens with smaller machines. They noticed a drastic decrease, if not complete disappearance, of mechanical damage and also noted better summer survival of turf and an increase in the bentgrass populations of these areas. Cutting "extended approaches" and soon many superintendents were maintaining total fairway acreage with smaller machines.

The initial skepticism regarding increased costs was carefully analyzed by a number of golf course superintendents. At Westchester Country Club, superintendent Ted Horton's detailed record keeping practices allowed him to make a finite cost comparison between the seven and nine gang mowing units and the lightweight machines. Ted's analysis figured in equipment costs, equipment maintenance, labor, fuel and other associated costs. In comparing mowing costs incurred with the large mowing units on non-contoured fairways, with the costs incurred with lightweight units on contoured fairways, Horton found the lightweight units to run \$10,000 to \$15,000 more on an annual basis. However, this cost increase was accompanied by a drastic improvement in fairway playing conditions and summer turf survival and an increase in bentgrass populations. At Westchester, Horton felt the improvements in fairways conditions were a direct result of the use of smaller machines and that the increased costs, actually quite small on a percent-of-total-budget basis, were more than justified.

Rest assured that improved playing conditions, increased bentgrass populations, better summer turf survival, decreased fungicide requirements and other characteristics associated with the use of smaller mowers are not the only factors attributed to these machines. For example, Jim Latham of the USGA Green Section suggested recently in a GREEN SECTION RECORD article that an important by-product of the smaller machines was a significant increase in thatch accumulation and the corresponding need for greatly increased soil cultivation practices.

Obviously, as with any turf management practice, especially one as initially radical as the use of smaller mowers on fairway turf, there are pro's and con's. Let's take a look at the thoughts of New England Golf Course Superintendent's Association members in this regard.

At Weston Golf Club, GCSAA Vice-President Don Hearn cuts and removes clippings from his 18th fairway, recently renovated by Bob Cupp, with a GM-3 set at one-half inch. The par-3 fairways are cut with a TF 60 set up with five bladed reels and the remaining fairways are cut with an F-10 set at five-eighths of an inch. The fairways are cut three times per week and are verti-cut and overseeded with Seaside and Astoria once per year. Were it available, Don would prefer to use Penneagle in his overseeding program on fairways. Fungicides are applied five to six times per year and fairways are not syringed during stress periods. Hearn's staff is currently maintaining 25 acres of fairway.

Don likes the fact that mechanical damage has been eliminated where the smaller machines have been used, that the fairways can be mowed in a variety of directions, allowing a more even cut and that more strict definition can be gained at the edge of the fairway and the rough. He feels his equipment operators can more easily maintain a strict rough line with the smaller machine. Were money not an object, Don stated that he would like to cut the fairways at

Smaller Mowers con't. on pg. 3—

Golf Course Superintendents Association



— THE SUPER SPEAKS OUT —

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund - Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

President's Message

David Barber

August, 1986



The large turnout for our July 7th meeting at Vesper Country Club was of no surprise. We had the privilege of playing one of the finest conditioned golf courses in New England for our annual championship. The GCSA of New England Championship was won by Ken Mooradian who shot a fine 76 (gross). The senior championship was won by Bob Mucciarone 75 (net). Congratulations to Ken and Bob.

I would like to thank Bert Frederick for a great golf course and Bruce Morrisson and his club house staff for their hospitality shown to us.

Congratulations go to Allan S. Singer, Thompson Country Club, who is a new member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. I hope to see everyone at our next meeting, Heritage Hill Country Club, August 11th.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Douglas Irwin, son of long time member and GCSANE supporter Norm Irwin.

(Welcome to The Super Speaks Out - a monthly feature which offers the golf course superintendent a forum to express his views on topics and issues relating to his profession.)

This month's question: With much attention on speed of greens and Stimpmeter readings, do you think the whole idea is being puffed up to ridiculous proportions?

Bert Frederick, Vesper Country Club: "Absolutely. That is, this thing is getting out of hand.

"After all, the golf course is the same for everyone. So, what's the difference, in matter of offering a playable course, if the greens aren't lightning fast?

"As a matter of fact, I think greens that are too fast take some of the skill out of putting and replace it with luck. And, as everyone knows, when the greens aren't fast, they are much better to putt.

"And that's just for starters. I wonder if the people, who want to putt on glass instead of grass, are aware of the maintenance danger as the cut of the green goes down and down.

"Here (Vesper), my members don't complain much about the speed of our greens. Sure, there are a few who look at the pros on TV and think everything they play is supposed to be the same for them. But we have a cutting schedule and it doesn't include Sundays.

"You know, the turf has to have a chance to recoup. If the members realized this, the issue of lightning fast greens wouldn't be an issue.

"As for the Stimpmeter, it's just a piece of wood. And the only thing it's good for is firewood.

"Next thing you know, we'll have to put up with something like the hard and soft levels of greens for approach shots. Are they kidding? I mean, how technical can some of these golfers get?

Tony DeBettencourt, Andover Country Club: "All I can say is what you see on a TV golf course is one thing and what you have at your home course is another.

"The argument about slicking up the greens is a joke when you consider that the average golfer prefers a moderate cut and the average golfer is

what there are more of.

"Therefore, when we start thinking of lightning fast greens, we're thinking of a few golfers. And I never heard of anywhere that a few golfers can tell the majority what the course setup is going to be.

"My course has what I consider the ideal cut on the greens - one-eighth of an inch. And, when it gets hot, I jack up that cut because I don't want to lose 'em.

"Our Stimpmeter rating was between seven and eight when the course was rated by the MGA. And that's not all that fast.

"Regardless, our members won't allow a handful of their comrades to dictate speed of our greens. That's it. And I agree."

Wayne Zoppo, Agawam Hunt Club: "I think we've gone as far as we can go in the matter of speeding up the greens.

"Which is another way of saying, where's the stopping point when you're setting the cut of greens.

"I think a 1/8 cut is adequate. Anything below that and we're flirting with danger.

"It's funny, too, because Agawam Hunt always had the reputation of having fast greens. And I only hope that we don't have a membership drive to have the fastest again.

"It's one of those 'anything you do, I can do better things', anyway. And I'm not restricting this comment to golfers.

"Some of us (superintendents) are our own worst enemies. We hear the comments of players from other courses, concerning certain degrees of course conditioning, and we fall into the same trap as club members. Hey, I'm confessing that this has happened to me.

"Anyway, continuous cutting below one-eighth of an inch is very bad for the turf and sooner or later it will take its toll.

"In the end, it comes down to whether you want to putt the ball in or pray it in. Super-fast greens mean a lot of praying's going on. And that should be only for church."

—GERRY FINN

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Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST, 1986

—Smaller Mowers con't. from pg. 1

Weston with a fleet of six to eight triplex greensmowers.

Down the street at Pine Brook, Doug Johnson has been mowing fairways for a number of years with the lightweight machines. The HF-5 has been the machine for Doug and two of these units handle the fairway mowing. Johnson mows his 25 acres of fairway at one-half an inch and either catches the clippings or blows them off of the fairways. He has noticed a decrease in the need to syringe during stress periods and verti-cuts and overseeds once per year with Seaside, Penneagle and Penncross. Fungicides are applied five times per year. Doug feels that the lightweight mowers are the mowers of the present and not the future. He likes the reduction in wear and tear, the ability to constantly change mowing patterns and the cleaner cut gained with the smaller machines. However, he has tried the triplex greensmowers on the fairways and is happier with the 5 gang units as they stand up better to fairway mowing.

Moving out to Western Massachusetts, Springfield Country Club's Doug Stachura cuts fairways on eight new bentgrass fairways at five eighths of an inch with a five gang pull unit equipped with ten bladed reels and with an F-10 equipped with seven blade reels on the remainder of fairways. Doug is looking forward to re-building his 10 remaining original fairways. These fairways had been overseeded for a number of years with limited effects and the results Doug achieved by completely stripping two fairways and overseeding them to bentgrass have made him a confirmed advocate of this process. By using a commercial sod harvester and timing the process at the most appropriate point of the year for germinations and seedling development, Doug was able to have the two fairways back into play in five weeks.

With 25 acres of fairway, Doug is investigating the use of the five gang hydraulic mowers and feels they are far superior for the turf. His recent work with a demonstrator surprised him in that mowing time was about the same as it had been with the larger F-10 unit. The fairways at Springfield are treated with fungicides every three to four weeks from June through August.

Back to Eastern Massachusetts and Tom Schofield at Wellesley Country Club. Tom splits the 34 acres of fairway mowing between the F-20 and two HF-5's. The fairways are cut three times per week at five-eighths of an inch and receive fungicide treatments four to five times per year. Aerification takes place twice per year and the fairway areas are overseeded once per year with Seaside and Astoria or whatever is available in bentgrass.

Tom anticipates no change in fairway mowing equipment but would like to see improvements made in fairway mowing equipment. He has had problems with the smaller mowers when mowing wet turf and would like to see the machines refined so as to require less maintenance. However, Schofield feels they are the mowers of the future.

Jim O'Kelly at Brae Burn recently changed to the smaller machines and is very happy with the results. The staff at Brae Burn mows eleven fairways with two 350-D's set at one-half an inch and four with a GM-3 cut at three-eighths of an inch. The remaining three holes are par-3's with either no fairway cut or small extended approaches. Fairways are cut five to six times per week. Jim starts mowing at four in the afternoon from June through August and tries for a dry cut at other times during the year. He finds the dry cut far superior in quality and cleanliness when compared to mowing wet.

Fairways are sliced twice per year and overseeded once per year with Penneagle and Seaside. Fungicides are applied five times per year on the 25 acres of fairway. There is no question in Jim's mind that the smaller units are here to stay and feels strongly that the members at Brae Burn want quality conditions and are willing to pay for the vastly improved playing conditions resulting from the use of lightweight mowers on fairways.

Nearly all of the superintendents contacted spoke to the increased maintenance requirements of the smaller machines. The lightweight machines are more sophisticated than the larger units and require daily maintenance on the order of single or triplex greensmowers. However, all felt that the results spoke for themselves.

Only time will tell whether or not the smaller units for fairway mowing are the wave of the future or a passing fad. The initial scare stories as to vastly increased budgets and mega-thatch accumulations have simply not come to pass. The smaller units have found a place in the moderate maintenance budget at the Captains Golf Course on Cape Cod as well as the more healthy maintenance regime of private clubs throughout New England. Are they for you?

—RON KIRKMAN

—CHIP SHOTS—

Congratulations to Ron Kirkman, Needham G.C. on becoming the grandfather of a granddaughter! . . . Al Singer of the Thompson Club has just been voted into the GCSAA as a regular member . . . Arthur Anderson is now living with his son and would like to hear from people, please drop him a line c/o Arthur Anderson, One Fordway Extension, Windham, N.H., 03087 . . . Mike and Kathy Nagle are the proud new parents of daughter Elise, born 4-28-86 and weighing in at 8 lbs. 4 oz. Congratulations! . . . Paul Brooks of Sagamore Springs G.C. found a Lynx 9 iron in golf bag after the Vesper C.C. meeting - if you wish to claim it please call him at 617-334-4701 . . . Donnie Hearn, son of Don Hearn, CGCS, Weston G.C. was recently the subject of a feature article in the Lowell, Mass "SUN". It seems that he will be showing off his marksmanship abilities during the upcoming 86 Bay State Games. Donnie will be representing the Northeast region in both the scholastic small bore rifle 3 position and the scholastic small bore prone position. Best of luck Don, and tell Dad to let us know how you did . . .

Printer's Omission July Newsletter

In the cover article "Who Dunit?" the paragraph concerning Jim O'Kelly should have read:

"At Brae Burn in Newton, Jim O'Kelly started the spring with a first green that was severely damaged. A heavily shaded green with poor surface drainage, the turf loss was a combination of bent and annual bluegrass. The ice cover damaged green was aerified, spiked six times, over seeded with a blend of Penncross and Penneagle at four pounds per thousand square feet and top dressed. Jim also applied a half pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet and covered the green with Reemay for 10 days. When the cover was removed, the green was spiked . . ."

Our apologies to Ron Kirkman and Jim O'Kelly for this omission.

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Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST, 1986

—Even Crab Grass Looks Good to Dick Skogley—

He goes by the call letters, C.R.

But that's only for check-writing and speeding tickets. To anyone, who's interested in turf, he's Dick Skogley - the research digger from the University of Rhode Island. And, as he points out, "the diggin's just fine, thank you".

At this very moment, Dr. Skogley (in formal terms, Professor of Agronomy at URI) is preparing for his annual field day at the University's Turf Research Farm. The date for the worthwhile educational plunge is August 20.

"It's a one-day event," Dick tells. "And it's our one event of the year. We expect another good crowd, too. There should be anywhere from 300 to 500 people. They'll come from near and far but mostly New England, New York and New Jersey.

There's always something of interest at Dr. Skogley's wall-to-wall production.

The subjects will be just that - ranging from weed control to discussion of turf diseases and some of the breakthroughs in curing them. There's even a special session on crab grass which sometimes is one of the specialties of the house when the house is a golf course.

Whatever, turf research is Dick's baby and the field day is one of the means of financing projects that often come up smelling like a rose to turf industry experts and the golf course superintendent.

Dr. Skogley, but of course, has a special place in his professional outlook for the superintendent and the golf course.

"I'm really encouraged by some of the moral and financial support coming from superintendents," he tells. "There was a time when many superintendents just sat back and ignored the incidence of turf research until they had a problem.

"Now, especially in Rhode Island, the superintendents are the only organized turf group we have. It's essential to our endeavors and theirs that there be a strong show of interest in furthering the materialistic good that comes from research. And, we'd like to see the day when there's a constructive balance of moral and financial support."

Dr. Skogley is a long-time friend of the New England Golf Course

Superintendents Association, having come to URI in 1960 after a three-year stint at Rutgers University.

One of his strengths is his involvement in influencing the Rhode Island legislature to become financially active in the turf field.

"I fought for state funds in the 60's and I'm still hot on the idea of getting as many people involved in research as I can," Dick revealed. "I've also leaned on the right administrators here at the University to throw their weight behind our program.

"It's been a hard fight and a long one. But it's starting to pay dividends. However, there's never enough backing in the area of research since we are on sort of a treadmill. As soon as we make a breakthrough on one plant disease, there's a new one to be approached."

Dr. Skogley also cites the increased support from the turf industry which has been one of the leaders in the research effort.

"I guess you could say we need interest and support from many facets," Dick advised. "And that includes more involvement in research from those people coming out of college agronomy programs.

"As a matter of fact, recruits in the field are hard to come by. Most of the time, we rely on grad students to fill those jobs. However, many graduates are turning away from a future of research because of lucrative job offers. This could become serious."

Dr. Skogley also notes that the four-year undergraduate program at URI isn't producing enough people to man the jobs which are offered in several turf-related fields.

"The openings, the number of them, are amazing," he reported. "I'd say there were 50 openings for every turf grad we produce. It's a fantastic opportunity - especially in the superintendent's field where salary upgrading has been on a steady climb."

Dick Skogley, then, sees the turf business from all angles - practical and philosophical. So much so, that he even allows his work to get in the way of playing the game ("even though I think I could do reasonably well at playing golf").

Just good turf from a good guy. Dr. Skogley's always on call. Because of it, the golf course superintendent's job is a little easier. Cheers.

—GERRY FINN

Superintendent-Club Managers Outing

Ledgemont C.C. - June 16, 1986

Mayor Caranci, Superintendent, Ledgement Country Club gave us a beautiful day at the Superintendent-Manager meeting. What a lovely golf course, even my partner D.J. the Critic from Pinebrook had nothing but praise for the condition of Ledgement. Caranci kept his manager in the clubhouse to supervise his staff in preparing a delicious lunch, excellent Hors D'oeuvres and a superb dinner. How about the liquid refreshments on the first tee - sodas and juices for the chauffeurs and other liquids for the passengers. Did you notice how clean and beautiful the clubhouse was and the service and neatness of the staff - a job well done. Let us not forget the Golf Professional and his staff. They organized the tournament, guided us to the proper tees and did the scoring. Caddies were available (a lost art at many clubs) and golf cars impeccably clean and raring to go. A big Thank You to the membership at Ledgement and their excellent organization. On to the results. First gross went to the team from Eastward Ho C.C. Brian "Sasquatch" Cowan and his manager. First net - Mayor Caranci and his neighbor from Agawam Hunt Club - Prince Valiant Zoppo. Second net - Politician Hearn and Pat Archibald Weston G.C. Third net, Grumpy Barber and Lorraine Clark, Blue Hill C.C. A tie for fourth net went to Killer Koslowski and Jim Gosslin, Warwick C.C. and the team from Mt. Pleasant C.C. Jim "Grunt" Beane and Dino DeLuca.

A private message to the former Green Chairman from the D.P.C.C. who now lives in the San Francisco area. The Rebel and his partner from the Pitch and Putt golf course kept their record intact as they mowed down another Yank and his partner at the Green Chairman Superintendent meeting last month at the Hampden C.C.

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GCSAA News Release—

**U.S. Open
Advance Course Preparations**

The golf course superintendent plays a major role in the U.S. Open Championship, not only during Open Week but for months and even years prior to the event.

The superintendent's role is to prepare and maintain the golf course in the best playable condition possible, meeting the requirements of the USGA.

To attain these high standards, the golf course superintendent sometimes must begin Open preparations several years in advance. For the 1986 U.S. Open, golf course superintendent Peter Smith began making course changes in 1983.

The Olympic Club in San Francisco will be the site of the 1987 U.S. Open. Golf course superintendent John T. Fleming began his course preparations in early 1986, as few major changes were required at his course in order to meet USGA standards.

The 1988 U.S. Open is to be played at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass. William H. Spence, golf course superintendent, began course renovation in 1985. 3½ years before the U.S. Open is to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Ouimet victory over the British. In preparation for this anniversary, the greens, tees and fairways at The Country Club are being remolded to their original form. Spence is supervising this extensive renovation, knowing he must have the course in superb playing condition by June 1988.

The 1989 U.S. Open is scheduled for Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, N.Y. Although golf course superintendent Joseph M. Hahn, CGCS, has not started special course preparations, plans are being formulated. Oak Hill hosted the 1984 USGA Senior Open; therefore relatively few special preparations are anticipated for the 1989 U.S. Open. Even so, Hahn is sure to be challenged with USGA's vigorous requirements for course conditioning.

The 1990 U.S. Open will be played June 14-17 at Medinah C.C., Medinah,

Ill. Golf course superintendent Peter B. Wilson began preparing his course in June 1985. These early preparations involve projects that require construction or reconstruction to meet the high standards of the USGA. Course conditioning for the Open will begin later and will continue throughout the 1990 U.S. Open Championship.

The 1991 U.S. Open will be contested June 13-16 over the course of the Hazeltine National G.C. in Chaska, Minn. Five years before the event, golf course superintendent Chris L. Hague, CGCS, already has begun preparing the course. Construction projects were started in fall 1985. The finer course conditioning work will begin in 1987.

Golf course superintendents take great pride in preparing their courses for an event such as the U.S. Open, and to ensure that their courses are in excellent playing condition, their advance work is essential.

The course showcased during this year's Open week, Shinnecock Hills G.C. and its golf course superintendent, Peter Smith, are representative of the dedication and pride of superintendents everywhere.

For further information, contact Billy J. Shelton, Media Relations Manager, GCSAA.

FUTURE U.S. OPENS

June 18-21, 1987

The Olympic Club
San Francisco, Calif.

Superintendent-John T. Fleming
415-587-4800

June 16-19, 1988

The Country Club
Brookline, Mass.

Superintendent-William H. Spence
617-566-0204

June 15-18, 1989

Oak Hill Country Club
Rochester, N.Y.

Supt.-Joseph M. Hahn, CGCS
716-586-2584

June 14-17, 1990

Medinah Country Club
Medinah, Ill.

Superintendent-Peter B. Wilson
312-773-1704

—LAST MEETING NOTES—

**GCSANE Championship
Vesper C.C. - July 7, 1986**

This writer was extracted off Cape Cod, lured, if you will, into believing that the journey to Tyngsboro would be well worth the effort . . . my colleagues were right. Vesper C.C. is truly one of the best manicured golf courses many of us have ever played on. A very sincere Thank You to Bert Frederick and the Vesper membership for allowing us to play this beautiful golf course.

—1st readings for membership were announced for Barrie Robertson (regular member) Sky Meadow G.C., Merrimack, N.H., and Robert Bernier (Regular Member) D.W. Field G.C., Brockton, Mass.

Golf Results

1st Gross (76) Ken Mooradian,
Hopedale C.C.

2nd Gross (78) Dick Duggan,
Concord C.C.

1st Net (70) Gary Lucini,
Franklin C.C.

2nd Net () Mike Nagle,
Worcester C.C.

Commercial (80) Ron Ryan,
Sawtelle Bros.

Senior Division (75 Net) Bob
Mucciorone, Dedham Golf & Polo

Closest to Pin-Paul Brooks,
Sagamore Springs G.C.

Accurate Drive-Tony Caranci,
Ledgemont C.C.

Closest to Pin on 2nd Shot-
Ken Mooradian (Hopedale C.C.)

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June 13-16, 1991

Hazeltine National Golf Course
Chaska, Minn.

Supt. Chris L. Hague, GCCS
612-448-3626

(All the above superintendents are members of GCSAA, the world's leading professional association for golf course managers.)

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