



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



— January, 1986 —

— DATES TO REMEMBER —

January 9-10, 1986

New Hampshire Turf Conference
Manchester N.H.

January 13

GCSANE Annual Meeting
Election of Officers
Franklin C.C.
Franklin, Mass.

January 13

News Deadline "The Newsletter"

January 27-February 4

GCSAA Conference and Show
San Francisco, CA

February 10

GCSANE Regular Meeting
Franklin C.C.
Franklin, Mass.

March 1

MGA Spring Conference Luncheon

March 3-6

U-Mass Conference and Show
Springfield, Mass.

Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors GCSA of New England

President David Barber
Vice President Richard Zepp
Secretary Paul Miller
Treasurer Thomas Schofield
Trustee Stephen Chiavorali
Trustee Mark Klimm
Trustee Kip Tyler
Finance Chairman Joseph G. Mondor
Golf Chairman James O'Kelly
Educational Chairman Edward
Brearley
Newsletter Chairman Ronald
Kirkman

Respectfully Submitted 12/16/85
GCSANE Nominating Committee

— Correction —

Printed in the December Newsletter
under 1st Readings: Peter Hasak-
Associate Member should read-Peter
Hasak-Regular Member. My apologies
to Peter.
—The Editor

Green Chairman . . . That Necessary Link

Although it isn't that complicated, at times folks just can't seem to determine where each party stands and treat the positions like the eternal question - "which came first, the chicken or the egg?"

Well, who predates whom, the golf course superintendent or the green chairman?

Actually, the order isn't all that important. The important aspect of the relationship between the superintendent and green chairman is coming to an understanding of responsibility's way.

As far as Tom Nash is concerned, his responsibility as green chairman at the Wellesley Country Club covers two areas.

"I have to do everything, within my province, to help the golf department stay on budget and also to serve as a liaison between the board and the superintendent, plus the membership and the superintendent," Nash tells. "It's worked that way for my four years as green chairman at Wellesley and I might add that it has worked well."

Nash's relationship with Tom Schofield, then, is right on target. Unless the golf course has a major conditional problem and remains bent out of shape, there's no need for Tom to have somebody looking over his shoulder and offering advice.

Nash has a straight-out view and appreciation of what Schofield has done to keep Wellesley on its conditioning toes and what he has to do to keep it there.

"He's the professional," Nash says of Schofield. "I have a full time job. I work with stocks, bonds and investments. Tom wouldn't come into my office and tell me how to do my job. And I'm the same way about his. I can't tell him what fungicide or whatever works better. The golf course is his office."

There definitely is something to be gained from the golf and country club's process of having a representative of ownership (membership) on hand to protect its interest while supporting the efforts of management (the superintendent).

"Tom and I always have a good relationship," Nash notes. "We get along and understand what the association of green chairman and superintendent is all about. As for the members and their appreciation of the job Tom does, that's also relative."

"I'm afraid most country club members still maintain a greenkeeper mentality in that they're not aware of the refinements and sophistication which go into the superintendent's efforts. So, that educational process goes on."

"Realistically, the playing grounds Tom gives the Wellesley membership is mirrored in a collective opinion of him. As far as I can determine, our members

—Green Chairman con't. on page 3



Golf Course Superintendents Association



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

President's Message

Donald Hearn

January, 1986



As I started writing this I realized it would be my last message. The past two years seem to have flown by.

I'm certainly proud to have represented the Association as President. In this position I've had the good fortune to also serve on the Boards of the Massachusetts Golf Association, Francis Ouimet Caddie Scholarship Fund, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. This has given me the opportunity to meet people associated with all phases of the game. I can assure you they respect the superintendent, his skills, the difficulty of the job, and his importance to golf.

It's easy for us to think the superintendent is the key cog in a successful operation, but we should not forget that it takes more than one person to create success in our business. We should be willing to give and take with everyone we work with. Particularly our Green Chairman, Clubhouse Manager and Golf Professional.

The way Roger Barry's Southeastern Massachusetts Golf Awards Dinner has taken off it shouldn't be much longer before a larger facility will be needed. An event as large as this requires a lot of planning and hard work. Roger and his committee people were very gracious recognizing the many supporters of the

— Position Opening —
Assistant G.C. Superintendent
Hickory Ridge G.C.

Send Resumes to:
Mr. Bob Ruzala, Supt.
c/o Hickory Ridge C.C.
West Pomeroy Lane
Amherst, Mass. 01002
or call 413-256-8654

event and the worthy award winners.

As many of you know, Roger is a Past President of the Golf Writers Association of America and has always been a friend and supporter of the Golf Course Superintendent.

Congratulations to Joe Rybka for the tremendous effort he directed to have Thorny Lea playable for the PGA Assistants Championship which was played just after the visit of Hurricane Gloria. I was pleasantly surprised to read the much deserved coverage of Joe's efforts in the December issue of PGA Magazine. In appreciation of his efforts Tournament Sponsor, Foot-Joy Co. honored Joe and his wife with gifts and a week's stay at their condominium in Florida.

All early indicators suggest another record setting International Conference for San Francisco. More and more clubs realize the importance of keeping abreast of the rapidly changing technology in our field and are sending their superintendent to the conference. More than twenty-five seminars and three hundred hours of education are scheduled. Two additions to the conference will be programs by the National Golf Foundation and the Sports Turf Managers. Patty Berg will receive and Dinah Shore will present the Old Tom Morris Award at the banquet. Altogether, it's shaping up as one of the best ever.

Since the next meeting will be our annual meeting I would expect all members to attend. Our next President, Dave Barber, has been a personal friend of mine for many years and I know he and the directors will do an excellent job for our association.

— NEXT MEETING —

GCSANE Annual Meeting
Franklin C.C.
Franklin, Mass.

10:30 A.M. Directors Meeting
12:00 A.M. Lunch
1:00 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers
1:30 Program: The Trials and Tribulations of Hosting the U.S. Women's Open - Kip Tyler GCS, Salem C.C.

RESERVATIONS are a MUST
for this meeting

Call Gary before Jan. 8
Business - 617-528-6110
Home - 617-528-3534

Directions to Club: From Rte. 495 take King St. exit. Go north to traffic light and turn right on Route 140. Club is appx. one mile on right.

Superintendent Profile: Host Superintendent Gary Lucini has been at Franklin for the past 16 years. After starting in the business as Bob Mucciarone's assistant at Dedham Polo, he took his first superintendents job at Pine Oaks Club in Easton after he finished building it.

His building experience came in handy at Franklin some 12 years ago when the members asked him to construct 10 new holes there.

The Clubhouse has gone through a near total renovation over the past two years and because of the recent real estate explosion in the area, the future of Franklin C.C. looks bullish.

Gary, his wife Kathy, and 4 children live in Franklin.

□ □ □



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Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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Pfister Potpourriby **Dudley Smith, Silver Lake C.C.**

At the twentieth annual Wisconsin Turf Symposium in Milwaukee the speakers presented these thoughts to digest.

Dr. Joe Vargas, Michigan State pathologist:

1. Use only 2 lb. Nitrogen/ per 1,000 sq. ft. annually.
2. Verticut lightly.
3. Use the new growth regulator, CUTLESS.
4. Aerify while the Poa Annua is seeding (May). The bentgrass fill in the aerifier holes. The Poa Annua roots are dormant while the plant is flowering.
5. Only use arsenicals if you like to play with fire.

Kevin Dushane, Michigan superintendent:

Fairway mowing with a triplex mower is VERY expensive. The annual cost with a single triplex was \$9,000, with a 7 gang unit \$3,000. The triplex offers these bonuses; less watering, less fertilizer (only 2 lb. Nitrogen), less fungicides, the ability to mow in different directions, less syringing, eye appeal, and less grain. However, the fairways will have a thatch buildup and must be verticut six times a year.

Billy Buchanan, PGA Tour Agronomist:

1. Golf course superintendents maintain **PUTTING SURFACES**, not landing areas. We do not control the golfers ability to hit the shot, that's what handicaps are for.
2. The game should be played on firm surfaces; not hard, not dead . . . but firm. The golf ball should bounce, not plug.
3. Nitrogen levels and clipping weight removed are **NOT** important. It's the stuff that's left after mowing that is important. The 1/8 inch of stubble is what the tournament golfer is interested in. That's why frequency of cut is so important. Championship courses mow their greens nine times a week!
4. Let's keep golf a forward game, not backward (backspin). The course should play to 7,100 yards, not 7,200 yards with 100 yards of backspin on the greens.
5. Three steps in grooming good greens: frequent mowing, spiking to let fresh air in, and topdressing lightly with dry material.

Jim Latham, USGA Agronomist:

While the superintendent is thinking agronomically about the needs and quality of his turf for 1986, his member golfer thinks only about this particular fairway as he approaches his next shot.

Yardage markers every ten yards are a pain in the butt. Arborvitae bushes at 150 yards, red maples at 200 yards are silly. Joe Dye, former USGA executive director, was a purist. All bushes, etc. used for yardage indicators were yanked and sodded in one year before the competition date. The sod repairs were not to be visible to the golfers.

Visibility and depth perception are a part of golf. See your optometrist, as well as your golf pro, to sharpen up your game.

Yellow balls sliding down a pole should be reserved for one occasion . . . Times Square on New Years Eve.

Ted Woehrle, Michigan superintendent:

Ted led a discussion on the problem of earth worms and their deposits on fairways mowed at 1/2 inch. The mess they create on the rollers when the fairways are wet. Another problem, the encroachment of **MOSS** on putting surfaces mowed at 1/8 inch. There was no solution to either dilemma.

Ted Woehrle, lunching with current U.S. Open Champion Andy North at the Pfister, took time to visit kitchen boy T.C. Chen.

Over 200 people attended this excellent Wisconsin program. More Chicago superintendents should take the two hour drive North and enjoy our neighbor's hospitality.

Credit: The Bull Sheet, Dec, 1985

— LAST MEETING —

Franklin C.C., Dec. 16, 1985

A capacity crowd was on hand to hear Dr. Pat Vittum's nematode study update, and to welcome Dr. Richard Cooper to the GCSANE.

Our hats off to Host Superintendent Gary Lucini who acted as greeter, cocktail waiter, club manager, food distributor, and clean up servisor. As is the norm at Franklin, the food was excellent in spite of the unexpected turnout which threw the kitchen staff off schedule.

As guest speaker Dr. Cooper enlightened us on his duties at U-Mass and stressed that he would like to work closely with us on the "applied problems" of turf management on golf courses. He will also be running a Turf Research Field Day in So. Deerfield, Mass. on June 26th, 1986.

Voted in as Regular Members

Peter Hasak - Hamden C.C.
Ron Sherman - Plymouth C.C.
Ron Milenski - The International G.C.
(Reinstated)

Voted in as Associate Members

Gary Dorn - Brae Burn C.C.
Congratulations to all of the above - find a committee and get involved!!

1st Readings for Membership

William Largy - Regular Member
V.A. Golf Course at Bedford, MA
Richard Rockwood - Associate Member - Foxboro C.C.

**— Slate of Candidates for 1986 Election —**

The GCSAA Nominating Committee met in Indianapolis during the Mid-Year Turfgrass Conference and Show to determine the slate of candidates for the 1986 election of officers and directors. The following individuals have been placed in nomination by the Committee:

For President:
Riley L. Stottern, CGCS
The Jeremy Ranch Golf Club
Park City, Utah

For Vice President:
Donald E. Hearn, CGCS
Weston Golf Club
Weston, Massachusetts
John E. Laake, CGCS
Columbus Country Club
Columbus, Ohio

James M. Taylor, Sr., CGCS
Green Tree Country Club
Midland, Texas

For Director:
Stanley Boraski, CGCS
Pawtucket Golf Club
Charlotte, North Carolina
Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS
Sambol Construction Company, Inc. (The Links)
Toms River, New Jersey
Gerald L. Faubel, CGCS
Saginaw Country Club
Saginaw, Michigan
William R. Roberts, CGCS
Sentry World
Stevens Point, Wisconsin
Kenneth A. Sakai, CGCS
Franklin Canyon Golf Club
Rodeo, California

The Nominating Committee is chaired by Past President Robert Osterman, CGCS. Other Committee members include: Leonard H. Berg, CGCS, Illinois; Robert M. Randquist, Oklahoma; James D. Ross, California; and Dean E. Watkins, CGCS, West Virginia.

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—Green Chairman con't. from page 1

think of Tom as someone who knows what he's going and is one of the best at what he does."

Such high praise and understanding of who's responsible for what and why are echoed in the philosophical approach of Jim Cotter who just began his first term as green chairman at the Needham Golf club where he'll be the link between membership and superintendent Ron Kirkman.

"That's just about what I'll have in focus when I start getting my feet wet," Cotter explained that he plans to zero in as the main instrument of communication between Needham members and Kirkman. "I think I can do more for the overall picture in that capacity than trying to tread on ground which is foreign to me."

In other words, Cotter also realizes there is no need for technical interference from him where the superintendent puts his expertise into practice.

"We all have a lot of respect for Ron and the job he does at Needham," Cotter remarked. "Of course, we are not as demanding as some of the other clubs, so there may not be as much pressure on him.

"However, pressure has no reflection on how Ron goes about his business of giving us the best playing conditions he can. How else can I say it? The guy's (Kirkman) on the ball. I haven't been on the board as green chairman two months and I'm already receiving your Newsletter."

Like Nash, Cotter believes the average member is not aware of the scientific aspects that go into conditioning the course.

"It's just something that has to be part of the communication process at the club," Cotter stressed. "That's where I come in and I hope that my input can do something to get the appreciation message across."

The green chairman-golf course superintendent system, then, is working. And why not? At least, at Wellesley and Needham, it's in very good hands.

—GERRY FINN

Credit Where Credit is Due!

Joe Rybka CGCS, Thorny Lea C.C. shared headlines this month with Jon Fiedler who won the 9th Annual PGA/Foot-Joy Assistant Professional Tournament, held at the club October 2-4.

In a well written article for PGA Magazine, author Jim Wartens levied high praise on Joe for his work preparing the course after being devastated on September 28 by Hurricane Gloria.

"... in a tournament rarity the golf course superintendent shared headlines with the players... on a Thorny Lea course which looked like a war torn battleground a couple of hours after Gloria struck." Wartens goes on to describe the damage, costs of clean up, and the "round-the-clock efforts of herculean proportions" of Joe and his staff.

Also mentioned in the article was that "... Rybka was honored by club and tournament officials at the annual Players Banquet: In addition to presents for both Joe and his wife, they also received a weeks vacation in the Foot-Joy Condominium at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla."

—MIKE HANNIGAN

Editors Note - As I made my way around Southeastern Mass. and Rhode Island during the week following Gloria, I had the opportunity to observe at least two dozen superintendents undertaking massive clean up operations

Courses with the heaviest damages were closed by the superintendents primarily to protect the memberships from falling limbs and leaning trees, yet many crews worked tirelessly throughout the weekend to make their courses not only safe, but playable by mid week.

Having been a golf course superintendent, the efforts of these men did not surprise me, but it sure was nice to see one of our own given the credit where credit was due.

□ □ □

— Announcement —

9 Hole Budget Survey Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 16, 1986

9:00 A.M.

Whitinsville Golf Club

Call Dick Zepp for details and forms

234-2533

or

234-8490

The Case for Spikeless Heels

A letter from a man in Syracuse crossed the desk recently bringing in to focus another reason why the spike can be dangerous. Laurence Sovik was playing in the New York State Open Championship in 1926, and Walter Hagen has a locker opposite him at the Onondaga Country Club in Syracuse. As they sat before their lockers one day changing their shoes, Sovik noticed that there were no spikes in the heels of Hagen's shoes, and that the heels were made of rubber. Why? wondered Sovik, and so he put the question to Hagen. "You must have some reason," Sovik granted.

"Sonny", Hagen replied, "there is a very good reason. After playing 18 holes I always thoroughly enjoy playing the 19th. Frequently it is necessary to walk across a concrete or terrazo floor, and you only have to slip and fall once to understand why I have rubber heels on my golf shoes."

Since then Sovik, too, has worn rubber heels and no spikes on his golf shoes, and he is pleased to report that it has not affected his golf game one whit — not the first 18 or the one that follows. "It has been my observation," Sovik writes, "that real damage is done by heel spikes — particularly by those who drag their feet. There should be a rule forbidding the use of heel spikes. They are not more necessary than a second tail for a cat."

from *The Golf Journal*, May 1974
contributed by Mel Lucas, Jr.

Credit: *The Bull Sheet*

— The Super Speaks Out —

(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 and an eternal one, by the way, that needs occasional airing: *With the golf season behind and the golf courses at rest, what do you do to keep busy in the winter?*

Art Silva, Belmont Country Club: "Pardon me, if I chuckle a little over the question, especially the part about keeping busy.

"That's never a problem for the superintendent, at least for me. The golf course may be closed but we're never closed.

"Right now, I have four year-round members of my crew and we're in strip formation. Taking down every type of equipment, piece by piece, and getting it ready for spring.

"Meanwhile, there are 70 golf cars ready for their annual trip to the doctor (me) for some preventive medicine. Again, we strip them and do whatever is needed to get them in shape for next season.

"I don't have any plowing here, other than keeping the fire lanes open, because the clubhouse closes for the winter.

"There is a bonus that goes with winter, though. Now, I'm working ONLY eight hours a day instead of 12. That's a feeling of relief which comes with winter, that and my ability to get a good night's sleep."

Charles Passios, Cummaquid Golf Club: "My situation and that of a few other superintendents on the Cape is a little different than most of the profession in New England. It's simple. We have no closing date.

"But that doesn't mean I don't have to put some new heartbeat into and new faces on my equipment. The off-season chores go on and they pretty much take up my time.

"There isn't much we can do to improve playing conditions at this time of year other than to keep our refurbishing projects going and make sure the regular greens are protected.

"This is my first full year here and it's

been an active as well as a pleasant experience. I started using temporary greens last January and I got flak. That's what I call active. This year, I think I've convinced members that temps are the way to go and that I should determine when they come into play.

"One thing I don't do in the winter is worry about the condition of the course. I leave that for the summer when I grow my gray hairs.

"So, winter is almost a carryover from the regular golf weather here. I still like it, though, and I still believe Mother Nature calls most of the shots in this business.

"That's why I'd like to see a relatively dry spring. So would my members. They're always here. Therefore, golf might just be an endless season at Cummaquid."

Bob Heeley, Quaboag Country Club: "I know, I know. A lot of people think we superintendents pack it in for the winter, head for the islands and live it for a few months."

"Well, you know what thought did. Whatever, he didn't have me in mind, because I'm just as busy as ever. The only change is location - outside in the summer, inside in the winter. Hey, wait a minute, I have to plow, too.

"I treat my winters just like most of the other supers. Which means that I overhaul and repair equipment. That also includes sprucing it up with a paint job and having it ready for our spring opening - which seems to come earlier every year.

"This is pretty much a one-man chore, too. I have one man but he works only four hours a day. Fortunately, I don't have to fuss with the golf cars. If I did I'd never finish. As it is, I'll be lucky if everything's ready for spring.

"Winter here also means being on call for plowing and sanding. That's on my agenda, also. And, when there's a storm, I'm on call. So, that is open year-round.

"The winter, then, doesn't mean the end of a superintendent's responsibilities. It's not all ice cream and cookies - like some people think it is."

—GERRY FINN

— CHIPS SHOTS —

Congratulations to the newlyweds; Wayne and Virginia Zoppo were joined in marriage recently and will reside in Attleboro . . . We have another new advertiser, Connecticut Cilica Company from Ledyard, Conn. This new GCSANE supporter specializes in sand, White Silica for traps, chemically inert top dressing, angular white quartz landscape stone and boulders. Area representative is Mr. James Sinkowski and can be reached at 203-536-2618 . . . Congratulations to Kevin (Turf Specialties, Inc.) and Linda Lyons on the birth of their son Benjamin Robert on 11-27-85 . . . The recent Southeastern Mass. Golf Awards Dinner was a total success. Representing the GCSANE were members Don Hearn, CGCS Weston G.C., Dave Barber CGCS Blue Hills G.C., Ron Kirkman, GCS Needham G.C., Bob St. Thomas, GCS Hyannisport C.C., Brian Cowan CGCS Eastward Ho! C.C., Tom Schofield, CGCS Wellesley C.C., Mark Klimm GCS New Seabury C.C., Paul Miller, GCS Tedesco C.C., Dick Zepp, CGCS Whitinsville G.C., and Mike Hannigan, Editor of the GCSANE "The Newsletter" . . . Nice to see Dr. Troll at Franklin as well as so many others from west of Worcester. We hope Loni will let the Prof out a few more times this coming summer to rub elbows with us on the links . . . incoming Golf Director Jim O'Kelly tells that his 1986 tournament schedule is coming along very nicely. He still has a few months open, and would especially appreciate a club for our April meeting. Please call Jim ASAP if you would like to host . . .

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Anyone planning to play in the GCSAA Championship Tournament please call Chairman Jim O'Kelly before January 13, 1986, so that teams can be arranged in advance.

Work - 244-0680

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