



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

NOVEMBER, 1986

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 1

GCSANE Regular Meeting
Franklin C.C.

Dec. 6

GCSANE Christmas Party
Needham G.C.

Dec. 11-12

GCSAA/RIGCSA Seminar
Disease Identification
Seekonk, MA

Jan. 26 - Feb. 2

GCSAA Conference and Show
Phoenix, Arizona

-NEXT MEETING-

Franklin C.C.
Franklin, MA

Host Superintendent - Gary
Lucini

9:30 am Directors Meeting
11:00 am Regular Meeting
12:00 Lunch
1:00 pm Educational
Dr. C. R. Skogley

Reservations Required
617-528-6110

Directions to Club from Rte. 495-
take King St. exit, go north to
traffic light and turn right on Rte.
140. Club is about 1 mile on
right.

SEE YOU IN PHEONIX

With the frost on the pumpkin well upon us, it's not too early for golf superintendents to begin making plans for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 58th International Golf Course Conference and Show to be held next February in Phoenix, Arizona.

This annual Conference and Show offers an unparalleled opportunity for self improvement for the contemporary golf course superintendent. A sampler of activities includes:

- Well over 20 different topics will be covered in the GCSAA Seminar Program. While designed primarily for the golf course superintendent, many of these courses are beneficial for other professionals active in the turf industry. Taking a glance through the seminar listings reveals topics of interest for club managers, golf course architects and builders, office managers, tournament officials and the like. These seminars offer, among others, opportunities for those interested in expanding their knowledge of turfgrass management, business communications, club management, business administration and computer operations.

- The Thinking Superintendent sessions always prove to be one of the most popular and interesting educational opportunities afforded by the Annual Conference. Golf course superintendents from all over the country relate their experiences on a wide variety of golf course maintenance, management and construction techniques. Many are the ideas picked up during the Thinking Superintendent sessions that find their way back to New England courses.

- The Research Update sessions are another integral component of the Annual Conference. Leading researchers from across the country gather together to discuss the practical applications of their research related to golf course management. The University personnel involved in research find these sessions beneficial not only because they offer an opportunity to disseminate information on research results, but also because they are afforded the chance to give and take with golf course superintendents keenly aware of future research goals and requirements.

- Allied associations such as the USGA Green Section, the American Society of Golf Course Architects, the National Golf Foundation and the Sports Turf Managers all actively participate in the Annual Conference. Each organization is intimately associated with the golf course management industry and all offer beneficial educational opportunities at the Annual Conference.

- The Industrial Show is annually the largest of its type in the world. The golf course superintendent has the opportunity to see the latest in golf course equipment and the rare chance to compare equipment side by side. As well, this portion of the Conference allows a great opportunity for turf managers to engage in a free and open exchange of ideas and techniques related to golf course management.

In summary, the International Golf Course Conference and Show offers an unmatched opportunity for golf course superintendents from across the country to get together and keep up with the latest in this rapidly changing industry. Whether it is University Researchers, Certified Superintendents, Superintendents, Golf Course Architects, Golf Course Equipment Manufacturers, Agronomists, or other turf personnel, the International Conference and Show gets all of these people together under one roof. The opportunities for personal advancement are there merely for the taking.

The Annual Conference and Show is not unlike a "Who's Who" of the turfgrass industry. BE THERE!!!

Ron Kirkman

Golf Course Superintendents Association



-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: In light of the advances in technology and changing world of equipment and the like, how do you cope with the problem of storing the ever-increasing numbers of variety of fuels. . . or is it a problem?

Bill Spence, The Country Club: "So far, so good. That is to say we haven't had any problem but you never know.

"We're in the process of re-locating some of our maintenance operational areas and if it means re-locating the tanks, I understand there are permits involved and that could become touchy.

"Here, there are two tanks - an underground tank that holds 500 gallons and an above-ground tank that has a 300-gallon capacity. I'm working both ways - with leaded and unleaded gasoline. Right now, fuel storage is the least of my worries, but we'll keep our fingers crossed."

Donald Hearn, Weston Golf Club: "We're operating our equipment on leaded and diesel with the underground tank (1,000 gallons) storing the regular gas (leaded).

"We have just a few vehicles that use diesel, things like a utility tractor, so we use an above-ground tank of 275-gallon capacity for that.

"Problems? I'm not sure. They could be ahead because we're thinking in the direction of expanding our maintenance facilities. Should we have to dig up the old tank, we could find trouble. It's metal, so there could be some deterioration. That's when we'd get into permits and other ramifications stemming from EPA regulations."

Jim O'Kelley, Brae Burn Country Club: "We're strictly leaded here and not about to go unleaded unless we get an awful lot of new equipment that definitely requires that type of fuel.

"Storage is no problem. We have a 500-gallon underground tank for the leaded gas and an above-ground tank for our diesel fuel. We use diesel for a few vehicles - a tractor, couple of cutting units and a ground-master riding mower.

"We seem to be doing the right thing with the tanks, too. Permits have to be renewed every year, and all I do is hike off to the fire department, which has been very cooperative in that matter.

"Down the road, there could be a problem if we get into more sophisticated equipment that won't do the job without unleaded fuel.

"This is kind of ticklish with me. In some cases, I've been using regular gas where it calls for unleaded. And I'm one of those guys who thinks you shouldn't solve a problem if there's no problem there. That's why I keep burning regular."

Mark Klimm, Country Club of New Seabury: "You're talking to a guy who's almost qualified to set up a gas station business.

"Do we have tanks? Count 'em: one 5,000 gallon job for regular (at the marina), one 3,000 job for unleaded and, get this, another 5,000 gallon tank for super-unleaded. Those are all underground. We also have an above-ground tank for small amounts of diesel fuel.

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CORRECTION

With so many Drakes around and about New England doing great golf course work, its easy to get mixed up.

Michael Drake was responsible for the bunker work at Worcester C.C. Billy Drake was off somewhere else doing great work. Sorry Michael, my fault.

Position Opening

Royal Crest 9 Holes

Contact:

Mr. Sidney Foreman
20 Rainbow Pond Drive
Walpole, MA 02081

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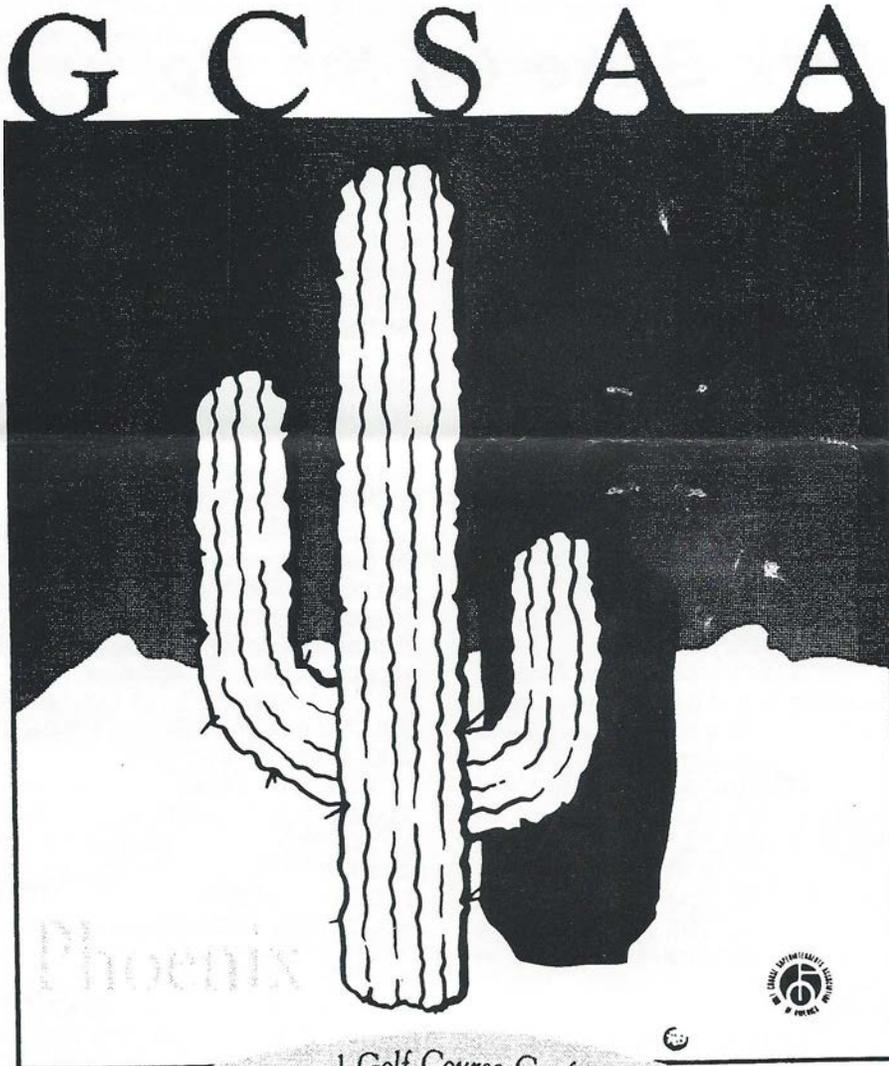
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Worcester, MA 01602
Home Phone 752-0031
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Club Affiliation
Tatnuck C.C.

TRUSTEE
Mark J. Klimm
P.O. Box 480
Mashpee, MA 02649
Home Phone 477-3516
Office Phone 477-0919
Club Affiliation
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NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER, 1986



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"O.K. So, the next question has to be, do I ever get them mixed up? Well, so far, I've hit the right hose every time. But, seriously, it does get confusing because we're talking about four different types of fuel.

"The super-unleaded deal may sound out of line. However, we have 47 vehicles, the registered ones on the grounds, who function best with that type of gas.

"In case of new facilities for maintenance of the golf course and other things, we may have to think about new tanks and replacements for the old ones. The fire department has all our information and records on file, so we're up to date there.

"What we don't know is what happens if we dig up the old tanks. We could have to go to glass-lined and glass-exterior tanks. But we'll tackle that problem when we get to it. In the meantime, I guess you could say we at New Seabury don't have a ping in our motors."

GERRY FINN

A true friend of the association hasn't been feeling up to par as of late. We wish Ken Turner of Turf Speciality all the best and a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Ron Tumiski on his recent marriage.

Congratulations to Bob Dirico voted regular member GCSAA.

Same Old Dick Blake On the Go

Dick Blake was talking but it was between meetings. Or was it between seminars?

Whatever, he remains the same old lifter of the golf course superintendent's spirits and image. And, as always, he's one the go.

These days, Blake does the greening of the Quail Ridge Country Club. That's a long way from home - Boynton Beach, Florida, in fact. Home is Wilmington, Mass. That's a lot of grass to cut in between.

And Blake has. He's one of those pro's professionals - a master of his craft with the growing pains in all directions of furthering the prestige of his profession. He's been a committee man, director, president, delegate. You name it and Dick's taken the floor from it in matters of professional importance.

Right now, it looks like Blake will have company.

"YEAH, I GUESS DON (HEARN) IS IN LINE TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL," Dick commented from his office the other week. "THAT WILL MAKE TWO OF US FROM NEW ENGLAND TO GET THAT FAR. GOOD MAN, DON.

"BUT, REMEMBER, HE'S JUST A REFLECTION OF THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION, LIKE I WAS. THAT NEW ENGLAND GROUP IS SOLID. HE'S WHERE HE IS BECAUSE OF SUPPORT FROM ITS MEMBERS. SAME AS ME. I COULDN'T HAVE MADE IT WITHOUT THOSE GUYS."

As a matter of record, Blake is the only person ever to be elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America from the floor. He pulled that trick out of his bag in 1971. It never was accomplished before. It hasn't since.

"I REMEMBER THOSE DAYS WELL," Dick told. "I HAVE TO THANK MY OLD PAL, LEON ST. PIERRE FOR THAT. HE DID ALL THE GROUNDWORK. HE DREW UP OUR PLAN AND LED ITS IMPLEMENTATION. WHAT A JOB. WHAT A SHOW. IT WAS JUST GREAT."

Blake hasn't strayed too far from the political arena, either. Presently, he's secretary-treasurer of the Florida State Association for Golf Course Superintendents, is very active in the local Palm Beach chapter and was a vice-president when he was working within the limits of the South Florida Association.

"OH, I SUPPOSE ONCE A HAM, ALWAYS A HAM," Dick joshed. "BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PERSON WHO GETS INVOLVED. IT WOULDN'T BE ME, IF I JUST SAT BACK THERE AND LET EVERYONE ELSE DO THE WORK. I THINK YOU OWE IT TO THE ASSOCIATION, TO YOUR FELLOW SUPERINTENDENTS."

Blake's post at Quail Ridge is demanding in that it is a 36-hole course in a high resort area where the layout and the members never sleep.

"WE HAVE THE SAME TYPE OF PROBLEMS THE GUYS BACK IN NEW ENGLAND HAVE," he advised. "IT'S HOT AND HUMID HERE RIGHT NOW, BUT IT'S THAT WAY BACK HOME DURING THE SUMMER. THE ONLY ADVANTAGE UP NORTH IS THAT IT COOLS OFF NIGHTS. HERE? NO WAY."

Dick reports that Quail Ridge has an assortment of members, heavy in the retired area which means some live on the course - day and night.

"SURE, IT MEANS WE GET A LOT OF PLAY," Dick remarked. "SO, I'M UNDER THE GUN ALL THE TIME. THIS IS A PRESTIGE CLUB. BUT THE PALM BEACH AREA IS FULL OF THOSE. THERE ARE OVER 100 COURSES IN THIS IMMEDIATE AREA. THEREFORE, IT'S ALMOST LIKE THERE'S A HOTSHOT COURSE ON EVERY CORNER."

Blake finds an old problem facing him constantly.

"JUST LIKE THE NEW ENGLAND GUYS AND MAYBE THE REST OF THE COUNTRY," he explained. "THE LABOR SITUATION IS TERRIBLE. IT MIGHT EVEN BE TOUGHER DOWN HERE BECAUSE OF ALL THE CONSTRUCTION GOING ON. WE HAVE TO COMPETE WITH THAT. AND, WHEN YOU CAN'T OFFER ANYTHING EXCEPT PEANUTS, THE PICKINGS AREN'T VERY GOOD."

Dick looks back on his tenure as national president as a learning experience and one pocked with progress. It was during his stay in office that certification got off the ground. He supported it then and still does.

"NO ONE'S EVER CONVINCED ME WHY A SUPERINTENDENT SHOULDN'T BE CERTIFIED," he said. "I'VE BEEN RE-CERTIFIED THREE TIMES. IF ANYTHING, AND THERE'S MORE TO ITS ADVANTAGES, CERTIFICATION SERVES AS AN INCENTIVE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND KEEPING UP WITH TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS AND TRENDS SHOULD BE EVERY SUPERINTENDENT'S OBLIGATION."

Blake is in his 34th year as a superintendent and still retains the enthusiasm he brought to his first job back in 1952.

"YEAH, I'M AN OLD-TIMER," he concluded. "BUT I THINK PROGRESSIVE WHICH MAKES ME JUST AS YOUNG AS THE NEXT GUY. I'LL NEVER CHANGE. I'LL NEVER CRAWL IN A HOLE."

Don't you dare, Dick. Ya hear?

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Ed McGuire in the recent passing of his son.

DIVOT DRIFT

A field of 35 teams participated in the annual Superintendent, Director Tournament. At Hatherly C.C. The 140 golfers were greeted by the famous "Montreal Express" which came roaring in with cold air and winds of up to 50 MPH. However, that didn't deter the team from Needham Golf Club. Ron Kirkman, Art Phillips, Doug Williams and Jim Cotter who captured 1st gross with a 3 under par 67.

The quartet from Woodland Golf Club, Norm Mucciarone, Joe Degrin, Hugo Rossi and J. Lorrigan won 1st net with a nifty 56. Second net was awarded to the team from Worcester C.C., Mike Nagle, Tom Braley, Dave Buseburg and Dick Whittington with a score of 59. Tied with a 59 net but winning third place by matching of cards was the group from Blue Hill C.C., Dave Barber, Stan Sherman, Marvin Schwartz and Rick Rossman.

Most accurate Drive was won by Kevin Osgood, Newton Commonwealth G. C. and closet to the pin was won by Tom Braley, Worcester C.C.

Rich Caughey had the course in fine shape. A big thank you to the entire staff at Hatherly C.C.

Rumor has it that Mike Prendergast, Green Chairman, Wollaston C.C. lost a bet with our own Doug Johnson by matching score cards at Cummaquid G.C. He was also out drove on the longest drive hole by a few yards. Prendergast is a scratch golfer and one of the top New England Amateur players.

"Quote of the Month"

Stormin Norman, Woodland Golf Club's Finest - While playing at the Cape Cod Turf Managers Meeting at Green Harbor Shot an 89 gross and stated his handicap is too high at 24 and he should be playing to an 18. We love that honesty. Let's hope our own handicap chairman "Doffer" O'Kelly gives him his wish.

How about the Golf Course Architect who recently ran out of gas on RTE. 128 on a holiday heading for Cape Cod. Well, this little guy headed for the nearest golf course and found the superintendent and said, Boy! am I glad to see you. I have trouble with my car, I think my carburetor is fouled up. The Sup't. listened to the symptoms and said you're out of gas. Well this munchkin stomped up and down and said NO! NO! NO! I get 500 miles to the tank and I have only gone 450 miles. With the gas gauge on empty and the red light on, warning of low fuel this young man was still not convinced he ran out of gas. He was next asked if he was in Boston lately and stuck in traffic. Yes, but only a few times. Oh! You mean by being stuck in traffic I use extra gas? The superintendent put gas in his car and this little lad went merrily on his way.

Congratulation to John Petratis and Dana Quigley of Crestwood C.C. in winning the Pro-Superintendent Annual Tournament at Brae Burn C.C. with a net 65. Tied at first gross with a 77 were Jack Hassett, Mike Mulavey - Mt. Pleasant G.C. Lowell and Doug Johnson, Bob Crowley - Pine Brook C.C.

If the putting speed race is on in the Boston area Jim O'Kelly, superintendent of Brae Burn gets my vote. Those pin placements were cute or as some might say, rather sadistic. The golf course was in excellent condition and Jim is to be congratulated. Don't forget, make plans now for the G.C.S.A.A. Turf Conference in Phoenix. We understand Bob "Choo-Choo" Johnston is already on his way.

The member-guest at Cummaquid was a very enjoyable day. Host Charlie Passios did an outstanding job and added a new twist by incorporating a skins game. This kept everyone's interest up. Well done Charlie. The winners were Doug Johnson of Pine Brook and Bruce Carlson of Attleboro with a 1 under par

70. They edged out John "Mr Hack" Lenhart and his guest (who was a ringer) Mike Prendergast of Wollaston G.C.

John did manage to help out one shot. Nice going "Mr. Hack". Third place went to Bob Brown of Sawtelles and Ron "EZ GO PRO" Ryan. The most interesting part was watching the pro from EZ GO and Mike Prendergast pay DJ for their side match. . .

The Northeast Superintendent Classic at Quechee, VT was held September 29-30 with plenty of GCSANE flair involved. First of all, Mark Fuller again ran an outstanding tournament. The field was about 94 (47 teams) and will get bigger every year. Defending champs Mark Fuller and EZ GO Pro Ryan were out of this one early. (I guess Ronnie's having a bad year.) They got their clocks cleaned this year by Paul Miller of Tedesco and Doug Johnson of Pine Brook.

Third place went to Gary Luccini of Franklin and Kenny Mooridian of Hopedale. Forth place was Bob St. Thomas of Hyannisport and Brian "I can't break 90" Cowan of Eastward.

Ryan and Fuller finished well out of the money. Miller was overheard saying the best part of winning was clobbering a pro (RR).

One other GCSANE team that got some recognition was Steve "LeBroom" Murphy and Jimbo Fitzroy. The recognition, however, was not for their golf. They were voted the team with the least amount of hair. . .

Oh well another season is coming to and end. . .

By the way does anyone know a Roamin or Roman?



FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Joseph G. Mondor
13 Longview Drive
Wilbraham, MA 01095
Home Phone (413) 596-8057
Office Phone (413) 786-1740
Club Affiliation
Crestview C.C.

GOLF CHAIRMAN

James O'Kelly
P.O. Box 130
Newtonville, MA 02160
Home Phone 444-9285
Office Phone 244-0680
Club Affiliation
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EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Edward L. Brearley
279 Torrey St
Brockton, MA 02401
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NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN

Ronald Kirkman
25 Green St
Needham, MA 02192
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Office Phone 444-5548
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PAST PRESIDENT

Donald E. Hearn, CGCS
4 Topeka Rd.
Chelmsford, MA 01824
Home Phone 256-8709
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