



THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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

January 1988

—NEXT MEETING—

Monday, February 22, 1988
Norfolk G.C.

9:00 am Directors Meeting
10:45 am Regular Meeting
12:00 noon Lunch
1:00 pm Educational

Directions to Club: 128 South to exit 14 (East St.). Bear immediate right off ramp and club is on left.

128 North to exit 14 (East St.) go over 128 and bear right and club is on left.

Host Superintendent - Don Levangie

Reservations Required -
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Triplex Mowing Successful at Three Area Clubs

The golfing season of 1987 is now behind us - and what a delightful season it was - and it's time to check back on the three ambitious caballeros who embarked for the first time upon triplex mowing of fairways in 1987. With the season past as trying as any in recent memory - just check the Classifieds in the Monthly Newsletter - let's see how things went at Worcester for Mike Nagle, Belmont for Arthur Silva and Cohasse for Dan Higgins.

At Worcester, Mike Nagle was impressed with the denser and tighter turf that was one of the positive effects of the

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Dave Barber Takes a Break

A funny thing happened to Dave Barber as he was going out the door of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association presidency—he was still bouncing ideas and hoping they'd come up spinning off good results for the profession.

Barber, the nine-year super at the Blue Hill Country Club, leaves office this month after an eventful two-year stint as NEGCSA prexy. Evidently, he doesn't intend to go quietly.

"Well, I still have a few things I'd like to see become a part of our organizational setup," Barber said. "One I consider an essential because it involves people just like myself, the guys who did this job before me.

"Really, we have a lot of depth in our lineup if we want to use it. I mean we have past-presidents out there with a wealth of knowledge and experience that we should continually tap. And I think we should tap it in an organized way."

What Barber would like to see is the creation of an association past-presidents committee that would meet on occasion to discuss the state of the profession and perhaps present suggestions to improve it.

"Right now, the out-going president sits on the board of directors for two years and that's the end of him," Dave remarked. "If we could bring some, if not all of them together every now and then, there might develop additional input into the administration of our association that makes it a better association."

Barber on the soap box for the last time?

"I hope not," Dave laughed. "Maybe these past two years have got me going too much. But the involvement has been a plus for me. Involved is the word for it, too. Nowadays, a president of this group just can't sit back and work the job like some ornament on a Christmas tree. The profession has got too complicated."

In other words, the NEGCSA's not just for socializing anymore. "That's a mouthful," Barber explained. "I'll tell you one thing. The golf course superintendent, who doesn't pay attention to the many changes in the way he addresses his job and keeps updated on government restrictions and requirements, may find himself left in the dust." According to the soon-to-be ex-president, "there's a lot going on out there that all superintendents should be aware of."

As an example, Dave cites the latest fountain of awareness, the waste management bill, passed last year.

"This bill shows a lot of added responsibility onto the golf course superintendent," Dave told. "Just in case it got by some people, it requires the registration of all wells or other sources of water by the first of this year. The state wants to get a handle on where the water is, how much is being used and the condition of its quality. And it's up to the

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DAVE'S BREAK *Cont. from page 1*

superintendent to supply it with that information."

Which just about describes what Dave Barber's been up to the past two years.

"This (being president) has created an education program for me," he said. "And, in my role, I have to pass everything learned from it to the membership. I'm sure, too, it will get more complicated as outside involvement in the golf course maintenance atmosphere increases. Like it or not, we just can't allow ourselves not to take part in an on-going educational setup."

Barber notes that the NEGCSA is catching that educational train - and just in time.

"I've been in the business 25 years," he disclosed. "and I've seen two trends in our association. When I first came into it, there was a lot of fun, horsing around - just good fellowship arrangement. Then, interest slacked off for a while."

"Lately, attendance at meetings has been on the upswing. I don't know, I suppose we're getting a more inquiring-type of member in our group. I think the profession has gone way up the ladder in matter of recognition and respect. It's attracting an education-minded person also which is another plus for the whole."

Which leaves Barber with a satisfied feeling as he joins the ranks of past-presidents.

"It's a good feeling to think the association is gaining in stature and you've made some contribution to that end," Dave added. "Now, I'm ready for a break - from those constructive sessions with the MGA and other helpful groups. And it's back to more concentration on making Blue Hill a better course to play. It's a relief in a way but it's been rewarding."

That works two ways in the fact that the NEGCSA is better because of a guy named, Dave Barber.

GERRY FINN

TRIPLEX MOWING

Continued from page 1

lower cutting height permitted by triplex mowers. Turf survival was better than Mike anticipated it would be under trying environmental conditions - and here's the best' with no change in irrigation practices and a 95% decrease in syringing of fairways. Fungicide treatments were reduced in terms of frequency on fairways that were cut 3-4 times per week.

Mike noted a marked increase in the bent grass population in fairways with the lower cutting height not only exposing bent grass plants already established through a vigorous overseeding program but also enhancing the competitive ability of the bents relative to more coarse textured species. The diesel machines represented the best way to go so far as Nagle is concerned and Mike emphasized the need for a trained mechanic to keep the mowers down the straight and narrow. So far as the golfers were concerned, Nagle noted many positive comments on both the striping of fairways and tightness of lies.

The '88 season will find the triplex mowers again out in force on Worcester's fairways with Mike planning on an extra cut per week. While he feels the program is not for the faint-of-heart budget-wise, Nagle looks forward to an even larger percentage of bentgrass rearing its collective head during the coming season.

Art Silva at Belmont found his fairways to be tighter and smoother but noted no difference in summer survival of turf. Labor costs actually ran a bit lower than Art had estimated with the triplex mowing program requiring less effort than expected. With improvements obvious early in 1987, Silva added an extra cut per week and found that the Belmont membership, especially women, raved about the extra roll that the tighter and smoother fairways gave their tee shots.

Silva pointed out that he wouldn't

even consider setting up such a program without a full time mechanic and recommends a light touch on reel to bedknife adjustment for the best cut. While there did not appear to be an increase in the population of permanent grasses, Art is gearing up for his second season of triplex mowing in 1988.

It's back to central Massachusetts with Dan Higgins finding similar improvements in turf density and survival on the fairways at Cohasset. This, coupled with lower than anticipated labor costs and a decrease in irrigation requirements - despite a difficult summer - make Dan and the membership at Cohasset confirmed advocates of the program. Higgins reports of an ecstatic membership that couldn't quite believe the rapid improvement in the fairways.

Higgins cut without collecting clippings and found he could reduce total fertilization on fairways. He'll be gradually reducing the mowing height on fairways below the eleven-sixteenths that was set for the first year.

Dan praised the ability of the smaller machines to stand up to the wear and tear of regular mowing and also added that he was able to keep the machines operating smoothly despite the fact that he doesn't have a mechanic.

So there you have it. The one year reviews are in and they sure seem to be well on the positive side of the ledger. All three superintendents were most happy with the reduction in mechanical damage in evidence through the use of the light weight mowers.

If improved playing conditions are what you seek - and if they aren't, perhaps dentistry would represent a good career alternative - you could do worse than to give more thought to bringing little mowers onto your fairways in 1988.

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The Super Speaks Out

Welcome to **The Super Speaks Out** — a monthly feature which offers the golf course superintendent a forum to express his or her views on topics and issues relating to their profession.

This month's question: *If you could change one aspect of the administrative makeup of the golf course, what would you change and why?*

Kip Tyler, Salem Country Club: "To me, this is a question that may apply to some superintendents and not to others.



"In other words I don't find the way our administrative operation works all that bad.

"Of course, I realize the chain of command, ways to having your budget accepted and so on may differ and the one so often criticized by the superintendent - that of being held accountable to the so-called 'general manager' - is a reasonable gripe. But none of this affects me in my present situation.

"Do I have 'clout' on running the golf course.?"

"Well, I'm pretty much allowed to do as I see fit but I am under the direction of a green committee and its chairman.

"So far, all of my green chairmen have one recurring characteristic. All have been willing to do what's good for the golf course. In that attitude they have relied on my expertise to carry out that goal.

"Relationship with the green chairman probably is the key to how a superintendent's work life goes. Regardless, I view my chairman as a boss and link to the club board of directors. Consequently, when it is needed, I try to con-

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Past President	David Barber, CGCS

vince him and he in turn tries to convince the board in the matter of major maintenance improvements or changes and purchase of equipment.

"There have been no drastic departures from that arrangement. Therefore, I wouldn't want it any other way."

Peter Hasak, Hampden Country Club: "I have a unique situation because of my relationship with the club owner, our golf professional and membership. Believe it or not, they listen to me.

"Seriously, the setup here is changing all the time. The ownership is fairly new, we've been into major projects the last two years and now we're ready to streamline the operation with lightweight mowing and other successful innovations.

"We haven't had much input from membership the past but we're now into a green committee which we'll listen to and consider its ideas seriously.

"So, there is no change in the administrative arrangement at Hampden I'd like to see or even dream of suggesting.

"The owners allow free rein operation of the golf course, where I call the shots and in the pro shop where the golf pro does the same. Along those lines, too, I'd like to add that the rapport between super and pro here couldn't be better.

"The same goes for the responsibility-letting. It's sort of a three-way deal among the owners, superintendent and golf pro. And it's working, so why want to change it?"

Tony Caranci, LedgeMont Country Club: "You know, I always remember the effects of a setup where the superin-

tendent is caught in the middle. That's the one where the green chairman gets the credit if anything good happens to the golf course and the superintendent gets the blame if anything bad happens.

"That's one thing I'd change - if it applied to me. But it doesn't. It's only because my arrangement here is simple. I run the golf course. My green chairman is a liaison between me and the board. But I have to emphasize he's ONLY a liaison.

"This arrangement is of two factors' doing - the club and me. That's the way I want it. That's the way the club wants it.

"Which probably is the basis of all workable administrative setups. I've always maintained that it's up to the individual superintendent to establish the ground rules for how his association with the club and members is arranged.

"In my time here I've made it clear that the club manager, general manager or whatever he wants to call himself has nothing to do with the way I run my department. I'm in charge of it fully. That's understood by the club and anyone else who might think he's my boss.

"As it happens, this works beautifully at LedgeMont. I must say, too, that everyone's happy with it. There's no misunderstandings about delegation of authority and all that stuff. You can't have a hundred different hands making the pie. So, when the pie's the golf course, only my hands go into it. Get the drift?"

GERRY FINN



**59th International
Golf Course
Conference & Show
February 1-8, 1988**

GCSAA News

CIBA-GEIGY CONTRIBUTES \$50,000 TO GCSAA ENDOWMENT FUND

A \$50,000 contribution to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) scholarship and research fund has been made by the Turf And Ornamental Department of the Ciba-Geigy Corporation.

The Robert Trent Jones, Sr. Endowment Fund, established by the GCSAA in August, makes scholarships available to outstanding students enrolled in college turfgrass management programs nationwide. The fund works to encourage future leaders among professional golf course superintendents.

"We're pleased and excited about the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the endowment fund," says Bill Liles, director of Ciba-Geigy's Turf And Ornamental Department. "Furthering turf research through scholarships for college students is an excellent example of industry, education and GCSAA working together."

John Schilling, GCSAA executive director, notes that the endowment fund enables the association to support research in such areas as drought-and disease-resistant grasses, environmentally sound turf management, and effective water and soil resource conservation.

Director Gerald Faubel, CGCS, chairman of the Scholarship and Research Committee, says the timing and generosity of Ciba-Geigy's contribution to the endowment fund "indicate the kind of leadership needed to keep our profession strong."

Liles adds that Ciba-Geigy looks forward to making additional contributions to the turf industry in the years ahead. "We are committed to taking a leadership position in the development of products that prevent disease, insects and weeds from harming our turf. This contribution is the first of many steps we intend to take."

-POSITION OPENINGS-

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Golf Course Manager

The Town of Amherst, Massachusetts, is seeking an innovative and industrious golf/turf professional to assume the newly created position of Golf Course Manager for the Cherry Hill Golf Course. This is a permanent, full time position with responsibility for managing the entire golf operation for a municipal, nine-hole golf facility.

As a working manager, the successful candidate will be responsible for supervising a full time Assistant Superintendent and seasonal employees; overseeing and directing turf management and maintenance of the facility; and managing the day to day clubhouse and pro shop operation.

Qualifications include graduation from an accredited Turf Management School and a minimum of one year experience as a Golf Course Superintendent or two years as an Assistant Superintendent. Experience in golfing operations and/or an educational background in business administration is also required. The successful candidate must also have strong interpersonal and communication skills. A bachelors degree is strongly preferred.

The salary is negotiable depending on qualifications. To apply, submit resume and letter of intent by Friday, January 29, 1988, at 4:30 P.M. to Human Resources Department, Town of Amherst, 4 Boltwood Avenue, Amherst, Massachusetts 01002. Amherst is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Golf Course Assistant Superintendent

The Town of Amherst, Massachusetts, is seeking a qualified turf management professional to assume the position of Assistant Superintendent for the Cherry Hill Golf Course. This is a permanent, full time position with responsibility for the day to day turf management and maintenance operation of the facility.

Qualifications include graduation from an accredited Turf Management School and a minimum of one year experience in golf course operations.

Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications. To apply, submit resume and letter of

intent by Friday, January 29, 1988, at 4:30 P.M. to Human Resources Department, Town of Amherst, 4 Boltwood Avenue, Amherst, Massachusetts 01002. Amherst is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Assistant Superintendent

Plymouth C.C.

Contact: Ronald Sherman—superintendent
Plymouth C.C.
Plymouth, MA

Assistant Superintendent

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Kevin Ross
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Auburn, Maine 04210
Phone 207-829-3880

-Proposed New Members-

Arthur Billingham

Pinecrest C.C., Holliston, MA

William Rolland

Foxboro C.C., Foxboro, MA

All trophies and awards will be presented at the February meeting at Norfolk G.C.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Bernie Golonka who passed away last month. Bernie was genuinely loved by his co-workers as well as his subordinates, and highly respected throughout the industry. His loss will be sorely felt.

FIFTY YEARS 1936 - 1986



NGF's Top-50 List Targets Metro Areas Most in Need of Public Golf Courses

Jupiter Florida—In its continuing effort to help avert what its research indicates is an impending crisis in golf, the National Golf Foundation has identified the 50 metropolitan areas in the U.S. most in need of public courses.

Ten of the 50 areas are in California. Next is the State of Washington with five, Wisconsin with four, and, Colorado and New Jersey with three each. (See complete listing below.)

The list, according to NGF President and CEO David Hueber, was created to identify for municipalities and developers those areas with the greatest need and opportunity for golf facility development.

Earlier this year, an NGF research report concluded that the U.S. could be facing a shortage of more than 4,000 golf courses by the year 2000 if the rate of development of new facilities continues to fall behind the rising public demand for golf.

"Based upon current growth trends, we need to open a golf course every day between now and the year 2000 just to maintain the current level of access," says Hueber, "And we are currently in a situation of undersupply throughout the sunbelt areas and most metropolitan areas in the U.S."

NGF research shows that there are approximately 20.1 million golfers and 12,400 golf facilities in the U.S. today. This research also notes that, while the number of golfers in the U.S. has been increasing steadily at a rate of 3% a year over the past 10 years, growth in the total number of golf facilities has been in-

creasing at only 0.5% a year.

If the U.S. golfer population continues to grow at its present rate, the NGF projects it will skyrocket to 31 million golfers by the year 2000, creating an estimated shortage in capacity of more than 4,000 golf facilities.

With this in mind, the NGF has launched a campaign to encourage the development of new golf facilities (especially public courses) where they are needed. As part of this program, the NGF is following up with communities in the targeted metro areas; talking with officials and civic leaders about how they might proceed in creating new public golf facilities.

Where interest is expressed, the NGF is offering its expertise and services to assist these communities or developers in the various stages of planning, building and operating a golf facility.

"Communities and local developers need a central source of information and assistance in creating new golf facilities," says Hueber, "and the NGF has the network of resources to fill that need."

A nonprofit golf market research and promotional organization, the NGF is supported by more than 5,000 members of the golf industry. Included are golf course architects and builders, national and state golf associations, golf course owners and operators, and, the major golf companies.

Top 50 List

Albuquerque, NM
Anaheim-Santa Anna, CA
Anchorage, AK
Bergen-Passaic, NJ
Boston-Lawrence-Salem-Lowell-Brockton, MA
Chicago, IL
Danville, VA
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Yakima, WA
Yuba City, CA

This list was derived from a recent National Golf Foundation study of 298 U.S. metro areas in which each area was analyzed and quantified in terms of:

- (1) Its total number of golf holes.
- (2) Total resident population.
- (3) That region's ratio of golfers vs. non-golfers.
- (4) The average number of rounds played per year by golfers in that region.

The 50 areas listed here are not necessarily those with the highest raw number of golfers per golf hole. They are instead those which (because of their high number of frequent golfers) appear to have the greatest under-supply of golf holes for the size of the existing demand.

It should be noted that the analysis was based on resident golfers only and did not weigh the additional impact on demand of seasonal residents or tourists.

By the same token, the analysis also did not take into account the number of facilities that may be available for public play outside a given metro area.

The NGF recognizes that lack of available land often limits a metro area from golf course development. In these cases, facilities in outlying areas are becoming targets of opportunity...especially for public courses.

In this regard, NGF research has detected an increasing willingness among metro area golfers to travel to surrounding areas...again, especially if the facilities there are public, well-managed and maintained.

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