



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.

November 1988

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: *After the ravages of an endless summer of ongoing heat, plus other weather-related adversities, how do you plan to set up your budget to face a possible recurrence of the dastardly summer of 1988?*

Scott Reynolds, Charles River Country Club: "First of all, let me add my two cents to the general feeling that this was the worst bad weather summer I've ever encountered.

"Sure, I know I'm one of the younger superintendents and can't relate to some of the other years when Mother Nature took a swipe at the golf course conditioning process. But this was enough for me.

"I was a wreck the day after Black Saturday (July 30). I looked around and couldn't believe my eyes. Then, when I talked to some of the other guys around the Boston area, I considered myself very lucky. Some courses really took a licking.

"My plans to increase my budget along the lines of having the weapons to combat another rough weather year aren't that extensive, since I think there's not much we can do to combat the freaky conditions Mother Nature surprised us with in July and August.

"However, there will be an increase in my request. Probably a few thousand to

Continued on page 2

Bob Grant Calls a Permanent Timeout

Ten years ago, the Brae Burn Country Club found a gem that had been sitting there, right under the membership's nose.

That was the day club directors tapped Bob Grant on the shoulder and wondered if he could be a Jack and master of all trades.

At the time Grant was into his 14th year as golf course superintendent and doing the job up green. Brae Burn sparkled, so did the face Bob brought to the club every morning at six and the little golf kingdom in Newton couldn't have been in better shape and spirits.

However, Brae Burn's 40-year general manager up and retired and a series of replacements appeared and disappeared without bringing any sense of stability to the position. Therefore, there was only one person to turn to.

"I accepted the job on a temporary basis," Bob recalls. "All they wanted to do was have me get things squared away until they could find a permanent general manager. Really, it was a test case. I didn't know if I could get things back on track. The club directors weren't sure a superintendent could make such a transition."

In the end, the transition evolved into nothing more than an extension of Grant's talents. He knew how to manage people and he knew how to manage money. Then, too, he knew how to get along with everyone at any level.

Success story? You'd better believe it.

Bob first took over as general manager in May with the stipulation that the situation would be reviewed the following

October. Needless to say, Grant's had the position ever since and put a personal spit and polish on his performance.

Now, come January first and Bob will be leaving Brae Burn. He's retiring after 38 years service to golf and country club life.

"Time to think about doing the things I don't have time for now," Grant remarked last month. "I'll be closing in on 64 around the first of the year, the kids are grown up and on their own, so Gladys and I are ready to 'go out on our own'."

Gladys is Bob's lovely wife. The kids are sons Doug and Rick and daughter Linda. At one time or another each worked at Brae Burn—from the two boys caddying and mowing to Gladys manning the club switchboard.

"It's been a wonderful experience for our family," Bob noted. "We kind of kept together through the club. It's been good to all of us. We had some happy times here."

From golf course superintendent to general manager.

How do you bridge the gap?

"Actually, there's no gap to bridge," Bob explained. "I think the experience I had as a superintendent was the perfect foundation for moving on to general manager. Sure, I missed the outdoor attachment the super's job offers but I got used to it.

"The change from field to desk work probably keeps a lot of golf course superintendents from taking another career step

Continued on page 2

BOB GRANT *Cont. from p. 1*

and becoming a general manager. I can think of several supers who could come in here and do the same kind of job I did the past 10 years."

In fact, Grant double-teamed Brae Burn as general manager and super for six years or until Jim O'Kelly, his assistant, was elevated to the superintendent's post. Jim's been in charge of grounds the last four years but he still must answer to Bob.

As do all department heads. And that brings up an old issue—whether the one-person (general manager) concept works better than the three-person (department heads) arrangement.

"I've had a lot of time to think about that," Bob told. "I guess as a superintendent, I'd tend to favor the three-person scheme—with the idea that it's not feasible for one supervisor to be versed in the inner workings of three different jobs and responsibilities.

"However, from my present viewpoint I can see that the one-person or general manager concept is best for all concerned. I've found that someone has to tie things together. To be frank, there has to be a final word and only one person can have that."

Although Bob admits that sometimes he looks out on the golf course with notions to change the way his successor (O'Kelly) does certain things, he knows that's the time to back off.

"Hey, I'm only as strong and effective as my department heads," he explained. "And we're very strong at Brae Burn. Jim

O'Kelly is the example of an outstanding superintendent and Mickey Lane is just the kind of golf pro you'd want working with you. We even have a chef who's been here 10 years. That has to tell you something about the club."

And something about its general manager, who, by the way, happens to be a life member of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Bob Grant. He led two career lives. Indeed, he was a first citizen in both of them. Happy trails, Robert.

GERRY FINN

THE SUPER *Cont. from p. 1*

have chemicals and other ingredients in reserve just in case we get hit hard again next year.

"But I'm reacting according to the amount of damage we had here. The damage was moderate on five fairways and the greens held up pretty well. I think the programs I'm on are relatively sound. If there is any change, I might concentrate on my fairways. Aerate them better.

Bob Connolly, Winchester Country Club: "I think this past summer will cause kind of a revolution in the way superintendents approach their responsibilities.

"What I'm looking to do is intensify my maintenance program. From now on I'm going to work my turf just like it's an athlete in training. My goal is to make the grass as strong as possible as it faces the stress weather months. It's going to be an all-out effort because the same type of choking conditions could be with us again next year.

"One of the things I learned from the big rain and cook-out of grass that followed is that I have to pay more attention to irrigation. I'm going to have to be more careful watering those plants.

"Which leads to another concentration area—drainage.

"Usually, it takes something like the damaging summer we had to point out the need for better drainage. There's also a possibility that I may go to syringing my greens. I don't like to do it but it may have to happen.

"All of my plans mean more money for my budget. When you're talking about beefing up the grass, providing better drainage and syringe potential with added labor cost, you're talking budget increase.

"I don't see how it can be any other way."

Norm Mucciarone, Woodland Country Club: "This one bugged the heck out of me. Some of the damage, the way it happened just didn't jibe with normal reaction to weather like we had.

"Regardless, I have to face the fact that measures must be set up and employed to make sure I have at least a fighting chance if Mother Nature gives a repeat performance next summer.

"Naturally, my chemical budget will go up. I'm talking in the \$15,000 range. I know my directors won't pass out when they hear that figure because some of the other courses around here are thinking \$30,000 for chemical increases.

"What amazed me was the way this thing hit. It hit low spots, high spots—even places where the grass grows on sidehills.

"Therefore, we're going for a lot of remedies. We're going after poa (annual) and see if we can slow down that growth. We're thinking of staying with a mowing plan where we pick up clippings with each cut and we're going heavy into seed. I mean, we need some good, bent grass out there.

"So, it goes without saying that my budget will reflect the weather conditions we faced this year. There's no getting around it. If we expect to restore good grooming, we have to pay for it. And a bigger budget's the way to go."

GERRY FINN

—NEW MEMBERS—

Welcome and Congratulations to:

David Elder
Tedesco C.C. (assistant)

S. Peter Nicolosi
Bass Rocks G.C.
Essex, Mass. (regular)

PRESIDENT
Richard Zepp, CGCS
27 Fowler Rd.
Northbridge, MA 01534
Home Phone 234-8490
Office Phone 234-2533
Club Affiliation
Whitinsville G.C.

VICE PRESIDENT
Paul Miller, CGCS
1 Leicester Rd.
Marblehead, MA 01945
Home Phone 631-7910
Office Phone 369-5704
Club Affiliation
Nashawtic C.C.

SECRETARY
Stephen A. Chiavaroli, CGCS
100 Airport Dr.
Worcester, MA 01602
Home Phone 752-0031
Office Phone 791-5373
Club Affiliation
Tatnuck C.C.

TREASURER
Thomas Schofield, CGCS
290 North Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776
Home Phone 443-3712
Office Phone 235-2487
Club Affiliation
Wellesley C.C.

TRUSTEE
Kip Tyler
P.O. Box 671
Peabody, MA 01960
Home Phone 745-8089
Office Phone 532-2236
Club Affiliation
Salem C.C.

TRUSTEE
Charles T. Passios CGCS
218 Camelback Rd.
Marston Mills, MA 02648
Home Phone 420-3210
Office Phone 775-5116
Club Affiliation
Hyannisport Club

TRUSTEE
Edward L. Brearly
189 Matfield St.
W. Bridgewater, MA 02379
Home Phone 584-6566
Office Phone 588-8439
Club Affiliation
Brockton C.C.

Divot Drift

Our host for the September meeting was Bert Frederick, superintendent of Vesper CC. As usual, the golf course was in superb condition. Bert is now transforming his tees to velvet bent to keep pace with his beautiful velvet bent greens. We understand Bert is now teaching Manny Francis a few things about Velvet.

Tournament results—

Gross Division

Bob Connolly, Winchester C.C. 74

Net Division

John Hudyka, retired, 73
Mike Nagle, Worcester C.C. 74
Charlie Dickow, Heritage Hills G.C. 74
W. Lacroix - Unknown - 75
Dick Zepp, Whitinsville G.C., 76
Max Mierzwa, Chicopee C.C. 76
Len Blodgett, Kittansett Club 76

In the commercial division, Dave Farina captured first gross with a smooth 83. Dave is affiliated with Country Club Enterprises.

In the net division, in at 72 was Steve Butler, Larchmont Eng.

Dennis Friel, Tom Irwin Co., 73
Larry Anshewitz, R.F. Morse Co., 74

A week later it was on to the witch city where the renown Salem C.C. was our host for the annual Superintendent and Green Chairman Tournament. Kip Tyler, the superintendent also known as the "Witch Doctor" performed no sorcery with the pin placements and tee markers.

Gross

Mel Wendell & S. Prout, Rhode Island C.C. 70
Duggan & Thompson, Concord C.C. 72

Net

D. Barber & G. Rossman, Blue Hill C.C. - 59
S. Chiavaroli & R. Mathews, Tatnuck C.C. - 62
R. Arzillo & T. Haggerty, Unicorn G.C. - 63
K. Tyler & G. Burke, Salem C.C. - 64
B. Frederick & A. Devincenzi, Vesper C.C. - 64
C. Ryan & P. Schmink, Rockport G.C. - 64

Nearest the pin

Gary Lucini, Franklin C.C.
John Blomstom, Green Chairman
Mel Wendell, R.I.C.C.

Jim O'Kelly, Brae Burn C.C.
Most Accurate Drive - Mel Wendell, R.I.C.C.

Now we know why Mel Wendell is called the "WIZARD".

The Superintendent and Managers annual meeting and golf was held at Blue Hill C.C. My apologies for not having the winners. Maybe we can locate them and put them in the next newsletter. However, anytime we have a meeting such as this we are all winners.

-POSITION OPENINGS-

Superintendent
Indian Ridge C.C. 18 hole
Lovejoy Road
Andover, Mass.

Send Resume to: Green Chairman
Mr. Jim Holbrook

Superintendent
Walpole C.C. 18 hole

Send Resume to: Green Chairman
Mr. Robert Powers
11 Arlington Street
Boston, Mass. 02116

Superintendent
Maynard C.C. - 9 hole

Send Resume to: Mr. Len Melanson,
President
Maynard C.C.
Rte 27 - P.O. Box 237
Maynard, Mass. 01754
Tel.; (508) 562-3118
Calls accepted day or evening

Superintendent
Kirkbrae C.C. 18 hole
Old River Road
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865



G C S A A • 89

International Golf Course Conference & Show

February 6-13, 1989
Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, California

*60th
Anniversary*

- Trade Show • Golf Championships
- 33 Seminars • Annual Meeting

For conference, seminar
or exhibitor information, call
800/472-7878 or 913/841-2240

Golf Course Superintendents
Association of America
1617 St. Andrews Drive
Lawrence, KS 66046-9990

FINANCE CHAIRMAN
Douglas W. Johnson CGCS
50 Newton St.
Weston, MA 02193
Home Phone 894-7377
Office Phone 899-7913
Club Affiliation
Pine Brook C.C.

GOLF CHAIRMAN
James O'Kelly
201 Indian Rock Rd.
Merrimack, N.H. 03054
Home Phone 603-429-2453
Office Phone 244-0680
Club Affiliation
Brae Burn C.C.

EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMAN
Ronald E. Milenski CGCS
65 Rocky Pond Rd.
Princeton, MA 01541
Home Phone 464-5312
Office Phone 779-6911
Club Affiliation
International G.C.

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN
Ronald Kirkman
25 Green St.
Needham, MA 02192
Home Phone 444-8412
Office Phone 444-5548
Club Affiliation
Needham C.C.

PAST PRESIDENT
David Barber, CGCS
145 Dedham St.
Canton, MA 02021
Home Phone 828-7266
Office Phone 828-6540
Club Affiliation
Blue Hills C.C.

Information contained in this publication may be used freely, in whole or in part, without special permission as long as the true context is maintained. We would appreciate a credit line.

Please patronize **FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Agway Inc.
Greg Moore Rep.
Box 507 Sterling, MA
Fertilizer, Seed, Chemicals
800-225-CROP (MA) 617-422-7614

Baker Golf Cars
40 Walker Street
Swansea, MA 02777
508-379-0092
Sales Rep. Ray Chadwick
Sales Rep. George Asermely

***The Bordon Company**
Maynard, MA
Tel: 617-897-2571
Sales Rep. Jack Borden
Bulk Limestone Dealer

Boston Irrigation Company
Dedham, MA
John Ramey - Paul Kenyon,
617-461-1560
Robin Hayes, 617-477-4423
Distributor of Irrigation Supplies
and Accessories

C & J Equipment, Inc.
188 Main Street
Wilmington, MA 01887
John Deere Golf & Turf Equipment
617-658-2022
Eric Oman, Bill Kemp, Kevin O'Donnell

***Geoffrey S. Cornish & Brian Silva**
Golf Course Architects
Fiddlers Green, Amherst, MA 01002

Country Club Enterprises
Club Car Golf Cars
Tennis & Leisure Equip.
P.O. Box 400 W. Falmouth, MA 02574
617-563-2284

Chester Drake & Sons, Ins.
222 Walnut Street
Framingham, MA 01701
Golf Course Construction
617-875-7929

Elanco Products Company
Stephen C. Dolinak
31 Old Town Trail
Narragansett, RI 02882
401-789-9017

Gold Star Sod Farms, Inc.
Sod & Pine Bark Mulch
Canterbury, N.H.
603-783-4717
Lexington, MA
617-861-1111

Greenway Irrigation Company
Irrigation, Drainage, Wire Laying
P.O. Box 8157
East Lynn, MA 01904
John Murphy 595-3010
Steve Murphy 598-6917

Hammond & Tilton, Inc.
P.O. Box 30, Exit 35 off I95
Tel: (207) 453-7131
Contact: Gary Hammond

The Charles C. Hart Seed Co.
Weathersfield, Conn.
Bob Kennedy, Rep., Roy Sibley, Rep.

Holliston Sand Co. Inc.
Lowland Street
Holliston, MA 01746
Sand for Topdressing & Bunkers

International Golf Const. Co.
Antonios Paganis, Rep.
5 Purcell Rd., Arlington, MA 02174
Golf Course Construction
617-648-2351 or 428-3022

***Tom Irwin, Inc.**
11 B A St., Burlington, MA
Jack Peterson
Dennis Friel Phone: 617-938-1751
Wayne Ripley

Larchmont Eng. & Irrig. Co.
Larchmont Lane
Lexington, MA 02173
617-862-2550

***Lesco Inc.**
20005 Lake Road
Rocky River, OH 44116
Ron Tumiski, Rep., Mike Donahue, Rep.
800-321-5325

***Loft's Seed**
20 Beck Road
Arlington, MA 02174
Victoria Wallace, Rep.

The Magovern Co., Inc.
27 Lawnacre Road
Windsor Locks, CT 06096
Tel.: 800-243-7718 or 203-623-2508

***D.L. Maher**
Box 127, Concord Street
N. Reading, MA 01864

Mobay Chemical Co.
Greg Ellis
67 Primrose Drive
Warwick, RI 02818

R.F. Morse & Sons Inc.
W. Wareham, MA 02576
617-295-1553
Larry Anshewitz, Rep.
Jack Cronin, Rep.

***Nardone Sand & Gravel Co. Inc.**
37 Power Road
Westford, MA 01886
617-692-8221
Specializing in Topdressing Sand

Nor-Am Chemical Co.
Wilmington, Delaware
David Sylvester, Rep.
203-828-8905

Norfolk Power Equip., Inc.
194 Main Street
Norfolk, MA 02056
617-528-3120
Don Reynolds, Rep.

Old Fox Chemical Inc.
Fertilizers-Seeds-Turf-Chemicals
66 Valley Street
E. Providence, R.I. 02914

Old Fox Golf Course Div.
Custom Applications, Spraying,
Aeration, Top Dressing, Slice Seeding
Full Line of Materials
Weymouth, MA 02190
800-462-5990

Partac Golf Course Top Dressing
Kelsey Park
Great Meadows, N.J. 07838
Jim Kelsey, 1-800-247-2326
Greg Moore, 401-683-9496

E.B. Rotondi & Sons, Inc.
224 Forest Street
Winchester, MA 01890
617-729-3330
Tennis Courts, Cart paths, Parking lots.

Sawtelle Bros.
65 Glenn Street
Lawrence, MA 01843
617-682-9296

Scott Associates, Inc.
60 Water Street
Clinton, MA 01510
617-365-6341
Pumps-Sales, Service installation,
Vertical Turbine Pumps Specialists

Scotts Pro-Turf Div.
Rep. Ed Wiacek 401-253-4284
Rep. Scott Brown 413-245-6038

Tuckahoe Turf Farms Inc.
Exeter, R.I. Litchfield, N.H.
West Suffield, CT
800-556-6985
Largest Producer of Penncross in
New England
Alan Anderson

***Turf Products Corp.**
7 Coppage Drive
Worcester, MA 01602
617-791-2091

***Turf Specialty Inc.**
60 Merrimac Street
Hooksett, N.H. 03106
Turf & Ornamental Supplies
603-485-7866 (collect)
Ken Turner, Kevin Lyons,
Dave Schermerhorn

Philip Wogan
Golf Course Architect
17 Walker Road
Topsfield, MA 01983

*Contributors to the Troll-Dickinson
Scholarship Fund



THE NEWSLETTER

Return to:
RONALD W. KIRKMAN
25 GREEN STREET
NEEDHAM, MA 02192

FIRST CLASS

First Class Mail
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit No. 52848

RONALD W. KIRKMAN
Newsletter Editor

DOUG JOHNSON CGCS
Associate Editor

THOMAS SCHOFIELD CGCS
Business Manager

GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor

