



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.

September 1988

—NEXT MEETING—

Member-Member Championship
Monday, September 12, 1988
Belmont C.C.

9:30 a.m. Directors meeting
10:30 a.m. Regular meeting
11:30 a.m. Lunch

Reservations Required—(617) 484-5360
Host superintendent, Art Silva.
Directions: 128 to Rte. 2 east take Winter St. exit. Bear right off exit, club is 1/4 mile on left.

Monday, September 26, 1988
Vesper C.C.

11:30 a.m. Buffet
12:30 p.m. Shotgun

Reservations Required—(508) 453-1231
Host superintendent, Bert Frederick.

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: *In light of the fact this could be the hottest and most stressful summer on record in the Northeast, how did the dreadful conditions affect you and your course?*



Tom Schofield,
Wellesley Country Club: "Me? I got clobbered.

"There's no other way to describe it.

And, if you want numbers, try thirty-five

Continued on page 2

Paul Miller Pulls Right Switches



Paul Miller has the date circled.

"I don't know, maybe we should call it 'Black Saturday'," the man under the Digital

Senior Classic gun mused. "July 30th. It had to be the hottest day we've ever had on the golf course."

Miller, of course, did a double-sweat on that infamous day as golf course superintendent of the Nashawtuc Country Club. That's where the big action was that day, that week. And here was Paul coming in cold turkey, coming into that big heat.

It was, indeed, a day of decision. Miller, attempting to retain triple-A playing conditions on a golf course he'd taken over only a few months before, wrestled with the possibilities.

Nashawtuc had been drenched by seven inches of rain earlier in the week. Yet, Miller pondered over his dilemma. Clutching heat had settled into the area, sat right down in the middle of a class act Senior PGA Tour event and refused to move.

"I had to decide whether or not to water my greens that Saturday morning," Paul disclosed. "We had 100 per cent humidity and over 60 per cent stress on the grass. But we had gotten all that rain."

Actually, that was the biggest moment of the tournament—maybe bigger than Chi Chi Rodriguez holing out his winning putt the next day.

Miller's decision was to water.

"We gave each one five to eight minutes of water," he continued. "It did the trick. The greens were still in good shape when the field finished Saturday's round

and the same when the boys teed it up for the final round Sunday."

So went Paul Miller's first national PGA event. The Digital Senior Classic had become a war of nerves for the contestants and the golf course superintendent. All held up rather well.

Endorsements?

"These are the best greens we've played on the tour," chimed veteran Charles Owens.

"It was just a remarkable job of producing marvelous playing conditions for a tournament," added the usually tight-lipped Bruce Crampton.

The golf course superintendent's latter day reaction?

"I loved it," Miller beamed. "Even under the worse possible weather conditions. There never was a time when I felt pressure. Sure, the heat was on but it was coming from another direction. The key was the decision to water when we had the broiler going full tilt. It saved the course."

Seems decision-making came with the Digital Classic menu.

"I was making them all during tournament week," Miller told. "One joint decision with the PGA came on Wednesday, pro-am day. When it rained cats and dogs, we called in the field and waited out a 90-minute suspension of play period. I like the way the PGA people recognized my expertise. I was a part of every decision under those trying conditions."

Except for the "worst weather conditions imaginable" during tournament week, the assignment was almost a cakewalk for Miller, a 13-year super who moved from Tedesco to Nachawtuc over

Continued on page 2

PAUL MILLER *Cont. from p. 1*

the winter.

"We had great rapport, a very gratifying relationship," Paul described his dealings with Senior Tour officials. "They (PGA) were primarily involved with setting up the course. After that, they pretty much left things to me and my crew.

"Everything was consistent with the way I maintain the course for the members. The 'Stimp' reading was worked to 9 1/2 and the fairway cut set at 7/16. That's just about the kind of playing conditions we have here day-in and day-out."

Miller, in fact, is already looking forward to the 1989 Digital - popped on the senior board for the first week in July and headed for broader involvement all-around as the tournament continues to grow.

"I'll be working on streamlining the overall operation," Paul revealed. "There'll be concentration on things I don't deal with every day - things like parking lots and power hookups. This first year will go a long way preparing me for the next tournament. And it looks like it's going to be another winner."

Speaking of winners at the Digital, Miller made it clear that the input of his crew had as much to do with the success of the tournament as any person or factor.

"They were just great," he said. "They were asked to put in long hours, log a heavy work load and they rallied to the cause. I like to think of the crew and myself as family here. Certainly, they made an immeasurable contribution and should be recognized for it."

Finally, Paul admitted he welcomed the challenge of giving the best golfers in the world top-notch playing conditions.

"It's the most gratifying thing I've ever been involved in," he concluded. "Even Black Saturday couldn't keep me from loving every moment of it."

GERRY FINN

THE SUPER *Cont. from p. 1*

percent. That's just about the amount of turf I lost on the fairways. And, from what I've seen and heard, I might be one of the lucky ones in the Boston area. Boy, did we ever get it.

"This is the kind of weather that makes you humble. It does, in fact, prove that there's always the possibility weather conditions will be so severe that even the best of superintendents, the top of the line guys, have to pull in their horns and take it.

"I've been around for a while and I don't think I've ever seen such a long stretch of foul maintenance weather. Boston really got hit hard. We had saturation levels of rain and unending periods of temperatures that ranged from 85 to 100. When the sun came out, it smelled like my wife cooking spinach.

"Remember, too, as we're talking about conditions, it's still August and there's still no relief in sight. That's the most disheartening part of the picture. Things could get worse before they get better.

"Stress has been working both sides of the street. It's been hard on the golf course superintendent. Not only have we been putting in long hours on the course, most of us have been thinking of this thing 24 hours a day. No one escaped, I mean no one. We'll never forget this one."

Roy Mackintosh, Twin Hills Country Club: "I'd call this a textbook season for diseases. I mean, if you were teaching a class and wanted to demonstrate a disease, it's out there on your golf course.

"We're holding up pretty well here but it's been a struggle. Don't forget, this entire season has been a drain on normal conditions.

"It started off cool, then got hot and dry. There were 50 straight days when we irrigated at Twin Hills. Then, all of a sudden, we recorded 12 inches of rain in 12 days. Uh, that happened in the middle of our four-ball tournament. Good timing,

huh?

"One of our godsend during all of this stress has been an ultra-light mowing system. As a matter of fact, I think the ability to get into areas where heavy equipment couldn't probably was the difference between saving and losing the golf course.

"Certainly, this has made longer days for supers. The grass has been under stress and some wilt has lasted as many as 12 hours. It has to be one of the worst periods ever in New England. I've been in the business 25 years and I can't remember anything worse than this.

"Disposition, Challenge. You name it. It's all out there this time around. I can't wait to go ice fishing."

Dave Clement, Woodstock Country Club: "You know the one about us being in the mountains where it's cool all the time?"

"Well, that's one you can forget. We've had the same weather in Vermont that the rest of New England has been fighting off.

"But this is unusual for us. Usually, we can count on temperatures in the 40s in the evening and a gradual pull into the 70s during the day.

"Not anymore!"

"Picture this: The first week of June

Continued on next page

**COMMERCIAL
CLIPPINGS**

Remember-Open House
Wednesday, September 14, 1988

Turf Products Corp.
7 Coppage Drive
Worcester, MA 01603

508-791-2091 for reservation

Registration	10 a.m.
Product display	10 a.m. to noon
Lunch	noon to 1 p.m.
Product display	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Prizes and refreshments	

PRESIDENT

Richard Zepp, CGCS
27 Fowler Rd.
Northbridge, MA 01534
Home Phone 234-8490
Office Phone 234-2533
Club Affiliation
Whittinsville 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 584-8588
Office Phone 588-8439
Club Affiliation
Brockton C.C.

THE SUPER *Continued from page 2*

we had three frosts. The following week we had 65 degrees at night and 85 during the day. And it's been that way ever since.

"This is all new to me and my grass. It hasn't had a chance to take a break. It's used to cooling off at night and not having to be under stress all the time. No question, this is the worst weather ever.

"And it's had disastrous effects all around us. There's a course down the road (36-holer) that closed one day last week to spray for pythium blight. We've had it this year. We've had everything. Even the insects are having a ball. Best summer they've enjoyed in some time.

"Really, if you can find me a superintendent who hasn't lost grass this year, I'd like to shake his hand. Know what? Bet you can't. It's been that bad. And the year's not over. I thought I'd seen it all until this year. Wow!"

GERRY FINN

Divot Drift

The endless Miami weather has taken its toll on golf courses in the northeast. Day after day of excessive heat, oppressive high humidity and monsoon rains have made life miserable for the golf course superintendent. As we enter the second week of August, the suburbs, north, south and west of Boston have experienced over thirty days of above ninety degree temperatures.

On July thirtieth, for many clubs, the turf began to deteriorate. Some courses suffered from severe infestation of Pythium on the greens. With such an excess of humid weather and upwards of a foot of rain in some areas, the fairways appeared to be blanketed by slime.

The following week the battle was lost, the Poa-Annua and other grasses went into remission. Some superintendents said their fairways and tees were

lost because of Pythium. Fusarium, Summer Patch and an overabundance of moisture. A few insist that their fairways were damaged by a strange looking Brown Patch. It appears more blight materialized in the areas which received the higher amounts of rain. Some superintendents report lesser injury on fairways where clippings are removed. Others don't mind the dormancy of the grass because they can aerify and slice-seed permanent grasses with less competition from the existing turf in the fairways.

With all the destruction to golf courses, what better time than now to contact our Educational Chairman, Ron Milenski, and have a general educational session at our meetings on "What Happened" and what were your practices before, during and after the devastation. Some courses received only minor injury and it would be interesting to find out how they came through almost unscathed.

The final round of the club championship was held at Thorny Lea C.C. Approximately 75 people were present and 64 played golf. It was nice to see our esteem colleague, Manny Francis Sr. once again.

Congratulations to Bob Garrity, Heritage Hill G.C. our new Association champion. Bob shot 73 - 75 - Doug Johnson, Pine Brook C.C. came in second with 77 - 74. Third was Jack Hasset, Mt. Pleasant G.C. (Lowell) 76 - 77. The net champion is Mike Hermanson, Gardner Muni G.C. In the class A gross division, Mike Nagle, Worcester C.C. won 1st. by shooting 84 - 81. Don Levangie, Norfolk G.C. won net. In the seniors division, Mel O'Kelly, (retired) won low gross - 86 - 77. Net was won by Jim Beane, Mt. Pleasant C.C. (Boylston). Mike Cornicelli, from Turf Products won the commercial division with a smooth 84 - 81. The net champ is Steve Butler from Larchmont Eng. Now the important stuff - Doug Johnson had almost 50 golfers enter the skins game and the winners were - Jim O'Kelly, Brae



President of NEGCSA, Dick Zepp presented a Captains Chair to Bill Spence, superintendent of The Country Club, in recognition of the fine job Bill did at the U.S. Open.

(L to R) Mike Hermanson, Supt. of Gardner Municipal G.C., Buster Crafts, Chmn. of Gardner Golf Commission, Ron Kirkwood, V.P. of Nichols and Stone Co., Dick Zepp, President of GCSA of NE., Seated: Bill Spence of The Country Club

Burn C.C. - Ron Kirkman, Needham G.C. - Bob Garrity, Heritage G.C. - Tom Flaherty, Woods Hole C.C. and Cameron Quinn, Turf Products Inc. \$\$\$\$

-POSITION OPENINGS-

Assistant Superintendent
Tatnuck C.C.

Contact Steve Chiavaroli, Supt.
Home 508-752-0031
Office 508-791-5373

Assistant Superintendent
Brae Burn C.C.

Contact Jim O'Kelly, Supt.
Office 617-244-0680

-NEW MEMBERS-

Welcome and congratulations to

Leo Waters Albert Free
Milton-Hoosic Club Holden Hills C.C.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN
Douglas W. Johnson CGCS
50 Newton St.
Weston, MA 02193
Home Phone 894-7377
Office Phone 894-7913
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
2283 Gar Highway
Swansea, MA 02777
Yamaha Golf Cars
617-678-5693

***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

The Clapper Company
1121 Washington Street
Newton, MA 617-244-7900

***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.
George Wise, 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 617-853-6654

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**

RONALD W. KIRKMAN
Newsletter Editor

DOUG JOHNSON CGCS
Associate Editor

THOMAS SCHOFIELD CGCS
Business Manager

GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor



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