



# 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.

March 1989

## NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 20, 1989  
Kings Way G.C.  
Yarmouthport, MA

Joint Meeting with CCTMA

10:00 am	Combined meeting
10:30 am	Educational Session
11:30 am	Lunch
12:30 pm	Shotgun

Host Superintendent — Jim Conant

Reservations Required  
Call by April 17, 1989  
(508) 362-1136

Jim has been the course superintendent at Kings Way for three years. Prior to Kings Way, Jim was the assistant superintendent at Scarsdale G.C., Scarsdale, New York for three years. He is a graduate of Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, MA and also received his associates degree from Stockbridge, Univ. of Mass. Jim serves on the Board of Directors of C.C.T.M.A. and is the Newsletter editor of the Sand Blaster. Jim and his wife Lynn and son Brian and daughter Kimberly make their home in Marstons Mills MA.

**Directions to:** From Rte. 6 take exit 8. Go left at end of ramp (Union St.) and follow to blinking light and turn right on (6A). Kings Way is two miles on left.

— Congratulations to —

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Spence on the  
birth of their son  
and also to

Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Passios on the  
birth of their daughter

## Gardner Goes All Out for City Golf Course



"This is a story of deep involvement, a success story wound around a community's determination to operate a municipal golf course on the basis of what the name implies.

"It's working," reports Mike Hermanson who has been at the superintendent's controls of the Gardner Golf Course since 1972. "We have a system where golf remains affordable to all of our residents, even to those who play our course as nonresidents."

You might say the Gardner Golf Course is of the people, by the people and for the people.

Twelve years ago there was established a Golf Course Reserve Account. Its goal was to raise enough money so that the Gardner layout would be operated totally on its receipts and at no expense to taxpayers. So far the venture has been responsible for a number of major improvements which include automatic irrigation on the back nine, an independent pump station and purchase of a 4.5 acre tract for future golf course expansion.

Indeed, participation runs deep and Hermanson is right where it runs deepest.

It 1980 Mike approached a Gardner businessman, Leo LaChance, about the possibility of having him privately fund capital improvement projects.

LaChance was interested but suggested that golf course members become active in what actually was their own cause.

As a result, Gardner Municipal Golfers' Inc. was organized as a non-profit, tax-deductible corporation whose sole purpose was to raise funds to help improve the city golf course.

"That really got things going," Hermanson tells. "We set up fund-raising teams with captains, set up publicity and mailing campaign and contacted golfers as well as key members of the business community.

"We had a three-year plan in mind and by the end of the second year we received pledges amounting to \$52,000. That was doubled when Mr. LaChance wrote the corporation a check for the same amount. By the end of the third year we had passed the \$200,000 mark and that's when we started to put the money to work."

Mike notes that the contributing force is dominated by golfers, with 80 to 85% of donations coming from them.

Obviously, golf course members know a good thing when they see it—one they don't want to lose.

"Oh, the cost of playing golf here," Mike adds. "It really is a bargain and the members' response to helping the course head toward a self-sustaining existence shows they appreciate our low rates."

Those rates bring new meaning to the word, "reasonable", since they are perhaps the lowest for a course of comparable size and condition (thanks to Hermanson and his crew).

Gardner residents pay a yearly fee of \$175 for a single membership and \$250

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**GARDNER** *Cont. from page 1*

for the family size plan. Out-of-town singles also get a big break at \$250. There's even a neat seniors' Monday-Friday five-day package that costs just \$60.

The golf course is top-shelf, too. Originally a nine-holer that was built under WPA construction arrangements in 1936, Gardner added a second nine in the late 1960s and has developed into a formidable layout for one and all.

That the golf course is popular goes without saying.

"There was a survey taken three years ago concerning the number of rounds played," Hermanson reveals. "We finished third with over 65,000 rounds played that year. The two courses that finished ahead of us were Cape Cod courses with year-round play."

So, how popular is Gardner?

"Well, on a typical June day we will have had 60 or so golfers tee off before 7 o'clock in the morning," Mike says. "Weekends really ring the bell. It's not unusual for our mowing crew to speed up because the day's first group is approaching the first green at 4:45 a.m.!"

Gardner has 800 memberships that cover more than 1200 golfers. Therefore, Mike has to have things ready for an early-hour assault. The course's only rest is a short one. The front nine is closed every Monday, but only until 1 p.m.

The fund-raising group is still active and generates between 10 and \$20,000 annually. Also in the works is a grant award of \$600,000 from the state, \$60,000 of which will come from GMG Inc. and on-going collection of separate green fees. However, the grant is on hold at the moment.

But not the enthusiasm and energy of Gardner's golfing public. It's still making ends meet as a self-support system and it still has Mike Hermanson taking care of the loose ends. Nice operation, huh?

**GERRY FINN**

## President's Message



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the GCSA of New England for electing me to a second term as

President of the Association. I also would like to thank the Association members and especially the Board of Directors for their support and hard work during 1988. Last year was certainly a difficult one for most of us and it showed the difficult conditions that we superintendents often have to work under. I also would like to give a special thanks to the superintendents and to the clubs that hosted our meetings during 1988. We are still looking for meeting sites for 1989 and for 1990. If you haven't hosted a meeting for a while, please check with your club and volunteer. We need the cooperation of all our members.

During 1988, we spent much of our time on pesticide issues. Thank you to all of the members who gave their time to work on these important issues. I'm sure that 1989 will bring more work to be done and we will again need your help. If any important bills come up at the Statehouse, we will need *all* of you to contact your local representatives and senators. We also could use the support of your club members so don't be afraid to involve them. Remember, our legislators do respond and vote in direct proportion to the number of letters and phone calls that they receive.

As most of you know by now, the GCSA of New England has established a Turf Research Fund. The purpose of this fund is to raise money that can be used at our local universities for turf research that we feel is important to New England golf

courses. The Board of Directors feels that this is a very important project and we will need your support to make it a success. We are looking into several ways of funding this project and will need you to support it with your time, your contributions and your input into your home club.

Finally, let's all hope that 1989 will bring us a successful year and that we can put the problems of 1988 behind us.

## 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:** *With the golf season headed in your direction, if not already there, what are your guidelines and what stress factors accompany your decision to open your course for the season?*

**Glenn Ackley, Marlboro Country Club:** "Welcome to the superintendent who operates on the theory that says the golf course is either playable or it isn't."

"So, don't be surprised if you see golfers playing here in the dead of winter—provided there's no snow, of course."

"And, until it comes (it hadn't as off Feb. 1), some of my members will be playing right up to sometime in March when we close."

"Sound crazy? Not really. Here at Marlboro there is no set date to open or close. The reference to March means that once the frost starts to come out of the ground and the turf softens we don't allow any play."

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## THE SUPER

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"I suppose one of the reasons we do have winter play is my decision not to cover the greens. Therefore, in weather like we had in January and February, it was common to see 50 or 60 golfers playing the course on weekends of those months.

"Yes, they use the regular greens with the cups set at their edges. Sure, some of the cups get a little ragged-looking but so far I haven't any regrets about staying open.

"Stress takes a holiday, then, in this phase of my job. My members usually back me 100 percent when I have to keep them off the course during those softening-up periods. They depend on my expertise and the judgement call is mine. It's working pretty good, too."



**John Streeter,**  
Cliffside Country Club: "I guess I'm in a situation where members practice the virtue of patience with regularity.

"I have set the opening day standards since I came here and my members accept them without complaining since most of them are aware of the damage factor present if the opening is premature.

"Those standards are simple enough. We wait until all the frost is out of the ground before we open the greens.

"There's never any target date for opening, either. If I said we'd be open the second or third week of April, that projection would be in the ballpark.

"Our location is a critical factor in opening date because the course sits in a valley that's surrounded by a cluster of mountains in Simsbury. It means Cliffside is one of the last courses in the area to get rid of snow and ice. We're talking seven to eight hundred feet elevation here.

"We have around 175 golfing members who aren't that demanding about when they can or can't play. They've also put in a lot of money on things like drainage and cart paths, so they have the conditioning process in mind when improve-

ments are needed.

"They really are a select group in that the opening tournament doesn't take place until the second week in May and the last one is scheduled for the first week in October. No pressure, then, so far."

**Peter Hasak, Tedesco Country Club:** "I kind of feel some heat when members start thinking that perhaps it's time to open the course. However, it's a tolerable kind that I can handle.

"To me, it's sort of a public relations move on my part to open the course as soon as I can. I look at opening day as the renewal of my relationship with members, so I like to think it will remain as good as it has been with a little more push to get their golf season going.

"Regardless, time of opening comes down to my decision and the members respect that. My predecessor (Paul Miller) established this arrangement and it's worked out real well for me.

"I've set April 1 as a target date for opening. That's reasonable and probably practical because I can concentrate on getting the front nine ready in time. It's the dry nine and members are accustomed to restricting play there in early spring. The back nine? It's usually playable around two weeks after the front side.

"All in all, I have to emphasize that my members don't take a selfish attitude in the question of when to open. They turn it over to me and I let my conscience be my guide."

GERRY FINN

## Divot Drift

"We'd like to welcome two new friends of the association. Bartlett Tree Experts and Stormy Acres Sod Farm. Whether it's expert tree care or putting green sod, just look for the phone number under Friends of Association.

Congratulations are in order for Dr. C. Richard Skogley of the University of Rhode Island who received GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award February 9, 1989, in Anaheim, California. The DSA is given to individuals who have demonstrated dedication and outstanding service to golf course superintendents and the profession. Also, to Sherwood A. Moore, CGCS, of Brewster, Mass. who received Golf Course Management magazine's Leo Feser Award for 1987-88. The Leo Feser Award is presented annually to an author in recognition of the best-written article by a GCSAA member golf course superintendent that is published in GCM magazine.

The GCSAA golf tournament was held at the North Pole or as some may call it Palm Springs, Calif. The golf courses were beautiful and the Hi-Lo Desert Association were superb hosts. But to give you an idea how cold it was—imagine yourself playing golf in February, on the first three holes at New Seabury, Cape Cod, with the raw northeast wind coming of the ocean at 30 m.p.h. However, the cold did not bother these chaps. In the 7-10 handicap division, Steve Chiavarioli, Tatnuck C.C. captured 4th net. The 11-15 handicap flight, Paul Jamrog, The Orchards G.C. won 1st gross. David Barber, Blue Hill C.C. won 4th gross and Charlie Passios, Hyannisport Club seized 9th gross. In the 16-20 handicap flight, Kip Tyler from Salem C.C. won 5th gross. And, in the 21-25 handicap flight, Wayne Zoppo, from Agawam Hunt Club won 2nd gross. Congratulations to all.

Special thanks to Dick Zepp, Ron Milenski, Chip Brearly, Dave Heroian and Bill Rollins in managing the GCSANE suite in Anaheim.

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## —NEW MEMBERS—

Welcome & Congatulations to:

**Richard Drew, Regular**  
Salem Municipal G.C.

**Michael J. Powers, Associate**  
Brook Meadow G.C.

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## GCSAA News

### GCSAA Elects 1989-90 Board of Directors

Dennis D. Lyon, CGCS, City of Aurora (Colo.) Parks Department, was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) during the association's 60th International Golf Course Conference and Show held in Anaheim, CA, on Feb. 6-13. Lyon succeeds John A. Segui, CGCS, Berwyn, PA, who as immediate past president will continue to serve for a year as director.

Gerald L. Faubel, CGCS, Saginaw (MI) Country Club, was elected vice president. Re-elected as a director and appointed secretary/treasurer was Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, the Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, N.J. Also re-elected as director was Randy Nichols, CGCS, Cherokee Town & Country Club, Dunwoody, GA.

Elected as a new GCSAA director was Gary T. Grigg, CGCS, Shadow Glen Golf Club, Olathe, KS. Randy P. Zidik, CGCS, Rolling Hills Country Club, McMurray, PA, was appointed by President Lyon to fill the unexpired term of Director Faubel. Zidik will serve a one-year term.

William R. Roberts, CGCS, Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe, MI, and Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, Acacia Country Club, Lyndhurst, OH, continue serving terms as directors.

Officers serve one-year terms, and directors are elected to two-year terms.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is an international organization of more than 8,000 members. Its headquarters is in Lawrence, KS.

### Powell Successfully Defends GCSAA Golf Title

(Palm Springs)—Despite brutally cold temperatures and winds exceeding 20 m.p.h. daily, Dave Powell, Charlotte,

N.C. successfully defended the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) National Golf Championship, Feb. 6-7, in Palm Springs, CA.

Powell's one-stroke victory over Robert Kronn, La Grange, IL, and Hall Richburg, CGCS, LaPlace, LA, at PGA West was anything *but* a joyride.

Kim Wenger, CGCS, Eugene, OR, held a two-stroke lead with only two holes remaining when disaster struck.

At the infamous 17th hole, a par-3 made famous by Lee Trevino's ace during the 1987 Skins Game, Wenger's tee shot settled among the rocks that surround the island green. From the ball drop area, Wenger pitched his approach through the green into the rocks again. He then proceeded to pitch his third attempt over the green and into the water. When the dust had settled, the Pete Dye-designed hole nicknamed "Alcatraz" had hamstrung Wenger with a 9.

"I thought I was out of it," said Powell,

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## 1989-90 GCSAA Board of Directors



Dennis Lyon, CGCS  
President



Gerald Faubel, CGCS  
Vice President



Stephen Cadenelli, CGCS  
Secretary/Treasurer



John A. Segui, CGCS  
Immediate Past President



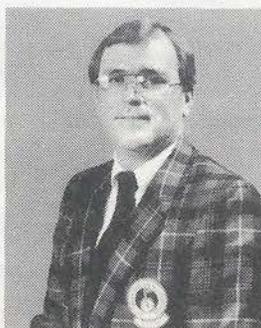
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Officers



Joseph Baidy, CGCS



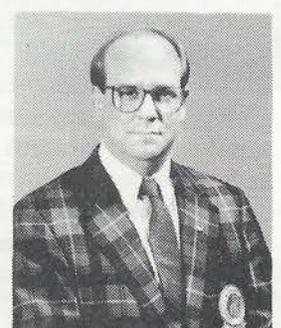
Gary Grigg, CGCS



Randy Nichols, CGCS



Bill Roberts, CGCS



Randy Zidick, CGCS

GCSAA NEWS *Cont. from p. 4*

who had to wait at the 18th hole while the Wenger pairing finished, unaware of Wenger's misfortune. "I just hung in there during the day and tried to be consistent."

For Powell, the 1989 victory is his third GCSAA Championship. He won the U.S.G.A. Bobby Jones trophy in 1985 and again last year at the Woodlands, Texas. He becomes only the third player in the tournament's 50-year history to claim three titles.

The '89 Championship was played over two days at Landmark Land Co.'s Mission Hills Resort Course and PGA West Stadium Course. 116 players competed for the overall championship for those with a 6 handicap or less. More than 500 players from across the country participated in the championship.

**-POSITION OPENINGS-**

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326 Fuller Street

West Newton, MA 02165

Att. Robert DiRico, Supt.

(617) 244-0680

**Assistant Superintendent**

**Holden Hills & Heritage C.C.**

Send Resume to: Albert Free, Supt.

160 School Street

Gardner, MA 01440

**Superintendent**

**Brockton C.C.**

Contact: Mr. Robert Johnson

71 Kenneth Street

West Bridgewater 02379

(508) 586-6737

**New England C.C. (18) hole**

180 Paine Street

Bellingham, MA 02019

Send Resume to: Project Manager

Jeff Sousa

(508) 883-2300

**NGF News Release**

**National Golf Foundation Mourns Passing of Co-Founder**

The National Golf Foundation joined with the golf industry this week in mourning the passing of Herbert B. Graffis, 95, who with his late brother Joe, founded the NGF in 1936. Graffis died of pneumonia February 12 at Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, Fla.

"Herb Graffis' contributions to golf cannot be measured," said Dr. Joseph F. Beditz, Executive Vice President and acting President and CEO of the NGF.

"No one who ever met Herb—and he knew everyone in golf—will ever forget him. His writing on golf is legendary; his efforts to promote the game and his love for golf will stand as a testimonial for generations to come.

"Even in his advancing years, with his eyesight failing, he kept in constant touch with those in golf. His wit and his keen mind were as sharp as ever. Only death has silenced one of the great observers and voices of our game."

Graffis' career as a golf writer spanned most of this century, as a war correspondent, a columnist for the Chicago *Sun-Times*, a television personality and as an author of numerous articles on golf. These efforts led to his induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame in North

Carolina in 1977, the first sportswriter to be so honored. In 1988, he was honored by the PGA of America with its first-ever Distinguished Service Award. Graffis also authored *The PGA*, a history of that organization first published in 1975.

In addition, he was the ghost writer for Tommy Armour's book, *How to Play Your Best Golf All the Time*, a publication which is still in print. He was the founder of the Golf Writers Association of America and served that organization as president. He and his brother Joe also published two national golf magazines: *Golfdom* and *Golfing*. The latter publication was ultimately merged with *GOLF* magazine.

The NGF honored Graffis in 1977 with the creation of the Herb Graffis award, now presented annually to recognize "longtime and outstanding contributions in preserving the true spirit of the game; specifically for keeping golf as it was meant to be: for recreation, good fellowship and health." Graffis himself received the award in 1983.

When the Graffis brothers founded the NGF, it had the singular purpose of promoting golf. This remains the overall mission of the 53-year-old nonprofit Foundation, which today has more than 5,000 members representing virtually every segment of the golf industry.

**1989 NEGCSA Board of Directors**



L.to R.: Front Row; Bob DiRico, Kip Tyler, Chip Brearly, Ron Milenski, Paul Jamrog, Charlie Passios.

Back Row; Ron Kirkman, Dick Zepp, Steve Chiavarioli, Dave Barber and Paul Miller

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