



# 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 1989

## NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 7, 1989  
Blue Hill Country Club

9:00 am Director's meeting  
10:30 am Regular meeting  
12:00 Noon Lunch  
After Lunch Educational, Session

Host Superintendent—  
Dave Barber

Reservations Required—  
Call by December 2, 1989  
(617) 828-2000



Dave has been the course superintendent at Blue Hill C.C. since 1980. Prior to Blue Hill Dave was superintendent at Wayland C.C. for 16 years. He is a graduate of Stock-

bridge, Univ. of Mass, lives in Canton and has four children. Dave is past president of GCSANE and has been a board member for 16 years.

**Directions to:** From 128 take exit 2A (Rte. 138 Stoughton) go to 1st set of lights and bear right (Washington St.) go approx. 1 mile and take a right on Pecunit St. (Sign will say BHCC) club is on the left approx. 3/4 mile.

## Special Thanks

Hyannisport C.C.  
(Charles Passios)  
for donating \$1288 to Research Fund

also to

Newton Commonwealth G.C.  
(Kevin Osgood)  
for a donation of \$1200.

## Turf Research Tourney Basks in Success

**T**urf Research Tourney Basks in Success

They said it couldn't be done. However, they did it so well they plan to do it again, again and again.



"Right," Paul Miller chirped after the first Turf Research Golf Tournament had rolled up its tent and put itself in storage for another year. "This is something the doubters, the negative thinkers fed on. It used to be they could say we were all talk and no action. Then, all of a sudden, one day we said let's do it and here we are."

Miller, who provides the superintendent's input in the greening of the Nashawtuc Country Club, is chairman of the NEGCSA turf research committee and was at the top of the blueprints where it was decided to tear off donations to the fund in big chunks by staging a golf tournament.

"We're just starting to round off the returns," Miller gave an off the top of his head financial report. "Nothing's official yet, but it looks like we made in the vicinity of \$12,000 with the tournament, raffle and other money-raising efforts attached to it. It's a good start but, hey, we can do better. In fact, that's going to be our theme with next year's event and those that follow. We always want to be better than we were the year before."

The tournament response which consisted of 32 foursomes touring the Dedham Polo and Country Club course (naturally at its spiffy best at the urging of

super Bob Mucciarone) added to the basic funding tool (straight donation) of \$6,000. That brings the total for the year to around \$18,000, a little less than Miller hoped to realize.

"While the superintendents can't be blamed for taking bows over the success of the tournament, I think all of us have to take a second look at how much we didn't raise through club donations," Miller explained. "Our overall goal this year was \$25,000. Don't get me wrong. It wasn't for lack of effort but for lack of participation. Thirty, that's all, clubs contributed \$200 each."

"Personally, I call that number a disgrace when you think that we represent 150 clubs in our association and that there are many other clubs and courses out there with no ties to our group. We, the superintendents, are just going to have to do more in the way of selling the fund to our clubs. We have to make golfers understand how important turf research is."

As for the tournament and the people making it all possible, Miller was virtually ecstatic over the cooperation he got from all sides of the sport, itself, and the entire golfing industry.

"Naturally, we want to thank all those who played," he said. "And, of course, the same goes to the Dedham club for having us there. But there were individuals who worked above and beyond normal levels to make this a success."

"Kip Tyler (Salem super) was one. He was in charge of communications, spreading the word. Jim Beane (Mt. Pleasant) and Paul Jamrog (The

*Continued on page 2*

## TURF RESEARCH TOURNEY

Cont. from pg 1

Orchards) did a good job getting the raffle organized. Kevin Lyons (Turf Speciality) put his talents and effort to work in a successful sale of tee, green and hole sponsorships. Rich Cooper (UMass) had things under control in the nearest the pin contest and, of course, Dave Barber (Blue Hill) and Dennis Friel (Tom Irwin) tied the golfing and eating ends together very nicely.

"The list of doers just goes on and on. How about Sawtelle Brothers and Country Club Enterprises? They got together along with the Dedham Polo C.C. and donated the golf carts players used in the tournament. The whole group just pitched in and made sure everything turned up right. As you can see, it was a team effort among the superintendents, commercial representatives and educators (Dr. Cooper). It was our first try and the organization in all phases really showed."

Miller, who had no small part in the tournament as well as an ongoing concern for the well being of the Turf Research Fund, emphasizes that the overall winner is the golfing fraternity which benefits whenever improvements and innovations in the field are made.

"That's why we (supers) have to keep banging away at our members about the importance of turf research," he added. "One day we'd like to make a donation that could open all kinds of new doors for the research people, maybe even get to the point where we raise enough money to provide new facilities to bolster the research effort. That's how big this thing can become."

Whatever, those who said it couldn't be done are still feeding off the possibility in a way. But this time they're eating their words. Tasty or not, they're stuck with them.

GERRY FINN

## 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 continuing question:**  
*What is your reaction to the Turf Research Fund Golf Tournament as well as any ideas you may have for promoting the importance of the fund and influencing greater donor participation:*



**Doug Johnson, Sky Meadow Golf Club:** "I'm really excited about the way the golf tournament turned out to be the successful undertaking a lot of

people, even some of our own members, thought was a hopeless cause.

"Of course, anything that beefs up the turf research program is worth all the effort that goes into it. For years we've been involved in turf research by channeling our donations through the national association. This way we keep our money at home and we take care of our own area's researching needs.

"I think the superintendent should take a more active part in improving the club donation figures. I can't see anything wrong in him going to his board of directors and asking that the club tack on a dollar or two for research in its dues structure. However, I can't see making it part of the superintendent's budget. In most cases it would be hidden under miscellaneous expense and leave itself open to query.

"There's another idea we might explore. Since golfers are the chief beneficiaries of turf research, how about a state-

wide push to get the MGA to add a dollar charge for research to its handicap card program? I can see a lot of money rolling in if we could get the golfers directly involved.

"Personally, I think the superintendent's input at his club should be through his board and not a member-to-member contact effort. Let the board members pass the word.

"Regardless of how we do it, I'm convinced turf research and its funding should be the No. 1 priority of the superintendent. This thing is long overdue. The easiest thing to do would be rest on our laurels after the tournament's success but it would also be the worst thing. We have to stay on top of this one, year-in and year-out."



**Bill Spence, The Country Club:** "Unfortunately, I didn't get the opportunity to be part of the research fund tourney but I think it's an excellent idea.

This is one area (research) where we have to be concerned because I can see a lot of changes ahead, changes whose acceptance will be facilitated if research results in improved maintenance methods.

"We're direct donors, meaning that The Country Club has made the Turf Research fund part of its annual budget. That's not a hard development to understand because most ground chairmen are sensitive to the need for technological

Continued on page 3

## —NEW MEMBERS—

Welcome & Congratulations to

**Eric B. Lamont, Assistant**  
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**Michael Videtta, Regular**  
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Bay Pointe C.C.

**THE SUPER SPEAKS OUT**

*Cont. from pg 2*

improvement and they pass that concern on to their fellow members.

"The proof of research's importance is the fact that research is responsible for most of the top-grade conditions we're able to present members playing at private clubs and those who play at public courses.

"There are a lot of environmental problems around that eventually will affect the way we can and can't condition golf courses. For one thing, use of water is going to be one big hangup for us. That's why it's so essential to find grasses that resist the effect of restrictions influenced by environmental factors.

"We're also headed to that point where golfers must take a second look at the game and realize that consistency in course conditioning may not come as easily as it does now. If there isn't any counteraction to conditioning restrictions, they may have to live with conditions that aren't uniform, ones they're not accustomed to live with.

"All of this, of course, relates to turf research and the large part it will play in grooming golf courses. I'm all for it. All of us have to be."



**Dick Zepp, Whitinsville Golf Club:** "This is one of my favorite subjects because I'm convinced we, as golf course superintendents, have to take the lead, the front line in promoting turf research.

"The tournament was the kind of thing we have to put on the front burner. It was a huge success because the people behind it did a great job of putting it together and making it work. That's one successful tournament down and many more to go.

"I am disappointed with the direct appeal part of our fund-raising project. In fact, I still find it hard to believe there wasn't 100 percent participation. I have to blame us, the superintendents, for this. Apparently, we didn't do a good selling job. We have to go back to the people on our club boards and explain that research benefits everyone in golf but mostly the golfer.

"The superintendent's direct involvement in the research fund is the reason we thought the raffle at the tournament would turn over a nice return. My idea on that was to have our (NEGCSA) members push the raffle tickets and push them hard. My motto was and will be, 'if you don't sell 'em, buy 'em'. In other words, since most of us make a respectable living from the game, it's time for the superintendent to dig into his own pocket to strengthen the fund.

"Right now, we're talking about a \$25,000 annual goal. That's realistic but I'd like to think it's only a start. We should go on from there—to more participation and more ambitious goals. All of us made this thing work. Now, let's see if we have the stuff to make it work better."

**GERRY FINN**

**-POSITION OPENING-**

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Jack Hassett, Art Washburn  
Kip Tyler, Steve Chiavaroli**

**Tournament Results**

**Hyannisport Club**

**Green Chairman & Superintendent**

- 1st Gross Mt. Pleasant C.C. (Lowell)  
Jack Hassett, S. Poremba
- 1st Net Needham G.C.  
Ron Kirkman, Jim Cotter
- 2nd Net Nabasett lake C.C.  
Art Miller (Lost to Needham G. C. by  
F. Couggee matching of Cards)
- 3rd Net Woodland G.C.  
Norman Mucciamoe, Art Simpson
- 4th Net Hickory Ridge C.C.  
Bob Ruzsalla, Bill Shumway
- Long Drive - Mel O'Kelly - Marshfield C.C.
- Closest to Pin - Fran Marini - Halifax C.C.
- Closest to Pin - Jack Hassett - Mt. Pleasant C.C. (Lowell)

**Mt. Pleasant G.C. (Lowell)**

- 1st Net Ron Kirkman, Needham  
Art Silva, Belmont  
Dick Zepp, Whitinsville  
Steve Chiavaroli, Tatnuck
- 2nd Net Orrin Ellis, Nahant  
Paul Miller, Nashawtuc  
Norm Mucciarone, Woodland  
Kip Tyler, Salem
- 3rd Net Jack Hassett, Mt. Pleasant (Lowell)  
Bob DiRico, Brae Burn  
Jeff Carlson, Ocean Edge  
Alan Anderson, Winding Brook Turf
- 4th Net Eric Lamont Brae Burn  
Mike Cornicelli, C&J Equipment  
John Lenhart, Sawtelle  
Keith Gavin, Pinebrook
- Long Drive - Mike Cornicelli
- Closest to Pin - Jack Hassett

**FINANCE CHAIRMAN**  
Paul Jamrog  
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The Orchards G.C.

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# THE NEWSLETTER

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