



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.

August
September 1990

Irwin Hi-Five Felt All the Way to Essex CC



It was the birth of golf's hi-five—the 18th hole at Medinah where Hale Irwin slapped every hand in sight after sinking a 45 foot birdie putt that would eventually put him in an 18-hole playoff from which he would emerge with his third U.S. Open championship.

Irwin's victim on Sunday, the final day of regulation play, was the course that Tom Brodeur helped build. So, fittingly, the waves of his historic and unconventional hi-five were felt all the way to the Essex County Club where Brodeur now tends to the greening of that pampered and prestigious layout.

Brodeur was impressed with the moment. Only slightly so was Irwin's victim on Monday, the 18th of June. Mike Donald had had the Open in his hand for what looked to be an eternity until Irwin got home with the championship's first eight-under total, then watched as his rival bogeyed the 16th hole to lose what once appeared to be a safe lead. That sent the battle into overtime and Irwin was its lone survivor when he birdied the sudden-death first or 19th hole from 10 feet.

"I watched a lot of the tournament on TV and it brought back many memories," Brodeur said several days after the event. "I spent three years on that course (Medinah #3), so it was like being sent back there in time. A lot of things happened while I was there."

Brodeur, now in his fifth year as head superintendent at Essex, cut a lot

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, September 11, 1990
Ferncroft Country Club
Topsfield, MA

Superintendent Team of Two Championship

Board Meeting - None
Regular Meeting - None
Lunch on your own - Clubhouse and
Snack Bar open for your use
Shotgun 1:00 p.m.
Cookout after Golf
Education during Cookout

Speaker - Phyllis Gillispie
Mass. Green Council

Host Superintendent
Paul Johnson

Reservations Required
by September 7, 1990
(617) 527-6968

Paul has just finished his 11th year hosting an LPGA event. He has been at Ferncroft for 20 years. He started his career working on the crew at Whaleland City C.C., then four years as Superintendent at White Cliffs in Plymouth. Paul graduated from UMass two-year program in 1965. Paul has been married to his wife Judy for 21 years. Judy works in the pro shop of Ferncroft. Their son Darren is the Assistant Superintendent at Colonial C.C.; and their other son Michael works on the grounds crew at Ferncroft.

DIRECTIONS

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of his big-bite teeth in the Medinah complex—one year as assistant to Kip Tyler (now the top man at the Salem Country Club) on the No. 3 layout, another year as the superintendent of the No. 2 course, and then his final two years as head honcho back at No. 3.

"You can see that I gained a wealth of experience, something that's proved invaluable in my career," Brodeur disclosed. "It prepared me well for my present job. In fact, when I left Medinah, I thought I could take over at most courses and feel confident and comfortable about producing successful results."

The big-change years for Medinah's No. 3 course were 1985 and 1986. Brodeur was in charge for all of one year (1985) and part of 1986, the year he accepted the call back to his native Massachusetts (Auburn) and the head post at Essex in Manchester-by-the-Sea.

"Those were exciting times," he told. "Not only were they exciting from a standpoint of being part of significant changes to a course already rich in tradition, but from the standpoint of being on the inside when the possibility of making those changes hinged from one membership vote to another."

That's right. At the time of the vote, Medinah members were still feeling the effects of another U.S. Open ten years before, or 1975, when Lou Graham was the winner on the Chicago suburban strip.

"You know, when I was in charge of No. 3, there still was evidence of that 1975 tournament," Tom revealed.

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"You could see damage that hadn't been repaired, places where thousands of people had tramped through the grass, places where grass just refused to grow after it had been under that constant pressure. Therefore, there was a lot of opposition to turning over the course to the USGA again."

Brodeur is not sure, but he thinks final approval took two votes after the venture was turned down in the initial balloting. Medinah has 650 members. In the end, it was a matter of only a handful of favorable votes bringing back the Open.

"The opposition to having the tournament wasn't confined to a question of financial outlay, although I'd say the changes cost in excess of \$1 million," Brodeur said. "Many of the members had simply had it with all the restrictions that go with hosting a USGA event. What's more, this was a package deal since the USGA Senior Open was penciled into Medinah for 1988. That meant members being forced out of their normal golfing routine two out of three years."

The changes, blueprinted by Chicago-based architect Roger Packard, involved eliminating two holes (14th and 18th) which were replaced by two new ones, stretching the short but tricky par-four 15th into a longer hole. The course was basically the same on holes one through eleven. After that came revisions and number changes.



A view of our July tournament site, Worcester C.C.

"The 18th (where Irwin opened the door for himself with a birdie Sunday and Donald kept it open for him with a bogey Monday in the playoff) was the key," Brodeur remarked. "It was a big improvement. The old one was set up for banana-ball players like myself. And, in the end, it proved to be pivotal in deciding the championship."

So, there was a little bit of Tom Brodeur in this year's exciting U.S. Open—a lot of time, effort, and expertise slipped into one of golf's historic venues. It was almost as if Tom were there raising his hand as Irwin went through his unscheduled histrionics. So, one hi-five deserves another.

GERRY FINN

JULY TOURNAMENT —RESULTS—

Worcester CC
Individual Championship

Supt. Division

1st Gross - Jim Fitzroy
1st Net - Andy Langlois

Commercial Division

1st Gross - Mike Cornicelli
1st Net - Larry Ansewitch

Senior Division

1st Gross - Mel Wendell
1st Net - Joe Rybka

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: *What is the policy for the golf course superintendent playing at your course, its restrictions, and the attitude of members toward playing privileges?*



**Arthur Miller,
Nabnasset Lake
Country Club:** "As far as I'm concerned, the situation for playing here couldn't be better. Not only

am I allowed to play without restrictions, the members encourage me to play with them and I am even invited to take part in tournaments.

"And you know what? I've played in many member-member tournaments. It's probably the best avenue a superintendent can take in developing better rapport with his members.

"Certainly it makes my job much easier. When I'm out playing, I see the golf course from a different perspective. There's nothing clinical about my observations either. I see the course from a golfer's view and sometimes that view proves to be an aid for me in producing a better course for my members.

"There's really nothing wrong, getting involved with members in this manner. It makes for a closer relationship and an easier atmosphere to hear their complaints or suggestions. In other words, I get their flack first-hand.

"I've been here 12 years, so the open-play policy must be working for both parties. I just feel free to discuss my methods with members and for the most part positive things result from those discussions. It's made my job much easier and I think I'm a better superintendent because of it."

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Steve Carr, Pocasset Golf Club: "This is kind of an interesting question for me to answer because of the two hats I've worn here. Only recently (1989) my family (and we had owned Pocasset since 1949) sold the club to the members. So, theoretically, I've gone from being an employer to becoming an employee.

"Along with the sale came something else. I'm an honorary member of the club for life. This means that I can play any time I want. However, I've made it a practice to take advantage of it only on occasion. I've also decided that playing in club tournaments is something I'd rather not do.

"However, the idea of playing the course in order to perceive it in a way to help me maintain it never has come to mind. The times I play with the members, then, are more of a social thing. Really, I'm out there to enjoy myself, not to be on an inspection tour."

"Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying the superintendent shouldn't be allowed to play his course or shouldn't play it, period. It's just that I don't think playing your own course does anything to make your job easier or more successful."

Bob Medeiros, Maynard Country Club: "Right. My members encourage me to play and I have all the privileges that go with it. But frankly, I never find time to play. At the end of the day, when it's hot and I'm tired, I just want to head home for some relaxation.

"I'm really not that much of an enthusiast when it comes to playing. I've also made it a practice of playing with a member of my crew the few times I tee it up.

"Sure, I may see things from a different standpoint when I play. But I don't get much out of it as far as finding new ways to improve the condition of the course. Some days I'll walk the course for a different approach. However, my approach to my job is more a technically conscientious effort. That's how I'm built."



Don Hearn, Weston Golf Club: "Okay, I get as much encouragement to play my golf course as perhaps any superintendent in the area. And I appreciate it, even though I'm a strong advocate of the feeling that playing privileges should be part of the job's specs and not classified as a job benefit.

"To tell the truth, I'm not an avid golfer at my course. That's probably because I find it hard to enjoy myself playing here. No, it has nothing to do with the members I play with. In fact, of all the times I've played here, I can't remember hearing one complaint or gripe about the condition of the course from a member.

"Usually, the conversation evolves into more of an educational experience for my members. They're successful people and they're inquisitive, so most of the time they're just curious as to why I mow a fairway one way or cut the roughs another.

"Frankly, I'd much rather play some other superintendent's course. That way I see certain things that may not be coming around favorably and I can forget them. Overall though, playing gives the superintendent a tremendous advantage over the super who doesn't play. If anything, I'm guilty of not playing enough. That's how important I think it is."

GERRY FINN



Guest speaker Dan Nason from Great Salt Lake Minerals, Ogdon, Utah, spoke on the uses of potassium sulfate.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 11 | Super 2-man Champ.
Ferncroft CC - Dinner |
| Sept. 17 | Research Tournament
Nashawtuc C.C. - Dinner |
| Oct. 1 | Member - 3 Guests
Rhode Island CC
Lunch/Dinner |
| Oct. 15 | Pro-Superintendent
Brae Burn CC |

President's Message



The summer of 1990, by this publication, will be almost over. There are some interesting developments at the MGA level that we should be aware of. Additional funds have been approved for further engineering and preliminary work (center lines) that were necessary to allow a contractor to price the construction of the golf course at Sturbridge. A corporation was formed with Bill Flynn to explore future possibilities in Massachusetts golf.

The Quimet Association has been active. They honored Dick Connolly at Woodland during the Quimet Golf Tournament for his years of service. We are presently joining forces with the Quimet Board in the production of a bumper sticker emphasizing Earth Day and walking.

I would like to wish George Weymss good luck on his retirement. George has served for many years as Executive Director of the PGA of New England. Not only was he a supportive and encouraging friend of the golf course superintendent, but he was a true credit to all of golf. An event is being organized in his honor.

PAUL MILLER

Black Turfgrass Ataenius Infestations

A message from Dr. Pat Vittum,
Turf Entomologist
(Reprinted from Turf Notes
University of Massachusetts)

"Some golf courses in eastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod recently reported problems with Black Turfgrass *Ataenius* (also known as the dung beetle). I visited two of the courses last week (July 28th and 31st) and confirmed that those courses indeed had infestations of the grubs.

"The population in eastern Massachusetts had essentially completed its development and new young adult beetles were emerging. The course on the Cape had a real mixed bag—areas with 50 to 60 grubs per square foot and neighboring areas where most individuals were pupae (transition stage) or adults.

"The most heavily damaged areas seemed to occur in high spots and initially looked like a water stress wilt. However, even with considerable hand watering of those areas, the turf did not recover. A quick inspection of wilting or dying patches can confirm whether Black Turfgrass *Ataenius* may be active in the turf.

"At the time, I believe we will not see a second generation of grubs in New England. (BTA sometimes produces a second generation in southern Ohio, but our New England summers normally are a bit cooler and we usually only see one generation of BTA).

—FOR SALE—

1987 Toro 450-D
650 hrs — Great condition

Contact:

Leon St. Pierre, Supt.
Longmeadow C.C.
Longmeadow, MA
Office Phone: (413) 567-3381
Home Phone: (413) 567-5562

"If you have experienced some unexpected and unexplained loss of turf in the last two weeks of July on golf course fairways or aprons, try to confirm the presence of BTA.

"If you do have a population of BTA, the best time to treat will be next spring, around horse chestnut or Vanhouette spirae full bloom (late May). Several materials work well, including Oftanol*, Turcam*, and Triumph*. (By next spring we should know whether Triumph will be available for golf courses.)"

Mary C. Owens
Regional Specialist
Agriculture & Natural Resources

*Where trade names are used for identification, no product endorsement is implied nor is discrimination intended against similar materials. Always read and follow label directions.

Congratulations to Paul Johnson (Boston Five Classic), Paul Miller (Digital Seniors), and Randy Kehres (Bank of Boston Classic) and crews for excellent playing conditions during their respective tournaments.



Paul Miller extends his congratulations to Bob Charles, the Digital Seniors Champion at Nashawtuc C.C.

—NEW MEMBERS—

David Kahrman
Regular Member
Thomson C.C.

Tom Ackley
Associate Member
Juniper Hill G.C.

Who Are The Friends?

Who are those "Friends of the Association" always listed on the back page of the monthly newsletter anyway? There are 48 names as of the last count. These companies or individuals that offer a service pay an annual fee to our association to have a listing. Do any of us really know what all these 48 have to offer? If not, this new column is for you. Each month we will feature one or two companies selected completely at random. That means this column is going to run for a heck of a lot of months.

KIP TYLER

Friend of the Association

**NARDONE
SAND & GRAVEL CO. INC.**

Established in 1950 as a specialty sand and gravel company built with a reputation for quality and service, Nardone Sand & Gravel Co. Inc. is currently owned and operated by third generation Bob and Jim Nardone.

Located on 300 acres in Westford, Massachusetts, the company boasts a versatile processing plant consisting of crushing, screening, and washing equipment.

They are currently supplying over 150 golf courses throughout New England with Topdressing Sand and mixes, Bunker Sands, and various drainage gravels.

Pesticide Contaminated Clothing Requires Special Attention

By Tom Akins
GCSAA Govt. Rel. Mgr.

Applicator safety is a key component of any superintendent's overall management plan. In properly educating and training employees, turf managers invariably stress the need for pesticide applicators to handle the chemicals they work with in a safe and professional manner.

GCSAA, through educational offerings and service on the Environmental Protection Agency's Pesticide Packaging Committee, has taken a leadership role in continually reminding the turf industry and its professionals of the necessity for safe container design and handling.

At the beginning of every work day, while you are still fresh, it's easy to remember the basic rules of applicator safety. At the end of a long and tiring day spent maintaining acres of valuable turf, though, it's easy to forget that the clothing you've worn while applying turf chemicals demands special attention.

While many courses now have disposable coveralls, it's important to keep in mind these basic tips, supplied by Cornell University's Cooperative Extension Service, when laundering pesticide contaminated clothing:

- Don't wash your work clothing at home with your family clothes. Chemicals in your clothing can easily migrate to other clothes in the same washload. Consider providing a washing machine on-site, specifically dedicated to the washing of pesticide contaminated clothing. (For some operations, an outside laundry service may be the best answer.)

- When pre-rinsing, use one of three methods: hose off the garment outdoors, rinse in a separate tub or pail, or agitate in an automatic washer. For garments that are heavily contaminated, be sure to use a concentrated strength liquid.

- Wash garments that are contaminated with the same pesticide together.

- Wash only a few garments at once. Resist the temptation to load the washer as full as possible or to save up clothing for one big load.

- Be sure that you use a full water level and that you use HOT water, preferably 140 degrees or higher.

- Be sure to use the normal, full 12 minutes of your wash cycle.

- Use heavy-duty detergent in the amount recommended on the package. If your clothes are heavily soiled or if you have hard water, increase the amount of detergent.

- Use two full rinse cycles.

- Line dry your clothing to avoid any possible contamination of your dryer.

- After the wash cycle has finished and you have emptied your clothes, run your washer through a complete, but empty, cycle. Use hot water AND detergent during this empty cycle.

- Wear waterproof gloves when handling highly contaminated clothing. Dispose of these gloves periodically.

- Remove contaminated clothing, if possible, outdoors or in a specially designated area. Be sure to empty your pockets and cuffs.

- Save clothing that you wear while handling or applying chemicals for that use only.

- Wash contaminated clothing after each use. When applying pesticides daily, wash clothing daily.

- Make these recommendations part of your applicator safety training to help ensure that your workers stay safe, healthy, and on the job.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP GROSS WINNERS



Supt. Division
1st Gross - Jim Fitzroy



Commercial Division
1st Gross - Mike Cornicelli



Senior Division
1st Gross - Mel Wendell

Check Out Recyclers

Make sure that you carefully scrutinize your relationship with any recycling companies. As efforts to recycle items like batteries and used oil intensify, new companies are springing up to satisfy demand. It is important that you investigate any recycling companies before entering into a contractual arrangement with them. While the vast majority of recycling businesses are reputable, a few "fly-by-night" operators looking to make a quick profit could ruin your chances of being viewed as a responsible player in the recycling game.

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