



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.

February 1992

New president Steve Chiavaroli: He made the right choices all around

Decisions, decisions.

Oh boy, has Steve Chiavaroli had to make them.

The Tatnuck Country Club golf course superintendent, who took over as the GC-SANE president last month, seems to have set a pattern. Every time he comes to a crossroad in his life, he has to do more than

look both ways. Traffic always is coming from all sides.

There never was any question about the direction Steve would take contemplating a professional future. However, would he take a left and follow the path to a golf pro career, or turn right toward the world of the golf course superintendent?

"Yeah, there was a lot of soul searching involved," Steve revealed. "I was a pretty good player in my younger days (captain of the Milton High School golf team), and that route looked pretty inviting at the time. I was playing to a two-three handicap and enjoyed those visions of playing, maybe doing a little home pro work for a living."

At that stage in his life, Chiavaroli was enrolled in the school of business administration at the University of Connecticut and hoped to parlay his education and golf knowledge into a successful career.

Meanwhile, he began working summers on John Coffey's crew at the Old Wollaston Golf Course and eventually the experience crowded into his professional aspirations. Suddenly, becoming a superintendent was more appealing and another decision-making situation was born.

"I switched from business to agronomy, but UConn didn't have any extensive turf course programs, and I thought of transferring to UMass where (Doctor) Joe Troll was turning out top-notch superintendents," Steve told. "But the time and place were just right for me at UConn. Bill Dest, a well-known Hartford area super, was doing some doctorate work there and the school arranged an independent study for me under Bill."

Once past that academic decision, Chiavaroli completed what had become a specialized program of study and actually became one of the first UConn graduates to enter the golf course superintendent profession.

Chiavaroli's association with solid members of the superintendent's community didn't end with Dest. His first job in the field was as assistant to Larry Bunn at the Blue Hill Country Club. After two years there, Steve hooked on with Bob Grant at Brae Burn. Three years later, he answered the call from Tatnuck. That was in 1978 and he's been a fixture there ever since.

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March Meeting

Monday, March 9, 1992
Franklin C.C., Franklin, MA

Host Superintendent
Gary Luccini

Guest Speaker
Ellie Etter, Marketing Director,
Fidelity Investments Co.

Planning for your retirement—It is never too early

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Board Meeting |
| 10:30 a.m. | Regular Meeting |
| 11:00 a.m. | Education |
| 12:00 noon | Lunch |

Reservations Required
Call before March 5, 1992
(617) 328-9479

Gary has been superintendent at Franklin C.C. for 22 years. He graduated from Stockbridge in 1962. Gary constructed and maintained Pine Oaks Golf Club for five years, then took a position at Franklin in 1970. Gary and his wife Kathy have four children.

Directions: From 495 take the King Street exit to Route 140. Follow for two miles and club is on the right.

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Steve Chiavaroli

**PRESIDENT**

Stephen A. Chiavaroli CGCS
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Club Affiliation - Bay Pointe C.C.

SECRETARY

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Club Affiliation - Brae Burn C.C.

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TRUSTEE

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Kevin F. Osgood
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Kip Tyler, CGCS
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PAST PRESIDENT

Paul Miller, CGCS
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Club Affiliation - Nashawtuc C.C.



KIP TYLER, CGCS
Newsletter Editor
PAUL JAMROG
Business Manager

GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor

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"I never have any trouble nailing down the date I started here," he continued. "It was February of 1978, the day of the big blizzard. My wife (Cindy) remembers too. She and my son (Clayton, who is now 15) were stranded back in Quincy for five days. But 14 years and four more kids later, we can still laugh about it."

As his service at Tatnuck grew in years, another decision-making development arose when Steve's on-course house reached a point where it drifted beyond reasonably-priced repair. The 200-year old relic had been good to him and his family and the arrangement had worked out well with the Tatnuck membership. But in the spring of 1990 the club and Steve thought it best that he buy a house of his own.

"That solution has worked to perfection," Chiavaroli disclosed. "The club helped me financially, we found a nice house in Paxton only a mile from the course. The school system there is very good and it's been a great move for both my family and the club."

The family now includes Adrienne, 13; Janelle, 10; Hillary, 6; and Stephen the Third. The change was minimal for all and Chiavaroli, who emphasizes that members never knocked on his door when he lived on the course, says life in the profession is treating him just fine.

"I've already had experience in the president's role at MGA meetings, so the transition from Paul (Miller) to me has been a very smooth one."

Steve Chiavaroli

Tatnuck is a nine-hole course, but a family club where activity abounds from one end of the year to the other. Steve's responsibilities include maintenance of six regular tennis courts and two platform tennis courts that are in full swing during the winter months.

Meanwhile, Chiavaroli hasn't allowed the grass to grow under him in his involvement in GCSANE affairs. He's been a member of the board of directors the last eight years, and secretary the final four before he stepped up in the line of command when Charlie Passios resigned as association vice president.

"I had to make a decision on that account, too," Steve said. "Only because I thought I might not be ready to follow Paul

Miller as president. However, I think I'll be able to handle it. I've already had experience in the president's role at MGA meetings, so the transition from Paul Miller to me has been a very smooth one. I'm looking forward to the challenge. I'm confident I made the right choice."

Why not? Steve Chiavaroli's been making the right choices all along. So, naturally, he's the right choice to lead the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, which makes him a right-choice guy all-around.

GERRY FINN

Calendar

| | |
|-------------|---|
| March 3,4,5 | Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference Springfield, Mass.. |
| March 9 | Regular Meeting Franklin C.C. Franklin, Mass. |
| March 14 | MGA Seminar Newton Marriott Newton, Mass. |
| March 24 | USGA Regional Seminar Colonial Wakefield, Mass. |
| April 20 | Regular Meeting Blue Hill C.C. Canton, Mass. |

1992 GCSANE Meeting Schedule

| | |
|--------------|---|
| April 20 | Blue Hill C.C. |
| May 18 | Pine Brook C.C. |
| June 1 | Kittansett (member-member) |
| June 8 | Mt. Pleasant C.C. (Supt. Chairman) |
| July 13 | Winchester C.C. (Championship) |
| August 11 | Rockland G.C. |
| September 14 | Orchards G.C. |
| October 5 | Metacomet C.C. (Supt. Club Official) |
| November 5 | Whitinsville G.C. |

Other Events

| | |
|------------|---|
| May 11 | Nashawtuc C.C. (Supt.-Pro-Mgr-Club Official) |
| October 13 | The International Research Tournament |
| October 20 | Ferncroft C.C. (Pro-Superintendent) |

Reservation
Phone Number: (617) 328-9479

The Super Speaks Out:

This month's question: What are the things you like ... and dislike about your job and the golf course superintendent's profession?

Brian Howard, Lexington Golf Club: "I've been very fortunate as far as the type of jobs I've held because I've never had a job where I had to work indoors."



"So, outdoor work is the only kind I've been doing ever since I started delivering papers when I was 16. After that, I worked on a dairy farm before getting into the superintendent's business."

"I guess that means I like working outside, and that has to be one of the pluses of being a superintendent. In fact, now that I think of it, I can't imagine being cooped up in an office or wherever for eight to ten hours a day and not going crazy."

"You could call me a happy camper."

Brian Howard

"There are times when I put long hours in on my present job, but when I took it after preparing for it working for Kevin Osgood at Newton Commonwealth, I expected there would be weekends involved and certain projects requiring me to be at the course longer than usual. However, that doesn't bother me. The hours I can live with. Of course, I'm still young and I might be singing a different tune down the road."

"As for getting up early in the morning, the same goes there. The only time it bothers me is when I've had a late night the night before. So, the whole concept of outdoor work, longer hours, and early rising is something I consider a positive side of my job."

"The negatives are only picky."

"For instance, I'd rather see green chairmen here stay in that position three or four years instead of just two. I also could do without shotgun starts late in the

season; that really cramps my work schedule. Outside of those little things, I like what I'm doing, where I do it, and the people I do it for. Yeah, you could call me a happy camper."

Dave Comee, Winchendon Country Club: "First and foremost, I'd say there's nothing like a job where you don't have to look at the same four walls all day. That's what being a superintendent is all about. You're out there in the great outdoors and you can't beat a workplace like that."



"Frankly, there's a lot of positives in my job, a lot of them because of my club. Winchendon is owned by a private school, so I don't have to deal with green chairmen, committees, and golfers who tend to have only their personal interests in mind. I report to one person, the headmaster, and he allows me to pretty much run the show by myself."

"I've never had any trouble getting up early, so that part of the job doesn't present any problems."

"The same goes for my hours. The club never questions my absence just as long as it knows the job is being done. However, during the stress months of summer I put in a lot of hours, willingly too, because the club is very generous about free time when the busy months are behind me."

"There are very few negatives here. Of course, I'm always thinking my budget needs a boost, but what superintendent doesn't think the same thing?"

"I'm always thinking my budget needs a boost, but what superintendent doesn't think the same thing?"

Dave Comee

"The same headache of having isolated complaints from golfers hits me once in a while, but that's to be expected. I don't care what condition the course is in, there's always the guy who can find fault with it, even if it approaches perfection."

"Therefore, I think you can put me on the happy and content side of the ledger. I wouldn't be starting my 13th year here if I weren't."

Dave Kahrman, The Thompson Club: "There are a lot of things about my job I like, beginning with the fact the membership has expressed complete faith in my judgment. How? The club gave me the option of having to work with a full green committee or just one green chairman."



"Naturally, I went for the one-person arrangement, and the results have been great. Improvements in the course continue to surface. That brings a smile to the faces of my members and it spreads to my office to make for a satisfactory relationship all around."

"I really find it hard to think of negative things here. Sure, every now and then I hear that the greens are too fast or too slow, but bringing their speed to the point where all 330 members agree with it is something that just doesn't happen."

"Any hang-up about this job would be of my own making."

Dave Kahrman

"I have to admit that if anything, any hang-up about this job would be of my own making. I'm talking about hours. Maybe I spend too much time on the job. However, the job has become paramount with me. Why not? My benefits and budget have increased very nicely in the four years I've been here."

"There is one potential fuzzy area, although I don't think it will be a problem. I might want to ask for a short summer vacation, just to give me a change of scenery and time to recharge the batteries."

"Other than that, looking forward to another day on the course is among my top priorities. Funny thing about that feeling. At first, I thought this place would be a stepping stone in my career; now, I feel like I've probably found a home for myself."

GERRY FINN

A message from the President

I would like to thank the entire membership of this association for electing me to represent you as the 33rd president of the GCSA of New England. I regard the president's office as a great honor and a very large responsibility.



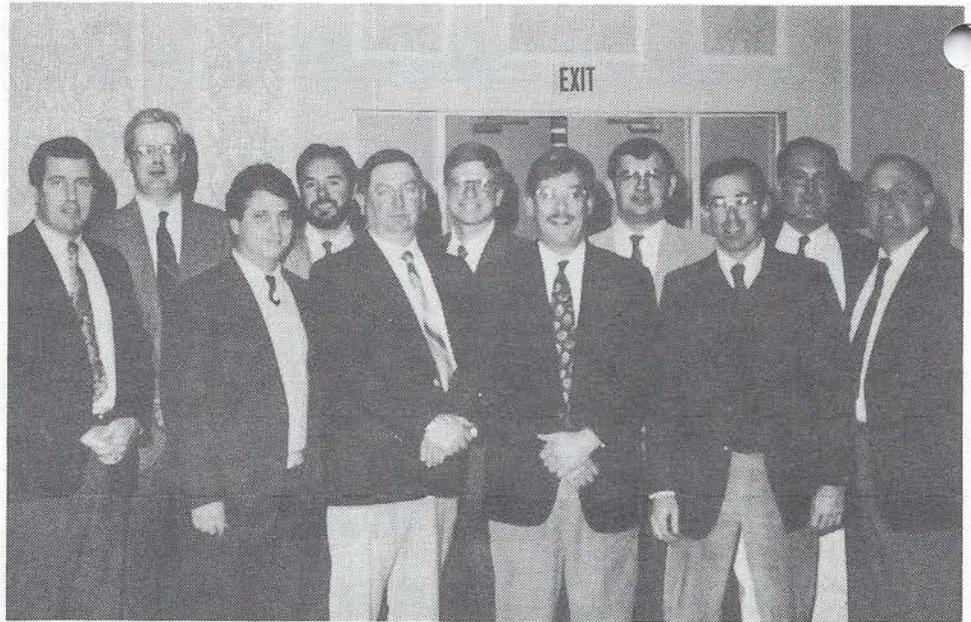
I became an association member in 1978 and I have served on the board of directors for the past ten years. The past-presidents I have worked under have all done a great service for its membership, and I only hope that I can continue to be as creative as they were and that this association will continue to promote the interests and welfare of its members for a long time to come.

Over the past few years, we have seen our Turf Research Fund grow and prosper, and our Research Tournament become a tremendous success. We have seen our profession's public image enhanced through attempts to better our public relations within the community. This area of public relations is crucial and will be concentrated on by our Publicity Committee in 1992.

The GCSANE is becoming more and more involved in the planning of the Massachusetts Turf and Lawngrass Council's annual Mass. Turfgrass Conference, and our Association may soon be totally responsible for this event. This venture will take much planning and dedication by our members in the years to come, and the road for this association looks challenging and rewarding.

I thank you again for this opportunity to serve as your president. As others may have said before me, an association is only as strong as its membership. I look forward to your continued support, participation, and attendance at our association's monthly meetings.

STEPHEN CHIAVAROLI



GCSANE Board of Directors for 1992

The 1992 GCSANE Board of Directors are (first row, left to right) Paul Miller, CGCS; Bob DiRico, CGCS; Chip Brearley; Paul Jamrog; Dick Duggan, CGCS; Jim Fitzroy, CGCS; (second row, left to right) Steve Chiavaroli, CGCS; Kevin Osgood, Kip Tyler, CGCS; Bob Ruzala; and Jim Reinertson. Not pictured is Eric Newell, CGCS. (Photo by Rick Arzillo)

1992 GCSANE officers and directors

President: Stephen A. Chiavaroli, CGCS, Tatnuck C.C.; Vice President: Edward L. Brearley, Bay Pointe C.C.; Secretary: Robert DiRico, CGCS, Brae Burn C.C.; Treasurer: Paul Jamrog, The Orchards G.C.

Trustee (1 yr.): Eric E. Newell, CGCS, Rockland G.C.; Trustee (2 yrs.): James Reinertson, Wayland C.C.; Trustee (3

yrs.): Richard Duggan, CGCS, Concord C.C.; Finance Chairman: Robert Ruzala, Hickory Ridge C.C.; Golf Chairman: James Fitzroy, CGCS, Presidents G.C.; Educational Chairman: Kevin F. Osgood, Newton Commonwealth G.C.; Newsletter Chairman: Kip Tyler, CGCS, Salem C.C.; Past President: Paul Miller, CGCS, Nashawtuc C.C.

GCSANE 1992 budget figures

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Income: | |
| Dues | \$22,000 |
| Initiation | .400 |
| National Convention Retention | 2,750 |
| Friends | 10,000 |
| Misc. | 7,500 |
| Troll-Dickinson | 50 |
| Total Income | \$42,700 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Expenses: | |
| Newsletter | \$12,000 |
| National Convention | 4,300 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Welfare | 200 |
| Office Supplies | 2,000 |
| Scholarship | 250 |
| Trophies | 1,200 |
| Directors Expenses | 2,500 |
| By-Laws | 400 |
| Survey | 400 |
| Printing | 7,500 |
| Professional Relations | 10,500 |
| Audits | 800 |
| Misc. | 650 |
| Total Expenses | \$42,700 |

A procedure to enhance early spring green-up

Orrin W. Ellis, CGCS
Pine Meadows C.C.

As superintendent of a New England golf course, I have often puzzled over the perfect time to remove winter green covers. After some experimentation, I have discovered a procedure which greatly enhances early spring green-up after green covers are removed. Once covers are removed (approximately the third week in March), cold night temperatures can set greens back to the color they would have been without covers. Many superintendents will remove covers during the day and replace them in the afternoon to prevent damage from the cold. The application of activated charcoal, combined with a sticker, can take away the worries of cold damage. This will not only prevent greens from setting back, but will stimulate turf color and will enhance root development. Leaf growth is apparently not stimulated, so all of the growth at this point appears to be in the root system. The charcoal application alone will slide off the grass blades after the first dew, rain, or irrigation; therefore, a sticker is necessary to achieve any results.

Another effect of this application is the reduction of leaf spot disease in the spring. Pesticide control for Leaf Spot has never been required on areas where the charcoal was used.

An added bonus to this procedure is that bent grass responds better to the activated charcoal than poa annua. If the greens were seeded the previous fall, the new grasses will be quite evident after only a few days.

On the negative side, mixing of charcoal is difficult, and so is the clean up of the mixed product. As soon as spraying is completed, immediately rinse the system. The interior will clean out easily if the product does not have the opportunity to dry. Due to the sticker residue left on the outside of the sprayer, a steam cleaner will come in handy to clean it.

The procedure is as follows: After removing the cover from the greens, double cut at 1/4" (if greens are extremely high, then bring them down slowly or top dress to protect crowns from scalping). Blow off any loose materials from the greens such as leaves or grass clippings. Spray greens with a combination of activated charcoal and sticker. Spray the green or greens at approximately 2 lbs./M in one direction. After this coating dries, spray again in the

direction perpendicular to the first application. This second coating will allow covering of more leaf area, and give a total coverage of 4 lbs./M.

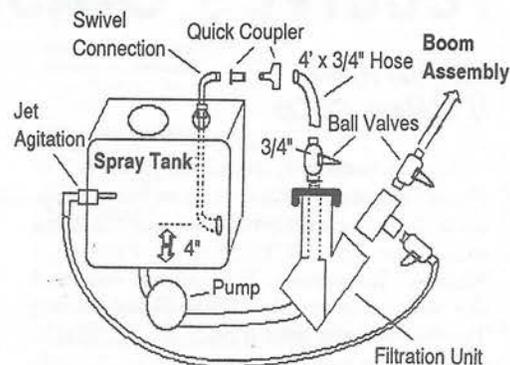
The application rate is not critical, for I have found that 2 lbs. to 4 lbs./M works well, with the best results gained by using 4 lbs. Greens located in wetter areas will respond better than those in drier areas. For a few hours after application, you will notice a black appearance to the turf. Within a few hours (possibly the next day depending on sunlight intensity), the black will be replaced with a deeper green than would normally be seen in March or April.

The first year that this application was used, the greens were so impressive that a second application was used three weeks later. The turf had an excellent response, so in May a third application was used. This time the amount of light the charcoal attracted was too much, and wilting occurred. My recommendation is that only one application of charcoal (or two if spring temperatures are lower than normal) be used.

Equipment and materials used:

1. 50 lbs. activated charcoal (Grow Safe) / 100 gallons water.
2. One pint Exhalt 800 spreader sticker / 100 gallons water.
3. Cushman Truckster
4. Smithco 110 gallon tank, centrifugal PTO pump, Tee Jet 8008VH nozzles at 30 PSI without screens.
5. Main filter modified (see illustration) to allow full pump flow to mix 50 lbs. charcoal with 100 gallons of water. (This modified filter cleans itself while spraying and always keeps the solution in suspension.) **KEEP VALVE OPEN WHILE SPRAYING.**

Illustration: filter modification



Additional mixing information with modified filter

Fill system 3/4 full and run pump to cycle water through system. Open the 50 lb. bag of activated charcoal by using a knife to cut along the top of the bag. Place bag vertically over tank opening and press bag firmly to seal the dust from escaping. Tap bag slowly until all contents are released. Let bag stay in place until all dust is mixed. Once the charcoal is in suspension, add the rest of the water, rinse off any spilled charcoal, then add sticker and apply. This tank would cover 32 M at the 2 lb. rate, or 16 M at the 4 lb. rate.

When cleaning equipment, there is no need to remove screen from filter. When emptying system, use of ball valve and quick disconnect connection between hose and tank, are used to quickly empty tank and screen off any particle too large to pass through screen. This bypass system is used for all my spraying and does make mixing and cleaning easier. Please remember, if you try this modification, you must RE-CALIBRATE your system, because the pressure will be reduced to the boom from the increase of flow through filter into tank.



Past Presidents meet

Left to right: Don Hearn, Ron Kirkman, Dick Zepp, Dave Barber, and Dean Robertson. (Photo by Kip Tyler)

Dr. Gail Schumann, U. of Mass. professor receives Outstanding Teacher Award

from Turf Notes,
U. of Mass. Co-Op

Gail Schumann, assistant professor of Plant Pathology, University of Massachusetts, has been recognized for her teaching excellence by the College of Food and Natural Resources. Schumann received the second annual CFNR Outstanding Teacher Award, and a permanent plaque recognizing her is displayed in the college's Academic Programs Office.

Schumann joined the faculty in 1987

after serving in part-time and full-time visiting faculty positions in Plant Pathology. She received her B.S. from the University of Michigan and her M.S. and Ph.D. from Cornell University. She has authored a textbook, published this year, entitled "Plant Diseases: Their Biology and Social Impact", and has published papers and presented seminars in several states on turfgrass pathology and on plant pathology in general education. She is co-recipient of a U.S. Department of Agriculture Challenge Grant for Higher Education entitled "Development of Inter-

active Videodisc Technology for Teaching Plant Pathology". She is a 1991-92 Lilly Fellow and in 1988 received the American Phytopathological Society Foundation Genesis Award for Teaching.

Dr. Schumann has taught both undergraduate and graduate courses and has received high commendations at both levels. In addition, she is a driving force behind the Cooperative Extension Turf Program. We are proud to be able to work with her.

Congratulations, Dr. Schumann!

**DIVOT DRIFT ...announcements...educational seminars...job opportunities
...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.**

GCMA SEMINARS

GCMA Organized Training Seminars - The Golf Course Mechanics Association is continuing its commitment to provide our members with superior technical training.

We have arranged with service professionals the following:

Jacobsen, LF-100, & Greensking IV - March 26, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Belmont (Mass.) Country Club. Presented by Paul Zellner, Jacobsen Field Service Representative. \$20 per person (includes lunch). Registration deadline is March 12.

Kohler "K" Series Engine - April 22, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., at W.J. Connell, Foxboro, Mass. This is a hands-on seminar limited to the first 20 people to register. \$20 per person (includes lunch). Registration deadline is April 8.

If you would like more information, please state your interest and send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to: Stephen G. Lucas, Weston Golf Club, 275 Meadowbrook Road, Weston, MA 02193.

These seminars are given by competent service professionals. They offer a chance to update skills and learn new techniques. GCMA meetings provide us an opportunity to exchange ideas and brainstorm problems.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Assistant Superintendent, Indian Ridge Country Club, Andover, Mass. Private membership; 18 holes. Send resume to Roger W. Brink, Superintendent, Indian Ridge Country Club, Lovejoy Road, Andover, MA 01810. Application deadline: March 10, 1992.

CHANGE OF DATE

Change of Date: MGA Seminar is March 14 at Newton Marriott, not March 7.

NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR RESERVATIONS

New phone number for meeting reservations is (617) 328-9479.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome new Friend: Safety Storage Inc., Lynn, MA.

Proposed New Members: James L. Favreau, Assistant, International Golf Club, Bolton, MA; and Brian E. McCarthy, Assistant, St. Mark's Golf Course, Southboro, MA.

Student memberships are now available for \$15 per year.

GOLF RESULTS

1991 GCSANE Golf Award Round-Up

Supt.-Chairman

Low Gross - Jack Hassett and Dave Walsh

Low Net - Charlie Dickow and Brian Cleary

Championship

Supt. Low Gross - Keith Gavin

Supt. Low Net - Mike Nagle

Senior Low Gross - Lenny Blodgett

Senior Low Net - Joe Rybka

Affiliate Low Gross - Larry Anshewitz

Affiliate Low Net - Dennis Friel

Member-Member

Low Gross - Jim Fitzroy and Rich Tworog

Low Net -

Bob Difricio and Norman Mucciarone

Affiliate Low Gross -

Joe Lazaro and Dick Gurski

Affiliate Low Net -

Dennis Friel and Paul Skafas

Pro-Supt.

Low Gross (tie) -

Paul Miller and Mike Medeiros
Pat Lewis and Mo Guttman

Low Net - Bob Ruzala and Jim McDonald

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Contact: Gary Hammond

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Philip Wogan
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Friends of the Association profile

Philip A. Wogan

Philip A. Wogan has been engaged in the field of Golf Course Architecture since 1955. He started with his father, Eugene "Skip" Wogan, long-time pro at the Essex County Club in Manchester-by-the-Sea and one of Donald Ross's early proteges.

Philip grew up at Essex—first working on the course and later in the pro shop. After his father's death in 1957, he was retained by the club, on a negotiated fee basis, to maintain the course and run their golf and tennis tournaments. He held this position for twenty-eight years during which time he was also engaged in Golf Course Architecture.

Philip is a Fellow with American Society of Golf Course Architects, and was formerly a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He has been involved with over sixty projects involving new courses, remodeling of existing courses, and other related activities.

His philosophy regarding design concepts is that it must be consistent with the nature of the game. Phil's long association with the game of golf means he understands the essence of the sport and he knows the elements which constitute that essence. In other words, he believes that any good course should reward good play more than it punishes poor play. Playability is the "name of the game" in his book. Good courses should be suitable for the majority of the playing public and for a wide range of skills, and not for just the top playing pros. Courses should be challenging rather than difficult.

Phil feels that considerations, other than golfing values, which are vitally important and which must be factored into the design concepts, are the economics of course maintenance, the efficiency of the golf operations, and the protection and enhancement of the environment.

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