



TEE TO GREEN

Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Pray for Rain

And other tips for surviving a water shortage

I've written about the noise crisis, the pesticide crisis, the stress crisis, and, now, just when I thought I'd run out of crises to write about, we have a water crisis. It's never a dull moment in the life of a turf professional.

Did you all see the article that Past President Pat Lucas mailed out from the March '81 issue of the *Tee to Green*? Titled "Coping With Less," this piece offers some practical advice on what you should be doing to conserve water. The principles, though 10 years old, still hold true. If you haven't looked at this article yet, I suggest you read it. It'll help you make the best use of your course's water supply—if you have any left, that is.

In the meantime, here are a few measures I suggest you take if you're dangerously low on this precious resource. They're listed in order of priority, of course:

1. Pray for rain.
2. Go home early, and take your spouse out for dinner.
3. Continue spraying. It'll help save what grass is left.
4. Educate your membership.
5. When all else fails, polish your resume.

With all that can—and often does—go wrong on the golf course this time of year, I felt a little levity was in order. But seriously, there's *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

When Lightning Strikes

Alpine's Gary Ritell offers practical advice for preventing lightning-related tragedies

Lightning Kills One at the U.S. Open. This made front-page news on June 14. While many people may not remember that Payne Stewart won the 1991 U.S. Open, they probably *will* remember that lightning played an important—and deadly—part in the tournament.

Lightning casualties aren't uncommon. It was the significance of the event, not the rarity of the lightning strike, that made this unfortunate incident newsworthy. Yet few people know the proper protocol in a thunder-and-lightning storm. And probably even fewer *clubs* recognize the potential for legal tangles if someone is struck on their grounds.

In the past, golf courses and other facilities were able to bypass costly litigation with an "act of god" defense. But today, courts are taking the view that "if proper care and diligence would have avoided the act, it is not excusable as the act of god." In short, golf courses without the proper lightning protection systems and shelters can now

be held liable for lightning-related tragedies.

What follows are not only the do's and don'ts for dodging a lightning bolt, but also practical steps clubs and superintendents can take to keep staff and members out of harm's way when lightning strikes.

Avoiding Legal Hassles

According to the Lightning Protection Institute, here's the bare minimum a club should do to provide lightning-proof shelter for staff and members caught in a storm:

1. Protect open areas distant from the clubhouse by either erecting rain shelters equipped with protection systems or by installing overhead protective wires.
2. Equip lone trees under which people are likely to seek rain shelter with lightning protection systems. UL-approved copper equipment is made especially for this purpose. When properly installed, it safeguards a tree or group of trees from lightning damage without inhibiting the *(continued on page 4)*

Also in This Issue

- ② Summer Social and Other Events
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- ⑤ The Ins and Outs of Equitable Stroke Control
- ⑦ Pelham CC Golf Results...Qualifiers for Met Area Team Championship
- ⑦ Member Notables

Pray for Rain

And other tips for surviving a water shortage

not much we can do when Mother Nature holds back the rain—except educate our membership so they understand that less-than-satisfactory turf conditions are often out of our control.

If anyone in the area needs help with

water task forces, call Government Relations Committee Chairman Joe Alonzi (914-472-1467) for help in contacting the proper people.

LARRY PAKKALA, CGCS
President

Upcoming Events

Meeting Reminder

Golf Meeting

Tuesday, September 24
Scarsdale Golf Club, Hartsdale, NY

Herb Waterous will be the host superintendent.

Social Event

1991 MetGCSA Summer Social
Wednesday, August 21
Shenorock Beach Club, Rye, NY

Join your fellow MetGCSA members for an evening of dinner and dancing. For further information, contact Social & Welfare Committee Chairman Jeff Scott, 914-967-2100, ext. 149.

Special Events

MetGCSA Professional Turfgrass Field Day

Tuesday, September 17
Rain date: Wednesday, September 18
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Don't miss this golden opportunity to scan area suppliers' wares. This year's special attractions include a Turf & Athletic Field Maintenance Clinic and Reel Mower Grinding Clinic. For further information, contact Bob Lippman, 914-248-7476, or Byron Johnson, 203-748-5069.

Northeast Autumn Classic
Sunday-Tuesday, September 29, 30,
October 1
The Quechee Club, Quechee, VT

Mark Fuller is host superintendent.

27th Annual Turfgrass Equipment, Irrigation and Supplies Field Day
Tuesday, October 8
Rutgers Stadium and Golf Course
Piscataway, NJ

For further information, contact John Carpinelli, 609-235-0150.

Met Area Team Championship
Tuesday, October 15
Fenway Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY

Joe Alonzi will be host superintendent.

New York State Turfgrass Association Turf and Grounds Exposition
Tuesday-Thursday, November 5-8
Rochester, NY

For further information, contact NYSTA, 800-873-TURF or 518-783-1229.

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ADDRESS: P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

More Funding for Turfgrass Research

The GCSAA recently presented grants totaling \$50,000 to the USGA. The donation will help fund the work of the USGA/GCSAA Turfgrass Research Committee in the coming year.

"We're extremely pleased to once again offer our financial support to the committee," says GCSAA president—and MetGCSA member—Steve Cadenelli. "But more important than money is our pledge to take the knowledge gained from this research and disseminate it to those responsible for the management of America's golf courses."

The USGA and GCSAA have worked in partnership on turfgrass research since 1983. The goal of the USGA/GCSAA Turfgrass Research Program is to significantly reduce water use and maintenance costs on golf courses by breeding new grasses and developing improved cultural maintenance practices.

In 1982, the USGA mapped out a 10-year research program, which the USGA Executive Committee recently elected to extend another five years with an additional \$4.15 million in funds.

During that time, the USGA/GCSAA Turfgrass Research Committee will continue to seek research projects aimed at developing grasses and cultural maintenance practices that conserve our natural resources. In fact, high on the list of priorities is finding grasses that thrive on less water, lower quantities of fertilizer and pesticides, and have the ability to tolerate:

- high and low temperature extremes
- nonpotable water
- alkaline, acid, or saline soils
- reduced mowing and heavy traffic
- shade
- diseases, insects, nematodes, and weed competition

The USGA/GCSAA Turfgrass Research Program has laid the groundwork for numerous breeding programs, which have resulted in the development of two improved turfgrass varieties, NuMex Sahara bermudagrass and NE 84-609 buffalograss, both available for use on golf courses and other turf areas. The USGA expects many more varieties to be released during the next decade.

Update on UST Insurance Deadline

As you well know, new law mandates that any golf course with an underground storage tank (UST) will have to ensure that it can cover the expense of correcting a petroleum leak or spill. For most clubs, this means purchasing underground pollution insurance.

To qualify for the insurance, however, a club's tank site must be clean. And the EPA estimates that 10 to 30 percent of USTs are leaking. This means that, in some cases, the club must take corrective action and install a new tank before it can become eligible for insurance. This is a costly and time-consuming process.

The deadline for this coverage was already extended once, to October 26, 1991. And now the EPA is lobbying for more time—to give tank owners and operators with faulty systems ample opportunity to bring their tanks up to code and qualify for the insurance.

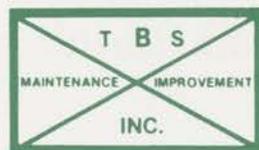
The length of the proposed extension is still undecided—and may never come to pass. So you should act now to make sure your operation will be in full compliance, particularly because it normally takes more than three months for an insurance policy to be issued.

Accepting Award Nominations

It's that time of year when we ask you to submit your nominations for the Sherwood A. Moore Award.

A high honor, the award is presented annually to an individual who has "advanced the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent." Previous recipients were Sherwood Moore, Ted Horton, Bruno Vadala, and Jim R. Fulwider.

Please send or phone in your nominations as soon as possible to Awards Committee Chairman Scott Niven, The Stanwich Club, 888 North Street, Greenwich, CT 06831, 203-869-1812.



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When Lightning Strikes

trees' growth or detracting from their beauty. In fact, within a few weeks, the copper cabling and fittings turn a dark color that blends with the trees' bark.

3. Install standard lightning protection systems on the clubhouse, maintenance facility, pro and tennis shops, and other buildings on the complex.

4. Protect and/or ground metal flagpoles, towers, and similar structures.

5. Prominently post personal lightning safety rules, like the guidelines that follow.

Guidelines for Golfers and Maintenance Staff Caught in an Electrical Storm

Whether you're playing golf or working on the course, when a thunderstorm approaches, don't wait for a bolt of lightning to chase you off the grounds. But if a sudden storm leaves you stranded on the back nine, your best bet is to seek refuge in a rain shelter with approved lightning protection. When that's not an option:

- Search out a tree equipped with a certified lightning protection system. Offer staff and members, who aren't trained to recognize grounding cables, a map of protected trees.

Whatever you do, don't seek shelter under an isolated, unprotected tree. Though you may feel less vulnerable there than lying in the middle of a fairway, your chances are far greater—as you know from the U.S. Open disaster—of suffering a fatal blow.

- Get off high terrain. You're much safer in a ditch, gully, or depressed area or lying flat on the ground.

In any case, don't hang onto metal-shafted clubs, tools, or umbrellas. And if you're wearing metal spiked shoes or steel-toed boots, take them off and leave them behind.

Remember: Lightning doesn't have to strike you directly to harm you. There is a positive charge of electricity in the ground equal to the negative charge in the thunderhead, so lightning can enter your body from the ground up, causing shock, injury, or death—particularly if you happen to be wearing spikes or holding a metal-shafted club.

First Aid for Lightning Victims

A brush with lightning needn't be fatal, provided the person doesn't get the full charge of the bolt and you act quickly.

If a member of your staff or club is struck by lightning, here's what you should—and shouldn't—do:

1. Don't move the injured person. Instead, call an ambulance *immediately*—even if the person appears to be okay. He or she could have life-threatening internal injuries that aren't immediately apparent.
2. Check the "19th Hole" to see if there's a doctor who can take charge.
3. In the meantime, have someone check to see if the person's breathing. If he or she isn't, start mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
4. Check the person's pulse. If you can't find one, start CPR, provided you're trained in the procedure.
5. Have someone meet ambulance personnel at the main entrance and

escort them directly to the scene. A person whose heart has stopped due to an electrical charge, has a good chance of being resuscitated in the field if emergency service personnel can reach the person quickly—within 10 minutes.

6. If there's more than one lightning victim, lead the rescue squad to those who have stopped—or are having difficulty—breathing. At this point, treating anyone with wounds or burns is of secondary importance.

The key to saving a lightning victim's life is quick, calm action. But as always, prevention is the best medicine.

GARY RITELL

Vice President, Alpine Tree Care

Special thanks to New Canaan Country Club Superintendent Mike Reeb for providing additional information for the "First Aid for Lightning Victims" portion of this article. Mike is president of the New Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corps in New Canaan, CT.

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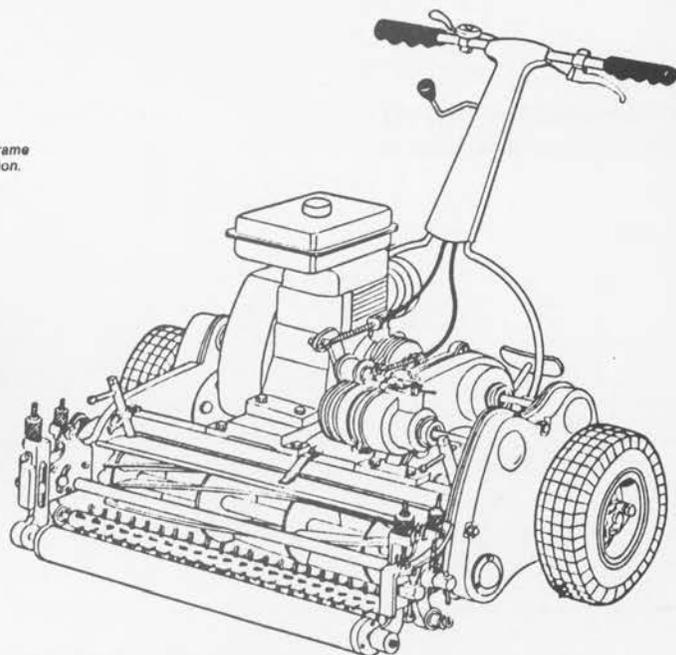
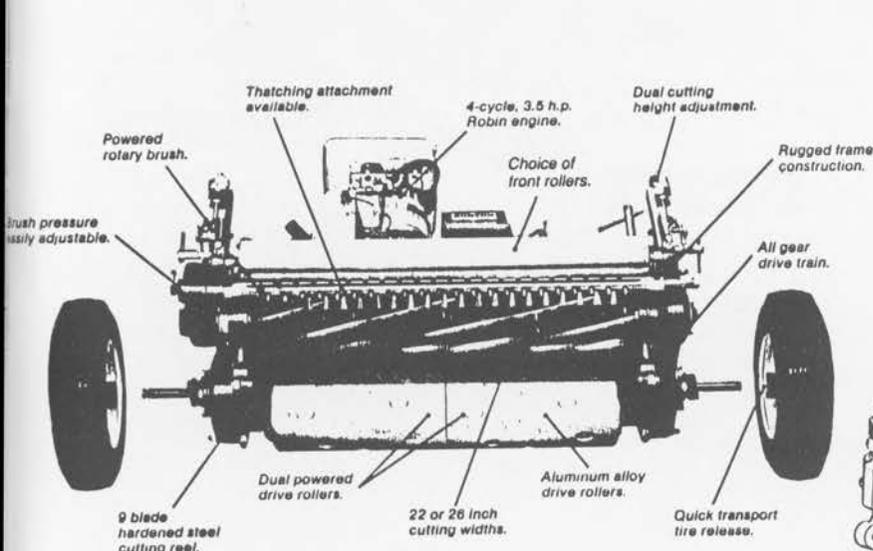
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MOWER SPECIFICATIONS

Model	IBGS22-35R	GS13	GS26
Cutting Width	22"	22"	26"
Rotary Brush	No	Optional Attachment	
Brush/Thatcher Drive	Not available	Optional Attachment	
Brush Adjustment	Not applicable	13/16" below cut to 7/32" above cut	
Weight w/o Transport Wheels	166	174	203
Overall Width	37 1/4"		41"
Transport Wheels	Two quick release 3.00 x 6 pneumatic (9.5 lbs each)		
Transport Brake	Band Type		
Grass Catcher	Fiberglass		
Front Roller	Solid	Optional Attachment	
Drive Rollers	Two independently powered heavy aluminum alloy		
Traction Drive	Chain to drive rollers with belt tension engagement		
Reduction Ratio	1/2 cam shaft reduction		
Frame Construction	All steel; 1/8" side plates with 3/16" cross braces		
Handle Construction	Steel tube; 7/8" outside diameter 14 ga. wall		

CUTTER UNIT SPECIFICATIONS

Reel Diameter	5"
Shaft Diameter	63/64"
Number of Blades	9
Blade Material	Hardened Chromium-Molybdenum steel
Cutting Height	5/32" to 1 9/16" standard, 1/8" with tournament bedknife
Frequency of Cut	.23"
Bedknife Material	Hardened steel
Bedknife Shoe	One piece cast iron

ENGINE SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer	Wisconsin Robin
Model Number	EY15B
Type	4 cycle
Horsepower	3.5
Displacement	143 cc
Fuel Capacity	2.5 litres (2.64 qts)

THATCHING ATTACHMENT

Material	Hardened tool steel	
Design	7 point star	
Number of Blades	22"-39	26"-45
Weight	22"-7 lb	26"-7.7 lb
Drive	Gear	

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Material	Steel	
Weight	22"-10 lb	26"-11 lb
Width of Grooves	7/16"	
Greasable Ball Bearings	Yes	

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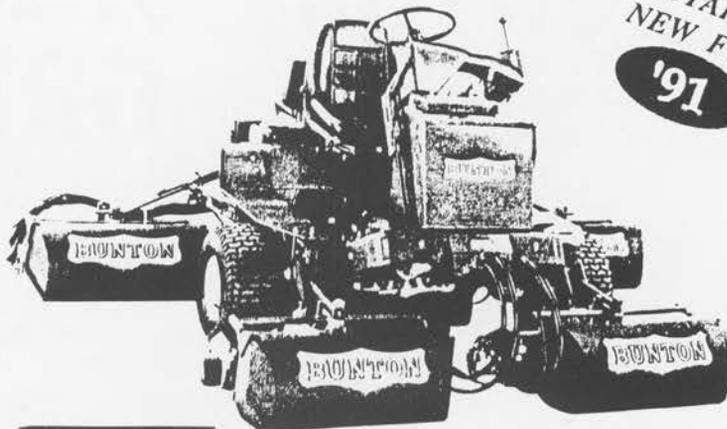
Material	Stainless	
Weight	22"-10 lb	26"-11 lb
Greasable Ball Bearings	Yes	



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Reel Diameter	5"
Frequency of Clip	.23" at 3.5 mph (9 blade reel) .29" at 3.5 mph (7 blade reel)
Height of Cut	3/16" to 3/4" STD 1/8" to 3/4" w/low cut bedknife 7/8" to 1-1/2" by inverting guides
Reel Speed	1800 rpm

Mower Unit

Wheel Drive	Manually selected 2 or 3 (all wheel) drive
Mowing Speed	Variable (0 to 5 mph) in 3 wheel drive
Transport Speed	0 to 7.5 mph in 2 wheel drive
Reverse Speed	0 to 3.5 mph in 2 wheel drive 0 to 2.4 mph in 3 wheel drive
Overall Length	89" (2260 mm) without catchers
Overall Width	108"
Cutting Width	100"
Transport Width	87" w/catchers, 74" w/o catchers
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Are You Applying Equitable Stroke Control?

If you golf, you've at least *heard* of Equitable Stroke Control (ESC). But how many of you are applying it to your scores at MetGCSA golf meetings and tournaments? Too few, we're finding.

To help you along, we've published the Met Golf Association's ESC formula and explanation. In the accompanying piece, you'll also find an example of how to apply ESC to your scores.

Equitable Stroke Control Defined

Simply put, ESC offers a fair way to adjust the unusually high scores in an 18-hole round. Each player is responsible for adjusting his or her score according to the ESC formula before posting it. Note: ESC applies to all 18 holes, not just incomplete holes or those on which a player is entitled to handicap strokes.

The Equitable Stroke Control Formula

After completing a round, adjust your actual score based on your *Course*

Handicap—not USGA Handicap Index. Here's how it works.

If your Course Handicap is:

- **Plus or scratch**, you're limited to one-over-par on any one hole.
- **1 to 18**, you're limited to two-over-par on the number of holes equal to your handicap and one-over-par on the balance of the holes.
- **19 to 36**, you're limited to three-over-par on as many holes as your handicap exceeds 18 strokes and two-over-par on the balance of the holes.
- **37 to maximum**, you're limited to four-over-par on as many holes as your handicap exceeds 36 strokes and three-over-par on the balance of the holes.

The maximum USGA Handicap Index is 36.4 for men and 40.4 for women. For ESC purposes, the maximum Course Handicap will be dependent on the Slope Rating of the course being played and may be higher or lower than the maximum official USGA Handicap Index.

Equitable Stroke Control by Example

Say your USGA Handicap Index is 21.8 and you're playing at a course where your handicap converts to a 23. You would be allowed a maximum score of three-over-par on five holes and a maximum score of two-over-par on each of the remaining 13 holes.

Here's what your scorecard might look like, with an ESC adjustment, after a round of golf:

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Par	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	3	5	5	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	71
Score	5	5	4	6	5	8	6	8	7	9	11	3	7	6	4	4	7	5	110
Over Par	1	2	0	2	1	③	2	⑤	2	④	⑦	0	③	2	0	1	③	1	—
ESC Adjustment								-2		-1	-4						-1		102

As you can see, with a Course Handicap of 23, you had to adjust downward any hole score in excess of three-over-par. You're allowed a maximum of five hole scores of three-over-par. Beyond that, the maximum allowable score for any hole is two-over-par.

On the scorecard above, there are six scores of three-over-par or more. That means you have to reduce to three-over-par the scores on the holes on which you scored more than three-over-par, and you must reduce to two-over-par the score on one of the holes on which you scored three-over-par. The 17th was selected arbitrarily to be lowered to two-over-par. ESC is not related to the allocation of handicap strokes to the holes of the course.



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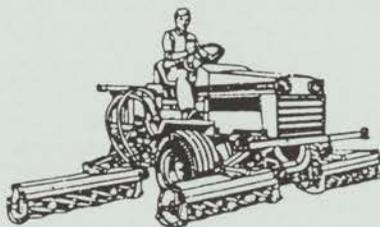
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July Pelham Meeting Attracts 79 Golfers

The July 15 Pelham Country Club meeting drew 79 golfers. Playing a four-man best ball format, here's a look at how they fared. (If you're wondering how Mark Millett's managed to win the longest drive for a third time running, you'll be happy to know his driver and ball have been sent to USGA headquarters for analysis.)

Low Net Winners

- 57 D. DeSanctis, *Wilfred MacDonald*; S. Niven, *The Stanwich Club*; L. Pakkala, *Woodway CC*; G. Perry, *The Stanwich Club*.
 57 J. Alonzi, *Fenway GC*; R. Alonzi, *Winged Foot GC*; D. Flynn, *Brae Burn CC*; P. Rappoccio, *Silver Spring CC*.
 58 J. Apple, *Westchester Ford Tractor*; K. DeVaux, *Connecticut GC*; T. Powers, *Pound Ridge GC*; S. Tibbles, *Sterling Farms GC*.

Low Gross Winners

- 70 J. Farrell, *Lofts Seed*; C. Quazza, *Haledon Nurseries*; J. O'Keefe, *Preakness Hills CC*; R. Trudeau, *Guest*.
 72 C. Martineau, *Whippoorwill Club*; E. Millett, *Ridgeway CC*; M. Millett, *Old Oaks CC*; A. Tretera, *Turf Products Corp*.

Closest to Pin

J. Fulwider, *Century CC*

Longest Drive

M. Millett, *Old Oaks CC*

First Round Qualifiers for the Met Area Team Championship

The first qualifying round for the Met Area Team Championship was held at the July 15 Pelham Country Club meeting.

Here's a look at the top contenders and their scores:

Championship Flight

- 78 J. Fulwider, *Century CC*
 80 S. Niven, *The Stanwich Club*
 81 M. Millett, *Old Oaks CC*
 82 E. Millett, *Ridgeway CC*
 82 M. Ceplo, *Westchester Hills GC*
 83 J. Carlone, *Middle Bay CC*

First Flight (11-18)

- 72 J. Alonzi, *Fenway GC*
 72 C. Martineau, *Whippoorwill Club*
 72 P. Rappoccio, *Silver Spring CC*
 74 A. Savone, *Quaker Ridge GC*
 75 R. Schock, *Wee Burn CC*

Second Flight (19 and Above)

- 70 F. Scheyhing, *Mount Kisco CC*
 71 D. Arel, *Tamarack CC*
 71 L. Polidor, *Heritage Hills of Westchester*
 76 R. Alonzi, *Winged Foot GC*

Class B Qualifiers

- 73 S. Tibbles, *Sterling Farms GC*
 75 J. Cotone, *Briar Hall CC*
 76 F. Buschini, *Brae Burn CC*
 76 S. Tretera, *Old Oaks CC*

Class C Qualifiers

- 71 D. Cancelleri, *J.A. Jackson Corp.*
 73 J. Farrell, *Lofts Seed*
 74 K. Clear, *Alpine Tree Care*
 74 A. Tretera, *Turf Products Corp.*
 75 S. Kay, *Golf Course Architect*

The second qualifying round will be held at the September 24 MetGCSA meeting at Scarsdale Golf Club.

MATT CEPLO

Westchester Hills Golf Club

New Members

Wayne Remo, Class A, Rock Spring Club, West Orange, NJ

Patrick Sisk, Class B, Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT

Way to Go

Congratulations to John Carlone, superintendent at Middle Bay Country Club in Oceanside, NY. A score of 75 put him among 13 golfers who qualified to participate in this year's Met Amateur.

A total of 180 golfers played the July 9 qualifying round at Bonnie Briar Country Club in Larchmont, New York.



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