



# TEE TO GREEN

*James B Beard*



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Metropolitan Golf Course  
Superintendents Association

## President's Message

### Bylaw Changes Revisited

*Thoughts and Observations*

If you weren't among the nearly 800 superintendents to attend this year's GCSAA Annual Meeting in Anaheim, I can tell you it was probably one of the most controversial meetings in GCSAA history.

Not only were the vast majority of the bylaw changes shot down, but two incumbents—Joseph Hahn from Rochester, NY, and Charles Passios from Cape Cod, MA—were voted off the board, undoubtedly because they were among the more vocal proponents of the bylaw changes.

Members agreed to only one of the nine proposed bylaw amendments—the one that suggested changing “green-keeping” to “turfgrass management” in our third Article of Incorporation. The other amendments—which dealt with such issues as replacing the delegate system of voting with individual voting, requiring a simple majority rather than a two-thirds vote to implement bylaw changes, allowing the GCSAA Board of Directors to set the dues and create new membership classes—were, in almost every case, overwhelmingly defeated.

What happened? I think some people on the GCSAA board had their own agenda—one they probably felt strongly would benefit the association—and they lost sight of the needs and wants of not only the mem- (continued on page 2)

## Special Feature

### Greens Rolling: Should You or Shouldn't You?

*That's the question three area superintendents can help you answer in their firsthand accounts of a season with a greens roller*

Greens rolling is not new to the golf course industry. What is new is the technology—and even the application. At one time, large-diameter, heavy manpowered rollers were either pushed or pulled over the greens to eliminate surface distortion. But this practice gradually lost favor as concern grew over the detrimental effects of compaction.

Today, lightweight mechanized machines—inspired by an Australian bowling green roller—are being developed and marketed as the answer to producing fast and true putting surfaces. But is greens rolling really a fail-safe alternative to such agronomic principles as lowering cutting height, reducing fertility and moisture levels, double-cutting, verticutting, grooming, and light, frequent topdressing?

According to three member superintendents who've given greens rolling a try, the jury's still out. Their stories—and candid observations—follow.

**Scott Niven, CGCS, The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT**

**Objective:** Most important, I wanted to increase the speed and ball-roll uniformity of my greens without having to lower the height of cut. But I also hoped to reduce the need to double-cut, verticut, and topdress my greens.

**Frequency of Use:** Last June, I started rolling my greens two days a week: on Tuesday and Friday mornings, right after mowing.

**Machinery:** I'm currently using the Speed Roller, which is made by Friend Manufacturing and runs about \$7,000. This unit is belt driven, with three stainless steel rollers and a heavy-duty trailer. I have only one machine, but I plan to purchase another one this year so I could more easily stay ahead of play. With one roller, it takes a worker five hours to complete all 18 greens. With a second roller, I hope to do the same job in about half the time. (continued on page 4)

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## Bylaw Changes Revisited

bership, but fellow board members. A couple of things proved that true.

First, as I mentioned, the membership voted down every amendment that even hinted at allowing the board to make decisions crucial to the association without member input. The board obviously overlooked how strongly the membership feels about being involved in shaping any major business decisions—and failed to recognize that, if anything, everyone would like them to be more accountable, not less.

Second, just two days before the Annual Meeting at the "Meet the Candidates" luncheon, our next three presidents-to-be announced that they were not in support of the amendments and implied they never really were. It makes you wonder why they didn't voice their opinions sooner—and stand up for what they believed was right. Or if they didn't really understand the issues and how they might affect the membership. I also have to question whether, after sensing the membership's opposition, they changed their tune to guarantee their reelection.

Though I didn't agree with Charles Passios's and Joseph Hahn's stand on the proposed amendments, I admire them for their honesty and for having

the gumption to pursue what they believed was best for the association. It's for those reasons and their past performance that the MetGCSA supported them for reelection.

While we're on integrity, I'd like to extend our sincere thanks—and congratulations—to Steve Cadenelli, whose term on the board has come to a close. In his seven years of service and during his 1991 term as president, he demonstrated the kind of integrity, dedication, and business savvy that we can only hope to find in our future leaders.

After this recent course of events, I have to say I'm a little concerned about the association's future. So I feel it's all the more important that each of us makes a concerted effort to keep abreast of association issues. Take the time to read all the correspondence. If it sparks a question or a thought on how the GCSAA might do something better, call them or drop them a line. And there's no better way to keep your hand on the pulse of association business than to get yourself appointed to a GCSAA committee. These are little things, but they can mean a lot to the future of our association—and our profession.

**TIM O'NEILL, CGCS**  
President

### FVI

## Metedeconk's Trent Jones Tourney a Record-Breaking Success

**T**he Robert Trent Jones Team Invitational Golf Championship, held annually at Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, NJ, raised a record \$40,000 for the Robert Trent Jones (RTJ) Endowment. A scholarship fund for students planning careers in turf management, the RTJ Endowment is operated by the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Foundation.

In the four years Metedeconk has held the fund-raising tourney, it's netted more than \$120,000 for the endowment. Says GCSAA President William R. Roberts, "The members of Metede-

conk National Golf Club, company sponsors, and other area clubs have made huge contributions to our profession by supporting this tournament."

Both the endowment and the tournament are named for the legendary golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr., Metedeconk's chief designer and longtime supporter of educational opportunities for superintendents.

The tournament is the creation of Metedeconk founder Richard Sambol; his son, Club Chairman Herb Sambol; and Superintendent and MetGCSA member Steve Cadenelli.

### Board of Directors



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

## Scholarship Raffle's Winning Results

The 1992 Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 12 Wykagyl Christmas party, raised \$4,000 for the MetGCSA's Scholarship Fund, and awarded \$3,000 in cash prizes.

Many thanks to all who contributed, and congratulations to **Mike Cook** of Alpine, the Care of Trees, our \$1,000 grand prize winner. The other lucky winners and their prizes are:

**Karen Richards**, a Whippoorwill Club member, \$500  
**Scott Apgar**, Metro Milorganite, \$250  
**Joe Stahl**, Metro Milorganite, \$250  
**Party goes at Table #3**, \$100  
**John Corsi**, retired Class B member

from Winged Foot GC, \$100  
**Bill Egan**, Westchester Hills GC green chairman, \$100  
**Patrick Laidman**, Alpine, the Care of Trees, \$100  
**Mike Maffei**, Back O'Beyond superintendent, \$100  
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**Peter Rappoccio**, Silver Spring CC superintendent, \$100  
**Steve Renzetti**, Wykagyl CC superintendent, \$100  
**Bob Scott**, DowElanco, \$100

### Congratulations

Twelve MetGCSA members brought home prizes in the 1993 GCSAA Golf Championship in San Diego, CA.

Winners of the Frank Lamphier Chapter Team Trophy were New Jersey team members:

**Larry Dodge** of Essex Fells CC, Essex Fells, NJ  
**Jim McNally** of Greenrock Corp., North Tarrytown, NY  
**Wayne Remo** of Rock Spring Club, West Orange, NJ  
**Ed Walsh** of Ridgewood CC, Ridgewood, NJ

In the Senior II (57-64 years) category:

**Frank Lamphier** of Aspectuck Valley CC, Weston, CT, won third place gross.

In the Third Flight (17-22) category:

**Bob Alonzi** of Winged Foot GC, Mamaroneck, NY, won 5th place gross. In the Second Flight (12-16) category:

**Greg Wojick** of Greenwich CC, Greenwich, CT, won 9th place net.  
**Joe Alonzi** of Westchester CC, Rye, NY, won 5th place net.  
**Mike Miner** of Connecticut GC, Easton, CT, won 7th place gross.

In the First Flight (7-11) category:  
**Peter Bly** of Brooklawn CC, Fairfield, CT, won 3rd place net.

**Scott Niven** of The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT, won 12th place gross.  
**Dave Mahoney** of Siwanoy CC, Bronxville, NY, won 11th place gross.  
**Ed Walsh** of Ridgewood CC, Ridgewood, NJ, was the gross winner.

### Info Alert

## Scholarship Forms: Yours for the Taking

Applications are now available for the 1993 MetGCSA scholarship awards. The Scholarship and Research Committee will select recipients based on leadership, maturity, scholastic capabilities, activities, and commitment to a chosen career.

To be eligible, a candidate must be

either a member of the MetGCSA or a dependent of a member. You can receive an application form by writing the MetGCSA at P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543, or by contacting Joe Alonzi at Westchester Country Club, 914-967-6000, ext. 360. The deadline for submissions is April 9.

## 1993 Committee Chairmen

This is your guide to our association's committee chairmen. Please feel free to contact any one of them with questions or comments. We've provided their numbers, here, for your convenience.

### Awards

Larry Pakkala, CGCS, *Woodway CC*  
 203-329-8257

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 914-967-6000 ext. 360

### Communications

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- Mike Mongon, *Arcola CC*  
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### Government Relations/Public Relations

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 914-698-6131
- Class B Rep: Steve Sweet,  
*Westchester CC*  
 914-967-6000, ext. 360
- Class C Rep: Al Tretera  
*Turf Products Corp.*  
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### Long-Range Planning

Larry Pakkala, CGCS, *Woodway CC*  
 203-329-8257

### Membership

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*Preakness Hills CC*  
 201-694-0260

### Scholarship and Research

Joe Alonzi, CGCS, *Westchester CC*  
 914-967-6000 ext. 360

### Social and Welfare

Jeff Scott, CGCS, *Apawamis Club*  
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### Tournament

- Matt Ceplo, *Westchester Hills GC*  
 914-948-5023
- John Carlone, *Middle Bay CC*  
 516-766-1838

## Greens Rolling: Should You or Shouldn't You?

**Results:** So far, I haven't raised my height of cut. I've kept it at  $9/64$ ", primarily because I didn't want rolling to become a mandatory part of my greens maintenance program. I *have*, however, eliminated the need to double-cut and verticut my greens, and I brush and topdress only as needed.

More notable, though, is that my stimpmeter readings have increased nearly a foot. Immediately after rolling, my greens rolled at about 11'. On the second day, they were in the low 10s, and on the third day, they were in the high 9s. At that point, I'd roll again.

**Words to the Wise:** Now that we've got our foot on the speedometer, so to speak, we've got to use some common sense. It is possible to make our greens too fast. For instance, on severely sloping greens, if the speed's too high, it can make the game unfair. Likewise, the faster the greens, the fewer the number of fair pin placements. At Stanwich, we learned that with the use of the roller our limit is somewhere between  $10\ 1/2'$  to 11'.

One other caution: Compaction—the reason rollers were originally abandoned—can still be a threat to older greens, like the ones here at Stanwich, which are constructed with natural soil. So it's a good idea to avoid rolling greens when they're excessively wet or if speeds indicate that it's not necessary to.

**Ed Walsh, CGCS, Ridgewood Country Club, Ridgewood, NJ**

**Objective:** I started using rollers last season to produce smooth and consistently fast greens.

**Frequency of Use:** I rolled greens four or five days a week—generally first thing in the morning, after double-cutting.

**Machinery:** I used the Salsco roller and, last year, had only one for 27 holes. Since then, I've bought a second machine, so I could more easily stay ahead of play. I chose the Salsco because it's user-friendly—in other words, easy to operate and, consequently, speedier than a lot of other models. It also climbs hilly greens quite well, and it's never scuffed or bruised the leaf tissue, which is a complaint I've heard from

supers using other speed rollers.

The Salsco is a two-roller unit, unlike many other units on the market; most have three rollers. Apparently, older two-roller models were known to produce a corrugated effect on greens, and maybe that's been true with the Salsco to *some* degree. But I can't say I've had any real problems in that area.

**Results:** I had a one-foot increase in my stimpmeter reading. My greens speed went from about  $8\ 1/2'$  to  $9\ 1/2'$ , and that's during a season with a lot of wet weather and lush growth. Later in the season, I raised my height of cut from  $9/64$ " to  $5/32$ " and, with rolling, was able

to maintain a reading of about  $9\ 1/2'$ .

On two of my wetter greens, however, I had some pretty severe turf thinning, particularly in the high-traffic areas. I wondered if the rollers caused additional stress by reducing oxygen levels in the root zone. I'm working with older greens that have sandy loam in the top three inches and then below that a high percentage of silt and clay. My perk rate's about one inch per hour.

This season, I plan to experiment with aerifying more often, particularly with the HydroJect, to allow more air to reach the root zone. I'm also considering using Cutless at low rates to help

## Dr. James Beard Experiments With Rolling

**T**his past September, Dr. James Beard of the International Sports Turf Institute in Texas studied the effects of turf rolling on ball roll distance. He experimented on two courses in Michigan. Each had well-drained, sand-based greens—which he states show the most promise for greens rolling—and mature creeping bentgrass with a minimum of thatch accumulation. The greens also measured between  $9\ 1/2'$  to  $11\ 1/2'$  on the stimpmeter.

He looked at (1) rolling once versus not rolling (2) frequency of rolling (3) direction of rolling relative to mowing direction, and (4) type of turf roller. Among his findings:

- After rolling once at dawn and then measuring green speed at midmorning, he saw a one-foot increase in stimpmeter readings; when he measured again late afternoon, the greens had retained a half-foot increase in ball roll distance at both test sites.
- After rolling greens four times, he saw a 20-percent increase in ball roll distance, which gradually decreased to a 10-percent increase over a two- to four-day period.
- Turf roller pressure did not seem to affect ball roll distance. Experiments were conducted with units that exerted

between five and  $11\ 1/2$  pounds per lateral inch.

Though greens rolling *does* seem ideally suited to high-sand greens, Beard is reluctant to recommend it for natural soil greens with high clay contents. "Soils with significant clay contents," says Beard, "have a much greater potential for soil compaction from turf rolling, so turf rollers should be used at minimal frequency, if at all, on clayey soils." Beard also goes on to suggest that if a superintendent does decide to use a turf roller on natural soil greens, he should select one of the models that exerts a relatively low pressure.

But no matter what your soil content, Beard cautions against viewing turf rolling as a panacea for a multiplicity of problems. He suggests, instead, that superintendents consider it one more component in the range of cultural practices available to produce the highest quality putting surfaces, particularly in relation to smoothness and speed of ball roll.

Beard says he plans to continue this year to assess variability in rolling responses across the growing season.

*Adapted from a paper presented at the GCSAA National Conference.*

control the growth rate. I'd also like to try raising my height of cut even further to  $1\frac{1}{64}$ " and then reduce the number of times I mow.

**Words to the Wise:** I think there's still a lot to be learned about the effect of rollers on turf health. So I don't think you can be too cautious in your rolling program. Keep in mind that flexibility is key in developing a sensible rolling program. Every green is different; every season is different. If you have a weak green or a particularly wet season, for instance, you might want to lighten up on the rolling. I, for one, will be using the roller more judiciously this season.

**Steve Kopach, Mountain Ridge Country Club, West Caldwell, NJ**

**Objective:** We were having problems with green speed, so last season, we decided to give rollers a try.

**Frequency of Use:** We rolled on Saturdays and Sundays and on two days during the

week. I'd send the rollers out behind the greensmowers in the morning.

**Machinery:** We went with the Salsco unit and the Greens Iron, the machine inspired by the Australian bowling green roller. These run about \$8,000 a piece. We considered looking at the newer triplex mower attachments, because they're cheaper—about \$2,500—but I'm leery of putting the triplex, a heavier machine, back out on the greens.

Of the two units, I suppose I prefer the Salsco. It's hydraulic and offers better traction, particularly on undulating greens—and I have nine of them. On the Greens Iron, the belts tend to slip, which means you can skid on the green and damage the turf.

**Results:** My greens speed has gone from  $8\frac{1}{2}'$  to  $9'$  to  $9\frac{1}{2}'$  to  $10'$ , and I've been able to maintain those speeds while raising my height of cut from  $\frac{9}{64}$ " to  $\frac{5}{32}$ ". I've also been able to get away from under fertilizing and irrigating my

greens. That's what I like best about using the rollers: being able to eliminate those "stress" tactics from my greens maintenance program.

**Words to the Wise:** Despite my early success with the rollers, I recommend that people proceed with caution. I'm certainly on the lookout for any problems. After all, this is relatively new technology with little research behind it.

I, like many superintendents in the area, have old-style greens, so I'm somewhat concerned about the potential for compaction. I do sand topdress and Verti-Drain twice a year, which I hope will keep it under control.

My only other piece of advice is that anyone interested in purchasing a roller should take several demos for a week and try them out. Every course is so different that what works for me may not work well for someone else.

**TIM MOORE**  
Knollwood Country Club



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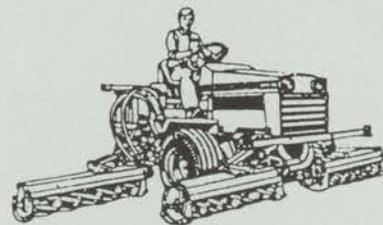
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## All but One Meeting Site Confirmed

Here it is: the near-final MetGCSA golf and business schedule for 1993. Mark your calendar with these upcoming meeting sites and dates, and watch for details on the soon-to-be-announced September meeting.

<b>March 18</b>	<b>Elmwood Country Club</b> White Plains, NY Business Meeting <i>Pio Salvati</i>	<b>June 21</b>	<b>Country Club of Darien</b> Darien, CT Invitational Tournament <i>Tim O'Neill, CGCS</i>
<b>April 26</b>	<b>Fenway Golf Club</b> Scarsdale, NY <i>Scott Stark</i>	<b>July 26</b>	<b>Powelton Club</b> Newburgh, NY <i>Bob DeMarco</i>
<b>May 17</b>	<b>Fairview Country Club</b> Greenwich, CT <i>Rich Marcks, CGCS</i>	<b>October 5</b>	<b>Brae Burn Country Club</b> Purchase, NY <i>Dennis Flynn, CGCS</i>
	<b>November 18</b>	<b>Silver Spring Country Club</b> Ridgefield, CT <i>Peter Rappoccio, CGCS</i>	

## A Book by and for Superintendents

If you have any tricks of the trade you'd like to share with fellow supers, here's your chance to get your name in print. Trey Rogers of Michigan State University will be editing a book titled *Superintendents' Handbook for Golf Course Maintenance & Construction*, and he's seeking firsthand accounts of practices superintendents have used successfully on their course.

Contributions should be one to five pages long and, if possible, include photographs. Topics can range from tee marker strategy to philosophy for green committee meetings to how to build a retaining wall.

Any contribution selected for publication will receive full credit. The book will be published by Lewis Publishers, a leading publisher of turfgrass books.

For more information and/or to receive a contribution packet, please write Handbook for Superintendents, P.O. Box 799, Okemos, MI 48805-0799.

### Educational Event

#### USGA Regional Conference

Tuesday March 16 at the Somerset Hilton Hotel  
Somerset, NJ *or*  
Thursday, March 18 at the Colonial Hilton,  
Wakefield, MA

Among the topics: "Golfers: Improve Your Course Without Raising Your Budget," "Ten Pitfalls of Golf Course Management," "The Science of Golf." For further information, contact James Farrell, 401-295-5430.

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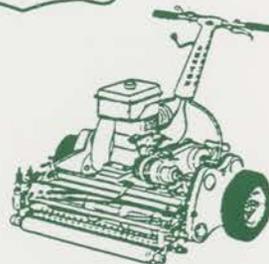
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