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TEE TO GREEN



Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Association Contributors and Contributions

With the season's end drawing near, we all have some time to think beyond how we can improve our courses and look toward what we can do to strengthen our association. At our last board meeting, we reviewed some of the comments and concerns voiced by past board members and the general membership and tried to develop ways to better our association for the future.

In all the points raised, it became clear that our association could profit from more operating capital. Our dues have remained the same since 1989, while the cost of running our association has grown every year. Our many expenses would be too long—and tedious—to list here, but among those expenditures most important to our membership are:

- **Providing support to outside research and educational pursuits**, such as the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, the GCSAA Foundation, and Dr. Rossi's moss research—to name only several.

- **Growing our scholarship fund** to accommodate rising college costs and the growing number of children who will become eligible to seek a scholarship. Our goal is to build up enough of a reserve in our fund to cover scholarships with interest *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

Charlie Robson Honored With 1998 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

MetGCSA VP John Carlone Offers an Inside Look at Met PGA Section Executive Director Charlie Robson and His Award-Worthy Accomplishments

When Charles (Charlie) Leonard Robson signed on as the Metropolitan PGA Section's Executive Director, it was a lucky day not only for the Met PGA, but also the MetGCSA. While guiding the Met PGA for more than a quarter century, Charlie has touched us all with his humor, fairness, patience, and concern for not only the game of golf, but also those involved in making golf a better game—not the least of whom is the golf course superintendent.

Says MetGCSA Awards Committee Chairman John O'Keefe: "Charlie has always been a tremendous advocate of golf course superintendents—and their role in the game of golf. He's never forgotten to recognize the superintendent's efforts."

For this reason—and so many others—the MetGCSA voted unanimously to present its coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award to Charlie Robson—an award reserved for individuals who have "demonstrated a knowledge of, and



Reid Award Winner Charlie Robson (left) strikes a happy pose with Baltusrol PGA Pro Doug Steffen.

commitment to, the game of golf and the science of golf course management."

The Man With the Midas Touch

A graduate of Washington & Lee University, Charlie became the Met PGA's first and only Executive Director on November 1, 1972. Under his direction, the Met Section has prospered, growing from one employee and an annual budget of *(continued on page 6)*

Also in This Issue

- ② Member News
- ⑤ Upcoming Educational and Social Events
- ⑦ The Tinniest of Insects: A Warning
- ⑧ Burning Tree's Trio of Events
- ⑨ Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney Results

Association Contributors and Contributions

earned on the account.

• **Increasing funds available for various functions.** In the past, several Class AF members have generously offered to support a number of our events by, for instance, participating in our Tee and Hole Sponsorship Program, our Field Days, or supplying the beverages for a social event. While this kind of support is greatly appreciated—we do not want to have to rely on Class AF members' contributions to ensure an event's success.

To accomplish these goals and many others, the board has decided to raise dues in 1999 for all membership classes. This would, in effect, assure that every member—Class AF and beyond—be involved in supporting our association's events and pursuits.

In short, by increasing dues in every membership class, we are creating a stronger, more balanced association.

Meeting Hosts Recognized

While we're on the subject of contributing to our association, a very special thank you to those who agreed to host one of our monthly meetings or special events. We all know how anxiety-provoking it can be to prepare your facility for a group of your peers. But you all rose to the occasion and provided great playing conditions and terrific meeting sites.

The list of meeting sites and hosts is impressive, starting in January with Westchester Country Club and the Winter Seminar hosted by **Joe Alonzi**. In March, **Jon Jennings** of The Patterson Club played host to the

Spring Business Meeting. From April through October, we were able to enjoy golf and social events hosted by the following clubs and supers: Powelton Club and **Bob DeMarco**, Sunningdale Country Club and **Sean Cain**, Mahopac Golf Club and **Scott Ferguson**, Old Oaks Country Club and **Mark Millett**, Rock Spring Club and **Wayne Remo**, Burning Tree Country Club and **Gary Glazier**, Woodway Country Club and **Larry Pakkala**, Quaker Ridge Golf Club and **Tony Savone**, Connecticut Golf Club and **Mark Fuller**.

Advance thanks to **Steve Renzetti** and **Wykagyl** for agreeing to host the Annual Business Meeting in November and to **Tony Grasso** and Metropolis Country Club for our December Holiday Dinner Dance. Thank you also to **Scott Tretera** and Elmwood Country Club for preparing to host our Superintendent/Manager Tourney, which was canceled due to weather.

Invest in Yourself

As our association's monthly meetings come to a close for the season, it's time now to invest in ourselves by attending industry conferences and seminars. As we all know, it's critical that we keep abreast of our ever-changing business. I just got back from the Toro Offices—their Engineering, Parts Manufacturing, and Assembly plants—and I can only say that you should keep your eyes and ears open for some pretty neat stuff coming on the market in the near future.

See you at the conferences!

EARL F. MILLETT
President



Notable Notes

Births

Congratulations to:

Canyon Club Superintendent **Paul Gonzalez** and his wife, **Terri**, on the birth of their son, **Brandon James**, on July 17.

Rockrimmon Country Club Superintendent **Tony Girardi** and his wife, **Christine**, on the birth of their son, **Nicholas Michael**, on July 26.

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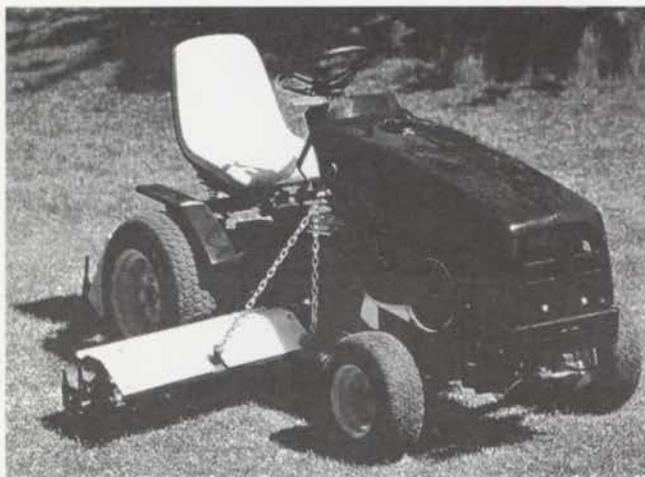
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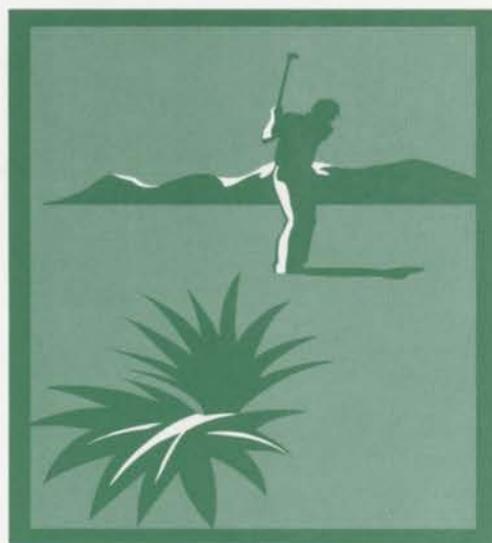
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Don't Miss This Meeting!

MetGCSA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, November 4
Wygagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, NY
Host: Steve Renzetti, CGCS

Educational Events and Seminars

NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition

Tuesday – Friday, November 10–13
The OnCenter, Syracuse, NY
Join fellow green industry professionals for this comprehensive professional development program and trade show, which kicks off with what promises to be an inspirational talk from keynote speaker Dr. Jim Tunney, "The Dean of NFL Referees." Listen to talks on everything from tree disease management and microbes for managing pests to golf and the environment.

For further information, call the conference hotline at 800-873-8873.

GCSAA Seminar: Building a Successful Golf Course Image and Balancing Your Golf Career and Personal Relationships

Friday, November 6, 1–4 p.m.
Foxwoods Resort & Casino
Cosponsored by the Met, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New England GCSAs and

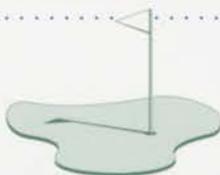
Educational Events and Seminars *continued*

GCSAA, this seminar will feature world-renowned motivational speaker Bobbie Gee. Don't miss it. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Call Education Committee member Jon Jennings, 203-259-7390, for further information.

New Jersey Turfgrass Expo '98

Tuesday – Thursday, December 8–10
Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ
Combining an educational conference and trade show, this event offers turfgrass professionals an excellent opportunity to not only broaden their knowledge and expertise, but also stay abreast of recent developments in the industry.



Manager/Superintendent Meeting

Thursday, December 17
Rockville Links CC, Rockville Centre, NY
Sponsored by the Club Managers Association, this meeting provides managers and superintendents with a unique forum for gaining a better understanding of and respect for each others' roles and responsibilities.

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 8, 1999, 8 a.m.
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
Host: Joe Alonzi, CGCS
Not to be missed, this Winter Seminar will cover the latest findings on grub control, methods for managing shaded putting green turf, strategies for alleviating misconceptions about pesticide use, the USGA's view of golf course construction, and personnel management tips and techniques.

For further information, contact Education Committee member Jon Jennings at 203-259-7390.



Social Event

MetGCSA Holiday Dinner Dance

Saturday, December 12
Metropolis Country Club, White Plains, NY
Host: Tony Grasso

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Charlie Robson Honored With 1998 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

\$80,000 to a \$2.5 million-a-year budget with six full-time and six seasonal employees.

Also growing by leaps and bounds is the Met PGA tournament schedule, which now claims the distinction of being among the most extensive—and lucrative—in the country.

But it seems that just about anything Charlie touches turns to gold: The Met PGA's expanded Junior Golf Program has been emulated nationwide, with his Golf-in-Schools Program, which brings golf instruction to inner city classrooms, earning great respect and recognition.

So thoroughly committed to the golf professional's world, Charlie has worked hard to elevate the golf pro's job satisfaction and image within the industry. And according to Doug Steffen, PGA golf professional at Baltusrol Golf Club and former Met Section board member, his efforts have paid off: "Charlie is the best thing that ever happened to the

Met PGA."

Rick Meskell, PGA golf pro at the Meadow Brook Club and Met PGA officer, couldn't agree more: "Charlie is the greatest liaison between club members, tournament sponsors, section members, and superintendents in the country."

To superintendents in the Met area, Charlie Robson is a person who has the unique ability to look at golf from everyone's perspective—whether it be the golf pro's, club manager's, superintendent's, or member's. "That's what makes him so remarkably good at what he does," says Meadow Brook Country Club Superintendent John Carlone, who's had the pleasure of working with Charlie in preparing for a Met PGA event at his course.

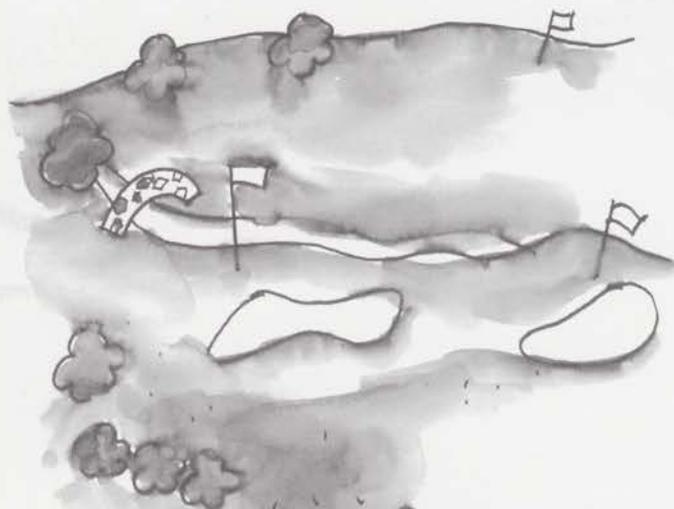
"Knowing that you will be working with Charlie Robson to run a first-class event makes any additional preparations absolutely painless," John says, adding,



Awards Committee Chairman John O'Keefe (left) presents the Reid Award to Charlie Robson.

"I think everyone would agree that Charlie is a true ambassador for the game of golf—both for those who play it and those who make a living from it."

When notified of his selection for the Reid Award, Charlie pointed not to his many accomplishments, but rather to his lengthy association with the game of



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golf. "Golf has been the common language spoken in my life for over a quarter century," he says. "And it's the bond that I've shared with so many people. I am truly honored to receive the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award from the MetGCSA."

A Manhasset native, Robson resides in Garden City with his wife, Deidre, and children, Matthew, 17; Brita, 13; and Colleen, 11.

The Reid Award's Roots

Initiated in 1986, the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award was named after the man affectionately known as the "Father of American Golf." John Reid was not only the first to play golf in this country (in 1888), he was also instrumental in forming the first golf club at St. Andrews and, later, the USGA and the MGA.

But probably even more important to superintendents is that John Reid, by

recognizing that golf courses required daily maintenance and care, was, in large part responsible for establishing the golf course management profession.



"... Charlie is a true ambassador of the game of golf—both for those who play it and those who make a living from it."



Previous recipients of the John Reid Award are Dr. Pat Vittum, the late Dr. Skogley, Arthur Weber, Jim McLoughlin, Frank Hannigan, Geoffrey Cornish, Dr. Haruo Tashiro, the late Dr. Ralph Engel, Ken Venturi, the late Alexander Radko, and Guido Cribari.

JOHN CARLONE, CGCS
Meadow Brook Club

Beware of the Tinnest of Insects



Two months ago, one of the most caring people I know put the fear of life—or perhaps death—into me after catching a glimpse of a coffee-saucer-sized rash on my left wrist. Heritage Hills of Westchester Superintendent Todd Polidor filled me in on the plight of a fellow employee who ignored symptoms similar to mine and spent a month in the hospital before his condition was cured.

That's all I needed to hear before going to get checked out. The verdict? You guessed it: Lyme Disease.

Lyme Disease has been publicly known for about 15 years now. Strides have been made to control it, but more work is imperative. It is more conclusive to test the biting tick than the victim's blood for the dreaded antagonist called spirochete.

The antibiotic I was put on required three weeks of internal use. It made my skin highly susceptible to sunburn and prevented me from even a taste of a summer "cold one"—just one of the numerous drawbacks to getting the disease.

All kidding aside, though, Lyme Disease is nothing to take lightly—especially after a mild winter like the one we had, which allowed the ticks to thrive. Fall is no time to let down your guard. Be sure to use tick repellents, insecticide sprays in overgrowth areas, and check yourself carefully after being in wooded or grassy areas. More important, should you feel persistent fatigue and aches, get tested. It's something to take seriously. Ask Waccabuc Superintendent Eddie Binsse, who is still dealing with the disease's effects.

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Burning Tree Hosts a Trio of Events

The September 14 Burning Tree meeting attracted 58 golfers who contested in a Two-Man Best Ball/Blind Draw Event. Running simultaneously were the final qualifying round for the Met Area Team Championship and the final round of the Met Superintendent Championship.

Here are the results:

1 Two-Man Best Ball/Blind Draw

Gross Winners/Points on Quota

+48 Greg Moore, *Rolling Hills CC* +45 Mark Millett, *Old Oaks CC*
 Charlie Siemers, *Rosamilia Nursery* Mark Fuller, *Connecticut GC*

Net Winners/Points on Quota

0 John Apple, *Westchester Ford Tractor* -1 Ernie Steinhofer, *Lesco, Inc.*
 Scott Zalinsky, *Siwanoy CC* Brian Hall, *The Apawamis Club*
 -4 Ray Beaudry, *Westchester Ford Tractor*
 Bill Reilly, *Guest*

Longest Drive

Blues Eddie Binsse, *Waccabuc CC*
 Whites John Richichi, *Dar Par Sales*

Closest to the Pin

Blues Eddie Binsse, *Waccabuc CC*
 Whites John Currie, *Currie Landscaping*

2 Met Area Team Championship Qualifiers

Gross Team Qualifiers

164 Mark Millett, *Old Oaks CC* 171 John Carlone, *Meadow Brook Club*
 165 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway CC* 172 Scott Tretera, *Elmwood CC*

Note: Eddie Binsse (*Waccabuc CC*) qualified with 165 but has elected to play with the Hudson Valley GCSA.

Net Team Qualifiers

+3 Tony Grasso, *Metropolis CC* -3 Mike Miner, *Montammy GC*
 -3 Dennis Flynn, *Brae Burn CC* -5 Bob Alonzi, *Winged Foot GC*

3 MetGCSA Superintendents Championship

Played right along with the Met Area Team Championship qualifying rounds at Mahopac and Burning Tree, this friendly annual competition came to a close with the following winning results:

Championship Flight (Handicap 0-10)

164 Mark Millett, *Old Oaks CC* 165 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway CC*

1st Flight (Handicap 11-18)

+3 Tony Grasso, *Metropolis CC* -3 Dennis Flynn, *Brae Burn CC*
 -3 Mike Miner, *Montammy GC*

2nd Flight (Handicap 19 & Over)

-5 Bob Alonzi, *Winged Foot GC*

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Patterson Club Runs Away With Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney

The October 5 Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney at Woodway Country Club was swept away by Patterson Club's Jon Jennings and Green Chairman Michael Giaquinto. Clearly on a roll, Jon also came closest to the pin—in a field of 64 golfers.

Here are the other newsworthy results:

Low Gross Winners

- 75 Jon Jennings/Mr. Giaquinto
The Patterson Club
- 75 Bill Perlee/Mr. Delaney
The Apawamis Club
- 75 John Carlone/Mr. Remsen
Meadow Brook Club

Low Net Winners

- 63 Les Kennedy/Dr. Tarasuk
Country Club of Waterbury
- 64 Tony Girardi/Mr. Tomsky
Rockrimmon Country Club
- 65 Mark Fuller/Mr. Thornfill
Connecticut Golf Club

Longest Drive

Gregg Stanley
Superintendent

Bill Melvin
Green Chairman

Closest to the Pin

Jon Jennings
Superintendent

Ted James
Green Chairman

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