The hockey player arrives at his new team just in time to get ready for the next game. Thoughts of how he will be accepted go through his mind. An older veteran player introduces himself first and puts the player at ease. The game starts and everything falls into place. It’s business as usual on the ice. After the game, the rest of the team welcomes him and congratulates him on an outstanding game. The team packs up and heads toward its next game.

All of us at one time or another have had the experience of changing jobs or even careers. The days leading up to and the first few days on the new job can be difficult on one’s nervous system. So many questions and not enough answers keep the days traveling at warp speed. Pretty soon the job begins to run smoothly and life tends to return to normal (whatever that is). The job change I am experiencing is rather dramatic. After 11 years of managing fine turf, I find myself directing traffic between bulldozers, scrapers, dump trucks, back hoes and trenchers. But as each day passes, the final shape of the golf course becomes clearer. As time goes by, I will be managing fine turf again. It will be business as usual then.

* * * *

I was unable to attend the June meeting at Bemidji. By all accounts, it was great. Thanks to Tom Johanns and staff for hosting our meeting. We finally got to play golf. The monthly mixer was very successful and a large number of members stuck around after the event to socialize and enjoy complimentary hors’ d’oeuvres. We have events scheduled for the next three months but will return to the mixer format in October.

* * * *

As the summer staffs return, the workload tends to even itself out. We now have a chance to get out and play some golf and enjoy our toils of work. Or perhaps we even have a chance to play another course. This is a point we need to discuss. It came to my attention from a PGA member that a few of our MGCSA members were showing up at another course demanding that they be given complimentary green fees. This is not appropriate procedure. A timely article was published in Hole Notes last month on how to make arrangements. Please, take time to read this again. Our professional image demands the respect of other golf courses. Not all courses recognize or accept this. As the article states, make arrangements with the course superintendent. This is not only being professional but it helps to keep our opportunities open. A few bad apples can spoil it for everybody, so please pay attention to this issue.

* * * *

The superintendents and their staffs team up next month for the Garske Scramble to be held at Indian Hills and Stillwater Country Club. This is a fine opportunity to interact with staffs at another golf course and perhaps take something away from the experience that could be useful at your own course.

Until next month...

—Kevin Clunis, CGCS
President

HOLE NOTES is published monthly except bimonthly December/January, February/March for $2 an issue or $20 per year by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, 240 Minnetonka Avenue South, Wayzata, MN 55391-1617. Scott Turtinen, Publisher. Application to mail at second class rates is pending at Wayzata, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOLE NOTES, 240 Minnetonka Avenue South, Wayzata, MN 55391-1617.