



Musing the Minutes

By RICK TRAVER, CGCS
Monticello Country Club



Here's wishing everyone had a super Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. Having the Turf Expo first thing in the year really helps get a person thinking about turf and your course. I hope everyone enjoyed the EXPO and found plenty of things to take home as you plan for 2005. Many kudos to James Bade, our ever diligent Conference and Education chairman. I heard a lot of compliments on the great list of speakers, and through conversations with James I know he talks with some of these speakers' years in advance to try and get them to commit to our Conference. It is definitely an unenviable task to try and get fresh, exciting speakers with fresh and exciting topics.

Congratulations also to the new members of the MGCSA Board of Directors; Eric Peters, Matt McKinnon, Paul Diegnau, CGCS, and representing the IR is Jeff Hartman. Not to forget the unforgettable, our returning director and the man who has done such a great job of refocusing the mission of the *Hole Notes*, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS. It is also my pleasure to return to the Board as Secretary, although it means you will have to see my ugly mug in this wonderful publication for a couple more years.

I would also like to thank the members leaving the Board of Directors; Barry Provo, Mike Kelly, Mike Nelson, and Jon Almquist; it has been enjoyable getting to know you. Thank you for your service to our association.

Your Board of Directors last met on Monday, November 17, at The Wilds Golf Club.

Treasurer Jeff Johnson reported that the financial condition of the association is good. At this meeting we were slightly below budget on memberships, but the *Hole Notes* is doing real well.

Brad Zimmerman, Arrangements Chairman, reported on the schedule of meetings for 2005:

- March Mini-Seminar** - Bracketts Crossing CC (March 9)
- Spring Assistant Mixer** - North Links GC (April TBA)
- BASF Tournament** - Stillwater CC (May 16)
- Scholarship Scramble** - Dellwood Hills GC (June 13)
- Stodola Research Scramble**- Brackett's Crossing (August 1)
- MGCSA Championship** - Midland Hills CC (September 26)
- Fall Mixer** - Monticello CC (October 1)

For a complete schedule and dates, check the web site at www.MGCSA.org

Turtinen reported that there was an accident at Long Prairie regarding a 17-year-old. It was discussed and suggested that we address this in a future issue of *Hole Notes*. It was also suggested that we include a link on our web site to OSHA and the state to keep everyone aware of the Child Labor Act.

Jon Almquist reported that he has the meeting set for Orlando at Adobe Gila's on International Drive for Thursday, February 10th at 6:30 p.m.


David Oberle discussed his fundraising efforts for 2005 and wanted to thank all the sponsors of holes in 2004. He also presented a new idea to help promote businesses. This is the 18-hole challenge. It included having hole sponsors and a scorecard, whereby the EXPO attendees could go around to different


vendors and fill their scorecard. After their scorecard was full the participant would turn it in to become eligible for prizes in a drawing to be held during the MGCSA Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors embraced the concept, as long as the MNLA & MTGF accepted the idea.

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS offered an idea for thought by proposing the creation of a new position within the MGA. It would be a MGA agronomist, much like the USGA Green Section agronomists. This person would be paid through visits to courses as he/she helped superintendents address hard to handle topics and/or situations on their courses. Consensus was that this could be a great idea but there may be a lot of issues to cover before it could be accomplished. The Board asked MacKenzie to develop a process to create this position.

The meeting concluded with discussions on the budget for 2005, our Standard Operating Procedure updates and the year end review of Turtinen Communications, Inc.

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