



Musing the Minutes

By RICK TRAVER, CGCS
Monticello Country Club



Wow, what has happened to an off-season? It used to be I had time to catch up on paperwork, read magazines that I didn't get to read over the summer and still had time to fit in some grinding and clubhouse repairs. Each year I get older. I think the days get shorter because time seems to slip a lot faster. I admit we are operating with one less staff person, but the truth be told I didn't think he was working all that hard anyway. Needless to say, here we are in the home stretch trying to get those last few things done before Mother Nature decides to wake up her children and get us outside once more.

Speaking of Mother Nature, did she give Old Man Winter some serious time off or what? With all the rain and early melting we have enough ice on the Monticello Country Club to make even Michelle Kwan happy. (*I put Eric Heiden first, but I thought I might be dating myself; besides I wasn't sure how to spell Heiden*). I sure hope the spring brings the right weather conditions to allow the turf to survive. I know I pray about it regularly. That helps me not lose any more hair, as I have so little to lose. I hope you all have a wonderful spring.

To the meat of my column, your Board of Directors met at The Minikahda Club on Tuesday, January 18. Under the excellent leadership of veteran President Rob Panuska we had a smooth and fairly uneventful meeting.

Treasurer Jeff Johnson reported on the financial condition of the association, with a comparison of the 2003-04 fiscal years. The finances look good in a large part to the fundraising committee raising funds so we can continue to bring benefits to the membership without draining the general fund. At this I would like to personally thank David Oberle for his efforts in this area, as well as all the vendors who have so generously participated in this program. Again, *Holes Notes* is also doing well with the improvements implemented by our editor, Jack MacKenzie, CGCS.

On that note, we need to congratulate Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, as well as Scott and Jeff Turtinen for the fine work they do on our magazine. They have won the most improved chapter publication in our division from the GCSAA. We have all embraced the wonderful job you have done with our publication. Thank you for all your efforts.

Arrangements Chair Brad Zimmerman reported that the BASF Beat the Pro event will take place at Stillwater Country Club on May 16. Since the BASF event is a fund-raising event for research, it was decided last year that the Spring Mixer will be geared towards Assistants and staff and will be free for all participants. This year's event will take place at North Links Golf Course on April 25.

Ex-Officio Rick Fredricksen, CGCS, reported that there are several positions up for election this year. If anyone is interested in becoming a director, please contact him.

Jack Mackenzie made a successful motion to have Todd Reeves, St. Paul Pioneer Press, and the Star Tribune's Jerry Zgoda as superintendent ambassadors from the media for 2005.

James Bade reported on the MTGF Board Meeting. Among

other things an obscure committee called the Capital Oversight Committee has put the TROE Center building on hold at the University of Minnesota. It appears this committee decides the value and uses of buildings at the U of M. This new development has many people close to the situation frustrated if not feeling totally betrayed. We will have to keep a close eye on the developments with the TROE Center.

We again discussed the idea of a MGA agronomist, much like the USGA Green Section agronomists. Jack MacKenzie who has been spearheading this concept has led his committee to talk with the MGA. While they are embracing the concept we are awaiting their assessment of the financial aspects of the position.

The meeting concluded with President Panuska passing out the new committee assignments.

Make plans to attend the Spring "Assistants" Mixer at North Links Golf Course on April 25. New Board member Eric Peters will be the host superintendent.

Have a great month!

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