



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Keep Communication Lines Open at Your Course

By Richard B. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

I am very blessed at the Monticello Country Club to be able to feel a part of the club and enjoy the camaraderie of the membership. Every year at this time Monticello Country Club holds what we call the Monti Cup. We let as many members or league members sign up as want to play and we have a two-team tournament. Our golf pro (Kristi) captains one team and I the other. We usually get over 70 people to participate, and on the Wednesday prior to the event we line the players up on a sheet by handicap and have a draft. We play two person teams against one another in a scramble format for 9-holes and an alternate shot for 9-holes. Kristi and I also play partnering up with members of a close handicap. It is one of the most enjoyable events we have at our club. It is amazing to see the determination of all the members and the pride they take in who wins every year. Some brag because they have been on the winning team for several years while others are quiet because they have been on the losing team for several years, despite in both cases being on completely different teams each year. What is amazing is the fact that each year we have done this event the separation between the winner and loser is always less than two points. This event builds so much unity among the members and gives everyone the opportunity to play with people with whom they would normally never golf. We also make a point of separating husbands and wives so they are on opposite teams - it makes for some great side bets. We are able to do this because we are a smaller club but it is one of the reasons I love working at the Monticello Country Club. I personally feel it is important to stay in contact with the members so the lines of communication stay open. By the way, we held it on the 26th of September and my team won.

* * * *

Thank you so much to Chris Tritabaugh and his staff for allowing us to golf at Northland Country Club for our Championship. It was amazing weather for Duluth. I don't know that in all my visits to Duluth in the summer that I have ever felt that warm. I have also always heard about the greens up there and the difficulty people have putting them because of the breaks toward the lake. It was a fun and unique experience to see how a putt can speed up while appearing to go uphill or on a different green not break on what seems like a huge break. Anyway, the course was fast as can be and while I didn't figure out how to hit a pitch and run until late in the round many were able to score pretty well. I was blessed to play with some great guys, including Chris and it was a very enjoyable afternoon even though my score skyrocketed.

* * * *

The U of M Field Day was held on September 10. As I understand it they hit another attendance record. The weather was very nice for this year's event. I want to thank Eric Watkins, Brian Horgan and their assistants, all who put on a great demonstration. There were two tracts you could take, I took the turf track and was able to see all the new research and test plots associated with low input turf. It is amazing to see some of the new grass varieties and how they handle almost no irrigation over the entire summer. Low input turf is going to be the wave of the future, especially with the proposed increase in regulations on irrigation and landscape areas. If you didn't make it this year, please make the effort to schedule it for 2010. It is a great experience.

* * * *

If you're considering running for the MGCSA Board of Directors, please contact James Bade. He can give you more information on time commitments (which are minimal) and responsibilities. It has been a great experience for me and I am sure you will benefit as well.

-Respectfully, Rick Traver

HOLE NOTES

Official publication
of the MGCSA

Editor

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
jmackenzie426@msn.com

2009 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President
Rick Traver, Jr., CGCS
Monticello CC
763-295-3323

Vice President
Paul Diegnau, CGCS
Keller GC
651-766-4174

Secretary
Matt McKinnon
The Legacy Courses at Cragun's
218-825-2751

Treasurer
E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS
Heritage Links GC
952-440-4655

Ex-Officio
James Bade
Somerset CC
651-457-1161

DIRECTORS

Shane Andrews
MTI Distributing, Inc.
763-592-7549

Brian Brown
Chicago Lakes GC
651-257-8734

Eric Counselman
Somerby GC
507-775-3743

Scottie Hines, CGCS
Windsong Farm GC
763-479-6524

Jeff Ische, CGCS
Golden Valley G&CC
763-732-4152

Tom Meier
Le Sueur CC
507-665-3665

David Oberle
Excel Turf & Ornamental
651-681-8050

Tom Proshek
Brackett's Crossing CC
952-435-2543

Jeff Vinkemeier
Glencoe CC
320-864-6872

MGCSA OFFICE
AND HOLE NOTES OFFICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Scott Turtinen
P. O. Box 617
Wayzata, MN 55391
952/473-2582 Fax: 952/473-2586
Toll Free: 1-800-642-7227
scott@mgcsa.org

www.mgcsa.org

HOLE NOTES (ISSN 108-27994) is published monthly except bi-monthly November/December, January / February for \$2 an issue or \$20 per year by the MGCSA, 217 Minnetonka Av. S., Ste. D, Wayzata, MN 55391. Scott Turtinen, publisher. Periodicals postage paid at Wayzata, MN. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **HOLE NOTES, P. O. BOX 617, WAYZATA, MN 55391.**