Minikahda Welcomes
Little Danny Schmitz

Jake Schmitz, First Assistant Superintendent at The Minikahda Club, and his wife Nikki are the proud parents of their first child, Daniel Jacob Schmitz, who was born on November 18. He weighed 7 lbs., 9 ozs. and measured 19 1/2" long at birth. "Little Danny is eating like crazy and growing like a weed. He may be the first baby to live in the 70-year-old house located on the grounds of Minikahda," said Minikahda Superintendent Jeff Johnson.

New Prague Assistant Superintendent Jeff Pint witnessed Darin Pomije roll three consecutive 300 games at Strike Force Bowl in New Prague. Pint, who was bowling two lanes over from Pomije, was impressed.

"The place was quiet after his first 300," Pint said. "Usually, people start to talk when someone has thrown 10 consecutive strikes. But there wasn't any of that. Hardly anybody knew. After the game, his wife announced that he had rolled a 300. After the second game, he said, 'I'm not done yet,' so I think he had a feeling."

"During the third game nobody talked to me," said Pomije. "Once the pins went down, I fell to the floor and started crying and laughing," said Pomije, whose previous high series was 822. "I can't believe I wasn't nervous. I wasn't shaking or anything."

Pomije, proprietor of Strike Force Bowl, is the first Minnesotan to roll a 900 series - three consecutive perfect 300 games - in sanctioned competition in U.S. history, and only the seventh American to do so....

Ashlin Delani Keyes, daughter of Traci and Andy Keyes, was born on December 20, 2004, at 9:20 pm. She was 8 lbs., 8 ozs. and 20 1/2" long. Her big sister Sierra (pictured above with Ashlin) is just as proud of the addition as her parents are. The whole family is in great shape and will remember this Christmas forever. Andy is the Assistant Superintendent at The Meadows at Mystic Lake in Prior Lake.
My son surprised me recently. When asked what he was thinking of pursuing in college, out of the blue this 17-year-old Star Wars whiz kid announced, "Well Dad, I kind of like working with grass. It is hard to get up so early in the morning, but once I am at work I really have a lot of fun. What you do is cool.' Speechless, I was taken aback. My boy, now a young man, had never showed signs of a green streak but rather leaned toward mathematics, engineering and writing in previous vocational discussions. But golf course management? Never would I have suspected this to be an interest. Never, ever.

During the lull of our conversation my heart began to grow with pride. It wasn't ever my intent to groom Tyler to be a Turf Head, but perhaps his last five years upon the course instilled within him the love I have for the outdoors, watching a project through to completion and working with a swell bunch of people. Or maybe he witnessed how hard I worked and how much enthusiasm I have for my position and he wanted a bit of that pie.

On second thought however, how much pie is there to be had in the golf course management industry? When I began my career, although at the time I didn't think of it as such, there were seven of us (eight if you include the night waterman, just an enigma really) on the White Bear Yacht Club crew. Bill Peitz, Superintendent/mechanic, John Steiner, assistant superintendent, Roger Zolner, rough mower/mechanic, Tony Larson, fairway/rough mower, Steve Sampair, greens, tees and national guy, Rick Copeland, bunker groomer/grunt and me, rotary mower, rock picker, hand clipper and all around super grunt. Sure player expectations and limited budgets didn't necessitate conditions we know today, but for the time eight people produced a very nice product.

It was during my second year at college, with John Steiner at the helm of the WBYC, that the ranks began to grow. (Here I must add, that John's U of M class of 1976 was the first true turf agronomist class to graduate.) Our team suddenly included a gardener, a mechanic, several more 'grunt' positions and I had been advanced to a seasonal assistant. Wow, twelve on the crew in 1980.

The demand for recreational golf was taking off in the '80s and with that spurt came the development of redundant academic "Turf Programs" across the country ranging from vocational schools to four year colleges. My timing was perfect. Graduating in 1983, I caught the wave of golf popularity and rode the breaking crest to several opportunities as superintendent on three golf courses in two years. Sure I was a hard worker, and very, very lucky. Give much credit to John for his help along the way as well as tutelage from Dr. White at the University, but

...
There in lies my dilemma. Do I encourage anyone, and in particular my son, to enter this highly competitive, very demanding, sometimes stressful and too often undercompensated profession? Will there be any "growing" room for them when they graduate? Will competition limit their advancement to a club located far from the destination of their choice? In my heart I feel that the answer is to discourage anyone with only a vague interest in the profession from investing into it as his or her livelihood.

Ouch, that hurt me to the core to say. But it is true. And it applies to those who only have a passing interest in the industry. Those individuals, who think the job is for them because they like to play golf, believe that it is more a seasonal than a full-time position, or that there is a fast track to the top. However, to the young men and women who are passionate for opportunities in turf management I have a few words of wisdom.

Keep your passion alive by teaming up with veteran and tenured superintendents who can offer you more than a paycheck. Take advantage of their life lessons and dedicate yourself to providing them the very best employee possible. Give 200 percent of yourself. Listen, look and learn what it takes to be the elite in the industry.

Maintain your passion by loving and living turf. Become a participant in the MGCSA. Make your face known. Look good and act professionally at ALL times. Your image and or the perception of your professionalism never goes unnoticed. Continue your education at all levels in and outside of the turf industry. Generate a plan 'B' just in case. Attend any and all meetings you are invited to, you never know who you may meet there. Be enthusiastic about the position you have created for yourself.

Anticipate being an Assistant for a long period of time particularly if relocation is not in the equation. Plan your lifestyle dependent upon your income. Don't overextend yourself financially or you will develop a disdain for the profession. Have patience with your personal economy. Large pay increases typically are achieved through position advancement rather than extended employment at one club.

Above all else, if you find yourself losing interest in the profession, take a step back and evaluate your goals in life. Should your passion wane beyond a bad day or two, don't hesitate to seek sage advice from your mentors. They will help guide you in a healthy direction. As I tell my staff, "If you don't love what you are doing, find another job. A position in life where you will be happy. Contentment leads to productivity, which opens the door to opportunities. Opportunities are lost for lack of passion."

I suppose I just answered my perplexion.* My suggestion to Tyler will be to follow his heart with gusto. Consider his options carefully and develop a second, just as fervent alternate route to travel. The opportunities in the turf industry will be dependent upon how hard he applies himself, the relationships he creates and his passion for the business. Passion, professionalism and perhaps a lucky twist of fate will take him wherever he wants to go.

* made up word
This past summer I had the honor of helping out my community. The city of Belle Plaine was awarded the site for the 81st Annual State Amateur Baseball Tournament held August 19 through September 6, 2004. Upon learning of this exciting opportunity, I told the Belle Plaine baseball association that I wanted to help out with the turfgrass. Because they wanted to highlight the fields and were aware of my professional background, the association jumped at the offer.

Last April, as soon as the snow melted away, I began my project. The previous fall the entire outfield had been sodded, so I was concerned with the rapid establishment of a good root system, the foundation for a safe and great playing field.

"The community was amazed on how their ballpark was looking."

My first stop was to the local co-op where I came up with an effective and economical plan to produce healthy grass. The co-op began spreading fertilizer in late April with a starter product followed by monthly applications of 20-20-20 maintenance fertilizer through August at 250 lbs of N per acre. Needless to say, the field was a beautiful shade of green all summer.

Another key aspect of field establishment was the proper use of the field’s irrigation system. Fortunately for me, the city had installed a new Toro irrigation system the previous fall. From early May until the tournament began I had exceptional control and was able to maintain a moist environment for the correct development of the turf.

With the irrigation and fertilization programs under control, I developed a mowing program. It was necessary for me to allow the turf to grow a bit long in the spring due to recovery from installation. Up until the middle of July we mowed the new field at three inches.

On July 19th we began to gradually lower the height of cut and two weeks later had it down to a very upright one and one-half inches. At this point I decided to bring my back-up Toro 216 mower to the ballpark. Luckily, my father, Manley Vinkemeier, volunteered to mow the field for us. And talk about a pattern, my father did an exceptional job of implementing the design I had created in my mind when I first heard of this opportunity. A week later, the field had beautiful green stripes. The community was amazed on how its ball park was looking.

With the State tournament 20 days away the local John Deere company donated another mower weekly so we could double cut once every seven days. At this point, we were mowing the ballpark four times a week. I was amazed at how the field was shaping up; and the perfect straight lines of light and dark green, the beautiful checkerboard pattern. We were no longer maintaining a ball field, but rather manicuring a masterpiece.

The three-week State Amateur Baseball Tournament started on August 20th. Four games each day were played on our park, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. We would start maintenance at 7 a.m., so we would be completed with the two-hour mowing project and be well out of sight before the baseball players arrived. Soon, Labor Day was here and the State Amateur Tournament was over. Thirteen thousand fans from all over the state had a chance to see our hometown ballpark.

I was very happy with the way the field turned out and held up through the three weekends of games, and very proud that I volunteered to help out my community. The project was great fun, but I couldn't have done it without the help of Belle Plain Coop Simon's John Deere Dealer, my father Manley Vinkemeier and Glencoe Country Club.
Internships—
(Continued from Page 7)

meeting is run and what's on the agenda is a great learning experience.

Course Setup: This is an extremely important work skill for interns to develop. I'm still surprised at the lack of interest in doing this by some interns. To me, it's the best job on the course every day, for sure. And much of the time, it's the most important one. Cutting cups and setting markers has a huge effect on the presentation of the course. The best course set-up people are the ones who know and play the game, so learn and play the course. It's best to place an intern on this job assignment for a minimum of two consecutive weeks. It takes that amount of time to get the hang of it, fine tune methods and learn about traffic and wear patterns. This is an area that the Superintendent and Assistant should spend a good deal of time on with interns if they need it. You won't be a great Assistant or Superintendent without knowing this job inside and out.

Scouting the Course: Often done in conjunction with course set-up, and part of any successful golf course management program. Many courses develop and maintain a daily log to make scouting more routine and useful. Interns would be wise to keep their own journal or daily log. Superintendents should provide staff and interns with a microscope and diagnostic tools to use on their own time.

Assigning Jobs and Supervising Staff: This is a full-time job in itself at most golf courses, typically the responsibility of the Assistant or First Assistant. Create an opportunity for the intern to run the job board for a day or two, or shadow the person responsible for it for a day. This is another job skill that employers look for when hiring Assistants. This is an eye opener for any intern, and a valuable experience.

Equipment Maintenance: Pick a few days when there's a good amount of mower set-up going on, and have the intern spend them in the shop with the Equipment Manager, participating and learning about mower set-up and anything else that may arise during the course of the day.

Day-to-Day Maintenance Activities: A good worker realizes that each job and every detail on the course is important to the overall success of the golf course. Any intern will be expected to do each and every job on the golf course and in the maintenance facility, and the person responsible for assigning jobs should see to it that the intern does each and every job duty several times. You do what needs to be done when it needs to be done, no eyebrows raised!

Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program: I've never met an employee that didn't enjoy working with activities involving this program. It's a great program, and one that nearly every prospective intern asks me about in an interview. It thrills me to see the interest in this great program, and interns should have an opportunity to be involved in it. Last year we involved our students with work at the local elementary school that we've adopted through the program — another great learning experience for all involved.

Practice Facilities Maintenance: Practice facilities often require different methods, frequencies, and timing of maintenance activities. Interns need to be involved for a time preparing these highly used areas.

Turfgrass Nurseries and Research: Challenge yourself and the intern by conducting some type of research at your golf course. It can be something very simple like monitoring soil temperature and comparing that with root depth. Last year we had our interns involved in an addition to our bentgrass green nursery. We're currently arranging research with an intern dealing with our naturalized, no-mow area, and we'll be working with students to establish a 20,000 square foot grass research site this year.

Soils and Soil Analysis: Much of our success on the golf course revolves around our soils and the roots that grown within. Learn and teach about the soils that you cross each day on the golf course. Develop a soil analysis schedule and have interns do the work and study the reports.

Greens: Some emphasis should be placed on learning about the greens. They're the bread and butter of courses. Learn the grass, the soils, the height of cut, the cultural practices and requirements. Learn the differences between green sites, and how that's managed. Tissue sampling from greens provides a benefit to the Superintendent, and also provides an intern with a great research project.

On Your Own Time Reading, Etc.: Sure, you work a lot of hours at the course. But don't think the learning has to stop once you punch out each day. Read and reference textbooks in the evening.

My advice to students is, always try to arrange an internship at the type of golf course that you eventually would like to be the Superintendent at. Establish early on what type of club you would like to work at, and seek that level of maintenance and work experience from the start. Get your foot in the door as they say, do the dirty work, put the long hours in, all the while you're learning, and it will pay off in the end. If your desire is to work at a well-known, big-name club, then go there and work now. Build that resume starting now.

When an internship comes to an end, do some things to make the experience even better. Some schools require an in-depth, written and well-presented report, others require little more than a few notes jotted down on some forms that the school gives them. I prefer the former, a well written, in-depth report on the internship. Cover all of the skill areas listed, and add sections on each of the golf course features such as greens and tees. Do one regardless of what's required by your school. It will do several things for you. It will be a lesson in writing, it will require you to record the things you saw and learned, and your report can be used by you for future reference. Give a copy to the golf course you worked at, and give a copy to your school advisor. Immediately upon completion of your internship, handwrite thank you cards to everyone that you developed a relationship with at the club, from the Golf Professional to the Mechanic. This will set you apart from the rest of the pack.

For students participating in any internship, it's very important to remember that you are beginning to establish your image in the profession. Keep this in mind at all times from this point forward. A good professional image begins with the way you look and act, so begin to dress, groom and act like a professional. This is all very dependent on the attitude you bring to the job in the morning. As a Superintendent, I expect interns to be cut above the rest of the staff, with regard to attitude and performance. So stay positive, and be thinking and learning each step of the way during your internship. And as Superintendents and Assistants, we need to develop superior learning arrangements for students, and set the tone for the learning environment with effective communication.

(Editor's Note: Michael Brower is the Golf Course Superintendent at Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington, Minn. He is a graduate of the Turfgrass Management Program at Pennsylvania State University, and has been a member of the MGCSA and the GCSAA since 1988. He can reached at, mbrower@mvcgolf.com)
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 website 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 website 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 filled 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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Sealed proposals will be accepted for the sale of three used mowers. The mowers include a 1998 Toro 3100 3WD with 1800 hours, a 1999 Toro 3100 3WD with 1269 hours, and a 1999 Toro 3100 2WD with 974 hours. The first two mowers listed have 8 blade cutting units with 4 bolt adjustment and the last mower has 11 blade S.P.A cutting units. All three mowers are in very good condition. To view the mowers, please contact Jennifer King, Purchasing Officer at 507-285-8037. All items are sold on an AS IS, WHERE IS basis, including all faults and defects whether known or unknown. The City claims no warranty as to the fitness or condition of any item listed for sale and all sales are FINAL, with no exception. The City of Rochester reserves the right to reject any and all offers. Sealed proposals should be sent to: Jennifer King, City of Rochester, 201 4th St SE, Room 204, Rochester, MN 55904-3779 until 5:00 p.m., Tues., March 1.

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Jacobsen Tri-king 1672-D $1500
Jacobsen Tri-king 1672-D $1200
Farms King 3PT. Back Blade $150
Smithco Super Rake. Bad Engine $150
Parts only
Contact: Scott Wersal
Ridges at Sand Creek
952-492-2844 ext. 24
or swersal@ridgesatandsandcreek.com

WANTED
Ransomes LF 3400 (any year)
Ransomes AR 290 (any year)
Good condition
Contact: John McCarthy
Sawmill / Loggers Trail Complex
651-983-2516

FOR SALE
1991 3-wheel Cushman Truckster Loaded with hydraulic dump, pto, 3-cylinder, liquid-cooled, 16.5 hp
Kubota diesel, traction control and 50' cutting deck. Great on steep banks and tight areas. 883 hrs. with all maintenance records/owners manual. Excellent condition. $3,500
Contact: Bob Distel
Wayzata Country Club
612-801-5503

FOR SALE
1985 Toro GM300 Triplex with 1hp Briggs Vanguard v-twin engine, variable traction control, 11 blade cutting units. Machine is serviced, reeles and bedknives ground and ready to cut. $1,495.00
1982 Toro GM3 with 14hp Kohler engine, variable traction control valve, 8 blade cutting units w/heavy bedknives (for tees or approaches). Machine is serviced, reeles and bedknives ground and ready to cut. $995.00
1978 Toro GM3 Triplex with weak 14hp Kohler engine (does run), variable traction control valve, no cutting units, comes w/spare 14hp Kohler engine (ran last time used). $495.00
Set of 3 rollers for Jacobsen Greensking, similar to Jac "Quick Roll" units. $300.00
One (1) used 11.2 x 28 diamond tread turf tire. (off Ford 8N tractor). $100.00
Cushman engine out of 1988 truckster, air cooled, 22hp. runs. $100.00
Several Thompson brass irrigation heads, $1#18 full circle, Valve in Head (1/4"), Fairway application 90 ft spacing. $25.00ea./offer
Contact: Bob, Seth or Al
Waseca Lakeside Club
507-837-5996

FOR SALE
Jacobsen GreensKing IV Ser #MT11240, 9 blade reels that need sharpening, runs and would make good trim mower. $995
Contact: Del Taft
Pine City Country Club
320-224-2550 or 320-629-3848

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Contact: Scott Hoffman, GCSS
Maddens Resort
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FOR SALE
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Contact: Tim or Glenn
Spring Hill Golf Club
952-476-4875

FOR SALE
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Contact: Jeff Normandt
jeffnormandt@acergroup.cc or 507-694-4997

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03- Honda Foreman 5 ATV (LOW Hours/ Brand New) $4500
Great Deal o/b $5000 o/b 16' Land Pride PTO Driven
Pull behind wing mower in Great Shape $1500 o/b John Deere Gator 6 Wheel 2379 hrs $6,000 o/b Olden John Deere Tractor with bucket and boltom scraper 3321 hrs. Contact: Jeff Reich
651-260-6250
jreich@nscsports.org

NOTE: PLEASE CONTACT scott@mgcsa.org
AFTER ITEMS HAVE BEEN SOLD.

Membership Report
New Members - January 2005

Gregg L. Gamble
Class A - GCSSA (pending)
Emily Greens Golf Course
Emily, MN
W: 218-763-2169

Michael Tykwinski
Class A - GCSSA
Hendricks Golf Club
Hendricks, MN
W: 507-275-3960

Bruce A. Boerst
Class B - GCSSA (pending)
Winlson Country Club
Wooden, MN
W: 307-831-3489

Steve Eastgate
Class B - GCSSA
Bully Pulpit Golf Course
Medora, ND
W: 701-625-1298

Eric K. Hansen
Class A - GCSSA (pending)
Fargo Park District
Fargo, ND
W: 701-241-1350

Adam Popenhagen
Class B - GCSSA
Hudson Golf Club
Hudson, WI
W: 715-386-9260

Tyler Anderson
Class A - GCSSA
Southern Hills Golf Course
Farmington, MN
W: 651-463-7256

John E. Caneff
Class C - GCSSA
Hidden Greens Golf Course
Hastings, MN
W: 651-437-3085

Javier Diaz
Class C
Indian Hills Golf Club
Stillwater, MN
W: 651-770-3091

Nick Fink
Class C - GCSSA
Chisago Lakes Golf Course
Lincoln, MN
W: 651-827-9734

Michael I. Ford
Class C
Burl Oak Golf Club
Mound, MN
W: 952-472-7124

Ryan Murn
Class A - GCSSA
Hillcrest Golf Club of St. Paul
St. Paul, MN
W: 651-777-5186

Thomas M. Ryan
Class C
The Refuge Golf Club
Oak Grove, MN
W: 763-753-8320

Bradley J. Schroth
Class C
Hidden Creek Golf Club
Otawonna, MN
W: 507-444-9229

Ryan Stalboeger
Class C - GCSSA (pending)
Fargo Park District
Fargo, ND
W: 701-241-1350

James S. Bastsy
Student - GCSSA
Anoka Hennepin Technical College
Majestic Oaks Golf Club
Ham Lake, MN
H: 763-427-4037

Matthew D. Bourne
Student - GCSSA
Iowa State University
Eden Prairie, MN
H: 952-937-0319

Scott D. Meyer
Student - GCSSA
Rutgers State University
Foley, MN
H: 320-267-9861

Riley J. Morgan
Student - GCSSA (pending)
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND
W: 218-779-2251

Benjamin Robetor
Student
Anoka Technical College
Highland Golf Course / St. Paul
Paul, MN
H: 651-291-3154

Paul W. Miller
Affiliate
Paul Miller Design, Inc.
Woodbury, MN
W: 651-731-9649

Dave Weber
Affiliate
The Bruce Company of Wisconsin
Middleton, WI
W: 608-836-7941

RECLASSIFICATIONS
Rob St. Sauver
Class B to Class A
Legends Club, Prior Lake, MN

William Vollbrecht
Class B to Class A
Three Rivers Park District
Eagle Golf Club/Glen Lake Golf Club
Ctr Plymouth / Hopkins, MN

Ron Bloom
Class A to Retired
H: 218-843-1391

Joe Morris
Class A to Retired
H: 651-777-6435

Submitted by James Gardner, CGCS
Membership Chairman
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