

# THRU THE GREEN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

JULY 1994

## THE MEETING PLACE

### Superintendent/Pro Tournament July 11, 1994

### Silver Creek Valley Golf Course Host Superintendent: Nick Checklenis

**T**he Course: Silver Creek Valley Golf Course is a private facility designed by Ted Robinson. The first nine holes opened in September 1992; the second nine, in July 1993. The developer is Shea Homes. Nick Checklenis, our host superintendent, came on board in September '92 when the first nine opened. He has completed several major

projects in his year and a half at Silver Creek, some of which were quite unique. For example, he is currently in the process of building a 5,000 sq. ft. herb garden for the club chef and a wedding site by the \$1 million waterfall on #18. There are only three holes that parallel each other on the course. The rest wrap around a mountain and the housing project. "Silver Creek looks more difficult than it is," Nick says, "play it straight."

**The Superintendent:** Nick Checklenis has had an interest in the game of golf since he was a youngster. His grandfather is in the nursery business. These things helped to spawn his interest in

making the golf industry his career.

Nick's first job in the industry was at Sunnyvale Municipal when he was just out of high school. He then moved to the Los Altos Country Club. He learned much in his five years under Mike Simpson. While at Los Altos, he attended Foothill College at night and earned a two-year degree in Ornamental Horticulture. Working for Shea Homes has been rewarding. Nick feels they back him strongly, and they provide a good budget to maintain the course.

A California native, Nick was raised in Sunnyvale. He has been a member of GCSANC and GCSAA since 1987. He was recently

married in Greece.

#### AGENDA

11:00am	check in
12:00	lunch
1:00	shotgun
6:00	cocktails
6:30	dinner

### Scorecard June 20th

Scholarship  
Tournament  
Castlewood CC

#### 1st Place Team

Jim Duhig  
Mike Benham  
Manny Souza  
Juan De La Rosa

#### 2nd Place Team

Jess Pifferini  
Dan McKay  
John Grant  
Pat Burgess

#### 2nd-To-The-Last Place Team

Jim Karrick  
Jan Karrick  
Jack Earl  
Ray Story

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### Castlewood Hosts 2nd Annual Scholarship/Research Tournament

The GCSANC Annual Scholarship/Research Tournament was held June 20th at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton. A brief meeting was held prior to lunch. Rich Lavine, Vice President, presented P.J. Spellman with a scholarship. P.J. is attending Rutgers University and is most deserving. Rich detailed the focused direction of our Scholarship Program, as he has spent numerous hours fine tuning it.

Dr. Ali Harivandi summarized his research efforts based upon GCSANC's annual contribution to his research program. (See related article, page 2.)

A tasty bar-b-que lunch was served prior to the blind draw scramble tournament. This format was fun, to say the least. (See

*Continued on page 7*



**SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAY**

*Continued from Page 1*

page 1 for results). The golf course was in great shape and a challenge with its difficult sloping lies up on the Hill Course. Since the tournament format was so fun, the Tournament Committee decided to add some fun to the prizes as well. Instead of awarding prizes to the top three, as usual, prizes were given to the teams coming in first, second and *second to the last*. When asked why second to the last, President Randy Gai, CGCS, stated, "Anyone can putz around and take last place, but coming in second

to the last takes real determination."

Over \$1000 was earned for the Scholarship and Research Fund. Many thanks to Blake Swint and the staff at Castlewood Country Club for hosting a fun, worthwhile outing.



**Special thanks to the Tournament Sponsors**

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