Office Notes (Cont’d)

We need a cutoff time and number to forward to our host superintendent, golf professional and food and beverage staff. They can't do their job unless we all do ours. Make your reservations by returning the form provided with payment. Complete the form as fully as possible. The golf committee needs your index. This information also helps the Golf Chairman arrange foursomes to provide competitive playing partners. We also need this to properly score a tournament. If you make a request for a foursome, you MUST know those members are going to attend. Since we guarantee numbers, we include those you list in your foursomes. We are being charged based on this information. You will be charged based on this information! If you can't make a meeting, call by the cancellation date and you will receive a refund. We notify host clubs of the "guarantee" and therefore are bound to pay. If you cancel beyond that date, we are unable to refund your money. These are simple common sense courtesies we owe our host superintendent and his club.

Scholarship Funding Now Available!

The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of Northern California is seeking future golf course turfgrass professionals who qualify for scholarship funds.

Candidates should be:

- Full or part time students with turfgrass industry or golf course experience.
- Currently employed golf course industry workers that are enrolled in turfgrass related classes.
- A resident of Northern California or employed fulfilling an internship in N. California.
- Any interested applicants may contact Roger Robarge at the California Golf Club at (650) 588-0965 or Barbara Mikel at the GCSANC office at (530) 626-0931.

Application deadline: November 6, 2000

Participants enjoy lunch at Orinda Country Club

Scholarship & Research Tournament

at Orinda Country Club

was a huge success. See more pictures pages 6, 7, and 8

John Pina with one of the BIGGER prizes

Below: The auction table at Orinda
California Golf Industry Second In Nation

By Bob Costa, CGCS

One of the fastest growing segments of the California turfgrass industry continues to be golf courses, demonstrated by the opening of 36 new facilities in 1999. Nowhere in California has the golf boon been more evident than in Northern California where more than 15 courses have opened in the last 5 years. Adding these to the list of over 1000 existing courses, ranks California second to Florida nationally.

Although turfgrass is the major component of golf courses, many of the new facilities have been designed with fewer acres of maintained turf. In addition, architects have emphasized the use of native grasses in out of play areas. Dr. Ali Harivandi, UC Extension Researcher sees this trend as a real plus for the golf industry. "Reducing the acreage of high maintenance turf translates into water savings, labor savings and reduced chemical and fertilizer use. Native grasses are not only environmentally friendly," continues Harivandi “but they also provide a striking contrast when grown next to traditional golf course turf varieties”.

Many of today's NorCal courses feature a new improved generation of bentgrass for putting greens. Harivandi currently has two golf turf research trials underway. Several new and old varieties are being evaluated. “Many of the newer bengtgrass varieties produce a dense, tighter surface which slows weed encroachment allows superintendents to maintain the greens at lower heights” said Harivandi.

Combined with lower water and fertility requirements, these new varieties have become a popular choice for new greens in Northern California. Harivandi, who also is involved in turfgrass research at the Santa Clara research field station, has been actively evaluating turfgrass varieties for years. “With the anticipated future growth of turfgrass in California, particularly on golf courses, superintendents and course designers will be searching for varieties that will provide the best performance while requiring the least amount of water, fertilizer and maintenance.

Like all segments of the golf course industry technological advances are no strangers to the turfgrass industry. As new turfgrass varieties and technologies reach the marketplace, their presence will continue to alter the face of the game.

Jim Lipari presents a donation to Gary Carls.

The guys yuk it up at Orinda.

Media Scorecard – July/August

Chapter News - GCSAA Newsline – Jr. Golf
Golf Today – Question of the Month
Divot News – GCSAA NewsWeekly – Turfgrass Awareness Week
NCGA News – Article “Get to Know Your Supt”
GCSANC Scholarship Tournament – Jack Rosol of Golf Today participated
Hooked On Golf – Radio Interview – Gary Carls, CGCS
Press Release – Turfgrass Awareness Week
Press release – Golf Courses are Community Asset
Press Release - Golf Courses Environmental Benefit
Press release – California Golf Industry Second in Nation
Press Release – Superintendents Play A Key role

Wanted: Jacobsen College Seminar Alumni for Reception in Dallas

Textron Golf & turf is on the lookout for Future Turf Managers Seminar alumni for a 30th reunion reception during the GCSAA Conference and Show in February 2001. More than 900 great students have passed through the seminar, and we need your help in finding them. If you are or know one of these individuals, ask them to contact Diane Ellsworth, events coordinator, Textron Golf & Turf, at dellsworth@ttcsp.textron.com
Pat Finlen, CGCS, to Host September Meeting at Bayonet/Black Horse

By: Ken Williams, CGCS

The GCSANC is heading south for the upcoming general meeting. Pat Finlen, CGCS, Director of Golf Course Maintenance at Bayonet and Black Horse has been gracious enough to host the September meeting. Pat is dutifully assisted at Bayonet/Black Horse by Superintendent’s Tom Bevan on the Bayonet and Brian Nettz on Black Horse.

The educational portion of the meeting will feature practical discussion of the PDI issue and real life scenarios of its effects. Bruce Williams, CGCS, Ray Davies, CGCS and Bob Costa, CGCS will be on hand to explain the intricacies of the proposed initiative.

The Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Courses are situated just north of Monterey off Pacific Coast Highway 1 in Seaside. Both courses were owned by the Army and were part of Fort Ord until the base was inactivated in 1993. In 1997, the golf courses were purchased by the City of Seaside and leased to BSL Golf Corp of Houston, Texas.

The Bayonet Golf Course was named after the Army’s 7th Infantry Division, the first and last major unit to occupy Fort Ord. General Robert McClure, Commanding Officer of the post at that time, designed Bayonet in 1954. It features over 7,110 yards of oak and cypress lined fairways. McClure, a left-handed golfer with a severe slice, designed the course to fit his game. This is evidenced by holes #11-15, a series of sharp doglegs to the left. These holes are widely known as “Combat Corner”, interrupted only by a 215-yard uphill par 3. The sister course to Bayonet, Black Horse was designed in 1964 by General Edwin Carnes, the Commanding General at that time. Black Horse was named for the nickname of 11th Calvary Regiment. Black Horse also plays to over 7,000 yards and a par of 72.

Both courses were built by enlisted soldiers who “volunteered” for the work. The soldiers planted over five thousand trees on the once nearly treeless site. During the last three years, numerous changes have been made on both courses under the direction of PGA Tour architect Chris Gray.

This fall, The Bayonet Course will host the Monterey Peninsula Classic on September 25 as part of the Buy.Com Tour (formerly Nike Tour.)

Pat Finlen, CGCS, Director of Golf Maintenance, graduated from Rockhurst College with a BS degree in Business Administration. He spent two years as superintendent at Cypress Point CC in Virginia Beach, VA and twelve years as the Golf Course and Grounds Manager at Quivira Lake Golf & CC in Quivira Lake, Kansas. He’s been a certified superintendent since 1989 and has served on GCSAA Publication, Certification, Education, and Chapter Relations committees.

Tom Bevan, Superintendent of the Bayonet, graduated from Iowa State University with a BS in Horticulture and Turfgrass in 1996. He has worked as a greens keeper at Pebble Beach, a spray technician at Glen Oaks CC in Des Moines, Iowa, and as an assistant superintendent at Carmel Valley Ranch. Tom’s been at the Bayonet course since September 1998.

Brian Nettz, Superintendent of the Black Horse, graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1993. Brian worked at Interlachen CC in Minneapolis (during the 1993 Walker Cup), and was formerly Assistant Superintendent at Somerset CC in St. Paul, MN and also at Richmond Country Club. Brian’s been at the Black Horse since January of 1999.

These three men and their staffs have made vast improvements in the facility in the last few years. Everything is pointing towards a great meeting at a wonderful site. With only a week before the Buy.com event, I’m sure the course will be approaching tournament condition. Hope everyone can head down south to enjoy the cool breezes in Seaside on September 18th.
Scholarship and Research Tournament
August 21, 2000 Orinda CC

1st place Gross: Ligon - Grasso +5 points
2nd place Gross: Clark - Rosa +1 point
3rd place Gross: Willis - Sayre 0 points

1st place Net: Lane - Minear +31 points
2nd place Net: Lauth - McCullough +30 points
3rd place Net: Franzen - Piper +27 points

Closest to the Pin #3: Mitch Frasier
Closest to the Pin #8: Mike Ligon
Closest to the Pin #13: Jack Rosol

Long Drive #18: Mike Hill

Upper right:
Grasso & Ligon with the low gross awards.

Above:
The Beautiful par 3 #8 at Orinda.

Above right:
Lane & Menear show off the 1st place hardware.
Right:
Scott Lewis watches his pitch at #9 at Orinda.
Boardroom Briefs

- Newsletter editor Ken Williams made a formal presentation to the Board outlining several options for the newsletter format. The Board approved a re-designed shell, which will allow for a monthly cover photograph.
- Past President Dave Davies presented a draft of the GCSANC annual awards criterion. The ensuing debate was centered around developing a selection system that included nominations from the membership and expanding the Turfgrass Excellence Award to possibly include a Public and Private golf course winner.
- Media Director Bob Costa unveiled the Ball mark repair poster that will be distributed to all Class A and B Superintendents at the end of September. The poster, bearing the slogan Fix It! – For the Good of the Game, is intended for display at member courses.
- The Board unanimously approved a draft of the bylaw change that will allow Affiliate board members voting privileges.
- Secretary Treasurer Jeff Shafer presented a final draft of the Salary and Compensation survey. The survey will be mailed to Class A and B Superintendents in late September.
- Unanimous in its opinion that the Holiday party needed a new look the Board approved a proposal brought forth by Dave Davies to include a Casino Night at the December 5th meeting in Monterey.
- Scholarship committee Chairman Roger Robarge announced that the Scholarship applications would be in the mail shortly. The deadline for completed applications is November 6th.
- The Board agreed to re-institute a complimentary registration fee policy for retired Class A, B and Affiliate members as well as Class A life members. The complimentary fees are valid at the Annual meeting and other special meetings determined by the Board.

Board Supports Bylaw Change

The GCSANC Board of Directors has unanimously supported a bylaws change proposed by Immediate Past President Dave Davies, CGCS. The bylaws change calls for the two Affiliate Representatives on the Board to receive voting rights in all matters that come before the Board. Currently both Affiliate Representatives serve in an advisory capacity on the Board. Discussion within the Board has taken place over the last 6 months and a final draft of the bylaw change was presented at the August 15 Board of Directors meeting.

In discussing this possible change, the Board noted the critical role the affiliate membership plays in the overall operation of the association. In almost all instances it is the financial support of the affiliate membership that drives the “extras” presented to the membership. Donations to events such as the Scholarship Tournament and Holiday Meeting add valuable dollars to help defer costs and provide additional prizes. Their participation in the sponsorship program provides advertising opportunities for the affiliates but also helps reduce the financial impact on the association budget in providing the monthly newsletter. Costs for providing the annual directory are also reduced through affiliate advertising dollars.

The proposed bylaw change will be addressed at the 2001 annual meeting in Sunnyvale. The official text will be included in the ballot information to be sent out in December. A copy of the text will be made available to the entire membership through the Newsletter in the next issue. Questions or comments can be directed to any member of the Board of Directors.