Chris Gose Is All Smiles at Sunnyvale

By Ken Williams, CGCS

Chris Gose has been in the golf business for almost 20 years now. He’s the one charged with keeping the Sunnyvale Golf Maintenance operations going day in and day out. If you know Chris, he’s calm and cool and always greets you with a smile. I had to ask him how he keeps that smile going and Chris’ reply was, “If you worked for a city there’d be a lot of things that make you shake your head and smile.”

The City of Sunnyvale operates the 18-hole Sunnyvale Golf Course and the 9-hole Sunken Gardens. Sunnyvale was designed by Clark Glassen and built by George Santana in 1968. It includes 80 acres of rough, 50 acres of fairways, 3 acres of greens, 5 acres of tees, and 5 acres of surrounds. One of the more interesting stories about Sunnyvale was that of an airplane crashing on the 12th hole during its first year of operation.

The course was renovated in 1989 where holes 8, 13, and 18 were rebuilt. A new irrigation system was also added at that time. Chris also helped renovate the tees at Sunken Gardens and added an irrigation system there as well. Asked if he had made any mistakes during the process, Chris joked, “None that I’ll admit to.”

Born in San Jose and raised in Morgan Hill, Chris knows the area well. He attended Live Oak High School, went to Gavilan JC, and then to onto UC Santa Cruz majoring in Cultural Anthropology. Chris has been at Sunnyvale for 12 years. He started in the golf business in 1974 at Riverside Golf Course with Ken Sakai. Ken moved over to Sunnyvale as the Director and soon Chris followed suit. Chris worked under Ken until Curtis Black occupied the Director’s position and is benefiting from Chris’ expertise.

O’Brien Steps Down as GCSAA COO

Citing a desire to seek new challenges, GCSAA Chief Operating Officer Joe O’Brien announced his resignation Dec. 21.

A 27-year veteran of the golf industry, O’Brien came to GCSAA in January 1994 to manage the programmatic functions of the association such as education, career development, communications, research and membership, among others. He also made numerous presentations to the golf industry and represented GCSAA at a variety of golf’s allied association events.

“We are indebted for Joe’s service to GCSAA,” GCSAA President R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS said. “While we are losing a valued team member, he will always be our friend. We wish him much success in his future endeavors.”

O’Brien was also active in the Golf and Environment Initiative, which brought together golf’s allied associations and members of the environmental community to develop consensus on the issue. In February 1998, he was recognized for his work by then-GCSAA President Paul McGinnis, CGCS, with the President’s Award for Environmental Leadership — the association’s most prestigious environmental honor.

“I am appreciative of the Association and its members,” said O’Brien. “It was rewarding to work with such an outstanding group of individuals who represented an honorable profession. I trust the Association and its members are better off now than it was seven years ago.”

O’Brien began his career in the golf industry working for the PGA of America from June 1973 - July 1990, as assistant director of education, director of education, manager of membership services, and senior director for strategic planning. After leaving the PGA of America, O’Brien joined Marriott Golf,

See “O’Brien” page 9

Important Election Notice

Jason Green’s nomination for GCSANC Director has been withdrawn. He is incorrectly listed on Proxy forms as a candidate. Please eliminate him from consideration.

Thank You
The Moment of Truth for The PDI

Significant time has been devoted during the last six months to explaining the framework and implications of GCSAA's professional Development Initiative (PDI). What has received little explanation is the voting procedure that will ultimately determine the future of PDI.

At the Conference in Dallas, GCSAA members and delegates will be voting on three ballot items related to PDI. The election is scheduled for February 13th and 14th.

- The first ballot item amends the GCSAA Articles of Incorporation. This will add additional qualifications for Class A membership. Passage requires a two-thirds margin.

- The second ballot item modifies the GCSAA Bylaws by adding language that provides the framework for additional Class A qualifications. It also changes all Class B references to "Superintendent Member." This also requires a two-thirds margin to pass.

- The final item is a Ballot vote that is contingent on the first two items passing. It contains specific language regarding entry-level requirements, on-going requirements and the pesticide license/exam requirement. This item only requires a margin vote for passage.

At the November Northern California Board Meeting, the GCSANC Board of Directors voted to support the PDI. As a result, Chapter Delegate Bob Costa will cast all available chapter votes in favor of the proposed amendments and if necessary, the ballot vote supporting the PDI.

As a GCSANC voting member, you have several options in this, or any GCSAA annual election. You can choose to vote:

- With your affiliated chapter  This means your affiliated chapter's voting delegate will attend the annual election meeting and cast all individual votes assigned to your chapter's voting block.

- Individually  You must attend the GCSAA Annual meeting in Dallas and cast your own vote. You must register at the voter check-in booth at the Dallas Convention Center on either Tuesday or Wednesday between 7:30 am and 6:00 pm.

- By Proxy  This means that a GCSAA member who is eligible to vote and will attend the Annual meeting and election, will cast an individual vote on your behalf. To designate a proxy, you must complete an official proxy form, which will be delivered by the proxy to the voter check-in booth in Dallas.

O’Brien (Cont’d)

serving as senior business developer until November 1992. Prior to coming to GCSAA, O’Brien was president of the American Hotel Foundation (November 1992 - October 1993), a fundraising and grant-making philanthropic organization dedicated to advancing the hospitality industry.

"Joe O’Brien's contributions to the GCSAA and its members were considerable and lasting,” GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Steve Mona, CAE, said. "His desire to seek new opportunities is consistent with his attitude at GCSAA. He was always working for the betterment of the association and its members. I appreciate his commitment and wish him all the best.”

Larry Lloyd Memorial Golf Tournament Results
Rancho Cañada West Course

Superintendent Gross:
1st Mike Garvale  71
2nd Forrest Arthur  76
3rd Terry Leach  76

Affiliate Gross:
1st Mike Ligon  80
2nd Mike Ginelli  87
3rd John Holmquist  87

Superintendent Net:
1st Eric Greytok  63
2nd Blake Swint  64
3rd Dave Davies  64

Affiliate Net:
1st Adrien Bertens  69
2nd Kevin Castle  71
3rd Don Naumann  71

Women’s Net:
1st Yolanda Pelser  76
2nd Jenifer Babbit  78

Skins:
#2 Dave Davies
#7 Eric Greytok
#12 Mike Ligon
#16 Steve Franzen
#18 Mike Leach

Quick Quote

“If silence be good for the wise, how much better for fools?”

The Talmud

Media Scorecard – November / December
- Press Release – Institute
- Press Release – Jeff Shafer Chapter Leadership Series
- Media Golf – Monterey Herald Golf Writers and Sports Editor Jerry Stewart, Ed Vyeda, Ken Ottmar, Joe Wolfcale @ Holiday golf tournament