



My Second Chance at the Microphone

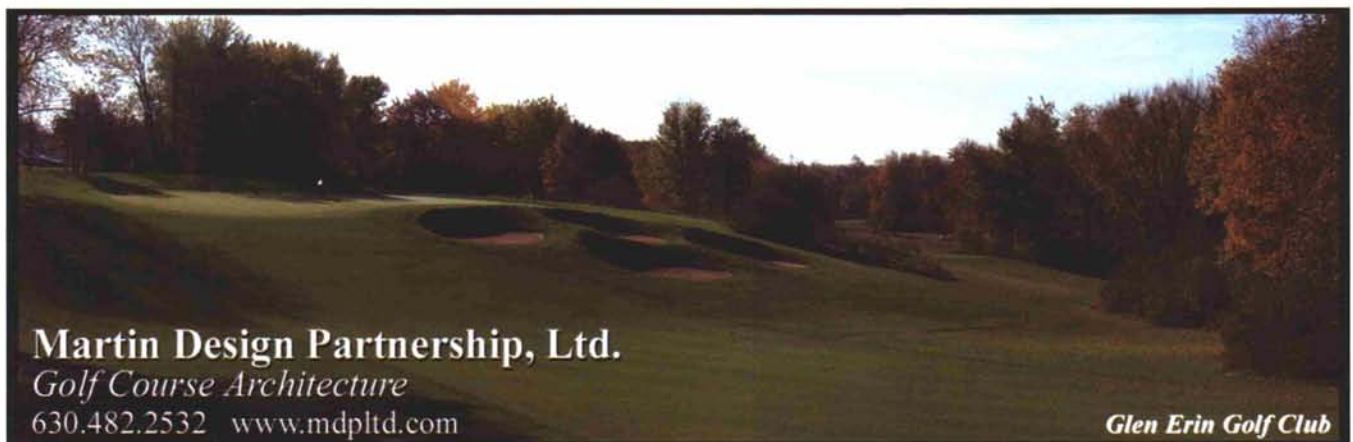
Those of you present at this year's MAGCS hospitality suite on Thursday night may remember when I missed my first chance at the microphone. Our president, Fred Behnke, was speaking and surprised me by calling my name to say a few words about the event. Of course, I avoided it at all costs. Then my mind began to play that little game I like to call "you shoulda, coulda, woulda." I missed a great opportunity to thank all of the people and companies that made the event a successful one. So here it goes . . . my second chance at the microphone, albeit the printed version.

Thanks to all the vendors participating in the Golden Tee Club for enthusiasm and financial support that exceeded expectations and made the San Diego hospitality suite so successful.

For several months prior to San Diego, I put in a lot of hours sending reminders to vendors, gathering the logos of the Golden Tee Club members and creating the PowerPoint presentation (but please don't let my boss, Pete, know). Honestly, I really enjoyed doing it. I also had help from the Commercial Advisory Council. We electronically discussed several ideas and voted to select the best ones, not easy as they were all good. The committee divided up the list of potential vendor sponsors and made calls to raise awareness and obtain pledges for the suite. I want to recognize the entire committee—Dave Nadler, Scot Spier, Marsha Traves, Steve Stewart, A.J. Huey, Sharon Reisenbeck and Chuck Odierno; I really appreciate all of your help and time! Special thanks to Sharon for her assistance at the welcome table on both nights. She was a big help with keeping the traffic flowing into the room and did a wonderful job of signing up supporters for a split-the-pot raffle to benefit the MAGCS Scholarship Fund.

It is also important that I thank Luke Cella, our executive director. Without Luke's efficiency and unbelievable multitasking ability, I would have been lost. Thanks, Luke. And let's not forget those commercial members who helped with the arrangements and staffing of the welcome table. Thanks to Tim Anderson for helping me organize the food, drinks and set-up. Thanks to Kevin DeRoo, Paul Bastron and Gary Hearn for aiding at the welcome table and playing "cashier." A special thanks to Ed Braunsky for helping me stare down potential party-crashers. You are a great bouncer, Ed!

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Last but certainly not least— thanks to all of the vendors participating in the Golden Tee Club. Your enthusiasm, participation and financial support exceeded expectations and we cannot thank you enough. Without your support, this event would not have been possible. You're the best!

I'm almost done thanking people but I'd like to take this opportunity to say thanks to Nadler Golf, TPEC and Palatine Oil for supporting ALL of our outings and events throughout the past year.

Gosh, I feel like I just won an Oscar. . . . I'd also like to thank my husband for putting up with me and thank the Academy . . . okay, forget it.

Our party was a huge success! That's the word we're getting from superintendents, assistants and vendors. The PowerPoint presentation was a tremendous hit and everyone loved the pictures; thanks, Luke.

What was new this year: In an effort to get an estimate of the number of people in the room each night, we held a free raffle and three

members were awarded American Express gift certificates.

THURSDAY'S WINNERS

Dan Marco.....	\$50
Tom Lively.....	\$75
Brandon Rox.....	\$100

FRIDAY'S WINNERS

Fernando Diaz	\$50
Kevin Knudsen	\$75
Mark Neuroth	\$100

A count of the yellow tickets showed an average of 300 people per night.

Our split-the-pot raffle was a wonderful success! We raised \$1,500 the first night and Brian Baker of Chicagoland Turf was the lucky winner of \$750. The second night, we raised \$1,400 and Paul Vermeulen of the USGA won \$700 and donated his winnings to the ITF for turfgrass research. All in all, we raised a total of \$1,450 for the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to everyone who participated.

This year's event gave us an opportunity to honor two members of our chapter and we are so proud of and happy for them. Dan Quast received the GCSAA's Distin-

guished Service Award and Paul Voykin was named Superintendent of the Year by *Golfweek*. Congratulations, gentlemen!

And now, the final numbers. The Association raised a total of \$43,000 in vendor contributions alone! Total expenses for the event and miscellaneous items was \$43,835.28. Beverage consumption was as follows:

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

Thursday	1,482
Friday.....	1,358

NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

Thursday	210
Friday.....	151

Some things never change!

Thanks to everyone who made this year's Association gathering such a success. I can't wait to enjoy the sun and fun next year in Orlando.



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