



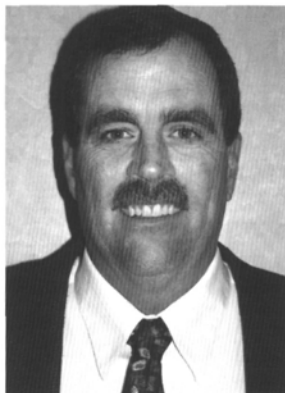
# Wow!!!

By **Mike Lyons**, Golf Course Superintendent, Old Hickory Country Club

I don't like repeating myself but I feel I need to in this case.

Why you should take advantage or participate more at monthly meetings....

I was very fortunate to have won our local qualifier for BASF-sponsored People vs. the Pro at Lake Arrowhead in June. This year's event for those who qualified, and there were a few ways to qualify, was held at Pinehurst, North Carolina — yes, the historical and famed Pinehurst. Twenty-two superintendents and 178 other qualifiers all had a chance to play either PGA Professional Retief Goosen or Gary McCord. Those under 50 years of age got a chance at Retief Goosen and over 50 got Gary McCord. There was also a superintendent tournament. Two lucky superintendents played for \$10,000 for themselves and \$10,000 for the club in BASF products. Second place winner received \$5,000.



Both tournaments were handicap. Trust me, anyone had a chance. With that said, they look very closely at your handicap and adjusted it so you couldn't sand bag.

The whole event was first class. BASF and everyone at Pinehurst took very good care of us. As my mother would say "it's nice to see how the other half lives" and it was nice. I played four rounds of golf in four days. I have not played four days of golf since I was 12 and day four showed it. My wife was treated to a spa treatment and wine tasting - can't go wrong with that one.

BASF had a reception for the superintendents and their guest every night and the morning breakfast buffet was incredible.

If you are a Donald Ross fan or not, this place is a must see. The history is well preserved and the old photos of who's who are incredible. We did not get a

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chance to play course two where the Open is played but did play two nice tracks. We were treated to course five and eight. Course eight is a Fazio design and played a little harder than five. They all have that Ross feel. I started out playing well and after two days I was only three back at three over. Day three came and needless to say the wheels fell off, started to leak oil, folded like a cheap card table and whatever. All I know is the arms got short and the o.b. stakes looked about as wide as a goal post. It was ugly. I did play with the gentleman who won. He played to a twelve and played Goosen the next day. I also played two rounds with the superintendent who was playing for the \$10,000. As I am writing this I am not sure how things turned out. But he was a scratch player and had to give nine shots and after nine he

was two down. Goosen and McCord were also up by a few after nine. The PGA guys take this seriously. After three years the matches are all tied at three apiece. McCord is one of the guys who lost and believe me he did not want to lose again. All this will be televised on ESPN 2 in October.

The superintendents were well represented at this great event. At the recognition dinner, Steve Mona from the GCSAA was on hand and Dr. Toni Bucci from BASF gave a very thoughtful speech on how valuable we are to the game of golf and to the environment.

Finally, after all that, the topper came at the dinner put on by BASF for all the superintendents. There was a little problem with the drinking water on the second day at Pinehurst and we had to have the dinner at Pine Needles. I believe

that they will be host to next year's Woman's U.S. Open. Not a bad place to be shipped off to for dinner. After dinner we had heard Arnold Palmer was at a reception next door. After dinner, my wife Dawn and I are outside and the King comes walking out. Dawn tells me to go and get a picture with him but I said she stood a better chance at stopping him than I did. So Dawn and a few other ladies ask for pictures and sure enough, he stops and let's all of us get a picture with him. Great man.

As you can tell, it was an incredible time and opportunity. I truly wish every one of us could have this opportunity. I will say it one last time — participate more and some day you could meet truly one of the greats of this game and be treated like "the other half." Take care. ♣

