



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK DOUG MAHAL

Each year about this time a new face appears at the top of this article so, I think an introduction of myself is in order. I'm Doug Mahal, currently golf course superintendent at Interlachen Country Club in Edina. My interest in the golf industry began at age 15 when I started working summers on the grounds staff of a 9-hole course in Babbitt, a small mining town on the N.E. corner of the iron range. After completing a two-year turf management degree from Anoka VTI in 1973, I procured a job at Interlachen and decided to pursue an additional degree from the University of Minnesota. I was promoted to assistant superintendent at Interlachen in 1977 and by November 1979, after completing my Bachelor of Science degree program, was hired as superintendent. I really feel honored and consider it a privilege to serve as president of MGCSA for 1987. I follow an impressive list of predecessors and only hope my term is as successful and rewarding.

Following our annual elections in early December, a new Board of Directors again began those duties that continue to make our association grow aggressively. That distinguished group consists of:

* Vice President Scott Hoffmann, CGCS, currently golf course superintendent at Madden's Inn and Resort in Brainerd. Scott is beginning his 4th year on the board, most recently serving as association secretary. He has also served on the Research, Conference & Education and Bylaws committees. He comes with good credentials.

* Keith Scott, in the second year of his term as treasurer, will again be handling the finances. Currently the superintendent at Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins, Keith co-chaired an active Research Committee in 1986 and will be organizing a

newly reborn Scholarship Committee in the coming year.

* A colorful Fred Anderson, Jr., CGCS will be pushing a pencil as MGCSA's secretary in 1987. Into his 3rd year on the board, he has chaired the Editorial Committee and co-chaired Arrangements the past two years respectively. Fred resides as superintendent at Purple Hawk Country Club in Cambridge.

* Our current past president Kerry Glader, CGCS from St. Cloud Country Club, will be presiding as Ex-officio and, perhaps, more importantly, presidential advisor for the next year. Kerry's diligence and attention to small details and organization has made his tenure on the board very beneficial to this association. On behalf of MGCSA, I'd like to publicly congratulate and thank him for a premium effort.

* Chris Hague, CGCS, superintendent at the lengthy Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, has begun his 3rd year as a director. Despite a catastrophic Bacterial wilt problem in 1985, he continued to admirably perform his duties as conference and education committee co-chairman. The best of luck on those new greens, Chris!

* Host superintendent for the perennial National Car Open, Jim Nicol, CGCS is into his second year as director. Jim has done an outstanding job, not only with Bunker Hills Golf Club, but also with his responsibility on our annual conference and mini-seminar.

* Minikahda Club superintendent Dan Hanson, CGCS co-chaired an active Arrangements Committee in 1986. We can all look forward to playing Minikahda again late next summer.

* Progress on the new Edinburgh, USA course in Brooklyn Park continues at a good pace thanks to the effort of superintendent Tom Fischer, CGCS. Tom was elected to a second term as director, due in part to a great job as Membership Chairman last year and as co-chair of Conference & Education in 1985.

* Though a rookie director of MGCSA, Brad Klein, CGCS is certainly no rookie as superintendent of Detroit Country Club in

Detroit Lakes. I'm depending on Brad's vocal nature to introduce a new perspective to current board issues.

* Rick Fredericksen of Rolling Green Country Club in Hamel is the 3rd of our newly elected directors. Rick proved to be exceptionally reliable as a 1986 Research Committeeman.

I'm satisfied that the 1987 MGCSA Board of Directors will be a diligent and hard-working lot and I appreciate the commitment they have all undertaken.

One of the first duties I must perform as president is to make committee chairman assignments for the coming year. These appointments are as follows:

Research: Scott Hoffmann
Membership: Chris Hague
Conference & Education: Fred Anderson, Jim Nicol, Rick Fredericksen
Arrangements: Dan Hanson, Brad Klein
Editorial: Tom Fischer
Bylaws: Fred Anderson
Scholarship: Keith Scott
Nominating: Kerry Glader
Ethics: Doug Mahal
Industrial Relations: Doug Mahal

These gentlemen and their respective committee assignments are listed so that the membership is aware of a contact person should any committee-related questions arise. Please don't hesitate to call or write. You have elected us for just such purposes.

I have just a few comments on some past association events. First, I'd like to thank superintendent Morrie Anderson for hosting our November meeting at Greenhaven



November Meeting Host Maurice Anderson.

Golf Club in Anoka. This meeting traditionally proves to be a popular one, due in part to our perennially gracious sponsor, Long Lake Ford Tractor, who, each year, picks up the tab for our cocktail hour. Thanks again to Greg Shaughnessy, Jim Cox, Dan Schlosser and the rest of the staff at Long Lake for making that evening an enjoyable one. Second, I must



Long Lake Ford Reps. (L to R) Jim Brown, Dan Schlosser, Greg Shaughnessy and Jim Cox.

mention the success of our second-ever GCSAA Regional Seminar held at Interlachen Country Club in mid-November. It was apparent by the 45 in attendance that our association will be investigating the possibility of hosting seminars of this kind on a regular basis. This seminar on PLANT NUTRITION AND FERTILIZERS was well presented by Dr. Paul Rieke of Michigan State and Dr. Bob Carrow from the University of Georgia. With all the new fertilizer regimes being implemented on our golf courses today, a review of plant nutrition was helpful. Lastly, those of



GCSAA Seminar Speakers Dr. Bob Carrow (L) & Dr. Paul Rieke (C) with President Mahal.

you who could not attend our 59th Annual Turf Conference at the Radisson Hotel, St. Paul missed a great educational opportunity. Speakers such as Dr. Joseph

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Rossylin and Dr. Joe Vargas really got us thinking about things like water quality and future availability and a potential problem with Bacterial Wilt Disease down the road. Dr. Doug Brede presented interesting results on his Poa annua/Bentgrass completion study. I recall at one point in our keynote address, a motivational Jack Lamier had a room of 250 people in dead silence. All our speakers did a superb job on some very timely and occasionally humorous subjects. I was particularly impressed with the quality of the food and food service afforded us by the staff at the Radisson Hotel. Congratulations to Chris, Jim and Scott for helping to make our conference a huge success.

January is a time when most of us upper midwest superintendents are not only able to relax a bit but need to get out of the office for awhile. Our January meeting is coming up soon. This year it will be hosted by George Jennrich out at Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata. George tells me there are several winter activities available to us including ice skating, cross-country skiing and platform tennis. There is also a group of superintendents trying to form a couple of teams for a hockey game. Bring all your safety gear if you're so inclined. It should be an enjoyable day. Look for the meeting notice and get it sent back.

Due to the difficulty the last two editorial committee chairmen have encountered in obtaining HOLE NOTES articles from members, the board has decided to reduce our HOLE NOTES publication to 10 issues per year. And rather than requiring a single chairman to obtain all the articles, the new Editorial Committee chairman will be organizing a committee of 3-5 members who will assist in canvassing for article contributors. In the future, if contributors become more abundant and willing, we'll consider returning to the 12-issue format. If you get contacted by one of these committeemen, please give strong thought toward helping that essential publication.

Finally, I'd like to wish the MGA staff, board and entire membership and their families a joyous Christmas holiday season.

HOLE NOTES RECEIVES AWARD

The 1986 GCSAA Affiliated Chapter Newsletter Editors Contest Awards have been announced and HOLE NOTES is one of the winners! Selected by a panel of four highly qualified judges, the winners were chosen from newsletters published by 48 affiliated chapters. HOLE NOTES was chosen to have had the Best Editorial Content for 1986. Recognition of the award will take place at the International Golf Course Conference and Show in Phoenix during the Editors/PR Seminar at 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 28, in room 28. In addition we will be recognized at the show's opening session, Thursday, January 29 in Symphony Hall. An article will be published in the January issue of GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT magazine on the winners and the details of the contest.

The award reflects the fine job Editorial Chairman Randy Nelson turned in the last year. Although the effort to obtain articles was sometimes a bit like pulling teeth, it paid big dividends. It shows that people find plenty of interest in what we have to say. Let's hope 1987 will find more and more articles finding their way in so HOLE NOTES can continue to improve on its fine record.

SO LONG NOTE

by PAUL G. MAYES
Golf Course Superintendent
Midland Hills Country Club

I am writing this letter to thank all of you for your friendship and kindness during my employment in Minnesota. The past three years have been a wonderful experience in this beautiful state. I have an opportunity to further my career goals at Green Acres Country Club in Chicago. I will miss you all and wish you the very best. I am not saying goodbye because I hope to see you at educational conferences. If you are ever in the Chicago area, please get in touch with me. Good luck in the years ahead and cheers to productive careers. Happy Holidays!