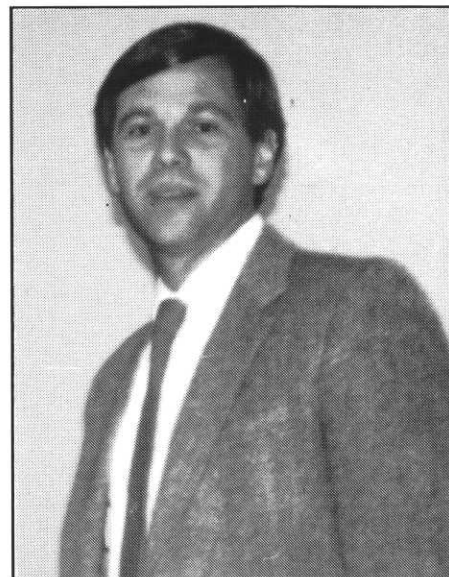


Tom Fischer Is Our New President



If you consider the fact that Tom Fischer, the MGCSA's newly-elected president, weighed only 145 pounds when he played defensive tackle for Brady High School in St. Paul, you can readily assume he's ready, willing and able to take on major challenges.

The diminutive, 5'7" head superintendent at Edinburgh USA, who was elected to the association's presidency at the 63rd Annual Meeting on November 28 in Brooklyn Park, got his share of tackles as a youngster, and he intends to tackle all of the challenges of the MGCSA in the forthcoming year in forthright style.

Born in St. Paul, Tom celebrated his 39th birthday on December 8. After acquitting himself well in football and basketball at Brady, where he was graduated in 1970, he was a horticulture major at the University for two years, then studied electronic technology at St. Paul Technical Vocational Institute for the next two "when I really didn't know for sure what I wanted to do for a career."

During the summers of 1967-68, he worked on the grounds crew, spraying pesticides and serving as night waterman, at Evanston Country Club in Evanston, Ill., where his brother-in-law was assistant superintendent.

Then he handled a gamut of golf course duties during the next two summers at Ravinia Green, an 18-hole private course in Deerfield, Ill.

From 1971-77 he was assistant superintendent under Bob Borovansky at Town & Country Club in St. Paul, and it was

during that era that he definitely decided to pursue a golf superintendent's career.

Tom spent the school years of 1976 and 1977 at Penn State University, where he received a one-year Penn-cross Bentgrass Growers Association Scholarship and was graduated with a degree in agronomy and turf management in 1977.

That summer he spent a short time at Town & Country, then moved to Somerset Country Club in St. Paul. He also worked part time for Custom Turf Irrigation and Tree Moving.

Two winters of experience (1977-78) in equipment repair at Mendakota Country Club preceded his first head superintendent's position at Voyager Village near Webster, Wis. He held that spot from 1978 to 1985 when he was selected from a field of more than 100 candidates for the superintendency at Edinburgh USA.

Ground had been broken for the highly publicized course, designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr., in 1984. When Tom came aboard in June, 1985, he and his crew spent most of their time that year shaping areas around tees, greens and fairways.

The following summer most of the work focused on finished grade, and the seeding and sodding of greens, fairways and roughs. If you remember, the Fall of 1985 and the Spring of 1986 were wet periods, delaying Edinburgh's opening by at least six months, but, by mid-July, mowing had begun.

Several major tournaments have been held at Edinburgh, but the high point of competitive golf came last summer when the LPGA held the first of three women's tournaments contracted for at Edinburgh.

"This was exciting and challenging," he said, "but since our requirements at Edinburgh normally are very comprehensive, we didn't have to do much special for the LPGA tournament. We conducted our normal maintenance, but we had some intermediate cuts around the fairways and, among other duties, we had to install the huge scoreboard (a three-day project), the giant leaderboard, ropes and stakes."

A member of the MGCSA ever since his days at Town & Country and a member of the GCSAA since 1977, Tom has held a variety of positions with the state association. A director for four years, he has chaired the Membership and Education Committees, served as editor of *Hole Notes*, was treasurer for two years (1988-89) and vice-president for the past year.

"Being involved in many things on both the state and national levels has broadened my education considerably," he said. "Anyone who wants to be active can be active, and I strongly encourage participation. It's bound to help anyone in his or her career."

Tom and his wife, Deborah, are the parents of three children—Paul, 10; Charles, 7, and Laura, 3. They live about a mile from Edinburgh.