



Great Start of a New Year At Woodhill Country Club

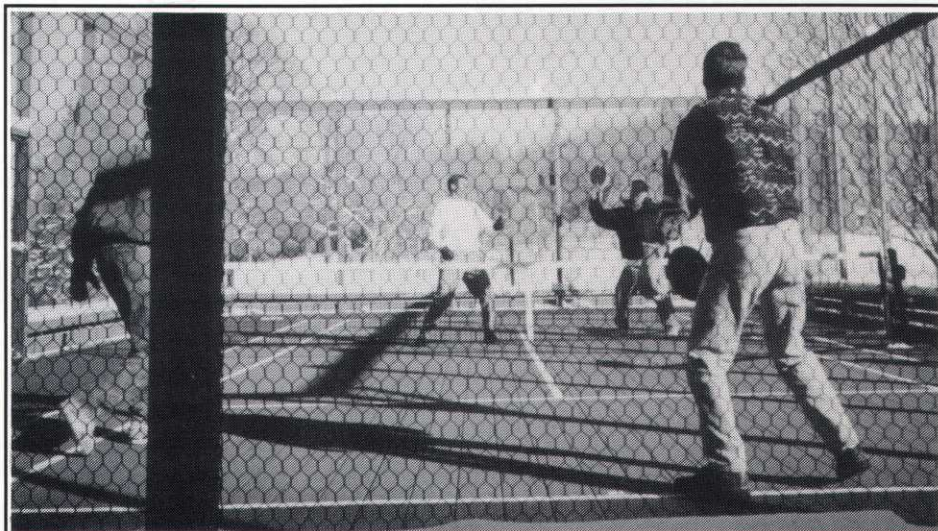
Clear, blue skies along with host superintendent Rick Fredericksen greeted 47 MGCSA members at the first meeting of the year at Woodhill Country Club on January 12.

Heavy snows the night before discouraged 15 more pre-registrants from making the trip to Wayzata but it didn't prevent Rick from having his ice rink shoveled off and the platform courts ready for play.

Plenty of great food, beverages, hors d'oeuvres and conversation were available in "the barn."

It was a perfect setting to relax and exchange thoughts about the upcoming golf season. Some may suggest that it was a better setting to relax and *not* think about the upcoming season. Whatever the case, it turned out to be a great day to spend at Woodhill.

The MGCSA travels to Bearpath for a well-planned, educational meeting on April 16. It will be a little too early to play golf, though.



MGCSA members getting a little exercise on the platform courts at Woodhill.

Lots of MGCSA Members Make the Trip To Anaheim for the National Convention

Once again, Minnesota GCSA members attended GCSAA's National Convention in droves as over 140 people attended Minnesota's hospitality night.

Minnesota superintendents got a first-hand look at the trials and

tribulations that California's superintendents were having to deal with following extremely heavy rains. The rains have been so relentless that the the tee box to the infamous 18th hole at Pebble

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National Convention—

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Beach is now a part of the Pacific Ocean. PGA tournaments have been shortened to 54 holes as superintendents scrambled to keep their courses playable. Cross your fingers and think positive that Mother Nature will be in a good mood towards Minnesota Supers this spring.

Tom Kientzle, CGCS, Cragun's Resort, was the only MGCSA member to bring home some crystal at the rain-shortened GCSAA Golf Tournament. Tom was runner-up in the 5th flight. Twelve MGCSA members participated in this year's tournament.



MGCSA President Jim Nicol, CGCS, offers James Snow, USGA Green Section, an MGCSA Research donation check of \$3,000.

The Don Belkengren Dinner Tour

Rains in California made walking to a restaurant undesirable so North Star Turf Supply's Don Belkengren decided to arrange for a shuttle bus and take eight MGCSA members out for a steak dinner. Don asked the driver if reservations were needed for this restaurant and the driver replied, "No, I was just there and the place was slow."

The group was dropped off. As the bus left, they went inside to find the host say "I'm sorry, but we are full for the night." Don quickly gave the host the phone number to the shuttle bus so they could get picked up and find another restaurant.

The party stopped at Tony Romas but was denied a table. They finally found a restaurant that would serve them. It was the Stagecoach Inn, just two blocks from their hotel, but it would be a 30-minute wait.

The nine went into the lounge to have a beverage but found them to be out-of-stock of many popular flavors. The group enjoyed some camaraderie as they waited for their table. After 30 minutes had passed, Don asked the host if a table was ready. The host replied "It should be just a short time."



Jaime Ortiz-Patino, accepts a donation from the MGCSA to the Friends of the Foundation from President Jim Nicol, CGCS.

As another 15 minutes ticked away, Don was told that the table was finished with dinner and was having some coffee. After a few pots of coffee their table was finally ready after another 30 minutes.

Don's dinner group finally sat down at their table about 9:15 p.m. Two hours after they arrived and three hours after they started out.

The group ordered and finished eating about 9:50 p.m. They were then told that the restaurant was to close at 10:00 p.m., barely enough time to have an after dinner cup of coffee.

The group did, however, enjoy the evening and requested that Don organize another dinner outing next year in Orlando!



MGCSA Hospitality Night in Anaheim attracted 140 members to the festive occasion in California at the National Convention.