

NEWSLETTER



MAY 1967

Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND



Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickenson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

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Golf Course Superintendents Association

MAY MEETING

The May Meeting was held at the Walpole Country Club on May 1, 1967. It was voted to make Charlie Parker a retired member. If you are a member of the N.E.G.C.S.A. and feel that you are entitled to become a regular member please notify the Secretary and he will check your classification with his records. The new proposed by-law amendment was voted on and passed.

New applications to be voted on at the next meeting:

JOSEPH RYBKA
974 Court Street
Brockton, Massachusetts
Club Affiliation
Thorny Lea Golf Club

JOHN K. PARKER
93 Washington Street
Duxbury, Massachusetts
Club Affiliation
Duxbury Yacht Club

WILLIAM BRENNAN
Larkin Road
Byfield, Massachusetts
Club Affiliation
Bear Hill Golf Club

Thomas Schofield was voted in as an Associate member at the last meeting.

President St. Pierre told us of the progress that has been made with the M.G.A. and also suggested that each member check with his club as to whether they have filled out the questionnaire pertaining to insurance for full time club employees. The M.G.A. can't get anything going unless we get all of our clubs to cooperate.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

low gross	Mel Wendell	79
1st low net	Jim Diorio	67
2nd low net	Wayne Ripley	73
	Ron Kirkman	73

John Freitas, Pro at Walpole, said that he would donate a putter for the closest to the pin on the 150-yd. eighth hole. Len Blodgett won: 18' 11".

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at the Portland Country Club, Portland, Me. on June 5, 1967. This will be a joint meeting with Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Host Superintendent Pete Ruby has planned an exciting day and we hope that all of the members will attend.

Directors' Meeting	10.00 a. m.
Business Meeting	11:00 a. m.
Lunch	12:00 p. m.
Golf Tournament	1:00 p. m.

Directions to Portland: Take Route 95 North to the Falmouth, Maine exit (Buckman Road) and follow to the shopping center and go right (Rt. 1) and at the traffic circle go sharp left (Rt. 88) and this will take you to Portland Country Club which will be on your left.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 10, 1967 Marshfield Country Club
Superintendent-Chairman Meeting
August 7, 1967 — Open
October — Brae Burn

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"INSTANT GREENKEEPERS" — A PLAGUE

Every golf club locker room has a round table full of instant turf specialists. After all, haven't they just finished reading Burt Musser's book on "Turf Management", and the question and answer section of the U.S.G.A. Journal Green Section.

To round off their turf background, they have just made pilgrimages to Pinehurst and the hallowed Augusta National, for the tournament of the Masters.

Armed with this sort of background, the self-appointed connoisseurs of golf course construction and maintenance are ready to take the home club apart, and put it back together again, to conform with the information they have just picked up, in their winter readings, and their conversations with the superintendent at some resort club they wintered at.

Fortunately, the majority of country club Board of Governors view the locker room turf specialists with

amusement, however they can be a very dangerous group for the superintendent.

It is irritating as well as frustrating, and, perhaps our age is showing, when you have spent close to 20 years trying to learn some of the ins and outs of a profession to have someone who knows nothing about the science of agronomy and turf management, suddenly, by an election, become Chairman of the Green Committee, and dictate on turf practices to the superintendent.

The field of turf management has never tried to put itself on the equality with other professions. However, one does not obtain a workable stature in the field of turf management by merely completing a course in turf management at some college, and I suppose the same thing is true of other professions.

Experience and good judgment are prime factors in any profession.

It makes you wonder when this fascinating and tremendously important field of turf management will wake up, shake off the longhairs and, come up with some real honest-to-goodness workable formula, so that everyone in the field will be accorded the plateau of distinction indicated by his learning and experience.

Leon V. St. Pierre
President

The following is an article written by Gerry Finn of the Springfield Union, Springfield, Massachusetts.

THE CRANKY SEASON

If you have an ounce of compassion in your soul, you'll join the movement. It is sort of a love-in, a vague display of sympathy called . . . "bring a greens superintendent home for cocktails and dinner week."

This is, after all, the cranky season for those down-trodden serfs of the soil who — hour after hour — are under the gun of anxious country club members, often forgetful of the fact that this is April in New England and not springtime in Pinehurst.

'I-Spy' Treatment

Most of the "I-Spy" treatment is reserved for those green-thumb artists who toil in the shadow of more-demanding private country clubs. Such members are accustomed to slide-on-a-shovel service. If they think the

golf course is ready for play, no one else's opinion matters. When you're peeling off 500 or so bananas a season to take up golf residence, you expect the sun and other conditioning factors to arrive on time. If they don't the greens superintendent must produce a reasonable substitute . . . even if he has to stand there with the sun lamp until he hears the grass growing.

So what does this three-paragraph prelude mean? It's simple. Greens superintendents, and their phantom staffs which are shady in the flesh because of low-budget policies on many fronts, want their story heard.

In the first place, they dread overanxious openings of golf courses. They take a don't tread-on-me attitude as far as the putting greens are concerned. Footprints, gouged by unintentional but impressive brogans too early in the spring, turn into haunting ghosts later on in the height of the campaign when the courses are supposed to be pool-room slick and hothouse lush during the showcase of the year — tournament time.

In the second place . . . and there are more to follow . . . club members tend to second-guess trained technicians in a specialized field. Some are blinded by the fact nearby public courses throw open their gates as soon as the last traces of snow have turned into quicksand-sinking turf. There is, for example, an energetic layout in Western Mass. which looks like the first tee of the National Open every April. A week ago some 300 golfers took a cruise around the moat on one Sunday. Private club swingers hear of such outpourings and wonder why their courses sit idle. They don't realize April is a make or break month for most public ventures. Players may sink over their shoetops on a typical, young spring day but owners will be swimming in black ink come the end of the year when the accountants play 18 holes with the books.

Another factor, apparently ignored by most of those who are sick of lifting weights in the cellar and spilling putts all over the living room rug, is the weather pattern of the last five years. Golfers have been spoiled in that span as far as invading the courses before a young man's fancy turns to more logical things. The great Northeast drought has produced record, early-openings. This year, though, with a late-winter snow drop which had the good people of Aspen viewing this section with envy, the water table has charged its way back to normalcy. In a word, it's been a wet spring. And all the sun lamps in creation aren't going to bring about race track-fast conditions. Nature is boss man in this situation, and there hasn't been a button or switch invented to control its mind.

FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Abbott Spray and Farm Equipment Co.
Waltham Street
Lexington, Massachusetts

Dr. Burton R. Anderson
Golf Course Architect
Turf and Golf Course Consultant
Route 5
Augusta, Maine

The Clapper Co.
1121 Washington Street
West Newton, Massachusetts

Geoffrey S. Cornish
Golf Course Architect
Fiddler's Green
Amherst, Massachusetts

The Charles C. Hart Seed Co.
Wethersfield, Connecticut

Fuel Activator Chemical Corp.
C. F. Barbour — Regional Director
43000 Prudential Tower
Boston, Massachusetts

Gaffny Enterprises, Inc.
Irrigation Specialists
North Main Street
Middleton, Massachusetts

Grounds Equipment Co., Inc.
383 Boylston Street
Newton Centre, Massachusetts

Kerr McGee Chemical Corporation
P. O. Box 790
Waterbury, Connecticut

Irrigation Consultants Inc.
251 Harvard Street
Brookline, Massachusetts

Tom Irwin Co.
Bennett Hill Road
Rowley, Massachusetts

Karandrew Turf Farms, Inc.
Sam Mitchell, Sales Representative
18 Old Randolph Street
Canton, Massachusetts

Johns-Manville Sales Corp.
150 Causeway Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Larchmont Irrigation Co.
Larchmont Lane
Lexington, Massachusetts

J. F. Aveni
Lu Soil — Soil Conditioner
Minerals & Chemicals Philipp Corp.
25 Concord Street
Belmont, Massachusetts

Magovern Company, Inc.
Lawn Acre Road
Windsor Lock, Connecticut

New England Engine & Parts Co. Inc.
The Pacer Distributor
884 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts

Stanley S. Philipkoski
Sales Representative
Stauffer Chemical Co.
380 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

Sawtelle Brothers
Jct. Routes 128 and 62
Danvers, Massachusetts

Richey & Clapper, Inc.
28 Rutledge Road
Natick, Massachusetts

Philip A. Wogan
Golf Course Architect
21 Budleigh Avenue
Beverly, Massachusetts

Wyandotte Chemical Co.
709 Salada Building
Boston, Massachusetts

D. L. Maher Co.
Water Supply Contractors
Testwells — Gravel packed wells
Byron Jackson Pumps
P. O. Box 274
Woburn, Massachusetts

Alfco Rokeby Co., Inc.
Fertilizers and Chemical Specialties
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Marietta, Ohio

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