

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 1969



Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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

It Doesn't Make Sense

This may qualify as grounds for precipitating the end of a beautiful friendship but there exists a recognition gap between the golf course superintendent and the country club manager.

What it all boils down to is a kicking around of the old saw: "Which came first . . . the chicken or the egg?"

And without further suspense adding to the confusion, let us be the first to remind everyone that first came the golf course . . . then came the clubhouse.

This is another way of saying that without a golf course there would be no clubhouse and, in turn, no need for a manager. But somewhere along the line the order of importance seems to have become misunderstood — both by the club manager and, unfortunately, many of the people who serve as employers of both professions.

According to a survey, conducted by the managers and somehow spirited into the hands of the superintendents, that recognition gap has expanded into a salary gap. Club managers have a glaring edge on the supers. And that's not all. Some of the managers' underlings go heavier when it comes time to collect the weekly paycheck.

The average total value (salary plus fringes) for a club manager has climbed from \$16,100 in 1963 to \$21,500 in 1969. When placed aside the average income of the superintendent (a figure so embarrassing it fights to stay above the \$10,000 mark), there is evidence that an inequity runs amuck among established

country clubs.

It really is a foolish, not to mention endless, task to make sound judgment on the relative importance of the two jobs. However, the superintendent dares any and everyone to refute the claim that without the golf course there would be no need to hire a manager. If one wants to go a shaky point beyond this, there is no doubt that a clubhouse is nothing more than a glorified restaurant.

Now, this brings the discussion to another disgusting development. In that same survey it was revealed country club chefs were zooming past superintendents in the salary race. A typical weekly check for the head cook was clocked at \$300 per week.

This was cause for alarm in itself. Then came the clincher. In an isolated example of peculiar monetary returns, it was noted that one clubhouse attendant pulled annual salary-fringe totals of more than \$20,000. In this particular example the executive-priced hero was referred to as "a lockerroom hustler."

What's more, added fuel was poured over the burning coals when one manager was heard to remark . . . "that the chef at his club was more important than the superintendent."

If this makes the blood boil and causes your sense of values to engage in a tailspin, you have every right to lay claim to the experience. It just doesn't seem realistic for such inequities to travel the circuit of country clubs.

It just doesn't make sense. Don't you agree, Mr. Country Club President?

— Gerry Finn

NEXT MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, Newton, Mass., on December 1, 1969

Directors	10:30 A. M.
Survey	11:00 A. M.
Business	11:15 A. M.
Lunch	12:30 P. M.
Education	1:15 P. M.

The slate of officers as proposed by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

President	Richard Blake
1st Vice President	Robert Grant
2nd Vice President	Charles Gardner
	Thomas Curran
	Daniel Collins
Secretary	Wayne Zoppo
Treasurer	Lucien Duval
Trustee	Ronald Kirkman
Finance Chairman	Nary Sperandio
Golf Chairman	Julius Aksten
Educational Chairman	Albert Auger
Newsletter Chairman	Dean Robertson

The above will be voted on at the December 1, 1969 meeting.

New associate member to be voted on at the next meeting: Noel F. Fongallaz, 818 Pleasant St., Rochdale, Mass., Pleasant Valley Country Club.

Welcome to two new associate members:
Paul Barrott, Ludlow Country Club;
Don Blakely, Harwichport Country Club.

Chairman Richard Blake announced that there would be a meeting of the "survey committee" at 11 a. m. just prior to the annual meeting at the Holiday Inn. Those who should attend are: Dean Robertson, Manny Francis, Jr., John Callahan and Wayne Ripley.

1969 GCSA of NE champion results as played at the Needham C. C. on a cloudy and rainy day:

Seniors Champion, Philip Cassidy	
1st low gross	Bill Carter, 75
2nd low gross	John Sperandio, 76
3rd low gross	Bob St. Thomas, 78
1st low net	John Dolan, 68
2nd low net	Guy Tedesco, 70
3rd low net	Philip Cassidy, 71

The champs will receive their trophies at the next meeting.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

THE LONGEST DAY

Thirty-seven holes later it's all over and emerging from one of the longest tugs of sniping in Shanahan Memorial Tournament is that durable Weston duo of Phil Cassidy and Jim Browning.



Phil Cassidy and Jim Browning

It took just that . . . 19 holes beyond regulation . . . to determine the champion in this annual test of superintendent-pro golfing blends at Brae Burn.

Actually the longest day . . . according to Leon St. Pierre of Longmeadow and the "regusted" losing tandem of St. Pierre and Tony Clecak . . . came about on the return to Brae Burn after the two teams had locked in a title tie with net 66's.

"'Twas all my fault," Leon divulges. "Definitely, it was a case of tournament jitters. If only I wasn't made aware at the top of every backswing that this was for the championship of our world."

"Well, that isn't exactly the way it went", injects Phil who has all the earmarks of becoming a perennial threat in all NEGCSA competition from here on in. "After all, we did have to come from behind to win. It isn't as though we were handed the title."

Naturally, all this banter between solid association friends was done on a good natured recount of the battle after Cassidy turned hero in what Weston members will refer to as an historic playoff.

Here was the situation with two holes to go in the extra-inning skirmish: St. Pierre and Clecak held a two-stroke margin on the 17th tee. But each had drives which couldn't find the green on the par-three hole.



Tony Clecak and Leon V. St. Pierre

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the November-December issue of the 1965 *Golf Course Reporter*, Dr. Richard Skogley compiled and wrote an excellent article on "Winter Play on Golf Greens." This article should be posted on every club bulletin board, regardless if play is allowed or not.

Dr. Skogley referred to J. R. Watson, Jr., who indicated that winter injury, occurring in northern climates, falls into two categories — *Mechanical and Physiological damage*.

Mechanical damage was caused by man and damages turf directly and indirectly. "Direct injury is produced by *traffic* when grass is covered by frost or when it is dormant or semi-dormant and the soil is partially or completely frozen." "(a) Bruising (cellular rupture) resulting from *traffic* or frosted grass." "(b) Attrition from traffic on partially or completely frozen soil especially when grass is near or at dormancy."

Indirect injury — produced by *traffic* on partially frozen or wet soils, the visible evidence is foot prints, ruts, or similar surface disfigurement. Indirect injury may also be of an invisible kind — soil compaction.

Physiological damage is most frequently referred to as "winter kill", resulting from disease, scald, suffocation, desiccation and related causes.

When winter *traffic* on greens causes cellular rupture and turf cannot renew itself, conditions are created which make turf very susceptible to winter diseases.

Considerable damage is done annually on our golf greens from "winter play." Winter play satisfies a very small percentage of a club's membership, yet the entire membership may be affected by poor greens the following season. Country clubs spend a tremendous amount of money on golf green maintenance and purchase expensive machinery to help to provide the finest in green turf. Why greens committees continue to allow "winter play on golf greens" when factual knowledge of detrimental results occur, is not understandable. It doesn't make good business sense not to continue good maintenance practices when winter comes. Winter *traffic* should remain off the greens.

ANTHONY B. CARANCI, JR. *President*

In the meantime, Cassidy decided to putt his partner's hit which was stationed on the apron — some 65 feet from the pin.

As skill would have it, Phil put eyes on the putt and scored a deuce. Apparently shaken by the turn of events . . . not to mention the turn of the golf ball, the Longmeadow team made four or bogey to send the foursome to the 18th all even.

There was no blood there, so it was still a stalemate at the end of 36 holes.

"It was dark and dreary by the time we holed out", St. Pierre recalls.

"It was bright and cheery", Cassidy rebounds.

Anyway, rather than risk the discomfort of perhaps playing another 18 on another day when snow might make it a fivesome, the boys groped their way down the 37th hole.

"They won it with a par four", St. Pierre says. "But it was only because I couldn't putt. Missed a 20-footer for our par."

"That's correct", Cassidy bears witness to the windup. "But he forgot to mention that they three-putted the darned thing."

Ah yes, this was a Shanahan to remember.

— Gerry Finn

"Sound Off"

(Here we go again . . . with the third go-round of the NEGCSA Newsletter's invitation to its readers to tell everyone like it is. We offer this space to all our friends, members, dealers and anyone not covered in those categories to express your views on golf. Letters should be brief and presented in neat form. They should be sent to Newsletter Mail Box 24, Riverside Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950. Naturally, the Newsletter reserves the right to comment on letters published.)

"I enjoy your Sound Off column. How about this one: A golfer came to me recently and complained about a small, thorny tree on the course. He said it was unfair to have a tree that is hazardous to a golfer trying to take a swing. What do you think? Should I take out the tree?"

STAN METSKER
Boulder, Colorado

Anyone who complains about a tree should be strung from it.

"Please accept my congratulations on a worthwhile addition to your always-interesting publication. I am writing from far-off Scotland just as a reminder to all Yanks in our business that we are anxious to be the site of a future turf convention. Truly, this would be another step in the right direction in terms of creating a more healthy international relationship among greenkeepers."

JOHN MACGREGOR
Troon, Scotland

We of the New England group are popping our buttons over the possibility of a future convention at golf's shrine area. As far as we're concerned . . . it's going to be St. Andrews or bust when it comes time to select our next meeting place.

"I'm afraid by the time you read this the Sawtelle contingent of Chet W., Frank Marean and Joel McKoan will have broken the bank at Las Vegas after winning three trips there as a result of top salesmanship in the Cushman field. If you don't think we have faith in something other than lady luck, we took off for the trip on the suspicious date of October 13th."

CHET SAWTELLE
Danvers, Mass.

Five will get you ten you probably wish you left on the 12th.

"Let me be among the many, I'm sure, who are forever grateful for the strong stand the New England greens superintendents have taken in support and promotion of conservation. In this fast, buzzsaw day and age when no one seems to care one sprig about nature, it is always heartening to find a group who think otherwise."

JAMES THURLOW
Sudbury, Mass.

Only one more thing to add to that endorsement, Mr. Thurlow. We hope our actions speak louder than our words.

"This may sound a little on the picayune side, but I have to take this opportunity to comment on the night riders among the dealers who gallop into a fertile selling area, make a quick pitch and money pickup and aren't seen for the next seven years . . . like the locusts. Superintendents, beware of such a gouger.

CLARENCE FOSTER
Deerfoot, Maine

Don't blame you for taking opposites with these critters, Clarence. We of the New England Association urge all our members to put the lights out on these one-nighters.

"While I must say that you people appear to put a lot of work into the production of your Newsletter, the thing leaves me with the impression that only New England suggestions are worthy of consideration as far as the National is concerned. We notice of late that you are not in second place when it comes to tooting your own horn. How about giving someone else a chance?"

DREW DIXON
Mobile, Alabama

You are absolutely right, Drew. New England is not in second place in tooting its own horn; nor is it in second place in reasons for such action.

(That should do it for now. You must agree the flak is very interesting. So, sit down today and join in the exchange. Let us know your views on the golf picture).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The G.C.S.A. of A. Nominating Committee for 1970 had their meeting October 11 and 12 at the Marriott Hotel, Des Plaines, Illinois. This is the first that an actual physical meeting of a nominating committee took place. Those attending were left to right:

- Oscar L. Miles, Olympia Fields C. C., Illinois
- Leon V. St. Pierre, Longmeadow C. C., Massachusetts
- Walter R. Boysen, Sequoyah C. C., California
- David S. Gourlay, Thornhill C. C. Ontario, Canada
- George E. Goodwin, Birmingham C. C., Alabama



Dickinson Scholarship Fund

The Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund has received a fine contribution from the Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association.

At the October 21st meeting of the Association at the Country Club of Pittsfield, Paul O'Leary, president, presented Dr. Joseph Troll the guest speaker a check for \$300.00 from the Association for the Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson Fund.

Pres. Paul said the gift was in appreciation of the fine turf program at the University of Massachusetts and in tribute to Prof. Dickinson.

Joe Troll is, of course, a valued member of the Scholarship Committee.

The Committee hopes this will inspire those who have not contributed to do so in the near future.

Send all contributions to Lucien Duval, R.F.D. No. 5, Gault Rd., Bedford, New Hampshire 03105.

Please patronize **FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

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NEWSLETTER

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FIRST CLASS