



JANUARY, 1971



## 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.

### NO ROOM AT THE INN

Julius Aksten is feeling like a member of the Holy Family at Christmas time these days.

"All I get is 'no room at the inn' when I try to line up our program for next year", moans Aksten who heads up the New England Association's golf planning committee. "At this time last year I was home free. Everyone had cooperated to the limit. This time it's different."

So far, Aksten has been "deluged" by a total of three golf courses to put the 1971 outdoor show on the road. And one of those is a perennial site for the super-pro championship — Brae Burn.

"I don't know how to approach the subject", Aksten thumbed through some questionable possibilities during a break in the annual meeting. "It's too bad we can't put some kind of a rule in that compels our members to at least attempt to have their courses available once every six or seven years. We have enough of a membership to keep our program rolling on a cycle of courses."

There really is nothing demanding about Aksten's thinking on the show of hands as hosts for the important outdoor program of the group. He doesn't believe it should be a case of him having to run down courses. On the contrary, they should be there without solicitation.

"I've got to say one thing about certain of our members", Julius continued. "I have the record to back me up, too. That there are some five to 10 courses which seem to monopolize our schedule. To these member superintendents we are forever grateful. The complaint is about the scores of others who never host an event."

Aksten is of the opinion that several shirkers aren't coming

up with invitations to their courses because they are afraid to ask their boards of governors for permission. "I know of a couple who told me they couldn't in any way be able to have their courses available", Julius roared. "And I also know for a fact that the same men never made the faintest attempt to line them up."

It has been proposed that the outdoor program of the NEGCSA follow a geographical pattern which would find golfing events scheduled at the four corners of the territorial borders. "I think it would be nice to play the Cape one month, then perhaps swing out to the western end of Massachusetts", Julius said. "I can't see anyone getting hurt by such an arrangement. In the end, I'm sure we'd get larger turnouts."

This same problem has been brought to the attention of the Newsletter in the past. And its reaction at that time was similar to the response now, meaning we are in complete agreement with Aksten's suggestion some kind of meeting cycle be instituted in order that such schedule problems be avoided in the future.

The answer will not be found in the offering of the same courses year in and year out. Rather, every superintendent should make the effort to make his course available after a reasonable interim. Incidentally, Aksten makes it clear that Monday isn't the only acceptable day on the calendar. "We can arrange to have our meetings most any day of the week", he concluded. "All we need is enough time to inform the membership. That's why I'd like to get the 1971 schedule signed, sealed and delivered right now."

We might add there's no reason why he can't do it . . . if he has the cooperation of the full membership.

— Gerry Finn

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December is a good time to review your past year's accomplishments. If you take the time to analyze your records, to study your labor breakdown costs and to re-evaluate your entire operation, it's just possible that you might find a way to be more effective and efficient in 1971.

To be effective and efficient, don't take things for granted. Taking things for granted is almost unavoidable in these days of intense activity and increased competition for our time and attention. Just to stay on top of vital details and decisions requires utmost concentration. You may think you are abreast of what goes on, but a checkup may prove you in error. Don't lose touch with your Association. Here is a random probe to show where it stands in your present scheme of values:

1. Do you promptly read Association literature when it comes to you?
2. Can you name the officers without looking them up?
3. Have you attended at least three of the past five meetings?

4. Have you recently commended the Association to your fellow executives at your club or business? To your superiors, if any?

5. Do you regard dues as an investment, not a deductible business expense?

6. Can you recall your last letter to Association headquarters?

7. Do you regularly send news items or other material to your Association paper?

8. Have you suggested a meeting topic or speaker recently?

9. If you serve on a committee, do you attend meetings and do your share of the work?

10. Have you in the last six months invited a non-member to join?

December is a good time to say thank you for a job well done by all Committees, Officers and the entire membership.

Dick Blake, President GCSA of N. E.

# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## EDUCATION A TWO WAY STREET

The man thought he was being reasonable and also thought he had a legitimate gripe. He was right on both counts.

"This will be the fourth different green chairman I've had in the past six years", he approached his future as though it were some kind of sentence. "This means I'll have to break in another one. Lord knows how long it will take him to catch on."

Sound familiar? Does this happen to you almost every time the club membership sticks together a string of candidates for the rubber-stamp approval of their peers at annual meeting time?

Everyone will agree on one thing. It happens too often, and most often it borders on the ruination of some well-laid plans of the super to get his course in sparkling condition for the season ahead.

"This is not a question of personalities", the super on a green chairman merry-go-round continued to explain his case. "I'm the easiest guy in the world to get along with and I suppose the new chairman is, too. But I just know there'll be trouble because one of us isn't up on his whys and wherefores concerning course maintenance."

Our man has the solution or suggestion, if you will. He would vote for an apprenticeship program for would-be green chairmen. "Of course, we couldn't use that terminology", he advised. "But it would work along the same lines as any apprentice getting his feet wet."

The suggestion is a grooming period for chairmen of the future. "First of all, I think every chairman should be educated in our business for at least two years", was the concrete proposal. "He could call himself an assistant, green chairman in waiting or whatever he wanted. But when he was elected to oversee the operation, he would be prepared for the job. Now it's often two years before the chairman knows what I'm talking about. By that time, his term is up and they're looking over the field for another to take over. It's not good business at all.

Actually, it would be to the advantage of a club to initiate such a program of educating potential green chairmen. There are rare cases when a man might be able to bridge the gap with a quick educational run. However, since the superintendent has taken years to prepare himself for the complexities of his position, it hardly seem possible a layman can learn them overnight.

Even the proposal of making a green chairman appointment a two-year venture doesn't solve the situation. As one other super put it . . . "Sure, I would expect a man to come around after a full season, but that first year would be practically wasted. The only way to make sense out of it is to have a training program, something like a second vice chairman, first and then to the top. It's simple."

Yes, it may sound simple, but so far very few clubs have come forth with something even resembling the step-method of developing knowledgeable green chairmen. Most clubs apparently think that education is a one-way street, something to expect from the superintendent but no one else. How soon it takes them to realize education is a two-way street remains to be seen.

— Gerry Finn

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be January 4, 1971 at the Holiday Inn, Newton, Massachusetts. Educational Chairman Al Auger has arranged for Kenneth Mills of the Rain Bird Sales Company to talk to us and have a slide presentation.

Directors' Meeting	10:30 a. m.
Regular Meeting	11:15 a. m.
Lunch	12:30 p. m.
Educational Program	1:15 p. m.

At the next meeting we will be voting on Kenneth Mooradian for an Associate Membership. He lives at 130 Green Street in Hopedale, Massachusetts. Phone 473-7785. Superintendent at the Hopedale Country Club.

The Scholarship Committee will meet at 12 noon on January 4, 1971

## JOB OPEN

Wannamoissett Country Club, 18 holes  
Apply to: Robert H. Graham, President  
The Walker Company  
Middleboro, Massachusetts 02346



The officers and directors of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association for 1971 are: front row: Tom Curran, Richard Blake, (President), Robert Grant, Wayne Zoppo; back row: Ronald Kirkman, Dean Robertson, Norman Mucciarone, Robert Mucciarone, Julius Aksten, Al Auger and Nary Sperandio. Missing from photo are Lucien Duval and Tony Caranci.



Past President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee Tony Caranci listing the proposed candidates for the election at the Annual Meeting.

President —  
RICHARD C. BLAKE  
211 Sewall Street  
Boylston, Mass. 01505  
Phone 869-2737  
Club Affiliation  
Mt. Pleasant Country Club

First Vice President —  
ROBERT GRANT  
22 Patricia Road  
Sudbury, Mass. 01776  
Phone 443-2671  
Club Affiliation  
Bree Burn Country Club

Second Vice President —  
THOMAS CURRAN  
153 Fisher Street  
Walpole, Mass. 02081  
Phone 668-7221  
Club Affiliation  
The Country Club

Secretary —  
WAYNE ZOPPO  
48 Barberry Drive  
Seekonk, Mass.  
Phone 399-7141  
Club Affiliation  
Agawam Hunt Club

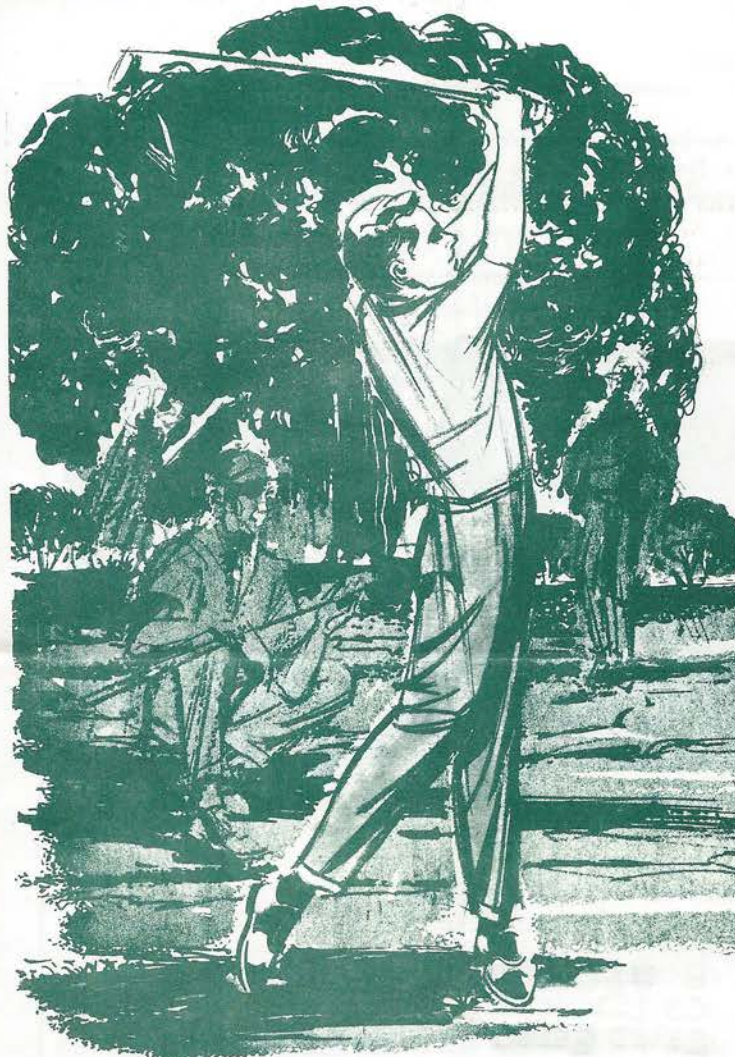
Treasurer —  
LUCIEN DUVAL  
R.F. No. 5 Gault Road  
Bedford, N. H. 03105  
Phone 472-3454  
Club Affiliation  
Manchester Country Club

Trustee —  
RONALD KIRKMAN  
25 Green Street  
Needham, Mass. 02192  
Phone 444-8412  
Club Affiliation  
Needham Golf Club

Trustee —  
ROBERT MUCCIARONE  
465 Summer Street  
Westwood, Mass. 02090  
Phone 329-9682  
Club Affiliation  
Desham Country and Polo Club

Trustee —  
NORMAN MUCCIARONE  
101 Alban Road  
Waban, Mass. 02168  
Phone 332-3056  
Club Affiliation  
Woodland Country Club

Finance Chairman —  
NARY SPERANDIO  
Concord, Mass. 01742  
Phone 369-4723  
Club Affiliation  
Concord Country Club



YOU SCORE BETTER ON

**Better Greens**

**Better Tees**

**Better Fairways**



Good turf is just as important in keeping your score low as good golf technique. Did you know for instance that over five million dollars is being spent this year researching better turf and equipment to give you better playing conditions?

Your golf course superintendent has one golden opportunity to catch up on the latest techniques in golf course management and maintenance. This year it's all happening at the 42nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show. The 1971 "*Greatest Show on Turf*" will feature twenty-seven of the world's leading authorities on turf technology. Over 100 exhibitors will display the latest and best in equipment, material and supplies for the maintenance of fine golf turf.

—And more than 3,000 of the finest golf courses in the United States and Canada will be taking out insurance on their fine turf by sending their golf superintendents to Denver next February.

Shouldn't your golf superintendent be there?

You're Invited  
to the **GREATEST**  
**SHOW ON TURF**

42ND INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE AND SHOW

Currihan Hall Denver, Colorado

FEBRUARY 7-12, 1971

Sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

3158 Des Plaines Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018, Telephone 312-824-6147

Registration Fee: G.C.S.A.A. Members \$15—Non Members \$35

WRITE FOR DETAILS



**NEW HAMPSHIRE TURF SEMINAR**

Sponsored By The  
Cooperative Extension Service  
January 14 and 15, 1971

At The  
New England Center for Continuing Education  
University of New Hampshire Campus  
Durham, New Hampshire  
Contact William E. Knoop, Extension Turf Specialist

**SOUND OFF**

*(Time once again for the reader to pick up the pen and blast off. Sound Off is a Newsletter feature by and for the person interested in golf .....whether it be the condition of his club's first green or the hitch in his swing. So, get yourself a gripe or compliment, put it down on paper and ship it to Newsletter Mail Box, 24 Riverview Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all letters published.)*

\* \* \* \*

I'm writing to tell you of my plans to attend the national convention next month in Denver. For one thing, I have to give those who arranged it a word of praise. I've always wanted to see Colorado country and this gives me the chance to do it.

"Now, the important part of my letter. What I would like to know is how much I will get out of attending the convention. I've been told that the educational programs can get boring. Is there anything I can do to get something more than a few days of fun from the experience? This is my first convention."

**ANTHONY RONCOLLO**  
Canton, N. J.

You will, as the saying goes, get just as much out of the convention as you put into it. In other words, no sleeping during the lectures.

\* \* \* \*

"I read a recent article in Golfdom by your Mr. Gerry Finn and am surprised that you people still have anything to do with him.

"The article was about snowmobiles and how they don't do much harm to golf courses. I have a snowmobile of my own but would never dare try and run it on my club's course. Naturally, my superintendent echoes my thoughts that Mr. Finn should be censured or something just for even suggesting snowmobiles be allowed on the golf course."

**JIM SMITH**  
Avon, Conn.

Mr. Finn already has been advised of our position. One more article like that and he may find himself writing for the Snowmobile Association Newsletter!

\* \* \* \*

The annual meeting is now adjourned, but a few thoughts from the discussion of the various surveys still linger. Some Superintendents feel that people have no business prying into the inner operations of golf courses in quest of facts and figures. Perhaps they don't, but the fact remains that they are, apparently in ever increasing instances.

Whether they get a true picture of us, the Superintendents, is dependent entirely upon the validity of the information they acquire, and the method by which it is interpreted. The former most of us should have more control over than the latter. We ourselves have just completed a survey. The returns suggest that a reply of under 50% was received. What happened to the others?

Most of these people probably did not think that a survey could help them and therefore did not respond. How can we help ourselves if we know not where we stand?

The most frequently expressed reason for not participating in the survey is that it may hurt us if it is published. One of the questions on the survey was whether or not to publish it. Although most replies indicated agreement to publication, presumably the other group, if they replied, would not want publication, and that would have been OK.

Now we look at the survey and we are perhaps a little more puzzled for we still are not sure where we stand. Are some of us afraid to put down on paper, anonymously, a few facts and figures?

It is better to survey, than be surveyed.

**JOE SILK**  
Sharon Country Club

Joe, I sure wish that more felt the same way that you feel about surveys. A survey can benefit all of the superintendents.

\* \* \* \*

"Just thought I'd inquire during the 'off-season' about the possibility of some courses going for complete synthetic turf in the near future.

"I'm an avid golfer and interested in the problems and methods of maintenance as practiced by the golf superintendent. To say that I can understand some of the tough problems you face day in and day out is putting it mildly. My son has been working on a golf course the past summer and he made a believer of me as to the importance of your work.

"Now, I'd like to get expert opinion on this synthetic rage. Will it take over the entire course?"

**MOE DRENZEK**  
Ware, Mass.

Your question is hard to answer. The superintendents haven't taken a stand one way or the other on synthetic turf. Certainly there's a place for it . . . just as there is a place for natural turf.

\* \* \* \*

*(That puts the final touches on another Sound Off session. Remember this space in the Newsletter is reserved for you. Let's hear from you.)*

Golf Chairman —  
JULIUS AKSTEN  
6 Main Street  
Southboro, Mass. 01772  
Phone 485-8885  
Club Affiliation  
St. Mark's Golf Club

Educational Chairman —  
ALBERT AUGER  
6 A Fort Hill Street  
Hingham, Mass. 02113  
Phone 749-2272  
Club Affiliation  
South Shore Country Club

Newsletter Chairman —  
DEAN ROBERTSON  
24 Riverview Drive  
Newbury, Mass. 01950  
Club Affiliation  
Chestnut Hill Country Club

Past President —  
ANTHONY CARANCI, JR.  
22 Hillview Drive  
No. Providence, R. I. 02900  
Phone 723-1688  
Club Affiliation  
Ledgemont Country Club

Information contained in this publication may be used freely, in whole or in part, without special permission as long as the true context is maintained. We would appreciate a credit line.

*Please patronize* **FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Agrico Chemical Company  
R. D. Sibley, Jr., Representative  
375 Power Rd.  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860

Agway Commercial Sales  
Richard Williams  
66 James St., W. Newton, Mass.  
Phone 244-5309

Alfco Rokeby Co., Inc.  
Fertilizers and Chemical Specialties  
P. O. Box 267, Marietta, Ohio

Baker Tractor Corp., Ford Tractors  
Harley Davidson Golf Cars  
Swansea, Massachusetts

The Charles C. Hart Seed Co.  
Wethersfield, Conn.

Corenco Corporation  
Tewksbury, Mass. 01876  
J. E. Nordholm Turf Specialist

\*The Clapper Co.  
1121 Washington St.  
West Newton, Mass.

\*Geoffrey S. Cornish  
Golf Course Architect  
Fiddler's Green, Amherst, Mass.

George E. Cull  
Terra-Green Soil Conditioner  
112 Green St., Abington, Mass.

Arthur Curran  
Rock Driller Supply Equipment, Inc.  
20 E. Glenwood Ave.  
Hyde Park, Mass. 02136

C. S. Curran  
T. R. C. Products, Oils and Greases  
7 Linden St., Framingham, Mass.

Fairway Equipment, Inc.  
Sales — Service — Rentals  
35 Walnut St., Reading, Mass.

Farm Bureau Association  
158 Lexington St., Waltham, Mass. 02154  
Fred Heyliger, Representative

Manuel Francis and Son, Inc.  
Turf Nurseries  
624 Webster St., Marshfield, Mass.

Ron Gagne — Scotts Golf Course Div.  
45 Mechanic St., Apt. 1A  
Foxboro, Mass. 02035

Gold Star Sod Farms, Inc.  
181 South Ave., Weston, Mass. 02197

Grounds Equipment Co., Inc.  
383 Boylston St., Newton Cen., Mass.

\*Tom Irwin Co.  
Bennett Hill Road  
Rowley, Mass.

Johns-Manville — P.  
150 Causeway St., Boston, Mass.

Karandrew Turf Farms, Inc.  
Sam Mitchell, Sales Representative  
15 Longmeadow Drive, Canton, Mass.

The Kenneth Barrie Company  
Irrigation  
375 Centre St., Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp.  
380 Union St.  
West Springfield, Mass. 01089

Larchmont Irrigation Co.  
Larchmont Ln., Lexington, Mass.

Tuco Products Co.  
Division of the Upjohn Company  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

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

D. L. Maher Co.  
Water Supply Contractors  
P. O. Box 274, Woburn, Mass.

Old Fox Chemical Inc.  
Fertilizers — Seeds — Turf Chemicals  
66 Valley Street  
East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

Sil Paulini, Inc.  
6 Manor Avenue  
Natick, Mass. 01760

Richey & Clapper, Inc.  
28 Rutledge Road  
Natick, Mass. 01760

\*Sawtelle Brothers  
Jct. Routes 128 and 62  
Danvers, Mass.

Shepard Sod Company  
Merion Blue Grass and Pencross Bent  
200 Sullivan Ave., So. Windsor, Conn.

Philip A. Wogan  
Golf Course Architect  
21 Budleigh Ave., Beverly, Mass.

Wyandotte Chemical Co.  
709 Salada Bldg., Boston, Mass.

Yerxa's, Inc.  
Golf Course Equipment  
740 Broadway, S. Portland, Me.

\* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

# NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association  
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



DEAN ROBERTSON  
Newsletter Committee Chairman  
24 Riverview Drive  
Newbury, Massachusetts 01950  
Phone 462-4540  
Club Affiliation  
Chestnut Hill Country Club  
LEON V. ST. PIERRE  
Business Manager  
GERRY FINN  
Contributing Editor

**FIRST CLASS**

