

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1972



*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.

## JOB OPEN — DO YOU APPLY?

Much flak has been sallied about in recent weeks concerning the job opportunities which usually surface at this time of year.

A job is open. It seems more attractive than the one which you now hold. So, what do you do? Apply and risk the chance that your present members will get the word and perhaps retaliate? Or do you back off gently to insure yourself of the immediate future?

The answer should be elementary . . . but it isn't, and for one hounding reason. The superintendent (not all, mind you) still resides in that hedgy state where he doesn't have faith in himself or the confidence to stand up and challenge his employer as to his ability.

Perhaps it is much easier to pen such thoughts, rather than to be caught up in the experience. Sadly enough, there are country clubs which lie in wait for the opportunity to replace its superintendent because he has taken it upon himself to improve his position.

The truth of this condition is plain. Any superintendent, who would be dismissed for applying to another club, is a superintendent in eminent danger of losing his job for other invalid reasons. Therefore, in some cases it might be beneficial to get the axe.

This would seem to establish even more the fact that the superintendent is in need of a mental sprucing-up. Consider the super who confines himself to the idea that applying for another position jeopardizes his present job. First of all, he may as well get used to traveling a treadmill. He doesn't have the spirit that moves men to greater things, so he could wind

up for the rest of his life dreaming better things rather than doing them.

There is nothing to keep a country club from sharing the confidence of a job applicant. For one thing, any super who applies for a new job must realize that his present club is the main source of information regarding his ability. And this information cannot be obtained by hearsay. He must be ready to be microscoped.

The truth of the matter is this. If every superintendent took the attitude of not applying because it endangers his present position, there would never be a job that changed hands. And individual initiative would be nipped before it ever had a chance to develop.

It has been suggested that clubs, who supposedly violate the trust placed in them by the applicant through a leak to his present employer be branded as a professional annoyance and be boycotted when it comes time to advertise for future job changes. Again, this serves to defeat the purpose of the profession and takes all the ammunition a man has for improving himself away from the profession.

In the end, it all boils down to what a man has done, is doing and can do . . . in the way of conditioning a golf course. If he has all the tools of efficiency and the proof that he can use these tools adequately, there is no need to turn the other way when a chance for advancement presents itself.

It's all up to the individual. But remember one thing. If a super is good, his talents will never go unwanted. A man, if he thinks he can make the grade, should exercise his right to improve his station.

— Gerry Finn

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On February 25, 1924 at Cotrelle's Restaurant in Boston, the New England Greenskeeper Club was founded. Forty-one Greenskeepers attended, a constitution was adopted and officers elected. Since that time 23 men have served as President of this association, presently known as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. I am proud to serve as your 24th President and will attempt to uphold the high standards set by all past Presidents of our Association.

My first responsibility as the newly elected President is to appoint committees. The chairmen of the finance, educational, golf and newsletter committees were elected by you at our annual meeting. Working with the Board of Directors I must appoint the following committees: Welfare, Employment, Publicity, Turf Research and any special committee deemed necessary. If you are interested in serving, please let me know as soon as possible. Total involvement by our membership is needed if we are to progress beyond our present standards.

Bob Grant, President  
G.C.S.A. of New England



Bob Grant (left) newly elected president of the G.C.S.A. of N. E. presented a Past President's Plaque and Gavel to Richard Blake (right), who served as president from 1969 to 1971, at the December 1971 meeting.

# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## TO EACH HIS OWN

One of the first statements Bob Grant poured out, minutes after he had been elected president of the NEGCSA, was a hint as to what type of administration the organization could expect.

Grant, one of the strong supporters of the Nation's Certification Program, was put on the spot. "Would you suggest", he was asked, "that every member of the New England group be required to take the examination for Certification?"

Good question. Good answer, too. "Not really", Grant said. "I am sure there are some members of our organization — especially some of the real veterans — who can't be expected to return to their books in order to prove that they are bona fide superintendents. I don't think this is a form of telling a man whether or not he belongs. I have to still consider the condition of a man's golf course as his hallmark. Certification doesn't guarantee such a state . . . but it's a step in the right direction."

So, just in case you thought you might be bludgeoned for not taking the Certification test, you can relax on that subject. Grant is against any attempt to make the program mandatory.

"I want to take it (exam)", he continued. "I think that somebody in my position should be able to pass it. But in the same breath I can't see where I should be chastised if I fail. It's that same feeling I have in regards to some of our older members who would have an extremely difficult time taking a written examination."

Grant thinks with a clear and level mind. He is one of the proponents of upgrading the profession, but he clings fast to the idea that a super is not a good super because someone tells him so or because he has read it somewhere.

"The true measure of a man's worth in this business is the way he runs his job and the results he gets", Grant claims. "There are some people who are acting too strongly about the Certification program. I mean those who are likely to say that a man shouldn't be a superintendent if he can't pass the test. And we all know that this is nonsense. There still are two glaring aspects we must face in our job. One is theory and the other is practice. At the moment I would have to say the practice aspect has to be judged as being more important."

The new president, who says he hopes to carry on in the tradition of those whom he has followed in the striking of the gavel, would like to see more harmony between the national and local associations.

"We have been striving to help the national as much as possible", he tells. "But this does not mean that it is above constructive criticism. When we see something we don't like, it should be advised of it. And when we see something favorable, we should let it know that, too."

In the immediate future Grant would like the national to know that New England stands ready to assist in any way in the promotion and the development of the international conference scheduled in Boston in 1973.

"I have sent a letter to the national telling them of this feeling on our part", he revealed. "So far I haven't had any reply. But maybe we can get together after this year's conference is out of the way. As the host association, I think we should do everything in our power to make the Boston meeting the best ever."

In the meantime, though, Grant is taking a practical avenue enroute to his duties and beliefs. He endorses the Certification Program a full 100 percent, but he understands that there can't be a full 100 percent involvement by his members. He shouldn't be faulted for such a stand.

— Gerry Finn

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the G.C.S.A. of N. E. will be Wednesday, January 12, 1972, at the Holiday Inn, Newton, Massachusetts. The guest speaker will be Dr. Joseph Troll of the University of Massachusetts and his topic will be "Turf Research."

Directors' Meeting	10:45 a. m.
Regular Business Meeting	11:15 a. m.
Lunch	12:00 p. m.
Educational Program	1:00 p. m.

Meetings to look forward to:

- January 13 and 14, 1972 University of N. H. Turf Seminar.
- January 28, 1972 U.S.G.A. meeting at the Biltmore Hotel in New York. The program this year is "Men, Management and Mechanization."
- February 2, 1972 G.C.S.A. of N. E. meeting, Holiday Inn Newton, Massachusetts.
- February 13 to 18, 1972 G.C.S.A. Turf Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Applications to be voted on at the January meeting:

- Bruce E. Petrelli, Assistant Membership  
28 Apollo Rd., Apt. 1F, Agawam Hunt  
East Providence, Rhode Island
- John Paul Jones, Associate Membership  
Walpole Country Club  
10 Quincy Street, Walpole, Mass.

DUES — from the Bylaw Book

### SECTION 10 — Delinquency and Restoration

- All Association dues shall be payable December 1. On the first day of December and April, the Treasurer shall send a statement to every member indebted to the Association.
- All members whose dues or assessments shall remain in arrears more than five months shall be suspended from the Association without necessity of notice given of such suspension.

### SECTION 12 — RESIGNATIONS

- Any member wishing to withdraw from the Association must submit to the Secretary a resignation in writing, which shall be effective as of the date accepted by the Board of Directors with dues paid to the end of the fiscal year.
- No resignation of any member indebted to the Association shall be accepted until he shall have paid his Association obligations in full.

## JOBS OPEN

Indian Ridge Country Club, Andover, Massachusetts  
Contact: Vincent LaColla, phone 682-8768  
Gordon Thayer 246-0719, 245-5463

\* \* \* \* \*  
Milton Hoosic Golf Club  
Contact: William Cahill, 72 Woodland St., Milton, Mass.  
Green chairman

\* \* \* \* \*  
Stevensville Country Club  
Apply no later than February 1, 1972  
18-hole resort course, fringe benefits  
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Contact: Kenneth Dinnerstein, Stevensville Country Club  
345 West 58th Street, New York, New York 10019

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  
4R Barbary 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: 332-9682  
Club Affiliation:  
Dedham 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

**SOUND OFF!!!**

*(The cards and letters keep rolling in and Sound Off remains alive and well. This is our monthly feature by and for the reader. We welcome all comments — soft, hard, biting or complimentary. But we hasten to add that your offerings should contain your name and address. However, if it is requested, the name or address or both of the writer will be withheld. But keep your thoughts and ideas coming. Send them to Newsletter Mail Bag, 24 Riverview Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all letters published.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

“Maybe I’ll be tarred ’n feathered by some of my fellow members for doing this, but I think your publication hit the nail on the head with that call to arms against the ‘dirty dozen.’

“We most assuredly have that type of group here who think that the golf season is an endless one and that the golf course is their private domain. They continually put pressure on our superintendent to open the course when it shouldn’t be and to use certain areas for practice when there is a definite rule against such things.

“Hopefully, most of them have read your treatment in last month’s Newsletter. If they haven’t, it isn’t my fault. I took the liberty of posting it on the bulletin board in our men’s locker room. Since it is that time of year when only the ‘dirty dozen’ frequent that area, it most certainly should reach the people for whom it was intended.

“Perhaps they’ll get the message and realize that winter is set aside for such sports as skiing or paddle tennis. But I know they’ll be here waiting for an outburst of sun no matter what the month. As for me, I hope it doesn’t shine until April or so.”

DANIEL RYAN  
(Club Withheld)

Oh Danny Boy. Did you say a mouthful. Tell us, don’t those guys who play winter golf ever work?

\* \* \* \* \*

“It just occurred to me that we’re about to pass the holiday season and I wanted to let you people know that most of us women golfers are truly grateful to the golf course superintendent for all his labors he spends during the year.

“I would like to take this time to express that feeling, even though it comes in the form of inconsequential words from an inconsequential person. Anyway, I am most appreciative of the job the superintendent does and hope each and every one of you enjoy this time of year when you don’t have to listen to all the complaints of the members.

“If I had my way, I’d give all of you the rest of the winter off and maybe send you to Florida for a couple of weeks. You people deserve it. I’ve come to learn that yours is a thankless job.”

MAUREEN MAJORS  
Bell, Wisc.

It’s not thankless when we receive letters like this, Maureen.

\* \* \* \* \*

“I heard a very funny story the other day. It concerns certain wild rumors that the golf superintendent has the easiest job of anyone at our club because he can take the entire winter off and not worry about what is going on until spring.

“I find this very amusing because I am a golf course chairman and at the moment my superintendent and I are up to our necks trying to work out some kind of a feasible figure for next year’s budget.

“I’m sure you people of the profession reading this will get a kick out of such an insinuation that you have one of those go away till the snow melts jobs. There can’t be enough time in the day just about now as far as I’m concerned.

“If it were possible, I know you people would like to take a couple of months away from the country club. But you’re probably holed up in the same deal as us. Budget time could be the most important time of the year, even though the course looks like something out of Alaska.”

THOMAS FOSTER  
Ronson, N. J.

You’re right, Tom. What’s garnered at the budget table could make the difference in the color of the grass next year at your club.

\* \* \* \* \*

“I’ve just gone through a thorough check of my equipment and have come to the conclusion that this wage freeze business had better end or I’ll be operating on two-wheelers next spring.

“There is such a big overhauling job here that I’m going to have to insist from my club that they either add another mechanic or allow me to have the present man work enormous amounts of overtime.

“In this respect, I can’t quite figure out what we supers can do. I have put requests for new equipment into the budget for next year but have been advised that my club is on one of those tighten-the-belt toots. They say everyone’s going to have to get along with as little replacement articles as possible. Yet, I’m positive the same people will be throwing daggers at me with their eyes if the course isn’t in the best possible condition come next spring.

“I’m writing this just to confirm the suspicion that I am not alone in this case. Please, someone. Tell me that our club isn’t the only club which is tightening the belt.”

SETH SAUNDERS  
Norton, Vt.

Just pray for a long winter, Seth, and maybe spring and golf will never come.

\* \* \* \* \*

*(That’s it for now. See you next month.)*

**USGA GREEN SECTION  
CONFERENCE ON  
GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT**

SUBJECT:

**MEN, MANAGEMENT  
AND**

**MECHANIZATION  
Friday, January 28, 1972**

**Biltmore Hotel, New York, N. Y.**

Madison Avenue and 43rd Street

The University of New Hampshire will have its annual Turf Seminar at the New England Center for Continuing Education, Durham, New Hampshire, on January 13 and 14, 1972. If you are interested in attending this conference, contact Mr. William E. Knoop, Plant Science Dept., Nesmith Hall, U.N.H., Durham, New Hampshire 03824.

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.

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\* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

# NEWSLETTER

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OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



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