

# NEWSLETTER

*Golf Course Superintendents Association*  
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

MAY - 1975



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## "Some Like It Hot."

Isn't it amazing what a little heat in the kitchen will do to a gathering in the living room?

The issue of establishing a knothole gang for salesmen so that they may break words with superintendents at monthly NEGCSA meetings has set ablaze a torch of participation by association members. Names out of the past and future -- some to be dusted off in order to recognize, others to be tested in pronunciation trials because of their newness to the scene -- are coming on strong in defense of their convictions. And this is good.

Unfortunately, the catalyst for such participation is deemed tasteless by some because it airs internal disorders to certain members of the golfing set who think the brotherhood of golf course superintendents is a holy cow. We read of rumble within the ranks of other organizations, sometimes getting it on a front page basis. What makes the NEGCSA immune to it, anyway?

Some of the comments, rebuttals are interesting. The mention of a clique (that's the correct spelling, by the way) runs the ordinary reaction to the so-called establishment. However, its use hardly seems applicable in the directorship of this group (if that is the direction in which it was tossed.)

It is ludicrous to conclude that a "clique" exists among such men and personalities as Thomas Curran, Wayne Zoppo, Lucien Duval, Max Mierzwa and Brian Cowan. As a matter of fact, the directorship and all the command that goes with the heads of various committees comprise an undisputable cross-section of members of different ages, experience, likes, views, dislikes and modus operandi. If they are part of any clique, it is a wonder in itself.

In the same breath, though, the very act of suggesting that a clique is working the administrative hallways of the organization calls for some thought on the part of every member. The thought should be that you, as a member, can prevent cliques forming. There are 114 eligible voters in NEGCSA. Russian elections can be avoided and so-called cliques averted with full membership involvement.

Getting back to constructive trailers of the issue, it should have been the belief of one and all that dwindling participation by existing members in monthly meetings had nothing to do with membership makeup.

The original summons of a committee to explore means of increasing monthly meeting attendance was not presented with the thought of going outside the association to get the numbers. Above all, this fact appears to have been lost in the hue and cry over the pros and cons concerning the admission of salesmen. And if this be a criticism of the committee, let it be that.

It becomes increasingly puzzling that the salesman-member merger was thrust into the spotlight from the beginning. If the rising tide feel the lack of attendance at meetings were reaching a critical point, then and only then should measures dealing with supplementing the ranks with salesmen or anyone have been considered.

On the surface, there probably is nothing wrong with a salesman showing his face at a meeting. However, there is nothing in his presence there that does anything to promote the attendance of the superintendent. If the plan were to bring the ranks of the monthly meetings to the highest possible number, the association should have said. . . "okay, let's invite our assistants and mechanics and whomever we can enlist to our meetings." Surely, their participation would be more constructive than that of a salesman.

Back to the original track. Just the mere thought that it took a piece of controversial cake to get the membership to nibbling in responsive chords is encouraging to the future of the NEGCSA. Now, if the members can only find time to react to issues other than those affecting their organizational standing, participation will increase. . . like 100 percent!

Gerry Finn

### *Next Meeting*

May 7, 1975 At Dedham Polo and Country Club.

- 9:30 — Demonstration of Vibratory Plow by Trenching and Equipment Co.
- 10:30 — Directors Meeting
- 11:00 — Regular Meeting
- 12:00 — Buffet

After lunch Dr. Troll will talk briefly on Pesticide Certification.

Also after lunch Grounds Equipment will demonstrate the Snowco Utility Vehicle.

### *Host Spot*

Our host this month is Bob Mucciarone. Bob has been in the business for 25 years, with his last 15 at Dedham.

Prior to Dedham, Bob was at Wellfleet, Wayland and Merrimack Valley.

Bob is married with 3 children. He is always active in association work as he belongs to the New England, Cape Cod, and the National associations.

### Directions to Dedham

From route 128, take route 109 towards Westwood. Take first right. Club is one mile on left.



# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## One Enjoys While The Other Endures!

In a recent spoof on golf -- as a form of treat in the United States and a downright test of tolerance in the British Isles -- London golf editor Peter Dobreiner touches a lot of familiar bases.

For example, he finds a shocking disagreement between the two countries in the club's quarters. Ah, England. Listen to his description of a club -- apparently in mourning: "The locker room is usually a dungeon, dark as a burial vault and smelling like one. By tradition, all the fittings are varnished dark brown and covered with a heavy layer of dust. Old socks lie about, undisturbed for years. Every 25 years or so the secretary pries open the lockers of long dead members -- revealing a motley collection of guttie balls, rusting, hickory shafted irons and decaying garments. A grand bonfire is organized, the place is given another coat of brown varnish and life settles down for another 25 years."

Contrast this, if you will, with your local Taj Mahal. Bag boys there to greet you. . . club attendants ready to shower you with service. . . carpets on the floor. . . card tables. . . bars. . . snacks strategically placed to decorate the pushing off area of a before-round drink and a television set in every corner reminding one and all that playing the game may be only half the fun!

On the subject of handicaps, the American and Englishman go their separate ways. The American enjoys the foolproof method of computerizing stroke giveaways while the Englishman depends on hand-me-down systems that do nothing more than complicate things. The Britisher, in fact, finds a sense of pride in being assessed a low handicap. "The bloke in England who is an eight", spouts Dobreiner, "is usually unable to break 90."

The stations of club managers over here and over there are about as far removed as the thousands of miles separating the two countries. In the United States, the manager has training in catering, course management, financial administration and often is quite saturated with the social graces which he ladles on members.

The British manager (secretary, if you please) usually comes from military stock -- retired with proper rank, of course. The first qualification for his post, and first item to be filled upon application, is a willingness to work for hardly any pay. This is why his army pension, usually line two of the application, takes on so much importance. Often over the hill in promoting club social life, the secretary keeps it at a minimum.

Women and children are treated equally in England. At some clubs, the girls even have a locker and shower room of their own. But it might be an old tractor shed, converted for the female invaders. However, the ladies aren't treated all that badly. On some of the older courses, they have made headway -- like being able to play anytime. . . after dark!

The low-ranking of the woman at the British golf club is a pedestal compared to the status of the golf professional who, according to our playful author, "rates on a par with the greenkeeper's dog and I'm talking now of the better class of club."

In some archaic environments, the professional still seeks a working man's treatment. To members there, his place is in the shop where he is to clean shoes and clubs and answer only to a bark of his family name.

It is in attitude, though, where the differences between the two countries come out glaring. Enjoyment -- spiced with a bit of social climbing -- is the motivation for the typical American club golfer. On the other side of the Atlantic, it seems the British swinger's plight is to endure. Any pleasure derived by the Briton is disguised as a duty and this is as it should be.

All of the above, too, should be tempered with logic and un-

derstanding that exaggeration sometimes makes for more enjoyable reading. In either country golf remains a game of 18 holes and stroke-counting. And, in the end, to enjoy is to score well. . . even though the joy of recounting might have to be experienced in a 19th hole that resembles the Black Hole of Calcutta!

Gerry Finn



### Meeting Dates

- June 3 -- I.T.T. Country Club (Greens Chairman)
- July 7 -- Halifax C.C. (Super Championship)
- Aug. 6 -- Mt. Pleasant C.C. (Lowell)
- Sept. -- Tedesco C.C. (press)
- Oct. -- Hyannisport C.C.
- Oct. -- Brae-Burn (Pro Supt.)
- Nov. -- Hopedale C.C.

### To Be Voted On At Next Meeting

Robert McGuire  
Steve Murphy  
As associate members

#### President

THOMAS CURRAN  
Fox Chase Road  
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Phone 938-5436  
Eastham Golf Course

#### First Vice President

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Phone 434-1759  
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#### Second Vice President

DEAN ROBERTSON  
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#### Secretary

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Needham Golf Club

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York Golf & Tennis Club

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#### Trustee

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#### Trustee

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Cohasset Golf Club

#### Finance Chairman

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Chelmsford, Mass. 01824  
Phone 258-8709  
Club Affiliation  
Weston Golf Club



# Sound Off

*(This is the place where the reader comes into his own. Sound Off was created for member, golfer, green chairman, superintendent, salesman and anyone else with something to say concerning the grand and ancient game. Ground rules here are simple. All letters should be signed and include address of sender. One or the other or both will be withheld upon request. All views should be sent to Newsletter Mail Bag, 290 North Street, Sudbury, Mass. 01776. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all published letters.)*

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"I can remember the openings of the golf seasons in the past and I must say that there is nothing close to it in the way the season starts in this day of new things and advanced thinking.

"Traditionally, especially at my home course which happens to be a municipal one, April 19 (Patriots Day) was set aside for the first swings of spring. Our opening day would be marked with clinics, exhibitions and the like. It was a definite occasion for all of us hackers. Even the city officials would show up to kick off things.

"But now tradition has been stampeded. We really never know from one week to the next when the season will start. All we can do is look in the newspaper every day and look for some word of when the course will be ready for play.

"My question, therefore, is obvious. What ever happened to the seasons of sports, more specifically the golf season which is never sure of an official starting time any more?

"We used to be able to plan our whole summer around a set date for the start of golfing. Now, this traditional date has gone into the past and loss for the betterment of the now thinkers. What a setback!"

JOE CRUGNALE  
Springfield, Mass.

All sports tore up the calendar years ago, Joe. You can imagine how the fluctuating opening dates affect the golf course superintendent. He's as bewildered over the fact as you are.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Ever since I heard of such expressions as compaction and plant strangulation, I was wondering what we golfers can do to help the super in his attempt to create better golfing conditions.

"I hear about this time of year being a most sensitive part of the season as far as the turf and soil is concerned. It is not unusual to see late spring frosts on the greens and sloppy going under foot that seem to leave spike impressions and the like.

"Should the golfer be more aware of these hairy situations now or is there another time of year when what we do and where we go with our heavy loads make more of a difference?"

CARROLL CUMMINGS  
Upton, Mass.

Naturally, all times of the season are a season for golfers to be cognizant of their obligation to preserving pleasant playing conditions. But the spring is most critical. Everything around the course at this time of year shows wear and no growth. So, the golfer might be fooled by this and think he can't hurt with his disregard of the course. In a word, he should tread softly and carefully.

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"As a golf course superintendent -- and now a tennis court manager -- it would seem proper for all of us at this time to let members know that different playgrounds require different condition methods and different opening dates.

"There have been many inquiries (or there were when I sent you this letter) into the fact that our golf course opened before our tennis courts. Tennis players were irate over the fact that such a small area would take all that time to get ready while the golfers were set loose again to roam the vast acreage that makes up their field of play.

"I don't wish to be identified here. But I think that all of the superintendents with a similar problem should be fortified with the right answers, just in case they are overwhelmed by an avalanche of pleas for the combined opening of golf and tennis areas.

"My courts still are too wet to even bother with. And, even before we fool with putting up nets and taping lines we will have to do some resurfacing. Tennis players are just as anxious to get out and play as golfers are and I appreciate their enthusiasm. However, they should be told that the two sport surfaces are as unlike as the games, themselves. And they must cooperate even more than golfers with that old girl who calls all the shots these days -- Mother Nature."

NAME WITHHELD  
Club Withheld

Opening dates, it would seem, are a touchy item in all sports. But at least the tennis players have the indoor courts working for them while Mother Nature makes up her mind.

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"It seems to me that the country clubs of our nation are in for another big year and drain on their facilities. However, I do think that country club members should be made aware of the terrible responsibility placed on those people maintaining facilities, what with the increased and concentrated use of them.

"As a country club member, I plan to use the golf course, tennis courts and swimming pool this season more than ever. But I will be mindful of the terrific strain I place on the people keeping these facilities working and will do everything in my power to cooperate with them.

"Hopefully, other members will take this same attitude. Thank you."

JOSEPH KING  
Westfield, Mass.

All country club members should be like you, Joe.

\*\*\*\*\*

*(That spins it down to the end for this time. Remember, you make this feature, so let's hear from you. . . again and again.)*

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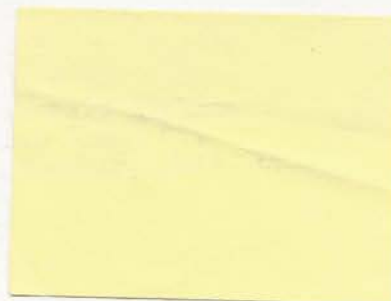
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