

# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1970



## 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.



### NEXT MEETING



The next meeting of the GCSA of NE will be at the Mt. Pleasant C. C. in Boylston, Mass. Dick Blake is the super and has been there for the past nine years. He has a long record of officers' jobs held in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. At present he is the President of the GCSA of NE and Vice President of the National. Sept. 22 1970 should prove to be a rewarding day for all.

If you do not plan to play in the Super Championship you can tour the course and inspect the "automatic irrigation system."

Dick and his wife Elaine have six children, three boys and three girls.

Directions to Mt. Pleasant C. C., Boylston: Take Mass. Turnpike and go east on 495 to 290. Go west towards Worcester. Get off at exit 24, Church St. Go towards Boylston and follow signs.

\* \* \* \*

The Nominating Committee as approved by the Board on August 17, 1970 is:

Chairman — Tony Caranci, Jr. (Past Pres.)  
Norm Mucciarone (Trustee)  
John O'Connell  
Charles Gardner  
Phil Cassidy

Delegates to GCSAA — Tom Curran  
Advisory Committee Delegate — Wayne Zoppo  
(Both to act as alternates for each other)

Friends of the Association: Maine and New Hampshire superintendents most welcome, but reservations must be made by Sept. 16. (Home phone 869-2737)

Informal dress — to play golf.

Meeting, Tues., Sept. 22, 1970. Lunch at 12:00, golf after. Golf cars are available. Business Meeting, 11:00 A.M.

### A CHANGING WORLD

The world of the golf course superintendent changeth . . . or in the more direct sense of the language . . . the golf course superintendent now finds himself with three times the responsibility he shouldered 10 or 15 years ago.

Time was when a typical job-opening announcement for a super would be prefaced with the note that the position was seasonal. But today a superintendent knows no season. The profession has expanded so much that winter months are becoming almost as critical as the summer days when the course is moving at a large hum.

Certainly, one of the causes of the bulging responsibility came in with the use of the golf car. "When you have 30 or 40 golf cars to look after, it no longer is a seasonal position", one super offered. "When the golfers finally give up playing in late fall or early winter, we have to take those 40 cars and get them ready for the next season. These things aren't done overnight."

In addition to the golf car maintenance, which is placed on top of the regular winter chores of repairing equipment, another added starter is creeping up on the super. This would be the growing country club interest in platform or paddle tennis.

The game is coming on strong in popularity and for the most part it is an asset to a club as far as attracting new members and keeping old ones in the fold. However, the upkeep of paddle tennis courts falls into the running-over hands of the superintendent and comes under the heading of his changing world.

"Our club is in the process of building two courts", another super advised. "And with it, our board of directors is finally coming to realize that my year-round crew must be increased in order to have the courts operate at full efficiency."

One reason many clubs are now heeding the pleas of superintendents for more permanent help is the possibility of added club revenue the building of paddle tennis courts breeds. The country club is fast becoming the center of family recreation on a year-round basis and seeing that one plus one make two, the more year-round facilities require the more year-round help.

Paddle tennis, while being a feeder for the country club operating successfully around the clock, serves as still another test for the overall value of the golf course superintendent to the club. In effect, the super now could become the one member of the faculty who operates on an unequivocally full-time basis.

The new sport will not be looked upon by superintendents as an added woe . . . if the country club co-operates with him in realizing his budget must now be arranged to coincide with services received.

The world of the golf course superintendent indeed is a changing one. There are no seasons as far as he is concerned.

— Gerry Finn



# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## DON'T STOP AT 18

Here's a memo for would-be builders of new golf courses: Don't stop at 18; add a few more holes and maybe the future conditioning of the layout will be virtually guaranteed.

What's the pitch here? Simple, elementary and all that stuff. It could develop into a trend whereby golf courses will be built with stand-by holes which are arranged so that, say, 24 holes could be interchanged to make for a solid 18-hole setup.

Bob Grant, the 1000-watt ideaed super at Brae Burn, believes the arrangement could revolutionize the business. "I can see a situation where we could have five or six holes closed to play the year round", Grant visualizes. "At this point there always would be refurbished holes ready to be put into business and the system could be established where members would be playing on four or five different layouts each season."

The "system" works like this: Twenty-four holes are built with the intention of keeping the top 18 conditioned holes in play at all times. This would leave six holes open for the superintendent to concentrate his refurbishing and conditioning efforts. What's more, with no one playing them, it would be all that easier to keep workers applying the necessary repairs without interruption of players.

"This also could have side effects on the membership in that they would practically be playing a different course every year", Grant adds. "How many times do you hear a member say that he is bored playing the same course day-in and day-out. Through the interchange of the 24 holes, that boredom would disappear."

Another timely tip for prospective builders is the construction of a practice green with all the trimmings. This is not the putting green which most courses are already equipped with, but a special pitching green, complete with a practice sand trap.

At first glance the operation appears to be an expensive one. However, in the long run it might possibly cut down on dollar output in the form of preventive measures made available because the complete layout never is fully occupied.

"I don't know how many times I've heard supers say they could get a certain job done easier and less expensively if they could only have the working area to themselves", Grant continues. "It's only a matter of common sense that a particular project can be completed in half the time if the workers don't have to operate around golf shots booming at them."

Could the 18-plus-hole golf club course become a reality? Obviously, it could, but only if the builder possesses the added ingredient of foresight. True, the initial expense would exceed the outlay for a regular layout. But in the long run the extra expense would be well worth it in savings when the course is in full swing.

Certainly the idea is worth exploring. In the final analysis, everyone would be wearing more smiles around the course. Members would be spared the inconvenience of playing around a work crew . . . and vice versa. A revolving golf course. It could be a thing of the future.

— Gerry Finn

## You're Invited to the **GREATEST** **SHOW on TURF**



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?

## 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

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## New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association, Inc.

Editor — John J. Barry, Supt. Abenaki Country Club, Rye, N. H.

### IT'S BEEN A LONG YEAR

With tight money, high humidity and a long interval between rains this season has proved to be a long, tedious one. I don't think that many Superintendents have escaped the extra pressure created by the above mentioned conditions.

Unlike most businessmen, the Golf Course Superintendent is regulated by Mother Nature and her extreme conditions. Unfortunately, many club members fail to recognize this and have demanded more of the Superintendent without adequate adjustments in the budget.

It is indeed unfortunate that certain clubs do not realize the injustice they place upon themselves for trying to regulate their golf course without proper consultation with their Superintendent.

John J. Barry

### AUGUST MEETING

The annual husband and wife outing was held at Kingswood Country Club in Wolfeboro, N. H. on Monday, August 3.

Bob and Anita Hale have to be the best host and hostess in the New England area. The annual outing for husbands and wives proved to be a great day. No formal tournament was held at this year's affair and the only requirement asked of the couples who attended was that everyone have a good time.

Sightseeing was enjoyed by a great many couples in the surrounding area. Later in the evening a delicious steak barbecue was enjoyed by all those attending. After satisfying the appetite an evening of dancing followed.

The New England Golf Course Superintendents' Association would like to thank Bob, Anita and the staff of the Kingswood Country Club for their hospitality and courtesy.

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting will be held at Superintendent Ron Palmer's course, Kearsage Valley, in North Sutton, New Hampshire. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2.

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date	Wednesday, Sept. 2
Place	Kearsage Valley Country Club
Board Meeting	10:00-11:00
Coffee Hour	10:00-11:00
Regular Meeting	11:15-12:15
Lunch	12:15- 1:15
Golf	1:15- on



Are you ready to start rebuilding that new green?



## Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association

Editor — Norman Pease, Supt., Purpoodock Club, Cape Elizabeth, Maine

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

Maine superintendents will meet at the Portland Country Club on Sept. 1st. Host superintendent is Lloyd Ruby.

PLACE	Portland C. C.
DATE	Sept. 1
DIRECTORS	10:30 A. M.
MEETING	11:00 A. M.
LUNCH	Noon

### AUGUST MEETING

On August 4th the MGCSA met at the Penobscot Valley C. C. in Orono. Jim Brown was the host superintendent.

Before the meeting there was a demonstration of the new Toro mower. It was appreciated by all.

Vaughn Holyoke sends his apologies for not making the meeting.

### JOBS FOR FALL

*By Vaughn Holyoke, Extension Crops Specialist*

First off, let me apologize for missing your meeting on August 4th at Penobscot Valley Country Club. Although it was the first time in 12 years that I missed a date, I sure picked a heck of a time to goof. I understand that the turnout was excellent.

If I had been present at the August 4 meeting, I would have been talking about the following items.

#### TURF NURSERY HELPS

As superintendent in Maine, you are well aware of the kind of problems winter can bring. Almost every spring you have some area that gets knocked out due to winter injury, excess water or some other winter peril. The amazing thing to me is the efforts that you go to to get seed started in these dead areas. Many of these areas never get well established and they look bad throughout the season. Because of poor grass cover, weeds eventually invade these weak areas.

One of the quick and positive ways to overcome injury problems is to resod. New sod may be a little rough for a week or two but it soon blends in very well. During the past year I have seen Paul Browne at Natanis use his new sod cutter to good advantage. He has replaced some weak areas on greens as well as replacing sod on worn tee areas. In addition Paul has sodded over some culverts that would have been very difficult to seed. All of these resodded areas have helped to make Natanis a better place to play golf.

Paul started out using bent from an abandoned green. Since then he has started another bent nursery to supplement his original area.

If you need help in overcoming winter injury, a nursery might be your answer. If it is, NOW is the time to get a nursery established. Pick an area that has good slope (to avoid injury) and go to it. The area should also have water near by for irrigation purposes.

#### SPRAY NOW FOR WEEDS

September is an ideal time for spraying for weed control. Most greens have at least a limited amount of chickweed, plantain and dandelions. Many supers seem to be reluctant to spray to control these pests. In some cases they are afraid of injury to the bent, while in other cases they are scared off by the price per gallon of MCPP or Banvel. It has been my experience that these herbicides give good control with little threat of injury.

Price-wise you might be interested that although Banvel costs \$31.00 per gallon, it takes only one pint per acre to give good control. That means about \$3.80 per acre or 10 cents per 1,000 square feet. Thus, on a 1,000 square feet basis these materials don't cost much.

During the cool days of September you will have an excellent opportunity to control weeds.

#### AERIFY AND TOPDRESS

If your greens have that slightly worn look after a long hot summer, they probably need a little help breathing. You can help by aerifying. There is nothing like aerification and topdressing to spruce up a tired green. Too often we think that since the rush is over we might as well wait until spring. Keep in mind that grass suffering from the stress of a long summer is a prime candidate for winter injury. Thus, a little extra effort now might eliminate some problem next spring.



## SOUND OFF!!

*(It is that time of the monthly Newsletter to open the mail bag and see what gems flow from it. Sound Off is a feature for, of and by the readers of the Newsletter. Readers are reminded that their comments on any phase of golf are welcome but should be received with the name and address of the sender. Whatever's on your mind, we would like to hear from you. So, dig into your thinking caps and unwind. Send your comments to Newsletter Mail Box, 24 Riverview Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all letters published.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

"I was disturbed recently by a small item printed in the New England Newsletter. It concerned the sharp remarks on the Hazeltine Golf Course by professional Dave Hill.

"For my money, the item was not of the nature to be included in a periodical written for golf course superintendents. As far as I can learn, Mr. Hill's complaints about Hazeltine had nothing to do with the condition of the course. Therefore, I would think any comforting item to the builders of Hazeltine be published in periodicals relating to course architects or builders. We have no axe to grind with Mr. Hill. He was speaking of the design and layout of Hazeltine, not the way it was conditioned."

BRUCE FRANKS

Farley, S. D.

The item spanking Dave Hill was a slip on our part. As a matter of fact it is our understanding that the condition of Hazeltine received a triple-A rating from all who played it.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I am a member of a moderately-priced country club, but one where the caddy has been vanishing by leaps and bounds.

"The main reason is that most of our members take golf cars and have no need for a caddy. However, I am in complete disagreement with this theory, mainly because these same members spend most of their time doing the work of the abandoned caddy.

"What I'm referring to is the fact that they ride to their drives on the fairway. Then, instead of taking the shot to the green, they seem to think it necessary to drive all the way to the putting surface and back to their ball in a move apparently designed to give them the correct yardage and distance of the shot.

"This to me is ridiculous. Not only are these members holding up play with their incessant driving back and forth but they put more wear and tear on the course. Then, too, when they hit into the woods or tall rough areas and lose a ball, they take their sweet time in the car looking for same.

"My suggestion is that every foursome with golf cars should be forced to hire one caddy to do the club selecting, ball locating and flag holding. The cost could be defrayed by a four-way split of the caddy fee. What are your thoughts on this?"

BING MALOP

Scarborough, Maine

The caddy addition is a super idea (no pun intended). It would cut down on a number of sins committed by golf car jockeys.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Once again I have found myself at odds with certain men members of our club who insist that we women are the proponents of slow play. I think this is one of the biggest misconceptions in golf.

"I can only speak for myself and my regular foursome. When we go out to play, we do not practice certain provoking acts that many of our men have been found doing. What I mean is that most of them seem to think they must line up putts and survey approach shots the way the professionals do on the tour.

"Recently my foursome was held up continuously by a group of these plum-bob green readers and architectural fairway studiers. At one point we timed them as having taken 10 minutes to put out. How does this sound to you? Are we girls the culprits in regard to slow play or are we being unjustly accused?"

LAURA SIMMONS

Green Acres, Iowa

Don't get us into the argument, Laura. Personally, we're from the old Doug Ford "miss 'em quick" school of play.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Don't you think it's about time golf car users took a second look at themselves and made some attempt to take a refresher course in their proper use?

"It seems to me that most country club members are looking at the operation of golf cars as old hat and subsequently ignoring all the rules of running them on a course. I fought the use of the danged things from the beginning. However, I have come to realize they are a necessary evil and put up with them.

"Now that the superintendents have accepted them, I would think club members would have enough consideration for their course to see that they operate the cars properly. What do you think?"

CHRIS CORNAKAS

(Club Withheld)

We agree. There are too many cowboys on the course. We're all for suspending the privilege when the privilege to operate them is abused!

\* \* \* \* \*

*(Thus, we bring another edition of Sound Off to the end of the line. Keep those cards and letters coming, folks.)*

Friends of the Association as listed on the Newsletter are invited to attend all educational, summer golf meetings, and social functions of the New England GCSA. You are welcome to play golf and are encouraged to do so. If you should have a special salesman or Company Representative, bring him with you and participate..

If you have a question pertaining to the above call the host superintendent where the meeting is scheduled.

Again let me repeat — all Friends of the Association are welcome, also your constructive criticism towards the improvement of this Association. Let's hear from you.

Dick Blake

President

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\* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

# NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association  
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



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**FIRST CLASS**

