

Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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Remember When!



This is the last issue of the Newsletter that Dean Robertson and Leon St. Pierre will be affiliated with. We decided to end on a light note with this last issue and will title this page Remember When! The quality of the Newsletter will be carried on by Tom Schofield of the Maynard Country Club.

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC. SOUND OFF!!!!

(Some interesting, long overdue and pleasant items dot the Sound Off corner this month. This is the place where you, the reader, has the right to exercise backlash. It is written by and for you. All letters are welcome and most are printed . . . when the language permits publication of same. All we ask is that contributors add their addresses to their missives. We reserve the right to comment on all letters which should be sent to Newsletter Mail Bag, 24 Riverview Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950.)

"This month marks the end of an era in the ways and means of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association. With this issue two of our Newsletter stalwarts bow out after a seven-year contribution to the health and welfare of this publication.

"Dean Robertson and Leon St. Pierre have been instrumental in lifting the status of the Newsletter to the lofty plane it now holds. They have worked side by side in the organization, arrangement and presentation of news and features in a manner that has brought the NE Newsletter national acclaim and attention.

"Because of the foresight and courage of these two gentlemen, our Newsletter is looked upon as a model of consistency and candid opinion by the rest of the superintendents' writing world. Even the National magazine has taken note of it and implemented some of its ideas into their publication.

"I would like to take this opportunity, then, to thank and commend Leon and Dean for seven years of worthwhile effort and dedication to making the New England superintendents' plight a little more enjoyable. They certainly have left big shoes to fill."

ROBERT GRANT
President, NEGCSA

Kind words, indeed, Mr. President. We will savor them forever.

"I believe it is about time that golfers playing golf out of season should expect to play a course that is out of season as to the degree of consistency on putting and other areas.

"It seems to me that these players expect to conduct their own personal championship tournaments and are miffed by the lack of attention the superintendent gives to making the course's condition championship, too.

"The term 'winter' or 'temporary' green means just that. If golfers persist in playing the sport beyond the normal weather pattern which it usually follows, they should be content to take their lumps or bumps when a 'crucial' putt confronts them.

"The perspective of the temporary green should be stressed to all out of season players. These people should remember that these greens are substitutes, not the real thing. Therefore, they should not be treated in a greenhouse fashion by the superintendent."

JACK STALLINGS
Old Lyme, Conn.

JOBS OPEN

Wellesley Country Club. Contact Stanley Barnes, Green Chairman, 294 Wellesley Ave., Wellesley Massachusetts.

Mt. Pleasant Country Club. Contact Dave Deisner, Green Chairman, 33 Elm St., Clinton, Massachusetts.

Out of season golfers are driving certain superintendents out of their minds. This outrageous situation must stop!

"As the weather begins to turn the golfer away from the course and perhaps give the superintendent some time to get away from a season of frustration and disappointment, our membership might be interested in forming outing or back-packing clubs in order to enjoy welcome time off with their friends.

"It has indeed been a long and hot, unpredictable summer. The respite from those trying times is available via a return to nature with trips to the mountains, countryside, etc.

"Anyone interested in pursuing the idea of forming clubs for this purpose may do so by contacting the editors of the Newsletter."

THE EDITORS
NEGCSA Newsletter

We're serious, too. Let's enjoy nature for a change. After all, we're fighting it all summer!

"There always is a continuous complaint among us concerning the average membership and its feeling toward the superintendent.

"My fellow supers have made me aware of the fact that certain other employees of the country club are held in high esteem while the superintendent gets the short end of the stick when the matter of an employee-member relationship is discussed.

"I have heard of the stories told about country club members were asked the name of their superintendent, their pro and their club manager. In nine cases out of 10 the members were able to name their pro and manager, while the name of the super 'seemed to escape them.'

"I should remind all of you that the social atmosphere of the three main country club attractions — pro, super, manager — varies quite a bit. The club member never or rather seldom comes in contact with the superintendent away from the golf course. At that moment the member is deeply engrossed in the making of birdies or bogies which comprises a serious moment . . . often painstaking.

"On the other hand, the manager usually greets the member when he is in a receptive mood . . . full of martinis and memories of the round just completed. In other words, the relationship of member and manager has a fighting chance because of the conditions under which the two come in contact.

"The super doesn't see the member at play . . . only at work on the golf course. Thus, that relationship suffers."

TY JUTRAS
Kendall, Va.

Good thought, Ty. Maybe the super should have a flash of martinis with him at all times . . . just in case he bumps into a member.

(That winds it up for this session. Keep those comments coming this way. We welcome them . . . pro, con or whatever).

WINTER MEETING DATES

Holiday Inn, Newton, Massachusetts
December 3, 1973 Annual Meeting
January 7, 1974
February 4, 1974
March 6, 7, 8, 1974 Fine Turf Conference
April 1, 1974

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Golf Course Superintendents Association

LaROMANA La VERY BEST

The Long and Short of It

The British, who still call their golf course superintendents "greenkeepers . . ." which vexes me no end, are nevertheless very up to date in taking note of progress in reverse. Thus, it was not too startling to read recently where they are thinking of declaring war on a somewhat defenseless fellow — the elongated golf spike.

Well, what about it, America? Should we join the fight, get these golf shoe manufacturers to climb off their high horse and stop putting golfers on pointed stilts?

The men, who make the grass green on the other side of the Atlantic, claim that damage to their greens has been on the upswing with the introduction of longer and sharper golf spikes. The area most under the sword, so to speak, is that heavy-traffic route around the cup. In some instances golf shoes are stabbing it to death!

One wonders what would happen, pray tell, should golf courses band together and outlaw the golf spike altogether. The possibility certainly would take the spike wrench out of the golf professional's hand and would relieve him of revenue in the process, too.

The lack of golf spikes would take its toll on the golfer's prized vehicle for an ego trip — his handicap. It is not out of the realm of reason to predict that all golfers would automatically have their handicaps increased by five shots. In the case of certain state golf associations, this would eliminate their state amateur golf championships. Some demand that entries have no more than a handicap of four. Without spikes, the lowest handicap would be five!

This would be tragic, indeed. After all, the handicap of the country club golfer is a possession not to be monkeyed with. But the elimination of golf spikes would result in other improvements to offset the decimation of the handicap.

First of all, the golfer would be spared that embarrassing moment when he rushes off the course into a watering area and has to flail away nervously at his shoestrings because he has been told that no golf shoes are allowed in the 19th hole.

For health reasons, this would be a marvel. Some severe cases of athletes foot have been contracted because golfers are forced . . . in certain clubs, that is . . . to walk around in their stocking or (perish the thought) bare feet. With no golf shoes to take off, the golfer would enjoy many athlete foot-free years.

Country clubs also would benefit financially by not having to encounter the broken bodies that come into the golf cart repair shop because they have been pierced by golf shoes. Outside of headon collisions, I'm told that body rot — caused initially by golf shoes running amok on carts — leads to the early junking of many a money-making four-tired monster.

Another saving from the banning of the spike might occur in the country club receiving less court battles because of accidents incurred on the premises while the victim wore golf shoes. Many a slip on the black top comes because golf shoes have a built-in sliding motion to them whenever a golfer walks instead of rides.

So, the British may have caught onto something with their outright charge that golf shoe manufacturers had better take a second look at the length of their spikes or a banning process will be attempted.

Meanwhile the manufacturers of sneakers, second most popular foot covering in golf, are waiting for further developments. I can just see it now . . . "Foot Joy Sneakers — a Steal at \$49.95."

— Gerry Finn

The next time you're in the Dominican Republic treat yourself to the golfing experience of a lifetime . . . a round at Campo De Golf Cajules at LaRomana, located in the heart of the sugar refinery industry some 60 miles from Santo Domingo.

Cajules has been likened to Pebble Beach . . . only in a tropical setting avoiding the annoyance of PB's weather which can be a drag on any golfer's game. The seaside-framed and sand-pocked layout was designed by Peter Dye, a golf architect who is a character builder when it comes to arranging golf holes.

The golf course superintendent will be especially interested in some of the assignments Cajules has to offer his particular talents. For instance, it has one hole (the fifth) whose entire fairway is composed of sand. Footprints there are an automatic occurrence and there's no way a golfer can smooth them since one footprint leads to another . . . all the way from tee to green.

Perhaps one of the most unique examples of taking advantage of the topography comes on the eighth hole. Here Dye actually has built two holes in one. The right side of the fairway is raised some five to 10 feet above the left. Dye distinguishes the two by the use of pilings driven into the ground almost splitting the fairway down the middle.

The hole measures 385 yards from the championship tees. But that measurement doesn't take into consideration errant drives which find the area left of the pilings. That area slopes drastically and when a golfer finds his ball, his path to the green has been increased by at least 75 yards.

Then, too, Dye inserts more intrigue . . . for both sides of the pilings. Running serpent-like in front of the green is a huge trap whose jaws expand to some 60 feet on the left and then subside to a more conventional 20 feet on the right or "easy" side.

The Pebble Beach effect is felt on the front nine where two of the holes (par threes) jut out over the ocean to make for some shaky tee shots. From the back tees the yardage runs 215 and 195. Only the brave attempt the direct route.

Another interesting hole, uncommon to those we see here, is the 13th — a par three excursion which requires perfect placement of the drive. The green is an island . . . but an island surrounded completely by sand! The teeing areas are elevated and are set apart from the fairway by stone walls. The lengths are 170 (back), 130 (middle) and 85 (ladies) yards.

The sand at 13th is so much a part of things that golfers are allowed to drive their carts in and through it. In fact, at certain parts of the green, it is impossible to reach the 14th tee without rolling through the sand. Somehow, the texture of the sand has been arranged to produce a minimum amount of damage from cart-riding in it.

Cajules' 14th hole is similar to the famous 13th at the Dunes Golf Club in Myrtle Beach. It is a distinct dogleg whose fighting spirit comes alive on the challenge of the second shot. The golfer bites off about as much water as he can chew . . . and the dogleg cut determines the length of the third shot or approach to the green. Added glamor is found here since world-renowned fashion designer Oscar de la Renta has a home directly in back of the green.

Crossing an air strip, playing a fairway dotted with huge palm trees . . . these are a few of the other fantastic asides to playing the LaRomana landscape. An unforgettable experience, indeed, it could be the very best course in the world.

— Gerry Finn

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NEWSLETTER

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