

NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

MAY 1976



Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

Budget Trend. . . Hold The Line

If you be a golf course superintendent — club master — administrator or just plain interested observer, you will find that the annual cost of operating (maintaining) a country club will be the same as a season ago.

This should be good news in the light of the fact that for the past six seasons the costs have spiraled at an average rate of 12% per year. As for a closer look at the maintenance budget, for which the superintendent is responsible, a recent study reveals it has increased 96% between the 1969 and 1975 seasons.

So, the plan this year is to hold the line.

The trend to get along with what you have is revealed in a survey, conducted by the Massachusetts Golf Association. In the process of coming to a cross-section finding, MGA assistant executive director Richard A. Crosby polled approximately 60 clubs in the state. Included in his sound-out was a separate response from superintendents involved in the budget problem.

"There wasn't a percentage sway of five one way or the other," Crosby told the Newsletter. "That is, there might have been some clubs reporting an increase of five percent and others coming in with a decrease of five percent. The majority seemed to be holding at the same 1975 figure. It turned into a stabilizing effect."

All right, then. How, pray tell, does a superintendent offer the club member the same well-groomed, hand-fashioned course he did this season . . . at 1975 prices?

Crosby thinks there won't be much of a difference in the finished product. In fact, he flatly states that the subtle changes in the condition and beauty of the course will fail to catch the eyes of the majority of club members.

First, though, he tackles an old tag-on malady in the health charts of the private country club. Everyone wants his club to be the best in condition and layout. Pride rises above everything.

"I think members are aware of the economic pinch," Crosby tells. "Most private club people are involved in business and certainly they have been touched by the present economy. All they have to do is relate business conditions to club conditions. And, when they realize the cost involved, they may lose the desire to insist on having their course overwhelm the others, condition-wise."

Holding the line on the budget will mean that certain "luxuries" of golfers will have to be reduced . . . or as the popular superintendent comment says . . . "altered".

Examples of cutback in services have already been listed here in other reports on the cost cycle. However, let's review a few.

Cutting of cups will be reduced. Crosby: "It's foolish to expect new cups every day of the week."

Cutting of fairways will be sliced. Crosby: "So, the golfer won't have an automatic 'tee' lie in the fairway! Maybe this will help him in the end. Improve his concentration."

Cutting of banks of hazards, tees and other areas will be reduced. "Here's where about 15 percent of the membership will notice the difference," Crosby continues. "But, really, these cutbacks will only affect appearance rather than actual playing conditions. I really can't distinguish the aesthetic value between a bank with a two-inch cut or one with a three-inch growth."

With the leveling off of turning the golf course into a carpet launching pad for birdies, the labor problem could be aided. Crosby sees a reduction in number of part-time employees,

prolonged life of equipment and a return to the original state of the game as positive results of the program.

"That's what it looks like for '76," Crosby concludes. "I think the golfer won't be short-changed, either. I have a lot of confidence in our superintendents."

Gerry Finn

NEXT MEETING

MAY 3, 1976

HAMPDEN COUNTRY CLUB

HOST SUPERINTENDENT — BOB JOHNSTON

DIRECTOR'S MEETING 9: 30

MEMBERSHIP MEETING 11: 00

LUNCH (RESERVATIONS PLEASE) 12: 00

GOLF, after lunch

EVENING on your own

DIRECTIONS: Take Mass Pike west to Palmer exit, # 8. Take right from exit and follow to Palmer center. At center turn right onto route 20 (west) and follow approximately 6 miles to Main Street, Wilbraham (on left) . This road leads directly to golf course which is approximately 8 miles.

Bob Johnston is our host for the May meeting. Bob graduated from Stockbridge in 1969. He then spent 1 year as assistant for Wayne Ripley at Blue Hill Country Club. Bob then went to Winnisuket Country Club in S. Bellingham, Mass. as superintendent. After spending 4 years there he went to Hampden Country Club and has been there since. This is a club we haven't been to and I'm sure our members are looking forward to visiting Bob and playing his fine golf course.

NEXT MEETING DATES

JUNE 7

Ferncroft Country Club, Superintendent and Chairman Tournament

JULY 12

Agawam Hunt

Joint meeting with Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents

Golf Course Superintendents Association

The Bad Seed Decision

An arbitrary phase-out of open-field burning in Oregon has created a crisis in the grass seed business.

Dr. Fred Grau of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council foresees a gradual deterioration of all grasses because of the inferior seeds produced without open-field burning. In turn, he fears a low yield of seeds in general which would skyrocket prices.

In a letter to Oregon Governor, Robert Straub, Dr. Grau notes the damaging results of projected elimination of open-field burning -- a process that enhances the regrowth of grass seeds and rids the ground of stubble. The burning cuts down on the introduction of new diseases and the control of old ones. It is the backbone phase of the grass seed growing business.

Dr. Grau cites: "If the seed industry in Oregon is forced to shut down because of these arbitrary regulations, we will be forced to buy from less reliable sources. One bag of weedy, low-quality seed -- once planted -- will take years to correct. And we would like to reduce our dependence on chemicals for weed control."

The experience with other sources of so-called high-grade seed has been a disaster for Dr. Grau and the people with which he is associated. "We have had hard times coming out of this," he reports. "We get unidentifiable and undesirable varieties; too many weeds that we never had before, more new diseases and too much inert matter."

So, Dr. Grau is concerned . . . more than that.

However, Steve Hart of the Hart Seed Company is even more fearful of the open-field burning ban. "It could be the death knell of an industry," he warns.

The ban is ecology-inspired. Oregon is very environmentally-minded . . . as are most of the states in the Pacific Northwest. And this is what alarms Hart even more.

"The bulk of the seed production in the country takes place in Oregon, Washington and Idaho," Hart reveals. "If Oregon puts a ban on open-field burning, what's to stop the others from doing the same thing? It certainly is something to think about."

The ban has taken the form of a scaled-down implementation in a gradual phasing out of the process. The drop in production of the rich grasses -- associated with the Oregon product -- will also come gradually. With the complete elimination of burning, the decrease could fall to as low as 50% yield before the ban took effect.

The seed-growing industry in Oregon has offered to take steps to comply with environmental-saving standards but cannot survive with such demanding restrictions as the open-field burning ban. In its business endeavors, it has contributed to erosion-control and general beautification of the state. Thus, it is strange to see the state government implement such a drastic measure as the burning ban.

There has been talk of switching to an incinerator type of burning rather than open field. However, the industry has found that this would be too costly. "Virtually impossible," is the finding.

So, what does the grass industry and people -- dependent on it (which amounts to everyone) -- do? "I would hope that as many persons as possible would drop a letter to Gov. Straub of Oregon (State Capitol, Salem, Oregon 97303) suggesting to him that the ban on open-field burning creates a serious problem," Dr. Grau says. "I think that every person is affected by it, even though he may not be directly involved in turf. Grass is a part of our environment . . . on golf courses, athletic fields, playgrounds, parks, home lawns. It is the concern of all."

Sounds like a bad seed decision. Hopefully, it will be converted into a good one by banning the ban.

Gerry Finn



Left to Right: Paul Johnson, Phil Dubie, Larry Bunn, Neal Wendall.

RESULTS OF THE APRIL GOLF TOURNAMENT

First Place	Neal Wendall Paul Johnson Phil Dubie Larry Bunn	Best Ball Handicap Score of 60
Second Place	Bill Carter Lennie Blodgett Dave Loker Julie Aksten	Best Ball Handicap Score of 60
Third Place	Mel O'Kelly John Petriatis Doug Johnson Nary Sperandio	Best Ball Handicap Score of 62

The tie for first place was broken by matching cards.

President WAYNE ZOPPO 9A Village Green North E. Providence, R.I. 02915 Home Phone 434-1759 Office Phone 434-8512 Club Affiliation Agawam Hunt	First Vice President DEAN ROBERTSON 24 Riverview Drive Newbury, Mass. 01950 Home Phone 462-4540 Office Phone 254-3678 Club Affiliation Chestnut Hill Country Club	Second Vice President RONALD KIRKMAN, CGCS 25 Green St. Needham, Mass. 02192 Home Phone 444-8412 Office Phone 444-5548 Club Affiliation Needham Golf Club	Secretary DAVE BARBER 1 Muriel Road Chelmsford, Mass. 01824 Home Phone 256-4417 Office Phone 358-4882	Treasurer DONALD HEARN 4 Topeka Road Chelmsford, Mass. 01824 Home Phone 256-8709 Office Phone 894-5996 Club Affiliation Weston Golf Club	Trustee PAUL JOHNSON RFD 1 Locust St. Middleton, Mass. 01949 Home Phone 777-0902 Office Phone 777-1134 Club Affiliation Fenncroft Country Club	Trustee ARTHUR WASHBURN, CGCS 520 No. Main St. Cohasset, Mass. 02025 Home Phone 383-9532 Office Phone 383-1870 Club Affiliation Cohasset Golf Club	Trustee MAX MIERZWA 106 Crestwood St. Chicopee, Mass. 01020 Home Phone 594-4996 Office Phone 592-9540 Club Affiliation Chicopee Country Club	Finance Chairman AL AUGER 3 Andover Rd. Beverly, Mass. 01915 Home Phone 927-0060 Office Phone 922-8511 Club Affiliation Folly Hill Country Club
---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	---

TO BE VOTED ON AT NEXT MEETING

Gerald Richardson, Associate Member

Maynard Country Club

Elmiro Silva, Associate Member

Belmont Country Club

Stephan Koziak, Associate Member

Oxford Country Club

NEWSLETTER NOTES

This column will be used for the purpose of communication between the members of Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and the golfing public. It can be of benefit to all through the exchange of ideas and experiences. It is here for you to express yourself on your thoughts and ideas. In doing this, out of necessity, there will be conflicting opinions. However, through discussion solutions can be drawn that will be in the best interest of the members, the associations, and the game of golf. Any letter with the request, will be printed without the name and address of the writer. Contents of this column do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor or the Newsletter Committee. So whether you're a superintendent, club official, commercial salesman, or a member of the golfing public, let us here from you. Respond to Newsletter Editor, 145 Dedham St., Canton, Mass. 02021.

We welcome to our association as a new member Robert Barber of Wayland Country Club. A number of us know Bob already, as he is the brother of Dave Barber our Secretary. I'm sure Bob will be an active member for our association. The April meeting was a terrific start for our outdoor season. Charlie Gardner, host superintendent at Oyster Harbor Country Club, had an excellent course to play, a fine lunch, and the people of his club offered us excellent hospitality. If you didn't make the meeting you missed out on a great time..... There are a few things that should be improved on by our members. Charlie received 44 reservations for lunch. Seven did not show! In addition to that, a total of 57 did eat! That can make it very hard for the host superintendent and his club. Fortunately Charlie and Oyster Harbor Country Club were able to compensate for the extra people. I think it is only proper, that if you have a last minute change to call the host superintendent and let him know your plans.

Brian Cowan our golf chairman does a tremendous job in running our golf tournaments. However, we as members need to

be more courteous and help make things easier for Brian. After all he would like to enjoy the day also. First of all when you arrive tell Brian if you are playing golf so he can make up the parings for the tournament. When he reads off the teams, please wait til all teams are announced! The last meeting after 3 or 4 teams were announced people started heading for the first tee. It was mass confusion and very hard for those waiting to hear what team they were on. Brian will announce what tee each group will start on, so please be patient and above all please remain quiet until he is through. Brian also needs to explain what type of tournament you are playing. Each team captain should keep all scores and total each score of those playing on his team. Finally, the team captain should mark his team score on the card and sign the score card along with another member of his team. If it is a handicap tournament figure the score with the handicap. All the handicaps of the members of your team will be provided before you start. With a little co-operation from everyone there will be less confusion and more fun for everybody....

It was nice to see some of the "old timers" at the meeting. Ed Finney was present and Ed has been a member since 1927.... Hope to see more of the older members this season. There was a discussion on the dues increase by the GCSAA. Dues will go up from \$ 65 to \$ 90 this coming year. Some felt it was too much of an increase at one time. It was pointed out that this was the first dues increase by the GCSAA in 6 or 7 years. Everyone is well aware of the rising costs over this period of time. The vote at the GCSAA membership meeting in Minneapolis was in favor of the increase by a large majority. It was pointed out, that in the future, some consideration be given to smaller increases over shorter periods of time may be easier to cope with. It was also pointed out that only 1 out of every 5 superintendents was a member of GCSAA. Members of GCSAA should make every effort to try and interest a fellow superintendent in joining GCSAA.... President Wayne Zoppo has appointed Art Washburn to study our present bylaws. A number of members feel there are some bylaws that need a change.... There was a lot of talk about ice damage from the winter. A number of golf courses had damage. Those that have the damage reported greens with poor drainage, greens with pocket areas, and greens in shaded areas suffered the most damage. Unless these areas are sodded, golfers will have to be patient for the damaged areas to return to its normal condition.... I visited with Jim Fitzroy who is in the Quincy Hospital with injuries from an automobile accident. Jim received a broken hip, cuts, and bruises. He is in traction and will remain in the hospital for another 4 or 5 weeks. If you're in the area try and stop in to see Jim. I am sure he would like your company. If you can't make it send a card or letter. He'll be glad to hear from you.... Brian Cowan is looking for courses for a meeting in August and November. If your course is available and you would like to host a meeting call Brian.... Had a discussion at dinner with 8 superintendents after the last meeting on pay that summer help received. The low starting salary was \$ 2.30 per hour to a high of \$ 3.00 per hour. The average starting pay for summer help was \$ 2.60 per hour. Pay for summer help who returned each year or experienced help ranged from a low of \$ 2.75 to a high of \$ 3.30 per hour. Their average pay was \$ 3.00 per hour. This may give you an idea what other superintendents pay at their club.... Hope to see as many of you as possible at Hampden Country Club May 3. Please try and remember to make last minute changes with the host superintendent if necessary. Also, try to be a little more helpful to our golf chairman and his committee.

Larry Bunn
Newsletter Editor

Golf Chairman	Educational Chairman	Newsletter Chairman	Past President
BRIAN COWAN Robins Way Harwich, Mass. 02645 Home Phone 432-9041 Office Phone 945-9230 Club Affiliation Eastward Ho Country Club	PETE COSTE, CGCS 89 Pleasant St. Medfield, Mass. 02052 Home Phone 959-7247 Office Phone 566-0240 Club Affiliation The Country Club	LARRY BUNN 145 Dedham St. Canton, Mass. 02021 Home Phone 829-7266 Office Phone 826-6540 Club Affiliation Blue Hill Country Club	THOMAS CURRAN Fox Chase Rd. South Sutton, N.H. 03273 Home Phone 938-6438 Office Phone 863-4500

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**

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

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

Chanderlin Seed Co., Inc., Division of
Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc.,
20 Beck Road Arlington, Mass. 02174
Joe Moran - Rep.

The Charles C. Hart Seed Co.
Wethersfield, Conn.
Bob Kennedy, Rep.
Steve Hart, Rep.
203-529-2537

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

*Geoffrey S. Cornish & William G. Robinson
Golf Course Architects
Fiddlers Green, Amherst, Mass. 01002

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

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

E-Z-Go Golf Car
Sales - Service - Rentals
Polaris / E-Z-Go Northeast
Box 817
North Falmouth, Mass. 02556

Farm Bureau Association
158 Lexington St., Waltham, Mass. 02154
Fred Heyliger, Representative
Bus. 893-3570 Home 772-3605

Scotts Pro-Turf Div.
Rep. Ron Gagne 746-7000
Rep. Allen Cumps 413-253-2995

Gold Star Sod Farms, Inc.
Sod & Pine Bark Mulch
Canterbury, New Hampshire
1-800-528-5205

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

Gull Agricultural Service Co.
Allen Bonnell 617-362-2181
Joe Silk 617-784-3966
55 Freeman Road
Yarmouthport, Mass. 02675

Holliston Sand Company, Inc.
Lowland Street, Holliston, Mass. 01746
Sand for Golf Bunkers and Traps

Irrigation & Equipment Supply Co.
P. O. Box 147 Route 1
Walpole, Mass. 02081
Tel. 617-668-7814

Kenneth Barrie Corp.
249 Milton St. Dedham, Mass 02026
Tel. (617) 364-3333

*Tom Irwin, Inc.
11B A Street
Burlington, Mass.

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

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

Lee Lime Corp.
Lee, Mass. (413) 243-0053
2 Special Spreaders designed
for Golf Courses
Rep. Bill Kershliis 413-253-7485

Mallinckrodt, Inc.
Second and Mallinckrodt Streets
St. Louis, Missouri 63147

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

D. L. Maher
Box 127, Concord St.
N. Reading, Mass 01864

New England Power Sweeping Co. Inc.
Parking Lots and Roadways
187 South Street
Needham, Mass. 02192
Jack Kidd Phone 332-1451

New England Sealcoating Co., Inc.
Tennis Court Const. and Maintenance
Sealcoating - Hingham Industrial Center
Hingham, Mass. Tel. 749-3236

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

P & L Equipment Corp.
Golf Cars & Commercial Turf Equipment
80 Lynde Street, Melrose, Mass. 02176
Phone 617-665-5990

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

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

Trencher & Equipment Leasing, Inc.
Ditch Witch Trenchers
38 Fairview St., Agawam, Mass. 01001
Phone 413-786-8600

*Sawtelle Brothers
565 Humphrey Street
Swampscott, Mass.
Tel. 617/599-4856

Tuco Products Co.
Division of the Upjohn Company
Kalamazoo, Michigan
David Sylvester 203-828-3790

White Turf Engineering
5 Summer Drive, Winchendon, Mass. 01475
617-297-0941

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

* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



LARRY BUNN
Newsletter Committee Chairman
145 Dedham St.
Canton, Mass. 02021
Home Phone 828-7266
Office Phone 828-6540
Club Affiliation
Blue Hill Country Club
DONALD HEARN
Business Manager
LEON ST. PIERRE
Co-ordinator
GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor

FIRST CLASS

First Class
U. S. Postage
PAID
Maynard, MA
Permit #17

