

No Hit or "Ms" Idea

A lady golfer swooped down on us recently. She had some very constructive suggestions for golf course superintendents and even shot a 1000-watt idea at the architectural wing of the ancient sport.

Ms. Kay Kennedy, a member of the golf staff at John's Island (Vero Beach, Florida), was well received, too, as one of the featured speakers at the highly successful Massachusetts Turf Conference.

Perhaps the most striking theme in her message to the superintendents was a catchy dictum — "clean up when you can't green up." Ms. Kennedy referred directly to the uncooperative growing winter supers in Florida experienced this year. "The grass was browned out," she disclosed, "and the superintendents were not about to bring them back that quickly. So, what they did was to clean up the courses, go on a kind of spring cleaning detail. For the women, it was well worthwhile. After all, the woman golfer notices those things much more than do men. She is always aesthetic minded in viewing the course."

According to Ms. Kennedy, who aspires to a career in golf ("I want to learn every phase of the game because I'm genuinely interested in it."), the physical makeup of most golf courses as such that it is the least noticed by women. "The hardest thing to relate to for a woman is the playability of the course," she told a packed house in Springfield's Civic Center. "And it is in this area where perhaps some changes can be made to accommodate her."

Length of the golf course seems to be the burning issue here. "It's very difficult for a woman to really enjoy the game when she can hit the ball only 90 to 110 yards and has to play 380-yard par-four holes," Ms. Kennedy offered. "Not only that, some of the hazards in front of tees make golf a back-breaker for the gal. I've seen some holes where the woman would have to hit her Sunday-best drive to clear a pond. That's not fun; it's murder!"

The suggestion to alter modern courses in such a manner as to make the golf round more pleasurable for the fair sex seems to make sense. In fact, Bill Robinson — another member of Dr. Joseph Troll's outstanding conference panel — agreed with Ms. Kennedy's appeal to logic.

Robinson is a golf course architect. He has built some monsters in his time, along with partner Geoffrey Cornish. But he has only comfortable layouts on his mind these days. "The time of the big, 7000-yard course has passed," Robinson declared. "They have become economically unsound, both from a standpoint of construction and maintenance. Then, too, the average member thinks they're for the birds. . . er, I mean, bogies. Because that's what they are for the typical club golfer."

The tee markers should be changed to four sets. This is how Robinson would get the women into the ball park with the men. "I don't think there's any need for a woman to have to play a course up there in the 6000-yard range," Robinson explained. "I'd say the ideal yardage would be in the 5000 to 5400 range. And in order to achieve this balance, all we have to do is move the markers to spots from where the woman is able to reach the normal landing area."

The Robinson theory of equating the game for the woman. . . as well as the average and high handicap playing man . . . has merit. "All should be in an area where they can hit the same type of approach shot to the green," Robinson opined. "Why should a woman have to hit into a green with a three-wood when the green

is designed to accept shots in the seven-iron range?"

The markers should not be labeled "men, women", but instead should carry the tag of "short, regular, long and championship." Robinson realizes that prestige comes into play in reducing yardage. However, the strategic placing of tee markers will be such that all types of abilities are accommodated. "Besides," Robinson quips, "the member who supports the club the most is the 12 and over handicapper. He's the one we should be concerned about. . . he and the woman golfer."

Golf for women, then, has room for improvement. . . from its physical aspect or the golf course. "Ladies are sick of wearing out their woods on the course," Ms. Kennedy concluded. "Just to be able to hit an iron into the green is the greatest feeling."

Gerry Finn



Brian Cowan (left) of Eastward Ho receiving his plaque for completing the requirements of a Certified Golf Course Superintendent from Mel Lucas, a Director of G.C.S.A.



Dr. Joseph Troll (left) of Stockbridge School of Agriculture at U. receiving a check for research from Wayne Zoppo, President of G.C.S.A. New England.

NEXT MEETING

Date April 11, 1977

Place Eastward Ho, Cape Cod

Regular Membership Meeting 10:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m.

Golf Shot Gun start at 12:30 p.m.

Our host for this month is Brian Cowan. Brian is a graduate of Stockbridge School of Agriculture. He has worked at Spring Valley C. C. and spent 2 years as assistant at Eastward Ho under Louis Kent before taking over as superintendent, a position he has held for the last 7 years. He has been a board member of our association for the last 3 years serving as golf chairman. Just recently Brian has become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. This is one of the finest golf courses on Cape Cod and I'm sure our membership will enjoy the course.

Directions: Rte. 6 to exit 11 to Rte. 137. Left on Rte. 137 for 50 yards to Pleasant Bay Road. Pleasant Bay Road to Rte. 28. Right on Rte. 28 to club. Golf course on left after Pleasant Bay.

JOB OPENING

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Canton, Mass.
Send Resume to: Mr. Peter H. Powell
191 Old Farm Road
Milton, Mass. 02186

Golf Course Superintendents Association

Central Park in Carolina

There are some mornings in Pinehurst when he thinks he's back in New York which, in reality, is tucked miles and miles away in his past.

"Yeah, sometimes I walk down the streets at Pinehurst and get the feeling I'm in Central Park," Bob DePencier laughs. "It's not that insane a feeling, either. The same guy who designed Central Park designed the town of Pinehurst and the first golf course there."

Thus, DePencier does get to touch the old green grass of home now and then in his position of Golf Course Manager for the sprawling North Carolina complex. Frankly, it's the biggest job of its kind in the country.

Pinehurst has five courses in play now. A sixth is under construction and five more are on the drawing board. The Diamondhead Corporation, which owns the massive golf community, also has interest in seven other courses around the United States.

DePencier is an administrator first. "I have two superintendents working for me," he tells. "And right under them are eight foremen. The crew size runs 46 in the winter and 80 at our peak times. But, really, I'm a superintendent at heart. In fact, I do all the talking with the owners and handle all the complaints. Busy? Sure I am. But I am very happy in Pinehurst. It was an immediate love affair."

There was slight hesitation in DePencier's acceptance cells when he first contemplated the move from the Westchester Golf Club to Pinehurst. He had been at Westchester for six years, grown used to the big city life and appointments. "That's the only second thought I had about leaving New York," he reveals. "I realized there would be a change in two types of climate - weather and social. But those thoughts were quickly forgotten once I started my new job. The challenge is something else. So far, I've been able to meet it."

One of the "headaches" of most superintendents - the bringing up and loving care of golf cars - is something DePencier doesn't have to be concerned with... at the moment. There are only 485 of the mechanized monsters at Pinehurst. "That's the pro's responsibility," DePencier sighs. "But I'll have them at the new course. It's five miles away from the rest, so I guess I've been elected."

Another asset for DePencier is that Carolina climate... especially at the Pinehurst golf belt. "It's the best area in the

South to grow Bermuda grass," he explains. "The hotter it gets, the better it is. So, our courses are in good condition most of the time. I really haven't had too many problems along those lines... nothing like the transitional zone up around Washington where it's too cold for Bermuda and too hot for the northern grasses. Now there's a place where I wouldn't like to work."

Pinehurst's spring season got underway March 1. It runs through June and is the heavy tourism time. Because of the unusually cold and baky winter in the North, Pinehurst was a little busier than normal in February. "But," DePencier adds, "we had it chilly, too. There was a little more traffic. When it's all over, we'll have had the same 165,000 rounds or so of golf played this year."

DePencier had the Westchester Classic to worry about when he was there and now he has the new "Colgate-Palmolive Hall of Fame Classic" at Pinehurst - an offshoot of the World Tournament. "We drew 80,000 last year," he discloses. "We don't have much of a metropolitan population to draw from but I think we'll do well with the new event. It's played the third week in August and I don't expect any turf problems. Oh, we'll close the No. 2 course a month before... but that's just for publicity and psyching the players. We don't need anytime to pump up that course. It's ready for tournaments at all times. Hell, we play summer rules 12 months a year."

So, Pinehurst is in good hands. DePencier appears to have made the jump without touching the ground once. Central Park in Carolina... sounds catchy and sounds like its golf course manager has caught on solidly there.

Gerry Finn

PORTLAND GOLF COURSE TOUR



Elmira Silva,
Belmont C.C.



Leon St. Pierre,
Longmeadow C.



Tom Curran, Eastman Golf
Club (left) and Richard Blake,
Woodstock C.C. (right)

Newsletter Notes

Congratulations are in order for 4 of our members who have completed the requirements for certification. Brian Cowan of Eastward Ho, Don Hearn from Weston Golf Club, Dave Barber from Wayland Country Club, and Tom Schofield from Wellesley Country Club now have the title of Certified Golf Course Superintendents. Brian received his plaque at the U. of Mass. Turf Conference in Springfield and the other three will be receiving theirs in the near future.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England would like to extend their sincere sympathy to the family of John O'Connor, retired superintendent of Salem Country Club, who passed away this last month. Mr. O'Connor was superintendent at Salem Country Club for a number of years and was an active member of our association.

More than 5,200 people, a record number, crowded into Portland, Oregon for the 48 International Turfgrass Conference and Show, sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America last February. Some came from as far away as Greece, Japan, and Sweden. Probably the best attended lecture



L to R, Tom Schofield of Wellesley C.C., Don Hearn of Weston G.C. and Dave Barber of Wayland C.C. These three have completed requirements and now are Certified Golf Course Superintendents. Congratulations!



Phyllis and Nary Sperandio of Concord C.C. (left) and Barbara and Larry Bunn of Blue Hill C.C. (right).

SPRINGFIELD SHOW



Bert Frederick (left) from Vesper C.C. and Brian Cowan (right) from Eastward Ho.



Dean Robertson (left) from Chestnut Hill C.C. and Tony D'Innocenzo from Clapper Company.

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was the one on Pesticide Update Session. Three experts from leading universities spoke on this topic. Two other new topics covered this year were nature and the use of effluent water for golf course irrigation and the grass seed industry, which is centered in Portland.

A new Executive Committee was elected in Portland. Theodore W. Woehrl, CGCS, Oakland Hills C.C., Birmingham, Mich., was elected President. The vice president is George W. Cleaver, CGCS, Chestnut Ridge C.C., Lutherville, Md., and the secretary-treasurer is Louis Haines, CGCS, Denver (Colo.) C.C. Five directors were elected, two for the first time. They are Michael R. Bavier, CGCS, Inverness Golf Club, Palatine, Ill., Habart T. Burgan CGCS, Quail Creek Golf and Country Club, Oklahoma City. Directors who were re-elected are David C. Holler, CGCS, Gulph Mills Golf Club, King of Prussia, Pa., Melvin B. Lucas, Jr., CGCS, The Garden City (N.Y.) Golf Club, and Charles H. Tadge, CGCS, Mayfield Country Club, South Euclid, Ohio.

MEMBERS ACCEPT BYLAW PROPOSALS AT ANNUAL MEETING.

Article I, Section 2 (Definitions) of the GCSAA Bylaws was amended to add the following:

A "Golf Course Superintendent" is one who is entrusted with the maintenance, operation and management of the tract of land defined as a golf course. It is his responsibility, under general direction, to supervise the construction and maintenance of a golf course (or courses); to supervise the maintenance and repair of construction and maintenance equipment; and to do related work as required.

Members in attendance at the Annual Meeting also voted to accept the following recommended changes:

Article I, Section 3, paragraph 1 relating to qualification for Class AA - Life Membership now states "...a member **must have reached age fifty-five (55)**, must have been a regular or Charter Member for at least twenty-five (25) years or a former member of the Executive Committee and must have retired from active service as a Golf Course Superintendent." (formerly there was no age stipulation).

Article I, Section 3, Paragraph 6 relating to qualification for Class E - Retired Membership now reads "Any Class A, B, D, or F Member **reaching age fifty-five (55)**, who is retired and no longer seeking employment within the scope of activities of any Membership Class of this Association, may apply to the Executive Committee in writing for Class E Membership..."

Article III, Section 2 relating to Prohibited Conduct now reads: "The following conduct is prohibited for Members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America:

a. Violations of the GCSAA of Ethics.

b. Use of the GCSAA affiliation for the purpose of schemes, ideas or objects for the purposes of private or collective gain.

Conduct that is prohibited shall be cause for disciplinary action or expulsion from Membership in accordance with the procedure set forth in Section 3 of this Article".

Article III, Section 3 relating to the Power of the Executive Committee to Discipline or Expel a Member now reads: "A Member may be disciplined or expelled by the Executive Committee shall have the power to establish standing rules for the conduct of proceedings under this Section.

During the first week of March, Dr. Joseph Troll of Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the U. of Mass. presented the finest turf conference and industrial show the Northeast has ever seen. The convention was held at the Civic Center in Springfield, Mass. Over 1,300 attended the 3-day conference which included the first industrial show ever. There were 110 booths in the industrial show for the superintendents to speak to factory representatives and

commercial people first hand about their products. This was an opportunity a great number of superintendents never had before. Also, the speakers and topics were of extreme interest as shown by the standing room attendance only at the lectures. Superintendents and exhibitors were very enthused with the results of the conference and are already looking forward to next year. Dr. Troll, we all thank you and appreciate the work you have done for the superintendents. The following served on the planning committee for the conference and should receive recognition also. Anthony Caranci, Max Mierzwa, Wayne Zoppo, Alan Cumps, Dan Leone, Charles Mruk, Robert Scagnetti, and John Zak. Thank you for your efforts also.

One of the most interesting lectures was the one given by Paul Boizelle, CGCS Far Hills, New Jersey. Mr. Boizelle is President of the New Jersey GCSA and gave a talk on the unique character structure he proposed and put to work for the New Jersey GCSA. His proposal was to divide the state into 8 districts and each district would elect their own director to serve on the executive board of the New Jersey GCSA. Besides major membership gains and increased attendance at monthly meetings, Boizelle indicated that other merits of a district organizational structure included:

1. Giving every geographic portion of the state organization a representative voice in all local Association matters;
2. Creation of a higher degree of fellowship to develop between members;
3. Allowing more individual participation;
4. Creation of a better forum for more constructive criticism by the individual member which ultimately enhances growth and development;
5. Permitting fellow superintendents the opportunity to compare labor problems that develop from a similar labor market;
6. Reducing of travel distance to meetings;
7. Giving the young, newly established superintendent an opportunity to develop leadership abilities through district participation;
8. Giving members of the same district, sharing somewhat similar soil and climatic conditions, the opportunity to intelligently approach the realm of common problems and solutions.

Personally, I feel that this type of structure would work very well. It certainly has done wonders for the New Jersey GCSA.

The banquet held Thursday evening was very entertaining. For those who did not attend, you missed an evening full of laughs. Mr. Andy Bertoni of W.A. Cleary Chemical Corporation had people rolling in the isles! They say laughter is the best medicine, well everyone had plenty that night!

The MGA held their annual spring meeting March 5. The speakers were Wayne Zoppo, president of GCSA of New England, gave a talk on what to expect in the way of damage to the golf course after the severe winter we have experienced. Bill Robinson, Golf Course Architect of Fiddlers Green, presented a talk on design and types of structure of golf cart paths. Stan Zontek, Eastern Director of the USGA, gave a talk on irrigation systems. All three stressed the damage you can expect from the past winter. There could be considerable damage from ice, snow mold disease, cart roads and irrigation pipes may have damage from frost heaves. One of the most important points stressed was not to open golf courses too early for play. There is 4 to 5 feet of frost in the ground and it will be a while before it is gone and the ground is firm. Too early of an opening will cause a considerable amount of depressions from traffic, damage root systems and soil structure. The results will show in July and August when golfing activity is at its peak. So golfers, please be patient.

Hope to see you at Eastward Ho for our first outdoor meeting of the year.

Larry Bunn, Newsletter Chairman

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