

NEWSLETTER



Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

FEBRUARY, 1977

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS AT A PRICE

While the assessment of women golfers is a ticklish subject, the following might be termed a "touchy" one.

It concerns the transition of the private country club's grounds (and in some cases, other facilities) into informal, unsupervised winter recreation areas for NON-members. In a word, many townspeople have taken upon themselves to using country club acreage as their own private playground under the assumption that "all the wide open spaces are free." But, alas, they aren't. But, alas, they aren't.

It is not uncommon to see the hills of a country club in round-the-clock formation of toboggans and sleds. To their bottoms and spread out in all directions are the lines of cross country skiers off on their worldly beats. And somewhere in between are frozen over ponds relinquishing their full share of figure eights.

As a matter of record, some clubs encourage such town-wide participation as a public relations instrument. And there are even those clubs who set up snowmobile or cross country touring courses as a source of financial return. There are ski pro shops within them and other avenues to turning an offseason buck.

If there were a check made in areas away from the great mountains to the north, one would find that the highest hills in town can be found on the local golf course. Thus, the challenge of the slopes is there and a natural inclination in the form of the people's penchant for taking unauthorized advantage of it.

In the background of all this merriment and activity is a sore spot. Sad to say there are many dangers lurking in situations where private country club facilities are being used (and abused) by members of the non-paying public. And because of the trend to lean toward an informal atmosphere, suspect behavior ensues.

Ski tourists have been known to tear down snow fences guarding greens and tramp across the covered putting surfaces without any concern for the future of them. Obviously, a green with a 12 or 15-inch roof of snow will not be affected by the thundering slats. However, under a light cover of soft snow, it is vulnerable to the same consequences suffered when snowmobiles were allowed to mush wildly over the golf course a few years ago.

The mashing of snow fences is a form of vandalism in itself and should be recognized as such by the violators. Probably the tourists aren't aware of the weapons they wear on their feet when conditions are such that future grass growth will be stunted or terminated. This might enlighten them.

In addition to this, there have been reports of ice skaters, sliders and the such, using country club platform tennis shelters as their own warming huts. What's more, vandals have been active in these places, too. . . telephones torn off the walls, windows smashed and locks mangled.

What does all this mean to the golf course superintendent . . . aside from the smarting feeling his greens may be scarred for the season? In the long run, it means more work for him and his crew. And, Mr. Country Club President, more work usually means more expense . . . both in manpower and materials.

Well, somebody has to pick up the pieces and generally speaking that someone is the superintendent. He is responsible for the condition of that golf course year 'round. . . even when she's



supposed to be taking her winter nap.

It may sound cruel, inhuman - maybe un-American, but something has to be done in order to avoid serious damage. . . not only to the course and its facilities, but to individuals using them. And, then, who's responsible in the latter case?

I know, I know. It sounds like the killjoy season is being proclaimed here. But remedies to a budding problem seem in line. At least the country clubs should take notice of the situation. After that, they can move on it . . . one way or another.

Gerry Finn



Bob Johnston, Winner of John Shanahan Memorial along with his Pro Dan DiRico (not shown).



Ken Mooradian, Winner of Superintendent/Press Tournament along with V. Commilli (not shown).

NEXT MEETING

Date Feb. 1, 1977
Place Dedham Inn, Dedham, Mass. (Rte. 128 & Rte. 1)

Regular Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Educational Program 2:00 p.m.
Speaker Lee D. Lyman
Topic Methods of Managing Aquatic Weeds in Golf Course Ponds.

Lunch will be on your own.

Note: There will not be a regular meeting in March due to the turf conference.

NOTICE

If you have a change in your President or Green Chairman at your club, please send their name and address so they will receive a copy of the Newsletter. Also please make a note of out going president and green chairman so they can be taken off the Newsletter mailing list. Send information to Newsletter Chairman, address at bottom of Newsletter.

Thank You.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

GOLF'S FEMININE TOUCH

Women in golf. Now, there's a ticklish subject. What about them? Are they here to stay. . . on the golf course, that is? Are they necessary? Have they had any direct influence on the popularity and stability of golf? And, last but not least, how do they fit in appreciation of the golf course - as presented by that grand old fixer, the golf course superintendent?

GOLF JOURNAL - the speakpiece for the United States Golf Association - conducted a survey on the "State of the Ladies in Golf" and the results are worth a perusal here.

It was rather interesting to note that the summation of answers opened with enough interest - drawing power to lead the men to a complete reading of it. The double barreled opening question was designed to whet the competitive cells of one and all - "Do women play according to the rules closer than men and do they play faster than men?"

The concensus on the rules query was as expected. Definitely, women adhere more closely to the rules than men. In fact, professionals answering added the comment that some women were so intent on playing the rules to the letter that they even invented some additional rules of their own!

The nod in speed of play went to men . . . but not in the landslide proportions gained by the fems in the rules race. As suspected, speed was set in relation to proficiency. Since the majority of men at a private club play better golf than the majority of women, it was felt men held most of the track records. However, it was noted that some women - regular foursomes whose main goal was to make for better scores - could not be placed in the category of those who actually hold up play. On the contrary, low handicap women were deemed just as fast as most men of average ability.

There was quite a difference in response to the question of whether women's play increased during the past season. The women answering the survey questionnaire thought play was about the same as the previous year. The reason for this was the time consumption factor of golf, plus the rise in tennis popularity. However, most golf professionals noted an increase in play. . . because of more ambitious tournament schedules for women, formation of leagues and overall boost in promotion.

There was one pro who disagreed with his colleagues, stressing a decline by saying . . . "We don't discourage women from playing, but we don't cut the ladies' tees until the grass has grown waist-high." Now, there's a chauvinist attitude . . . and may be an EX-pro!

From a standpoint of male members, club officials and others in the range of being affected by the golfing habits of women . . . it was evident that women are an integral section of country club life and its survival. Adding substance to this was a comment from "Lighthorse" Harry Cooper of White Plains, N.Y. "We couldn't do without women," said the famed pro. "A lot of clubs would be in trouble without them."

Then, from the view of the golf course suprintendent, it would appear that women might even rate a higher rating in the appreciation of his work and the other physical aspects of the course which go unnoticed by the men.

A typical super's reaction is that women are more aware of the rules relating to preserving the condition and beauty of the golf course. "They're good on golf cars and just a little sloppy with pull-carts," said one super. "Overall, they respect the golf course more than men. Maybe it's because women are more observant of nature and her wonders. By their own nature, women pay more attention to the things around them and appreciation of them follows. They definitely are an asset to golf. And their influence could improve the reaction of male golfers to the course as something to be held in respect and appreciation."

So, women do appreciate and respond to the beauty that is the golf course. And, in return, it's evident women are appreciated. God bless 'em.

Gerry Finn

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Tom Schofield, Winner of Superintendent/Chairman Tournament along with Mr. Ryan (not shown).

JOB OPENINGS

Position	Golf Course Superintendent
Club	Tedesco Country Club
Contact	Mr. Ted Carangelo, Greens Chairman
	Tedesco Country Club
	Tedesco St.
	Swampscott, Mass. 01907
Position	Assistant Superintendent
Club	Wannamoisett Country Club
Contact	Mr. Donald Silven, Superintendent
	43 Normandy Drive
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Newsletter Notes -

Hope this Newsletter reaches you dry, not covered with snow, or frozen like ice. With the weather we have experienced the last three weeks here in New England, your Newsletter very well could have been in a snow bank three to four feet deep. If you live in a low area, the Newsletter could have been floating down your street from all the flooding. If that isn't bad enough, after all the rain and snow, the temperature dropped to around the zero degree mark and your Newsletter may be stiff as a board when you receive your copy! I thought winter was a time to relax! This winter superintendents have spent a great deal of time plowing snow, sanding parking lots and in some cases, finding a way to drain water from low parking areas. The average annual snow fall here in the Boston area is 42 inches per year. This winter we have already received around 40 to 48 inches depending where you live and this is only the middle of January! Right now I could go for a couple of those hot humid days we have in August. I guess it will come soon enough.

The last meeting held at the Dedham Inn was one of the largest turnouts we have had over the last several years. I am sure what brought the people out was the educational program set up by Pete Coste. The speaker for the day was Lewis Wells, Pesticide Co-ordinator for the state of Massachusetts. He filled us in on the details concerning the requirements for obtaining a license to use pesticides, which you will have to do by October of 1977. The superintendent will fall under the classification of commercial operator. The first thing you have to do is get in touch with your local county co-ordinator and he will give you information concerning dates and location of the exams. He will also tell you how to obtain study material for the exam. The next requirement, which the state has not fully prepared as of yet, will be another test. After completion of both exams, you will receive a license to buy and use restricted pesticides. Mr. Wells also pointed out that it would be a good idea if your assistant or another responsible person on your staff obtain a license also.

Please make note of the people on the Welfare Committee. There is a person from each part of the state. If you hear of a superintendent or a member of his family that is ill, please notify the person closest to you.

We have two more Friends of the Association who have contributed to the Lawrence C. Dickinson Scholarship Fund. They are D. L. Maher Company* and E-Z-Go Golf Car*. We thank you kindly for your contribution and they will be recognized on the back of the Newsletter along with other contributors. For those of you who would like to contribute, please contact Don Hearn.

Received notice that Kenneth B. White, President of White Turf Engineering has been elected President of The Irrigation Association at its recent national convention held in Newport Beach, California. Previously, he has served as Chairman of its New Horizons Committee, the organizations long-range planning group, and has been a member of its Landscape Irrigation Committee. He also served a two-year term as Director of the group and was its first Turf Distributors Division Chairman.

Arnold Palmer, who was the guest speaker at GCSAA's Fifty Year Celebration held at Sylvania Country Club in Sylvania, Ohio, has been made an Honorary Member of GCSAA.

Included in this Newsletter is the program of the University of Massachusetts Turf Conference and Industrial Show. This is the forty-sixth turf conference and the first industrial show. The dates are March 2, 3, 4, 1977 and the conference and industrial show will be held at the Civic Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. The conference planning committee headed by Dr. Joseph Troll and consisting of Anthony Caranci, Max Mierzwa, Wayne Zoppo, Allan Cumps, Dan Leone, Charles Mruk, Robert Scagnetti and John Zak have come up with not only an excellent educational program, but have also instituted the first industrial show. There will be over 115 booths and they will be opened for your con-

venience all three days for approximately 12 hours time during the convention. There will be people from all turf related businesses to talk to first hand about your problems and needs. Make special note on your program as to the times the industrial show will be open so you can take advantage of their services. The snack bar and cocktails will be available in the area of the show.

I'll leave you with a little advice, don't ever ask a Polish golfer to cure your golfing problems. One day last summer, I was playing with a fellow superintendent who happened to be Polish. (I won't mention any names). After topping three shots in a row, I asked him what I could do to prevent topping the ball? His answer was, try turning the ball upside down!

Larry Bunn
Newsletter Chairman

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Finn:

Your recent articles criticizing the GCSAA Certification renewal requirements have indeed ruffled some feathers. Those of us who have worked so hard to establish and improve the Certification program are deeply concerned when it is censured so unjustly. Although Certification is in its sixth year, it is still young and growing. We are constantly looking for ways to improve it and are willing to consider all suggestions.

Cliff Wagoner very amply answered most of the points raised in your original article.

Obviously, you have given Certification some serious thought. Perhaps you have been misled or ill-advised because it would appear that you do not understand the purpose of GCSAA's Certification program.

Certainly we would like to have more superintendents certified, but we should never lower our standards to accomplish that wish. Certified status would be of little value to anyone if it were too easy to attain or to maintain.

We should not confuse Certification with a college degree. They are in no way akin.

GCSAA certifies that a member has the experience and apparent knowledge to function as a competent golf course superintendent. In order to maintain the integrity of the program within a profession encompassing an ever changing technology, it is necessary to place a time limitation upon the Certified status. If GCSAA is to continue to Certify as to a member's knowledge and skills, there must be a basis for periodic re-evaluation.

The Certified superintendent can pursue several options to renew his CGCS. If he is unable to attend any of the conferences or seminars, he can take the examination. Having initially passed the Certification exam, he will possess the basic knowledge of the profession. If he has kept himself current through reading and attending Chapter educational meetings, he should have little difficulty in passing the new exam.

Granted this may put some strain on his valuable time, but if he wishes to enhance his professional status he must be willing to put forth some effort of his own.

GCSAA is by no means unique in requiring renewal of Certified status. Doctors, nurses, teachers, CPA's and others, in many states, must be re-examined or meet other continuing educational requirements to maintain their Certification.

We would hope that all superintendents aspire to become Certified and will one day do so. The present low percentage of Certified superintendents might be a problem of apathy rather than reluctance toward renewal requirements every five years.

It is up to all of us who have a genuine interest in the profession to try to overcome this apathy before it becomes detrimental to our profession.

Sincerely,
Charles H. Tadge, CGCS
Chairman Certification Committee

Golf Chairman	Educational Chairman	Newsletter Chairman	Past President
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