

Let's Get Together

There was a wave of suspicion accompanying anticipation of the meeting of New England golf course superintendents and clubhouse managers last month at the Metacomet Club in East Providence.

Those fears or whatever were unfounded. The session was well worth the trip, whether you wheeled in from the western part of Massachusetts or other nearby ports. The clubhouse managers were not there to make a pitch for the general manager concept, nor were they sounding out the superintendents in an effort to take a stranglehold on that position. The meeting proved successful on both a social and business level. In fact, the most prominent comment at day's end was the desire to get together again and perhaps make the event an annual affair.

For one of the rare moments under similar conditions, the superintendents had the opportunity to air some of their problems. And, in like manner, the managers bared their drawbacks on the execution of their jobs.

The biggest problem among superintendents appears to be in the area of compensation, both for their help and themselves. But, for this moment, the supers preferred to concentrate on the labor force.

Clubhouse managers agreed that the super is being called upon to operate under the burden of offering scab wages to his help. An interesting comparison was noted, one which comes out appalling when you think of it.

It was revealed that workers on the course are lucky if they are paid \$3.50 an hour for certain jobs that require expertise in the handling of expensive and dangerous equipment. The ludicrous nature of such a scale was realized when one clubhouse manager disclosed that he was paying his waitresses as much as \$6 an hour. When one considers that the golf course is the backbone of the country club and that its playing condition sets the tempo for the amount of business in the clubhouse, the gap between those two jobs in remuneration is incredible.

"You shouldn't take that from the members," one manager told the superintendents. "We find that depriving members of top notch service results in our ability to offer higher wages to our help. I wouldn't want to suggest that you hold back on your conditioning services to members. But it's a thought. After all, there is no legitimate reason why a waitress should make more money than a man spraying with fungicides or cutting the rough on a treacherous hill."

There was strong agreement, then, on that matter. And there was considerable sympathy accorded the superintendent in another troubled area - that of too much play on the golf course.

One super and his discussion partner clubhouse manager told of a situation where their club staged three different shotgun-type tournaments on one day. "Getting our kitchen

and help to do an adequate job was almost an impossibility," the manager moaned. "Did you ever try to keep up with the flow of delivering golf carts and mowing fairways with over 250 golfers on the course?" the superintendent replied.

Also touched upon was the line of communications between clubhouse manager and superintendent. It was unanimous that those lines become clear and remain in working order. "We're not trying to create situations where we have to depend on one another," a super told. "But each of us should be aware of the other's particular problem whether it's related or not. And very often one solution is effective in solving similar problems. We have to operate as two factions working together, not factions torn apart by jealousy and other foolish things."

cont. on page 2



NEXT MEETING

JULY 16, 1979

MARSHFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

Directors Meeting: 10 a.m.

Regular Meeting: 11 a.m.

Lunch: 12 noon

Golf: 1 p.m.

Directions: Rt. 128 to Rt. 3. Take Marshfield Exit 32, Rt. 139. Follow 139 toward Marshfield. At second light, turn right. Bear left at fork. Course 1 mile on the right.

Where's Charlie?... He's Everywhere

One of the welcomed star attractions at the meeting of New England golf course superintendents and clubhouse managers was the president of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America, Charlie Tadge.

Metacomet, the site of the session, is one of about 80 stops Tadge will make in spreading the gospel of his profession during his one year tenure as GCSAA prexy. "Fortunately, I have two assistants and a foreman at my club," Charlie explained his nationwide availability. "And my club understands the situation. This is a source of recognition for them. But... they still want a good golf course. Doesn't every member?"

Tadge has been superintendent at the Mayfield Country Club in South Euclid, Ohio - a suburb of Cleveland for 13 years. "My members were a little leery about my taking this job at first," Charlie continued. "But I've convinced them that someone has to be working for the whole golf business. That's why they gave me the go-ahead sign. Everyone in golf wants to see the game improve and prosper. That's one of the superintendent's goals. After all, it is our business, too."

The president doesn't plan any drastic moves while he serves the GCSAA. However, he has initiated a study which could result in a vigorous reorganization in the future.

"I've set up a committee to study the organizational structure of the GCSAA," Charlie revealed. "It's going to take a long time and it may result in only minimal change. One item, which I'm concerned with, is the sectional or chapter wings. I think they should be more clearly defined and should have requirements which place all of their members under the big tent of the GCSAA. I want to see this made mandatory. There's little sense to superintendents joining a section with some members of the national and others ignoring it. My goal is to get every golf course superintendent interested and active in our organization. Our strength lies with our membership and that strength often is measured in numbers."

Charlie is completely satisfied with the progress of the superintendent in his quest to be recognized by club members as a vital and integral part of the club operational facet.

"I'd say we've come a long way in recent years," he remarked. "I think the club members are aware of the fact that the superintendent is the best business manager on the premises... better than the clubhouse manager or the golf professional. Our image is clouded only by the national recognition the touring pros get. Too many people associate the touring pro with the club pro. They're two different wings of one profession. But it's no big deal as far as I'm concerned. As I go around the country, I find that the super is growing in acceptance and stature."

Although the term "greenkeeper" continues to overshadow use of the term "golf course superintendent," the situation doesn't bother Tadge. "The greenkeeper name may even be better than superintendent," he laughed. "Sure, it doesn't sound as refined or fancy. But it tells it all. Some of our

younger members, in fact, would like to see us go back to calling ourselves greenkeepers. And sometimes I think it makes good sense."

As for public relations puffery, Charlie tells that the national is trying to get the message across to supers that it begins with himself. "The super has to be his own public relations agent and his course the vehicle for improving his image," Charlie stated. "I'm afraid some of our members are content to keep their position and presence a secret. I don't know what it is... fear of losing their jobs? Could be. Anyway, it's up to the individual to make his own waves."

Tadge works at a club which utilizes the general manager concept. However, he's in agreement with the New England Association that it is not necessary. "I'd say only a handful of clubs in the country can justify the general manager theme," he said. "Personally, I like the present arrangement of the three separate operational heads."

And that's a quick rundown of the profession from the top of the super summit. Charlie Tadge is on the go... and on the beam. Good people.

Gerry Finn

A fresh ball mark takes ten seconds to repair and twenty-four hours to heal. Unrepaired for one hour, it takes fifteen days to heal.

Sign at Moss Creek Plantation

Let's Get Together

cont. from page 1

Budgets came up for discussion. And both groups were of the opinion that the size of the budget is equivalent to the demands of the membership. Therefore, members wishing to play under the best possible conditions should expect the budget to coincide with the making of them. Conversely, a short budget can mean only corresponding conditions.

This was the heart of the meeting. Each side got a good look at the other's operational agenda and problems that go with it. And to top off the day, Metacomet proved a gracious, congenial and luxurious host. The event was advertised... a don't miss occasion. Those, who missed it, should make an attempt to attend the next session. It's that worthwhile.

Gerry Finn

PRESIDENT

DEAN ROBERTSON
24 Riverview Drive
Newbury, Mass. 01950
Home phone 462-4540
Office phone 745-7289
Club Affiliation
Kernwood C.C.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

RONALD KIRKMAN
25 Green St.
Needham, Mass. 02192
Home phone 444-8412
Office phone 444-5548
Club Affiliation
Needham Golf Club

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

BRIAN COWAN CGCS
Robins Way
Harwich, Mass. 02645
Home phone 432-9041
Office phone 945-9230
Club Affiliation
Eastward Ho.

SECRETARY

DAVID BARBER CGCS
Box 221
Wayland, Mass. 01778
Home phone 326-1348
Office phone 358-4882
Club Affiliation
Wayland C.C.

TREASURER

DONALD HEARN CGCS
4 Topeka Rd.
Chelmsford, Mass. 01824
Home phone 256-8709
Office phone 894-5906
Club Affiliation
Weston Golf Club

TRUSTEE

MAX MIERZWA
106 Crestwood St.
Chicopee, Mass. 01020
Home phone 594-4996
Office phone 592-9540
Club Affiliation
Chicopee C.C.

TRUSTEE

BERT FREDERICK
45 Stoney Brook Rd.
Nabnaset, Mass. 01861
Home phone 692-6445
Office phone 453-1231
Club Affiliation
Vesper C.C.

TRUSTEE

MEINDERT F. SCHULTS
737 Princeton Blvd.
Lowell, Mass. 01851
Home phone 458-7605
Office phone 452-8228
Club Affiliation
Mt. Pleasant G.C.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN

ROBERT JOHNSON
128 Wilbraham Rd.
Hampden, Mass. 01036
Home phone 566-3075
Office phone 566-3096
Club Affiliation
Hampden C.C.

How To Repair Ball Marks

The Trouble With Ball Marks

The ball landed with a thud. The green was soft, and as the ball bounced forward it left a deep little crater in the turf, exposing brown earth at the back and grass blades pushed together at the front.

Ignoring the little crater, the golfer walked up to his ball, cleaned it, holed his putt and glowed with self-satisfaction.

Some hours later, after the exposed earth in the ball mark had dried out, another golfer found the damaged area in his line of putt. He attempted repairs, but the result was not very satisfactory. An unflattened bit of turf twisted his putt off line.

Next morning an inexperienced greenkeeper mowed the putting surface without repairing ball marks. The result was a putting surface pocked-marked, untrue and covered with bare spots where the mower scalped the grass from the turf.

What Happens

What Happens

What actually happens when a ball mark is not promptly and properly repaired?

1. Soil is exposed, and so the area immediately surrounding the ball dries up faster than it would if the ball marks were repaired; and thus a blemish is left on the green.

2. There is a chance that the raised turf caused by the ball will dry quickly and may die out.

3. The open soil invites weed invasion, such as crabgrass, silver crabgrass, POA ANNUA, dandelion, plantain, or Pearlwort ... seed of which could be brought in on the shoes of golfers, caddies or workers or on mowing equipment.

4. The improperly repaired or neglected ball marks leaves a bumpy spot in the green. If not corrected before cutting the next day, then the spot is scalped by the mower and the bruise mark remains for several days. This is especially noticeable in the Northeast during the summer season.

William H. Benegyfield, Western Director of the Green Section, says:

"From an agronomic viewpoint, a ball mark bruises the grass plant and severely damages or destroys the meristem or growing point. This means that turf recovery must take place from the perimeter of the damaged area, and this takes considerable time. Rapid drying of the damaged area is a major factor in delaying recovery. Some soil compaction also results from the ball's impact."

How To Make Repairs

There is a correct way to repair a ball mark and, simply stated, it is to stretch the turf back over the bruised area, then loosen the soil beneath so that the bruised turf is able to root again.

To loosen the soil, some sharp-pointed instrument is required, such as a golf tee. The instrument must be sharp enough to penetrate the soil easily, and strong enough to cut through soil laterally at a depth of one inch or less.

In stretching the turf back over the ball mark area, try not to tear it loose. After the soil is loosened, the bruised and stretched turf must be firmed or pressed down to make contact with the soil again; otherwise, it may dry and die.

If a divot is taken when the ball hits the green and skids, the divot must be carefully stretched and replaced.

United States Golf Association



GOLF CHAIRMAN

KEN MOORADIAN
134 Green St.
Hopedale, Mass. 01747
Home phone 473-2352
Office phone 473-3508
Club Affiliation
Hopedale C.C.

EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMAN

PETE COSTE CGCS
121 Granite St.
Medfield, Mass. 02052
Home phone 359-7247
Office phone 566-0240
Club Affiliation
The Country Club

NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN

TOM SCHOFIELD CGCS
290 North Rd.
Sudbury, Mass. 01776
Home phone 443-3712
Office phone 235-7333
Club Affiliation
Wellesley C.C.

PAST PRESIDENT

WAYNE ZOPPO
9A Village Green No.
E. Providence, R.I. 02915
Home phone 434-1759
Office phone 438-8512
Club Affiliation
Agawam Hunt G.C.

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**

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

Bordens Spreader Service
Maynard, Mass.
Tel. 617-897-2571
Sales Rep. Jack Borden
Bulk Limestone Dealer

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

The Clapper Co.
1121 Washington St.
Newton, Mass.
617-244-7900

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

Golf Course Architects
Fiddlers Green, Amherst, Mass. 01002
J. Cornish-B. Robinson

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

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

E-Z Go Golf Cars
Sales-Service-Rentals
Polaris/E-Z Go Northeast
2237 Route 28
West Wareham, Mass. 02576

Scotts Pro-Turf Div.
Rep. Ed Wiacek 1-401-253-4284
Rep. Allan Cumps 1-413-253-2995

Gold Star Sod Farms, Inc.
Sod & Pine Bark Mulch
Canterbury, N.H. 603-783-4717
Weston, Mass. 617-894-5474

Holliston Sand Co., Inc.
Lowland St., Holliston, Mass. 01746
Sand for top dressing and bunkers

I & E Supply, Inc.
66 Erna Ave.
Box 9 Milford, Conn. 06460
203-878-0658

Tom Irwin, Inc.
11B A St.
Burlington, Mass.

Larchmont Engineering and Irrig. Co.
Larchmont Lane, Lexington, Mass.
617-862-2550

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

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

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

Old Fox Chemical Inc.
Fertilizers - Seeds - Turf Chemicals
66 Valley St.
E. Providence, R.I. 02914

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

Pro-Lawn Prod., Inc.
Fred Anthony, Sales Rep.
391 Tremont St.
N. Dighton, Mass. 02764
617-823-1348

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

* Sawtelle Bros.
565 Humphrey St.
Swampscott, Mass.
617-599-4856

Trencher & Equip. Leasing, Inc.
Ditch Witch Trenchers
38 Fairview St., Aquawam, Mass. 01001
413-786-7314

Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.
Slocum, R.I., Litchfield, N.H.
1-800-556-6985
Alan Anderson
Sam Mitchell

Tuco Products Corp.
Div. of the Upjohn Co.
Kalamazoo, Mich.
David Sylvester
203-828-3790

Turf Products Corp.
1496 John Fitch Blvd.
S. Windsor, Conn. 06074
1-203-289-3471
John Perry, Sales Rep.

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

Phillip 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.



TOM SCHOFIELD CGCS
Newsletter Committee Chairman
290 North Road
Sudbury, Mass. 01776
Home Phone 443-3712
Office Phone 235-7333
Club Affiliation
Wellesley 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

