

NEWSLETTER



February, 1980

Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association for the honor you have bestowed upon me to serve as your 28th President.

Just to refresh our memory - the objects of this Association are:

- 1 - To further the education of its members in the science of golf maintenance and its related fields.
- 2 - To encourage the free exchange of ideas and experiences.
- 3 - To advance the interests and welfare of its members.
- 4 - To encourage the highest standards of dignity, integrity and skill in our profession.
- 5 - To foster active cooperation and participation in all things good for our profession such as turf grass conferences, experimental and research work, and any movement that will result in increased efficiency in golf course maintenance.

I trust our members and friends of the association will find the time to attend the monthly meetings lending us your support, encouragement and participation.

Ron Kirkman, President
N.E.G.C.S.A.

NEXT MEETING February 4, 1980 Franklin C.C.



Directors meeting	10:00 a.m.
Regular meeting	11:00 a.m.
Lunch	12:00 noon
Speaker	1:00 p.m.

Membership Involvement... Yes? No?

Which is the more desired association or arrangement...the superintendent serving the wishes and ways of a one-man, single-owner club or a committee-chairman club where the membership has some input into the course-conditioning process?

Many resort courses operate under the head to head theory in matter of one "boss" calling the shots and the superintendent answerable only to that person.

"That's usually all right," an interested superintendent offered during a recent informal gathering. "At a resort, for the most part, there isn't a membership. People, playing the course, are more interested in getting good weather than good greens. However, the superintendent has to think about repeat business. He has to put it on right. I mean, he can't goof off because there's no member assessing his work."

The one "boss" setup also is found in scattered country clubs, and here is where some hangups surface.

The same super is talking..."This is the kind of arrangement that I work under. The advantages are there. For one thing, I answer to my owner and no one else. He makes the decisions after consulting with me. For that, I have to say I'm satisfied. He doesn't wake up in the morning with some wild idea and pass it onto me without asking for my views. Granted, he does have the last word but I think I have some influence in his reaching the final decision.

"Then, too, the one-owner relationship is less complicated in that I don't have to listen to 13 different suggestions from 13 different members. From my knowledge of the membership-input system, I see that a lot of time is wasted just coming to a decision."

However, our single-minded super does see some flaws in answering only to the one owner.

"We really act as an independent authority," he disclosed. "And sometimes I wonder if this produces the kind of golf course which is the best for all those playing it. As it stands, I never hear anything about the condition of the course from the members. Therefore, I don't know what kind of job I'm doing.

"You might think that this would constitute the ideal situation. After all, I don't get any hassle from the members because they don't carry any clout. However, who can say that what the owner and I believe is the right conditioning move is the best move when only two opinions are considered?"

The most popular method of setting up conditioning plans and changes in course appearance is the committee-chairman-member form. In this arrangement, members bring their complaints and suggestions to the grounds com-

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Long and Short of It

The early madness of this winter--when snow seemed to take a strange detour everytime it approached New England--was more than a blessing to certain area golf courses and their superintendents. It was a Godsend-plus.

Dave Clement, who has been painting the scenery green at the Crestview Country Club for lo these many years, is especially grateful for the tardiness of winter at his base of operations in Agawam, Mass. "We really got into a very important project," he reports. "And the weather held up long enough to really give us a big jump on changing the face of Crestview."

The project is the result of the times. Crestview was built during the architectural embrace of length--both in distance between tees and greens and one end of the putting surface to the other. True, it became one of the challenges for the long-ball hitting set and was considered a potential site for many championships. It was, in effect, a golf course suited to professional measurements.

Consequently, certain of Crestview's members soon discovered that playing the course was more of a chore than a joy. The membership is a mixture of middle age and those straying beyond. And, as time and the flair for muscle-required challenges passed, Crestview often took on the appearance of a "ghost course."

Now, there is a renewal of the original enthusiasm which marked the club when it took its first steps. The governing body has decided to build a course within a course. "It's similar to an executive layout," Clement tells. "What we've done is make the course a challenge in stages to our membership. It's meant moving a few trees, bringing in new ones and altering some hazards. When the job is finished, we'll have two courses in one...with the option of which one becoming the challenge of the day up to the individual member."

Crestview could be a trend-setter along this line of providing the ultimate golf test for a complete membership. "We have some older members who just aren't strong enough to either play from our championship tees or the regulars," Clement reveals. "And, you can't expect the men to play from the ladies' tees. The answer, then, is an executive-sized layout...setting it up so that the player still has to face most of the original score-breakers but has a much easier and shorter route to their meeting place.

The reduction of the physical demands on the shorter hitters should make for a much livelier golfing season at Crestview. "I'd say that our play definitely will be on the rise next year," Clement advises. "Of course, it might add a little more work for me. But I'm as excited about it as most of the members."

Clement adds that the face job on Crestview doesn't do anything to detract from the course as one of the stiffer challenges in the Western Massachusetts area. "On the contrary," he notes. "Because we have made some changes in the fairway, including location of traps, a few greens and rearranged hazards--the game from the back tees will be harder than ever."

Crestview's original promise of length to the qualified golfer is deceiving in that much of it is concentrated on

isolated holes. This means that, despite a lengthy trip overall, some holes are not as demanding as they should be if toughness is the desired offering. One par five test (No. 7) has been a "snap" for the big hitters, even from the championship driving area.

"It won't be that easy to reach in two after we get finished with revamping it," Clement warned. "We're not adding any length, just pushing a few things around so that accuracy and mental preparation will come into play. Before, a golfer could let it go from his heels without the fear of encountering trouble. Now, the hole will give the long hitters a run for their money."

While Crestview attempts to broaden its golfing appeal to its members, perhaps other strenuous layouts will be watching the effects of the change. It is a matter of the aging process that golfers do not hit the ball as long as they did before they began counting the years.

It is in the spirit of satisfying the needs and wishes of the entire membership that Crestview has decided to make these changes. It also is an example of "common sense" approach to setting up the challenges golfers come to expect while at the same time varying them according to the ability of the golfers.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Gerry Finn

Note

In order to qualify for keeping your pesticide licenses you must attend 3 seminars in 5 years that are run by the State.

Next seminar is Feb. 7, 1980 at the Waltham Field Station. This is on Ornamentals and Turf.

Job Opening

Wayland C.C. Supt.

Contact - Phil Farina Jr. Tel.# 358-4882 or 443-2570

To be voted on at next meeting

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Don Hearn
David Barber

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Robert Johnston Ch.
Pete Coste'
Leonard Blodgett
Joe Rybka

Golf

Ken Mooradian Ch.
Steve Murphy
Gary Luccini

Newsletter

Tom Schofield Ch.
Chuck Lane
Leon St. Pierre
Pete Coste'

Employment

Tom Schofield Ch.
Doug Johnson
Dave Barber
Dr. Joe Troll

Welfare

Arthur Anderson Ch.
Brian Cowan
John Pluta
Frank Murphy
Meindert Schults

Publicity

Art Washburn Ch.
Bob Connally
Bert Frederick
Tony DeBettencourt

By Laws

Robert Grant Ch.
Norm Mucciarone
Bob Mucciarone
Don Hearn
Tom Schofield

Educational

Paul Miller Ch.
Mel O'Kelly
Paul Johnson

MGA Liaison

Guy Tedesco Ch.
Bob Grant Ch.

Turf Research

Dr. Joe Troll Ch.
Dr. Richard Skogley
Charles Gardener
Jim Fitzroy
Manny Francis Sr.

Parliamentarian

Dean Robertson Ch.

National Chapter Affairs Comm.

Don Hearn Ch.
Brian Cowan

Monthly Tickets

Max Mierzwa

Membership

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mittee. It, in turn, discusses them and arrives at a decision which is then passed on to the superintendent by the green chairman.

Of course, the hitch here is the changing faces of the chairman and committee members. Since there is often a one or two-year turnover in people and personalities, the superintendent finds himself adjusting his outlook to the incoming chairman and committee.

"You really don't know where you stand," another superintendent voiced an opinion of annoyance to the complete involvement picture. "I have had to assume a gamut of personal posture in dealing with the many chairmen that come and go. I almost have to change my personality on a yearly basis. Sometimes that's difficult to do."

How about a happy medium?

"What's that?" our original one-owner placed super asked. "I guess the country club could work a little continuity into dealing with the superintendent by arranging for an orderly succession of green chairmen and committee members. That way there wouldn't have to be any drastic adjustment on the part of the superintendent.

"As for my situation, I really feel the owner should solicit some comment from his members. He wouldn't have to place any authority in the members' hands. But, simply by making a gesture to enlist their interest, it could help my case.

"Right now, I don't know whether or not the members enjoy the course as I condition it. Just once, I'd like to be able to sit down with some of them and hear what they think about the course. As it is, I seldom see any of them. I don't have the time or opportunity to pick their brains. Who knows...they might have some ideas that could bring about an overall improvement to the course?"

So, the superintendent-authority relationship doesn't know one bona fide ideal arrangement. There are flaws in both. Too bad they can't get together and weed them out to the point where that happy medium can be realized.

Gerry Finn



Notice

Annual Turf Conference & Show
March 4,5,6,
Civic Center
Springfield, Mass.
Details in next month's Newsletter

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Scholarship Fund

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