



# THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



— DECEMBER - 1985 —

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### *December 13*

GCSANE Christmas Party  
The Stadium Club, Foxboro, Mass.  
RSVP Mr. Tom Schofield

### *December 16*

GCSANE Regular Meeting  
Franklin C.C.  
Franklin, Mass.

### *December 16*

News Deadline  
News Deadline  
GCSANE "The Newsletter"

### *Jan. 13, 1986*

GCSANE Annual Meeting—  
Election of Officers  
Franklin C.C.  
Franklin, Mass.

### *Jan. 27-Feb. 4, 1986*

GCSAA Conference and Show  
San Francisco, CA

### *March 3-6, 1986*

U-Mass Conference and Show  
Springfield, Mass.

## — NEXT MEETING —

**Franklin C.C.**  
**Franklin, Mass.**

10:00 A.M. Directors Meeting  
11:00 A.M. Regular Meeting  
11:30 Program—Dr. Richard Cooper, U-Mass.

12:00 Lunch

**Directions to Club:** From Rte. 495 take King St. exit. Go north to traffic light and turn right on Route 140. Club is appx. 1 mile on right.

## — Position Opening —

**Assistant Superintendent**  
**Ferncroft C.C.**

Please send resume to, or call  
Mr. Paul Johnson, G.C.S.  
c/o Sheraton Tara Hotel and Resort  
Ferncroft Rd.  
Danvers, MA 01923  
Tel: 617-777-2500, Ext. 7906

## Rich Cooper Hopes to "Grow" on NEGCSA

His official title at the University of Massachusetts reads right out of the educational hopper - Dr. Richard Cooper, Assistant Professor of Turf Grass Science.

"That's a mouthful," the recent addition to the world of the New England golf course superintendent advised. "So let's cut it down to, 'Rich', and leave it go at that."

You'll be meeting Rich soon or those members of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association, who take in the December meeting will. He's the educational speaker of the month and he comes into the fold with a playful warning, "I like to talk".

Rich, just in case you haven't noticed the passing of time and Dr. Joseph Troll's retirement, steps into Joe's shoes at UMass and hopes they're a comfortable fit.

"I'm succeeding sort of a legend as far as the golf course superintendents are concerned," Rich remarked. "Everybody knows and liked Joe. He gets around to a lot of golf courses and he's been in constant touch with the profession.

"He also has a very large number of UMass grads in the field. Joe Troll's been their connection between them and the immediate source of turf grass education. Eventually, I'd like to assume that role."

Dr. Cooper comes to UMass at an opportune time for himself, his students and the corps of New England superintendents. He just completed his doctorate requirements after a one-two-three educational leap from Penn State to Rhode Island to Ohio State and holds himself as a bug for research and spreading its word through association with those who benefit from it.

"I'm a people person," Rich disclosed. "I like getting out to see what life's all about away from the classroom and research lab. I'm happy to speaking before the superintendents and I'm lining up some other appearances. I want to get as much practical experience as I can and the sooner the better."

Practical experience may be second nature for the 29-year-old Pittsburgh native who had his fair share of it as he made his way up the educational ladder - sometimes two rungs at a time.

"I went right to the grass roots of the situation and worked on a golf course for one summer while I was going to school," Rich revealed. "It was near Pittsburgh - a nice course, called Valley Brook Country Club. It was really an education for me.

"Besides, it's part of my philosophy. If you intend working with people around golf courses, you should get yourself acquainted with what they do. So, what better way for me to touch the superintendent than to become a member of his crew?"

Rich also intends to take his golf clubs out of mothballs and tee it up again.

"Oh, it has nothing to do with improving my game," he laughed. "I'll always be a hacker. But, now that I have the heavy, book-bound part of my education behind me, I should be able to find some time to play. It's not only part of my philosophy, it's fun."

Rich had a UMass connection almost from the beginning of his association with the turf field.

"My adviser at Penn State was Don Waddington," Rich said. "And he's a UMass grad. He helped me a lot and when I got my bachelor's degree, I was convinced there was much more to learn. So, I went to Rhode Island for my masters.

Dr. Cooper took a couple of years off the educational beat to work as a technician in a research lab at Ohio State but eventually went the book route again in quest of his doctor's degree.

"Now I'm ready to put all this learning to work," Rich explained. "My duties at

—Rich Cooper con't. on page 5—

# Golf Course Superintendents Association



Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund - Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

## President's Message

Donald Hearn

December, 1985



The attendance at our November meeting held at the Lexington Golf Club was excellent. I suspect many were interested in seeing the results of some of the unique practices used by Superintendent Orrin Ellis. My hat is off to anyone brave enough to convert a putting surface using Roundup.

The deadline for our association to request a GCSAA Regional Seminar has passed. There was not enough interest from the membership to warrant us sponsoring one next year.

It's interesting to note that some of the frustrations experienced by superintendents in this country are experienced by superintendents all over the world. Talking to others during my recent trip to Scotland I realized very quickly that golfers in America don't have a monopoly on suggestions for improving course conditions.

Everyone should attend the December meeting at Franklin Country Club. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Richard Cooper, Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Science at the University of Massachusetts. This will be an ideal time to meet Dr. Cooper and share your ideas with him.

## — The Super Speaks Out —

(Welcome to The Super Speaks Out - a monthly feature which offers the golf course superintendent a forum to express his views on topics and issues relating to his profession.)

**This month's question:** What do you like and dislike about the The Newsletter and what, if any, topics would you like covered in future issues?

**Dean Robertson, Kernwood Country Club:** "I'll get the dislikes out of the way, because they're easy and quick.

"Mostly, it has to do with the color. I don't like that dark, dark black type and other frills. I think it could be livened up, the appearances, with some more green. The paper could be a little more richer, but it's passable.

"Actually, the gripes are minor. There are a lot of positive things in the publication. I like the new front page; Dates to Remember column. That's right on the button.

"Of course, I've always thought the quality of the feature articles and the writing was the very best. It's the same now.

"The Super Speaks Out" is another good addition. It enlists an expression from the membership and it's one way of getting more members involved, plus getting them exposure. However, I did like the old 'letters' thing better.

"I guess the only advice and hope I have for future articles is more pumping up of the image and one of the ways is promoting more professionalism in the profession. Specifically, harp on our dress code until everyone, including the associate members, get the message."

**Gary Luccini, Franklin Country Club:** "I honestly have to say that I can't find too much fault with the way you guys are doing the job.

"Everything comes out on target - on center. The Super Speaks Out is just the right stuff for the lifting of our profession in the eyes of the members. I see that Newsletters are being posted in a lot of 19th holes and locker rooms, so it must be hitting home.

"I would like to see more discussion and revelations about budgets. This is a subject of interest to all of the superintendents, as well as the

## — LAST MEETING —

Lexington C.C. 10/4/85

Despite threatening weather a large contingent of GCSANE members attended the October meeting at Lexington, and were treated to a nice buffet lunch and a well groomed golf course.

Host Orrin Ellis gave a brief presentation on his "Roundup" green and answered as many questions as he could. Thank you Orrin!

### Meeting Notes

□ The membership unanimously approved the bylaw changes which were published in last months "Newsletter".  
□ 1st readings for membership were read for:

Gary Dorn - Asst., Brae Burn C.C.

Peter Hasak - Asst., Hamden C.C.

Daniel Higgins - Asst., Cohasse C.C.

Ron Sherman - Supt., Plymouth C.C.

□ Voted in as regular members:

Jeff Carlsen, Supt. Ocean Edge G.C., Brewster, MA

Steve Car, Supt. Pocasset C.C., Pocasset, MA

A. Roy MacKintosh, Supt. Twin Hills C.C., Longmeadow MA

*Congratulations, and Welcome Aboard!*

### Golf Results

1 Gross - Dick Duggan, Concord C.C.  
2 Gross - Mark Klimm, C.C. of New Seabury

3 Gross - Doug Johnson, Pine Brook C.C.

1 Net - Ron Kirkman, Needham G.C.

2 Net - Neil Loomis, Saddle Hill G.C.

3 Net - Don Levangie, Norfolk G.C.

Commercial Net - Kevin Lyons, Turf Specialties.

Commercial Gross - Cameron Quinn, T.P.C.

□ □ □

members. Many times budget figures are deceptive and don't tell the whole financial outlay story. Otherwise, I'm one hundred percent in favor of the Newsletter - as it is."

**Joe Rybka, Thorny Lea Golf Club:** "I don't know if I'm the right person to be part of this question. I'm kind of easy to please because I know how hard it is for you guys to do this (publish Newsletter) month after month and make it

—The Super Speaks con't. on page 3

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**Golf Course Superintendents Association**

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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**— Position Opening —****Golf Course Superintendent**  
Alpine C.C. Cranston, R.I.

Please send resume to:

Judge Anthony Sciarretta  
c/o Alpine C.C.  
251 Pippin Orchard Rd.  
Cranston, R.I. 02910*— The Super Speaks con't. from page 2*

interesting.

"The appearance is nice, everything sets up to make it easy to read and that calendar deal is great. I cut them out every month, so I can remember what's going on.

"The articles are good, Super Speaks Out is a perfect place for a super to get things off his chest - although most complainers are the ones who never have anything to offer in a positive vein.

"All in all, I think the Newsletter makes a lot of sense. I get to it in time, I must admit, because I'm not somebody who races to the mail box just to be the first to read it.

"Again, I know how hard something like this is. Frankly, I take my hat off to the people behind the Newsletter."

**Bob Connolly, Winchester Country Club:** "I'm satisfied with the way the Newsletter appears - for looks and content. But everything is related to budgets and the looks have to conform in that direction.

"The question and answers column (Super Speaks Out) is a good educational vehicle for the superintendent and also gives him a promotional boost.

"My feeling about the whole thing - about articles and the like in the publication - is that it should concentrate on public relations for the superintendent. We need it, because a lot of our employers (members) are still in the dark as to what our contributions are all about.

"I'd like my members to know that my crew can do a certain job which saves the club two or three hundred dollars it would have had to pay to an outside contractor or professional. That's the PR I'm referring to and maybe the Newsletter should be a little more informational along that line.

"Anyway, I read it regularly and I'm impressed with the effort. It's a step in the right direction and at least a positive addition for the good and welfare of the profession."

**—GERRY FINN****— UPDATE ON NEW ENGLAND NEMATODE SURVEY —***Stan Swier, Pat Vittum, and Rob Wick*

We are well into the first year of the New England nematode survey and we are beginning to learn about the nematodes which are common on New England golf courses. We are sampling twelve golf courses (two in Maine, two in New Hampshire, two in Vermont, one in Connecticut, and five in Massachusetts) every other week. These regular samples began the first week in May and include three greens at each golf course.

We have found a great deal of variation within each golf course. Some greens have very low numbers of nematodes while other greens on the same course may have moderate or heavy populations. Also, some greens on the same course may have five different genera. These various genera differ in their ability to weaken turf, so the survey is counting each genus separately.

It appears that *Tylenchorenchus* is the genus about which we need to be most concerned. It occasionally occurs in high numbers, and apparently it is one of the genera most capable of damaging turf. Another genus which has shown up in large numbers in some samples and is almost equally damaging is *Hoplolaimus*. Several other genera show up in at least some of the samples (*Criconomella*, *Helicotylenchus*, *Longidorus*, *Pratylenchus*, and *Xiphinema*), but in most cases the numbers are very low and/or the genus is not particularly damaging in turf unless numbers are extremely high.

The sampling procedure we are using (a 3/8 inch hollow aerifier tine attached to a coffee can) seems to be providing us with very representative samples because we are able to take 60 to 75 cores from a green each time it is sampled. This means that we are randomly collecting soil from healthy areas as well as any "hot spots", and can get a more accurate idea of what is going on. In contrast some 4-1/4 inch cup cutter samples taken from "hot spots" have yielded incredibly high nematode counts, but when we went back and sampled the same green with the aerifier tine, numbers were much lower. (We have had a few logistical problems with the tines plugging up, but we are refining the design and should have some stronger samplers soon.)

We are just beginning to get a feel for

nematode counts and their significance to turf vigor. The counts throughout New England are on the increase right now (early August), and we believe this reflects the normal life cycle, where a second generation has been produced and perhaps will produce yet a third generation later this summer. The threshold numbers (the number of nematodes collected in a sample which indicates a need for treatment) have not been worked out for New England. The southeastern United States has a major problem with nematodes and has worked out threshold numbers for its conditions, but these numbers are not suitable for the Northeast because our climate is so very different. For one thing, nematodes in the Northeast will go through a five or six month period in the winter when they do not continue to develop or reproduce.

We are concerned that some golf courses in New England are sampling for nematode activity and are deciding to treat all the greens as a result of seeing relatively high nematode counts on some of the greens. Nematicides which are currently available are very expensive and very toxic, both to the environment and to the applicator. Nematicides will completely change the micro-environment within a green, killing virtually all the insects (both harmful and beneficial) and earthworms as well as much of the nematode population. These materials must be handled with a great deal of care, because birds, squirrels and other wildlife will come in contact with the material. If a nematicide is used, please be very careful to adhere to all of the label statements concerning application. In particular, be sure you water in the material very thoroughly and immediately.

Finally, please try to avoid treating all of the greens on your golf course unless you have had all of them tested for nematode activity and the tests indicate that the numbers warrant treatment. While the details have not yet been worked out, it appears that the Nematode Lab in Waltham will be forced to charge something in the neighborhood of \$5 per sample for large scale nematode testing. If a course decides to sample more than three

**UPDATE** *con't. on page 4—*

# A VISIT BY THE FACTORY REP

BY BILL SMART

SETTING: ANY GOLF COURSE  
CHARACTERS: A GREENKEEPER, A FACTORY REP  
AND AN OLD TIME GREENSMAN.

GRKP This machine has been a real problem, one problem after another.

OTG We oughta junk it, that's what.

REP Well really now, we have sold over 4000 of them in 40 states, and except for a few minor problems they are working satisfactory.

OTG Bull----.

GRKP How come the wheels make a gouge in the fairways every time we make a turn?

REP See those two trunnion brace vertical arm holding brackets? The ends must be adjusted every 14½ hours to exactly 62 and ½ inches for normal cut and 62 and ¼ inches for a heavy cut.

OTG For God's sake.

GRKP How do you get at them, with all those cables, housings and junk welded around them?

REP We can supply our TBV-47 special adjusting spanner for that, for \$87.35 FOB the factory . . . immediate delivery.

GRKP OK, look at these roller ends, the bearings are popping-out all over the fairways.

OTG Just like a steel eatin' rabbit . . . let's junk it.

REP Every 7½ hours of operating time you should grease

the A-47B shaft end collar retainer - with our 007 cavity grease.

GRKP How? There are no grease fittings and besides, the manual says the bearings are lifetime lubricated.

OTG Yeah, the lifetime of a monarch butterfly.

REP Well, we did goof on that one, but the new model has fittings. Just drill and tap the ends, but disassemble them so the drill chips won't get inside.

GRKP And what's with the seat? It joggles up and down so much that Old Will there is sexed-up all the time he is mowing.

OTG Makes me sexy just lookin' at it . . . only thing it's good for.

REP Yes. Well, we have a kit, U-69 that will make the seat more rigid and the driver less.

GRKP The rear end makes a humming noise. What's that?

REP Well, our synchro-mesh precision gears are made out of the finest Swedish steel and are so finely meshed that unfortunately they do hum a bit - we do not recommend it, but the factory found that a pound of sawdust in the rear end gearbox does help.

GRKP Excuse me, I'm going to get some sawdust.

REP You're going to put it in the Tractor's rear end?

GRKP NO, Yours!

OTG I'll help.....

reprinted from the January, 1967 *Foreground*.

### - Position Opening -

#### Golf Course Superintendent

Taconic C.C., Williamstown, Mass.

Please send resumes to:

Mr. Richard Hunter

P.O. Box 183

Williamstown, Mass. 01267

### FOR SALE

Binar; Decoders, Clocks, and Portable Operator,

Contact Mr. Rich Caughey, GCS

Hatherley Golf Club

617-545-7012

### UPDATE *con't. from page 3-*

greens, it should plan to pay for the testing! In any case, we encourage you to sample first before treating everything, because the nematicide is very expensive (you can expect the material to cost in the neighborhood of \$50 per green) and very toxic. In the courses we have been watching, there have always been at least a few greens which did not warrant treatment.

So please use discretion concerning nematodes and nematicides. It appears that turf can handle one or two stresses, but it can't handle a third stress. In some places nematodes may be providing that third form of stress, and in those areas the turf will respond visibly and strikingly to a nematicide application. In other areas attention to details which remove one or two of the stresses (insect or disease activity, improper watering, inadequate or over-fertilization, very low cutting heights) may allow the turf to tolerate a surprising number of nematodes.

□ □ □



## — CHIP SHOTS —

... Take a look at membership participation in this months "News-letter" - I hope it's the beginning of new trend, as we really need and appreciate your input . . . The "Worcester Connection" dominated the Pro-Superintendent Tournament held recently at Brae Burn C.C. Not only did the team of Steve Chiavarolli-Jack Gale, (Tatnuc C.C.) take 1st net, Steve won a very attractive golf bag donated by tournament sponsor CLUB CAR for being Low Gross Superintendent (73). The other half of the "connection," Mike Nagle and Ray LaJoie (Worcester C.C.) took 2nd net . . . Anyone wishing to take black and white photos at meetings please contact the editor, we pay for film and developing, and we would like to have more candid photos for publication . . . Orrin Ellis (Lexington G.C.) has a detailed chronology of his "Round up Green" project. Due to space limitations this month we couldn't print it, but call Orrin for a copy if you wish to . . . Ye Ed picked several ideas on future articles at the last meeting. We don't care if it's controversial or not, if you have a topic you would like addressed please contact myself or Mike Nagle and we'll go to work on it . . .

□ □ □

*The GCSANE extends its sympathy to the family of Phil Mitchell (Son of Life Member Sam Mitchell) who recently passed away.*

*Rich Cooper con't. from page 1*

UMass are more along applied lines. I'll be working in the South Deerfield turf facility and making the rounds - as much as I can - and teaching, of course.

"Eventually, after gaining tenure, I would hope to get into extension service. That's big in the mid west but hasn't caught on much here. However, I want to apply the science and this means a closer contact with the golf course superintendent."

Dick and his wife, Ruth, like the country life around Amherst and hope to make many new friends in what is anticipated as a long stay at UMass.

"Hey, we're both into this new job and surroundings," Rich quipped. "After all, we met on a golf course when we both worked at Valley Brook. In fact, Ruth taught me how to mow my first green. We can relate to the game and to the superintendent."

Now, there are two relatives the superintendent are happy to have. Welcome aboard, Rich and Ruth.

## THE COMMUNICATION GAP

**Green Chairman**—I thought we were opening the tee on #8 for the tournament this weekend.

**Superintendent**—What I said was I would review it and would probably open it.

**Green Chairman**—Well, I told the tournament director we would open it. Then, when we come to play #8, the tee is closed and I have to hear "What's the matter, don't you know what's going on around here?" do you know how that makes us look?

How many of us have had this type of situation happen in the past? Misunderstandings as I see it, have to be one of the biggest problems in our jobs along with overall club communication. While I was at Middleton G.C. everything was one on one as far as operating decisions went, Middleton being a one owner operation. Now at Cummaquid G.C. there are committees, members, etc. that have the need to know what's going on and why, which is their right, as they are the owners in this instance. From what I can gather, in the past, the communication from the Green Dept. has been nearly non-existent keeping the dept. a mystery to most and the cause of most problems experienced in the eyes of many. Following is a brief description of our efforts as closing this Communication Gap.

The first step was to communications within our own dept., by informing all of happenings where it concerned them. Most importantly, involving the key

people in the decision making, which, didn't seem to be done in the past. Also, reminding everyone what courtesy means on the course, (no matter how obnoxious situations seem) and pointing out the long range results it will produce. "Remember - SMILE - it works"

Next was the Green Committee with whom the problem was approached from day one on both sides. I stressed the need for our dept. to be able to operate as a team on its own without interference, while working closely with the committee. It was agreed and strongly suggested that both parties, now a team, keep all the cards face up on the table. So far this attitude has worked great, enforcing a strong functioning bond between the two entities.

Last, not but least, is our improved communication with the club through personal contact and the establishment of the Green Corner. Personal contact was initiated by invitation from the club to participate in pro-ams twice a week, if time allowed. This was very effective in a variety of ways, most of all in getting to know members and them me.

Written communication is our greatest asset in this area, thus, we have the Green Corner. This attractively framed corkboard, located on the porch overlooking the 1st tee, makes it possible to place articles of interest, whether it be news clippings, home lawn hints, or most importantly, happenings on the golf course with dates ahead of time, in a place for all to see.

The Green Corner has recently expanded with an invitation for me to write a column for the Smoke Signals, the club's bi-annual newsletter.

These attempts have been very welcome by all concerned, having made my first year at Cummaquid one of great success. One thing I have found important to remember is to make issues and answers as clear and as simple as possible. "You know what you mean but most don't!"

*Charles Passios, GCS  
Cummaquid G.C.*

## — GERRY FINN

## FINANCE CHAIRMAN

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Eastward Ho

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**Assistant Superintendent  
Ferncroft C.C.**

Please send resume to, or call  
Mr. Paul Johnson, G.C.S.  
c/o Sheraton Tara Hotel and Resort  
Ferncroft Rd.  
Danvers, MA 01923  
Tel: 617-777-2500, Ext. 7906

## Rich Cooper Hopes to "Grow" on NEGCSA

His official title at the University of Massachusetts reads right out of the educational hopper - Dr. Richard Cooper, Assistant Professor of Turf Grass Science.

"That's a mouthful," the recent addition to the world of the New England golf course superintendent advised. "So let's cut it down to, 'Rich', and leave it go at that."

You'll be meeting Rich soon or those members of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association, who take in the December meeting will. He's the educational speaker of the month and he comes into the fold with a playful warning, "I like to talk".

Rich, just in case you haven't noticed the passing of time and Dr. Joseph Troll's retirement, steps into Joe's shoes at UMass and hopes they're a comfortable fit.

"I'm succeeding sort of a legend as far as the golf course superintendents are concerned," Rich remarked. "Everybody knows and liked Joe. He gets around to a lot of golf courses and he's been in constant touch with the profession.

"He also has a very large number of UMass grads in the field. Joe Troll's been their connection between them and the immediate source of turf grass education. Eventually, I'd like to assume that role."

Dr. Cooper comes to UMass at an opportune time for himself, his students and the corps of New England superintendents. He just completed his doctorate requirements after a one-two-three educational leap from Penn State to Rhode Island to Ohio State and holds himself as a bug for research and spreading its word through association with those who benefit from it.

"I'm a people person," Rich disclosed. "I like getting out to see what life's all about away from the classroom and research lab. I'm happy to speaking before the superintendents and I'm lining up some other appearances. I want to get as much practical experience as I can and the sooner the better."

Practical experience may be second nature for the 29-year-old Pittsburgh native who had his fair share of it as he made his way up the educational ladder - sometimes two rungs at a time.

"I went right to the grass roots of the situation and worked on a golf course for one summer while I was going to school," Rich revealed. "It was near Pittsburgh - a nice course, called Valley Brook Country Club. It was really an education for me.

"Besides, it's part of my philosophy. If you intend working with people around golf courses, you should get yourself acquainted with what they do. So, what better way for me to touch the superintendent than to become a member of his crew?"

Rich also intends to take his golf clubs out of mothballs and tee it up again.

"Oh, it has nothing to do with improving my game," he laughed. "I'll always be a hacker. But, now that I have the heavy, book-bound part of my education behind me, I should be able to find some time to play. It's not only part of my philosophy, it's fun."

Rich had a UMass connection almost from the beginning of his association with the turf field.

"My adviser at Penn State was Don Waddington," Rich said. "And he's a UMass grad. He helped me a lot and when I got my bachelor's degree, I was convinced there was much more to learn. So, I went to Rhode Island for my masters.

Dr. Cooper took a couple of years off the educational beat to work as a technician in a research lab at Ohio State but eventually went the book route again in quest of his doctor's degree.

"Now I'm ready to put all this learning to work," Rich explained. "My duties at

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