



TURF TIMES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22nd, 1989, MEETING
ALPENA GOLF CLUB

Volume 18 No. 6

Not to be confused with Alpena Country Club, Alpena Golf Club is a very fine golf course that has been enlarged from 9 holes to 18 holes. The new 9 has been designed and built by Warner Bowen and is very similar to Indian River's new 9 holes where we played our Association Championship, last October. Starting times will be necessary and the telephone number to call is 517/354-5052. Foursomes will start on both the front 9 and the back 9 between 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM. If you do not have a foursome, come anyway and we will work you in with someone plus you get to know other members. Robert Aube is the Superintendent of this fine layout and promises a very enjoyable round. Cost of the total package will be \$25.00 which includes golf, cart and dinner. Lunch in the form of sandwiches are available at the Golf Club. Dinner however will be served at Twin Acres as well as "Happy Hour". Cocktails via cash bar will start at 5:00 PM and Dinner at 6:30 PM. Twin Acres is not far away and is at the corner where you turn off of U.S. 23 on Golf Road.

Our speaker for the meeting will be Mr. Bill Roberts CGCS, Superintendent at Lochmoor Club, Detroit and on the Executive Board of GCSAA. Bill being Chairman of Government Relations will explain the new publication coming out called "Briefing". There is other information on this subject elsewhere in this publication.

The Golf Course is north of the city of Alpena and off of U.S. 23. The intersection of Golf Course Road and U.S. 23 is where you turn west $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the Golf Club. A Chevrolet Dealer is on this corner for visual observation as well as the Golf Club sign. This also is the location of where we will have our meeting at Twin Acres. If there is any question, please call 517/354-5052.

Our next meeting will be on September 11th, at the Grand Traverse Resort. It will be a fund raiser and we will play "The BEAR" course. Further details will be forthcoming in our next "Turf Times".

REMEMBER
Every job is a self portrait of
the person who did it.
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NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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BEHIND THE GREENS

A Monthly Message From Your Board by Bob Steinhurst

Golf is booming in the State of Michigan, attracting large numbers of demanding players from all parts of the country. This growth and prosperity of the golf industry has focused more attention on the turf manager and his staff. Promotion of a professional image for all involved in the turf industry will become more and more important for the future development of our association and the turf manager. Being a professional can involve many different areas, it is not only how we look, act and maintain our turf, but how well we are able to stay abreast of the many changes taking place in the turf industry. Continuing education will be very important for gathering up to date information and for promotion of a professional image.

The NMTMA is an excellent source for furthering your education. Each month from March through October the opportunity to meet and visit other clubs is available to anyone interested. The monthly meetings have an assortment of excellent speakers on various topics. Golf and dinner with other superintendents or vendors may also be a good source for information. The meetings are not only educational, they are also a good place just to relax and have a good time. Support the association by coming to as many meetings as possible, it will help you, your course and your staff. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22nd at Alpena Golf Club, the speaker will be Bill Roberts CGCS. Hope to see you there!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the election of directors are now being accepted for three at large seats (Class A) and one Class C. Nominations must be received by September 1, 1989, voting will take place at the annual meeting in October. Contact: Bob Steinhurst, Nominating Chairman, 325 North Fifth St., West Branch, MI 48661 (517) 345-1434

New Publication Will 'Brief' Members On Law and Regulation

Within a few months, GCSAA members will begin to receive a new publication developed specifically to keep busy superintendents informed about the regulations, laws and environmental topics that affect golf course management today.

The GCSAA Government Relations Office is set to begin publishing the *Briefing*, a two-page executive summary that will keep members updated on the issues that shape their profession. "We (GCSAA's board of directors) saw a real need to publish timely, relevant news about government relations," said William R. Roberts, CGCS, chairman of the Government Relations Committee.

"The title (*Briefing*) really reflects the fact that we wanted to present the information in a 'brief' format. Superintendents are often pressed for time — this makes it easier for them to keep abreast of what's happening," Roberts said.

The *Briefing*, which will be delivered monthly with *Newsline*, will feature bullet-point news of changes in EPA and OSHA regulations; existing and proposed legislation; significant legal decisions; environmental movements; and other related issues. Pat Jones, director of communications, said the publication is designed to be "timely, topical and easy to read in 20 minutes or less."

Jones also noted that *Golf Course Management* will continue to publish in-depth articles about environmental and governmental matters but that the "rapidly-changing nature of the federal regulatory scheme makes it crucial to get

fresh information to the people it affects as quickly as possible."

The plan for the *Briefing* also includes "special bulletin" editions when events demand fast action. "We have to be able to act immediately in emergency situations," Jones said, "so we are building in the capacity to send bulletins to members within two or three days of when we learn of something."

Executive Director John M. Schilling said that the expanded staffing in the headquarters communications department enabled GCSAA to begin publishing a separate government relations newsletter. "Our staff growth is already paying some dividends for the membership," Schilling said. "The *Briefing* will be a valuable new resource for the modern course manager." ■

Two More Join GCSAA Staff; Still Accepts New Position

Tom Akins, a former congressional aide, has joined the GCSAA headquarters staff as government relations manager. Executive Director John M. Schilling announced the appointment in mid-May.

"Tom's insights into the governmental process and ability to put GCSAA's views before key people in Washington will be a real asset for the membership of this association," Schilling said.

Akins, who served for several years in the Washington, D.C. and Kansas offices of U.S. Rep. Dan Glickman, comes to GCSAA from the staff of the mayor's office in Topeka, Kan. He is a graduate of Emporia State University with a degree in political science. While in school, Akins worked as a staff member on a public golf course for five years.

Patrick Quinn has been hired as a staff

writer for *GCM*. Quinn comes to GCSAA with an extensive background in management and writing within the commercial nuclear power industry. Quinn attended the University of Kansas following several years in the U.S. Navy, where he served onboard a fleet ballistic missile submarine.

Schilling also announced recently that Bob Still, GCSAA's public relations manager since 1987, has left the association and accepted a position with the PGA of America's marketing and promotions department. "We're very pleased that Bob has this opportunity to further develop his career within the golf industry," Schilling said. He added that the search is well under way for a replacement. ■

Keep Your Golf Course Up to Par

by Ted Robinson, President, American Society of Golf Course Architects

Many clubs have found a golf course remodeling project the most important capital spending program of a decade. It can provide a golfing facility that is in tune with the times, easier to maintain, and most important, one that makes members proud to be associated with their club.

The Symptoms

How can you tell when it's time for your club to consider remodeling its golf course?

The symptoms are diverse. Much depends on the geographic location of the club and its age. But some of the most common symptoms include:

1. Several greens are too small to sustain increased traffic.
2. It is difficult to grow grass in certain shaded areas.
3. An irrigation system begins to spring leaks and shows general deterioration.
4. Bunker locations have become obsolete. Originally designed to challenge the better players, who now can easily bypass them, the hazards now are penalizing high handicap players.
5. Disease and storms have ruined many of the course's trees. A new tree planting program is needed.
6. Many courses built several decades ago have small tees, designed for push mowers. Modern courses either have large tees that can accommodate numerous players, or multiple tees to challenge golfers of varying ability.
7. The golf course is pulling as

many as 1,200 gallons of water per minute from the central system, affecting the community water supply.

8. Golfers traveling to new resort courses return home anxious to implement some of the new design techniques on their home course.

9. If a course is chosen to host a tournament, members and tournament officials may feel that the course needs some updating to make it truly competitive.

10. New highways or a clubhouse expansion may force the club to alter several holes and relocate greens, triggering the idea of reviewing the entire course.

11. Most older courses were not designed with golf carts in mind. Often it is necessary to move bunkers and greens to provide more efficient traffic patterns.

12. In some cases, it is imperative to install cart paths to enable the course to stay open on marginal days.

13. The age and desires of a club's membership may change over a period of years. A younger player may press for a more competitive course. A course built for 12,000 rounds per year may begin to show wear and tear as play increases to 20,000 rounds.

These are just a few of the symptoms that point to a need for golf course remodeling. But, all require the same treatment — the preparation of a master plan that will incorporate the desired improvements while increasing the aesthetics and playability of the golf course. And, all will provide your members with a more challenging

golf experience.

Meeting Players' Needs

Most older courses were designed strictly for male players. Today the game has changed. The greatest influx of new golfers has come from the ranks of women. The tees and bunker placements in most cases are not correct for the increasing legion of senior and junior golfers.

Older courses, with their single tees and small greens, do not present a golfing challenge for their current players. Better players, armed with improved equipment and high compression golf balls, can easily bypass hazards that made a course challenging 25 years ago.

Many newer courses also are being remodeled, especially those built on rather limited budgets. Today's golfers are not satisfied with an open course, devoid of trees, strategic bunkers and water hazards. These courses also require a long-range master plan that can be implemented over a period of years.

Master Plan

In the first stage of the golf course remodeling process, an experienced golf course architect conducts an on-site inspection of the course. Then he discusses the golfing needs of the club's members.

The golf course architect works hand in hand with the club's golf course planning team. Key members of this team should include the chairman of the greens committee, the golf course superintendent, the

(continued from page 4)

golf professional and the club manager.

The golf course architect develops a preliminary master plan that is then refined during a series of meetings with the planning committee. A final master plan is prepared, incorporating suggestions developed during the meetings. The final master plan may include working drawings and specifications for the work to be done immediately. Sketches of new features and a colored rendering also are prepared for general meetings with the club's membership, and for use in special brochures or the club newsletter.

Realistic Scheduling

Keeping the course in play at all times is generally favored in most remodeling programs even though the club obviously would like to see the work completed as quickly as possible. By spreading out the work over several years, the costs can be more easily assimilated and regular play will be interrupted only minimally.

Most clubs will schedule the remodeling in phases over two, three or more years. Some clubs retain architects on a continuing basis to update their master plan and coordinate smaller projects after the main work is completed.

The preparation of the work schedule is often determined by problems which need immediate attention. When these are phased into the master plan, several related changes may be done at the same time. For instance, if three greens are to be rebuilt, the cart paths may be altered and new bunkers added. If new tees are built, a tree planting program may be started in that area.

Generally, work will be confined to contiguous holes so that the construction area presents a minimum amount of inconvenience. Since today's earth-moving equipment can

move earth so much more easily than was possible 30 or 40 years ago, a course — or a section of course — can be dramatically changed quite quickly.

Although every remodeling project differs because of the individual club's particular needs, a typ-



ical master plan schedule might look like this:

First Year: Prepare master plan for presentation and approval by the membership.

Second Year. Install new irrigation system and remodel first nine holes. Begin tree planting on same nine.

Third Year. Remodel second nine holes and complete tree planting.

Fourth Year. Build new practice range, several short holes for junior golfers and new maintenance building.

Fifth Year. Review playability of course and prepare new long-range master plan.

Older clubs, particularly those designed by the great architects, are legitimately concerned about preserving the integrity and character of the golf course. With this in mind, the golf course architect will develop a master plan designed to accommodate necessary changes, always within the original architect's parameters.

In most cases, a remodeling

program does not mean a total reconstruction program. The master plan often focuses on several critical areas.

Critical Areas

Tees establish playability and are prime targets of improvement. Today they tend to be much larger and longer than in the past because of extensive wear from concentrated play. It is not uncommon for tees to cover 5,000 to 7,000 sq. ft. on a modern course.

"Sparking up" a fairway can involve the reshaping of mounds, traps, lakes or ponds. Major gradework may be required to eliminate blind shots or to soften severe terrain.

In terms of traps, the trend has been toward milder convolutions of the edges of the traps and a more gentle rise from the bottom of the trap to the top edge. More gentle contours make it easier to cut the edges with power mowers, reducing time and labor expenses without affecting the playability of the course.

Artificial ponds may be recommended. They enhance visual impact, offer a stimulating challenge if they are strategically placed and serve as a valuable water source. The excavated material often can be used to rebuild bunkers, mounds, greens and tees.

Good irrigation systems can't be over-emphasized. The trend is toward completely automated systems. Installing an irrigation system is a relatively simple procedure. An 18 hole system can be installed in 4-5 weeks and is generally less disruptive than club members think. An automatic system can conserve water, reduce labor expenses and increase convenience by allowing for watering during night time hours.

The shape, size and protective features of each green should be in direct relation to the approach shot. Although larger than those of ear-

(continued on page 6)

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lier eras — a good average size is 6,500 sq. ft. — today's greens should offer variety. More and variable pin placements are possible with larger greens, and they alleviate problems caused by heavy play. Gentle undulations permit the use of machine mowers and reduce the risk of scalping.

It is possible to enlarge a green but it is best to reconstruct it entirely. Design also should allow for drainage in more than one direction. It is less of a task to install additional drainage than is supposed. Critical areas can be retiled and backfilled and the sod replaced within one day.

Many clubs find a detailed landscaping and planting program an excellent method for replacing maturing trees and supplementing existing planting. It is not unusual to find clubs establishing their own nurseries in preparation for their landscaping program.

Cart paths are becoming an increasing necessity. Their proper routing can make the difference between slowing or speeding play.

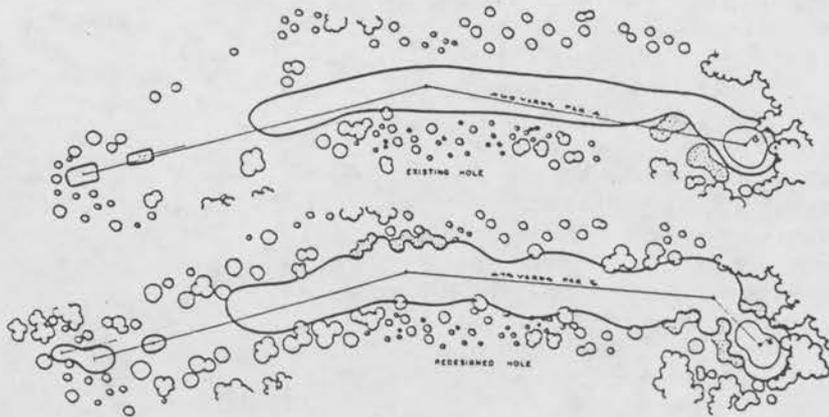
Keeping on Budget

In all projects, whether the work involves just a few greens or the entire course, the golf course architect works within a budget created by the club's Executive Committee. The phasing schedule of the master plan is coordinated with the available monies each year.

Follow-up inspections are conducted during reconstruction and at the completion of the project. This assures that capital outlays were spent wisely, and that the work followed the master plan. Remodeling programs ordinarily are financed through existing funds, special building funds, a dues increase, or a special assessment.

Member Input

Effective and ongoing communications are extremely important to



This remodeled hole features a more interesting fairway treatment, additional sand bunkers, a guarded green, and new trees that require more accurate shotmaking. The hole was lengthened 15 yards and is now a Par 5 rather than an overly long Par 4. Landing areas are provided, but forced shots will find trouble on the remodeled hole.

any remodeling project. It is imperative that the members understand the plan and approve of it. A modernization program will not sell itself, regardless of how urgent are the changes that are needed. Unless carefully handled from the beginning, a remodeling program can cause dissension.

One way to avoid this problem is to be sure your planning team represents a true cross-section of club members. Be prepared to compromise. Differences will have to be resolved between those against any changes and those in favor of major renovation. Some members may not relish an increase in dues or a special assessment to pay for the improvements.

The master plan, of course, is the key to the project. The golf course architect will present it to the membership, help you prepare for club bulletins or newsletters, and be

available during the construction work. If the members clearly understand what is being done and the long range benefits to the club, they will support the program. Most important, a well considered program can make members proud to be associated with their club.

Ted Robinson is the President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). ASGCA works with the National Club Association as another member of the Allied Associations of Golf.

As a golf course architect, Robinson has worked extensively in the western states, Mexico and the Pacific. Included in his work are the Thunderbird Country Club, Rancho Mirage, California; the Sahalee Country Club, Seattle, Washington; and the Inn of the Mountain Gods, Mescalero, New Mexico.

Credit: PERPECTIVE

Golf Courses By State

(As of December 31, 1988)

State	Daily Fee		Municipal		Private		Total	
	Total	Rank*	Total	Rank*	Total	Rank*	Total	Rank*
Alabama	47	33	36	25	127	14	210	25
Alaska	5	49	2	49	2	51	9	50
Arizona	118	16	31	27	76	29	225	22
Arkansas	44	35	15	40	89	26	148	32
California	351	6	166	1	319	3	836	2
Colorado	58	29	68	9	65	31	191	26
Connecticut	49	32	37	24	83	28	169	28
Delaware	4	50	2	49	18	43	24	49
DC	0	51	3	46	4	50	7	51
Florida	431	2	89	6	412	1	932	1
Georgia	84	23	38	21	175	10	297	15
Hawaii	40	36	7	44	19	42	66	44
Idaho	39	37	24	33	16	45	79	41
Illinois	258	8	132	3	207	6	597	8
Indiana	209	12	61	11	103	20	373	12
Iowa	128	15	54	12	178	9	360	13
Kansas	64	27	47	16	128	13	239	20
Kentucky	84	23	31	27	97	23	212	24
Louisiana	25	44	24	33	103	20	152	30
Maine	91	22	8	43	17	44	116	35
Maryland	27	42	26	30	90	25	143	34
Massachusetts	175	13	38	21	127	14	340	14
Michigan	489	1	86	7	146	11	721	5
Minnesota	216	10	77	8	94	24	387	11
Mississippi	34	38	13	42	98	22	145	33
Missouri	105	18	48	15	117	18	270	17
Montana	33	39	20	36	26	39	79	41
Nebraska	59	28	36	25	74	30	169	28
Nevada	24	45	16	38	5	49	45	48
New Hampshire	74	26	3	46	16	45	93	39
New Jersey	92	21	47	16	123	16	262	18
New Mexico	21	47	26	30	31	38	78	43
New York	409	4	116	4	269	4	794	3
North Carolina	226	9	29	29	207	6	462	9
North Dakota	28	41	45	18	33	37	106	37
Ohio	419	3	91	5	193	8	703	6
Oklahoma	56	30	53	13	64	32	173	27
Oregon	100	19	16	38	36	36	152	30
Pennsylvania	367	5	38	21	237	5	642	7
Rhode Island	24	45	3	46	21	41	48	46
South Carolina	153	14	6	45	121	17	280	16
South Dakota	33	39	26	30	45	34	104	38
Tennessee	84	23	40	20	109	19	233	21
Texas	211	11	150	2	400	2	761	4
Utah	26	43	42	19	21	40	89	40
Vermont	46	34	0	51	11	48	57	45
Virginia	94	20	22	35	140	12	256	19
Washington	111	17	51	14	59	33	221	23
West Virginia	50	31	18	37	41	35	109	36
Wisconsin	267	7	64	10	84	27	415	10
Wyoming	21	47	14	41	12	47	47	47
Total U.S.	6,203		2,135		5,288		13,626	

National Ranking

Source: National Golf Foundation/Golf Facilities in the U.S. (1989 Edition)

The National Golf Foundation routinely lists golf course development. Individuals, businesses and organizations that join the NGF receive the listings free.

FIELD DAY AUGUST 31st, 1989, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Please mark your calendar for the 1989 Turfgrass Field Day, Trade Show and Equipment Auction on Thursday, August 31, at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane, on the campus of M.S.U. Plan to attend and get the latest information on turfgrass management; fertility programs; cultivation research; insect, disease, and weed management; and varietal evaluations. Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. and the Field Tour starts at 9:30. Again this year our format will feature two, concurrent tours - one on lawn maintenance and one on golf turf maintenance. Following the plot tour will be the traditional pig roast lunch, trade show, and equipment auction.

For those who do not know, MTF holds an auction during the afternoon and sells off equipment donated. Funds from this auction are used for further research in turfgrass. Anyone that has used equipment that they would like to donate and get a tax deduction, should contact Tom Reed or Dr. Bruce Branham.

GCSAA NEWS RELEASE

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) will break ground in early 1990 to begin construction of a \$4 million headquarters complex one mile from the group's current Lawrence, Kan., site. GCSAA President Dennis D. Lyon, CGCS, said that the association's officers approved schematic plans for the project during a meeting at the U.S. Open in Rochester, N.Y.

"GCSAA's growth has mirrored that of the rest of the golf industry," Lyon said. "We now have more than 8,600 members and the association offers more services to them than ever before. This new building will allow us to keep meeting the needs of our growing membership and the golf community at large."

The new site is just west of the current GCSAA building, which has been located on the Alvarn Golf & Country Club since the association moved to Lawrence in 1974. Despite the relocation, the new headquarters will still overlook an Alvarn course: a new 18-hole championship layout being designed by architect Ken Kavanaugh and developed by Alvarn owner Robert Billings. Construction of the course is set to start early next

year and both building and course should be complete and open in 1991.

"We plan to have the building finished and the staff moved by summer of 1991," said John M. Schilling, GCSAA's executive director. Schilling added that the building could be ready for occupancy by Spring of 1991 "if the Kansas weather cooperates."

Planned for 35,000 square feet, the new building will nearly triple the space available for GCSAA's 42-member professional staff and still leave room for projected growth. In addition to the four-story headquarters building, the new complex will feature an attached 70-seat classroom and meeting facility. The entire design, which is being completed by the Lawrence architectural firm of Peters, Kubota & Glenn, P.A., will "make superintendents who visit feel proud to be members of GCSAA," according to Lyon.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the national professional association for the men and women who "keep golf green." By providing a wide range of opportunities for education and professional development for superintendents, the association has played an ongoing role in improving golf conditions both in America and abroad.

POSTCARD

Pesticide law will be the topic of discussion at Alpena, everyone needs this
SO mail that postcard NOW saying that you will be with us. THANKS.