

Tee to Green

October 1977

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MEETING NOTICE:

Date: November 9th
Place: Rye Golf Club
Lunch: 12:00 noon followed by Annual Meeting
Program: MGCSA Annual Meeting and Election of Officers
All committees will give their written reports of their activities for the past year.

Directions: Rye Golf Club is located on Route 1, Boston Post Road about 1/2 mile from Town of Harrison. If you come off of I 287 take route 1 South through the business district of Rye. It's about 2 miles south of town on your left.

COMING EVENTS:

November 12	MGA Seminar, Maintenance Survey, Rye Town Hilton
November 15-17	31st Annual New York State Turfgrass Conference, Turf Inn, 205 Wolf Road, Albany, N.Y.
November 28-Dec. 1	New Jersey Turfgrass Expo, Cherry Hill Hyatt House, Cherry Hill, N.J.
December 10	MGCSA Christmas Party Westchester Country Club
January 16-19	Penn State University Turfgrass Conference, University Park, Pa.
January 27	USGA Green Section Conference, San Francisco, California
February 12-17	GCSAA 49th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, San Antonio, Texas

Membership: The following members have been approved for membership in MGCSA:

Pio Salvit—Change from Class B to Class A
Anthony Sciandra, The Apawamis Club—Class B
Louis Toth, Aqua Lawn Inc.,—Class C

Golf Committee: The MGCSA Invitational was another great success. Al Carvella, host Superintendent, and the Host Club did a super job and everybody enjoyed it. We ate like kings with a tremendous brunch. After golf it was cocktails and hors d'oeuvres hour which could have been a dinner, and then finally, an excellent dinner. Eb Steiniger did his usual great job of presenting his slide presentation of Pine Valley.

We had a full house with 36 teams. Sunningdale came out on top with Dick Allen leading the way for his foursome of Gene Borok, golf pro, William Troy, green chairman and Lee Steiner, president. Next came the host team, Brae Burn. Al

Caravella finished second again. He would just love to be #1 at the Invitational. His team was Bill Collins, golf pro, Harry Auerback, president and Gilbert Koenig, green chairman. This was followed by Terry Boles, Bedford Golf and Tennis Club. Fourth place went to Hubbard Heights and Red Altamoro.

Superintendents Championship and Class B & C Championships.

Chuck Fatum was the leader after the first round. He withdrew and this gave everybody a chance to bring home the bacon. It turned out that our host for the finals came through with a fine round and finished at 158. Vinnie Pentenaro is our new champion, followed by Mark Millett, Jim Fulwider and Tony Savone. 1st low net was won by Bob Bruce followed by Dom DiMarzo, Chuck Martineau and Bob Phipps.

Class B—Low Gross with 81—Ron Demkovitch

Low Net with 69—John Corsi

Class C—Low Gross with 88—Ted Smith

Low Net with 70—Dick Hoskins

Nearst to pin went to Bob Phipps

Longest Drive—Mark Millet

We also had a raffle along with a nice prize donated by Harry Montevideo, Golf Professional at Whippoorwill Club.

Many thanks should go to Al Tretera and Jim Kaczinski for an excellent job in running the tournament.



Sherwood Moore, left, receiving distinguished Service Award from Tony Grasso, Metro Milorganite, board member of O.J. Noer Foundation.



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MCGSA Softball Game

Well the C members challenged the Class A & B members to our annual softball game. We had a perfect afternoon. We had a lot of fun, some sore muscles the next day. The A & B team prevailed in both games. It was down to the wire but we did it. Many thanks for Londy and Danny Cancelleri for bringing refreshments; to Bob Bruce and his whole family—One member of the family was always cheering for Daddy, while his oldest girl kept score. Next year we are going to have a challenge run to first base between Roger Morhardt and Bill Caputi. The Purchase field was great as we had the whole place to ourselves.

MGCSA News:

Last month we asked in our Newsletter for a little rain. Well we can't say that we didn't get it. We all have had at least 12" in the last month. The grass has recovered nicely and certainly the rains reinforced ideas for installing more drainage this fall. Fortunately the last week to 10 days in October haven't been too bad. It's been below average temperature for October but really our first killing frost wasn't until October 24, which is very late. Again, let's hope for a little drier weather the remaining part of the fall, along with a little warm sunshine to finish those many fall projects we had hoped to do.

We have had two super meetings in the last month. The Invitational which was just great, followed by our monthly meeting which was held at Siwanoy C.C. Vinnie Pentenaro had a little competition from the World Series but we still had a nice turnout. We again guessed at 60 for dinner, with 40 reservations, and ended up with 61. Guessing how many will come without reservations is still not the way to do it. Sherwood Moore was honored by the O.J. Noer Foundation for his many contributions to our profession, not only in his

leadership, but also his constant involvement with experimenting with new products and testing them out on various areas of his golf course.



Maintenance panel at October meeting, Siwanoy C.C. Left to right, Harry Nichol, host Vinnie Pentenaro, Steve Cadenelli and President Ted Horton.

We had an interesting panel discussion on Maintenance Building Construction and Renovation. Harry Nichol led off and told of his experiences in building his new maintenance building. Harry stressed the need for more detailed specifications. Steve Cadenelli had the problem of moving to a new job and having the plans already made-up by the architect. He found it very difficult to make changes and in his case, he thought the specifications were hard to understand because they weren't in laymens terms. Certainly having a contractor who will cooperate with you is an asset. If every change must go through the architect, things get bogged down. Also Steve pointed out, be sure you see the total contract before things are signed or the job started. You may find out as he did that much of the finishing up work is left to the maintenance department to finish and you don't always have the time or men trained to do some of the things. Steve's building is a beautiful one and he even has had comments that its better looking than the clubhouse. Although I didn't make the comment, if at all possible, you should put a hyraulic lift in your shop area. It has payed for itself, many many times over for the investment of \$1,100 in 1970. Even if it would cost \$2,000 today, it's worth its weight in gold. It just seems that clubs feel it's a real luxury when really it should be a necessary piece of equipment in the shop, especially with all the equipment we have to maintain today.

In regard to the recent change at Wykagyl, my only thought is that we should all talk directly with the Superintendent at the club involved before we interview. We have to believe what club officials tell us, but we should also check it first hand. I feel in this way no hard feelings should result because, number one, the Superintendent who is being released, if he hadn't been told by his club, at least he is pre-warned that it is about to happen, and this gives him the opportunity to start looking for another job. The individual taking the job will feel completely clear and most probably will get full cooperation from the superintendent he is replacing. It's a hard thing to

have the clubs come to the association and say we'd like your guidance but often the club is going to do it the way they want to and we can't dictate this decision. At any rate best wishes to Dennis Flynn in his new job and to Al, let's all hope that he is able to relocate in the very near future. I am sure he would appreciate any leads that you may have in regard to openings. Just remember to verify that the job is actually open by calling the superintendent at the club.

Let's all support the N.Y. State Turf Conference at Albany N.Y. Co-Sponsored by the New York State Turfgrass Association and Cornell University. A great deal of effort by Dr. Smiley and John Sundholm have gone into this conference. They are dedicated to getting N.Y. State on the Turf map again. Let's all be there on November 15-17. Albany is just about 2½ hrs. away.



MGCSA Golf Championship winners, left to right, Champion Vinnie Pentenaro, Chuck Martineau, Tony Savone and Bob Bruce. Back row, Dom Dimarzo, Golf Chairman Al Tretera and Dick Hoskings.

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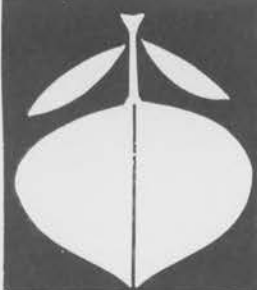
Many turfgrass maintenance operations are dependent on mathematical calculations. To help you understand and execute the basic mathematics for these operations, GCSAA has prepared a 58-page, 8½ x 11 inch manual on

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To get your copy of this valuable publication, send to: GCSAA, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kansas. Each GCSAA member is allowed one free copy of THE MATHEMATICS OF TURFGRASS MAINTENANCE: additional copies for members will cost \$2.50. Nonmembers may purchase copies of the manual for \$5.00 each. The price includes postage and handling. Please allow 30 days for delivery.

Emanuel Shemin
Horticulturist



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GOOD-BY TO BLUEGRASS FAIRWAYS?

By Kenneth L. Quandt

There are those of us in the superintendents ranks who for many years have been staunch advocates of bluegrass fairways. We have been the minority who scorned *Poa Annua* and bentgrass fairways and were quick to point out the advantages of bluegrass to our unenlightened friends who were struggling with invasions of Dollar Spot, Large Brown and Pythium on their "Chicago Bent" fairways. We spoke at conferences and wrote articles about such bluegrass virtues as its low water requirements, its great disease resistance and about how our normally dry fairways helped to reduce soil compaction while allowing us to use electric golf cars immediately after most rains. We stressed how we were able to maintain an acceptable playing surface through high Nitrogen and Potassium levels (to provide a stiff blade that would support a golf ball), frequent mowings, and heavy but infrequent irrigation procedures. Furthermore we explained how we were able to walk the line between bluegrass and *Poa annua* by judiciously managing our watering programs.

There were, of course, a few disadvantages to which we admitted. These included such things as golfer complaints about mowing heights, hardness of the fairways due to the infrequent irrigation schedule, and the increased labor costs from the frequent mowings. We felt, however, that the advantages far outweighed the disadvantages. Ah yes, we had, if not all, at least most of the answers.

But, alas, along came Fusarium Blight. Suddenly, the very cultural practices that allowed us to maintain good bluegrass (High fertility and moisture stressing) proved to provide the greatest advantage to the Fusarium organism.

Furthermore, there seems to be no way to economically control the disease. Some researchers have recommended two 8 ounce per 1,000 sq. ft. applications per season of systemic fungicides such as Tersan 1991, Cleary's 3336 or Fungo 50. The problem here though is that the material must be washed through the thatch layer and into the soil if it is going to do any good. Unfortunately, that is very difficult because the material adheres tenaciously to organic matter if it is allowed to dry on the surface of the organic matter even momentarily and once this adherence takes place, no amount of leaching will move it downward.

This particular quality has given the systemics an advantage in the control of most other diseases but, has practically made them worthless against Fusarium Blight. The problem is that if one sprays a large area such as a fairway, the material that was applied first is already dry before the rest of the fairway can be sprayed and the water can be applied. Then, even when the water is turned on, it is usually not possible to operate every head on a given fairway at once. Most irrigation systems are designed to allow only a few heads on each fairway to be used at one time. Consequently, only a small section of the fairway can be watered in immediately. The remainder may have to wait an hour or more before it can get any water and, by that time, it is much too late.

The only way around this problem is to spray the material on small areas at a time and to water it in immediately or to inject it into the irrigation water and apply it through the sprinklers. Both of these methods would, however, be quite costly.

Even if a method were found to conveniently apply the systemic fungicides to large acreage turf areas and to get them through the thatch layer easily, there is no guarantee that they will control the disease. University researchers have discovered that some strains of *Fusarium* are resistant to the systemics and will not respond to them even at very high rates.

Realistically speaking though, the biggest problem with the systemic fungicides is their cost. For two 8 ounce applications per season on a club that had 40 acres in fairways, it would cost approximately \$17,000. This moves the chemical control of *Fusarium* far out of the price range of just about every club in the country.

Another procedure that is frequently recommended to help overcome Fusarium Blight is the introduction into the plant community of newer resistant varieties of bluegrass and ryegrass. This can supposedly be accomplished with a Rogers seeder at a cost substantially below that required for systemic fungicides.

Sounds great on paper but, in reality it doesn't work quite that easily. In the first place, seeding into established turf and getting any kind of decent germination and establishment percentages is very difficult unless the established turf is very thin and weak. In turf that is still healthy, the established turf is just too competitive for the young seedlings to become established. Frequently one can observe rows of seedlings a few weeks after seeding only to have them slowly disappear before they can become established. This may be at least partially a result of increased competition of the *Poa annua* that is stimulated by the frequent waterings necessary to insure the germination and development of the seed that has been sown. This is an area that I am afraid, will need a lot more research before a practical method can be found to introduce new varieties into established turf.

One method that may hold some promise is the use of the chemical Glyphosate (Round Up) at very light rates prior to seeding to reduce the competitiveness of the established turf. This is a method that Dr. Al Turgeon is currently investigating and one that we experimented with at Glencoe this summer. Our preliminary results at Glencoe were encouraging but, we want to try it again next season before we make any judgments.

Regardless though, of how effective of a method that can be developed to introduce new varieties into our established turf, one very big question still remains unanswered. That is, how long will these new supposedly resistant varieties maintain their resistance to Fusarium Blight? Many varieties that were thought to be resistant a few years ago are now some of the most susceptible. Fylking bluegrass is a perfect example. It exhibited excellent resistance for the first five years or so but, since then, has shown tremendous susceptibility. Who is to say that the varieties that we are currently planting for their Fusarium resistance will not suffer the same fate as Fylking? Many knowledgeable people say that this is almost inevitable because of the ability that *Fusarium* seems to have to rapidly develop new strains that can attack previously resistant plants. If that is the case, and even people in the seed industry admit that it is, then we will have to continually introduce newer resistant varieties into our fairways to stay one jump ahead of the Fusarium Blight. Even if we are able to develop a good method to accomplish the task, it is going to be quite costly.

Changing our cultural practices to minimize the severity of the disease is also frequently recommended and practiced. These include the reduction of early summer Nitrogen fertilization, heavy aeration and vertical mowing to reduce the thatch layer and, increased frequency of irrigation to overcome the effects of the damage that the Fusarium does to the root systems. At Glencoe, we have tried all of these and found them to be partially successful. However, they all have some rather serious side effects.

Reducing or eliminating the early summer Nitrogen fertilization and rescheduling it for the late summer, fall, or even winter helps to a degree but, it also reduces the competitiveness and vigor of the bluegrass at a time when our play and the resulting damage to our fairways is the heaviest.

When the heavy feeding bluegrasses cannot get enough N, the grasses that can thrive on lower N levels, such as *Poa annua* are favored.

Once Fusarium damages the root system of bluegrass, any moisture stress will cause a devastation of the turf. The only way this can be avoided is to water very frequently (sometimes daily) to keep the plants from going into moisture stress. This frequent irrigation makes the bluegrass plants soft and lush, thereby eliminating the blade stiffness that can keep the ball from settling into the turf. It is then necessary to reduce the height of cut and increase the frequency of mowing to provide a satisfactory playing surface. This, combined with the frequent irrigation is almost an open invitation to *Poa annua* regardless of what types of *Poa annua* control chemicals may be used.

Heavy aeration and vertical mowing may be effective in reducing the thatch layer that seems to be closely associated with the incidence of the Fusarium disease but, it too, increases the *Poa annua* populations. Both operations bring soil that is infested with *Poa annua* seed to the surface and destroys the effectiveness of any chemical barriers that may have been in place to keep *Poa annua* from germinating. Once again, the end result is a proliferation of *Poa annua*.

As if Fusarium Blight was not enough of a problem on bluegrass, we are now faced with still another problem—Stripe

Smut. On our fairways at Glencoe, the bluegrass that has not already been destroyed by Fusarium or crowded out by *Poa annua* that resulted from the frequent watering is now being devastated by Stripe Smut. And how does one control Stripe Smut? You guessed it, an application of a systemic fungicide at 6 to 8 ounces per 1,000 sq. ft. Gee, I think this is where we came in.

Okay then, just what is the answer to all these problems? Perhaps we could encourage research into developing economical yet effective chemicals to control Fusarium Blight and Stripe Smut.

As an old bluegrass lover (thats different from the red hot variety) and *Poa annua* fighter it pains me to say it but, perhaps we should support research into methods of living with *Poa annua* rather than trying to find new methods to kill it. After all, it is easier to control Dollar Spot, Large Brown, and Pythium than it is to control Fusarium Blight. Perhaps, as a not-to-famous philosopher once said, "*Poa annua* is the grass of the 1980's."

Unfortunately, at a time when many of us are faced with a serious curtailment of our irrigation water supplies, it is difficult to even consider finding new ways to live with a grass that has the high water requirements of *Poa annua*. Perhaps if we can find and develop new sources of irrigation water such as effluent water, it may be possible for us to live with *Poa annua*.

Wherever the answers lie, they will only be found through hard work and research. We will have to encourage local officials to develop a source of effluent water for irrigation purposes and we will have to both encourage and financially support research into disease control, *Poa annua* culture, the long term effects of the use of effluent water for the irrigation of turfgrasses and a myriad of other problems that are bound to arise. We will have to raise funds from our professional organizations and from the clubs themselves to finance this research. Yes, I know it's tough to get money from organizations that are already overburdened but, if the gravity of the situation were explained to the club officials, I would be willing to bet that they would be able to find a few dollars to contribute.



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The point is gentlemen, that regardless of what type of turf that you now have on your fairways, you may be forced to change in the future. If water becomes scarce, bluegrass may be the only alternative but, what will we do about Fusarium? If effluent water becomes available and no control is found for Fusarium we may be forced to live with Poa annua-bent fairways but, what if we encounter some problems from the long term use of effluent water? Obviously then, we face some serious problems down the road, so we had better start doing something and we damned well better do it fast because time is running out.

Credit: VERDUE, October 1977



Winner of MGCSA Invitational is Sunningdale C.C., left to right, Lee Steiner, president, Gene Borok, golf professional, Dick Allen, superintendent. Not present William Troy, green chairman (that's host Al Caravella holding Mr. Troy's trophy)



2nd Place Winner, Brae Burn C.C., left to right, Harry Auerbach, president, Bill Collins, golf professional, Gilbert Koenig, green chairman and Al Caravella, superintendent.

MGCSA Research Fund Report

To date we have heard from 28 clubs but we still haven't heard from many of the clubs that contributed last year. Many individuals also have not sent in their contribution for this year. MGCSA is committed to raising at least \$8,000 for the research work to be conducted this year. If you or your club has not contributed to date, please try and help us in this important research for all of us. Last year we had 38 clubs contribute and 38 individuals.

To date the following clubs have contributed:

The Apawamis Club	Piping Rock Club
The Ardsley Country Club	Ridgeway Country Club
Blind Brook Club	Rockland Country Club
Bedford Golf and Tennis Club	Round Hill Club
Brae Burn Country Club	St. Andrews Golf Club
Burning Tree Country Club	Sleepy Hollow Country Club
Century Country Club	Waccabuc Country Club
Elmwood Country Club	Wee Burn Country Club
Fenway Golf Club	Whippoorwill Club
Knollwood Country Club	Winged Foot Golf Club
Greenwich Country Club	Woodway Country Club
Old Oaks Country Club	Wykagyl Country Club
Pelham Country Club	MGCSA
Quaker Ridge Golf Club	Metropolis

Individuals:

Robert Alonzi	Jerry Scafa	Ted Joswich
Terry Boles	Phil Santucci	Mike Russo
Garry Crothers	Robert Tosh	Alan Tretera
Michael Dale	Dan Verrille	Paul Caswell
Roger Harmonay	Dr. Andrew Virtuoso	John Corsi
Edward Horton	Almstead Tree Co. Inc.	Paul Sartoretto
Roger King	Robert Phippe	Bob Bruce
		Craig Wistrand

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mr. Alexander M. Radko

USGA Green Section

Golf Course, Far Hills, N.J.

Dear Al,

I read with great interest your article "Green is not Great" in the August, 1977 issue of **Golf Journal**. Your observations of color vs. playing surface was probably the most unbiased discussion on this topic that I have ever read. Both sides of this argument were presented fairly. However, please allow me to relate some of my observations to possible present another angle to this important topic:

Sadly, golf has changed considerably since the first hole was set into the ground in the British Isles during the 1400's. It began to mature in 1744 when the "Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers" formulated the first authenticated golf organization. This organization created 13 articles which became the original rules of golf.

In 1764, St. Andrews reduced its golf course from 22 holes to 18 holes. This reduction set the "standard" for subsequent golf courses. These events, I feel, were the birth of the game that we know as "golf" today. The rules were simple and needed no other interpretation. In those days there were no "special rulings" because one happened to be located behind an immovable obstruction or some other condition to warrant outside explanation. There were no provisions for "embedded

balls" or "lift, clean and place;" there was no marking of "Ground Under Repair" to allow a player to drop his ball elsewhere. In fact, originally, only two rules needed to be followed. The golfer was required to: "Play the course as you find it, and play the ball as it lies" and: "You touch your ball when you tee it up and don't touch it again until you take it out of the hole."

What happened, Al? Why did golf make the changes of today? Today's golfer has his hands on the ball more often than not. He wants, and is allowed relief from nearly every unsatisfactory situation he confronts. I believe that changes were made because of pressure. You mention in your fine article that too many Golf Course Superintendents follow the path of least resistance "rather than stand up and say, 'You are wrong! My program is the best long-range direction for the club, we'll do it my way completely and totally!'" Well, I contend that the Golf Course Superintendent is not yielding to the pressure of his membership at all. He is merely following the dictates of the United States Golf Association itself, through the rules of golf!

Today, the United States Golf Association publishes large, yearly volumes of "Decision on the Rules of Golf by the U.S.G.A." At the very onset, why did they follow the path of least resistance rather than to rule as follows: "Play the course as you find it, and play the ball as it lies?" Today's golfer is not only allowed relief, but he can move his ball over 14 feet to secure designed relief (two club lengths for the drop and two more that the ball may roll after the drop). Why? The reason is simple. As golf processed into the United States, we Americans found the original rules of golf much too inequitable. "Rub of the Green" was more than we could endure. Today, "Rub of the Green" has been reduced to such items as hitting the ball further than anticipated and rolling into a hazard. And, even though this example has been accepted as the "Rub of the Green" of today, the Golf Course Superintendent will still suffer the blame, because the golf course was too dry!

Let's suppose that we did employ "survival of the fittest" management on our golf courses. Obviously, there would be a good amount of "browed out" areas as well as areas of vigorous, healthy green turf. Proficient golfers, eventually,

landing in areas of "green growth" would complain about the unfairness of the situation . . . less than three feet away would have been a perfect lie on dormant grass, and here he is, on green grass. Conversely, the poor golfer would eventually find himself on the "browed out" area, neighboring the green turf he desires. How many times have you, myself, and all associated with golf course maintenance been subjected to this statement by the golfer, "I only ask one thing from a golf course . . . consistency!"

The United States Golf Association has also encouraged this attitude by the numerous rulings in the "Decisions on the Rules of Golf by the U.S.G.A." so that the game will be as "fair" for one player as it is for another. Because of this, golf has committed itself. Unless the rules of golf change drastically, then, as Golf Course Superintendents, we too, are committed to provide consistency throughout the golf course. To provide this dictated consistency, the Golf Course Superintendent has two alternatives. Either we kill all turf equally or we must make all turf similar in texture, color, and playability. Obviously, a golf operation with no turf has no chance for success, therefore, the Golf Course Superintendent strives for evenly textured turfgrass. The "by-product" of this "forced management" program is green, lush, vigorous turf, clipped daily to give it the consistency dictated by our membership and supported the United States Golf Association's Rules of Golf and subsequent decisions.

Al, there is an axiom in our profession that you are surely aware of: "Dead turf is not the problem, it is merely the result of another problem." This means that although we see the dead turf, we must realize that it died from some other reason . . . the true problem. It could have died from compaction, poor drainage, equipment damage, disease, overwatering, underwatering, and on and on through the innumerable other causes. From our training, we know that we will never have healthy turf, unless the true problem is corrected, otherwise the turf will never have a chance for survival.

Following this line of thinking, I contend that the extensive management programs employed in golf course maintenance are not the problem. From my side of the fence I see today's

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management programs as the result of the dictates of the United States Golf Association itself, through its rules and "decisions" . . . the striving for equitable playing conditions. This quest for consistency has caused golf course management to strive for today's ultimate manicuring of the golf course. Very honestly, Al, can we truly be expected to follow any other path? Why has the burden of "purist" been placed solely upon the Golf Course Superintendents' shoulder? Extensive maintenance is not the problem, it is merely the result of "Decisions on the Rules of Golf by the U.S.G.A.," the actual rules themselves and the demand for equitable consistency. As we cannot expect the "dead turf" to survive under the same conditions, we cannot expect maintenance of golf courses to change unless the rules themselves change drastically. As long as the United States Golf Association is committed to the equitable, consistent playing surfaces over 100% of the golf course, then I, as a Professional Golf Course Superintendent, will devote all my efforts to conform to this United States Golf Association policy. You cannot have survival of the fittest, resulting in uneven growth and patches of live and dead turf as well as consistency at the same time.

What, then, is the alternative? I believe the challenge is now before us. We must breed, and support the breeding of finer textured drought resistant, and above all, consistent turfgrass varieties that can survive under all soil conditions and differences in nature. The U.S.G.A. Green Section and every Golf Course Superintendent across the United States must find a way to please all. Until this has been realized, there is truly no hope of "returning to the good old days."

Al, I don't mean to come across as criticizing the United States Golf Association. Golf has made many changes in all aspects of the game. Equipment has become much more sophisticated, to the extent of now being designed by a computer! Golf courses architecture has also made numerous changes from the early "penal" design concept to the "strategic" concept with "heroic" and "redan" principals employed. The result of these changes has been to tilt the balance between strategy, psychology, skill and luck. Within the structure of these changes has also seen golf course maintenance progress towards the consistency dictated by the alterations in equipment, architecture, and the interpretations of the rules by the United States Golf Association.

So please, when this discussion arises again, don't allow the finger to be immediately pointed at my profession of Golf Course Superintendent. Ultimately, the finger must be directed towards those truly responsible for creating this "monster" . . . The United States Golf Association itself. Actually, the issue should have died immediately, when the very first ruling was made contrary to: "Play the course as you find it, and play the ball as it lies." The first lenient decision dictated the policy of the future of golf course maintenance and any other conclusion is unfair to the most devoted individual in golf . . . THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT.

Sincerely,
James A. Bertoni
LaJolla Country Club, LaJolla, CA

Editor's note—"Play the ball as it lies" and the scores will change?

Credit: Bull Sheet, October 1977



President Ted Horton, on left, with guest speaker Eb Steiniger from Pine Valley G.C., Judge Joseph Gagliardi, green chairman, Wing Foot G.C. and Edward Schneider, president, Winged Foot.



3rd Place Winner, Bedford Golf and Tennis Club, left to right, Terry Boles, superintendent, John Herkert, green chairman, and our host, Al Caravella.



4th Place Winner was Hubbard Heights. Here's Red Altamoro, superintendent, with his team members.

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