

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1971



## 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.

### SPECIAL DELIVERY TO DENVER

They'll be winging in from all sections of the country in just a few short days when the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America covers the mile-high city of Denver with its 42nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show.

And just as much a part of the conclave as the national, itself, will be the usual contingent from New England in their usual show of strength for the cause of the profession and the betterment of each individual course.

The sponsors are calling this the "Greatest Show on Turf" and indeed it is just that. GCSAA president Norman W. Kramer says it is expected that the record turnout of 128 exhibitors and 330 exhibition booths will be exceeded.

The national has made a special effort to get the importance of the show across to the many country clubs and private courses who have deemed it a luxury to send their superintendents to the conference. The theme of the call for superintendents is that more than 3000 of the finest golf courses in the United States and Canada can't be wrong. At last count that number was seen sending supers to the Denver event.

There is always something new and interesting at the conference site, but this year the GCSAA promises a veritable outpouring of the very latest in products designed to help the super do his job faster and more economically. Among the displays are:

A nine-unit hydraulic mowing tractor.

A triplex riding green mower that cuts a 62-inch path at one pass or the space equivalent of nearly three hand mowers.

A mower featuring up-front placement of all cutting units.

A combination fertilizer spreader-seeder coated with the same type of rust-proof material used on the heat shield of the Apollo space capsule.

A new, fine-textured perennial rye grass variety.

An aerator attachment that shreds cores while aerating.

A lightweight utility truck that weighs only 160 pounds and costs less than \$400.00.

A new systematic fungicide and seed-head inhibitor chemicals.

Also included will be displays from universities, trade press and industry associations . . . including the United States Golf Association, National Golf Foundation and American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Naturally, an educational program of special interest has been arranged to complement the exhibits and displays. This will last for four days with 40 speakers highlighted with information and ideas spawned from scientists, agronomists, golf course superintendents and officials of other golf agencies.

Then, too, as an aftermath or wrap-up lure . . . there will be special ski packages available at nationally known Vail which is only a three-hour bus ride from Denver.

This, then, is certainly the greatest show on turf. As the national urges clubs, owners and other officials with the capacity to do the job — "slap a stamp on your super and send him special delivery to Denver."

— Gerry Finn



Robert Grant, super at the Brae Burn Country Club adjusts sprayer prior to spraying fairways in mid December.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Feb. 22, 1971 at the Holiday Inn, Newton, Mass.

Directors	10:45 a.m.
Regular Meeting	11:15 a.m.
Dinner	12:15 p.m.
Educational Program	1:15 p.m.

### THE BIRTH OF A GOLF BALL

By John Redmond

Between topping, hooking, slicing and generally trying to get the damn thing into the hole, you have probably never considered just what goes into making that little round thing — a golf ball.

It is part of the business of Irish Dunlop to make those balls, and in their factory in Cork they produce almost 150 thousand dozen each year for your enjoyment (?) with probably more art, science and skill than goes into the making of any other type of ball for sport.

Golf, in one form or another, is in existence since ancient times. The Romans called it Peganica and played it with a bent stick and a leather ball stuffed with feathers.

Later the gutta percha came into being, and was improved upon when it was recognized that a rough surface would improve the flight of the ball. Various methods were devised to bring about this with the modern-day-dimple pattern being devised in the early 1920s.

These dimples, which you and I so quickly disfigure, influence the flight and performance of the ball, and I learned on a visit to the Dunlop factory that every ball they make has no less than 332 dimples, each of which is .012 inches in depth. Makes you think!

(Continued on next page)

# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## A SECOND LOOK AT SNOWMOBILES

It is that dubious time of a golf course superintendent's life to take a second look at snowmobiles.

Just in case you haven't heard (how could you miss that shattering shriek of whining over frozen water?), snowmobiles still whirl among us. And they do it in increasing numbers.

Recently in a national periodical a group of superintendents was shackled to the inquiring reporter's pen and asked to speak out on the pros and cons of the mechanized monsters. True, there was a scattering of pros (mostly from people who hadn't experienced the ill effects of the roaring devil) and many, many loud cons.

This was followed up by an impromptu exchange of ideas and exasperations during a meeting of NEGCSA. Living proof of the snowmobile's dirty work was smuggled into the session by one super — a slide showing a drunken path of destruction on what was once considered a lush fairway.

It has been suggested by some of the compromising set among the superintendents that we must learn to live with the snowmobile, just as we were forced to learn to live with the machine's distant cousin — the electric or gas golf car.

This is all well and good, if the snowmobile contributed something to the game of golf which the golf car does in some strange way. However, the snowmobile has no connection with the game of golf other than to invade its grounds under the pretense of providing off-season recreation.

As one super stated, "the winter months are a time of rest for the golf course. It is a time when the golf course becomes one of the few remaining bastions of nature in its purest form of beauty."

Maybe that sounds too poetic, but the idea is evident. There are times in the life of a golf course when it should be unattended and unaffected by man. Winter is that time. The roar of a snowmobile, plus its eventual rape of the turf, is an example of illegal intrusion.

You may think this to be a harsh reassessment of the status of the super and the snowmobile. But, until proven otherwise, the intruder stands as another opponent in the attempt to grow and maintain the finest turf possible through the urging of the superintendent.

The attempt to look upon the snowmobile in the same respect as the golf car seems to be rather impractical. As was stated earlier, the snowmobile in no way can be linked to the game of golf. Positively, it cannot be likened to the golf car unless certain addicts of the sport have taken to playing a fast 18 over frozen turf.

The hard facts of the situation dictate that the snowmobile is a manufactured hazard confronting the super. It is difficult enough that he must combat the forces of nature, disease and other forms of turf nuisance without having to square off against the effects of a man-made foe whose only contribution to the course is one of unneeded and uninvited off-season traffic.

Yes, this is a second look at snowmobiles . . . and a hard second look. If you think it should be any other way, then you must have some secret formula preventing its harmful effects on your course. Share it with us, if you will.

— Gerry Finn



Snowmobile damage in the spring of 1970 at a golf course in central Mass.

## Golf Ball Continued

Golf balls were the first sports product to be manufactured by Dunlop. Apart from Ireland, they make them in seven other countries and, in fact, a Dunlop golf ball comes off the production line every second of every hour, the equivalent of some 7,000 dozen every day.

The manufacture of golf balls started in Dunlop's extensive Cork plant in 1938. Over 60 per cent of their total production is exported and in the first nine months of this year their exports reached a record £77,000.

The major breakthrough in the evolution of the golf ball came in 1901 when a rubber centered ball was invented by an American named Haskell, who wound the centre with vulcanised rubber thread and then covered it with gutta percha.

The Dunlop ball now consists of a rubber balloon filled with a homogeneous paste in the centre. These are frozen and afterwards wound in almost 30 yards of 'polypower' thread. This is done on a machine which automatically controls both the tension and length of the thread and with electronic controls to ensure precision and greater uniformity in winding.

The next stage is moulding. The balls are covered with two half shells of synthetic gutta percha, and then moulded in steel or bronze moulds. They are transferred into refrigerators at a temperature ranging from minus 40 to 50 degrees centigrade. Once hardened the superfluous matter at the joint of the mould is removed before the balls are placed in cabinets for vulcanisation by gas.

They are then given a chemical pre-paint treatment. This consists of a tumbling in chlorine and alcohol to cleanse, whiten and prepare the surface of the ball for paint adhesion.

This is the final stage of the making. The balls are painted with two coats of polyurethane and then tested to verify weight, volume and compression.

The identification mark is added and followed by a coating of transparent polyurethane varnish. Further visual inspections are made of the finished product before they are wrapped and packed for despatch.

— The Irish Press

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SOUND OFF

*(Here we go again . . . time for the reader to make us sit up and take notice, tell us like it is via Sound Off. This is the thinking man's (or woman's) feature of the Newsletter. We like to hear from all of you, if you have a gripe, comment or suggestion concerning any phase of golf. Just collect your thoughts, spill them out on a letter and send them to Newsletter Mail Box, 24 Riverview Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950 The Newsletter reserves the right to counter-comment on all letters published.)*

\* \* \* \*

"I have to respond to your article, 'Our Image . . . In Review' in the December, 1970 issue of the 'Newsletter'.

"While I am human enough to associate myself with some of the comments in your editorial, more importantly, I agree that it is time that our membership and superintendents everywhere recognize the fact that the time is past to be self-conscious about a profession that is becoming increasingly recognized. It is time now, as you point out, for the superintendent to stand up and take the credit that is coming to him. There is every indication that recognition of the profession in general and of the individual superintendent will continue to grow and each individual member must be prepared to accept recognition.

"Accept recognition?"

"Exactly. Now that it's coming our way we must know how to accept it gracefully but firmly as our due and proceed to generate more by our professional conduct, etc.

"Thanks again for another 'first'."

BEN J. CHLEVIN  
Executive Director, GCSAA

Thank you, Ben for the GCSAA's recognition of our continuing effort to upgrade the superintendent . . . from within and without.

\* \* \* \*

"You'll probably tear up this letter just as soon as you get wind of its contents, but here goes . . . anyway.

"I am a practicing golf course superintendent but am unable to benefit from the fact because of my unique status.

"Sound crazy? Read on. First of all, I have all the qualifications of a first-class superintendent . . . and then some. I have a land grant college degree and have been in the turf business for the past six years or ever since my graduation. In addition, I own up to the vital statistics of 36-26-37.

"In case you haven't caught on yet, I must let out the news that I am not one of you, as such. Alas, I am a girl. Perhaps it could be that I am the only girl superintendent in the profession.

"Whatever, I was just wondering why I am not invited to take part in the professional and social activities of my local GCSAA chapter? Certainly, since I am qualified to grow grass and keep said grass green, I should be eligible to join my colleagues in their monthly meetings and seminars?"

"Am I off base or something?"

SEMANTHA STEWART  
Greensap, S. C.

Anytime you want to move to New England it's all right with us, Semantha. Shame on you supers down there in Greensap.

"This probably is a touchy subject. However, we supers in this area have been pondering the idea of forming a professional union and are interested in sounding out some of the other sections of the country.

"Our reasons are elementary . . . for the purpose of establishing job security. Recently several of our members have been getting the axe without bona fide explanation on the part of their employers.

"This is difficult for a dedicated superintendent to swallow and it also poses problems in matter of relocation and the cold, hard fact of finding another job.

"So far, we haven't noticed whether or not the New England group has taken a stand on the idea of a union. What goes with you people on this possibility?"

JACK DREW  
Fairchild, Neb.

Union talk hasn't gone beyond the scuttlebutt stage here, Jack. However, we are firm believers in advocating multi-year contracts for the superintendent.

\* \* \* \*

"As an interested and informed citizen, I thought your Newsletter might help in a little anti-pollution promotion.

"What I would like to see printed is this personal plea for all of your superintendents to take a strong look at the situation and make an effort to replace the present gas being used in and around their courses with the new non-leaded products.

"Certainly, this is one way for New England to continue in the lead as far as pacing the profession in topical awareness and positive response to current problems concerning the world in which we live.

"Perhaps it might make a difference in budget. Whatever the hike in cost, though, it would certainly be a wonderful thing if the New England supers got behind the non-leaded gas move 100 percent."

VINCENT DELGADO  
Newark, N. J.

All we can do is second your motion and hope enough of our members do the same thing.

\* \* \* \*

Just a short note to let all of the members of the G.C.S.A. of N. E. that the Clapper Co. has a 1971 "Turfgrass Meeting and Planning Calendar" available upon request. Just ask your Sales representative for it. This calendar lists all of the dates and places of conferences and conventions for the year and for the entire country.

O. O. CLAPPER  
West Newton, Mass.

Thanks for the information O. O.

\* \* \* \*

*(That puts the latest edition of Sound Off to sleep for this time. Most interesting session, if we do say so. Remember, this space is reserved for you. Let's keep those cards and letters coming.)*

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\* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

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