

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1973



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.

GOLFERS STILL MARCHING IN AT ST. ANDREWS

You will be happy to know, I'm sure, that St. Andrews — the mother course of golf — is still as busy as ever. In fact, there's going to be another St. Andrews . . . just cause to take a second look at this fabled shrine to the game of the old and the ancients.

John Campbell, superintendent (greenskeeper in British parlance) was among the throng taking in all the action and goodies at the recent International Turf Conference in Boston. And the first thing he had to report was the building of a replica of the Old Course at St. Andrews — to be constructed in far-off Japan.

Campbell, who has been in on the planning stage of the project which is fathered by a Japanese businessman, reveals that the course will be completed within 12 months. He has been consulted continuously and rightly so. When you think of St. Andrews, John Campbell's name and involvement in the course are sure to follow.

"It will be a very exclusive club", Campbell tells. "I think that it will come very close to duplicating the Old Course. These people have left no stone unturned in order to come as near to building another St. Andrews as possible. They have even hired a Jack Nicklaus-associated firm to help with the architectural work."

It has been four years since Campbell was here for a series of appearances. He was the center-stage speaker at the International Turf Conference in Houston, he enlightened a group of the Massachusetts Golf Association and cut his American teeth when the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England arranged for an appearance at the Massachusetts Fine Turf Conference.

"Golf is really booming overseas", Campbell reveals. "It is becoming more popular in Europe, so much so that our group of turf people have affiliated with European people to form the Scottish International Greenskeepers Association."

On his side of the ocean, golf remains a religion rather than a recreation. "We have some new courses popping up on the British Isles", he remarks. "And there seems to be a trend toward building sports complexes, those centers which have golf as their focal point with other sports included to round out the attraction."

There is also talk of the British or Scottish, if you will, leaning toward the condominium kick. "I have heard that someone is interested in building a holiday chalet type of operation", Campbell said. "But, as far as I know, it's not gone beyond the planning stage. I do suspect that eventually it will be built, though."

One of the American influences, which have been creeping into the British-Scottish scheme of things, is the use of golf carts. "Would you believe it?" Campbell beams. "We have one golf cart at St. Andrews. So far, it is a special kind of arrangement. I mean that people with special permission are the only ones allowed to use it. However, I am fearful of the worst. We follow slowly in the wake of you Americans but I can see the day when St. Andrews has 20 or 30 golf carts. I hate to see it come. I definitely am against the use of them. But I'm afraid I won't be able to fight them."

The outstanding revelation, as far as the American golf course superintendent is concerned, is the fact that Campbell still is regarded as having the final word when it comes to opening or closing the course. "They still give me that authority", John tells. "And I exercise it according to my thinking. Our people go along with it, too. This really is a boost for our profession."

St. Andrews, then . . . as well as the other British Isles courses is alive, well and thriving. Thanks to a person of John Campbell's calibre, too, the superintendent's position is solid. And why not?

— Gerry Finn

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For many years the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association has had the reputation of being a very solid group. This was proven again at the 44th National Turf Grass Conference and Show in Boston when we carried out our responsibilities as the Host Chapter. Everything that was asked of us was done to the best of our ability. All our members accepted their assignments and did everything possible to make the Conference the success it was. Many of the wives assisted in putting on one of the best Ladies' Program ever. The Committee Chairmen spent many hours prior and during the Conference carrying out their duties. Several members and their wives from other local Associations were of great help. It was a great team effort and we all can be proud of our accomplishments.

BOB GRANT
President, GCSA, N. E.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the GCSA of N. E. will be February 7, 1973 at the Holiday Inn, Newton, Mass. The guest speaker will be Bob Karrow of the Turf Department at the University of Massachusetts.

Directors' Meeting	10:30 A. M.
Regular Meeting	11:15 A. M.
Luncheon	12:15 P. M.
Educational Program	1:15 P. M.

JOBS OPEN

Ould Newbury Golf Club, 9 Holes. Apply to Mr. Philip Trussell, 196 High Road, Newbury, Mass. 01950.

Folly Hill Country Club, Beverly, Mass., 18 Holes. Contact Dom Ventre, General Manager at 927-5200.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

THE EQUIPMENT EXPLOSION

As recently as six years ago, it was not uncommon to experience the sight of a superintendent (greenkeeper) exacting the cut of his tees and greens with a hand-powered 12-inch lawn mower. That was then in Scotland and other parts of the British Isles, but today it is different. And the American influence in modern equipment must take a bow for the improvement.

This little bit of news, according to Malcom Clark of Dalry Ayrshire, Scotland who might still be reeling from the magnitude of this year's International Turf Conference in Boston. This was the first visit here for Malcom. Indeed, it will not be his last. He was duly impressed . . . a general reaction by all of our foreign visitors who took in the big show in the Hub.

"I am always amazed at the progress you Americans have made in turf equipment", Clark discloses. "I am a Jacobsen representative back home and am proud to have any part in the upgrading of the tools our greenkeepers use to better serve the golfing public."

Clark doesn't mean to blow Jacobsen's horn exclusively. He has competition back home in the form of Toro representation, but he looks upon it as a healthy situation. "This is the reason why our golf courses have made great strides in conditioning over the past few years", he tells. "At one time the Ransome Company of England had a stranglehold on the equipment market. And it became complacent because of the lack of competition. Now, with American imports nudging it, Ransome has come back into practical focus. And the golfers are reaping all of the benefits."

Clark cites the influx of sit-down greens mowers as an example of the upsurge in grooming efficiency on the British Isles. "I think I can truthfully say that since this last August some nine courses have switched to the sit-down mowers", he reveals. "And I know that within our own generation some of our own greenkeepers were using horse-drawn equipment. It really is a marvel of the present age."

The equipment explosion . . . or the modern version of same . . . has been most evident in the last five years. "In this period I would say that the condition of our courses has improved immeasurably", Clark reports. "The appearance of high-work machines has been a godsend to the British and Scottish greenkeeper. It speeds up his work and makes for a better all-round operation."

Clark is intrigued by the climate in Scotland. "There is a big difference in moisture content from the East Coast of

Scotland to the West Coast", he discloses. "John Campbell's course at St. Andrews has irrigation and is on the East Coast. But where we are (Troon) on the West Coast, I see no need for it. And the distance is no more than a couple of hours' drive."

The occasion of his first visit to the United States had Clark leery for a while, that is until he arrived in Boston and saw his fears wiped out by the congeniality of the people. "Everyone . . . from the taxi cab driver to the policeman . . . has been very friendly to us", Clark smiles. "We heard all about the hardness of the people over here, but I can say that it's a fallacy. I can't think of one sticky moment in the six days I've spent here. Oh, yes, I'll be back. You can't keep me away after this rewarding experience."

So, the American influence has been somewhat of a blessing for the bastions of golf in Scotland and England where the game was first popularized. "We are very grateful to the United States", Clark concludes. "It has been instrumental in making golf more pleasant . . . for our dealers, our greenkeepers and, most important, our players."

That's an endorsement that should be cherished.

— Gerry Finn

OSHA PARTIAL CHECKLIST

Compiled by

The New England Nurserymen's Association

Here are some of the violations OSHA inspectors are looking for. These are important, but there are many others.

Wet floors.

Obstructions at entrances, exits, on stairways and in passageways.

No handrails on stairways.

No "panic bolts" on doors.

No decals on glass doors to prevent people from walking into them.

Aisles less than 36 inches wide.

Sharp corners on fixtures.

Loose floor mats or carpets.

Weak stock room ladders.

Flammable liquids not safely stored.

No first aid kit.

Fire alarm system not working properly.

Electric wiring with bad insulation and/or circuits overloaded.

Electrical equipment not grounded.

No workable fire extinguishers.

Exit lights not working.

Trucks have defective equipment.

(annual state inspection stickers help on this)

OSHA poster not posted. (This is VITAL — first thing an inspector looks for).

Required records not kept.

Farmers who employ less than seven employees at any one time are exempt from the record-keeping requirements of OSHA. But, accidental deaths must still be reported.

As additional information becomes available, it will be passed on to you.

Howard F. Knight
Regional Agribusiness Specialist
Pioneer Valley, Berkshire Region

PLANTING TAX IDEAS

It's income tax season so here are a few ideas to think about as you pore over your IRS forms.

Trees lost through storm, fire or accident may be covered by your insurance, or they may be tax-deductible to the extent that the loss reduces your property value.

Are you planning a social affair, indoor or out, that's worthy of decoration with living plants? You can buy container stock to grace your gathering, then donate the plants to a park, school, or other non-profit group and claim a deduction.

Living memorials of trees and shrubs planted on appropriate land in memory of loved ones are also deductible.

But remember first to check with an accountant or some other appropriate tax expert.

— News and Views

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Golf Course Superintendents Association

BASKIN . . . G IN THE SUN

He's sort of a boy-next-door type, as far as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England is concerned, yet he is still one of us. Therefore, the election of Charles Baskin to the position of national vice-president is a shot in the arm for all of New England and the man, himself, realizes it.

Baskin earned the nod as No. 2 man in the GCSAA last month at the International Turf Conference in Boston and he's very much aware of the possibility that election breeds. It could mean that a New England superintendent could be lifted to the presidency of the National for the second time in four years when all hands convene again for the big show next year in California. It is traditional, although not mandatory, for the vice-president to ascend to the presidency, a probability that intrigues the energetic super of the Country Club of Waterbury, Connecticut.

"I think my election proves that we of New England are not content to build a fence around our section and let the rest of the golf world go by", Baskin tells. "Certainly, we are branching out to the point where we are making ourselves a national factor. I feel highly honored to be in the position where I might emulate Dick Blake (former national prexy who started the New England surge with his eventual tenure at the head of the class). I believe it would be a sign that we in New England intend to become involved."

Although he realizes that the national association is a means for the superintendent to improve himself, Baskin is a firm believer in the theory that self-improvement comes through self-effort. "I am still clinging to the thought that we all must improve or attempt to improve on an individual basis", Baskin discloses. "The national is always there to rely on, but the superintendent has to have the initiative to strike out on his own."

One of Baskin's biggest concerns nowadays is the possibility that the superintendents' field is saturating itself, producing more supers than there are jobs to absorb them. "I am definitely cognizant of this situation", he says. "That's why I'm recommending that we not increase our contributions to scholarships in turf education and instead take that money for an investment in turf research."

Charlie is not one to overplay the educational involvement of the superintendent and therefore is not on the side of those who see the day coming when the superintendent of the future will have to have a college education. "I still think that the profession must be geared to the economy of the country club," he advises. "Naturally, there will be situations where certain clubs will be willing to go to the college grad as their super and accept the financial burden of such a move. But I feel that there always will be clubs who will not wish to compete with other fields in trying to lure the four-year college graduate to the profession."

The rise of Baskin in the national hierarchy of the golf course superintendents' group has caused some speculation that he might move out of the profession and seek even higher grounds in the game, but Baskin just laughs at the suggestion. "This is the first I've heard of that idea", he grins. "Right now my main interest is being a good superintendent for the Country Club of Waterbury. That comes first on my list of goals. I have to think this way."

Baskin predicts that the economic and social stature of the super will continue to improve. "All you have to do is look around you and see how we have bettered ourselves", he voices. "But we can't stop here. That's why I'm pushing individual involvement. We can't stymie individual initiative. That's the basis of our profession."

Right now it looks as though it's the right base, too.

— Gerry Finn

THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE CONTROL ACT (FEPCA) OF 1972

Amendments to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, known as the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act of 1972, was signed into law by the President in late October.

According to EPA Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus, "The new law is the most important piece of legislation in this field since the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) was passed in 1947.

"This legislation should provide the consumer and the general public with much improved protection for human health and the environment from potential adverse effects of pesticides. At the same time it should benefit the farmer by enabling him to continue the safe use of a pesticide that might otherwise have been removed from the market under the FIFRA because of lack of control over use."

Under the new legislation, Federal control will be extended to actual application of pest control chemicals by the purchaser, with penalties provided for misuse. The old law regulates only the interstate marketing of pesticide products, while the new Act covers not only misuse, but also required Federal registration of products distributed within a single state.

All pesticide products will ultimately be registered and classified for general use or restricted use. The restricted category would contain those chemical toxicants that pose a high risk to man or his environment. Such compounds could only be used with special restrictions, such as use by or under the supervision of certified applicators.

The EPA Administrator said he expected that most farmers would be able to qualify for state certification as private applicators where they are using pesticides on their own land. Such certification, based on federal standards, will be required in four years according to the new law.

Other important provisions of the new Act will:

— Require registration of all pesticide producing establishments and regular submission by them of production and sales volume information effective in one year. Also, entry of these establishments and other places where pesticides are held for sale or distribution is authorized for inspection purposes.

— Permit issuance of stop sale, use or removal orders and seizure of hazardous pesticides.

— Provide for civil and increased criminal penalties. Penalties range from \$1,000 for second and subsequent offenses by private applicators or other persons under the civil provisions and \$1,000 or 30 days in prison, or both, for a criminal or misdemeanor conviction by these same persons. Any registrant, commercial applicator, wholesale, dealer, retailer, or other distributor who violates the law is liable to a civil penalty of \$5,000 and a criminal penalty of \$25,000 or one year in prison, or both.

— Authorize the EPA Administrator to establish pesticide packaging standards, regulate pesticide and container disposal, issue experimental use permits, conduct research on pesticides and alternatives, and monitor pesticide use and presence in the environment.

— Provide for certification of pesticide applicators by the states under a program approved by the EPA Administrator, for cooperative enforcement with the states, and for grants-in-aid and other assistance to states for certification programs.

* * * * *

Every provision of the FEPCA must be effective within four years. This legislation will have impact upon Massachusetts and its regulation of pesticides. We will keep you posted as new developments unfold in the form of new rules and regulations for Massachusetts.

Taken from the "Pesticide Gazette" January 1973



Left to right, Dean Robertson, wife, Judy, Barbra Clapper, Clair and Leon St. Pierre are the people who planned the Ladies' Program for recent GCSAA Conference in Boston.



Left to right, Clair St. Pierre, Mary Duval, Nancy Curran, Gladys Grant, Molly Baskin, Peg Espey. Front left to right, Elaine Blake, Elenor O'Connell, and Ruth Rowley.



Dean Robertson, left, and Chet Sawtelle talk about the antique Jacobsen tractor that was shown at the Conference this year.



Left to right, Diane La Roche, Ann Barrett, Shirley Clement, Barbra Clapper, Judy Robertson. Front left to right, Jan MacDonald, Carmie Doherty and Carol Dennehy.

Leon St. Pierre, Chairman of the Ladies' Program in Boston is showing the Host Ladies a bon bon dish they received for their time devoted to the Ladies' Hospitality Program.



The Sturbridge Village tour for the ladies.



Bob Grant (right) President of the GCSA of NE is presenting an Appreciation Plaque to Orville Clapper, for 50 years of service to the New England Superintendents Association.

SOUND OFF!!!!

(It's that time once again for the readers to take pens in hand and let their minds open up for straight-forward conversation on any golf subject. All letters or cards should include the name and address of the writer and should be directed to Newsletter Mail Box, 24 Riverview Drive, Newbury, Mass. 01950. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all published letters.)

* * * * *

"Let me be one of the first (I hope) to congratulate the New England superintendents for the part they played in a wonderful runoff of the International Turf Conference in Boston. It was, indeed, a good example of teamwork and well-oiled organizational machinery and you people are to be commended.

"One of the brightest things to my way of thinking was the very warm feeling the people in and around Boston had for all the visitors to the conference. It is a common assumption that you people of New England are suspicious of visitors and non-natives. But I couldn't see anything resembling such a reaction from the Boston folks.

"Then, too, the area was very cooperative in that the weather, although not of the Miami variety, was pleasant enough so as not to inconvenience visitors and the flow of activity. All in all, it was a good show and a good time was had by all. Again, you are to be congratulated for a job well done."

MYRON PEAKS, Salt Lake City, Utah

There had to be cooperation from the other side, too, Myron. And let us say that most of our guests lived with the few hitches in the overall program to give us a lift in our attempt to make things as pleasant and homey as possible.

* * * * *

"During my pleasant stay in Boston for the International Turf Conference I came in contact with Joe Graffis, the noted writer and booster for the superintendents' profession.

"Joe seemed to think that the golf course superintendent field may be turning out more men than the profession can handle. He even thought that it was possible that future superintendents would have to have up to four years of college in order to even be considered for an opening.

"I am a superintendent and haven't had the opportunity to take much higher education courses, other than attending the short term turf management courses available in my area. And I'm beginning to wonder if this situation will jeopardize my present position.

"As far as I know, my green chairman and the rest of the membership seem to be satisfied with the job I'm doing at our course. However, it just might change should some new educationally-minded chairman take over and bring his views into my job.

"Naturally, I'm concerned. I have been on my present job for 13 years and have seen our course mature into one of the finest in our area. I am almost married to the place and would hate to have to pull up my roots just because I don't have a college degree."

"Do you think I'm worrying over nothing?"

NAME WITHHELD, CLUB WITHHELD

There really isn't any right or wrong answer to your question. But the answer may lie in the condition of your course. If it is at top-notch level, four, eight or 12 years of college won't make it any better. If your members have any common sense, they see it this way also.

* * * * *

"Your 'Sound Off' column seems an appropriate place to congratulate the wives of the New England association members for an excellent job of hosting the recent turf convention. These ladies were most helpful in giving information about the events planned to entertain the women while their husbands were busy with lectures and exhibits. Speaking as one who does not escape the provincialism of Cape Cod often enough to feel at ease in the big city, I found it most pleasant to enjoy a cup of tea in the hospitality room of the Sheraton, poured by one of the friendly hostesses who was never too busy to chat for a few minutes. On one occasion I sat beside a lady from Texas who commented that our New England women were not what she expected. When I asked her what she meant, she said, "Everyone is so pleasant and helpful, not as cold and impersonal as I had heard." I think she summed it up pretty well for all of us from California to Cape Cod. Thanks again gals!"

Mrs. Brian Cowan
Eastward Ho! Country Club
Chatham, Mass.

Just plain folk are pleasant the world over. Thanks again Mrs. Cowan for taking time to write us.

* * * * *

"I was very interested in last month's Newsletter and the article on unions. I am not a superintendent but a country club member, one who probably should keep his mouth shut in this very touchy situation.

"Although I have no place of authority on our board of governors, I have many friends who are club officials and they are starting to become concerned over the possibility that they will have to be negotiating with union groups rather than individuals.

"I think the thing that prompts some superintendents to think of forming a union is the unjust treatment that's been evident in certain hiring and firing situations.

"There is a tendency of some clubs to take a second look at the salary they are paying their present superintendent and then take a look at the large number of superintendents graduating from those management schools.

"In most cases a club can hire a younger man at a savings of from five to seven thousand dollars, then take a chance that the new super will be able to give them the same type of conditioned course that the higher paid man gave them. This is the unjust treatment I mentioned and I can't blame you superintendents for flirting with unions and threatening to get together for security purposes.

"It is very unfortunate that the number of available superintendents seems to be surpassing the number of jobs that are open. If this should continue its trend, then the established superintendent will have to have some kind of ammunition to protect himself against the chance his club will dump him for a lower-priced younger man.

"Perhaps a union is the answer. I really don't know, but if I were in your profession, I would think twice about it."

FRED FORSYTHE
Terminal, N. J.

That's what the hue and cry's all about, Fred. We don't want to be the fall guys in an overcrowded market.

* * * * *

(That's it. Keep those cards and letters coming, folks.)

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FIRST CLASS

