

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1974



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.

REMEMBER WHEN



Photo from the 25 year anniversary party of our association in 1949. This is our 50th year. Can't we do it again?

GET HIM TO THE COURSE ON TIME

Recent studies establishing popularity charts on the sports world have brought to the public new information that its athletic addicts are in need of additional facilities. At the top of the list are tennis courts and right behind follow golf courses. So, despite some thought that golf courses have become too plentiful, the increase in the game's new crop of devotees means ground-breaking ceremonies on a national scale are just around the corner.

Golf course owners should follow the route of other sports' leaders who have seen fit to include the nucleus of their operating staffs in the planning and building of the particular facility. Most of new civic centers popping up all over the country seem to appear with built-in managers. But this is all planned. In many instances the manager or director of the building is hired just as soon as the initial bond issue is finalized. He gets in on the ground floor.

In the golf field, this practice should be followed...even more religiously since the golf course superintendent will be the man who is closest to the physical layout of the country club when its members come to expect all the finery found in impeccable conditions. The super should be there at the beginning.

Unfortunately, he is not. The norm appears to have the course hire an architect and construction foreman as the foundation of the building venture. Only after the course is completed or on the edge of bursting into bloom does the country club start to think about filling the most important position within the boundaries of the 18 holes of play.

Practical is the only word for such an approach. All too many times a superintendent comes onto the course cold. He has to spend the better part of his first season becoming acquainted

with the layout and its soil makeup. That time is a waste and could prove vital in the future condition of the course. Early association would ease all this.

The superintendent should have the option of being able to grow with the course which will be his responsibility once the ribbon-cutting is over and golfers get the novelty rubbed out of their eyes. At that point, the member's demands or requests take precedence over all. And the superintendent had better be there with the ammunition to meet them or else.

So, with an early introduction to the layout, the super has the tools to give the member an instant cup of top playing conditions. He doesn't have to call up the construction foreman to discover an "unusual soil content" or other form of professional hangup which might have been avoided if he had been on call from the start of things.

Results in other fields prove that there is no such thing as a transition period for the man in charge if he has been associated with the project at its baptism. Even the building of new stadiums has been updated with the early acquisition of a grounds manager who steps right into responsibility at the first seeding rather than arriving when the grass is starting to turn brown.

In the case of early hiring of the superintendent, the course has to benefit. The argument of holding off on the job because the task of maintaining the golf course contains all universal problems is an argument with no foundation. Golfers have come to learn that their courses are as individual as their own golf games. So, it would do the new course well to get the superintendent there on time. It saves a lot of wear and tear...on everyone concerned.

Gerry Finn

Golf Course Superintendents Association

THE INSIDE TRACK

Alexander Radko of the USGA's Green Section has advanced an extraordinary theory designed to solve one of golf's eternal problems: "When is a course playable and when is it not?"

Radko-together with colleagues Stanley Zontek and William Buchanan-has put forth the idea of a "course within a course" in a recent article written for the USGA's Golf Journal. The subject came about as a reaction to the ever increasing demands of the player to enjoy golf in the winter months on northern courses. For years the superintendent has been faced with the testy situation of allowing play on regular tees and greens at a time on the calendar conducive to enticing turf damage. Now, Radko thinks he has the answer.

The course would incorporate all the less susceptible parts of the golf layout into an inner course which could be used for golfers who don't mind the restrictive elements of winter weather and who just want a playground where their games can be kept in shape. Naturally, the course would be shorter than the regulation spread, but Radko offers a few tricks in placement of greens which would give the player almost as strong a test as the one he faces in summer.

The inside track takes all the worry out of using regular tees and greens. They are divorced from the design and are saved the pain of absorbing those beefy footsteps that often lead to extensive damage which shows up in the customary months of play. There is nothing so deceiving as a green which is coated with a layer of dripping frost. While it may appear play on it is harmless, the eventualities of future damage far outweigh the pleasures found in using it out of season.

The all-weather course would take much of the soul-searching out of the superintendent's annual tug o' war with members...when to allow them to play the full course. This problem has been the source of much debate and often unfair harassment of the superintendent. The inside track is a means to elimination of both.

Radko also proposes that the inside track become a permanent part of the layout. He contends that the winter golf allowance could be carried over the summer at breaks in the weather when excessive rainfall or other natural semi-

catastrophes place a questionmark on the advisability of using the regular course.

"Why not use the short course on a year-round basis," Radko asks. "During adverse weather of any season it would take all the arguments out of the picture. There would be no decisions to be made by management. At the sign of conditions which might lead to turf damage, the shorter course could be set up and the regular course closed to play."

Although he might have overlooked it, Radko fails to note one little fly buzzing around this ointment: What about the decision laid to the superintendent as to whether or not conditions call for use of the short or inside course? After all, just as there are members who believe the golf course is theirs to play and command; there will surface some flak when it comes time to decide whether the regular or short course is to be opened on a given day.

Then, too, the design of an inside track places another burden on "guess who?" In effect, it presents the superintendent with two courses to condition...although the short course is not supposed to be the epitome of top-conditioned layouts. It does pose a labor problem because its greens and tees will have to be kept in playing condition at all times so as to be ready when the rains or snow come.

On the whole, however, the idea deserves further study by the country club administration. Its detail would have to be ironed out and plans made so as not to increase the superintendent's pressures. It's worth a look-see all right.

Gerry Finn

CONGRATULATIONS

TO:

Dewey Bullard
Pine Oaks Golf Club
Voted in as an associate member

Next Meeting...

May 6, 1974

Vesper Country Club

Directors Meeting 10:30
Regular Meeting 11:00
Buffet 12:00 Noon

Take Rte. 3 north to Tyngsboro Bridge.
Go over bridge and turn right.
Club on right about two miles.

President	First Vice President	Second Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Trustee	Trustee	Trustee	Trustee	Finance Chairman
THOMAS CURRAN Fox Chase Road South Sutton, N.H. 03273 Phone 938-5436 Club Affiliation Eastham Golf Course	WAYNE ZOPPO 48 Barbary Drive Seekonk, Mass. 02771 Phone 389-7141 Club Affiliation Agawam Hunt	DEAN ROBERTSON 24 Riverview Drive Newbury, Mass. 01950 Phone 462-4540 Club Affiliation Chastnut Hill Country Club	RONALD KIRKMAN, CGCS 25 Green Street Needham, Mass. 02192 Phone 444-6412 Club Affiliation Needham Golf Club	LUCIEN DUVAL R. F. No. 5 Gault Road Bedford, N.H. 03105 Phone 472-3545 Club Affiliation Manchester Country Club	BERT FREDERICK 45 Stoney Brook Road Nabesset, Mass. 01861 Phone 453-1231 Club Affiliation Vesper Country Club	MAX MIERZWA 106 Crestwood Street Chicopee, Mass. 01020 Phone 594-4998 Club Affiliation Chicopee Country Club	DAVID BARBER 11 Mariet Road Chelmsford, Mass. 01824 Phone 256-4417 Club Affiliation Wayland Country Club	ROBERT MUCCIARONE 465 Sumner Street Westwood, Mass. 02090 Phone 329-9682 Club Affiliation Dedham Country and Polo Club	

SOUND OFF

(Here it is...that time in the reading of this periodical when the real stars of the Newsletter introduce themselves and come on to shine! This is Sound Off, the feature which gives the reader a chance to be a vital part of the golf picture. All contributions are welcomed and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. The point of entry can be found at Newsletter Mail Bag, 290 North Road, Sudbury, Mass. 01776. The Newsletter reserves the right to comment on all letters published.)

"I picked up a recent edition of the Yankee Golfer and was very pleased to see that New England has struck another blow for its well-deserved recognition in the field of golf with the election of Charles Baskin as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

"He always has been regarded as one of the best in his profession by his members and other people who play the Waterbury Country Club. We in Connecticut are proud to have such a man as Charlie in our midst and I'm sure you people feel the same.

"I understand that Baskin is the second New Englander to head the national organization in recent years. I believe the other is a Richard Blake which gives more top rating to the profession in New England. How comes this section has gained so much national recognition?"

ERNEST PETERSON
Woodbury, Conn.

The answer is "involvement", Ernie. New England superintendents just don't sit around and watch the grass grow!

"I am at a loss to explain my feelings as I write this letter. I belong to a club that has one of the best layouts in the area. It also is located in an area where golf is very popular and courses come by the dozen. There must be seven courses within a radius of 10 miles.

"My reason for writing is the strange procedures which are practiced in this compact area. Three of the courses opened in early March, two others waited until the end of the month and there were still two that weren't opened over this weekend.

"I can't understand why one course can open early and another still sits there asleep. My course was one of the lucky ones or I was one of the lucky golfers because it had an early opening. I feel sorry for the people who belong to those other courses, though. I can't see why they don't protest against late openings."

FRAN SPERRY
East Longmeadow, Mass.

Don't worry, Fran, they do. However, as stated on another page in this issue, golf courses have individual characteristics and have to be treated according to them. Today's early opening could result in tomorrow's horrendous playing conditions.

"Is there some way you superintendents have of knowing what kind of weather you'll have to cope with when the golf season reaches its height this year?"

"I am amazed at some of the timing you use in putting out the fertilizers and making new plantings. There must be some trick to it, or else you have an exclusive pipeline to future weather conditions.

"My garden doesn't have the benefit of this timing and, I imagine, inborn ability to know when to water, transplant, seed, fertilize and whatever. Is there some kind of magic formula you might be able to pass onto me, as I am very proud of my plants and wish they could flourish the way your beautiful greens and fairways do?"

CATHERINE STEBBINS
Warren, Vt.

Conditioning a golf course is a science, Ms. Stebbins. The superintendent relies on his knowledge and experience to make the grass grow green. There are no hidden tricks. And he has no inside line to the info on the weather...but he wishes he did!

"I read with interest your article last month in which you suggested that the superintendent seek to get into play a multi-year contract as a means of job security.

"This has been one of my most important personal projects where I work. It also has been a project in which I have met with the strongest opposition from members, ironically enough who have jobs of their own that require contracts to protect them against sudden dismissal.

"I am of the opinion that our national organization should take the lead in creating the contract form of employment for its members. I am not saying we should unionize. I am against the union. However, I feel that some good could come from perhaps a national stand by the GCSAA in the form of a proclamation or open letter to country club officials.

"In the past 15 years, I have had two different superintendent positions. The only job I left was not at my option. It just so happened that I ran into a piece of double bad luck--a bad year with turf damage and a green chairman who hated my guts.

"That was 12 years ago. I am still on the second job, although I can't say that I feel secure. All I need is to see my greens go sour or a chairman come along who doesn't like the way I part my hair and I'm out. Yes, we need multi-year contracts."

NAME WITHLED
Club Withheld

You said it all. The super is at the mercy of whimsical behavior by his employer. We also vote the multi-year ticket.

(That does it for this time. Don't forget. Put it all down on paper and you'll read it here.)

Golf Chairman	Educational Chairman	Newsletter Chairman	Past President
BRIAN COWAN Robbin Way Harwich, Mass. Phone 432-9041 Club Affiliation Eastward Ho Country Club	LARRY BUNN 145 Dedham Street Canton, Mass. 02021 Phone 925-0467 Club Affiliation Blue Hill Country Club	THOMAS SCHOFIELD 290 North Road Sudbury, Mass. 01776 Phone 443-3712 Club Affiliation Maynard Country Club	ROBERT GRANT CGCS 22 Patricia Road Sudbury, Mass. 01776 Phone 443-2671 Club Affiliation Brae Burn Country Club

Information contained in this publication may be used freely, in whole or in part, without special permission as long as the true context is maintained. We would appreciate a credit line.

Please patronize **FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Agrico Chemical Company
R. D. Sibley, Jr., Representative
375 Power Rd.
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860

Alfco Rokeby Co., Inc.
Fertilizers and Chemical Specialties
P. O. Box 267, Marietta, Ohio

Baker Tractor Corp., Ford Tractors
Harley Davidson Golf Cars
Swansea, Massachusetts

The Charles C. Hart Seed Co.
Richard McGahan, Rep.
Wethersfield, Conn.

Corenco Corporation
525 Woburn Street
Tewksbury, Mass. 01876
G. D. Kimmey
1-800-222-7976 - 1-800-225-7955

*The Clapper Co.
1121 Washington St.
West Newton, Mass.

*Geoffrey S. Cornish & William G. Robinson
Golf Course Architects
Fiddlers Green, Amherst, Mass. 01002

George E. Cull
Terra-Green Soil Conditioner
112 Green St., Abington, Mass.

C. S. Curran
T. R. C. Products, Oils and Greases
7 Linden St., Framingham, Mass.

E-Z-Go Golf Car, Division Textron, Inc.
Sales - Service - Rentals
Route 28, Pocasset, Massachusetts 02559
Call Ed McGuire collect 617/563-2234

Fairway Equipment, Inc.
Sales - Service - Rentals
35 Walnut St., Reading, Mass.

Farm Bureau Association
158 Lexington St., Waltham, Mass. 02154
Fred Heyliger, Representative
Thomas F. Grummell, Representative

Ron Gagne - Scotts Golf Course Div.
5 Kendall Park, Norton, Mass.
617-285-7446

Grounds Equipment Co., Inc.
383 Boylston St., Newton Cen., Mass.

Gull Agricultural Service Co.
Allen P. Bonnell
55 Freeman Rd., Yarmouthport, Mass. 02675
617/362-2181 - Ohio 614/263-6572

Holliston Sand Company, Inc.
Lowland Street, Holliston, Mass. 01746
Sand for Golf Bunkers and Traps

Irrigation & Equipment Supply Co.
P. O. Box 147 Route 1
Walpole, Mass. 02081
Tel. 617-668-7814

*Tom Irwin, Inc.
11B A Street
Burlington, Mass.

Karandrew Turf Farms, Inc.
Sam Mitchell, Sales Representative
15 Longmeadow Drive, Canton, Mass.

The Kenneth Barrie Company
Irrigation
375 Centre St., Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Larchmont Irrigation Co.
Larchmont Ln., Lexington, Mass.

Mallinckrodt Chemical Works
Second and Mallinckrodt Streets
St. Louis, Mo. 63160

Magovern Company, Inc.
Lawn Acre Road
Windsor Lock, Conn.

D. L. Maher Company
Concord Street
P. O. Box 127, North Reading, Ma. 01864

Malter International
Mr. Howard A. Vincent, Representative
Longmeadow, Massachusetts 01106

R. F. Morse & Son, Inc.
Cranberry Highway
West Wareham, Mass. 02576
Tel. 617-295-1553

New England Sealcoating Co., Inc.
Tennis Court Const. and Maintenance
Sealcoating - Hingham Industrial Center
Hingham, Mass. Tel. 749-3236

Old Fox Chemical Inc.
Fertilizers - Seeds - Turf Chemicals
66 Valley Street
East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

Sil Paulini, Inc.
6 Manor Avenue
Natick, Mass. 01760

Richey & Clapper, Inc.
28 Rutledge Road
Natick, Mass. 01760

Trencher & Equipment Leasing, Inc.
Ditch Witch Trenchers
38 Fairview St., Agawam, Mass. 01001
Phone 413-781-4600

*Sawtelle Brothers
565 Humphrey Street
Swampscott, Mass.
Tel. 617/599-4856

Shepard Sod Company
Merion Blue Grass and Pencross Bent
200 Sullivan Ave., So. Windsor, Conn.

Tuco Products Co.
Division of the Upjohn Company
Kalamazoo, Michigan

White Turf Engineering
5 Sumner Drive, Winchendon, Mass. 01475
617-297-0941

Philip A. Wogan
Golf Course Architect
21 Budleigh Ave., Beverly, Mass.

* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

TOM SCHOFIELD
Newsletter Committee Chairman
290 North Road
Sudbury, Mass. 01776
Phone 443-3712
Club Affiliation
Maynard Country Club
A. ROY MacKintosh
Business Manager
GERRY FINN
Contributing Editor



FIRST CLASS

First Class
U. S. Postage
PAID
Maynard, MA
Permit # 17