

NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

AUGUST, 1976



Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside

If Grantland Rice or Red Smith were writing of this particular pest, they might throw in a little jargon of their own ... like Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside. Only thing, this isn't a game we're playing and the high incidence of grub-beetle appearance on the turf scene this year has to be of major concern to New England golf course superintendents.

According to USGA Green Section Northeastern Director Stan Zontek, the surging tide of beetle invasion is working itself all across the entire northeastern section of the country. And the movement is picking up speed.

"We heard of the beetles coming into New Haven one day and three days later they were up into New London," Zontek relayed from his New Jersey office. "This definitely is a year of the insect. If you said they were about to inherit the earth, you wouldn't be just joking. Our evidence of unusual over-population is secure."

Zontek says that his field crew has seen everything from the Japanese beetle to the chinch bug in its travels this summer. "Three courses in the immediate area (New York-Philadelphia) have been eaten alive by grubs underneath the turf and above it when they change into pupae," Stan warned. "And from what I can make of it, the entire Northeast will be invaded ... if it hasn't already."

The warning is sound, too. Courses in the Western Massachusetts area have seen the sickening occurrence of beetles coming into their foliage-destroying form. One particular layout is loaded with them and has taken emergency measures to combat the horde.

"This is the year when the golf course superintendent has to become a better manager in recognizing pesticides and identifying the species in order to remedy the situation," Zontek adds. "This is a real crisis with some of us. And the method of combatting this insect infestation is a touchy item, what with the

restrictions and whatnot clouding the use of insecticides. It really puts the superintendent on the spot."

Unless older labeled materials are available (Chlordane), the super must rely on what Zontek calls "Shortlived insecticides." Zontek points out that there are still insecticides on the market which cover a broad spectrum in insect control. However, they are not of the old one-shot family. The action must be repeated and repeated. The more popular of the available materials are diazinon and dursban.

But why the banner year for insects?

Zontek is reluctant to imply that the phasing out of certain insecticides could have a strong hand in brining about a resurgence in the population of insects. "I am not in the position to suggest that the banning of broad spectrum, long life insecticides has made it easier for the insect to survive and multiply," he stated. "The fact is there for everyone study and draw his own conclusions."

Stan could tempt argument from the other side of the insecticide warring parties. And the offering that the damage to the balance of nature by strong insecticides must be considered when we attempt to pinpoint a definite cause of the problem.

"One thing is evident, though," Zontek counters. "We can assume, and with some authority attached, that the recent mild winters have been somewhat of a catalyst for the increase in the number of insects surviving through the December-March calendar cycle. Without the very deep frosts, the life expectancy of in-ground insects is almost tripled."

Zontek notes that with a "deep hole winter" or heavy frost, the average survival rate for insects is 20 out of 100. When the frost line resides at shallow levels, that rate jumps to 70 of 100.

"We've had two straight winters of shallow frost," Stan reveals. "And now, in effect, we're paying for them. We've seen some beetles that haven't been reported in 30 or more years. Thus, the superintendent has to be aware of the seriousness of the situation. All of his knowledge and experience truly are being put to the test."

Never a dull moment!

Gerry Finn

To be voted on next meeting

Frank L. Santos, Superintendent at Cranberry Valley G.C.
Regular Member

Roger F. Niccoli, Superintendent at Norfolk G.C.
Regular Member

Edward Wieloch, Superintendent at Nichols College G.C.
Associate Member

NEXT MEETING

Weston Golf Club, Weston, Mass.
Thursday, August 26, 1976
Host Superintendent: Don Hearn
Directors Meeting: 9:30
Regular Membership Meeting: 10:30
Buffet Lunch: 11:30 (Reservations please)
Golf: 12:30 (Championship Tournament)
Evening on your own



Our next meeting will be held at Weston Golf Course. Donald Hearn will be our host. Don has been at this very fine club since the fall of 1972. Prior to that, he was superintendent at Lexington Country Club for four years. He was assistant superintendent at Bellview Country Club for two years, worked at Thompson Golf Club and worked at Woburn Country Club. He graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture Winter School in 1968. He is very active in our association serving on many committees and at the present time is the Business Manager of the Newsletter and holds the office of treasurer. Weston Golf Club is recognized as one of the finest golf courses in the state and I'm sure everyone will enjoy playing our championship tournament there. Direction: Take exit 49 West off 128. This exit is north of Mass. Pike. Take left at first set of traffic lights. Take first left and club is straight ahead.

Golf Course Superintendents Association

Private to a point

When John Campbell made his rounds at the Massachusetts Turf Conference last spring, he brought up somewhat of a phenomenon in the operation of certain golf clubs on his British side of the ocean.

Campbell, now the course manager at the comparatively streamlined Foxhills golf development, admits that his new surroundings are quite a bit different than St. Andrews. There, where Campbell spent 14 years clipping and grooming the tradition of the ancient shrine, the battle of making ends meet was secondary to maintaining historical splendor. As far as he knew, "the bills just got paid and that was that."

Now in his second season at Foxhills, John admits that the idea of the development is primarily commercial. "At St. Andrews, we were in the business of promoting and preserving an international landmark," he volunteered. "At Foxhills, we are in the business of making money."

Foxhills, with its two 18-hole courses, has to be one of the rising private clubs in the Isles. Its developers have gone to great expense in order to offer members a combination of the old and new in course architecture, plus a touch of the Americanization of the country club with additives of swimming pool, tennis and squash courts, etc. Therefore, it is with great expense that maintenance is effected.

With this upper most in mind, Foxhills owners have turned over the operational ground somewhat in making the club private to a point. It does have members--some 400 of them--and they are offered the existing privileges which membership guarantees. However, the course (clubhouse, too) is operated on a semi-private, semi-public basis. Those are the words Campbell used to describe the arrangement.

The membership fees at Foxhills are set on an individual level. So, comparison to the more popular family setup here is almost impossible. But for the sake of discovering figures, the initiation (entrance) fee is 135 pounds or approximately \$270. And the annual dues is 120 pounds or somewhere around \$240. Remember, though, this is for an individual. At that, it might appear to be most reasonable.

How, then, do members cotton to the inclusion of the public in their daily club habits?

"I'd say that the membership finds no fault whatsoever with the public and visitors playing and using the facilities," Campbell said surprisingly. "Of course, we must remember that we have 36 holes at the Foxhills layout. It would be something different with 18. But I've heard of some semi-private courses in America with only 18 holes."

Visitors (non-members) playing Foxhills pay three different fees. Weekday play lists for six dollars a round. The amount increases to eight for Saturday and to a high of 10 dollars on Sunday. And ... get this ... there is a 25% discount on the cost of a second round during the same playing day. That's really merchandising the course.

Campbell admits that Foxhills is depending on the public to turn a profit. "It really is very different in our clubs," he mentioned. "For one thing, most of the club members don't take their meals at the club. So, we rely on visitors to eat there."

There is room at Foxhills, too, for a little double standard play or at least double residency action. Eventually, there will be two clubhouses on the grounds--one for members and the other for the public.

The private member-visitor hassle never has come about and Campbell cites economic conditions as the main reason. "Inflation in England is up some 25%," John disclosed. "And there is encouragement to place limits on wages and salaries. So, the club member is far better off having to pay a set fee without the chance of having large assessments dumped on him at the end of the season. He can live under those circumstances, only because the

club is being subsidized by the public. It's almost as if one needs the other. And it's working nicely."

Thus, the once "stuffy" British appear to be coming off it. At least, at the private club level they are living in harmony with the masses. The dollar (pound, if you please) dictates certain plunges into conformity. And it thrives, especially when you're looking to make a buck.

Gerry Finn



President Wayne Zoppo presenting 50 year plaques to Howard Farrant on the left and Elmer Fuller on the right.



Joe Rybka took off shoes and socks to make a recovery shot from a brook while playing at Agawam Hunt.

Do you wear gloves?

Do you wear gloves when handling pesticides? The persistence of pesticides on the hands of some occupationally exposed people was studied recently. It is found that chlordane and dieldrin have apparently persisted on the hands of a former pest control operator for at least two years. Methoxychlor, captan and malathion persisted for at least seven days on the hands of a fruit and vegetable grower. Parathion was found on the hands of a man two months after his last known contact with it. Endosulfan, TDE, Kelthane, Dacthal, Trithion, Imidan, and Guthion may have persisted on the hands of some exposed workers from 1 to 112 days after exposure.

Think about this the next time you wonder if you should wear gloves!!!

Reprinted from the University of Connecticut Greenhouse Extension Letter.

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

This Newsletter will be reaching you several weeks late due to the difficulty of golf chairman Brian Cowan finding a place for a meeting. Brian normally has the dates lined up for the year by the end of May. This year he has been having trouble getting clubs for meetings. You would think with a membership of 150 that Brian would have no trouble finding 8 clubs that would open their doors to our association. Whether the problem lies with the clubs or the superintendents not wanting to be a host is unanswered. Also it seems as if we are always returning to the same clubs every several years. There are a number of clubs I'm sure our association would enjoy visiting for a meeting. If anyone has any suggestions on this matter please send them along to Brian or the Newsletter.

The joint meeting with Rhode Island was a big success. There were 110 that played golf and about 140 for dinner. Golf was interrupted by a rain, but we were able to finish after the rain stopped. The dinner was excellent, with quite a variety of food and plenty to eat. Again, nobody left hungry!!! Wayne Zoppo our host had the golf course in excellent condition and everything you heard about his fast greens is true. I had 5 three putts to prove it. I also hope everyone had a chance to see the grass tennis courts. They're as good as you will see anywhere. Thanks to the members of Agawam Hunt Golf Club and Wayne for a very enjoyable day.

Our honored guests of the day, Howard Farrant and Elmer Fuller had a very enjoyable day also. They were glad to be back with the association and see old friends and meet new friends as well. Both Howard and Elmer stated how much the association meant to them while they were working and encouraged the members to use the association as a way of gaining knowledge from each other. Both men are enjoying their retirement and are in excellent health. They miss being around the fellows of the association and eagerly await the arrival of the NEWSLETTER every month in order to keep in touch with the association they worked so hard in forming over 50 years ago. James McCormack was to be honored also, but was not able to attend. We will honor Mr. McCormack in the future at one of the meetings. We're sorry he couldn't attend and look forward to when he will be able to come to a meeting.

Want to wish Arthur Washburn, CGCS a speedy recovery from an operation he had last month. He is at home resting and we hope to see Art back with us in the near future. He is superintendent at Cohasset Golf Club and serves our association as a Trustee. Also, Steve Butler of Larchmont Engineering has been laid up for several weeks with back trouble. Hope he is up again soon and we are looking forward to seeing him at our meetings.

Would like to welcome two new members to our association. Bruce Carlson of Heather Hill Golf Club in Attleboro, Mass. is a regular member and Neil Wendell of Highland Golf Club in Attleboro, Mass. is an assistant member. Hope you both will be active members.

Chet Sawtelle will be a speaker at the 50 year anniversary celebration to be held September 13 to 15 at Sylvania Country Club

in Toledo, Ohio. He will give a slide presentation similar to the one he gave at one of our winter meetings. That is one talk you could hear twice and enjoy it the second time around. Two of our members have children who are doing quite well in the junior golf circles of New England. Mel O'Kelley, Superintendent at Marshfield C.C. has a son who is one of the top junior golfers and Al Auger, Superintendent at Folly Hill C.C. has a daughter Robin who was the first girl to qualify for the CYO Golf Tournament. Robin won her first match before losing in the quarterfinals. The women are here to stay!!! Another indication of this fact is according to MGA President Richard Haskell, the terminology for ladies tees has been changed to front tees. The MGA along with the USGA recommends that red markers be used for front tees, white markers be used for middle tees, and blue markers be used for championship tees. Also, the color code they recommend for marking the course is as follows: Out of Bounds use white markers, Water Hazard use yellow markers, Lateral Water Hazard use red markers, Ground Under Repair use blue markers and Obstructions use black markers. If everyone would use this as a guideline it would make things a lot easier for all concerned.

It's a little late in the season, but four club have formed a softball league. Walpole C.C. and Royal Crest C.C. formed a team, Brookmeadow C.C. and Norwood C.C. formed a team, Glen Ellen C.C. has a team and Blue Hill C.C. has a team. The clubs have a lot of fun and it really doesn't matter who wins. Rules and arguments are usually settled over a few beers!! There is talk of forming a golf tournament also. Blue Hill C.C. fields a volleyball team and a hockey team if anyone is interested. I must warn you that our hockey team is unbeatable! The idea is great and is a good morale booster for the maintenance crews.

While playing at Agawam Hunt the last meeting and seeing the lightning approach made some people wonder what is the best thing to do when caught out on the golf course. Of course the best thing is to get to a building, inside a vehicle, or other structures which offer protection against lightning. If this is impossible seek shelter in dense woods, avoid isolated trees, stay in depressed areas, avoid hilltops or high places. It is especially hazardous to be riding a golf cart, tractor, or other similar vehicles. Raising golf clubs or umbrellas above the head adds to the element of personal hazard during electrical storms. The best thing to do is use common sense and get off the golf course before the storm arrives... In the last letter failed to mention the retirement of Jim Lyons who was Superintendent at the M.D.C. Ponkapoag Golf Course. Jim spent 14 years at this 36 hole golf course and saw over 1,500,000 rounds of golf played in that span of time. He said that he always felt that a big part of his job was to sell relaxation so the golfer could enjoy himself and forget about his troubles while on the golf course. The M.D.C. had a dinner to honor him for his outstanding service as superintendent at Ponkapoag Golf Course... A lot of talk at the last meeting about the lack of rain over the last 2 months. Some areas have had only 2 inches since the first of May! While we are talking about the weather doesn't it seem strange that we can put a man on the moon but we can't predict the weather in our own back yard? How many times have you heard a forecast for rain this year and didn't get a drop?

Again my apologies for the Newsletter being late. But let's hope everyone is more cooperate next year when it comes time to set up a meeting schedule. Hope to see everyone at Weston Golf Club.

Larry Bunn, Editor

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