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## Private or Public??????



It used to be that golfers were the only ones of the breed who concerned themselves with the private-public option. The almighty breaker of par would look upon his potential kingdom and reveal his allegiance to one or the other. In most cases, it was a dollars and cents drive behind the decision. You get a good deal you go here; you don't and you go elsewhere.

Public course setup is not that bad. In most instances, the public or many superintendent is treated on a business basis. He has a solid hour to hour working schedule, pensions are thrown in, other benefits filter through the relationship and... in the word of one outsider... "it's not that damn bad."

Continued on page 2

That was the plight of the golfer. If he couldn't make ends meet as a member of a private club, he uprooted himself and went to bring about that clear financial conscience in the sky by defecting to the public course.

At that, some of the public layouts have made themselves a lucrative attraction to the golfer in the street. There are those courses that offer the potential "member" starting times, a place in a tournament atmosphere and overall country club benefits... such as social events, club championships, member-guest tests and the other scattered come-ons.

Therefore it should not come as any shock that the golf course superintendent is viewing the catch-all effect of his profession in the same light as the man walking the fairways and setting his sights on a par-breaking round. The superintendent has to look at the light of his money-making life. And, from certain examples of supers taking it upon themselves to think and act away from the accepted private sector, the public course looms as the equalizer in establishing some kind of protection for the man who's supposed to keep the grass green.

There has been a sort of unwritten rule that the best superintendent job is found in the private club environment. Obviously, the reputation of the club, its members etc. must have much to do with the ensuing reputation of the super. In other words, you work at a first-class club and you get first-class hurrahs.

But... and this is a big but, there is a mushrooming movement among the golf course superintendents which breathes of a rebellion. The average super (that man who has 10 or more years of service behind him) believes he should have the same type of protection and job security as his peers in other related jobs. And for this reason, some of the superintendents are wending their way into public golf courses (municipal layouts, too) where their talent is appreciated rather than questioned.

The impetus for such a story as this is provided by one of the real contributors to the profession... a veteran private club super who suddenly has come to realize that he no longer can survive under the whip of the country club set.

"I can't see me going to another private club," he told. "Sure, I had my good years and years when the whole idea of super, club manager, pro and members getting together meant something to the well-being of the club. But I've discovered that I can't continue to maintain my interest in such an arrangement. If I ever take another job in this field, it will be at a public course."

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday May 10, 1977  
Woonsocket Country Club, Woonsocket, R.I.  
Directors Meeting 10:00 a.m.  
Membership Meeting 11:00 a.m.  
Lunch 12:00 noon  
Golf 1:00 p.m.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Rte. 495 take exit #6 Rte. 126 to Bellingham and Woonsocket. Stay on Rte. 126 until you come to Wrentham Road. Take left onto Wrentham Road until you come to Paine Street. Take right onto Paine Street and club is ¼ mile down Paine Street. From Rte. 295 take Rte. 122 north until you come to Mendon Road. Take right onto Mendon Road until you come to Paine Street. Take right onto Paine Street and club is ¼ mile down Paine Street.

Our host for this meeting is George Machado Jr. He is a new member of our association and this is a good opportunity for our members to meet George. George graduated from Stockbridge School of Agriculture 2 year program in 1964. He was Assistant to Sherwood Moore at Wing Foot before moving on to Bonnie Briar Country Club in New York. After 8 years at Bonnie Briar he came to Woonsocket Country Club. This is his second year at Woonsocket Country Club. This is the first time our association has had the opportunity to visit Woonsocket Country Club and we are looking forward to meeting George.

## Turf Games Tough

The introduction of artificial turf to stadiums, parks and their related life has had its effect on the good, old natural item. At one time it was thought that all the green, green grass of home would come up as phony fescue. The easier the plant, the easier the bloom.

However, there is a comeback underway on the part of natural turf growers and distributors. Some of the physical effects of bouncing over the artificial surface have caused a second look at the situation. In fact, the National Football League players association is fighting to restore natural turf to the gridiron. It has managed to bring about a tempered restriction on the use of artificial turf. In NFL stadiums, no natural surface may be replaced by the phony species and any new fields must be the real, grassy thing.

The sod business, as such, is on the upswing after a two-three year period of tough sell status. A combination of an overall sagging economy and a limp construction business cycle ate into any inroads the natural turf people had made.

Actually, the natural product went short upon the introduction of AstroTurf, PolyTurf and other brand names of carpet designed to replace grass. And here is where the "growers" have to smirk.

George Stewart, president and owner of Karendrew Farms, thinks the artificial surface boys sold the sports world a bill of goods. "It was the greatest promotional campaign in the history of the business," Stewart said. "They made everybody believe that their product was one which was maintenance-free and all that stuff. Well, the results of its use is proof that maintenance of artificial turf is almost as extensive as natural turf."

This view is shared by Don Mackay of the Shepard Sod Company. "I have to think that the trend at this stage of the game is a return to natural turf," he remarked. "Somewhere along the line, a bill of goods was sold to the people. For example, a football field of artificial turf can run up to four and five hundred thousand

dollars. We can duplicate that for around \$20,000. Basic mathematics tell you that we can produce a new surface for 15 or 20 years and give the players what they want. . . a natural cushion to land on."

So far. . . among the major stadiums. . . the only conversion from artificial to natural turf has taken place at Miami's Orange Bowl. There has been a lot of talk in regards to other fields reconverting their surfaces but no official word of such a change is forthcoming.

The new underground drainage system for natural turf fields, as tested and approved at Purdue University, could have a marked effect on the future of natural turf. The invention controls moisture on a field, an asset that could bring about a drastic turnabout in future stadium construction.

Football fields at Purdue and Princeton have been equipped with this new drainage aid. There is speculation that these grounds will be treated as the source of guidelines for the future of natural-turfed stadiums. So far, the results of tests on the two locales reveal that natural turf is superior to artificial turf under similar weather conditions.

Whatever, the turf game continues tough. You hear of an Orange Bowl going natural after a suspicious experience with artificial turf. Yet, the New England Patriots are said to be ready to rip out their PolyTurf and substitute a new, synthetic material. . . definitely not the natural kind the NFL players prefer.

However, the trend seems to be drifting back to natural. For some unknown reason, people are tuned to the simple life which includes the natural form of grass rather than the manufactured kind.

What matters most, though, is what business thinks of the whole thing. How much will it cost and how often will I have to replace it? At the going prices. . . including consideration for maintenance. . . good, old fashioned sod is on the way back.

Gerry Finn

### NEW MEMBERS

**CONGRATULATIONS to George Machado Jr. of Woonsocket Country Club and Richard Zepp of Whitinsville Golf Club. They were voted in as Associate members.**

**TO BE VOTED on at the next meeting for Associate Membership. Edmund B. Fraser, Chelmsford Country Club. Robert J. McIntyre, Holden Hills Country Club.**

Continued from page 1

Obviously, the good and bad of any relationship can be starred in the review of the golf course superintendent's plight. What seems to be a gnawing grip on the super is his relationship with the people he serves. Most of them are sick and tired of the uninformed private club member's evaluation of their contribution to the course's condition.

A very common cry now, among supers, is the yen to go public instead of private. "I was sick and tired of having to respond to the questions of 400 members," one ex-private club super disclosed. "I would rather go to a smaller, no-name course and go about my business without interference from people who don't know what they're talking about. At the public course, the player just plays. That's the difference, as far as I'm concerned. I don't need anybody telling me what I should do at my job. I'm happy being left alone."

Gerry Finn

### TOURNAMENT RESULTS AT EASTWARD HO COUNTRY CLUB

**First Gross - Team**  
Mel O'Kelley  
Lynn Blodgett 74  
Bob Mucciarone

<b>First Net - Team</b>	<b>Second Net - Team</b>
Bruce Carlson	Brian Cowan
Jim Fitzroy 58	Larry Bunn 62
Nary Sperandio	Max Mierzwa
Allan Cumps	Tony De Bettencourt

**Third Net - Team**  
Steve Kristof  
Joe Rybka 63  
Steve Butler  
Robert Johnston

**Longest Drive - Bill Carter**  
**Closest to Pin - Larry Bunn**

Prizes to be distributed at the next meeting

<b>President</b> WAYNE ZOPPO 9A Village Green North E. Providence, R.I. 02915 Home Phone 434-1753 Office Phone 434-8512 Club Affiliation Agawam Hunt	<b>First Vice President</b> DEAN ROBERTSON 24 Riverview Drive Newbury, Mass. 01950 Home Phone 492-4540 Office Phone 254-3878 Club Affiliation Chestnut Hill Country Club	<b>Second Vice President</b> RONALD KIRKMAN, CGCS 25 Green St. Needham, Mass. 02192 Home Phone 444-8412 Office Phone 444-5548 Club Affiliation Needham Golf Club	<b>Secretary</b> DAVE BARBER 1 Maribel Road Chelmsford, Mass. 01824 Home Phone 266-4417 Office Phone 368-4882 Club Affiliation Wayland Country Club	<b>Treasurer</b> DONALD HEARN 4 Topoka Road Chelmsford, Mass. 01824 Home Phone 268-8729 Office Phone 594-5906 Club Affiliation Weston Golf Club	<b>Trustee</b> PAUL JOHNSON RFD 1 Locust St. Middleton, Mass. 01949 Home Phone 777-0902 Office Phone 777-1134 Club Affiliation Fern Country Club	<b>Trustee</b> ARTHUR WASHBURN, CGCS 520 No. Main St. Chelmsford, Mass. 01825 Home Phone 383-9533 Office Phone 363-1570 Club Affiliation Chelmsford Golf Club	<b>Trustee</b> MAX MIERZWA 106 Greenwood St. Chicopee, Mass. 01020 Home Phone 594-4996 Office Phone 592-9540 Club Affiliation Chicopee Country Club	<b>Finance Chairman</b> AL AUGER 3 Andover Rd. Beverly, Mass. 01915 Home Phone 927-0060 Office Phone 922-8511 Club Affiliation Folly Hill Country Club
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# Bylaw Amendments

At the last meeting held at Eastward Ho Country Club, President Wayne Zoppo read the following bylaw proposal and addition. In accordance with our bylaws as stated in Article XIII.

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Regular Members at any Regular meeting of the Association providing the amendments are included in the notice of said meeting.

At the next Regular Meeting of our Association to be held Tuesday May 10, 1977 at Woonsocket Country Club, the following bylaw changes or additions will be voted on.

## Present Bylaw

Page 8 - Article IV - Section 7 - Item 1

When a 25 year member retires as a Golf Course Superintendent or is permanently disabled, he becomes a Life Member. He shall have all the privileges of the Association except to hold office. He shall not pay annual dues.

## Proposed Bylaw

Page 8 - Article IV - Section 7 - Item 1

When a 25 year member retires as a Golf Course Superintendent or is permanently disabled, he becomes a Life Member. A member with less than 25 years may become a Life member at the discretion of the Board of Directors. He shall have all the privileges of the Association except to hold office. He shall not pay annual dues.

## Proposed Bylaw

Junior Associate Member

1. A Junior Associate Member shall be employed as a superintendent of a golf course and shall be primarily interested in golf course maintenance. A Junior Associate Member will not have the right to vote or hold office and shall pay the initiation fee and the annual dues established by the Association. One who has been a Junior Associate Member for three years shall automatically qualify as an Associate Member.

# Newsletter Notes

At our next meeting held at Woonsocket Country Club we will be honoring two 50 year members. They are Ed Phinney and John Latvis. It is quite an honor these two gentlemen have attained and the recognition they receive is certainly earned.

Sorry to hear that Jim Dierio of Augusta Country Club in Augusta, Maine has been sick. Hope you're feeling better and will be back on your feet soon.

There will be a one day OSHA Compliance Training Program conducted by a former Compliance Officer on the following dates:

Boston May 16, 1977 at Howard Johnson - Park Plaza  
Boston May 17, 1977 at the Holiday Inn - Framingham  
Hartford May 18, 1977 at the Holiday Inn - Meriden

This will give information and answer questions to all phases of OSHA requirements and laws. Registration Fee is \$85 for 1 person or \$70 for 2-4 people. Information/or registration fee may be obtained/or sent to the following:

Occupational Safety Associates  
888 National Press Bldg.,  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Richard Duggan received a Tuco Turf Scholarship for 1977. Richard is a senior at Stockbridge School of Agriculture and worked for Nary Sperandio at Concord Country Club. William Flore also a senior at Stockbridge received a Tuco Tuff Scholarship. Flore is a native of Springfield, Vt.

Sawtelle Brothers have announced the winners of their door prizes from the U. Mass. turf conference. The winners are Andy Dewey of Stanford Seed Co. in Lincoln, R.I. (Digital Clock Radio) and Ron Woodger, President of J. H. Woodger, Inc. of Lenox, Mass. (C.B. Radio)

Race Brook Country Club in Connecticut came up with a great idea for raising money for scholarship and research. They held a golf tournament called "Revenge" which consisted of pin placements and tee locations in places where members have never seen them before. It was a fun type tournament and there was a lot of joking about 4 putt and 5 putt greens in the locker room afterwards. The greens committee donated prizes of grass

seed and fertilizer. The money raised was turned over to local Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents for scholarships and research.

Some people think golf is an easy game. But Henry Aaron, the all time homerun king of baseball, will disagree. Henry said it took him 17 years in baseball to get 3000 hits and just one week on the golf course.

Our meeting at Eastward Ho Country Club was a great start for our outdoor season. The weather was a little cool, but not too bad. The lunch was terrific and the hospitality was warm and friendly. The golf course was a real challenge and in great condition for so early in the season after the hard winter we have experienced. Many thanks to Brian Cowan, our host, and the staff of Eastward Ho Country Club.

Thanks to the Manager of Eastward Ho Country Club who saved our association an unnecessary expense. Brian received 50 replies for lunch reservations and only 43 showed. One person who made a reservation and could not attend did call Brian in advance to let him know he could not make the meeting. Not calling shows little respect for the superintendents who are our hosts for the meetings. It could put him in an embarrassing situation at his club. If you have a 1st minute change one way or the other please contact the host superintendent.

Also there were a number of golfers who left before the winners were announced. You can't expect Brian to deliver prizes every meeting.

A reminder of a couple of association rules that were passed in January of 1975.

1. Members may bring prospective members to one meeting. The prospective member may partake in all activities, excepting the right to vote.

2. Mandatory attendance at dinner during golf meetings. There shall be one charge for both dinner and golf. For those not playing golf, only the dinner cost will be charged.

Please observe these association rules. Hope to see you all at Woonsocket Country Club.

Larry Bunn  
Newsletter Chairman

#### Golf Chairman

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\* Richey & Clapper, Inc.  
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\* Contributors to the Lawrence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund

# NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents Association  
OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.



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