



*Golf Course Superintendents Association*

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

May 1979

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

## A Preparation Checklist

Dick Blake, an old friend of the New England Golf Course Superintendents Association and one of its elder statesmen, was prepared. Are you?

Blake was involved in a tragedy at the Woodstock Country Club (Vt) in which a laborer was killed while mowing greens. As a result of that untimely accident, Blake was exposed to a thorough investigation because of his status as Woodstock superintendent. The investigative agency was OSHA. Blake would like to share his experiences with fellow superintendents and advise them to take note of the precautions to be followed.

"First of all, my suggestion is to be cordial and cooperative as possible to OSHA representatives," Blake says. "I followed this line of reception to the investigation and found it highly beneficial throughout their stay which covered a total of four visits."

In a situation where machinery is directly involved, OSHA looks for three particular things:

1. Were proper training procedures followed and was the employee in question afforded training opportunities to the full extent of their offering?
2. Was a manufacturer's defect in the machine connected in any way with the cause of the accident?
3. Were proper maintenance procedures followed and proper records of that maintenance kept?

"Fortunately, I had complied with all of these requirements pertaining to my responsibilities," Blake tells. "The employee had been properly trained and I was able to produce proof of an extensive maintenance program on the machine in question. The manufacturer also cooperated fully, sending a representative to dismantle and aid in the study of the mower. As a result, the company was given a clean bill of health."

Blake reports that OSHA interviewed the mechanic in charge of the maintenance work on the mower. "Again we were fortunate in this regard because of our approach to men and machines," Blake reveals. "Our head mechanic takes each new man and explains every phase of the operation of the machine. Included in his rhetoric is a complete knowledge of the mower and potential problem areas therein. Finally, he makes the point of telling the man what to do in case of component failure."

OSHA also conducts a study of the particular machine and probes into the history of its performance. OSHA people are made aware of any breakdowns, etc. and what was done to correct them. In addition to the employees involved in the particular accident, OSHA also takes random note of the

operation of the machine with other operators of it.

Blake also discloses that OSHA double checks the procedures for learning the operation of the machine and measures to be taken in case of failure in regard to the individual involved in the accident. In this case, Blake went under a thorough question and answer period during which he was asked a myriad of questions pertaining to the training and advance briefing on touchy situations given to the accident victim.

Even the OSHA investigation cannot be considered an end in itself. Blake was subjected to the same type of inquiry from representatives of the insurance company covering Woodstock and the sheriff's department which is the law enforcing agency in the area.

At the conclusion of the triple-tiered investigative venture, OSHA called for a closing conference with the employer (Blake) some two or three weeks following its study. It was then that Blake was informed of OSHA's conclusion. In the Woodstock incident they found:

1. All training procedures, plus maintenance requirements were adequate and the employee qualified to use the machine.
2. No manufacturer's defect occurred.

*cont. on page 2*

### NEXT MEETING

**MAY 14, 1979  
HAMDEN C. C.**

Host Bob Johnson

Directors Meeting 10:00 A.M.

Regular Meeting 11:00 A.M.

Lunch 12:00 Noon

Golf After Lunch

### Directions

Mass Pike to Palmer Exit, turn right, follow 1 mile to Palmer Center. At lights turn right on to Rte. 20, follow for 6 miles to North Main St. Follow for 6 miles. Road turns into Wilbraham Rd. in Hamden. Course is on both sides of the road.

## A Near-Perfect Projection

The time was 1960, almost 20 years ago. Yet, Dr. Gene Nutter - speaking to a gathering of Northeastern golf course superintendents - had the future in remarkable accurate focus. . . a near-perfect projection, if you will.

Dr. Nutter, in his role of executive director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, made these interesting observations and deductions:

1. The golf car is here to stay and the superintendent must not only conform to its interminable life span but depend on his expertise to bring about an orderly and practical adjustment to it.

2. The superintendent must make public relations a part of his approach to better his image and consequently earn the respect of his employers and golfers he serves.

3. The superintendent must reach out for new educational opportunities.

4. The superintendent must expand his leadership in golf.

Then as now, the complications of accepting the golf car as an integral part of the sport's existence and financial stability, were present. Among his suggestions, Dr. Nutter proposed to superintendents adoption of a program which would be of benefit to all.

He advised the need for stringent rules in directing fleets of golf cars over turf. He told the superintendents to establish themselves as the sole (final) authority on the use of cars during periods of adverse weather or course conditions. He called for a persuasion of members to take into account the possible damage to be wrought by the cars and be aware that budgetary allowances for new maintenance problems would be necessary. And, finally, he pleaded with the superintendents to assume this new responsibility as part of a growth process within their profession.

Needless to say, Dr. Nutter was prophetic in his views of the golf car. . . just short of the extent to declaring them a source of revenue which would eventually pass returns from clubhouse operation.

In the field of public relations, he looked upon the superintendent of the future as a professional with the polished look of a manager and the glib tongue of a statesman. Although fulfillment of such a lofty station is still coming hard on a few fronts, it can be said that improvement has occurred. As for educational opportunities and the seeking of same, the superintendent - through the national

and local associations and his own initiative - has taken great strides in this direction.

Dr. Nutter was convinced that the status of the superintendent in years ahead would rest in large part on his outlook towards learning and a doctrine of continuing education. The certification program has come of age as a result of this self-oriented dependence on bettering himself through study and practice of the results of such study. "There will be no place tomorrow for the status quo," he remarked. "You will either go up or down. You, individually, will determine your own direction of travel." How true.

The superintendent's station on the ladder of golf's leadership was clearly defined in the long ago by Dr. Nutter. "More and more it becomes evident that the determining factor in successful club operation lies with the grounds operation," he offered. "The focal point of the golf club's success lies in the superintendent's ability to cope with the problems involved in effecting the best golf course under existing conditions." And, as if it were a command, the golf course has come to be recognized as the most important aspect in concluding whether or not the club is a success.

That was in 1960. Surely, the superintendent of that age and era had to take a stand according to Dr. Nutter's observations and suggestions. Nineteen years later, the superintendent has almost the same decision to make. Sit still and let the profession pass you by or get aboard the running track to keep in step with the changing times. A most interesting prophet, this Dr. Nutter. He could look ahead and the view was very clear. Do you have a similar vantage point?

Gerry Finn

### Univ. of Mass. Turf Field Day

July 25, 1979

July 26, 1979 (Rain date)

### Preparation Checklist *cont. from page 1*

3. The possibility of machine failure was obsolete.

"It all meant that the OSHA people felt the accident was caused by operator error," Blake states. "But the experience is worth repeating for purposes of enlightening my colleagues on such an important matter."

Hopefully, no one will have to avail himself of this material. However, it is presented in an educational vein, thanks to brother Blake.

Gerry Finn

### Voted in at last meeting

Orin Ellis

### To be voted on Next Meeting

James Beane Mt. Pleasant C.C.

Donald F. Levangie Cedar Hill G.C.

Jr. Associate Members

<b>PRESIDENT</b> DEAN ROBERTSON 24 Riverview Drive Newbury, Mass. 01950 Home phone 462-4540 Office phone 745-7289 Club Affiliation Kernwood C.C.	<b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</b> RONALD KIRKMAN 25 Green St. Needham, Mass. 02192 Home phone 444-8412 Office phone 444-5548 Club Affiliation Needham Golf Club	<b>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT</b> BRIAN COWAN CGCS Robins Way Harwich, Mass. 02845 Home phone 432-9041 Office phone 945-9230 Club Affiliation Eastward Ho.	<b>SECRETARY</b> DAVID BARBER CGCS Box 221 Wayland, Mass. 01775 Home phone 326-1348 Office phone 358-4882 Club Affiliation Wayland C.C.	<b>TREASURER</b> DONALD HEARN CGCS 4 Topeka Rd. Chelmsford, Mass. 01824 Home phone 256-8709 Office phone 894-5906 Club Affiliation Weston Golf Club	<b>TRUSTEE</b> MAX MIERZWA 106 Crislow St. Chicopee, Mass. 01020 Home phone 594-4996 Office phone 592-9540 Club Affiliation Chicopee C.C.	<b>TRUSTEE</b> BERT FREDERICK 45 Stoney Brook Rd. Nabnaset, Mass. 01861 Home phone 692-6445 Office phone 453-1231 Club Affiliation Vesper C.C.	<b>TRUSTEE</b> MEINDERT F. SCHULTS 737 Princeton Blvd. Lowell, Mass. 01851 Home phone 458-7605 Office phone 452-8228 Club Affiliation Mt. Pleasant G.C.	<b>FINANCE CHAIRMAN</b> ROBERT JOHNSON 128 Wilbraham Rd. Hampden, Mass. 01036 Home phone 566-3075 Office phone 566-3096 Club Affiliation Hampden C.C.
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### 1979 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

**MEMBERSHIP**

Ronald Kirkman - Ch.  
Brian Cowan, CGCS  
David Barber, CGCS

**EMPLOYMENT**

Meindert F. Schults - Ch.  
Robert Mucciarone  
Dr. Joseph Troll

**FINANCE**

Robert Johnson - Ch.  
Max Mierzwa  
David Barber, CGCS  
Donald Hearn, CGCS

**PUBLICITY**

Burt Frederick - Ch.  
Brian Cowan, CGCS  
Charles Lane  
Paul Johnson

**EDUCATIONAL**

Pierre Coste, CGCS - Ch.  
Larry Bunn  
Meindert F. Schults

**TURF RESEARCH**

Dr. Joseph Troll  
Joseph Rybka - Ch.  
Leon V. St. Pierre, CGCS

**GOLF**

Ken Mooradian - Ch.  
Gary Luccini  
Brian Cowan, CGCS

**BYLAWS**

Ronald Kirkman - Ch.  
Robert Grant, CGCS  
David Barber, CGCS  
Burt Frederick  
Donald Hearn, CGCS

**NEWSLETTER**

Tom Schofield, CGCS - Ch.  
Leon V. St. Pierre, CGCS  
Donald Hearn, CGCS

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Wayne Zoppo

**MGA LIAISON**

Robert Grant, CGCS  
Donald Hearn, CGCS

**WELFARE**

Norman Mucciarone - Ch.  
Arthur Anderson  
Melvin O'Kelly  
David Clement  
Charles Lane

**MONTHLY TICKETS**

Max Mierzwa

**NATIONAL LIAISON**

Ronald Kirkman

### The June Meeting is the Super Chairman Championship Tournament.

This may be cut out or a reasonable facsimile.

### Super Chairman Championship

**Site:** Spring Valley C.C.

**Date:** June 18, 1979

**Time:** Lunch at snack bar at 12:00 on your own

1:00 Shotgun Start

5:00 - 6:45 Cocktail hour

7:00 Dinner Prime Rib

All Entries shall be in by June 12

All Entries will be prepaid

Golf Tournament per team	\$10.00
Golf Cart	\$13.00
Dinner per Team	\$29.00
Total	\$52.00

Send Check payable to Spring Valley C.C.  
To George Machado  
194 Edghill Rd.  
Sharon, Mass. 02762

Supt. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to play in a foursome with a certain other Chairman and Supt. Please indicate below

Supt. \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_

### Joint Managers Meeting

June 11, 1979

Metacomet C.C.

Host Super Vincent Incone

Golf 11:30 on

Round table Discussion 5:30-7:30

Dinner 7:30

Speakers Charles Tadge and  
Whitney Travis

Cost \$17.50 per person

**GOLF CHAIRMAN**

KEN MOORADIAN  
134 Green St.  
Hopedale, Mass. 01747  
Home phone 473-2352  
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Club Affiliation  
Hopedale C.C.

**EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

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Office phone 566-0240  
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The Country Club

**NEWSLETTER CHAIRMAN**

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Wellesley C.C.

**PAST PRESIDENT**

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Office phone 438-8512  
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Agawam Hunt G.C.

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White Turf Engineering  
5 Summer Drive, Winchendon, Mass. 01475  
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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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