



A Necessary Relationship

In just a few more dry-out sessions, at the dictate of Mother Nature, the golf course superintendent takes his show on the road.

The trip's a short one - from the labor area to the delivery room, so to speak. Shut up all winter in his maintenance building, the super is ready to apply his magic to the golf course.

The return to the every-day grind of preparing the golf grounds for the annual assault of spring, summer and fall by members should be a welcomed one. Along with it goes the re-establishing and re-nurturing of the necessary relationship, that between the superintendent and the green committee chairman.

The USGA Green Section Record has promoted a strong and realistic association of what amounts to the two most important people in the operation of the country club. They hold such recognition because they are in charge of the club's only asset that's saleable - the golf course.

Therefore, the superintendent and chairman must work closely together with one common cause as their guideline. It is to give the membership the best playing conditions at all times.

Each has his own responsibilities to the other and the club.

The chairman must: Provide overall direction for the efforts of his committee; assist in long range planning for improvements and changes in physical design of the course; provide support in communication between the superintendent and members and act as an interpreter in explaining the correlation between what escalation of grooming level the members expect and the price they're willing to pay for it.

The superintendent must: Listen to the comments and suggestions of the chairman with an open mind as to the feasibility of implementing them; run his department in a business-like manner; operate his department with the idea of providing maximum return for the use of the members' financial investment and (perhaps most important of all) take the time every day to look at and appraise the condition of the golf course.

On paper, such practice by both sides of the course-greening duo figures to be a snap. However, putting it to work doesn't always come out that way.

One of the largest roadblocks in getting the super and green chairman to allow themselves a smooth ride through the conditioning season is built-in. Each suspects the other of thinking he knows more than he actually does. Lacks of respect is a better expression.

This feeling is only natural on the part of the green chairman who usually is a person with a successful background in some sort of administrative position. He draws his strength from what he had accomplished in his profession. Too often he relates his knowledge on turfed subjects with his know-how at the office. This is a killer.

On the other hand, the superintendent often assumes that the "new green chairman" is nothing more than a

"greenhorn" when it comes to distinguishing between fertilizers and fungicides. His first notion, then, is to regard the chairman as a necessary evil rather than an envoy of the membership.

Above all, two words cover the potential working conditions under which the superintendent and chairman will apply their respective talents - advisory and supervisory.

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Chet Sawtelle Receives National Recognition



Mr. Sawtelle in his new blazer.

Chet Sawtelle, Chairman of the Board, from Sawtelle Brothers in Swampscott, Mass. was presented the Golden Reel Award at the GCSAA convention in New Orleans. Making the presentation to Mr. Sawtelle were John Dwyer, President of Jacobsen Equipment and Roger Thomas, Vice President of the Turf Division. They presented Chet with a gold reel in which he will keep for 2 years, and a blazer with the Golden Reel Emblem.

The award is based over a cumulative number of years for outstanding sales performance along with quality service and parts departments. Our congratulations to Chet and I'm sure he will cherish this award for it is one of only eight ever given out in the U.S.

Sawtelle Bros. also received one of six nation wide awards for outstanding sales performance for 1981.

No March Meeting

Next Meeting

April 12, 1982

Eastward Ho, Chatham, Ma.

Wayside Restaurant

Directions and more information in next newsletter

Golf Course Superintendents Association

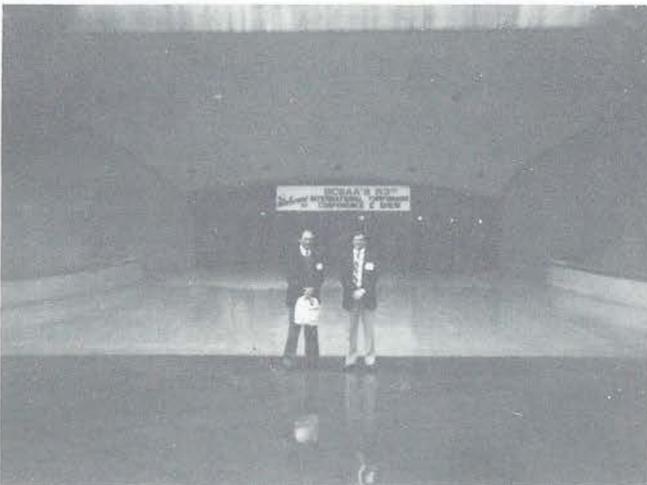
GCSAA Convention at the Gateway, New Orleans



On left Ron Kirkman of Needham G.C. and on right Pete Coste of the Country Club congratulate Bob Osterman of the Conn. Golf Club on his becoming vice president of GCSAA.



Tony De Bettencourt of Andover C.C. and Jim Bean of Mt. Pleasant inspect first hand.



Steve Murphy of Gannon Golf Club, Bobby Brown of Sawtelle Bros.

Upcoming Events

March 9 and 10 - Turf Products Corporation of Mass. will hold an open house, it will begin at 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

March 13 - The M.G.A. Spring Conference at the Marriott in Newton. Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. On the program representing GCSANE will be Brian Cowan, Dave Barber and Pete Coste. They will be joined by Brian Silva from the USGA.

DIVOT DRIFT... From the meeting at Franklin C.C., Jeff Carlson, our guest speaker from the Mass. Pesticide Board, gave us some insight on what takes place and how decisions are made by them. There was a healthy discussion, which at times was rather heated, but everyone calmed down. Mr. Carlson did a fine job and stated that whatever took place in the past is behind us and let's get on to working together in the future. Our thanks to Jeff... The USGA seminar at the Framingham Sheraton-Tara was held Feb. 17, 1982. The program was excellent. Don Hearn of the Weston Golf Club and Dean Robertson of Kernwood C.C. did a fine job with their presentations. Brian Cowan presented Al Radko a plaque for his many years of service on behalf of GCSANE. The attendance was good, but one has to wonder why a lot of the faces who showed there do not show for our association meetings... Many of our members made it to the GCSAA convention in New Orleans. I'm sure all who attended picked up something valuable from the educational program and industrial show. The show has grown in many ways, which is a credit to the professionalism of the industry... The position for a superintendent at Salem C.C. has been filled by Mr. Kip Tyler, formerly assistant superintendent at Medinah C.C. Our congratulations to Kip and we hope he will join and become active in our association... Mr. "Fix-it" Murphy, our golf chairman, has put together a fine schedule for our outdoor meetings. He also has informed us that the handicapping will be very closely watched this season, and anyone without a legitimate handicap will be at his mercy... The booby prize at Disney World for our group went to Bert Frederick of Vesper. The margin was so wide we won't mention his scores. It is important to point out that while we went over our scores one by one after playing, Bert's first words were that he had an acute attack of bursitis on the fourteenth tee. After investigation it was found that the truth was his arm was sore from hitting the ball so many times... Finally, thanks to Gary Luccini and Franklin C.C. for hosting the February meeting.

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GCSAA Tournament



GCSANE PARTICIPANTS: Front - Bob Connolly, Tom Schofield, Art Washburn, Dave Barber, Bert Frederick. Back - Steve Murphy (cap on for obvious reason) Don Hearns, Pete Coste, Paul Miller, Doug Johnson, Charlie Borden. Missing were Jim Diorio and Dave Clement.

The GCSAA tournament preceding the convention in New Orleans was held at Walt Disney World's palm and magnolia courses. We had thirteen participants from the GCSANE, and all agreed the tournament was a great success. The courses were in excellent condition and with the weather sunny and seventy degrees plus it was the largest field ever.

The winner was Mike Apodaca from Arizona, who shot a three under Par 72-69= 141. (looks something like Bert's front and back nines on the palm course).

A few of our group did manage to win something. They were; Arthur Washburn - 8th low gross in the red flight, Dave Barber 6th net in the red flight, Doug Johnson 6th net in the blue flight and Paul Miller won a closest to the pin.

JOB OPENING - Superintendent,
Norfolk Golf Club, West wood, MA.
Send resume - Attention Greens Committee

TO BE VOTED ON AT APRIL MEETING

Roy B. Davis, associate member
87 New St.
Marshfield, Ma.
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Charles A. Borden, regular member
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A Necessary Relationship

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If the chairman directs his outlook and that of his committee to acting in an advisory capacity in their association with the superintendent, the relationship should be nothing short of hunky dory.

If the chairman insists that he and his committee will act as the overlord to the golf course maintenance operation, the relationship is doomed from the start.

This is not to suggest that the superintendent be allowed to dispatch his services independent of any scrutiny by the green committee and club board of directors. It is to suggest, though, that there be some point of compromise where the chairman tempers his authority with common sense with the good of the club in mind.

Respect and responsibility are two other key words in the effecting of a successful partnership of superintendent and green chairman. One should respect the other and the responsibility which is the domain of the superintendent (decision-making where his expertise is the strongest determinant) should be accorded him.

Likewise, the green chairman has his own areas of dominance (communications, maybe financial management, perhaps labor relations) and his responsibilities there should be spelled out.

In the end, the lumping of the qualities of both parties into one cooperative effort will help develop the necessary relationship between superintendent and green chairman into an enjoyable and effective experience. After all, they do have to live with each other.

Gerry Finn

1982 MEETING SCHEDULE

CLUB	HOST SUPT.	TYPE OF TOURNAMENT
April Eastward Ho	Brian Cowan	Team of four, blind draw
May Hampden C.C.	Bob Johnston	Individual, blind draw
June Ledgemont C.C.	Tony Caranci	Supt. - Green chairman
July Vesper C.C.	Bert Frederick	Superintendent Championship
August Dedham Polo & C.C.	Bob Mucciarone	Supt. - Supt. championship
September Andover C.C.	Tony De Bettencourt	Memorial Tourn. blind draw
October Blue Hill C.C.	Dave Barber	Team of four, pick own team
November Needham G.C.	Ron Kirkman	Team of four, Florida scramble, blind draw

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