

Guy Tedesco's Memory Lives

Dave Barber was asked to comment on the qualities of the late Guy Tedesco.

"How much time do you have?" the Blue Hills superintendent returned the favor. "Two hours, two days? But I'll make it easy for you. Gather all the superlatives you can think of and they'll give you a start on the kind of person Guy was."

Of course, no one is flawless. However, if anyone comes close to such descriptive the man, who was known as "Mr.

Golf" in a wide circle which included every service station of the grand old game, achieved that status.

"Oh, yes," Barber added. "Come to think of it, Guy did have one weakness. He was too easy-going with people. I know because I worked for him and prospered by every minute of our association."

Barber is one of the legions of Guy Tedesco fellow-golf course superintendents, golf professionals and friends delighted with the announcement of plans to stage the Guy Tedesco Memorial Tournament. The event will be held June 17 at New Seabury — the Cape Cod golfing resort Guy helped develop and fashion into one of New England's sporting showplaces.

The tournament, open to the first 144 players, is just exclusive as the man it honors. A gala presentation, it will feature a cocktail party, golf competition and dinner and carries a \$150 entry fee. Its proceeds will be funneled to the Guy Tedesco Scholarship Fund which aids in the education of golf-oriented recipients.

Golf Course Superintendents of New England Association president Brian Cowan is working on the tournament committee, headed by Bill Clendennon. Other members include Bob Cotter, Mike Frucci, Paul Luizzo, Earl Wallace, New Seabury pro Danny Coon and two members of the Tedesco family — Guy's son Jimmy and his brother John.

"This truly is a labor of love and friendship," Cowan described his involvement. "When you consider all the things Guy did for the game and people connected with it, you can understand why so many guys are hung up on this thing. If we could only approach half of Guy's input into everything he attempted, the tournament will be a rip-roaring success."

That comment is fitting since the name, Guy Tedesco, is synonymous with success.

"Every thing Guy did turned into gold," recalled dear friend Norm Mucciarone who does quite all right, himself, as the superintendent at Woodland. "He was an all-around dynamo. He could do it all."

Tedesco, whose superintendent's career directed him to stops at Wayland and Charles River, probably was the best golfer the New England wing of the profession ever has known.

"Heck, he held the course record at New Seabury," Mucciarone disclosed. "And he shot records at a couple of other places. I used to play with him once and a while but it was only for laughs. He was too good for me. But what a great person. He tolerated me, so he had to be."

Tedesco was also good in so many other ways.

"I remember when he first went to New Seabury," Mucciarone continued. "They brought him down there to get the course in shape when it was just starting out. He did such a good job they offered him the superintendent's position. That led to an appointment as director of golf. I guess you could say he was on a roll everywhere his talent and personality took him."

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Next Meeting

Monday, May 23, 1983
Pine Brook Country Club
Newton St., Weston, Mass.

Directors Meeting 9 a.m.
Membership Meeting 10:30 a.m.
Educational Program -
Lunch - 11:45 a.m.
Golf - 12:45 Shotgun
Host - Doug Johnson, CGCS

Doug is in his fourth year at Pine Brook. Prior he was superintendent at the Alpine Country Club in Cranston, R.I. for one year and the Framingham Country Club for four years. He is a 1972 graduate of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass and he currently serves GCSANE as newsletter chairman. Doug resides in Weston with his wife Cheryl and three children Brendan, Kelly and Mara.



DIRECTIONS - From route 128 n or s, take Rt. 30, Mass. Pike exit. From 128 heading north go up ramp to Rt. 30. Take a left, take a right at third set of lights (Newton St.). From 128 heading south, go to Rt. 30, take a left then at second set of lights take a right (Newton St.). Club will be approx. ½ mile on right.

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The Discount Dilemma

In some circles, they call it cutback. Those are the well-rounded, executive suite-approved circles.

In other circles, they call it ripoff. Those are the slightly-offset, sweat-of-the-lower echelon-dedicated circles.

The object of this controversial lead-in is the economic status of the country club golf professional. And, if developments take their normal course, it could affect the golf course superintendent.

What's happening, according to reports, is a direct infringement on the rights of home pros to retain their means toward financial stability. Those reports imply that certain country clubs are importing golf equipment, offering it at drastic reductions, and entering into competition with the guy who makes their golf-playing day hum.

Let's face it. The super and pro have a good, working relationship. Each looks to the country club for support.

The super does it in expectation that his budget will be accepted and members will free those necessary dollars for the good and betterment of the golf course. He needs cooperation from the membership. It has to provide him the funds commensurate with the course's conditioning needs.

The home pro does it in anticipation that members will support him in behind-the-counter sales of hard and soft goods. In most cases, his base income of annual salary hardly gets him off the ground. From there, he prospers only if there is response to his salesmanship and teaching ability. He has to peddle his wares or he doesn't know where he's at, financially.

Now comes word that country clubs not only are deserting their home pros for the cheaper environs of the golf equipment discount houses, a few have the audacity to invite cut-rate merchandisers to bring their bargains inside the pro shop. Incredible? Sure ... but predictable.

It seems that the trend of members buying their golf clubs, balls, clubs etc. outside the pro shop has escalated into mass desertion of the home pro when those articles are needed. Discount houses are springing up all over the lot and golfers are rushing to them in hopes of softening the financial blow of country club living.

Actually, support of the home pro always has been regarded as a mandatory segment of country club life. Because the pro relies on revenue from sales and golf lessons, he is at the mercy of the club treasurer regarding annual salary. He uses it as the foundation of his earning power and builds on it to realize a working wage.

However, times and attitudes have changed. Members go shopping for lower prices and the pro goes begging for what used to be automatic sales. Should the incidence of imported discount equipment whose sales are controlled by the country club and the intruder continue, the practice could result in the gradual extinction of the home pro.

The spinoff effect is very likely to touch the superintendent because of the chintzy atmosphere outside discount buying will create within the economic structure of the country club.

The handwriting is on the wall. Membership decides to take over the purchasing duties of superintendents, resulting in the acquisition of cheap but inferior products and a drain on the expertise of the man commissioned to bring playing conditions to their fullest expectation.

"Irresponsible involvement could ruin everything that we have built in the last 25 years or so," one veteran

super commented. "If members are willing to bring in their own golf club salespeople, they could dictate our grooming methods to the point where we'd be operating on a cheap-as-possible basis.

"This could lead to substituting reliable and experienced labor for the fly-by-night type, using products whose reputation is suspect and cutting back to the stage where everything is boiled down to a catch-can situation. If they do it in the pro shop, they can do it in the maintenance building."

Therefore, the golf course superintendent should be concerned with the invasion of the pro shop by the discount house and ally himself with the pro in a joint effort to stop such shenanigans before they become prevalent.

Some supers may claim this discomfoting development is none of their affairs. However, there is a definite relationship between the super and the pro is carrying out each's responsibility.

Once the discount theory takes hold in the pro shop, supers must realize it's next stop will be their place of business. Cutback is one thing, ripoff another. Country clubs, which promote cutting into the financial well-being of their pros, will not stop there. Next comes a squeeze on the supers and perhaps a ruthless tightening of the belts in the clubhouse.

Cheapening the operation only can result in cheapening of the product and the country club's main product is the golf course. Think about it.

Gerry Finn



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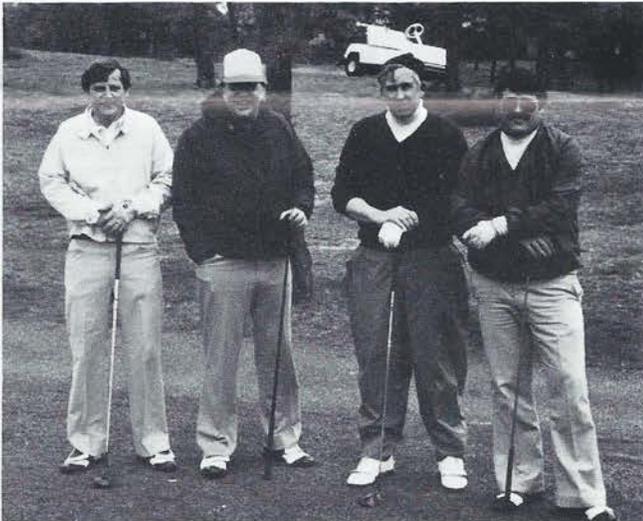
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April Meeting Results

Even with the inclement weather we had quite a turnout for the Guy Tedesco Invitational qualifying. Because of rain the tournament was played on the front nine of the Executive course and the back nine of the Championship layout. The five qualifying winners were:

Ken Mooridian - first gross 78
 John Streeter - 81-10-71
 Doug Johnson - 88-17-71
 Steve Murphy - 83-12-71
 Larry Bunn - First net commercial division 77-7-70

Our thanks to Mark Klimm and the staff at New Seabury for treating us so warmly on a cold and blustery day. Also our thanks to Bob Scott from Elanco for his presentation on Rubigan.



Cold but happy to be playing - (L-R) Ron Kirkman, Steve Butler, Tom Schofield, Dave Barber.



What form — Mike Nagle of Worcester CC displaying a swing that made numerous bogies.

Keeper of the Greens

By Wynn Tredway

The keeper of the greens! a guy
 Who works and slaves and frets;
 He toils at morning, noon and night,
 But little thanks he gets.
 Bad weather, crab grass, bugs and worms,
 They almost drive him nuts;
 And one who lost a dime complains,
 Because he missed some putts.
 Now I'm keeper of the greens,
 And I sometimes alibi,
 When playing on some foreign course,
 And get an awful lie.
 But, best one that I yet have heard,
 When one guy missed a putt,
 "The greens are bad today" he said,
 "Because they've not been cut."
 The greens were cut that very morn,
 The shape of them was fine,
 He failed to see how nice they were
 Because he took a nine.
 Now when the greens had grown quite long,
 This guy came back to play,
 And after 18 lovely holes,
 The gent had this to say:
 "The greens are fine and smooth today,
 My putter putted swell,
 I'm sure you cut them all today,
 That I can always tell."
 Well, as a keeper of the greens,
 I still have this to say,
 My job is till a privilege,
 Regardless of the pay.
 So when they cry, and squawk and moan,
 Although the greens are fine,
 I just remember how I felt,
 the day I took a nine.

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Actually, Guy was the strong, silent type. He liked to operate from the background but his performance was so dazzling his reputation grew into a colossal state.

"You never could count the number of superintendents and pros Guy helped along the way," Cowan interjected. "I think his name was the first to be listed as a reference on every job application a young candidate filled out. I know his influence was a factor in the good fortune of getting my job at Eastward Ho. Just a remarkable person. That fits the man perfectly.

So, the Guy Tedesco Memorial Golf Tournament is the first step towards perpetuating the memory and accomplishments of one of the game's giants.

"We want to make this opening shot a big one," Cowan said of the kickoff event. "There's strong feelings to make it an annual event with our group (GCSANE) picking up the sponsoring ball after it gets off the ground and is established. This would complete our commitment to Guy and his family."

Guy Tedesco. As Mucciarone noted, he did it all. Now, comes the time when his peers and friends are doing it for him. Applause, applause.

Gerry Finn

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