

NEWSLETTER



October 1983



Golf Course Superintendents Association

OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

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Bob Mucciarone - A Role Model

Bob Mucciarone has a simple formula for keeping abreast of the needs of his membership at the Dedham Polo-Country Club.

"Just do your work and you never get any complaints," advises Mucciarone who is in his 23rd season at Dedham and enjoying it as if it were his first. "Of course, the chemistry has to be there and I have to believe its just as favorably active as ever."

Mucciarone is one of the golf superintendent profession's solid citizens, a role model when it comes to blending success and happiness on the job. He's been in the business since 1946 or the year he ended his service with the United States Navy and he's never strayed from that one-way street.

Bob, with brother Norm, got his start in the profession under Tony Sperandio at Franklin. He got his feet wet there, plunged into the formal education segment at the University of Massachusetts and by the time 1949 rolled around he had his own job at Wellfleet. He had five-year stops at Wayland and Merrimack Valley and accepted the call from Dedham in 1960.

During his long stay at Dedham, Mucciarone has been a dynamo in effecting changes that make the course an enjoyable experience for what he calls "a quiet membership of 384."

Those changes cover a spectrum from remodeling greens to re-seeding fairways and tees to overseeing the construction of a watering system. Almost everything one sees at Dedham reflects the handiwork of this extraordinarily diligent superintendent.

Not that he hasn't encountered problems.

"Don't forget," he reminds, "I have this ongoing thing with the Charles River. We're under the constant strain of having it back up. For example, it was so bad in 1982 that we had to close the course for almost the entire month of June. However, we've survived. It hasn't been easy... but is it supposed to be?"

Therein is contained the exemplary work ethic of Mucciarone who is 57 years old but still displays the enthusiasm of a teenager.

"I've always been a man who believes in work," he discloses. "I won't let my crew do anything I won't do. Sure, it's not the modern way. But getting the job done comes first with me. Administration finishes second as far as I'm concerned."

Although the golf season is the focal point of his professional input, Mucciarone's responsibilities to his members don't end when the last divots of the year are taken. At Dedham, the beat goes on year-round.

"I have a skeet field, bowling alleys, indoor tennis courts and outdoor skating ponds to maintain in the fall and winter months," he tells. "That means my work load is far from being seasonal. However, I still manage to get in a few rounds of golf at association meetings, get to the national convention and sneak in a vacation here and there. It's ideal for me."

That rigorous schedule also fits well into the Mucciarone family lifestyle. Wife, Pauline, is an avid golfer, which

helps her appreciate what Bob's position entails. Son, Bob, Jr., is working under dad at Dedham and following in his footsteps. The couple also has a daughter, Judy, and a younger son, Jeff.

"My family has been a big help along the way," Mucciarone emphasizes. "Pauline and the kids have accepted most of the inconveniences which go with the job and that's a big plus for me in my approach to it."

Although he hasn't held high office in it, Mucciarone has been an active and contributing member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England. He has served as head of several important committees and is a valuable and visible addition to most association social functions and business meetings.

"I think we really have a hold on the association now," he says. "The last couple of years it seems like all the superintendents have come together through increased involvement in our group. I'd say the feeling of camaraderie never has been stronger. My only complaint is not being able to come away with more prizes in our golf tournament."

Bob Mucciarone, then, deserves to be designated a role model for the golf course superintendent's profession. He does his job without a whimper and prospers in the reali-

continued on page 2

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 1, 1983
Tatnuck Country Club
Worcester, Mass.

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Directors Meeting - | 9:30 |
| Regular Meeting - | 10:30 |
| Brunch - | 11:15 |
| Golf - | 12 noon (Shotgun) |

Host - Stephen Chiavaroli, CGCS

Steve has been superintendent at Tatnuck for 6 years. Previously, he was assistant superintendent at Brae Burn CC for 3½ years and Blue Hill CC for 1½ years. He is a 1973 graduate of the University of Conn., with a B.S. in agronomic sciences.

Steve resides in Worcester with his wife Cindi and three children.

Reservations - Please call Steve at 791-5373.

Directions Exit 13 (Kelly Square) off Rt. 290 in Worcester. At base of hill, take a left before Merit station onto Madison St. Go straight to Chandler St. Follow for approx. 3 miles. At 2nd light after Worcester St. College, take a left on Pleasant St. Tatnuck CC is the first left after large billboard on left side.



Golf Course Superintendents Association

The Green - So Near, Yet So Far

This being the time of the golf season when acorns and the like far outnumber players and superintendents are able to walk their courses without having to dodge misguided missiles, it presents the opportunity for a very important brush-up operation.

It entails another form of cooperation between the superintendent and the green committee. That is, reviewing the marking system on the course and making corrections, adjustments or whatever is needed to give the player a fighting chance in his quest for lower scores.

One of the most perplexing experiences a golfer, especially a stranger or occasional visitor to a course, encounters is locating the 150-yard marker. This, of course, is designed to give him a bead on what perhaps is his most important shot of the moment - the approach to the green.

Unfortunately, there never has been advanced - not even by the August USGA - a clear-cut definition of what the 150-yard marker's physical makeup should be. This is not to imply that the USGA has been negligent since its involvement in the situation is not official. The governing body of amateur golf only suggests 150 yards as an arbitrary distance figure. It does not insist on it.

Therefore, the marker, itself, is up to the individual golf course. Here is where the confusion takes roots. Some courses designate a rose bush, a chestnut tree or things in their immediate family as the 150-yard marker. This is all well and good but only in the infancy of most layouts. Gradually other forms of plant life invade the same area and, poof, there goes the exact yardage.

Consequently, there is no ideal setup for designating the golfer's approach aid without affecting the aesthetic properties of a golf course. Unless, there is a concentrated effort to standardize the use of plants and the like on every hole and regular check of the area, the player is stymied in his club selection.

Certain courses have done away with the use of natural markers and replaced them with those of the artificial variety, such as plain white or other colored stakes and cement inserts in the middle of the fairway. These, too, suffice but often are unsightly in manner of taking away from the course's natural beauty.

Whatever the method, the responsibility for distinguishing the 150-yard marker rests with the green committee and implementation of it with the superintendent. Thus, the check-up at this time of year.

Not only will this please the golfer, it has to have an effect on the pace of play. Certainly, quick recognition of the distance from ball to green does away with the lost time a player spends trying to decide for himself.

The brush-up operation doesn't end there.

Obviously, after a long season of play, there's always the chance that other markers on the course have either been damaged, removed or inadvertently replaced in areas where they shouldn't be.

These include the designation of plain and parallel water hazards and the natural kind. Many an argument has ensued because opposing golfers can't decide whether a water hazard is parallel or not. Settlement of those disputes would be simple if the appropriate markers were in place.

The virtually complete halt in play as winter starts to set in also offers the superintendent the opportunity to make his spring plans for the determination of where rough, fairway and hazard are to be separated. A physical review of this situation seems in order. Again, although it may be minute, clearing up these testy issues adds to the improvement in pace of play.

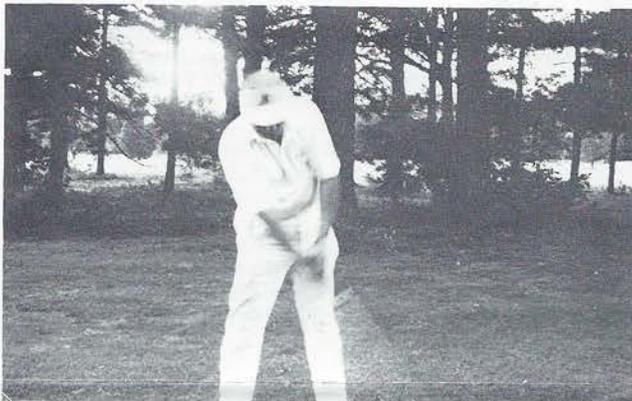
Obviously, the superintendent can't be expected to devote all of his time solving the problems that face golfers in their future daily rounds. However, he has to appreciate the confusion that scattershot-placed out-of-bounds, hazard and distance markers promote. He, too, may be in the same position as his members on those occasions when he tees it up.

Fall and early winter clean-up, then, should also be accompanied by check-up of the field or play. In the end, it will add to the pleasure of the golfer and the superintendent's realization that he has covered the responsibilities of his job from tee to green and beyond.

Gerry Finn



The Snowman lining up another 8



The "Helo" in action

Editor's note - With all the excitement at the Salem meeting we overlooked writing the team of two winners in the Sales Division. They were Bobby Brown and Bill Perry of Sawtelle Bros.

Also I wish to thank Pat Vittum of the Waltham Field station and Larry Bunn of TPC for contributing articles to the newsletter. Anyone wishing to contribute should do so and not just talk about it.

Bob Mucciarone continued from p.1
zation that the rapport between him and his Dedham member is top-of-the-line. So, it's little wonder that he stands at the head of the class in reaching his vocational and family goals. The association is proud to boast that he is one of its own - very special, indeed.

Gerry Finn

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Maintenance Equipment - are you up to par?

To meet the demands of present day golf course maintenance, the most modern and up-to-date equipment alone will not be the answer at every course; administration, programming, adequate budgets, manpower, responsibility and a host of other elements will be necessary.

The following suggested list should be adequate for the majority of the 18-hole courses although it may not be adequate at many golf courses, depending upon the degree of maintenance:

GREENS AND TEES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6 to 8 putting green mowers | 1 power spiker |
| 2 power aerators | 1 power sprayer (fungicides) |
| 1 vertical mower | 1 proportioner |
| 1 power drag mat | 2 rotary fertilizer spreaders |
| 1 power topdresser | 2 triplex mowers |
| 1 power thatcher | |

FAIRWAYS AND ROUGHS

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 2 seven-gang hydraulic tractors and mowers | 1 power sprayer (herbicides) |
| 1 fairway aerator | 1 rotary fertilizer spreader |
| 1 fairway thatcher | 1 5-gang mower (roughs) |
| 1 fairway sweeper | 1 3-gang roller |

GENERAL EQUIPMENT

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 or 2 dump body golf tractors | 1 power stump-cutter |
| 2 general construction PTO tractors | 1 power soil-shredder |
| 1 jeep, pickup truck, etc. | 1 powered hand-sweeper |
| 1 dump truck (5 ton min) | 2 powered leaf-blowers |
| 1 snow plow | 1 water ballast roller |
| 1 front-end loader and backhoe | 6 rotary trimmer mowers |
| 1 power sod-cutter | 3 hand trimmer mowers |
| 1 power saw | 2 general purpose power reel mowers |
| | 2 or 3 gas powered runabouts |

MISCELLANEOUS HAND EQUIPMENT

(This list will go from A to Z). Axes, burners, crow bar, duster, cup cutter, wheelbarrow, ladder, sod edgers, sod lifters, shovels, rakes, funnels, spade, picks, forks, jacks, pruners, tree saws, traps (animal), pumps, gas cans, scales, pullers, hose, bamboo poles, soil testers, soil probe.

TOOLS FOR REPAIR OF:

All power equipment (trucks, tractors, mowers, etc.), plumbing drains, electrical equipment, sewers, roadways, cement and concrete, water systems, painting and wood working repairs, etc.

SHOP EQUIPMENT

Lapping machine, air compressor, steam cleaner, table saw, bench grinders, bed knife grinder, reel knife grinder, pipe threader, paint sprayer, welder drill press, vises, arbor press, work benches.

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

Pumping station and number of heads will be determined by the superintendent at each individual course.

This suggested list has only touched a few of the many odds and ends and pieces of equipment needed. If we may have omitted that one piece of equipment which you feel necessary, by all means add it to the list.

A maintenance building should meet the following requirements:

- 1 Superintendent's office (desk, file cabinets, adding machine, etc.)
2. Toilet facilities (showers, lockers, etc.)
3. Adequate heating and ventilation

4. Paint spraying room
5. Herbicide-fungicide, etc., storage room
6. Fertilizer storage area
7. Adequate storage area for all equipment
8. Adequate maintenance area.

In conjunction with the main maintenance building, an additional storage building is essential for storing and mixing of topdressing material. Topdressing should be kept in a dry area so that it will be available at any time of the season. A two-year supply should be stored at all times.

If we have the necessary equipment and maintenance building, how many men will be required to keep the equipment rolling for the necessary turf maintenance? We suggest the following personnel be considered for the average 18-hole golf course in the Northeast:

- 1 Superintendent (year-round employment)
 - 1 Assistant Superintendent or Foreman (year-round employment)
 - 1 Mechanic (year-round employment)
 - 2 Laborers (year-round employment)
 - 3 Laborers to be hired at the beginning of the outside maintenance program and to be carried through until fall maintenance is completed.
 - 3 Laborers to be hired as summer help
- 11 Men total

Regardless of the maintenance building and modern equipment, the work load cannot be carried out unless an adequate work force is available—a work force that can be depended on, day in and day out; men with responsibility to themselves, to the golf course they are working for, and to the equipment they are handling.

Credit Note: This article is a USGA reprint.

October Results

Our October meeting was held at Kittansett. We had a fine day of golf and food. Our thanks to Lennie Blodgett and the staff at Kittansett for a wonderful day.

The tournament format was a blind draw team of four.

The winning team was:

- Steve Murphy, Gannon
Bob St. Thomas, Hyannisport
Dick Zepp, Whitinsville
Wayne Zoppo, Agawam Hunt

Our first member-club official tournament was held on October 11 at Blue Hill CC. What a great deal the day was, which included lunch, golf and dinner. We wish to thank Dave Barber and the Blue Hill staff. Also our thanks to guest speaker Dr. Joe Troll.

The winners were:

- 4 way tie for first teams
Cohasset Golf Club, (Art Washburn)
Worcester C.C. (Mike Nagle)
Whitinsville G.C. (Dick Zepp)
Eastward Ho (Brian Cowan)
- Each team received \$120.

The Pro-Supt. John Shanahan Memorial Tournament at Brae Burn was held October 14. The format is selected drive, alternate shot. Our thanks to Bob Grant and Jim O'Kelly. The winners:

- Net
Steve Sewell-Dean Robertson, Kernwood 80-66
Tom McGuirk-Bert Frederick, Vesper 80-68
Paul Barkhouse-Paul Johnson, Fercroft 78-69

- Gross
Charlie Estes-Jim O'Kelly, Brae Burn 73
John Scheffler-Brian Cowan, Eastward Ho 74

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