



THE NEWSLETTER



Golf Course Superintendents

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May 1999

The Georgetown Club's Steve Lewis invests assets wisely in 2nd career choice

Steve Lewis knows what investing is all about.

Fresh out of Providence College back there in the early 1980s, Lewis put his business degree to work at a logical site, a broker's office, and for the next six years he put a smile on his face and a shine on his shoes every morning before courting clients and building a future.

Then, out of the blue, a career switch struck. Steve, who never had an affinity for golf, took a second look at himself and decided maybe the wide open spaces would be more appealing than the four walls closing in on him in the investment business. So, he presented himself as a willing beginner in the turf field to Wayne LaCroix, then the golf course superintendent at the Ipswich Country Club, and Wall Street turned into Fairway Lane.

That was 10 years ago and Lewis has been investing his time and budding

knowledge of turf management into a project called The Georgetown Club. It's on an elevator ride just like its golf course superintendent, who just happens to be the ex-stock broker from the North Shore.

"I've been through all the twists and turns from starting at the bottom of the ladder," Lewis explained. "Wayne gave me my first job and I couldn't have been any lower on the totem pole. Ipswich is my hometown, so it was a good starting-off place. I was a laborer, irrigation man, gopher, you name it. But Wayne made me his assistant in 1990 when he left Ipswich and took the job at Andover."

The years as LaCroix' right hand man at Andover served as a solid launching pad for Lewis' nonstop ambition to have his own job.

"I have to thank Wayne for the opportunity to learn every facet of the profession under game conditions," Steve told. "Once I discovered that being a superintendent is something more than knowing how to grow grass, I plunged into understanding every responsibility that goes with the title of golf course superintendent. It opened my window of opportunity and I was ready when the Georgetown people expressed interest in me as their super in 1994."

That's when Steve met Georgetown managing partner Dr. Peter Wojtkun and began investing time and talent into the making of a high level country club.

At that stage in the development of the club, there were nine holes open for play and another nine on the drawing board

off the architectural tools of Phil Wogan and the course-building skills of Bill Drake. The 1994 season proved critical for Lewis, too, because he was entrusted with the dual responsibility of maintaining and improving the established nine holes while grooving the growing-pains infested new nine. This was when Steve discovered that a 9 to 5 work schedule was made only for those with toothpaste ad smiles and shoes that lit up an office with their shine.

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"Once I discovered that being a superintendent is something more than knowing how to grow grass, I plunged into understanding every responsibility that goes with the title of golf course superintendent. It opened my window of opportunity and I was ready when the Georgetown people expressed interest in me in 1994."

**Steve Lewis
The Georgetown Club**

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THE NEWSLETTER

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"It definitely was an adjustment for me," Lewis said. "The biggest change was my own schedule. I was an around-the-clock guy at the course. I had to be. I remember the 1995 season when both nines were open. The situation was sort of dicey for me because I was working under a lot of pressure.

"For one thing we had an antiquated pump system and like most fledgling clubs, the budget was tight. Not that the owners (Dr. Wojtkun and Jack Enos) weren't aware of the predicament. They tried to meet all of my needs but it was impossible to have everything. Whatever, things eventually fell into place and the course met one of its goals last November when it went from semi-private to full private classification."

Presently, Georgetown has a membership in the 300 range, with the ultimate cutoff number pegged at 360. The amenities give cause to believe the club has an ambitious future. It has a three-story, modern, updated clubhouse, which already has an addition on its immediate agenda. In addition to a swimming pool, it also houses a 20,000 square foot practice tee. Therefore, the club is still growing while the course continues to be exposed to pampered care from Lewis and his crew.

From all indications, some serious golf appears to be on the horizon for those playing the course that has been developed into a two-faced challenge: plenty of wide spacing on the established nine and tight carved out holes on the fledgling side.

Lewis thinks the layout already has a signature hole in place. That would be the 11th, which has a split fairway and offers the player a driver's choice on the tee shot. "It's one of those holes that guests are talking about when they leave the club," Steve explained. "I can't remember the tournament I watched on TV but it had a hole similar to our 11th with players having to decide which side of the split fairway they wanted to try and hit. There'll be a lot of 19th hole tales to tell after playing that hole."

Steve, who gets plenty of needed support from his wife, Lorraine, and dog, Betty, likes the owner-superintendent relationship that's taken hold at Georgetown. "That arrangement takes

all of the politics out of the maintenance atmosphere," Lewis remarked. "I was exposed to it at Andover, so it's a carry-over from the days there. All things considered, I know this is the place for me, and I have the same vision as my bosses - to make Georgetown the best course it can be."

GERRY FINN

Calendar

- May 17 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting Scholarship & Benevolence Tournament**
 Wachusett Country Club
 West Boylston, Mass.
 Supt. - Don Marrone
- June 8 **Pro/Media/Superintendent Tournament**
 Owl's Nest Golf Course
 New Hampshire
- June 14 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
 Hickory Hill Golf Course
 Methuen, Mass.
 Team of Two Championship
 Supt. - Eric Brox
- June 23 **UMass Turf Field Day**
 South Deerfield, Mass.
- July 19 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting 75th Anniversary Tournament**
 Marshfield Country Club
 Marshfield, Mass.
 Supt. - Bob Matthews, CGCS
- August 9 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
 Poquoy Brook Golf Club
 Lakeville, Mass.
 Individual Championship
 Supt. - Charles Dickow
- August 11 **Athletic Turf Field Day**
 Nashua, N.H.
- September **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
 date & location TBA
- October 4 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
 White Cliffs Country Club
 Plymouth, Mass.
 Supt. - Lianne Larson
- November 1 **GCSANE Monthly Meeting**
 Brae Burn Country Club
 The Highland Course (9 Holes)
 Supt. - Bob DiRico, CGCS
- November 16 **GCSAA Seminar**
 Human Resource Management
 The International, Bolton, Mass.
- November 17 **GCSAA Seminar**
 Budgeting & Forecasting
 The International, Bolton, Mass.

September 7

The Super Speaks Out

This month's question: What are the pros and cons, if any, of tissue testing, and how does it compare with soil testing?

Wayne LaCroix, CGCS, Andover Country Club: "I'm heading for my first tissue testing sample sendout right now. This is my third year using tissue testing and the routine usually starts the first of May.

"There are only pros about the process. If you want to include the fact that tissue testing is expensive, I suppose that would qualify as a con for the sake of argument. However, over the long run tissue testing could wind up in a savings for the superintendent since it accurately tells you how much nutrient is going into the plant and how much you should be applying. So, there are cases where the superintendent may be able to cut expenses in ordering fertilizer because the testing shows an overload of it.

"Regardless, tissue testing really is the way to go. Presently, I'm sending samples once a month and even thinking of stepping up that count. Also, at the present time I'm only sending samples from our greens.

"My sampling routine works this way: After the first two or three mowings in spring, I gather clippings, put them in a FedEx shipping envelope, and off they go to the lab. I use 'Atlantic Agritech' in East Sandwich and their results are almost instantaneous. It's almost like quick picture developing, practically overnight. I send them out and in a matter of a day or so I have the results.

"What the testing process does is analyze the nutrient content in the grass with results that tell you if you are short, just right, or overloading giving the turf nutrients. It's virtually the same every time, so I know that I'm treating my turf at the optimum level of effectiveness.

"On the other hand, soil testing usually produces a long drawn-out process that can take from a month to six weeks and maybe more. When I was into it, I'd send soil samples maybe once a year.

"The end result of tissue testing is a form of reassurance for the superintendent. It tells him that his visual observation of the turf is on or off target. Most of the time, it serves as a second opinion of sorts. I would think that more supers would explore the possibility of using tissue testing part of their maintenance program."

Glen Perry, Potowomut Country Club:

"Tissue testing is another valuable tool for the superintendent, one that reflects the technological advancement that's effectively aiding our profession. It's an upgrade of old methods and should become one of the superintendent's regular weapons in his arsenal of maintenance helpers.

"This is my seventh season at Potowomut and my third season using tissue testing. I started out sending samples from our greens only. But gradually I've expanded the clipping collections to tees and fairways.

"Actually, the process reassures me that my baseline numbers for fertilizing materials are consistent. Most of the time I send 10 samples, a combination of greens, tees, and fairways. So far, the results have confirmed my numbers and even improved on them.

"The end result of tissue testing is a form of reassurance for the superintendent. It tells him that his visual observation of the turf is on or off target."

**Wayne LaCroix, CGCS
Andover C.C.**

"For example, as a result of my involvement in tissue testing my ratio of nitrogen in turf feedings has been reduced from one-eighth of a pound of nitrogen every two weeks to one-tenth of a pound every three weeks.

"Of course, the tissue method is streamlined compared to other methods we used in the past. In fact, my soil testing got to the point where I didn't send out samples for more than a year at a time.

"The bottom line for me in taking advantage of tissue testing is that it tells me I'm doing the right thing while fine-tuning my overall maintenance program. It (tissue testing) is positive for me."

Bob DiRico, CGCS, Brae Burn Country Club:

"If you want a comparison between tissue and soil testing, try this: When I relied strictly on soil testing, I used that process maybe three times in 10 years. Now, with tissue testing, I send in my samples every three weeks.

"That's a dramatic change from the old system. Some people claim that tissue testing is too expensive but I can truthfully say that it doesn't cost that much so that it affects my budget. At any rate, it's superior to what we did in the past and its results are showing in my turf condition.

"This is only my second season using tissue testing and I used the first year to get a feel for the process. I sort of experimented with it then and the first results hit my needs right on the button. It suggested that calcium had to be kicked up in my application of fertilizers. That reassured my thinking on the subject and I've been pleased with the overall effects ever since.

"This year I'm planning to spread my tissue testing wings and send clippings from a few danger zones on fairways where dollar spot has surfaced. So, little by little I'm bringing in tissue testing as an integral part of my overall maintenance program.

"The swiftness in the process is amazing. I send in the samples on a Friday and by Sunday or Monday the results are on my fax machine. I know that some supers are hesitant about using tissue testing but they'll come around. Something new along technological lines usually is slow to catch on. Sometimes it's hard to break old habits. However, tissue testing is here to stay and stay for the better. I'm certainly glad I use it."

GERRY FINN

From the Archives

Should the greenkeeper play golf?

By Emil Masciocchi,
The Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, Ill.

(Reprinted from the Greenkeepers' Reporter, as published in the GCSANE Newsletter, c. 1942-45)

The Greenkeeper's job is to produce golfing conditions on the course he maintains. The members and other players influence his practices directly, so he either has excellent, good or poor golf

conditions - notwithstanding numerous controlled and uncontrolled factors affecting both members and greenkeeper.

It can be said with due respect to all concerned that the greenkeeper can more directly influence the pleasure of a game of golf than any one man. The pro coaches his pupil on how to stroke the ball as few times as possible, but the player's ball follows the greenkeeper's doing down to the last stroke, whether it be a 70 or 120.

If we are so concerned with the game of golf, why should we not play it? While it is unnecessary for a greenkeeper to play in order to produce good golfing conditions, I believe one who is in intimate touch with the game has a closer feeling as to actual conditions - a sort of golfer's sense that can be of great aid in his maintenance practices. It is quite evident that a course can be greatly affected one way or another, depending upon whether the stress is put on immediate golfing conditions or on the health of the turf only. A happy medium seems to be more sensible and can best be arrived at when the greenkeeper has a knowledge of everyday golf along with his greenkeeping knowledge.

Remember When?

Remember when?: GCSANE's past

Remember when? looks at significant individuals and events of GCSANE's past.

25 years ago

The issue of course playability was met head-on recently when three prominent representatives of the USGA Green Section put forth an idea labeled "a course within a course".

Dr. Alexander Radko, Stanley Zontek, and William Buchanan suggested the unique arrangement in reaction to the ever-increasing demands of players who insist that they enjoy golf in the winter months on northern courses. The answer, according to the USGA officials, is simple: just construct a golf course within a golf course, one that offers the watered down challenge of a regular layout without exposing its tees and greens to potential damage.

The solution to cries for accessibility to the golf course in adverse weather conditions would take much of the soul-searching out of the superintendent's annual tug o' war with members or allow them to play the full course when conditions discourage it. The problem has been the source of much debate and often unfair harassment of the superintendent. The inside track is a means to elimination of both and deserves a look-see.

15 years ago

Nary Sperandio of the Concord Country Club has announced that he will

be retiring from his position of golf course superintendent, effective January of 1985.

A sure sign of spring was our April golf meeting at Hyannisport and some of the sounds emanating from the course. Examples: Pete Coste whirling a club high above the clouds, Bobby Brown smacking a drive into a bunch of trees making that coconut sound, and Ron Kirkman nicking a fairway wood just enough to move the ball 10 feet.

The Hyannisport results, where qualifying for the Guy Tedesco invitation tournament took place, found Steve Chiavaroli taking low gross honors. The net winners included Tony Caranci, Ron Kirkman, Mike Nagle, and Ron Lee.

5 years ago

Associate member Scott Brown, sales rep for O.M. Scott, has accepted a new position with the company in Florida.

Scott Reynolds would like to announce that he would stage an open house of his maintenance facility at Charles River Country Club on July 12 from 10 to 2 p.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

The Turf Research Committee would like to thank two businesses for their contributions to the Turf Research Fund: TRIMS Grounds Management Software in the name of Richard Derby, Longmeadow C.C., and F.D.I. Inc., who donated money on behalf of Jack Hassett, Mt. Pleasant G.C. and Phil Schultz, Sterling C.C.

GERRY FINN

"I believe one who is in intimate touch with the game has a closer feeling as to actual conditions, a sort of golfer's sense that can be of great aid in his maintenance practices."

**Emil Masciocchi
The Onwentsia Club,
Lake Forest, Illinois**

By playing it gives you an ace-in-the-hole. Even in discussions with members and committees a first-hand knowledge of golf can be of great value - and is an ace in the hole, so to speak. The speed of greens, length of fairways, rough, etc. can often be appreciated best from a golfer's viewpoint. As far as club officials are concerned, they differ somewhat in their thoughts about a greenkeeper playing golf. However, in talking with a club president a while back, we were discussing a certain greenkeeper and he said, "He was a good man but he did not play golf, and therefore did not appreciate the golfer's viewpoint as he should have."

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Superintendent advocates IPM certification

By Dave Sylvester, AgrEvo

Armed with a degree in biology, a Massachusetts superintendent finds ways to incorporate Integrated Pest Management into golf course maintenance.

If Mike Iacono has his way, IPM-certified golf course superintendents soon will be a reality in Massachusetts and throughout the U.S. With 21 years of experience in supervising golf course maintenance, Iacono feels a certification program would be purely beneficial to the profession.

"Massachusetts already has IPM-certified agricultural products, such as apples and strawberries," says the golf course superintendent of Pine Brook Country Club in Weston, Massachusetts. "Basically, a turf industry program would ensure that certified members do not do any general broadcasting of chemicals. IPM doesn't mean you have dead grass; it refers to professionals producing a quality product with reduced reliance on chemicals. Our

IPM slogan is: Healthy Turf, Healthy Golfer, Healthy Environment."

As treasurer of the GCSANE, Iacono has taken an active role in creating a

"IPM doesn't mean you have dead grass; it refers to professionals producing a quality product with reduced reliance on chemicals."

**Mike Iacono
Pine Brook C.C.**

certification program. He represents the association on the Massachusetts IPM Council, which covers the turf, landscape, pest control, and golf industries, as well as public interest groups. Recently, the association donated money to help the IPM certification program take shape.

"Integrated pest management practices vary from golf course to golf course," says Iacono. "Simply put, IPM involves more scouting and mapping so that you know what and where the problems are on your specific course. The certification program would require superintendents to submit and follow a customized program for reducing chemical applications, whether it's spot treatments instead of broadcast applications, stepping up cultural practices, or using biological products."

Eliminating Pre-emergence Herbicides.

On his own course Iacono began following an IPM weed-control program five years ago by eliminating springtime pre-emergence treatment. Instead, he sprays fairways with a low rate of Acclaim Extra herbicide all season to control crabgrass. He adds the product to his spray tank an average of once a month, May through August, and hasn't seen crabgrass on fairways, tees, or playing surfaces in several years.

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GCSAA News

The First Tee program to benefit from GCSAA donations

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and its members are further demonstrating their commitment to The First Tee through a number of recent projects.

The First Tee, an initiative of the World Golf Foundation, is a national effort to create facilities and programs that make golf more affordable and accessible, with special emphasis on kids who otherwise may not have a chance to experience golf.

As part of GCSAA's 1999 Championship, a members-only golf tournament held in conjunction with the International Golf Course Conference & Show, GCSAA and The Toro Co. teamed up to benefit The First Tee facilities across the U.S.

The Feb. 8-9 tournament, held at six courses near Tampa, Fla., provided the opportunity for more than 700 GCSAA tournament participants to set aside equipment and accessories that will be donated to The First Tee facilities as needed.

This is the third year of linking the championship to an initiative to benefit junior golfers, and the 1999 donations resulted in more than 400 pieces of

equipment (rakes, cup cutters, ball washers, etc.) and more than 900 accessory items (tee markers, wastebaskets, flag, flagsticks, etc.). In the first two years of linking the championship to charitable efforts to benefit junior golf organizations, GCSAA members donated more than 225 golf bags, 7,000 balls, 450 clubs, and \$1,700.

"GCSAA members have always contributed when given the opportunity to make a difference in their communities," said Paul S. McGinnis, CGCS, GCSAA's 1999 tournament committee chairman and past president (1997). "We're pleased with the results of this effort and look forward to the many opportunities for GCSAA members and affiliated chapters to get further involved with The First Tee program."

In addition to the 1999 championship donations, GCSAA also has contributed more than 1,730 units of its merchandise inventory to The First Tee program. Donated items include a variety of golf shirts, fleece wear, and hats. The apparel will be donated to participants of The First Tee program as determined by The First Tee staff.

"The GCSAA has become one of our most ardent and enthusiastic supporters," said Tod Leiweke, executive director of The First Tee. "As we work with not-for-profit associations across North America in developing quality courses for kids, a powerful role emerges for GCSAA. We overwhelmingly embrace their support."

GCSAA's current commitments to The First Tee program include:

- Creating a maintenance and operations manual to assist in operations and maintenance of First Tee facilities;
- Assisting in the acquisition of quality used equipment through donations by GCSAA members;
- Offering volunteer oversight and advice from GCSAA's affiliated chapters;
- Identifying volunteers from GCSAA's affiliated chapters to serve on the board of local First Tee chapters;
- Creating an environmental education program as part of The First Tee youth educational program;
- Providing role models for discussion of career opportunities in golf course management.

N.E. superintendent advocates IPM certification *continued from page 5*

"Our ground is very rocky and there's so much seed in the soil that we have a pretty bad problem with crabgrass," explains Iacono. "We even get it in the shade, which is unusual. It seems if we get a little morning sun, crabgrass seed starts germinating. But Acclaim Extra has worked really well. A spot treatment on designated areas is a much better way to go than broadcast applications of pre-emergence herbicides. Plus, I've had better success using Acclaim Extra on fairways than I have using a pre-emergence product in my rough."

A typical New England course, Pine Brook Country Club lies on undulating, craggy terrain 12 miles west of Boston. Built in 1926 and designed by Wayne Stiles and Tom Van Cleek, students of Donald Ross, the course features high greens with low surrounds. Fairways and tees are mostly bentgrass with some *Poa annua*, while greens are mostly *Poa*.

"Experience has shown me that you can try to grow bentgrass here but you better keep the *Poa* alive," observes Iacono, formerly superintendent at Metacomet Golf Club in East Providence,

Rhode Island, before coming to Pine Brook seven years ago. "We overseed heavily with bentgrass each year, but we've learned to live with *Poa*."

Using Biology Degree on Golf Course. After graduating from Providence College in 1977 with a biology degree, Iacono worked in a lab for about 10 days before returning to golf course work. "I had to get back outside," he says. "My father was a superintendent and I guess I had it in my blood."

Iacono incorporates IPM into his maintenance program wherever possible, using cultural practices to reduce reliance on chemicals. He core aerifies the entire golf course each fall, but switched to deep-tine aerifying greens in the fall rather than the spring two years ago. His older greens drain slowly in winter months, making them vulnerable to ice damage.

"The most turf I've lost in seven years has been to ice damage," Iacono notes. "Late-season deep-tine aerification loosens up soil on our greens and helps them drain better through the winter. Plus, our members like it better because the greens aren't disturbed in the springtime. We also hydroject greens five or six times during the season to keep the soil viable."

Scouting for Damaged Turf. As part of the Pine Brook IPM program, Iacono's two assistants continually scout the course

looking for weed, insect, or disease problems. Hyperodes weevil traditionally shows up on greens and tees sitting near pine tree woods. "The adult weevils nest in pine trees, so we target those areas," he notes.

In 1998 Iacono tried the new synthetic pyrethroid, DeltaGard® GC 5SC insecticide, for spot-treatment of second generation Hyperodes weevil and cutworm. He applied the product in August on greens and tees where he had insect activity. Aside from getting good insect control, he likes DeltaGard because he can use it at lower rates than other products. "It looks like an excellent product for our IPM program," he adds. "I hope to use it again this year."

In determining which products fit into an IPM program tailored to his course, Iacono makes good use of his biology degree. He plans to investigate biological products, such as the Bioject system for applying bacteria, to intercept disease problems on greens. Meanwhile, he will continue his campaign for an IPM certification program in his state. "I'll do my best to convince golf course superintendents and golfers that you can have a healthy environment with less chemicals," he says.

Dave Sylvester is the AgrEvo sales rep for New England, working in Kensington, Conn; tel.: (860) 828-8905.

DIVOT DRIFT...announcements...educational seminars...job opportunities ...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members: Jeff Brown, Supt., Souhegan Woods; Robert Bianco, Supt., Pawtucket C.C.; Michael Hightower, Supt., Green Hill G.C.; Michael Fontaine, Supt., Northfield, G.C.; Brian Walters, Supt., Walpole C.C.; Bill Affinino, Asst., Norfolk G.C.; Michael O'Connell, Asst., Indian Ridge C.C.; and Waterflowers Ecological Design, Friend.

Proposed for Membership: Steve Thys, Supt., Worcester C.C.; Clifford Bicchieri, Asst., Sterling C.C.; Neil Hanrahan, Asst., Pine Ridge C.C.; and Daniel Peirce, Asst., Maynard C.C.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

2nd Assistant Superintendent. Charles River Country Club is a private 77-year-old Donald Ross course with an extremely high standard for maintenance. The property encompasses 215+ acres, with pool and tennis facilities. Individual must have a Mass. pesticide applicator's license, a two

or four-year degree in turf, and strong attention to detail. Individual must be skilled in all facets of course maintenance and daily course set-up, and must be able to manage teams of six or more. Individual must have strong communication skills in dealing with staff and membership, and must have one year of experience as foreman or 2nd assistant superintendent. Compensation includes salary, sick pay, holiday pay, and vacation. Send resume by June 1, 1999 to: Charles River C.C., c/o Scott Reynolds, Golf Course Superintendent, Newton Centre, MA 02459; or fax to (617) 244-8553.

Superintendent. Fore Seasons Golf, Practice, & Learning Center is a state-of-the-art facility with 76 hitting stations, covered and heated stations, 12 target greens, the short game practice area, a green side bunker, two regulation par-3 holes, food and beverage service, and a clubhouse. Individual must hold a current Mass. pesticide applicator's license. A two-year turf school graduate is preferred. Individual must be self-motivated, with a working knowledge of irrigation, drainage, and new Toro equipment. The superintendent will report to the

director of operations. Salary is commensurate with experience, and includes 100% paid medical insurance, education allowance, and a large growth opportunity. Send resume to: Joe Pustizzi, Fore Seasons Golf, Practice, & Learning Centers, 306 Whiting Street, Hingham, MA 02043; (781) 741-8305, Fax: (781) 741-8307.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

**Joint meeting with Cape Cod, April 20, 1999
Eastward Ho! C.C., Chatham, Mass.**

1st Net: Chris Cowan & Mike Stachowicz (60)
2nd Net: Gary Luccini, Ken Mooridian (61)
3rd Net: Dave Stowe, Eric Sinasalo (61)
4th Net: J.C. Girouard, Don D'Errico (62)

1st Gross: Joe Felicetti, Scott Nickerson (75), match of cards
2nd Gross: Rob Donovan, Mike Pendergast (75)

Closest to the pin:
Robin Hayes, 2' 1"; Mel O'Kelly, 14"

Thanks to Brian Cowan and staff for their hard work.

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Should the greenkeeper play golf? . . .

continued from page 4

There may be many greenkeepers who disagree on the necessity of playing golf, but there can be none who doubt that it is an asset in one's work.

The day when a course is totally influenced by the low handicap player is gone, both in layout and playing conditions. We have been through a period where a course standard was judged only by the good player and conditions adjusted accordingly, often to the detriment of the health of the turf.

Playing conditions and sensible maintenance. I have specific thoughts now on close cutting certain types of fairways. Excessive close cutting in the past was brought on by low-handicap players and innocently by professionals, so that some courses lost some of their good turf. I am sure the higher-handicap player had very little to do with this, as the character of his game was such that he enjoyed a reasonable height of cut. I find that all golfers can score as well and enjoy a game on a reasonable length cut when they know that it is in the interest of better conditions over an indefinite period. A golf-playing greenkeeper can make this fact more effective to the general membership. In spite of what some men think, as many golfers judge a course by their own individual score, the overwhelming majority of good and mediocre players are sportsmen to the extent that they often are too easy on the course and their criticism of it.

The relation of good playing conditions to sensible maintenance has but one logical man to educate the golfing world - and he is a golfing greenkeeper with a good knowledge of both.

Let's ask ourselves these questions. "When is a green too hard? When is it too soft? What is a reasonable height for fairways under my conditions? What is the height of fair rough? How is the sand in my traps - too soft or too hard? Who is the judge of fair and good conditions of such areas?"

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