

U.S. golf course guidelines

NATIONAL survey figures recently released by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (G.C.S.A.A.), intended to provide its membership general guidelines, also prove to be of interest to the comparison minded golfing public.

Knowing full well before they began that the "average golf course" does not exist, G.C.S.A.A.'s survey now reports some interesting points for golfers and non-golfers alike to ponder.

The mythical "average course" will be an 18-hole private course with more than 400 members. It will be open ten months of the year during which time 37,340 rounds of golf will be played.

The golf course superintendent will manage 168 acres with bluegrass fairways averaging 2.9 acres each, bluegrass tees of 2,460 square feet and bentgrass greens of 5,914 square feet.

Budgets climb

To keep this area in the condition desired by his membership, the superintendent's annual operating budget will be \$109,501. This annual total includes items such as a \$7,964 investment in capital equipment, \$59,301 for labour (excluding the superintendent's salary), \$5,068 for fertilizer, \$4,298 for pesticides, \$4,810 for equipment repair and \$1,767 for seed.

A comparison of these recent survey results with those of a similar survey made in 1971 reveals a 19.7 per cent increase in overall operating budgets while the actual maintained acreage of golf courses decreased 3.85 per cent.

As substantiated in other national survey reports, an increasing proportion of golf courses are located in southern areas with a decreasing proportion in western states. Also, greater numbers of golf courses are defined as public, municipal or semi-private while private

golf courses are proportionally on the decline although they still comprise the largest number of courses.

Survey results were tabulated from responses supplied by more than 1,200 of the association's member golf course superintendents from throughout the United States and Canada.

DIARY DATES

- Oct. 6 N.W. Section Autumn Tournament, Bury G.C.
- Oct. 7 Southern Section Secretary's Match, Beaconsfield G.C.
- Oct. 7 East Midland Section. Lecture by Johnsons Seeds Rothley Park G.C.
- Nov. 4 East Midland Section. Lecture on Drainage by Chipman Ltd. Longcliffe G.C.
- Nov. 4 South Coast Section. Lecture on "Golf Green Maintenance" by Maxwell M. Hart (London) Ltd.
- Nov. 15 East Midland Section. Annual Dinner/Dance Shakespear Inn, Leicester, 7.30 p.m.
- Dec. 2 East Midland Section. Lecture by S.T.R.I. on Greens and Tee Construction Leicestershire G.C.
- Dec. 4 North West Section. Trip to Toros at Darlington.
- Dec. 12 South Coast. Christmas Dinner/Dance, Hythe.
- Jan. 12 North West Section. Lecture by Mr. L. Hewitt, Atco's Longton Branch.