Kolasa named new head of CMAA

By PETER BLAIS

The golf industry will find a knowledgeable ally in new Club Managers Association of America President Richard Kolasa.

“My experience with golf clubs is one of my main strengths. I've been involved with golf since 1963,” said the general manager of Tucson, Ariz.'s Skyline Country Club. Kolasa will be elevated from vice president to the CMAA's highest office during late February's annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

One of the more interesting situations he's dealt with during that time involves the irrigation system at Skyline. While most Southwest U.S. courses have installed automated systems, Skyline still uses quick couplers.

"In the superintendent's mind, it's not a priority. If he came to me and asked for an automated system, I'd consider it," he said. "But he's happy with the system he has. So we have two guys out there watering every night," Kolasa said.

Kolasa has been at Skyline since 1978. Before that, he held similar posts at Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., Evansville (Ind.) Country Club and South Bend (Ind.) Country Club.

He graduated from Michigan State University in 1966, joined the CMAA in 1968 and became a certified manager in 1986. He

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Cape Cod study reinforced

By PETER BLAIS

YARMOUTH, Mass. — Groundwater tests at a relatively new Cape Cod golf course substantiate many of the findings of the original Cape Cod study.

Stuart Cohen, director and author of the original Cape Cod study, said: "What the findings show is the minimum impact golf courses can have on ground water when an integrated pest management program is used by an educated and experienced superintendent."

The initial Cape Cod investigation focused on four older courses. The feeling was that if pesticide contamination would be a problem anywhere, it would be on courses built long before today's strict environmental guidelines and in a place like Cape Cod, where sandy soil and a

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IR-4 Project offers doomed chemicals a second chance

By HAL PHILLIPS

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Scientists at the Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4 to the initiated) are beefing up the IR-4 Project. "Lack of awareness of what we can do is one of our chief concerns,"

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Course openings up in '92: Experts see it as peak year

By HAL PHILLIPS

The National Golf Foundation has issued figures indicating 1992 was a record-setting year for golf course openings. Three-hundred and fifty-four is the tentative number — three more than the 1991 total, which had represented a 20-year high.

However, the 354 figure has generated little flag-waving in golf industry circles. Indeed, the general consensus among financial analysts, and the NGF itself, views 1992 as a peak year — after which a more reasonable, stable number of openings is expected.

"There's been a big, much publicized wave of activity, but the pipeline is a long one," said Don Rhodes, a vice president at Textron Financial Corp. "We're seeing the results of projects started in 1988-89. The
A record trade show, 90-plus educational sessions and the election of senior officers highlight the Club Managers Association of America's 66th Annual Conference, Feb. 21-25 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

Attendees will have two full days to visit the trade show. All space has been reserved for the 409-booth exposition, the largest in CMAA history. CMAA clubs generate approximately $5.2 billion in revenue annually. Sixty-two percent of member clubs have golf courses.

Trade show hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 21 and 8 a.m., to 1:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 22.


In addition to the elections of Richard Kolasa of Skyline Country Club in Tucson, Ariz. (see related story on page 1), as president and William Schultz of Houston Country Club as vice president, three candidates are vying for the vacant secretary/treasurer post.

They are George Carroll of Town & Country Club in St. Paul, Minn., Randall Gudanowski of Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes, N.J., and Norman Spritzig of Fort Wayne (Ind.) Country Club.

President Kolasa
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was elected to the board of directors in 1987, re-elected in 1989 and served as secretary/treasurer two years ago.

He has been appointed to numerous committees including budget and finance, conference, executive, liaison, strategic planning, magazine, member services, membership, student development and ethics and grievance.

Kolasa's main goal as president is to help the club industry prepare for changes, particularly demographic and environmental, in the years ahead.

"People are retiring earlier all the time. That means more pressure on golf clubs to provide service to those people," Kolasa said.

"Older people are looking for places to meet new people, too. Clubs provide that and a lot more."

Skyline recently sold its irrigation wells to the city and began using effluent, even though it cost more.

"We're very conscious of the environment. Converting to effluent was the responsible thing to do. We oversee with rye so the course is green year round. And we grow turf wall-to-wall. We have to be environmentally responsible," Kolasa said.

Private clubs have taken heat for discriminatory practices in recent years. Kolasa sees no place for discrimination in private clubs and believes the practice has been weeded out of the industry.

"If someone is qualified and can afford to join, you can't discriminate," he said.

Kolasa is looking forward to taking over the reins during the CMAA's 66th Annual Conference and 16th Annual Exposition.

"It's going to be an excellent conference, particularly the trade show," he predicted. "There's so much available to improve how we do our job and make things easier."

NCA head foresees anti-club legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — From a legal/legislative perspective, private clubs faced a number of unprecedented challenges during 1992, said National Club Association Executive VP Gerard F. Hurley in a year-end report to members.

NCA's government relations efforts tackled issues ranging from the proposed denial of club dues deductions to attempts to deny private status, the definition of an independent contractor, and the private club exemption in the Americans With Disabilities Act. The states' and federal government's need for revenue continues to drive tax and deduction-repeal initiatives.

Private clubs must remain braced for more anti-club legislation in 1993, said Hurley. However, member support of NCA's programs and services was reflected in a record renewal rate of 94.5 percent.

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