Bylaw break in ‘95

In contrast to stormy ‘93 election, no amendments offered

By PETER BLAIS

SAN FRANCISCO — Controversial bylaw amendments made for good news copy the past two years. But the news in 1995 is that no bylaw amendments are on the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America agenda at this month’s International Conference and Show.

“So much has been added and so many changes have occurred in the last year, the board of directors decided to sit back for awhile and prove it could do what it’s talked about,” said GCSAA spokesman Scott Smith.

Two years ago, the membership surprised the board by overwhelmingly rejecting proposed amendments dealing with dues increases, delegate voting, membership classifications restructuring and requirements for a simple rather than two-thirds majority to pass association proposals.

The main objection seemed to be that members were never consulted or sufficiently informed about the proposals. The board responded by holding a chapter relations meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, in September 1993, to explain to chapter presidents the reasoning behind the proposed 1994 bylaw amendments.

The result last year was passage of all the proposed measures, with the exception of creating new membership classifications for non-superintendents. Rejecting membership restructuring for a second time indicated that members wanted to keep the association focused on superintendents.

“The members felt,” incoming GCSAA President Gary Grigg said, “that creating classifications for non-superintendents [i.e. irrigation technicians, spray technicians, equipment managers] would dilute the main issues the GCSAA face.”

The result was re-votes on all the measures, and bylaws for all the changes were passed.

The diversity of San Francisco is born out in the city’s architecture which features, side by side, the modernist, sky-skewering Transamerica Pyramid (1972) and the furbelowed, flatiron Columbus Tower (1907).

WHERE TO GO IN SAN FRANCISCO

Vistas & victuals make San Francisco a city worth exploring and savoring

By STEVE SCHATZ

SAN FRANCISCO — From the edge of the Embarcadero, a grayish fog can be seen lurking over the span of the Golden Gate Bridge. The distinct chime of the Cable Car completing its turnaround at Powell or Hyde Street gives you a sense. The faint sound of a foghorn heard in the distance confirms you’ve arrived in the City by the Bay, San Francisco. And, while widely acknowledged as one of the great tourist cities in the world, what should you do when passing through this bustling metropolis? Here are a few thoughts to consider.

A good place to start your adventure would be a visit to Union Square, located in the heart of town. Shopping abounds around the Square, with everything from the more traditional “shopping mall” experience where you can bounce quickly from store to store. For those who want to try a different shopping atmosphere, Ghirardelli Square near Fisherman’s Wharf offers a specialized array of stores and is famous for its outstanding varieties of chocolate. And, for you hard-core retail shoppers, Stonestown, situation along Highway 101 north of the Bay Bridge, provides the more traditional “shopping mall” experience where you can bounce quickly from store to store.

Finally, the truly adventurous shopper, weather permitting, should head for the Red and White Fleet Ferry to the Cliff House at the North End of the Great Highway. A trip to the Cliff House at the North End of the Great Highway can provide relaxation, where a sumptuous brunch is served while taking in dramatic views of the Pacific Ocean.

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Why JacklinGolf pays me to take a club to their grass.

"Being a professional golfer for 32 years now, I know a thing or two about golf courses. Like how to make the ball roll smoothly on a putt. Or how to outsmart those tricky contoured greens. But when it comes to the precise science of growing the best grass for the course, I have to admit, I'm not the expert.

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"From site analysis to troubleshooting to tailored recommendations, JacklinGolf is there to help.

"Now, I can't say they can offer you tips on your golf swing. Maybe that's why they hired me. Or, come to think of it, we do share the same name..."

GCSAA Tourney

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"But you get strong teams from other areas, too. There are 20 to 30 guys here in Chicago who are very strong golfers," he added, noting that Midwest AGCS No. 4 was last year's gross division runner-up and Midwest AGCS No. 5 the net division winner. The net unit included Illinois superintendent Robert Maibusch of Hinsdale GC in Clarendon Hills, Les Rutan of Beverly CC in Chicago, Roger Stewart Jr. of Stonebridge CC in Aurora and Bruce Williams of Bob O'Link GC in Highland Park. In fact, Northern superintendents dominated the competition in its early years, said Frank Lamplier, head superintendent at Aspetuck Valley CC in Bethel, Conn. Led by six-time singles champion Emil Masciocchi, Cleveland GCSA won five consecutive titles from 1946-52 (there was no tournament in 1947). It wasn't until the Southern California GCSA's back-to-back titles in 1970-71 that a non-Midwest/Philadelphia association won the event. "There just weren't a lot of players from the South 30 years ago. But with all the new courses, there are a lot more players down there," Lamplier said. Many credit Lamplier with turning the event into enough-interest-we'll-hold-GCSAA Championship into a major annual event. The tournament was first held in 1968-69. Prior to that, there had been no tournament since 1963 and only sporadically held events before that. To show its appreciation, GCSAA named the net division award the Frank Lamphier Net Trophy. The Scottish International Trophy goes to the winning gross team.

"Mel Lucas appointed me coordinator in 1968," Lamplier recalled. "We basically had to decide whether to keep holding it or give it up. Organizing it gave me something to do in the winter. It's gratifying to see the way participation has grown. In many ways, I'd rather go to the tournament than the conference. The ideas that are exchanged during the tournament and afterward in the clubhouse are some of the most valuable information you take home."

Approximately 50 superintendents participated in the 1968 GCSAA Championship. Almost 500 individuals and 80 teams are expected to take part in this year's event. The Monterey-area tournament locales include Bayonet GC, The GC at Quail Lodge, Old Del Monte Forest GC, Poppy Hills GC and Rancho Canada GC. Bayonet and Poppy Hills will host the championship flight. The top teams consist of participating in the championship flight. Some teams, like Georgia GCSA No. 1, have been together for many years. Others are pieced together during a chapter qualifying tournament.

"That's the way we did it in Texas," said Witt, who recently moved from Bent Tree CC in Dallas to Wynstone. "We had an annual championship. The top four finishers became our No. 1 team and the chapter paid their way to the tournament."

Still other teams are established the day before the tournament, Witt added. Team members compete in the 36-hole individual competition and are awarded team points for a bogey (1), par (2), birdie (3) and eagle (4). Points are tallied at the end of the first round so that a team knows where it stands after 18 holes. Additional points are tallied at the end of the second round and trophies awarded. Last year's gross division winners from Georgia garnered 248 points to best runner-up Midwest AGCS No. 4's 225.

"The team competition gets pretty serious," said GCSAA Director of Communications Pat Jones. "Winning it is a source of pride for the chapters."