GRASSCRAFT PRESIDENT TAKES ISSUE WITH COLUMN

To the editor: Your editorial in the February edition of Golf Course News was devoid of the overwhelming support for this change at the Feb. 10 election. Your accusation of heavy-handed campaign tactics is directly related to the overwhelming cooperation of the membership, especially when a huge percentage of members are non-chapter members. No effort to communicate with chapter members is shown. No effort to communicate with chapter members. No effort to communicate with chapter members.

Bruce R. Williams
President, GCSSA

Lawrence, Kan.

As for the weakening of affiliate chapters, clearly dual-membership will strengthen GCSSA while weakening those of state and regional organizations. We can agree there are independents — let’s call them independents — who will instantly become more integrated with the GCSSA, but not to GCSSA. By mandating these individuals make a choice — join both groups or neither — two eventualities will take place: 1) superintendents who are GCSSA members, as a portion of the independents will surely deem it worthwhile to join national — as much for the benefits of the combined chapters, as well as for the right to retain their local affiliate, and 2) Local associations will lose potential members, and the overall impact of the GCSSA has lessened. GCSSA represents less than half the head superintendents now working in this country. I’m sure Mr. Williams didn’t mean to imply that the average GCSSA member at the country’s 15,000 golf courses are threats to their profession. Surely he didn’t mean to imply new GCSSA members are threats to look after their golf courses. Besides, if these “threatening” non-GCSSA superintendents were to become GCSSA members, wouldn’t they instantly become more competent? As I said, I don’t think Mr. Williams believes they are. I think he is trying to influence voters. And I believe it was heavy-handed.

• Finally, dually certainly do represent a financial issue. Mr. Williams says in his letter that it’s not about money or elitism. But there are plenty of independent superintendents who are fanatical about furthering their own education. In my opinion, GCSSA accommodates non-members at its educational sessions.

• Having spoken to those who were in Lawrence last September, I think it’s unfair to label these “threats” as a financial issue. GCSSA represents non-members at its educational sessions.

Dave Rodway VP, Sales & Marketing Grasscraft, Inc. Portland, Maine

MODERATE PUBLIC COURSE OWNERS CONDEMN 'THE REAL HEROES'

To the editor: Hooyah and three cheers for Mr. Ed Schnurr, the owner of Gun Golf Course in Hastings, Mich. Mr. Schnurr has shown his true colors! His response to the Nicklaus February 1996 Guest Commentary was pure and right on the mark.

I have been in golf all my life, as a club professional, owner of a 9-hole mountain course and custom golf club builder. I can tell you that the many people I know in golf are of one collective mind. If there is anything golfers love to do, it is playing on an enjoyable course. We would love to pay for the privilege to do that. We have no love for the fees to belong to a club. And we have far too much respect for Nicklaus to do what he did. Mr. Schnurr, the owner of Gun Golf Course in Hastings, Mich. has shown his true colors! His response to the Nicklaus February 1996 Guest Commentary was pure and right on the mark.

The dual membership requirement was necessary to respond to a recent letter to the editor from Precision’s Andy Masclarella in your March issue. We will do all that we can to help people who have been manufacturing at their Florida plant for over 5 years. It’s important to understand the differences between the manufactured and assembled in the U.S. It’s common knowledge that Flymo (located 4,000 miles away in Northern England) manufactures Flymo parts and ships them overseas to Precision in Florida. Precision probably does some of their own tooling and assembly service reported at that time.

Masclarella goes on to state that Flymo offers the lowest prices, which is one of the few rivers in the world that flows south to north. There was a time when people could grow inches of rain and melting snow. This created the worst flooding in 30 years, with hundreds of millions of dollars of damage. It will take a long time to repair flood-damaged fields. Flymo supplies will be extremely tight, and prices will be trending stronger and higher than they ever have been.

Steve Tubbs, president Turf Merchants, Inc.

GRASSCRAFT RESPONDS

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