

NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

Who Knows Best What Members Want?

It has been the general notion for years that a good club should be run by the officers setting the policies and the department chairmen and their operating executives figuring the budget and methods of applying the policies.

One Midwest pro recently criticized this practice, telling GOLFDOM:

"I am better qualified to decide club policies than our president is. I know the members and their likes and dislikes about the club, their wants and needs better than anyone on our board. I have a fair idea of what members can spend on golf. I think our manager has similar infor-

mation from his viewpoint. The superintendent does not get as close to the members as the manager and I do, but he knows more about what our men and women members want the course to be than any of our directors, including the green chairman.

"I think that the mistakes which have caused the most complaints and wasted the most money were errors the pro, manager and superintendent were against from the start. The reason our losses last year were reduced and programs altered was because our officials paid more attention to department heads on policy matters before any trouble got too strong."



Touring pro Pat Fitzsimons tried out his putter recently while (from left) touring pro Dave Glenz, Dr. Fred Grau and Bill Rose, vice-president of Tee-2-Green Corp., Kansas City, Mo., look on before the start of a Musser Foundation Tournament held on the West Coast. The tourney was played at Illahe Hills Country Club, Salem, Ore. The Foundation was established in honor of the late Prof. H. Burton Musser for his pioneer contributions to the turfgrass field. The Foundation was organized with the express purpose of further developing turfgrass research and education through the establishment of fellowships at institutions of higher learning. Bad weather accounted for fewer players than expected, but the first West Coast Musser Foundation Tournament raised over \$500 for the Musser Fund. The tournament was sponsored by Tee-2-Green, marketers of Penncross bentgrass.

Will EPA Seek Endrin Ban?

There is a strong probability that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will seek to ban use of endrin if registrations of chlordane and heptachlor are cancelled.

Pesticides continue to be a major industry problem with the EPA. Last year the agency cancelled the registrations of aldrin and dieldrin. Hearings are now being held on the suspension of manufacture and distribution of chlordane and heptachlor.

Another important issue with the EPA is certification of pesticide applicators, according to a spokesman for the American Association of Nurserymen. Present law requires states to have approved plans for certification of commercial and private applicators in effect by October. Pending in the House of Representatives are two proposals by the Agricultural Committee concerning this program.

The first would delay implementation of this portion of the law for one year. The other proposal would permit licensing of private applicators upon their own certification that they are experienced in the use and application of pesticides and will apply the pesticide in accordance with label instructions.

Petition to Lessen Depth Of Underground Cables Filed

A petition to lessen the depth of underground low voltage cables in golf course irrigation is being filed with the National Fire Protection Association by the Golf Course Builders of America.

The builders are urging 13 other trade groups in the golf and landscape industries to join them in requesting that the present 24-inch requirement is unnecessary for open spaces such as golf courses, parks and recreation areas. Until recently, underground control wires were buried 12 inches. The wiring activates valves and starts irrigation pumps.

Nick A. Siemens of Fresno, Calif., a golf course contractor and GCBA president-elect, is directing action to change the national electrical code requirements. He has pointed out that golf course construction costs would increase because of the tremendous irrigation

footage involved in the automatic irrigation system which requires from 10 to 40 miles of wire. In addition to higher costs, Siemens said construction and maintenance hazards would result.

The association will formally ask the National Electrical Code Committee when it meets in December to amend Exception 3 of Section 300-5 of the National Electrical Code to add golf courses to the exception now provided for residential branch circuits of 300 volts or less.

Harry J. Lambeth, executive director of GCBA's Washington office, has urged other golf associations to join the effort. For additional information on code standards, contact Richard Lloyd, 1285 Walt Whitman Rd., Melville, Long Island, N.Y., 11746, chairman of Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.

Golf Car Industry Injured, Government Says on Import

The federal International Trade Commission has ruled that some electric golf cars imported into the country from Poland being sold at "less than fair value" have injured the American golf car industry. The cars have been imported by Melex, U.S.A., Inc., Raleigh, N.C.

The ruling from the ITC has not been published in the Federal Register yet, according to Donald Schreiber, operations officer for the U.S. Customs Service. Clem W. Sharek, executive vice president of Melex, said his company had been notified that golf cars being imported into the country by his company would be assessed dumping duties. He said a figure was not yet decided upon. Schreiber said it might take until the middle of next year to decide what duties would be assessed.

Sharek said his company was still importing golf cars into the country, and that his company has to put up a bond on the cars until the case is finally settled. He said the cars are still being sold. The published price of 1976 Melex golf cars is \$1,695 for its three-wheel models and \$1,765 for its four-wheel models. The highest-priced retail car in the industry for major manufacturers is E-Z Go's model at \$2,042. The lowest-priced model of the majors is Harley-Davidson's new DE-40 at \$1,560.



M. O. Lee, chairman of The Lee Co., Shawnee Mission, Kan., recently signed an agreement to be official sponsors of the Eighth Annual PGA Club Professional Golf Tournament to be held this month at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia. With Lee were Charles Van Dyne, Lee golf line manager (left) and William McKenna, president.

Japanese Beetle No Longer Worst Pest

No longer is the Japanese beetle the most obnoxious summer insect pest. Rapidly taking over the number one spot is a newcomer — *Ataenius Spretulus* — a grub only about one-tenth the size of the beetle.

The grub has emerged throughout the East as one of the most destructive grubs ever to be coped with, it was reported in the newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Wide-spread infestations have been noted on many golf courses, taking on the appearance of wilted-out patches ranging in size from four inches to two feet in diameter. Another tell-tale sign is any area birds begin to chew up that is wilted in appearance.

The insects are located in the soil immediately below the thatch, ranging in number from 20 to 150 individual grubs per square foot. The grub is attracted to any poorly drained area. The mature insect is black and difficult to see without close observation.

The eastern region of the USGA Greens Section reports: "Preliminary findings indicate that the best time to apply Diazinon or Dursban for control is late May.

"With specific research lacking, the rates are given at tentatively Diazinon at four pounds active per acre and Dursban at two pounds active per acre. Aeration and/or spiking of infested areas prior to application of the insecticide is recommended. Wetting agents to further aid in the penetration of the insecticides may be helpful. The insecticides must also be watered in very well. Insecticides are most effective when applied to young stages of insect development. Presently there appears to be only one annual brood."

Turf damage from *Ataenius Spretulus* is being reported all along the east coast, predominantly in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Delaware.