

# News

## ASSOCIATIONS

### PGA pays only cost of headquarters for new complex; federal OK needed

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The price couldn't be much more attractive for the Professional Golfers' Association's proposed new headquarters complex in North Palm Beach, Fla. Much of the ground for the massive project, however, is cypress-covered wetland; this means the federal government must examine plans for potential environmental hazards before construction can begin.

Developer E. Lloyd Eccelstone Jr. has purchased 2,300 acres west of the Florida Turnpike directly across from the one-time association headquarters at Palm Beach Gardens before it moved to Lake Park in 1973. The association will get just less than one-quarter of that land to house its headquarters, hall of fame, university and educational center, national golf club, library, museum, and three championship golf courses.

Fred Fetterly, Eccelstone's public relations agent, said the agreement allows the PGA to own the 625 acres and its headquarters building, and they will pay for and maintain the latter. Eccelstone owns all the other buildings and is leasing them to the PGA for 99 years. In return, Eccelstone will construct the three golf courses and the PGA will lease to him the 620 acres on which they will be situated.

The kicker for Eccelstone is the potential profit he can earn by building a resort complex. It will include a 200- to 300-room hotel, tennis courts, a number of swimming pools, a health spa, and an executive health clinic. Eccelstone also plans to build single- and multi-family homes on the remaining 1,675 acres. Fetterly told GOLF BUSINESS that the complex should be in operation by late 1979 and ready for the 1980 PGA Merchandise Show.

Eccelstone is known in south Florida for putting together extravagant residential-recreational communities and this venture seems to have similar proportions. The estimated construction cost of the PGA buildings and the three par-72 courses is \$15 million. Once the residential complex is finished, the financial investment

may rival Eccelstone's \$75 million condominium-marina-tennis club community, Old Port Cove, also in North Palm Beach.

It is uncertain how much the land cost Eccelstone to buy from John D. MacArthur, owner of Bankers Life and Casualty and the Royal American Land companies. No PGA or Eccelstone spokesmen would confirm the \$30 million purchase price reported by the Palm Beach Post.

The choice of this site over four others is also somewhat a mystery, but Fetterly said he believes cost and proximity to the turnpike and the Palm Beach International Airport were the primary reasons.

Eccelstone hopes to begin work on the PGA complex in about a year and certainly have the golf courses ready to host the 1983 Ryder Cup. He has named George and Tom Fazio the golf course architects, the West Palm Beach firm of Schwab and Twitty architects for the association's buildings, and Edward Durell Stone Jr. of Fort Lauderdale as land planner.

Fetterly said the proposed groundbreaking date has been scheduled to allow time for local and state approval of the plans. Although officials said they foresaw no major obstacles in getting the go-ahead, problems concerning the wetlands' ability to support the development surfaced almost immediately after plans were announced.

"The land lies in a portion of what the local people call the 'Loxahatchee Slew,'" said Mike Slayton of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Miami office. "It's a large wetlands area; it rains often and there's a lot of water when it does rain," he said. Since the corps' engineers have not yet reviewed the land, it's not known if water could be drained adequately or how much such facilities would cost.



*If all goes according to plan, developer E. Lloyd Eccelstone Jr. (left) will construct the new PGA headquarters on land next to that which the PGA was evicted from 5 years ago, land purchased from the man who evicted the association. But the price is right for the PGA, and Eccelstone stands to make a substantial sum from the resort-residential community he plans to build around the PGA complex.*

The site may also be challenged by the Florida Wildlife Federation at its September 17 meeting in Palm Beach. John Jones, the group's executive director, said he opposes any idea to fill the wetlands with materials that would prevent water from forming the area's natural swamps and ponds. He also claims that wildlife would be endangered.

## SAFETY

### Pesticides linked to cancer, sterility

During a two-week span in August, it was discovered that a chemical in pesticides used by some golf course superintendents was suspected to cause cancer and sterility in males. No incidents of ill effects were found among persons who apply the pesticides containing dibromochloropropane, known as DBCP. But the government is not yet certain if they could be affected and Michael Snyder, a California health official, has advised superintendents not to use the pesticides.

The production of Fumazone was stopped after the Dow Chemical Co. found 12 of 14 persons it tested at an Arkansas plant were sterile. Shell Chemical Co. halted the making of Nemagon and the state of California banned the chemical's sale after test results were announced.

Shortly thereafter, individual scientists linked the chemical to cancer in humans, about 4 years after it was found to cause stomach cancer in rats. Boris Osheroff, an environmental officer with the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, said scientists in the National Cancer Institute had not yet reached a consensus on DBCP's carcinogenic possibilities.

Yet the federal government is concerned enough to include persons who apply the pesticides in upcoming tests. Those individuals will be tested by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health in early September.

The pesticides in question are used to kill nematodes along coastal regions from North Carolina to Alabama. Spokesmen for the

government and a manufacturer indicated that persons who administer the pesticides could be harmed.

"If people come into contact with DBCP, they are running a risk," said Jennifer Read, a public information officer with the U.S. Department of Labor. Said William Seward, public relations manager for Dow's agricultural products department: "The possibility exists that inhalation is sufficient for danger."

But their warnings were diluted by persons involved in the day-to-day use of the pesticides.

The marketing vice president of Southern Mill Creek Products Co., a Tampa, Fla., firm which distributes and applies Fumazone, said it would continue to serve its 100 to 150 golf course customers.

William Broome told GOLF BUSINESS that the soil fumigant is almost always injected underground by a machine, a method which minimizes contact. He felt that only those persons who sprayed or "drenched" their greens and fairways might be harmed.

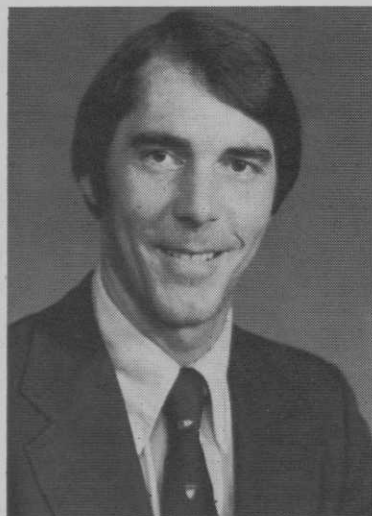
Dr. Grover Smart, a University of Florida nematology professor, agreed. "It seems to me it would be safe to use on turf. On food crops, that's something else." He said he didn't know of any course operators in Florida who "drenched" their course.

Superintendents wondering what advice to follow will get help from the federal government. The first step was expected by Labor Day when the Occupational Safety and Health Administration proposed to set emergency temporary standards on pesticides with DBCP.

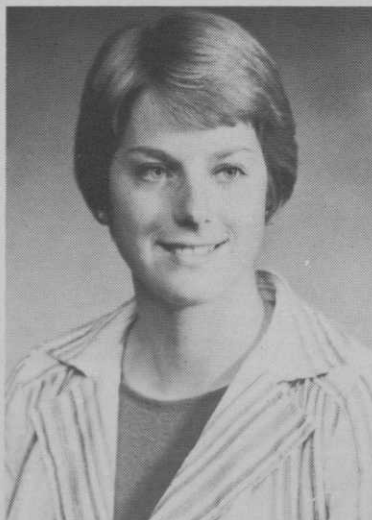
## ASSOCIATIONS

### GCSAA realignment to promote show

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has reorganized its administrative staff in order to promote its annual International Turfgrass Conference and Show and recruit new members more effectively.



Brooks



Storm

James R. Brooks will direct the new department of Chapter and Industrial Relations. He will contact potential exhibitors and manage the GCSAA-sponsored conference and show to be held at February in San Antonio.

Brooks, the director of membership services since 1974, will also work to attract new members and will begin his drive in the Southwest since the conference and show will be held in that region.

The second change combines the departments of membership and administrative services. It will continue to provide employment referral and other services to GCSAA members. Janie Storm is the director.

## CONVENTIONS

### IRS, Labor chiefs to address NCA

Seminars with leaders from the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Department of Labor, plus a luncheon with members of Congress, will highlight the annual National Club Association convention and exposition October 6-8 at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The event begins at 2 p.m. Thursday with a discussion on the recent challenges to the admission policies of private clubs. The seminar, titled "Is The Right to Restrict Still Valid?," will last 2 hours. From 4:30-5:30, members can meet with the club's executive committee, division councils, and legal counsel.

A welcoming reception will be held in conjunction with the club's second annual exposition from 6-7:30 p.m. to cap the first day's activities, but the exhibits will again be open from 10 a.m.-noon Friday.

The convention's second day will begin with a continental breakfast and seminar from 8:45-10:00 a.m. A speech, "What the Internal Revenue Service Sees Ahead for Private Clubs," will be given by Edward D. Coleman, technical chief for the IRS's exempt organizations division. A question and answer period will follow.

After the exposition closes, buses will take the conventioners to the Senate caucus room to meet and dine with members of Congress. It is uncertain which congressmen will attend the luncheon, but a number of Senate leaders and congressmen from the club members' home districts have been invited, said Steve Ahlberg, association director for public affairs.

Persons will be driven back to the hotel to attend two seminars at 3:45 p.m. One is to inform newly-elected officers about taxes, liability, and other job responsibilities. The other seminar, for the experienced manager, will feature James Suntum, the Labor Department's chief of its wage-hour coverage and exemption branch.

This workshop will later split into two groups to discuss financial obligations and options toward the club's golf pro and food and