

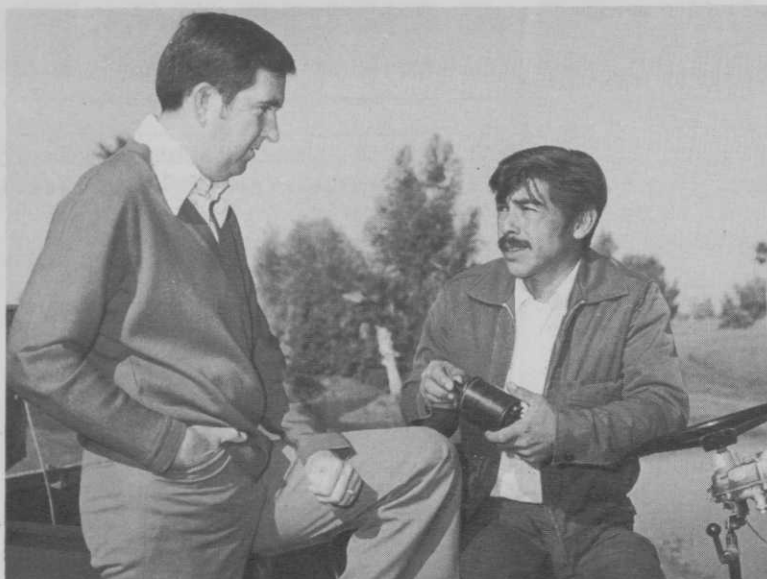
Viewpoint

Professional to superintendent: "let's cooperate"

The essence of communication and cooperation between the superintendent and the head professional is teamwork: a team effort for a well-manicured golf course. Only through teamwork will the golf course be what both persons want it to be, and then what the player wants it to be.

Both the superintendent and the professional have important input for the betterment of the course. The superintendent should be qualified to give that input from years of experience and proper training from qualified teachers, such as previous superintendents at other golf courses. Training and turfgrass knowledge is also received through possible inspections and recommendations by the USGA Green Section. The superintendent gains invaluable information through dealings with the Green Section.

The professional mainly derives his input through the eyes of a golfer, and sometimes sees problems that the superintendent does not. The professional has a few sources:



Roger Maxwell meets regularly with Lupe Ruiz, superintendent at Marriott's course in Arizona, Camelback Country Club.

comments from players, his staff of assistants, and the head professional himself.

Comments and observations by your membership or players should not dictate to you what needs to be done to improve your course. However, if the comments should follow some kind of pattern, then you should look into the possibility that there is indeed a problem that needs correcting. These comments are coming from golfers, and they notice areas that need improving when their ball is affected: grass in a bunker hindering their lie, soft spots where their ball plugs and is lost, hard pan around cart paths that cause their ball to bounce out of bounds, etc.

The head professional's staff of assistants have seen other courses, hopefully ones of championship caliber, and can use this background to help improve and beautify your own course. Generating ideas and variations in design and procedures from other golf courses is a valuable tool toward perfection of your own course.

The head professional now has gathered comments, observations, and examples from a couple of sources and now uses his own professional knowledge and preferences to sift through this abundance of ideas to form his own recommendations, the final recommendations, to give to the superintendent. There are a couple of ways to complete the communication process between the pro and superintendent:

1) Written messages, such as memorandums, clearly state the message so both parties understand what is to be done, and possibly recommendations as to the procedure or time period when it should be implemented.

2) Course inspections. Periodically the pro and the superintendent should inspect the entire golf course. By inspecting the course together, both persons can see first hand improvements that are in the process and areas that need to be corrected or improved.

Communication and cooperation between professional and superintendent is most important. Communication as to the timing of the winter seeding program is a good example. There is usually a 4- or 5-week period that is the optimum time to reseed the golf course with winter ryegrass or other type

of seed. The superintendent will know within a couple of days when to start this program. If the professional has arranged for an important tournament on the day that the seeding program is starting, then there will be a conflict.

Communication and teamwork would be able to resolve this problem. One way to insure that the reseeding does not start too soon; or that the course is in the best condition possible, is to send the superintendent a calendar of events for each month. This way the superintendent will have time to get certain problem areas taken care of and will have the course looking good.

There are a couple of different arrangements as to the working relationships between the superintendent and the professional. At some clubs the head professional is the superintendent's boss, and at some courses (like city or county courses) the superintendent does not have to answer to the head professional for anything. The latter situation makes it tougher for good communication and cooperation, but in order for the facility to run smoothly, the teamwork is still needed very badly. You may need to sit down over lunch and talk things out, or whatever is necessary in order to get that good working relationship. A smooth running operation combined with a well-manicured golf course make for an excellent golf facility, a goal for which all should strive.

Roger Maxwell
Director of golf
Marriott Hotels and Resorts

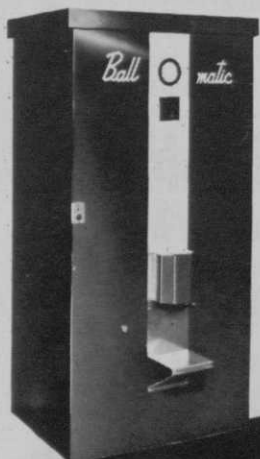
**the
silent
Partner**

Ballomatic

This all-purpose, self contained golf ball dispenser automatically washes, counts, stores and dispenses balls into baskets for your customers! Operates by coins, tokens or remote control.

CALL or WRITE!

Ask for FREE literature and details on BALL-O-MATIC and BUCKET BOY golf ball dispensers.
PH. (219) 234-0075



TEUTONIX INC.
P.O. Box 1895
South Bend, IN 46634