

Zoppo they were all Board members!

Al Watson would be very receptive to any volunteer for next year. Work something up you have an entire year to perfect it. Let's hear from you older more experienced men as well as the young Turks.

This will be the last newsletter until after the National Conference. Let's have a record turnout from the Mid-Atlantic, go get educated and support our candidate for National Director, George Cleaver.

George Thompson, President
MAGCS

BIG BOB

At the conference, Bob Shields from Woodmont C.C. had the surprise of his life. He received the Superintendent of the Year Award from the MAGCSA. This award is NOT given each year, but only when an individual should happen to merit getting it. It just so happened that this year, Bob happened to be "the one". Bob was very surprised and very unsuspecting which added to the fun of presenting it to him. Congratulations, Bob!!

SOMEONE ELSE

In case you missed it, there was a mailing sent out by the National in December concerning the resignation of Ben Chlevin as the Executive Director of the GCSAA. The notice mentioned Ben was going into the advertising business and we wish him the best of luck in his new field of endeavor. Incidentally, the notice also mentioned that the Association was interested in locating someone to fill the vacancy and that if anyone had any suggestions to send them along to Des Plaines. Any ideas?

THAT HAUNTING RECURRENCE

(From the New England GCSA Newsletter)

Every year at that point when the frost begins to visit the pumpkin, a haunting recurrence pops up to make uneasy the golf course superintendent's life when things should be leveling off.

The drag on the scene, of course, is the usual hair-raised reaction by certain golfers to use the temporary greens. While the super is trying to use the foresight of a technician in protecting the regular putting surfaces, often times his efforts are thwarted.

Thwarted by whom? Sometimes, they are referred to as the "dirty dozen", that hard-core

insignificant percentage of the golfing membership who believe that the course is their playground and that the playground's open all year.

The case for temporary greens already has been established. No less an authority on the subject of regulating turf condition than Dr. Fred Grau has made the temporary green and playing restriction problems one of his special projects and has issued the following advice to those superintendents who are harried by the situation:

"I would propose that this sign be displayed at the country club at that time of year when playing conditions are unpredictable:

'In the interests of all the members and in an attempt to preserve the high quality of our greens, the course is closed to play until conditions warrant resumption of traffic.

'Foot and wheel traffic on frozen grass causes the grass to turn brown and die. Ice crystals within the grass blades are distorted and rupture living cells, causing death.

'When the frost is thawed by the sun the greens remain overly wet for a short time. In this condition foot traffic can cause severe damage by breaking roots, creating compaction, and footprinting so badly that pleasurable putting is not possible.

'Every effort is made to keep the course continuously playable, but when Nature fails to cooperate and brings frost or floods we have no choice but to limit play. The understanding and consideration of the members are greatly appreciated.' "

Dr. Grau's suggestion seems highly practical at this time and an offshoot of that is an overall realignment of the calendar boundaries which cover the length of the season.

Although the membership probably would revolt at such a proposal, it isn't all that alarming to look upon the future of golf as having a regulated season with definite dates for opening and closing, the latter coming no matter what the weather conditions might be.

Just as long as the "dirty dozen" are allowed to dictate the policy of course conditioning, the act becomes discriminatory since it endangers the future playing conditions of the 400 or so other members who chose to view the length of the season with common sense and foresight.

Temporary or alternate greens. This is only half of the problem. Members, though, continue to be the victims of attempts to curb the use of them. Here is one instance where the majority should not be silent and should be heard. . .and it should rule.

Gerry Finn.