

GCSANJ Seeks Recognition

Is Our Work Unnoticed

Prior to the recent U.S. Open at Baltusrol, our State Association decided to present a plaque to Joe Flaherty recognizing his time and effort in providing the best of playing conditions for that most prestigious Event. They had hoped time would be allotted during the closing ceremonies for that presentation but met with much rebuttal from the USGA. The following two letters should give some background into these Events:

June 4, 1980

Mr. Will F. Nicholson, Jr., President
Colorado National Bankshares, Inc., Box 5168
Denver, Colorado 80217
Dear Mr. Nicholson:

Thank you for your prompt reply to Dr. Indyk's letter. I would just like to pass along to you how many of my profession and I feel about this situation.

I would like basically to cover your two points of "analysis and review in two areas." Although the U.S.G.A. sets the standards for the tournament, it is the Superintendent that brings the course up to meet and maintain those standards. I am sure you will agree that most courses chosen for the Open have a capable Superintendent. The level of excellence should be obtained long before the tournament. The U.S.G.A. executive committee evaluates the course long before the first ball is struck or it is not doing its job effectively.

Adverse weather conditions, mainly rain, have nothing to do with the many hours, weeks, and years the Superintendent puts into the preparation of the course. Although rain may change the playing surface on any given day or days, it cannot change what has taken years to prepare. I am sure you would also agree that the Superintendent's career is on the line with a tournament of this magnitude.

The men in our profession (Golf Course Superintendents) must have a strong love for their work in order to excel. The U.S. Open is the epitome of all major tournaments. A few minutes of recognition seems a small reward for so many years of work. I am sorry to say that our profession needs public recognition rather than peer recognition. Since the inception of television and Arnold Palmer, golf has become a major sport. The golf pro has received this recognition and deservedly so. Yet we who are responsible for the playing conditions that have changed so drastically for the better, remain basically as before, in the background.

I don't mean to sound like sour grapes or go into the history of our profession, but we are human, and recognition and reward are part of our society. It appals me to know that the U.S.G.A. will not find two or three minutes in the closing program for a man who has worked years for them; not to mention all the other Superintendents who will never have a major tournament and would love to see one of their ranks and profession recognized.

Sincerely,
Jack Martin, President, GCSANJ

May 30, 1980

Dr. Henry W. Indyk, Executive Director
Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey
Cook College - Rutgers University, Box 231
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903
Dear Dr. Indyk:

Yesterday I received my copy of your letter of May 22, to Al Radko. Thank you for having sent it to me. Since receiving it, I have reviewed your comments with Golf House and have been read a copy of the letter in response that Al is sending to you. I do not think it necessary for me to go into any of the points other than the subject of a presentation to the Superintendent at the Awards Ceremony following the completion of play.

By electing not to make an award to the Superintendent of the course which hosts the Championship just ended, it is not the intent of the Executive Committee of the USGA to detract from the Superintendent in any manner whatsoever. We do so, because we believe very strongly that proper preparation of a Championship course is based on analysis and review in two areas. The first of these is the preparation of the course and its condition prior to the commencement of play. This preparation concerns itself with the setting up of the course as required by the USGA and then bringing the course to the appropriate standards we have established after 86 years of conducting national championships. The second is the review of conditions during the actual playing of the championship. This second review is particularly critical if there are adverse weather conditions with which the players and the superintendent and his staff must contend. Obviously, based on this second review, it is impossible to judge the level of excellence attained by a Superintendent until after completion of 72 holes of play by all of the players in the field. On the other hand, it is necessary to schedule the events at the Awards Ceremony before commencement of play on the final day. The Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association, therefore, believes it inappropriate to schedule an award to a Superintendent by scheduling that award at a time prior to when an appropriate total evaluation can be made. We believe that it is appropriate to recognize those Superintendents truly deserving such recognition at the Educational conference of the Green Section held in conjunction with our Annual Meeting each year.

Although I have not had the privilege of seeing Baltusrol, I am told Joe Flaherty has it in superb condition and that by the opening of play on June 12, it will meet and may even surpass all the criteria we lay down for the preparation of a championship course. Also, please rest assured that if the course and its condition meets our high standards before and during play, I will duly recognize Joe and his work at the Awards Ceremony. This recognition, if made, will give strong public recognition as well as peer recognition to Joe. I trust that you would agree that praise and recognition which has been earned for work accomplished is far more important than praise and recognition which has been expected.

In closing, on behalf of all of us at the USGA, please accept my thanks for the interest you take in our events and for the great service you give to golf through your work and dedication to the work of Golf Course Superintendents. I would look forward to an opportunity to meet you at Baltusrol the week after next.

Sincerely,
Will F. Nicholson, Jr., President USGA

The following is a statement Jack Martin prepared for this publication explaining the final outcome of our Association's efforts in this matter.

I'm sure that you all realize that our profession needs more image, recognition and the like. Particularly, we can use public recognition, such as the golf Pros get, especially

during major tournaments. In the past, the man who works years to prepare a course for a major tournament may not even get his name mentioned.

Since neither the G.C.S.A.A. nor the U.S.G.A. chose to present a plaque for recognition of the Superintendent at the U.S. Open, your President and Executive Director decided to try to obtain this recognition for Joe Flaherty and our profession. We started preparation for presenting Joe with a plaque from our State Association in February. We had much correspondence with both Al Radko and Will Nicholson, the President of the U.S.G.A., to no avail. We then met with those two and the director of Golf House at Baltusrol on the Saturday during the tournament. I spoke with Mr. Nicholson as late as Sunday, the final day of the tournament. Although we were unable to present this plaque of recognition to Joe, he did receive a substantial amount of recognition not only during the tournament, but at the closing ceremonies. We can't help but feel that our efforts helped. We also feel that the G.C.S.A.A. should be doing more toward these ends. Incidentally, the G.C.S.A.A. received copies of all our correspondence in this matter. Hopefully, our efforts will be rewarded by further recognition of our profession in the future and at future major tournaments.

Jack Martin, President

As you may realize, our Association President, Jack Martin, and our Executive Director, Henry Indyk, had other verbal and written communications with both Al

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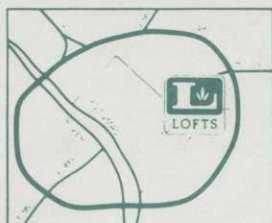
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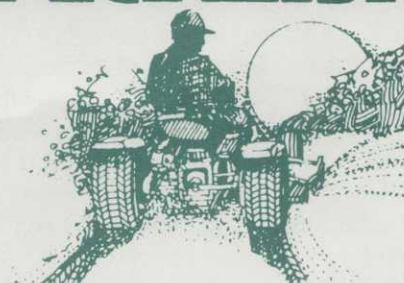
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Radko, Green Section Director, and Will Nicholson, Jr., USGA President before the final decision was made on Saturday of the Open week. They had made the initial contact early in the year and as I am hopeful you will agree made every attempt possible to assure Joe Flaherty receive the recognition he so deserved.

It is my opinion that two major accomplishments were made by the present administration: first, their continued effort throughout this entire matter, never being defeated or taking no for an answer; and second, the final outcome, although not being what had originally been hoped for, was improved recognition for one of our peers. Recognition we hope will grow as we as professionals will continue to grow in the future.

On behalf of the Greener Side I want to thank Jack Martin and Henry Indyk for their perseverance in this matter. Their collective pursuit to improve our professional image is one we should all stand behind.

Reprint from the GREENER SIDE, New Jersey Association; Jack Martin, President; Ed Walsh, Editor.

1980 Meetings and Dates to Remember

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| October 14 | Hillendale Country Club
Phoenix, Maryland
Michael Larsen — Host
Annual Superintendents Tournament |
| Nov. 11 | Chevy Chase Club
Chevy Chase, Maryland
William J. Emerson — Host |
| Dec. 9 | U. S. Naval Academy Golf Club
Annapolis, Maryland
Election Meeting
Michael B. McKenzie — Host |

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