

## An Architect's View Multiple Tees

by Bob Lohmann  
(continued from May Issue)

The tees begin to show wear about midway through the season, and if they are too small, the continued beating creates an eyesore that never has a chance to recover until fall when the golfing season is over. At this time, if the tee is only resurfaced and not enlarged, the problem reoccurs the following season. If a country club would spend the time and money to enlarge the tees properly, or better yet, to design and build additional tees, the wear problem would be alleviated. If properly planned and executed, the design of the golf hole could be improved at the same time. With the addition of multiple tees, the golf hole can vary in length and also in the line of attack. With the new golf equipment and the better caliber of golf being played, shorter golf courses must change from being a challenge of length to being a challenge of shot making.

The good golf course is challenging and fair for all golfers and not always penal to the higher handicapper. The new tees should be placed relative to the location of the fairway hazards and landing areas. The tee locations are based upon the length of the golfers' tee shot. A suggested range would be as follows:

Back tee — 225 to 275 yards  
Middle tee — 175 to 225 yards  
Front tee — 125 to 175 yards

Usually the tees would be placed so the fairway hazards come into play for tee shots landing in the latter part of each tee range. It is impractical and impossible to set up each hole the same for each golfer from each tee. But with the use of multiple tees, the shorter hitters are provided a fair and reasonable length golf course.

Each tee should be built large enough to allow for two and possibly three sets of tee markers to be placed on it. Depending on the wind direction and velocity, the pin placement on the green and the caliber of the golfer on the tee, the markers can be set up to create a difficult or easy golf hole.

Many clubs contend that because of the limited amount of play on their courses, the tees do not need to be very large. But in the last 10 years, even though the U.S. population has grown by only 10.5 percent, the number of frequent golfers has risen to 30 percent.

## Have We Forgotten Where We Started?

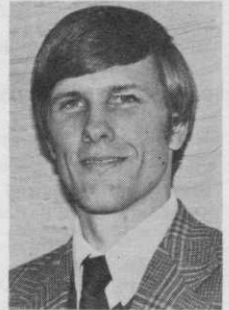
by Bill Neus

Many superintendents started as seasonal golf course workers, acquired an interest, went to turf school, became an assistant, and finally landed a head job. Now you are a successful superintendent (we hope). But let me take you back to the days of yesteryear when you were an assistant. You remember, don't you? Was it really that long ago? Let me help you, then. Long days, hard work, low pay, more was expected of you than of the other employees. Things haven't changed a bit, have they? Weren't those also the days that you began forming your opinions of the association, what it did for you and what your role could be? What? You say you didn't think about it that much and very seldom went to a meeting because your boss didn't make it seem very important and you really couldn't afford those expensive dinners at a gathering of people you hardly knew.

So now that you are a superintendent, how do you treat your assistant with regard to his (or her) involvement in our organization? My feeling is that the vast majority of superintendents don't stress their assistant's involvement at all. Here are some of the reasons I've heard: 1) I hired an assistant to be there when I'm not. I can't imagine that your operation would fall apart if you both missed part of one day in a month. 2) I don't have enough money in the budget to pay for his dues and meetings. Well, I'm sure we all waste enough money somewhere in our budgets to more than cover the yearly costs. The association is there if he wants to take advantage of it. That's real encouragement if I ever heard it. 3) He just isn't interested. In this case either you haven't stressed the importance very well or maybe your assistant should be in the computer field. Aren't these the people who will run our organization in the near future? Let's face it, we as superintendents have a duty to make sure our assistants are exposed to the association and how we conduct business. They don't exist just to mop up behind us. They are part of the whole and have a lot to offer.

Now, after making a plea for more involvement by assistants, I'll pose a larger question. Why should they? What does the Mid-Atlantic offer them? Well, we have our continuing education, ladies night, picnic, monthly meetings, etc. But isn't this all set in the world of the superintendent? Can the assistant really be comfortable and feel welcome? I think not. If you don't believe me ask a few assistants. Should we offer an apprentice-type program specifically designed for assistants? How about an article each month in the newsletter by assistants for assistants? How about an assistant speaking at the annual turf conference? Maybe a golf tournament just for assistants?

We can and should do more. Some superintendents tell me that the association is here and anyone can take advantage if they want. But if you don't promote and market your product, no one will buy it. And let's be honest, we're not doing either. Our association is the product that needs to be promoted. It's up to all of us to make sure that it becomes part of our assistants' job to take part in the association and it's up to the association to focus some attention on an assistants' program.



Combining the probability of an increased amount of golfers and the possibility of creating a variety of golf shots from a single hole, multiple tees are a much-needed improvement for all courses.

New larger multiple tees, if constructed properly, will fit naturally into the site and alleviate the eyesore of a small, square, continuously worn-out tee. Just as the entrance road gives a first impression when arriving at the country club, the tees should set the stage for each golf hole.

(Reprinted from *Divots*, Miami Valley GCSA)

## Meeting Schedule, 1985

- July 9 — Winters Run G.C. (luncheon meeting), John Drew, Host
- August 13 — Bretton Woods, Annual Picnic, Gerry Gerard, Host
- September 10 — Hobbits Glen G.C., Bill Neus, Host
- October 14 — International C.C., Steve Nash, Host
- November 12 — Hunt Valley G.C., Bob Orazi, Host
- December 10 — Naval Academy, Mike McKenzie, Host