Enforcing the Rules... Who Does it at Your Club?

by Ken Ingram
Superintendent, Columbia Country Club

Did you ever sit through a Golf Committee meeting at your club as its members discussed cart rules, starting rules, guest rules, dress code, etc., only to finally say, these rules are fine but who's going to enforce them? I don't think any of our job descriptions point to us as policing agents, but we often find ourselves doing more of the enforcement of rules at our clubs than we like. And, in that regard, don't you get the feeling that, like a lot of the work around a country club, if the grounds crew doesn't do it, then nobody will?

Now that the fuse has been lit, here's an even more pointed question: why do so many private club members despise the idea of marshals or rangers on the course? It could be because they get hassled by them during winter trips to Florida and other places, and they're happy to be home where they can play as slowly as they want. Or, could it be too many of those Top-Flite commercials (OK, hand over them hot balls!)? Look in your club's golf car parking area. If it's like mine, the junkiest cart out there will have “marshal” painted on its side. Marshals may well be the answer to slow play, but most clubs will never bring themselves to go that route.

Country clubs, of course, expect their members to police themselves and those in their foursomes, something that we all know doesn't happen. The system also calls Continued on page 2

Superintendent-Pro Tournament Is At Springfield On May 13

The lush fairways, firm greens, and beckoning lakes of Springfield Golf and Country Club will welcome Mid-Atlantic golf course superintendents and their golf professionals entering the annual MAAGCS Superintendent-Pro tournament on May 13. The field will be limited to the first 50 teams entering, on a first-come, first-served basis, and pairings will be by blind draw. The entry fee of $120 per team covers lunch, range balls, golf car, refreshments on the course, dinner, and prizes. The Clare Emery Memorial Trophy will go to the winning low net team, and Tom Flaske and Glenn Brown of Westwood Country Club will be on hand to defend the title they won in 1985 at Woodmont.

Springfield was built in 1959, having been designed by local architect Eddie Ault and his partner at that time, Al Jamison. Walter Montross is starting his eighth season as golf course superintendent, having previously served as assistant at Washington Golf and Country Club. He is a 1975 graduate of the University of Maryland turf course. His poa annua/bentgrass greens are mowed seven times a week to 5/32", tees and collars three times a week to 3/16", perennial rye fairways three times a week to 3/8", and rough once a week to 2". Quin Sullivan is the popular golf professional at the club.

Directions to Springfield Golf and Country Club are short and simple. Take the Washington Beltway (495) in either direction to the 95S exit. Almost immediately after getting on 95, take the Springfield Exit (Rte. 644), which is Old Keene Mill Road, on which you go almost precisely three miles before reaching the club on the left, just before Keene Mill's intersection with Rolling Road.

The May 13 program is as follows:
- Lunch — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Golf — Shotgun start at 1 p.m.
- Cocktails — 6:30 p.m.
- Dinner — 7:30 p.m. (jacket required; dinner cost for those not in tournament is $20; reservations through 964-0070).

Meeting Schedule 1986

May 13 — Springfield Golf & C.C., Walter Montross, host
June 10 — C.C. of Swan Creek, Daniel Rozinak, host
July 8 — Eisenhower G.C., Louis Rudinski, host
August 12 — Picnic, Hobbit's Glen, Bill Neus, host
September 9 — Open
October 14 — Hidden Creek C.C., Dick Gieselman, host
November 11 — Diamond Ridge, G.C., Howard Gaskill, host
December 9 — Open (Annual election meeting)