

EDITORIAL

On Being Professional

The original professional was someone who had vowed or "professed" to devote his or her life to the service of God. In the 17th and 18th centuries teachers (professors), physicians and lawyers combined with the clergy to form a professional class.

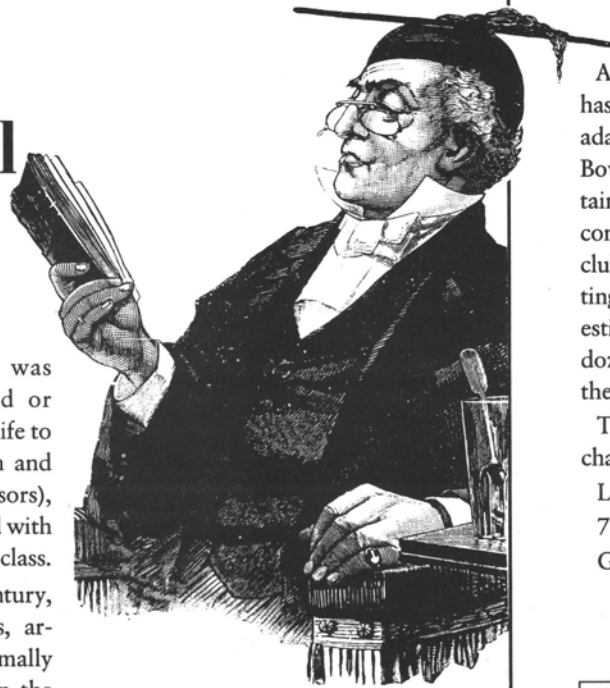
By the beginning of this century, dentists, accountants, engineers, architects and others had been formally added to the list. From then on the meaning of the word - professional - was expanded informally to include other workers who had university degrees or the equivalent. It was suggested that professionals were those who did not dirty their hands in their job.

In sport, professional status separates those who perform for money - today measured in millions - from those who perform for the love of the game.

There is another perception of professionalism, which is that professionals are very good at their work. Hence the expression "a really professional job." It is in this connotation that Sports Turf Managers become truly professional.

Professionals are supposed "to know their stuff." They must have confidence in their own abilities. It is this self-confidence that allows the professional to allow them to break with tried and true techniques in the search of fresh approaches to a problem.

If there is one characteristic of the established professions which sets



them apart from other forms of employment, it is the continual renewal of knowledge and expertise through reading publications, attending conferences, seminars, field days and so forth.

Turf managers nowadays are continually having to learn about new equipment, processes, methods, chemicals. To fail to do so relegates one to menial tasks and denies him or her the classification of professional. Even those in sales are constantly being called upon to learn the intricacies of even more complex product lines.

Education in its many forms, therefore, is the key to professional status. The Sports Turf Association, through its initiatives such as this magazine, strives to fulfil part of that need.

In essence, the professional man or woman is one who behaves professionally, not necessarily one who is certified or licensed by some administrative body. Professionalism cannot be conferred on you by a plaque or slip of paper. It consists of what you expect of yourself.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE

An excellent, comprehensive booklet has been prepared by Lawn Bowls Canada entitled "Getting Started in Lawn Bowls." This 30-page publication contains a wealth of knowledge for anyone considering the starting of a lawn bowls club. It even contains a section on getting the club started and a section on estimates of costs (1991 dollars). A half dozen references are provided for further reading.

This booklet may be obtained free of charge by writing:

Lawn Bowls Canada Boulingrin
708 -1600 James Naismith Drive,
Gloucester, ON. K1B 5N4

GTI Turf Research Field Day

August 19, 1996 is the date of the second Turf Research Field Day to be held at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute in Guelph. The experimental plots will be in their second year of operation.

The day offers an excellent opportunity to see first hand the results of work being conducted on the use of chemicals for pest control, IPM systems, variety trials, chemical movement from the rooting zone and many other items of interest to the turf manager. GTI researchers will be available to answer your many questions.

For further information, call (519) 767-5009.