

In my situation, both signs and verbal instructions were given and, unfortunately, an accident still occurred: a person being struck in the head with a golf club while observing a friend hit balls at the driving range. The range facility was staffed at all times and range rule signs posted. In the 2-1/2 years of operation we had one accident. That accident turned into four years of depositions, attorney meetings, court dates, and settlement conferences before the lawsuit went to trial. After three weeks of testimony at the trial an out-of-court settlement was reached by the insurance company and the plaintiff.

During this period of time it was necessary to rehash, reword, and review the list of range rules to make sure we covered all areas of danger on and around the driving range and golf course facility. We all know that each facility is not the same, but I hope that following suggestions will help make everyone more aware of the dangers we overlook or take for granted. I'm sure these suggestions can be modified, but the intention here is to assist you in establishing your own golf course and driving range rules.

In addition to our standard list of golf course rules I have added a couple that helped to control play and eliminate some problem areas:

- 1) No ice chests or coolers
- 2) No spectator or caddies

Driving range rules:

- 1) When walking to tee area, keep a safe distance behind golfers hitting area
- 2) No one is allowed in front of tee line
- 3) Practice swing on hitting area only
- 4) Aim at targets or center of range
- 5) Shots are played from brush mats only
- 6) Never attempt to retrieve a mis-hit ball
- 7) Never pick up balls on range
- 8) Only one person per hitting stall
- 9) No sitting on barriers or ropes
- 10) Lessons by pro shop staff only
- 11) These rules will be strictly enforced for the safety of range patrons

Also beneficial is an accident/incident report form. I feel it's a very important document to have. Major points would be:

- 1) Name, address, phone
- 2) Date and time of accident
- 3) Type of accident/incident
- 4) Action taken
- 5) Witness(es) address and phone number

Make sure the report is filled out at the time of the accident and keep it on file.

We all know that rules are sometimes overlooked and not given as much attention as they should be. If we all take a few minutes to review our rules and policies, or the lack of them, we can eliminate the possibility of a lengthy and expensive personal injury lawsuit. Remember we are "to make more abundant the pleasures of golfing."

Article submitted by Steve Good, Napa Municipal Golf Course



RECAP OF JANUARY SPEAKER: Our speaker at the January meeting at Crow Canyon CC was **Paul Vermeulen**, from the USGA. The title of his presentation was "Golf Keeps America Beautiful". In regards to Greens Construction there are some basic methods. 1) All are based on soil modification; 2) If a sand base, keep these physical characteristics in mind; a) fine sand does not drain (only 25% of total particle size should be fine sand), b) should be a maximum of 5% silt, 3% clay, c) Pore space-50% pore space is ideal, d) Infiltration rate should be 15 inches/hour, e) should have good moisture retention. 3) Organic Matter-is the % ash left after burning is a measure of silt and clay content; 4) Mix contents off site-Rototilling organic matter into sand does not work; have good drainage-Cambridge drain system can help without rebuilding entire green;

On Top dressing-accomplishes three things; 1) biological control of thatch, 2) Increases surface smoothness; 3) soil modification-builds up a layer of sand over original greens construction. Once you start a top dressing program, stay with the material decided on. Do not change between. In regards to frequency, some top dress in the spring and the fall to correct surface irregularities; some top dress lightly and frequently to correct surface irregularities. This method is preferred for high quality. A light application would be 0.05-0.1 cu. yard/1,000 sq. ft. at 3-5 week intervals.

When aerification takes place, one can either fill or not fill the openings with sand. Most people will fill. In conclusion, follow these pointers for a successful program: 1) plan ahead; 2) don't change unless there is a problem; 3) choose material carefully and watch the sand, silt, clay content.

HOW TO BUILD YOUR ASSOCIATION IN 13 EASY STEPS

1. Attend every Association meeting you can . Your presence is important.
2. Don't find fault with Association operations; rather, try to make suggestions as to workable improvements.
3. Say "yes" when you are asked to serve on a committee or be an officer.
4. If it happens you aren't asked, continue to think up and propose practical suggestions for building the Association, and you'll soon be noticed.
5. After you are named, attend all board or committee meetings.
6. When you attend meetings, sound off on how things should be done inside the meeting, not after you leave.
7. Work for the Association every chance you get: don't criticize the "Old Reliables" but instead join them.
8. Help make sure all meetings, seminars and conferences are, to the best of your ability, worthwhile expenditures of member's money.
9. If meetings are strictly business, use your ability to help reach wise decisions as quickly as possible, then have fun with members when the business is completed.
10. If you are asked to sit at the meeting table, accept gracefully and happily.
11. If you aren't asked to sit there, make good use of the time this gives you to talk shop with others at the table where you are sitting,
12. Pay your dues promptly when notified. You'll know from your own experience how hard it is to draw up the Association's budget, and how every bit of cash flow helps.
13. Read mail from the Association as soon as it arrives. Return phone calls. Reply to questions asked or opportunities offered as soon as possible.

CREDIT; MICHIGAN IRRIGATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP-FEBRUARY 1989

Waiting to take Class B Exam:

J.T. "Ty" Abraham, La Contenta GC, Valley Springs

Members Today- 30 day waiting period up

Class D

Nicholas Checklenis, Los Altos CC

Bill Keller, Boulder Creek G&CC

Carl King, Contra Costa CC, Pleasant Hill

Kibbie W. Jones, Jr. Los Altos

Class F

Jerry Ingledue, Livermore Area Rec. & Park

Cord Bye, Hydrotex Corporation, Salinas

Class D subject to exam for Class A

Paul Gillis, Summitpointe GC, Milpitas

Current 30 day waiting period

Class D

Larry Colvin, Colusa G&CC

Kevin Smith, Moffett Field GC

Transfer

Richard McAllister, Rancho Solano GC, Fairfield

Class F

Mike Eisele, Country Club Sales, Inc. Benicia from Robert A. Love

Charles Messimer, Braman Pipe & Supply from Robert Collinshaw

Bob Whittaker, Western Lawn Equipment Co., Burlingame, from Paul Schaffer

Hal Bonnet, Sierra Chemical Company, Milpitas, from Kathy Hesketh

RESULTS FOR CROW CANYON C.C.

GROSS

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Ray Dickensen | 69 |
| Armando Claudia | 71 |
| John Winscowicz | 73 |
| Steve Good | 73 |
| Ross Brownlie | 74 |
| Don Carter | 75 |
| Doug Poole | 75 |
| Ed Stocke | 76 |

NET

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Ed Zuckerman | 61 |
| George Bell | 65 |
| Al Brownlie | 66 |
| Mike McCraw | 67 |
| Larry Riggio | 67 |
| Mike Ginelli | 67 |
| Marion Harp | 69 |
| Dana Waldor | 69 |
| Denny Plato | 70 |
| Paul Aragon | 70 |
| Bob Dauterman | 70 |
| Joe Blaker | 71 |
| Walt Bray | 71 |
| Don Young | 71 |

NAUMANN'S NORCAL NEWS:

Gale Love is the new Superintendent at Alta Sierra G & CC in Grass Valley. For the last few years he was in charge of maintenance operations for Plant Dynamics of Martinez...**Steve Carlton** has accepted the superintendent position at Sunrise GC in Citrus Heights. Steve was the superintendent at El Macero CC...**Tom Jackson** has left Automatic Rain and is now working for Aeration Industries...A little bit late but **Bob Pederson** has left H. V. Carter of Oakland and is now the sales manager for Jacobsen-Textron in Palm Springs...**Stan Burgess** at Marin CC is happy.

OUR HOST AND HIS COURSE: Our host superintendent, **Ray Sabbaattini**, has spent his life farming. In 1970, Ray was retained as the Golf Construction Supt. and supervised construction of a second 18 holes and stayed on as the Golf course Supt. **Rick Key**, graduated from Chico State University in Biological Science. He worked on the original turkey ranch and has been with Ridgemark for 1 1/2 years. He is a member of GCSANC.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

As of January 5, 1989, Diablo Valley College, located in Pleasant Hill, California, has two viable scholarships available for students with Horticulture Majors.

This is the first time the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of Northern California has been involved in a venture of this type and it gives us an opportunity to help someone in need who would like to further their education. This kind of effort will also create an awareness within the community of our association and build for the future of the turf industry.

The two annual awards are valued at \$250.00 each. **Criteria:** Must be enrolled in the Horticulture Program have financial need, extra-curricular activities, scholastic achievement and a demonstrated interest in Turfgrass Management.

Mr. Ben Fuller of Jenkins Machinery Company in Concord, made an unsolicited contribution of \$250.00 to the scholarship fund and we are very thankful for their support. It is this kind of generosity and willingness to be supportive of the association that will enable us to promote the turf industry and achieve the degree of professionalism we desire. Thank you, Ben.

THANKS ERNIE

Many thanks to **Ernie Martin** and staff for the fine accommodations and food at last months meeting at Crow Canyon Country Club. Everything was first class.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

At a recent Board meeting for the purpose of reviewing our present membership, it was noted that quite a few of our members are qualified to take their class A & B exams. It is the goal of any association to grow and prosper in order to survive. Ours is no exception. Too merely become a member is not enough. The Board realizes that due to the nature of our business it is sometimes hard to schedule the time to take your exam. The Board is also sensitive to the fact that some people have trouble taking exams. Trust me, you're not alone. It is for this reason we would like to set up a special study session to help our members prepare for their exams. If you are interested in participating in the study session on February 21, please contact Mike Garvale at Palo Alto Hills CC (415)948-0922. Remember, this isn't only for the benefit of the association, it's for your's as well. Take the time and get involved.

SARATOGA HORTICULTURE FOUNDATION is asking, if anyone has a Liquidamber styraciflua (sweet gum tree), that seems to root deeply rather than have its roots on the surface. If you can help out in this horticultural experiment, please call **Paul Dias** at (415) 329-2101.

AND YET ANOTHER FIRE: Pajaro Valley Golf Course Club House burned down on January 5, 1989. The fire started in the kitchen and spread to the bar and Pro-Shop. The fire started before daybreak and was out by 7:30 AM. **Bob Costa**, the Golf Course Superintendent, says the building will be rebuilt in the near future. As usual, there was no delay in golf. for a few days the starters were working outside on a table. A trailer was moved on to the grounds, the week of January 9.

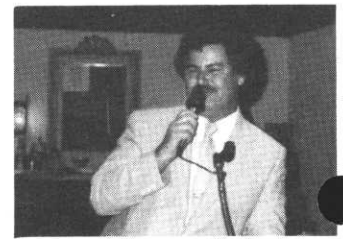
NEVER BE HESITANT TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!

You are invited to send your letters to the Editor:

Thru the Green
P.O. Box V-46
Palo Alto, CA 94304



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Paul Dias

At the Crow Canyon meeting, I made several announcements regarding recent board actions. One item I would like to further expand on at this time is the fees paid for golf. As most of you remember, especially the winners of the SIGGA drawing, five dollars is collected for golf at the time of registration. Three dollars of the monies went into golf prizes, and the balance was put into a fund for the SIGGA drawing. After much consideration, the board of directors has decided to continue the golf charge at the same rate to accommodate the following functions: Three dollars will continue to be put into golf prizes, with an eye toward improving the awards, be it gift certificates, clothing items, golf items, etc. One dollar of the fee will henceforth be committed to our scholarship and research fund, and one dollar will be put into a fund for a year-end random drawing for all those who have played golf during the year. **Rod Kilcoyne, Sam Singh and Don Naumann**, who comprise the golf committee, will be working out a venue whereas the more times you play at the meetings, the more chances you will have to win. As in the past, separate categories will be assigned for superintendents and vendors, with an apportioned split of the total monies.

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Also, as I mentioned at the meeting, remember that GCSANC has a \$150 hole-in-one insurance fund for anyone making a hole-in-one during one of our meeting/golf outings.

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The By-Laws Committee, consisting of **Al Schlothauer, Pete Bibber, and Mike Garvale** are diligently working on some serious revisions to the by-laws. In many instances throughout the years, many members have fallen into grey areas of our by-laws, and have been prevented from professionally progressing within our association. It is hoped that with some major by-laws revisions, these and other areas which constantly arise due to the changing nature of golf course management titles and responsibilities, will be alleviated.

* * *

Finally, if you have not received your membership card yet, it could be due to the fact that we have not received your dues. If that is the case, and your dues were not received by the January 30 deadline, a new application with necessary information will be necessary. If you are in doubt of your status, please call our office.

Hope to see everyone at the Conference and at Almaden CC Feb. 16, 1989.

Turfgrass Management for Professionals

Current techniques in the art and science of turfgrass management are the focus of this two-day course. It should be of special interest to golf course superintendents, park and recreation site managers, and other professional turf and landscape managers. The program covers water relations, irrigation and drainage management, management of high-traffic turf, fertilization, thatch and shade management, and pest control. Topics include:

- *turfgrass water use: recent findings
- *the water budget (ET) method for turfgrass irrigation scheduling
- *using the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) for efficient turfgrass irrigation
- *turfgrass management and drainage-principles and practices
- *soil amending to correct soil physical problems for turf
- *management of high traffic turf sites
- *turfgrass fertilization-principles and practices
- *use of slow-release fertilizer in intensely managed turfgrass
- *turfgrass thatch management
- *management of shaded turfgrass
- *control of low temperature turf diseases
- *control of high temperature turf diseases
- *outwitting rodents and other pests
- *national turfgrass research findings and outlook

TIME AND LOCATION

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Orchard Room, University Extension Central, Extension Center Drive, UC Davis. Wednesday & Thursday, March 15 & 16.

Fee, Credit and Enrollment Information: \$140 includes course materials and lunches. Approval for 2 continuing education credits from the Golf Course Superintendents of America has been requested. Approved for 4 hours of PCA credit. Enroll by March 8. To enroll by mail, write to University Extension, University of California, Davis, CA 95616. You may enroll by phone if you use Master Card or Visa. Call (800) 752-0880. For further information, call Dr. Ali Harivandi at (415) 670-5200.