

PRESIDENT

GILBERT BIBBER (PETE)
Del Monte GC
30 Via Contenta B
Carmel Valley, CA 93924



VICE PRESIDENT

JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ, CGCS
Rossmoor GC
3312 Mountaire Drive
Antioch, CA 94509

STEVE GOOD

Napa Golf Course
1625 Sierra Ave.
Napa, CA 94558

SECRETARY-TREASURER

MICHAEL GARVALE, CGCS
Palo Alto Hills CC
3000 Alexis Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94304

ROD KILCOYNE

Diablo Creek GC
140 Norman Ave.
Clyde, CA 94520

PAST PRESIDENT

PAUL DIAS, CGCS
Palo Alto Muni GC
1875 Embarcadero Rd
Palo Alto, CA 94304

JEAN LADUC

Vets' Golf Course
3801 Miranda Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94304

DIRECTORS

PETER J. GALEA, CGCS
Crystal Springs GC
6650 Golf Course Dr.
Burlingame, CA 94010

OFFICE

ALISON GOOD
1745 Saratoga Ave.
Suite A
San Jose, CA 95129
(408) 865-0360



GCSANC

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

EDITOR

JEAN LADUC
1356 Munro Ave.
Campbell, CA 95008

OUR OBJECTIVE: The collection, preservation and practical knowledge and to promote the efficient and economical maintenance of Golf Courses.

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That Man Who

Makes the Grass Grow *from Page 1*

Thursday. The course should be immaculate, period. Nothing else will do.

Not every membership is this hard on their superintendent, of course, but a good many could learn a bit more about what he does before jumping to conclusions. Then, maybe he'd be less likely to be the scapegoat when things go wrong, and more likely to get due credit when they actually happen to go right.

A big part of the problem of course, is that this is not a high-visibility job. You're out on the course at the crack of dawn when there's not another soul around, and later in the day you're off doing something else when the members do show up. People don't see you, and a lot of them find it easy to assume you're therefore not doing your job. It really comes down to nothing more complicated than better three-way communication among members, committees, and the superintendent himself.

Too often, what communication there is isn't representative anyway. Generally it comes from one of two groups. First, there are the aggressive players who want to add a bunker in front of the fourth green; or perhaps extend the water hazard on the 11th out more into the fairway; or scalp the greens to look like glass. In other words, they think it would be a great idea if the superintendent made their country club play like PGA

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That Man Who Makes the Grass Grow

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West, or Riviera.

Tugging on the other end of the rope are the recreational types who want the fairways widened, the rough cut short, and maybe even a couple of traps taken out. Why not make the course easier and more enjoyable, they reason.

Every golfer is a course designer just looking for a chance to show what he can do, and the superintendent is caught in the middle of a pack of experts who are, after all, his members. And if he's not careful, he might actually put some of their more vocal recommendations into effect thinking it's a chance to bring about some harmony, and *really* alienate everyone else.

Preventing this is relatively simple. The superintendent ought to answer to the golf and greens committees, and to no one else. And since the committees in most cases represent a cross-section of playing levels and therefore of "improvements" that should be made, clubs should set up regular meetings between the superintendent and the committees- or at least the committee chairs-where suggestions can be aired and debated in a constructive atmosphere.

And the superintendent? He'd be wise to make himself as visible as possible so he can get to know his employers-the members. It's not difficult. I know of one who makes it

a point to personally cut the cups on the practice green on Saturday and Sunday mornings, as a pretext for falling into conversation with the players. He feels it's a simple way to get a good idea of how satisfied they are with things, and a friendly way to learn their suggestions, which he himself can then bring to the committees.

Think of your superintendent as a referee, who can't possibly please all of the people all of the time. Think of him too as a professional, especially when it comes to delicate combinations like chemicals and turf. But for everyone's sake, don't think of him as just the man who makes the grass grow.

Article by John R. Johnson, a landscape architect with the golf course architecture firm of Arthur Davis and Associates in Gainesville, Georgia.

Article submitted by Rich Lavine, CGCS, Meadowood Resort, St. Helena.

GOLF DIVISION UPDATE

Sunnyvale's Golf Division is assisting the University of California Cooperative Extension Program with a creeping bentgrass variety trial. The project turf plot will be seeded in October 1989 and will run for at least three years; and based on the initial results, may be extended to five years.

The plot will be located at the Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course under the direction of **Dr. Ali**

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Harivandi. The maintenance will be monitored daily by course superintendent **Pete Sandoval** and his staff. Support of this research was offered, and accepted by several interested vendors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Bill Tavener** of Pacific Sod, **Craig Stenehjen** of R.V.Cloud, **Ted Moore** of Shelton Transfer, **Don Naumann** of Sierra Pacific and **Mike Ginelli** from Westar, for their support of our industry and its future.

The bentgrass will be evaluated in three separate tests; a green established on native soil, a green established on modified sand, (USGA or similar soils), and a fairway test. Plot size will be one hundred square feet replicated three times. Each test will probably contain fifteen to twenty varieties.

Total square footage for each test would be approximately six thousand square feet. The seed will be provided by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) which is sponsored by the USDA and Maryland Turfgrass Council. Follow up comments on their project will be offered by Ali and Pete on semi-regular basis.

Ken Saki, CGCS
Director of Golf & Tennis
City of Sunnyvale

INFORMATION WANTED

If you have an article you would like to see printed in the Golden State Fairways, please submit the

information to Jean LaDuc. The deadline for the next issue is March 1,1990. Quality colored slides or black and white photographs are needed.

MEMBERSHIP OCTOBER

PENDING EXAMS

CLASS A

Evaristo Hernandez, Jr.
King City
Rogelio Martinez
Salinas Fairways GC
Gregory Sherwood
Sea Ranch Golf Links
Jean LaDuc
Vets' Golf Course

Class B

Dana Waldor
Meadowood Resort Hotel
Roy Enos
Santa Rosa G&CC
Gary Feliciano
Corral de Tierra

LAKE CHABOT GOLF RESULTS

Low Gross

Scott Lewis	74
Romain Roberts	77
George Singh	78

Low Net

George Bell	65
John Lloyd	66
Rich Lavine	68

THANKS BILL

Many thanks to **Bill Menear** and staff at Lake Chabot for the great BBQ steak/salmon buffet lunch for the September meeting. A great day was had by all who attended.

DISNEY MAGIC KINGDOM CLUB

The GCSAA recently entered into an agreement with the Disney Magic Kingdom Club to provide membership to individuals in GCSAA. There is no fee for GCSAA members to join, however, club membership cards will be issued upon request only. Club memberships are valid for two years and may be used by anyone in the club member's family. Call the Membership Department at 800-472-7878 to become a Disney Magic Kingdom Club Member.



OUR HOST SUPERINTENDENT

The Host Superintendent for October is **James Husting**. He graduated from Cal-Poly in San Luis Obispo in 1983 with a 2 year technical degree in Ornamental Horticulture. He was the assistant Superintendent at San Luis Bay Club 1983-1984. Jim was **Corey Eastwood's** Assistant Superintendent at Green Hills CC, 1984-1987. Jim became the Golf Course Superintendent at Woodbridge Golf and Country Club in April 1987.

Woodbridge is a private 27 hole Country Club. The latest nine was built in 1974, Bert Stamp's was the designer. The original nine (River Course), was built in 1924 with member help-including a team of mules and Fresno Beade. The other nine was built Post-war in the early 1950's. The Mokolume River runs through the Golf Course. The course is divided into 3 sections, which are the Middle Course, River Course, and Lake Course. We will play the Middle, and River course for the meeting.

SHINDAIWA

Power Equipment Service Seminar

Country Club Sales in conjunction with Shindaiwa Power Equipment is offering a one day service seminar to all golf course superintendents and mechanics on proper maintenance and repair of 2 cycle power equipment.

The seminars will be held the week of November 6, 1989 at four convenient locations listed below.

Superintendents who wish to attend or send their mechanics, can sign up for this seminar by calling 1-800-648-6644 and give the name of the attendee and location of the seminar.

The cost is absolutely **FREE** but the seminars will be limited to 20 people due to their technical nature.

Listed below are the dates and locations. Please choose one and let us know as soon as you can. The classes are limited and we want to help as many of you as we can learn more about 2 cycle repair and maintenance.

Thank you very much and we look forward to seeing you in November.

Steve Kent
Branch Manager
Scotsco Inc.

The hours are 8 AM-3PM at all locations.

November 6, 1989

RAMADA INN
808 N. Main St.
Salinas, CA 93906
(408)424-8661

November 7, 1989

SHERATON INN
45 John Glenn Dr.
Concord, CA 94520
(415) 825-7700

November 8, 1989

HOLIDAY INN
1355 N. 4th
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 453-5340

November 9, 1989

HOWARD JOHNSON
3343 Bradshaw RD.
Sacramento, CA 9582
(916) 366-1266

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

At the CGCSA meeting held at Spanish Bay in September, plans were worked out for the up-coming state meeting to be held at Spanish Bay with Golf being played at Poppy Hills, on Monday, time and date for golf will be upcoming.

Following is a letter that is intended for the membership. I feel that this is of importance as we need our State body for voting and strength at State level with the legislature.

Dear Rich,

The purpose of this letter from the California Golf Course Superintendents Association, is help explain the new proposed dues appropriation from each state chapter. The purpose of the dues is to allow the California Golf Course Superintendents Association (CGCSA) a source of operating income. At present, the CGCSA has no means of obtaining income, other than from an assessment from the six chapters or donations from our commercial members. What we plan to do, is appropriate from each Class A & B member \$10.00 per year. Because of the different number of Class A & B members in each chapter, the amount of money from each chapter will vary. The smaller chapters will contribute less than the larger chapters, making it equitable, as it should be. The scholarship donation to the GCSAA of \$3000.00 per year will be paid out of the collected dues.

An example of how it will work, Chapter "A" has 35 Class A & B members, in the past this chapter paid \$500.00 to the GCSAA scholarship fund annually. While Chapter "B" has 125 Class A & B members and only paid \$500.00.

Under the new system, Chapter "A": would have to pay \$10.00 per Class A & B for a total of \$350.00. While Chapter "B" with 125 Class A & B members would now have to pay \$1250.00.

This system will be equitable for all members, and allow a small amount of working income for the California Association. This money will be used to publish the California Superintendents

Membership Directory, (printing and mailing costs).

The cost of letterhead paper and envelopes, stamps. Items like the lapel pins that were distributed in Anaheim, at the GCSAA Conference and Show.

The CGCSA like any association has to have some means of support and I believe this is the proper and most equitable way to accomplish this problem.

Please contact your Chapter Representatives for more information, or me at home # 209-638-5559 after 4 pm, if needed.

Sincerely yours,
Robert Tillema, CGCS
President CGCSA

As you can see from this letter, our chapter falls into the category of Chapter "B". Please call me with any response you have to the above letter.

The Annual Christmas Party at Rancho Canada will be held on December 1. The Christmas Party committee has found reasonable room rates at the following places:

Mariposa (800) 824 2295;
Room rates are \$46.40 for a regular room, Room with fireplace \$62.40, or The Laureles (408) 659-2233, Room rates are \$40.00. Both places are within 2 mile radius of Rancho Canada.

Remember the November 11, 1989 deadline for our January Seminar at The Inn at Spanish Bay.

I hope to hear from you in regards to the State Chapter letter mentioned above and see you at our Seminar in Pleasanton, Oct. 18 &19.

Pete