

“Back on Board”

by Dave Louttit

Back in the fall of 1986, I was delighted to have been elected to the Board of Directors of the MAGCS. To become a director, and to gradually work my way towards the presidency, was my goal. After serving the first year of my two-year term, failing health forced me to spend a year or two out of commission. Thoughts of ever being on the Board of Directors again, were the furthest things from my mind.

In 1990, as I had begun my second year in the sales field, then MAGCS president appointed Phil Taylor to chair a newly formed committee, the CMAC, or Commercial Membership Advisory Committee. In 1992, President Ray Schmitz took that one step farther, allowing a commercial member to attend the MAGCS Board of Directors meetings. Thanks to Ray and all the commercial members for letting me assume this position.

Since I was first elected in 1986, the names for the Board of Directors has changed, but the goal remains the same: To make sure that the MAGCS is the best regional superintendents association in the U.S. As the association has grown and prospered, the commercial members have continued in their growth as members of the MAGCS. While sitting in on the Board of Directors meetings, the commercial sector can now have their ideas presented in a professional manner. Currently Class E (Commercial) members comprise over 35% of the total membership.

Although the route back to the board has been a bit circuitous, it is great to be back on board.



August 8, 1992

Mr. Fred Opperman, CGCS
810 Greenwood Ave.
Carpentersville, Ill. 60110

Dear Fred:

I just received my August issue of **The Bullsheet** and particularly enjoyed the two articles by Joel Purpur and Bob Maibusch, CGCS.

Both authors emphasized a point which I feel needs to be communicated more – the abuse of the stimpeter and the obsession with extremely low cutting heights. I saw a quote the other day which said that speed will either kill the green or the supt. or both. How true!!

I also agree with both Joel and Bob that the USGA has a double standard regarding green mowing heights. The Green Section is telling us about raising the heights, but in their tournaments, like the U.S. Open, the greens are cut way down. I truly believe that the Green Section has the golf course supt. in their best interests. However, I also believe that their hands are tied and conditions which existed at Pebble Beach are mandated by the USGA Executive Board. It has to be extremely frustrating to the Green Section to see this happen time and time again.

Somewhere the above situation has to stop. I certainly don't have the answer, but education has to be part of it. I believe that we as the supts. have to be more vocal about it. We have to get our message across to our own golfing membership, plus the PGA, and the media.

I continue to admire the quality of **The Bullsheet**. I enjoy a publication which has the bulk of its articles written by member supts. Plus, I also enjoyed your article about your trip to the British Isles.

Looking forward to seeing you at the N.C. Turf Conf. in Dec.

Respectfully,

Dave

Dave Fearis CGCS

Key to the 90's: “Working Together”

by Wendy Stebbins, Psychotherapist

Through my travels around the country giving speeches and doing seminars, I have become acutely aware of the necessity for effective golf superintendents, managers and pros to learn and teach cooperation and “working together” skills. Self-discipline, time management and dealing well with people separate the “award-winners” from the “also-rans”.

Since there is a high burnout rate in the golf business, learning these skills are necessary to avoid stress and burnout.

Before trying to change others, it is necessary to look at yourself, your personality, your personal life because whatever you are, whatever you bring to work with you will impact everything that goes on at the club.

Did you know that the first two hours of the day set the tone for the rest of the day? Better pay attention to how you get up, what you say to yourself when you look in the bathroom mirror when you are shaving, who gives you grief and who gives you energy. Since stress often is caused by your perception of people, places and things it helps to get in a positive mood.

SHAVING FOR SUCCESS

The following exercises while shaving almost guarantee a positive “go get 'em — I've got the world by the tail” modus operandi attitude all day.

Ask yourself and give at least 3 answers for each “OUT LOUD”. (The louder the better. Really get into it).

1. What will I notice today that I haven't seen before?
2. What am I most happy about? How does it make me feel?
3. What else am I really happy about? How do I feel?
4. What am I really excited about in my life? Who does it excite me? How does it make me feel?
5. What am I most proud of? How does it make me feel?
6. What am I most grateful about in my life? How does it make my feel?

Have you heard the old adage “You can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar.” This is most definitely true in dealing with people. Pretend that every single person you come in contact with has 4 red garrish letters written across his forehead “MMFI”. MMFI stands for “MAKE ME FEEL IMPORTANT!”

The philosophy “Put everyone in the same boat” doesn't work well with different types of personalities. Complainers, naggers, steam-rollers, know-it-all, super-agreeables, etc. ... all have different goals and needs and must be treated uniquely.

Working together, dealing with people and people dealing with you goes better when everyone knows how to keep their stress level in line. The following really says it all.

TWO RULES TO ELIMINATE STRESS

1. Don't sweat the small stuff.
2. Everything is the small stuff.