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President's Message



Ray Schmitz

Another successful golfing season has nearly come to an end. Even though the activities on the golf course are at a slower pace, golf course superintendents are busy at this time of the year preparing their budgets and attending educational seminars offered by the MAGCS and GCSAA.

Preparing a budget for the grounds operation is getting more complex every year. Usually the grounds department budget is closely scrutinized due to the fact that there are large numbers involved and is an easy target for one whose goal is lower operating costs. When preparing a realistic budget, consideration should be taken of the clubs future objectives. If a written explanation is given of each budget category the budget process goes more smoothly and there is less chance for rejection. One of the advantages of preparing a budget, is it gives us Golf Course Superintendents a chance to do our homework and show we are true professionals in the golf course operation. If you are not required to prepare an operating and capital budget at your operation, do it anyway. After all, a budget predicts the cost of doing business. This information is necessary in a successful operation.

During the fall and winter there are many excellent chances to improve our knowledge by attending some of the many clinics, expositions, and seminars available to us. To name a few — The MAGCS Turf Clinic at Medinah C.C. Nov. 18th, and the NCTE at Pheasant Run Resort Nov. 30-Dec. 2nd. A popular GCSAA seminar will be held Nov. 9th and 10th in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin and Jan. 4th and 5th at Oak Brook Hills Resort. Also, 54 one or two day seminars are offered at the GCSAA Conference and Show in Anaheim, Jan. 23-30th. Education continues to be one of the objectives of the MAGCS, so let us take advantage of these many opportunities.

Why Change the GCSAA Bylaws?

by Mike Bavier



There was some thought, on my part, to just let the new bylaws slide by without expressing my opinion. However, after hearing from a number of my friends from around the country, I have decided to express my thoughts on this matter.

As many of you know during my presidency of GCSAA, proposed bylaws were brought to the membership and were over-ridden. This could very well be the case, again, this coming year. The membership should question any and all changes. Especially, changes that are announced in the Golf Course Management Magazine, which seems to be very one sided. Do you really believe they (the staff — or the Board of Directors) could not find at least one member that would question these proposed bylaws. Those of you that read the article in this magazine, understand how they have tried to mesmerize us. If the Association is able to put out information like this unchallenged now, it makes one wonder what our voice will be in the future. Bob Williams, the enterprising President of the GCSAA in the late 50's, a number of times has said to me, "is the tail wagging the dog?"

During my term as President, we tried to change the bylaws to give the Board the power to set the fee for dues. That bylaw proposal was defeated, with only a small percentage of delegates in favor of the change. The bylaw change did not occur, and probably was for the better. Even if you trust people running the Association at present, what about future Boards? The more power you give a governing body, the less power we have in our own hands. We support the Association with our dues, which is only a small percentage of the Association's budget. Most of us realize this already. The golf courses with the most purchasing power, are the main support of the Association. Just think of that statement for a moment. We, the superintendents of these golf courses, are the ones the Association needs to really make the whole organization work.

Let the Board of Directors come to the delegates and explain their futuristic ideas. Then give the delegates the opportunity to give their ideas in return. This might be called **accountability**. Will you have that with your one vote? **NOT!!** Just maybe the next statement will be, "**read my lips — no more increases in dues**".

The one vote is another issue. We have that one vote in our local chapters. This, you might say, is our electoral college. The chapter delegates are typically your most interested people in your local chapter, usually responsible and dedicated. Have they failed us in the past? My opinion is, they have done a fine job.

Are they telling us that the Directors on the Board are incompetent? Some of us might question the directors thinking, but we also realize they are doing a good job, (remember they are part time administrators). The delegate method of voting has worked in the past, and would probably continue to work in the future. Some of the fiber of our Association, again I repeat, "**Our Association**", is the camaraderie that has developed between delegates — this is what makes an association something you want to be a member of now, and hopefully in the future. The GCSAA Golf Tournament is another good example of "association fiber". Reflect back, and remember, the conferences that you were most involved with, were probably the ones that you had the best time at, and enjoyed the most. The hospitality rooms are also another piece of fiber. Will all this be eliminated by the new election process? These fibers are all part of the "Association Fabric", that we currently enjoy.

CHANGE IS IMPORTANT — We all know that. Keep the two-thirds vote to amend the bylaws, and let the directors do their job selling their ideas to the membership, instead of mandating them.

The delegates should start meeting at the conference to discuss the future of the association and make suggestions in the form of motions to the GCSAA Board. This was done in the past, and should be considered again. The Past Presidents Council (that was started by Bob Williams and functioned as an advisory group), was recently dissolved by the Board of Directors. The Council still exists but meets merely as a social group. The delegates and the Past Presidents Council should also be included in the decision making process. Remember — Bill Roberts said, "any feat of decision-making being concentrated in the hands of too few is unfounded. The membership retains final authority over direction of association affairs through the election process."

IN YOUR DREAMS!!!

The purpose for which the Association was formed was "**to provide for and enhance the recognition of the golf course superintendent as a professional**". As "professionals," we need to take a close look at the proposed bylaws, make a competent decision, and then proceed with caution.

In spite of some difficult problems over the years, the Association has had many accomplishments. If you would like to discuss any of this, give me a call at (708) 358-7030 and let's talk, otherwise, **SEE YOU ALL IN ANAHEIM.**

Editor's Note: Be sure to read Palmer Maple's comments on page four.

"Fall's Spree"

When Sand Traps become Leaf Traps, November's here.

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Kenneth R. Zanzig

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More Comments on the Future Direction of the GCSAA

In June, I wrote to President Roberts and requested a copy of the By-law changes to be presented at Anaheim or a copy of the By-law changes put to a vote by the members in 1991. In his response I did not receive either document, but did receive a "Future Directions" pamphlet. As I review the pamphlet, I have further questions.

- On the vote of members — the changes would not only take away Delegate Vote, but also Proxy Vote. If most people vote by mail there would be no chance for discussing the issues as we now have at the Candidate Briefing.
- On classification — if changed, not only will the Board set new classifications, but will have the right to add requirements for present classifications. If the changes needed can't be communicated well enough to get two-thirds of the members to know it is a better way, then it might not be a better way. I do feel some changes in classification of membership is needed and necessary, but should come through the approval of present members.
- On the Nominating and Election Committee — who knows what the procedure will be? Usually if a change is proposed, the new way of doing things is presented for inspection and review, not just doing away with the old.
- On the Field Staffing Program — I continue to believe a trial period is better than an all out program, especially when, according to the pamphlet, this Field Staffing Program will require a \$40 to \$50 PER YEAR dues increase. No wonder the Board wants the right to set dues. Wouldn't it be nice if we Superintendents could develop our budget and then tell the members of the club what their dues will be for the year?

And about the subject of cost, why do we have to pay \$7 for a copy of Conference Proceedings and \$20 for an Employee Manual? What has happened to SERVICE to the members.

In the June issue of *Newsline* I see the headquarters building is being expanded. Less than a year ago at the dedication, we were told the new building would be good for four to five years. It seems like a tremendous cost to the Association and what is the status of the old H.Q. building? What success would a field staff person have at getting new members at a dues figure of \$350 to \$400 per year and increasing at a \$40 to \$50 rate per year?

As I urge all GCSAA members, I say again — ask any question, study the answer, and be ready to support your decision by talking with your Chapter Delegate. We all want a better Association for the benefit of all its members.

Palmer Maples, Jr., CGCS

Credit: "Through the Green", Sept./Oct. '92

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MAGCS By-law Meeting
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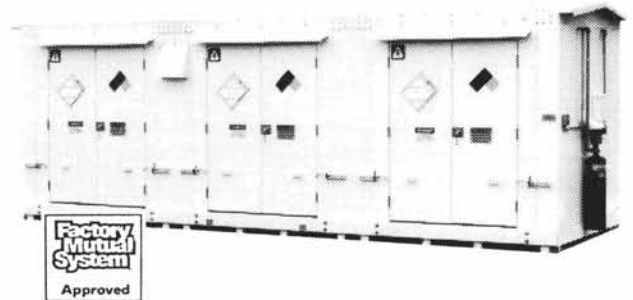


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Willet Wilt

by Ken Kubik

In an effort to speed up play on the golf course and, therefore, produce a round of golf that is more fun to play, Willet has come up with some rather innovative ideas.

The three different flag colors being used for the last couple of years do not go far enough. The colors now only indicate whether the pin position is in the front, middle or back of the green. Willet suggests that you also put a large L, C or R on the flag so you will now know whether the pin is located on the left, center or right of the green.

Once you do get on the green, there will now be one of three different colored flagpoles. This would be according to the stimp meter reading of the speed of the greens for that day. If the green is slow, the pole would be red; if they're fast, it would be green; and if they're right in the middle, the flagpole would be yellow.

Play can be speeded up by reducing the time spent trying to decide what golf club to use. The number of clubs allowed will be reduced from 14 to three. You get to have a wood, an iron and a putter.

The golfers will only be allowed to have between three and six golfballs when playing a round of golf, depending on the difficulty of the golf course. Once a player has lost the allotted number of golfballs, the round will be considered over.

The next thing to be implemented will be borrowed from football. It seems that the golfer wants to know at all times how far he or she is away from the center of the green. We now have yardage markers in various forms on and around the fairways. The need for this will no longer be necessary. Willet Wilt recommends that all fairways be marked just like a football field — markings will be placed down the center of the fairway in 10-yard increments with each yard marked out in between. In this way, the golfers will know exactly how far they are from the center of the green at all times.

Now we will borrow from the NBA a 24-second shot clock. The golfers will have 24 seconds to complete all the necessary putts in order to get the ball into the cup. If the golfer does not complete this task within 24 seconds, the shot clock (soon to be called the "putt clock") will go off, and he or she will be penalized one stroke.

Willet is now seeking golf courses to volunteer to initiate these innovative methods of shortening the time it takes to play a round of golf. All interested parties should call Willet Wilt's agent, Ken Kubik, ASAP.

Credit: The Greenside, May-June '92



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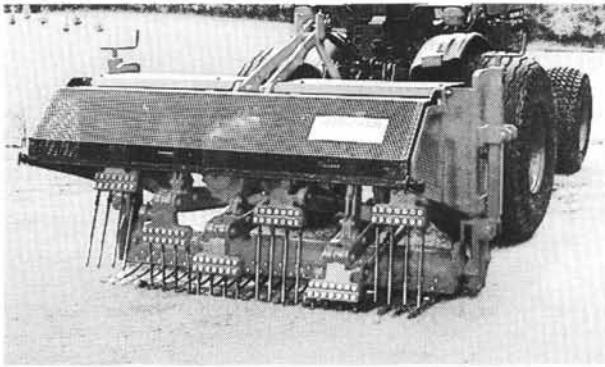
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On the Waterfront

by Jim Reed

Back in August, I had a conversation with Mike Sprouse of Randall Oaks Golf Club in Dundee, IL. He explained how at the end of each irrigation season after he blows out his system, he sends out his crew to pull out the drive assemblies, inspect the nozzles for damage, look for worn parts, and make sure no water is left in the sprinkler bodies. The crew inspects every sprinkler on the golf course. Mike reports that in his 5+ years at Randall Oaks, only 2 sprinklers have given him a problem during start-up the following spring and he has had time to work on other more important projects during that busy time. Just something to think about doing in November to close down the course.

This month's article from the Keller-Bleisner Engineering study on "Designing, Operating and Maintaining Piping Systems Using PVC Fittings" is on "Pressure Surges — What Causes Them and How to Control Them". This section of that report concerns "Controlling the Magnitude of Pressure Surges in the Design Phase".

A number of design techniques are used to control water hammer in piping systems. To limit surges generated by pump operation, air chambers or surge tanks that absorb surges in conjunction with pressure regulating and pressure relief valves are often installed in the pumping station. Packaged pumping plants with all necessary controls and equipment are available from a number of manufacturers and are commonly used in golf course irrigation systems. When all valves and controls are properly sized and adjusted, surges generated by changes in pump flows and/or demands are reduced to non-harmful levels. If a packaged pumping plant is not used, the pumping station should include, at the very least, a pressure regulating valve to maintain constant pressure regardless of the flow rate. Pressure tanks decrease the pressure fluctuation seen at the valve and increase the pressure modulation in the system.

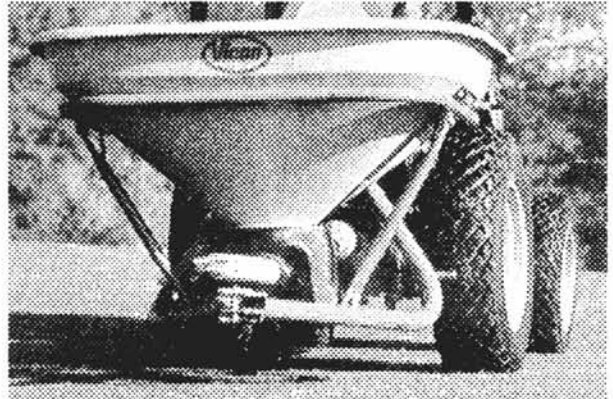
Controlled valve closure speed is critical in limiting the magnitude of pressure surges in the system. A typical valve-in-head sprinkler will close in 6 to 10 seconds, which seems sufficiently slow to limit surges to acceptable levels. However, the valves are electrically controlled hydraulic valves that operate on the principle of pressure difference across the valve for closure. The higher the pressure drop across the valve, the faster it closes. Therefore, the closer the valve is to being closed, the faster it closes, which significantly reduces the effective closure time of the valve. As a rule of thumb, about 75% of the fluid flow is shut off in the last 25% of the poppet movement. Therefore, a 6 second closure time becomes a 1½ second effective closure time. In general, valves with slower effective closure times generate smaller surges.

In simple systems, pressure relief valves downstream of the main pressure regulating valve can reduce the magnitude of some pressure surges. However, in complex systems, where surges can start at many places, it may be too costly to place pressure relief valves at sufficient intervals to be effective.

Entrapped air is one of the most troublesome and potentially dangerous causes of pressure surges. A later section will deal with the entrapped air problem.

(cont'd. page 10)

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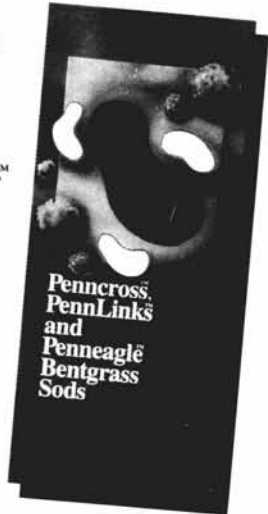
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(On the Waterfront cont'd.)

At the design stage, the safest surge control technique is to limit velocities in the system to 5 feet/second and to include computation of surge potential in determining the pressure requirement of system components. Many problems will be eliminated if the surge potential is adequately assessed and the components of the system selected to withstand the potential surges.

Winterizing of Pump Stations

1. Turn all switches "OFF". Turn all disconnects "OFF".
2. Open hose bibb on tank to drain the tank and upstream side.
3. Drain irrigation piping.
4. Disconnect all tubing on the control valve and blow it out till it's empty.
5. Loosen the bonnet bolts on the Cla-Valve and break the bonnet free so all water drains out. Then retighten the bonnet, and fill it with about 1 quart of antifreeze.
6. Insure all controllers are drained of water. Include sensing chamber on CRL's. (Remove to heated building if possible).
7. Remove brass plugs from pressure switch manifolds and allow to drain. Blot up drained water to prevent cabinet rust. Leave plugs out of manifolds for duration of the winter so any remaining water in manifold can expand without damage to pressure switches.
8. If you have centrifugal pumps, drain the pump volutes by removing the lowest plug in the volute. Reinstall plug after volute is drained.
9. If you have a wye strainer, insure that it is drained.
10. Insure all pump isolation valves are open.

Prior to restarting of pump station in the spring, insure all tubing is replaced, all connections are tight, all drain valves are closed, and all operating valves are open. Insure Cla-Valve bonnet tight and drain plugs are installed in pressure switch manifolds.

Next month's topic will cover "The Effects of Management on Pressure Surges".

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