

Editorial

Today's golf course construction and maintenance is an expansive proposition. During the stages of planning and construction the foundation is laid that will imminently determine the character of the golf course and the amount of money it will cost to properly maintain it.

The scenario of poor greens on new and older courses is not uncommon. In many cases the greens have to be rebuilt at astronomical cost. Ask any number of golf course superintendents to evaluate their irrigation system and you will probably ascertain that: (1) The system is not totally adequate; (2) It wasn't built exactly to specifications; (3) The as-built isn't completely accurate; (4) It is expensive to maintain.

The majority of maintenance complexes traditionally are referred to as barns and they look like it. Devoid of proper design, their lack of efficiency and storage space adds greatly to the cost of maintenance and ultimately affects the condition of the golf course. What then is the solution to these and other problems? To circumvent these costly errors an experienced qualified golf course superintendent should be hired and involved with the construction of the new golf course. Included among the superintendent's duties would be the following:

- (1) The superintendent would be the owners representative for contracts concerning the golf course.
- (2) The superintendent would oversee the design and construction of the maintenance complex.
- (3) The superintendent would oversee the design and construction of the irrigation system.
- (4) The superintendent would oversee the construction of the greens, tees, fairways, drainage, etc.

The golf course architect can be very instrumental in obtaining these job objectives. He is usually the first contact a club has when they are seeking to build a golf course. Because of his professional image and rapport with his clientele, he is in a position to recommend the hiring of a qualified golf course superintendent before construction begins. Through the architect's contacts he knows several qualified applicants and by ensuring the superintendent's early involvement, he does a service for the club and himself. Many new golf course owners rely on the architect to over see all construction details but the architect will be the first to tell you he can't be there on a daily basis. The club needs someone other than a contractor to ensure their course will be built exactly to specifications. No much in greens, no buried tree stumps in fairways, no shortcut on the irrigation system. The superintendent will not leave the job when it is completed. He, the architect and the owners *have* to live with the results.

Today a few architects have already implemented the procedure of hiring a golf course superintendent before construction. As natural resources continue to dwindle, fuel cost remains unstable and water becomes a more precious commodity — the necessity for a well designed and efficient golf course is of paramount importance. For the future success and continued growth of golf, let's hope the architects communicate these points to their clientele. We will all be the better for it.