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GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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Types of courses by length

Length	Type			Total
	Daily fee	Municipal	Private	
Regulation	5,349	1,887	4,998	12,234
Executive	492	129	158	779
Par 3	455	150	120	725
Total	6,296	2,166	5,276	13,738

Source: NGF

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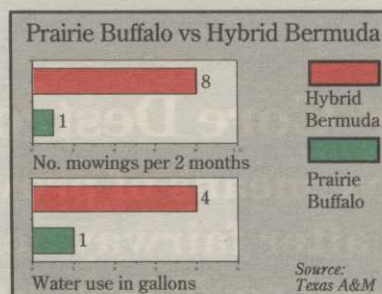
Beating the heat

Buffalo billed as wonder grass

BY PETER BLAIS

Barton Creek Country Club in Austin, Texas, is experimenting with two varieties of buffalograss that will eventually be available nationwide and could save the golf industry millions of dollars annually in water, fertilizer, pesticide and mowing expenses.

Prairie buffalograss developed at Texas A&M University was introduced



to the perimeter rough and along steep bunker faces of the new Ben Crenshaw-designed course beginning in late June. *Continued on page 24*

Isolite expected barrier-breaker

BY MARK LESLIE

Isolite is no panacea, Lou Haines is quick to say, but it could lower the body count in impending water wars.

Haines, the technical services director of New Golf Concepts, Inc., of Westminster, Colo., is optimistic that tremendous inroads will be made into America's golf courses by Isolite, which

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Water comes into play on several holes, including this one, at Jack Nicklaus' latest design — the private Governors Club in Chapel Hill, N.C. Nicklaus and club pro Ronnie Parker played the inaugural round at Governors Club on Sept. 5. The par 72

layout plays from four tees — the shortest over 5,267 yards and the longest 7,085. See pages 12-13 for more information on new courses proposed and approved around the United States.

Photo by Chip Henderson

UK is definitely no U.S.

BY BRADLEY S. KLEIN

A revolution in golf course maintenance in the United Kingdom has begun at the same time its greenkeepers are being lured to Continental Europe.

The culprit causing an Americanization of greenkeeping is television, according to Brits in the industry. The pull to Europe, where 300 courses are under construction, is salaries that are double and triple the \$15,000 to \$22,000 earned in the United Kingdom.

British and International Golf

Greenkeepers Association Chairman Ivor Scoones acknowledged the "brain drain" is a living force between England and the continent.

Budget troubles at home tend to magnify the difference between tending a course in one place or the other.

BIGGA Executive Director Neil Thomas said greenkeepers in Great Britain, who historically have had low maintenance budgets, now "have to deal with public perceptions about how a golf course should look."

Many British golfers have turned their back on "the links model" and become fascinated by what might be called "the Augusta model," he said.

The role of televised tournament golf cannot be overestimated. Club members, having watched The Masters on the tube, ask their club secretary why their greens and fairways aren't picture perfect, lush and plush, he said.

Greenkeepers explain that even Augusta National is timed to peak at

Continued on page 22

Discrimination stops at supers' desk

BY MARK LESLIE

Discrimination doesn't exist on groundskeeping crews at country clubs around the nation — even those that exclude certain people as members, according to superintendents surveyed.

"Segregation and integration are just not an issue (on grounds crews)," said Gerald Faubel, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of

America and superintendent at Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club. "I have never seen any discrimination whatsoever with regard to race or sex on a grounds crew."

Faubel's remarks followed the debacle at Shoal Creek Country Club in Birmingham, Ala., in which the club's discrimination against blacks threatened to prevent the PGA Champion-

ship from being played.

"If you found any segregation in grounds crews it would really surprise me," Faubel said.

James Singerling, executive vice president of the Club Managers Association of America and a former club manager, said clubs "never have a hiring policy."

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Discrimination

Continued from page 1

"There are two totally different issues here," Singerling said. "The club manager is hired to operate the facility and hire employees to do the job as best they can. Where I've been, the members and employees are friends."

Singerling said that at the club he recently managed in Florida, 80 percent of the employees were minorities — "women, blacks and other folks."

"By law, we can't ask background, religion or race" in a job interview, he said.

Patty Knaggs, superintendent at Westchester Country Club in Harrison, N.Y., said she has not seen a single instance of discrimination in any of the five clubs where she has worked. One of those clubs is The Country Club of Brookline in Massachusetts, which has recruited blacks as membership candidates the last two years but still has none.

"We had 65 on our crew at Brookline — Asians, women, Irish..." Knaggs said.

"I've worked with every ethnic background you can imagine, and I've been the first woman hired at several places. The grounds crews have always been very, very diverse."

At Westchester CC, she said her 38-member crew is one-third Spanish, one-third black and one-third white.

"We have Irish, three women and people over 60 who have retired from other jobs," she said. "Plus there are two women besides myself who are in high positions at the club."

Bill Spence, the superintendent at The Country Club, said his crew is a mix of ethnic groups. He has had blacks in the past, though none now.

"Our arms are open to anyone who will do the job and wants to come work for us," Spence said.

Paul Crawford, superintendent at the predominantly Jewish Palm Beach Country Club, said his 12-person crew includes Puerto Ricans, blacks, Mexicans and whites.

Commenting on the great number of blacks and Cubans on crews in Florida, another person in the industry said: "They are the hard workers. Often, it's difficult to find white people who are willing to work that hard."

Referring to the PGA Tour incident at Shoal Creek, the GCSAA's Faubel said: "I feel sorry for the PGA. They're not that kind (segregationist) of organization. The PGA is very high-class and it got caught up into something it could not have thought about."

"It's unfortunate to have one individual at Shoal Creek (make segregationist comments). People in golf just aren't like that. I don't think you will see any problem with clubs being integrated. And it's unfortunate that they (Shoal Creek) are going to have to go out and look for people (minorities to join), because that is not proper, either."

Hiring laws are strict in this country. Faubel uses an employment program his club's insurance carrier provided.

It includes a test that deals with safety, reliability, and working with others.

"We judge applicants with that test. We don't care what color or race they are. We want someone who will get the work done and cooperate with the other workers," Faubel said. "The only thing we have to watch is that we follow the law to make sure they are U.S. citizens."

Neither the GCSAA nor the National Club Association has guidelines to follow in hiring. But the GCSAA has a booklet, "Selecting a Golf Course Superintendent," that spells out, for the golf course manager, the responsibilities, needs and selection of a new superintendent. Nowhere is race, sex or religion mentioned.

The GCSA headquarters is totally inte-

'Most courses allow the crews to play on certain days. Others allow play after a certain hour.'
— GCSAA President Gerald Faubel

grated, Faubel said.

Playing the course

But while minorities are freely hired to tend the grounds at exclusive country clubs, are those same men and women allowed to play the courses?

Yes, at the vast majority of courses.

"A very low percentage of places won't allow play by the crews," Faubel said. "My crew can play at their discretion, making sure

the course is not crowded. Most courses allow the crews to play on certain days. Others allow play after a certain hour."

He said the few courses not allowing play have the same rule for everyone, regardless of race or sex.

Spence said The Country Club crew can play "any time of day. Monday is normally the day at clubs.

"Our club is very generous with playing time. I think it gives employees a chance to

relate better to our work."

No good news

Singerling said that in covering the Shoal Creek incident, the national media has "disregarded anything that may be positive."

He said black golfer Lee Elder's suggestion that private clubs set high initiation fees to keep out minorities "is preposterous. They are trying to maintain a certain environment and level of enjoyment that people of certain degrees of success enjoy.

"To make that claim is to say that any restaurant that lists entrees over \$20 per person is trying to also keep out minorities, and any hotel in the district that is above the Day's Inn rate is trying to discriminate and keep out minorities."

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