

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4
APRIL 1991

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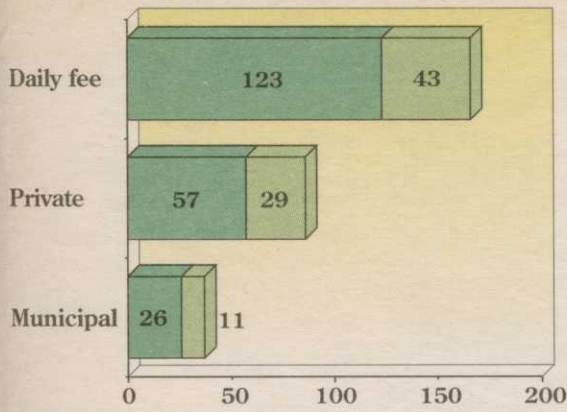
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Forward to the past
Carnival time in golf course design is an era of the past, not future, many say.
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Pearce eyes change from within

By Peter Blais

With private club membership practices coming under increasing scrutiny by the public and media, newly elected Club Manager Association of America President Jim Pearce is a firm believer in change from within.

"I've seen clubs change on their own and do away with discriminatory prac-

tices. I don't know of anyone who manages a club that discriminates in the sense of the old term," Pearce said during last month's CMAA Annual Conference and Exposition in Dallas.

"Perhaps there is a lot of discrimination out there. But I am not aware of it in the clubs I have been privileged to manage because they've taken care of

those things. It's taken some time. But I think it's wrong to have to be legislated to change things when it's the member who is footing the bill and not the government."

Pearce was club manager of the Binghamton (N.Y.) Club in the mid-1950s when the board of directors voted

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Aerator patent not enforceable

By Peter Blais

A federal judge has ruled the patent on a pond aeration device used on golf courses is unenforceable because the manufacturer obtained it improperly.

U.S. District Judge Donald Alsop ruled Feb. 20 that Daniel Durda, chairman and chief executive officer of Aeration Industries Inc. of Chaska, Minn., altered docu-

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USGA specs under fire, face change

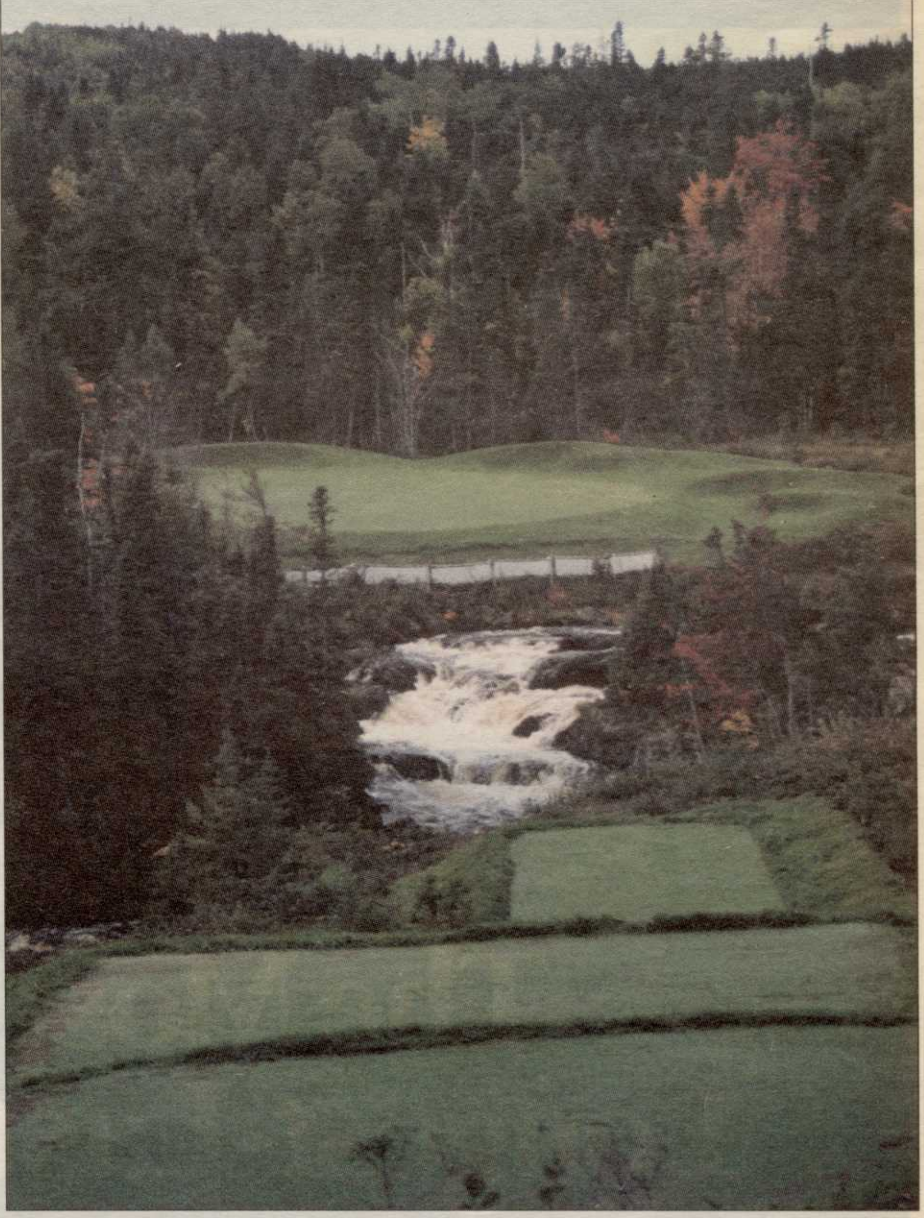
By Kit Bradshaw

The heat is on for change to the United States Golf Association's specifications for greens construction, which have been reduced to pamphlet size since the original one-inch-thick document.

Depending on the source, these specifications, an industry-wide standard for three decades:

- Are not based on sound scientific rationales.
- Have a problem in the

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The 175-yard 8th hole at the Doug Carrick-designed Twin Rivers Golf Course spans a salmon river in Terra Nova National Park, Newfoundland. For more information on this course and others in North America, see pages 28-31.

Idaho legislators nix field burning bill

By Bob Spiwak

BOISE, Idaho — The state Legislature on March 6 quashed a bill to limit the burning of turfgrass fields in Idaho, which produces tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass for the nation.

Burning has proved the most cost-effective method

of controlling disease and pests in the fields, but has been opposed by environmentalists who decry the black smoke from the



fires every fall. The opposition came to a head in 1988 when a wind-shift pushed the smoke from a burning field across a major highway in Oregon, causing a 37-car collision and fatally injuring seven persons.

Prior to the Legislature's
Continued on page 19

Idaho seed growers win legislative showdown

Continued from page 1

vote, Don Jacklin, vice president and director of seed production for Jacklin Seed Co. of Post Falls, Idaho, said he hoped for a compromise in the legislature. Other forces on both sides of the issue were less conciliatory.

Burning is crucial to the industry, Jacklin explained, because the stubble of the previous crop must be eliminated to prevent shading the new tillers (new growth) of the plants. He said maximum light intensity provides a greater "photo

period," length of time the plant is exposed to light.

Jacklin, whose company reportedly is the largest producer and contractor of Kentucky bluegrass in the country, and others support a measure that would limit, but not ban, burning.

"We see this as the only way for short-term survival — reduce the number of acres burned and reduce the amount of particulates (solid emissions)," he said. "If we don't compromise, we won't survive."

But the turf seed industry employs more than 15,000 persons in Washington, Idaho and Oregon, and there are farmers unwilling to compromise. They see their livelihoods at stake, and the state of Idaho is equally cognizant of the economic benefits of the seed farmers. This is especially true today, when both mining and forestry, Idaho's major industries, are in decline.

Yet, Idaho has another major industry — tourism. Probably the loudest voice for tourism is that of developer Duane Hagadone, owner

of the soon-to-open Coeur d'Alene Resort golf course, adjacent hotels and marina.

His voice is amplified in newspapers he owns in Idaho, and he is, says Jacklin, fervently opposed to field burning. Putting aside the possibility of a highway tragedy such as Oregon's, seeing smoke billowing in the air above an area touted as pristine, is not conducive to a favorable first impression by visitors.

Tillage — one alternative to burning — produces equally onerous billows. As fields are blown

away, dust is airborne. This is a regular occurrence when the wheat farmers across the state plow their fields.

Environmentally, Jacklin said burning is far superior to tilling. He cites research which indicates that without the grass cover, 3.2 tons per acre of dust and soil emissions are put into the air in Washington, 4.2 tons per acre in Idaho. The particulate matter issued by burning runs about 20 pounds, not tons, per acre. And there is no loss of precious topsoil. But, Jacklin acknowledges, smoke is a greater public relations problem than dust.

The projected law would have required a 20-percent reduction of grass acreage burned during 1991 and 1992, and eliminated all burning of grass stubble.

The turfgrass industry supports both aspects of the law. At the same time, there is anger that the bill does not address slash-burning (burning logging and other debris) by the U.S. Forest Service. This practice, Jacklin claims, is responsible for 30 percent of northern Idaho's airborne smoke. He feels the Forest Service should be subject to burning permits and identification of the areas put to the torch.

Considered another negative aspect of the bill was creation of a seven-person commission, comprising representatives of tourism, agriculture and other groups. These persons would be paid, and their pay would come from grass-burning research funds. "It means we'll be shooting ourselves in the foot," said Jacklin.

One legislator supporting the bill was Rep. Jim Stochief of Boundary County, adjacent to the grass-growing counties of Bonner, Kootenai and Benewah. The solon favored the burning restrictions in those counties, but kept his own constituency immune from the law, according to Jacklin.

Farmers out of the area fear that, if any anti-burning legislation is passed, it will open the door to future legislation growers feel will be anti-agriculture.

With the bill's failure, Jacklin is afraid it will create a backlash of public opinion that will force more restrictive legislation. This will leave little room for compromise.

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