

Bylaw break in '95

In contrast to stormy '93 election, no amendments offered

By PETER BLAIS

SAN FRANCISCO — Controversial bylaw amendments made for good news copy the past two years. But the news in 1995 is that *no* bylaw amendments are on the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America agenda at this month's International Conference and Show.

"So much has been added and so many changes have occurred in the last year, the board of directors decided to sit back for awhile and prove it could do what it's talked about," said GCSAA spokesman Scott Smith.

Two years ago, the membership surprised the board by overwhelmingly rejecting proposed amendments dealing with dues increases, delegate voting, membership classification restructuring and requirements for a simple rather than two-thirds majority to pass association proposals.

The main objection seemed to be that members were never consulted or sufficiently informed about the proposals. The board responded by holding a chapter relations meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, in September 1993, to explain to chapter presidents the reasoning behind the proposed 1994 bylaw amendments.

The result last year was passage of all the proposed measures, with the exception of creating new membership classifica-

tions for non-superintendents. Rejecting membership restructuring for a second time indicated that members wanted to keep the association focused on superintendents.

"The members felt," incoming GCSAA President Gary Grigg said, "that creating classifications for non-superintendents [i.e. irrigation technicians, spray technicians, equipment managers] would di-

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Special GCSAA Show Coverage

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The championship flight will be staged at Poppy Hills Golf Course on the Monterey Peninsula.

Georgia team looks to repeat

By PETER BLAIS

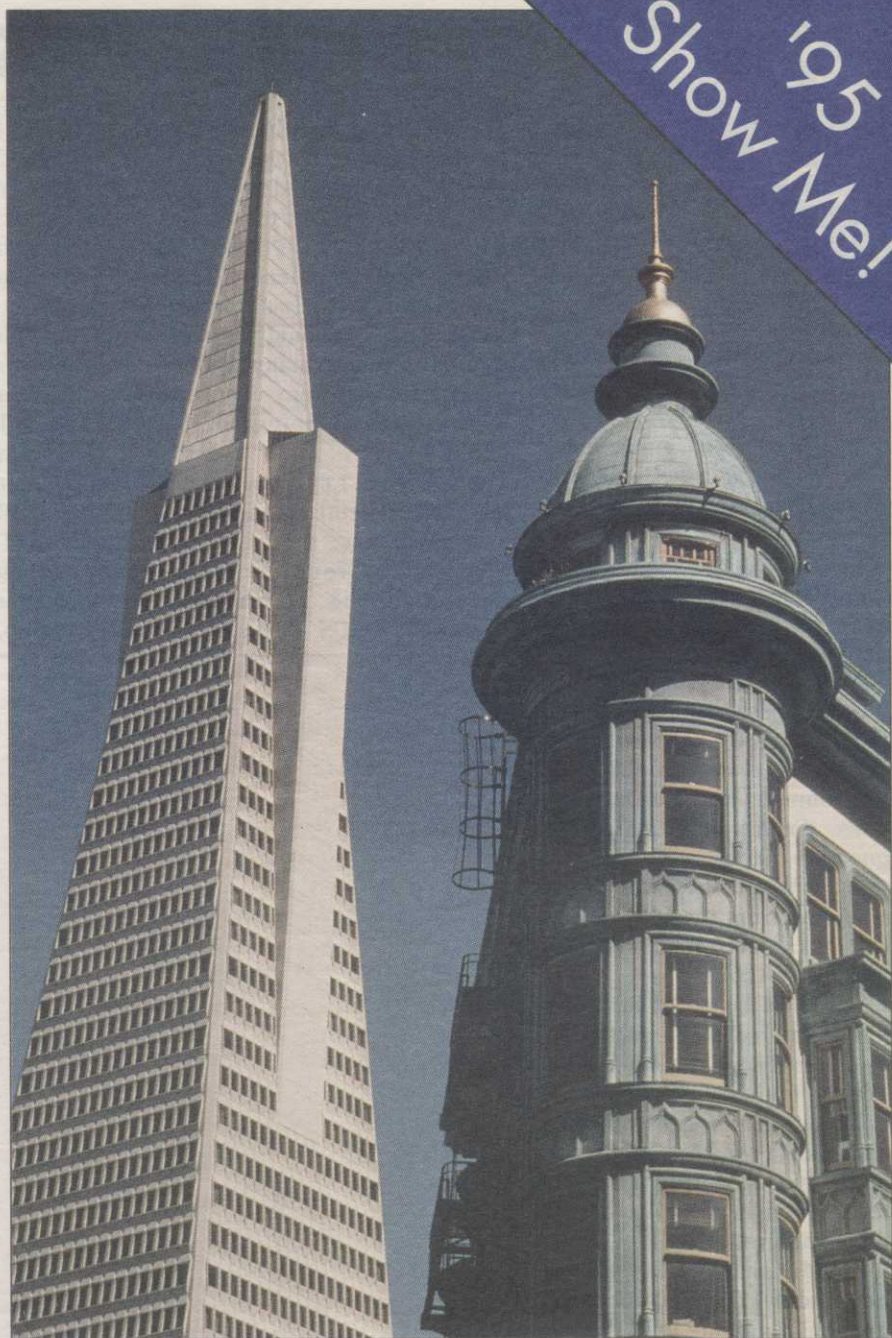
MONTEREY, Calif. — With so much emphasis on the singles title, the team competition is often overlooked at the annual GCSAA golf championship to be played here Feb. 20-21. But the team award is important to the competitors and a source of pride to the local chapters they represent, according to participants and organizers.

"It's always a big deal when the trophy is given out," said Mike Wilson of Cannongate at White Oak GC, a member of the Georgia No. 1 team that has won two of the past three team titles. Wilson's teammates are Jim Dusch of Atlanta National GC in Alpharetta, Randy Nichols of Cherokee Town & CC in Dunwoody and Randy Waldron of the GC of Georgia in Alpharetta.

This foursome has been together several years, winning the 1992 (Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.) and 1994 (Austin, Texas) titles sandwiched around a second-place finish in 1993 (San Diego). Southeastern U.S. entries have dominated the team championship since the early 1980s, taking 12 of the last 15 titles. During the last decade and a half, Carolina teams have taken seven championships, Florida three and Georgia two. Rocky Mountain, Midwest and California associations have one apiece.

"The Southern states have a distinct advantage because they get to play year-round," said Tommy Witt, head superintendent at Wynstone GC and chairman of the tournament committee.

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The diversity of San Francisco is born out in the city's architecture which features, side by side, the modernist, skyskewering Transamerica Pyramid (1972) and the furbelowed, flatiron Columbus Tower (1907).

WHERE TO GO IN SAN FRANCISCO

Vistas & victuals make San Francisco a city worth exploring and savoring

By STEVE SCHROEDER

SAN FRANCISCO — From the edge of the Embarcadero, a grayish fog can be seen lurking over the span of the Golden Gate Bridge. The distinct chime of the Cable Car completing its turnaround at Powell or Hyde Street gives you a sense. The faint sound of a foghorn heard in the distance confirms you've arrived in the City by the Bay, San Francisco. And, while widely acknowledged as one of the great tourist cities in the world, what should you do when passing through this bustling metropolis? Here are a few thoughts to consider.

A good place to start your adventure would be a visit to Union Square, located in the heart of town. Shopping abounds around the Square, with everything from smaller boutiques to retail outlets. A lot of territory can be covered in just a few blocks, but bring your check-

Steve Schroeder, our point man scouting out San Francisco for GCSAA conference attendees, is vice president of operations at Robert Trent Jones II, whose headquarters is in the suburb of Palo Alto. He and the entire Jones II staff "wish everyone a pleasant and relaxing stay in the City by the Bay."

A trip to the Cliff House at the North End of the Great Highway can provide relaxation, where a sumptuous brunch is served while taking in dramatic views of the Pacific Ocean.

book and credit cards to this portion of town. A special feature in this area is the Union Square ticket office, where you can get half-price seats during the day for many of the shows around the city, including the current sensation, Phantom of the Opera.

For those who want to try a different shopping atmosphere, Ghiradelli Square near Fisherman's Wharf offers a specialized array of stores and is famous for its outstanding varieties of chocolate. And, for you hard-core retail shoppers, Stonestown, situated along 19th Avenue on the city's West Side, provides the more traditional "shopping mall" experience where you can bounce quickly from store to store.

Finally, the truly adventurous shopper, weather permitting, should head for the Red and White Fleet Ferry

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Builders meet by the Bay; banquet Feb. 25

SAN FRANCISCO — A seminar, board of directors meeting and membership conclave will serve as prelude to the year's climax, the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) Annual Awards Banquet, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24-25 here.

GCBA Executive Director Phil Arnold has announced — from his Chapel Hill, N.C., office — that the awards dinner will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 25 at St. Francis Hotel. That will end two days of meetings conducted during the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show.

On Feb 24, The St. Francis Hotel will be site of the GCBA board meeting at 9 a.m.;

builder members meeting at 3:30 p.m.; and private reception from 5 to 7 p.m.

At the Moscone Convention Center on Feb. 25, a general membership meeting at 11 a.m. will be followed by a 1-to-3 p.m. GCBA seminar at the GCSAA conference.

A certification meeting and interviews are scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 26.

Highlighting the awards dinner will be presentation of the Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award to Dr. Joseph Duich, retired Penn State University professor of agronomy. Also presented during the banquet is the *Golf Course News*' Builder of the Year Award to Paul Clute of Paul Clute & Associates (see story page 71).

Record numbers expected at show

SAN FRANCISCO — Record attendance is expected when the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) holds its 66th International Conference and Show, Feb. 20-27, here at the Moscone Center.

The week will include nearly 80 educational seminars, sessions and forums; a three-day trade show, which is expected to fill 190,000 square feet of the center; and a gala banquet featuring the presentation of GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award to agronomist Dr. James Watson. Conference week opens with

the annual GCSAA Golf Championship, to be played Feb. 20-21, at five courses on the Monterey Peninsula.

Many of the educational and professional development needs of golf course superintendents will be covered in the 60 one- and two-day seminars that will be offered during the first four days of the conference, Feb. 20-24. Seminars will address issues ranging from environmental responsibility to personal stress management.

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Show Me!

Bylaws? What bylaws?

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lute the membership. They said they didn't want that right now.

"The board decided to step back for a year and send the membership classification issue back to the chapter relations and bylaw committees for further study. Next year we'll probably come back with several amendment proposals that might or might not include new membership classifications. We'll definitely have some dealing with chapter affiliation agreements, new Internal Revenue Service regulations for non-profit associations, and some other things we need to look at."

Despite the membership's decision not to create new membership classifications for non-superintendents, Grigg and others believe the idea still has merit. In fact, a majority (60 percent) of last year's voters were in favor of the new classifications, although that was short of the two-thirds vote needed for passage.

"The board wants to know what services it can provide non-superintendents," Grigg said. "If we can help irrigation technicians, spray technicians and equipment managers do their jobs better, it will help the superintendent. The board feels there must be a way to get maintenance crew members into the GCSAA loop."

Current GCSAA bylaws require all members, with the exception of students, to pay the full \$210 in annual dues. Students pay \$48 yearly. The board and its subcommittees, Grigg said, are seeking ways to develop a membership structure that would provide fewer services at lower annual dues rates for non-superintendents.

"The board realizes there are good technicians coming out of school who would like to be superintendents one day," the GCSAA officer said. "But it's hard to go to a club and ask it to pay \$210 apiece for five technicians. Maybe it would go for \$70 or \$75."

"Even the full \$210 doesn't come close to covering the costs of all the services we provide our members. Every new member costs the association money. That expense is covered by other things, like the trade show and magazine advertising."

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