

Letters

Continued from page 10

was published which could prove damaging to GCSAA and this year's educational program at Golf Asia '96. Lazy journalism seems to be accepted today but the preparatory research for this article left all stones unturned. In addition, Mr. Glucksman's failure to attribute negative quotes to an individual is disturbing and violates common journalistic integrity practices.

I would like to summarize the inaccuracies and would expect that a retraction be printed in your March issue of *Golf Course News*:

1. GCSAA's educational program is entitled, "GCSAA's Educational Seminar Program," and will be presented in partnership with Ransomes, March 27-30, 1996, at the World Trade Centre. In total, GCSAA will offer almost 40 hours of seminar training on golf course technical and management subjects. Mr. Glucksman has confused GCSAA's educational program with that of IMG/Connex's "Asia Pacific Golf Conference."

2. The quotes attributed to the anonymous member, therefore, are incorrect and irrelevant. GCSAA has priced its four-day program at \$275 U.S. for members and \$350 for non-members. This price amounts to less than \$100 per day for GCSAA member attendance, which is comparable to our United States seminar fees.

3. The additional references to the keynote speaker and recommended attendees were incorrect, again, due to lack of research.

4. To then mention and compare GCSAA's education to the education provided at the recent Hong Kong show is misleading and unnecessary.

Don Bretthauer, GCSAA's chapter relations manager, has informed me he had a conversation with Mr. Glucksman and member Gene Palrud at the Orlando Conference and Show. Mr. Palrud, also of Hong Kong, acknowledged that he had received GCSAA's educational brochure and was aware of the program being offered. GCSAA mailed a full brochure in early January (like the one enclosed) to every GCSAA member in the Pacific Rim via first class air mail. In addition, Connex Pte. Ltd. also included this brochure in a mailing completed in mid-January. Mr. Glucksman, as a member through his company in Hong Kong, should have also received this brochure.

GCSAA has worked extremely hard during the past two years to improve the education provided to its members in Singapore. Due to your inaccurate story, we have had several calls to GCSAA inquiring about the high price of GCSAA's Golf Asia seminars this year. Unfortunately, even a retraction may not be sufficient enough to undo the damage caused by this article. I would

suggest that, in the future, Mr. Glucksman and the editors at *Golf Course News* may want to research information more thoroughly before printing inaccurate articles such as that found on page 86 of the February issue. Your immediate attention to correcting these inaccuracies would be appreciated.

Bruce R. Williams
GCSAA President
Lawrence, Kan.

Ed. — Golf Course News regrets the subpar reporting effort. This letter, as it is more thorough, appears in place of a retraction.

MECHANICS ORGANIZE IN FLORIDA

To the Editor:

I have been a mechanic for 28 years and 10 of those years have been in the golf course industry. I am currently shop manager at John's Island's Club West and over the years I have witnessed a need for more professional mechanics.

Three years ago, I organized the Treasure Coast Turf Mechanics Association. The Association has grown from seven members to 47 in three years. The purpose of the Association is to educate, assist and set forth a positive example for the technicians to pursue a higher standard of professionalism. Membership growth has been through the training and the knowledge gained. Training has been on utility vehicles, reel grinding, hydraulic systems, oils and greases and environ-

mental issues to name a few.

The Association keeps us up to date on new trades and equipment, which helps us keep up with the demands of the superintendent and golf course requirements. The meetings are bi-monthly and on the first Tuesday of the month, at different courses in their turf-care facility. This gives each member an opportunity to see different operations. These give them valuable knowledge to take back their own facility. By joining a local association, the mechanic can bring more professionalism to the industry that may someday bring state and national associations.

Gary Petzold, Sr.
Shop Manager
John's Island Club West
Vero Beach, Fla.

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