

## New England GCSA Calls in Women For Some Expert Advice

By TOM FITZGERALD  
Golf Writer, Boston Globe

In the normal course of events, golf course supts. don't have much opportunity to get an idea of what the women members of their clubs think of how the grass grows.

Some of the greenmasters may feel privately they can get along without garden-club style advice, anyway.

Not so the New England GCSA whose pres., Narry Sperandio of Concord (Mass.) CC, recently came to an interesting conclusion.

"I was looking at some figures on our state women's association that surprised me," Narry says. "In about 10 years the number of women with state handicaps went from 400 to over 1800. That convinced me the gals might have some interesting thoughts about the golf courses."

### Experts Called In

So, Narry arranged a "Ladies Day" panel for one of his group's regular monthly meetings. The invited experts were Miss Margaret Curtis, Hall of Fame member who won the first of her three national championships in 1911; Mrs. Edward Pierson, pres. of the Women's GA of Mass.; and Mrs. John Hutchinson, treas. of the WGAM.

The ladies did, indeed, have some ideas on golf courses to contribute to a lively and remarkable session.

It was remarkable, in fact, that the meeting was held at all. The Greater Boston area was digging out from a blizzard, one of a series, that had hit only two days before.

### Pushed Right Through

Some of the supts. from relatively distant points couldn't get through, but the feminine guests of honor arrived punctually, waving off the drifts as nothing more than shallow bunkers.

Miss Curtis, who proudly admits to 77 years, was a little earlier than expected. Some time before she had sent a polite little note to the committee begging indul-



New England GCSA officers shown in these panels are: Top (front row) Richard Blake, Newsletter editor and Joseph Butler, 1st vp; (second row) George Webster, trustee, William Ash, sec. and Robert Grant, Educational chmn. Bottom (front row) Narry Sperandio, pres., Ray Brigham, 2nd vp, and Arthur Cody, treas; (second row) Mario Finizia, trustee, Mike O'Grady, trustee, Albert Allen, past pres., and Phil Cassidy, finance chmn.

gence in case she were slightly detained. Monday, it seems, is Miss Margaret's regular bowling day.

Miss Curtis outlined some solid thoughts for the supts., including one favorite idea for which she has been campaigning for quite a while.

"I think you should keep in mind," Miss Curtis said "that a ladies tee should be designed so that women players will have the same approach as a man. I have never been able to understand why a woman should have to hit a wood to a well-trapped green where a man might be hitting a short iron."

Miss Curtis also maintained that ladies' tees should be made larger. She pointed to the eventual economy in a tee with a sufficient area to move the markers about more freely.

Mrs. Pierson and Mrs. Hutchinson add-  
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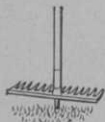


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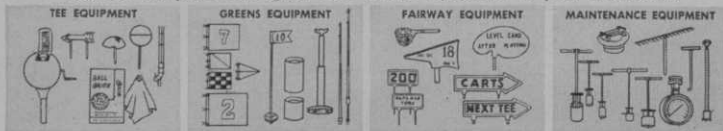
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## Few Changes in Oakland Hills Since Playing of 1951 Open

There have been few changes made in Oakland Hills CC, Birmingham, Mich., site of the 1961 Open, since the course was toughened up for the USGA event 10 years ago. Seven traps have been removed, five of them in the driving areas. There are now 113 traps on the course. Five greens have been modified to allow for additional pin placements. How far in the rough will be brought for the June 15-17 shooting remains to be decided by the USGA championship committee.

For the 1951 Open, Robert Trent Jones was brought in to give a shock treatment to the course which, prior to the event, was considered too soft a touch for the country's greatest golfers. Jones developed what he called "two target areas," one for the tee shot and the other for the green, for the tournament. This called for double accuracy on each of the par four and par five holes and didn't permit any serious mistakes. Ben Hogan, winner of the 1951 Open, expressed dislike for Oakland Hills even after he shot a final 67 and won the Championship. But upon reflection, in

later years, he agreed that it had been re-designed to bring out the best in an aspirant to the title.

This is Oakland Hills' fourth Open. Cyril Walker won the first in 1924 with a 297. Ralph Guldahl established what was a record score in the second one in 1937 with a 281 over the longest course in Open history, 7,037 yds. Hogan's winning total in 1951 was 287.

## Expert Advice from Women

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ed several proposals which the greensmen said they would translate into action.

### The Feminine Wrist

One thing the women's association officials concentrated on was the feminine wrist. Their wrists, the ladies said, are so much weaker than men's that some thought should be taken for thinning rough for women's tournaments.

For the same reason they besought the use of sand of reasonable texture in traps. Sperandio assured them that most clubs in the New England area used concrete No. 3 which comes as close to filling their requirements as any.

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Also introduced by the visiting feminine panelists were suggestions about the placing of stakes. Out of bounds stakes, they said, should be placed so that they can be seen from the tee. They also recommended that more attention be paid to placing red markers to define lateral hazards.

### What's A Pro Job Worth

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ures on paper.

A case in my own section involved lining up a professional for a club whose officials estimated the man could earn at least \$15,000 a year. But when figures were put on paper they showed:

Pro salary	\$ 2400
Club storage and cleaning (300 sets at \$15)	4500
Bag cart rentals	720
Lessons	600
Miscellaneous income	450
Shop sales (\$21,000)	
Generous estimate of gross profit	6300

Estimated annual income \$14,970  
Expenses were estimated this way:

Wages to assistants	\$4,200
Insurance, taxes	750
Auto, postage, telephone	680
Supplies, tools, etc.	410
Caddies, entertainment, adver- tising, tournament expense	320
Shop equipment, furnishings, etc.	500

Estimated operating cost \$6,860

This gives an \$8,110 estimated net, about half of what the committee thought the job was worth. There was no salary figured in for the pro's wife who often helped in the shop. No thought was given to the money (cash or borrowed) the pro would have tied up in stock. Gross profit of 30 percent, used in estimating shop income, was plenty high as noted above; 25 percent would have been nearer the actual figure.

Undoubtedly the estimated income from the job was higher than a pro actually would realize even by putting on a good, strong Christmas gift sales campaign.

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