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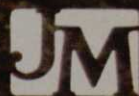
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THE FIGHT AGAINST FUSARIUM BLIGHT

Summers in Indiana are made to order for Fusarium blight — it thrives on hot, humid weather accompanied by a long, dry spell. The disease has been a serious threat on many golf courses, but the 1974 season resulted in considerable encouragement for Terry Pfothenhauer and Dave Bolyard, a pair of Indianapolis golf course superintendents who have been seeking a solution to Fusarium problems.

Pfothenhauer studied turfgrass management at Purdue University and has served as superintendent at the Country Club of Indianapolis since 1963. He experienced severe loss of grass at his club from Fusarium and became interested in a good preventative program after attempting unsuccessfully to control the disease by syringing during the daytime. Steve Frazier, superintendent at Meridian Hills in Indianapolis, told him about the excellent control of Fusarium blight with a special turf fungicide program. Pfothenhauer convinced his greens committee to try the fungicide last year in hopes of keeping the course in top shape for an important local tournament scheduled for July.

Heavy flooding, due to 12 inches of rain in May alone, delayed the

start of Pfothenhauer's 1974 course preparation work. "Late in May after the water subsided, we began slicing the fairways with knives every seven to 10 days to break up the compaction and improve the weak root structure of our grass," he told GOLFDOM.

"About June 21, we applied five ounces of the fungicide per 1,000 square feet. To prevent drying, the application was made in the evening in hopes of gaining some benefit from dew present on the grass. We also watered it in most of that night," he said.

According to Pfothenhauer, the control of Fusarium blight with that application lasted about 60 days. He observed some dry spots in late August where the grass would wilt and then regain its turgidity after watering, but there was no turf damage. His fairways are a mixture of common Kentucky bluegrass and bentgrass. "The Merion bluegrass began showing Fusarium somewhat early, after about 35-40 days. If I had large amounts of Merion, I'd follow up with a second application to obtain necessary control."

In the beginning, cost was a major concern. Pfothenhauer said, "Now that the committee and our

members have seen our success in controlling the Fusarium, they are eager to do it again. In fact, the budget has been increased for 1975 to treat with the fungicide at seven ounces per 1,000 square feet. I believe the higher rate will lengthen the period of effective control on Merion and other grasses. We put it on in early June.

"The appearance of our course in 1974 not only impressed our members but also the LPGA committee that selected us as hosts for the U.S. Women's Open in 1978.

"I prefer the preventative approach to control, but its never too late to apply the fungicide for Fusarium. If you've got it, you can apply the fungicide and stop the disease. If you use the fungicide as a curative, it is important that you carefully observe your course daily for a development of the disease. And it helps to be ready to spray immediately."

Late last July, Dave Bolyard was

Fusarium blight at the Country Club of Indianapolis is examined by Stan Morris (left), distributor salesman, Riley Lawn & Golf, Indianapolis, and superintendent Terry Pfothenhauer.



FUSARIUM continued

visiting Pfothenauer, observing his control of Fusarium. They both agreed conditions were ideal for the blight. Bolyard returned to the Hillcrest Country Club later that day and found that the disease was present in every fairway. He and his board of directors took quick action and controlled the disease with

the same fungicide Pfothenauer was using — Tersan 1991, manufactured by DuPont.

Bolyard, who holds two degrees from Michigan State University (a two-year technical certificate in turf-grass management and a B.S. in agronomy), came to Hillcrest in 1973. In his first year at the club, Bolyard was unable to determine the extent of his Fusarium problem because he had suffered considerable

Poa annua loss and had lost other grass due to scalding. He said, "The scalding appeared to result from standing water due to heavy thatch and compaction." Bolyard sliced the fairways in the fall of 1973 and seeded a bluegrass mixture of Victor Nugget and Windsor at the rate of 50 pounds per acre. He applied a broad-spectrum fungicide in 1974 for disease control. He had planned to remove the thatch in the spring, but heavy rains made that impossible. A few Fusarium spots were observed in early July, but Bolyard assumed they were isolated infestations due to compacted soil and weak root systems.

When Bolyard discovered he had a serious Fusarium problem, he went to his greens chairman immediately with a proposal including the slicing of the fairways and the application of a wetting agent, followed by five ounces of the fungicide per 1,000 square feet. Board approval was granted and within a week the fungicide was obtained and applied. Bolyard watered it in immediately after application and watered heavily for the next two or three days to get the material into the root zone.

"Within a few days, the disease was stopped," he said. "Some grass was lost before we got the chemical on, but good growing conditions in August and September helped fill in most of those spots. I didn't see any new Fusarium the rest of the year. When you weigh the cost of the chemical to control Fusarium blight against the cost of renovation and the loss of playing time, a disease control program looks very favorable."

This year, Bolyard plans to continue removing thatch to encourage deep root growth and to spray his fairways with five ounces of the fungicide per 1,000 square feet at the first sign of Fusarium blight. Both he and Pfothenauer carry out planned fungicide programs for control of leafspot, Pythium and snow mold on their fairways, tees and greens.

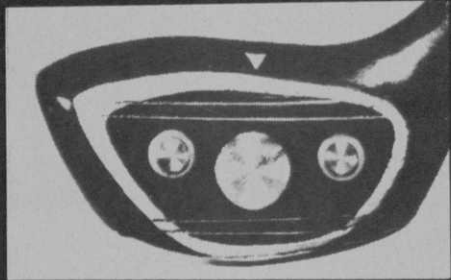
As for the Fusarium blight, the two superintendents have far more confidence in their ability to control the disease than a year ago. Their programs differ a bit with Pfothenauer using preventative measures and Bolyard a curative approach, but their goal is the same — fairways free of Fusarium. □

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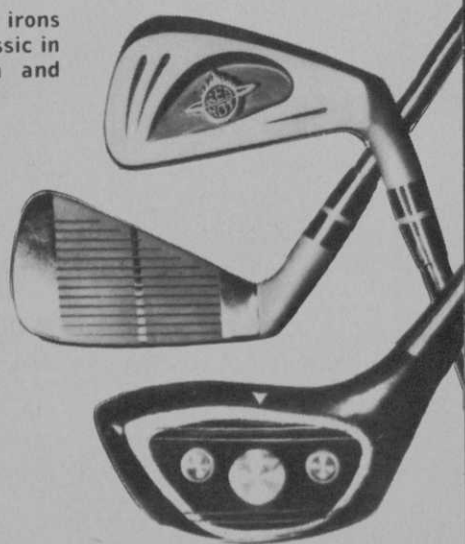
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NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

Country Club Tax Status In Question

Country club taxes were recently in the news in Maryland, and implications of what is going on in that state are of interest to country club officials across the country.

The *Washington Post* recently featured an article on the tax status of country clubs that take advantage of a tax break if the club "promises to keep its land in open space for 10 years." This agreement can be renewed for succeeding 10-year periods. The Maryland state law was formed in 1966 and next year will terminate the first 10-year period agreement.

Under the present law, country

clubs are exempt from annual land assessment increases and pay virtually the same rate of taxes each year, even though the value of land around the country club is continually increasing, it was reported in the newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. In 1966 when the agreements were signed, the assessed value for club land was about 54 percent of the fair market value. Since these assessments have not changed despite inflation, the current assessment value is now only 28 percent of the fair market value. A bill was recently introduced in the

Maryland legislature to increase country club assessments to 50 percent of the fair market value but was killed in committee without a floor vote.

Speaking in an editorial voice, the newsletter said any additional tax assessment will result in a higher dues structure for all country clubs throughout the state. It said the majority of members are not rich and are already cutting their expenses to survive inflation. Results of members letting their memberships at private clubs lapse would be that the state would be faced with overcrowding of recreational facilities. More park and municipal courses would be needed, resulting in increased government expenses.

Golf Cars No Longer Allowed On Pinehurst No. 2 Course

The famed Pinehurst No. 2 golf course will no longer allow golf cars on its 7,051-yard layout, and will require use of caddies.

The announcement was made by William C. Brent, Jr., president of Pinehurst, Inc., who said: "We have made this move in order to preserve the quality which Pinehurst No. 2 has become so famous for around the world."

The course, which plays to a par 71, is one of five championship courses at Pinehurst, in North Carolina. Pinehurst is the only private country club in the United States with five 18-hole courses. All five courses begin and end at the 80-year-old Pinehurst Country Club as well as the new \$2.1 million members' club which will open later this month. Pinehurst No. 2 is also the site of the \$200,000 World Open Golf Championship in September, and its fourth green is overlooked by the World Golf Hall of Fame.

\$250,000 Industry Challenge Is Initiated by Spalding

As anyone related to the golf industry must know by now, Spalding is making a \$250,000 challenge that no other leading pro shop golf ball can outdistance its "Top-Flite" ball. The challenge is directed at the Titleist, Royal +6, Blue Max, Wilson LD, Titleist DT and Maxfli balls.

The publicity-minded challenge has received excellent exposure in



GOLFDOM's Herb Graffis and PGA President Henry Poe admire the Graffis Cup which will be awarded to the PGA Section generating the largest contributions to the National Golf Day charities drive this year. The 23-year-old event, which provides help for more than 35 golf charities, generates funds as golfers contribute \$1 or more to try to beat the target score (with handicap) set at the Round of Champions at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio June 2. The target score to beat is the lowest round of the competing champions — PGA champ Lee Trevino versus U.S. Open champ Hale Irwin for men and LPGA and Women's Open champ Sandra Haynie and 1974 LPGA player-of-the-year JoAnne Carner for women.

the golf industry by advertising and word-of-mouth, and manufacturers of the other golf balls have until August 31 to accept the challenge.

"Many claims have been made by manufacturers about the distance their golf balls travel," said Ralph Carlson, Spalding's business manager of golf. "So by issuing our direct challenge we hope to show golfers once and for all which ball actually travels the farthest. In this way, their decision on which golf ball to buy can be made solely on facts.

"\$250,000 says Top-Flite is the longest ball and the first competitor that can outdistance us in a head-to-head test goes home with the cash," Carlson said.

The test will be conducted independently by Opinion Research Corp., Princeton, N.J. Carlson spelled out some of the rules governing the challenge. The golf site would be chosen based on the mutual agreement of the challenger and Spalding. Opinion Research then would select a "reliable base" of amateur golfers from among men and women having a wide range of handicaps. They would use a driver and a five iron until Opinion Research determines the winner on the basis of the total distance of the two shots.

"We feel the challenge is a truly meaningful distance test," Carlson said. "No machines. No gimmicks. Using the best gauge, the men and women who play the game." As of yet, no other company has taken Spalding up on its challenge. It was also reported another factor in the challenge is that should Spalding win a challenge, Spalding would be allowed to use the fact in its advertising campaign.

Damages Awarded In "Pro-only" Case; Wilson, PGA to Appeal

Fourteen weeks after a verdict was reached, damages were finally awarded in the Golf City "Pro-only" suit in New Orleans May 30. Judge James Comiskey awarded Golf City, Inc. \$292,127.27 from the defendants, Wilson Sporting Goods Co. and the Professional Golfers Association.

Despite the financial arrangements made in the Crescent City

there is little doubt that Wilson and the PGA plan to appeal the decision to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, also in New Orleans.

Golf City's chief counsel Henry Klein told GOLFDOM he was happy with the judgement, but thought an appeal was imminent.

The defendants in the case stand to pay out around \$225,000 plus interest if their appeal is turned down. Klein indicated that over \$116,000 had been credited to the defense, because of a number of other defendants who had settled out of court.

In other litigation pending against equipment manufacturers, a pre-trial conference was held in federal court in Chicago May 23 in the case of sporting goods dealer Morris Mages versus over a dozen of the club manufacturers.

Klein, who is also involved in the Chicago case, is basing his anti-trust action against the manufacturers in much the same way the New Orleans action was taken. Another pre-trial conference is set for the court of Judge Bernard Decker in Chicago on Aug. 21. Over 30 attorneys are working on the defense case.

Keep Members Interested, CMAA Exec Says

Being acutely aware of rising costs, Wichita Country Club in Kansas recently started its own Fight Inflation Plan, according to its club manager, Josef Auerbach.

Writing in the newsletter of the Club Managers Association of America, the newly elected secretary-treasurer explained the program that he feels is the kind of thing country clubs will have to do in the future to keep members interested.

"Three evenings a week we feature all you can eat family style dinners at a low overall price," he said. "Children under 12 get half price and children under six eat free.

"We also recognize the fact that a franchise which sells billions of hamburgers can't be all wrong," he said. "The club features our own super burger to get a small share of that business. Obviously, as a prestige club, we must also offer the variety and quality of meals that today's sophisticated membership expects."

Tennis is another area where the Wichita club anticipated trends in

National and Local Chapters Don't Back Members on Jobs, One Superintendent Says

Associations should back a superintendent from the time he applies for a job, right through until he accepts a position and continue to represent him as long as he keeps the job, according to Wayne Evans, superintendent at Brandywine Country Club in Brandywine, Md.

"The area in which associations are falling short is in the endorsement of each and every superintendent," Evans said. "The crux of the situation lies in the fact that there is no real job assurance for the superintendent in that he has no real contract."

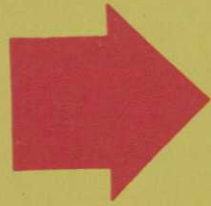
Evans said the superintendent has more wide-ranging responsibilities than either the pro or the club manager. He is responsible for the planning and maintenance of millions of dollars worth of land, turf, ornamental plantings and equipment.

Evans said he feels certification is a must. He said it gives the superintendent tremendous lever-

the mood of its members. "When tennis became a national popularity," he said, "our club already had anticipated the trend. From two unused concrete courts, we advanced to six modern outdoor and three excellent indoor courts. The tennis roster lists almost 300 active tennis families. In the first 18 months of indoor operation, they spent over \$75,000 on indoor fees."

The basis of Auerbach's views was that management must continuously analyze its own market area and must constantly find new ways to interest membership participation. He said it will be exceedingly more difficult in the future to cover operational deficits by dues increases or assessments. The competition for the entertainment dollar will be even greater as inflation continues to climb.

He stressed that private clubs have always had a propensity to encourage inefficiency, and that to survive the economic turmoil, management must learn to cut costs whenever possible and institute new controls to minimize waste.



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