

The Grass Roots

March 1978

Vol. 4, No. 1

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT ASSOCIATION



President's Message

Most of us have been exposed to the winter weather long enough and are anxiously awaiting the upcoming golf season. Equipment restoration and replacement is nearly completed and the supplies that were ordered in large quantities are about to be received. By reviewing our past programs, obtaining new knowledge and conferring with other Superintendents we will attempt to admin-

ister the 1978 management programs we have planned during the winter months. Last year presented a variety of problems for many golf courses and Superintendents and I'm sure we all know and appreciate the fact that hindsight is 20-20 vision. Thus, we won't, or at least shouldn't, make the same mistakes twice.

Hopefully, everyone has or is plan-

ning to complete the certification process of Phase II for Category 3 [Ornamental and Turf Pesticide Application]. In addition, if you plan to use algacides in your lakes, you must complete Category 5 [Aquatic Weed Control]. If you do not complete the Phase II process you cannot legally purchase or apply any "restricted-use" pesticides, which will include many of the materials used on golf course turf. For more information contact:

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Rebuttal - "Green is not Great"

The following article originally appeared in letter form as a rebuttal to Al Radko's article, "Green is not Great" (USGA Golf Journal, August, 1977). The author is James A. Bertoni, Golf Course Superintendent at La Jolla Country Club, La Jolla, California and President of the San Diego Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Editor

Golf has changed considerably since the first pin was placed during the fifteenth century. The maturation process began in 1944 when the "Honorable Company of Edinburgh Golfers" formulated thirteen articles as the original rules of golf. In 1764, St. Andrews reduced it's course from twenty-two to eighteen holes. Some claim this was the number of holes which a Scotsman found necessary to drain a flask of spirits. This reduction set the standard for all courses in the future.

The original rules were simple: Play the course as you find it and the ball as it lies. There were no special rulings because an errant shot landed behind an immovable object. There were no provisions for "embedded balls", "lift, clean and place" or "Ground under Repair". The golfer played by the axiom, "touch your ball when teeing it up and do not touch it again until it has been holed out".

Unfortunately, the modern golfer has had his hands on the ball more often than not. Relief from nearly every unsatisfactory situation confronted is allowed. Today's player is not only allowed relief, but can conceivably move his ball over fourteen feet, including two club lengths for the drop and the additional two that the ball may roll, to secure the desired alleviation.

Several Superintendents from Wisconsin attend the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation conference at Purdue University each year. This is an excellent meeting and, if possible, get a "car-full" together and attend the conference from March 13 to March 15, 1978.

See you at West Bend Country Club on March 22.

Wayne Otto

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jeff Bottensek, Golf Course Superintendent at Waupaca Country Club and Paul Cooper, Golf Course Superintendent at Rhinelander Country Club for successfully completing the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America process and becoming Certified Golf Course Superintendents.