

MAY MEETING REPORT

Wet, windy conditions did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the golfing superintendents who were eager for their first crack at playing after a busy opening two weeks. Carl Johnston, host superintendent, put a lot of work into getting the course in great shape and it sure showed. Scores were kept secret because of the tough weather but some dollars did change hands, anyway. At the business meeting the following eleven new members were approved: Richard Fredericksen B2, Huron Country Club; Mike Kasner B2, Wapicada Golf Club; Fred Anderson, Jr. B2, Olympic Hills Golf Club; Jim Anderson B2, Farmers Golf & Health Club; Bruce Hovelson A, Edgebrook Golf Course; Tim Westland C, Green Lea Golf Club, Tom Westland C, Green Lea Golf Club; Phil Hansen F, Egeberg Cycle Co.; Charles Egeberg F, Egeberg Cycle Co.; Lowell Kuberka F, Rolling Green Fairways; Jeff Wensman F, Northrup King. The treasurer reported the bank balance "healthy" and President Scott announced that the Golf Course Superintendents' of America will offer a seminar entitled "Management II" in the Twin Cities on October 25 and 26 at a place as yet not determined. One correction to the outstanding new member roster is President Scott's telephone numbers. The correct ones are: Office 938-6900 - Home 938-4546. Wouldn't you know we would boo-boo on the president's listing!

TIPS FOR A SAND TOPDRESSING PROGRAM

By Jerry Heckler

For those of you who are considering a sand program for all of your greens, or just a problem green or two, it may be that you would wish to share some of my thoughts and things that I have done with a sand program. The first item on the list is the decision to proceed with a program. After making up your mind to do it, the next thing to do is to find the proper sand and then have it tested and sized before proceeding any further. This is the most important part of the program - the right kind of sand. After finding the right sand product, and this must include a steady source, you can proceed to correct your green problem. I had a complete soil analysis of each of my greens. Having a PH reading in the 7.5 to 7.7 range, I had to add 8-10 lbs. actual sulphur each time I cored my greens, spring and fall. I followed the coring program for two years, and this year (1978) I will not do any coring but will still apply sulphur at that rate both spring and fall. At coring time we worked in the sulphur plus 2 1/2 to 3 lbs. per 1000 of 0-45-0 which I also needed. We then top dressed with our washed sand material and dragged the greens until the sand was completely worked into the coring holes. We tried one green first to see what setting we needed on the spreader to be sure we got plenty of material on. If time and circumstances permitted, we also watered the sand in but this was not really required. We made four more light topdressings during the summer and finished with a heavier dressing in the fall about the 15th of September.

The key to this program is the steady application of sand during the strong growing season. I try to keep my thatch layer at one quarter of an inch. If I see the least hint of a scalp while mowing, we immediately topdress. If you were pushing your greens quite hard, you probably would topdress five times (lightly) during June, July, and August. If you fail in this part of the program your thatch layer will get to be from an inch to an inch and a half and you will, in effect, develop a perched water table. If this happens, you can correct it with a lot more coring, but the purpose of the whole program is to get away from coring. If at some later time you add some soil to the topdressing program, you then will have to core extensively to correct a perched water table. Soil layers and thatch layers will cause a perched water table when placed over a sand layer.

Some symptoms of a bad green would be the following: Hard spots or whole green hardness, thin areas where it's difficult to start or keep grass cover, standing water for a long period of time after watering or a rain, difficulty in setting cups due to lack of water penetration, a green that has serious repeating disease problems. Using these and other problems as a guide may help you to decide to start using a sand program. If anyone wishes to call me or come to see me about a green problem, my course is at Cottonwood, Minnesota. The course phone number is 507/423-6335 and my home phone is 507/223-7978. I will be more than happy to help anyone that I can.