

A GOLF COURSE EXPANSION PROJECT

by BERNIE ZIMMER
Superintendent, Whitefish Golf Club

Here is some insight into many construction operation problems of expanding a 9-Hole golf course business to an 18-Hole operation.

The absolute number one consideration for anyone operating with a Board of Directors is to have a board and special committee who are willing to serve and work with the superintendent. It is also important that they are willing to serve throughout all the various stages from preplanning to completion so that priorities don't become confused as variations along the way take place. To make the best use of the available project dollars, the board must stay with the superintendent and the project.

A second consideration is planning your labor force. The superintendent requires two key people - one to handle the normal maintenance functions of the playing course (with his own personnel) and the second to keep the superintendent in direct contact with the construction crew and their personnel. This two-man situation allows the superintendent to keep in touch with all that is taking place as you constantly work with variables and problems and it gives him a fighting chance to keep every part of the undertaking progressing as smooth as possible. In addition, don't overlook volunteer help from members as they can be extremely valuable yet don't affect any costs. In our particular case at Whitefish Golf Club, members volunteered willingly; thus eliminating what could have created some big problems.

Equipment needs and use, purchase of supplies and your own time must all be allocated to the playable operating side and the construction project side. Equipment needs for both present and future needs must be considered as the expansion will come to full operation in a very short time. If not planned in advance, the need for essential equipment could arise which in turn

could create money problems. I first checked to see what equipment could be used for normal operation and construction. Would the mowing equipment we had be able to handle the expansion and at what point would we need new equipment of substantial cost. I place new equipment on a four year schedule and this includes sundry items as well as small tools and supplies. A capital program is a must as your operation increases and again needs some flexibility.

Fertilizer and seed needs for the present operation, the construction project and any future changes to the older original nine must be carefully checked and thought out. Determining fertility levels through soil tests is a must for all phases of normal operation and construction. Seed selection is very important with the many varieties available today.

I personally found our associate members very helpful in many areas. Their sincerity and expertise were a tremendous help in making decisions.

The day to day problems are constantly there. When weather is bad, it will tie you in knots, construction can stop, you fall behind on mowing, maintenance, housekeeping and the chemical and fertilizer programs. One constantly tries to be prepared to use the personal and construction equipment to their greatest advantage even during inclement weather. One must plan as best possible for being rained out or the inflexibility of not planning for it will create the impossible task of trying to unravel the confusion, the personality problems and work schedules which will arise. Flexible planning will keep the normal operation and construction running smoothly. When playing conditions are good, you not only have the pressure of players and normal maintenance but also demands to make the best possible progress on your new construction. Anyone can average the good versus bad weather over the past two years (discounting winter) and not find all that many ideal working days available each season.

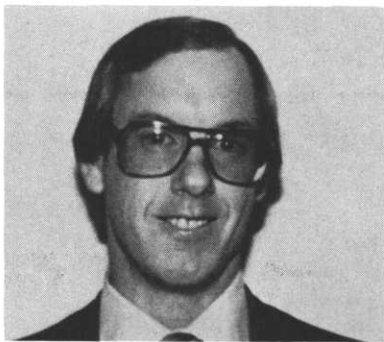
I have found that you can play golf if it rains but neither mowing units nor

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bulldozers float. Trucks don't have water wings and the personnel is sure you're touched or something other than normal. But you're expected to be above all the setbacks that occur. It's a sincere challenge to your ability but also is very rewarding, creative and beautiful as it develops and players begin to enjoy it.

All of you superintendents surely have a challenge and I hope this little article gives you some insight into operating a nine-hole course while constructing an additional nine.

EDITOR'S CORNER



by DOUG MAHAL
Chairman
Editorial Committee

It was 4:12 a.m. when the alarm went off. I had to meet Dale Caldwell, Mark Smith and Larry Thornton at 5:00 a.m. for the annual Izatys outing on Lake Mille Lacs. We left on time and got to our destination at 7:20 a.m. Our planned fishing excursion with expert fisherman Jerry Anderson began at 8:00 a.m. with a rather rough but exciting ride out to Jerry's ice houses, 2 - 3 miles onto the lake. We found the preheated, predrilled houses very clean, neat and ready for action. Although the day wasn't as productive as we had all hoped, we did come back in at about 7:00 p.m. with fishy-smelling fingers. We then sat down to a very enjoyable steak and fish dinner with all the trimmings and concluded with an informal business meeting and a happy 50th birthday wish to Jim Wodash. Several concluded the day in the pool/sauna/whirlpool area for discussions on the day's activities and the coming golf season. Everyone I chatted with throughout the day and evening had a very enjoyable and

relaxing time. I was a little surprised that less than 40 members attended.

Arrangement Co-Chairmen Jim Wodash and Keith Scott have nearly concluded with the particulars for our annual March Mini-Seminar. We'll be at Majestic Oaks on March 12. Jim and Keith assure a productive and informative day. Please plan to attend. You'll all receive a special mailing later this month or early March. In addition our April meeting will be in Owatonna so start making plans for that one.

At our annual meeting at the Sheraton Northwest in December, Dr. White suggested that superintendents keep an eye on those water-holding areas on greens this winter. I've asked Dr. White if he could update us on the possible threat of turf loss and what we might expect to see next spring as the snow recedes. Look for his report in the March issue of HOLE NOTES.

I'd like to thank members Fred Anderson of Purple Hawk, Dave Dodds of Apple Creek and Tom Haugen of Brayton for their January article contributions. Great job, guys!

There was an unusually large amount of Penncross and Penneagle seed purchased in 1983 and, in fact, much of the new seed harvest has gone to fill 1983 backorders. From all indications, Penncross and Penneagle may be in short supply until the fall of 1984 so for those who will require these varieties next spring and summer, you might think about ordering early.

I hope all who could attend had a very enjoyable and successful 1984 GCSAA Conference and Show and I hope to see many of you at Majestic Oaks for the Mini-Seminar on March 12.

From the "Remember When" Department, can you guess which year this Board of Directors held office and which club they represented at the time?

Richard McLaughlin, President
Kurt Erdman, Vice President
John (Jack) Kolb, Secretary-Treasurer
Emil Picha, Director
Milt Wiley, Director
Edward Nohava, Director
Vern Hanson, Director