

RESORT GOLF

by Scott Hoffmann, Superintendent
Madden's on Gull Lake



As superintendent of one of Minnesota's resort golf courses, I would like to write about some aspects of resort golf that may differ from most golf operations.

Probably one of the most fundamental differences with most resort golf is that there are few members, no boards, and no greens chairmen. There are also no leagues, and few, if any, club-sponsored tournaments which place tremendous demands on a superintendent's time with added responsibilities. We do, however, have circumstances unique to the resort industry. There are work scheduling problems related to convention groups which comprise 70% of our business. Maintenance schedules must be worked around meeting times and free times. Most guests, whether convention groups or summer vacationers, have made reservations at Madden's up to a year in advance. This gives us the obligation to provide the best possible conditions for their limited stay, no matter what time of year. This also makes it extremely difficult to close the courses due to rain.

Even though resort golfers seem to take their golf in a more relaxed stride, they have come to demand more from the golf courses each year. This, I am sure, is partly the result of ever-improving golf course conditions throughout the state, and exposure of midwestern golfers to sunbelt golf resorts through winter vacations and televised tournaments. At Madden's we are responding to this with a continual upgrading of facilities and long range improvements which have included the rebuilding of several greens and tees. After working at both the country club and public golf course levels where the golf is usually the sole reason for the facility's existence, it was difficult to adjust to a resort golf course being just a segment of a larger business where much of the attention is not always focused on the golf course. This makes it ever-important for the superintendent to have clear communication channels with owners and other management personnel.

In addition to management of the golf courses, the grounds crew is also charged with a large percentage of grounds maintenance on resort property. This includes mowing, trimming, landscape projects, sprinkler system installation, dock installation and removal, and tree removal which results in from 60-75 cords of firewood each year for our guests units. We also maintain the trap range, airport and owner residences.

All our jobs hold special blessings in some shape or form. Resort golf also holds its share of challenges and rewards in addition to enjoying a wonderful area in which to work and live. As Mr. Madden stated so well: "Once you get a little Pine Beach sand in your shoes, you will never want to leave". After eight years at Madden's, I couldn't agree more!

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RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Don Lindblad and Mark Smith
Research Committee Co-Chairmen

The Research Committee realizes that there is a need to reassess our Research Program and try to make it more productive and responsive to our needs and concerns. With that objective in mind the Research Committee met with a steering committee composed of ten MGCSA superintendents at Majestic Oaks on December 22, 1982. General areas of concern that came out of that meeting were 1) chemical resistance, 2) quality decline of fairway turf during the summer, 3) adapting computers to fit a golf course superintendent's needs, 4) sand, 5) investigate the elimination of PMAS from fall fairway snow mold programs, using PCNB instead. Other concerns that the Research Committee will consider are the introduction of the gypsy moth to Minnesota and the detrimental effects of ice coverage on putting greens.

Between now and April the Research Committee will attempt to narrow these general areas of concern to specific research objectives and attach a price tag to each. This package will then be presented to the MGCSA Board of Directors for their consideration. In the meantime the committee will be meeting with individuals who have considerable experience with turf-grass research at the national level in order to prevent duplication of research already done and in order to direct our research dollars where they will benefit our association and its members the most. If you have ideas for the Research Committee, please communicate them to Don Lindblad, Mark Smith or any other board member. It is your money being spent!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The following changes in membership occurred since the last monthly meeting:

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Vicki Duffy, Minnetonka C.C., BII; Ronald A. Noyce, Minikahda Club, D. The following were RECLASSIFIED: Kevin Clunis, Woodmore C.C., BII; Andy Lindquist, Brookview G.C., BII. CONGRATULATIONS to Robert D. Smith, retired Superintendent, Gross Golf Club, on becoming a Life Member.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

By Boots Fuller

Editorial Chairman - MGCSA

It looks as if winter is on the downward trend. Once into March, it won't be long before those engines will be humming and the grass will be changing color. As most of you know, this can't happen fast enough for me!

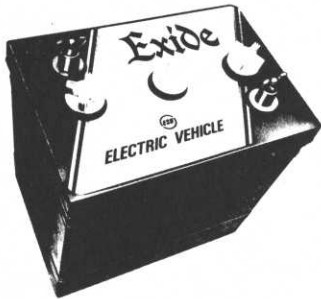
Your Board of Directors met at Minnesota Valley Club on February 1, 1983 where Past-President Larry Mueller hosted another of his excellent meetings. I know of the talents that are present in our membership, and the makeup of our Board certainly follows this pattern. This Board is truly a dedicated group and I'm sure the job done this year will be most satisfying to the membership.

The U.S.G.A. Seminar which is being held in cooperation with our state association at Midland Hills Country Club on March 8 should be a dandy. Stan Zontek has his program well organized, as usual, so I'm sure it will be a meaningful and informative day.

I saw many of you over at the Holiday Inn on 494 and Normandale on February 3. Another outstanding seminar was presented, courtesy this time of Jack Kolb and his excellent staff at Turf Supply. I'm sure that all those in attendance will agree it was an informative session. Thanks to Jack and his staff for a job well done. I talked to Andy Lindquist at this seminar and he is already into his new job at Brookview Golf Course in Golden Valley. I'm sure it will be quite a change for Andy but we all know he'll do an outstanding job.

I hope you will all notice and read the articles in this issue. We have started a couple of new series. Please check on our new Associates' Corner and Research sections.

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Next month we hope to continue the trends already established. The Associates' Corner next month will feature Turf Supply Company and the following issue we'll read the story at Minnesota Toro. I hope other Associates will contact me to get on the schedule. If not, I'll be contacting you. Other articles will also be coming from Dennis Hendrickson concerning his new job and from Jim Lindblad reporting on his activity with the G.C.S.A.A. campaign. Watch for these. They should be very interesting.

Russ Adams has been doing a nice job lining up monthly sites for our meetings and golf outings. He has some great ideas about the golf tournament and together with some other board members is working on the new picnic format. Watch for upcoming items on that schedule. Mankato is the site for the April 11 meeting and golf is pretty well assured, according to my information. Future meetings include new places like Sundance and Whitefish so check the schedule and make plans.

Your Board is active and planning an interesting year for the membership. If any of you have ideas or contributions to make, please contact me.

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