

NEW MEMBERS

At the board meeting on October 22, several applications for membership and two reclassification requests were read.

New membership applications are as follows:

Ralph McNeil, super at Talbot C.C. in Easton, D. The application for class A membership was signed by Russ Kerns and Lou White.

Fritz Zeller, super at Shannon Green G.C. in Fredericksburg, Va. The class A application was signed by Ernie Stanley and Mike Burkholder.

J.S. "Strick" Newsom, F.W. Bolgiano in Washington, D.C. This class E application was signed by Denny McCammon and Paul Barefoot.

Ronald Nolf, super at Martingham Inn in St. Michals, Md. the class E application was signed by Russ Kerns and Lou White.

Robert W. Evans, super at Country Club Lake in Dumfries, Va. Jim Estapp and Buck Whetsell signed the class E application.

Horace Hall, super at Elks, G.C. in Salisbury, Md. His class E application was signed by Russ Kerns and Lou White.

Kenneth Braun, ass't super at Columbia C.C. in Chevy Chase, Md. George Thompson and Bob Miller signed the application for class H membership.

Membership reclassifications were as follows:

Gerald Gerard, Bretton Woods C.C. change from class B to class A.

C. William Black, Fountain Head C.C. Change from Class B to class A.

EDITORIAL

In the September issue of the USGA Green Section Record there is an article by Wendell Wood, a pro in Eugene, Oregon with a bag full of worms in an article entitled, "Golf Shoe Spikes - Who Needs Them?" He goes on to say that he as well as the USGA as early as the 1950's conducted tests to determine 1. How effective golf spikes were and 2. If they were necessary in playing proper golf.

Results were found to be interesting, to say the least. With pictures, the author showed actually how damaging spikes really are. These shoes are in reality miniature sheep's foot rollers when one stops to think about it and it makes one wonder why there are hard uneven greens on every course in the country.

With all the signs IN the club house reading "No Spikes" due to the damage to furniture, floors, tile and carpet, doesn't it make sense to have "No Spikes" ON the golf course?

Mr. Wood advocates a regional or state golf association program to eliminate these two dozen compactors per pair of shoes only as long as there are suitable substitutes such as a modified lug type sole and a rubber type sole which cause far less damage and work equally as well if not possibly better.

Needless to say, this would surely make our job much easier due to less wear and tear near and around pins on the greens and the damage that occurs when some slob tries to tap dance 6 bars of "I'll Be Down to Get You in a Taxi Honey" on No. 14 after he sinks a 2 footer for 35 cents and a beer and drags both feet all the way across the greens where he left his electric cart parked right beside the "No Cart" sign. With fewer spikes, we might have better golf for less money. Let's have some comments from you golfers!

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The certification program set up by the National has gotten a lot of press in the past two months. There have been at least six articles covering it from one end to the other but they all seem to be written by the same author, at least they all seem to say the same thing - that is that the certification program is the greatest thing since chlorophyll. No one seems to have dared raise any question concerning the murky points in the program. I'm certain no one has all the answers. Fortunately, these dark areas are few and as a whole, the program looks basically sound. Keep in mind please, that these questions, answers and comments are purely personal and this is only one opinion, not a collective one.

To start with, I wonder how much weight will the tag of "certified super" carry when in competition for say a job or even a raise with a "non-certified" super? If it means the loss of one or the other of these, or perhaps in some other area these may be other areas that may enter into it, it raises a question as to the fairness of the whole package. For example: two young men graduate from turf school, work equal numbers of years as supers, get equal experience, are equally as good, but one decides to become certified - the other does not. They apply for a job - "certified" gets it and his cohort is out in the cold. Does the club really gain anything? Suppose one step further that the certified man is really not as capable as the non-cert and gets the job because of the title? then

what? Let's hope the club takes all the factors into consideration.

The next question deals with the grandfather clause. This as I understand it means that a man who has been a class A for 20 years or more can send \$25 with his application and zap! He's a certified super with no test, no renewal or anything. Does this then mean that a man with 20 years experience knows more than a man with 10 or 15 in the business? Why should a few years make any difference? Many older supers have forgotten more than I'll ever know, and I'm not on the offensive, merely asking the question. Often times I've men men that have been in the business for 20 years or more still doing it the way they did 20 years ago and have no intention of changing. But these guys are in the minority luckily and hopefully the reason this clause was put in was due to the age factor. A man who has been at a club for many years and is approaching retirement probably has no intention of changing jobs at all. So he has really no need to go to the expense of the extra \$25 to get the book and to take the test since it would probably not really be of any benefit to him due to the impending retirement. I imagine, however, the test could be given to these older men if they so desired.

And \$50.00? Wow - books don't cost that much even at Purdue. Where is all the money going from this project? If just 50% of the eligible National members decide to become certified, that is a cool piece of change. It should really show up on the assets column in the annual statement. Will it?

As to the testing procedure: As I understand it, for my \$50 I receive a book with all the information in it necessary to pass the test. Who compiled this book? Was it supers in our group? Was it academic people? At any rate, when we take this test, it will be an open book test. The information sheet tells me that all the answers needed to pass the test are in the book! I may be very surprised, but what challenge is an open book test? I'll probably be eating words when I flunk all 6 parts. but why an open book test? It seems like mental retention would be more long lasting and be more beneficial in the long run to the man being tested.

Finally, and probably none too soon is the question of the testing places. No one can give us an answer here either. We read the tests will be given at a location convenient to the super to be monitored by someone from his area. Where are the areas and who monitors them? The area

"convenient" to us might be as the USGA sees it and be in New York, Georgia, Illinois, Colorado and California. As yet, no one can give a good answer. And who monitors these tests? An employee of the GCSAA, an educator, a super of the local, a policeman? Answers please.

Please note! I am NOT knocking the certification program. I am merely asking questions and bringing thoughts out in the open that I have had and that I know others too must have considered. I fully intend to become certified (if I can pass the test) and I am anxious to get underway. But I'd also like to hear any questions and/or comments YOU have too.

THE CHANGING TIMES

The following is from the Miami Valley GCSA "Divots"

Everything is farther than it used to be. It's twice as far from my house to the station now, and they've added a hill that I've just noticed. The trains leave sooner, too but I've given up running for them because they go faster than they used to.

Seems to me they are making staircases steeper than in the old days. The risers are higher and there are more of them, because I've noticed it's harder to make two at a time. It's all one can do to make one step at a time.

Have you noticed the small print they are using lately? Newspapers are getting farther and farther away when I hold them, and I have to squint to make out the news. Now it's getting ridiculous to suggest that a person of my age needs glasses, but it's the only way I can find out what's going on without someone's reading aloud to me, and that isn't much help because everyone seems to speak in such a low voice that I can scarcely hear.

Times sure are changing. The material in my clothes, I notice, shrinks in certain places (you know, like around the waist, or in the seat). Shoe laces are so short they are next to impossible to reach.

Even the weather is changing. It's getting colder in winter and the summers are hotter than in the old days. Snow is so much heavier when I shovel it, and rain is so much wetter that I have to wear rubbers. I guess the way they build windows now makes drafts more severe.

People are changing, too. For one thing they are younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand people my own age are so much older than I am. I realize that my generation