

First-Round Results In Match Play Event

Eight first-round matches in the annual match play tournament were played on April 10 at Talbot Country Club, with the following results: Nick Vance defeated Virgil Robinson; Walter Montross won over Sam Kessel; John Tutich beat Wayne Evans; Frank Shirk eliminated Scott Wagner; Dick Gieselman defeated Mike Larsen; Gerry Gerard came out the winner over Lee Dieter; Dave Fairbank won over Bill Neus; and George Renault disposed of John Johns.

The second round will not be played in May because of the Superintendent-Pro tournament but will take place in June at Green Spring Valley Hunt Club. In that round, Montross will play Vance, Tutich will take on Shirk; Gieselman will meet Gerard, and Fairbank will tackle Renault.

Hurdzan Will Head Architects Society

Michael J. Hurdzan of Columbus, Ohio, has been elected as the new president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at their annual meeting at Indian Wells, California. A partner in the architectural firm of Kidwell and Hurdzan, Inc., which has designed more than 80 new golf courses, he has earned a B.S. in turfgrass management from Ohio State, an M.S. in turfgrass physiology from University of Vermont, and a Ph.D. in environmental plant physiology. The new ASGCA president got his introduction to golf courses as a caddy and member of the grounds crew at a golf course owned by the Kidwell family. He has an extensive library of books on the game's origin and design philosophy as well as a collection of hickory shafted golf clubs.

GCSAA Members Meet With British, IGA

A number of GCSAA members are in the British Isles in mid-April participating in "Golf Course '84" sponsored by the British Association of Golf Course Architects and the English and International Greenkeepers Association. Speaking at the conference are Jim Prusa, GCSAA associate executive director; Stanley Zontek, regional director, USGA Green Section; Bruce Williams, superintendent at Bob O'Link Golf

HERE'S AN ANSWER FOR CRITICS OF THE MAINTENANCE BUDGET

What do you, as a superintendent, say when a Board member or a new member of your club's Green Committee asks why your green budget has kept going up, maybe even doubling what it was just a few years ago? Do you have a satisfactory answer, one that will put your questioner's doubts to rest? Or do you fall back on some vague phrases about the high costs of machinery, fertilizer, and labor and hope he lets it go at that?

The latter course is unnecessary if you read the February issue of *Golf Course Management* in which Jim Prusa faced the problem of rising golf course maintenance costs head on. The key point in his article was that *real* costs of a golf course maintenance have not risen over the years; in fact, considering the quality of care that is now demanded and the ever greater number of rounds that are being played, the real cost has gone down.

Discussing the affects of inflation, Prusa says that during the period 1972-82, consumer prices increased by nearly 105 percent, while there are indications that golf course maintenance cost increased by approximately 108 percent. This means that maintenance cost increased only some 3 to 4 percent over that 10-year period. If costs are discussed in *nominal* terms, that is, dollars as just dollars rather than *real* or inflated dollars, they do seem to have risen alarmingly, but such comparisons are misleading and erroneous.

Financial statistics compiled by the auditing firm of Panel, Kerr & Forster, who do much of the auditing of clubs in this country, and published in an annual report called "Clubs in Town and Country," indicate that in real dollars, the cost of maintaining a golf course have not increased significantly since 1963. And if country clubs, which are often run by committees rather than business executives, can do this well, the profit-oriented golf operations such as resorts and fee courses should be doing even better.

In identifying the reasons for golf course maintenance costs being held to reasonable levels despite inflation and greatly increased play (the average number of rounds per course has risen from 16,850 in 1963 to about 35,000 in 1982), Prusa quite naturally points to the efforts of the GCSAA in the fields of educating the superintendent, disseminating valuable information, and cooperating in the turfgrass research programs of the USGA and other organizations. The growing emphasis on professional education has produced a body of young, management-oriented superintendents who have been able to improve the efficiency and productivity of their operations. The expertise that has been developed has been a key factor in holding down the real cost of maintenance.

This brief summary should indicate to you the valuable background material that can be found in Jim Prusa's article. Whether or not you need this kind of information in your job, you should be aware of the facts, and he provides an ample supply.

Meeting Schedule, 1984

- May 8 — Indian Spring C.C.
- June 12 — Green Spring Valley Hunt Club
- July 10 — Piney Branch Golf Club
- August 14 — Annual Picnic at Bretton Woods
- September 11 — Chevy Chase Club
- October 9 — Maryland Golf & C.C.
- November 13 — Hobbits Glen
- December 11 — Lakewood C.C.

Course, Highland Park, Ill., and, Dr. James Watson of the Toro Company. While in England, the GCSAA group will play Royal Birkdale and Royal Liverpool and then move on to Scotland where they will tee it up at St. Andrews' Old Course and at Carnoustie.

NEW MEMBERS

Harry M. Fridley IV, Class F
Vice President
Lea's Green Meadows, Inc.
Washington, D.C.

Thomas L. Knoll, Jr., Class D
Assistant Superintendent
River Bend Golf & Country Club
Great Falls, VA

Gary W. Ferdyn, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Chevy Chase Club
Chevy Chase, MD

Jeff Miskin, Class D
Superintendent
Montgomery Country Club
Laytonville, MD