

Six Deadly Sins of Golf Course Superintendents and Green Committees



Jack Trench, Green Committee Chairman at The Springs Club, Rancho Mirage, California, believed a frank exchange of viewpoints concerning the problems and frustrations of the Green Committee and the Superintendent's role in course maintenance operations would be beneficial to all concerned. He developed this panel, and acted as moderator in the following discussions of the "whys" and "hows" of this important relationship.

Time is of the Essence

by ED WALSH

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WHEN ASKING golf course superintendents what they believe is the biggest problem regarding their relationship with their green committee chairmen, most will respond in one word: time.

While some superintendents are fortunate to work with the same person and committee for an extended period, most club by-laws permit an individual to remain chairman of a committee for only two to three years. Most of us consider ourselves fortunate when a chairman wants to continue for a second term. This, I might add, seems to be the exception. With this in mind, I offer the following suggestions to minimize the initial learning period for a new chairman.

First, the biggest asset can and should be your past chairman. He can offer his time to help make the new chairman familiar with the responsibilities of the position and, possibly, with the direction the green operation is taking at your

club. Of course everyone will have different priorities, but experience can be helpful to the new chairman.

Second, most club members have little idea about golf course maintenance. It

is never easy to explain why we must aerify greens when they look just beautiful, or why we must spray fairways during a ladies' member-guest tournament. It is important to give the new chairman a strong sense of organization. Explain why certain operational procedures are necessary to the overall condition of the course. If you work with a long-range plan, by all means provide copies of the plan to the new chairman. Also, past budgets, work records, USGA Green Section reports, and articles written by green committee chairmen of other clubs can be helpful.

Third, make yourself available to the new chairman as soon as you know who he will be. Let him know you want to work with him and, hopefully, continue the progressive, productive direction your department has taken in the past. Any new chairman wants to become part of a winning team, and it is up to you to convince him that is just what he will be!

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