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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

JAMES T. SNOW, Editor

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

The Need For Teamwork

by JAMES F. MOORE
Director, Mid-Continent Region,
USGA Green Section

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, people are tired of gridlock. They have had it with those who will not work together, constantly snipe at each other, and are so driven by self-interests that they are unable to contribute meaningfully to a common goal. By the way, I'm not talking about politics — I'm talking about a relationship that is, unfortunately, all too common between the golf course superintendent, golf professional, and general manager.

At a time the GCSAA, PGA, and CMAA are making a greater effort than ever before to work together for the betterment of the golf industry (which benefits everyone concerned), I seldom visit a course where the three individuals represented by these organizations manage to get along. On that rare occasion when I encounter a management team that is truly a team, the predictable result is a golf clientele that greatly enjoys their course, their game, and their facility — regardless of the stature of that facility. Not surprisingly, there also will be at least three employees who enjoy their work.

Obviously, the benefits of teamwork in any management scheme (as well as the drawbacks of the lack of same) are well recognized, given the thousands of books written on the subject. I doubt that there's a superintendent, golf pro, or manager at any course who would dispute the worth of this goal. But how many of these individuals make an honest effort to be part of a team? Instead, it's all too common to visit courses where each individual complains about the others, usually along the lines of "they don't deserve their salary," "they don't do anything except sit around all day," "they say one thing to your face and just the opposite to the golfers," or "without me, this place would fall apart." The most damaging complaints are those voiced to the golfers in a not-toosubtle effort to undermine the credibility of one of their co-workers. Where does teamwork fit into this picture?

All three of these key individuals share a desire to be viewed as "pros" in their respective fields. Jack Burke, of the Champions Golf Club in Houston, Texas, has revealed the secret of being a professional in this industry. To paraphrase Jack, the abbreviation "pro" should not stand for professional but rather for promote. Superintendents, golf professionals, and managers should promote their facility, each other, the game of golf, and anything that increases the enjoyment of those who use the facility. If you do this honestly and actively, you indeed are a professional. You enhance the credibility of your co-workers and yourself, and in the process make your course more enjoyable for everyone.

Much has been written concerning the inevitable changes facing this industry as a result of environmental concern and legislation. For most parts of the country, course operations have already been affected through the restriction or complete loss of pesticides that offered lengthy and broadspectrum control. At the same time, the cost of running a golfing facility has continued to rise. Golfers are just beginning to find out that they may soon be getting "less for more." However, this does not have to mean they have to accept less enjoyment from the game itself. It does mean that the team of professionals responsible for providing that enjoyment must work together better than ever before. Those responsible for hiring the course superintendent, golf professional, and manager, should seek out individuals who honestly are willing to be part of a management team. I believe that this general requirement is as important as the specific skills associated with each position. I also believe that any employee who cannot participate as a team member is a liability who threatens the success of the entire facility and should be replaced.