GCSAA faces opposition on proposed bylaw changes

By PETER BLAIS

This year's GCSAA annual meeting promises to be anything but a ho-hum affair. The proposed bylaw changes will see to that.

Recommendations to give the board of directors authority to set dues, get rid of delegate voting, change from a two-thirds to simple majority rule, and restructure membership classes have drawn fire and support from around the country.

The Organizational Study Committee recommended and the board of directors unanimously endorsed the changes, according to GCSAA President Bill Roberts.

Still, some board candidates, former association officers and members have expressed reservations about the changes.

"Many people feel like these are being rammed down their throats," said board of director candidate George Renault of Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, Md. "They could all be voted down. It just stresses the need for better communication with the membership."

Board candidate Dave Pears of Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., explained that the board has simply endorsed bringing the proposed changes before the membership for a vote rather than endorsing the actual changes themselves.

"Whether they pass or fail, they have the members interested and ac-

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Revised green construction specs forthcoming

By MARK LESLIE

Major changes in the U.S. Golf Association greens construction specifications, to be unveiled this month, will save developers money and time, according to USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow.

New guidelines will be released in January following a "thorough, scientific" 18-month review of the USGA's controversial construction recommendations by agronomists, scientists, architects, industry personnel and soil laboratory personnel.

Snow believes golf course builders, architects and developers will be happy with the results, which will be available in a rough version in January and in a booklet come late winter or early spring.

Central to the changes is the intermediate pea-gravel layer, known as the choker layer, which Snow termed "controversial, not in terms of agronomics, but in terms of money."

"Believe most of the time the choker layer is left out of the construction," Snow said. "We have found good species for determining when you need it or not based on particle size distribution of the root-zone mix."

The recommendations place more stress on laboratory tests, especially in

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Low Country courses take proactive environmental tack

By HAL PHILLIPS

HILTON HEAD, S.C. — The words "coastal council" are enough to scare some golf course owners and developers half to death. However, a proactive approach taken in the Low Country of South Carolina has shown that regulators and course owners can work together, to the benefit of all concerned.

Mike Tinkey is chief operating officer of Royal Golf & Tennis, Ltd, which manages 81 holes in and around Hilton Head.

Tinkey has overseen a slew of environmental improvements: lagoon naturalization, bird sanctuaries, above-ground fuel storage, wildflower plantings, and conversion to irrigation using 100 percent effluent.

This was done with the active blessing of regulatory agencies.

"We went to the agencies and said, 'This is what we're going to do.' Since that day, the agencies haven't raised a stink about it," Tinkey said.

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Wildflower beds on the 4th hole at the Barony Course are among 4.5 acres planted on the Port Royal/Shipyard courses on Hilton Head.
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determining the size gravel "best suited for the soil mix you’ve got," Snow said. "That could save you a lot more in construction, particularly in parts of the country where this gravel is hard to find, and also the time of putting in the intermediate layer — usually by hand.

"Now we have very specific, well-developed recommendations based on engineering specs, that tell you exactly what you need to avoid infiltration into the gravel bed."

A second major change is the range for acceptable particle sizes in the choker layer has been expanded from between 1 and 2 millimeters to 1 and 4 millimeters.

This is a big money-saver, Snow said. "Builders have had to pay maybe $50 a yard to have the gravel sieved. And sometimes it had to be trucked great distances. One to four millimeters should work just as well, and in some cases maybe better.

"Our studies show it’s an improvement in terms of agronomics — and cost-wise it will be much easier to find that material."

A third major change creates common protocols in laboratory procedures.

"The consensus is this is the way to go," Snow said. "The labs will agree to abide by these protocols, so we will have procedures that are compatible, you will have to retrofit a little bit. But they should have similar results."

Dr. Norm Hummel, associate professor at Cornell University, spent the 1991-92 school year on sabbatical leave with the Green Section to determine the reasons for laboratory inconsistencies and update and standardize lab procedures; and to review scientific literature and recommend modifications to specifications on green construction and sand-based root-zone mixtures.

An Advisory Committee of American and British experts gave input throughout the process.

"We’ve tried to get the best minds working on this, to get a consensus on the best scientific knowledge today," Snow said. "Not everyone agreed on every tiny detail. But, overall, it was remarkable how much agreement there was."

Comments like these:

"Poly-S has met and exceeded our expectations with its 12 week residual." — Dave Gilfoil, Superintendent, HAYDEN LAKE COUNTRY CLUB, Hayden Lake, ID

"Poly-S works great. We’ve eliminated one fertilizer application with it and plan on using it in the fall after a regrowth overseeding." — John Hoofnagle, Superintendent, VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB, Aurora, CO

"A quality granular. Great spreadability." — Rob Stambaugh, Superintendent, GLENVIEW GOLF COURSE, Cincinnati, OH

"The membership at the club was complaining about thatch lines in the fairway and wanted us to change the cutting height. The improvement in turf quality after applying Poly-S led many to believe we had raised the height of the cut." — Kevin West, Superintendent, OLYMPIA FIELDS COUNTRY CLUB, Olympia Fields, IL

"The best fertilizer we’ve ever seen on this place. Fairways look incredible!" — Joe Ford, Superintendent, ARTHUR PACK GOLF COURSE, Tucson, AZ

"We’ve been very impressed with the product’s spreadability and uniformity." — Scott Bulley, Superintendent, COUNTRY CLUB AT ALISAL, Solvang, CA

"I really like the color Poly-S gives my fairways and the even greening." — Randy Scalafroni, Superintendent, RIVERSIDE COUNTRY CLUB, Chehalis, WA

"We have been very satisfied with Poly-S. It’s given us consistently good performance with good, even color." — Pat Holt, Superintendent, HUNT VALLEY GOLF COURSE, Hunt Valley, MD

"Excellent response and longevity. We’re very pleased with Poly-S." — Thomas Schlick, Superintendent, MARIBOTT'S GOLF COURSE, AT WINDWATCH, Hauppauge, NY

"The results with Poly-S have been tremendous. I’ve never seen grass respond this well to anything else. The increase in density and color retention has been just amazing." — Scott Venable, Superintendent, TAM O’SHANTER GOLF COURSE, Canton, OH

"It’s working even better than we expected. With applications in late January and May, we’re seeing a 65 to 75-day residual."

"The new Poly-S fertilizers are more economical and have a higher nutrient availability." — William Twigg, Superintendent, THE WITCH, Myrtle Beach, SC

"Poly-S is a good product. It spreads real nice and holds color real well. The residual lasted three months for us."

"Poly-S spread so easily that our application rates reduced downsizing." — Brian Conklin, Superintendent, GRAYLING COUNTRY CLUB, Grayling, MI

"I really like Poly-S. It gives you slow, lengthy release and good greening. And the spreadability is great. No dust, no odor problem. It performs well with the extreme temperatures we get here in the desert." — Bill Rohret, Superintendent, SUNRIZE COUNTRY CLUB, Las Vegas, NV

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USGA expect specs to save money and time

Construction adds dimensions to Pavilion Lakes

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Eight new holes, four new lakes and a stream have been added during the redesign and reconstruction of the newest championship golf course in the Valley. The Pavilion Lakes Golf Club and Learning Academy, formerly Fiona Golf Club, the 6,523-yard course is under new management and underwent extensive renovation for its November 1992 opening.

Vestar Development Corp., hired the golf management company of Vickers-Kopplin and Associates to manage the courses.

"Our goal is to provide the highest quality, most reasonably priced golf facilities found anywhere in the Valley," said Jeff Mongon, project director of Vestar Development Corp., "We contracted with Vickers-Kopplin because of their involvement with quality and service-oriented clubs like his family. Cook’s father, Jim, is president of Championship Management Corp., which will manage the facility.

NIEBUR, HURDZAN

work in Ohio, Ill.

ATLANTA — Niebur Golf, Inc. and Hurdzan Design Group have combined work on two projects. The daily fee Ann Briar Golf Course, Waterloo, Ill., has been grassed. Steve Maas has been hired as grow-in superintendent. Opening is this summer.

Niebur and Hurdzan will build a daily-fee course in Asheville, Ohio. Construction began in June. Nine holes will be completed in October, with the second nine to be finished next summer.

Cook Creek will be owned by PGA Tour golfer John Cook and his family. Cook’s father, Jim, is president of Championship Management Corp., which will manage the facility.

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