Superintendent must communicate maintenance goals to the golfer

By STEVEN RENZETTI

How often has a golfer read a putt prematurely and made the perfect stroke, only to have the ball slide away from the cup at the last possible moment due to something irregular about the green? How often is it a spike mark or an improperly repaired ball mark? In any event, who is likely to shoulder the "blame" for such a putt?

The superintendent, who tends to be judged and criticized for conditions which, in many instances, he or she has no direct control over.

The standard of maintenance of today's golf courses for daily play are at levels once reserved for major tournaments. A combination of modern technology, coupled with a more highly educated golf course superintendent, allows the membership to play under meticulously groomed, competitive conditions on a regular basis.

Steven Renzetti, CGCS, is golf course superintendent at The Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, N.Y.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

At issue: USGA lab protocol and the liability for failed greens

By STEVE McWILLIAMS

I was surprised in many ways by the article in the June 1994 issue of Golf Course News entitled "Soil labs far apart on pH in blind tests." As I understand the article, the USGA (USGA, USGA Turf Research Institute) is funding a study that cannot achieve its stated goal of verifying that the labs are following the protocol. Blind testing will only show that labs are reporting the information required by the protocol, but will not confirm the protocol was used to produce the reported values. The only way for the USGA to verify the labs are following the protocol is to inspect the labs in the process of using the protocol to determine the required test values.

The Green Section continues to focus on the "simple mistakes" that abound in the labs and diminishes the more important aspect of the use of an agronomically qualified laboratory, which is the interpretive skill required to offer an agronomic opinion. I will continue to document the need for an industry reality check. This case may have a tremendous impact on the industry by creating a more consistent playing field. The answer lies on the tee. The membership's contribute to the approved materials implemented in the greens because of non-existent quality-control programs.

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The superintendent must continually reinforce these ideas. The membership's contributions can start where the game itself begins: on the tee. Etiquette here includes placing trash in the receptacles, picking up broken tees, and directing all practice swings to the side, and away from the main teeing area. Understanding that tee markings are rotated daily so as to give previous days' wear to time to heal, a golfer should know to play between the tee markers, as they are set for that day.

Moving forward, if the player is using a golf cart, proper etiquette would entail obeying the directional signs. Aimed at minimizing physical damage under current course conditions, such signs instruct, "Carts In Rough Only," "Carts Use 90 Rule," and "Remain On Cart Path," to name a few. Obeying these signs to the letter and in the rules, the course will suffer substantial (and needless) damage due to cart usage.

A golfer needs to be diligent about replacing the divots he's created in both the fairway and rough. Doing so ensures the likelihood of the divot area surviving, but more important, reduces the chance that an unfair condition has been created for the next golfer.

Golf etiquette means thinking of those players behind you. If your ball lands in a sand bunker, take the time to rake it out. Exit the bunker towards the low side of the bunker to scalps away towards its face can undo damage and erosion to the upper.

The green, which is often the most criticized area of the golf course, is ironically an area most subject to golfer's abuse. Because nearly half of all golf shots are made on the greens, one would hope that the membership would be considerate of that area. Because of their importance, time, money, and energy is spent on the maintenance of greens, than any other part of the course.

On a green, perhaps the greatest breach of etiquette is the repair of divots. The industry is at risk.

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OBITUARY

Arden Jacklin, 82

Founded seed company

SPOKANE, Wash. — Arden Jacklin, one of the original founders of Jacklin Seed Co., passed away recently here. He was 82.

Mr. Jacklin, along with his father, brothers and a cousin, started Jacklin Seed Co. in 1933. From 1941 to 1985, he served as president of the company and, under his direction, the company became the world's largest producer of Kentucky bluegrass. He was the driving force, the leader of the company's growth," said Don Jacklin, who along with his brothers Doyle and Duane now operate the Jacklin Seed Co.

After stepping aside as president and general manager, Mr. Jacklin devoted his time to research. He became director emeritus of Jacklin's research program and continued to oversee research, visiting the office regularly, depending on his health.

Born in Waupaca, Wis., Mr. Jacklin earned a bachelor of science degree in agronomy from Washington State College, graduating with honors in 1933.

Prior to joining the family business, Mr. Jacklin was a research agronomist with the Soil Conservation Service from 1934 to 1941. He participated in a grant to research the first grass seed yield trials in the Northwest and planted the first field for commercial production in 1947.

Mr. Jacklin was the 1982 honorary member of the American Seed Trade Association as well as the chair of the Seed Division chairman and director of the association. He served on advisory boards for the USDA and Washington State University.

Mr. Jacklin is survived by his wife Stella; sons, Don, Doyle and Duane Jacklin; daughter Ardith Bryan; 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.
Continued from page 10

quote Dr. James Beard, who has long main-
tained that turf actually enhances the envi-
ronment. Yet, in his penultimate paragraph,
the author urges Americans to adopt the

Golf Digest has its heart in the right
place, but positions taken by the magazine
over the past 10 years make some of this
pap hard to swallow. Remember the

The magazine has asked readers to call
(203-373-7033) with their strong opinions
on the "complicated issue" of golf courses
and the environment. Call and tell them to
read Golf Course News. • • •

Massachusetts, my home state, is often
derided for its liberal bent and governmen-
tal propensity toward taxation.
"Taxachusetts," it's often called.

However, I'm here to tell you about a
progressive law already on the books in the
Bay State — a law that saves golf courses
money and widely promotes the notion
that golf courses are open spaces to be
appreciated, not exclusive playgrounds for
rich, white males.

Bermudagrass were not as consistent as
bentgrass. Their broader leaves made sus-
derance almost impossible in the pulp
drums. Some have objected to the tax breaks,
especially those given to private country clubs.
But Tim Storrow — director of land
protection of the Massachusetts Audubon
Society — calls the law an "important tool for
helping keep open land in the state."

Walter Lukau is owner of Stowe (Mass.)
Acres Country Club, site of next year's U.S.
Golf Association Public Links Champions-
ship. He's also president of the New En-
l gland Golf Course Owners Association,
and he puts it best. "If I had to pay taxes at
the regular rate," said Lukau, "this course
would be houses."

This law would provide a win-win situa-
tion for many golf course owners in states
with regressive tax codes. Questions?
Contact MGA Executive Director Richard
Haskell at 617-891-4300.

We have a winner! National Mower, which has been
turning out product since 1919, recently spon-
sored a contest to determine the oldest
National Mower still in operation. Their
winner was Steve Devine, superintendent
at Tagalong Golf Course in Brookwood,
Wis. Devine is using a 30 model manu-
factured in 1961.

Now that's reel longevity...

Japanese water study
Continued from page 3
samples for 30 pesticides in ponds,
drainage ditches, municipal waters and
elsewhere in and around three golf
courses. Some 4,485 detections of
pesticides were recorded, with seven
samples containing pesticide levels
over HAL. In 1991, 14 samples exceeded HAL
out of 3,709 detections, which came
from 89,713 samples. In 1990, 10 ex-
cceeded HAL out of 2,342 detections,
which were out of 46,016 samples
analyzed.

"That's an enormous, incredible
amount of analysis," Cohen said.

"Clearly, this is something the Japa-
nese government felt important
enough to spend millions of dollars
on.

"These results can only be re-
viewed as favorable."

Cohen said that, in his experience,
the number of detections seems
about right... The number of hits
over HAL seems a little low."

Forget composting: Cappings make Golf Paper
Continued from page 4
papermaking and a little magic," said

Spike marks can also effect how
the golf industry finds out about it in Asia,
where the definition of cupping edges are more easily maintained.

The golfer still must exercise
carelessly, the sharp edge of the
cup is diminished.

With the advent of new cup
liners, the definition of cupping edges are more easily maintained.
The golfer still must exercise
carelessly, the sharp edge of the
cup is diminished.

Now the monster goes
even deeper — 24 inches.
Nothing else even comes close.

Even Steven Spielberg couldn't dream up a more
piercing scenario for knitting through turf...introducing the Model 405.250 Verti-Drain®. No other machine
goes this deep and heaves the turf forward cracking
the sidewalks of the core hole making it easier for air
and water to penetrate. So if you have to go deep, look
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