20-degree angle where the ball is released from the ball release notch — hold the Stimpmeter firmly with one hand and hold the three balls in the other hand. As each ball is released, keep the Stimpmeter from moving to-wards the left or right. Have as little movement as possible, up or down, before and after each ball is released.

If the putting surface is really true, the second ball will touch the first and the third ball will touch the second every time — in both directions. If the balls do not touch and roll and stop in three different positions, the greens are not rolling true and verticutting/topdressing/multiple mowings, etc. will be needed.

Take note: the Stimpmeter must have as little movement as possible before, during and af-ter the golf ball is released onto the putting surface.

Also, it is important that all three balls are from the same manufacturer, that they are a small-dimpled type and preferably 100-compression balata-covered.

A1 Radko, former national di-rector of the USGA Green Sec-tion, and Stan Zontek, director of the Mid-Atlantic Region, gave me a wooden Stimpmeter that was one of just 12 originally pro-duced of cherry wood in the late 1970s.

I used the wooden Stimpmeter extensively as an agronomist for the PGA Tour as part of my ad- vance work at all tournament sites. All readings were sent to the USGA. When I worked at a tournament during the event, I would take Stimpmeter readings of all 18 greens for a full week and send the results to Al and Stan.

During this indoctrination pe- riod, I perfected the technique to test the trueness of each and every putting surface, which is very accurate as long as the per- son doing the testing has a steady hand and a little practice in get-ting it done the right way. This trueness testing is really a hid- den treasure that can be extremely useful to have perfectly true putting surfaces.

It is interesting to note that in the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ire-land) course managers and head greenkeepers pride themselves in having greens that are not consistent as far as speed is con-cerned. It's their belief that the "local knowledge" factor of each individual putting surface is the name of the game.

But things are changing in the UK and it will be interesting to wait and see if the Stimpmeter ever really catches on when de-termining speed consistency and the real trueness of their putting surfaces.

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Dean Baker of Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville, Ontario, Canada, has been se-lected Nicklaus Superintendent of the Year by Golfturf, a subsidiary of Nicklaus Design. The award recognizes excel-lence in turf maintenance as well as the highest degree of professional ethics and standards.

"As the first solo design project opened by Jack Nicklaus, Glen Abbey has long served as a standard for the excellence associated with a Nicklaus design," said Edward A. Etchells, president of Golfturf. "Dean has done a tremendous job in maintaining the course's condition for public golfers and for the top players in the world for the Bell Canadian Open."

Baker has been employed as Glen Abbey's superintendent since 1989. He is a graduate of the University of Guelph with a diploma in agriculture and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in business ad-ministration.

Established in 1984, the Nicklaus Su-perintendent of the Year award honors superintendents at Jack Nicklaus golf courses who have distinguished them-selves in the field of golf course mainte-nance. Baker is the 13th recipient of this honor.

Glen Abbey Golf Club is owned by the members of the Royal Canadian Golf Association and is open to the public throughout the golf season, except dur-ing the Bell Canadian Open.

Pennington Seed is proud to introduce the new kid in town... and he's a tough one. Our new Yuma improved turf type bermuda is drought tolerant, low growing, has excellent turf density and a rich green color. Yuma also features quick germination and rapid recovery from mechanical injury. In fact, once established, it requires less water than many other Bermudas. It's perfect for golf course tees, fairways and roughs, as well as athletic fields and other turf areas. Write or call us today for more information on Yuma - it's one tough son of a gun.

We're Gonna Kick Some Grass!

Introducing New Yuma Improved Turf Type Bermuda From Pennington Seed

Pennington Seed Call 1-800-285-SEED
for a Pennington Seed Specialty Turfgrass Distributor near you
CIRCLE #118
May 1995 21