Bell suggests settling for less-than-perfect course conditions

By MARK LESLIE

LAS VEGAS — Saying that "in a hot-house maybe you can get perfection," U.S. Golf Association (USGA) President Judy Bell hailed "the charm" of golf courses and the superintendents who maintain them.

Speaking at a press conference at the International Golf Course Conference and Show here, Bell said the USGA and other organizations should educate golfers to see the beauty in the natural versus the unnaturally perfect.

"If we want perfect," she said, "we can just stay at home and put on a rug." — Judy Bell president, USGA

Joining Bell at the podium, outgoing Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Bruce Williams said: "We strive for a high level of perfection to achieve what people expect of us. If you don't, the next person will...

"I think we've peaked technologically. There will be more tools out there, but I don't think we can take the mowing and other aspects of the game higher."

Hesitating, Williams added, 'Then, again, we probably said the same thing 20 or 30 years ago. But right now we're mowing in the one-thousandths of an inch."

Bell predicted that 10 to 15 years from now superintendents' staffs will be much better educated and trained.

She added: "I'd like to see superintendents have more identity [with the public], what they do and how unusual their job is. It's like throwing darts, in a way, because you don't know what the weather, etc. holds. And they have to do their job with limited resources. Using all this technology ... is translating that and retaining the simplistic side of the game."

Suess wins

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Team winners.

Other tournament winners included:

- Championship B
  - Gross: William Hanna, Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club, Jerudong Park, Brunei
  - Net: Norman Young, Palos Verdes Golf Club, Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.

- First Flight
  - Gross: Kevin Downing, CGCS, Stuart, Fla.
  - Net: Ross O’Ree, CGCS, Country Club of Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, Utah

- Second Flight
  - Gross: D. Scott Wagner, Leisure World of Maryland, Silver Spring, Md.
  - Net: Donald LePierre, Elks Country Club, Muncie, Ind.

- Third Flight
  - Gross: Randy Hisey, City of Albuquerque, Albuquerque, N.M.

- Fourth Flight
  - Gross: Tim Conn, CGCS, Harbor Ridge Yacht and Country Club, Palm City, Fla.
  - Net: Gregg Stanley, CGCS, Hudson National Golf Club, Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.

- Fifth Flight
  - Gross: Brian Chafloux, Fort Wayne Country Club, Fort Wayne, Ind.

- Sixth Flight
  - Gross: S. Daniel Pierson, CGCS, Wilmington Country Club, Wilmington, Del.
  - Net: Tim Hatfield, Willow Pond Golf Club, Banora, Ill.

- Seventh Flight
  - Gross: John Rodgers, Chappel Country Club, Palm Desert, Calif.
  - Net: Alan Jarvis, Belvedere Plantation Country Club, Hampstead, N.C.

- Eighth Flight
  - Gross: Mark Esoda, CGCS, Atlanta Country Club, Marietta, Ga.
  - Net: Trevor Oxtoby, Colony Club Guttenhof, Heringsdorf, Germany

- Senior I Flight
  - Gross: James Fowler, CGCS, Country Club Club, Purchase, N.Y.

- Senior II Flight
  - Gross: Ted Martinez, Odessa Country Club, Odessa, Texas

- Super Senior Flight

- Affiliates Flight
  - Gross: Jesse Voice Reins III, CGCS, Southern Agri Insecticides, Wilkesboro, N.C.
  - Net: Milton Taylor, Island Park Golf Course, Salt Lake City, Utah

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