Brief bits of news from in and around the golf business...

Mancil Davis, pro at The Trophy Club near Dallas, Texas, is in the Guinness Book of Records for 35 hole-in-ones. Davis is 25 years old. When he was 13, he scored 13 hole-in-ones.

Charley Stine, in his column in the October 4 issue of "Florida Golflweek", claims that one of the big causes of slow play is the strict observance of honors of the person farthest from the green always hitting first. Using a personal example, Stine cited a round that took his group four hours and 15 minutes, and suggested that practical, rather than strict observance could have saved half an hour.

Gus Powell retired from Round Hill Club in New York, on October 1. He has been a member of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association for close to 30 years. Carl Wistrand is taking over.

Notes from...

KANSAS

Tom Rogers, CGCS, Garden City, writes: "We've finally finished seeding the 18 holes (six this last month). The other 12 are doing super! We are using Penncross bent on our greens, fairways and tees (one of the only courses west of the Mississippi). The native soil (so to speak) is blow sand — about 30 feet deep — with lots of hills, dunes, sage brush, yucca, sunflowers and wind. They've named the new course and development "Southwind", can you guess why? Thank God for the hydroseeder because it saved my life! One thing that is really neat — on the six holes that were seeded this spring, I have not used one speck or one drop of pesticide, other than a rodent repellent for moles and gophers. Ohio boys eat your hearts out! If you want to see some good Penncross, come on out!"

News

ANSI sets new golf car standard

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI), a nonprofit organization that coordinates the voluntary development of national standards in the United States, has published safety requirements for the design and operation of golf cars powered by batteries, electric motors, or gasoline. The standards have been published by ANSI and are available for $4.00 from: American National Standards Institute, Inc., 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018.

Included in the publication are criteria and methods for testing speed, acceleration, stability, braking systems, operational controls, electrical and fuel systems, and general configurations. The standards also provide that a safety warning label be permanently affixed to the vehicle and that manufacturers make available operation and maintenance manuals. The label, which should be clearly visible to the driver, lists the major safety and precautionary operating measures to be observed.

ANSI approves standards when they meet consensus requirements that ensure that all substantially affected interests have had an opportunity to participate in their development or to comment on their provisions. The golf car standards was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by American National Standards Committee Z130 on Safety Standards for Golf Cars. The National Golf Foundation serves as committee secretariat.

Penncross-Penneagle goes to Toro

The Tee-2-Green corporation has elected to market Penncross and Penneagle creeping bentgrasses through the network of Toro distributors in the United States.

Tee-2-Green says the change in marketing plans will make the seed more readily available to golf courses in the shortest marketing route.

B.H. Melton, President of the Tee-2-Green Corp., said that most of the Toro dealers in the bentgrass use area have indicated an interest in marketing both grasses. He added that in any area where a Toro dealer does not wish to participate, they will offer the dealership to a seed handler who calls on golf courses in that area.

Toro sales, earnings set new record

Toro sales for the year advanced 50 percent from $223,853,000 to $357,766,000. David McLaughlin cited a number of factors for the increase. Irrigation sales were up 42 percent over the year and Toro's professional turf equipment line grew at rates in excess of industry averages.

McLaughlin did say that the company was concerned with a drop in profit margins from the past year's quarter. One factor he mentioned was heavy advance spending for products that will not reach the market until this fiscal year.