Dropping the Hammer

USE THIS PHILOSOPHY TO SMASH GOLFERS' IGNORANCE

By Mike Hamilton, CGCS

Being a superintendent is no easy task. The expectations of the players increase every day. They expect us to provide perfect conditions no matter what obstacles Mother Nature throws our way. But the one factor that drives more superintendents out of the industry is the constant moaning we hear from a small percentage of golfers.

In my more than 20 years as a superintendent, I survived these slings and arrows by employing a philosophy known as Hammerology. Among other things, Hammerology can help younger, less-experienced superintendents "translate" golferspeak. Let me give you a few examples:

- "The golf course is in wonderful shape" means "I played well today."
- "The golf course is in terrible shape" means "I played like crap today."
- "The greens are inconsistent" means "I had a lot of uphill and downhill putts today, and I have no ability to adjust."
- "Can't you cut the fairways lower? I hit flyers all day" means "Those steroids I'm taking are really starting to work."
- "There's no grass on the fairways. I can't get a wood underneath the ball" means "These bozos I'm playing with won't let me tee it up in the fairway."
- "I hate the sand in our traps" means "I need to take a lesson on how to hit out of the sand, and I'm too stupid to know that a trap is something in which you catch wild animals."
- "Do those guys need to be working while I'm playing?" means "I have no concentration."
- "Could you come and tell me what's wrong with my lawn?" means "I'm too cheap to pay for a good lawn care service."
- "There are too many lakes on the course" means "You're not doing anything wrong, I just like to complain."
- "The greens were just getting nice when you aerified" means "I can't tolerate you trying to make the course nicer."
- "I saw one of your employees screwing around" really means "Can't they wait until they pass out from heat exhaustion before they stop to get a drink?"

Mike Hamilton, CGCS at Foxfire CC in Naples, Fla., says he'd be more than happy to offer private lessons in Hammerology for an exorbitant fee.