

Stockdale Goes Soft

by Corey Eastwood, CGCS

I believe that with the gradual elimination of metal spikes on golf shoes, we will see a drastic increase in the quality of our golf greens.

Stockdale Country Club recently took the initiative to offer one set of the new revolutionary softspikes installed on one pair of each member's shoes at no charge. This practice is spreading like wildfire in the midwest with great success.

I was able to get this policy into effect by purchasing ten sets out of my budget and giving them to my green committee. One month later the committee voted unanimously to offer them to all members on a one time basis.

Some of the clubs that made this offer to their members are The Honors Course, Ooltewah, TN; Pine Valley Golf Club, Pine Valley, NJ; Muirfield Village Golf Club, Columbus, OH; and Double Eagle Golf Club, Columbus, OH. Many clubs have banned metal spikes, including Muirfield.

Let's all get together and start the process of slowly getting rid of metal spikes. There will be much skepticism among the golf professionals, but with persistence

most clubs will give this new idea a chance.

Benefits:

▲ There is **no more slippage** than one would get with standard metal spikes. Remember, everyone slips at one time or another.

▲ Softspikes cause **no damage** to golf greens, including scuffing and spikemarks.

▲ There should be no introducing of *Poa Annua* seeds into the greens.

▲ There is **no splitting or tearing** of the grass leaf tissue normally caused by metal spikes.

▲ **No damage** to the clubhouse and pro shop carpets extending the life of these many fold.

▲ The ability to wear these in any clubhouse location or even driving a car.

▲ **Eliminate scratches** on golf cart windshields and bodies.

▲ **Eliminate slipping** on cart paths and damage to parking lots and concrete areas.

Editor's Note: See related story this page - *December 31, 1999 - A 21st Century Fairy Tale.*

Tips from the USGA December 31, 1999 A 21st Century Fairy Tale

by Paul Vermeulen
USGA Agronomist

Today, December 31, 1999, I am reminded of some significant achievements of the last 100 years. The invention of the reel mower in the early 1900s, the discovery of 2,4-D by Fanny F. Davis in the mid-1940s, and, of course, the banning of steel spikes in the late 1990s.

While some achievements were readily embraced because their value was tangible to Superintendents across the country, the banning of steel spikes was an exception. It started as a small idea and slowly grabbed the American golfer's attention. In the early 1980s William "Bill" Bengeyfield, Chairman of the USGA's Turfgrass Research Committee, contacted the office of Dr. Gibeault at the University of California, Riverside. Under Dr. Gibeault's guidance, an in-depth study of the effects of various golf shoes on putting greens was conducted.

The results of the golf shoe study were irrefutable. Golf shoes equipped with steel spikes literally cut the turf apart and compacted the soil. Furthermore, they "significantly" disrupt putting quality. Based on these results, how could the American golfer fail to immediately embrace spikeless golf shoes?

When the shoe study was conducted, it was done with shoes designed with spikeless soles. Two problems rose. First, the spikeless sole designs wore quickly, and were both difficult and expensive to replace.

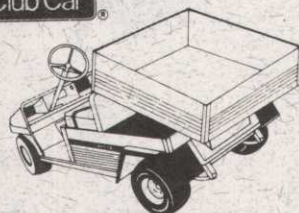
Second, many golfers without a clear definition of a spikeless golf shoe were inadvertently sold athletic shoes for Astroturf sport fields. Unlike spikeless golf shoes that did little or no damage to putting greens, the Astroturf athletic shoes did unbelievable damage. As a consequence of this later problem, platoon discipline was evoked. All

Continued on page 5

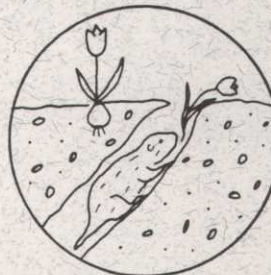
707-747-5000

CARRYALL
DRIVE IT TO WORK. Club Car®

- 1200 lb. Cap.
- Hyd. Dump
- Demos For Sale



Rodent Control Specialists



LANDSCAPE
PEST CONTROL
SERVICES, INC.

ALLEN TUNBERG
Pest Control Advisor
and Operator

(510) 426-8461
State License No. 05647

P.O. BOX 1166
PLEASANTON, CA 94566