GCSAA opposes FIFRA

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, as part of a national coalition opposing passage of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Reform Act (H.R. 3818), has authorized the National Club Association to speak in its behalf in opposing it.

The act contains provisions which would increase the liability of pesticide users in cases of contamination of land and water supply as well as other limitations. If enacted, the provisions would increase golf course and administrative costs and deter new golf course development, according to the coalition.

Specifically, some ramifications of the act would include:
- Only certified applicators would apply restricted use pesticides
- Private applicators would have to keep records of all sprayings
- Any individual could sue a FIFRA violator
- EPA would have to regulate application to protect local residents

An economical alternative

Would you like to play golf in half the time and on half the land it takes to play a normal game? If Jack Nicklaus' "short ball" idea comes into play, you'll be able to do just that.

Nicklaus feels so strongly about the idea, his new course in the Cayman Islands, scheduled to open this fall, was specifically designed for the new ball that travels only half the distance of regular balls. The Cayman course can be played as a 3,338-yard par 72 by short ball users.

Golf Digest reports the new one-piece balls are made of a plastic material that has a varying density through its cross section. It has a 10 compression and an initial velocity of about 200 feet per second, where a normal ball's velocity is 250.

The $1,000 price tag per experimental ball will have to drop considerably, though, before the average golfer could ever test the new idea.

"We know there will be a monstrous amount of skepticism about the idea," says Bob Cupp, Nicklaus' chief course designer. "But it's not a commercial endeavor. We're not trying to change golf—just provide an economical alternative."

Father of 18

The next time you find yourself scrambling for some golf trivia at a party, try this one.

How many courses other than the original in Scotland are named St. Andrews?

The answer is 18.

None, however, offer the same type layout, only an occasional hole that beckons back to the 1552 Scottish course, the birthplace of the game.