

HOW DO YOU DE-EDUCATE THE PLAYER

To learn how we should de-educate the player, we first must look at how he has been educated. First he has learned by asking the professional or other members when the course has maintenance practices going on that disrupt his game. The golf course superintendent has also tried to show what is being done with signs, information on locker room bulletin boards, and letters to the membership. These are all good ways to learn, but all it has taught the player is to take his business elsewhere while these practices are being done on his course. He still doesn't realize why the golf course shouldn't be like those on television everytime he goes to play.

Let's take a look at the course from the players point of view. He has paid a good sum to play golf on the course we provide, so he is entitled to the best we can give. This means the turf should be cut, traps raked, cups changed, tee markers moved and the other normal practices accomplished. But as we all realize every job can't be done in one day, as on a homeowners yard, which can be completed in several hours. The question may be asked how does the player compare your course with the one down the street or on television. Comparisons are almost impossible because of different grasses, budgets, maintenance practices, and the facilities. Thus, we have left nothing to compare our courses by, but what the player has seen on television. As we all know these television courses have been groomed for that appearance from one to three years, as in the case of the U.S. Open. But the average member doesn't know this, so he is comparing our course each day with the television course groomed for a year or more. This leads to extremely unfair conclusions by the player about his home course.

What does the player actually know about maintenance practices other than they disrupt his golf game. The player doesn't realize how long any job takes to complete, such as the rough mowing only being able to be finished once per week, thus the grass cut on Monday will have a week's growth by Saturday or Sunday when he plays his golf game. Also, without aerification and other cultural practices performed during the year, the player would have very poor conditions for any kind of a golf game. Many players don't realize that if we have two days of daytime rainfall in a week many of the mowing jobs for that week will not be completed, and many areas of tall turfgrass may occur. Even with adverse conditions, the player still expects his course to look like those on television.

We in the maintenance field try as much as possible to schedule for the least player inconvenience, but this can't always be accomplished. Also, major tournaments on the club golf calendar require extra grooming just as in national tournaments, so if the player wants to compare his course, due it at that time, because no one can keep tournament conditions every golf playing day.

In conclusion, I feel the player needs to de-educate himself from the television golf and learn of the everyday conditions of his own course. He can play every day under conditions approaching those of a tournament even with the most adverse conditions that may occur. If a player really wants to see what occurs at a national tournament he should look at the gallery areas with no turf at the end of a weeks play, and the golf course superintendent and his crew looking at a year's work to get good playing conditions to return for his membership.

John C. West, Supt.
Lake Barrington Shores Golf Club
Barrington, IL



2 N 255 County Farm Rd.

West Chicago, Ill. 60185

Phone 668-5537

MIDDLE AGE

...is the time of life when you are pushed around by two little voices. One is saying, "Why not?" and the other is saying "Why bother?"

It's Playable



Rated First for:

**QUALITY
DENSITY
WEAR TOLERANCE
SHADE TOLERANCE**

Used straight or mixed with other elite bluegrasses, your turf problems are all but solved. Highly disease and drought resistant and it can be mowed down to 1/2 inch...ideal from the tee to the green.

BENTGRASS SOD OR STOLONS
Penncross - Cohansey C-7 - Toronto C-15

Available as Sod, Sod Blend, Sod Plugs and Seed.

Warren's TURF NURSERY, INC.

8400 West 111th. Street
Palos Hill, IL 60465 - Phone: 312/974-3000

THE TROUBLE

...with the guy who talks too fast is that he often says something he hasn't thought of yet.