

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the MID-WEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPER-INTENDENTS.

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President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ONE MAN'S OPINION

An old friend of mine once said that, "If someone would invent a golf shoe with retractable spikes for walking on putting greens, he would become a millionaire." The enigma of the golf spike as part of the game is probably here to stay. People like that "clique" noise when they walk on the pavement. The loud and flashy apparel worn on the golf course by the American golfer includes some pretty zany fashions, including the golf shoe. Don't you just love it when our golfers line up their three foot putts? They parade around the cup zone, check all angles, set up for the putt, and then they prance 14 times with each foot; up, down, up, down. If they miss the damn thing they go through the whole procedure again. That really bothers me. On hot, dry days, the area around the cup is pretty badly bruised. Golf spikes: they cause stress! I tried to explain that to one of our 10 handicappers one day. He didn't believe me so I asked him if he would put his hand down on the putting surface and let me press my size thirteen set of spikes on his hand; all 195 pounds worth. I wonder what kind of stress he would experience?

Golf companies and golfers alike have done a little to promote sales through a campaign of decreased wear and tear on the greens, by promoting the new spikeless shoe. Some of the new shoes resemble football cleats, well, maybe soccer-style cleats. Some of those type shoes have been banned from the golf course. But not all the spikeless shoes have been designed alike. I think there are some brands worth looking at, and if nothing else, letting the public try on our courses. I have purchased a pair of the Etonic spikeless shoes and have found them to be extremely acceptable. Having scrutinized them in wet weather, dry weather, for comfort and ease of walking, I'd say bravo! They work, they do not harm the ground. They do not damage the turf. Their design precludes negative turf maintenance, with less injury to turf than spiked shoes. They will help enhance the putting quality for the golfer.

The point I am trying to make is that not all these new styled shoes are designed the same. I think I have found a pair that are very acceptable for the golf course. I would encourage manufacturers to come up with a design on the tread similar to the Etonic shoe. So before a few badly designed shoes spoil a good thing, it is my hope that this trend be given a try. I want the best for our golfers. We don't have retractable spikes yet. But maybe we have the next best thing.

Pete Leuzinger

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