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“A New Tool From Down Under”

by Fred D. Opperman, CGCS
Glen Oak C.C.



A year ago when I was visiting Australia and stopped at a golf course, I saw an interesting tool that I thought might have a use here on our putting greens. The machine was a roller that was being used at the time on a bowling green. The bowling green that I watched this machine roll was Penncross cut as low as any of

our golf greens. This machine was/is used daily after each mowing to help “iron” the surface. The bowlers are as fussy as our golfers on the quality of their bowling greens and the speed of their bowls.

After returning to the states, I wrote to the company asking if their machine was used on putting greens and if anyone in the states handled this machine. It wasn't too many days, that one evening I received a long distance phone call from John Ellul of the Golf & Bowling Machinery PTY. LTD. John was enthusiastic over my inquiry and questioned me more on how the machine could or would be used in the states on putting greens. Well, this discussion and interest in this type of a roller led to many more phone calls and letters over the past 8 months.

In early May a roller was air freighted (cost of \$2,000) to O'Hare and in a week, John Ellul followed up and came here to show the machine to me. I had John talk to Ron Jones, from Chicago Turf & Irrigation who agreed to help demo the unit this coming year and see what kind of response it may have in this area.

I was really surprised and pleased to see how well it did function on rolling our greens. The machine is different in that you sit on it facing one end and it rolls left and right. The speed of the roller is really surprising for it travels at about 4-5 miles per hour with a qualified operator at the controls. It takes about 10-12 minutes to roll a 5,000 square foot green. It would be a perfect machine for rolling the greens in the spring. The machine measures 3 feet by 2 feet and has three 4½” rollers, with one roller being the drive roller. The machine weighs just over 600 pounds (or about 43 stones, as John would say) with the weight of the operator. This machine was made special for golf putting greens by being only 3 feet long instead of the normal 5 feet used for bowling greens. I foresee the use of this machine for the final rolling of tees and greens just before seeding or sodding. Then using it after the seed is spread or after the sod has knitted and needs rolling before mowing. My main purpose was to be able to roll a green and then not cut it as low as some people are now doing. At the present, I have not had the time to check it with a stimp meter since the deadline of “The Bull Sheet” is a month before you receive it in the mail. By the time you are reading this, I will have some test data and will write another article to bring you up to date.

If anyone is interested in seeing this machine in operation you need to talk to your local sales representative from CT&I. Any other questions you may also call me.

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Left to right: Tom Vieweg, Rick Kepshire, Phil Taylor, John Turner*



*2nd Place - Michigan State
Left to right: Mark Johnson, Paul Wagner, Steve VanAcker*



John McGuire, President Mechanics Association explaining the purpose of his association

**St. Charles, Illinois
Pheasant Run**

The Biology of Turfgrass Soils
January 3, 1989

Golf Course Safety, Security and
Risk Management
January 4, 1989

Dr. Eliot Roberts, Executive Director of The Lawn Institute, reviews the principles of soil microbiology, describes the favorable and unfavorable functions of micro- and macro-organisms and discusses common practices that promote or restrict desirable soil biological activity, all as they relate to turfgrass management. Technical information on the safe use of pesticides to enhance soil biological processes will provide a tool for public relations in the current controversy regarding chemical usage.

Dr. Michael J. Hurdzan, noted golf course architect, presents risk management techniques, including the identification of hazards to golfers and non-golfers, the potential for accidents and types of negligence and liability. Safety procedures to minimize risk will be described and adequate and appropriate insurance coverage discussed. This course is designed not to provide legal advice but to expose superintendents to potential litigious situations as encountered in the personal experience of a golf course architect.

Co-hosts:

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
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one professional
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