

## “Proper Restitution”

by Brian Green, C.G.C.S.  
Sunset Valley Golf Course

It's the middle of July and we're only two days away from our major tournament of the year. Everything is coming together like clockwork — the fairways are showing good density and color, the greens' speeds are rising daily and the rough is getting pretty tasty. Weeks of tuning up for this event are paying great dividends and the weather is cooperating for a change. What could throw a wrench into these works besides the usual obstacles like a flood, windstorm or a hydraulic leak on greens? These are hard-to-accept problems that we all live through and become better managers for — I hope.

A routine 5 A.M. check of the course that morning revealed the obstacle that really can still throw me for a loop. In front of me, illuminated by the headlights, was our 13th green appearing to be more covered by soil and dislodged turf than the usual smooth green turf. “————!” What did these vandals use — a Roto-Tiller? A closer inspection confirmed that it was as bad as it looked. This 4000 square foot putting surface had been maliciously defaced with over 200 divot-like marks, some being excavated to an 8” depth. So widespread was the damage that a decent cup setting couldn't be found. Further checking of the course, I found the 12th green in a similar condition, but not quite as bad — maybe 100 divots.

Have you seasoned veterans that have been through this countless times learned to accept this better than us younger supers? This is probably my 50th vandalism incident in the 8 years of being superintendent, but my reaction is like the first time. “Let's kill them!” Contemplating irrational acts of revenge and countless mutterings out of earshot are all an important part of the process for my emotions. However, these reactions are not within the guidelines of my position. Once the storm of emotions pass and I realize my job is greenskeeper not revenge seeker, the forward steps need to be in the right direction if there will be any kind of proper restitution.

Proper restitution, besides hanging, has a two-part meaning for me today and lays out a proper direction. The first part means to do the footwork for reporting and information so that reimbursement can be made. Second, it means to take immediate actions to restore or return these areas to their former condition.

In reporting and informing, we municipal courses are well adjusted to this paperwork beginning with; filling out police reports and informing detectives; reporting to Pro Shop so that golfers can be informed by signs on the front desk as to the vandalized area; reporting to supervisors the damage in writing so they can inform the insurance company or insurance lawyer; and finally, I find it important to keep your own record of the event to keep your thinking clear and straight.

Second, and perhaps in conjunction, we begin restoration to the area as soon as possible to return it to a playable condition. In this case we began plugging from our nursery as our best means of repair.

Most of you, unfortunately, are all familiar with this routine and may be aware of a sticking point. After making several calls, I realized a large variance in estimating the actual damage. In several reports we're asked to estimate and I personally find it a sticking point. Again, my emotional response is how in the

(cont'd. page 14)

# PRESSURE WASHERS



250  
to  
2,000  
PSI

## NEW AND USED

## FREE DEMO

- SALES
- SERVICE
- PARTS
- CHEMICALS

CALL TOLL FREE  
1-800-666-3900

**HOTSY**  
OF CHICAGO

25 So. Park Street  
Roselle, Illinois 60172  
Phone (708) 893-0777

(Proper Restitution cont'd.)

world do you put a dollar amount on the putting quality of these greens for the tournament. My pride has been hurt, so the proper amount of restitution would be to allow me to take a 9-iron to their car. I completed the report as follows estimating actual costs with no mention of a 9-iron.

**"POLICE REPORT"**



Administration Office  
West Ridge Center  
636 Ridge Road  
Highland Park, IL 60035  
312-831-3810

Board of Commissioners

Joan Goldberg  
President

Ralph Cianchetti  
Vice President

Sylvia G. Deiman

Jerome C. Fall

Peter J. Koukos

Constance B. Skobe  
Director/Secretary

Kenneth J. Smith  
Treasurer

August 8, 1989

Officer Cohen  
Highland Park Police Department  
1677 Old Deerfield Road  
Highland Park, IL 60035

Re: Vandalism Repair Costs to #12 & #13  
Greens from Damage Reported 7/11/89

Dear Officer Cohen:

Listed below are repair costs to Greens #12 and #13.

<b>#13 Green - Immediate/Temporary Repairs (7/11-15/89)</b>	
Hand Labor (Plugging)	\$ 200.00
Hand Watering	20.00
Hand Topdressing	10.00
5 sq.yds. of Bentgrass Sod	50.00
Pesticide Spray Application	50.00
	<b>\$ 330.00</b>

<b>#12 Green - Immediate/Temporary Repairs (7/11-15/89)</b>	
Hand Labor (Plugging)	\$ 60.00
Hand Watering	10.00
Hand Topdressing	10.00
1 yd. of Bentgrass Sod	10.00
Spray Application	50.00
	<b>\$ 140.00</b>

**Permanent Repair Costs** (Actual costs to restore area to original quality)

<b>Aeration - #12 &amp; #13 Greens (Twice)</b>	
2 men/1 hr/aerating - \$ 20.00	
2 aerator machines	100.00
3 men/1 hr/cleanup	30.00
	<b>\$150.00 x 2 = \$300.00</b>

<b>Topdressing - #12 &amp; #13 Greens (Twice)</b>	
2 men/1 hr/topdressing - \$ 20.00	
1 topdresser	100.00
1 truck	30.00
2 cu.yds. sand	30.00
	<b>\$180.00 x 2 = \$360.00</b>

<b>Spray Applications - Fung./Fert./Wetting Agent</b>	
3 applications @ \$50 ea. =	\$150.00
+ 25% overhead (gas, oil, etc.) =	<b>\$282.00</b>
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$1,412.00</b>

Sincerely,

Brian Green  
Greens Manager

BG:al

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF SERVICE

In this report to the Police, I attempted to put a realistic dollar amount on the actual costs to return the areas to normal. This amount reflects estimated costs that would fall between the costs of a new green at \$35,000 and the costs of bentgrass sod at \$2.50 a square yard. Certainly we didn't rebuild the greens, but it also was more damage than the cost of sod alone. Previously, we always reported damage at over \$500 so that we could have a police report completed thoroughly, but for our own accuracy I've taken it a step further by breaking down the costs. This report completed my responsibilities and the remaining restitution is in the hands of the juvenile court system which will try to get reimbursement in the above dollar amount, but also make the offenders do some public service, like cleaning dead fish off our beaches for two months.

Several weeks have past since the incident, the police reports, the tournament and the greens are back to reasonable shape. As a superintendent, do I feel as though our course has seen proper restitution? Speaking as a superintendent, I feel that following this procedure has brought about a lot of restoration.

(cont'd. page 16)

# Lewis International & America's Turf Professionals Rely On



Lewis International has known for years of the high-quality, low-maintenance performance delivered by HIJET, Daihatsu's multipurpose utility vehicles.

The HIJET is powered by a whisper quiet 3 cylinder 30 Hp water cooled engine. Available in 4 different body styles; Cut-a-way, Hydraulic Tipper, New Larger Full Cab and Hydraulic Liftpick/Tipper, you'll be able to do more work with fewer vehicles.

Come in for a demo today on one of the incredible HIJET Vehicles. Call either Gary Jones or Avery Harris at 537-6110.

### 4 Locations To Serve You:

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Home Office:</b><br>55 E. Palatine Rd.<br>Prospect Hts., IL 60070<br>(708) 537-6110 | <b>Lewis Intl., Inc. II</b><br>5220 S. Route 31<br>Crystal Lake, IL 60014<br>(815) 459-4555 | <b>Payline West, Inc.</b><br>225 N. Randall Rd.<br>St. Charles, IL 60174<br>(708) 584-8700 | <b>Payline South, Inc.</b><br>1945 Bernice Rd.<br>Lansing, IL 60433<br>(708) 474-7600 |
|--|---|--|---|

(Restitution cont'd.)

Because of proper reporting and informing, the offenders were apprehended and charged; golfers didn't blame the maintenance staff for problems on greens; and the staff networked well to handle the situation appropriately. Because of quick and precise work by our staff, the greens showed excellent recuperation, the greens even played acceptably for the tournament, and to date, those greens are in good shape. Maybe still we'll see some restitution from the offenders via the courts as far as dollars and public service. After this is all said and done, I would still like to aerate their faces! Hey! I'm human.

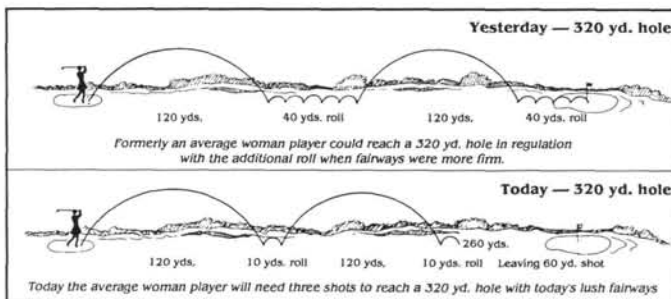
### It's Time to Move Forward

Women are making their presence felt in golf, and now golf courses must be adapted to their game, according to the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

With one in four golfers a woman, and 41% of all new golfers women, the Society's members are designing forward tees on most of their new and remodeled courses.

Alice Dye, the only woman member of the Society, points out that research shows the average woman golfer drives the ball about 130 yards. She says that the low handicap woman golfer is most comfortable playing a course that is approximately 5,440 yards long, while the average woman golfer would find a 4,800 yard course most enjoyable.

## Support Our Advertisers



The ASGCA architects note that today's lush, watered courses have reduced the roll of the ball. On firm fairways, 33% roll previously was expected and designed into the hole. The two illustrations above show that the average woman golfer could reach a 320-yard hole in regulation with 40 yards of roll, but cannot when the roll is reduced to 10 yards.

Those interested in how forward tees can enhance the playability of a golf course may obtain further information and illustrations by sending a \$5 check to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.

## J W Turf inc

14 N. 937, Rte. 20, Hampshire, IL 60140  
(708) 683-4653



## Golf & Turf

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS



### 1500 Utility Vehicle

features: A Multi-Function Vehicle Provides Maximum Productivity Spreader, Sprayer or Utility Truck

#### ● SPRAYER ATTACHMENT

- High Capacity, 160-Gallon Tank
- 3-Section Boom Covers 18.5 Feet
- 55 gpm Centrifugal pump
- Main Sprayer Shut-off Valve
- Three Individual Valve Controls

#### ● SPREADER ATTACHMENT

- Ideal For Applying Sand Topdressing, Fertilizer, Seed, Lime
- 14-Cubic-Foot Hopper
- Adjustable Pendulum Swaths 12 to 40 Feet Wide

#### ● UTILITY BED ATTACHMENT

- 1500-Pound Bed Capacity
- Optional Hydraulic Dump



SEE THE DEERE PERFORM

call Jim Huber  
(312) 683-4653



### Nothing Runs Like a Deere®

Servicing Our Customers is Our Way of Business



Servicing 24 Counties in Illinois & Indiana