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President's Message



Ray Schmitz

Every golfing season the subject of green speed comes up and it happens around the time of the U.S. Open Golf Tournament. During an event such as the U. S. Open the U.S.G.A. Tournament Committee and the T.V. announcers lead viewers to believe that green speeds in excess of 11' are a common practice at the best clubs in the country. This is misleading.

Giving this some thought, how many golfing members really want speeds that fast? Are they intimidated by players who demand "fast" greens assuming they are the best putters at the club? Our club belongs to the U.S.G.A. Turf Advisory Service and during the annual visit the T.A.S. Agronomist will caution that close mowing will lead to numerous problems on greens — thinning of the turf, algae growth, poa annua invasion, etc.

Some members at my club watch these tournaments and immediately become green speed experts and are convinced that speed in excess of 10' can be maintained on a daily basis from April to November on old greens of the mixed German Bent variety. One member at Flossmoor Country Club made a statement that he thought simplified the green speed issue. He said "a good golf course has good greens, whereas a great golf course has fast greens." If that were the case it looks like we golf course superintendents have wasted a lot of time on education, seminars, and years of experience in order to learn how to better manage all aspects of the entire golf course. Fortunately for us, the true golfer realizes there are many factors to be considered in creating a "great golf course."

A date to remember is November 4th, 4:30 p.m. at Oakbrook Hills Resort. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the newly proposed by-laws changes as recommended by the GCSAA. Please plan to attend this meeting because the MAGCS Board of Directors are taking these issues very seriously and are looking for input from GCSAA voting (class A and B) members. My understanding is that the MAGCS voting delegates to the GCSAA Annual Meeting in Anaheim will place your and my vote for the entire chapter.

Ray Schmitz