National Campaign Against Slow Play

Major Golf Associations To Join In Campaign To "Pick Up The Pace"

ORLANDO, FL - A wide-ranging national campaign to speed up play is being launched by GOLF Magazine with the cooperation of major golf organizations, announced Editor-in-Chief George Peper at the PGA Merchandise Show here.

Though complete details of the comprehensive campaign, "Pick Up The Pace," will be announced in the April issue of GOLF Magazine, Peper did reveal two elements: a USGA Pace Rating of golf courses, and timing the play of PGA Tour pros.

Pace Ratings

At the suggestion of GOLF Magazine, the USGA is developing a formula to determine playing times for golf courses. These Pace Ratings — similar to Slope Ratings, which rate the difficulty of courses — will set a reasonable time for completing a round on a course. The Pace Rating will take into account course difficulty, length, and distances between greens and tees. Separate ratings will be developed for carts and for walking.

The USGA will announce details of the Pace Rating program at its Annual Meeting in Nashville on February 6.

Timing The PGA Tour Players

Every PGA Tour player will be timed and ranked by GOLF Magazine on how quickly he plays tee shots, approach shots from the fairway, and putts. The magazine began recording times at the Northern Telecom Open, using a system developed in concert with the PGA Tour. GOLF Magazine will publish the rankings each month, starting with the April issue, and the slowest players in each category will be highlighted.

Major Associations Joining

"Every major association in golf is joining in the Pick Up The Pace campaign," said Peper. "This is not just a string of slogans, posters, and buttons. We have solutions, and we're convinced our combined efforts will improve the pace of play on America's courses."

Tree-Care Seminar Slated for March 4

A half-day seminar on tree care for golf course professionals will be held Thursday, March 4, 1993, at the Wheeling office of Hendricksen the Care of Trees, 2371 S. Foster Ave. Experts will cover a variety of practical topics on tree care and related concerns, including species seleciton, tree inventories, maintenance, pest control, lightning protection, and liability issues.

The featured speakers are Oscar Miles, golf course superintendent of the Merit Club, Libertyville; Kris Bachtell, horticulturist and plant collections director at the Morton Arboretum, Lisle; Chuck Schramm, Insurance consultant, Lamb, Little & Co., Rolling Meadows; Larry Hall, vice president, and Rex Bastian, Ph.D., entomologist and technical services coordinator, Hendricksen the Care of Trees.

The sessions begin at 2:30 p.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. A reception will immediately follow. Admission to the seminar and reception is free.

To register, call 708-394-4220.



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