

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My dictionary says that the word NATURE is "a power or set of forces, thought of as controlling the universe; as Mother Nature".

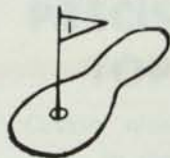
Looking back over my shoulder at this past growing season makes me feel that Mother Nature really put on quite a spectacular show. Starting as far back as the month of April she started with her string of adverse conditions and never let up. It made me truly feel that the complete control of my turf does not always lie solely within the palm of my hand. To be humbled by Mother Nature is when you feel for certain that you have tried everything humanly possible and still she has the final say.

Many wonderful and rewarding occasions have made my year as your President a great one. Thank you to all of you and always remember one thing; no other area in the entire world has a higher number of truly great golf courses than right here in your own back yard.

Carl G. Hoppman



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MIDWEST COUNTRY CLUB

NOVEMBER 8, 1977

Annual Meeting of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents

The Selection of Officers and Directors submitted by the Nominating Committee for consideration by the members at the annual meeting for 1977 is as follows:

President Joseph Grenko
1st Vice President Cliff Behrendt & Roger LaRochelle
2nd Vice President Edward Fischer & Robert Breen
Secretary-Treasurer David Meyer

Directors (Three to be elected for a two year term and possibly two to be elected for a one year term. One of the one year terms will be serving out Robert Siebert's term who submitted a resignation and the other one year term may have to be elected to serve out Ed Fischer's term if he is elected 2nd Vice President)

Candidates for Directors:

John Berarducci
Dennis Fulton
Don Hoffman
Richard Kensingler
Robert Kronn
James Mitteer
John Potthoff
Thomas Vieweg

Respectfully submitted,

Nominating Committee
Fred Opperman, CGCS, Chairman
Mike Bavier
Alby Staudt
Paul Voykin
Dick Trevarthan



During the Walker Cup matches of 1928 at Chicago Golf Club, John MacGregor [above] pioneered mowing the fairways at night, equipping the tractors with headlights.

POSITION WANTED

Richard Burns, Student at U. of I. is looking for an assistance position on a golf course. Richard will graduate in December. Contact: Carl Hopphan, Mike Bavier or Fred Opperman.

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Glade is admirably low and dense, an excellent ground cover that can stand up even to inconsiderate mowing. It is a reasonably slow-grower, and not antagonistic to other grasses when used in combinations. Experts seem to agree that under most circumstances lawn cultivars are best combined, bluegrasses with fine fescues and perennial ryegrasses in mixtures, or with other bluegrasses in blends. This way advantage can be taken of the strengths of each selection, insuring against disaster should some unforeseen ill afflict any single cultivar.

Glade is one of the very few bluegrasses that can be recommended wholeheartedly for both moderate shade and full sun. Of course no cultivar can endure an almost sunless habitat, but Glade does very well in moderate shade, primarily because of its resistance to mildew. Mildew diseases seriously weakens most bluegrasses in dank habitat, bringing on their downfall. But not Glade, which carries on in a spritely fashion even in 60% shade conditions.

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Editor

MIDWEST BREEZES

Art Benson, Jr., Supt. at Butterfield C.C., is in the process of building golf car paths and planting several new trees on the golf course and club grounds. **Fred Opperman**, Supt. at Glen Oak C.C., also has been busy planting trees the past couple of weeks. It appears work of this nature gets priority at this time of year in this area.

The precipitation in the Chicago area as reported by the weather bureau has been above average over 19" for the two months. This is 13" above the average for the same period. This should bring our water table up to normal. This August and September moisture has sure made lush turfgrass on home lawns, golf courses and other turfgrass areas.

The **Bull Sheet's** fiscal year ended October 31st, 1977. It has been a good year financially. The publication has grown to twenty pages. This was made possible by our advertisers and the great job and interest the printer, **Ever-Redi**, has been doing for the past thirty-one years. Have **you** done your part? If you are one of the 3% from a membership of approximately 350, then the answer is yes. What about the other 97%? The editor's answer is no. This publication comes to **you** twelve times a year and is costing you nothing. The cost to have it delivered in your mail box is \$1.54 per issue. You are getting a gift of \$18.48 each year from the **Bull Sheet**. The editor feels it is not asking too much of you to send in news items that would be of educational value to others or interesting happenings at your club or wherever the place may be.

If you do not appreciate receiving the **Bull Sheet**, please let me know and I will remove your name from the mailing list. While I am on the mailing list subject-when any of you have a change of address please let me know and not expect the post office to do it for you. The post office charges the **Bull Sheet** twenty-five cents for their service. This is getting to be a real costly item. If you cannot afford a thirteen cent stamp, let me know and I will reimburse you.

Remember the **Bull Sheet** advertisers are the ones that make the printing of the **Bull Sheet** possible. If it were not for them, there would be no free copies coming your way. You are probably saying, "What can I do?" One thing the editor says is the next time you are ready to place an order check the **Bull Sheet** and place your order with one of our advertisers.

Remember the **Bull Sheet** is not a Gerber publication. It belongs to the Midwest Association of Golf Course Supts. So let me hear from you 97% who have been silent.

The annual M.A.G.C.S golf tournament held at Calumet C.C. on Oct. 13 was well attended. 46 played golf on a beautiful conditioned golf course made possible by Supt. James Mitter. All 46 players won a prize. The big championship was won by Douglas Spaulding, from Woodmar C.C. with a score of 75 gross. Bob Kronn, from Rolling Green C.C. was 2nd with a 78. Bob Williams, supt. at Bob O'Link G.C. took home the Senior's Trophy due to a score of 81 gross.

62 enjoyed a wonderful dinner along with several hours of true friendship. Being a senior myself, I could not leave out another senior, Ben Kronn, supt. at Twin Orchard C.C. who posted a score of 86 and carried home the number 2 prize.



Champion — Douglal Spaulding



The gentleman in the center of the picture is the green chairman at Calumet C.C. Mr. T. Griffin survived the three previous superintendents. Bottom left, Bruce Birchfield; left upper Mike Bavier; upper right Paul Voykin; lower right James Mitter, present superintendent.

THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

How many of us can watch the power and skill of a Jack Nicklaus or a Lee Trevino and still be convinced that "all men are created equal"? Even though these two men are endowed with tremendous natural ability, perfection in their skills has never been an effortless gift. Both must spend hour upon hour in practice, concentration and study.

We can recall seeing Jack Nicklaus on a nearby course during his early high school days. At that age he was already somewhat of a celebrity. As our foursome started down the first fairway, we observed young Nicklaus hitting balls from the practice tee. When we finished nearly five hours later, the summer shadows were long but Jack Nicklaus was still deeply engrossed in practice.

Lee Trevino tells the aspiring young golfer to be willing to hit a thousand balls each day and ignore the pain of bleeding hands. The lesson is hard but obvious. If one has been graced with a certain talent, only devoted work and sacrifice can make this gift truly productive and worthwhile.

Golf course superintendents have much in common with the likes of Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino. Each works at a skill that requires maximum effort. Anything less and the results speak for themselves.

The talented superintendent, like the professional, must continually search for ways to improve his performance. Just as the professional golfer depends

on practice, the professional superintendent must depend on the constant process of learning. He must know his course better than he knows the back of his hand. He must anticipate its problems and promptly execute the solutions.

Today's golf course superintendent has the difficult task of keeping abreast of rapid-fire innovations, techniques and information. But, while doing this, he must constantly apprise himself of old problems. The sources of good information are endless and each deserves full consideration. Most of all, superintendents can learn from each other, for each has a total golf course responsibility. Fortunately, there is an eagerness to share successes as well as failures.

To complicate daily duties and the learning process, the superintendent must be a master mechanic, diplomat, labor advisor, friend and father confessor. He must smile when it's impossible and swallow to choke a scream.

The professional golfer can ill afford to live on past performance and laurels, and so it is with the golf course superintendent. The demands are sometimes quite exacting, but each must consistently give a full measure to his profession.

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HOW FAST ARE YOUR GREENS?

by **ALEXANDER M. RADKO**, National Director, USGA Green Section

WHEN viewing play in tournament competition, one thing stands out above all else — the variability of greens between courses and some times between greens on the same course. This could be caused by many things — variability in terrain, slope, turf cover, grain, thatch, fertility and management programs, height of cut, cutting frequency, etc. In order for any course to be a super test, greens should be uniform! Superior greens reduce the element of luck to a minimum and putting becomes a true test of skill — the player's ability to read the green, and his ability to stroke the putt as his mind dictates. This is as it should be!

How can speed be measured? Simply! With a device called the USGA Speedstick, a variation of the Stimp Meter, originated by Edward S. Stimpson. In an article that appeared in the April, 1974, issue of *The Golf Journal*. Mr. Stimpson stated his reasons for developing his Stimp Meter as follows:

"The Rules of Golf define the ball, the hole, and the form and make of clubs. Yet no standard is set for the speed of putting greens. A large percentage of strokes are taken on the green and there is great variation in the speed of greens where competitive golf is played. There is also great variation in the condition of greens where holes are placed. I believe there is a need to establish quantitative *limits* to certain conditions, still recognizing that growing grass can never be given an absolute measurement."

"The Stimp Meter is a device that quantitatively measures the speed of putting greens. Numbers can be assigned to the speed of greens on the level, and numbers can be given to the uphill and downhill conditions where holes are placed. After numbers are known, conditions can be compared, experience discussed, and goals established. Perhaps limits can be defined, sought, and attained."

The USGA's Speedstick is designed to achieve some of the above very legitimate goals.

The Speedstick is a simple device. It is a carefully honed piece of wood with a "v"-grooved runway and a notch which serves as the starting point of roll — extremely simple, consistent and it can be used by anyone. It provides a quick representative speed reading of a green. All that is required are three regular-size-dimpled or small-dimpled golf balls, a measuring tape and the USGA official Speedstick; then follow this procedure:

- 1) Select what appears to be a level area on the putting surface approximately 10 feet square and representative of the green's texture.
- 2) Roll three balls in one direction from the same starting point.
- 3) Measure the average distance.
- 4) Reverse direction 180 degrees and repeat steps (2) and (3) from a point close to where the first three balls stopped.
- 5) Average the speed figure for each direction.

If the difference of the averages measured above is greater than approximately 25 per cent of the shortest distance or if the balls had a curving path prior to coming to rest, it would then be advisable to repeat steps (2), (3) and (4), rolling the ball at 90 degrees to the original path and across the middle of it. If this is done, the measurements in all four directions can be used to determine the average speed of that green. This takes into account a number of the variables which should be considered in this type of measurement.

The above should be performed on each green of the golf course, including the practice green, and accurate records kept regarding the time, date, and when, how, and at what height was the previous cutting.

The USGA Green Section, with the cooperation of course superintendents in more than 35 states, measured more than 750 greens in 1976. Analysis of this data has resulted in the development of a

As the Speedstick is slowly raised the ball is released to travel down it and across the putting surface.

