

Hiers urges architects: Pay attention to maintenance complex

By MARK LESLIE

SAN FRANCISCO — Saying the maintenance complex is the most crucial element in a golf community and that it has been overlooked for decades, Tim Hiers called on golf course architects to “pay attention to that.” “Some architects have taken the lead in explaining to owners the importance of the maintenance complex. But there still are not enough who do,” the superintendent at Collier’s Reserve in Naples, Fla., told an audience at the International Golf Course Conference and Show here. “Architects, if you have a better maintenance complex and you come back in five years, you will see a better maintained golf course.”

As an engine is to a car, so is the maintenance complex to a golf course, Hiers said and then proceeded to pound home hints on improving equipment care, personnel management and environmental awareness.

Key to the entire operation, he said, is a clean, well-kept complex — not only for its effect on the crew but club members as well.

“If the shop is immaculate and good-looking you will see a direct relationship to the golf course maintenance, Hiers said. “Our [club] members even bring friends over to see our maintenance complex. Their pride carries over to us. It can change the patterns of ways employees work on the course.

“You’ll find that members will take the time to understand the maintenance operations. If they do, you get a better ear, a better chance of more funding.”

Asking how the shop helps course maintenance, Hiers said, “You do less work on the shop and more on the course.”

Collier’s Reserve spent \$600,000 on its 10,000-square-foot maintenance complex, and 12,000 square feet would have been perfect, he said.

Hiers urged his colleagues to “engineer out potential problems” when possible. “Don’t treat symptoms, address problems. A problem can go away. But if you have a symptom you are going to address it forever,” he said.

Among his comments:

- Fuel pad. Water recycling system. Water bills from \$800 a month to \$175. The system will pay for itself in three years. The system extracts any impurities in this water: sludge, benzene, you name it with the exception of pesticides because we don’t clean our pesticides off in this fuel pad but elsewhere.

- Eastern bluebird box made of 100 percent post-consumer recycled plastic, as opposed to post-industrial recycled plastic. Benches and bird feeders made of this as well. Guaranteed for 50 years and just a little bit more than a conventional bench.

- Recycle pesticide contain-

ers. Company comes on site and runs it through a chipper and make plastic pallets.

Pesticide recycling center drawn up by Oklahoma State. Floor recessed toward the sump. A special paint on the floor does not allow any chemical to infiltrate it. The only wood in the structure has that paint on it.

- When trees die, we usually snag them, we don’t cut them down. But if we do cut them down, we then chop the wood up, carry it to a wooded area and

create a pile for animals like quail.

For every tree that dies, we plant three of the same type and of different sizes. You don’t want to plant trees of the same size.

- Storm shelter is also made of recycled material. Put lightning protection on that shelter. You won’t have a case in the courtroom unless you do because you’ve created attractive nuisance: telling people you have a shelter but you don’t have protection on it.

- Building and concrete are white. Concrete costs 20 percent more than asphalt, but it will pay for itself in five years. Petroleum and fertilizer spills ruin asphalt.

- PA Electronic Ballast Lights — the most efficient in the world. Electrical savings based on five 10-hour days and two five-hour days is 1.8 years.

- Overhead fans in the building can raise the thermostat about 3 degrees. Microwave ovens are about 70 percent more efficient than a regular convec-

tion oven. Plus we put two in, so employees don’t have to wait.

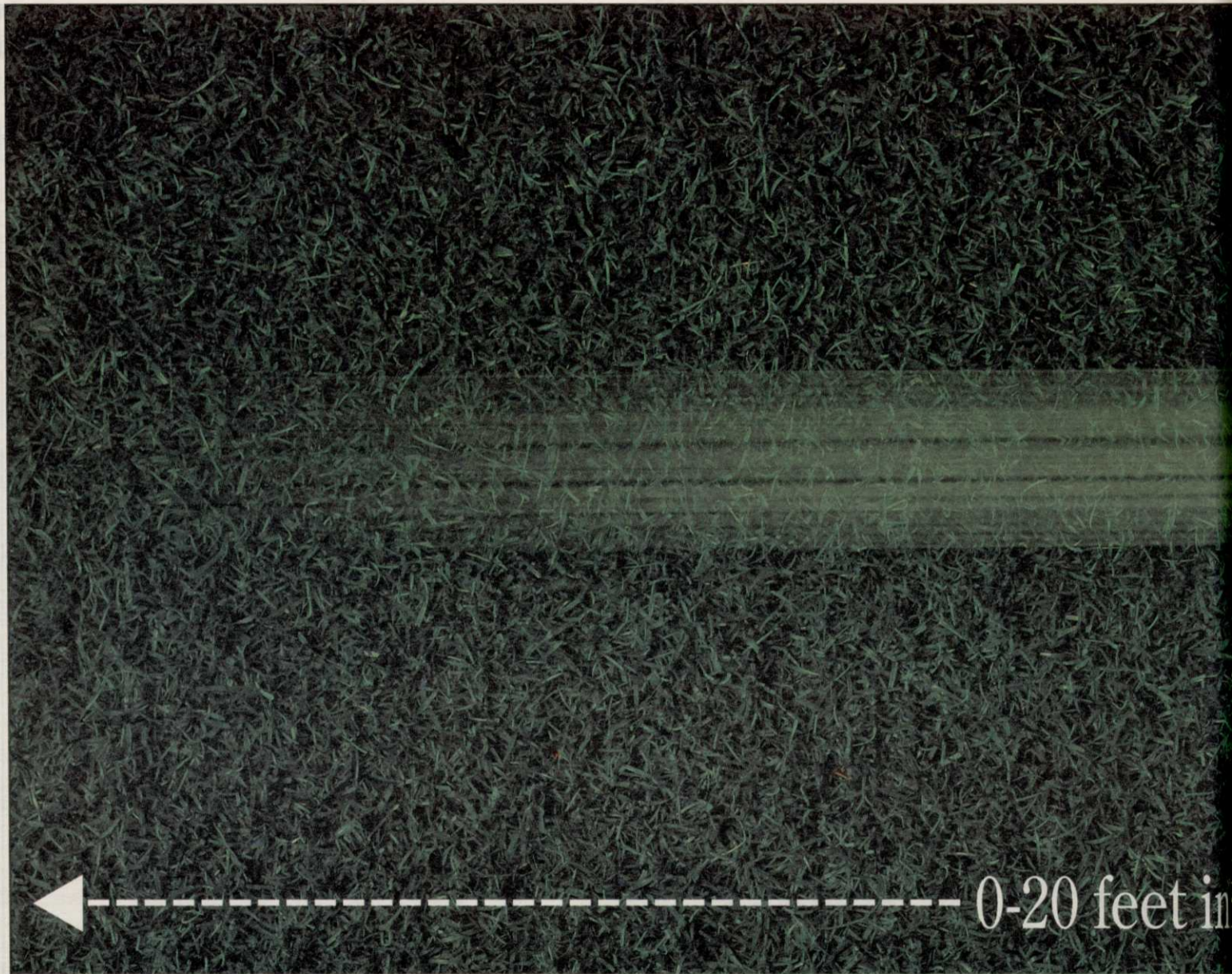
- Overhead fans in building housing equipment. Every time equipment is used, it is washed, waxed and hand-dried. You can’t get into the seams to dry them, so at night the fans are turned on to take away excessive moisture.

- The mechanic’s shop has floor painted grey where people are allowed to walk.

- Anything that could leak on the property has a container.

- The mechanic shop is designed with lifts so he does not have to lift anything, reducing

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1995
Show Me!

Barker repeats Dad's feat: wins GCSAA championship

By PETER BLAIS

MONTEREY, Calif. — "Just play good," was the advice Vaughn Barker offered his son, Todd, prior to the 1995 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Golf Championship held recently here.

The younger Barker had reason to listen to his father, who won the annual event when it was played here in 1977. And he listened well.

The head superintendent at Fore Lakes Golf Course (GC) in

Taylorville, Utah, Todd put together a two-day total of 144 over the Bayonet and Poppy Hills golf courses to win the overall championship by a resounding seven strokes over his nearest competitor, Paul Jett of Duke University Golf Course in Durham, N.C.

"I was only two shots ahead after the first day," recalled Barker, who used his 3-wood off the tee over the tight Bayonet course to fashion a two-under 70 on the opening day. "Paul shot a

72, but had some problems the second day on the first few holes at Poppy Hills. I just played very steady after that and ended up with a 74 at Poppy Hills."

Barker, a top amateur in Utah, was one of 400 members and affiliates in 11 flights competing in the warm-up event to the annual International Golf Course Conference and Show held two hours north in San Francisco. The Golf Club at Quail Lodge, Old Del Monte Forest GC and Rancho Canada GC's West

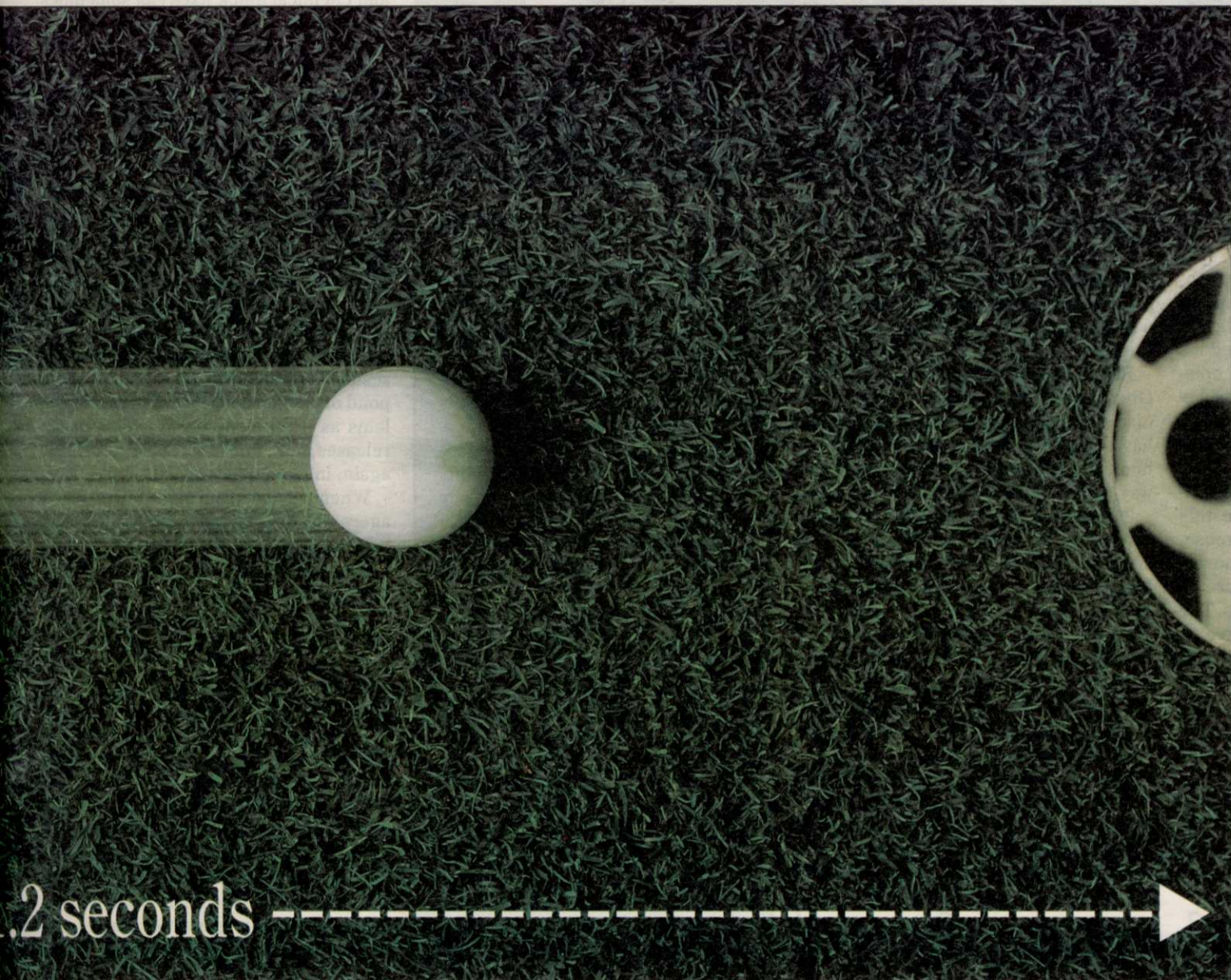
Course were the other tourney locales.

Barker was also part of a Utah team that captured third place in the Chapter Team Gross competition behind Jett's Carolinas A team. Joining Jett on the winning team were Andy Campbell of Brook Valley Country Club (CC) in Greenville, N.C.; Chuck Green of Florence (S.C.) CC; and Chandler Masters of Talamore at Pinehurst in Southern Pines, N.C.

Winning the Lamphier Trophy as net team champion was Midwest AGCS No. 4 which included four Illinois superintendents — Alan Fierst of Oak Park CC in Elmwood Park; Robert Mai-busch of Hinsdale Golf Course (GC); John Stephenson of Potawotomi GC in St. Charles; and Roger Stewart Jr. of Stonebridge CC in Napierville.

The winners in the other divisions, gross listed first and net second, were:

- Division B (3.0-5.7 handicap) — Greg Hall, Renton Washington, Fairwood G&CC; Dennis Vogt, Cherry Hills, Colo., Glenmoor CC.
- 1st Flight (5.8-7.8) — Scott Wagner, Silver Springs, Md., Leisure World; Fritz McMullen West Bloomfield, Mich., Forest Lake CC.
- 2nd Flight (7.9-10) — Sean Remington, Chevy Chase, Md., Chevy Chase Club; Ed Cimoch Jr., Mount Cobb, Pa., Scranton Municipal GC.
- 3rd Flight (10.1-12.7) — Paul Jamrog, Belchertown, Mass., The Orchards; Ivy Latham, Allen, Texas, Eldorado CC.
- 4th Flight (12.8-16.5) — Dennis Flynn, Katonah, N.Y., Brae Burn CC; Tim Powers, Pound Ridge, N.Y., Pound Ridge CC.
- 5th Flight (16.6-22) — Ron Garrison, Center Valley, Pa., The Center Valley Club; R. Scott Woodhead, Belgrade, Mont., Valley View GC.
- 6th Flight (22.1-29.8) — Roger Stewart Jr.; Trevor Oxtoby, Vienna, Austria, Colony Club.
- Senior I (age 50-56) — Alan Andreasan, Mission Viejo, Calif., El Niguel CC; Mike Bavier, Palatine, Ill., Inverness GC.
- Senior II (age 57-64) — William Johnson, Plymouth, Minn., Edina CC; Ken Goodman, Wheeling Ill., Bull Valley GC.
- Super Senior (age 65+) — Clete Idoux, Granite City, Ill., retired; John Grant, San Rafael, Calif., San Mateo GC.
- Affiliates — Dave Bingham, Fresno, Calif., B&B Associates; Jim Davis, San Diego, EcoSoil.



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Maintenance complex

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chances of injury.

- Little dirt comes into the maintenance buildings because native vegetation is planted around the complex. This cost a little more up front, but no resources are used to maintain it — no water, no electricity, no fertilizer, pesticides, labor or fuel.
- People say native plantings don't work. The reason they believe this is that they haven't done the right thing. You have to pick the right plant at the right location, at the right time of year, at the right planting density, at the size, and then maintain it until it's established.
- Likewise, wildflowers do work. But you have to pick your spots, till the bed properly, pick the right flower and stay on top of them. They make a great habitat and save a lot of money in maintenance.
- A five-foot barrier of native plants encircles the entire maintenance building. Instead of iron-concrete posts stationed to protect plantings and buildings, use PVC, so the vehicle is not damaged.
- Birdhouses made out of discarded PVC pipe.