

BRIEFS



**LIBERTY ELM PROGRAM INSTITUTED**

**HARRISVILLE, N.H.** — The Elm Research Institute here has established a new program, The Liberty Tree Memorial, to restore elm trees across the country. ERI will work with community officials and others to coordinate mass plantings of the disease-resistant Liberty elms. More information is available from ERI Executive Director J.P. Hansel at telephone 603-827-3048.

**DELHI STUDENTS' TRAINING ENHANCED**

**DELHI, N.Y.** — Golf education majors at the State University College of Technology at Delhi will soon be putting one of the industry's newest innovations to the test. Students will learn to operate the Ransomes E-Plex all-electric greens mower



as part of their academic training, thanks to Ransomes America Corp. and its distributor, the S.V. Moffett Co. of West Henrietta, N.Y. The mower, valued at more than \$15,000, is an example of Delhi's commitment to offer students experience using state-of-the-art equipment, according to Dominic Morales, program director.

**TPI SETS SUMMER CONVENTION**

**OMAHA, Neb.** — The Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) Summer Convention and Field Days, featuring educational sessions, demonstrations and special tours, will be held here July 27-29. Todd Valley Farms in nearby Mead will host the opening night banquet and demonstration day activities, while Red Lion Hotel here will house the educational sessions. The tour will include the University of Nebraska test facility in Mead and Valmont Irrigation manufacturing plant in Valley. More information is available from TPI, 1855-A Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008; telephone 708-705-9898.

**UMASS SETS IPM WORKSHOPS**

**AMHERST, Mass.** — The University of Massachusetts Coop. Extension has scheduled a series of landscape and nursery Integrated Pest Management workshops, featuring hands-on demonstrations of IPM tools and techniques as well as a close look at some common cultural problems and troublesome insect, mite and disease problems. More information is available from the Extension here concerning the workshops, set for May 31 and Sept. 6 in Waltham, June 7 and Sept. 13 in Sandwich, June 14 here, July 12 in Stockbridge and Sept. 14 in South Deerfield.

# McNabb world's 9th Master Greenkeeper

## Palmetto super one of four Americans in elite group

**LONDON** — You can count the world's Master Greenkeepers on two hands, and Richard McNabb is now one of them.

McNabb, superintendent at Palmetto Golf Club in Aiken, S.C., became one of nine Master Greenkeepers, receiving his certificate at the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) annual awards banquet at the British Turfgrass Management Expo here.

McNabb is one of four Americans to earn the prized distinction, joining William Montague of Oakwood Club in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Robert Maibusch of Hinsdale Golf Club in Clarendon Hills, Ill., and Terry Buchen of Double Eagle Club in Galena, Ohio.

Saying merely that he is "proud of the accomplishment," McNabb added that he first became interested in the Master Greenkeeper (MG) certification in 1993 while working on a greens renovation at St. Margarets Golf Club in Dublin, Ireland.

To achieve MG status, a superintendent must meet standards in education and experience and pass a written essay



Richard McNabb

test as well as a course examination by BIGGA.

McNabb, who earned his certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) status from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 1981, has worked at Palmetto since 1994.

He is working on a bunker renovation and regrassing of the greens, tees and fairways on the course, which was built in 1892 and then remodeled by Alister Mackenzie in the 1930s.

A native of Long Island, he graduated from the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School in 1973. He was assistant superintendent at Middle Bay Country Club in Oceanside, N.Y., in 1973-74 and returned there as head superintendent for 10 years in 1975 after a one-year stint in charge of maintenance at Lido Golf Club in Lido Beach, N.Y.

In 1985 McNabb went to work at Lake Hickory Country Club in Hickory, N.C. He joined turf consultant James Lynch of Long Island in 1992, working on projects in Chile and then Ireland.

**MACKENZIE'S PALMETTO UNDERGOING 'CONNORISM'**

**AIKEN, S.C.** — Golfforms President Ed Connor has plied his laser-technology trade and greens renovation prowess on famed golf courses from Pebble Beach and the Riviera Country Club on the West Coast to Firestone South in the Midwest and Pinehurst #2 and Seminole Golf Club on the East Coast. In May he expects to begin and complete his newest project — Palmetto Golf Club here.

Connor, headquartered in Ormond Beach, Fla., has specialized in using laser technology to grid-map golf courses designed by classic architects. At Palmetto, built in 1892 and redesigned in the 1930s by Alister Mackenzie, he will laser-level the tees and sprig the fairways, tees and greens with 419 Bermudagrass. He will also restore the trademark Mackenzie bunkers. Connor has also completed the process of preserving the greens contours on computer.

Meanwhile, Connor will start a resurfacing project at Loxahatchee Club in Jupiter, Fla., on May 15. Crews will strip off the bentgrass and replace it with Bermudagrass.

**STIMPMETER IMPACT WIDE-RANGING**



Terry Buchen illustrates Stimpmeter use at Double Eagle Club in Galena, Ohio.

## The lost cause: Telling green's 'trueness'

By TERRY BUCHEN

Edward S. Stimpson, the 1935 Massachusetts Amateur champion, designed the Stimpmeter some 40 years ago but it was brought to its present form through the hard work of Frank Thomas, technical director of the U.S. Golf Association and the staff at the USGA Green Section in the late 1970s.

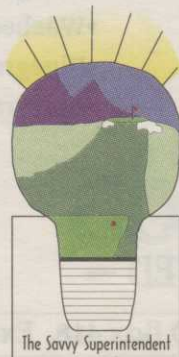
The Stimpmeter has been a valuable tool for golf course superintendents to make their green speeds more consistent for the golfing elite. If the total measurements, done in two directions, on all 18 greens is within 8 inches of each other, the greens speed consistency is considered good; within 6 inches is consid-

ered very good; and within 4 inches is considered excellent.

There is another extremely valuable use for the Stimpmeter that has been overlooked since its inception.

The Stimpmeter can also be used to tell "how true" a putting surface is and how good and consistent the roll of the ball is. While the green is being checked for speed, it can also be checked for its "trueness" by being a little more scrupulous in holding and implementing the Stimpmeter operating procedure.

Simply put, while holding the Stimpmeter — just below the



## Modern-time golf driven by equipment

By JIM CONNOLLY

During the 1930s, a device was conceived by a Boston amateur golfer that would impact the game some 45 years later — the "speed stick," known today as the Stimpmeter.

Mr. Stimpson played golf in the Boston area with great regularity and was involved with several golf organizations. He noticed there were differences in putting greens from course to course. Stimpson was surely not the first to recognize this variability, but perhaps he spent more time lamenting the situation, and this led to his invention.

Even though Stimpson was an accomplished golfer, winning the 1935 Massachusetts Amateur Championship, he felt there must be some way to measure, and perhaps control, the condition of putting surfaces.

He said: "There is no standard set for the speed of putting greens. 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."

Perhaps unknowingly, Stimpson's statement is an oxymoron. In one breath he stated the need for a standard, then said it couldn't be done. The Stimpmeter may have been conceived without full knowledge of its ultimate use, or abuse. The concept of placing a numerical figure on ball roll had its genesis in the 1930s, but was not officially adopted by any organization until 1974.

A philosophy was emerging that embraced the idea that uniformity of greens

LAST IN A SERIES

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## Savvy Super says: Stimp reveals more

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20-degree angle where the ball is released from the ball release notch — hold the Stimpmeter firmly with one hand and hold the three balls in the other hand. As each ball is released, keep the Stimpmeter from moving towards the left or right. Have as little movement as possible, up or down, before and after each ball is released.

If the putting surface is really true, the second ball will touch the first and the third ball will touch the second every time — in both directions. If the balls do not touch and roll and stop in three different positions, the greens are not rolling true and verticutting/topdressing/multiple mowings, etc. will be needed.

Take note: the Stimpmeter must have as little movement as possible before, during and after the golf ball is released onto the putting surface.

Also, it is important that all three balls are from the same manufacturer, that they are a small-dimpled type and preferably 100-compression balata-covered.

Al Radko, former national director of the USGA Green Section, and Stan Zontek, director of the Mid-Atlantic Region, gave me a wooden Stimpmeter that was one of just 12 originally produced of cherry wood in the late 1970s.

I used the wooden Stimpmeter extensively as an agronomist for the PGA Tour as part of my advance work at all tournament sites. All readings were sent to the USGA. When I worked at a tournament during the event, I would take Stimpmeter readings of all 18 greens for a full week and send the results to Al and Stan.

During this indoctrination period, I perfected the technique to test the trueness of each and every putting surface, which is very accurate as long as the person doing the testing has a steady hand and a little practice in getting it done the right way. This trueness testing is really a hidden treasure that can be extremely useful to have perfectly true putting surfaces.

It is interesting to note that in the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) course managers and head greenkeepers pride themselves in having greens that are not consistent as far as speed is concerned. It's their belief that the "local knowledge" factor of each individual putting surface is the name of the game.

But things are changing in the UK and it will be interesting to wait and see if the Stimpmeter ever really catches on when determining speed consistency and the real trueness of their putting surfaces.

## Glen Abbey's Dean Baker named Nicklaus Super of Year

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Dean Baker of Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville, Ontario, Canada, has been selected Nicklaus Superintendent of the Year by Golfturf, a subsidiary of Nicklaus Design. The award recognizes excellence in turf maintenance as well as the highest degree of professional ethics and standards.

"As the first solo design project opened by Jack Nicklaus, Glen Abbey has long served as a standard for the excellence

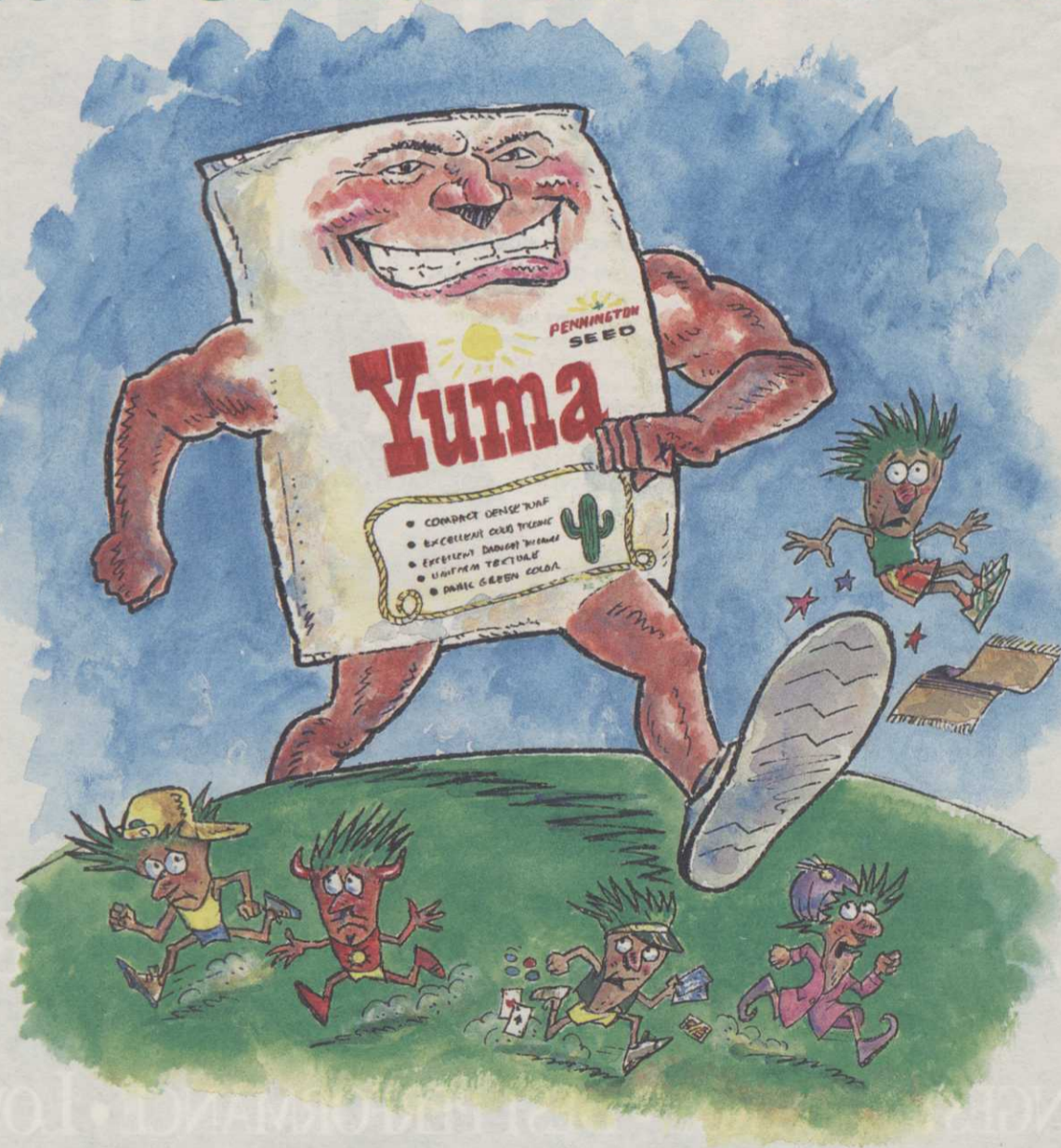
associated with a Nicklaus design," said Edward A. Etchells, president of Golfturf. "Dean has done a tremendous job in maintaining the course's condition for public golfers and for the top players in the world for the Bell Canadian Open."

Baker has been employed as Glen Abbey's superintendent since 1989. He is a graduate of the University of Guelph with a diploma in agriculture and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in business administration.

Established in 1984, the Nicklaus Superintendent of the Year award honors superintendents at Jack Nicklaus golf courses who have distinguished themselves in the field of golf course maintenance. Baker is the 13th recipient of this honor.

Glen Abbey Golf Club is owned by the members of the Royal Canadian Golf Association and is open to the public throughout the golf season, except during the Bell Canadian Open.

## Introducing New Yuma Improved Turf Type Bermuda From Pennington Seed We're Gonna Kick Some Grass!



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