

## Savvy Super says: Stimp reveals more

Continued from page 15

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!



Pennington Seed is proud to introduce the new kid in town... and he's a tough one. Our new Yuma improved turf type bermuda is drought tolerant, low growing, has excellent turf density and a rich green color. Yuma also features quick germination and rapid recovery from mechanical injury. In fact, once established, it requires less water than many other bermudas. It's perfect for golf course tees, fairways and roughs, as well as athletic fields and other turf areas. Write or call us today for more information on Yuma - it's one tough son of a gun.

  
**PENNINGTON**<sup>®</sup>

Call 1-800-285-SEED

for a Pennington Seed Specialty Turfgrass Distributor near you

CIRCLE #118