

Heart of America elects Bologna

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Swope Park Memorial Golf Course superintendent Bill Bologna has been elected president, heading a new slate of officers for the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association (HAGCSA).

Joining Bologna, who succeeded Jeff Eldridge of Lakewood

Oaks, are Vice President Gary Higbie of Trails West Golf Course in Leavenworth, Kan., and Secretary-Treasurer Chuck Hybl of St. Joseph (Mo.) Country Club.

Winning election to the board of directors were Ron Darnell of Mazingo Lake Golf Course in Maryville, Jon Kindlesparger of Alvarmar Golf Course in

Lawrence, Kan., and Tyler Koch of Hodge Park Golf Course here.

A certified golf course superintendent, Bologna has been at Swope Park Memorial for three years and superintendent for the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department for five years. He has served on the HAGCSA Scholarship and Research Committee and as chairman of the Education Committee.

Viera hires IGM

VIERA, Fla. — International Golf Management, Inc. of Lakewood has been retained to provide professional golf course maintenance services on a contractual basis at Viera East Golf Club in this newly created city.

IGM is providing turnkey golf course maintenance services for the publicly owned 18-hole

course which is part of a 30,000-acre Chapter 290 Community Development District close to Melbourne. The project, including the Florida Marlins' spring training home, is a project of Viera Co. Maintenance will be supervised by Jim Wells, IGM's Central Florida regional manager, working with Dommie Veasey Jr., the club's IGM resident superintendent.

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The choice: Slow grass or fast dirt

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3. Double Mowing — Consider double-mowing your greens once a week. This is a good practice to improve surface smoothness without having to lower the cutting height.

If you are short on labor, you can use a triplex mower in one direction and hand mow in the opposite direction, or even double mow with the triplex units.

4. Light Topdressing — If the turf is healthy and the temperatures are not too high, it is perfectly fine to apply light sand topdressing to smooth the surface.

Many superintendents refer to this as "dusting the greens" with approximately 0.1 to 0.3 cubic yards of sand per 1000 square feet every two to four weeks. Topdressing should be suspended at the first sign of turf stress or if temperatures are expected about 90 degrees F.

5. Grooming — Groomer attachments are great tools to improve the quality of cut and green smoothness, especially at increased mowing heights. The groomers can be used on a frequency of two to three times per week as long as the turf is actively growing. This is another practice that should be suspended at the first sign of turf stress.

6. Rolling — Putting green rollers have proven to be very effective tools to maintain surface smoothness and slightly increase speed without negatively impacting turf health. The rollers should only be used two to three times per week to avoid abrasion injury.

When asked their preference for speed or smoothness, most golfers agree that surface smoothness is most important. Smooth greens with reasonable speed can be achieved without having to lower the mowing height by paying close attention to the previously mentioned practices.

And if the golfers persist in their desire for lightning-fast greens during the summer, remind them that "slow grass is better than fast dirt."