

Association modifies position on alternative spikes

LAS VEGAS — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) board of directors has modified its position on the issue, taking an information-gathering stance.

The action was taken Feb. 3, in a board meeting prior to the start of GCSAA's 68th International Golf Course Conference here.

Previously, the GCSAA "alternative spikes" position recommended individual courses adopt a policy that best served their respective operations. However, a GCSAA ad hoc committee comprised of Immediate Past President Gary Grigg, CGCS at Royal Poinciana Golf Club, Naples, Fla., and

directors Dave Fearis of at Blue Hills Country Club, Kansas City, Mo., and Tommy Witt of Wynstone Golf Club, North Barrington, Ill., late last year began to examine a position on alternative spikes based on scientific/agronomic data.

Upon review of that information, the committee deter-

mined inconclusive results precluded a stronger policy on the issue.

The committee believed the GCSAA's policy should emphasize its role in accumulating and disseminating relevant and useful information to the golf industry to assist in the decision-making process. GCSAA

has already begun to collect data from shoe manufacturers, scientific/agronomic research, perception surveys from various organizations and policies of allied golf associations.

Additionally, GCSAA surveyed golf course superintendents at its conference and show. Work has also begun on a white paper that will examine agronomic issues (plant health, aesthetics, soil) and golfer issues (slippage, comfort, putting quality), current trends in the industry (course conversion rate, professional tour players opinions, allied association policy, legal precedence) and GCSAA's strategy in assisting facility decisions and educating/informing influential golfers/employers.

The white paper will be presented to the board for additional action this spring. It is anticipated that complete/comprehensive information packets will be available for distribution June 1.

Stewards honored

Continued from previous page

Perez, East Mountain Country Club, Westfield, Mass.

Resort Course: John A. Boyer, Marriott Seaview Resort, Absecon, N.J.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Private Course: Henry D. Kerfoot, III, Carmel Country Club, Charlotte, N.C.

Public Course: Wendell T. Nealon, The Legacy, Springfield, Tenn.

WESTERN REGION

Private Course: Bill Schilling, Wing Point Golf & Country Club, Bainbridge Island, Wash.

Public Course (Tie): Tom Janning, Rosewood Lakes Golf Course, Reno, Nev.; Daryl D. Dinkel, River Valley Ranch, Carbondale, Colo.

Resort Course: Kent Nishijima, Kapalua Golf Courses, Lahaina, Hawaii.

CANADIAN REGION

Private Course: Paul Dermott, Oakdale Golf & Country Club, Downsview, Ontario.

Public Course: Bruce Thrasher, Westwood Plateau Golf Club, Coquitlam B.C.

INTERNATIONAL REGION

Resort Course: Ian Smith, Half Moon Golf Club, Montego Bay, Jamaica, W.I.

The Merit winners included James L. Lehman, Queens Harbour Yacht & Country Club, Jacksonville, Fla.; Fred Behnke, Mount Prospect Golf Club, Mount Prospect, Ill.; Michael A. Sandburg, Lakeside Country Club, Houston, Texas.; Douglas Mahal, Minikahda Club, Minneapolis, Minn.; Tom Morgensen, Countryside Golf Course, Mundelein, Ill.; and Lee A. Mangum, Resort at Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley, Calif.



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