

## MAINTENANCE

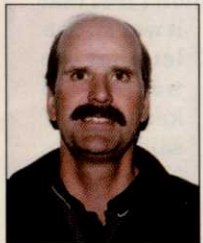
### Ross approaches

Continued from page 9

involved in the playability of the hole, so how the ball reacts off this surface is critical. As the USGA green became the standard method of construction, along came firmer green surfaces. With firmer green surfaces, golfers have been forced to play the ball into the approach area and bounce/roll the ball onto the green surface.

In recent years, many golf course superintendents have adopted green-style management programs on approaches, such as: walk mowing, aerifying and topdressing.

This shift of green style programs to approaches has produced excellent turfgrass conditions. However, this maintenance cannot guarantee excellent playability. The biggest factors contributing to this are the growing medium, drainage, and irrigation. Generally, approach areas are constructed with typical topsoil medium, minimal if any drainage, and irrigation coverage from some other area (like fairways).



Kevin Ross

#### NEW CONSTRUCTION METHODS

The solution to this problem would be to consider approaches as the next modified area. Construction using USGA rootzone, independent irrigation set-up, and herringbone type drainage could offer extensive benefits. The foremost benefit of this construction would be the ability to control the moisture. This would solve the main complaint over a present softer/wetter area where ball reaction is minimal and unpredictable. From a playability standpoint, approaches that have

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— Kevin Ross

a high sand mix can offer the benefit of a firmer surface, unlike soil based approaches. Firm approach surfaces can offer the golfer the option of a bump-and-run shot with more predictability. Sand mix can also be graded much easier, thereby producing a very even and smooth contour. This smooth surface would then be able to offer a superior, tight cut.

While there are many different ways to achieve this, one construction method could be to construct an approach cavity six inches lower than final grade. Within the cavity, drainage could be installed dictated by the final grade contours using four-inch drainpipe and enveloped with peastone. A six-inch depth of rootzone and independent irrigation would complete the approach construction. Not only would this offer great playability, but would also offer the potential for growing very fine turfgrass. Since approaches make up an average of two acres on an 18-hole course, this method would not significantly add to construction costs. ■

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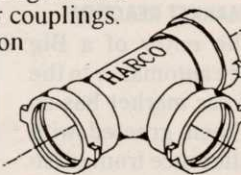
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## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

- 8-9 6th Annual Heart of America's Golf and Turf Conference in Kansas City, Mo. Contact: 816-561-5323.
- 8-9 Eastern Pa. Turf Conference & Trade Show at Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, Pa. Contact: 610-378-1327.
- 9 33rd Annual Professional Turf & Landscape Conference & Trade Show in White Plains, N.Y. Contact: 914-946-3005.
- 17 Mid-America Horticulture Trade Show in Chicago, Ill. Contact: 847-526-2010.
- 19-23 National Golf Course Owners Association's 20th Annual Conference and Trade Show in Phoenix, Ariz. Contact: 1-800-933-4262 ext. 207.
- 28-30 68th Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show at Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: 1-800-605-0420.
- 29-1 Turfgrass Producers International's Midwinter Conference in Orlando, Fla. Contact: 847-705-9898.

### FEBRUARY

- 3-10 GCSAA's 73rd International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Fla. Contact: 1-800-472-7878.
- 3-7 Club Managers Association of America's 75th Annual World Conference and 25th Annual Exposition in San Antonio, Texas. Contact: 703-739-9500.

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