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**MORGAHAN** (continued from page 14)

tect the greens. The course will close around Labor Day to ensure healthy playing surfaces.

The captain made a number of summer visits, meeting with Tyrrell as well as Medinah's membership. He listened to what the members wanted to see. "Knowing how difficult the conditions have been, Davis checked in with me several times this summer," Tyrrell said. "He also advocated to the membership on behalf of the maintenance crew and stressed the need to be cautious under these rigorous circumstances." He added that Love was very supportive of all the superintendents in the Chicago district area, who, in turn, have prepped Love on what to expect of local weather and conditions this fall.

He also spent time with European captain José María Olazábal, and expects more European team members in the coming weeks.

The Ryder Cup is unlike any other professional tournament, a fact that influences how Tyrrell and his staff have to set-up and tend the course. Most obviously, the field is only 24 players and most matches never reach the 18th hole. Before the matches begin, the teams have four days of practice rounds, alternating morning and afternoon times so each squad gets a feel for how the course plays at different times of day. The first matches are on Friday, Sept. 28.

The days have been divided into three maintenance shifts: morning, midday, and evening. Play will commence at 7:20 a.m., which in Chicago in the fall means the crew will likely start and finish work in the dark. To deal with the long hours and allow his crews to work in natural light, Tyrrell created six teams of 16, each assigned to three holes. They will be responsible for complete maintenance on their holes – greens mowing, divot filling, bunker raking, rough cutting, Stimpmeter and firmness readings. Teams will be monitored by Tyrrell's three on-course supers and their assistants, with the final review conducted each day by Tyrrell, Love, the assistant captains, and Haigh who will sign off on the preparations before play starts.

Thrust into the limelight, Tyrrell is keeping it all in perspective: "My goals for the week are for my maintenance team to enjoy the experience and reap the rewards of their commitment and hard work ethic; for our membership to have a great experience given the resources they've committed to allow Medinah to host its first Ryder Cup; and last, but certainly not least, would be a win and to hoist the Cup for the home team." GCI