

Aug. 6, 2000: Minutes of the Swamp Ranch CC Green Committee, Vyagra Falls, Fla. Committee members present: Ed Thomas, chairman; A. Greene Boucher, vice chairman; Henzel Hozzletunian, seniors' representative; Birdie Noble, ladies' representative. Staff members present: Charlie Besieged, superintendent; Hans Kruger, general manager. Meeting called to order by chairman Thomas at 6:01 in the Old Tom Morris Room. Staff members not present: Chuck Golfpro.

Debate ensued over last month's minutes before 4-0 approval. Thomas then asked for the superintendent's report. Superintendent Besieged thanked the committee for its support, even though the putting surfaces are only rolling 11 feet on the Stimpmeter. Two brown spots in the right rough on No. 14 will also be addressed.

Vice chairman Boucher interrupted to ask if progress was made on adding another foot to the Stimpmeter speed. Besieged noted that the higher the number of feet a green is rolling, the tougher it is to increase speed without seriously harming the long-term health of the greens.

Serious discussion ensued. The committee urged Besieged to aim for 12 feet on the Stimpmeter even if it means jeopardizing his job and upsetting those who don't like five-hour rounds.

Birdie Noble asked why the two foursomes of lady players were being disrupted by noisy fairway mowing crews during their Tuesday and Friday morning rounds. Besieged was asked by Boucher if the mowing schedule could be changed. The superintendent reported that fairway mowings could be moved to Monday and Thursday mornings. But seniors' representative Henzel Hozzletunian objected because "those are his regular playing days." Chairman Thomas objected because he would have "shaggy" lies for his regular Sunday morning game. A subcommittee of Thomas, Hozzletunian and Noble was appointed to meet with Besieged to discuss.

Hozzletunian asked if the senior tees could be painted another color besides canary yellow, which he said is too feminine. General manager Kruger said he would have the engineering department come up with color samples Hozzletunian can study.

Got the Green Committee Blues

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



WHAT IT'S LIKE

INSIDE A MEETING

OF THESE MINDS?

READ THESE MAKE-

BELIEVE-BUT-CLOSE-

TO-THE-TRUTH

MINUTES TO

FIND OUT.

Besieged said the course will be closed for three hours Monday morning, Aug. 12, for an urgent chemical application. This will ward off a serious disease, that if left untreated, will kill all the greens. But vice chairman Boucher informed the committee that his insurance firm is hosting its client golf event that afternoon and asked that the spraying be postponed. Although Besieged said it was imperative that the spraying take place in the next five days, the committee voted 4-0 to postpone it until Monday, Aug. 19. End of superintendent's report.

Chairman Thomas reported on the Restoration Subcommittee's architect search. There are many willing architects interested in laying out a master plan to restore Swamp Ranch's original Sandy Barrens' design. However, the committee felt such architects were not right for the club at this time in light of a USGA staff member's recent visit and purported mention that Swamp Ranch could host a USGA sectional qualifier if a few back tees could be built.

The Green Committee voted 4-0 that the subcommittee be renamed the Course Modernization Committee. A search will begin promptly to hire an architect who will modernize the course to address the modern-day tournament player in hopes of luring a USGA qualifier.

General manager Kruger reported that he received many letters from older members thanking him for the new large font on the snack-bar menu. The committee thanked Kruger.

Besieged reported on *Golfdom's* article naming him one of the top young superintendents. But chairman Thomas reiterated the importance of Stimpmeter speeds reaching 12 feet in time for next month's member-guest.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

The 18 months that Geoff Shackelford spent on a country club green committee seemed like 18 years. He can be reached geoffshackelford@aol.com.