

We've Got Mail

■ LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

Can't We All Get Along?

To stir up stereotypical issues between golf professionals and superintendents is not healthy and can be judged as poor journalism (Flagstick, October).

It's true that the chasm is wide between the two. My problem is that unprofessional people on both sides widened the divide.

If both people are doing their respective jobs, they are putting in megahours every week and do not need their positions encroached upon. Superintendents are the people behind the scenes who let course conditions speak for them. The professionals are the people organizing course traffic and handing out member-guest prizes at the end of the day.

But the superintendent does leave during the middle of the

afternoon when some courses are just starting to get going with member or public traffic. Therefore, the person standing behind the counter is the contact for all problems that develop.

The members or public golfers vent after their rounds, and the superintendent's office is not necessarily part of the basic traffic flow of the facility. The "sounding board" is typically the golf shop.

I know and respect both positions, but I need to comment that people-induced stress is more taxing than equipment- or turf-induced stress. You can attack your equipment or turf issues immediately without any personal or emotional situations. But people can be vindictive, and sometimes people issues are not repairable.

Kris Smith
Owner (and Former Golf Professional)

Ironman Golf Course
Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Suped-Up Equipment Harms Game

I just finished reading the article in the October issue of *Golfdom* about the need for a classic ball ("The Case for the Classic Ball"), and I would like to say that I couldn't agree more. The so-called advances in equipment have not helped the golf industry at all.

I'm a PGA golf professional at a daily-fee course in southern New Mexico, and I keep our rounds-played records religiously. Our course started a steady decline in the mid to late 1990s in the number of rounds played. That coincides with the advent of the titanium drivers, which everyone thought were the greatest. Twenty years from now, when people look back at the business

during this time, they will find that decline in participation and the advent of titanium drivers happened at the same time. Ely Callaway will be remembered for pushing the envelope for how much golfers would spend for equipment and for pushing a lot of people out of golf.

The only thing that has been accomplished is that the game has been made much more expensive, and a lot of people have decided to spend their money elsewhere.

Mike Olson, PGA Professional
Dos Lagos Golf Course
Anthony, N.M.

You can e-mail letters to Frank Andorka at andorka@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2675 or send them via snail-mail to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130.



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