

roll the ball better and generally look better. In general, sand has deepened the roots on all my greens whether vigorously thatched or not, but there is a difference in putting quality where less speed is found on the more thatchy greens. These greens will need more sand and aerification in the future. Only time will tell if I will achieve uniform putting quality on all my greens.

If there is anything I have learned from my experience with sand it has been to appreciate and respect the different characteristics of each green. I will have to treat the open greens differently than the wooded ones; keeping in mind a uniform consistency for putting. I am really looking for ease in management and development of faster, smoother greens. With the elimination of less thatch a subtle change in cultural management of watering, fertilizing and pest control will happen. The high sand content will bring on new changes, especially in fertilizing with an emphasis on more frequent applications. I won't want to fertilize too much because of the nature of Penncross greens.

In closing, it is important to realize that the first priority in green management is to provide a smooth, reasonably fast playing surface for the golfer. I feel sand will provide this quality.

EDITOR'S CORNER



by

BOOTS FULLER
EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN - M.G.C.S.A.

By now most of us are pretty well into the golf maintenance scene in spite of the weather. The Mankato area has been drenched during the first half of May. There are more days we can't be on the course than there are days we can be. Fortunately, we were able to continue on our U.S.G.A. program of aerification and heavy topdressing and overseeding on our greens and tees, largely due to some efficient efforts of our crew; certainly not due to any help we got from the weather.

As most of your know by now, we fertilize very infrequently and then, very lightly. We will be putting down our tenth fertilizer application by Memorial Day weekend. Then we apply one light feeding during the summer, followed by one feeding in late season. We plan to put down a total seasonal feeding of approximately 2 1/4 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. and this will be for both greens and tees.

We have also altered our fairway mowing patterns this season. Contouring our mowing patterns has given new design and depth to our otherwise straight line holes. In an effort to cut compaction on our approach areas to our greens, we are triplex mowing a rather substantial area

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in our approaches. By keeping our fairway mowing unit off these areas we hope to be able to maintain a better quality turf. We might be opening the door to a total concept of triplex mowing our fairways, but so be it.

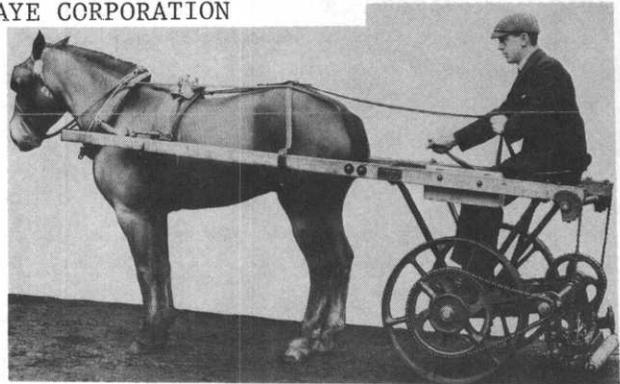
I want to thank all the people who have contributed articles for the HOLE NOTES. We have another pair of good ones coming next month from John Granholt of Eau Claire Country Club and Dan Hanson of Minikahda. Mike Redmond has also agreed to get an article into our Associates' Corner. I also want to thank those of you who have made comments and suggestions about the HOLE NOTES. We are always trying to improve the quality of the paper and any suggestions are welcome. We can't always do everything that is suggested, but we try to work in what we can.

The June meeting is at Whitefish where I'm sure Bernie Zimmer will have an excellent program for us. Be sure to

make plans for the picnic at Baker Park on July 11. Many thanks to Sundance and Gary Peterson. One of these days the weather will cooperate and we'll have that ideal golf outing. Until then, let's hope we all have good seasons. Hope to see many of our "northern" friends at Whitefish.

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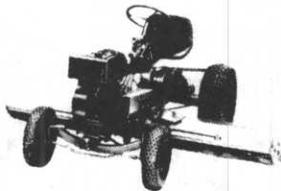


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