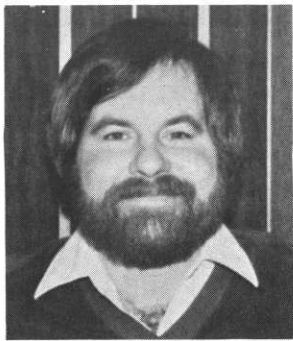


CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE PREPARATION



by CHRIS L. HAGUE
Superintendent
Hazeltine National Golf Club

Few people really understand the involvement and intensesness to detail it takes to operate a successful major championship like the 1983 United States Senior Open. Behind the scenes it takes hundreds of volunteers, some forty committees, staff people and numerous outside suppliers to fill all the demands of such an event; all with one common denominator - the love of the game of golf.

Just as championship golf is quite different from club membership golf, so are the course conditions demanded for this high caliber tournament play. Early stages of thought and planning commenced in 1980 when the Senior Open was first accepted. At this time P.J. Boatwright, U.S.G.A. Executive Director of Rules and Competitions, and several U.S.G.A. Agronomists began making bi-annual inspections and tours of the golf course at various stages of the season. Degree of difficulties and continuity of all course condition recommendations were established early so that the club would have ample time to prepare for such a test of golf.

Following extensive re-design and construction projects in 1980 and 1981, the succeeding 1982 season became the year to start fine tuning for this season's event. During this period U.S.G.A. representatives instituted their finite specifications and provided instruction on such subjects as fairway widths and contours, turf heights of cut and technical agronomics. Added to this was information to establish hole yardage lengths, defining hazards and

boundries, proper bunker lip depths, bringing the all important green speeds to the proper uniformity and establishing leaderboard locations.

The difficulty and tone of a player's game is set by his or her ability to be rewarded for executing well placed shots off closely clipped, tight turf conditions. On the other end of the scale severe penalty should arise for a poorly stroked one. With this in mind one of a superintendent's major responsibilities is to provide such conditions.

From a maintenance preparation standpoint the greens were naturally the priority all season. We doublecut with six operators for 14 days at 7/64" with Jacobsen walking greensmowers. Previous topdressing and lightly verticutting greens were accomplished throughout the early season on a 14 to 21 day schedule. Stimpmeter readings during the tournament averaged from 9 feet 9 inches to 10 feet 4 inches.

Sand bunkers were hand raked each and every morning with 8 people and wooden tooth style rakes only. This style of raking was accomplished so that the chance of furrowing and plugged lies were virtually eliminated.

In the afternoon we could not begin work until the last player finished teeing off on #2 tee. This assured that no extreme equipment noises would break concentration of the players. We accomplished our after play schedulings beginning about 4:00 p.m. as follows: 4 operators for triplex greenmowing on fairways at 9/16"; 2 operators and trucksters for clipping removal; 2 operators for triplexing tees and approaches; 1 operator to groundmaster intermediate rough; 1 operator to groundmaster primary rough inside gallery ropes; and, 2 laborers to fill divots with seed/soil mix. This is really a very unique way of maintenance in which we are adapting into our regular scheduling. It's surprising how efficient and high quality of workmanship can be performed with all operators traveling in sequence together on the same hole. I found that we were finishing all 18 holes of the golf

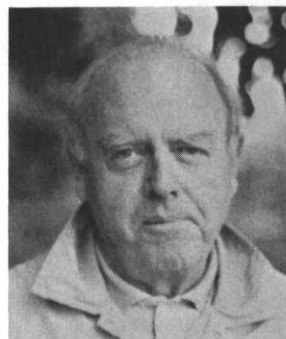
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course in around 6 hours in most cases. This also eliminates the possibility of the little things being missed and makes the day much easier from a supervision perspective.

Along with the above course responsibilities my staff was responsible for keeping coolers of water and gatorade at every tee, erection of 4 miles of rope and staking, 8,000 feet of snowfencing and miscellaneous temporary fencing, helping with the Boy Scouts during trash removal and making certain that all tents, portable toilets, concession stands and leaderboards were placed exactly where needed.

It's definitely been a long season but now that it is over all of us here at Hazeltine can look back with much pride on our accomplishments. This was my second national championship in a row and I can't really say that it was any easier than the first. I've found though, that it gets in your blood and even now I'm looking forward to the next time.

ASSOCIATES' CORNER



BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE

by MILT WILEY
Landscape & Turf

After 30 some years as a member of this association I have finally been given the opportunity to tell everyone how I think the association should be operated. I have been threatened with bodily harm by Boots Fuller if I did not get this article in, so here we go!

I have just recently been released from the hospital after an operation for a

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