

HOLE NOTES

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

KERRY GLADER

How often do you play the course you work so hard on to make perfect for the members? Most of us, I would guess, don't do it enough. When we have some time available we want to get away from our work place and relax....get it out of mind for awhile. But playing is an important part of a superintendent's education. When you play your golf course, you see things from the standpoint of a player. Remember that is the view that all of your members get. All of a sudden you have to putt at a hole position that is perhaps a bit unfair. Doesn't seem like a big thing until you have to do it. All of a sudden you have to decide if your ball is in or out of bounds and there is a white stake missing. You meant to get at that last week..now it's real important.

Playing 18-Holes gives you a better feel for your greens speed, texture and holding qualities than all the testing in the world. Trying to play out of a bunker with a thin sand base that causes the club to bounce rather than continue on through, brings home the fact you had better get that sand loosened up and redistributed.

Playing with club officers and committee heads and even occasionally with the club professional is an easy way to learn things in casual conversation. It is also an excellent place to suggest programs you have in mind. You can test the waters, so to speak.

The skill at which you play the game is strictly up to your time and interest. An average game, about 18 to 20 handicap, is quite acceptable. In fact, it might be about perfect because you will see the course as most of your players see it. Why not look at your June calendar right now and pick out two or three afternoons to play with the members. It will never get done if you don't make definite plans.