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HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Updates To Be Sent Out By Environmental Committee In June



The Environmental Committee will be sending out updates to the Environmental Guideline Booklet in June. In addition to the updates, three new sections have been added: Endangered and Threatened Species, Employee and Community Right-to-Know, and Water Meters. Read through the new sections and re-familiarize yourself with the other sections. Scott Austin and the Environmental Committee have done an excellent job of keeping our association abreast of current laws and regulations.

* * * *

Our thanks to John Nylund and his staff for hosting the May meeting. This session was well-attended with only a few passing rain showers. Cushman Motors and E.S. Dygert provided the equipment display. A reminder to members that to advance register for meetings, the monthly meeting form must be returned to the association office. Phone registrations are not accepted.

* * * *

The Association Office will have an 800 number installed to better accommodate out-state members. Accessibility to the Association Office is a concern of the board. The phone number will be listed in next month's *Hole Notes*. A reminder that financial reports are available to the membership. Contact Scott for further information.

* * * *

The GCSAA has announced plans to hold a Sprayer Maintenance Seminar next year. It will be held at Midland Hills' maintenance facility on March 30, 1993.

* * * *

Dale Wysocki, Superintendent at Faribault Golf and Country Club, hosts our June 8 meeting.

—Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
MGCSA President



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Using Growth Regulators To Help Control Poa Annua on Putting Surfaces

In 1984 everything was fine, greens were cut at 7/32", irrigation systems worked well, we received proper amounts of rainfall at just the right time, the golf course was at peace.

1985 came around and the request was made to try to speed up the greens. A stimpmeter reading of 96" to 102" would be very nice for our members who really enjoy putting. After proper consideration, taking into account that the greens were built of heavier soils, (in fact the newer greens built in 1962 had soil that came from the ponds that make up the water hazards on 8 & 14), I explained to the Green Committee of the potential problems that could happen, and that you just don't automatically lower the height-of-cut to 5/32" and get quicker greens. But anyhow, we went ahead with speeding up the greens.

Finally, when out with the green chairman, he noticed these lime green patches of grass on the greens and inquired as to what they were. I had explained that this was Poa annua, and as long as we keep the greens like they are, we will have a Poa infestation, and eventually the greens will become predominately Poa.

Along came the drought of 1987-88-89, and the irrigation system started to decline. The Poa suffered more. Finally something had gotten the attention of the Green Committee. The suggestion was made by myself to investigate chemical means of getting rid of or suppressing Poa. Finally in 1989 I decided to use Scott's High K fertilizer with TGR. Of course, the application would not be made until late August of 1989 and only on specific greens to evaluate the growth regulators effect on Poa. The greens that were chosen for this experiment were No. 7, 9, 13 and the putting green. I had estimated that no green had any more than 20 to 30 percent Poa. Exactly how do you find out how much Poa you have on putting surfaces? Apply TGR at full rate, my guess of No. 13 having 30 percent Poa was slightly off by about another 40 percent. All of a sudden it was "the greens are dying."

Older members did not understand just what was going on. Most of that was my fault because I did not communicate what I was doing with anyone but the Green Committee, and even they were shocked at the color of these four greens. However, they did enjoy the speed that these greens had over the untreated greens.

Now I had an idea of how to use TGR and what it would do. It was time to figure out how to encourage more bentgrass growth, and that was easy to do; just cut in seed at a rate of .75 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. two weeks after TGR application. I selected Pennlinks Creeping Bentgrass because it just seemed to be overall a better species of Creeping Bentgrass.

Now that we had evaluated using TGR as a way to bring our greens back to being free of Poa Annua, it was time to go and do all greens with TGR. This started during the 1991 golfing season. Some of the benefits that have been noticed are the speed of the greens really does get better and, in some instances, I have seen less turfgrass disease such as Dollar Spot on the treated areas, and mowing is significantly decreased. On the other side, no matter how many times I have put it in the club

newsletter or written special letters about using the growth regulator every time we apply it, we still get comments about how the "greens are dying." However, the benefits do outweigh the comments. Other uses of TGR have been to currently apply it at half rate every three or four weeks during the summer, just to keep the greens a little quicker. This also keeps the Poa somewhat suppressed, and we do try to encourage the creeping bentgrass.

This year I decided to try Cutlass on greens numbered 3 and 14, while on greens numbered 8 and 12 I will use Primo to control Poa. Unfortunately, due to this past winter's harshness, I will not be able to apply anything to greens numbered 4, 6, 10 or 17.

I think it will be interesting to see how these products do compare against each other. If you ever start leaning towards using growth regulators on putting surfaces, make sure you tell your membership and tell your membership again, it will save you problems in the future. Or just try them out on a nursery green so you realize the full impact of these products. What to do next is to find a good pre-emergence herbicide to keep the Poa out once and for all.

—Dale Wysocki
Faribault Golf & Country Club

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The Evolution of 'Hole Notes'

Part II: The Next 21 Years

By LARRY VETTER

Turf Management Products, Inc.

When we ended last month, the need for change had been recognized. This need was brought about by, among other things, the demands being placed on the Golf Course Superintendent, the growth of MGCSA, the desire for increased professionalism, and the subsequent pressures brought on by these factors.

One of the greatest concerns from the professionalism standpoint was that most Superintendents did not have anyone who was always available to answer the telephone. Consequently, when a member wanted to reach another member, many times it was impossible. In addition, when someone did answer, messages were either not taken or not delivered far too often. Remember, voice messaging, answering machines and electronic mail were not yet invented! It was felt that having an official office that was staffed during normal working hours would not only assist in the improvement of *Hole Notes*, but also provide assistance with other types of communication between members.

At about this same time, the "business" side of MGCSA was expanding dramatically. Many needs and wants were being recognized and discussed. Throughout all of these discussions, it was obvious that even though many of these were worthwhile and/or needed, each one of them had a price, both in workload and dollars. Since the Officers and Directors were already feeling extreme time pressures due to the demands of their jobs and serving on the board, and the treasury of the Association was essentially operating on a break-even basis at best, everything pointed to the need for fundamental and major change.

Some of the issues that were pending that added to the mounting pressures were: the need to fund a research program; the need for incorporating the Association for liability purposes; the stated desire of GCSAA to hold the Annual Conference and Show in Minneapolis, and the desire to function in a more business-like manner. All of these items made it very obvious that, without change, good people would no longer run for office in the Association because the load was just getting excessive, particularly the office of Secretary.

Formal and informal discussions were held at the Board level and between individuals throughout much of 1971, trying to formulate a plan that would define and facilitate taking the next step that seemed essential for the future of the Association. A plan was devised that would utilize a person part-time who had access to office facilities and a secretarial staff. Unfortunately, staff additions cost money and we didn't have any excess funds. Consequently, since upgrading *Hole Notes* was going to be one of the primary objectives of this person, we had to

look at that publication as a possible way of generating the necessary additional funds.

The Associate members of MGCSA had always been very supportive. There seemed to be a way of incorporating advertising into *Hole Notes* so that the additional funds could thereby be generated by the publication itself. An informal poll of the major firms holding memberships suggested that this was indeed very possible.

As a result of these discussions, a meeting was held in the Fall of 1971 at Edina Country Club to explore the feasibility of this plan. Most of the Board along with representatives of MGCSA's major Associate Member firms attended. (Rather than risk leaving out the names of some attendees, since I haven't yet found a record of that meeting, no names are mentioned.) The purpose of the meeting was to explain the Board's objective of hiring an individual who could upgrade *Hole Notes* as well as take some of the work load off of the Board members. We also were looking for advice on how best to go about this and to see if, in fact, the major Associate members would support this effort. Without their support, this effort could not possibly work.

It was at this time that Al Wareham, who had been the Executive Director of the MGA for a number of years, had set his retirement date. Someone such as Al could provide closer ties to the MGA, the PGA and so forth. He also had a knowledge of the game of golf, was involved in publishing a newsletter, had an office that was already staffed and equipped and was recognized and respected in this area. He had indicated a willingness to work with us at a cost that was affordable. The timing could not have been better! He could "work into" the role of Executive Director for our Association while still in the MGA office. Then if both parties were satisfied, he could assume additional duties when he retired. He had already cleared this temporary arrangement with the MGA Board.

This information was presented to the Associate members who attended this meeting. As if someone was looking out for all of us, they informed us that they were looking for ways to communicate more effectively with us. The match appeared to be perfect and the timing couldn't be better. The Associate members could have an advertising vehicle, *Hole Notes* could be improved and enlarged, a well-known person from the golf industry was available to accomplish this and the expense/revenue issue would work without a huge dues increase.

What seemed almost too good to be true soon became a reality, but not without some very interesting discussions. The plan was presented to the membership at the annual meeting in December of 1971. This was to be truly a monumental step in the growth of the Association. The discussion that ensued would probably take up the space of several issues of this newsletter. Change, many times, brings forth discussion. This proposal, however, was viewed as much more than change by some of the "old timers." This involved our first-ever paid employee. It also presented a "threat" that "an outsider would know too much about our business." We'd lose control of our Associa-

(Continued on Page 22)



LARRY VETTER

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MGCSA Scholarship Committee Standard Operating Procedure

1. Form a committee, of MGCSA members/including associate(s) at the discretion of the committee chair. The term of the members will run 3 years, and will not be limited to 1 term.
2. Make an announcement in March concerning the availability of scholarships.
3. Send a letter with the scholarship application packets, explaining the scholarships to local and national educational institutions.
4. Place an article in the April and May issues of *Hole Notes*, detailing the parameters of the scholarships.
5. Decide the amount of money to be awarded.
6. Deadline for applications is July 1.
7. Conduct interviews the last week of July, or the first week of August.
8. Applicants who are interviewed and not selected for a scholarship, will be invited (comped) to the MGCSA annual conference.
9. Award checks to recipients, publish in the *Hole Notes*, and *Golf Management*.
10. Invite (comp) recipients (and guest) to attend the annual banquet. Have them prepare a short acceptance speech. Comp the recipient for their annual conference registration.
11. Have plaques made to be awarded at the annual banquet.
12. Send a letter of appreciation, and acknowledge in *Hole Notes* any donations to the scholarship fund.



MGCSA Scholarship Committee

Mike Olson - Chair
James Gardner
Steve Garske
Joe Moris
Butch Greeninger
Jeff Churchill



MGCSA Scholarship Committee Mission Statement





- I. To provide financial assistance to individuals seeking continuing education and demonstrating a commitment to the turf industry profession.
- II. Scholarships will be funded through donations and fund raising activities, with a goal of not only providing annual scholarships, but also, creating a self sustaining source of future funds.





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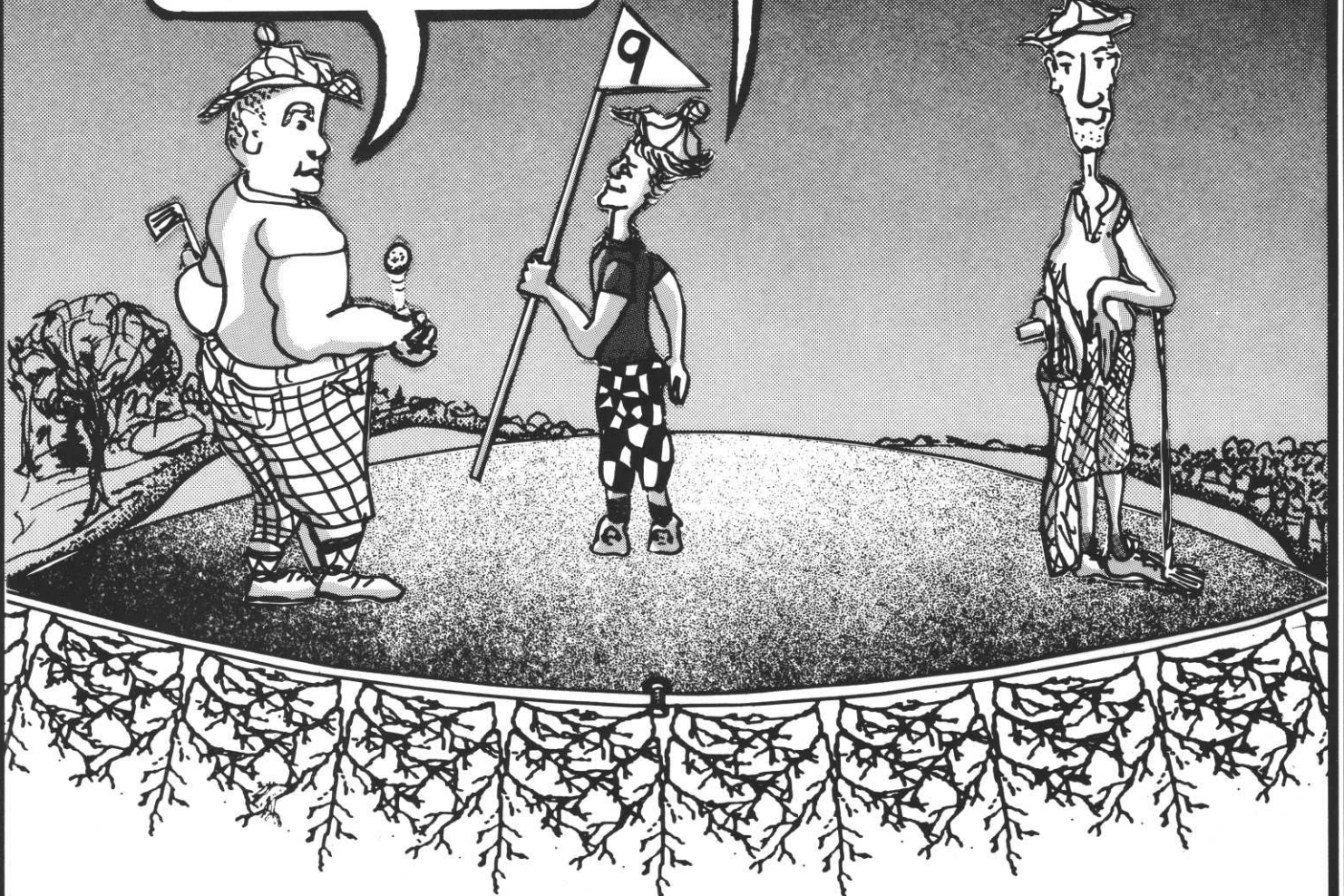
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PUTTING GREEN SPEED STUDY

By J.N. ROGERS III, B.E. BRANHAM, and T. NIKOLAI
Crop and Soil Sciences

Golf courses are often judged by their putting green quality. One of the measures of putting green quality is the rate at which a ball decelerates on the putting surface or as is more commonly known, green speed. While it has been reported that changing the cutting height of a grass surface causes the most dramatic change in green speed, this is often dangerous to attempt, especially during times of environmental stress (i.e. July and August). Multiple daily mowings will also reduce friction on a surface, thereby increasing green speed. This is labor intensive and is not always an option. Grooming rollers attached to the front of individual cutting units became quite popular in the 1980s. In addition, plant growth regulators have recently been introduced for use on fairways for clipping reduction. The purpose of this study was to evaluate grooming and PGR treatments alone and in combination at two different cutting heights as to their effect on green speed.

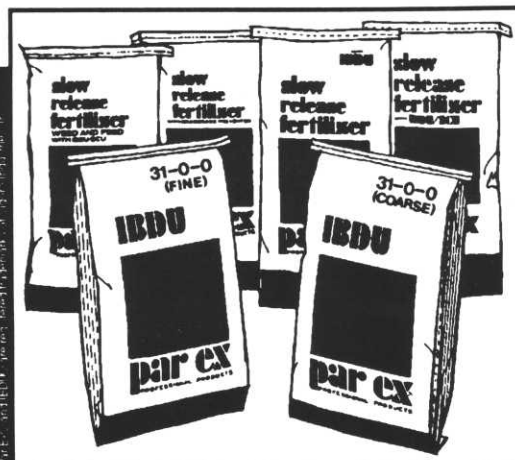
The study was initiated July 2 on a two-year old stand of 'Pennlinks' creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis palustris*). This area was maintained as putting green turf from its outset, receiving regular applications of sand topdressing. The study was a 2 x 4 factorial with three applications. There were two cutting heights (4/32 and 5/32 inches) and four management strategies (control, groom once per week, grooming + PGR and PGR alone). The PGR was flurprimidol (Cutless) applied at 0.25 lb. ai/acre. The plots were mowed 6 times per week, and stimpmeter readings

were taken three times per week to evaluate green speed.

There was a significant difference in stimpmeter values between cutting heights on 16 of the 17 evaluation dates. The difference in distance averaged 0.8-1.0 feet. A cutting height by management strategy interaction was not present during this study. The management strategies (averaged over both cutting heights) and their respective stimpmeter values (green speed) are presented in Figure 1. One week following the PGR treatment (July 11), there was a difference in green speed between the PGR treatment and the control for approximately 3-5 days. This pattern was also evident during the August 10-15 period. A flush of growth occurred after the effects of the PGR had subsided, causing green speeds of the PGR treatments to be lower than the control (July 24-August 7). This was especially evident with the Grooming + PGR treatment. The grooming alone treatment followed the same pattern as the control in terms of green speed, except from July 13-17.

In summary, PGR treatments appear to have some promise for effectively slowing turf growth and thereby decreasing friction. This study will be carried out through the fall and next spring, as it is hoped that the PGR strategy might have a greater effect at higher cutting heights during a more active growth period. A more extensive study with these strategies and others is being planned for 1991.

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