

Spin Grinding — An Idea for Another Way

by Steve Nash, Superintendent
International Country Club

We've all heard the expression, "While the cat's away, the mice will play." While I was away at Turfgrass 86, Lowell Meyer, the mechanic here at International Country Club, decided to play around with an idea he had come up with for spin grinding. At a seminar Lowell attended, he heard a theory from the Express Dual people, and his idea involved adapting our Foley grinder into a spin grinder. He mounted our back-lapping machine on one end of the Foley and used it to spin the reel while at the same time he manually moved the spinning grind wheel across the reel. By the time I had returned from Baltimore, Lowell had ground two greens mowers and the tee mower and had them put back together and ready to go.



I was a little hesitant at first about the idea of spin grinding without the real thing until he showed me how well a fairway unit that he had just finished would cut with the bedknife just laying across the reel. Each blade cut the piece of paper from end to end as clean as a

whistle. I've seen reel after reel do the same, so it's working for us.

If you decide to try it yourself, here are a couple of things to remember. When aligning the stone to the reel, the stone must come into the wheel from the lowest possible angle. This seems to keep the stone from jumping, especially with rough units or units with fewer blades.

When using this method, the person adjusting the grinding wheel cannot adjust for a heavy grind because the grinding wheel will bounce all over the tracks. Therefore, adjustments will be very fine, and this makes for a better grind overall. It is my opinion that the reason we often do not get a good match between the reel and the bedknife is that while grinding, the adjustments are made too heavy. With the new method, it's impossible to adjust too heavy; the stone and the blades just barely touch. There is very little relief to the reels when you're done, and if you want more, you could go back and put some on the regular way. Take an old reel and give this method a try. I think you'll be surprised.

Handling Oil Spills

Recently there was a hydraulic oil spill on one of our greens which sent the mower operator tearing back to the shop and returning a short time later with a bag of charcoal. His intention was to apply it to the oil spill as he had been instructed to do when he was employed at another golf course. Fortunately I was in time to prevent him from doing so. I explained the effect of charcoal on an oil spill, pointing out that while charcoal absorbs the oil it only adds more carbon and does not break it down. Consequently the grass dies, and we are left with a black line on the grass until we're able to resod.

I've found through experience that any detergent works well, whether it be Tide powder, Joy liquid, or organic penetrants (the latter gives the best results due to the concentrated form). The application of an organic penetrant from a two-gallon sprayer directly brings results. Apply it three or four days consecutively, hosing it in with plenty of water. The ideal situation would be to water a spill immediately

POSITION WANTED

Northern Virginia or Maryland
• Superintendent or Assistant
Dean Zeller, GCSAA Member
8½ years experience, 3½ as
assistant supt.; VPI turf
courses. Toro certificates
Resume on request
51 Ocala Lane
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
703-898-3865

For Sale, Trade or Otherwise

4 New Brass Royal Coach 10100 Heads
7 New 1¼" Brass Royal Coach
Electric Valves
1 Rainbird MC11 Central
13 Rainbird SC11 Satellites
Call Steve Nash, 703-968-7090

after it occurred. Remember, be certain to use penetrant . . . not charcoal. You will not be disappointed with the results.
From *Divot News*, S. California GCSA.

Nelson Credits Good Greens for Low Scores

by Dr. Douglas T. Hawes

Recently I was lucky enough to hear golfing great Byron Nelson speak at the annual awards banquet of the North Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association. Nelson, whose record of 18 Tour victories in one year, 11 of them in a row, will probably never be equalled, told of his first caddy job at Glen Garden Country Club in Ft. Worth, which had sand greens. If that seems strange, remember that golf had only been played in Texas for 17 years when Byron was born. While golf has changed greatly these days, Nelson can recall playing in the North-South championship at Pinehurst in 1935 on sand greens, which he much preferred to the grainy, common Bermuda greens on which most Tour events were played in the south.

Since this was back in the days before verticuts and brushes on mowers, he said he would play to the green so that he would end up on the side of the cup where the grain would be running toward the hole. Playing the grain was the most important part of putting on Bermuda, which as a putting surface he found inferior to sand.

Nelson also said that in his opinion the low scores now being shot on the Tour are due more to the super-smooth putting surfaces that superintendents are providing rather than drastic improvements in golf equipment. He cited as an example a tournament at Phoenix Country Club during his active days. On one hole, his 35-foot putt stopped on the lip of the cup, and he took a back-handed swipe at it with his putter. The blade hit a clump of *poa annua* and stopped just before striking the ball, adding another stroke to his score.

APRIL MEETING

Continued from page 1

Rt. 3, turn north there toward Baltimore. Go approximately 12 miles to Benfield Blvd. on right. Turn right and go 1 mile to St. Ives Dr. on left. Turn there and go 8/10 of a mile to golf course entrance on right.

The program for April 8 is as follows:

Lunch — 11:30 a.m. on

Golf — 12 noon to 1 p.m. tee times

Cocktails — 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner — 6:30 p.m. (cost \$18; jacket required)

Meeting — 7:30 p.m.

Reservations — call 964-0070