

by **Bruce F. Shank**, executive editor

How tough is your course?

Superintendents may be able to compare the difficulty of their course to others if USGA's 'Slope' system works out in trial states.

Albert Mulberry, executive director of the Northern Ohio Golf Association told 200 superintendents during a regional USGA Conference, "The purpose of the slope system is to provide visiting golfers with a method of equalizing their handicaps with home course golfers."

A team of four officials must rate the course using a complicated procedure intended to gauge the difficulty of a course by the difference in scores between scratch golfers and bogey golfers. The average course would have a slope of 113. Scores below 113 are easier than average and scores higher indicate difficulty.

James Farrell, USGA manager of the Mid-continent region, said, "If the system works out, we may be in a position to take the program national by 1986."

New mowers drop pounds

Mower manufacturers were given an opportunity to discuss new product changes during the Canadian Turfgrass Conference in Toronto in March. Overall, the changes represented a shift toward lighter fairway mowers, away from wheel-driven gangs, and longer-life engines.

David Leg of Ransomes stressed light-weight mowing and hydraulics with Ransomes products. Leg said light-weight fairway mowers are gaining in use as fairways are contoured and reduced in size. "Some 18-hole courses now devote only 20 acres to fairways," Leg pointed out. At 2.5 acres per hour, a triplex can cut all fairways in one day.

Henry Larsen from Jacobsen announced changes in the five-gang, 11-ft. cut HF-5, making it lighter, adding a 33-hp Volkswagen diesel engine, and offering baskets for clippings. Jacobsen also offers 18-to 22-hp Kubota diesel engines on its Turf Cat riding rotary. Two new products mentioned by Larsen were walk-behind rotaries and the Motomop, a motorized roller squeegee capable of removing 3,000 gallons/hour of water from greens, tennis courts or other areas.

Toro's Roy Eldridge had the most to say with 14 new products for 1984, including seven 21-inch trim mowers, three with a new two-cycle engine made by Suzuki. Toro introduced two large walk-behind rotaries this year with a sulky to be available soon.

Gordon Mitchell of Canada's Brouwer Turf Equipment Ltd. showed a three-gang mower for low-budget golf courses. Powered either by tractor PTO or a Honda engine, the pull-behind gang is also available with verticutter reels. Tractors with as little as 17-hp at the PTO can operate the gangs. Mitchell also showed Brouwer's 76-inch triplex mower which is belt-driven and powered by a Robin engine.

Cushman/Ryan's Dan Hedglin described improvements to the Front-Line 72-in. riding rotary. Now available with diesel engine, the Front Line now offers a series of engine protection devices, including an air-induction system, overheat warning system, a systems check button, and a remote oil fill tube. The Front Line options include a grass collection system and a snow blower.

STAFF

Executive Editor
Bruce F. Shank, Cleveland
Managing Editor
Maureen Hrehocik, Cleveland
Assistant Editor
Kevin Cooney, Cleveland
Publisher
Dick Gore, Atlanta
Senior Vice President
Tom Greney, Chicago
Group Publisher
Robert Earley, Cleveland
Production Manager
Kathy Judd, Duluth
Production Supervisor
Marilyn MacDonald, Duluth
Graphic Design
Beth Travis-Betts, Duluth
Circulation Manager
Kristine Bussell, Duluth
Directory Coordinator
Sheryl Albertson, Duluth
Reader Service Manager
Gail Kessler, Duluth
Promotion Manager
Linda Winick, Cleveland

OFFICES

ATLANTA
3091 Maple Drive
Maple Center One Building
Atlanta, GA 30305
(404) 233-1817

CLEVELAND
7500 Old Oak Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44130
Editorial: (216) 243-8100

CHICAGO
111 East Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 938-2344

SEATTLE
1333 N.W. Norcross
Seattle, WA 98177
(206) 363-2864

DULUTH
120 West Second Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 727-8511

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

Dick Gore
Atlanta (404) 233-1817

Ron Kempner
Atlanta (404) 233-1817

Joe Kosempa
Cleveland (216) 243-8100

Robert Mierow
Seattle: (206) 363-2864