

What golfers want, reports California group

The GCSA of Southern California recently asked the Pacific Northwest Golf Association Boards of Directors, volunteers and other association members, "What expectations do you have?" when it comes to playing conditions and maintenance on the golf course. The top answers:

- 1) Smooth greens/adequate pace.
- 2) Notice of aeration dates.
- 3) Open-minded superintendent.
- 4) Proper course setup.
- 5) Good bunker maintenance.
- 6) Firm (dry) conditions.
- 7) Protect the environment.
- 8) Level tees.
- 9) Green grass.
- 10) Variety in course setup.

"The fact that many golfers in the survey believe superinten-

dents are close-minded points out the need to work on communication skills," writes Keith Ihms, CGCS, writing in the CGCSSA newsletter.

"Even if a question or comment from a player appears trivial or is based on emotion, the way we as superintendents respond will create the perception of open- or closed-mindedness," says Ihms. "If we are perceived as closed-minded, even logical explanations to suggestions or requests may be considered excuses, and will hurt our credibility."

Course construction rolls

Golf course construction keeps rolling along. The National Golf Foundation (NGF) reports that 144 courses opened the first six months of 1997, 111 in April through June.

New courses opened, or existing courses received major additions and reopened, in 34 different states. Michigan boasted the most activity with 13 openings. Nearby Indiana had 8.

Here's a breakdown of the 144 course openings:

- ▶ 64 new daily fee courses, 8 municipal, and 6 private;
- ▶ additions to 48 daily fee courses, 7 municipal and 7 private;
- ▶ reconstructions to 3 daily fee and 1 municipal course.

The NGF reports that 586 golf courses are under construction. This includes 472 18-hole courses and 114 9-hole courses. Again, most (440) are daily fee.

Another 253 courses are being enlarged, while 10 are under reconstruction. In all, construction is underway on a total of 849 golf courses. NGF says it gets its information from architects and other sources.

Legislative alerts from GCSAA

The latest edition of GCSAA's Briefax reports the following development in California:

The California EPA Dept. of Pesticide Regulations will spend the next six months monitoring methyl bromide fumigations, including applications made near homes. To protect workers and others who may be near fumigation sites, the state has adopted safety measures that far exceed national standards. DPR will use findings to see if more restrictions on methyl bromide are needed.

NGF improves directory

The National Golf Foundation offers a bigger edition of the Directory of Golf, available in September.

"Every entry...has been verified to provide the most complete and accurate information available," says the NGF's Barry Frank. Cost is \$60 each. (Free to NFG members. Contact NGF: (800) 733-6006; fax (561) 774-9085.



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