

TURF TWISTERS

DAMAGE TO MOWERS

Question: Our golf course superintendent has been concerned with careless golfers not keeping their shoe spikes firmly fastened. He complains, and rightly so, that they ruin his mowers. Do you have literature on keeping the course policed and neat? (Washington)

Answer: Your superintendent is correct! A little effort, cooperation, and common sense pay off in the member's role in course care. If a golfer should see a shoe spike, metal bolt or nut, or any type of small metal object on the turf, it would be very helpful to pick it up and place it in the trash receptacle on the next tee. Metal of any type raises havoc with precision cutting mowers . . . it could throw the reel out of alignment, badly nick the cutting blades on the reel so that they need regrinding, or damage the reel to the point that it has to be replaced.

As for literature on the subject, no, we have none but a new USGA film addressing itself to the subject of the responsibility of the golfer in course care will be available for rent at a nominal fee beginning in February, 1980. Its title is "The Golfer and the Course."

CHEWED-UP SOD

Question: We're looking into resodding the practice tee from time to time as it becomes chewed-up badly from heavy use. Do you have any figures to indicate how many man-hours are required to lay sod expertly? (Illinois)

Answer: We can only provide information given to us by a prominent superintendent from your state who has done extensive sod work on his fairways. His records indicate that it takes 25 man-hours to lay 1,000 square yards of sod using a fork lift to move the sod to and around the area being sodded.

SANTA TO THE RESCUE

Question: Any final wishes for the coming year? (Superintendents everywhere)

Answer:

Dear Santa Claus:

Please leave at our club 18 greens that will be proof against wear and tear, diseases, bugs, unreasonable members, and other pests.

Please leave at Tom Smith's home one durable, soft rubber putter which may be cast violently on the ground without injuring the turf on our greens when he misses his putt.

Please leave at Ed Jones' house one digging fork and a spade in order that he may have something to dig with in his back yard to satisfy his craving for digging and thus relieve the strain on our tees.

Please leave some message of inspiration with the USGA and the R&A which will encourage them to adopt a new cup with a diameter of at least 10 feet so that in the future it may be feasible, if there are any missed putts, to blame them on the player rather than on the green committee.

Please leave your message of goodwill firmly fixed in the haughty hearts of our club members and make it last for many months, and make it possible for members of our committee actually to enjoy a visit to the club within a month after we have found it necessary to close the course to play for a single day.

If you will do all this, dear Santa, you need not visit our houses. We'll take care of the kids this time.

Humbly yours,

THE GREEN COMMITTEE.