Dear Eric,

This is to keep you informed as to the test we've been conducting on your Dethatcher here at Cherry Valley. As is often the case, we have several areas on the course that are thatchy. We lined out two of these areas for a Dethatcher test as follows:

August 28:  #9 approach. Identified a heavy thatch area totalling 2000 square feet (40' x 50'). Turned on irrigation and observed, noting that the entire area receives an even distribution of water. Checked thatch depth at 5 foot intervals throughout area. Averaged the measurements to 1.5 inches. Divided the total area in half inserting bricks as markers, each half averaging the same 1.5" thatch layer, and each totalling 1000 square feet.

  #16 fairway rough. Same as above, with average thatch measuring 2".

August 29  6:00pm:  #9 approach. Applied 1.5 lbs Dethatcher to one half of the area. Irrigated for 30 mins after application. This application was done in the evening to avoid the intensity of the sun and heat. At 7:00 am the next morning the entire 2000 square foot area was again irrigated for 30 minutes. Normal irrigation (10 minutes twice daily) was resumed for the remainder of the week.

  #16 fairway rough. Same as above, with application at 7:00pm.

September 5:  Followed same procedure above on both #9 and
September 5: Followed same procedure above on both #9 and #16, applying 1 lb Dethatcher to each test area.

September 12: #9 approach. Measured thatch layer in 5 foot intervals on both areas. Average thatch in the control area measured 1.5 inches, and all samples were dry, as expected. However, the test area showed that over half the samples checked showed the top 1/2 inch to have decomposed to dark, rich compost, and were retaining moisture.

#16 fairway rough. The control area was dry, and averaged 2" thatch. Again, the test area showed the top 1/2" to have decomposed and to be holding moisture, as above.

We are very encouraged at these results, and will apply Dethatcher to the test areas again on September 19, taking a measurement prior to application. It sure looks like you've got a good thing here!

Yours truly,

Skip Wade, Superintendent