

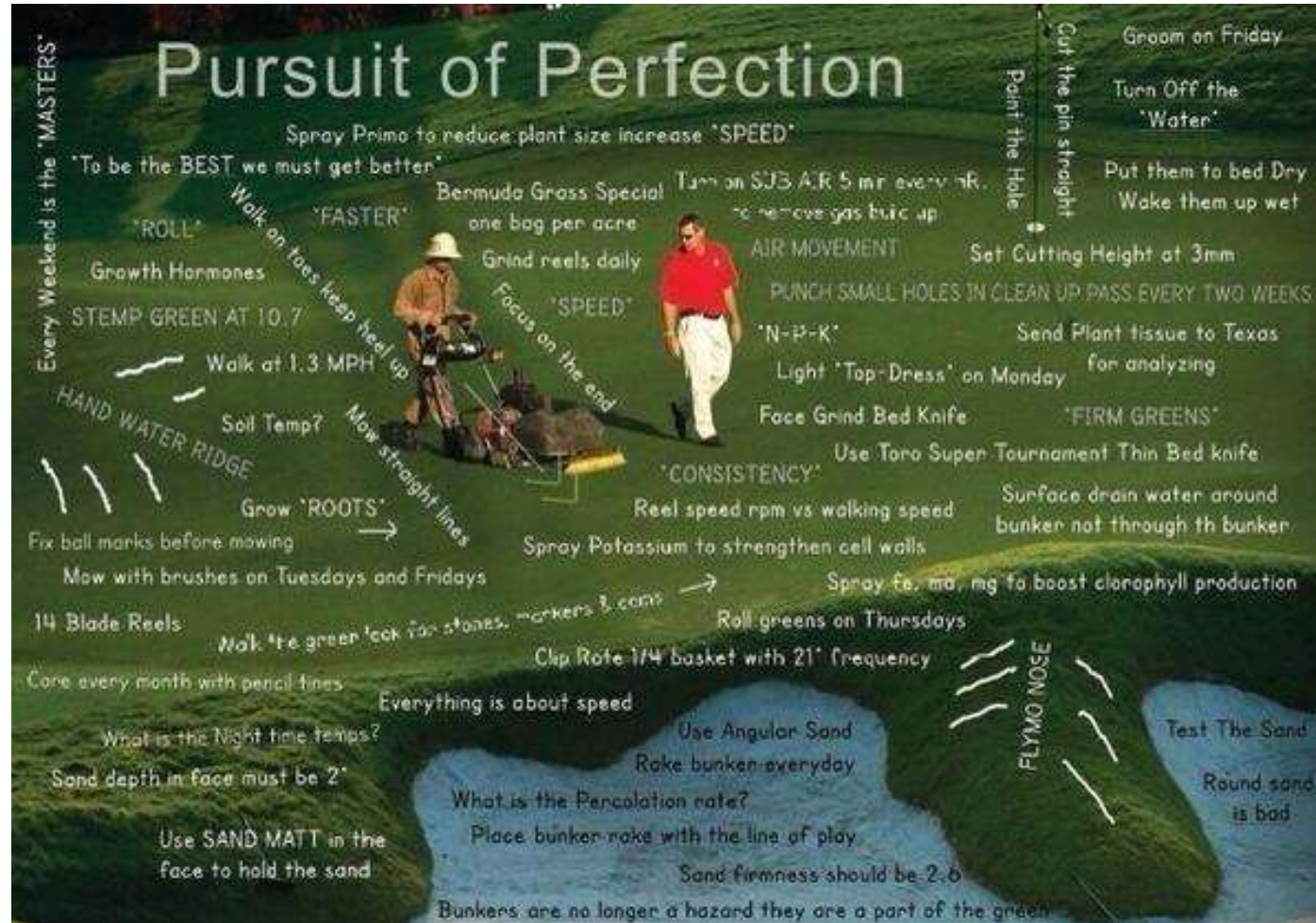
Equipment Managers Likes & Dislikes

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Mike Koopman - Equipment Manager



The Mind of the Superintendent









What Equipment Managers Dislike

Retaining equipment past its productive (useful) life

Would you pay \$40,000.00 for a \$10,000.00 car?





Addressing the symptom versus solving the problem

Example:

Diverting money into parts for aging equipment pass its productive life...



...instead of acquiring better or new equipment





Mechanic:

“I couldn’t repair your brakes so I made your horn louder”







› Hiring poorly qualified employees





- › Not disciplining employees who abuse or neglect equipment
- › Failure to report damaged equipment





- › Not involving equipment manager in equipment acquisition decisions
- › Not promoting a clean, safe working environment and facility



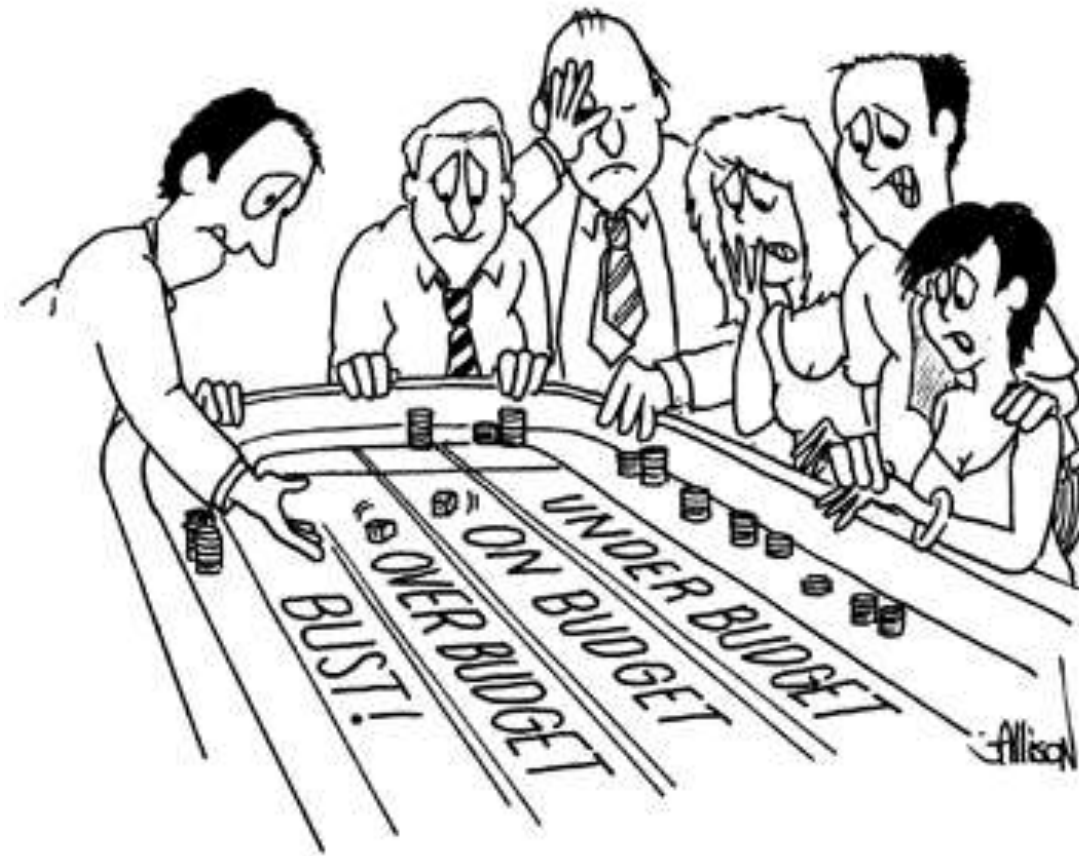
- › Not having a sufficient parts inventory



› Not having a sufficient budget



Not involving equipment manager in budget preparations pertinent to their department is like gambling





Choosing equipment that is hard to service or maintain





Buying equipment from a vendor that cannot provide timely & useful service for that particular machine





Too many brands of equipment increase parts inventory & distributors





Too many heights of cut



› Poor communications



- › Not building team or managing to boost the morale of all employees

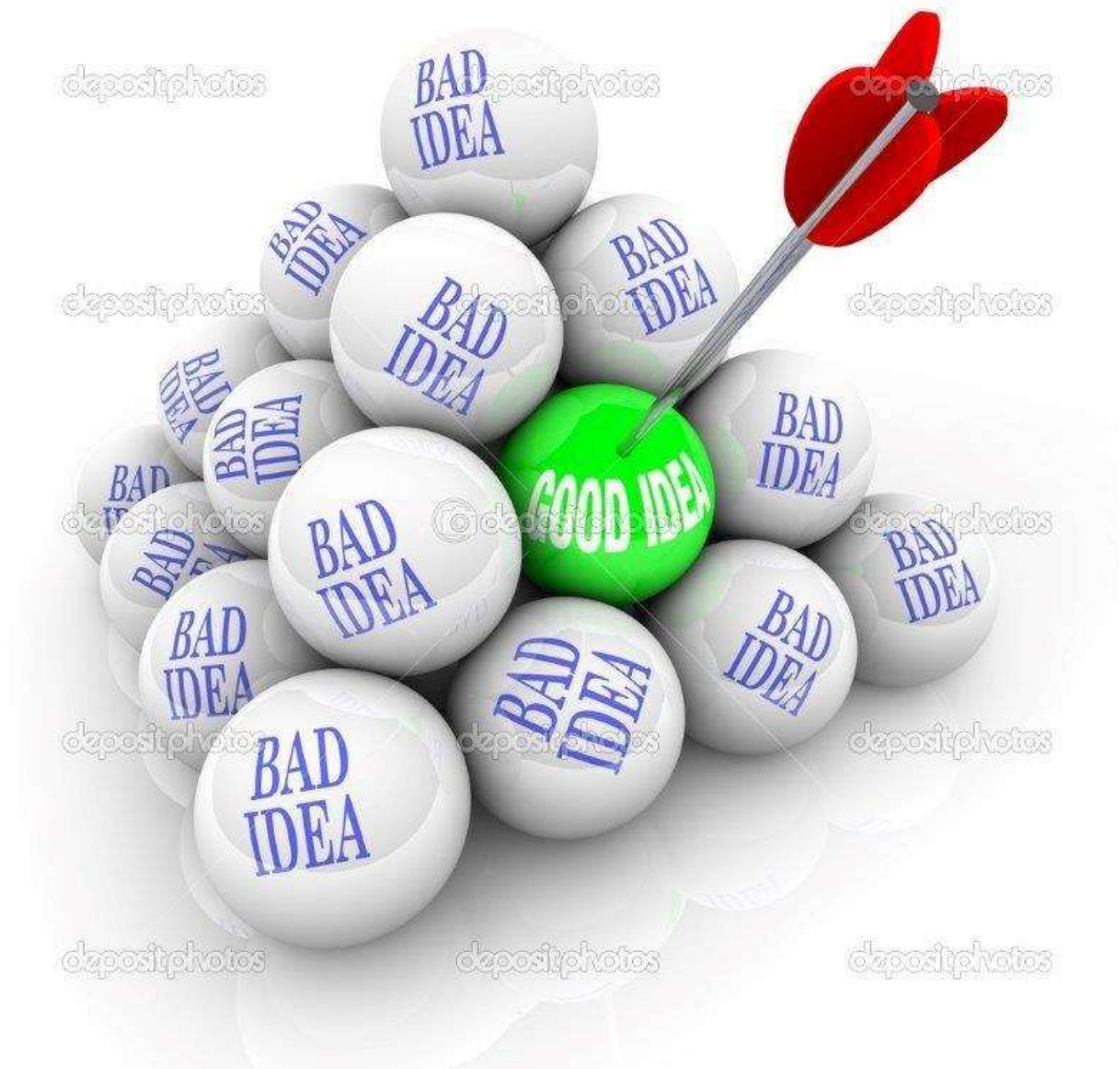


› Teamwork is vital for success



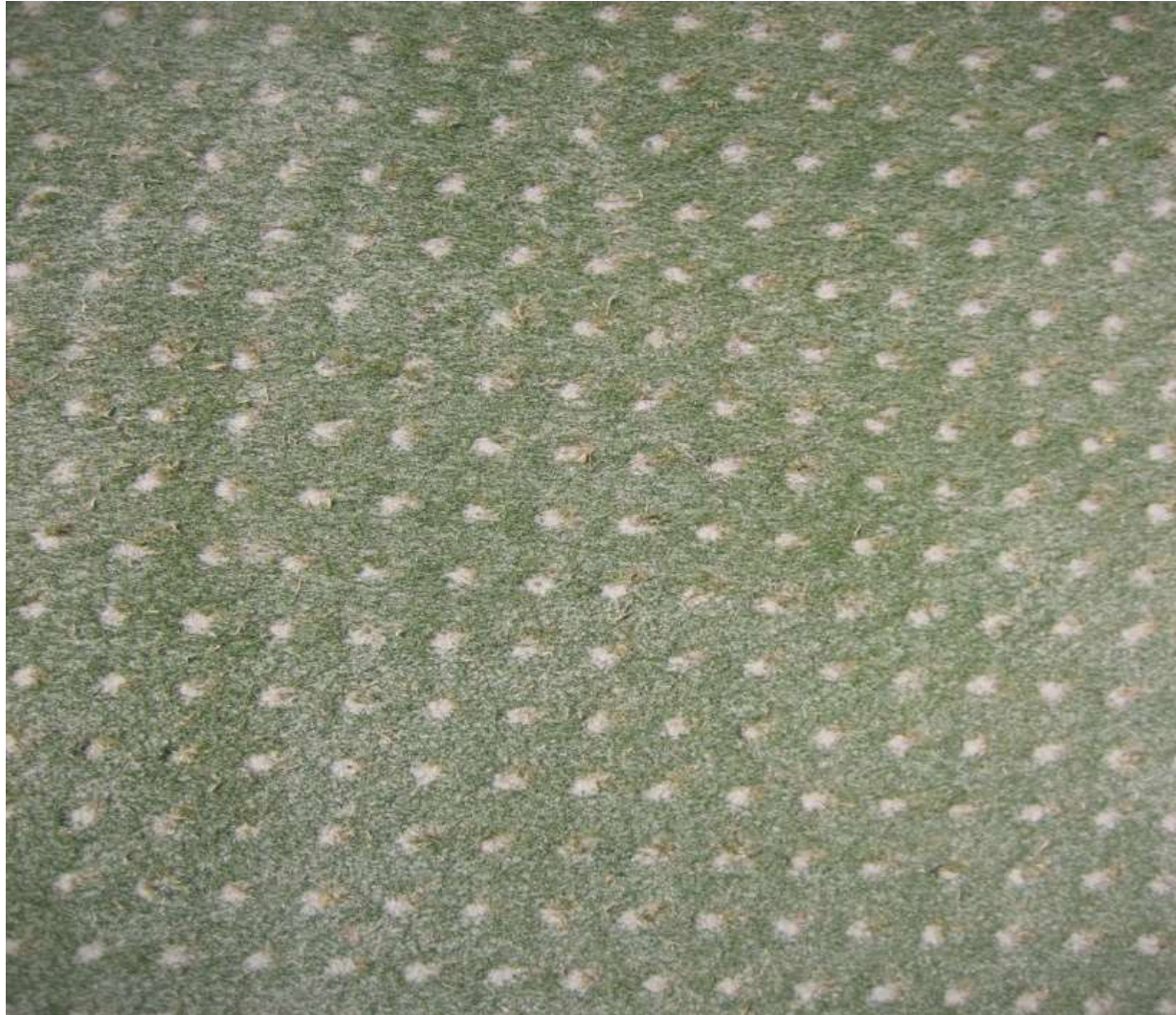








- › Mowing after aerification on Greens with good reels





› Mowing after topdressing



› Grooming after topdressing





- › Lowering Greens height immediately after topdressing



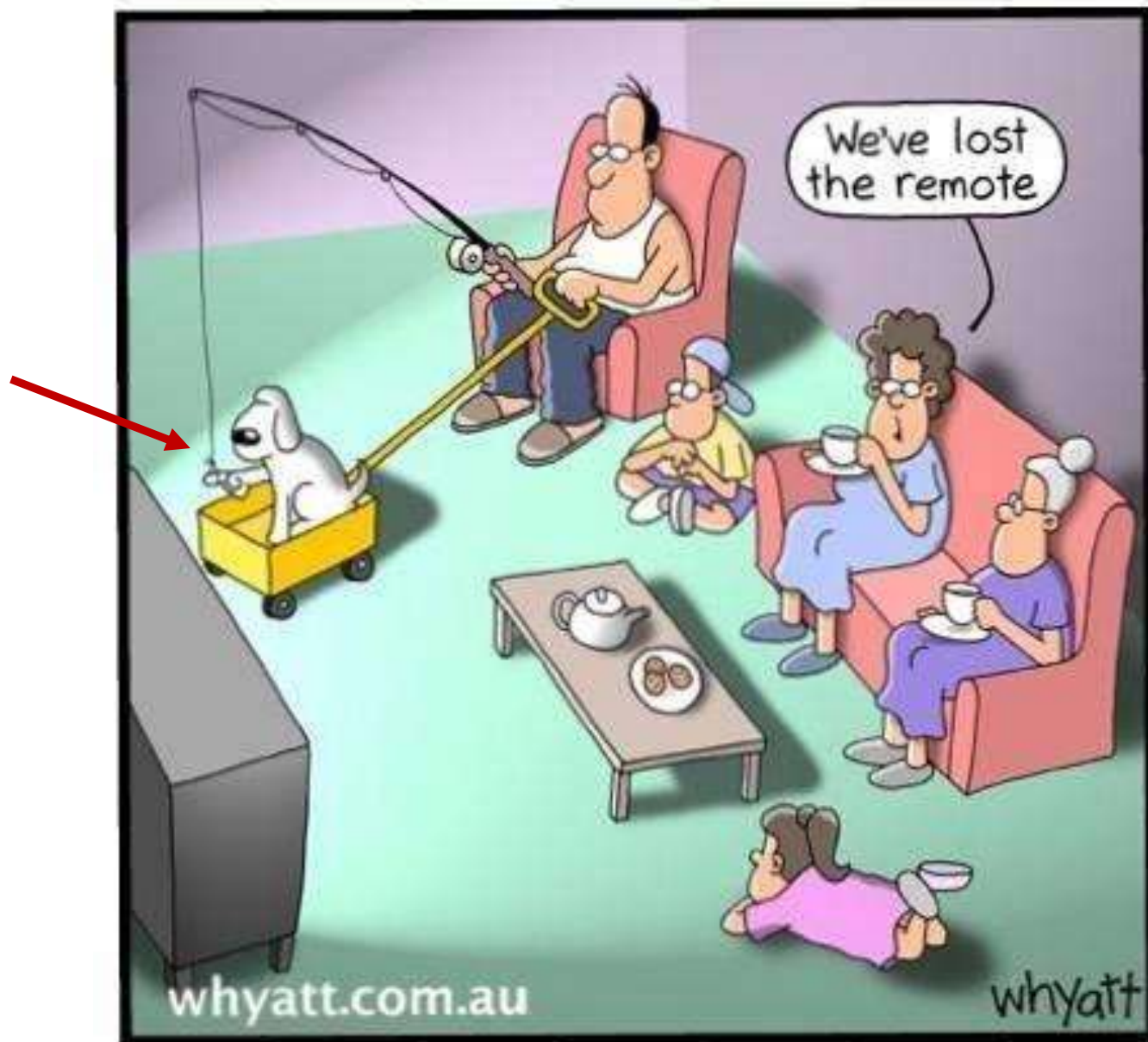
- › Last minute surprises:
“We are going to verti-cut or aerify today”





› Not encouraging participation in chapter meetings/seminars













What Equipment Managers Like

- › Well designed, clean and organized shop





- › Well ventilated shop
- › Proper temperature control
- › Non-slip flooring
- › Good functional shop equipment





- › Advance communications and long term agronomic calendar
- › Schedule of events (that affects equipment operations) at least one week in advance when possible





- › Consistency in management of employees, shop & equipment.
This includes proper discipline
- › Positive reinforcement versus what is wrong all the time



- › Provide qualified assistant for the equipment manager to ensure timely preventive maintenance



- › Take equipment manager to lunch occasionally



- › Make a concerted effort to UNDERSTAND the MIND of your EQUIPMENT MANAGER





Equipment to the mechanics is...





...what greens are to the Golf Course Superintendent



- › Send the equipment manager to other courses to gather fresh and innovative ideas





How can a superintendent help the equipment manager do a better job?





“Don’t pass the buck!”





Alleviate pressure





Be aware





- ❖ Importance of buying & maintaining equipment
- ❖ Understand correlation between equipment & proper cutting techniques



In conclusion: communicate & support each other



Effective communication

The right people,
getting the right information,
at the right time

