**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Heisenberg Principle**

*By Richard A. (Rick) Traver, CGCS*

As I was watching the news media's coverage of the returns of a recent primary, one of the commentators, Pat Buchanan, brought up the Heisenberg Principle. In his definition of this principle, just the act of watching a scientific experiment can alter the outcome. This came up as a discussion on how much the media actually affect the outcome of elections. I looked this principle up in the old Wikipedia Dictionary and found that it has quite a bit to do with quantum mechanics and I will just have to trust Mr. Buchanan's interpretation. Regardless of whether it is the Heisenberg Principle, the concept still has some intriguing discussion questions, questions that I can't answer, but nonetheless may be good conversation items.

How much do we do because the membership, a board member or green committee member are watching, and what effect does their watching us have on how efficiently we do our jobs? Do we make decisions differently because we know that it will be easier to handle fixing the turf than hassling with a board member or the general manager later?

I know outside observations affect golfers. I was out with my green committee the other day and as we pulled up to a green the quality of golf in the foursome deteriorated dramatically. The same thing happens with the maintenance crew, they can be sitting quiet as a church mouse, but knowing someone is watching affects the way some golfers will hit the ball. I realize the golfer has to hit the shot, but I always feel guilty when they hit a bad one, especially when they give you "the stare."

Hopefully "the stare" doesn't come from your GM or a committee member, and I know you all go about your business with as much confidence and professionalism as is possible. I also know that you all make your decisions based on the quality of the turf and not on what an undereducated green committee member may want. I do have to admit to making an occasional adjustment to my program to accommodate the priorities of a board member or committee member. I try not to sweat the small stuff and save my battles for the bigger items, but I have to admit to giving in occasionally, as we only aerate greens once per year now.

I don't want to give the impression that your members, Green Committees or GM's don't have valuable input and that input should be used in making your decisions. We all need to meet or exceed the needs of our patrons to stay in business, so some adjustments need to be made so golfers continue to visit or join your facility. Just don't let those adjustments happen because they are watching. Make sure the conversation takes place.

I wrote last month that you should pat yourselves on the back, primarily because we produce a great product with a short season. Do it again, because we still produce a great product, even with all the outside influences from observers.

Have a great month and we'll see you at Somerset Country Club for the Scholarship Scramble on June 23.

- Rick