PART 11: SURVEY RESPONSES

As part of the recent survey distributed to the members, two questions were included: What is your most difficult maintenance problem? and What do you expect from GCSANC?

Following are the responses to these questions.

In the public golf course sector, Irrigation problems are the number one problem with heavy play coming in a close second. Green and Tee maintenance due to old construction techniques and/or heavy soils, along with compaction, is also of major concern. Other problem areas included various diseases, equipment repair, and drainage. Hiring and maintaining a dependable staff seems to be an issue many have in public golf maintenance.

On the Municipal side, Irrigation is also the major problem. Heavy play along with related compaction and drainage problems, traffic control, and the always present issue of not enough staff to do the job were repeated time and again on the surveys. Keeping old equipment running, and funds to purchase new equipment seem to be prevalent in this sector.

At the Privates responding to the survey, Golfers and Golf Carts, along with maintaining greens and green speed are priority problems. Again, Irrigation, finding and keeping (continued page 4)
dependable staff, and Kikuyugrass control are causing major maintenance headaches. It was interesting to see that in this sector of Golf Course Maintenance, golfers are perceived as a problem more so than in the Municipal or Public sector.

Overall, it is interesting to note that 33% of the respondents have either poor irrigation or are experiencing many problems with wet and dry spots, poor coverage, and poor control of their systems. 10.5% have heavy play (COMPACTON) problems, 10.5% have staff problems, 8.5% have problems with poor soils and equipment maintenance, and the remaining responses address golfers, fungus, Poa, carts, and bunkers.

On the matter of the second question: What is expected from GCSANC, 2/3 of the responses said that they want information and education through the meetings and the newsletter. (I'm doing me bloody best lads) Another 1/3 of the members want camaraderie with their peers, and the remaining responses are concerned with improvement of our professional image.

PAUL DIAS, CGCS

As Spring approaches, I look around and see blooming flowers; feel the warm and soothing sun, and notice that everyone seems to have a little zip to their walk.
The information presented on the nine hole golf courses is representative of the data provided. Some of the courses were part of 18 hole facilities and had separate line item budgets for the nine hole course. The figures again are averages of all the data provided.