

October, 1995

## The Main Course

### Sonoma Golf Club - October 16, 1995

#### The Course

Sonoma National Golf Course, as it was known in its earlier days was designed by Willie Watson and Sam Whiting in 1926. In the fifties, it was the first springtime PGA Tour stop. Sam Snead was quoted as saying that "it was the best course layout that I have ever played." The course was sold in the late 80's and a complete renovation by Robert Muir Graves was undertaken. While the integrity of the original layout remains, the renovation included new greens, tees, and bunkers. Two new lakes and an irrigation system were added, as well as a new clubhouse and cart storage facility. The course was reopened in 1991 after two years of construction as Sonoma Golf Club.

When you play the course in a few weeks, you will notice some new cart path work and a small restaurant at the turn under construction. Course superintendent Larry Norman is also rebuilding and enlarging some tees. Much of this work is done with his own crew and temporary help. Larry's priority goal is the removal of Poa from his Penncross greens. He is using Prograss throughout the course, except the greens, to limit seed production. He uses Primo on the greens. The crew also hand plugs Poa out of the greens on a daily basis. "Our success has been limited," says Larry, "mostly due to not starting this and other procedures immediately after the greens were established, but waiting three years, allowing the Poa to get a hold."

#### Our Host

Larry Norman earned an A.S. Degree from Foothill College in Los Altos. He has been involved in golf for about 30 years, doing everything from "cart rat" to golf course superintendent. Larry worked at Palo Alto Muni in his younger days before moving onto Pebble Beach and now Sonoma Golf Club. He has been a member of GCSANC and GCSAA for fifteen years. When asked about his interests away from the course, he says, "I've never done anything interesting and probably won't." Despite Larry's denial, I know that Larry is an avid fisherman and great golfer.

#### Our Speaker

Scott Smith, Director of Media Relations with the GCSAA will be the featured speaker at the NorCal/Sierra Nevada joint meeting, October 16th at Sonoma Golf Club. Scott has been instrumental in launching the successful, "Par For The Course" series which provides important environmental messages that benefit golf courses and golf course superintendents. His responsibilities also include coordinating public relations activities for the GCSAA.

Scott's presentation will focus on developing strategies to enhance the image of the golf course management profession, as well as a summary of the public relations programs and assistance available through the GCSAA.

We are fortunate to have someone with Scott's experience and expertise join us for the joint meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to be enlightened about issues that will shape the future of our industry.

#### 1995 Golf Course Institute Update

The 1995 Golf Course Institute is rapidly approaching. This year's event, entitled, "Integrated Pond Management", promises to be one of the best yet, featuring a great location, a great golf course and a great program. Registration brochures were mailed in early September, so if you haven't received one, give Barbara Mikel a call and she will send one out. Those that respond by October 19th can take advantage of the special Early Bird Registration fee, a savings of over \$20.00. Registration closes on October 26th, so don't delay! Lodging accommodations should be made directly with the Santa Rosa Doubletree Hotel, the site of this year's event.

#### In This Issue

From the President .....	2
Office Notes .....	2
Naumann's Norcal News .....	3
Scholarship Tournament Results	3
"Strictly Business" .....	4
Turfgrass Substance Abuse ....	5
GCSAA Chapter Relations News	6
Calendar of Events .....	8
Items For Sale .....	8

