

COMPARING BUDGETS

As you examine the results of various course maintenance surveys, please remember that practically every golf club has a different objective when it comes to a standard of course maintenance. Thus, as Bob Williams noted in a discussion of efficiency and course maintenance, "let us be mindful that we have to adjust the shoe to fit the foot. Few statements can be made to apply to the majority of cases. No standard can be set to apply to all of our clubs."

Should we really compare budgets after all? William Bengueyfield, director of the Western Region of the USGA Green Section once noted that "it doesn't really matter if a superintendent's answer to this question is NO! It doesn't really matter if we respond in the firmest possible way. That fact is — budgets and golf courses will be compared by club officials — always! When it comes to economic matters, man must be logical. He must standardize, make a formula, figure the percentages. This is his nature."

Golf courses are entirely dissimilar. They cannot be standardized, do not fit any formula. Their value, beauty and enjoyment depend on their individuality. This is their nature.

Should we compare budgets? I would say very little is accomplished. Each golf course is different. One should consider the age of the course, acreage, winter play, annual amount of play, golf carts, grass varieties, special requirements, soil types, cart paths & service roads, irrigation systems, (automatic vs. manual), source of water, unionization, pesticide restrictions, style of maintenance.

The **Bull Sheet** editor, with the help of a couple of supts., made some telephone calls as well as personal visits and came up with some interesting figures. Check them, you may be as confused when you have finished as when you started.

BUDGET REPORT - 1979

Club #1	
Operating budget	\$243,000.00
Capital, trees & eqpt.	24,000.00
Labor	149,000.00
Chemicals	28,000.00
Fert.	10,000.00
Seed	2,000.00
Top wage rate	\$5.75 per hour
Retirement, dental, medical	
Crew	6-12 men
Club #2	
Operating budget	\$229,475.00
Capital, trees-cart paths-bridges-const.	108,000.00
Labor	141,500.00
Chemicals	23,000.00
Water cost	8,000.00
Top wage	\$7.00 per hour
Low wage	4.10 per hour
2 year employees - C.D.G.A. life insurance	
Club #3	
Operating	\$147,000.00
Capital	49,855.00
Labor	102,000.00
New equipment	13,000.00
Chemicals	20,000.00
Wage range	\$2.90-6.90 per hour

Club #4	
Operating	\$220,000.00
Capital	15,000.00
Construction	10,000.00
Trees	25,000.00
Club #5	
Operating	\$300,000.00
Labor	157,000.00
Club #6	
Operating	\$173,000.00
Capital	17,000.00
Labor	110,000.00
Top wage	\$7.75 per hour
Club #7	
Operating	\$144,400.00
Capital, equipment	15,000.00
Labor	104,500.00
Chemicals	17,500.00
Wage range	\$4.25-7.00 per hour
Club #8	
Operating	\$130,000.00
Labor	95,000.00
Club #9	
Operating	\$160,000.00
Labor	110,000.00
Crew	5-13 men
Club #10	
Operating	\$152,500.00
Labor	104,000.00
Capital, equipment	15,000.00
Chemicals	23,000.00
Top wage	\$6.50 per hour
Crew	5-13 men
Club #11	
Operating	\$196,000.00
Capital, equipment & const.	55,000.00
Chemicals	17,500.00
Labor	120,000.00
Wage range	\$4.00-6.00 per hour
Crew	5-12 men
Club #12	
Operating	\$168,000.00
Labor	105,900.00
Capital, equipment	17,000.00
Chemicals	27,000.00
Wage range	\$2.90-4.00 per hour
Crew	3-12 men
Club #13	
Operating	\$184,400.00
Labor	120,000.00
Capital, equipment	12,000.00
Construction	51,000.00
Chemicals	24,600.00
Crew	5-13 men
Club #1	-\$37,000.00 + 3,000.00 bonus - No house
Club #2	-\$40,000.00 - No house
Club #3	-\$28,000.00 - House
Club #4	- No report
Club #5	- No report
Club #6	-\$20,000.00 - House
Club #7	-\$19,000.00 - House
Club #8	-\$20,000.00 - No house
Club #9	-\$28,000.00 - No house
Club #10	-\$26,000.00 - No house
Club #11	-\$29,000.00 - No house
Club #12	-\$32,500.00 - No house
Club #13	-\$22,000.00 - No house

Anyone can be a nobody. But it takes a special effort to be a somebody.