Director's Column

ASSOCIATION INVOLVEMENT

By Bruce R. Williams, CGCS

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents has a membership of close to 500 members. Our month-to-month operations and long-range planning are carried out by your Board of Directors, which is comprised of 10 members of the Association. While the Board is only made up of 2% of the entire membership, it makes the decisions for the whole Association. Our Board gives freely of its time to serve the Association to the best of its abilities.

Each year it becomes increasingly difficult to select individuals for nomination to our Board of Directors. One of the reasons for this is the lack of participation by our members on the various committees of the MAGCS. Many of our committees could use a helping hand from our members-at-large. Getting involved on the committee level will serve several purposes. We need the input of a broader base of individuals to provide the program that our members want. Committee involvement will also give individuals insight into the operation of the MAGCS and give our Association a larger number of individuals prepared to seek nomination to the MAGCS Board. Please give this some consideration as new committees are formed after the elections in November.

Improvement of programs is the goal of any association. This can be accomplished with some constructive criticism through the proper channels. Our Board is certainly open to any comments and suggestions from our members. Do you have an idea for a speaker or topic? Would you like to host a meeting in 1989? Is there a specific golf event that you would recommend for one of our meetings? If so, then let us know. Complaining about the Association, over cocktails, doesn't do any good. Address the appropriate committee chairman or the Board of Directors, preferably in writing, with your views. We definitely value your input.

Have You Heard?

A normal blood pressure reading is 120/80. If the top number (systolic) consistently exceeds 140, or if the bottom number (diastolic) consistently exceeds 90, you should be working with a physician to get your blood pressure back to normal.

"A Belated Update on the Tool From Down Under"

by Fred Opperman, CGCS

Back in June I wrote about a roller that I had received from Australia that was built to roll golf greens. At that time I had promised to write a follow up article since I didn't have much time to use the machine and get any data on it before the June issue went to press.

Well, since then I have been able to get some data when I used it to roll the greens at Glen Oak C.C. during the summer. I need to recap, I feel, somewhat on the description of this roller to refresh some people of what it is and what it can do.

The roller was designed first in Australia to roll bowling greens and it was built for that purpose. It was originally 5' long and about 18'' wide, with 2 rollers. But the roller built for rolling golf greens is only 3' long and 2' wide with 3, 4½''rollers. Weight is about 600 pounds with machine and operator (more depending on weight of the operator of course).

Dr. Bill Daniel trying his skills at rolling a green at Glen Oak C.C.

The machine rolls sideways to roll a green. You sit on it facing the length of the machine and it rolls left or right, depending which foot pedal you depress. It has a handle bar and two foot pedals and a throttle. That's all for controls. It is simple to operate, once one gets the hang of moving sideways. It is also suprising on how fast it travels across a green — 4 to 5 miles per hour I would think.

My thought of getting this machine was to roll the greens occasionally instead of cutting them down next to nothing and putting a great deal of stress on the plants. I found that after rolling a green I could increase the speed plus or minus about 24 inches on most readings. I was also concerned about compaction of the greens, so I borrowed a penetrometer from Jim Latham of the USGA Green Section.

The use of this instrument is all relative. One has to get the feel of it and take many readings over a period of time to see if there is a difference. I found that it increased the compaction by about two numbers after rolling. For example, if the reading was a 7 before rolling, after rolling it showed a 9 or a 10. The next day the reading on the penetrometer was a number or two lower. Also, the stimpmeter reading had fallen off from the high of the day before, but it was still 10 to 12 inches faster than a green that had not been rolled. By the third day after rolling, the speed of the rolled greens were the same as the other greens which had not been rolled. (continued on page 4)