

## Director's Column



by Joel Purpur

Why do we make money off of our golf meetings? Actually, we don't. In fact, we budgeted for a small loss in revenue. So how do we decide what a meeting price tag should be?

We know that rarely are two clubs run the same way, but our first step is to get a commitment from the powers in charge. They want to know what we typically pay for. We usually pay for carts, lunch, dinner, appetizers, and beverage on the course and ask green fees be waived. Rarely are we charged green fees, but sometimes policies may not allow a club to do so. Occasionally, there is a charge for lockers, pro shop scoring, or other miscellaneous overhead. Let's figure it all up.

Assuming green fees are waived, we start off with around \$12 for carts, and lunch is usually about \$8 plus tax and tip. Next is the cost of beverages on the course which greatly varies from club to club. Pop is usually \$1 to \$2, and beer is usually \$2 to \$4. How many is an educated guess. Dinner varies just as much. We've paid from \$15 to \$25 plus tax and tip for the same entree. Hors d'oeuvres average \$6 to \$8 per person, and locker room fees are about \$2. We've paid up to \$12 a person for miscellaneous overhead; we've had no choice. This may sound expensive, but these are usually lower than normal rates.

Add it up: \$12 for carts, \$8 for lunch, \$8 for beverages, \$25 for dinner, \$8 for hors d'oeuvres and \$7 for prizes. Assuming the educational speaker is free, the lockers are free (always tip the attendants), and there are no additional miscellaneous charges, we're already at almost \$70. The reason we haven't even seen a \$60 meeting is because of our sponsors.

Every month our sponsors' contributions reduce the price of our meeting by at least \$10 a person. Our sponsors deserve our support and gratitude in return. Our 1991 golf meeting sponsors were as follows:

Turf Supply, Ltd.	Lebanon Chemical
J. W. Turf, Inc.	Cannon Turf Supply, Inc.
Wilbur-Ellis	Huber Ranch Sod Nursery
Henry Frenzer, Inc.	Bojo Turf Supply Co.
Ciba Geigy	Green Visions
E-Z-Go/Textron	Dow Elanco
O. M. Scott	Chicago Turf and Irrigation

Host Superintendents Tim Kelly (rained out), Jeff Nack, Dave Blomquist, Greg Johnson, Kerry Blatteau, Peter Hahn, and Bob Wilkins deserve a lot of credit for their hard work as well. It takes courage and confidence.

Once again, it is not our intent to make money on golf meetings. If we round up the price and make a few dollars, we'll be able to lower the price on a future meeting. So when you see the cost of the day, you'll know what goes into the figure; and when you look at what the average golfer would have to pay, you'll realize we get quite a bargain.

## The 1991 Season — At Least It Wasn't Boring

James M. Latham, Director  
Great Lakes Region USGA Green Section

The 1991 season has been a good news/bad news affair so far, with weather conditions determining the difference much of the time. Good news came to the West in the spring, with timely rains which have brought precipitation records up to par for the first time in 5 or 6 years, but they were preceded by winter desiccation damage to greens, tees, and fairways on many courses. Desiccation? How about 80-mile-an-hour winds with still air temperatures at 20 degrees below zero!

Crown hydration/winterkill of **Poa annua**, which has plagued northern latitudes of Wisconsin to Montana the last two years, moved south to the Wisconsin-Illinois state line area and southward. Rather than general, across-the-board damage to all courses, it was a patchwork of turf loss. One course could be almost undamaged, while a neighbor was hurt severely. This provided an early season supply of grist for the mills of locker room agronomists. At the same time, though, it gave superintendents an opportunity to reintroduce bentgrass into weak spots and justify the formulation of pro-bent maintenance programs.

For other areas, the worst was yet to come. Southern Michigan and Chicagoland went through a most disquieting season. It was an accelerated growing season, according to one Michigan superintendent. July weather came in May, August in June, and a breath of September in late July. Not a very deep breath, though, because another spell of hot, humid weather finished off a lot of **Poa annua** already weakened by disease and the hot, humid, but rainless weather earlier in the summer. Any time winterkill or Summer Patch become destructive is the time to present a plan for regeneration of bentgrass to The Powers so that a means of funding can be found. In this way, adversity might become a positive beginning to more reliable playing surfaces.

All of these woes were not shared democratically, however. Many courses have come through the hard times in fine condition. Those with a predominance of bentgrass and Kentucky bluegrass fared well. Naturally, **Poa annua** seedlings came on strong after winterkill, but the high temperature in late spring applied some degree of stress.

Hopefully, the new poa plants got a lot of competition by inter- or over-seeding with more dependable species. In hot weather, the percentage of bentgrass or bluegrass seedling survival is low, but poa competition will not be as great as it is in either fall or spring. And what is wrong with aeration, slit-seeding, etc., weak or dead areas during the prime playing season? At least, the golfers see something **positive** being done to their course rather than our usual moaning about that blankety-blank P.a.

### Golf Courses in the Midwest

Have you noticed the number of golf championships being  
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