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■ LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

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decision to cut staff benefits.] Management 101 and the No. 1 rule from that class is "take care of the people who take care of you." To be in the USGA, you must be away from your family. There is no compensation high enough to replace that, believe me. I have lived it from my own experiences in corporate golf. To take care of your people and to show you care, you must provide some perks that motivate them, such as college tuition programs.

How do millionaires become that way? They take away from the people who helped them succeed nine times out of 10. I have had the privilege of working with many of the Green Section ladies and gentlemen for many years, and to cut anything from their jobs that was included before is a travesty.

PS: Next time there is a trip across country, perhaps Walter Driver and David Fay should take a minibus. Empathy begins at home.

Joe Hubbard, Certified Superintendent
Broken Sound Golf Course
Boca Raton, Fla.

Speeding Up Play to Create More Rounds

Editor's note: In an online column, Golfdom asked readers to share opinions on speed of play, most notably the need for more six-hole courses. Here's what some readers had to say:

When I was changing cups years ago, we had an oversized cup we used for low-key corporate outings. Not a coffee can as a gag, but a cup about 1.5 times as big as the regulation cup used by all golfers today.

Why not let the pros and early-morning golfers use the regulation (small) cup and normal fun golfers use the oversize cup?

We would play after work using the oversize cup, and it sped up things considerably. Even with pretty quick greens (which everyone likes, but which take a long time to get all golfers to putt out successfully), we would shave a couple minutes per hole as there was minimal time spent lining up the 4-footer, which as we all know is the one length all golfers spend the most time on. If you saved three minutes per hole, you'd save 54 minutes



for an 18-hole round. And we were good golfers. A higher-handicap foursome would probably save five or more minutes per hole. And the course layout, cut, grassing, tees, equipment can all stay the same.

It's a simple, easy and cost-effective way to get me — like yourself, a father with kids who need a lot of my time — back out on the course for a traditional 18 holes in less than four hours.

Of course, the oversize cup with six, nine or 12 holes would be even better for time-strapped people.

J.D. Huseboe
Irrigation salesman
Reinders Turf and Irrigation

I always thought that a nine-hole golf course with every three holes ending at the clubhouse would be great. Then you could have three-, six- and nine-hole leagues and a nice little clubhouse with some food and a bar. Bet it would work!

Steve Tyler
Standard Golf Co.

Only problem is that the United States Golf Association doesn't allow you to post your score from a six-hole round for handicap purposes. Now there is a place where we can start making six holes legitimate.

Helping to make golf a better game,
Kevin D. Coombs, PGA
Owner/General Manager
Beacon Rock Golf Course
North Bonneville, Wash.

We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to David Frabotta at dfrabotta@questex.com, or fax to 216-706-3712. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.