

Spring aerifying & opportunity in these tough economic times

In the November / December issue of the Boardroom I wrote my first article on “TIGHT MONEY AND COURSE MANAGEMENT”. In that article I said to let the science of physical properties dictate whether you could or should skip the disruptive spring aerification in favor of a spring tournament to provide additional cash flow. What I failed to mention in that first article was that we normally need to supplement the disruptive aerifying with non-disruptive aerifications such as ¼” hollows, planet air, needle etc...

The political repercussions of either aerifying or not aerifying can create a wonderful situation for the Golf Course Superintendent and the General Manager.

If the greens do well and hold up during the course of the year we are asked if we can stop disruptive aerifying altogether and only do non-disruptive aerifying throughout the year. No matter how the question is answered. [No we cannot skip the spring disruptive aerifications or yes we can skip the spring disruptive aerifications] we are in trouble as there has **now** been a very large question mark created in the minds of our golfers and especially in the minds of the people we answer to in regards to spring aerifications as our answer is based in most cases on a subjective decision and not a objective decision based on science. If the greens do well during the year we are asked why we even need to aerify and if the greens do not perform during the year we are criticized for not being more forceful and standing up to the general mood of not aerifying.

WHAT A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

We are now able to make the strongest case possible for obtaining as much knowledge as possible to enable us to make the most intelligent decisions, **based on science**, to improve the course playing conditions. Science allows us to make the best use of the funds that have been made available to us for maintenance purposes.

The days of making decisions on how we utilize our budgets and how we set up our budgets based on **“I think”** and not on science are long gone and no longer acceptable. These tough economic times have allowed for the good Golf Course Superintendents and General Managers to rise to the top and to impress the powers to be. I say again. **“WHAT A GREAT OPPORTUNITY”** don't waste it.

I have traveled almost nonstop since last Thanksgiving and as I have reported in previous articles I have seen and been involved in all kinds and types of board meetings. When the General Manager and the Golf Course Superintendent had a plan that the board could understand and everyone got together to do what was best for the club with the resources available, good things happened and the course turned these tough economic times into an asset that will benefit the club for years to come.

LET'S NOT WASTE THESE TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

