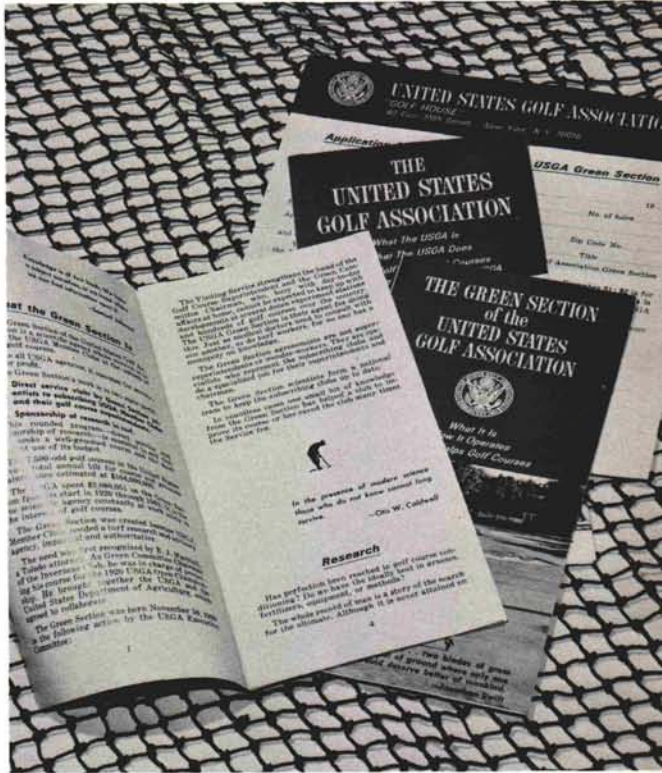


# An Open Letter To USGA Green Section Subscribers



**B**ecause of rising costs and to help reduce the current operating deficit, the United States Golf Association has been obliged to increase subscription fees to the Green Section Visiting Service.

Subscribing clubs have been notified of the increased rate through a letter from Henry H. Russell, of Miami, Chairman of the Green Section Committee. The text of the letter is as follows:

**W**ould you believe that since 1951 the USGA Green Section has made over 16,000 service visits to Member Clubs throughout the United States! No other agency in the world of golf has such a record.

During these 19 years, I think you will agree playing conditions on our courses — in spite of tremendously increased play — have improved ten fold. And it is the golf course superintendent, through his technology, who is directly responsible for this advancement. We in the USGA would also believe that our 16,000 visits and support of turfgrass research have significantly contributed to good golfing turf as well.

The Green Section, as all USGA Agencies, operates for service, not for profit. Indeed, it was created so that USGA Member Clubs would consistently have a turf research and advisory agency that was impartial, authoritative and economically operated. The fact that it has nothing to sell except SERVICE is only one feature of a unique Green Section Staff. Employed are nine agronomists trained specifically in golf turf maintenance and management. The 16,000 golf course visits places them in a position to help any club to develop greater efficiency and better turf for more enjoyable golf for its membership.

In these days of rising costs and inflation, the cost of operating the Green Section Service has increased far more rapidly than income. (Anyone familiar with travel costs will recognize the problem.) During the past five years, for example, the USGA has subsidized this activity by \$268,091

over and above subscription fees. In order to make the Green Section a financially sound operation, the Executive Committee — with great reluctance — feels the Visiting Service fee must be increased in 1970. The schedule is as follows:

Less than 18 holes .....	\$250.00
18 to 27 holes .....	300.00
More than 27 holes:	
A) 36 holes .....	325.00
B) Per regulation course in addition to 36 holes .....	75.00

For most clubs this amounts to less than 1/3 of 1 per cent of the annual maintenance budget. In today's high-priced service market that figure is still unbelievably small. In countless cases one small bit of information from a Green Section visit has improved the course or saved the club many times the Service fee. In a club of 300 members, it amounts to \$1 a year per member. Is not \$1 a year per member worth improved maintenance and management practices? Where else can clubs turn if not to the Green Section for unbiased information on all questions relating to golf course maintenance and management? We believe you will want to keep the experienced Green Section staff working for better turf for more enjoyable golf for your membership.

Green Section brochures giving all details and benefits your club receives from the Visiting Service Program have been mailed to superintendents, green chairmen and presidents of subscribing clubs. If there are other questions, we would welcome the opportunity to reply to them.

Thank you for your support.

Most sincerely,

Henry H. Russell, Chairman  
USGA Green Section Committee  
USGA Executive Committee

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