

Diary of a Championship by a Course Superintendent

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What must a golf course superintendent do at the time of a National Championship? His typically long and busy programme is reflected in the diary below of two days devoted to the 1963 Women's Open Championship of the U.S. Golf Association.

Last Day of Practice

A.M.

- 4-30—Going to be in the low 90s today. No rain forecast.
- 5-30—Arrived at the Club.
Checked with the three water men who started watering tees at 4 a.m.
- 5-45—Short four men of the crew this morning, all old employees. Never before have I had this many off at one time. Two are off because of deaths in their families, one is sick, one is getting an electrocardiogram.
- 6-0—Crew hand-watering greens, trying to water only high areas and around greens. Greens are on the wet side, will try to get them drier
- 6-15—Checked with the men watering.

They are all watering a little too much. This is hard to control the men know there will be no hand-watering during the play and they want to be sure the greens have enough.

- 6-40—Arrange for three golf carts to be taken to the pro. shop and for return of the ones used yesterday (in tournament preparations).
- 7-0—Talked with Pinkerton people. They are to see that clubhouse employees park in the right area near the maintenance barn.
- 7 15—Six men starting to mow greens. We use two men as a team—they have two greens mowers, a tractor and a two-wheel trailer. They split a green in the centre and mow each way, load the grass clippings on the trailer, put the mowers on the trailer, and go to the next green. In this way all the clippings are always picked up and we don't have a mess or dead spot near the green.
- 7-20—Arrange for man to cut 2 x 4's for out-of-bounds stakes and make six signs to go back of tees. Make steps to get press people over hedge, as requested by a Committee man. (P.S.—Steps cost \$65 in labour and material and, to my knowledge, were not used.)
- 7-30—Have man put up ticket sign and other signs at Club entrance and start his all-day job of paper pick-up. (The gallery has been very good about putting paper in the receptacles.)
- 8-0—Again have man fill divots in fairways, and show him additional places to top-dress.
- 8-5—Talked with cup changer about pin placement for practice round, trying to save good places for tournament.
- 8-10—Put in out-of-bounds post that was missing near No. 9 green.
- 8-15—Talked with bunker mower man about extra mowing.
- 8-20—Checked all green mowers to see that they were making a good, clean cut.
- 8-30—Checked with U.S.G.A. about the work for tomorrow morning.
- 8-45—Checked into Club office for mail.
- 9-0—Sent man to town to pick up U.S.G.A. tee markers that were shipped late. Talked with U.S.G.A.

about moving gallery ropes and taking care of ropes during tournament.

9-30—Talked with U.S.G.A. about extra parking area and making it out of bounds. Must have more out-of-bounds stakes made.

9-45—Coffee break.

9-55—Have man pick up limbs left from windstorm last Saturday, mostly on our other course, those on the Championship course were picked up earlier

10-15—Repair bridge railing broken by kids last night.

10-30—Have two men put up scoreboards at 6-9-18 greens.

10-35—Talked with television men about cable across road and about power outlets. Put up two signs for them.

11-0—Have three men raking sand traps and one man repairing ball marks.

P.M.

12-30—Have man check greens for wilt. Have three men mowing collars and tees. (The grass clippings from around greens and tees are removed by the same method as the putting green clippings.)

12-40—Two men back again making out-of-bounds posts.

12-45—Sent man back to town for U.S.G.A. tee markers, on first trip they were too long to haul on pick-up truck, and truck had a full load with other things.

12-50—Talked with television announcers about course. They needed a little information to use as fill-in for Saturday telecast.

1-30—Checked with trap rakers to see that they were leaving a good, sharp lip.

1-35—Have three men complete roping off fairways.

2-0—Talked with Wade Stuth, from Muskogee, Okla. He flew in to see how the Bermuda grass he planted for us was doing.

3-0—Have two men roping off extra parking area.

3-30—Men have all put in nine hours. Two men working on. I'm going home to eat.

3-35—Was stopped by television men they need some old inner tubes to cover cable connections. I'll have to hunt up some.



GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT

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Cutters	Tee Plates
Staffs	Ball Cleaners
Mats	Tablets
Mowers	Rollers
Hose	Sprinklers
Mole Ploughs	Rotary Sifters
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4-0—Will stop by the hardware store on the way home to get a couple of rakes, and other odds and ends.

5-30—Two men will start mowing fairways—should be completed by dark.

6-15—Back again. Checking all holes tee to green, checking all greens for watering for tomorrow

7-40—Check completed, starting home. Surely can get around the course quickly with a cart. Was stopped twice before I could get by the clubhouse. Man arrived with portable toilets, showed him where to place them.

8-35—Arrived home. Took time cards home with me so that I won't have to stop tomorrow to make up pay record.

9-42—Payroll completed, through for the day

First Day of Championship

A.M.

12-15 (midnight) — Night watchman called from Club, men cutting fairways didn't lock up the tool barn.

- 4-30—Going to be about 88 degrees today, could shower
 5-45—Short three men this morning.
 6-0—All men hand water greens lightly
 7-10—One man checking ropes.
 One man hand-mowing low spots in fairways.
 Four men mowing greens.
 Two men raking sand traps.
 One man mowing tees.
 Two men working on tee signs.
 Rest of crew working on our other course this morning.
 7-15—Talked with U.S.G.A. about plans.
 7-30—Checked on the green mowers to see that they were cutting clean, also checked trap rakers.
 8-30—Have two men put up tee signs.
 One man cleaning up paper
 9-15—Send man to hardware store for three step-ladders to be used at scoreboards.
 9-20—Put ladies' and men's signs on toilets, they were removed by kids last night.
 Get putting green attendants to first four or five greens.

- 9-30—Change position of some of the gallery ropes. Put up cross-over signs and lines for gallery passage across certain fairways.
 11-0—Increase size of parking area, take cars onto fairway of other course.
 11-15—Start relieving green attendants for lunch.

P.M.

- 1-40—Last players off Clean-up crew can start.
 3-40—Four men filling divots in fairways.
 Two men mowing tees.
 Green attendants going home after last players pass their stations.
 5-50—Crew going home—have worked about 12 hours.
 7-20—Back again. Complete check of each hole again. Won't need to water greens tomorrow, but will water tees.
 8-35—Through for the day The days of the tournament are not bad at all, but the three or four days just before are rough because of all the little things that have to be done.

(With grateful acknowledgments to the "U.S.G.A Golf Journal")



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