

The National Association of Public Golf Courses threatened

The National Association of Public Golf Courses, for sixty one years the accepted and recognised administration body for the public course club golfer, are indignant at the recent news — out of the blue — that the E.G.U. are to discuss a privately published paper. 'The English Golf Union and the Non-Status Golfer' without consultation with NAPGC, **even though their Association represents over 100 of the present public course clubs and over 80,000 public course players!** Insulted and indignant as they are over the seeming insensitivity of the E.G.U. on such an important issue, they made the point to Greenkeeping Management that to make attempts to support and recognise the non-status golfer without involving the ONLY organisation with real experience is tantamount to their being dismissed!

Some of the questions posed in the paper, with NAPGC comments, are given here:

1. The Non-status golfer (NSG) wants some official recognition of his golfing ability. **Answer - Let him join the club at the public course he plays upon.**

2. The NSG wants to become a better player and enter the 'real' world of golf by competitive and social play. **Answer - By joining a public course club he gets his 'passport' through a handicap certificate.**

3. The NSG wants ultimately to join a club or society. **Answer - Public course clubs would welcome him into their ranks.**

4. The NSG wants to improve his knowledge of rules and etiquette. **Answer - The first priority of NAPGC is to teach new players the rules and etiquette of golf - with committee members of the Association always on hand to guide and counsel.**

The NSG wants an opportunity to play in an organised competitive arena. **Answer - NAPGC organise numerous competitive events at both local and national level.**

6. The NSG wants a passport to extend his play beyond the municipal course. **Answer - All public course clubs are affiliated to their County Union, and each member receives a recognised CONGU handicap, enabling recognition at other courses.**

Before passing judgement, Greenkeeping Management will want to learn the views of the E.G.U., but on the face of it, they appear to have alienated one of their best possible allies.

Murphy on Golf: 2

"A golf ball will always slice, except when the rub-bish is on the left, when it will inexplicably hook", to which we might add, when making allowance for a slice, the ball will always go straight!



ANOTHER DEAD MOLE

A RARE ALBINO MOLE TRAPPED BY G. MOIR.

Greenkeeping enemy number one, the mole, is seen here in a different guise. One of four of the same little varmints trapped by Fraserburgh Golf Club head greenkeeper, Gordon Moir, all within a matter of weeks. All pure white when trapped, Gordon makes the point that this specimen had turned a little yellow by the time he had photographed it, being well dead and smelly, having been in the trap for a few days. Gordon says of this rarity, 'I am sure many greenkeepers have never seen a white mole before'. Our feelings are that these obnoxious creatures, albino or regular, male or female, big or small, whatever their disguise, are better dead than alive.

Poseur's Pose!

A chance for fame and glory awaits those competing in the **BIGGA National Golf Tournament**, to be held at Lyme Regis on August 14th, 15th and 16th. Quite apart from the awards and trophies, your intrepid editor will be in attendance, complete with zoom lens, to record posterity (and a two page colour spread in the September issue) the daily swings and the aprè swinging! So... as you gaze at that Ultra, with its 432 icosahedral dimples, soaring majestically towards the target, remember — hold that pose!

Footnote for latecomers: A call to Gordon Child (0803 844056) may still get you a place, but hurry...

N.B. Poseur — a person who strikes an attitude or assumes a pose in order to impress!

Rosemount record shattered

From Gordon Moir, a man justifiably proud of Scotland and its wonderful golf courses, came a report of the annihilation of Rosemount by two Frenchmen... in the Scottish Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship. Tournament winner Francois Illouez knocked one stroke from Greg Norman's previous record, scoring 65 in the first round, only to see his compatriot J. Giscard lower the number to 64 in the final round. As Gordon so rightly points out, this reflects well on the marvellous condition of courses in his part of the country.

Player on Architecture

In talking about courses, Gary Player, another of the growing band of golfers-cum-architects making a lasting impression around the world — especially the USA — expressed an opinion recently. In discussing the trend of the wealthy American set wanting to build 'monuments' to themselves, and requesting architects to build to tough specifications, he said "they're creating monsters!"

He can envisage, when the novelty wears off and members tire of having to make freak putts all day or of taking five hours for a round, that some major surgical re-modelling of these white elephants will be necessary. "At a lot of golf courses, people just want to get the heck out." And his answer? "... I want to start a new trend — building golf courses that people will enjoy."