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IS COURSE FIT?

Judgment, Co-Operation and
Hard Work Needed

By O. W. YOUNG, Greenkeeper,
Moraine Park CC, Dayton, Ohio

IS YOUR course fit for playing? We are all aware of the fact that standards are not the same on all golf courses. So the greenkeeper must not forget that the demands of his members play a big part in determining whether his course is fit for playing. You must give the players the best kind of a golf course they want, for the money they can afford to pay.

Just how is this going to be done? I would say by sound, sensible judgment, co-operation and hard work. These three factors working together in unison will give enormous results.

Take the matter of weather conditions which I believe are becoming more adverse each year, one extreme following another. You can readily see how these conditions put the greenkeeper on the spot. He must spend more time with his crew to see that they water their greens just enough and not to excess. So many things can happen to over-watered turf in hot weather that a lot of good, sound headwork and not fixed routine is required.

Many Turf Diseases, Pests

There are two other important items which I think require considerable thought.

We have approximately 36 different turf diseases, all with different characteristics and requiring different control measures. Being able to tell these diseases apart and control them is no small job; your chemistry book has a use other than keeping that empty space filled in the book case.

The other item is that of insects. There are so many of them that affect turf in one way or another that books could be written about them. Some are eradicated by poison bait; for example, the ant; while the webworm must be controlled by dusting or spraying the poison on the turf that they feed upon. The chinch bug, however, a sucking insect, cannot be killed in either of the two manners mentioned. It is problems like these that constantly confront a greenkeeper.

When the greenkeeper seeks co-operation from all who are associated with his work, he has taken on a real job. It is sometimes very hard to get co-operation,

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but the greenkeeper must have it from superiors and greens crew if success is to be gained.

Personally I think getting the boss to pull with you, whether he be the president, chairman or manager, is not as difficult a task as getting the co-operation of your greens crew. At first, your boss may not have confidence in you, but once you prove to him that you are a capable man and can successfully perform the duties assigned to you, he should be will-

ing to back you to the limit. With your greens crew you have a much different situation.

The greens crew usually consists of several types of men, and this makes matters more complicated for the greenkeepers. He must study his men separately and by this decide some way to handle each and every man; also he must see that the men co-operate with each other. It is said, "A chain is as strong as its weakest link." Many a capable worker

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has failed when co-operation would have won the battle.

When analyzing your ground crew, remember some men get their work done with less effort than others. Also, there is a great difference between mental and physical fatigue, and both have a breaking point, so let us not pass opinion too hastily when we see the working man relax. He may appear to be stalling and still be on the job.

It is hard to measure work on a golf course. I don't believe it can be done, for there is no end to it. Abe Lincoln once said, "There is always a job for the man who wants to work," and this goes for the golf course, too.

Ohio Superintendents Hold Annual Spring Demonstration

OHIO Association of Golf Course Superintendents held its annual spring demonstration and dinner at Canterbury CC, Monday, May 17. A crowd of almost 200 attended, witnessed field demonstrations of leading manufacturers' maintenance equipment and took part in the dinner session.

Don Boyd, president of the association,

presided at the dinner. Dr. John Monteith, jr., handled a lively and informative question box session. Spencer M. Duty, veteran green-chairman, lauded the work greenkeepers had done in bringing golf courses through the depression. O. J. Noer gave highlights of his observations of spring work at golf courses. Herb Graffis spoke on the current labor situation as marking the avenue for the next scientific development in greenkeeping, that of expert study of labor management and costs.

Outside Contributions Talked for Green Section

THERE is renewed talk about permitting contributions from non-member clubs of the USGA toward financing Green Section work. It has been pointed out that the government has spent more than \$10,000,000 in construction at public courses but has allotted no money for maintenance problems. Only about one out of five golf clubs belong to the USGA and help finance Green Section work that has been tremendously valuable in bettering course condition and reducing risks and unnecessary expenses.

Cemeteries, parks, polo fields, tennis courts and private lawns have benefited from Green Section work, although sharing no part of expense of the Section's research.

Opening the list for contributions from beneficiaries of the turf culture work under direction and management of the USGA is considered by many to be the one logical manner of eventually securing funds sufficient to finance the work demanded of the Green Section.

Forecasts Munny Play in New York Area 125,000 Rounds Over '36 Total

CCHEERING news comes out of the New York district where John R. Van Kleeck, golf supervisor, speaks for the municipal links golfers of the District. Van Kleeck predicts a total of 575,000 rounds of golf will be played over the ten municipal links before next fall which is an increase of approximately 125,000 over the 1936 figures. And the 1936 figures were approximately 125,000 greater than the year previous, so that ought to give you some idea of the upswing in golf expected in the East this year.

Something else calls for a big smile in looking over 1937 prospects. Van Kleeck



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