



1. Aerifying green first time over with open type spoons.
2. Cross-aerifying the second time.
3. The third aerifying was in a diagonal direction.
4. Generous fertilization followed after aerifying in three directions.
5. Verti-cutting and mowing prepare green for final light topdressing.



## 3-Way Aerifying Improves Matted Greens

By O. J. Noer

**M**ANY of the greens at Franklin Hills in Detroit had heavily matted surfaces. Peat-like layers consisted of partially decayed stems and leaves. Grass wilted badly in summer and localized dry spots developed frequently. Disease was difficult to control.

Four way aerifying was proposed as a possible remedy. Finally, it was decided to aerify in three directions only on two greens as a test. The plan was to fertilize generously after aerifying to speed growth.

The work was done in late spring after grass had started good growth. The Verti-cut machine was used to shatter plugs; mowing followed with a catcher. Then a very light top-dressing was applied — only half a yard to a green. Drag matting completed the task.

Root systems were so shallow that spoons lifted some of the turf. It was put back in place by the machine operator.

Within 7 to 10 days the marks on the green were gone. Wilting and dry spots became less troublesome on these greens



This lighted Par 3 at Tanglewood Park, Clemmons, N. C., was opened in April. A month later, Tanglewood's regulation 18 was put in play. Gardner Gidley is mgr. and Grady Shumate, pro. Robert Trent Jones was architect for both courses.

during the summer months.

An excessive mat fosters shallow root development. It encourages disease because of its sponge-like character.

When mat is of recent origin, surplus grass can be removed by cross-raking or by severe Verti-cutting. Generous fertilization and light top-dressing should follow. Spring is the best time to perform this operation. It should be done when good growing weather is assured. Late winter would seem like a good time. Experience does not bear that out. Severe desiccation follows windy dry weather. This retards growth so badly that it may be July before greens are satisfactory for play.

With a peat-like mat of dead stems and leaves, the only solution is to make conditions favorable for decay by the cellulose decomposing soil organisms. They require a plentiful supply of air to furnish oxygen, and they need a favorable soil reaction. Extra nitrogen is essential to satisfy the demands of both the soil organisms and the grass for this growth element.

### 1961 PGA Championship

The 1961 PGA Championship will be played at Olympia Fields (Ill.) CC, July 27-30. That will be 36 years after the last PGA played in the Chicago area was won by Walter Hagen, who defeated "Wild Bill" Mehlhorn in the final, 6 to 5. In those days, Olympia had four 18-hole courses, but now only two remain. Olympia was the site of the 1928 Open and in 1920, 1927 and 1933 the Western Open was played there. The 1960 PGA will be played at Firestone CC, Akron, O., July 28-31.

### Gordon Writes Book on Club Repair

Recently published by The Dietz Press, Inc., Richmond, Va., is "Repair Your Own Golf Clubs," by Hugh M. Gordon, pro at Cambridge (Md.) CC. The 40-page book covers every aspect of repair by a writer who learned his trade in Scotland and has been following it for many years in the U. S.

In the 15 chapters that make up the book, these subjects are covered: Tying string at the end of the grip and at the neck of the wood head; resetting or replacing the grip; changing the shaft plug; inserting lead; installing a new fiber face; changing club loft; fixing the club to suit the player; making clubs over for children; and storage of clubs.

Pros, who have little training in or knowledge of clubmaking, will benefit by reading this volume. It can be obtained through the publisher.

### To Pick Ryder Cup Team

The PGA executive committee has named the organization's three principal officers, Harold Sargent, pres., Louis Strong, secy., and Warren Cantrell, treas., to select the 1959 Ryder Cup team. They will meet in Dunedin on Sept. 8 to pick the team that will meet the British at Eldorado CC, Palm Desert, Calif., Nov. 7-8. This will be the 13th playing of the Ryder Cup matches.

Points accumulated in official tournaments through the Kansas City Open, Sept. 4-7, will serve as a guide to the PGA officers in selecting the U. S. team.