

# When the Dub Golfer Asks Questions

By ROBERT E. POWER, Chairman  
Cleveland District Green Section

WHAT greenkeeper has not been cross-examined by the dub golfer?

Why is the rough so long?

Can't you run your wagons around the course without making ruts?

Haven't you any drains in your traps?

What is the use of having long grass around the greens?

Why do you topdress the greens about every week?

Why doesn't your tractor stop when I'm making a shot?

Those boys who foot the bills take their golf seriously.

If they make the hole in seven they may win a quarter, and if they don't it may be the greenkeeper's fault.

Patience with these new golfers who take up the game in middle life is a virtue that will earn the diplomatic greenkeeper a halo in the hereafter. It's like having three hundred employees and trying to please them all—even when orders are contradictory.

Not being a greenkeeper I can speak from the player's standpoint. Having been a Green committee chairman off and on for fifteen years I appreciate the position

of the greenkeeper, and the extraordinary tact and diplomacy he must exercise in keeping his golfing family happy.

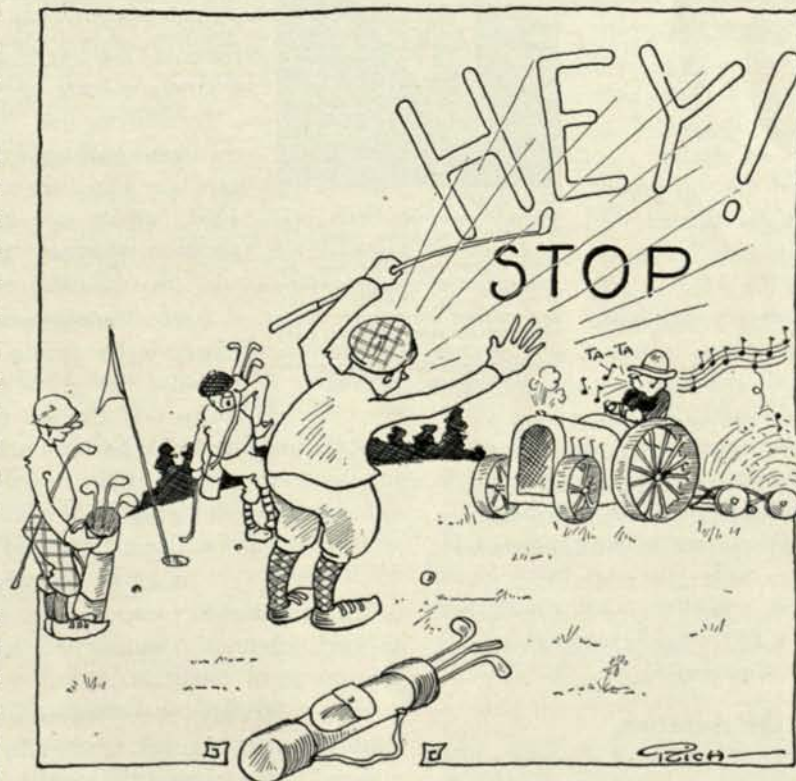
We have a foursome playing at the Westwood Country Club where Fred Burkhardt is greenkeeper and where I was Green committee chairman for seven years. They play every day—their average game is around one hundred, and if Fred was an athlete training for the Olympic games he couldn't have more intensive coaching than this quartet gives him. Yet in club meetings and locker room discussions they fight for him, and woe

betide the member who dares to criticize the golf course in any particular.

Fred has learned to be patient with them and courteous at all times and I bring this example to the attention of other greenkeepers who may be sensitive and brood over criticisms and suggestions on the course.

The policy to pursue is one of frankness and honesty. If the greenkeeper is at fault he should admit it and correct his mistake or oversight at the first opportunity. If the player is at fault he should be told why as courteously as possible, and if he declines to see it, he should be referred to the chairman of the Green committee for further explanation.

My greenkeeper always reported to me any discussions of importance with members, and if at all serious I straightened them out in a way to please and satisfy the member. I felt I owed it to the greenkeeper to stand between him and unjust criticism, but I would not permit him to have any altercation on the course. The chairman should fight all battles and it is his job to keep harmony among the members and to insist upon the greenkeeping crew being allowed to do their prescribed work without interference.



I cannot close without mentioning John Morley, your president, and to comment on the real affection and regard in which he is held by the members of the Youngstown Country Club. Every member is his friend and his modest conscientious manner and unflinching courtesy has won a place in their hearts that nothing can duplicate.

Which brings me to the point—a greenkeeper's value to his club is not only his knowledge of greenkeeping but his ability to co-operate with the officers in making the club a smooth running, efficient organization.