

Bringing the New Course Along

Greenkeeper has complicated problem and must be first class man
Mistakes made after construction can seldom be rectified

By EDWARD B. DEARIE, JR.



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in conjunction with a qualified golf architect will be able to develop a course with the utmost economy and attractiveness. He will be able to provide a course with which his club may be justly proud.

Standards of greenkeeping are being raised each season and qualifications of greenkeepers are being raised also. Secure a greenkeeper who knows the fundamentals of golf course maintenance. Such a man should know turf, grasses, drainage and irrigation. He should have a knowledge of elementary chemistry and landscaping. He must know golf both in theory and practice so that his judgment will be recognized by his chairman.

Greenkeeper is Specialist

THEREFORE, the greenkeeper who has mastered his business is somewhat of a combination of engineer, chemist, artist, agriculturist and mechanic. He is truly a versatile specialist of high order, a master of the complicated factors of greenkeeping.

An extremely close relationship exists between construction and maintenance. This fact is often overlooked. Also there is a tendency to hire the greenkeeper **after** the architect has completed his work. This is manifestly unfair. The greenkeeper should be called upon to express his opinion and judgment regarding

CONDITIONING a new golf course is a complicated problem and the greenkeeper responsible for the result is shouldered with no light responsibility. Unless he is a first class man, backed with considerable and diversified experience, and has a sound workable plan for efficient and economical operation, he will fail. But a properly qualified greenkeeper working

the cost of maintaining the course before the work is started.

There can be no first class golf course unless the turf is of the right quality. The quality of the turf depends upon the quality of the soil. There can be no great satisfaction in courses—no matter how well designed—where the fairways, tees and greens have a poor stand of grass impossible to condition.

Engage Greenkeeper Early

IF THE greenkeeper is engaged in the early stages of the construction and can see the course developed from the start, he will be better able to determine the methods of conditioning the course for play. In the past he has had to accept what the architect and construction engineer have turned over to him, starting where the others left off. This was most unfair to the greenkeeper and did not give him a chance to prove his worth.

It is in the initial work that the greenkeeper can prove his ability even more than in routine maintenance. He then has a full knowledge of the soil, drainage system and water supply. He may even make special arrangements to supervise the grading of the greens, tees and fairway before seeding. What has been done before the greenkeeper was engaged is invariably never corrected. He starts off with a handicap which in most cases it is impossible for him to overcome.

Experience teaches us that greenkeepers must understand the elements of nature and the greatest difficulty which presents itself to most of them is the varying condition of soil, climate, rainfall and duration of seasons. All have a direct bearing on what results are to be obtained in bringing a new course along.

Local Conditions Should Be Studied

SUCH knowledge is invaluable to any greenkeeper. He should acquaint himself with local conditions. Also, he should accustom himself to profit by his experience. What might be right in one place might be the contrary in another. It is a foregone conclusion that the soils of Florida and California, where the climates

permit year-round play and perpetual growth on greens and fairways, must be organically different from soils in northern and eastern states where the turf is dormant for a considerable portion of the year.

It is not to be expected that the geologic conditions of all parts of such an immense country would be the same. Thus, we find abundant reasons for diversity in soils, temperatures, quantity of humidity, quantity of rainfall and duration of seasons. These all offer exceptional opportunities for study. A knowledge of these elements, therefore, is essential to a proper understanding of the principal factors involved in this work of bringing a new course along to a playable condition.

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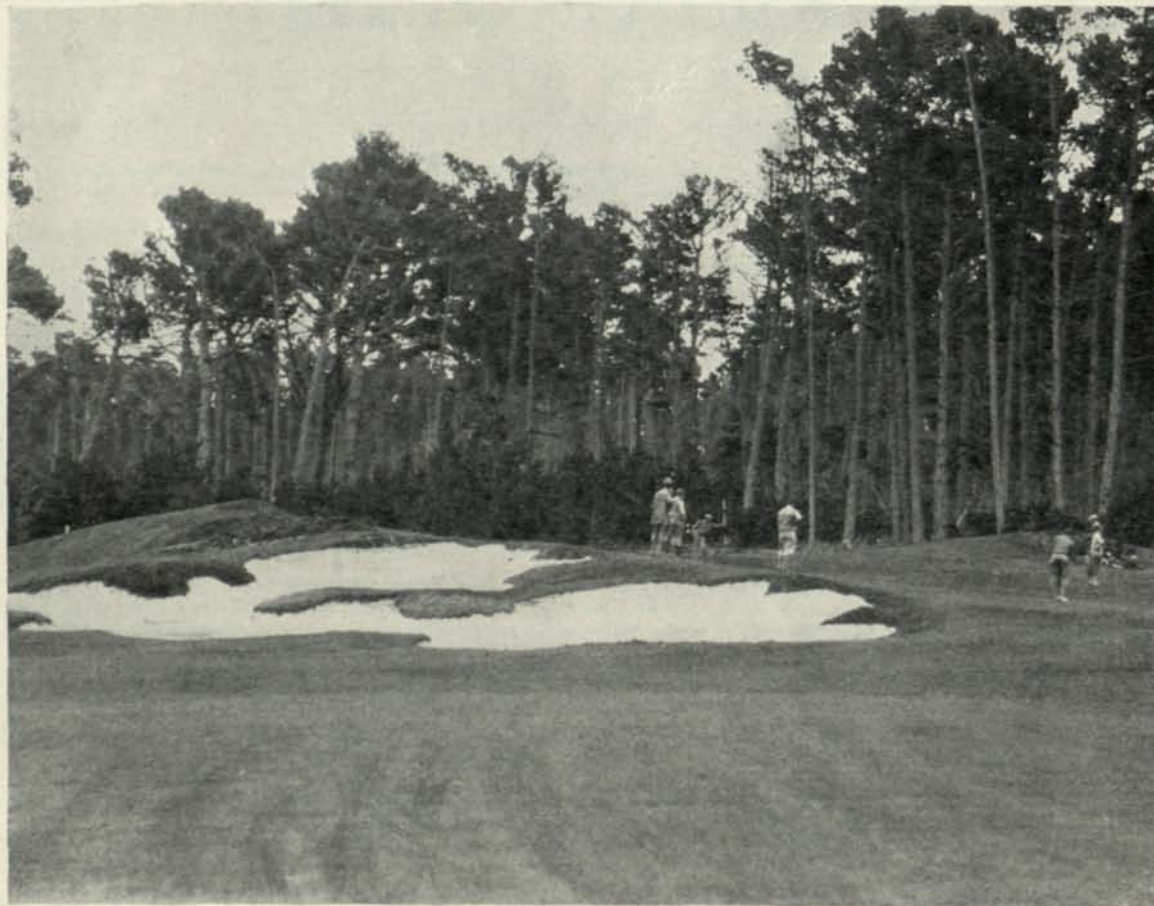
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THE SECOND AT CYPRESS POINT

This 18-hole course is the newest addition to the Monterey Peninsula group. It is located on the California coast near Del Monte. Joseph Benoit is the greenkeeper