

EDITORIAL

An opportunity to observe the improvement in design and construction of golf courses over the last fifty years is available at Arrowhead Golf Course, a fifty year old course at Wheaton, Ill.

Built originally as Antler's Golf Course for the Oak Park Elks in the 1920's, it has since become a privately owned 27 hole semi-private course with 150 members and daily fee rates available.

The east and south nines were built in the 1920's; the west in '65 and '66, and was open for play in 1967. Perhaps, the most obvious difference is the greens. The greens on the old 9 are composed of Washington Bent and Poa Annuua with the edge going to the Poa.

The size averages about 3500 sq. feet, with the majority either flat or tilted toward the tee. Three tile lines run down the length of the green and drain onto the approach.

The west has C15 greens averaging 6500 sq. feet. They are composed of 50% sand, 30% peat, and 20% natural soil. Tile lines are herring-boned, and drain into the rough.

After ten years, the biggest problem has been ball marks. In forty years of working on a golf course, I've yet to see a pro, while giving a lesson, show a pupil how to repair a ball mark. The other problem concerns the collars that average a scant 6 to 10 feet in width, and have to re-sodded each year. The course architect said to "maintain them the same as the greens, and they would hold up as well as the greens." He was wrong!

The tees on the old nines have been enlarged twice, and they are still on the small side. One of the original tees, no longer in use and never enlarged, measures 15 by 20 feet. At the present time, the tees are re-sodded with A-20 whenever necessary.

The new tees have the same mix as the greens and measure 3000 to 7500 sq. feet. They are Penncross bent, and in ten years, only one tee has had to re-sodded. Dollar spot has been the problem on these tees.

The traps too have increased in size over the years. The old course has three or four tear drop traps around each green, while the new course may have from 2 to 6 huge traps around the green and in the fairway at strategic places. With the riding trap rakes, the big traps are easiest to maintain.

The irrigation system on the original 18 consists of 180 G.P.M. pumps and a 200 foot run of 2½ inch pipes. After that, it goes to 2 inches, and in some places, 1½ to 1 inch. Most is on top of the ground or is buried 8 to 12 inches deep. There is a single valve at each green and tee. The valves at the green are quick couplers, with about 100 feet of hose needed to allow three sets a night. The pressure is such that we get 10 greens a night, and the tees in the early morning whenever possible.

The west nine has a Toro automatic system, with Griswold controllers. It is an always up hydraulic controlled system, with five heads on the green, three on the tees, and ten to twelve on the fairways. The mains are six inch transite and plastic, at four, three, and two inches. We have had two broken pipes in ten years. The pump is rated 480 G.P.M.'s. We have had an occasional accident with the switch in the controller sticking, or the filters plugging up and causing the head to pop up. All in all, it is a really good system.

These are the basic changes, with many more subtle things, such as the elimination of bunkers and quite a

bit less rough. The difference is mostly size; bigger greens, bigger tees, bigger traps and larger irrigation lines, along with improved soil mix on tees and greens.

Robert Breen
Supt. - Arrowhead G.C.



2 N 255 County Farm Rd.

West Chicago, Ill. 60185

Phone 668-5537

It's
Playable



Rated First for:

- QUALITY
- DENSITY
- WEAR TOLERANCE
- SHADE TOLERANCE

Used straight or mixed with other elite bluegrasses, your turf problems are all but solved. Highly disease and drought resistant and it can be mowed down to ½ inch...ideal from the tee to the green.

BENTGRASS SOD OR STOLONS
Penncross - Cohansy C-7 - Toronto C-15

Available as Sod, Sod Blend, Sod Plugs and Seed.

Warren's TURF NURSERY, INC.

8400 West 111th. Street
Palos Hill, IL 60465 - Phone: 312/974-3000

Midwest Turf Field Day will be Monday, September 25, 1978. Purdue Agronomy Farm -- 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The 1979 Midwest Turf Conference is 12-14 March.