

This is part two of the history of Chicago Golf Club.

Chicago Golf Club was justly proud of its course. The club at one time employed a grounds crew of 66 workers to keep it in first-class shape. Of the crew, 37 were weeders, handpicking crabgrass out of the lush fairways.

The Walker Cup Matches, the only international golf competition held in the Chicago area, came to the club in 1928. The American team was captained by the immortal Robert Tyre Jones, Jr.

Bobby Jones was just one of the legends playing for the United States team. Francis Ouimet and Evans were two of the better known members of the team. Ouimet ended the British domination of American golf in 1913 by winning the U.S. Open in a playoff with England's Harry Vardon and Ted Ray. He also won the U.S. Amateur in 1914 and 1931.

The matches were a tremendous victory for the United States. The 11-1 margin was the most decisive in the five meetings of the two countries. Unfortunately, local hero Evans was the only American loser. Evans lost to Tony Torrance 1-up but combined with Jones to win their foursome match with three birdies on the last five holes.

Jones, who won every important event of his day, exhibited the skill of which legends are made. He thrashed T.P. Perkins 13-and-12 in his singles match and set the course competitive record of 66 that still stands. Perkins won just two holes of the scheduled 36-hole match.

Chicago Golf Club hasn't been used as a venue of a major tournament since Jones' spectacular performance. It has hosted a junior qualifying event, the Illinois PGA Match Play Championship, and a U.S. Open sectional qualifying tournament.

But it can't really be said the course is making a comeback. To make a comeback would mean the course has been out of touch with golf. It is still the same course it was for the Walker Cup and will prove to be a test for anyone who has the opportunity to play it. The seniors will find the course just as Jones, Evans, and Ouimet found it 51 years ago.

"Several years ago, when we had the U.S. Open sectional qualifying here, a USGA official told me all we had to do was change the cups for one of their tournaments," said Gerber. "They haven't requested anything special for the tournament."

The competitors in the seniors will find the course more like the Walker Cup course than the members have in the past 51 years, if the USGA has its way. Hannigan wants to use a tee on the 443-yard second hole that would lengthen the hole, said to be designed after St. Andrews' famed No. 17 Road Hole, to 481 yards and a par five.

"I was surprised they requested it," said Gerber, who has been at the club 24 years. "It hasn't been used since the 1928 Walker Cup match, and I get the impression they requested it because No. 1 and No. 2 are very similar."

They are similarly tough. The first hole is a 442-yard par four, the last 200 yards of which are uphill. The green is trapped well, as is nearly every green.

Club pro Don Stickney, who holds the course record of 64, thinks the second hole is the "toughest hole in Chicago" and won't get much argument. The fairway is guarded by mounds and bunkers that Raynor and Macdonald built on the former pasture to catch errant tee shots. The green is large and about 200 yards from a well-struck tee shot. It may not be identical to the Road Hole at St. Andrews, but players at Chicago Golf Club, just like those on the Old Course, don't curse a bogey.

"They had the tee back there and hadn't used it for a long time," said Hannigan, whose proposal of making No. 2 a par five hasn't been unanimously accepted by CGC members. "That would make it a par five instead of a long par four. It's just a question of the field. This is not the U.S. Open, and starting out with two brutal par fours would be very tough on some of the competitors."

The first four holes are a severe test of mental and physical golf ability. The third hole is a 216-yard, par three and the fourth hole is a 540-yard par five, the No. 1 handicap hole.

"The first four holes are what kills you," said Stickney, who has been at Chicago Golf Club for 10 years. "That's where you go over par. You might be able to get some strokes back on the rest of the course."

The fifth hole is a 317-yard, par four. After playing No. 4, competitors will be looking for a breather.

"No. 4 is the toughest hole for the average member," said John D'Arey, a member from Geneva. "Not just because it's a par five. It's the tee shot. If you slice, you're in the woods and if you're left, you're in the trap."

Trees are strangely absent to the eye of the newcomer to Chicago Golf Club. They don't line the fairways and only occasionally come into play. When Raynor and MacDonald laid out the new course, trees weren't being used as obstacles on the course. They were planted in groups at various points on the course. The real hazards were the mounds and bunkers and wire grass rough.

"The cost of building a course like this today would be prohibitive," said Gerber. "The type of architecture requires a lot of hand maintenance. He (Raynor) was a genius. I tried to make a bunker like that once — natural, wind-blown, sculptured — and mine didn't turn out like that. It turned out to look like something I built."

Unfortunately, many of the hazards are no longer in play for the scratch golfer because of the improvement of golf equipment. Players like Stickney are able to drive over many of the striking mounds that guard the fairways.

But the greens, regardless of whether you use a Zebra putter or Jones' Calamity Jane, match any in the world.

"The course is laid out like a Scottish course," said Stickney, who played college golf with Jack Nicklaus at Ohio State. "It requires length off the tee, but most of all, it requires good putting skills. The greens are large, huge. It's probably the most difficult part of the game here. If you can putt on these greens, you can score."

Although Raynor and Macdonald deserve credit for designing a course fit for championship play for nearly 50 years and Gerber and Stickney deserve credit for maintaining a first-class operation, the members of Chicago Golf Club are responsible for the course's preservation.

"The members deserve a great deal of credit," said Gerber. "At times they were under a great deal of pressure, but they have been strong enough to say no to changes."

"We don't change anything. One time I took out some insignificant bunkers, and oh my, the noise! They want it just like it's been for years. About eight or nine years ago, there was the feeling we could get an architect to suggest how the course could be improved. They got Jeffrey Cornish of New England, and he came out here and was thrilled. He essentially said keep it the same. He pointed out it has a lot of

interest for the average golfer and most of the golf played is by the average golfer."

The U.S. Senior Championship is growing in stature each year with players like Bill Campbell and Billy Joe Patten joining the ranks. Still, the course won't be ripped apart. The IPGA didn't have anyone break par for its 36-hole qualifying and three-over-par won the U.S. Open sectional.

"I've been playing for 30 years, and it gives me the same amount of trouble it always has," said member Thomas Merritt Jr. of St. Charles. "It always been a course that's given even the best players a hard time."

Stickney points out the course is not the type of layout that can be learned in one round. The fairways are not easily defined from the tees, and the weather affects distances. A Chicago Golf Club member, probably Dave Bronson who lobbied for the tournament, could go a long way.

Even if the USGA Senior Championship is the 1st major tournament Chicago Golf Club ever has, the club will have more than made its contribution to the game. It's history is overwhelming. Bobby Jones played there. Harris Vardon won the U.S. Open in 1900 there, despite whiffing a putt on the last hole; Johnny McDermott became the first American to win the U.S. Open in 1911 there.

Many older golf courses have become supermarkets or housing developments, but Chicago Golf Club probably will stand forever—and not just as a golf course.

"I've been in the Chicago District for 14 years," said an anonymous pro quoted by the late Charles Bartlett of the Chicago Tribune after qualifying for the 1967 Open sectional at Chicago Golf Club. "I've played everywhere, but never at Chicago Golf. This will be like going to Westminster Abbey, or that English Field near Wentworth where they signed the Magna Carta."

It's more than a golf course.

Credit - Suburban Trib



Gary Dorsch, our host supt.

Gary Dorsch, Superintendent at Spring Brook Golf Course invites you to attend the M.A.G.C.S. regular meeting on Monday, August 6th.

The following schedule has been set up: -

- Golf 10:00 to 12:00 only
- Carts 1st come, 1st serve basis
- Dinner 5:30 - Outdoor Bar-B-Que - \$6.50
- Short Meeting After dinner

Gary says, wear spikes and enjoy the food. No shower facilities! Barrel beer and soft drinks only will be served - Compliments of **Nadler Harley-Davidson**.

Spring Brook Golf Club is located in Naperville. Here's how you get there: - East of Route 59 and south of 75th street - Corner of 87th and Book Road. Southwest of Naperville.

The Host would appreciate knowing how many they should prepare for at the Bar-B-Que. Again, thank you for your cooperation.

- All Major Turf Supplies
- Par-Ex
- Bean Sprayers
- DuPont
- Chipco
- Vertagreen
- Daconil - Dacthal

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Dear Ray;

Frustration enters the picture from time to time and I believe attitude is the healing factor.

"ATTITUDES"

When your sand traps are raked
And it rains a deluge.
When your best man quits,
Who do you choose?
When Nature besieges you
And it seems no one's around.
You know what you'd like to do
With that once earned Crown.
Smile, grin and bear it,
Jump in with both feet.
Be determined, defiant,
"I will not be beat".
You'll find a new element
Will rise like the Sun,
To overcome all problems
And in the end, you have won.

Superintendently,

Kenneth R. Zanzig
Green Garden C.C.

FIRST, THE HANDSHAKE

It may seem a bit strange to reach across countless centuries to suggest that John Stonehatchet—in cave-man days when only those who feared the unknown survived—had anything to do with your business today. But he has a great deal to do with it.

Primitive men stayed alive only by learning the hard lesson: "Never trust a stranger until he proves himself a friend." The handshake—originally used to show that a man wasn't holding a club—is a continual reminder of man's instinctive distrust of people he doesn't know.

The building of your business—or any business—resolves itself into the simple formula of **making friends—of overcoming a prospective customer's natural distrust of strangers**. And the surest and quickest way to overcome this distrust is by a series of friendly, helpful contacts over a period of time.

Yes, friends can be **very** important to your organization.