

## Director's Column



### Those Were the Days

by Ed Braunsky, Geneva Golf Club

What a summer so far! With all the heat, lack of moisture and high humidity, I often wonder if this is what it was like 50 or 60 years ago.

Since we just honored those grand old "supers" we call seniors, I thought it would be neat to look back at activities and maintenance programs of years past.

I came upon some old copies of the *Bulletin of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association*. One copy was dated Volume 5, 1925 and the other Volume 8, 1928. The *Bulletins* have twelve months of information with about eight articles and thirty pages per month.

The 1925 volume has an article in January titled **"Building a Nine Hole Course for \$4,000"**. The article talks about how the labor, irrigation, seed, manure ("PU"), chemical fertilizer, tile and fence material would come in at \$3,934.88. With the change you could take the crew to Burger King in the horse and buggy. It also talks about how the actual construction would need to be done and monitored. "Cooperation of the membership in the actual labor of construction, and daily supervision by the one in charge means a saving of a large portion of the ordinary expenses by promoting a good spirit among the workmen and forestalling costly mistakes." Other points include: "There is under consideration a plan to secure a house that will serve as the greenskeeper's residence and provide the club members with two locker rooms with showers, a lounging room, and a porch that will permit, if desired, the selling of soft drinks and light lunches by the greenskeeper's wife". I will save that last one for my wife when she complains about not getting out much. The article closes with "If Britain can give good golf on 18-hole courses for five or six guineas (is that as in pig?), we can give it in Oberlin on a 9-hole course for twenty dollars. Other articles for the 1925 volume include: **"Destroying Pocket Gophers"**, **"How to Use Manure"**, and **"Winter-Killing in the Chicago District"**, which quotes Mr. Leonard Macomber, Green Chairman CDGA. He states, "We had a pretty bad ice storm in December and the *Poa trivialis* and of course the *Poa annua* patches have been entirely killed out, many of the greens being very badly spotted. This is especially noticeable at Exmoor, Flossmoor, Indian Hill, Evanston, and in fact at practically all of the older courses where *poa* species are found in the greens." Did I say this was 1925? Sounds more like spring 1991.

The 1928 Volume offers such gems as **"Controlling Fairway Weeds with Sulphate of Ammonia"**, **"Parasite Control of the Japanese Beetle"** and **"An Unusual Golf Course Pest."** The unusual pest story goes like this. "A recent letter from Mr. L. W. Kephart, who has spent several months in plant exploration in East Africa for the USDA, tells of a problem that greenskeepers encounter in some parts of that country, but with which they are never likely to be confronted in the US. In speaking of the golf course in Jinga on the north shore of Lake Victoria in the Province of Uganda, he says, 'In the evening, Bill and I took a stroll out across the beautiful golf course that has been built along the hillside overlooking the Lake and Falls. The Jinga golf course is, undoubtedly, distinguished from all other golf courses on earth, by reason of the fact that one of the chief difficulties of its manager is keeping the hippopotamuses off the greens. I have no doubt that many an inebriated American golfer has seen green crocodiles and purple hippos in his sleep, but they are a sure enough hazard. One evening, not long ago, a dance was held at the golf club. During an intermission, two couples went out for a stroll across the grass in the moonlight. Coming to a nicely shaded mound, they sat down to enjoy the moonlight. With an enormous grunt, the mound raised up beneath them, scattering the couples wildly in all directions, and moved off. Since then the Jingitas have chosen other scenes for their moonlight sonatas. It must be discouraging for a greenskeeper to have his carefully nurtured turf devoured in one gulp by a pensive hippopotamus' ".

As you can see, way back when, the same type of problems existed. If anyone wishes to look over these two Volumes, give me a call — 708/232-0627.

I will end this here since I need to jump on the Cushman to patrol for hippos.



## The USGA® Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) Procedure

ESC is the downward adjustment, for handicap purposes, of unusually high scores on individual holes which, if included in the 18-hole score, would be abnormally high in relation to the player's general ability. Each player is responsible for adjusting his score in accordance with the formula below before it is returned for handicap purposes.

On completion of each round, adjust your actual score as follows for USGA Handicap System purposes:

Course Handicap	Limitation on Hole Score
Plus or scratch	Limit of one over par on any hole.
1 through 18	Limit of two over par on number of holes equa to handicap. Limit of one over par on balance of holes.
19 through 36	Limit of three over par on as many holes as the handicap exceeds 18 strokes. Limit of two over par on balance of holes.
37 through 54	Limit of four over par on as many holes as the handicap exceeds 36 strokes. Limit of three over par on balance of holes.

For example, a player with a USGA Handicap Index of 21.8 who has a Course Handicap of 23 at a course with a relatively high Slope Rating would be allowed a maximum score of three over par on five holes and a maximum score of two over par on each of the remaining 13 holes. A player with a Course Handicap of 12 would be allowed a maximum of two over par on 12 holes and a maximum of one over par on each of the remaining six holes.

If a player starts but fails to complete a hole, he shall, for handicap purposes only, record a score for the hole in accordance with the above formula. There is no limit on the number of incompleting holes in a round provided incompleting is not for the purpose of controlling the handicap. A player should not discontinue play on a hole when there is a reasonable chance that he will play the hole in fewer strokes than the score allowed by ESC.

New golfers who have not established USGA Handicap Indexes should assume the USGA maximums of 36.4 for men and 40.4 for women - converted to the Course Handicap.

Example of application of ESC for a golfer with a course handicap of 23:

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	TOTAL
Par	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	3	5	5	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	71
Score	5	5	4	6	5	8	6	8	7	9	11	3	7	6	4	4	7	5	110
Over Par	1	2	0	2	1	③	2	⑤	2	④	⑦	0	②	0	1	③	1	—	
ESC Adjustment								-2		-1	-4						-1		102

A player with a course handicap of 23 strokes must adjust downward any hole score in excess of three over par. He is allowed a maximum of five hole scores of three over par; beyond that, the maximum allowable score for any hole is two over par. On the scorecard above, he has six scores of three over par or more. Accordingly, he must reduce to three over par the scores on the holes on which he scored more than three over par, and he must reduce to two over par the score on one of the holes on which he scored three over par. The 17th was selected arbitrarily to be lowered two over par. ESC is not related to the allocation of handicap strokes to the holes of a course.

For additional information on the USGA Handicap System, refer to the *USGA Handicap System and Golf Committee Manual*.

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION®  
Golf House, Far Hills, NJ 07931