

T a l k i n g I t O v e r

Enough Glory for All of Them

There's work enough and glory enough for the heads of all of the operating departments of a golf club. The most successful club men know this and where they are located the manager, the professional and the greenkeeper dwell in harmony and labor with results that are highly satisfactory to their organizations and members. Many times club department heads achieve success despite a lack of mutual understanding and co-operation, but they are overlooking a way to make their work easier and better. This room for improvement strikes us as being particularly large where the club is big enough to have both a greenkeeper and a professional. Far too many times these two men are in a relation just about as cordial as that of guerilla warfare.

Relations between the various heads of club departments call for an interest in the work and success of their associates for the good of the club. Not as much tact is used in expressing this interest as the conditions demand. The result is unpleasant and unprofitable. A good policy is "don't meddle." One of the veteran leaders in the greenkeeping field recently expressed himself on the situation in these words:

"Some members of clubs are practically to blame for a good deal of the touchiness that exists where there should be complete peace and team-work. Unthinkingly these members comment only to the pro on the condition of the course, expressing adverse criticism without knowing the facts. One thing leads to another, with the outcome being that the greenkeeper begins thinking he is the underdog and by not having the criticism come through the proper channel, is being denied the privilege of correcting any shortcoming or explaining any fault that has a valid explanation."

The inter-departmental misunderstandings possibly exhibit too much the touch of prima donna temperament, but they are certainly a factor that must be considered in the efficient management of any golf club. Committees that function correctly will do much to eliminate this source of grief.

Unconsidered Trifles That Rob Us

Business men are carrying the lessons of their industries into their golf club activities and one of the first things that they decided upon is that "just because it's being done, it isn't right." This apparent eagerness to shatter idols has put a heavy penalty on many items of golf club operation, though it has the saving grace of revealing a number of mistakes that are hallowed by tradition.

In the philistine crusades of new administrations and in the hopeful activities of the organizers of new clubs, one of the best places to look for a chance of doing something differently is in the ordinarily neglected details.

Take the matter of drainage for an example. Most traps are drained from

Between Ourselves

their lowest point with an outlet that is hopelessly inadequate. One bright golf course builder got the hunch that a five foot square drain filled with crushed rock and having an outlet below the frost line wouldn't cost much more and would amply take care of the storm rains that make the traps miniature lakes for days. On the entire course the cost of increasing the drainage facilities during construction, in this manner, was practically unnoticeable. The result was that play on this course proceeds within a very brief time after torrential downpours, with the traps devoid of water.

It's the little places that are unheeded too often and keep aggravating every committee and every department head connected with the club.

Planned Buying Calls for Early Action

Waiting until the last minute to buy has been responsible for many extravagances in club operation. Delay results in snap judgment and places a heavy burden on the manufacturer who often is asked to do the impossible in making deliveries. Although committee members fully realize the cost and risk in postponing their deliberations and decisions in their own business enterprises, they unwittingly allow the condition to prevail in their golf clubs.

The good housewifely practice of shopping around and then buying in line with well defined requirements is an operation that will start many golf clubs right on a year's program of thrifty management.

The Helping Hand for the Small Club

One of the leaders in American golf has aptly pointed out that a serious menace to the game is "the delusion of grandeur." In the larger cities, with a vast and wealthy population to draw upon for members, the high hat may be fitting and proper. Among the smaller clubs, which constitute half of the country's organizations, golf is primarily and solely a sport and there's the social asset idea connected with golf club membership only to the extent that the best fellows in the community naturally are attracted to the pastime.

It's these smaller clubs that are fighting out their battles in solo flights. One of GOLFDOM'S prime functions is to serve as a medium of exchange of experiences between the clubs in the smaller towns. In addition to the editorial material we dig up ourselves, we always will extend a warm welcome to contributions from smaller club executives and operating personnel, concerning their problems, and their discoveries of improved methods. Matters concerning the location, organization, financing, membership solicitation, construction and maintenance of course and clubhouse and other such practical details, have been worked out with varying success by clubs that will benefit mutually and help the newcomers by publishing their observations.