



Home of the Tenison Park Municipal Golf Course, Dallas, Texas

Dallas Gets High Grade Park Golf

THE playing condition of the Tenison Park Municipal golf course in Dallas—to which the National Pro Champion, Walter Hagen, saw fit to pay a high tribute—is attributable to several things. First and foremost among them is the terrain of the park which was donated to Dallas by the late E. O. Tenison. It would hardly be possible to find another 125 acre tract of land near Dallas as well suited for golf purposes.

Before telling of the method of maintenance used in keeping the course in good condition during the winter months it will be necessary to mention the construction of the greens and the general layout of the course. In the first place, the Park Board delayed the construction of the course until enough adjoining land could be secured to assure an ideal layout—where the first and tenth tees and the ninth and eighteenth greens were located near the clubhouse. Then the services of Jack Burke of Houston, were secured for the purpose of laying out an 18 hole course. Burke, assisted by Syd Cooper, father of Harry Cooper, spent several weeks in studying the situation and finally recommended to the Park Board the present layout—which includes every golf shot imaginable.

The next problem that confronted the Park Board was the construction of the greens. This was happily solved by a

citizen of Dallas, Mr. Louis Jacoby, who gave his services freely to the Park Board. Mr. Jacoby had been on the Green Committees of the Dallas Country club and Brook Hollow Country club for 12 or 15 years and the Tenison Park greens bear witness to the fact that he ranks high as an amateur golf architect. He saw to it that the greens were made exceptionally large to take care of the enormous play anticipated at Tenison. He also supervised the construction of the slopes, rolls, traps and general contour of each green. Under his instructions the proper amount of cinders, soil and fertilizer was properly placed under the greens. In fact, too much credit cannot be given to Mr. Jacoby for the present condition of the Tenison Park course.

Upon the construction of the course the matter of maintenance confronted the Park Board. It was then that Mr. Jacoby and Mr. Roy Munger of the Dallas Country club came to the assistance of the Park Board. Also, J. V. Hawkins, greenskeeper at the Dallas Country Club. One of the first acts of Mr. Hawkins was to sacrifice his own organization by letting the city of Dallas have his assistant, M. L. Grigsby as foreman at Tenison. Hawkins still continues to make his bi-weekly visits to the course to confer with Grigsby who is fast developing into a real green-



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keeper himself. The maintenance of the course is left entirely to them.

Greenkeeping Practice

During the summer the greens are cut every day and watered every night. The cups are changed often to rest the used portions. Every two or three weeks the greens are topdressed with a mixture of sandy loam and dairy fertilizer—giving them a soft springy surface. Care is taken not to water the greens too late in the fall. During the winter when the grass dies down the greens are topdressed with sand which is kept loose with a nail drag and smoothed down by a specially constructed mat. The greens are watched closely for weeds and winter grasses which are immediately pulled up by the roots. When not busy on the greens the men are leveling fairways, raking leaves or spreading rich soil on bare places in the fairways. The entire operation of the course is directed at improving its condition at all times. In this respect, Syd Cooper, professional of the course, has rendered invaluable service by cooperating with the greenkeeper.

The condition of Tenison Park course, as well as the other three municipal courses, is largely due to the liberal policy of the Dallas Park Board which operates two grass green courses and two with sand greens. While Tenison Park has the reputation of being a sporty course, it is doubtful if there are nine sportier holes in Texas than those at Stevens Park "Muny" course. Every hole has plenty of hazards, most of which are water hazards. The Park Department is now constructing nine additional greens at Stevens which, when finished, will rival Tenison in beauty, layout and condition. The Oak Grove Course has 18 sand greens, while the nine hole sand green course at Randall Park is maintained for children who play free at all times.

Greens Are Donated

In constructing Tenison and Stevens the Park Board ran short of funds but public spirited citizens and concerns came forward quickly and put the proposition over. The following individuals and concerns each gave \$500.00 or the equivalent for the construction of a grass green which is designated as their green by a bronze tablet on the greens master marker at the back of the green:

Mrs. E. O. Tenison

M. P. Exline (two greens)
 Central Bitulithic
 Metzgers Dairy
 Southwestern Bell Telephone
 Fuller Construction company
 Times-Herald
 Louis Jacoby
 Mike H. Thomas
 Schepps Bakery
 Walter A. Stevens
 Chas. A. Mangold

Under the following men who compose the Park Board, the Municipal Golf Courses of Dallas were developed: Mayor L. Blaylock, President; Emil Fretz, Vice-President; Geo. S. Leachman, S. E. Moss, Harvey S. Trewitt.

To say that the condition of Tenison Park Golf links is due to any one cause would be erroneous. It would be better to say that the fine playing condition which Walter Hagen saw fit to comment so favorably on is due to five causes, namely: 1—The nature of the ground itself; 2—The layout and construction of the course; 3—Proper construction of the greens; 4—Co-operation of Louis Jacoby and the Dallas Country club, and 5—The liberal policy of maintenance adopted by the Park Board.

One Treatment Cures Trap Neglect

THE Greens chairman at a Pennsylvania club has discovered a most successful method of educating the members to cover foot-prints and repair other damage done by them in playing out of sand-traps. The scheme is not only unusual and effective, but is also adaptable to conditions everywhere.

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