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## GOLF EQUIPMENT

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## Trials and Triumphs of the Green-Committeemen

BY "ONE OF THEM."

AN OLD adage reads "misery loves company." Possibly some Green Committee chairman will relish a few words recording the problems and tribulations peculiar to their vocation.

Many of us have had days filled with business troubles and nights broken by hallucinations arising from causes common to the responsibility assumed;—little details in themselves, but like the good housewife who has boasted unwisely of the table manners of her children, the bugaboos appear to crop out only when elite company is entertained as guests.

Take the first appearance of brown patch showing up on your pet green. Did you ever know it to fail on some fine clear morning when a visiting committeeman was your partner in a competitive game, that No. 12 would develop this insidious trouble? You had just explained in answer to his inevitable query that this fungus growth never visited your greens, in fact you always exercised precaution to quarantine against its appearance. But on this day of days, there it was in an advanced stage, staring you in the face.

Then there always comes the day when the crack golfer of the section decides to accept your invitation to play your course and review with a critical eye all that you have worried and stewed over all season. Did you ever accompany one who found only those traps with heel prints like elephant's tracks and bunkers with whisker growth that would phase a native Scot used to getting a ball out of gorse.

Again there is that group of golfers known as "Calamity Janes" who have been appeased through converting the slight semi-rough places off the line of play into fairgreens, thus bettering their accumulative scores through improved lies. (This last word can be interpreted literally.) Along comes a very good golfing friend of yours and wants to play for stakes. It invariably happens that on the short 8th hole, he will pull his mashie shot and find his ball setting right up on well clipped grass which should be semi-rough. Here is a test for the mental balance of any green chairman.

Coming to the putting greens and their condition, beware of the old proverb "pride goeth before a fall." A day will come when

you are playing in a foursome comprised of members of your committee and it will be pretty hard to swallow your chagrin after trying to putt from the back of a deep green to find the ball deflected by worm-casts. Especially so, since only a day or two before you had bragged about the truthfulness of all your greens. This will be one of the few days when, due to urgent demand of other work, the greenkeeper was forced to forego whipping the greens and perchance one of the operators of the putting green mowers had slighted the cutting of this particular green. But what can you say?

But to paraphrase a popular cartoonist, "Ain't it a g-r-a-n-d and g-l-o-r-i-o-u-s feeling" to have crack tournament players come in from a match complaining that greens are too keen, flags located at too strategic points and traps too heavily sanded and grooved parallel with the length of green. Result, an 82 where they had predicted a general spread eagle of the field and anticipated their medal scores the equal, or better, of par. Then you rise in your majesty but wisely keep absolute silence. Your last thoughts before settling into a sound and peaceful slumber, are sweet. You hold no malice towards human beings and there is no hatred in your heart. If every other effort of the season has failed and the greens burn out later in the summer, and it rains continuously for a week while you are on your vacation, all remorse is forgotten and you feel well repaid for your efforts, because it is a healthy sign to have good sound players crab and offer alibis when they meet and fail to master a one hundred percent golf test on a well designed, constructed and well maintained lay-out.

Mark this well! No delegation of honorary pall bearers of club members will follow your body to its last resting place; no eulogy will be pronounced by club directors, neither will an annuity be voted your widow, but your only recompense for years of toil and loss of good sleep on summer nights lies in your own personal pride at accomplishing what you set out to do. You have done the best you know with the limited means at hand. That is the supreme test and the average country club wonders where the next payroll is coming from.

Yours is a work that has no end; it is never finished. It has no recording angel to sound its message in clarion notes down the corridors of Time, but YOU are build-



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M541

ing something for posterity and you are a better citizen in your own community for having beautified a spot of ground. Your children and their offspring probably will forget all your attributes and life-work devoted to this pastime, and in their mad rush of modern day life, assume it all as theirs by birthright, but any golf course that has the heart throbs of a conscientious green-committeeman built into it is a lasting monument of his capacity to appreciate Nature's handiwork and he has builded better than he knows.

## Drastic Treatment for Divot Carelessness

HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB (Los Angeles district) is applying heroic treatment to the divot problem. In the first issue of the club's newsy house-organ, *The Squawker*, reference is made to the laziness and thoughtlessness responsible for the expensive divot damage, and the following statement is added:

"In the future any player neglecting to replace a divot will be subject to the following penalty:

"First offense—Name posted on bulletin board in caddie house as offender.

"Second offense—\$10.00 fine.

"Third offense—The Greens Committee will recommend to the Board of Governors that the offender be suspended from the use of the golf course for a period of time.

"This applies to caddie as well as player.

"It is requested of the membership at large that they report any such neglect as above mentioned. This can be done anonymously and is not considered tale-bearing—it is your *duty* as a member of the Hillcrest Country Club to help preserve your course and such reporting of an offense is in the line of duty."

The reference to fining caddies undoubtedly is just for effect, as it would be hard to collect such a fine.

As a matter of fact, even though Hillcrest has a wealthy membership, we doubt that the \$10 fine would be forthcoming without a howl that would be heard to high heaven. However, the way in which the situation is presented is certain to impress the membership with the seriousness of the matter.

Before you put big and compact masses of shrubs around the course, consider maintenance costs.

Spreading out the shrubs judiciously gives better effects and saves maintenance expense.