

Expert Clubmaker's IDEAS and TOOLS

Aid P. G. A. Members

By J. P. GALLAGHER

MY WORK as club-making instructor for the P. G. A. golf clinic at first found many of the leading pros skeptical as to what reception the golf clinic would receive from pros of the old school, who have made and are still making wonderful clubs. These experts were handicapped in many ways by the introduction of steel shafted clubs and this is where the golf clinic comes to their rescue.

In the first place, they had no tool to cut a steel shaft but a hacksaw or a grindstone. Now we have a shaftcutter that cuts a shaft clean in 10 seconds, also a riveting block with new type of punches that will drive out chromium or stainless rivets, and, with the aid of filing shields makes a finish that many manufacturers would envy. It has been the pros' lot that when a steel shaft broke in the hosel to send it to the manufacturers and wait from 2 to 3 weeks for its return. Now, any broken steel shaft can be extracted and a new one put in on short notice. This also applies to broken steel shafts in wood heads and I may say many pros are taking advantage of these tools.

There is also a gripping tool that will hold a club to make this job quite simple and also to put whipping on wood clubs.

I have found that many pros and club-makers have got the wrong idea on shafting steel shafts to

iron heads, i.e., grinding small end of shaft to fit hosel of iron head which as many know has been the cause of 75% of the breakage in steel shafts. Now, we ream out hosels of iron heads to fit the shafts. Steel shafts are always weak at small end. We have also two reamers that will bore out hosels of wood heads to fit any steel shaft on the market. The above tools together with screws for wood heads and also stainless rivets for iron heads comprise the new P. G. A. Tool Kit. I find that one demonstration of this kit will satisfy any pro that he cannot compete with his fellow pro without one.

New Tools

In the clinic we have a tool called the bending fixture that will take any iron club in four ways. That is, to put loft on or take it off, to make it upright or flat. One can readily see the many uses a tool of this type can accomplish for members who are getting stout and others that cannot get the ball up. In many shops a flat rate is charged on altering a set of clubs and a first class job is always accomplished.

There is also an adapter remover to remove adapters on steel shafted clubs and an adapter assembly to put on adapters when making up new clubs or to use when repairing clubs.

There is also a

THIS is the first complete story of the work of J. P. Gallagher, who is the traveling club-making expert for the PGA.

In the choice of Gallagher and the results of this work the PGA has scored a valuable, direct hit. The pros who have been visited by Gallagher and learned his methods are unanimous in endorsing the club clinic as one of the finest ideas for member service and business training ever introduced to American pro golf.



Gallagher stands here alongside the tools needed for efficient club-making. In the middle background is the new "deflector-board" he recommends all shops installing.

new tool that many manufacturers would envy. It will drive an iron head off a steel shaft that has not been fitted up properly. Many pros and club-makers know this job of driving a head off a shaft is quite detrimental in regard to lie of heads, i.e., when a mashie is tight on a shaft we have used a club or part of baseball bat to knock off the head with the result that we alter the lie to a number 4 or 3. Many use heat or a torch to expand hosel but this takes temper out of head and spoil finish on same.

There is a deflector board to give the deflection or whip in hickory or steel shafts and I may say is valuable in making up matched and balanced sets. In making up matched sets of hickory or steel shafted clubs, the advantage of this deflector board is the fact that one can get the right deflection in hickory or steel shafts to a much better degree than by the hand test. When a man has bought a set of woods, this board will tell with accuracy the deflection as to their matched and balanced qualities and we find that when a

man cannot play with one of his woods or iron clubs, this board tells with unfailing truth that this club is not matched to its fellow clubs. As you can readily see a board of this kind has many advantages over the old methods now in use and I believe that in the future every pro shop will have this deflection board listed in its equipment.

There is also a new face marker that will mark a wood face to compare with any manufacturers' clubs. Also new ideas for refinishing wood clubs. For many years we have used the scraper on this work and it takes a good club-maker to hold the lines and contour of a model. In this operation, we just use paint remover and find it does a splendid job and gives the member the same model and also the same weight as his club was when it was new.

New Listing Ideas

There are many new ideas in regards to listing such as cork, the lightest underlisting on the market, which will not

slip on the shaft, and for which the cost is meager.

We also have new acid stains in any color which will penetrate into the wood, not raise the grain of the wood and will not fill the varnish brush with color.

We have in the making, a stamping block for iron heads that permits any pro to stamp his own irons. Also one for wood heads that will not slip.

We also have a new loft and lie recorder for any club and a shafting or rest board for making hickory shafts which is a great improvement on the old type.

We have a transformer that will make a motor go in three speeds. Most pros know the value of this, as it will let them polish wood clubs of their own make, in fact any wood club finish.

Service Welcomed

No doubt many will be interested to know just how the pros receive me at the many shops I have visited during my time as clinic man. I have had a wonderful reception in practically every shop I have visited. Of course, there have been a few exceptions, and I have found that at first they have thought I was selling something in the line of clubs or balls and all shops have stocks of same on hand. I had to convince them that my mission was to their benefit.

It has taken me only 10 minutes, at the most, to prove to them that I was there to be of service to them. At my request for an iron or wood head with a broken shaft in hosel, I was always quickly accommodated. Many of these jobs have been an eye-sore to the pro and his assistants and when I get the tool kit to work, not only the pro but all his assistants are interested in my work. I will give a few instances of this:

At Philadelphia last week, I called on a pro and was told he was working away out on the course making a new green and might not be interested. However, I made my way out to this man and told him I was the P. G. A. clinic man. He said, "Jim, I have heard quite a lot about you," and then told the men to carry on with their work and came with me to his shop. At another shop I was working on a head getting out a broken steel shaft when a lady member came and asked this pro for a lesson. To my surprise he asked the lady, would she kindly wait just a few minutes till he saw me get broken steel shaft out of head.

I feel sure that it will be of much interest to the members of the P. G. A. as to how I was selected for the position of Clinic Man. I was reading a local paper and found that the P. G. A. was inaugurating a Golf Clinic composed of a Golf Instruction Committee, a Greenkeeping Committee and a Club-making Committee and that the Club-making instruction branch was to function in about two weeks' time. I learned that G. R. Jacobus, of the P. G. A. Ways and Means Committee, was the man to interview all applicants for this position. Having had many years of club-making experience in some of the best shops and factories on wood and steel shafted clubs in this country and abroad, I called on Jacobus at his shop at the Ridgewood (N. J.) C. C., and told him I was an applicant for the position. Naturally he asked me for whom I had worked also my references and if I could rough out wood heads and make a wood club from the rough, and also make matched and balanced sets in hickory. Having had a business of my own for many years I told him I could. He asked me what tools I had and would I bring them to his shop and demonstrate to his satisfaction the art of club-making. The next day I was at his shop with my tools. He went into detail on all operations pertaining to club-making in its many branches and seemed quite satisfied at my demonstration. Jacobus then got in touch with J. B. Mackie about my visit to his shop and I was requested to see Mackie and Jack Pirie. They asked me about club-making from every angle. It was finally decided that I was the man for this position.

Jacobus' instructions were that I do all in my power to help the younger pros and their assistants to be of better service to their members and not to dwell so much on selling, as helping the pro to help himself was my job. My reason for this statement is to verify the fact that no favoritism was shown to any applicant for this position.

The men who have been the means of putting this wonderful tool kit in the hands of the pro are Willie Ogg, through the co-operation of W. R. Ellingham, the manufacturer of these tools. Any pro that wants to really improve his shop equipment can do so by dropping a line to Ellingham, 87 Mechanic St., Worcester, Mass., and he will send a catalog on all tools pertaining to this class of work.