



Crescent Athletic Hamilton Club, on Long Island, has plenty of attendance at its model trapshooting and skeet field throughout the winter.

## Proper Facilities Bring Play at Long Island Trap Layout

ONE OF THE finest and most modern trapshooting layouts of the East is that of the Crescent Athletic Hamilton Club at Huntington, Long Island. With the exception of the shelter house, which was already on the site, the entire layout was installed last year and met with instantaneous patronage from the shooting element in the club's membership. On average days, with no event on the program, the attendance runs in the neighborhood of 10 shooters. Special days, when non-members are invited, 50 or more sportsmen frequently participate.

As can be observed in the accompanying photograph, taken at the time of the club's closing shoot last spring and furnished GOLFDOM by Peter J. Collins, chairman of Crescent Athletic's trapshooting committee, the layout consists of three straight traps and a skeet field. The site is between the club's two golf courses and

is conveniently located with reference to the clubhouse.

At the time the photograph was taken, the skeet field was not being used; instead, two squads are shooting straight traps. The third trap, in the far background, is idle. The universal appeal of trapshooting is indicated by the presence of two women at the fourth and fifth station of the squad in the foreground, and the young boy who is shooting as a member of the other squad. Interest in seeing the clay birds smashed is also apparent in the large gallery seated in front of the shelter house.

Crescent Athletic's trapshooting layout was financed partly by subscription and partly by earnings on the shooting. The club charges 3c per shot, two cents of which is for the bird and one cent is for prizes. A profit of about 12c is made on each box of 25 shells sold. That this small profit can run into fair figures is indicated

by the empty cartons and exploded shells around the feet of the trapshooters in the photo.

### Installing a Skeet Field.

On the general subject of skeet installation costs, GOLFDOM is indebted to Chas. W. Hopkins of the Western Cartridge Co., ammunition manufacturers of East Alton, Ill. Mr. Hopkins reports:

All costs in connection with skeet shooting, both to clubs and to shooters, have been greatly reduced in the past few years through an earnest effort on the part of manufacturers to popularize this greatest of all gun sports. An afternoon at skeet may now be enjoyed for approximately the same cost as eighteen or twenty-seven holes of golf.

Any golf club possessing a plot of waste ground approximately 300 by 600 yards can put in a skeet field at less cost than the expense involved in building one creeping-bent green. Practically all skeet equipment now on the market can be installed, operated and maintained by club personnel, due to the improvement and simplification of traps and control apparatus since this fascinating game was first introduced.

The lumber required to build the two trap-houses of a skeet installation can be purchased for approximately \$75, probably for much less if the club enjoys trade discount privileges. An additional expense of \$50 will cover the pay of two carpenters to erect the trap-houses and such other woodwork as may be required. This brings the cost of permanent improvements to the field, exclusive of operating equipment, to \$125.

### Match Equipment to Budget.

There are three combinations of trap and control equipment available, each possessing some distinct merit in utility or price. The two necessary traps to equip a skeet field can be purchased for as low as \$70 complete, provided economy is a factor and wire release apparatus, manually-controlled, is used.

Thus the total cost of a skeet field can be written into the club's ledger as low as \$195. It is desirable, however, to install electric release equipment wherever electric current is available. And, as a matter of fact, if electric current isn't available, equipment can be obtained which utilizes a storage battery in connection with direct current appliances.

Complete electric-release skeet equipment with alternating current appliances

may be had for \$140, which would bring the total cost of this type of de luxe installation to only \$265. The direct current battery installation is about \$15 more expensive, or \$280 in all.

Thus it will be seen that any golf club possessing the necessary waste ground can put a skeet field to work on the club deficit by an investment of less than \$300. Natural backgrounds and surroundings are always the most attractive, and except perhaps for some leveling of the ground at the shooting positions, there is little or no landscaping necessary or even desirable. For clubs with the inclination and the purse, the trap houses, guard rails and other features can be built of brick, concrete, native stone or even steel, while half-sawed logs with the bark left on have been used to produce a rustic effect in harmony with other rustic surroundings, such as benches and tables.

### Cost Is Dollar per Round.

Shells and targets can be purchased by the club and sold to members, or the targets only can be handled. Both are obtained through regular trade channels, at a cost of about 3¼c each for shells, and ¼c for each target. This makes a club cost of each round of ammunition fired at skeet of 4c. Since the round consists in firing 25 shells, the club cost of a round of skeet is just about an even dollar.

The sagacity of the skeet committee or other controlling body comes into play in fixing the shooter cost of the skeet round. This is where the club gets its money back and pays a profit as well, to say nothing of the revenue from beverages and other club sources while the members await their turns. Most committees insist that the standard price of the round be placed high enough to pay the wages of the trap boys, with a little profit added to care for improvements and replacements.

There is still another increment that can be added to the cost of skeet shooting, without inconveniencing the members, which is perhaps the most important of all. This is a small assessment on targets to retire the original investment. If, for example, an extra charge of 25 cents is placed on each individual round of skeet until the equipment is paid for, each squad of five shooters will produce \$1.25 for the sinking fund in less than thirty minutes.

Figured on this basis, it would require only 212 squads shooting the course to pay for the alternating current installation costing \$265. Most skeet committees are

quick to seize upon this possibility of revenue in making their financial arrangements with the Board of Directors. Or frequently, it has been found, individuals or the entire committee sponsor a loan for the purpose of installing the equipment, the club treasurer automatically retiring the note or notes as revenue accrues.

Those who have tried the pay-as-you-shoot plan describe it as effective under almost all conditions. Even if a club has only twenty shooters, the individual burden of retiring the investment in equipment is slight. Usually the number of new shooters attracted to skeet in late fall, winter and early spring so swells the list of patrons of the installation that one shooter seldom contributes more than \$10 through the target tax.

Summing it all up, this skeet business is so simple to install and easy to maintain, especially under the pay-as-you-shoot plan, that it's a wonder the trap manufacturers aren't swamped with orders.

Records of the phenomenal growth of skeet indicate that every man who ever fired a gun has at least a potential skeet complex. All he needs is a method of expression—in short, a place to shoot skeet.

## THE WOMAN SPEAKS

Greenkeeper's Wife Says Club  
Let's Husband Slave  
—and Starve

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"Is there a code covering golf course workers?" asks this wife of a much overworked and underpaid greenkeeper-caretaker-carpenter-jack-of-all-trades at an Iowa course. It's a tip-off to the advantage some unthinking clubs are taking of the present employment situation in the greenkeeping field.

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**I WANT TO SAY** a word in defense of the "forgotten man" of the golf industry, the greenkeeper-caretaker. Anyway I'll call it a defense—maybe I'm just letting off a little steam. If I told you about a man who worked twelve, fourteen and sometimes sixteen hours a day for seven months and received only \$420 a year for his work, you'd tell me the man must be crazy wouldn't you? Yet, being the wife

of one of these *crazy men*, I can tell you still more.

We are in charge of a beautiful little rolling 9-hole course here, on a lake shore. The course is supported by two nearby towns and there are a lot of fine people from both towns who play here. When we came here some years ago, friend husband was one of two men who drew a fair wage for six months of the year. Then came the depression and the other man was laid off. Friend husband took a cut in wages and assumed the work of two men, and anyone who has ever worked on a golf course must have some idea of how much *must* be done.

For five years he has attempted to clean sand traps, mow greens three times weekly, set up tables for dinner parties, tend furnace fires, keep rough mowed, mow fairways, keep caddies somewhere within bounds, care for tees, wash dishes after parties, clean up the clubhouse, repair machinery, do carpentry work and plumbing. In fact, sometimes I wonder how many men I've married and then again, I wonder if I have a man at all, I see him so seldom!

It's a great life! But somehow the joy of work well done turns sour when we are only provided with a 3-room house, have only a hammer and screw driver provided to work with and are not given a living wage. But we have four children, two in high school, and we must try to give them an adequate education.

I wonder, does our club appreciate the use of some \$150 worth of this *crazy man's* own tools, all his efforts to keep expenses down, his long hours of work, his running to turn on sprinklers some thoughtless player has turned off?

We wish our job was included in some NRA code so we could at least make expenses. He must take a job cornpicking, or what have you, to keep us through the winter. Do the directors try to find us a job for the balance of the year? They do not!

In fact, when we asked for wallboard to finish a fourth room we managed to get, they told us they couldn't afford it. I wonder, can *we* afford to heat a room entirely unfinished? Our wages? Out of \$1300 spent during the year a year ago, \$350 was spent for wages. Yes, I guess they appreciate what my greenkeeper, caretaker, jack of all trades husband has done—*not!* So what?

JUST A WIFE.