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THE "PEEPUL'S" CLUB

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Many private club facilities are offered at Bethpage State Park, Long Island, where this year's Public Links championship will be played.

BETHPAGE STATE PARK, Farmingdale, N. Y., scene of the 1936 Public Links Championship, July 20-25, is the largest publicly owned golf center in the world. It was conceived by Robert Moses, president of the Long Island State Park commission and commissioner of parks of the City of New York, as a means of acquiring for public recreation a large private estate which was about to be put on the market, subdivided and sold off in small lots. Located 32 miles from the heart of New York City, Bethpage has become the mecca for a great army of metropolitan golfers who cannot afford private clubs and who here find facilities of a private club in a completely democratic atmosphere. In the parking fields may be seen large cars and small, antiquated and new; on the golf courses well-to-do people with caddies, playing behind clerks and mechanics carrying their own bags. In the grill and locker-rooms, golfers from all walks of life eat, drink and enjoy themselves, brought together by the unique facilities which this park offers.

The construction of Bethpage is an accomplishment of the depression. With relief funds and labor supplied by the CWA and TERA, the Long Island State Park commission, acting as the Bethpage Park Authority, has constructed on the 1,368 acres of rolling woodland and farmland four golf courses, tennis courts,

eight miles of bridle path, athletic and polo fields, and picnic areas. Dominating the entire development, situated as it is on the highest hill in the park, is the Long Island colonial clubhouse, 358 feet long. It contains locker-rooms, shower-rooms, men's and women's lounges and card rooms, a main dining room, private dining rooms, and grill. The furniture, copied from the American periods and of finest workmanship, was constructed entirely by relief labor.

Pro-Shop Is Well Laid Out

Bethpage's pro-shop, strategically located in the entrance lobby opposite the main desk, presents a varied assortment of golf accessories, displayed in electrically lighted showcases or in glass enclosed cases against the wall. The shop, because of its attractive arrangement and line of goods, is superior to the usual public links shop. Al Brosch, energetic young pro, is kept busy throughout the year with the business he has developed through his obliging personality and his willingness to hold to the spirit of Bethpage; namely, service to the public. His patience and teaching ability play no small part in the building up of his classes.

The four golf courses, with the excep-

tion of the starting and finishing holes, are lost from view of the clubhouse, lying amid the hills and woods that give to each of the 72 holes individuality and charm.

From the starting tees may be seen some of the attractive white rain sheds which add to the beauty of the landscape. These are fitted with a revolving panel which may be turned in whatever direction desired to give shelter from the rain.

Courses Have Colors as Guides

For purposes of operation, the courses are distinguished by the names Red, Blue, Black and Green. Score cards, tee balls, signs, drinking fountains, machinery and tools are all marked with the color of their respective courses. Thus a golfer who chooses to play the Blue course, over which the 1936 Public Links Tournament will be played, is directed to the first tee by signs with blue lettering, where he is given a score card printed with blue ink; he tees off from behind blue tee markers and refreshes himself at drinking fountains painted blue.

Similarly a workman on the Red course uses tools and machinery marked with the color of that course and the foreman has better control of the machinery assigned to him through this system. The Blue, Red and Green courses were designed with an eye to handling large numbers of players with a minimum of delays, but all provide a great test of golf. The Black course was designed to give the golfer as hard a test as can be found anywhere in the country.

The fairways of Bethpage are seeded with a mixture of Cheving's New Zealand fescue and colonial bent; the rough is a combination of the natural growth of blueberry bushes, sedge and andropogon, supplemented with orchard grass, hard fescue and other grasses to give a formidable and colorful appearance.

Caddies Are Uniformed

The operation of the golf courses, which includes the organization and distribution of between 500 and 600 caddies, the registration and starting of from 1,000 to 1,500 golfers daily, the patrolling of the courses by trained rangers, handling of private tournaments, and generally keeping the army of golfers happy, is the responsibility of Bob Jablonsky.

Jablonsky's caddies are neatly uni-

formed in khaki trousers, white polo shirts and red caps on which the caddies' numbers are prominently displayed. A school is maintained each spring and as necessary throughout the summer for the instruction of recruits.

Control of caddies while "carrying" is closely supervised by the ubiquitous rangers who watch for violation of rules and regulate the play. Punishment for violations by caddies is through time off for a period designated by the Superintendent of Golf Course Operation. Bethpage is proud of its caddies whom A. W. Tillinghast has described as conducting themselves "like well trained and neatly dressed soldiers." A playground is being developed for their exclusive use where they will be under the supervision of a competent playground instructor. Caddies are called from the caddie playground as needed to the first tees by means of a telephone system operating through a central switchboard at the clubhouse. This telephone system also provides for prompt information regarding starting time and other details necessary to expedite the control of large numbers of golfers.

Rangers Keep Order

Rangers are carefully selected for their appearance, knowledge of the game, and ability to maintain the respect of both the caddies and golfers. Players unacquainted with the rules of golf or those knowing it and failing to comply are quietly but firmly brought into line. Daily reports from starters and rangers are kept on file from which may be obtained the number, names and addresses of players, their caddies' numbers, number of "second rounders", violation of rules by caddies, and caddie attendance records.

Maintenance of all four courses is supervised by "Doc" Whitson. "Doc" diagnoses the ailments of the turf and maps out the daily, monthly and yearly programs of topdressing, fertilizing, renovations, mowing, watering and the numerous other details of maintenance. These programs are carried out by a foreman in charge of each course. These foremen are keenly proud of their respective courses and a guarded rivalry is ever present among them. A complete set of maintenance machinery and tools is assigned to each of these foremen and is kept in sheds located in the center of each



In size and architectural richness, the Bethpage clubhouse rivals many a private club structure.

course. The sheds were designed and built expressly to house the machinery, tools and equipment planned for them. A standard layout is maintained and at any time the greenkeeper may visit a shed to check its contents.

Machinery Bought With Care

All the machinery at Bethpage has been purchased subject to specifications compiled by the engineering staff of the Bethpage Park Authority and Long Island State Park commission. These specifications require not only great mechanical efficiency, but also a great degree of operating economy. Under no circumstances can machinery assigned to the various foremen be adjusted or repaired by them. All machinery is under the supervision and maintenance of a chief mechanic, and one of his assistants visits each shed daily to make necessary adjustments and minor repair.

The chief mechanic is also entirely responsible for the irrigation system. This irrigation system is supplied with water from two deep wells delivering 1,500 gallons of water per minute into a 700,000 gallon reservoir from which it is pumped at a pressure of 150 pounds to all parts of the park. During July and August, Bethpage uses as much as 1,200,000 gallons of water per day for irrigation purposes but at no time is it used except to keep fairways and greens in a healthy condition. Over-watering is avoided by the management.

All told, Bethpage has been designed and is operated to give to the public links golfer the best to be had in golf courses.

Deadheads on USGA Greens Service Give Britons \$11,000 Research Edge

THE Board of Greenkeeping Research, British counterpart of the USGA Green Section has advised by visit or correspondence 1,004 golf clubs in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales during the five years since its organization.

The Greenkeeper's Advisory committee has suggested to the Board a visit by R. B. Dawson, director of research at the Board's St. Ives station, to the USGA Green Section's Arlington station and other course maintenance stations in this country and Canada.

Spent in highly valuable research by the British Board in 1935 was approximately \$23,000, against the USGA Green Section 1935 expenditure of \$12,864. The USGA Green Section 1935 expense was 51.7% of the associations' entire dues receipts and over a period of nine years the USGA has spent an average of 98% of its dues income on Green Section work.

Obviously, then, the USGA Green Section, which is considered a model by the British and which has contributed greatly to improvement of maintenance standards in this country, is being seriously handicapped by deadheads who ride on a pass and pay USGA dues for their share of the Section's efficient operation.

The British Board is financed by those who share in its numerous benefits. It is to be hoped that American clubs that have not joined the USGA will promptly authorize the \$35 initiation and annual dues fee and follow the excellent example of their British cousins in a sportsmanlike splitting of Green Section operating costs.