

AUSSIE GREENSMEN DEBATE DIPLOMAS

GREENKEEPERS and others active in Australian golf are stirred by a debate among Victorian greenkeepers as to the advisability of issuing diplomas which are to be, in effect, certificates attesting to the greenkeeping ability of their holders. Some greenkeepers in Victoria object to the plan saying that such diplomas might be secured by incompetent amateurs after going through a lecture course but without required practical experience.

The subject is commented on editorially by "Golf in Australia," under the heading "Greenkeepers Interests Should Be Protected":

"There seems to be some difficulty in convincing the Victorian greenkeepers of the full advantages accruing from an association conducted on similar lines to that of the New South Wales body. While they certainly have formed an association of greenkeepers in Victoria, they seem to miss out on an important angle—that of provision for a greenkeeping diploma course for a certificate which denotes competency through examination for the man holding such. Only bona fide golf course, bowling green, etc., employees should be eligible to hold this diploma.

Diplomas Would Guarantee Holders Know Job

"While it might be desirable in an isolated case for a green committeeman to be eligible to sit for the examination for this distinction, the motive behind the whole scheme is that all greenkeeping employees be competent and educated in their particular craft to the ultimate benefit of the courses on which they are employed.

"If Tom, Dick or Harry; amateurs, professionals, outsiders and others were permitted to hold these greenkeeping diplomas, the legitimate golf course employee would be justified in thinking that there would be intrusion into his own particular sphere, and consequently have none of it.

"Self preservation is the first law of nature, and the Victorian greenkeeper can hardly be blamed for endeavouring to protect his own interests. If the Victorian Greenkeepers' Association decides to adopt the diploma idea it should stipulate plainly that it is for the bona fide greenkeeper only, for the man to whom the study of

this important part of the game is paramount, and who has made of it his career."

In a letter to the editor of the publication, which appears in the same issue as the foregoing editorial comment, George Orreill writes: Sir,—As an amateur golfer who played a small part in the establishment of the N.S.W. Greenkeepers' association, and the subsequent Diploma course of lectures under its auspices, I was interested to read in the Victorian Notes in your last issue, that the authorities in that State are making a move to organize a greenkeepers' lecture course.

Your correspondent expresses disappointment at the fact that some of the "Curators" (and by that I take it he means Greenkeepers) are luke-warm or even hostile to the proposal.

He's Afraid Amateurs May Qualify

If, as the notes state, green committeemen, secretaries and members of golf clubs, as well as golf course employees, are to be permitted to attend the lectures and later endeavour to gain the Diploma, the possibilities of these "amateurs" entering into active competition for employment, against bona fide greenkeepers, is by no means remote.

Small wonder that there are objections from golf course employees to this scheme as outlined by your correspondent.

If I might presume to give advice to the Victorian powers that be, it would be this:—

- (1) Organize a Greenkeepers' Association. Membership open to bona fide golf course employees, green committeemen, secretaries, and any other interested parties, such as bowling clubs, etc. In N.S.W. the golf course employee pays a subscription of 2/6 per annum, as against 5/- charged others, whom I will describe as amateurs.)

This body will arrange for lectures on different aspects, such as course architecture, turf culture, machinery, etc. Each lecture to be given by a recognized expert on the subject.

The lecture at the last meeting of the N.S.W. Greenkeepers' Association was delivered by four members,

who are all employed on various golf courses. A very successful night resulted. The membership and activities of this Association would be entirely separate and distinct from the Diploma course of lectures.

- (2) When the syllabus for the Diploma course of lectures is drawn up, applications to attend this course and the final examination, and granting of Diploma, should be restricted to bona fide golf course employees.

If some such method as I have outlined is followed, most, if not all, of the cause for suspicion will be removed and the proposed course can only result in mutual benefit to both interested parties.

"You Buy From Yourself," Club Tells Members in House Organ

CASCADE HILLS CC, Grand Rapids, Mich., is doing a great job of selling use of its new clubhouse to its members. The "Cascader," club house-organ, presents details of a packed and lively fall clubhouse entertainment program. A brisk schedule of outside events is conducted by Cascade's pro, Maurie Wells.

A selling point that might well be used in other club publications runs:

"It is necessary that you give Cascade your support. You are a stockholder. It is your property. It's success isn't a matter of which you can be indifferent. The club activities are your activities. When you desire a meal, buy it from yourself, so to speak. When you want an evening out, spend it at your private club; it's to your advantage. When 325 members get this idea there will never be any doubt about the club being used to capacity and the future will be all the more to your liking."

Suggests Yardage Markers Show Distance Left to Go

JIMMY ANDERSON, smart pro at Pine Lake CC (Detroit district) is employing an idea that looks good to us as an aid for the average golfer who needs help to better his score and increase his interest in the game.

Says Jim: "Many times in playing with members I have heard them say, 'How far am I from the green?'"

"Yardage markers usually stop at 250 yds. Next year I am going to have markers that will mark 100 yds. from the green and 150 yds. from the green. These

will be especially suitable on long par 4's and 5's."

GREENKEEPERS in many districts are complaining about long spikes on golf shoes tearing up greens. Greens water-softened by the demands of members are torn by the scuffling and twisting of spikes, particularly in the cup area, regardless of the lack of nap in the grass.

The greenkeepers confess themselves pretty well whipped unless they are permitted to ease up on watering.

Another widespread cause of sorrow to greenkeepers this year has been the terrific hacking given tees because of this year's heavier play. Daily change of tee markers, less watering and longer cutting are offsetting the heavy play damage.

THE "Hillrester," club magazine of the Hillcrest CC (Kansas City district) contains a request that should go on golf club bulletin boards. Under the heading "Don't Do That," the Hillrester says:

"Don't do what? Don't flip balls out of the cup with your putter. Why not? Because it breaks down the sides of the cup and damages the green.

"The Greens Committee requests your co-operation in seeing that this practice is stopped."

Seaside Routs Poa—One possible answer to the problem of poa annua in greens is being observed by John MacGregor, supt., Chicago GC. A year ago Mac, after spiking greens infested with poa annua, sowed seaside bent. The spiking was done without weights so the holes were not deep. The seaside took strong anchorage in the spiked greens and this summer spread in taking over surface formerly held by poa annua.

MacGregor again spiked and sowed to seaside this fall and will repeat the operation next spring to hasten the spread of bent and its displacement of poa annua.

Hold Fourth Tourney—Hartford (Conn.) District progressive golf tournament was held recently for the fourth consecutive year. It consists of eight-men scratch teams playing two holes on each of 9 courses and a dinner as the finale. Club pro can be a member of each team. Transportation arrangements between each course are carefully made. The event, which has been described in detail in a previous issue of GOLFDOM, is highly popular at Hartford and should be adopted elsewhere.