

HOW'S YOUR HOUSING?

By C. KAIBY

THE clubhouse, as a golf play and social meeting place, is usually kept in good order and repair. On the other hand, maintenance buildings, employee residences and course shelters, the nucleus of golf course work, are too often unsightly, unsound, unfit for their requirements, and detract from the club appearance.

Some reasons for neglect are: The buildings are rarely entered by golfers, except to get in out of a sudden rain. They were on the property when converted from farm land. When the superintendent calls attention to needed building work, it is often postponed, funds being diverted for work on the course. Changing committees each year pass the problem to the next set of officers, assuming these structures can get by another season.

When damage occurs due to accumulated neglect, there is a hue and cry about the negligence of the superintendent. His copies of past memos on the subject mean little. He should have seen to it, they say, even though no money to cover the cost was allotted him. Consider a few instances and the results of dilapidated structures.

Cites Examples of Neglect

Club A, after neglecting course and housing for some time, appropriated funds for turf revamping. Material was delivered to a rickety building for storage. High winds blew down the shed and heavy rains that followed that night ruined costly seed and fertilizer.

Club B. Gallery following a match. Several persons were injured, and sued the club, due to the collapse of a bridge crossing a water hole. The greenkeeper took the rap, in spite of his past requests for money to repair bridges.

Club C was losing members due to hard greens. The golf committee finally took the greenkeeper's counsel and bought granulated charcoal and peat moss to soften the ground. During a week-end wind and rain storm, shingles blew off an old roof and rain leaked in. The charcoal got wet, and started a fire due to spontaneous combustion. Loss included the barn, several hundred dollars worth of material, and most of the equipment, which had been recently overhauled.

Club D. As a revival and membership drive, monied members bought new equipment to groom the course for an exhibition match. It was felt that gallery fees and new members would enable the club to write off the costs. Shortly before the match a high wind twisted the equipment shed. Obsolete "knob-and-tube" electric wiring short circuited, and the barn was soon a roaring blaze, and all equipment destroyed. Since the course could not be mowed, the match was cancelled. Dealers could not extend further credit to club, as it had been slow pay. Fungicides stored in a nearby barn were spoiled by the firemen confining flames. A severe attack of turf disease that followed could not be checked in time, due to lack of needs. As a result, the turf was in poor shape all summer.

As most golf buildings are listed as unprotected property, the insurance cost is high, and often the sheds and their contents are not covered. Fairway mowers and other equipment are left exposed to the elements on many courses, simply because there are no shelter facilities, or those available are not designed to accommodate the equipment.

Some Clubs Are Poor Landlords

In regards to employees' residences, clubs gain by having workers living on the property so they are quickly available; housing is part of their remuneration.

Is it not fair that those who devote their attention to your club have a place where they can live and discuss their maintenance matters with other greensmen? Too many of these "homes" are hovels, and old farm residences, that at the most were "fixed up" with a little paint—some time ago. If you have not, as yet, better consider now, the appropriation of funds in your budget solely for building upkeep, so the buildings keep up!