

# Minikahda Humors 'Em Into Line

ABOUT half the letters about golf club operating conflicts that come into GOLFDOM'S office show indications of trouble that might have been avoided by not taking too seriously the normal human tendency to bellyache.

However, the constructive use of humor in golf club operations is a delicate and sometimes dangerous thing. Complaints or rebukes for violation of club rules are matters to be handled with respect, hence kidding of an unwise kind may cause as much trouble as the common practice of scolding and snarling.

One of the most distinguished clubs of the country handles the general complaints about misuse of the course in a small bulletin written by its veteran green-chairman, and abounding with graceful touches of humor that correct without offending. The club is Minikahda at Minneapolis, and the official is Henry Mackall, noted lawyer and writer.

Even in the comparison of caddies with government high officials there is a good laugh planted to help the kids, and to bring a grin to the New Dealers (if any) who got into Minikahda when the membership committee was feeling in a charitable and forgiving mood. To take a chance like this which involves exposing a few members to apoplexy calls for a high degree of genius.

In our opinion, the message "To the Golf Players of the Minikahda Club—Men, Women and Children" has so much stuff on the ball it deserves to be passed on in full.

It's printed handsomely but simply on light green paper stock, in four pages, 3½ x 6¼. It reads:

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS has indicated that the notices of the Grounds Committee are not entirely in keeping with the dignity and tradition of the Club, or the standing of both the old and the new members. The Grounds Committee always yields to such expression, therefore this notice as to the golf course is limited to the following suggestions:

1. Please replace the turf, or return the place.
2. Smooth over your foottracks in the bunkers.
3. Observe the rules and courtesies of the game.

*The Grounds Committee*

P. S. But for the interference of the

Board, we might have sent the following notice:

There are a few informal and generally unwritten rules which have to do with the pleasure which the golfers realize from the proper condition of the course and the conduct of the players.

Scientists have demonstrated that golfers cannot change either the direction or speed of a putt by dragging spiked shoes over the green or pivoting on their heels. Please accept these scientific results as conclusive, without further personal demonstration. Incidentally the Golf Shop sells a little gadget which goes in the handle of your putter, which can be used to mark the place of a ball on the putting green, without defacing the green at all. This gadget is a great improvement over the present method of angle-marking with pencil.

Experiments have proved that attempts,



At the greenkeeping meeting and tour of the Connecticut Assn. of Golf Course Supts. June 16th, dinner cocktails included Bacardi Rum sent by J. F. Andia, superintendent of Havana (Cuba) CC.

Andia, the southernmost GSA member, could not attend the event, so sent the Bacardi as a "good neighbor" gesture. The label of one bottle was autographed by some 50 turf upkeep notables of Conn., N. Y., N. J., Penna., and D. C.

The bottle, made into a souvenir lamp by C. K. Bradley, with photo views of the meeting on the shade, was returned to Senor Andia.



both studied and casual, to fertilize or topdress putting greens with lighted cigarettes, cigars, waste paper and matches, are not successful. We must prefer the recognized methods of green fertilization, as carried on by the grounds crew. It interferes less with the conduct of the play and we think it improves the appearance and putting surface of the greens.

We appreciate the difficulty which members have in struggling with the relationship of four single-digit numbers at the end of each hole, the difficulties seeming to require a huddle formation on the greens, making play to the green temporarily impossible. We think that any player can remember his score for ten seconds after he has left the green. The caddies, who have had at least some years in high school, can, at this point, be helpful, by assisting in the mathematical computations, while the green is safely available to the players coming up. (The Club has some excellent C.P.A.'s among its members who might have some additional suggestions.)

Junior Members under twenty-one, and maybe some of them over twenty-one, fall into two classes—your children and other people's. The Grounds Committee regrets its inability to make this distinction, and calls to your attention the following rules which govern the play of all children. We quote from a previous notice:

"Junior members may play with older members at any time, subject to the playing rules governing their sex. Juniors under 16 may play only in the morning.

"Junior members must bear in mind that not only is the golf course itself entitled to consideration when they play, but to even a greater extent the older members are entitled to, and must receive, consideration from them. This departure from the usual custom and practice of today may surprise both the junior and senior members, but certainly the senior members will be gratified to be given such recognition, even on a

golf course. A failure to give consideration at all times to senior members will result in either a curtailment or denial to the junior members, individually or collectively, of their playing privileges."

The women (we reluctantly omit the usual "God Bless Them") have right of way on Mondays until 3 P. M.—on other days until noon. They may not play Saturday afternoons or Sunday or holiday mornings, or between 11:30 and 3:30 on other days. In the afternoon, matches consisting of men only have the right of way over matches in which women are playing. (This may appear to constitute a violation of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution but we all realize today that the Constitution is not what most of us thought it was.)

The man who moves so briskly around the course is the Ranger. His name is Arthur Knutson. He is authorized by the Board of Governors to see that a match holds its position on the course, and, if not, that it stands aside and lets the following match go through. He also reports the names of players, men, women and children, who disregard the usual rules, and these names are posted at the clubhouse, where all may see. It is difficult for us to appreciate any value in having your name appear on this list.

There are certain rules which govern the play on the course, and they are applicable to all members, including the Board of Governors. Even the members of the Grounds Committee yield to them. They are:

On holiday and Sunday mornings and Saturday afternoons, four-ball matches have the right of way, and do not have to give way to two-somes or three-somes as a matter of right, except:

(a) They have lost their position on the course by reason of their own slowness or delay;

(b) Having lost a ball, the match following is entitled to go through, as a matter of right, as well as of courtesy.

At other times, a four-ball match must give way to twosomes and threesomes at the proper time, and proper time may be based upon either right or courtesy.

The Grounds Committee recognizes no responsibility in the matter of handicaps. Theirs are just as unfair as yours, and they have been unable to do anything about it. The Sports and Pastimes Committee retains the prerogative of establishing handicaps. In complaining about the unfairness of yours, we would suggest however you have in mind the admonition of Solomon when he said:

"A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for stroke."

We believe that the caddies do a good

job. It is difficult for us to think that it is their fault if your game is bad. It is true they are boys, and may seem at times inattentive or make mistakes, which probably is very different from what you did when you were young, but you must remember that the right to make mistakes has had national leadership for the past eight years. Under the circumstances, don't blame the boys too much for the chances are most of them are doing their best. So let your criticism be constructive.

We would suggest that you call the attention of your children to the fact

that the use of shoes with heels on the tennis court is absolutely prohibited. This is done for the purpose of preserving the courts, and not for foot-comfort.

It is the golfers who determine the pleasure of the game at the Minikahda Club. If you give consideration to others, have some regard for the course, respect the rules of the game and of the course, it will be much more pleasant for all concerned, including

THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE

July, 1941

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# What I've Learned About Crested Wheat Grass

By HARRY VEGIARD

IN late summer 1939, Max Voorhees, greenkeeper of the Midvale GC, East Rochester, N. Y., walked into my laboratory and asked, "What do you know about crested wheat grass?" I truthfully told him, "Not a thing except the name, *Agropyron Cristatum*, and a little information on germination." I also told him that I could have quite helpful information in about 10 days.

The Midvale GC has about 12 acres of high sandy soil fairways, in which the wind was always making deep pockets around the stools of sheep's fescue. Voorhees was desperate.

Through the assistance of W. H. Wright, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada, and Dr. R. H. Porter, Dept. of Agriculture, Ames, Iowa, I received a lot of information and generous samples from Manitoba, Canada, and Minnesota.

These samples were germinated for root structure, leaf structure and speed of growth under ultra violet light tubes. Both samples gave very rapid germination possibilities. The root structures were identical. The leaf structure of the Minnesota showed a marked difference in darker coloring and a more rapid growth.

Voorhees and I decided on the Minnesota grown seed, and he gambled on a purchase of 500 lbs.

Voorhees' method of planting the 500

lbs. of seed is described in the following paragraphs.

Using a double disk harrow, set so as to just crease the soil, he harrowed the plots two ways. This method split the stools of sheep's fescue and forced them partly into the pockets. The crested wheat grass seed was then broadcast without special regard to the weight of seed per acre. Filling his manure spreaders with a specially prepared sludge compost, he sprinkled a fairly heavy covering over the seeded area, after which he soaked the entire surface in order to fill in the pockets, break up the heavier sludge lumps and thoroughly wet the soil.

A few weeks later, about the middle of September, 1939, the seed had made a very strong catch and gave good promise of being strong enough to withstand a hard winter season. The knolls are unprotected and get the full benefit of the frosty west winds in winter and hot dry winds in summer.

In the middle of May of the spring of

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Kaddie Karts are beginning to get a big play at private clubs from members' kids who don't want to lug their own bags and can't put the bite on Pop for caddie fees. The Karts, greenkeepers observe, keep these kids from throwing their bags on the greens.