

Give The Duffer A Break

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THERE are about 2¼ million golfers, according to best estimates. In addition to these who are active there probably are nearly 2,000,000 who formerly were golfers but who gave up the game for one reason or another. Chief among the reasons is discouragingly high scoring. Many golf courses are far too difficult for the people who are expected to support them.

Although there's much being said about alteration of courses to ease them up for the majority of players without making them unattractive to either the high- or low-handicap man, such alterations cost money. Even though the alterations may result in eventual reduction of maintenance expense, it's not possible to make them when the club is having to watch its nickels.

We have made an interesting and successful experiment in at least partially solving the high scoring problem at Golden Valley. We changed our procedure in mowing some of our fairways, rough and areas adjacent to greens.

The procedure was dictated by a realization that I could sit down and within an hour write the names of well over a hundred substantial business men who were at one time playing golf and who have lost interest in it and have dropped out of their respective clubs.

If this condition exists here in Minneapolis, it must also exist in other golf communities.

In talking with many of these men, I have asked them why they have lost their interest in golf and invariably the answer is, "I play such a poor game that there is no fun in it for me. My scores run so high that I am ashamed to have my friends see them."

Experimented on Five Holes

As an experiment here at Golden Valley on five holes which lay south of 19th Ave., we widened out the fairways particularly from the 175 to the 225-yard mark and on the par-5 holes again from the 350 to the 450-yard mark. We also cut down the rough so that it is impos-

sible to lose a ball in it. In practically all cases a shot played from the rough can be made with a wood club. In addition we cut the grass very short on the slopes of the traps adjoining greens so that in several cases a ball can be putted out of them.

Many favorable comments have been made and what is more pleasing than ever, is the viewpoint of 12 or 15 of our better golfers who shoot 80 or better.

They are very frank to state that this new style of upkeep has not helped their game at all, in other words, they rarely play a shot from the rough and when their ball does get in a trap adjoining a green, they use an explosion shot out. In most cases they are master of that shot.

Will Eliminate Sand Traps

We have just about arrived at the conclusion that we are going to groom our entire golf course as we have the five holes above mentioned. I am sure that it will meet with the unanimous approval of our membership. We also intend to fill up several of the traps which have no value in the playing of golf except to make the game more difficult for the so-called "duffer."

About two years ago I spent the day with A. W. Tillinghast, one of our greatest golf course architects. Tillinghast stated that if he could make the game more difficult for the man shooting 80 or less, he was going to do so; on the other hand, he was going to soften up the course for the man whose game runs over 80.

Women Get Golf Schooling—Harry Robb, pro at Milburn CC (Kansas City district), has a Ladies' Day golf school session after the women have had lunch. A feature is a rules discussion. Harry gives 6 or 8 women who answer rules queries correctly a golf ball apiece.

It's a great stunt for education and interest, but it's murder unless the pro knows the rules himself. Harry does.