

# Ample Playing Equipment on Hand

By L. B. ICELY

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GOLF will not suffer from lack of playing equipment next year. The ingenuity employed by the foremost makers of golf balls has offset the ban on making new balls. Reprocessing as it is done by the people who expect to be in the golf ball business after the Allied victory is a job on which these manufacturers lose money. But the job does provide players with balls that rarely can be distinguished from new balls by comparative performance tests.

However, there also are some very unsatisfactory jobs of ball repairing done by people who have come into the business on a hit-and-run basis. These improperly treated balls are unnecessarily reducing players' enjoyment of golf and making a bad showing that the unwary may consider common to all reconditioned balls.

Protection on the ball situation must be secured by player and pro seeing to it that balls for reconditioning are directed to one of the reputable, established golf ball makers. The pro must take positive action in seeing that the balls are thus placed for renewal, otherwise, regardless of the many factors involved in continuance of golf, the game would be seriously reduced by reduction in number of balls available for satisfactory play.

## Send to Right Spot

It might well be pointed out and frequently repeated by the pro that the player short-changes nobody but himself in not being careful about the destination of golf balls he turns in for reconditioning. The player is not giving any of the well-known manufacturers any profit in making us responsible for the expert reconditioning of golf balls. We, and the other companies who have helped to make golf, are in this reconditioning business because we are willing to dismiss the idea of profit so golf may be kept going.

And the only reason we want golf to keep going now is because we know the game is a definite help to greater war effort. The civilian can't stay in the front line trench of war work continuously any more than can the soldier. A balance of recreation and exercise must be provided so the civilian can do his war work

with vigor and in keen spirit. As golf is the most popular outdoor participating sport with Americans, it obviously has a proper place in the wartime plan.

It should be remembered that golf became the most popular participating game of Americans because it provided the ideal balance for the extensively mechanized American way of living. With this mechanical pressure on stronger than ever before, golf basically has a more logical reason for existing.

Play at the public courses this year confirmed the reasoning that golf has a great appeal to the factory worker. The private clubs could do some campaigning on the value of golf to the executive in wartime.

## Here's '43 Picture

There are probably 1,000,000 clubs in manufacturers and dealers stocks that can care for the 1943 sales.

In manufacturers' stocks there are probably 50,000 doz. golf balls. In pro shop and other dealers' stocks it's estimated there are 150,000 doz. new golf balls.

To that 200,000 doz. stock of unused balls can be added a vast number of satisfactorily reprocessed balls. There are nearly 3,000,000 golfers in the U. S., counting those who haven't been very active the past few years but who still have their bags, clubs and a supply of used balls at their homes. It's a very conservative guess that these people average a dozen golf balls apiece in their golf bags and practice bags and in other places. Figuring the balls that might be obtained from driving ranges that will go out of business with gasoline rationing, one might estimate that the actual figure of used golf balls is more than 5,000,000 dozen.

It's a big and important job, of course, to get these used balls in during the winter so the manufacturers can reprocess them. That's something that should receive attention from club officials as well as pros.

In 1930 there were about 90,000,000 rounds of golf played. Very few courses, except well-located public courses, are played to capacity. So even with a reduction in the number of courses open in

D. Scott Chisholm, veteran golf scribe, announcer, and promoter, has retired from the announcing jobs for the duration. Scotty, now 65 years old, and a braw laddie for his mileage, has gone into naval construction work on the Pacific Coast.

1943 there'll be plenty of room for playing 60,000,000 rounds. Staggering the hours of employment is going to spread the golf traffic throughout the day on many golf courses. Consequently you can figure that should there be as much golf play next year as there has been this year, the stocks of equipment for playing will be adequate.

It's not the supply of playing equipment we have to worry about now—except in the case of getting the used balls in for reprocessing. The equipment shortage will be felt in 1944. What golf has to worry about now is how to present its wartime value in the most effective manner to its players. If the game were simply a luxurious waste of time and effort no American would want golf to continue. But when there's a three quarter billion dollar investment in golf courses and clubhouses available for strengthening the American people, keeping their health good, their zest in war material production high, and their spirits staunch to withstand the blows that must come before our nation is victorious, it is necessary that this investment be effectively utilized.

## Survey Shows 250 Clubs Can Be Military Hospitals

DATA on approximately 900 representative golf clubs received by Franklin S. Miller in making a survey for army and navy authorities indicates that clubhouses of about 250 of the clubs may be suitable for convalescent hospital use.

Use already is being made of golf clubhouse facilities in hospitalizing soldiers and sailors returned from battle zones.

Dr. Henry Mock, retiring president of the Chicago Medical Society, in a talk at the annual golfing dinner of the organization, referred to the government's plans to make use of golf clubhouses as convalescent hospitals. Dr. Mock regarded the plan as having merit in psychological effect on patients. Youngsters compelled to spend long convalescent periods in customary types of hospitals are liable to consider themselves already occupants of "old soldiers' homes." The country club surroundings should develop mental atti-

tudes favorable to the soldiers' and sailors' physical recovery and restoration as a firmly poised member of society in Dr. Mock's opinion.

Failure to receive greater returns to the questionnaire despite army and navy endorsements accompanying the forms, was frankly declared "very disappointing" by Miller in his report. Returns from the New York Metropolitan district were approximately 7 per cent. Greatest percentage of returns was from the Pacific Coast.

A follow-up on the survey is in prospect, pending discussions with army and navy medical officials on what procedure can be employed to get full cooperation from the clubs queried. A complication of this follow-up undoubtedly will be that of clubs having closed for the year and requested data not being easily available.

Most promising item in the survey's discovery of probable extension of golf's war service was in advices that many additional Red Cross first aid and nurse's classes are in prospect at golf clubs.

## Massachusetts State Calls for Winter School Applicants

MASSACHUSETTE State College plans to hold its annual 10-week short course in greenkeeping, beginning in January, providing sufficient number of applicants sign up for the course before November 15.

This year it's expected that men too old or otherwise disqualified for the draft will find the Mass. State short course especially valuable in helping them discover how to operate courses with utmost efficiency under wartime conditions.

Several significant developments in handling wartime labor shortages and fertilizer substitutes have been getting intense attention at the Amherst school.

Details of the course may be secured by writing Lawrence S. Dickinson, Asst. Prof. of Agrostology, MSC, Amherst, Mass.

Double Eagles for Kirkwood—Kenneth C. and Ronald R. Kirkwood, both weighing 5 lbs. 10 oz., arrived Sept. 19 to bless the home of the Joe Kirkwoods. The Kirkwood twins are the sensation of the year in Philadelphia district golf. Neighbors and other friends who have seen and heard the young men perform say they are Joe's greatest trick.