

Of Golf Of Course

Willie Turnesa, 1938 Amateur champ, is teaching golf to the sailors at the naval gunners' school, Hollywood, Fla. . . . Sandy Weir, writing in the Winnipeg Free Press, suggests that a dozen golfers or so in each club leave instructions with the pro to loan their sets to any service man who comes to play unequipped. It's a fine suggestion. . . . Oregon Public Links GA is sponsoring a War Industries Golf League, open to 4-man teams from war plants. Three divisions—championship, B, and C are planned. . . .

Down in Hawaii, barbed wire is strung at intervals over the courses to prevent enemy planes from landing. This has resulted in a new rule, giving a free lift to a player whose ball is under or near the wire. . . . Massachusetts GA had its 40th birthday in February. . . . Fred Corcoran, overseas with the Red Cross, says Yank golfers stationed in Great Britain are having a fine time playing the historic layouts of the Isles. . . . Henry Picard, instead of retiring to the rustic quiet of his farm, has changed plans and is now at work in the safety dept. of an Oklahoma City aircraft concern. . . .

To encourage share-the-ride, drivers of cars with three or more other players aboard will receive a \$1.00 credit toward clubhouse purchases at either Hilltop or Plymouth CCs, Detroit. . . . Mrs. George Zaharias (Babe Didrickson) won the Women's Mid-winter tourney at Los Angeles by defeating Clara Callender in the final 4&3. Babe, who regained her amateur standing this year, shot a 73 to qualify. . . . Ted Marseles, pres. of the New York State GA, is urging all clubs and organizations to schedule full event-calendars this season. He sees no reason to believe there will not be plenty of golf played. . . . Missouri

April, 1943

TIMELY TURF TIPS

HOW TO CONTROL SUR- PLUS GRASS ON GREENS

At the end of 1942 there was too much grass on many greens. It was most noticeable on Washington, Metropolitan, and other similar bent grasses which make a dense tight turf. Matting was aggravated by less frequent cutting.

Turf becomes spongy when there is too much grass. Every footprint is clearly defined and surfaces near the cup become very uneven. Buried stems are an added annoyance. They cause the ball to hop. The course of the ball is deflected by occasional stems kicked out by shoe spikes. Accurate putting is well-nigh impossible in either case.

Matted greens resemble the thatched grass roofs used in Europe. Thatching impedes the penetration of applied water in both instances. Matted grass may cause serious trouble in hot weather. Localized dry spots appear during drought despite artificial watering. As grass begins to wilt, it turns blue. Then it withers, turns brown, and dies. Clover or algae finally appear in the resulting thin spots. In hot rainy spells surfaces stay sopping wet. Rotting, followed by scald and algae invariably occur. Thatched surfaces also prevent effective disease control. The fungicide stays on top, and the disease organism continues uninterrupted growth underneath. Surfaces become badly pitted from the deep scars.

Unless corrected now, an even thicker mat will develop this year, especially on greens which are not cut every day. Setting the mower to cut closer is not the answer. Once turf becomes thatched, the mower rides over the top. It clips leaf tips only.

Removal of the buried stems by vigorous cross-raking and close cutting is the correct answer. In aggravated cases several rakings and cuttings may be needed. The thinning out is best done just prior to the first fertilization and top-dressing in spring—before grass starts to grow.

By removing surplus grass each spring, greens can be cut less frequently and somewhat higher. In a single season the mat does not become sufficiently thick to aggravate disease and complicate summertime maintenance.

Consult us regarding your turf problems. Our Agronomist and Soil Testing Laboratory are at your service, within reasonable limitations.

Write to:

Turf Service Bureau

THE SEWERAGE COMMISSION

Dept. B-443

Milwaukee, Wis.

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