

# Experts Tell Answers to Wartime Problems

Difficulties Many and Tough But These Men Kept Golf Clubs Serving Members

## Last Year Showed Us How to Get By in 1944

By JOHN ANDERSON

Supt. Essex County CC, West Orange, N. J.

**T**HERE is no doubt that greenkeeper resourcefulness had to be keyed to a high pitch during 1943. The golf courses were not kept in playable condition the past season, by any hit or miss methods. Maintenance was a carefully thought-out program.

We planned during the winter months of 1942-43, and after much deliberation and inquiry came to the conclusion that labor was to be our biggest worry. Fortunately we were fairly well equipped with machines, as we had been installing labor saving machinery for the past two or three seasons, as finances could afford.

After seeing to it that all machines were in the best possible shape, we studied the labor situation and found that the best we could expect would be three of our 14 men to stay with us. The others were either in the army or in defense plants. However, another three who were on night shift volunteered to work at least three hours a day. That was equal to another man's full time. The remainder of the crew had to be school boys, but April 1st is a long way to school vacation, and about April 1 began the season for grass to grow and work to be done. I contacted many school boys and at length settled on four to come to work immediately after school, 3:00 P. M., and work until 6:00 P. M. That was almost equal to another man and one-half. Five and a half men for two 18 hole courses.

We were able to keep the greens and fairways mowed, and sometimes the trees. More often the tees would be missed for a week. Our sand trap brush harrow, which I mentioned in a previous GOLFDOM article, came in very handy, and we were able to keep the sand smoothed about once a week.

But the grass around the traps and bunkers was getting so long and dense by the time school vacation came around that some of the players were wondering if we could burn it off. That was out; green grass won't burn, and we had no gasoline to spare. However, after school vacation released the four boys for whole days, we gradually began to see some im-

provement in the condition of the courses, and we were able to do a few of the jobs that had been omitted, such as topdressing, weeding and scything.

That was our experience which probably set the procedure for 1944 too. I must take off my hat, both to the public links and private club golfers. They were very cooperative and appreciative at times when they had plenty of reasons to grouse.

## Tough Years Are Good for Us

By CPL. WARREN ORLICK

(Formerly pro, Monroe (Mich.) G&CC)

**G**OLFDOM's request for information about operating ideas to keep golf clubs lively and helpful in wartime was forwarded to me at camp. Charles Stevens is taking my place at Monroe for the duration.

A pro in the Army doesn't forget his attachment to his club. He wants the club to keep going strong, not selfishly because it's postwar employment for him, but because of the very pleasant relationship he has enjoyed with club members and because he sees from a good perspective now how important an attractive club can be in maintaining the wartime zip and health of members.

In my case, the club is far more than a job that I always tried to handle to the best of my ability. When I entered the Army last year the club gave me a wonderful dinner and a very substantial purse. When I came home on a furlough the club gave my wife and me an open house dinner that was very well attended. Those things sure make a fellow feel like fighting twice as hard to make sure that those wonderful times at the clubs go on all over the USA after the war's over. I'm counting the days until I can get back and start in where I left off.

Our club, since I left Grosse Ile and Joe Devany and went with it in 1940, has had outstanding presidents who have operated it in the black every year since its re-organization. I think the most essential factor in successful wartime management of golf clubs is able presidents. Our heads have built up a \$10,000 fund in war bonds that will be used for improvements after the war. It is entirely debt-free.

One affair that has helped business at our club is something that might well be

copied by other businesses at the solicitation of golf clubs. Every Tuesday the River Raisin Paper Co. holds a dinner for its office staff at the club. There is golf before dinner in the summer, and in the winter they play cards. After dinner there is a business meeting.

This company has one of the smoothest-running, energetic and able organizations you ever saw, and it is plain, if you happen to overhear part of its sessions at the club, that the weekly meetings at the club have helped a lot to develop a wonderful organization spirit, knowledge and close teamwork.

Wednesdays I used to run a league, and it's an idea I can recommend to every club and pro. I paired every member in the club and sent out cards on Mondays advising of the pairings. There was one point given the winner of the match in whatever game the contestants decided to play: golf, tennis, cards, dice, drinking, or anything else. Most of them played golf and the competitive interest made business good for me.

Rules were:

In golf three-fourths the handicap difference applied.

6 P. M. is deadline to wait for opponents.

Player had to be at the club to win a point if other player was out of town or could not be there for the game.

Team with highest number of points received dinner from losers.

Competitive season was 18 weeks.

I also gave a talk on golf rules and golf in general to our club's ladies, at one of their weekly golf luncheons each month. I conducted all men's, women's and junior tournaments at the club.

We have great golf spirit at Monroe, and it's the kind of spirit that, when applied to war effort, makes us a cinch to win, regardless of how long or tough the war is going to be. And I know that this sort of spirit, once it's crystallized, won't weaken, even though the pressure of war work and worries is heavy on our members.

## **Necessity Taught Us How to Solve Wartime Problems**

By **WM. H. JOHNSON**

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Los Angeles, Calif.

**D**URING 1943 at Griffith Park we maintained the courses with 60% of our normal crew mainly by using power equipment such as three-gang Overgreen mowers and other power greens mowers. We built a couple of trailers, using midget auto racer wheels, hooking them on to tractors to transport from one green to another.

During the growing season we practically forget the traps. We work on them in the off-growing season.

The crew was organized into one unit which could double up on any maintenance problem that came up. Fairway mowing we skipped from the tee to a point about 150 yards out from the tee.

After talking with many superintendents at the recent Los Angeles Open Tournament, I have come to the conclusion that the biggest single item has been in the handling of the workmen on the course. It has really made the men in charge of maintenance use every ounce of their ingenuity. For example, one course has two men; another three; another six. Another gets out every morning and rounds up any transients who might work only one day.

From the equipment side of the picture; to keep their present machines in operation, some work over their scrap piles using discarded parts and remodeling or disregarding standard parts. By using a welding torch or maybe turning out on a lathe just anything to keep their equipment going, some are getting by.

## **An Old Master with New Ideas**

By **WILLIE OGG**

Pro, Worcester, Mass. CC

**W**E had to curtail, like most other clubs in this vicinity. The question arose in February, 1943, whether we would try to operate at all during the season and it was decided to cut the dues and operate just enough to keep things from going to ruin. Remember, this was decided upon when things looked their blackest and the gas ban stopped our winter activities.

We tried the horse-and-buggy idea but without success but when the gas ban was lifted play picked up quite a bit but still much below normal. Many in this vicinity had the suffering complex and many still do; the idea being that it was wrong to participate in sports or enjoyment of any kind. The harvest is now being reaped in the form of sudden deaths and all kinds of ailments. The industrial plants are now going to insist that their employees take time off the coming year for fear that everybody will crack.

The Wilson broadcasts are doing a lot of good in making people see the light and they are to be congratulated in their advocacy of a physical fitness program as this surely will save lives and many many hours of production. Absenteeism is caused more by the employees feeling out of sorts than by anything else, according to my observations in this industrial city that is working night and day on war orders.

Our golf course took it on the chin like many others owing to the budget being cut. We did not suffer from lack of materials nor spare parts but we did have a labor shortage because the money was not forthcoming. We had to chisel on our topdressing, mowing, gardens and rough