

Memphis CC Is Groomed For National Amateur

Jimmy Hamner, supt., Memphis CC and pres., Memphis Greenkeepers' Assn., is ahead of schedule on the work of grooming the course for the National Amateur, Aug. 30-Sept. 4. Hamner laid out his plans after consultation with Fred Graue, USGA Green Section director; O. J. Noer, and club officials.

Some construction work is being done in tightening traps. Several holes presented interesting problems involving the comparative difficulties of recoveries from traps and shooting at greens so large that the risk of three-putting was greater than normal. Memphis CC greens have size to accommodate change-over from Bermuda to rye without taking the greens out of play. The dividing line is about up and down the middle of the greens.

Hamner has made numerous experiments with various strains of bent and maintenance practices but hasn't found a bent or maintenance method that will keep bent greens during the summer.

The course will play about 6670 for the amateur. Some new tees have been constructed and greens size diminished by the tighter trapping. Bermuda will be in excellent condition for putting at the time of the Amateur, Hamner says.

Greens, fairways and tees have been put into good shape by aerifying. Topdressing after aerifying has helped put greens in shape. Three applications of Milarsenite and spraying with arsenic acid completely eliminated the crabgrass last year. Rain and ice this winter may have presented some more maintenance problems but Hamner, who has been with the club 28 years, is set to handle them if they do arise.

The course originally was a 9-hole layout constructed 43 years ago. It was increased to 18 and completely redesigned and rebuilt by Donald Ross in 1913. A few alterations since have been made by W. C. Sherwood, when he was the club's active pro. Changes for the Amateur are mainly dictated by the longer ball and the rye-Bermuda change over influence on size of greens. Frances Ouimet and Richard Tufts of the USGA visited the Memphis CC after the 1947 Amateur and went over the proposed alterations with George Treadwell, veteran official of the club.

PGA Activities Illustrated In Chart Form For Members

PGA secretary, Joe Novak, has prepared a chart showing the aims, purposes, activities and accomplishments of the Assn. in a form that can be readily portrayed and explained. Dividing the PGA's activities into four general classes, namely, 1.

General association procedure and routine, 2. Aid to members, 3. Promotional activities, and 4. Outside relations, the chart does not attempt to describe in detail, but if studied easily illustrates the history of the PGA, where it came from, where it is today, and where it is going tomorrow.

Presented at the Association's recent annual meeting as the basis of the secretary's report, the convention unanimously voted to provide all members with a copy for study and analysis. Joe is to be commended for this "bird's-eye" view of PGA activities and all members and other interested individuals should have a copy at hand for ready reference.

NORTH HILLS' FIELD DAY

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How well Neu and Gross succeeded at North Hills is reflected in the attendance figures for 1947. Unfortunately, the Weather Man was in an uncompromising mood and unleashed a torrential storm the morning of the Field Day last year, but in spite of the atrocious conditions some 200 members and guests ignored the inclement weather. In spite of the turnout, the party was postponed and when rescheduled more than 350 participated in the five-ring circus, as the affair has become at North Hills.

Joe Gross, known as "Uncle Joe" to bunkerland, passed on to greener pastures on the eve of last year's tournament. Soon after, North Hills decided to perpetuate his memory by donating a Joe Gross Memorial Trophy that will go to the winner of the annual Field Day.

No expense is spared at North Hills' Field Day. There is food fit for royalty, including a clam bar that is well patronized during the day. The inevitable beer barrels decorating the bunkers are still much in evidence and, in addition, there are refreshments at every tee and green for those accurate shooters who don't explore traps.

There is music all day long, with a band on the high terrace back of the green of the 600-yard 18th hole. Many an easy putt is missed at this green when the band strikes up some blue notes just to disconcert the player.

In back of North Hills, there is softball in progress and on the vast lawn and on the big putting green there is endless competition and fun for those who can't find time to get out on the golf course. It's a grandiose party that has transcended any and all other parties at North Hills—just as at Clearview in those loose days of 1928. Ask any North Hills member and he'll tell you business can wait when Field Day rolls around. It's that kind of day.