

# What Makes a Course Great in Greenkeepers' Eyes

By T. M. BAUMGARDNER

Chairman, Southeastern Turf Advisory committee

Factors and conditions that make the golf course great from the greenkeeper's viewpoint are practically identical with those that make the golf course most enjoyable and satisfactory from the players' angle. However, unfortunately (for the greenkeeper) club members and players are all too frequently not too familiar with the underlying factors which make this statement true.

Obviously, the greenkeeper's main concern is with those factors of golf course architecture and construction which will enable him to economically maintain the entire course in the best possible playing condition throughout the season or year under adverse as well as under favorable weather conditions.

The burden first falls upon the architect and the builder to provide insofar as it is within their power to do so, the most favorable conditions of drainage, soil and contour to provide the greatest possible economy of maintenance and the optimum growth of the specialized golf turf grasses best suited to the particular locality in which the course is situated. To accomplish this result, the designer and builder must have a thorough knowledge of the best modern turf management practices. He should also certainly seek the best possible advice and consultation available from regional turf research centers and successful greenkeepers of the locality to help him adapt his ideas to the particular climatic and soil conditions of the region.

Some factors which contribute most to the greenkeepers' and at the same time to the club members' and players' happiness are as follows:

1. Perfectly drained and aerated greens; and, by drainage in this connection, we mean correct and adequate surface as well as sub-drainage. By perfectly aerated greens, we mean after proper drainage requirements are met, the incorporation of the proper proportions of coarse and finer-particled materials, humus and topsoil to provide needed aeration to encourage deep-rooted, healthy turf.

2. Well drained fairways and traps.

3. Contouring of bunker, green and tee back slopes which will permit maximum

use of machine maintenance and a minimum of hand labor.

4. Adequate cupping space on the greens to prevent excessive wear and compaction.

5. Trees not too near important turf areas to prevent root-filled greens, excessive shading and poor air drainage conditions.

6. Well designed and adequate irrigation system with ample water supply to permit efficient operation.

7. Good equipment barns and shop which provide adequate storage space for all equipment and supplies.

8. Provision in the original budget for sufficient, good labor-saving machinery to properly maintain the whole course economically, with a minimum of hand labor.

## Sense in Saving

It would seem to those of us with a background of experience in golf course maintenance and management that the consideration of all of these factors would be a matter of just plain good sound business sense on the part of those entrusted with the responsibility of the design, construction and operation of golf courses. They should certainly realize that the ultimate success of the course and the economy of its operation, over the years, depend upon the incorporation of all of these things in the original planning and construction. The same line of reasoning should apply to the consideration given by club executives to the need for correcting such adverse conditions on established courses.

The old phrase "the first cost is not always the greatest" certainly applies a hundred-fold in golf course management.

I am sure all of us realize how difficult it is after the course once is built to sell most club executives on the advisability and economy of correcting adverse physical conditions on the course. As a result of this short-sightedness, many thousands of dollars in unnecessary maintenance costs are being squandered every

(Continued on page 94)

At one stage of the evening's merry-making, Goldie was out around the hedge that separated clubhouse and tent. Just why she was at that darkened spot at the time is irrelevant to the present revelations. But she was there. And she had a companion. The two finally decided to go into the tent, and undertook to do so. But being a stranger to the surroundings, the young woman was unaware of the long guy ropes running from the tent, and the failure of the club to light the premises prevented her from seeing them. In the darkness, she tripped over one of the ropes, stumbled forward without being able to regain her balance, and sprawled to the ground, sustaining breaks and bruises that took many weeks in healing. For those injuries, the Illinois court required the club to pay her \$500.

## WHAT MAKES COURSE GREAT

(Continued from page 52)

year by many clubs as each successive green committee and/or greenkeeper strives by trial and error to maintain satisfactory turf under soil and/or drainage and aeration conditions, which permit practically no chance of real success until

the underlying physical conditions of the soil and drainage are corrected.

I am very familiar with one or two such cases. The first 9 holes at Sea Island and the 18 holes at the Jekyll Island club, near Brunswick, Ga., were designed originally by Walter Travis and constructed under his supervision in 1927 just before he died.

Of course he belonged to the old school of designers and the use of power mowing equipment was then just beginning to come into widespread use. He used to sit out on the course during the construction work and explain over and over again to the workmen that the bunkers and trap banks should look just like the curves of a beautiful woman, with appropriate hand gestures to illustrate the point. When he was through, he had a series of perfect steep-sloped haydoodle-like mounds all over the courses, which could be maintained only with a hand scythe or, the southern version of this implement, the "swing blade."

Fortunately, at Sea Island, Colt and Allison were called in the next year to build the second 9 holes and they completely re-designed all of the greens and traps in the first 9 along more modern lines. However, at the Jekyll club

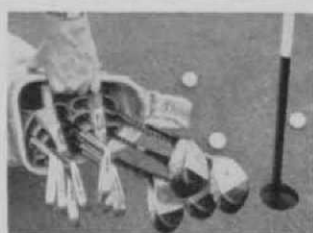
# "PRO CARE" for all Golf Clubs!



NEW . . . PRACTICAL

**BAG PAK**  
PAT. APPL'D FOR

Heavy canvas holder for any number of clubs—fits any bag—instantly and permanently installed.



*Individual full length pockets for each club.*

Prevents excessive shaft and end wear. Keeps shafts clean—separates club heads—assists caddy replace clubs carefully in bag and in permanent rotation. Minimizes losing clubs.

Designed and manufactured by a professional.

**Bill Wotherspoon,**

Southern Hills pro says:

"Nine out of ten of our players are enthusiastic about BAG PAK—it's really great!"



*Every Golfer is  
A Prospect For*

**BAG PAK**

PAT. APPL'D FOR

Manufactured by  
**HUGH BANCROFT, INC.**

P. O. Box 949 Tulsa, Oklahoma

(though it was an exclusive millionaires' club, and at one time the membership was said to represent 75% of the total capitalistic wealth of the country) these "hay-doodles" were never changed and year after year they remained, not only to mar the natural beauty of the course but to be laboriously maintained in some fashion by hand. Fortunately, golf architecture has come a long way since that time and such mistakes are not likely to be repeated, but many of the old mistakes still remain uncorrected to harass the greenkeeper.

## GRUB IDENTIFICATION

(Continued from page 62)

cycles, and I presume that Professor Hutson has also. It would be my opinion that the main reason why DDT might not be sufficiently effective in controlling these three-year cycle species is that the larvae of these species probably feed deeper in the soil than, for example, the Japanese beetle grubs, and thus escape the effect of the poison which is usually concentrated in the upper two to three inches. However, I may not be correct in this surmise, and it may be that these native species just are not susceptible to this particular poison. We do know, of course, that

DDT is not a 'cure-all', and that there are a number of species of insects which are apparently not susceptible to it.

"I would not want to make a guess about Chlordane. In our preliminary tests with Japanese beetle grubs, this material has appeared to be fully as effective as DDT and more rapid in its toxic action. However, we have not had an opportunity to get results from our large-scale tests, which are in progress, nor have we had opportunity to try this material against native white grub species."

Professor John C. Schread of the Connecticut station made a number of tests with several of the newer materials and used them on fairway areas. He made the following comment about his tests: "Turf areas treated with Chlordane in 1947 at Wepauwaug Country club, Orange, Connecticut, contained in one instance both grubs of Japanese beetles and white grubs. The insecticide was used at various dosage levels, and it was seen that where the toxicant was employed at a technical level of 24 pounds to the acre complete destruction of white grubs as well as Japanese beetles ensued. A longer period of time was required for the reduction of the Phyllophaga population owing to the fact that the grubs are larger than Japanese beetle third instar grubs and also slightly deeper

Pros., Managers . . . Make Fast Profits with

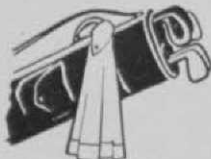
# CADDIE-CLOTH

The Handy Hand Towel Every Golfer Needs



OR BAG

SNAPS ON  
BELT



Retail Price, 3 for 75c  
Your Profit - - \$1.25  
on every 4 packs

START PROFITING  
NOW!

GEO. McARTHUR & SONS, Inc.

Baraboo, Wis.

"Fine Textiles Since 1885"

- Keeps Hands, Clubs, Balls Dry and Clean
- Always on Hand — Ready for Use
- Sells and Resells — Fast!
- Attractively Packaged in Cello-Wrapped Threesomes

Geo. McArthur & Sons, Inc.

Baraboo, Wis.

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ dozen Caddie Cloths (Packed 3  
Send me more information ☐ per Pack)  
Price \$1.75 per dozen.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_