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GOLF-O-MANIA

A 12" high fidelity album of hilarious 19th Hole golf humor. Dedicated to the P.G.A.* (*Poor Golfers Association). Produced by Kermit Schafer, famous for his "Pardon My Blooper" series of classic Radio-TV boners on the JUBILEE label.

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Grau — How Nitrogen Works

(Continued from page 40)

Soil microbes help to produce water-stable soil aggregates (crumb structure) which improve aeration and drainage. The cells and filaments, plus the gums and the decay products produced, all serve to bind soil particles together. The aggregating effect readily will be reversed if supplies of organic materials (food and energy) are not kept adequate and continuous. Under conditions of flooding or excessive irrigation it is possible for microorganisms to clog the pores of fine textured soils.

(The second part of this article will appear in July *Golfdom*.)

Thatch Elimination

Q: I have just taken over a Club through an entirely new change in management. I am in charge of the course as well as golf, so I would appreciate your opinions and comments on the following.

We have under the greens, one of the heaviest cases of matting that I have ever seen. The thatch will, I am sure, measure between 1½ to 1¾ inches. This is on every one of the nine greens. My plan is as follows: Aerate a minimum of three times this season, with a very extensive triple aerating in the fall. Topdress after each aerating, using three parts sharp sand mixed with one good soil, plus fertilizer. On some of the greens that have had snowmold, use the same methods, but seed amply those spots.

Due to the close knit of Astoria bent, some of the staff are reluctant to topdress, feeling that any amount of topdressing will choke out the grass now on the greens. Due to the lack of previous topdressing, these greens are very bumpy, and of course the ball does not have a chance to roll true, despite the fact that ample 8-6-4 is used, along with a high liquid nitrogen application. It is my opinion that we will not be able to have smooth greens unless we smooth them up with a reasonable amount of topdressing.

Feeling that the greens are well built for drainage, some want to strip the greens this fall, cut the sod from the greens barely below the thatch line, recondition the soil underneath the greens and replace the sod.

I feel that continued aerating, plus my plan outlined above, will eventually bring the thatch under control. Please advise what you believe is the best method to use in this case. (New York.)

A: The aerating - topdressing - fertilizing plan is the most sensible, everything considered. Your greatest need now is to provide the best greens possible for your players. You may be sure that light topdressings of the 3-1 mix will not choke the grass. Heavy applications could cause

trouble. How weed-free is the soil?

Your best approach is to aerate to remove the thatch. The green will be as smooth as, or smoother than it was when you started, if you topdress lightly to true the putting surface.

The plan to strip and then re-lay the sod in the fall after reconditioning the soil leaves me cool. No provision seems to have been made for getting rid of the trouble. If the sod were to be cut just below the thatch line and then replaced, you would ask for trouble. In reseeding, we suggest Penncross bent seed at no more than ½ lb. to 1,000 sq. ft.

Brush or Comb

Do not neglect the very important considerations of having a brush or comb on the greenmowers. Also, occasional vertical mowing for thinning the turf and preventing accumulation of thatch is recommended.

Have you determined under what management conditions the deep thatch was able to accumulate? How often and how closely are the greens mowed? Are they kept saturated so that organic material cannot decay?

British Foundation Has 12,000 Kids Learning Golf

British Golf Foundation, in its ninth year, reports that 12,000 boys and girls in 480 schools have received golf instruction through the Foundation program. In addition, 3,837 youngsters have had Foundation instruction services through an arrangement with the Central Council of Physical Education. The Foundation's work with the Ladies' Golf Union in a training plan also has been highly effective.

British golf manufacturers contributed the equivalent of about \$9,000 to the Foundation's budget. British PGA members, in their "week" of fund raising for the Junior golf education project, raised about \$3000. The British Golf Foundation operates about \$6,000 in the red for the year.

Caddies Benefited

National Golf Fund's biggest allotment in 1961-62 was to the Caddie Scholarship Fund. It amounted to \$12,500 or one-fourth of the funds allotted.

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