

## Brandon's Homemade Club Getting Straightened Out.

In these days of high and easy financing it is refreshing to hear of a golf club that has had to struggle to come into existence. Such an organization is the Neshobe GC of Brandon, Vt.

According to Stan English, who has played an important part in getting the club started and in keeping it going, citizens in and around Brandon were a little skeptical about investing in the new club's stock. Two or three ski tows in recent years had ended on the rocks, a one time course had folded during World War II, but most vivid in the minds of many of the town's residents was the collapse a few years ago of a brush cutting machine company in which they had sunk around \$35,000.

But through diligent effort the few hard-cores who really wanted golf for Brandon finally raised enough money to buy land and get started. They were fortunate indeed in having a fellow like Herb LaRock behind them. LaRock owns the largest logging operation in the state and when

it was time to start the backbreaking work of leveling the land he volunteered the use of his heavy equipment as well as a crew to handle it. It wasn't long before the course was ready for seeding.

### Steady Improvement

The first season, Neshobe's greens were small and somewhat irregular, if not absolutely rough. But advice from Harvey Drinkwine, supt. of the Middlebury College course, and another area turf specialist, Dick McGahan, helped the Brandon volunteers to get respectable turf growing in 1960. They increased the size of four putting surfaces and completely rebuilt two of them. Last year, too much attention didn't have to be paid to the greens, other than maintaining them, and so time was taken to ring them with sand-traps. The 1961 projects also included the building or rebuilding of several tees. By September, Neshobe's 9-hole course had become the pride of even those who didn't see fit to invest money in it when the sponsors were scratching for financial assistance.

Stan English, though, points out that the "do-it-yourself" project hasn't been a complete and unqualified success. Inexperience caused some setbacks. Too much,

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for instance, was spent on the clubhouse. A less elaborate building would have been acceptable until more funds were available. The 19th hole, for example, hasn't been an overwhelming success because Neshobe members, perhaps recognizing that Vermont summers are short, have been more intent on playing golf than leaning on a bar. They have long winters in which to do that, anyway. Another mistake, which proved costly at first but has been corrected, was that the Neshobe members didn't set up a proper bookkeeping system. Money didn't exactly fly out the window, because there wasn't enough of it, but neither was it spent as judiciously as it may have been. About a year ago a new sec.-treas. was installed and order has been introduced to the ledger dept.

### Not Enough Meetings

What may be called poor liaison also handicapped the club. The board of directors didn't meet often enough to thoroughly discuss all problems. Committee members weren't fully instructed as to what they could or couldn't do when placed in charge of a project and, as a result, either went too far or were criticized for

not doing enough. Where professional help isn't running a club, says English, more attention should be paid to operating details than Neshobe's board was able to give them. But this, too, is being straightened out.

Generally, everyone connected with the club is satisfied with the way it has been run so far in spite of the shortcomings mentioned above. Undoubtedly, 1962 will see most of the rough edges completely smoothed out and then all of the members will be able to devote more time to what was originally intended — playing golf.

### New York PGA School

Second annual New York PGA Business School will be held Apr. 12-13 at the Powers Hotel in Rochester. It is being sponsored by the Western, Central and Eastern N.Y. PGA sections. Armand Lanutti of the Western section is the school chmn. and the director is John Budd of Bradford, Pa. Pros and their assistants from upstate New York as well as Western Pennsylvania are eligible to attend. Speakers will include Bill Schaffner, Burke Golf Equipment Co., Newark, O.; Bill Kaiser, Hillerich & Bradshy Co., Louisville, Ky.; Bill McCune, McConnellsville, N.Y.; Bob Smith, Albany, N.Y.; and Frank Commisso, Albany.



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