

Something Has to Give

Courses are deteriorating because of the stalemate between golfers and the ground crew . . . There has to be a time for play and a time for getting maintenance work done

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Those of us at country clubs where the play is very heavy, are confronted with a baffling problem. It is becoming more difficult each season to maintain our courses in top playing condition. This especially holds true where tees and greens are involved.

At many clubs where there is a large amount of play, foot and cart traffic is bound to cause deterioration of turf around restricted areas. This condition is not brought about by a lack of knowhow on the part of the man in charge. It is mainly due to the difficulty encountered by the greensmaster in not being able to exercise his knowledge or, to provide when needed, preventative maintenance at the proper time and place.

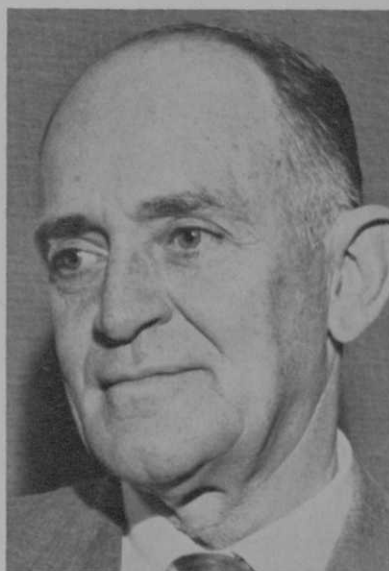
Costly Interruptions

Golfers in their enthusiasm for the game are on the course all day. Activity is what we expect and like to see. It is our living. Yet, as play tends to swell every year, the accomplishment of routine work such as mowing, verticutting, aerifying and topdressing, becomes tougher to handle. At bottleneck spots where play is heaviest, work cannot be done without numerous interruptions. A great deal of costly lost time results. Many of the curative measures essential to a healthy state of turf growth have to be foregone.

The stress placed on sod by excessive

and continuous traffic during inclement and adverse weather conditions has to be quickly met and corrected. If this is not done, turf can deteriorate rapidly. "A stitch in time often saves nine" cannot be overemphasized when applied to the upkeep of a course, But often it is hard to adhere to this maxim since play is almost constant during daylight hours. Two-way interference frequently exists around greens and tees when work is attempted at those locations. It results in both workmen and players being stymied by each other.

If a course falls apart because of the lack of attention, golfers soon become



Jimmy Thomas
. . . scheduling is needed.

displeased with the supt. In most cases the contributing factors are wear and tear brought about by continued overuse of golf facilities. These can be remedied if the groundsmen have ample opportunity to carry out normal work procedures.

Taken Out of Service

Let's look beyond our field. Highways do not stand up under constant heavy usage. If original construction was faulty, a proper base not prepared, good surface and internal drainage not provided for, the need for repairs and reconstruction frequently occurs. The high-

way is blocked off.

The human body when it is overworked, misused, and does not receive the proper nourishment becomes susceptible to diseases, ailments and nervous tensions. As a preventative we strive to remain healthy and keep our bodies in good physical repair. This is done by calling on the medical profession for assistance. If we're smart, we take an occasional rest.

Everything Has to Rest

There is nothing in the universe, natural or artificial, but what needs rest and periodic care for its survival and longevity. So why not give more consideration to the poor little grass plant, so often abused and forced to grow in an unnatural environment? Sooner or later golfers on overcrowded courses are going to be faced with the alternative of allowing for sufficient time for maintenance personnel to perform tasks required for good grooming and proper upkeep. Otherwise, they will have to tolerate inferior golf courses. That seems to be the only choice.

None of us want to have our members ask, "Why interfere with our golf?" Still, all of us desire to provide a well kept golf course, second to none. For this goal to become a reality and perpetuated, some control and regulation of play is a must. The solution should be a simple one; but it's full of complexities for the supt. and club officials.

Definite Schedule

A definite time for opening the golf course and starting play on weekdays (say 8:30 or 9:00 a.m.) is one answer. Such an arrangement would permit the daily putting green work routine to be well out of the way or finished before play becomes too heavy. The employment of more labor, plus the purchase of more time-saving equipment, helps to speedup operations and are a partial solution. A few clubs are resorting to night shifts, but this requires additional workers, added supervision, and consequently greater costs. The elimination of bottlenecks which require hand labor help to a certain degree by permitting the use of power machinery.

As many links are over-played a problem is presented to course architects calling for thought and study in light of

Are You Guilty of These Seven Deadly Sins?

The "Seven Deadly Sins of Supervisors" has been published by the Society for Personnel Administration, 1221 Connecticut Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036. Issued as a public service, and based on a new evaluation of supervisory problems, the leaflet lists the most frequent mistakes made in the handling of employees. Single copies are available, free, upon request to the Society at its Washington headquarters.

The seven deadly sins listed are:

1. Snap judgment in the selection of employees.
 2. Letting the job grow like Topsy (carelessness on the part of the supervisor).
 3. Failure to make assignments clear.
 4. Being a boss rather than a leader.
 5. Indifference toward disciplining and recognizing (rewarding) employees.
 6. Being too busy to train employees.
 7. Playing everything close to the vest (not communicating).
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present day usage. Speed of play and ease of upkeep need to go hand in hand. Two putting greens for each fairway may be practical. Extra large or double tees afford an opportunity for over-used areas to be taken out of play, rested, and renovated, if necessary, without interruptions taking place. Perhaps, in the future new layouts will be built with both a tee and green at each end of the fairway. We must look for all possible solutions or somebody is going to get pushed off our golf properties.

Suggests Golf Stamp

The USGA has suggested to the Postmaster General that a commemorative golf postage stamp be issued this year. It would recognize three of the game's milestones: The 35th anniversary of Bob Jones' Grand Slam; The 70th anniversary of national championships conducted by the USGA; and the 180th year since golf was reportedly introduced to the U.S. (at Charleston, S.C. in 1786).