

The Golf Business OUTLOOK

Water Re-use will become Routine

"The re-use of water through many cycles will be a routine practice in 50 years," predicts Texas Tech Civil Engineering Professor George A. Whetstone in a report prepared for the Texas Water Development Board. Called "Re-use of Effluent in the Future," Whetstone's report also says that water re-use will become an everyday occurrence "due to the critical need for water on the one hand, and the improved technology of sewage treatment leading to the economical production of completely purified water on the other." Sewage systems can be flexible enough to deliver effluent of a desired quality where and when needed. The report says industries in many arid regions which require large flows of water now operate successfully by recirculation of their own water and re-use of treated effluent. Industries cited include golf courses. In discussing effluent for irrigation purposes, Dr. Whetstone writes that; "the future of agricultural re-use would seem to be essentially an economic problem. If the irrigation is viewed as primarily a means of sewage disposal with the added advantage of avoiding stream pollution, then the farmer should be paid for making his land available—especially if he is required to accept the full effluent flow at all times. If, however, the effluent is priced at its value to potential industrial users, or even priced at cost of raw water plus cost of treatment and delivery to the farm, the picture is very different.

Slow play—what's the answer?

It has long been believed that the major cause of slow play was focused on the putting green. Now, for the first time, statistics are available to help pinpoint where time is lost, at least in championship play. In a time study conducted at the National Amateur last year at Southern Hills, Tulsa, Okla., the United States Golf Association found out that the time was not lost on the green. The two new local rules put into effect for the tournament apparently had an effect. (They called for continuous putting and allowing the ball to be lifted only once on each green.) Groups of two players averaged two minutes 35 seconds putting on the 18th green. The most significant loss of time was between the tee and the green, where couples averaged seven minutes seven seconds on the ninth hole, a moderate par-4 of 378 yards, and eight minutes 37 seconds on the more difficult 420-yard 18th. Compared to a formula worked out by Richard S. Tufts of Pinehurst, N. C., several years ago, these results seem unsatisfactory. Mr. Tufts timed several friendly four-ball matches and concluded that in friendly play four players needed only seven minutes 30 seconds to advance from tee to green on a 400-yard hole. Much of the time loss can be traced to the second shot. It was found in the USGA study that while Player A used 53 seconds to hit his second shot, Player B stood idly by and then used another 47 seconds before hitting his second shot. In the rare case when Player B was ready to hit as his turn came, he used only eight to ten seconds. What's the answer to slow play? One clue might well come from a new event to be held May 13-15 and May 20-22. Called the First National Open Speed Tournament, play will be against time for 18 holes at a site not determined at press-time—the number of strokes does not count. (Full details may be obtained from the Founder and National Director for Speed Golf, Professor Edwin H. Paget, Department of English, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N. C. Contestants may play on any of the six days set aside.) If golf clubs would schedule an annual tournament of this nature, many of the club members may find that it is not necessary to play at a snail's pace to score well.