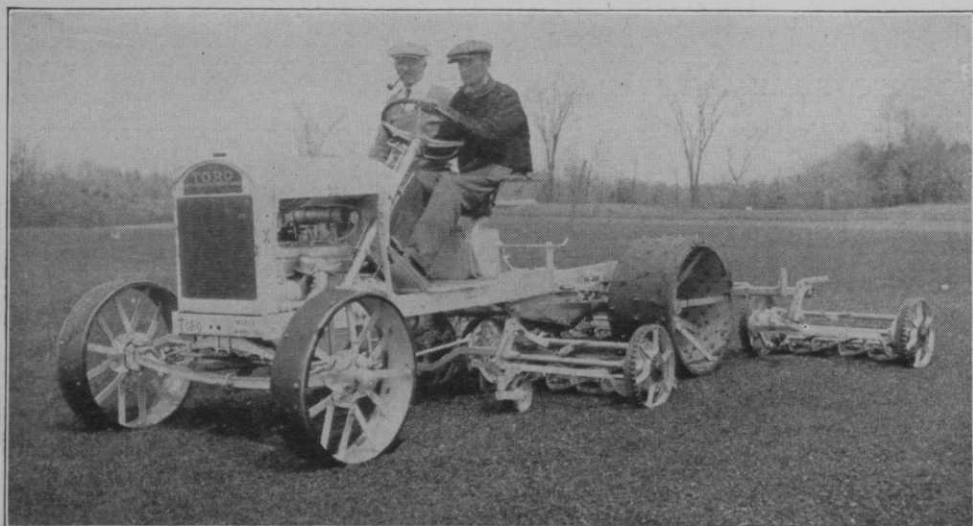


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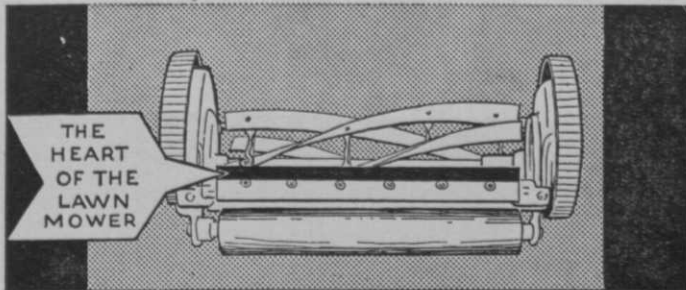
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Mr. Fox, Supt. of Grounds, Euclid Beach Park, says:  
 "Our records show a saving of \$16.50 alone on each of  
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The Business Journal of Golf

REG. U. S. PATENT OFFICE

Vol. 7

JULY, 1933

No. 7

## Appreciation of Officials' Work Will Help Clubs

**I**T'S ABOUT time someone gave applause to officials of golf clubs who have carried these enterprises through a desperate crisis of almost four years' duration.

Taken by and large, private golf clubs are in better shape than they have been for many years. Many of them are in much sounder financial shape than before the depression, when the annual assessment was considered inevitable. Many of them are getting back to the old days of waiting lists, now that initiation fees and dues have been brought down substantially by drastic economies. Whether some of these economies are being carried beyond the limits warranted by foresight remains to be seen.

Most of the cuts, however, have been enforced by the necessity of preserving the club. The greenkeeper, pro or manager who thinks he is being picked on or being compelled to operate obsolete equipment with agonizing wastes, just because the club officials are chronically tight, often would have his opinion altered if he were to acquaint himself with the true facts of his club's condition.

A private golf club usually is organized to operate "not for profit." Consequently when a club at the end of the year shows a profit of several thousand dollars, after interest, depreciation, amortization and other charges have been paid and a rea-

sonable amount of operating capital laid aside, the administration policies may be questioned. Either the members should be given advantage of the surplus, the plant kept up to better standards or the club employees be paid a wage commensurate with able, faithful service and their enforced loss of income during the closed season.

### Plodders Are Silent

But the clubs that have had tough going and have been kept alive by the expert, patient plodding of able men who work without pay, haven't been registering any fat balances. They have ended the year in the black, but not by any wide margin.

All of these men have had plenty to do in connection with their own businesses. They have sacrificed time and energy to work their clubs into stronger positions. Hours during the day and many evenings are devoted to the cause of the clubs, but these officials make no boast of achievement and seldom, if ever, get any applause for the work they are doing.

Their plight is something to be considered by the greenkeepers, professionals and managers who are inclined to believe they have a corner on misery connected with golf club operation.

The president sees that the club needs members and money. He worries about those deficiencies. The green-chairman knows that the course ought to have a lot



of work done on it and that many items of equipment and supplies are urgently needed. He realizes perfectly that the better the course, the more members it will attract. But he still can't spend what he hasn't got.

The house-chairman meanwhile, knows that his department always stands in danger of losing big money; he too must play close to the line or be unqualified for the responsibility with which he has been entrusted. Beer is now giving him and the manager a great deal of hope. At many clubs the beverage volume is twice what it was before beer came in. However, handling costs are heavy, especially with bottled beer, and many clubs haven't been able to put in bars for the serving of longer-profit draught beer. Beer has brought about an increase in restaurant volume at many clubs and that's helping the house-chairman and the managers work their way back to sunshine.

The treasurer, poor devil, has about the toughest job of all. He wants to keep the club's credit good and provide funds to operate profitably. He knows the members intimately, so must suffer the embarrassment of being the Shylock to people with whom his relations normally are purely social. However, he has no alternative. A golf club which was brought in to being for pleasure, turns out to be the hardest-hearted commercial enterprise in the world. No matter how much money the delinquent member spent in the "good old days when he had it," the treasurer has to turn the NSF guy out into the air and hope that a new member will come along as replacement material.

Thus, the work of the officials at every turn is beset with grief and tedious detail. May the present circumstances remind members as well as department heads, of the problems officials face and bring about a greater and more profitable harmony within many clubs.

To show how the earnest officials feel about their labors, we quote from a letter recently received from the president of a representative midwestern club.

### Give Us a Break

*It may be rather unkind for me to criticize anything published in GOLFDOM, considering the excellent things which you publish therein, but I am a little uneasy at the sentiment expressed in the article by Carl Horn, beginning on Page 7 in the June number.*

*I have been concerned in the past over articles reflecting the same sentiment in one way or the other: That club directors through lack of wisdom or lack of understanding or lack of something or other, are abusing the greenkeeper and neglecting the club.*

*I must admit I would be pleased to see an article or several articles expressing a little sympathy for the directors who have given freely of their time, business experience, and efforts during the past two or three years to save for their communities country clubs which were needed when times were prosperous and will again be needed when times become more nearly normal. In all instances these clubs represent a heavy investment on the part of citizens of the community, which will be lost to the community if the club fails to operate even for one season.*

*I am serving my fifth year as president of a club in exactly the situation outlined above. I appreciate the compliment, of course, but would cheerfully have allowed some other man to have this honor in my place; however, some of my misguided friends over-persuaded me to continue. That is another story, however.*

*To get back to this matter of these cold-blooded and inefficient directors. Let me say most emphatically that I have never seen a group of men in any civic work plan and scheme and work as our directors have done to preserve our club property, and I am sure our situation can be considered as typical of many others over the country.*

*We have a greenkeeper who has been at the club for many years and who has been our greenkeeper for several years, and we think a lot of him. Scarce as money has been, we have not cut his salary. We very regretfully cut our laborers' rates 2½¢ per hour, and we have urged our superintendent to cut down on his man hours as much as he possibly can, and he has responded wonderfully.*

*There is no doubt in the world but that we could use several thousand dollars on our course without wasting a penny, and we need some new equipment.*

*The writer personally has checked this all over many times with the grounds-keeper, who I think understands the situation, and I do not believe would be in accord with the things which Mr. Horn has written as to his directors. I have told our grounds-keeper very frankly, that I*



If you are inclined to hook all over the course go to the Blaney Park course in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Mrs. Bob Becker, wife of the noted field and stream authority, took 3 casts at the Blaney Park stream and hooked an 11-inch trout with the fly rod outfit she carries in her golf bag.

*hated to cut down on our laborers' pay, that I hated to neglect the club, that it seemed far more sensible to keep the club alive and in reasonably good credit standing in the community.*

*I wish you would think this over, and see if you do not agree that perhaps a good word should occasionally be said for these directors who give so freely of their time and effort without any compensation other than the good will of their members. In my case I believe I have the confidence of the members, and that is the only thing that makes this task worth while.*

*Your magazine is being read by our greenkeeper and greenkeepers all over the country. I think our man is too sensible and too loyal to be disturbed in his attitude towards the directors, by anything which he may read, but perhaps here and there this sort of an article may cause some discontent and some friction.*

*I hardly know why I have written you the letter. About the best reason that I can figure out is that I have put in a lot of time for more than four years into our*

*club, and I have come to appreciate it as a beautiful piece of property representing the sacrifice of many of my associates in this community, and have also come to appreciate the efforts of my directors.*

Let the department heads think over that letter.

**M**ANY CLUBS have the wrong idea about rough. They seem to consider it a hazard although, under the rules of golf, any regulation applying through the fairway is equally applicable in the rough.

Rough should never do more than check the ball which over-reaches the fairway down which it is aimed. It should never be allowed to grow so tall and rank that a ball can be easily lost.

The ideal rough grass is low-growing, drought-resisting and native to the region. It should not form a dense turf, but rather permit a ball to settle down between the individual plants. It should never require mowing or watering.





Photos by Fred Kuehn.

This grandstand at the first tee of the National Open and its mate at the eighteenth green, were well filled during the event's most interesting moments.

# Tournament Lessons Are Taught By National Open

By HERB GRAFFIS

**S**UGGESTIONS from the USGA fairly well standardize the handling of all tournaments held under the governing body's supervision. In each championship, however, certain problems are solved in original ways and contribute to the regulation procedure first formulated by those responsible for handling championships at Merion Cricket Club.

The 1933 National Open at North Shore was a well handled tournament. Professional and greenkeeper Alec Cunningham, and Manager John Schweitzer got on the job even before the tournament was awarded. They went to Fresh Meadow in 1932, gambling their expenses on the chance the 1933 Open would be awarded to their club. If North Shore got the event they would be ahead whatever they learned at Fresh Meadow and the club would pay their expenses. If the 1933 Open

hadn't gone to North Shore, John and Alex would have been out the money for their trip to New York.

Promptly on being advised of the award of the 1933 Open and after consultation with the USGA officials, some minor alterations were made in the course. Several traps were added or enlarged. A new tee was built on the second hole and the seventeenth green was resodded.

One of the lessons that Cunningham and the North Shore superintendent, D. G. Burnett, will pass along to others who are to hold championships is to get to the work involving new grass just as soon as possible. The wet spring held back the new second tee so it couldn't be used and only because of extraordinarily fine work on the part of those responsible for the North Shore course maintenance was the resodded seventeenth brought into

championship condition. Inspection and recommendations of the USGA Green Section officials, who now have a strong responsibility in the selection of championship courses, were made at North Shore late last summer.

### Greens the Big Item

If the USGA were to elect Christmas as the opening day of the National Open, it seems as though the country would have a heat wave. North Shore ran second only to Interlachen for heat, being even hotter than Inverness. However, this being the first National Open in years at which beer was available, the tropic agony was pleasantly alleviated by carloads of suds.

Hot weather always brings the menace of brown-patch, but North Shore escaped. Usual preventive treatments were made. Greens were in fine shape, although it seems pretty nearly impossible to prevent some nap; but this is offset by the now common practice of the players testing the grain prior to putting. Any one of a dozen contestants might have been champion had they been putting better and Cunningham, as a veteran pro, was especially anxious that the North Shore greens meet with highest approval of the players. Burnett was kept busy 16 hours a day in

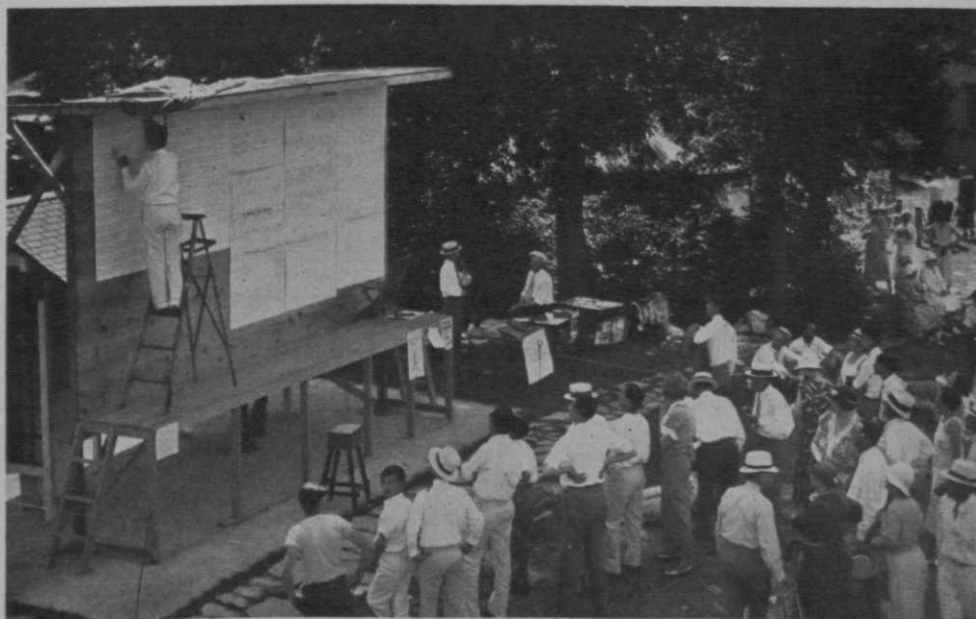
course conditioning and no complaint was registered by the exacting players on the character of the greens.

Talking at North Shore with John Morley, distinguished ex-president of the National Association of Greenkeepers, this writer was told that from a technical greenman's standpoint the greens were superb. John did come up with the following statement, though:

"They tell me they have been taking four catchers of cuttings each time they go over the greens. That listens like too much nitrogen to be healthy for a normal diet in this sort of weather, but I guess they had to do it to be safe for the Open."

### Beef About Fairway Borders

About the only howl heard about the condition of the course concerned the bordering area of the fairways. The fairways were cut narrower for the Open, with the result that the fairways were flanked by a heavy crop of clover. A player could be considerably wide of the fairways and have a better shot than he would if he were just off the fairways and in the heavy clover. North Shore has fairway watering, but its fairways haven't much clover as a general thing. Judicious watering is the order there. However,



Public scoreboard was between the first tee and a locker-room door. It was the location most frequently used for keeping appointments.

the spring was so wet that several days it was necessary to close the course, even prohibiting morning play, just prior to the Open.

Players commented that the fairway lies were better than at Fresh Meadow where the grass was rather lush and the ball wouldn't sit up. One squawk was registered on the second day about the ground being so much drier than on the preceding day that some of the players suffered from long, wild bounces. Probably the wind had considerable to do with these complaints as the prevailing westerly wind at North Shore, when it does blow, blows strong.

All in all, the course got by with far less than the usual amount of criticism.

### Why Make Them Hard?

North Shore didn't go crazy about setting the pins in places to make the course record unassailable. This practice, which is far too frequent, is directly opposed to the USGA recommendations.

As a matter of good common sense and publicity the pins in any championship ought to be set where putting is not only fair, but easy. No course is immune to someone getting hot and making it look simple. Hagen, in the concluding round, got a 66 with a ball out of bounds on the 17th and missing a two-foot putt on the ninth.

If there were 6 or 8 65s made during a championship you may be sure that the fellows who made those low scores would go away bragging about the course being one of the greatest in the world and there would be big galleries to see the sharpshooters go wild.

But that never will be learned by those in charge of championships so we might as well turn the crank and go on to the next picture of the 1933 Open.

The gallery this year was by a considerable margin the biggest since the year of the Jones grand slam. Official figures are not available but our guess is that the gallery income exceeded by a very comfortable margin that of a normal year prior to the depression. If Guldahl had sunk that fairly short putt on the last green and made a play-off necessary the executive committee of the USGA would not again be faced with a terrifying financial problem for 1933 and the Green Section's important work would have benefited. An official of the North Shore club estimated to GOLFDOM that Ralph's putt not clinking in the bucket cost the club

\$7,500 profit it would have collected from a play-off on Sunday.

A couple of very bright ideas were put into effect for the benefit of the gallery by the North Shore people. There were stands for the spectators at the first tee and eighteenth green, both of which were used with great convenience. There also was a platform for the prize presentation, which enabled the spectators to see the ceremony.

### News Men Get Excited

You'll note that the newspapers didn't carry many different pictures of the prize party. Here's the story on that: After Guldahl had failed to tie everyone knew Goodman was the victor. News photographers, with the light getting bad and a long haul into town to make deadlines were clamoring for some action on the awarding of prizes.

There were some other players still out in the field, but apparently the cameramen didn't realize that the prizes couldn't be passed out until all contestants had finished. Emissaries sent to implore the officials to snap into it for the ceremony brought back word to the other cameramen, "The big shots are up in a private room drinking swell drinks and ain't in no hurry to give nothin' to Goodman no-how and you can't crash into a drink, so t' hell wit' 'em."

Not knowing the conditions the news photogs were piqued, interpreted the delay as an intentional effort to apply the ice to Goodman, and made only a few imperative shots.

Thus showing you how easy it is to be the innocent victim of circumstances beyond your control when you are an official.

### Press Facilities Adequate

Press arrangements were well handled. Johnny Schweitzer, club manager, originally had intended to have press quarters on a balcony used for dances. This would have been ideal, as it commanded a view of the first, second, ninth and tenth tees and first, eighth, ninth and eighteenth greens. But no canopy could be secured for the place, due to the Century of Progress apparently having laid a prior claim to every loose piece of canvas in the Chicago area.

Consequently it was necessary to erect the press tent in a spot where it was surrounded by shrubbery and did a grand job of holding heat. However, Johnny, Cunningham, the North Shore officials and