

Wakonda—Des Moines' Pride

While far from being one of the older clubs of the state, Wakonda has risen in the last few years to be classed one of the nation's outstanding clubs

By Chet Billings

MEMBERS and officers of the Wakonda CC in Des Moines, Ia., have long been proud of their clubhouse and course facilities but they were even more elated this spring when the National Collegiate Athletic Assn. selected the club as the scene for the 1939 national tournament to be staged from June 26 to July 1.

When the college players assemble for their annual bid for individual and team championships, they will see an 18-hole layout built across wooded, rolling hills with five small lakes extending through the course. They will see, too, an elaborate clubhouse and an irregularly shaped swimming pool, one of the first to be constructed by a private club in the Midwest.

Service Is Keynote

Behind this scene, however, lies a story of the far-sighted program adopted by the Wakonda club to gain its position as one of the outstanding clubs in the Midwest. Officers of the club cannot put their fingers on any specific policy or plan which has resulted in continual improvement of the course and clubhouse, but they agree that excellent service in every department of the club to every member of the club may be the principal answer.

As golf clubs go, Wakonda isn't ancient,

having been organized less than 18 years ago. Financially, however, the club has been and is now as solvent as any organization which might have sprung up with the golf game in this country. Actually an offshoot of the now disbanded Golf and Country Club in Des Moines, Wakonda was organized when the former club did not renew its lease on its site in the residential district on the west side of Des Moines. A farm, well sprinkled with oaks and elms and located just inside the city limits in the south section of the city, was purchased by the stockholders of the newly-organized Wakonda CC in 1921. Designed by the American Park Builders, the course was opened for play in the summer of 1922. The clubhouse was completed in December of the same year.

\$600,000 Is Property Investment

"Wakonda now has a property investment amounting to \$600,000," says G. R. Locke, who has been secretary, treasurer and manager of the club since its inception. "Four hundred shares of common stock valued at \$600 are now outstanding in addition to 150 shares of \$300 preferred stock."

Since 1932, possession of stock has not



Receipts of \$30,000 in the dining room and beverage sales amounting to \$14,000 during 1938 indicate the solid condition of house operations at Wakonda. View of clubhouse is from south.

been obligatory for club members, but the officials hope to have the club back to that point sometime in the future. "Now we ask only a year's dues," Locke said, "and any member may resign or be cancelled out at the end of the year."

Six Membership Classifications

An unusual feature of the membership is the fact that six distinct classifications have been created. Individuals under 30 years of age may obtain a junior-junior membership for \$75 a year. This entitles the member and his immediate family to all club privileges. In 1938, there were 50 such members. The junior membership is for persons from 30 to 35 years of age, and amounts to \$90 a year. Fifty such memberships were sold last year, according to Locke.

Two classifications have been created for persons over 35 years. One is the social membership for everything except golfing privileges and amounts to \$125 annually. There were 75 in this group in 1938. The other classification entitles the member to all club privileges and amounts to \$180 annually. By far the most popular classification of membership, 200 of the latter were in effect last year.

Special and non-resident are the remaining two classifications. The former was established to accommodate officials from the state capitol buildings in Des Moines as well as U. S. Navy officials and U. S. Army officials from the Fort Des Moines army post. Twenty special memberships at \$90 a year were in effect in 1938. The non-resident group included 20 persons last year, each paying \$50 annually.

"The junior and junior-junior member-

ships have been in effect for eight years," Locke disclosed. "We feel they have been a fine thing for the club as well as the individuals. Such memberships enable the young people to form contacts which they could not possibly otherwise make."

Wakonda has played its part in building up Des Moines as "The Convention City of the Middlewest." During 1938, there were 293 conventions of state, regional or national importance held in Iowa's capital city. Attracted to those conventions were approximately 365,000 persons who spent an estimated amount of \$3,500,000.

Wakonda Welcomes Conventions

As a civic duty, Wakonda has made its facilities available to all the major conventions. Banquets, luncheons, dinners, dinner dances and bridge parties have been held in the clubhouse while hundreds of convention visitors have played over the golf course and have swam in the pool.

Dinners range from one to two dollars, advises Locke, while luncheons are 75 cents to \$1.50. Green fees are \$1.50 on weekdays and \$2.00 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

One of the features of the clubhouse is a ballroom which can accommodate 400 diners at a banquet. Smaller dining rooms are used during the winter months. A staff of approximately 40 persons is on duty during the summer months while 12 are retained during the winter. "Cafe receipts amounted to approximately \$30,000 last year while beverage sales reached \$14,000," Locke disclosed.

Locker-room facilities for the college players will be ample, with 350 lockers and 16 showers in the men's side and 150

lockers and eight showers in the women's side.

Wakonda's pride in its golf course will probably not be dampened by many sub-par rounds during the forthcoming collegiate firing. While this tournament will be the first national meet ever to be held in Iowa, entrants in past state and regional tournaments at Wakonda have been only mildly successful in administering occasional lickings to par.

Two men's Trans-Mississippi tournaments have been staged at Wakonda. Art Bartlett of Ottumwa, Iowa, won in 1928, when he started a sensational final round with 11 putts on 10 greens. Johnny Goodman of Omaha, Neb., former National Open and National Amateur champ, copped the honors in 1934. In 1933, Phyllis Buchanan of Denver won the women's Trans-Mississippi at Wakonda. In addition to those three major tournaments, the course has been host to countless state amateur and state open meets as well as its usual quota of city tournaments.

Wakonda's Greens Are O. K.

Serving in a dual capacity as professional and greenkeeper is Jack Welsh, who has been at the club since its inauguration. He now has two assistants in the pro-shop and a crew of from 12 to 15 working on course maintenance. Welsh, who is nationally-recognized for his ability as a greenkeeper, is proud of Wakonda's greens. All have Washington bent. "Our average green measures 7,000 sq. ft., almost 1,500 sq. ft. larger than the national average," Welsh declared. "Sixty traps are scattered throughout the course and protect all greens except Nos. 4, 6, 11 and 14, where we have grass hollows. This year we are putting 650 cu. yds. of new sand into the 60 traps."

The tees, some of which are built in

three elevations, contain from 2,000 to 2,500 sq. ft. A watering system extending down all fairways permits watering of the course at least twice weekly and more often if weather conditions demand. Included in the watering system are approximately 40,000 yards of mains. Plenty of fertilizer is used on the fairways to insure a good turf.

A chain of small lakes, fed from natural springs, runs across the course. The fairways on Nos. 5, 10, 17 and 18 take the golfer across these lakes while fairway 16 runs parallel to one of them. Native limestone spillways have been constructed to connect the chain of lakes, at the head of which is the elaborate swimming pool.

With a par of 37-36-73, the course measures 6,416 yards. The first nine has four par 4 holes, three par 5's and two par 3's and measures 3,242 yards. The second nine measures 3,174 yards with five par 4's, two par 5's and two par 3's. Longest hole on the course is the 529-yard 13th while the shortest is No. 17, 115 yards.

Since the club normally has some 250 caddies available for its membership, the list will probably be only slightly augmented to accommodate the college players, Welsh indicated. The regular caddie fee ranges from 80 cents to \$1.00, dependent on the caddie's grade, while a flat rate of \$1.25 is in effect for tournaments.

Officials Like Their Jobs

While Wakonda believes its club to be unique for having retained its secretary-treasurer-manager and its pro-greenkeeper since its establishment, it is also proud of the continuity of service on the part of uncompensated officials. Fred P. Carr has served as chairman of the green

Wakonda's swimming pool, which frequently carries a capacity load, is said to be one of the Midwest's earliest private club pools. Natural springs supply fresh water constantly.



committee since the organization of the club and has worked closely with Jack Welsh in the building of the course. E. H. Mulock has been chairman of the house committee for 10 years. Now in his third term as president of the club and chairman of the board of directors is the popular Paul Beer, while M. S. Denman is serving as vice-president.

Mute evidence of the business-like manner in which the club's affairs have been conducted is the operating statement for 1938, which reveals a net profit of \$7,654.32. Total income, including dues,

locker rental and profit on cigars, beverages, etc., amounted to \$63,905.42. The total expense amounted to \$49,845.21. This figure included expense for the house, cafe, golf, swimming, entertainment, taxes, insurance and interest. With a net operating profit of \$14,060.21, the depreciation was figured at \$6,405.89 to bring the net profit down to \$7,654.32.

All in all, Wakonda can easily be cited as a good, solid, smart example of a well operated club in a midwestern metropolis. Its members have ample reason to be proud of it.

WHAT PLANT TISSUE TESTS TELL

By George Scarseth, Agronomist*

Purdue University

SINCE we must use raw materials, like phosphorus, nitrogen, potash and calcium, along with water, carbon dioxide, and so on, to make vegetables or grass, we are always confronted with the problem of getting adequate and proper amounts and balances of these materials for a growing plant to perform satisfactorily. As far as the soil and the problem as related to the soil is concerned, you get into difficulties in the supplying of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash. Primarily, they will give you the greatest amount of concern in the growing of grasses.

The agronomists have become quite interested in soil tests, and I want to discuss soil testing with you. One limitation in soil testing is that you take a soil sample, dissolve out the phosphorus and potash, and then you measure with the devices that come with the various soil test kits, thereby finding high or low phosphorus or potash, as the case may be; but the thing you still do not know for sure is whether the amount of phosphorus or potash you get by the soil test method is the amount the 'plant can get hold of.' That is the problem you run into.

Test for Nutrient Deficiencies

On the other hand, if we go into the consideration of the possibilities which lie in the field of testing the plant tissue to find the nutrient deficiencies, as far as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash are con-

cerned, we find the plant tissue test method may help us a great deal.

In the plant tissue test you take a sample of the clipped grass, put it in a small vial, put the reagent to it, develop a certain color, and these colors tell whether you have or don't have the phosphorus or potash; and in the case of nitrogen we actually macerate a little of the grass tissue on a little porcelain plate and add the proper reagents. You may or may not get a color, depending on whether nitrogen is in the plant.

Test Technique Is Simple

The technique of the plant tissue test is simple. The directions with the kit are all written and the test technique is merely "cook book" procedure. The difficulty comes, however, in making your interpretation.

For an example of how we might interpret the results we are getting with the plant tissue tests, let's take a soil in which the available nitrogen content is low and the phosphate content and potash content are about medium. Taking a soil which has that condition, let's see what we could expect the plant tissue test to show.

But first, in order to get over this idea of what the plant tissue test would show, let's take along an analogy to explain the thing. The plant is somewhat like a factory, and the nitrogen, phosphates and potash we can liken to materials which are coming in on conveyors. One brings in nitrogen, one phosphates, and another

* G.S.A. Convention Address.

potash, and for that factory to function, for the machinery in the plant factory to function, all must be coming in at once, because if the nitrogen is not there the machinery is not functioning, the factory is not putting out, new grass is not being made, and the potash and the phosphates would be piling up under the conveyor.

So, in our example, we have a soil in which it seems the nitrogen is very low; this is an ideal situation taken from considerable experience we have had—we would analyze the plant tissues, grind them as I described, and make the test, but find no nitrogen. We would find in the plant tissue a very high phosphorus, for example, and a quite high amount of potash.

Analyze for All Factors

So many times different people have tried the plant tissue test and have said, "It doesn't need phosphorus or potash, and it does need nitrogen," or "turn around and analyze for one or the other." You can't do that and be safe. You must analyze for all of them, because we want to find out which conveyor is running empty.

So, in this case we would find the plant does not have any nitrogen and so long as the plant does not have nitrogen piling up in there, it cannot grow; it is standing absolutely still because that is the first limiting factor. You can spike or treat for disease, add phosphorus and potash and plenty of water, but if nitrogen is the factor the plant stands still until that is supplied.

Suppose we supply some nitrogen here. We put in nitrogen and the machinery starts up, the plant starts to grow, and the performance picks up. But bear in mind when we looked back at the storage bins we found that while nitrogen in the bin was very low in our warehouse (if you want to look at it like that), the potash was somewhat low and the phosphorus none too good. But we have added nitrogen, and the plant has started to function again—for a time.

Now let's take this situation. We find in the plant tissue a high nitrogen, phosphorus not quite so high, and potash low. It means this: the machinery started work, the plant started to make more grass, but it did not take long before in that speeded up situation it began to run short on potash because it didn't have much to start out with. Again we find the nitrogen piling up in front of the machinery, the phosphorus not so high and the performance is limited by the potash. So then we supply potash. Then the situation

changes—for the better. Potash was the first limiting factor, and then when we supply potash and nitrogen the plant speeded up to the extent the phosphorus we originally had in the soil would permit it to go. So our limiting factor now becomes phosphorus.

Suppose now we supply the phosphorus. Then so far as nitrogen, phosphorus, and and potash are concerned everything should be all right. Then you might go out and test the plant and find that nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash, all three, are high.

What would it mean when all three of those factors are high and yet the plant is not performing satisfactorily? It means you can eliminate those three factors as being your trouble, and look for something else. It might be disease, over-watering, bad drainage, salt concentration, starvation for some minor elements, etc.

Performance Indicates Condition

You can go out and test your plants and if they don't show anything at all—look at your performance. If the performance is fine it means the machinery is using the materials as fast as they come in. Everything must be in good balance. There is no piling up in front of the machinery. There, you are not to be concerned, because everything is satisfactory. On the other hand if the plant was not performing right and you had low nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash, it is possible that all three are limiting. Those are the things you have to consider in interpreting these tests. I feel that these tests will be used a great deal in the future.

I am quite familiar with soil tests. We all know we can go out and add treatment to soil to see what will happen but you greenkeepers cannot afford to do that because you cannot afford to make mistakes. You can't afford to be experimenting on your greens. You can have experimental plots but what might be good here, might not be good there. We can test

The most complete golf schedule issued for any section of the country is Michigan's which includes tournaments of the Detroit DGA, Michigan PGA, Metropolitan GA, Michigan Seniors GA, Junior District GA, Women's District GA and Women's Metropolitan GA. It also includes schedules of national and international events, association rosters and directory of officials and department heads of Michigan clubs.

Bob Howell, Detroit District GA tournament chairman, puts out the booklet. Bob's ad and two others help defray cost of the fine job.

the soil for phosphorus and potash and that works quite well in agronomic factors on farm fields; but that doesn't work so well on golf greens, because you have used arsenic and that interferes. The potash is interfered with by ammonia. You use a great deal of ammonium sulphate and you might get interference from that. These are some of the limitations in the soil tests.

With the agronomic crops we have had much more experience this last year by using the tissue test than we have with turfs. For instance, consider a case like this. We had an experiment out on one of our pasture areas. This experiment was designed to test whether phosphate could be topdressed on the soil, whether it should be put down in rows, or disced into the ground.

We went out on the experimental layout with the tissue test. We tested the plants for nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash, and we found in the grasses in every plot that nitrogen was the limiting factor. Here we had an experiment to study what phosphorus was doing, and what was the use of measuring what the phosphorus was doing when the grass was not doing more than nitrogen was permitting it to do. The experiment was worthless.

In the case of clover, it would make its own nitrogen. When we tested the clover where phosphorus had not been added, there was no phosphorus in the plant. In the grasses where phosphorus had not been added, there was much phosphorus in the plants, but again there was a piling up in the machinery of the plant because the plant needed nitrogen to go along.

Potash Deficiency Colors Leaf

I want to say one word on potash, and it is related to something which came out of our tissue testing. When a grass starves for potash we find that the margin of the leaf tends to brown. If you take some of these turf grasses and look at them under a little magnifying or hand glass, in the case of potash starvation you can see quite easily that the edges are brown—green in the mid-leaf but brown at the edges.

One greenkeeper brought in a core of soil from one of his greens. With the turf just as it was taken out of the green, it was examined and found that it suggested potash starvation. This was in the latter part of July. We tested the soil. I did not have a great deal of confidence in the soil test because there was a possibility the test might show high potash that

could be due to the ammonia which had recently been added; but we tested the grass and found there was no potash in it. When potash was supplied, it snapped out of it.

Old Tissues Don't Recover

Old tissues that have been injured and are brown on the sides will not recover, but new ones will recover. It leads me to wonder if many times we are not running into, especially in the more humid regions, a considerable potash storage toward the middle of July and August; that may be the cause of the browning. To support this belief I feel we have more potash starvation in that period of summer than any other time.

I want to say that if we want to clean the soil of potash, all we need to do is to leech that soil with any kind of salt, the kind doesn't matter. Ammonium sulphate is a salt, of course, and we can completely clean the potash out of that soil. If you are using a lot of ammonium sulphate, that is perfectly all right, but watch out, for you may be leeching the potash out.

I wish you who are watering a great deal and using ammonium sulphate in your water would watch the potash during the latter part of July and August. You can go to grass during the winter and test it for phosphorus and potash and even on soil quite deficient in phosphorus and potash, you will find the grass high in phosphorus and potash. Yet look at your grass performance. It is not doing anything; it is frozen and dead and there is only a little green down near the crown. The factory is shut down for cold weather; the material is piling up.

Always, in making the test, watch the performance. If it is satisfactory, you have nothing to worry about; if it is not satisfactory it may be one of these three things we have been talking about.

I want you to understand that in making these remarks regarding soil tests or plant tissue tests, we are still in a rather youthful period and we need more information. We at Purdue have a kit that will make the tests and there are commercial concerns that handle them. Undoubtedly, before very long, we will use this technique with considerable advantage.

I just caution you—the technique of making the test is merely "cook book" procedure. The value to you will depend upon the interpretation you make of it. You have to think of this as a moving thing, something changing every day.

Test New Par Rating

New USGA ruling, toughening par on course where National Open is to be played, gets initial test at Philadelphia CC

CONSIDERABLE interest has been shown in the Philadelphia CC Spring Mill course since the USGA announced that par for the course during National Open play was 69. Golfers of all classes welcome the opportunity to see how the tougher par rating will stand up under the sharpshooting of the stars.

However, the par figures represent only a cold visualization of the Spring Mill course problems. The design represents an outstanding specimen of ingenious arrangements of tees to make the course try the abilities of various classes of golfers without unfairly penalizing the duffer.

Architecturally, the Spring Mill layout presents an opportunity for the hot shot to reward himself with his ability to "read the course" correctly with respect to his shotmaking ability.

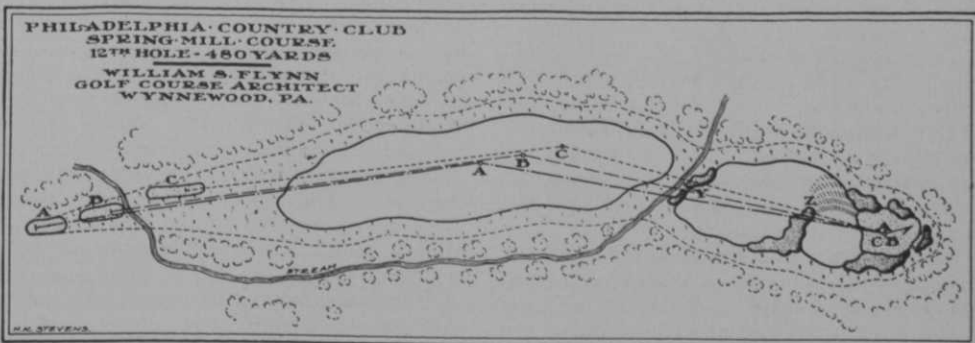
William S. Flynn of Toomey and Flynn, designers and builders of the course, comments on its general features and on its twelfth hole, in particular—*Editor*.

The accompanying diagram of the twelfth hole illustrates how the star and the novice alike may find interest and en-

joyment in perspective the player first sees a broad meadow sloping gradually to the right with nothing more hazardous from the tee than an irregular line of trees that border the fairway on both sides. A small stream meanders across the line between shots, disappearing into the right background and emerging again at the tee end.

In the distance and slightly to the right, the green sets up at the top of a knoll about 30 feet above the drive area closely guarded by traps at right and left. In the foreground short of the green a large trap gouged out of the face of the hill indicates a compulsory carry for the second shot. It may readily be seen that a premium is definitely placed on the shot to the green following a normal drive. Any tendency to careless relaxation in the tee shot and this hole quickly becomes a three shotter with still further problems on shots two and three.

The absence of directional traps or bunkers from the tee, while not intended to deceive, puts the player strictly on his mettle in sizing up the problem as a whole, the result obtained being directly equal



joyment in deliberating and surmounting the problem devised in the plan and adjusted to the several classes of players through the medium of tees.

The card shows a championship distance of 480 yards which, under ruling applying for the National Open, the USGA classified as a par 4. The length may be scaled down to a minimum of 350 yards at the front tee.

with his ability to estimate the situation intelligently.

The water in the stream crossing the fairway is not visible although a depression in the contour may be seen and the traps at the far side flash a warning.

In a hole of this type a wide variety of play is provided without material deviation from a direct line which generally permits the possibility of low construction

Pennsylvania State College extension service is issuing a monthly mimeographed one-page bulletin giving timely advice on turf care. The bulletin is prepared by Charles Hallowell, Philadelphia extension representative, Fred Grau, extension agronomist, and J. O. Pepper, extension entomologist.

cost and economical maintenance.

From the specific standpoint of attack based on par golf, the normal expectancy of play of the groups labeled A-B-C is as follows:

A—A drive of 250 yards plus a 230 yard second, requiring a direct carry of 185 yards over trap "Z".

B—A drive of 230 yards plus a 200 yard second, requiring a direct carry of 16 yards over trap "Z".

The framework layout of the course is identical with the original plan of 1924. However, recent structural improvements have been made with the intention of more clearly indicating the strategic features of the various holes. This has been done through the introduction of directional traps and bunkers placed so as to permit the presentation of a test suiting the requirements of National championships without destroying the character of the course nor interfering with the pleasure in the game from the standpoint of the club membership.

The twisting terrain contains many interesting topographical features that have been worked into the general scheme of play. The undulating character of the land has made possible the development of objectives demanding shot placement which play an important part in obtaining proper visibility. Many varying examples of shot technique are to be found throughout the links without resort to trickiness but rather with the thought always in mind of offering an incentive and providing a reward for high class golf.

C—A drive of 210 yards plus a 180 yard second requiring a direct carry of 145 yards over trap "Z."

The alternative presented to a player of either group is, that he may elect not to risk the big carry on his second shot but may play short, then on in three with the hope he may get close enough to sink his putt for par. It quite frequently follows, however, that such a plan becomes a stepping stone to risking par eventually. Then too, because of a drive not being up to scratch, the player may be compelled to play short since the distance over trap "Z" is too great a carry, but

in either of the cases cited the chances for par are greatly reduced.

The generous area between points Y and Z is provided to accommodate these latter schemes of play, there being about 60 yards of fairway tolerance, but the third shot becomes more intricate because the green surface is concealed from there.

In addition to the above classes the tyro may still find something to hold his interest. Using either Tee B or C he plays short of the creek in two. From there he elects whether he shall have a go at the green or make it a four shotter by playing safely to Y-Z, getting on in four and winding up with a five or six.

In any event, regardless of class, the player will find interest and should feel a great satisfaction by accomplishing at the cup what he set out to do at the tee.

Remodeling Job at Skokie Helps Club Many Ways

SKOKIE CC (Chicago district), scene of the 1922 National Open, is opening four new holes for play after completing a remodeling job involving numerous interesting aspects.

The course has suffered considerable time out of play as result of floods from a stream in the Skokie marsh, which is the western boundary of the club's property. Langford and Moreau, golf architects, adjusting the course architecture and drainage plan with the plans of the National Park engineers on the Skokie Lagoons project, gained 6 substantial objectives for the club, by the remodeling and construction job. The gains are:

1. Improvement of entire course's surface and sub-surface drainage.
2. Secure flood control, previous lack of which often has made course unplayable.
3. Provides water supply and storage, reducing club's annual irrigation bill between \$3,000 and \$4,000.
4. Improves beauty of course and provides two new water holes, one of which, the par 3 twelfth, is destined to be mentioned among the country's great holes.
5. Snapped up interest of course in skillful arrangement of hazards.
6. Provided about \$20,000 worth of dirt for relief of former flat terrain and building of dikes.

The reconstruction job is expected to pay for itself quickly in making possible greater volume of play and reducing operating and maintenance costs.

"If I Were Green-Chairman"

AFTER seeing and hearing for years that not infrequently the green-chairman is one of the most puzzling problems with which the greenkeeper contends, GOLFDOM asked for statements from successful greenkeepers who laud their chairmen in private sessions where everyone can speak freely.

Obviously, these men who cite their own chairmen as paragons, are men with chairmen who handle the job as a practical greenkeeper believes it should be handled. The experienced greenkeeper realizes fully that the chairman's job is no bed of thornless roses, either, and considers that an important part of the greenkeeper's work is that of conducting operations so the chairman's visits to his own club will not be made with the threat of kicks and other woes uppermost.

From observation of exemplary performance, Robert S. Greenfield, widely-known greenkeeper of the Wilshire CC (Los Angeles district) advises chairmen what he'd do if he were in their job.

Says Greenfield:

For the average greenkeeper to imagine himself in the position of green-chairman, is an invitation for comment with great possibilities of humor; but as far as I am concerned it will be strictly serious and I hope, constructive.

Three Year Job, At Least

In taking over the running of a golf course my first condition would be that the job was mine for at least three years. After that was settled I would assure myself that I had a qualified greenkeeper to depend on.

I should admit at the outset that it might be difficult for a new green-chairman with no background of experience to know if he had a capable greenkeeper or not. The blame for such a difficulty can be laid at the doorstep of the local golf association I think, as there should have been a system set up long ago between the local greenkeepers' association and the local golf association as to the abilities of the individual greenkeepers in their district.

I would like to belong to a group of green-chairmen who would visit and play the different courses, and I would try to arrange field meetings with the green-

keepers and discuss greenkeeping problems.

I would feel it no more than my duty to be out for a few mornings seeing the work being done. This would be an education to many critical golfers.

Mention of the word criticism brings up the bane of the green-chairman's existence, if he takes his job seriously. If he is a weak specimen, the greenkeeper and his crew have double trouble.

Know What's Going On

If it were my job to meet the critics, I would make it a point never to be put on the defensive. I would know what the conditions are on the course, and what the greenkeeper and his men are doing and why.

If I am satisfied that the best is being done, then it is up to me to make the members understand they are getting their money's worth.

I would make it a point to have the greenkeeper attend committee meetings where course business was to be discussed and encourage him to offer suggestions for improvements. Also, I would have him keep some simple form of cost accounting.

I would take it for granted that the greenkeeper was boss of the course and never interfere with his men under any circumstance. By the same token I'd expect the greenkeeper to be able to give me reasonable information of the why and wherefore of what was done; the causes and cures for the troubles that arise.

I would do my best to fill my job as a fair-minded man, a job that might, at the start, have more kicks than plaudits, but a job if well done, that would merit respect and gratitude of the much-troubled greenkeeper as well as that of the members.

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Charles Baskin, Supt., Country Club of Waterbury, Conn., says:

EFFICIENT and pleasant relations between the greenkeeper and chairman depend a lot upon the greenkeeper considering what he would do were he the chairman, and what he'd want done by the greenkeeper if the positions were exchanged.

Fortunately, at my club, our chairman is one who would be regarded as the ideal

one by most clubs. Consequently work on the course is directed with a unity of understanding that saves the club considerable money and permits us to get work done quickly as dictated by weather conditions. I know what I would expect of myself were I in his shoes as chairman and he knows that I apply, in course maintenance work, the policies the directors lay down and that the members desire to produce attractive playing conditions.

The chairman-greenkeeper relations at our club are as I would have them if I were chairman, so an outline of our practice may be of help to others.

The chairman is of utmost assistance to the greenkeeper but does not carry his operations into such detail and such participation in the mechanics of the operation that the greenkeeper's job becomes that of attending to the chairman first, and the course second. That too-common mistake we have completely escaped.

Before the season starts we discuss the problems of the coming year and plan to see how we can get the most work done with our budget. In this planning we itemize the budget by classification of work and, so far as possible, by the time when the work should be done. The chairman tells the improvements he would like to see made during the year. He asks me for my suggestions. He tells his ideas, and by the time we complete threshing out the subject of improvements and how to accomplish them, we have the work clearly in mind instead of being handicapped by general ideas that are subject to the temptation and expense of frequent change as the work is undertaken.

Chairman Watches Budget Closely

The chairman checks to see that the budget is being adhered to in the closest practical manner. He is aware that no hard and fast rule may be applied to the monthly maintenance of the budget. One month may be a bit off and adjustment will have to be made the next month. The chairman is not backward about giving words of encouragement and commendation. Such a policy is an incentive to the greenkeeper.

With the exception of only a few emergency cases our business together is

handled at the club. Many times chairmen go to greenkeepers' homes for their conferences. Records are not available and the location, generally, isn't best for a business session.

Another thing that my chairman does which enables me to devote my time and interest properly to affairs that count for the club, is not passing along complaints from members, which in his judgment, are not justified. This is one of the surest signs of chairman's qualifications. All of us know members who complain, conscientiously but ignorantly, about matters that if handled according to the complainant's wishes, would cause dissatisfaction among almost all other members of the club. The chairman who protects his greenkeeper against these ill-advised complaints is valuable to the club, and its greenkeeper.

The average golf club member has no idea how much trouble baseless complaints cause, or how much money is wasted to do work demanded by one, or a very few, of a club's entire membership. The greenkeeper is put on the spot if the chairman does not insist that all complaints from members come to him first, and are sifted with consideration. The complaining member who goes to the greenkeeper and doesn't get immediate action because the greenkeeper has neither authority nor conviction to act, may regard himself as personally offended by the greenkeeper. Such situations are unfair and unhealthy to the greenkeeper. We do not have them at our club. Our chairman acts as the competent greenkeeper would act were he chairman.

Greenkeeper Gets Justifiable Complaints

The foregoing of course does not mean that the chairman doesn't pass justified complaints along to me. He does that quickly, and that is one of the reasons the job can be handled satisfactorily. With growth conditions for trouble always being favorable on a golf course, regardless of the preventive means taken, the greenkeeper needs full and sympathetic cooperation in discovering trouble in its earliest stages, and in locating any detail that is not being cared for in a way that adds to members' pleasure and pride in the course.

Chairman-greenkeeper relations of the type I have outlined not only make work easier for both men, but make more certain the achievement of their mutual aim, supplying the club with a course of which members may boast and course management of a character that compares very favorably with business operations in other fields.

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An annual event at the Edison Club, Schenectady, N. Y., is a clean-up party in which members remove rocks, brush, stumps, etc., and plant small trees under direction of Greenkeeper Mitchell.