

# HOW TO GEAR YOUR GREENS CREW TO WAR

By W. E. LANGTON

PERHAPS one of the most important functions the superintendent has to face today is the handling of men. We are called upon today to try and fit square pegs in round holes. With most if not all of our young men in the fighting forces or in defense plants, we are left with some of our old reliables, aided by the flotsam and jetsam that few people want and who can hardly get a living in boom times. But today it is a question of take what you can or do without, so it's up to the superintendent to make the most of what he has and get a maximum of results from a minimum of inclination.

Some few years ago I witnessed the beginning of a flood relief project to aid our unemployed. The work was started by a young army engineer who one could see at first glance had very little experience in handling men. Five hundred men turned up early one morning to assist in the work. Among them were lawyers, real estate men, peddlers, agents, waiters, cooks, fat men, sick and healthy, colored and white, all seeking the wherewithal to eat. For one whole day it was a chaotic mess. Weak men pushing overladen wheelbarrows which were far too heavy for them to handle, strong men carrying small drinking water pails with tin cups, men in too compact a mass for freedom of action and most everybody pretending effort and doing little. It was a fine example of lack of experience in diagnosing quickly what a man is suited for.

## A Tough Job at Best

Now I don't blame the young engineer. It was his first experience in handling new men whom he had never seen before, and not the best material to work with anyway. And there is no doubt that he would profit from the mistakes he made that first day of responsibility. But Uncle Sam was at the back of the project. The unemployed had to be fed and young army men had to get experience so nobody was hurt very much unless it was the taxpayer, who seems quite willing to carry the load without much protest.

But clubs have not the power of taxing

the public nor have they unlimited resources. Hence, if the superintendent pulls a few boners the clubs suffer. So the first thing to do is to look very carefully at the character, and physical makeup of each man in your employ and see that each man is doing the work which he is best fitted to do. Try to allot the work that each man prefers, not neglecting the fact that a preponderance of men prefer an easy job. He will do it so much more efficiently and quicker than if it is just a job to earn a few dollars. Balance the work so that each man gets an equal proportion of the hard monotonous work. Do not allow a man to become disgruntled by claiming he has to do all the dirty work. Try to create a harmonious spirit among the men. Treat all men respectfully and decent without being mushy. Always remember when you were a worker in the same position as they are now. A little honest competition will help sometimes, but do not overdo it for the physically weaker man will fail and become despondent and quit, or if too willing is liable to hurt himself. Take a personal interest in the men without showing favoritism, and if possible give a little help when it is needed. Do not shout and bawl out men, but if complaints have to be made take the man aside and say your piece with courage and dignity.

## What Can You Do?

Now we have gotten rid of the personal element. Let's see what we can do on the golf course. First of all we must know definitely what the club can afford to spend. What is the club's chance of survival? How many oldsters are there to keep the club alive, also men who are too valuable in science, technical work and defense work to go in the Army. How far are you from easy transportation? Get in a huddle with your green-chairman, get his viewpoint and see what he wants and what the club is able to spend on the course. Do not promise a Cadillac course with a Ford income. In other words state plainly what you can do with so many men and so much material.

When you know all these facts and you

have to cut, in order to keep the course going, find out what are the unnecessary things you can do without. There are so many little things that can almost be classed as luxuries—like painting signs, boundary posts, flag poles, benches, bridges, parking ground ribbons, fences and a thousand and one little artistic touches that are nice to have and yet for a short period of time can be dispensed with. Then there are the flower beds; annuals, which require a lot of attention, can be replaced with some hardy perennial or a few shrubs that require little irrigation and scarcely any attention. See whether it is not cheaper to buy flowers for the clubhouse tables than to pay high priced labor to grow them. Today one can get a lot of flowers for the price of a gardener.

Organize your men so there is no overlapping of effort. Make each man responsible for a certain district. He should take care of his traps, irrigate and cut his greens, change the markers, see that clean towels are in position, water in the washing machine, and keep clean and tidy his particular district. Provide sufficient equipment and tools so that men do not have to waste time in walking hither and yon for everything they need. See that all tools are kept sharp and in first-class condition. Older men cannot work with dull tools. Replace power equipment for hand machines wherever possible. Try a close cut method on fairways and see whether it lessens manpower and tractor use. If one can cut once a week instead of twice by lowering the blades of the machine and still give satisfaction it will be a saving of time and material. Forget for the time being some of the remote corners of the links where it will do little harm. Some pruning of trees and hedges, and shrubs, sweeping of leaves, may have

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Use them as envelope stuffers, clip them on menus, place in lockers.

Order from **GOLFDOM**, 14 E. Jackson, Chicago.

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## CERTAINLY WORTH IT!

to go by the board. Do not try to keep the whole course manicured to death and irrigated unless you have a full complement of men and resources. You will only end in failure if you try to do too much.

On most holes certain sections in front of the tee for 125 yards can be allowed to go back to nature. Just cut sufficiently to prevent lost balls and a slow-up of play. If greens are over 5,000 sq. ft., reduce in size. It will save a lot in labor, fertilizer and machinery, besides making the players pitch more accurately. Wherever possible reduce the length of fairways consistent with good golf. Make the course a pleasure to play for the ordinary average golfer and forget for the time being the super-golfers, for most of them are in the fighting forces or defense work. Always keep in mind that golf is a morale builder and a golf course is a place where men can find a haven for relaxation from the cares and worry of these troublesome times. Your course should be so constructed and maintained to give a maximum of pleasure with a minimum of effort and cost to the greatest majority of those who play the game.

If play still declines and it is not possible to keep 18 holes in good shape, choose the best holes where there will be a well balanced 9 holes. It may mean using some fairway for substitute tees and a rearrangement sometimes gives wonderful results and much satisfaction to the players.

It is difficult to give a panacea for all the golf ills that inflict our clubs today. What is suitable in one place does not fit into another. If one can keep on the status quo so much the better, but for those who are or may be liable to experience difficulties perhaps a suggestion gathered from this article may help. If it does assist the writer will have been amply repaid.

# NATIONWIDE DRIVE FOR USED GOLF BALLS NOW IN PROGRESS

Club Officials and Player Committees  
Will Cooperate with Pros in Putting  
12,000,000 "Absentees" Back Into Service

**D**URING March, the president and professional of every golf club in the United States will receive complete details covering a nationwide drive to collect the millions of unplayable golf balls still in the hands of the players.

Although no brand new golf balls have been made since a year ago, most clubs will start 1943 fairly well stocked. This is due to the foresighted action taken last season by many of the pros who, in most cases, staged single-handed drives to collect unplayable golf balls, for renewal by the leading golf ball manufacturers. Thus, heading into 1943, the clouding golf ball situation has been materially brightened by the arrival of thousands of dozens of the re-conditioned pellets.

Golf ball renewal long since passed through the experimental stage and by now most players have been agreeably surprised by the playability of the properly rebuilt product. As the months roll by with no relief in sight on rubber, it won't be so very long before the supply of golf balls is almost entirely dependent upon the rebuilt product. The principal manufacturers are producing highly satisfactory reprocessed golf balls. The big problem is in getting them from the players, the majority of whom seem to feel after a year at war that the ample supply would last indefinitely. But there can be reasonable assurance of an ample ball supply to handle golf's part in keeping American mentally and physically fit, only if the officials, pros and players swing into unified action to get the unplayable balls renewed and back in service.

To help accomplish this, the National Golf Foundation has prepared a plan for conducting a used golf ball collection drive. The procedure to be followed is outlined

step by step. It is a digest of the most successful golf ball collection methods used in 1942; it is simple to follow and can be used by clubs without pros as well as those employing pros' services.

Details outlined include the setting up of a committee in charge of the drive and its duties; the most likely sources of used balls; publicity, collection and checking; where to send the balls for reprocessing; and an explanation of a special promotion service for pepping-up the players. In addition to the Foundation's promotional literature, effective display cards are being furnished by the golf ball manufacturers.

From now on, for the duration the golf ball situation is in the hands of the players. There will be no "golf ball problem" if they turn in their old balls for renewal . . . and they will if the club officials cooperate with their professionals in setting up the simple machinery suggested by the Foundation's plan.

This is a project in which every club in the country should participate. Any golf club president or pro who has not received the details of the plan by April 1st should request a copy from the National Golf Foundation, 14 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

**No A-Card Cars to Clubs**—Gas Rationing Office of the OPA says the ruling on the restrictions of pleasure driving was intended to apply to all sections of the country and therefore players should not go to their clubs in A-Card automobiles. At the same time, it is conceded that the Middle West rationing authorities are not interpreting the ruling as strictly as in the East and West, and that there is a possibility of more liberal interpretations nationwide as the season advances.



SPALDING SETS THE  PACE IN SPORTS

# *They'll thank you later* **FOR GETTING TOUGH NOW!**

**G**ET your members together now, and paint this word picture for them: A mellow mid-summer's day, the fairways bathed in sunshine — *and no golf balls!*

A tragedy? You're darned right.

And it need not happen. It won't happen if you begin to get a little hard-boiled about it. Those old golf balls have got to be turned in. *You* have to see that they're turned in. And that may mean giving your members a rude awakening to the facts.

Unless they turn in those old golf balls, we can't send you reprocessed

Spalding golf balls. Unless your members are shocked into action — and dig old balls out of closets, lockers, bags — there is real danger that they'll spend their summer afternoons *dreaming* about golf instead of *playing* it.

Give it to them straight from the shoulder . . . Keep the game of golf, your business, alive.

Cooperating Pros can help assure a supply of fine Spalding-reprocessed Golf Balls—including that top-favorite Spalding Flyer that is sold exclusively through Pro shops. Act now before it's too late. A. G. Spalding & Bros., Division of Spalding Sales Corporation.

# **SPALDING**

## **GOLF BALL SALVAGE PLAN**



**FLYER**  
(Pro only)



**WAR-FLITE**



**BOMBER**



**RECRUIT**



# GOLF IN WAR? HERE'S WHY!

By HERB GRAFFIS

**J**UST what is the justification for continuing golf club operations in wartime? If there isn't adequate reason for the game, golf should confess to being unnecessary and abandon its \$800,000,000 property investment without tears. After all, \$800,000,000 is only a small installment on the price of American liberty.

If there isn't adequate justification for golf club operations in wartime, certainly the golfers have patriotism far above their golf enthusiasm and will immediately toss golf into the discard for the duration on the mere suspicion that the game might be interfering with successful conduct of the war. In fact, even without adequate considered logic, some golfers have given up the game in frightened haste for fear their participation in golf might be handicapping war effort.

But on the other hand, if golf can help the war effort, it is the responsibility of patriotism and common sense to boldly state the case and begin vigorous offense against those who seem to be devoting an undue proportion of their efforts to attacking golf and other sports as a questionable contribution to winning the war.

## Critics Are Human

In appraising the criticism of golf, and in a honest effort to determine golf's wartime status, one must start by realizing the critics are fallible human beings. Some amusing inconsistencies pop up when the source of criticism is analyzed in establishing its validity. For instance, congress worries about the serious problem of absenteeism in war plants. Absenteeism in congress when voting is to be done on major matters is 13%; more than twice the per cent of war plant absenteeism.

There are critics who advocate trimming American life to the essentials of war work and doing away with everything else. If consistent, their attitude should call for abolition of all amusements; for going to bed at nightfall to save light bills; for getting up at daybreak to walk to work so power and transportation equipment would be saved; for wearing clothes and shoes until no longer usable; for eating and drinking the minimum required for health; for the complete abandonment of

all business, social, educational, and ethical activities not directly and urgently required for the prosecution of the war.

In short, if their reasoning with respect to the complete abandonment of golf were followed through consistently and thoroughly, this nation would be surrendered to totalitarian ideology. So we would have lost what the nation is striving to preserve.

## Importance of Balance

But, fortunately, the critics are human beings and, as such, are mainly interested in their own personal welfare, notwithstanding a genuine overlying desire to assure the welfare of the entire nation. However, they do not consider the elements constituting a properly balanced and effective war program from a correct perspective.

They do not consider, for instance, that the time the German and occupied nation civilian populace is compelled to devote annually to listening to the broadcasts of speeches by Hitler, Goebbels, Goering, et al, far exceeds in man hours the amount of time devoted to golf by American golfers and club employees.

They do not consider that Russia during its desperate and magnificent fight for survival has maintained a program of balanced recreation, and now is conducting one of the greatest national sports demonstrations ever held anywhere in the world.

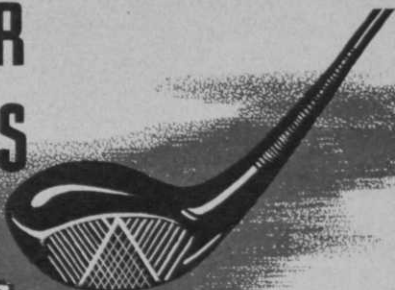
They do not consider that the artificial, indoor, high-pressure monotony of wartime civilian effort demands compensatory escape, relaxation, and refreshment to keep manual and mental labor at peak output and in keenest zest.

They do not know—as informed American industrialists and doctors do—that Germany's failure to balance the work and rest programs for its civilian populace has sharply reduced the Nazis wartime production capacity.

They do not recognize that what they theoretically plan in the virtual establishment of a slave labor plan in the United States has been condemned as grossly inefficient by slave labor experience in nations under Axis rule.

They do not appreciate the important difference between organization for effec-

# KEEP YOUR CLUB MEMBERS FIT -



## *Swinging* AT THE *Axis!*

You are serving too when you keep your club members interested in their game—and getting both physical and mental relaxation to prepare them for their important home-front activities.

This is a war involving all the people and golf can and must play its part in keeping us fit for our total war effort. We believe that we have on hand, enough golf clubs from our 1942 production to meet your requirements this year—so if your stock needs filling out—write us. Meantime keep your members playing with the best as they work for Victory!

HILLERICH & BRADSBY CO., INC., LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

# *Play*

WITH THE BEST AS  
YOU WORK FOR VICTORY

LOUISVILLE  
**POWER-BILT**  
GOLF CLUBS



Bill, I feel "top hole" today. Let's get some new golf balls.



Hi-ya, Jack! Let's have a half dozen Wilson rebuilds.



Sorry, Mr. Blake, I haven't a single ball in the shop.



W-H-A-T!!!! Didn't you send any used balls to Wilson? That's terrible!!



# DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU

*if you want to keep golf going*

Golf for 1943 and for the duration, simmers down to just this: No golf balls, no golf. And *you* are the doctor . . . with the great game of golf facing the most serious situation in its entire history. Our hands are tied, unless you do this at once—Get together every last used golf ball you can find.

Urge your members to search their lockers, golf bags, homes and offices and to

bring all used golf balls to you *immediately*.

Then pack them up and send them along to us for our "accurated" rebuilding. This is the only way you can rate a supply of freshly rebuilt Wilson balls. No used golf balls, no new golf balls. If you don't have our generous terms, write today. Wilson Sporting Goods Co., Chicago, New York and other leading cities.

# Wilson

ACCURATED Rebuilt Golf Balls

IT'S WILSON TODAY IN SPORTS EQUIPMENT

No one believes victory would be won quicker in this war if all pleasure was strictly forbidden. People, if they are to be efficient and maintain a high morale, must have some relaxation and fun. Gasoline and tire rationing obviously are going to limit people's use of golf clubs, but when used within these limits, there is no disposition on the part of the government to make a sin out of golf playing. People are stopped from taking long motor trips for pleasure, but they still need to get out into the open air. In such a situation, continued reasonable use and support of golf clubs may fairly be interpreted not as detracting from the war program but as supporting it.

Editorial in the Joplin (Mo.) Globe,  
Jan. 16, 1943.

tive employment of the physical and mental capacities of free Americans, and edicts limiting the conscientious American's opportunities for keeping himself in best condition to do considerably more than his normal amount and grade of work.

These critics make the human mistake of forgetting they are dealing with human beings. They have stampeded some people away from a rational view of the war-time recreation problem, especially as it concerns golf. Unhappily some of these who have been stampeded indicate by their reaction that they are in need of what golf supplies to the civilized, emotional American in wartime. Already worrying about business, about sons and the sons of friends away in war, about civilian war activities, the sincere citizen, without knowing it, has worn himself down to a point where he is easy prey to the propaganda of the unbalanced theorist.

Consider some reasons as advanced by an intensely patriotic friend of mine:

- (1) Members should spend leisure time in war efforts, such as victory gardens;
- (2) Money spent at the club should be spent for War bonds;
- (3) Club employees should be engaged in war industries.

Let's take up these, one by one:

Victory gardens should be attended to, but the time required by them does not preclude golf. The wartime function of leisure is to keep the citizen from going stale. A variety of wholesome leisure occupations is recommended by the doctors, who are the really competent authorities in directing a balanced work-leisure program for wartime.

My friend's second point is theoretically lovely, but practically there's nothing to

it as long as humans are humans. Maintenance of national economy requires the continuance of tax contributing enterprises and golf clubs are probably the nation's leading source of sports tax revenue; even in excess of the various state revenues derived from race horse betting. Bond selling and war relief financing done by golf clubs may come close to equalling the annual revenues of most golf clubs. A lot of figuring on paper would have to be done before this possible objection could be precisely appraised.

As for the employees of clubs, switching to war industry, how many of them are there? This season they will be at a minimum and in the great majority of cases unqualified for war work, even with considerable training which, let it be remembered, will involve time, money and probable waste in material and man hours in attempting to fit round pegs into square holes.

It all adds up that golf loafers are out. But golf as a reward and refresher for those who are doing their level patriotic damndest is logical, legitimate and valuable. If it weren't it would have been folded long before this by those who are convinced—after due deliberation—that golf on its drastically revised basis should be retained as a corollary of intense war effect.

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**Sliding Dues**—Brae Burn CC (Houston) has slashed its dues in half and will charge 50 cents a round to players until enough is paid in to make up the old monthly dues. Then play is free.

Board of Directors of the club explained: "The directors feel that the plan will be fair to all members, the active and inactive alike. The member who is fortunate enough to have time in which to play golf regularly will pay no more than he does now for the privilege, while the member who is working long hours to produce the materials essential to the conduct of the war and can get away from his office or factory only once or twice a month for an afternoon's recreation, will pay only the overhead charge, plus the small service charge when he does play.

"In other words, the man who can play several times a week will pay about the same he is paying now, while the member who cannot play regularly will pay his pro-rata share for the upkeep of the course."