

# Clubs Tell HOW They Are Doing

★ It gradually is dawning on the nation that with selective service calling for most of the younger men the older fellows are going to have to be in better condition for more work. As golf is beyond any question the most popular outdoor participating game for men and women past their thirties the game has to do an important wartime job in continuing on an operating basis that will best fit the war-working populace for labors and strains considerably beyond normal.

Almost every condition is against conducting golf club operations on the basis required by the increased importance of golf in the wartime recreational plan.

In the first place, there's the ball situation. Despite strenuous campaigning to get used balls for reconditioning there's bound to be a diminishing quantity, and the allotment of a even small amount of new material for ball manufacture still isn't in sight.

Then, there's the transportation problem which may get tougher when the European northern invasion begins and Nazi submarine and plane attacks on Allied shipping are conducted on an all-out desperation basis.

And, of course, there are the labor and material shortages, taxes and the other customary problems of all wartime business.

Nevertheless, the record and abilities of wartime golf club officials and department heads shows that the adverse factors are regarded as challenges, rather than edicts to fold up.

There isn't now, or has there been previously, adequate appreciation for the job golf club officials do as a sideline to their own urgent business matters. Nor is there general public appreciation of the fact that the "country club" set, when the pinch is on, stands up as strong American sportsmen. It's been pleasantly and positively surprising, even to golf club offi-

cial, to experience so little complaining and so much cheerful cooperation from members in adjusting club operations to wartime conditions.

Reports from representative clubs contain many evidences of resourcefulness that has not only kept clubs operating in unexpectedly smooth form but has knitted the membership closer together.

*Harold W. Hatch, pres., The Shuttle Meadow Club, Inc., New Britain, Conn.,* tells how that club has carried on notwithstanding the gasoline situation which was much harder on clubs in the eastern part of the country than it was elsewhere. He says:

## Maintain Lively Interest

"We have had considerable labor trouble as most clubs have had and for this reason about a year and a half ago we decided to close down Mondays. On account of the fuel situation we closed the club during February and March, 1943. and this year we were able to get sufficient oil but felt the employees should have a month's vacation so have closed for the month of March.

"We have discouraged outside parties at the club in nearly every case as we felt that the club should be available at all times to the members who are using it more than in normal times, principally due to the food shortage.

"We have a very lively Entertainment committee and have endeavored to have something going on to attract the younger members once or twice a month, as we felt that unless we could keep up the interest of the younger members, we would have plenty of resignations which would cost the club considerably more than the small loss we might take on entertainment. Our results in this respect have been fully justified as we have lost practically no members and have added a few during the past year, and I believe our

club has a reputation of serving the members better than any of the clubs in this vicinity during the past year or two.

"The House operations were in the red for the past two years, but the membership dues have kept up in a satisfactory manner notwithstanding the dues of those in the service which have been remitted.

"We are planning an active year and hope to achieve the same result in 1944 as we have in the past two years."

### Corporation Guest Plan

★ An idea worthy of consideration by many other clubs is the corporation guest privilege plan successfully used by the *Country Club of Greenfield, Mass. L. H. Martin, the club's president*, tells about that plan and other high spots of the club's fine job in adjusting to wartime:

"The Greenfield Country club last year had forty-eight active playing members in the armed services, which, of course, made a substantial reduction in the revenue of the club.

"In May, 1943, restrictions were placed upon driving cars for pleasure and these restrictions were not lifted until the middle of September. Our club is located about two and one-half miles out and arrangements were made for horse-drawn vehicles to transport the club members on Saturdays and Sundays. This was slow transportation; however, it gave the members a lot of fun.

"The Corporation Guest Privilege plan was the one which produced sufficient additional revenue to maintain the course and kept the financial affairs in a satisfactory condition for the 1943 season. This plan covered the greens fee for guest, such as customers and salesmen. A committee was appointed to call upon our local corporations and the subscriptions for this plan from six of these corporations offset the loss of dues from the forty-eight members in the armed services. The manpower shortage was acute in this area and Mr. Sennett, our club manager, did a great deal of actual work on the course during the entire season.

"We plan to continue along the same line this year, with some new ideas in mind that may develop as the season progresses."

### Economy Move That Failed

★ By no means all of the efforts in wartime adjustment turned out successfully. But officials have been frank in admitting failure of experiments suggested by conditions. At *Stockbridge (Mass.) CC* the club thought reducing the course to nine holes might be worthwhile economy. It wasn't, as the club's *sec.-treas., Heaton I. Treadway*, tells in relating Stockbridge's wartime experiences and plans. He says:

"Last summer, partially due to the

desire to conserve manpower and partially to unusual weather conditions, we kept only nine holes instead of 18 holes in playing condition. We cut the grass occasionally on the nine holes we were not using and cut the greens often enough so that they did not deteriorate. From a labor saving point of view, this did not prove a successful experiment. We were only able to decrease our working force by one man and our loss in revenue more than offset the cost to the club of this man.

"We gave all the men on the course an opportunity of working just as many hours as they wished to work thus increasing their individual revenue without increasing the cost of the pay roll. This was very much worthwhile.

"With labor shorter this year than ever and the shortage of golf supplies, if our professional does not go in the Army, he is going to work on the course all of the time. This will reduce our labor requirements by two men as he is a better worker than the ordinary golf maintenance man.

"Members have been educated not to expect to find caddies at the club and are enjoying carrying their own bags.

"Temporary tees will be installed this year, wherever in the past golf balls have been lost in a hazard on the drive. This will conserve the golf balls."

### Streamlining the Plant

★ At one of the prominent eastern clubs foresighted study of what the club might expect in wartime operating conditions saved much time and money in switching over to the present basis.

As at many other older and famed clubs the clubhouse was laid out for those old days when a large staff was available. An official of the club relates:

"Our setup consists of a main clubhouse and a separate locker building. The result is that we have operated two plants and the number of employees was relatively high. By closing our main clubhouse and making some alterations in our locker building, whereby that building included a small dining room, we were able to cut the number of house employees to about one-third of the number used under normal conditions and cut our operating costs very materially. The result is that with a very much reduced membership the past two years we have been able to operate in the black.

"Our restaurant was operated as a concession on a plan under which the concessioner had a guarantee and participated in any profits which might be made.

"I believe that in clubs custom dictates to a great degree methods of doing things and business-like methods are

sometimes not in use. It has been astounding to us the past few years to learn what could actually be done in the way of saving money.

"We have set up budgets in all departments which were materially lower than we have had in previous years, and we have been able to stay within those budgets. To be sure our members haven't had all the little services which they may have had in the past, but generally speaking they have taken it in good grace and cooperated with the management in their efforts to save money."

#### From Red to Black

★ What has astonished many a fine country club is that enforced wartime economies have performed the seeming miracle of putting into black figures the annual statements of clubs that have been reconciled to deficits.

Reduction in service and maintenance due to wartime shortages, and generally increased memberships of the better, fairly well located clubs, have figured in bringing income ahead of expenditures.

The experience of the *Westwood CC* (*St. Louis district*) is typical of that of numerous first class private clubs. *Westwood's president, Henry H. Stern*, says of the club's wartime operation:

"We operate on a fiscal year beginning November 1st, consequently, we were already in our 1942 fiscal year at the time of Pearl Harbor. Our budget had already been fixed and we were proceeding on a more or less normal basis. Our 'normal' basis involved a budget of about \$80,000 which included an item of \$20,000 or \$21,000 for maintenance and operation of our 18-hole golf course. Our membership is about 600, which includes 325 regular members, of whom perhaps 290 are active members.

"Our annual meeting at the beginning of the 1943 fiscal year was held in the latter part of November, 1942. It so happened that gas rationing became effective in this region the same week as our annual meeting. Inasmuch as our club is located some 10 miles from the city limits, accessible only by private car—there being no bus or street car lines available—we were somewhat apprehensive as to the effect of gas rationing on the use of the club.

"Accordingly, at the annual meeting in November, 1942, several alternative methods of operation were proposed. The membership approved operation on a so-called 'restricted' basis. All items of expense were kept at a minimum, maintenance of the golf course being budgeted at \$8,000 and our total budget being fixed at approximately \$40,000; all predicated on the assumption that the members would not use the club very freely during gas rationing.

"To our pleasant surprise, we found last year a very considerable use of the club. Members formed informal car pools, saved their gas during the week and in other ways managed to come to the club on weekends, particularly Sundays. The heavy use of the club, with the club operation projected on a restricted basis, produced a very satisfactory result financially. Ordinarily the club operates on an annual deficit of \$12,000 or \$15,000. Last year the operations resulted in a slight profit.

"In view of our experience last year, the Budget committee and the Board of Governors are planning a wider and more open scope of operations this year; more or less returning to our pre-war, or 'normal', method of operation. What effect the recent order reducing gas allowances in the Middle West from three to two gallons a week will have on the use of the club, we do not know. We are going to feel our way and proceed on a day-to-day basis."

#### Horse-and-Buggy Days

★ Establishment of horse-drawn transportation for members didn't figure appreciably in relieving the travel problem. Its main achievement seems to have been publicity for clubs. It did show that clubs were determined to carry on.

*Wallace Montague, pres., Worcester (Mass.) CC* tells that the club's two-horse carryall which took players three-fourths of a mile between the clubhouse and end of a bus line was only moderately used and the income didn't pay for the maintenance of the service. *Worcester*, like most other clubs, had to operate on a limited basis but *President Montague* says the course was kept in good playable condition.

One thing that *Montague* and other presidents of successful wartime clubs observed is the value of keeping the club members together during the off season for golf. The *Worcester* clubhouse was open all winter—with sharply limited service, of course—and bowling leagues of men's and mixed teams during the winter maintained the friendly spirit and contacts of members.

#### Public Course Problem

★ About as tough a problem as golf operations confronted last year was the situation that was faced by eastern public courses not near transportation.

How public golf has been continued at one of these establishments is told by *Arthur J. Sullivan, pres., Passaic County (N. J.) Park Commission*, who says:

"Operating a public golf course, as part of a county park system, it has been our policy to have receipts cover maintenance costs. We have been successful

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# Turf Research At Ames

REPORT OF EXPERIENCES AND RESEARCH  
WITH FINE TURF FOR 1943\*—PROJECT 760

By H. L. LANTZ

★ Bent grass, growing on golf greens, suffered considerable amounts of winter killing which was believed due at least in part to unseasonable weather during the month of March. The killing was most severe on wind swept and exposed greens. The injured areas were of varying size and were generally more or less patchy and irregular in outline. Fortunately, enough of the roots remained alive to enable the injured areas to repair themselves fairly well by the middle of the summer. Some areas, however, needed repair work to promote normal recovery of the affected parts of the greens.

The bent grass plots in the turf garden at Ames suffered varying amounts of winter or freezing injury. The injury was specifically related to the variety or strain. The strains growing in Area A (1939 planting) were less injured than the same strains in Area E (1941 planting). The reason for this is not clear. Be that as it may, the same strains which were injured in one area were likewise injured in the other area. Records taken at seven different times during the growing season beginning in April present an interesting study and show the rate and amount of recovery of the various bent grasses. No repair work was done on any of the plots in order that self recovery of the various injured strains might be studied.

It seems to me to be significant that some of the strains came through the winter and early spring with no appreciable injury and that other strains were severely injured. These bent grass plots are on heavy Webster silt loam, a good grass soil, but it was especially prepared for bent grass as would have been done in constructing a green. This area tends to be wet and cold and is not well drained. Some of the strains which suffered winter injury might have fared considerably better on well prepared greens. However, the winter injury which occurred in 1942-43 shows quite clearly that there are distinct and measurable differences in the hardiness of the different bent grasses growing in these plots.

The three strains which showed no appreciable winter injury were C27, C1 and C19. There was not more than 2 percent difference between them. The strains

which suffered the most injury were C36, C17, Washington and Metropolitan. An intermediate group included C15, C32 and C28. The differences in survival are clearly shown in the table, and the rate of recovery as shown is of especial interest.

A good bent grass with reasonable care should cover a green as early in the spring as weather conditions permit and continue in top playing condition throughout the season. Under Iowa conditions, July and August are trying times for the greenkeeper. We need to study any and all strains of bent grasses in the light of our general experience that many greens fail in July and August. Of course, not all of these failures are due to the bent grass, but may be due to a lack of drainage, packed soil, poor physical condition, starvation and disease.

It may be too much to expect any bent grass to go through the July and August season without deterioration, but I am convinced that heat resistant bent grasses are nearly as important as are hardy grasses. I am also convinced that we need to recognize adaptation of strains. For example, certain strains may do extremely well in central Iowa, but not be equally well adapted to all sections of the middle west. It may be that certain strains should be used in southern Iowa and not in northern Iowa, and so on. This whole question of adaptation is ready for exploration.

The table shows the rate of progress made by the various bent grass strains during the summer season of 1943. It is significant that C36, C17, Washington and Metropolitan lagged behind nearly all season in their development. However, by July 6 the plots of these strains did produce fairly good playing surfaces, but deteriorated somewhat toward the end of the season.

Under Iowa conditions it is highly desirable that the bent grass strains used in the construction of golf greens be hardy, heat resistant and as free of disease as possible. The most valuable characteristic of any bent grass strain grown in Iowa is the ability to grow and keep growing throughout the season. It should, of course, make a satisfactory turf with good putting quality.

The growth and health characters are, it seems to me, far more important than is color or grain. Considering the charac-

\*Journal Paper No. J-1195 of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa. Project No. 760.

teristics enumerated above, C19, C1 and C27 are promising because of their excellent showing up to date. Several strains, C36 and C28 both grow vigorously but these lack toughness, are inclined to be soft and scuff easily. Cut worms seem to like C28 especially well. The ten strains of bent grass received from Dr. H. B. Musser, Pennsylvania State College, were planted in September, 1942 in replications of three, making a total of thirty plots. These plots grew well and filled out nicely. Several strains were exceedingly interesting from the standpoint of the quality of the turf produced. These variety tests will be continued for some years since the plot tests of new strains of bent grasses are primarily designed to determine their adaptability and disease resistance under Iowa conditions. Iowa golf courses need better adapted and disease resistant bent grasses. The discovery of such a grass depends upon testing large numbers of new strains from any and all sources. As soon as conditions permit, the variety tests in the turf garden should be expanded. The possibilities for improved grasses are great, and to date the surface has only been scratched.

#### Brown Patch

Large brown patch in 1942 and again in 1943 in Iowa occurred in near epidemic proportions. Much rain and damp weather

during the growing season provided near optimum conditions for the development of brown patch. In 1943 there were no fungicide treatments applied on the bent grass plots. The infection was at no time very severe. The lack of severe infection is believed due to the practice of early morning watering. This apparently breaks up the fungus before it can do very much damage. Many practical greenkeepers make a practice of early morning watering or of poling the greens to help control brown patch. Some, though not serious, brown patch infection was noted during the latter part of July and early August on certain strains in the turf garden plots.

Probably the chief fungicide used in Iowa in 1943 was Thiosan. Because of humid conditions which prevailed, brown patch reached near epidemic proportions. It was found necessary to use Thiosan at the rate of two pounds per six thousand square feet to secure satisfactory control. Used at that rate, the control of brown patch was generally satisfactory. Several greenkeepers reported their experience as to time of day for application. According to these reports, Thiosan should be applied early enough in the day to permit a thorough drying of the grass before nightfall. No more water should be used in

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Table I: Summary of Stand and Condition of 10 Strains of Bent Grass Grown in 6 ft. x 6 ft. Plots. Turf Garden—Ames, Iowa. Season—1943. Expressed in Percentage.

Strain	No. Plots	Average Rating of Bent Grass Strains							Summation of season's rating in percentage
		April 22	May 3	May 20	June 10	July 6	Sept. 14	Oct. 4	
C15	6	88.33	90.83	89.66	94.00	93.83	91.00	89.00	91.00
C28	6	80.50	83.33	89.50	96.50	96.83	90.66	93.00	90.00
C36	6	75.00	69.16	76.83	84.50	91.66	95.00	93.33	83.64
C 1	9	95.00	95.00	96.55	99.55	98.44	98.11	97.11	96.90
C17	6	77.50	72.50	84.50	91.33	93.83	95.50	91.16	87.00
C19	6	94.16	97.50	98.83	100.00	100.00	96.33	93.50	97.00
C32	3	88.33	88.33	87.33	95.33	98.00	95.00	89.00	92.50
C27	3	96.00	99.33	98.66	100.00	100.00	92.66	95.33	97.70
Wash.	6	78.33	71.66	82.16	86.00	92.63	96.00	95.50	86.40
Met.	6	71.66	74.16	77.16	87.33	93.16	82.66	76.66	80.40

Table I is a summary of the record for the season of 1943 made on the bent grass plots growing in the turf garden at Ames. The bent grass in each 6 ft. x 6 ft. plot was graded on a percentage basis as to coverage and condition on the date of each observation. In an effort to avoid bias on the part of the observer, the plots are not labeled.



## FOLLOWING THROUGH

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# PROS... IN THEIR DRIVE TO COLLECT UNPLAYABLE GOLF BALLS

Timely tips from pros on collecting "old cuts." Put them to work along with the free promotion material furnished by the National Golf Foundation. It's a long time since the last new golf balls were made. Golf's future depends on getting "old cuts" back into play.

"Our caddies ask their players at the end of each round—'Will you please turn in your "old cuts" at the pro shop'. We reminded and kept reminding our boys to say this until it became a habit. A simple idea that we've found well worth while."

"Ours is a municipal course with a \$1 green fee on Sundays. We obtained a considerable quantity of used golf balls by permitting players to play free if they turned in 5 unplayable balls. Perhaps the Golf Foundation would like to pass the idea along for the consideration of other courses."

"You may be interested in knowing that I've distributed the small reminder slips which you furnished me at group luncheons here at the club with considerable success. Most of those attending are members of the club and pick up their old golf balls from their lockers and drop them in at the shop. I've found it helps a lot to remind the players at a time when they have easy access to their worn out golf balls."

"Last year our results were not so good but we really are getting them in early this year. Your appeal to the club president to get behind the drive has helped a lot. At every meeting of any size at the club I am given the opportunity to explain the ball situation. It always results in the collection of a few dozen golf balls. I have found you ring the bell if you keep constantly reminding them."

"I sent my members a card asking the permission of each golf locker owner to remove his unplayable golf balls. Most of them gave their O.K. I keep a card index file recording the player's name and the number of old balls turned in to me. I keep several bags of practice balls which I lend without charge to golfers who have turned in their 'old cuts'. This means practice balls are available for everyone as needed and has released a great number of old balls which would have been kept from being re-processed."

"The priority idea is the best yet for getting the players to turn in their old golf balls. I took a sample priority slip, and pasted it face up on the underside of my golf ball display case. I cut out a long, narrow arrow on which I printed—'Did you get your priority for golf balls?' The arrow, also pasted on the underside of the display case leads the eyes right to the priority slip and attracts attention at a time when it is handy for the players to deliver the goods."

"In addition to using your Foundation promotion we plan to have an "Old Nick Blind Bogey" as an added event every other Saturday during May and June. Our entry fee will be two old nicked balls. If it gets the results we expect I will plan a similar event for the women, as many of them must know where old golf balls are tucked away around their house."



## **NOTE:**

Any Pro who failed to get his copy of the folder describing the FREE material for promoting the collection of used balls at his club should write without delay to: National Golf Foundation, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago 4, Illinois.

# What's Ahead for the PRO?

By DON YOUNG



★ Accurately forecasting post-war pro conditions is probably about as easy as predicting the end of the war. However, there's no ceiling on conjecture, consequently speculation throughout the pro ranks is lively. Although differences of opinion seem wide and varied, there's almost universal agreement, and with plenty of reason, that some radical changes are on the way. Just how these changes may effect the pro remain to be seen, but the idea certainly furnishes plenty of food for cogitation.

A review of the pro situation as a whole, coupled with sound reasoning, leads one to believe that whatever benefit pros may derive from post-war changes will depend largely on the pros themselves. This idea of course is somewhat at variance with some prevailing tendencies. The idea though, is by no means a fresh one. It was born in 1776 and has done right well for the past 168 years for any American with a dash of gumption. In fact, the idea is a kid-glove fit for the pro. He's a rugged individualist and probably always will be. If the American idea is ever fascitized, the Smithsonian Institute in future generations may very likely display a wax replica of Walter Hagen as an extinct species. There are, we understand, no golf pros in Nazi Germany—certainly none in the American sense of the word.

One of the first post-war pro considerations was discussed in a recent GOLF-DOM article which warned of a possible pro shortage due to a large percentage of the profession having enjoyed a quite palatable dose of steady industrial income with about half the worry of their former jobs. Such a condition is entirely possible.

## Competence Is Key Note

However, the average club pro, in spite of his club connection, feels himself to be very much of a private business man, and it is entirely possible that those now temporarily employed in industry will not take kindly to industrial regimentation as a steady diet. But should the shortage occur it must be met, as the article pointed out, with greater efforts at pro education in the way of training assistants.

In other words, if the pros wish to become the dominant factor in the golf field, they must acquire that domination through the same procedure followed by any domi-

nant profession—by presenting competent men.

There's no doubt that golf is due for a great upsurge following the war. This is an encouraging factor for the pro, but should be only if the profession as a whole takes steps to meet it. From a merchandising and marketing point of view it can prove a veritable godsend. However, should the profession fail to measure up to the standards necessary for dominance in the field, this golden opportunity may very likely prove a knife that will cut the pros' throats for a generation.

Analysis of the situation is relatively simple. Pros howled for years about cut-price downtown stores, industrial balls, etc., and other merchandising angles that cropped up to plague them. It must be remembered, however, that such a situation resulted more or less directly from the profession's failure to solidly establish itself as a sound merchandising outlet and credit risk. As a result, manufacturers were forced to find other outlets for their merchandise in a rapidly-expanding field—to the pros' professional, morale and financial loss.

Right now it looks as if the pros might be in for a new deal, or at least a chance to sit in the game without the cards stacked against them. Of the golf stocks throughout the country today, probably 80% is in pro shops. The situation would prove a mighty happy one if the pros could keep it that way, not only to the pros but the manufacturers as well. Distributing seasonal merchandise through several different channels is a costly procedure—as the past financial statements of golf manufacturers will prove.

## A Country Club Opportunity

Perhaps the next important consideration in the future pro picture is somewhat of a social one. We'll have an army of new golfers coming back from the wars and most of them will be public course golfers. Consequently private club pros and officials, especially those of small and medium-size clubs, are nervously wondering just how this may directly effect them. Again it is not too wrong to predict that they will get out of the situation exactly what they put into it.

Social problems following any war are of important public interest and the forth-

coming post-war period is certain to be no exception. Happily it will present the average small or medium-size private club with a grand opportunity.

The average American golf club throughout the suburban and rural areas has never in the past taken definite steps to properly present its actual value to its immediate community. In the future it will probably be forced to do so in order to exist, but in doing so can undoubtedly strengthen both its institutional and financial structure immeasurably.

The outstanding social problem following World War I was the speakeasy; following World War 2 it will probably be the "juke" joint. Metropolitan communities, with a host of diversional activities, are well equipped to offer young America something wholesome as a substitute for unsupervised "jukeing". The average rural community, however, is not so fortunate.

Since the youngsters are bound to have their fling, why not provide them with a proper place to do it—and what better place could there be than the local country club. A "juke" box sounds every bit as good in a country club as it does in a "juke" joint, and parents with teen-aged problems on their hands certainly should welcome such an opportunity to provide their precocious offspring with wholesome, supervised recreation. If it is provided, certainly the youngsters have no excuse for patronizing the "shack-in-the-woods" variety of place for the purpose of letting off steam.

Offhand this may sound bad to some of the smaller golf organizations. It will mean keeping the club open three or four nights a week the year 'round. In some cases it will mean the installation of proper heating equipment for winter activities. Such items run into important money.

As a matter of fact, the situation will provide the average rural club with an opportunity to become the hub of the community's social structure, and if properly handled should prove a sound business investment. In any event, it will lift the local club to the institutional place it deserves in the community's social scheme by the simple expedient of promoting and sponsoring a worthy and commendable community social project. City councils, parent-teacher associations, and other groups should not only endorse it but actively cooperate in making it a success, both to the community and the club.

#### A Pro Opportunity

All of this, while shouldering additional work on the average small-club pro, at the same time provides him with opportunities for additional income. If he is to derive any benefit from it, he must prepare himself to handle the job. The average small club can afford the services of only the active executive head, and

whether the pro gets this job will be strictly up to him and his ability. His rugged individualism, incidentally, should not suffer too much in the transformation.

He can further enhance and promote the community program in many ways that local conditions permit, such as securing the cooperation of the local school board to support a high school golf team. He can in fact do a complete job in this respect by supervising golf classes during the winter in the high school gymnasium—at no compensation to himself if necessary. Contrary to most pro's reasoning, this type of activity pays, not only in ultimate financial gain to himself but in importance in his relations to the community generally.

Yes, there are some major changes due in the golf picture, and they're all to the good. The day of the six-months-a-year club conducted primarily for the summer bridge activity and waistline reduction of a select group of tired business men and women is probably on its way out. Replacing it will be a club of local institutional integrity and recognition, performing an important public service.

The pro, if he is smart, will not pass out with the old idea. He'll begin to plan now, with sheer professional and business intelligence, to lift himself up to become, in the eyes of his own community, as important a figure as the butcher, the baker and the hardware merchant.

### This Stunt Collected Used Balls

A new angle successful in obtaining used balls for reprocessing was worked out by Eddie Hogan, pro at Riverside GC, Portland.

A ten gallon glass jug was placed in the clubhouse lobby. Every one who put three used balls in the jug was entitled to one guess as to how many balls there would be in the jug when it was full. Each individual would be entitled to an unlimited number of guesses just so that for each guess he placed three balls in the jug.

The prize to the winner and to the runner-up was a war bond, the size of the war bond depending on the cash value of the used balls when turned into the manufacturer.

The jug was filled, in approximately six weeks' time. The cash made it possible for Hogan to give to the winner a \$50.00 war bond and to the runner-up a \$25.00 bond.

### Big Ten Event Starts May 27

Athletic directors of the midwestern Big Ten conference have set May 27 as the starting date of the conference's 1944 golf championship. Club has not yet been named. It will be one of the Chicago district establishments.

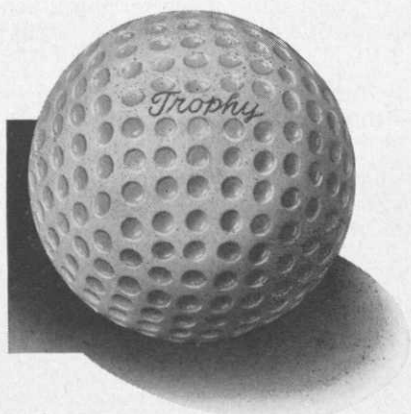




# Fashions Change in Golf Clubs, too!

• And as one step in our Post-War Plans, adequate research is in progress from which it is hoped that the game of Golf can be even more generally popularized—and the professional's position become more secure, better paid and more frequently patronized.

• Details yet to be announced.



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# Streamlining Wartime Maintenance

By O. J. NOER

★ Manpower has been the wartime bottleneck of golf turf maintenance. In 1944 labor shortage may become even more acute than heretofore. Last year there were rumblings of incipient difficulty with turf, especially toward fall. Too little, too late and too inexperienced labor was the underlying cause. Troubles will gain momentum unless the problem of streamlining maintenance is solved. At best, the season ahead will be a trying one for the greenkeeper, the Greens Committee Chairman, and Club officials responsible for course maintenance.

From every standpoint greens rightly deserve an AA-1 priority rating. They are the most important item on the course. Those in the know will zealously guard the turf on them. Given true putting surfaces, players are prone to be tolerant of sub-par turf elsewhere. Turf on greens shows the effect of neglect sooner than on fairways. Subsequent rehabilitation is very costly, and extremely annoying to players.

Last year dollar spot was rampant, especially during the fall. Fungicides, formerly effective, did not always check the disease. Some greenkeepers suspected a new, more virulent type. That dollar spot should be worse is not surprising in view of less frequent mowing and topdressing, the use of inexperienced labor, and skimpy fertilization.

The wartime change in mowing and topdressing practice is producing a matted turf. As a result, applied fungicide stays on top, dollar spot lives serenely underneath and continues its deadly work. The thick mat becomes an impervious roof which impedes or prevents the penetration of applied water. Before long, the soil underneath becomes powder dry. Then it resists wetting and the movement downwards of natural precipitation or applied water stops. Green help no matter how conscientious, seldom recognizes incipient signs of drying. Dry spots will extensively develop before they know trouble is in the making. During hot spells the spots coalesce and may become ugly scald areas, with the usual tell-tale covering of green scum. In spring and fall dollar spot may be more severe.

In either case, the surface stays sopping wet after sprinkling or after rains, because the soil is too dry. Wetness promotes scald, speeds the growth of brown patch and dollar spot fungi. Localized drying was responsible, in part, for the

prevalence of dollar spot on knobs and high spots in sections where drought prevailed last fall. Despite their elevation, surfaces were too wet because soil below was too dry.

Modern greens mowers tend to accentuate mat formation when used on pure strains of creeping bent. Those with front scalping rollers are the worst offenders. Even when set to cut close, the mower clips off the leaf tips and protruding stems; except those that have been laid flat by the scalping roller. Then the rolling action of the rear drum trues the surface. The combination is almost unbeatable. In the past, mat formation was prevented by daily cutting, along with occasional combing and brushing, and by frequent topdressing, usually every month. The mat never became too thick to prevent contact of top dressing with the soil below.

Mat formation is progressive. It increases from year to year unless the problem of prevention is solved. To topdress heavily matted greens may be positively harmful. The applied top dressing stays on top and seals the mat of highly decomposable leaves and stems below. Some of the intermediate products of anaerobic, or putrefactive decay—decomposition in the absence of oxygen—are harmful to plant growth.

During wartime, daily cutting and frequent topdressing are impossible. The problem must be solved differently. The simplest scheme is to remove the accumulated mat, produced the year before, by severe cross-raking followed by close mowing in early spring. The task is best done before applying topdressing and fertilizer for the first time. The secret of success is to take off all the surplus. It may take courage to do a thorough job, but the reward is less frequent and easier control of disease, better absorption of applied water, and vastly improved putting surfaces. If properly done, turf will not mat sufficiently that year to cause serious trouble, provided mowers are set to cut about one quarter inch, and provided scalping rollers are discarded.

On some courses fertilizer usage, especially nitrogen, was reduced drastically so there would be less grass to cut. This labor saving device seems justified in view of less frequent cutting. The scheme is almost sure to back-fire. Too little nitro-