

# Improve Teaching or Pro Golf is in Peril

By ED M. FITZJOHN

RECENT REFERENCE in GOLFDOM to establishment of school in which pros could be taught to teach golf correctly, and to the difficulty experienced by the pro due to lack of control of the pupil, was welcomed by this writer as indications that he had been sound in criticisms he has voiced, probably to the point of boredom to some of his listeners. The sincere critic does not have a pleasant task. He is fearful that his studied judgment may be regarded as the vain expressions of a veteran in the veteran's customary role of lamenting the passing of "the good old days." And, above all things he does not want to be regarded as a nagger in a game which has pleasure as its objective.

So the older man in golf who came from the other side where his scholarship in the game was often a solemn and intense affair, equally as serious as the practice of the younger American playing pros, generally is reluctant to express himself concerning the status of instruction. But that reserve I abandoned some years ago when I became convinced that golf teaching by many of the younger men in the game was becoming a sad mess.

Not that it's all in that condition among the younger men, but prior to the war and now a considerable proportion of the younger American pros' teaching is poorly based, ignorant and ineffectual.

Some frankly have admitted it and endeavor to improve. Efforts have been made, in isolated cases, to bring science into instruction. That is nothing new to golf instruction. We used to play and discuss the golf stroke with many eminent doctors and engineers years ago on the other side of the Atlantic. Whether that influence or the general attitude of considering knowledge as something to be gained by patience and thoroughness was responsible for the approach of the old country pro to the teaching problem, I

can't say, but I am certain that sounder instruction principles prevailed generally.

I am positive, also, that the sounder basis of the older school's instruction is reflected by the difference in average scoring of American and British golfers prior to the war. As near as I was able to determine, in the 15 years before the beginning of World War II, the golf of the British businessman and artisan was approximately 10 strokes better than that of his American cousin.

That was a more serious situation than we in American golf realized. The golfer is not being given the values he should have from the game when he is allowed to believe that a score of around 100 is satisfactory "businessman's golf." That error is reflected in the too-high turnover in club memberships, in the casual use of courses by members, and in the necessity of expensive clubhouses with night-club entertainment programs and other expensive and costly entertainment features to sell memberships in private clubs.

But the American playing pro was the peer of the profession and that supremacy diverted attention from the deficiency of the general standard of golf instruction. The playing star, because of natural gifts and tremendous application to his specialized job, acquired a personal technique that got the ball into the hole at the expense of considerably less than the normal number of strokes. The gap between the playing star and the average golfer who supported the game became greater on the scorecard.

Consequently the average golfer's hope of improving his game to the degree of feeling at home on the same course with the tournament star became very dim. The star's game was a sport differing from what the average golfer played as golf.

And the younger pro, seeing that the rich rewards were in tournament golf,

devoted himself far more to his own game than that of his members. Merchandise sales and club cleaning were larger sources of revenue than teaching was, so teaching followed club-making into a slump. Club-making vanished and had it not been for women taking lessons the pro instruction income would have gone to a meager figure at many clubs.

Nevertheless, the sale of golf instruction books, regardless of their value, was quite good, indicating that golfers were eager for instruction.

I believe that an impartial review of the evidence will show that a serious mistake has been made by not giving proper attention to training golf instructors during the years of the game's great expansion in this country. Most of today's instruction is confusing and impractical. In the earlier days, the men of the old school taught Hagen, Jones, Sarazen and the host of star amateur golfers who were brilliant when the general standard and interest of amateur golf was much higher than it was in the decade preceding the war. These playing exponents of the game exhibited sound basic patterns which the new generation of playing stars followed in teaching themselves.

But, for some strange reason, the teachings of these sound old school men who really understood golf and how it should be taught, and from whom the younger element of instructors should have acquired the pattern of their instruction, usually, were ignored or disdained. Yet those American instructors who have the best records as instructors were almost without exception men who followed closely the methods and policies of their old mentors.

To put it bluntly, because of ignorance or ego, or both, golf instruction has deteriorated in the United States, and the expert counsel of those whose consistently resultful instruction shows over many years, has been unheeded.

Golf instruction, with too few exceptions, has ceased to be an art and has become a matter of ball knocking done through sheer physical effort. No wonder one sees so many poor golfers, commonly called hackers, when these unfortunates have come forth in an era of inadequate instruction. Golf is not a game of knocking a ball, but a game of controlling a ball. This control is acquired through understanding of the principles involved and applied correctly. How many average American golfers understand the basic principles involved in controlling the ball? Very few of them! But what pro instructor ever told them or himself knows?

When one plays his golf from basic understanding nothing under the sun can

stop him from becoming a good golfer, but under the procedure which generally has prevailed in the attempts to teach ball-knocking nothing but dissatisfaction and discouragement can be expected by the pupil. This is one reason why pupils don't stick. They take one or two lessons and not having received any miraculous results from some mechanical detail that is talked to them, get discouraged and quit to go their own way.

Golf teaching is a simple thing when it is done in an intelligent manner. But it isn't easy to learn to teach simply and right. We realize that some understanding of the construction of the human body helps in teaching golf, but we can't expect to acquire that understanding or apply it by listening to medical authorities give us a few half-hour or hour lectures.

The healthiest sign I have seen appear in professional golf in the past few years is that of more concern about instruction. Although the efforts to direct this concern into constructive channels have been retarded by indifference, ignorance and ego, even the fact of recognition of the sorry state of most golf instruction holds some promise of the situation eventually being corrected.

You can appreciate the serious mistake made by American pro golf in neglecting instruction when you think that the pros' whole career depends on people learning golf, yet the greater part of the Professional Golfers' association attention and money has been devoted to tournament play. I believe that a logical consideration of the facts would indicate that had the same amount of money been spent by the PGA on instruction research and teaching of teachers as has been spent in tournament promotion, and had half the amount of time and worry devoted to the pros' own tournament promotion been allotted to instruction, there would have been two or three times the present number of golfers in the United States and a much greater average income for the competent pro.

In expressing this opinion I do not want to be interpreted as being against the fine entertaining job done in pro tournament golf. I make the comparison merely to point out that pro golf has been guilty of the grave error of minimizing attention to the main reason for the existence of the pro job. This error has been accountable for the fact that fewer than half the golf courses in the United States have pros. That is the fault of nobody except the pros. Yet, does the PGA show alarm and take vigorous action in a situation which threatens the business future of most of its members?

The pro's position as a merchant is  
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# Green Section Plans to Extend Research Team-work

By **FIELDING WALLACE**  
(Chairman Green Section Committee USGA)

**F**IELDING WALLACE, chairman, Green Section committee, USGA, has given an outline of the Green Section's postwar plans and told of the work being done by the Section in preparing for golf maintenance and construction work that is expected to boom with the arrival of peace. Mr. Wallace's statement was made in a letter to district and state amateur associations and to greenkeeper organizations.

The Green Section chairman asked for the vigorous cooperation of all organizations concerned with golf course maintenance in getting the plans set for effective handling of postwar course problems. The program involves coordination of regional research in answer to suggestions and requests by greenkeepers and chairmen which frequently have been mentioned in GOLFDOM.

Mr. Wallace wrote:

"I should like to remind you at this time of the Green Section's services which are available to all clubs which are members of the United States Golf Association and to solicit your interest and participation in our proposed national turf program to be based on regional investigations.

"Although wartime curtailments have necessitated drastic reductions in the Green Section's budget and in the technical staff employed, we are continuing to serve our member clubs as completely as is possible by correspondence, as well as through our publication, *Timely Turf Topics*. As has been in the past, the Green Section is in a position to identify or have identified disease, weed, insect or other turf pests from specimens sent to the Beltsville office. Because of its location in the vicinity of Washington and our close collaboration there with the Department of Agriculture it is possible for the Green Section staff to confer with specialists in any and all of these fields and to obtain the most recent recommendations for their control where it has been impossible to date for the Green Section itself to study control methods in turf. Facilities are also available for the testing of soil samples and recommendations can be made on the basis of results of such tests. For all of these recommendations as well as recommendations on various other aspects of turf maintenance the

present Green Section staff has at its command a wealth of information which has accumulated as a result of the investigational work conducted by the Green Section during the last quarter of a century. Timely information concerning turf maintenance problems is published periodically in *Timely Turf Topics*, two copies of which are available to each member club.

"At present the Green Section is attempting to anticipate the problems which will face the golf courses in the postwar period as a result of the necessarily curtailed maintenance programs during the war and to develop new ways and means of solving their problems after the war, when clubs once more have labor and materials available for the resumption of their standard maintenance practices. One of the efforts in this direction is the increase of available stock of stolons of superior creeping bent strains. These strains have been selected and propagated by the Green Section over a period of many years and in the past 4 or 5 years have been tested on experimental greens in many sections of the country. As published in the June *Timely Turf Topics*, some of these have proven decidedly superior to the commercial strains, Washington and Metropolitan. Since, however, these strains are not available commercially the Green Section is this summer increasing the stock of stolons so that any member club which may be looking forward to the use of one or more of these strains after the war when greens may have to be reestablished can obtain limited supplies for planting and propagation in their own turf nurseries.

"Postwar plans are being developed now for a turf program more national in scope than has been the case in the past. The program will be based on regional investigations in diverse sections of the country which will be carried out cooperatively between the golf clubs and their greenskeepers on the one hand, various state experimental stations or agricultural colleges on the other, with the Green Section acting as a focal point to which the results from regional investigations may converge for correlation and from which suggestions may radiate in connection with proposed investigations in various

sections of the country. Thus, in this program the function of the Green Section would be to act as a clearing house or a coordinating agency to prevent duplication of effort and to keep each investigating group informed as to what other groups are doing which should be of interest to them. Moreover, the Green Section staff would thus be able to fit together the results from various sections of the country into one over-all picture which will be more significant to all concerned than numerous isolated findings in as many individual sections of the country.

"Work in this direction has already been initiated at two experiment stations on a formal basis and informally (that is, without contribution of Green Section funds) at several other institutions. In the fall of 1942 cooperative work was initiated at the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station in order that the Green Section might contribute to working out solutions to greenkeeping problems in New England. Only recently the second step has been taken in the allocation of funds to make possible a survey of the turf diseases in Florida. It is hoped that this survey may act as a working basis for a program of investigation on the control of turf diseases in Florida. It is also hoped that cooperative studies on insect control, particularly the control of mole crickets may be initiated in that state. Requests for regional investigations in other sections of the country have come to the Green Section and until such time as funds and personnel are available for the initiation of formal cooperative work, cooperative tests of various strains of grasses, fertilizers, and pesticides are being conducted. It is hoped that after the war it will be possible to replace such informal cooperative work with a formal cooperative program and thus establish a well coordinated research program in various sections of the country with the minimum expenditure of time and money.

"We hope that your organization as well as many other state golf associations and local greenkeeping superintendents associations will visualize the potentialities of such a program in the postwar future of golf in this country, to the extent of active participation in it. The cooperation of your and other local golf or greenkeepers organizations may be the necessary stimulus which will make possible a strong, significant program of turf investigations in your region after the war. Perhaps you have already informed us of your active interest. Various groups have done so. Naturally the regions which show the greatest and most active concern for regional assistance from us in their turf problems are those towards which we will direct our earliest efforts as soon as the necessary staff and financial

support are available. In the meantime in some cases it may be possible to initiate or continue informal cooperative tests as indicated above.

"Considering the possible role of your local associations in the present stage of the development of this program, it would seem to me that generally speaking any funds which could be raised locally during the present interim in which our cooperative work will be largely on an informal basis might well be spent in paying the expenses of an experiment station staff member who is both interested and experienced in golf course problems of the region for visits to the interested clubs in your region, provided such travel could be approved by experiment station officials. Such trips made now should serve a 3-fold function—(1) to acquaint the experiment station staff directly and the Green Section indirectly with the problems both present and postwar which are and will be confronting the golf courses in that region; (2) to help form a basis for a postwar series of investigations in the region when manpower and materials are once more available; and (3) to give the clubs as much technical assistance as is possible under present conditions. The Green Section will at all times welcome reports from such trips on the part of the experiment station staff and would be happy to furnish any suggestions for help during this emergency which may be gleaned from the Green Section's activities during the last quarter of a century.

"Either Dr. F. F. Davis in our Beltsville office or I shall be interested in learning from you the reaction of your organization to our plans for a postwar national turf program based on regional investigations."

**JIM FLOYD, PRO, DIES**—James Floyd, Beacon, N. Y., widely known in Hudson Valley golfing circles, died July 26 following a 4 month illness. He had been pro at the Southern Dutchess and Sir William Johnson clubs and had designed and constructed several courses. He had developed numerous excellent amateur golfers, among them his son, James, Jr.

**WAR CLOSES COURSE**—Nine-hole, 511 yard, par 25, pitch-and-putt course constructed on factory grounds of the Ilg Electric Co. at Chicago, once possibly the most heavily played industrial golf course in the world, has gone to war. Space formerly used by the course is piled high with Ilg ventilating equipment en route to the Navy and war factories. The nine holes were landscaped by trees and shrubbery the Ilg company founder gathered from many countries.

# How Long Are Drives of Tourney Golfers?

By THOMAS McMAHON

**L**ENGTH of a golfer's drive and the length and weight of the fisherman's catch present constant and interesting differences between fiction and fact. To appraise the facts of drives I had the assistance of Ralph Modica and Tracy Turner, members of Edgewater GC, in measuring the carry and roll of drives made during the Chicago District GA's Victory Open.

First reaction of the golfer studying the returns is that there might be some differences accounted for by pre-war and remade golf balls. However, expert judgment is that the usual effect of time on rubber, regardless of conditions under which the pre-war balls were kept, would virtually equalize performance of the two types of balls. Probably fresh new balls would have somewhat greater length, but you can think about that when the war's over.

The Edgewater fairways were watered. Wind direction and velocity were checked during the teeing off periods for each of the four rounds of the major event. The first hole, on which the measurements were taken, is practically flat, running from east to west. The tee is elevated approximately five feet. The wind direction on Friday and Saturday was northeast; Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon southeast. There was a variation in wind velocity. Velocity ranged from 6 to 10 miles an hour.

The longest average carry and roll, 275 yards, was made by Craig Wood. The longest individual drive, carry and roll was 285 yards; a tie between Craig Wood and Bob Hamilton.

The longest average carry was 248 yards; a tie between Byron Nelson and Sam Byrd. The longest individual carry was 255 yards; a tie between Byron Nelson and Sam Byrd.

The average for the 180 drives recorded for carry and roll was 249 yards, carry only 224 yards, roll only 25 yards.

A review of the figures indicates that Byron Nelson's four drives were more consistent than any of the other leaders. An average roll of 22 yards, against an average roll for Craig Wood of 43 yards, indicates that Craig's drives have more top spin on them.

Summary of the results:

Longest drive — carry and roll, 285 yards, Craig Wood and Bob Hamilton.

Longest carry only — 255 yards, Byron Nelson and Sam Byrd.

Longest roll — 63 yards, Dale Morey.\*

Longest drive — carry and roll average, 275 yards, Craig Wood.

Longest carry only—average 248 yards, Byron Nelson and Sam Byrd.

Longest roll — average 43 yards, Craig Wood and Bill Hyndman.\*

Shortest roll, 2 yards, Johnny Lehman.\*

Shortest roll — average 13 yards, Harold McSpaden and Willie Klein.

Average — carry and roll for entire field, 249 yards.

Average — carry only for entire field, 224 yards.

Average — roll for entire field, 27 yards.

The variation in the various rolls was caused by the type of shot played and difference in hardness and slope of turf where ball carried.

Figures on the driving of several notables are especially interesting. Four round data on the stars follows.

	Fri.	Sat.	A.M. Sun.	P.M. Sun.	Av.
<b>Craig Wood</b>					
Carry and Roll	266	285	282	266	275
Carry Only	237	245	237	210	232
Roll Only	29	40	45	56	43
<b>Byron Nelson</b>					
Carry and Roll	273	267	271	270	270
Carry Only	246	247	255	245	248
Roll Only	27	20	16	25	22
<b>Bob Hamilton</b>					
Carry and Roll	285	240	280	273	269
Carry Only	237	230	237	237	236
Roll Only	48	10	43	36	34
<b>Sam Byrd</b>					
Carry and Roll	268	260	268	277	268
Carry Only	251	237	252	255	248
Roll Only	17	23	16	22	20
<b>E. J. Harrison</b>					
Carry and Roll	272	265	269	264	267
Carry Only	232	250	235	235	238
Roll Only	40	15	34	29	29
<b>Chick Harbert</b>					
Carry and Roll	245	265	270	273	263
Carry Only	235	252	231	228	236
Roll Only	10	13	39	45	27

<b>Ed Dudley</b>					
Carry and Roll	256	245	258	254	253
Carry Only	236	220	238	240	234
Roll Only	20	25	20	14	19
<b>Harry Cooper</b>					
Carry and Roll	257	230	262	257	251
Carry Only	231	220	216	219	222
Roll Only	26	10	46	38	29
<b>Denny Shute</b>					
Carry and Roll	248	222	262	267	250
Carry Only	235	205	215	225	220
Roll Only	13	17	47	42	30
<b>Wilford Wehrle</b>					
Carry and Roll	247	230	260	263	250
Carry Only	235	220	227	238	230
Roll Only	12	10	33	25	20
<b>Harold McSpaden</b>					
Carry and Roll	250	238	262	247	249
Carry Only	238	225	245	235	236
Roll Only	12	13	17	12	13
<b>Ben Hogan</b>					
Carry and Roll	210	270	272	240	248
Carry Only	185	230	224	227	217
Roll Only	25	40	48	13	31
<b>Joe Kirkwood</b>					
Carry and Roll	247	237	248	252	246
Carry Only	238	220	226	237	230
Roll Only	9	17	22	15	16

<b>George Dawson</b>					
Carry and Roll	251	240	254	236	245
Carry Only	222	225	208	190	211
Roll Only	29	15	46	46	34
<b>Errie Ball</b>					
Carry and Roll	260	215	235	246	239
Carry Only	226	202	225	225	219
Roll Only	34	13	10	21	19
<b>Mike Turnesa</b>					
Carry and Roll	252	247	247	205	238
Carry Only	230	235	225	190	220
Roll Only	22	12	22	15	18
<b>John Lehman</b>					
Carry and Roll	236	225	230	253	236
Carry Only	224	223	213	227	222
Roll Only	12	2	17	26	14
<b>Toney Penna</b>					
Carry and Roll	240	237	234	235	236
Carry Only	228	205	215	223	218
Roll Only	12	32	19	12	18
<b>Tony Manero</b>					
Carry and Roll	225	250	218	244	234
Carry Only	202	215	195	225	209
Roll Only	23	35	23	19	25
<b>Chick Evans</b>					
Carry and Roll	225	230	230	232	229
Carry Only	175	207	202	200	196
Roll Only	50	23	28	32	33

## Greenkeeper Considers Design of Postwar Equipment

By **EMIL MASHIE**

Golf Course Supt., Onwentsia Club

NOTWITHSTANDING the crowded schedule under which greenkeepers work these days many of them are giving thought to design and construction desirable in postwar equipment. Possibly some of this thought is prompted by the acquaintance with machinery design and performance which has been enlarged by wartime jobs. In my own case I start at the course at 6:30 A.M. or before and am in a machine shop of a metallurgical company from 3:30 P.M. until midnight.

Such a program, requiring intense study of means of conducting golf course maintenance operations with speed, economy and continuance of good playing condition, together with opportunities of observing close-up the methods of a very efficient industrial plant, is bound to have an effect in making one think about what improvements could be made in course maintenance machinery.

At Onwentsia we have had less power

equipment than I think we'll consider essential after the war. Prior to the war we were able to rely on manual labor to handle work that motorized equipment could do.

Like many others responsible for golf course condition I believe I have some definitely practical ideas of what will have to be done by motorized equipment after the war. Possibly some of my opinions and hopes are too visionary, but I believe them to be well founded.

First, regardless of type of equipment one is to favor, lighter equipment, especially green mowers is desirable.

On greens it seems that about 21-inch mower is the maximum that can be used practically. How about designs along the lines of fairway gang mowers, maybe three small mowers? How about two or three flexible reels as one larger unit? Personally, I like a single unit mower for greens—but the gang mowers accomplish the work faster. I have thought of units of two or three that can be used as such or separately. There is no question that with lighter mowers increased efficiency and improved turf will be attained.

In the rough mower field, there is need

for an efficient and practical mower—one that can take tall grass and do a good job of lopping it off to golf length rough and maintain it at good rough height. At present the reel type mower is not designed to cut rough well at any length. A mower with a large three or four blade reel and low frequency might be an improvement over the present type. I might add that with the style of leaving fairways longer mowers must be designed so the reel will do less fanning of long grass, especially blue grass, and to do less fanning there must be a slower revolving reel for the distance traveled and more distance between blades on reels. Today's mowers do not do a thoroughly satisfactory job of cutting blue grass at say 1½-inch high. Simplicity of design to facilitate repair and upkeep is a much desired feature with the operator. In the past two years with inexperienced help and speeding about in trying to get the work done, grease fittings and oilings have been neglected by some. How about a four wheel drive on fairway mowing tractor to better distribute the forward traction pressure, and a different line-up of the forward and rear wheels so as to lessen lying down of grass to be cut?

## Iowa Tests Chemical Weed Control

At Ames (Ia.) G&CC in cooperation with V. S. Peterson, agricultural consultant, Dupont corporation, H. A. Lantz, Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, made some preliminary tests on dandelions and the broad leaf plantain using "Amnate" (Ammonium Sulfamate) at rates ½, ¾ and 1 pound per gallon of water. In May the ½ lb. rate did as well as ¾ lbs. in killing dandelions. More than 95% of dandelions were killed by a single spray. The ½ lb. rate killed plantain efficiently in May, but in late June ¾ lb. gave a better kill. Another trial spraying on July 6 on an exceedingly heavy growth of plantain using ¾ lbs. "Amnate" per gallon gave near 100% kill on all plants covered by the spray. The effect of the spray on the plants becomes visible in 3 to 5 hours. It requires several or more days for a complete kill. The "Amnate" penetrates the leaves, is translocated gradually to the roots and kills the entire plant. The soil of a heavily infested weed area naturally is foul with weed seed, which germinates to provide a new weed crop. Prompt spraying when the foliage is about half developed will kill this crop. Further sprayings will be needed to finally clear out the infested area.

The early May spraying did no perceptible damage to bluegrass. In some areas which were well soaked with spray

the grass showed some weakening. Sprays of "Amnate" in July caused considerable grass killing. Further reports will be made later on about time of application, Lantz says.

We are not yet ready to make definite recommendations, but preliminary results indicate that "Amnate" will be an extremely useful chemical means of destroying weed in many areas on the golf course.

Our Vice-president E. F. Johnson went into the army July 27. He had done a swell job in repairing the damage done by the May floods on the College Golf Course at Ames. The Masters tournament July 29, 30 brought out a large number of top golfers from all over the state. Jack Hall, the well known Wave-land pro, was medalist with a 70-77 score to best the field by six strokes.

## New York Golfers Plan Hospital Course

JOHN INGLIS, pres. of the Metropolitan PGA heads a committee planning construction of a 9-hole course adjacent to Halloran General hospital on Staten Island, N. Y. The committee expects to raise \$15,000 for building the course.

With the permission of the War Department, Brigadier General R. G. DeVoe, commanding officer of the hospital, has donated twenty-three acres of land around the hospital for the golf course. Robert Trent Jones, golf architect, has said that he can build a nine-hole course and in addition a driving range and a putting green.

The committee plans on raising the money by inviting every club in the metropolitan area to stage a one-day tournament during September with the proceeds to go to the Halloran Hospital Golf Fund.

The course will be completed in the fall and ready for play next spring. The driving range, however, will be complete in a few weeks.

GOLF IN ENGLAND—Capt. Elliott H. Griffith, well known in American green-keeping, writes a pal back home: "The course I played on last week-end was an 18-hole layout that apparently had been rather nice before the war. They told me that they had just one man working on the course at present and that all the other work was done by members in their spare time. The fairways were cut up by ditches and had big concrete blocks lying around to forestall any chance of planes landing. The greens were cut all right but had quite a few weeds. They use the course as a riding grounds also and horses were being ridden all over the place."

# Hendry Helps Keep 'Em Flying

(Here's a release that came to GOLF-DOM from headquarters of the Army Air base at Alamogordo, N. Mex. Many of us who know Dave Hendry from "way back" and recall how energetically he tried to get equipment and other help in providing golf as a recreation for Army fliers in the southwest, are particularly happy to see this recognition of one grand guy by the Public Relations office of the base. It looked for a while like Davie had too much mileage on him to take the rigors of another war with his accustomed energy, but the latest we saw of him, on a furlough, he was in great shape and bragging about the young fliers he was with, in an aggressively enthusiastic manner not in the traditional spirit of Scotch reserve—Editor.

Ruddy-complexioned, freckled-faced, salty-tongued, 46 year-old Sgt. David D. Hendry, present manager and pro of the Alamogordo golf course, will add plenty of color and life to the coming El Paso CC Open Tournament.

Already entered in the September 2nd, 3rd and 4th clash of professional divot-diggers, "Scotty"—as he is known by all his numerous friends—will undoubtedly compete with many old acquaintances, for he has been a golf pro all over the States for the past 30 years ("Since I was knee-high to a cricket" is the way he puts it) and has played against every golfing great of yesterday and many of today in major tournaments.

Not a newcomer to the El Paso CC course (he played there in 1923 "When the greens were covered with cottonseed hulls"), Scotty is confident of winning first prize money in the approaching contest. Each afternoon he may be seen out on the Alamogordo course, practicing. This is in spite of the fact that when we asked how he likes golf now after so many years in the game, he fixed us with a darting glance of his eyes, threw out his chest, and bellowed in his thick Scottish accent: "It can get awful bloody borin'."

It was in 1930 while Scotty was visiting his brother, Joseph G. Hendry who was then the pro of the Neenah-Menasha golf course in Wisconsin, that a young caddie caught Scotty's eyes. Liking the looks of the boy, he pointed out to his brother the caddie's possibilities. Convinced, Joseph and a friend, Hank Detleff, took the lad in hand. That caddie might possibly play against his discoverer in the coming tournament. His name? Johnny Revolva.

Called from his job as pro of the Moundsville, (W. Va.) CC, Sgt. Hendry

was promoted to his present rank only three days after he entered the United States Air Corps, September 14, 1942, and has been stationed at the Alamogordo Army Air Base since that time. The rapid promotion came his way in recognition of his service with the 51st and 52nd Divisions of the Highland Regiment of the British Army in World War I. He served with "The Ladies from Hell" in France, Italy, Egypt, and Mesopotamia, reaching



Official Photo USAAF

## IN SECOND WAR

Sgt. David D. Hendry, one of the Ladies from Hell in World War I, and long an American pro, is with the U. S. Army Air Force and has rebuilt a course for Army fliers.

the rank of company sergeant major before accepting his discharge, June 23, 1920. Of his old outfit, he says: "By Gad, don't call 'em Limies."

That wealth of experience has been put to use by Scotty in the present war. Following a stint with the 842nd Aviation Engineering Battalion here, he opened the Alamogordo course, which had been closed for six years, by "pulling up sagebrush, weeds, cactus, mosquito and tumbleweeds" and has been operating the course ever since.

Sgt. Hendry makes a paying proposition of the golf course for the army and, not just incidentally, looks forward to winning the coming tournament.

Whether he does or not, spectators will find a definite, dynamic Scotch flavor supplied by Sgt. Hendry to the contest.





## "Hot Items" for the Cool Days Ahead

Please don't get us wrong. "Hot" might be interpreted in police parlance to refer to goods in the possession of someone else besides their rightful owners. What we mean is that these smartly styled sweaters are warm and comfortable for the approaching fall days; also, that they are "hot selling" items for merchandise-minded, profit-minded pros to handle. And not to be overlooked is our wide assortment of fall-weight sport shirts in plaids, checks, and solid colors—all "Master Strokes in Styling." Tourney Sportswear will steal the show anywhere—show you a swell profit.

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## Asks Understanding of Course Care Problems

**J.** PORTER HENRY, green-chairman of Algonquin GC (St. Louis district), and his fellow committee members, Burt G. Close and Claud L. Harrell, have sent to the club's members a letter telling what problems there are in course maintenance these days. By tipping off the members and asking their consideration and cooperation, the letter has greatly eased the strain on turf and temperaments at a club where there's a great deal of play.

The letter:

Fellow Member:

The maintenance of our golf course this season has been far more difficult than at any time in the history of our club. Members who are somewhat acquainted with the problems have been very cooperative and helpful and patient with apparent shortcomings. The time has come when we must ask the full cooperation of all members and to that end this is written to acquaint everyone with the difficulties under which your Greens Department is working.

Maintenance of greens in the summertime depends upon expert experienced help. So simple a matter as watering can ruin a green if not properly done. Too much water or too little, depending upon weather conditions, may prove disastrous. Delayed treatment of the various fungus diseases, over doses or under doses, may cause trouble. Fertilization and topdressing require expert handling.

*Before the war we employed eleven men in the summer season—six or seven of whom were trained in every department of maintenance. Now we have five, occasionally six, with only four of them experienced. This crew must keep the putting greens and fairways cut, watered, fertilized, topdressed, weeded, occasionally tined for aeration, ball bruises corrected, traps attended to when time permits, etc., etc.*

All our men are required to work overtime—two of our most experienced men often give us twelve to fourteen hours a day.

Because of these circumstances it is physically impossible to keep our course and all its appointments in the shape we would desire to have it. So if the grass is too long in the ditches, the trap too full of footprints or too short of sand; if a ball bruise or a clump of goose grass causes you to miss your putt; if the drinking fountain is not iced, the ball washers not in A-1 condition; if the benches are out of place; if sticks or leaves clutter the greens too long after a wind, or if any other obvious condition needing cor-

recting disturbs your sense of order, please do not attribute these things to neglect, nor assume that they are unknown to the Greens Department. Above all, please do not complain to the workmen or greenkeeper. They are taking a licking as it is and need encouragement rather than criticism. Take it up with the Greens Chairman and give him hell if it will ease your pain. He is used to it, and, because he has been a complainer himself, will understand it. Usually there are satisfactory explanations for most complaints. Rest assured that suggestions are always welcome because often helpful.

We are doing everything possible to give you the best we can, but we are forced to put first things first. This necessitates an apparent neglect of secondary items.

Because of so many young and inexperienced caddies, members are particularly requested to read and heed the do's and don'ts hereafter set out. The observance of these will help materially. Some of these are especially important because of the hard use our course receives—twice to four times the play of the other five comparable clubs in the district.

You can help by correcting your own ball bruise. Don't just tramp it down. Take your tee, loosen the soil in the bottom of the bruise, insert the tee about half an inch from the edge of the bruise and press the turf towards the bruise. Do this at about four places surrounding the same, then step on it lightly.

The letter concludes with a list of Do's and Don'ts for players, which appeared in a recent GOLFDOM.

**ACE CONTEST GETS BALLS**—Gene Root, pro-mgr. at the Ross Rogers muny course, Amarillo, Tex., recently conducted a hole-in-one contest that brought 444 used balls as entry fees. Local merchants and Root offered \$100 in merchandise in prizes to anyone making an ace. Nobody collected. Gene plans another ace tournament with a larger hole to follow-up the success of this initial ball collection project.

### Miami Open, Dec. 7-10

Miami open will be played at Miami Springs muny course Dec. 7-10 for \$10,000 purse. This will be the 20th annual Miami open. The event now is billed as "the oldest consecutive annual open in the country." Steve Warga, Jr., airline radio operator, was a surprise winner of the 1943 Miami open.