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Pro and Amateur Notables Honor Hagen at Detroit

Walter Hagen Day, put on by the Michigan PGA and Michigan amateurs at Red Run GC (Detroit dist.) Sept. 17, drew a capacity crowd of 175 for golf and 275 for dinner in honoring the pros' Great Emancipator. Walter put up a gold trophy for annual competition. The cup is a handsome affair big enough to take a shower in. The first winner of the cup's custody was Chuck Kocsis, with 67. The Michigan PGA presented Walter with a diamond-studded clip for folding money and Red Run members gave him a pistol.

Walter arrived at his party bright and early for him at about 5 P.M. and enjoyed every second of the fiesta which ran through dinner with W. W. Edgar as fluent ringmaster of 24 eloquent speakers. Frank Sprogell, Frank Walsh, Al Watrous, Horton Smith and other Michigan PGA members engineered the party. Among visitors who came from out of the state to pay tribute to the Haig were Gene Sarazen, Joe Kirkwood, Bob Harlow, Billy Burke, Harry Radix and Tom McMahon. A bale of wires were received from, among others, Bobby Jones, Chick Evans, Ed Dudley, Si Newton, Eddie Guest, Billy Sixty, Francis Ouimet, Bill Danforth, Harry Bassler, Bill Frawley, Artie Lynch, Glenn Morris, Joe Graffis, Ezra Craft, Spike Briggs, Grantland Rice and Gov. Kim Sigler.

Bob Harlow, Hagen's manager in putting pro exhibition and tournament golf in the big money class, reviewed high spots of the Haig's career and punctured a legend



The "Haig" enjoys "wise crack" of Walter, Jr., following dinner given in his honor.

by testifying that when Hagen was playing his top golf he was very moderate in drinking and smoking. Bob also commented on the Hagen manners in treating all on a high plane of democratic cordiality.

The Michigan PGA has been trying to get the national PGA to sponsor a nationwide Hagen Day as a demonstration of pro-amateur genial relations. The success of the party at Detroit shows that the Michigan pros' idea is one that the national body should endorse to the sections.



Manufacturers representatives were on hand for "Hagen Day" too. (Left to right): W. L. Robb, Ed Rankin, Mark Cox, Joe Dagoon, Hagen, Sarazen, Roy Thibert, Sam Byrd and Ed Reutinger.



Michigan pros look on as the "Haig" gets a "close-up" of one of Joe Kirkwood's trick clubs. Left to right: Chick Rutan, Lochmoor CC, Detroit; Sam Byrd, Plum Hollow; Frank Sprugel, Blyfield, Grand Rapids; Hagen; Kirkwood; Horton Smith, Detroit GC; and Frank Walsh of Red Run.

Horton Smith at the Hagen Day banquet brought out that the pros have established the Augusta Masters' tournament honoring the great amateur Bobby Jones as a top event on the year's golf calendar. Smith noted his colleagues so far have muffed completely staging an event of national interest honoring one of their own who blazed the trail in making pro golf big business, who revolutionized pro-amateur relations and who made U. S. pro golf the game's highest standard of play.

Among interesting prospects that may develop from the Hagen Day party is a tour by Walter and his son teamed with Joe Kirkwood and Joe, Jr. Young Hagen qualified for the National Amateur this year and has done well in infrequent tournament play. Young Kirkwood also has turned in excellent performances as a playing pro. Joe, Jr. also has appeared as Joe Palooka in a movie and did so well he's been engaged for other pictures.

The Haig hasn't been playing much golf for several years and is out of condition but Kirkwood, Sr. maintains Walter could go into training for a couple of months and regain form that would bring out big galleries for the swell show that Walter put on when he was setting a new par for pro golf.

Charlotte, N.C. Chapter, Club Managers Assn. of America Organized

"The phase of Club Management is so complex that no manager is so well informed he can't learn from his fellow managers through the exchange of ideas and methods of coping with the many details of efficient club management," Eric G. Koch, president of the Club Managers Assn. of America, told an enthusiastic

meeting of the newly organized Piedmont chapter in Charlotte, N.C., Sept. 15.

"Managers all over the country are realizing more and more the value of our organization," Koch told the gathering. "I know that every manager will go home from the meeting held here to his home club with a greater knowledge and a broadened viewpoint."

Some 20 managers of clubs located in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia were present at the first meeting. Some members had to travel 250 miles to attend.

Elected to serve as officers during the first year are: Corwin W. Gelwick, manager of Myers Park Club, Charlotte 7, N.C., president; Mrs. Dorothy McFarland, manager of Ewerywood CC., High Point, N.C., vice-president, and Clyde Roberts, Greenville Country Club, Greenville, S.C., secretary-treasurer.

It was the general feeling that not only the managers themselves would benefit by the formation of the new chapter of the national organization, but also, even to a larger degree, the clubs themselves.

Koch, who flew from New York and back for the Monday pow-wow of the Piedmont chapter, spoke enthusiastically of the progress being made by his organization of which he has been the head for the past two years.

"The boys down south really went out 100 per cent in their Southern hospitality," declared Koch. "Charlotte is a charming town and it was most gratifying to be welcomed by Herbert Baxter, Charlotte mayor, who took time out to welcome the out-of-town managers at a luncheon at the Myers Park Country Club."

Koch said that similar additional chapters are in the process of formation in other sections of the country.

Science, Mechanics and Art in Bent Greens Mowing

By O. J. NOER

The effect on turf growth of frequency and height of cut is not understood by everybody. Living plants must have leaves, or other organs which do their work, in order to make a normal and healthy growth. These leaves are factories in which the substances carbon dioxide and water are united to produce a simple sugar. The resulting sugar is the basic substance from which every other plant constituent is made. Grass is one of the few plants which can withstand constant leaf defoliation by cutting. Leaves are regenerated and the new growth performs the functions of the parts removed by the mower.

Some grasses have an erect habit of growth. The stems and the leaves grow upward. The blue grasses and the fescues are typical examples. They cannot withstand constant close cutting, especially when growth is fostered by frequent watering and heavy fertilization. The usual recommendation is to cut these grasses at $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches or higher.

Other grasses have a creeping habit of growth. The stems hug the ground and grow outwards. All of the bent grasses grow this way, but the habit is most pronounced in the creeping and the velvet bents. They take root at the nodes and make new plants that way. Even on closely mowed bent grass turf the leaf surface is sufficient to insure an adequate amount of sugar production. High cutting develops a thickly matted turf, and does not necessarily mean increased sugar production. The only active leaf blades are the green ones at the surface. Those below are brown and devoid of green chlorophyll. It is the catalyst which makes the synthesis of sugar possible and exists only in plant tissues exposed to light.

No Standard Cutting Height

There is no standard or prescribed height of cut for putting greens. Some mowers are set at $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, or less, while a few cut at $\frac{5}{8}$ inch, or higher. The range of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{5}{16}$ inch seems to be the most popular one at the best clubs. Greens on the so-called championship courses are the closest cut, usually at $\frac{3}{16}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, or less. Higher cutting is encountered mostly on the smaller courses, especially in the outlying districts. The majority of players on these courses prefer slow greens. The same result can be secured by keeping the turf

aggressive. A putting green in which the grass is making some growth is slower and holds a ball better than one where there is no growth.

Judging height of cut by the conventional method of using a gauge seldom tells the true story. Mowers of different manufacture presumably set to cut alike seldom do because they are balanced differently. Those of the same make may not be identical even though they have been set with the gauge to mow alike. The presence or absence of a front scalping roller makes a vast difference. Their use deceives the casual observer into believing that mowers equipped with them make a better and a closer cut. Their continuous use has the opposite effect. The scalping roller creates stemmy grass, which is grainy and produces a matted turf. Sooner or later the bed knife of the mower is $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch or more above the soil surface, even though it was set with the gauge to cut at $\frac{3}{16}$ inch or less. After that the surface mat builds up rapidly and becomes thicker and thicker because the side casters sink into the matted turf and the scalping roller becomes a roller in fact. It presses the grass stems into the turf and the reel cuts leaf tips only. The rolling effect of the scalping roller and the rear drum makes the turf look beautiful and smooth immediately after cutting. But looks are deceiving. The matted turf on such greens footprints badly on heavily played courses, especially around the cups. Surfaces are bumpy from imbedded stems and the ball hops over them, or it is deflected by the protruding stems which are scuffed out by shoe cleats.

Effect of Scalping Roller

Many greenkeepers never have used the front scalping roller because the cut is closer without it and the resulting turf is less stemmy and hence has less graininess. The same mower with the scalping roller removed takes off two to three times more grass. The height of cut can be $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch higher without the roller and the mower still takes off more grass than the same mower with the lower setting and a scalping roller. In the days of hand mowing, some greenkeepers removed and discarded the scalping roller, others bought a greens mower because it had no scalping roller. The casters were placed on the inside of the frame, rather than out beyond the scalping roller. Marking of the turf by

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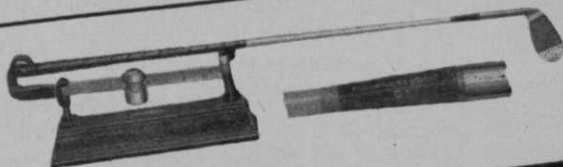
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the casters was less pronounced, not because of their placement, but rather because of a tighter turf due to the absence of matted grass.

Manufacturers have not been able to eliminate scalping rollers completely from power putting green mowers. They have resorted to one of two things, brushes out in front, or a comb between the scalping roller and the reel. The brush works on tight turf because the scalping roller is set a trifle higher than the casters. It is less effective on matted greens. Then a comb set between the roller and the reel is useful. It raises the stems and the leaves so they can be cut clean by the reel.

Occasionally side casters are removed instead of the scalping roller. This practice is encouraged by some salesmen. It eliminates caster marks on the turf, and seemingly makes a smoother cut. Greens become matty, and graininess develops before long, even though a brush is used continuously. The brush retards, but does not prevent matting.

Topdressing Procedure Changes

In yesteryear, when there were crews of 12 to 20 workmen on the golf course, greens were topdressed four to six times a year. This procedure helped avoid mat formation by adding a little soil periodically. The topdressing worked down through the thin mat of grass and made contact with the soil below. The tendency is to employ fewer workmen — too few in many instances — and it is becoming difficult to get or make topdressing of desirable quality. The trend is toward less frequent topdressing. If this continues, ways of preventing mat formation must be devised. Topdressing does not work itself down through a thickly matted turf to make contact with the soil below. Mower manufacturers can help by creating a greens mower without a scalping roller of any kind, or one with a satisfactory device between the scalping roller and the reel which will raise the stems and leaves so the grass can be cut clean and the turf kept tight. Such a mower will enable greenkeepers to maintain better putting surfaces.

Infrequent mowing is bound to produce a matted turf on greens. Skipping one day a week is widespread and all right. The wartime practice of mowing two or three times a week is not enough, especially on vegetative strains such as Washington, etc. The best greens are mowed every day but one, especially during the seasons when weather is favorable and grass is growing at a satisfactory or a rapid rate. Turf growth is retarded by hot weather and practically stops in extreme heat. Raising the height of cut, or infrequent mowing, is justified then to prevent damage to plants.

Avoiding Injury to Grass

Cutting greens on oppressively hot humid days when the grass is wilting badly because of a shallow root system may play havoc with the grass. The weight and bruising effect of the drum on the mower permanently injures the wilting grass leaves. This is especially true of mowers with corrugated drums. The advantage of more traction is offset by the added bruising of the grass on hot days when weather is bad.

During the bad spell in August and September of this season, some greenkeepers mowed in late afternoon after sundown. Greens were watered lightly beforehand to revive the wilting grass. A few greenkeepers cut very early in the morning while dew was still on the grass and before heat became oppressive. Then they watered lightly and watched for wilting. A little additional water was applied promptly during the day whenever the grass started to wilt, as evidenced by blue color and footprinting.

The instance mentioned above of cutting wet grass is the exception rather than the rule. The best cut is obtained when the grass is dry. Greens are mowed in early morning in order not to interfere with players. The turf is handwatered first or poled to destroy droplets of dew and to dry the surface. Poling is desirable whenever worm casts are bad on the surface. Some greenkeepers think poling reduces graininess of the grass.

The single unit greens mower produces a ribbon-like pattern on the green, which is pleasing to the golfer. It makes for a better target. The same effect is obtained with a duplex mower, but is lost with the three gang unit. They are a labor-saving device. That advantage may be exaggerated because on some greens it is necessary to double back over areas that have been cut and risk increased soil compaction.

Green Contour Affects Mowing

Changing the direction of cut is desirable. Mowing in different directions tends to eliminate graininess. The practice is general and sensible because it makes a better surface. Severe contours may limit the number of directions. Abrupt contours also increase the chance for scalping and are one reason for equipping mowers with scalping rollers. The modern trend is to avoid steep slopes and heavy contours. Old greens containing them should be changed to make long sweeping slopes. This can be done by lifting the turf on the bad parts and replacing the sod after changing the slope of the sub-grade. The green need not be out of play if the task is done after the season ends or before spring play starts.

(Continued on page 89)

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Efficiency is Keynote of Better Course Management

By **JOSEPH VALENTINE**

Grnkpg. Supt., Merion GC, Ardmore, Pa.



Joseph Valentine

Greater efficiency is the keynote of better golf course management. The trend toward more efficient maintenance practices was begun some time ago. I can remember that prior to World War I it was general practice to use temporary greens during the winter months. We used temporary greens on our East course, and removed flags and equipment from the West course so the golfers would not play there.

However, I noticed that despite the absence of flags, the players preferred the regular greens and played the West course. I brought to the attention of the Green Committee the fact that the golfers were playing the West course during the winter and that no harm was done to the regular greens. Since then we and others have used regular greens all year.

Since World War II the trend toward greater thrift in maintenance is being advanced by the employment of more mechanized operations. The utilization of new chemical and mechanical developments does much to increase efficiency of golf course maintenance. Appropriate equipment to do the job is of utmost importance, and whenever it is possible we employ implements in gangs in order to cut down on the amount of time required for the operation.

Seventy per cent or more of the budget at practically all golf clubs is spent for wages. We are maintaining a 36 hole course with the smallest number of laborers that is possible. With mechanized equipment our men can accomplish 50% more work than could otherwise be done. For instance, with a gang of power mowers three acres of tees are cut in about six hours. We cut tees twice a week.

During the war we learned of necessity to be stringently economical of time and labor, employing shortcuts and quicker methods whenever possible. At that time



Fairway of Merion GC, Ardmore, Pa., after aerification and before matting gives an idea of treatment Joe Valentine, grnkpr. is giving the entire course.

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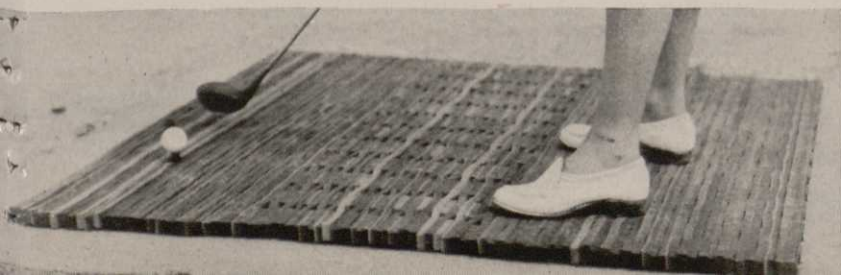
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we began to mow greens only three or four times a week instead of every day as had previously been done. This became possible simply by educating the membership to it.

Fairway watering still involves some unsolved problems. I feel that water should be used only when the plants demand it. Water should at all times be applied judiciously; the frequency and the amount being determined by the type of turf.

2,4-D Reduces Rough Mowing

During the past year we have learned a little more about where and when not to use 2,4-D. We applied 2,4-D in dry form in the roughs and have subsequently been able to reduce mowing since we have gotten rid of many fast growing weeds such as buckhorn and other plants of the same family.

A gang of implements known as Aerifiers has been used to improve the turf. I believe this is a type of implement we have long needed in order to provide the good turf conditions demanded by our critical golfers. This fall our turf improvement program included aerification of all our fairways and tees. Through this program we expect to obtain even better turf than was previously acquired.

The Aerifier gang was set to cultivate to a depth of two and a half inches. After aerifying we permitted the soil plugs to lie on the surface to dry for a short time. Meanwhile, we applied insecticides, using a dusting machine that operates with a blower through tubes under a large canvas. The duster is sixteen feet wide. On some fairways both DDT and lead arsenate were applied, on others DDT was used alone and on a third group lead arsenate alone was applied. The type of poison used was determined by the type of pest prevalent on the fairway; lead arsenate for the control of beetle grubs, DDT to combat chinchbugs and sod webworms. By applying the insecticides after aerifying we were able to put the materials down into the soil and also lessened the chances for these expensive materials to be washed away.

Following this operation we reseeded in the existing turf, giving especial attention to the approaches by being more liberal with seed. We also applied more of the chemicals and more fertilizer on those areas.

Organic fertilizer was applied to supply an average of one unit of nitrogen per thousand square feet. About five units of phosphorus per thousand square feet were used. Potassium was eliminated at this time in order not to increase the growth of legumes in the turf.

We then broke up the soil plugs with a wire mat. Matting was done in the oppo-

site direction from aerifying. The crumbled soil served as a light top-dressing. The mat we use consists of a ten foot square of cyclone fence. We made it ourselves at moderate cost. We've found this the best type of mat for working in materials and seed and for breaking up the soil plugs laid upon the turf surface by the Aerifiers. To finish off the job the fairways were mowed and rolled with a gang of rollers.

We try at all times to perform our maintenance operations in a rapid and efficient manner so the course will be in a condition to give satisfaction to the golfers. Operations are completed and equipment removed from the course as promptly as possible so as not to create an inconvenience for the players. I believe the task of keeping the golf course in a tidy condition begins with the greenkeeping superintendent for in appreciation our membership gives us their complete cooperation.

FLORIDA'S 1948 WOMEN'S TOURNEY EVENTS SET BY CLUB OFFICIALS

Florida club officials have succeeded in arranging a closely co-ordinated schedule of Women's events for the early 1948 season.

Credit for lining up the winter schedule without conflict, thus avoiding transportation difficulties and assuring full participation not previously experienced in past seasons goes to Elmer Rich, Chmn. Golf Com., Everglades CC, Palm Beach; Ralph Y. Poole, Miami CC and L. C. Haines of the Florida East Coast Hotel Co.

Definite dates for the Women's events have been set with the exception of the week of Feb. 23 to 28 which may be taken by the Orange Brook CC, Hollywood, for their Women's Four-Ball tournament or by the Biltmore Hotel Course, Miami. Events and dates for the 1948 Florida Winter season already scheduled are as follows:

Tampa Women's Open Championship at Palma Ceia GC, Tampa, Fla.—January 15 to 18.

The Doherty Tournament at Miami CC, Miami, Fla.—January 26 to 31.

Annual Mixed (Scotch) Foursome Tourney at Dubsrdred CC, Orlando, Fla.—February 4 to 8.

Women's Championship of Palm Beach at Palm Beach GC, Palm Beach, Fla.—February 10 to 14.

Annual "Invitation" Mixed Foursomes at Everglades Club, Palm Beach, Fla.—February 16 to 20.

Women's South Atlantic Championship at Ormond Beach GC, Ormond Beach—March 2 to 6.

Women's Florida East Coast Championship, St. Augustine Links, St. Augustine, Fla.—March 8 to 12.