

# Youngsters Plan and Conduct Own Programs at Short Hills

By **LUCILLE C. BARTLETT**

Mgr., Short Hills CC, East Moline, Ill.

Short Hills CC found that it was almost impossible to plan entertainment of club members' sons and daughters and their friends in the 12 to 21 age group. Yet the club officials and members believed that in order to make a club a place of living attractiveness and fullest usefulness the youngsters should be brought into a rather prominent spot in the club program.

After having made the usual efforts that clubs exert to plan programs and having found, as usually is the case, that the elders are not especially successful in determining exactly what the youngsters want, Short Hills officials turned major responsibility for such planning over to the most active juniors of the club. The results have been most gratifying all around.

The club has become a popular place for the young people. Their programs are planned and conducted in a manner that has won the admiration and respect of the parents and of older members without children. We are convinced at Short Hills that the younger element of the club has exhibited a high degree of judgment in arranging its affairs and running them smoothly. The work has been done by them in a way that plainly indicates we have in our juniors the finest type of potential members and officers to assure the success of the club for many years to come.

By giving the youngsters a chance to determine their own places in the life of the club Short Hills has made itself a livelier club. There is no doubt of the intelligently self-controlled activity of younger people around a club creating a highly desirable atmosphere of gaiety and

dynamic prestige that is of considerable reflected benefit to the older members.

## Youngsters Accept Responsibility

Perhaps you might think that the youngsters' general reputation of irresponsibility might make the experiment of entrusting to the junior planning and conduct of parties a risky one. We have found there's nothing to fear in this respect and have seen innumerable pleasant confirmations of the old axiom "class will tell."

The Short Hills junior program was begun with a meeting of the most active juniors of the club. Committees were chosen to represent the teen-age group (from 12 to 16) and the college group (from 16 to 21). These committees have a leading part in arranging and executing their affairs. What was begun as a means of getting the young people to assist has developed into operations in which the commonsense and ingenuity of the youngsters has relieved club officials and me of much of the work and responsibility we expected to have to take on.

Short Hills is fortunate in having an outside fireplace suitable for steak fries by the older group and weiner roasts by the younger. Many of the junior committee plans have formulated around this; after their outdoor activities they come into the club house for dancing or cards. All is very informal, and enjoyable. The young people can call the clubhouse and if there is no club function, and no reservation for a private party which would interfere they can come to the clubhouse for these informal affairs. I am here at all times to suggest and supervise.

Skating is a major sport on the juniors' winter program. A path was cleared to a pond in a ravine close to the clubhouse. This pond is kept in good skating condition, benches are placed around the water's edge, and firewood is always available for building of fires for warmth, or the roasting of weiners or heating of chili which is available from the club kitchen, if desired.

Formal parties for both groups were given during the holidays. The teen-agers held their dance, with a buffet served dur-

These youngsters of Short Hills CC families are the type that's made a self-conducted junior program highly successful.



ing the evening, on December 21st, and the college group had a gala dance party.

A Christmas Party for the little folks, which included a Christmas tree, presents and a buffet was given on December 15th.

It is a real pleasure to see with what enthusiasm the younger members have entered into this program. The general

club calendar is always consulted when any activity is planned so that there will be no conflicting dates.

I am sure that many clubs catering to family memberships can, with real benefit to the club, follow this plan in handling the problem of appealing to the younger members.

# GSA Show Raises Curtain on New Aids to Turf Management

**Announcement of all-star educational program draws record registration for accommodations at Hotel New Yorker, where Greenkeeping Superintendents Assn. meets for 18th Annual Conference, Feb. 10-14.**

**Extensive exhibition of latest postwar contributions to turf improvement by industry and science is assured intense interest as turf's management men prepare for a new high in golf course traffic.**

**The following exhibitors have advised GOLFDOM regarding details of their displays:**

**THE BUCKNER MFG. CO.**, Fresno, Calif., in Booths 1 and 2, headed by C. E. (Scotty) Stewart, are showing a complete line of modern sprinklers, quick coupling valves, and allied irrigation devices. Buckner is featuring their latest postwar developments in both hose and hoseless systems, with high, medium and low water pressures.

**CLAPPER CO.**, West Newton, Mass., maintenance equipment and supply dealers, aims to feature some of the score cards of the New England clubs, making its booth a New England meeting place. With O. O. Clapper and Richard Finerty at the convention all week will be six field representatives ready to escort buyers to various manufacturers exhibits.

The Clapper company is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

**DOW CHEMICAL CO.**, Midland, Mich., intends to show how powerful weed killers, the famous DDT and other chemical materials lighten the job for greenkeepers. Dow's display features a large book with mechanically turned pages, describing how 2,4-D kills weeds without harming grasses, and explains the special form of 2,4-D known as Esteron 44 which controls brush and woody vegetation.

**FATE-ROOT-HEALTH CO.**, Plymouth, Ohio, in Booth No. 9, will be represented by Paul Root, Sales Manager of the Grinder Division. Because the company is shipping lawn mower sharpeners as rapidly as it assembles them, none will be on display, but Mr. Root promises plenty of fine photographs and literature.

**FERTL-SOIL CO.**, Rahway, New Jersey, intends to explain how the organic compounds in its

product are chosen and prepared to become an indispensable portion of the soil. The company expects to demonstrate the importance of selecting top soil texture to suit specific soils.

**FRIEND MFG. CO.**, Gasport, New York, is exhibiting a pump in cut-out model so the internal mechanism of Friend pumps can be readily seen. The pump, heart of its sprayer, is built on the principle of plunger displacement and scotch yoke design, greatly simplifying the moving parts.

**PETER HENDERSON & CO.**, New York City, Booth 15, is offering Henderson's re-cleaned grasses for sports turfs of every description. Hugh Besson, in charge of the booth, reveals the organization is also showing sports turfs supplies and equipment in greater abundance than anytime since the war began.

**JACOBSEN MFG. CO.**, Racine, Wis., will feature their power lawn mowers suitable for tee and approach work, especially their putting green mower, Jacobsen's most outstanding golf item. Worthington Mower Co., Stroudsburg, Pa., subsidiary of Jacobsen, will show its new tractor, Worthington "Chief", which this year is presenting many new innovations.

**JARI PRODUCTS, INC.**, Minneapolis, makers of the Jari Power Scythe, will demonstrate their machine to show how it cuts grass, weeds, and underbrush and runs over eight hours on five quarts of gasoline. Jari is stressing the adaptability of their scythe for mowing where tractor-drawn mowers cannot be used.

**MACMULLEN-TERHUNE CO.**, Rochelle Park, N.J., soil specialists, plan to feature the various plant food chemicals, pointing out the source and need of each. Also shown, will be

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# Show Members How and Why Course Upkeep Work is Done

Among innovations clubs are planning this season is a course maintenance method and equipment demonstration and exhibit to show members what the superintendent and green-committee are doing in providing good playing conditions for the membership.

Plans include smart publicity before and during the event to be held preferably some week-end when attendance at the club is highest.

Suggestion has been advanced that during the Maintenance Weekend program signs be placed around the course giving details of construction and maintenance costs of various tees, traps, greens, etc.

Course maintenance equipment is to be lined up near the clubhouse for inspection and demonstration. Signs telling of speed and other features of operation will explain the equipment. The green-chairman is to act as master-of-ceremonies for the affair and the greenkeeper and members of his staff will explain turf culture, disease prevention and machine and manual operations required in course maintenance.

Chemicals and small tools are to be displayed on a table near a green close to the clubhouse.

Methods used in establishing good turf can be explained on a small area from which sod has been lifted, to be replaced later. A talk on steps in seeding, differences in seed and turf and factors determining choice of grass strains, is to be given by the superintendent. Demonstrations of shrub and tree care also will add to the interest of the affair, especially to men and women who have their own home landscaping to do or to supervise. A demonstration of stolon planting also is to be given.

Another matter to be explained is top-dressing, with an exhibit of materials and the finished mixture and a short talk on the reason for topdressing.

Demonstrations and lectures on greens and fairway mowing, spraying, watering, spiking or tine-forking greens, cup-changing, etc. also should be given. Exhibits of all items and materials used in maintenance of a green, alongside signs showing costs of items (original cost of equipment and annual cost of materials) would be interesting to most members.

The program could be completed in an hour or so and could be staged with real

showmanship and information value in acquainting members with the complex and detailed tasks, expert knowledge and money required to do a first class job of golf course maintenance.

If the equipment barn is such that it would make much of an exhibit members should be invited to visit it. Signs showing pre-war and present budget, age of various items of equipment, etc. should have some lasting effect in impressing on members the big and difficult job that's being done for them.

The exhibit and demonstration on the Maintenance Weekend would present to club members for the first time a close-up of the essential and exacting work done by the greenkeeper, his staff and the green-committee.

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## COURSE ARCHITECTS MEETING IN NEW YORK

The American Society of Golf Course Architects will hold a two day meeting during the GSA annual conference, at which Robert Bruce Harris of the Society is scheduled to speak. The architects will open their meeting at 11 A.M., February 13, at the New Yorker hotel and continue through the following day.

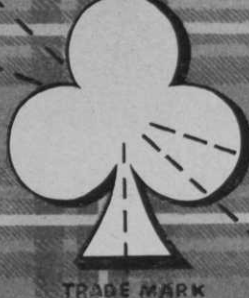
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**ARSENICS IN UPKEEP**—Three arsenic compounds have a definite place in golf course maintenance; lead arsenate, arsenic acid and sodium arsenite. From 400 to 600 lbs. per acre of lead arsenate will control a moderate infestation of grubs, and will last from 3 to 5 years. Angeworms in a green yield to around 5 lbs. of lead arsenate per 1000 square feet. Recent work has shown that 25 lbs. of actual DDT per acre will control grubs. Sodium arsenite is being used extensively in weed control. Arsenic acid too has wide use as a spray. Weeds in the rough are killed by an application made at the rate of 1000 gals. per acre, arsenic acid, 3 to 5 qts. per 100 gals. of water. Powdered sodium arsenite, 4 to 5 lbs. per 100 gals. kills weeds and tends to control grubs as well.—*O. J. NOER at Iowa short course.*

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## NEED SUPPLIES? SEE PAGE 69

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# new

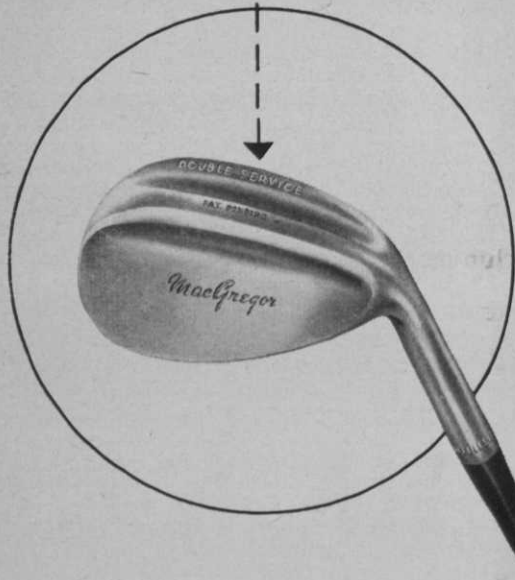
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# Pro Tournament Golf Seeks Cures For Growing Pains

Calm after the Metz-Corcoran storm at Carmel, Calif., finds the tournament situation emerging from the talk and clout fog into a clearer picture of a complex problem. The one-punch affair in which Dick Metz threw a fist into the nose of the tournament bureau manager occurred after Metz, Corcoran and Horton Smith had ridden together into Carmel for dinner having apparently amicably agreed to discontinue the debate which had been conducted personally, in meetings and through newspaper sections for some months. Then it flared with embarrassing consequences and for personal causes having no bearing on the broad controversy.

Corcoran's good judgment in suggesting that the fracas be forgotten possibly prevented further development of a trend toward the PGA being divided into home club pro and playing pro divisions. This, in the considered opinion of impartial parties, would have seriously weakened the status of the playing pros without having much effect on the home club pros who care for themselves by service to their members.

Tournament circuit golf is a nerve-fraying business. Nelson in virtually retiring from the tournament swing at the crest of his earning power showed characteristic good common sense. The tournament circuit has grown during the inflation that began with the war into a business of approximately a half million dollars in purses plus another considerable sum in appearance money and foreign tours.

## War of Nerves

It's a wearing business on the competitors and it is rather surprising that nerves didn't give way in fistic outbursts some months ago although fighting about any phase of tournament golf wouldn't have been a *causus belli* in view of the more serious warfare in which the nation was engaged. But when the clearing clash did occur here's what was revealed:

1 — Tournament sponsors are irritable because the PGA cannot guarantee appearance of leading stars. Some players lay off to get rested from a practically year-round week-end schedule of events. Others have engagements of assured personal profit. Tournament golf is not a sport in which all participants are certain to be paid.

2 — Opinion of some tournament players that the players themselves rather than the PGA executive committee should control tournament personnel and operations.

The second matter has been partially ironed out by a players' committee approving George Schneider as chairman of the tournament committee. To that job Schneider, a well-informed, competent and thoughtful player already had been appointed by the PGA officials. Hence that item of dispute no longer exists. Who's to boss Corcoran, the tournament bureau manager, is something that Corcoran himself, more than anybody else, wishes would be settled. His job of arranging dates, pairings, starting times and other details without being able to guarantee appearance of star players is no vacation. Gerry Moore, a Boston sports writer, was engaged to be assistant to Corcoran. After three months of contending with the problems Moore quit, the victim of acute nervous indigestion.

## Money Worries Too

Financial problems also have added to the woes of tournament bureau operation. Endeavors to get players to voluntarily contribute a percent of their winnings toward the operation of the tournament bureau have been no more effective during Corcoran management for the past 10 years than such efforts were previously when Robert E. Harlow conducted the bureau and got tournament golf into higher financial brackets.

Now it is proposed that sponsors contribute toward tournament bureau expenses. That was tried by Harlow but without success. The Chicago District Golf association of late years has made a voluntary contribution to the PGA tournament bureau for its work in the CDGA events, as an effort to establish a precedent.

Many non-tournament members have questioned the percentage the bureau gets out of the association's dues income. To preserve and encourage tournament golf as a promotion medium, show window and player training school, the manufacturers picked up the tab.

From the sponsors' viewpoint the tournaments have been improving financially. Before the war tournaments were generally not marked financial successes with the exception of the National Open championships. Out of program advertising alone probably more profit has been realized from PGA-sponsored events since Pearl Harbor than was netted by all national, sectional and PGA-sponsored tournaments previously. Galleries have continued to be

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February, 1947

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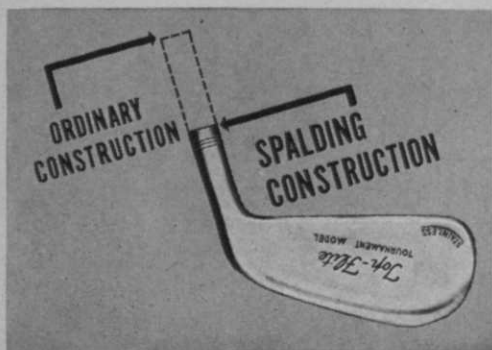


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large this winter regardless of the absence of several name-players.

Eventually the sponsor troubles will be ironed out, probably by the sponsors refusing to put up prize money unless the players themselves can devise some method of assuring appearance of a fair number of the stars. How the stars and the aspirants or others who'll make up the fields will solve that problem is something that's now being soberly considered. They'll either solve it or have a shortage in the golden egg market.

### Changes in Prospect

There is talk of prevailing on the stars to accept fines in case of non-appearance at PGA events. That probably won't get very far. It is almost a sure thing that the tournament schedule will be curtailed. Fall events that clash with collegiate football publicity are most likely to be skipped. The players themselves, since the Corcoran-Metz affair, are realizing that their business is playing golf and not holding meetings of a debating society. The tournament players have a tough problem in sports business but not one to be ashamed of or to fear as are problems in sports that gamblers have dirtied. As regrettable as the Metz-Corcoran outburst was it didn't

have a public reaction that reflected adversely on any angle of tournament golf except the pardonable inability to keep strained nerves under control.

One of the exasperating situations with which the tournament players, the PGA tournament bureau and sponsors of events have to contend is that of invitation events. There was enough delicacy involved in invitation events when the Miami 4-ball, the Inverness invitation and the Goodall events were about the only fixtures of this sort but since invitation events have increased there are more problems of selecting fields and keeping calm and quiet those who are not invited.

Another factor that has to be kept under control while the tournament scheme is getting readjusted is loose lips. It did seem that they would get out of bounds following the clash at Carmel and Corcoran's suggestion to "forget it" undoubtedly halted further hot talk that would have done nothing to get tournament golf on a sound, serene business basis. The incident was an unfortunate element in tournament golf's growing pains, but nothing to split pro golf which has its greatest years ahead for the playing pros as well as for the fellows whose major—or sole—income is from their jobs at their clubs.

### Care of Bent Greens

(Continued from page 22)

tions connected with growth. It is the energy food for beneficial soil micro-organisms. As the organic matter undergoes decay by them carbonic acid is generated. It is the principal solvent in the soil solution and is responsible for the liberation of the mineral soil nutrients. Organic matter increases water-holding capacity and im-

parts other benefits of its colloidal nature.

Too much organic matter is bad from the standpoint of play and maintenance. When overdone greens become so soft that they foot mark badly. Humus or peat has a high water-boiling capacity and may retain 200 to over 300 percent of moisture. Both tend to resist wetting when dry. Greens with more than 30 percent by volume of organic matter become too wet during rainy weather, and dry-out too slowly

Depression on green holds snow and ice and invites snow mold and winter kill.

